



ARCHDIOCESE OF HALIFAX

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June 4, 2005

Mrs. Marie-Paule Giguère
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Dear Beloved Daughter in Christ,

Saint Paul tells us in the letter to the Romans (5:5) that hope never disappoints us. Therefore, it is filled with this hope that I am writing these few lines to you, sincere lines that come from the heart. First of all, I want you to know that I respect you in Jesus Christ. I was always struck by your kindness towards me, by your gracious attitude whenever we met. I hope I can count on this virtue again, a virtue which deeply marks you as a person, for a common work in the Church. I also highly respect you because I believe that God is making a gift to His Church, a gift that is manifest in the eloquent testimonials of so many men and women who grew up in the Army of Mary, many of whom have found in the Sons of Mary propitious ground for the blossoming of their vocation.

However, to be totally frank, I must admit that I was surprised to see – and I discovered this as I was viewing the Army of Mary's web site – that a public reply to my letter, personally addressed to you, had been published without my knowledge by a third person, Mrs. Sylvie Payeur-Raynauld. Setting aside this disappointing fact, I was grieved first and foremost by what appears to me to be a blow to an Ignatian principle that is important to me, whereby one presumes that good will is always present in the person with whom one is speaking or corresponding. I do not know Mrs. Payeur-Raynauld very well, but besides a poor understanding of the Catholic faith and the ecclesiastical laws, I have noticed what seems to be a constant element in all her writings. We find in her a will to defend "at all costs" the work you have founded against anyone whomsoever who would dare question anything whatsoever with regard to this work, to the point of even sacrificing the truth and, instead of presuming that the other person has good will, assuming precisely the opposite! Now to question or challenge something does not mean "being against it". It seems quite clear to me that she understood nothing of my letter to you and that she finds in it motives that had never even entered my mind when I wrote it.

This manner of acting is also reflected in the other writings of your spiritual sons who fall under my responsibility. It is sad to see the "I accuse" made against the Church of Jesus Christ by these persons who are doubtlessly good, but who nevertheless, "in the name of truth and love" fall into the opposite extreme. In the history of the Church, numerous rents were made "in the name of God". God certainly did not want the schism of the Orthodox Church, the schism of Bishop Lefebvre, the departure of Martin Luther, the break by the Church of England. And yet, in all these cases, it was always in the name of God or of a mission entrusted by God to an individual that action was taken. After almost 500 years, the Reform Churches still exist. Could Gamaliel's words be applied there? God cannot desire an estrangement of the Sons of Mary or the Army of Mary from within the bosom of the one, holy, Catholic and apostolic Church.

You know that the cause of the Sons of Mary is important to me. That is why I had written to you,

their “spiritual mother”, in all confidence. Far from me the thought of wanting to take God’s place. I am but a simple servant. On the other hand, this servant was given the responsibility of being in charge of the Sons of Mary, a responsibility requested of him by Peter’s successor. So it is to Peter – and therefore to Christ – that I must give an account of this.

I would have understood well your silence and I would not have written to you again. However, the publication of so many things on your web site leads me to believe that I must interpret your silence as a blunt refusal of my mission and my work with your spiritual Sons and, by extension, with those who follow them. The ceremony of May 31 at Spiri-Maria presided over by Sons of Mary went against my humble requests.

It will be my great joy to see the Church of Jesus Christ recognize, some day, the charism that you, as God’s instrument, transmitted to the Sons of Mary. However, in order for this to happen, we must purify the Sons of Mary as well as the lay members of a certain dross to bring them, together, to a greater understanding of the Church and its mystery. At this time, this understanding of the Church and its mystery is quite poor. When God wants something, He always speaks through obedience, and nothing can stop Him. The gift of charisms, in the manner in which it is to be exercised, is always subjected to the charism of the authority. The exercise of the charism the Sons of Mary have received must necessarily pass through the Voice of our Holy Mother the Church.

I would appreciate it if you would be kind enough to reply to this letter before June 17 because I must go to Rome to hand over the dossier on the last events concerning the Sons of Mary to the Holy See. Can I hope for your collaboration in asking the Sons of Mary to follow what I have indicated to them, especially those indications expressed to you in my letter of April 25? I beseech you, in the name of Christ and of His Church, not to push away the hand that is being held out to you.

May Mary, through her Immaculate Heart, inspire and support us in our journey.



+Terrence Prendergast, s.j.
Archevêque de Halifax,
Commissaire pontifical
Auprès des Fils de Marie

Cc: à tous les Fils de Marie