



# Spiritual Letter Box



## THE PURITY OF INTENTION

Marie-Paule having expressed the desire, a few years ago, that a spiritual letter box column appear regularly in the paper "Le Royaume", we thought we could draw from the invaluable treasury of letters to which she herself replied, letters that were published over the years. Those writings, still very topical, have lost nothing of their pertinence and continue to be an important spiritual correspondence which ought to be exploited for the good of all.

### LETTER TO MARIE-PAULE

It is my turn to ask you a question which is very important to me. There is more and more talk of interior reform, something the Army of Mary has been reminding us of since its foundation. As far as I am concerned, that is what has changed my habits and taught me to see things in their true light.

But a thought keeps coming back to mind: how do we develop PURITY OF INTENTION in our life? It seems to me that this is essential to success in life and to be able to render effective aid to others.

My prayer for all of you expresses my gratitude.

Jeanne J.

### MARIE-PAULE'S REPLY

#### Purity of Intention

"Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God." (Mt 5:8) These simple words are rich in teaching and pregnant with the most sublime joys. Chastity or purity is always a source of lucidity of thought.

It is a fact that God does not communicate Himself totally to a creature if its heart is not pure. Before He begins to introduce a soul to an understanding of His mysteries, God subjects it to purification of heart. This purification is effected through renunciations and anguish which, if accepted with generosity, will eventually detach the heart from creatures and purify the mind. When the Holy Spirit finds in us purity of spirit, He always grants enlightenment, increasingly.

#### The Value of Purity

Purity is of such value that Satan always strives to wound souls through impurity, for a fault of sensuality invariably opens the door to other faults and sins. This was the case in the Terrestrial Paradise, and it is still the case in our licentious world carried away by the floodwaters of eroticism in all its many forms.

The world ridicules the pure, but if humanity still benefits from some little light, this is due to those who remain pure in the world. It is they who help others stay on the straight path of rectitude, and who bring back to it and support those who have strayed.

A pure soul is a jewel of great price, a crystal through which shines the Christ who animates it.

#### The Acquisition of Purity

Purity is acquired little by little and progressively, in the

measure that the developing child learns to turn its back on the pernicious suggestions of the angel of darkness, to resolutely embrace renunciations of all kinds and to give itself to the self-conquest to which the angel of light inspires it. At a very early age, the child becomes a battlefield for the combat between the angel of good and the angel of evil. Hence the necessity for a sound orientation, for a careful education and for a constantly perfected formation by its immediate educators, these being, in the first place the parents, and then the teachers. What a great privilege for the child who, blessed with these advantages, profits from the counselling given by loving and attentive hearts which open to it the beauties of the spiritual life, and which, slowly but progressively, introduce it to all that which constitutes the joy and happiness of those who go forward in the love of what is beautiful and pure! What a blessing for this child to be so helped as it takes its first steps in the spiritual life! So aided, the child becomes progressively stronger. But it must also be taught that prudence is a virtue not to be neglected.

In the course of daily life, it may trip, blunder, but if it recovers itself immediately, it will be all the stronger to scale new heights.

#### The Adolescent

Thanks to an adequate formation, the child grows, accustoming itself to take stock of spiritual values, fixing its eyes on the highest ideals and striving for the goal to be attained, whatever the cost. What efforts are exacted! What struggles! Little by little, more and more victories are won. It is said that the tree falls on the side towards which it bends. If the growing child maintains an upright soul, if it learns to triumph over human passions, if it purifies its intentions, if it clings firmly to its will to remain on the right path, it will eventually live with rectitude of intention, free from self-love, and more securely established on the supernatural plane.

#### Purity of Intention

Purity of intention is effected in an intense union with God, in the forgetting of self and in a love for souls. These are very necessary elements if one is to exercise a spiritual influence either over those about us or in apostolic movements.

One cannot serve God and serve oneself. As long as a soul has not been purified of its "selfish me", its apostolic influence deviates under the influence of self-love. We must battle every manifestation of this "proud and pretentious self"; we must cut and hew without mercy to the end that the good may emerge

victorious from this duel between God and self, between the love of souls and the love of self. Apostolic activity offers an abundance of occasions to purify oneself through detachment, renunciation, sacrifices of every kind and the ever-present humiliation. There you have a most beneficial opportunity for the exercise of spiritual asceticism.

And therein lie the innumerable means of developing purity of intention in our life. To love God with all our heart, and souls for the love of God, that is the true love which guides our activities, leaving no room for self-seeking.

### Mary, Our Model

Mary, our Immaculate Mother, is the most wonderful model of purity. Totally given to God, she lived only to be pleasing to Him.

Mary gave her all.

Mary received all.

The marvelous workings of the goodness of a God who ALONE can “search the heart and the loins”!

In this virginal purity, Mary, through the action of the Holy Spirit, conceived and gave birth to the divine Word in a manner that was totally spiritual. O grandeur of the divine mysteries, inaccessible

to our poor intelligence ravaged by the consequences of original sin and restricted to the things of the here-below!

Mary is a vessel of purity, of openness, of love. In her, dwell wisdom, justice and strength which she communicates to those who consecrate themselves to her and who live only for love of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. And such as these become, here on earth, other “Marys” or other “Johns”. The lustre of their purity appeases heaven’s wrath, and the Father strikes off the chains of the bound – imprisoned in a net of their own making and dragged down by concupiscence – and leads them back to Life, that life of the soul which is only Light, Peace and Beauty, despite all the vicissitudes of this life on earth.

“I am the LIGHT of the world,” the Lord said. (Jn 9:5) Purity of heart and mind permits us to see the Light, to savour the Peace, to taste the Love and to be enthralled by so many beautiful things.

And so the soul comes to possess peace through the purity of its life. Purity has its roots deep in humility. He who is pure feels the impulse to be instructed in the science of God, and so he turns to the masters of heavenly doctrine.

**Marie-Paule**

(Le Royaume, no. 14, September 1983, p. 15)

## Marie-Paule Speaks to Us of Mary

*The souls focussed in the light of God contemplate with delight the splendors and marvels of creation. Purity is the open door allowing access to highly mystical and luminous pathways. It is through Mary, the Ark of the Covenant, that, in this time which is our time, the lofty values of a paradise lost are recovered.* (Marie, Les Éditoriaux, p. 519)

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*“One never loves so well or so much as when one does it through the Heart of Mary.”* (Life of Love II, 310)

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*Those who fight under Mary’s banner know all the fulness and richness found in the Immaculate Heart of Mary who sustains and guides their free will which has been entirely given over to her for the Cause they must support. The harsher and more difficult the battle, the stronger is the GRACE that strengthens tenfold their courage in the total giving of themselves and their possessions.* (Marie, Les Éditoriaux, p. 172)

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*The pure splendor of Mary must shine more than ever so that the Immaculate Virgin may enlighten spirits and give peace to hearts. Thus, divine life will blossom in the*

*souls thirsting for love.* (Review, L’Armée de Marie, vol. IV, p. 160)

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*Our everyday actions are meritorious; daily Mass and Communion permit the loving soul to be in communion with its King of Love. Prayer and penance, so recommended by Mary, our Mother, can release forces capable of minimizing the gravity, or even the possibility, of ominous events. But that is not enough. We must arouse ourselves, unite, and together, let us assail heaven with confidence.* (Review, L’Armée de Marie, vol. II, pp. 140-141)

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*Mary is the hope which sustains us in the hours of anguish.”* (Review, L’Armée de Marie, vol. II, p. 213)

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*Mary, so young when she uttered her “Fiat!” to the angel’s request, admired the rainbow of the mystery in a great flight of love. Now, she returns here below in the fires of Pentecost as the Queen of the Kingdom, in this time of the Apocalypse, to seal the holy Covenant and prepare the kingship of Christ the King.* (White Book IV, p. 32)

