

**“MY HOUR HAS COME”**

(13th. May 1978)

What remains to be said of the Cenacle? It is the urgency of the Work which has been entrusted to us:

“I am in a hurry, beloved sons, because the times have arrived. I am pressed for time because the battle, already under way, has a plan which is in the process of being fully realised”. (M. 134, 24th. August 1977)

Our Mother, twice in the messages, described the present times as times “of emergency” (M. 28, 1st. December 1973; M. 218, 31st. December 1980) We must respond, but how? There is so much indifference, so much rejection to our efforts. What must we do?

We live in an age of efficiency; we could offer our Mother the fruits of our human efficiency in the administration of Her Work. But, one moment! She is infinitely more efficient than we are – in Her way – and it is different to ours. In fact, it was the first warning I received from my predecessor when I became responsible for England. He said: “It would have been possible to flood every presbytery in the country with the Book, in order to spread the Movement rapidly. But we came to understand that this was not the way. They would not have read it, but put it on the shelf!” Well, we could advertise, suggests the human way of thinking ... but then Mother does not want us to advertise! That gave me the true measure of my own “efficiency” before I started!

Don Stefano, it seems, had the same problem:

“You must be more attentive, O My son, in order to remain always in My Immaculate Heart, and not let yourself be taken up or discouraged by things, especially when these are independent of your will. You are in a hurry, you would like My Movement to spread more rapidly, and that the Booklet would not encounter so many difficulties in its reprinting. How much of the human there is in your desires! It is necessary that I, as a mother, purify you, if you want Me to lead you to that perfection which is pleasing to My Heart. Rely on Me and not on human means; entrust yourself only to Me. There is one thing you can

always do, and which is the only thing that I want you to do at each moment, because it is so useful to Me for the Movement: your prayer, your suffering, your trust in Me. This is what I ask of you: that you let yourself be divested of all other preoccupations. This is not one of many movements, but it is My Movement, My son. So then, let Me act. All My priests must act in this way". (M.37, 10th. February 1974)

The haste of the Mother is not, therefore, a haste in terms of human ways of thinking. Rather it is a haste of deepening the spirit of Her Immaculate Heart in Her children. It is not for nothing that She gave us that little message in which She says: "You do not have to be numerous, but you must be holy" (M. 20, 13th. October 1973). Again, it is so human to think in terms of efficiency: we think of numbers as a measure of our "success" but, by themselves, they are meaningless.. You can have an enormous crowd pronouncing the Act of Consecration, but with very little true commitment. This is not our Mother's way of seeing: for Her, it is the heart which counts and its holiness, and it is for this that She has come to speak to our hearts, and to make them the seat of true holiness. She is the Mistress of the little remnant!

### *The Haste of the Mother*

The Mother is in haste with this Work of Hers, because the Church has need of it, and most urgently. There are people who still see the Marian Movement of Priests as just another devotion to Our Lady, or an aid to the spiritual development of its members to Her. What we must all recognise is that it is, in fact, directed to the needs of the Church and that every cenacle, even the smallest, is part of our Mother's reconstruction of that Church as a whole and not just the sanctification of its members. Every person who consecrates himself to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and takes part in the cenacles is of immense importance. The diabolic attack against the Church which has taken place, and is still raging, is probably the greatest which has ever taken place, and in it we are helpless before the onslaught of the enemy. Only the Mother, with the grace given to Her from God, is able to help us, but first we must be brought to understand this profoundly and to depend on Her profoundly, and not on ourselves:

"To adhere to it (the Movement) depends entirely on correspondence to a special grace which I will grant to each one. And this you can obtain

through your prayer, My son, through your love, through your suffering, and even through your inability to act". (M.51, 24th. June 1974)

Even our "inability to act", if it offers an appeal to Her motherly love, is an offering valuable in Her sight.

We have need of our Mother and of Her strength. She has emphasised many times that our part is to pray, to offer our sufferings and, above all, to trust. If we do this, living in consecration to Her Immaculate Heart, then we may be sure of Her living and acting in us with Her power:

"I want to live in you and act through you". (27th. June 1996)

But we must trust. It is only when we come to depend on Her totally, and to recognise that dependence, that She will come in the maximum possible way to our aid:

"That which most touches My Heart is to hear them cry like little children. Can a mother not be moved before her little child who is crying? Behold, when everything will have come tumbling down, all that will remain will be the strength of their tears that will compel Me to intervene in an amazing and terrible way. And My Triumph will begin with these beloved sons, My Priests". (M.40, 23rd. February 1974)

We have said it before: Her Work is totally maternal. How priceless is our littleness!

Our Mother does not delay. We have an example of Her haste in coming to our aid in the cenacles. In 1980, She described Her plan:

"I now ask you for more prayer. Multiply your cenacles of prayer. Multiply your Rosaries, recited well and in union with Me. Offer Me also your suffering and your penance. I ask you for prayer and penance for the conversion of sinners, that even My most rebellious and most distant children may return to God, Who awaits them with the merciful eagerness of a father. And then, together we will form a great net of love that will envelop and save the whole world". (M.192, 22nd. January 1980)

And the wonderful thing is that She has done it in a little over thirty years! All over the world, even in places occupied by the forces of atheism, She has inspired souls to commit themselves, sometimes with great generosity and at personal risk, to establish these centres. One day, at the time ordained for Her Triumph, She will allow us to see the immense work She has done.

## *The Gift of the Immaculate Heart*

In the "rebirth" of the Church, which is rooted in the Cenacle, as we have seen, the key to our Mother's Work is the renewal of its heart. She will achieve this by transforming the hearts of Her children, beginning with a nucleus of those who will give themselves to Her in consecration to Her Immaculate Heart. Those important words in the message of 27th. November 1973 (M.27) describe Her plan perfectly: "I want to give them My Heart". She Herself wishes to be the loving, faithful Heart of the renewed Church. Thus is formed the Cenacle, the home of the Church so that we can say that, in consecrating ourselves to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and possessing that Heart of hers, we are consecrating ourselves to being, in Her, the new heart of the new Church.

It is a gift which is given to each individually, as it involves a total commitment, but of these children of hers together our Mother can say:

"Be the new heart of the new Church" (M.575, 27th. June 1996) because "I want to live in you and act through you" (ibid.) and "Be My very motherly and merciful presence in the Church". (ibid.)

It is impossible to exaggerate the extraordinary and vast scope of the gift which our Mother describes here. Each one of us, while retaining the fragility of his own humanity, is also a presence of Mary Herself. She lowers Herself to enter into our poor lives and make them her own, to act in us, pray in us, help with us. The Cenacle, as we have seen in another meditation, is the seedbed in which Her spirit is to be cultivated in us, in a new holiness. That holiness is needed by the church, and here again is the explanation of Her "haste".

## *Mercy*

In forming us in the Cenacle which unites our hearts to Hers, one of our Mother's principal concerns for the cenacles and the consecration is that of Mercy, the recovery of souls which are far away. In the tide of sin which has engulfed the world, in which even the need to repent is smothered out of the human conscience of many, as well as sin being justified, the danger of hell opens up to a vast number of souls. Our mother spoke of it to the children in Fatima ("Many of My children are on the road to hell. Will you help me to have them

back?") She has repeated it to Her Marian Movement of Priests, and in this way She is speaking of the greatest anguish that can possess a mother's heart: that of the prospect of losing any of Her children. Her longing to recover these children, however, is something which cannot be satisfied by Herself, despite Her exalted position before God. The Church itself must do its part.

This is one of our Mother's great motives in forming Her Marian Movement of Priests. They are formed, in part, to be a living appeal for mercy. We must listen again and to the message of 16th. October 1973, if we want to understand the haste in our Mother's Heart to achieve Her purpose:

"My Heart is the heart of a Mother, a real, living heart of a Mother Who is real and living for all Her children. All men redeemed by My Son are also My children: they are My children in the fullest sense of the word. Even those who are far away, even the sinners, even the atheists, even those who reject God, those who fight against Him and hate Him: they are all My children. And I am a Mother to them. For many of them, I am the only Mother they have, the only person who is taking care of them, who truly loves them. And so My Heart is continually consumed with sorrow and with a greater love for these children of mine. I want to help them. I want to save them because I am their Mother. Because of this I suffer for them. I suffer for their sins, I suffer because they are so far from God. I suffer because they do wrong, I suffer because of all the harm they are doing to themselves. But how to help them? How to save them? I have need of much prayer. I have need of much suffering. Only through the prayer and the suffering of others, the good and generous, will I be able to save these children of mine. And so there is then the Movement of My Priests: it is desired by Me to make reparation for the immense harm caused in souls by atheism, to restore in so many desecrated hearts the image of God, the merciful countenance of My Son Jesus. My Priests are My restorers: they will restore in so many souls the face of God, and thus they will bring back many of My children from death to life. And in this way they will be the true consolers of My Sorrowful Heart".  
(M. 16th. October 1973)

It is a message full of urgency, which was echoed by Pope John Paul II in his encyclical "Dives in Misericordia":

"The more the human conscience succumbs to secularisation, loses its sense of the very meaning of the word "mercy", moves away from God

and distances itself from the mystery of mercy, the more the Church has the right and the duty to appeal to the God of mercy "with loud cries". These "loud cries" should be the mark of the Church of our times...". (15)

The "mark of our times" is an expression of the Holy Father which seem to say that imploring mercy is the top priority for our Church. If it is of the highest priority for the Church, it is equally so for the Movement, for we are speaking of the reason for the coming of the Lord on earth and the shedding of His Precious Blood. But the needs of the Church are great. In the last few years, many scandals have appeared in the ranks of those who should be leaders in its life. We can think of the quest for prestige and position, a certain seeking after personal comfort and possessions and divisions rooted in disloyalty to the Holy Father and to the hierarchy. Then there have been most serious scandals in the moral sphere, in the abuse of children and in homosexual practices, this clearly contrary to the teaching of the Church. All this results in a lack of trust in the priesthood, which should be a bastion of all that can be trusted. So much healing is needed.

No wonder our Mother is in a hurry for this powerful spirit to enter deeply into the Church. It happens when we allow it to be the form of the soul of each one of us.

In all this, our Mother has given so many signs to awaken Her children to these realities, and to the terrible situation which has developed. We may reflect: what could have induced the Mother of God to manifest Her sorrow in this world so frequently as, for instance, in the shedding of tears of blood from the eyes of statues of marble or stone? I remember a Carmelite prioress in Sicily, who gave me a precious relic: a little cloth which had wiped the tears on the miraculous statue in Siracusa, which had wept tears. She said: "It seems that our Mother no longer has words for us, but only tears!"

"The tears of a mother succeed in moving the most hardened hearts. But now My tears, even tears of blood, leave many of My children completely indifferent". (M. 85, 30th. October 1975)

Of course, that was before the messages to don Stefano began, and our Mother showed us that She had many words for us yet to come!

However, the fact is that we of our Mother's special Movement of consecrated children must be sensitive to these signs and be generous

in our prayer and in the offering of our sufferings. While it is true that our Mother's tears are powerful before God in obtaining graces of mercy, the fact is that She is not permitted to do it all alone. The Mother's tears must be accompanied by the tears of Her children!

We hear all of this as pastors, and it is our duty to bring this understanding to our people. The fact is, sadly, that the greatest force of prayer in our Movement lies in the faithful people, but we have a duty to lead them. Our lay people have the right to be fed on strong meat by their pastors in their cenacles.

It is a sacred trust which our Mother gives to Her Marian Movement of Priests, to be Her instruments in seeking mercy for a world whose heart, as John Paul II said "has grown cold and is dying". It is a serious and painful trust, involving much suffering:

"Let these children of mine offer Me all their sufferings, all their misunderstandings, all their difficulties. This is the greatest gift they can make to Me, because they allow Me to carry out in time - in this, your time, My task as Mother and Co-Redemptrix. I will save many souls redeemed by Jesus, but at present so far away from Him, because My sons, together with Me, will pay for them". (M.44, 1st. April 1974)

When we speak of Mercy, we speak immediately of the need for the consecration of suffering, and we take special note of the words we have just read, where our Mother says that offering Her all our sufferings is "the greatest gift they can make to Me". It is so very important. Why? Because it lies at the very heart of Her Work. For our Mother, the Cross of Jesus is central to everything, and so must it be for Her consecrated children. As well as raising up a vast body of prayer with which to surround the world in the net of love, She surrounds it also with a huge number of souls with lives full of suffering, which is being offered through Her Immaculate Heart in reparation. Probably many of us, in our contacts with our Movement, have noticed that suffering is on the increase at this time; the enticements of the enemy to sin are great, but Heaven's answer for reparation is greater.

We must remember that, as we were baptised into Jesus, so we were baptised in order to be immolated with Him according to the will of the Eternal Father; as we became priests, we were then called to be Priests and Victims with and in Him.

We notice too that our Mother appeals for the offering of "*sufferings, misunderstandings and difficulties*". Nothing is too small and insignificant to have value for the salvation of souls; as we remember, St. Thérèse said: "Pick up a pin for the love of God, and you will save a soul". We must have the littleness within ourselves which will enable us to appreciate the value of the offering of little things. It is a measure of the importance attached to the Cross in our lives that God allows great fruits which may be said to be disproportionate to sometimes small sufferings to be granted to us.

Our Mother links this offering to Her of our sufferings to Her carrying out Her task as Co-Redemptrix. With Her, we are consecrated to this work of redemptive suffering, which became so much of a badge in the hands of John Paul II, and therefore of his teaching and legacy to the Church. It must be taken seriously. There is one weapon in the hands of so many of us priests as we grow older, and that is suffering! It takes so many forms, but our Mother seeks to encourage us:

"Offer Me also your sufferings: your interior sufferings which are so humiliating to you, because they come from the experience of your limitations, your defects and your numerous attachments. (It is true; we can suffer from our own poverty, which can sometimes even appear as sinful). The smaller and more hidden the sufferings which you offer me, the greater is the joy which My Immaculate Heart experiences. Your exterior sufferings, which My adversary often provides for you, as he hurls himself at you with rage and fury, all the more violently because he foresees that you will be used by Me for his final defeat... Respond only in one way: by offering Me the suffering you experience and have confidence, confidence, confidence in your Heavenly Mother". (M.148, 11th. February 1978)

### ***St. John the Baptist***

We may be permitted to make a little reflection here, drawn from the encounter of Our Lord with St. John the Baptist at the Jordan. St. John came to awaken the people to the presence of sin in their midst and to repentance. Priests consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary have something of the same role in the Church today, in which sin is often not spoken of, where pastors fail in their duty to call the people to repentance. Preaching and not remaining silent about fundamental truths is necessary, with a call to repentance:

"Do not sin any more! Do not offend any more My Son Jesus, Who has already been too much offended. Return to God by your conversion, long the way of prayer and penance. Alas this message of mine has remained unheeded. And thus humanity has continued to hasten along the road of rebellion against God, in the obstinate rejection of His Law of love. Thus it has come even to the denial of sin, to the justification of even the gravest moral disorders, in the name of a falsely conceived liberty. Thus satan, My adversary, has succeeded in making you fall into his seduction. Many have thus lost the awareness of sin, and so it is more and more committed and justified. The sense of guilt, which is the first step to take along the road of conversion, has practically disappeared". (M. 211, 13th. October 1980)

We must be careful not to become, unintentionally, through our silence, satan's accomplices!

"Because so many priests have abandoned their trust, how many of My children are now suffering from a true spiritual famine of the Word of God. The truths which are most important for your life today are no longer being preached: Heaven which awaits you, the Cross of My Son which saves you, sin which wounds the Heart of Jesus and mine, hell into which innumerable souls are falling every day, the urgent necessity of prayer and penance. The more sin spreads like a pestilence and causes the death of souls, the less it is talked about. Today some of My priests even deny its existence. It is My duty as Mother to give nourishment to the souls of My children; if the voice of the ministers is stilled, the Heart of the Mother will open up more and more". (M. 85, 30th. October 1975)

If we are called to follow John the Baptist at the Jordan, we are called all the more to follow Jesus in His great humility there. Certainly, He judged sin, but was only mercy to the sinner. Our situation in consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary is, in a sense, analogous to that of Jesus seeking baptism at the hands of John. Innocent Lamb, he was taking on Himself the sins of the world, offering His life as a ransom for them. In the same way, in our consecration, we offer ourselves to be part of our Mother's design for the recovery of souls, that others may live through our gift.

It is no part of our task to judge or condemn those whom we see to be responsible for the wrongs which we see occurring around us. That is not the way of Jesus. For Him, and so for our Mother, the response to the emergency of sin is to offer themselves in reparation for the salvation of the sinner. We may listen again to our Mother:

"The moments you are living through are moments of emergency. This is why I have called you all to a more intense prayer and to live with the greatest trust in the merciful love of your heavenly Father. The golden door of His divine Heart is about to open and Jesus is about to pour out on the world the torrents of His mercy. These are floods of fire and of grace, which will transform and renew the whole world/On the waves of sufferings, never before known to this day, and of prodigies never before accomplished, you will reach the safe haven of new heavens and a new earth. An era of grace, of love and of peace is about to be born from the painful days in which you are living... May your prayer be a powerful force of intercession and of reparation. Let it be the greatest cry which has ever been heard, strong enough to pierce Heaven and to constrain the Heart of Jesus to pour out the fullness of His merciful love. For this, watch and pray with Me. My hour and yours has now come. It is the hour of Justice and of Mercy". (M.218, 31st. December 1980)

And so She gathers us in Her Immaculate Heart, around Her Son in the Eucharist, little victims of mercy, in the Cenacle of Her Immaculate Heart. Through this union, She pours great graces as the Bride of the Holy Spirit, for the sanctification of those consecrated to Her and for the good of souls in need and of the Church. It is a work of the profoundest importance, for the times are short and the needs are very great. The Marian Movement of Priests has no external works, other than the cenacles but, through its great offering of prayer and consecrated suffering, it does bring about many hidden, unsuspected fruits in the external work of the Church. It is for each one to be sensitive to the need and to live his consecration as deeply as possible.

"Through My Priests, an immense number of the laity will again be consecrated to My Heart, and entrust themselves completely to Me. With simplicity and without organisation, let them give themselves to Me as a little child gives himself completely to his own mother.

My children, the battle has already begun and I ask you only to respond to My supreme call. Be My Priests; be solely Priests of prayer. Do not waste any more time, because the time left to you is far too precious. Pray the Holy Rosary always and well. Live and spread the Gospel of My Son Jesus. Pray for help and defend the Vicar of Christ, the Pope.

Be poor, be little, be humble: be nothing other than My little children who form a crown of love about My Immaculate and Sorrowful Heart. Today, one by one, I bless you, I embrace you and enfold you in this Heart of mine. Never, even for an instant, feel yourselves alone and without Me.

Sons consecrated to My Heart, I am your Mother who today gives you the gift of Her habitual presence at the side of each one of you".

(M. 73, 7th. June 1975)

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