

Peter Vigne : a MISSION during the Plague

The current situation caused by Coronavirus - COVID 19 reminds us of the terrible tragedy of the Great Plague of Marseille in 1720. Peter Vigne was aware of it as it quickly spread through Provence and further up the country. In his list of **"Missions which I preached alone"** he writes: **"Rochepaule 1722, during the plague the mission lasted 5 weeks"**. We have very little information on what he saw, experienced and lived throughout that "quarantine" during his extended mission. It was greatly appreciated by the Bishop of Valence who wrote to him, "Monsieur Vigne, missionary at Rochepaule 7 April 1722 Tuesday of EASTER: "...you were in this parish to help the parishioners during the jubilee and it needed your help more than any other".

His presence was a great help to the parish priest, M. Rome who was overwhelmed by the situation. This is borne out by *"the silence of the registers since the parish priest fails to register any deaths for nine months of the year"* (Perrossier). Fr. Vigne visits families and the sick bringing help and comfort as much as possible during such challenging situations. He is there for everyone and obviously for the community of Sisters that will officially join the Sisters in Boucieu on September 1st of the same year. The Mission coincides with the great liturgical feasts which must be celebrated when such a terrible epidemic is at its peak, leaving families decimated and in abject misery. Peter Vigne wants to maintain their faith and confidence: *"God who upholds the whole Universe will he not support us in our trials and tribulations? He cannot possibly abandon us his servants. He will soothe all our fears if we but implore his help....and place all our trust in Him alone"*



For the feast of the **ASCENSION** he says: *"Know that one doesn't gain Heaven with the eyes only but with good works"* And for **PENTECOST** he tells us: *The gifts of the Holy Spirit must bear fruit in us for the good of our neighbour because our "dear Redeemer... sent us his double Spirit, namely: the one who sanctifies us and the one we receive for the salvation of others. At the end of the mission Peter entrusts them to Mary. She accompanied her*

Son to the foot of the Cross... and now She accompanies her sons in their suffering. He promises to return **"to celebrate Our Lady of the month of August"**.

Today as then, Blessed Peter Vigne accompanies us!

B.R.

Bl. Peter Vigne, Peace and comfort of the sick:

Hope of those who suffer; Pray for us and stay with us.

OUR SACRAMENTINE COMMUNITIES ARE CLOSE TO YOU IN PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP AND HOPE.

RELIGIEUSES DU SAINT SACREMENT
MAISON MÈRE : 113, AVENUE VICTOR HUGO 26000
VALENCE - FRANCE



N° 05. 06—2020



O Mary,
you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you,
Health of the Sick, who, at the foot of the cross, were united with Jesus' suffering, and persevered in your faith.

You know our needs, and we know that you will provide, so that, as at Cana in Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform ourselves to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us.

For he took upon himself our suffering, and burdened himself with our sorrows to bring us, through the cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen



We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God; Despise not our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from every danger,
O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.

LETTER OF POPE FRANCIS

to the faithful for the month of May.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
...It is traditional in this month to pray the Rosary at home within the family. The restrictions of the pandemic have made us come to appreciate all the more this "family" aspect, also from a spiritual point of view. For this reason, **I want to encourage everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May.** This can be done either as a group or individually; you can decide according to your own situations....The key to doing this is always simplicity....

I am also providing two prayers to Our Lady that you can recite at the end of the Rosary, and that I myself will pray in the month of May, in spiritual union with all of you.

....contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary our Mother will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial. I keep all of you in my prayers, especially those suffering most greatly, and I ask you, please, to pray for me. I thank you, and with great affection I send you my blessing.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 25 April 2020
Feast of Saint Mark the Evangelist
FRANCIS

HOPE for today...

When we are filled with a lively faith what matters most, is not the visible and tangible things of this world but those that are invisible, in other words the things of Heaven.

What we see, will last but for a short time, what we cannot see will last forever.

When we contemplate those eternal riches with the eyes of Faith we instantly desire to possess them; and when the heart has a deep yearning for them we know they are ours if we make the effort to seize them, God has created them for us.

God's Will is our Happiness, so let us not hesitate or doubt any longer! On the contrary, let us go to him with renewed vigour and determination, fulfilling our vocation by the good works we perform. What really encourages us is knowing that it is God himself who asks us to have complete trust in Him... Lord, you promise to protect us if we place all our hope in you. You assure us that you will be our refuge and our defender. You want that confidence to act as a shield to surround us and defend us. No evil or disaster will come near

us and even the angels are commanded to guard us in all our ways. (Ps.91)

Joy fills my heart O God when I hear you say **of one who trusts in you:** I will deliver him from evil; because he trusted in me I will deliver him from his enemies. He will cry to me, he will pray to me and I will answer him. Yes, **I want to be with him when he is in distress.** I must save him, I want to crown him with glory, not with passing glory, but with perfect glory that will last for all eternity. H.N. Vol. 1—36, 37

Vigne p. 122 missionnaire.



...that is sure and steadfast!

HOPE, the colour of your light Risen Jesus, comes to visit us in our homes now in lock down to prevent the spread of an invasive and threatening evil which has already knocked on so many doors! It has ruptured links and broken many hearts by the cruel deaths of loved ones, cut off from family and friends without the possibility of a final farewell.

Gospel Hope, the backbone of our Christian faith makes us seek its source **“with renewed vigour and determination”** as Peter Vigne says. Having been unable to come together and celebrate the Eucharist together for so long.....now **“our heart has a deep yearning for it”** and we are aware of its central importance....no less than the academic, social and economic life!

HOPE, the colour of our get-togethers, our “street parties” and sharing. It is

hope that brings people on to balconies to applaud and perform music quite spontaneously and anonymously! This explosion of fraternity even in the remotest corners of our countries, regardless of differences, is based on a **living HOPE expressed** in so many daily gestures of good will.



“It is God himself who asks us to have complete trust in Him”as we cautiously and responsibly emerge from confinement...Regardless of age, both young and old, **we are ALL PRECIOUS in the eyes of God!** Yes, as we have often sung: **hope is not dead, it is shining on humanity's horizon!**

BR

An Opportunity for DISCERNMENT

The following extract from Caritas in Veritate Pope Benedict XVI June 2009 called for personal national and global discernment. The current pandemic and its consequences make it applicable to our days!

The current crises presents us with **choices that cannot be postponed** concerning nothing less than the destiny of man..... The technical forces in play, the global interrelations, the damaging effects on the real economy of badly managed and largely speculative financial dealing, large-scale migration of peoples, often provoked by some particular circumstance and then given insufficient attention, the unregulated exploitation of the earth's resources: **all this leads us today to reflect on the measures** that would be necessary to provide a solution to problems that.....have a decisive impact upon the present and future good of humanity.

The **different aspects of the crisis, its solutions.... are increasingly interconnected, they imply one another, they require new efforts of global understanding and a new humanistic synthesis.** The complexity and gravity of the present economic situation rightly cause us concern, but we must adopt a realistic attitude as we take up with confidence and hope the new responsibilities to which we are called by the prospect of a world in need of profound cultural renewal, a world that needs to **rediscover fundamental values on which to build a better future.**

The current crisis obliges us to re-plan our journey, to set ourselves new rules and to discover new forms of commitment, to build on positive experiences and to reject negative ones. **The crisis thus becomes an opportunity for discernment, in which to shape a new vision for the future.** In this spirit, with confidence rather than resignation, it is appropriate to address the difficulties of the present time. n°21