

Jesus Living

Monthly Newsletter of Formation & Information - Association of Mary Queen of All Hearts

N° 35 March 2021

in Mary



Let us admire Providence
Guiding all things to their goal.
This supreme prudence
And sovereign order,
Knows, rules and arranges
Everything, even the least,
Strongly and gently,
Without any confusion.

The entire universe proclaims her,
At all times and everywhere
The entire earth is filled
With her marvelous order
The seasons, one after the other,
The skies, rolling on forever
All beings, influencing one another
And lending each other aid. (HYMN 28: 1-2)

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To See Jesus

MARCH 21, 2021

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT
YEAR B



BY PIERRETTE MAIGNÉ

Now there were some Greeks among those who had come up to worship at the feast.

They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him,

“Sir, we would like to see Jesus.”

Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.

Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.

Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life.

Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be.

The Father will honor whoever serves me.

**John 12: 20-33:
The Coming of Jesus' Hour**

“I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? **‘Father, save me from this hour’? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name.**”

Then a voice came from heaven, **“I have glorified it and will glorify it again.”**

The crowd there heard it and said it was thunder; but others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered and said, “This voice did not come for my sake but for yours. Now is the time of judgment on this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself.” He said this indicating the kind of death he would die.

This text of Saint John is offered to us by the liturgy on March 21, 5th Sunday of Lent, year B.

This is the last public teaching of Jesus before his Passion.

WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE JESUS: This is the request from the Greeks to Philip who, with Andrew, relayed to Jesus.

Jesus, however, does not answer the question but gives an interpretation of his approaching death. By introducing His words with a double «Amen» it is the solemnity of the Passion and the Resurrection which is presented to us.

JESUS, AS USUAL, USES AN IMAGE: that of the grain of wheat which must die in order to bear fruit. The death of Jesus is so, that the Church be born and that this is what Jesus came for. This is revealed to all men, and not just the Jews but for all men to enter the Kingdom.

To see Jesus and know Him is to look upon the Cross. The Cross is the fulfilment of the prophets' announcement that is, the gathering of all men.

THE HOUR: The term is dear to Saint John who uses it 26 times in his Gospel. It is the first time, however that Jesus proclaims that this hour has come. This hour is that of the Cross. At Cana Jesus answered Mary saying, 'My hour has not yet come'. This hour is the right time. Passion is not the place of the absence of God, but rather the full presence of God.



FATHER, SAVE ME FROM THIS HOUR: This is an allusion to what the synoptics report of the Gethsemane episode. Here again, even if Jesus knew anguish befall on Him, it is the confidence and abandonment that invades his being because he is sure of victory and of his full communion with his Father.

FATHER, GLORIFY YOUR NAME: The glory of God is his radiant presence. To glorify is to reveal God's presence.

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THE VOICE OF THE FATHER IS HEARD: This is the first time in the Gospel of John, unlike the other evangelists who allude to it during the Baptism of Jesus and the Transfiguration; where these words solemnly authenticates that Jesus is the beloved Son sent by the Father. It is the communion of Jesus to his Father in undivided unity.

As the days of Passion is fast approaching, this question of the Greeks and their desire can also inhabit our hearts. We too, enter into communion with Jesus. Let us unite with him for the salvation of the world. Let us be apostles who lead others to Jesus, those who seek him; those who need Him. Our Lord needs us, our prayers, our testimonies. ■

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Mary Must Shine Forth More Than Ever

BY OULADZIMIR VAYTSIACHIVITCH,
MINSK, BELARUS

I came to know more of St. Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort in the 1990s. It was at that time when the rebirth of Christianity in my country was taking place. I was baptized in the Orthodox Church as a child but was later on converted to the Catholic faith. My Catholic grandfather was very much influential to my conversion. He was a very religious and pious man. When he passed on in 1994, he left a legacy for me to keep. His death was the beginning of my new journey as a convert.

I imbibed from my grandfather the love for God and Mother Mary and I felt the great desire to receive the sacraments.

The Blessed Virgin, whom I often invoked in my prayers, helped me to make that final decision. I believe it was her who brought me to the Catholic Church. From the start of my conversion, I liked her very much and I became very attached to her. I liked the Rosary prayer. When I heard of St. Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort and his "Treatise on True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin", I was ignited with an overwhelming desire to find this book at all cost, and to read it. Shortly after acquiring 'True Devotion', I had in my hands his small book, 'The Secret of Mary' written in Russian. It was printed by the Belgian publishing house "Life with God". (At that time, it was the only work of Montfort translated into Russian language). I read it straight away with great joy! In this booklet, I found what I was looking for. Although I had a very clear feeling then that I understood this 'gift' by reason, my heart was still yearning for fuller understanding of the words and wisdom of the Saint.



Uladzimir Vaytsiachivich,
Minsk, Belarus



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Ouladzimir Vaytsiachivitch



Uladzimir Vaytsiachivitch, in Medjugorie

One day, during Mass, I received Communion and I asked Jesus: 'Lord, what more do I have to do?' And immediately I listened to these words in my heart: «You must continue to move forward with Mary ...». I pondered on this and envisioned the altar of our Cathedral of the Most Holy Virgin where at its center, was a big statue of Mary.

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I had a very strong desire to serve God and I understood that prayer alone was not enough. I really wanted to share with others my joy of knowing who our God is....

Then at once, I went to the cathedral. I had a very strong desire to serve God and I understood that prayer alone was not enough. I really wanted to share with others my joy of knowing who our God is. At the cathedral, I saw a poster inviting people to join the ranks of the Legion of Mary. When I learned of what the legionaries do, I was inspired and I knew that this was particularly what I had been looking for.

With the Legion of Mary, I understood some very important truths in our faith. With the Legion of Mary, I appreciated that I would increase the gift of faith, - that gift which my grandfather passed on to me, as likened to the Parable of the Talents in holy scriptures. **Further, I understood my vocation, resonating from Secret of Mary - 'You use this and worthy of heaven, for the more you make use of it the more benefit you will secret to become holy derive from it. Under no circumstances must you let this secret make you idle and inactive. It would then become harmful and lead to your ruin' (SM 1).**

To add, when I took in my hands the Manual of the Legion of Mary, I came to better understand that it was the detailed instruction of the secret of the consecration to the Blessed Virgin according to Grignion de Montfort; a delightful surprise for me.

Because of the Legion of Mary, I consecrated myself to the Mother of God for the first time. I brought apostolic work for other people and I found great meaning in the apostolate. It should also be noted that the Legion of Mary was the result of a true devotion to the Blessed Virgin, when on September 7, 1921 in Dublin, Ireland, 15 people gathered in the evening at a church to talk about the book of St. Grignion de Montfort -The Treatise on True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin. Precisely on this day did God give them the grace to lay the foundation of a very beautiful Catholic movement based on a very deep devotion to Mary that make its members become at a point of their lives, detached from the world.

Reflecting on the life of Father de Montfort, I also understood that he was the first legionary of Mary. It was he, who gave himself completely and without reserve to Mary. It was he who until his end days, burning with the desire for the apostolate among those who have not yet known the love of God.



Uladzimir Vaytsiachivich, in Rome 2011

In 2011, I was fortunate to be present with my legionary friends at the beatification of John Paul II in Rome. I went there with a specific intention in my heart.

The beatification took place on the feast of Divine Mercy. I prayed to our loving God that on this day, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, He would allow that I could be near the tombstone of St John Paul II.

I prayed to St John Paul to tell me what should be done so that God would bless our country, Belarus. Belarus is one of the countries which the Pope has not visited and given his blessing. By that evening prior the beatification however, we found ourselves at the tail end of the crowd of millions of pilgrims and we felt that we had almost no chance to enter Saint Peter's Square.

But we have a God of miracles. The mercy of God is manifested in full force. I really like the phrase often repeated by Frank Duff, the founder of the Legion of Mary:

"God will always support his helpless child, even if for that it will be necessary to make a miracle." And once again:

"Each impossibility breaks down into 33 possibilities".

Everything happened in this way. Everything is possible for those who have infinite trust in Divine Mercy.

It happened that on the feast of Divine Mercy at 3 o'clock in afternoon, my prayers were answered. I was on my knees near the tomb of John Paul II and I realized that it was for me, a miracle unfolding before my eyes! Our loving God offered me 15 precious minutes to have an audience to the Pope. **The answers to my question came right at me and, that is - Someday in Belarus, there will be a sufficient number of concentrated people, giving themselves completely and without reserve to the Most Holy Virgin; and that Satan will leave this country forever.** Did not the devil one day say to Saint John-Mary Vianney: 'If in France there were three priests like you, I would leave France forever'. And so will the devil banish from Belarus!



Medjugorje. The Mount of Apparitions

I made the decision to take care of the organization and to continue having pilgrimages to Medjugorje, especially because this path had been closed for the Belarusians for a very long time due to the difficulties of getting visas. Such is no longer the case now. During our pilgrimages I spoke of the True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin. Several people have started to take interest in this practice and had come to realize in their lives, thr messages of Saint Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort. In Medjugorje, Mary said, ' I will complete what I started in Fatima'. This means that her personal consecration to the Immaculate Heart, is as predicted by Father Montfort,- will be realized and will come true while on earth, in every country and in every race, there will be a sufficient quantity of people totally consecrated to Mary.

On the way back to my country from this monumental event, a question came to mind-, «What should I do about this?»

It was necessary to make the Most Holy Virgin known to the greatest number of souls possible in Belarus.

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Vilnius, house of saint Faustina



Vilnius, Gate of Dawn

'When that time comes wonderful things will happen on earth. The Holy Spirit, finding His dear Spouse present again in souls, will come down into them with great power. He will fill them with His gifts, especially wisdom, by which they will produce wonders of grace.

My dear friend, when will that happy time come, that age of Mary, when many souls, chosen by Mary and given her by the most High God, will hide themselves completely in the depths of her soul, becoming living copies of her, loving and glorifying Jesus? That day will dawn only when the devotion I teach is understood and put into practice.' (TD 217).

And yet another excerpt:

'We are given reason to believe that, towards the end of time and perhaps sooner than we expect, God will raise up great men filled with the Holy Spirit and imbued with the spirit of Mary. Through them Mary, Queen most powerful, will work great wonders in the world, destroying sin and setting up the kingdom of Jesus her Son upon the ruins of the corrupt kingdom of the world. These holy men will accomplish this by means of the devotion of which I only trace the main outlines and which suffers from my incompetence' (SM 59).

BELARUS IN RECENT YEARS HAVE MORE AND MORE SOULS WHO ARE DISCOVERING FOR THEMSELVES, THE MESSAGE OF FATHER DE MONTFORT AND CONSECRATING TO JESUS THROUGH MARY. TRUE DEVOTION ATTRACTS LARGE GROUPS OF PEOPLE. THE YEAR 2020 HAS BECOME THE SPECIAL YEAR. IT PASSED BY LIKE AN EXPLOSION.

It is also because this year 2020 had been unusual yet joyful and at the same time, very difficult for the country and people yet liberating. The people wandered off and with all firmness decided to free themselves from the tyranny of the evil spirit. The people became free and opened their hearts to God. More and more people started going to the Catholic Church.

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Every Sunday, we go out on the streets and squares of the capital, which are surrounded by policemen who use ruthless cruelty and violence against our citizens who quell against tyranny by peaceful means.



Pilgrimage to Minsk-Boudslave

As legionaries of Mary, we have discovered yet another means of apostolic service. Every Sunday, we go out on the streets and squares of the capital, which are surrounded by policemen who use ruthless cruelty and violence against our citizens who quell against tyranny by peaceful means.

We legionaries spoke with these police officers and offered each of them a Miraculous Medal, as we gladly told the story behind the medal. It was the Blessed Virgin who gave it to Saint Catherine Labouré. The police officers liked the history of this Medal very much. During the second French revolution, many people from the streets of Paris came to the Sisters of Charity and asked for Medals. Sometime later they returned and told that the Blessed Virgin was protecting them and saving their lives during collisions on the streets. Today, we see these miracles happening in the streets of Belarus. Many police officers accept the medals, recognizing in faith that the Miraculous Medal would be a greater safeguard against evil forces more than their ballistic vests.

I BELIEVE IN THE VICTORY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY BECAUSE 'IN THESE LATTER TIMES MARY MUST SHINE FORTH MORE THAN EVER IN MERCY, POWER AND GRACE' (TD 50).

Saint Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort tells us so. ■

Priests of The Fraternity Mary Queen of All Hearts from Burundi Come as One

By Christine KABURA

Sister Christine KABURA is a religious of Militant of the Blessed Virgin (in French: Militante de la Sainte Vierge), and a member of the Office of Marian Works in the Institute of Militants of the Blessed Virgin in Gitega-Burundi



The Priests of the Fraternity Mary Queen of All Hearts of Burundi gather each year for two general meetings. The first one on diocesan level and the other, on the national level. Wherein in the former, priests of the Fraternity in the same diocese come as one. The fraternity has more than 50 priests.

This year, the national meeting was held from January 4 to 6, 2021. There were 26 priests present from all the dioceses of Burundi. It was an honor to have the Bishop of the Diocese of Rutana, Mgr Bonaventure NAHIMANA, a member of the Fraternity, and he was this year's preacher and facilitator of this formation meeting. The meeting was held at the Institute of the Militants of the Blessed Virgin in Gitega.



The theme of this year was 'Fraternity'. Being a member of the Fraternity himself, the Bishop focused on the Encyclical Letter of the Holy Father "Fratelli Tutti". He used the whole encyclical, all the eight chapters of it and he paralleled it with the life of the priest who must be a father to the faithful of Christ. He said that a priest must be the center of the brotherhood of Christians. He then must live in fraternity with the presbytery; he must work in communion with his Bishop; and thus, with the Holy Father. To be a member of a Fraternity in a country that had suffered much the consequences of wars that came one after another; to be a member a Fraternity in the Church which has already embraced the process of forgiveness and reconciliation, means to stand as herald of friendship and fellowship. The motherhood of Mary is universal. She is the mother of all men saved by her Son. May she help us to live fraternally with others according to Christ's wish, 'That all may be one' (John 17:21).

The meeting concluded with a pilgrimage to the National Marian Shrine of Mugeru in the Archdiocese of Gitega. Mgr Bonaventure did not finish with simply preaching, but, like a kind pastor, accompanied the priest and some 'Militants', as he animated the praying of the Rosary. The parish priest of Mugeru who happens to also be the national representative of the Fraternity, welcomed the priests at the threshold of the parish, and he exposed the relics of the Holy Cross of Jesus. After the veneration of the relics, a procession followed with these relics towards the Lady of Lourdes grotto, where some Christians and the 'Militants' awaited them. These Militants were responsible for the physical arrangement of the sanctuary and the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Songs, meditations on Father de Montfort's writings on the Cross, the Word of God and dozens of rosaries accompanied the procession of relics.

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At the grotto, the priests prepared themselves for the sacrament of reconciliation. From there we all proceeded to renew our baptismal promises according to the style of Father de Montfort and that is in three stages. The first stage is to be before the Holy Scriptures, promising to believe in all the truth of the Word of God and to be guided by it. The second stage is the renewal of our baptismal vows and be blessed with Holy Water. And the third is the Consecration to Jesus through Mary. After completing the three stages, the priest spent time to worship Jesus with Mary before the Blessed Sacrament. The Bishop gave his blessings upon them before the Blessed Sacrament and proceeded with a Eucharistic procession from the grotto to the shrine where Holy Mass was celebrated.

During Mass, the Bishop continued to encourage the members of the Fraternity to keep on. He also thanked the Institute of Militants of the Blessed Virgin, who always welcomes the priests and the Fraternity. He acknowledges its personnel who take charge of the necessary arrangements to make their meeting and stay a pleasant one. **In Eucharistic celebration, Father Zziwa Joseph, Ugandan priest, missionary in Burundi, made his Consecration to Jesus through Mary (for the first time).**



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A fraternal agape followed the mass wherein the members of the fraternity were able to share a sumptuous meal as well as their reflections, a fair chance for their speech. Bishop Bonaventure accounts the fraternity's history that began in 1976 with only 10 members. He recollected that he was a major seminarian at that time and that they were members of the Legion of Mary. Being Legionaries then, they made Mary known and loved in the place and in seminaries around Burundi. They continued to meet weekly and evaluated their mission.

He was delighted to see that these seminarians eventually became priests and are now in all the dioceses. He encouraged the Fraternity to even strengthen their bonds so that Jesus reigns through Mary, in the hearts of His priests.

The Bishop gave his final blessings by the end of the day and the members adjourned the fruitful meeting with much 'take homes' upon their return to their respective parishes. ■





SECOND SNARE: THE DANCE AND THE BALL

1. Lord, the world wants to damn me
By the snare of dance.
Free me from this devious trap
Set to snatch my innocence.
Worldly people dance, snubbing You,
O Lord, help us.

2. Behold the incense to Venus
And her pleasant school,
Behold the plaything of Bacchus,
And the devil's circle,
Behold his clever invention
For our damnation.

3. Yes, Satan is the inventor
Of malicious dancing.
He is the principal creator
Of this happy plague,
Damning people joyfully
And so subtly.

4. At dances, he is king,
Where he is rendered homage,
Where he promulgates the rules
Of joyous wantonness,
Here he holds court,
His throne right at the center.

5. The devil sets everything in motion
In this accursed practice,
Slipping in his poison,
His malice and his flames.
From him flows the desire
For this deadly pleasure.



6. He incites the dancers
To dance, to sing and cackle;
There he wins their hearts,
Their bodies and his empire,
Performing all the movements,
All the steps and whirls.

7. He slips into the voices
So all sing gracefully,
He enlivens the oboist
To perform without fatigue;
He executes the harmony
And the instruments' tunes.

8. He slips into the body
Of men and women dancers,
Kindling the rapture
Of his flaming passion;
He directs the feet and eyes
Of these poor wretches.

9. Their body is bewildered,
Their mind is bedimmed,
Their heart is bewitched:
That is what the devil does,
Making them call scrupulous
Whoever does not follow them.

10. Among the pagans, the devil
Ordinarily receives this tribute,
He doesn't seek their goods
But that they dance to please him;
Satan may even promise them
Some reward for dancing.

11. At Saturday's late hour, witches,
It is said, have the practice
Of dancing after meals
A diabolical bop;
Dancing is the incense, the deadly cult
Of this infernal spirit.

12. Almost all the doomed
Believe that dancing is permitted;
But those who will be saved,
The Church's true children,
All loathe it, holding it
In abomination.

13. Now speaking in general,
Dancing is neutral;
In itself, it is not evil,
And can then be innocent,
For David danced with fervor
Before the Ark of God.

14. But dancing without sinning
Demands so many conditions
That one can hardly refrain
From sinning by dancing.
Ordinarily, it is bad,
An immense disorder.

15. The manner, time, and reason,
Plus the person dancing,
All spit out so much venom
That innocence is lost;
Misfortune follows dancers
And even those who watch them.

16. How does one get involved
In this clever, shameful decadence?
By dousing with perfumed powder,
Smearing make-up on the face,
By cunning nudity,
Extravagance and vanity.



17. How do worldly people dance?

The style is so notorious:
Everything kindles the toxin
Of a most impure passion:
These sweet, piercing glances,
These hold-me-close dances.

18. The steps are so measured,
The beat is so pleasing,
The dancers so well dressed
And the song so up-to-date!
Who could refrain from loving,
Burning, being set on fire?

19. What about those kisses
At the dance's end,
These cruel, accepted signals
Of a foul passion?
Are they not the devil's seals
Imprinted only in his name?

20. We well know the motives
Why many people dance;
They are hidden but so lewd:
Yearning to love, to please,
To arouse or be aroused,
To see, or better, to be seen.

21. Bouncing to ballads
Filled with love affairs,
Dancers easily get hooked
By this notorious nonsense;
After dancing they dare say:
"God was not offended."

22. Dances are held on days it's forbidden
Even more than on others;
During this time lost
Satan does business;
So we make the Day of the Lord,
The Feast of the Tempter.

23. Alas! all think nothing of time
Wasted in dancing,
Although time is a great gift
And of immense price;
Time so short, time so precious,
Given to win heaven.

24. If dancing among pagans
Is always to be condemned
What among Christians?
Oh abominable sin!
Traitors, renouncing the vow
They made to their God.

25. Have they not renounced
All the devil's pomps?
Dancing has always been considered
The most notable of them all.
Dancing is a cruel dishonor
To the Most Holy Lord.



26. Dancer, caricature of a Christian,
Jesus Christ is not your master.
But Satan has claimed you as his own
Like an apostate, a traitor.
Be gone, disciple of the evil spirit,
You're a disgrace to Jesus Christ.

27. A criminal dies
Swaying on the gallows;
In deadly peril,
A soldier dances and laughs.
O folly, O cruel misfortune
Of dancers so criminal!

28. Oh giant fool, twirling on the edge
Of the eternal precipice,
Without fearing death,
Nor even God in His justice!
Ah! Satan has blinded him,
He will kill the fatted calf.

29. The dancers, in their frenzy
Of arms, feet and head
Plus the rest of their body,
Are crazier than animals;
A lot less spirited are horses;
They're calmer than the dancers.

30. Both New and Old Testaments
Condemn all dancing
And strongly threaten
With terrible vengeance
Dancers, buffoons,
Their patrons and spectators.

31. God curses their finery,
Their perfume, their rhythms,
Their romantic affairs,
Their imprudent gestures.
He forbids us to copy them,
To frequent their shows.

32. Dancing is even a tyrant,
Perhaps the most cunning of all;
It caused the death of Saint John,

Our Master's Precursor.
O great God, how it has caused ruin
Both of soul and body!

33. The holy fathers, the doctors,
The canons, the Church,
Have all condemned dancers,
Declared them anathema
Together with buffoons,
Actors and jesters.

34. Men are blinded
By dancing, says one of fathers,
Children are confused,
They despise father and mother.
Women lose their honor
And the grace of the Lord.

35. Dancing makes one transgress
All the laws of the Church,
It also makes one break
The entire law of Moses;
A dancer has lost the faith
And no longer obeys the law.

36. Whenever there's dancing, wherever,
Heaven weeps with grief;
At this affront to God
All hell rejoices,
While the saints lament
And the ungodly screech.

37. God often severely punishes
Dancers with sudden death,
In a moment vomiting
Their accursed souls.
From balls and games,
Suddenly they fall into hell.

38. Be gone, world and your friends,
In spite of what I have said,
Tell everyone that it is permitted
Both to dance and to cackle;
Be gone, scandalous world,
Be gone, unfortunate world! ■



St. Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort