

A Work That Speaks the Language of True Love

The triduum of prayer held at Spiri-Maria in September 2008 gave us the opportunity to hear edifying testimonials, and Love alone can generate such a spiritual fruitfulness. The Army of Mary increases by attraction, that of Love, and not through proselytism. Formed at the spiritual school of *Life of Love*, our Knights have acquired that invincible strength that overcomes all obstacles. Moreover, Pope John Paul II considered this value to be a matter of survival for humanity: "Because in this difficult era and similarly during the times that follow, only a true great Love will be able to save man." Now, when Pope John Paul II speaks of "a true great Love", we are convinced that *Life of Love* is the sublime illustration of this because it is the work of the True Spirit.

In her Christmas letter of 1999, written on the threshold of the new millennium, Marie-Paule chose to quote Ghandi: "There is nothing in the world which is stronger than love, and yet we cannot imagine anything more humble." *Life of Love* is an example of heroic asceticism lived in the ordinariness and humility of day-to-day life, but a model that corresponds to that lofty idea François Varillon has of the spiritual life, thus conferring on our Foundress an undeniable competence in this matter. "I can only be competent in matters of religion when it is based on the experience lived, on a real relationship with God." (p. 25) *Life of Love* is precisely

the narration of an "experience lived, a real relationship with God". This latter was brought to its ultimate perfection, that of losing oneself in God who is Love, of having access to His very life in the divine Quaternity and of projecting us, in this manner, right into the heart of the Father's Heart. That is why we believe that Marie-Paule deserves so much to be given the title of "Doctor of the Church" which Heaven gave her.

Furthermore, Pope John Paul II already declared that mercy is "the second name of Love". In this regard, we can see that Marie-Paule's *Life of Love* has led her to manifest an absolute mercy towards souls, to the point where, one day, she put forth the desire to want to place herself at the gates of hell in order to prevent souls from falling into it and the demons from leaving it. We should mention, in this context, that, among all the graces received through her *Life of Love*, it has merited us the consecration by means of a holy picture, all the merciful impact of which we have not yet been able to measure.

To this day, the persons who read *Life of Love* with a good disposition and who were touched by grace can bear witness to the fact that, in their simplicity, these works speak the language of a Love that can be spread, this true Love destined to enkindle the whole world. However, before beginning the reading of it, we must place ourselves in a state of deep humility, otherwise we will not succeed in understanding well this unparalleled mystical Work.

Jeannine Thiffault Blanchette

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Varillon, François, *Un chrétien devant les grandes religions*, Bayard, Paris, 1995.

A Musician, the Thrush

When came the time for the most beautiful night of the world to cover the earth, the angels went to wake the shepherds. They did so by means of their celestial hymn "Gloria in excelsis Deo!" But when the shepherds had



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arrived at the manger, the angels gave them a new sound signal to encourage them to adore the little King sleeping peacefully in his swaddling clothes. For these poor shepherds from the plains were not very familiar with decorum and things sacred, given the privation in their way of life. So an angel rang a tiny bell with its crystal-clear sound and they all understood that they had to kneel and adore the Savior. Then, at the end of the night, their mission accomplished, the angels returned to their beautiful Paradise.

The next day, the wisest of the shepherds exclaimed: "With the angel's tiny bell, we learned that the cradle in which Mary had placed the Infant was His first altar. Now, henceforth, who will give us the sound signal to tell us that the time has come to prostrate ourselves to adore the little King?"

Before the other shepherds could reply, the sound of a tiny bell was heard tinkling outside the manger. In a very noble gesture, all the shepherds knelt to adore the Savior. But, then, raising their heads, all of them asked themselves where this tinkling sound of a bell could come from.

A young shepherd went outside and explored the area. On the manger's roof, he suddenly saw a bird holding a tiny bell in its beak. He understood that the angel, before leaving for heaven, had thoughtfully entrusted this function to a bird of this earth, in order to remind men in the future of the grandeur and majesty of the divine Infant.

And since that very distant Christmas, the wood thrush, at dawn and at dusk, can be heard chirping melodiously to the glory of the Savior, like the very soft sound of a tiny crystal-clear bell in order to remind humanity that we must become adorers in spirit and truth every day until His glorious return.

Jeannine Thiffault Blanchette

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

"While they were there the days of her confinement were completed. [Mary] gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the place where travelers lodged." (Lk 2:6-7)

Dear Knights of Mary,
and Readers of the paper *Le Royaume*,

The Christmas season brings us back every year to the essential elements of the life of our Savior and of the Holy Family: a spirit of poverty, privation, complete surrender to the divine will and plan... That is radical language to which we are gradually becoming accustomed within the Work but which is very far and even foreign to what our present society advocates and practises. Unfortunately, our thirsting world is unable to recognize that it is grasping for God and His Love.... However, we must not give up hope, above all. If it all began in a great simplicity with the coming of an impoverished child who was to become our Savior and redeem the whole human race, that means that the divine power is truly boundless and that it can do anything. And that is just as true today, in this unique time of history in which we are living.

"The angel said to them: 'You have nothing to fear! I come to proclaim good news to you – tidings of great joy to be shared by the whole people. This day a savior has been born to you.'" (Lk 2:10-11)

In joy and simplicity, we offer you, on behalf of Mother Paul-Marie and all the Directors of the Work, our best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. To you and all your loved ones: Merry Christmas and a Happy and Holy New Year 2009! May the Gloria of the angels echo in your hearts for all the marvelous things the Lord has made known to us.

"Glory to God in the highest: and on earth peace to men of good will." (Lk 2:14)

I bless each and every one.

Christmas 2008

Father Eric Roy, O.F.F.M.