

Canonization of Ernest and Laura Giguère

(by Padre Jean-Pierre at Spiri-Maria on September 16, 2018)

On July 19, 1920, at Sainte-Germaine-du-Lac-Étchemin, Ernest Giguère married Laura Bégin whom the villagers considered to be “the girl with the best-balanced character of all the girls in the village”.

The two young spouses, having come from profoundly Christian families, had at heart to keep the treasure of the faith and the values received from their parents and their ancestors, so as to pass them on in turn to the children who would come to enliven the family home. It was not long before their hopes were fulfilled and their first child, Marie-Paule, was born on September 14, 1921.

Through their life of prayer, Ernest and Laura taught their children the importance of faithfulness to God and a constant union with Him. They would also teach them to keep their hearts open to the marvelous beauties of Creation. Thus, it was within this school of life, faith and love that Marie-Paule grew up and progressed every day in the practice of virtues and the giving of self, having no other concern than that of always doing the Lord’s will.

Of course, Laura and Ernest’s years of marriage were not without trials and tribulations. But, far from rebelling or getting discouraged in such circumstances, the spouses would raise their eyes to Heaven every time, leaving it up to God to shed light on everything and over everyone, in His own good time and in His way.

Thus, in all the happy or painful situations willed or permitted by the Lord, Ernest and Laura’s family home would be sustained by a deep charity and marked by an extraordinary dignity. Furthermore, a Canon would express surprise one day over the “*air of distinction*” he perceived among all the members of the family, even suggesting that it might be possible to “*discover titles of nobility*” among their ancestors, to which Marie-Paule replied: “*Our nobility is not of this world. It is a special favor from the Lord, and it was daddy who received it. How many times in the past has the Lord not told me: ‘YOUR FATHER IS THE BLEST SEED OF HIS FAMILY.’*” (*Life of Love*, vol. III, pp. 133-134)

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Throughout his life, Ernest was concerned with accomplishing well the duties of his state and helping those around him. He was of an exemplary devotedness towards his loved ones as well as towards all those in need, for he was sensitive to their sufferings.

In fact, charity is the first virtue we notice in Ernest, as well as a very keen sense of justice. He gave himself totally for his loved ones and was constantly concerned for their well-being. His charity was not limited to the family circle, since he wanted to create jobs in the village so that the workers would not have to leave their families in order to earn a living. That is why he set up a factory which would rapidly become a flourishing business.

However, this project which he considered to be a social duty aroused the jealousy of certain influential men in the village who blocked him, frustrating his efforts. Faced with all this pettiness, Ernest did not let things get him down. During the more difficult periods, he confided in his dear wife, Laura, constantly repeating to her: “*Everything else has been taken from me, but I have kept my greatest treasure. Yes, my greatest treasure is my family. That, they can never take from me.*” (*Id.*, vol. I, p. 145)

On the personal level, Ernest knew he was a sinner and he acknowledged his weaknesses which made him suffer deeply. But he humbled himself before the Lord, asking of Him the strength to get up again every time. He would also seek to be forgiven by his wife who was a model of patience, gentleness and kindness. His humility caused him to take giant strides in God’s eyes.

A gentle and understanding man, Ernest was of an extraordinary generosity when it came to

seeking God's will. He would take upon his shoulders the problems of one and all and try to make more bearable, through his words and his liberalities, the lot of those who would seek him out as a confidant.

Marie-Paule would say of him, after his death: *"His arms were always open to receive and press to his heart; to dispense bountifully of a generosity that knew no limits."* (Id., p. 205) She would add: *"My father gave continually to the poor. 'If I can eat three meals a day,' he would say, 'the others should have the same right.'"* (Id., pp. 203-204)

In the evening of August 28, 1956, Ernest was the victim of a heart attack and died suddenly. In the hours that followed, Marie-Paule "saw" her very good father, now deceased, appear before the Sovereign Judge. She recounted the "conversation" she heard between the Lord and her father:

"MUCH WILL BE FORGIVEN YOU BECAUSE YOU HAVE LOVED MUCH. SEE THE PLACE THAT AWAITS YOU."

– 'I do not deserve so much,' says my father. 'Have you forgotten, O my God, the weakness which led me to offend you and which caused me so much suffering?'

'YES, MY CHILD, BUT HAVE YOU NOT WEPT IN ATONEMENT FOR YOUR FAULTS, AND HAVE YOU NOT LOVED ALL THE MORE? SO BEHOLD THE PLACE THAT AWAITS YOU. IT IS A BEAUTIFUL PLACE. ALL THE MORE BEAUTIFUL BECAUSE YOUR SPOUSE WILL BE RIGHT BESIDE YOU, FOR SHE IS TRULY A HOLY SOUL!'" (Id., pp. 202-203)

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With regard to Laura, it is appropriate to bring out the fact that she was, first and foremost, a wife and a mother entirely devoted to her family. Conscious of her responsibility towards her children, she was continuously attentive to the slightest signs which could blemish their souls, sacrificing unnecessary invitations or outings which could take her away from her family. She knew that it was her duty to be with them. She saw to giving her children the good moral formation she herself received. Always with a smile, she was attentive to their problems, supported her husband and forgave the stormy periods. Submissive to God's will, she would accept in the same manner the sorrows and the joys of life. (Cf. *id.*, pp. 25-30.)



Through her example, Laura taught her children the love of God and of the Eucharist, but also a love for all that was truth, beauty and simplicity. She was able to accept admirably well the tribulations in life without ever complaining and she always found a way to excuse her neighbor so that, in her family, there would not be a lack of charity.

Her attitude of love and forgiveness would deeply mark the life of her daughter, Marie-Paule, who described her good mother in these terms: *"A perfect spouse, an understanding mother; affectionate and generous; of an extraordinary moral worth; possessed of a heart fully compassionate for the tears and woes of all and sundry, without a thought for her own fatigue, her own most legitimate desires and hopes, endowed with an intelligence above average in what concerns the spiritual, and fully alert to whatever concerns the material; such is the spiritual portrait of her who, above all, has succeeded in being spouse and accomplished mother. The course of her life has been one long, uninterrupted act of charity wrought in silence; a hymning of the virtues of others; an unending quest for the welfare of her family; an overflowing generosity for all good works; an intuitive wisdom on behalf of her own, and a deep piety with which to crown her efforts."* (Id., p. 297)

Laura was a woman who practised to perfection the "three aspects of spiritualized love", that is, the love that is giving, that is forgiving and that is self-abandonment. In the giving of herself there was no measure, since she would forget herself for the welfare of everyone. The forgiveness she granted was generous, for she would never come back on the past or on an offence already pardoned. Moreover, she was always and constantly abandoned to God's will expressed through providential events, be they favorable or unfavorable, and she would take advantage of these latter to draw closer to Him.



Our Foundress said, with regard to her mother: *“How many times, when a trial afflicted the family, did I not hear my mother urge us to welcome God’s will in our regard, in order to progress more quickly towards Him. She would then exhort us to prayer of supplication and gratitude. That gave us the strength to help us pass through times of trial with confidence, and for Christ the Redeemer.”* (Constitutions of the Family of the Sons and Daughters of Mary, p. 2)

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Given the deep faith of Ernest and Laura and their response of authentic love to the call of divine Love throughout their lives here below, in a constant seeking of God’s will in order to faithfully correspond to it as spouses and parents, in a spirit of simplicity, an attentiveness to the grace of the moment and in keeping with providential events;

Given the exemplary witness of their life of prayer, their heroic practice of the Christian virtues and their edifying charity towards everyone, and in conformity with the fact that the Lord Himself had said to Marie-Paule in reference to Laura and Ernest:

“YES, IN TRUTH, YOUR MOTHER IS GOOD. SHE IS A SECOND SAINT ANNE, NEVER FORGET THAT. AND YOUR FATHER IS A VERY GOOD MAN ALSO, IN SPITE OF HIS WEAKNESS, AND NEVER FORGET THAT EITHER.” (*Life of Love*, vol. I, p. 144)

For the glory of the Divine Quinternity,
for the good of humanity redeemed by the Lord
and which the Lady is regenerating today,
for the radiance of the Church of John raised by Heaven
as the renewal of the Church of Peter,
in the presence of Marc-André I, Church King,
in the name of Jesus Christ and Paul-Marie,
Lord and Lady of All Peoples,

I DECLARE LAURA BÉGIN AND ERNEST GIGUÈRE SAINTS,

and I invite the Church of John to honor them as such
and to celebrate their liturgical memorial every year
on July 19, their wedding day.

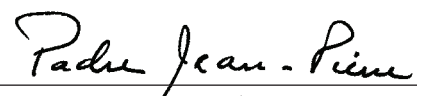
May the present world and the generations to come, see
in Saint Laura and in Saint Ernest
exemplary spouses and parents,
entirely devoted out of love
to the cause of the Family in accordance with God’s plan
with a view to the Kingdom!

In the name of the Father and of the Son, of the Mother and of the Daughter, in the unity of the Spirit. Amen.

Given at Spiri-Maria, on September 16, 2018,
in the twelfth year of my spiritual reign.



Father Victor Rizzi
Marian Father and Mediator of Peace



Padre Jean-Pierre
Father of the Church of John