

FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

Ave Maria!

Genoa, January 1, 2018
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Dear brothers and sisters of the Marian Movement of Priests,

“*Of what are you afraid?*” the Blessed Mother asks us in her message of December 4, 1976 (#113). Of the threatening situation in the world? Of the unsettling state of the Church? Of the Antichrist? Of suffering? Of martyrdom? But the Blessed Mother reiterates to us that *all of this forms part of God’s plan*, like the Cross for the salvation of the world, for the triumph of her Immaculate Heart.

“My beloved sons, be ever more docile, and allow yourselves to be led by me with complete confidence. In the darkness of *this hour of trial for the Church*, you are called by me to walk in the light. **The light shines forth from my Immaculate Heart** and comes to you to envelop you and illumine your path. Stand firm; never again must you doubt! **Your road is safe because it has been marked out for you by your heavenly Mother.**” (*To the Priests, Our Lady’s Beloved Sons, #113 a-d*)

It is the path of the true Catholic Faith, of the Seven Sacraments and of the Ten Commandments. It is not a special path, but we much follow it in these “**special times**” – “the times of the purification and of the great tribulation”, the times of the great apocalyptic trial of Revelation 12-13. Only those who are accustomed to placing their trust in Mary will succeed in remaining in the state of Grace and in the Faith.

News

- I assure you, because I have witnessed it, that the Movement is something great, strong and faithful. This past year, with 45 flights, I visited 140 cities in 17 countries, presiding over 162 cenacles, which were attended by 82,000 faithful, including a Cardinal, 38 Archbishops and Bishops and 656 priests. Furthermore I met with a Cardinal, 11 Archbishops and Bishops and many groups of priests, seminarians, religious and faithful, to speak to them of the Movement.
- In 2017, the centenary year of the Fatima Apparitions, we held our Spiritual Exercises in the form of a continuous Cenacle, at this very place visited and blessed by Mary. One Cardinal, ten Bishops, and two hundred priests and several regional MMP lay responsables participated. Thirty-four countries were represented – it is the *catholicity* (i.e. universality) of the Church!
- Also on this occasion of the Fatima centenary, an international meeting of the MMP faithful was held for the first time. Participants included a Bishop, 30 priests and 80 members of the laity. More than twenty countries were represented. All rejoiced over this marvelous experience, and it was proposed that we do it again to mark the 50th anniversary of the MMP in 2022, if it is God’s will.
- In addition, Fr. Geremia, the Assistant Director General of the MMP, presided over many regional cenacles in Italy, India and Oceania (Australia, Fiji, Tonga and New Zealand). In Our Lady’s name, **I thank the many responsables and zealous apostles** who, at the cost of great sacrifices, work for her Movement in spreading and preserving the faithfulness of the Cenacles (i.e. keeping them authentic). I remind you that this faithfulness includes not introducing other devotions into her Cenacles. To remain obedient to Her Plan, *the Blue Book* is all we need.

• A postulator is needed to open the cause for the **beatification of Fr. Stefano Gobbi**. Please continue to pray for this intention. For those of us who knew him, the life of Fr. Gobbi is a model of fidelity, simplicity, humility, strength and holiness, and this grace-filled life should be introduced to the universal Church. I urge those of you who met Fr. Gobbi, even if only once, to commit to *documenting your witness, even if only a single paragraph or page*. Please send it to a responsible, or even directly to me at the International HQ - Via Giovanni Bosco 3, 22100 Como-Lora, Italia. I beg you! *It is very important!*

Spiritual Exercises - 2018

As usual, these will be held in **Collevalenza** at the Shrine of Merciful Love, from **Sunday evening June 24 to Saturday morning June 30**, for bishops, priests and those laypersons who have a position of responsibility in the MMP. Address all inquiries and reservation requests to:

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MEDITATION

The Challenge of Satan

“You are already about to reach the most painful and bloody conclusion of the purification which will take place in these years, before the great triumph of my Immaculate Heart in the coming to you of the glorious reign of Jesus. This is a plan which embraces this century. In 1917 at Fatima, I anticipated it, as in a prophetic announcement, at the moment when the *great struggle* between **the Woman Clothed with the Sun** and the Red Dragon became evident, a struggle which was to last throughout the whole century, as a proud challenge to God on the part of my Adversary, who was certain that he would succeed in destroying the Church and in bringing all humanity to a universal rejection of God. The Lord has granted him this space of time, because in the end the pride of the Red Dragon *will be broken and conquered* by **the humility, the littleness**, and the power of your heavenly Mother, the Woman Clothed with the Sun, who is now gathering **all her little children** into her army, drawn up for battle.” (297gh, November 9, 1984)

These words refer explicitly to a *vision of Leo XIII*, on October 13 (!), 1884, to which Fr. Gobbi made frequent reference. The Blessed Mother tells us that God accepted the challenge because Satan must not only be defeated, but also *humiliated*.

We read in the message of October 13, 1987, entitled, “Seventieth anniversary of the last apparition at Fatima – I will put an end to your slavery”: “For seventy years, my Adversary, Satan, has come up from the abyss into your midst, to manifest himself as the Red Dragon in all his terrible power.”

Now we could say: “*For one hundred years* my Adversary, Satan, has come up from the abyss into your midst...”

Without worrying about dates, we believe that **Rev 12-13 is the most profound key to reading the signs of the times**. We are in the midst of the great battle between the Woman Clothed with the Sun and the great Dragon, Satan, the “seducer of the entire world.” This is why Fr. Gobbi always insisted that this scriptural passage be read in the Cenacles.

Pope John Paul II also chose to use this same passage at Fatima on May 13, 2000, on the occasion of the Beatification of Jacinta and Francisco. “According to the divine plan, ‘a Woman Clothed with the Sun’ came down from heaven to this earth (...) The message of Fatima is a call to conversion, alerting humanity to have nothing to do with the ‘Dragon’...”

This means that at Fatima, the Woman Clothed with the Sun is gathering her own so that, in the final apocalyptic battle, they will not go along with the Dragon’s “game.” The Woman Clothed with the Sun gathers all of her little children and, **if they are little**, places them under the shelter of her Mantle with the Consecration to her Immaculate Heart.

The battle, however, is not on account of Satan’s power, but only a concession granted by God, according to a plan of His, to which Mary has given her “third Yes” after those she gave to the Incarnation and the Redemption.

“This is now the time for me to begin disclosing part of **my plan**. First of all, it is necessary that my Enemy have the impression of having conquered everything, of having everything now in his hands. This is why he will be permitted to penetrate even into the interior of my Church...” so that “My Adversary will one day think that he is celebrating a complete victory: over the world, over the Church, over souls. It will be only then that I will intervene – **terrible and victorious** – that his defeat may be all the greater when he is certain in his conviction that he has conquered once for all.”
(83 h-i, c-d, October 18, 1975)

It is part of God’s plan that the Enemy be defeated by a little creature – **the humble Servant of God**, Mary. She must crush the head of the ancient Serpent *with her little heel*. Now, **this heel is us...** “And lastly, **you must be little** to form *this humble heel* which Satan will try to bite, but with which I will crush his head.” (109q, September 8, 1976)

Satan has seduced the earth with pride. This is why, to counter-attack, the Blessed Mother gathers a **faithful small remnant, comprised entirely of the little, the humble**, the poor and the simple. This Army of little ones is now assembled, “ready for battle.” It is only with these little ones that the Immaculate Heart of Mary will achieve her triumph.

The Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in our Faith

The Faith is already Mary’s triumph since “the victory that conquers the world is our faith.” (1 Jn 5:4) “Then the Dragon (full of great fury because he knows that his days are numbered) became angry with the woman and went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring, those who keep God’s commandments and bear witness to Jesus.” Rev 12:17 (and 12).

In these conclusive times when, now more than ever, very little of the time granted to Satan is left, there remains a faithful small remnant, characterized by the verses we have just read:

- 1) “the rest of her offspring”: the rest of **Mary’s children**; that is to say, after Jesus Who is the “first-born of many brothers.” (Rom 8:29)
- 2) “those who **keep God’s commandments**.” (Rev 12:17)
- 3) and who “bear witness to Jesus”, which is the Holy Spirit in us, and who attest that Jesus is Lord. (cf. 1 Cor 12:3, Jn 15:26, 1 Jn 5:6) That is, **they who keep the true Faith**.

Remaining in the Grace of God

Satan tries to *make people lose* their practice of the Ten Commandments. He has led humanity to “play his game” with a set of laws of death, egoism and impurity that are totally opposed to the holy Law of God. And his victory is moral relativism (according to which there is no longer any distinction between good and evil) which has entered profoundly into the world’s mentality, with a general loss of the sense of sin and so also of sacramental Confession. There are so many dead souls preparing themselves for the fall into an eternal Hell...“It is the persons who are consecrated, the very priests and religious, who have lost even the sense of sin.” (112h, November 20, 1976) But **with the “children of Mary”** who have been gathered by Her in these apocalyptic times, he encounters much more resistance than with the rest of the world that has been seduced by him. These children of Hers want to remain in obedience to the Ten Commandments; they want to participate in the Seven Sacraments; they want to **remain in the grace of God**. “Never as in these times has the practice of frequent confession been so necessary.” (278j, December 8, 1983)

Remaining in the True Faith

Satan wants above all to *make people lose* **the Faith**, because It gives Life (Jn 20:31) – the Catholic Faith in the Church – “O Church, one, holy, catholic, apostolic, united to my Pope of Rome.”
(352e, May 17, 1987)

Let us again recall the prophecy of Paul VI, mentioned in the introduction to our Book: a “non-Catholic spirit” has entered the Church, to the point today of having become the stronger of the two. Remember also the corresponding words of the future Pope Benedict XVI: “We are building a dictatorship of relativism” in such a way that “having a clear faith based on the Creed of the Church is often labeled (in the Church’s interior) as fundamentalism. (Homily given during Mass prior to the Papal Conclave, April 18, 2005) This dictatorship would like to reduce the Catholic Faith to merely one opinion among many; that is to say, to something that is relative and no longer an absolute, no more a certainty of the Revelation that God has made of Himself and that we receive in the Holy Spirit. We can speak of a “hidden Sanhedrin” (April 17, 1981) which imposes this dictatorship within the interior of the Church. “Many are running the danger of becoming victims of this general confusion, and even in my Church **a false spirit, which is not that of Jesus the Son of God**, is seeking to spread itself about. Like a cloud of invisible poison gas, a spirit which jumbles the things of God with those of the world is expanding...” (254e, December 8, 1982)

But **with the “children of Mary”**, Satan encounters much more resistance than with the rest of the world that has been seduced by atheism, impiety, apostasy, the Antichrist. These children of Hers want to **remain in the true Faith**.

A New Persecution

“...soon the Church will be shaken by **a terrible persecution, a new persecution**, such as has hitherto been unknown.” (393h, November 12, 1988) “...the time comes for the terrible encounter with those priests who are bearers of error and who will range themselves against the Pope and my Church...” (67h, January 4, 1975) “These are the times...when cardinals will be set against cardinals, bishops against bishops and priests against priests...” (332h, September 6, 1986) “with the prospect of forming a worldwide religious union for the defense of human values...” (337e, October 27, 1986)

The Antichrist will “offer men an apparent solution to their problems at the price of apostasy from the Truth.” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 675) “The Church will be, as it were, submerged in error which will be embraced and propagated, and thus apostasy will reach its peak. (...) The pastors and the flock entrusted to them will be struck; for a short while, **the Lord will permit that the Church will be as though abandoned by Him.** (...) This will be the hour of the martyrs who, in great numbers, will shed their blood and of the remnant who will envy those they see persecuted and slain. Only then will you understand all that I have done for you...” (147f-k, February 10, 1978)

It will be understood that Rev 12-13 *is indeed the key to reading the signs of the times*, and that one needed to have consecrated oneself to Mary so as not to be among the innumerable victims of Satan. This “new persecution” will be that of a “non-Catholic spirit” against the Catholic spirit; that of “a dictatorship of relativism” led by a “hidden Sanhedrin” which is taking over the Church, against the “resistants” in the true Faith. It is the hour of witness, like St. Peter before the Sanhedrin (Acts 5: 29-32), **a new martyrdom within the Church Herself**, to preserve the true Spirit of Jesus in opposition to a false Church and a false Christ.

The **decisive criterion** of this falsehood is described in the message of December 31, 1992, “fourth sign”: Jesus in the Eucharist, the “Mystery of Faith.”

Jesus-Eucharist, the “Mystery of Faith”

Our Faith is not an opinion that is worth the same as any other (as the dictatorship of relativism imposes), but rather the *absolute Truth as testified by the Spirit of God Itself within our heart*; therefore, our heart cannot submit itself to the dictatorship of relativism, but must always attest to the absolute Truth of Jesus, especially in *adoring his Real Presence in the Eucharist*, even to the point of martyrdom. “You are being called more and more to become the apostles and **new martyrs of Jesus, present in the Eucharist.**” (156n, July 13, 1978)

And perhaps, what is abused today in word (“fundamentalist”, “conservative”, “pre-conciliar”, “rigid”, etc.) will later be abused in action. This is martyrdom. (And let us ask for the grace to understand when it is about resisting for defense of the true Faith, and when it is just a matter of liturgical sensitivity.)

With the “children of Mary”, of the Woman Clothed with the Sun who gathers her little ones in these apocalyptic times, the Enemy will encounter much more resistance, even if the whole world has been seduced by him, and even if the false Church has invaded the true One. The children of Mary will be the victors, but not through any human means, but with the power of Jesus Crucified: the power of Justice; the power of Truth; the power of the Beatitudes; the power of humility. **The victory of martyrs.**

“Be Joyous”

Yes, “be joyous” despite the prospect of martyrdom. This is the title given to the October 18, 1975 message, the last message that Fr. Gobbi wanted to read and meditate with his own before dying. Fr. Gobbi said, “*read it well, because it contains everything.*” For us, this message is like a testament within the whole of his spiritual testament which is the entire Blue Book.

“Be Joyous” since all this *is part of God’s victory plan*, a plan of the Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, even if we are still, for a little while longer, within the span of time granted to Satan who will manifest himself soon with all the power of the Antichrist “seated on the throne of God” (1 Thes 2:4), within a Church that will have become a false Church. “*Do not lose courage.*” (January 1, 1993, 486u) The times of purification and of the great tribulation must come before the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, which will come to pass with the Return of Jesus in Glory, thus glorifying His Real Presence in the Eucharist, and “making all things new.” (Rev 21:5).

Let us live the joy and the unwavering hope of the Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. “Today (Holy Saturday) I want all of you near me, the sorrowful Mother, to be consoled by you and to teach you *to pray with confidence, to suffer with docility, to love with purity of heart, to believe with unshakeable certitude, to hope with heroism, even against the evidence of things.*” (379d, April 2, 1988)

And let us not change anything in our Act of Consecration, as some are tempted to do on account of the Pope. The Blessed Mother is the only one who can alter the Act of Consecration; therefore, we change nothing.

“Respond always and only with **heroic trust** in me. That is all I need from you, *my little children*, to crush the head of my Adversary, while he will attempt to bite my heel, by laying snares for you, my dearest sons.” (128w, July 8, 1977)

“Of what are you afraid?”

Let us come back to the message of December 4, 1976 (113h-p):

“My Church, of which I am the Mother, lives again the life of Christ and is *now called to tread the same path He trod.* (cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church, 677) Of what, then, are you afraid? Of a world that has hurled itself with violent hatred against you? Of Satan who has succeeded in making his way into the heart of the Church and of reaping his victims from among its very pastors? (...) This, my beloved sons, is for my Church still the hour of Satan and of the power of darkness. **It will be also immolated like Christ on the Cross and be called to die for the salvation and the renewal of the world.** And since this is the hour of your purification, it is above all the hour of your suffering. Could it perhaps be this that you fear? But **what if the Father has called you now, one by one, from all eternity for this hour? And what if your heavenly Mother has long since chosen you and prepared you for this hour?**”

Dear brothers and sisters, let us not fear suffering since it is all part of a **plan of God** Who has entrusted to the Humble Servant of the Lord, the task, through us, and **only if we are little**, of defeating Satan once and for all.

“Live then in serenity of spirit and without fear, even in the midst of the anxieties and threats of your time.”

Counting on your prayers and assuring you of mine,

Your little brother,

Fr. Laurent Larroque