

## *A Gift from Heaven: THE EUCHARISTIC RESERVES*

The volumes of *Life of Love* are full of examples of Heaven's foresight and of the fact that, if one obeys its demands or conforms to the unfolding of events, everything becomes clear one day and works to the advantage of the persons submissive to God's will in this way. The "Eucharistic reserves" are an eloquent example of this.

But, first of all, here is a bit of history. So it was that, because of the excommunication in 2007 and the fact that the members of the Army of Mary were prohibited from receiving Communion in the Church of Peter, solutions had to be found in order to enable all the members to nevertheless have access to the Eucharist.

Of course, there were always Masses at Spiri-Maria in Lac-Etchemin, at the Center of the Immaculate in Quebec City and in the larger Centers which the Sons of Mary visited on a regular basis. But there were also the persons living in regions further away who could no longer attend Mass in their parish and were equally unable to attend the meetings of the Lady's Work.

That is how the idea developed of broadcasting live on Internet the Masses celebrated at Spiri-Maria, to the great joy of the persons who could not assist at them in person. In the same breath, a sort of "distribution network" for the Eucharist was established in the form of little "Eucharistic reserves", that is, little blessed pyxes containing a certain number of consecrated hosts.

This possibility was offered first of all to persons living in the more distant regions, and also to persons who were sick or, because of their age, were unable to go to Spiri-Maria at Lac-Etchemin, to the Center of the Immaculate in Quebec City, or to other meetings in the different regions in Quebec or elsewhere.

When the Covid-19 crisis appeared and before the restrictions imposed on meetings and travels increased, ev-

erything was ready to provide the members of the Work with all the necessary hosts. It was simply a matter of making the network function at full capacity.

First of all, it was necessary to speed up the production of hosts, a task Sister Céline Goupil did with her usual devotedness. Then, they had to be given to the Sons of Mary who rapidly brought them to the different cities and regions in Quebec and in the other Canadian provinces.

In the United States, the situation turned out to be quite difficult because the border with Canada had just been closed. Thus, the supply of hosts could not be obtained from Lac-Etchemin as it was for the others. That is why the Sons of Mary in Hot Springs organized a major distribution operation from Arkansas (see the account below).

In Europe, the situation was even more difficult because the restrictions imposed on personal travel were already more stringent at that time, but solutions were likewise found.

Concerning the principal measures to be taken with regard to these Eucharistic reserves, they were recalled and clarified by Father Eric Roy in a document dated March 23, 2020, and entitled, "Temporary Measures within the Church of John Concerning the Eucharistic Reserves". This document as well as any other information about the Eucharistic reserves can be obtained from the Sons of Mary in Quebec City or Lac-Etchemin, in France and the United States.

And that is how – in spite of all the restrictions presently imposed upon personal travel in most countries – that the members of the Work can always assist, via Internet, at the Mass celebrated at Spiri-Maria and can always receive Communion either on Sundays only or daily if they so desire. Thus, the Body of the Total Christ continues to feed the souls of the faithful of the Lord and the Lady.

– Editorial Staff

*With regard to the distribution of the Eucharistic reserves in the United States, here is a summary of the account given by Father Bruno Ruel.*

On Wednesday, March 18, having learned that California was asking its residents to stay home, we understood how urgent it was to act. The goal was to provide each member of the Lady's Work living in the United States, with a Eucharistic reserve that could last, if possible, as long as meetings would be prohibited.

On Friday, March 20, members of the Work drove from Texas to Hot Springs (1,482 km round trip) to come and get the reserves destined for that State. On the same day, others came from Minnesota (2,842 km round trip) for the same purpose and because the border between the United States and Canada was already closed. Other measures were taken to supply our members from Alabama, Kentucky, Illinois, Massachusetts and Connecticut, with certain persons travelling long distances (up to 2,227 km) to transport the Eucharistic reserves.

On Saturday, March 21, after another Consecration, other reserves were sent to other areas in Kentucky, Indiana and Missouri.

Thus, in less than three days, almost all the members of the Lady's Work received Eucharistic reserves enabling them to take Communion regularly, whatever the restrictions governments might impose on personal travel. Such an operation could only have unfolded as well with the help of the Lady. May she be blessed and may she protect all her faithful who have such an ardent faith.

– Father Bruno Ruel

