

**Mailbag:** a *A youth camp in Boucieu le Roi:*

"The Eucharistic Youth Movement educational project offers young people an opportunity to become healthy, well balanced individuals, able to live in harmony with themselves. with God too and with others. It encourages young people to seek the presence of God in the world and to become involved in serving Him. Once again this year, 31 Young Witnesses, between the ages of 10 and 13, had the chance to meet for 10 days at the "Maison Pierre Vigne" in the heart of the Ardèche. They experienced community life and had a great holiday based on this year's theme: "Life is beauty, admire it". For the young people it was also a well deserved break during a year that has been fairly chaotic. They discovered the Ardèche during their many hikes and were able to enjoy the sun during various outdoor pursuits. Finally, camp life was punctuated by periods of prayer based on the theme of the year. During the two weeks the children discovered creation, contemplation and also Blessed Pierre Vigne, founder of the welcoming congregation." Betty FRANCE

A PVEA youth group shared their reflections after a triduum of prayer celebrating the feast of Peter Vigne, at home with their family.

"What sentence struck me? It was when Jesus said, *"Let the little children come to me and do not try to stop them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."*

What words resonated in my heart? Today, I felt that Father Vigne gave us a teaching when he said: Nothing can be compared to the purity of a soul and that the good of a parish depends on the good education given to young people who will one day be members of the parish community. My desire is that we, young people, will grow in holiness, and that we will stand firm in defending LIFE which is the gift of God, knowing that

**"The soul of a child is of infinite worth!"** Thiago Emanuel de Couto Silva FEJ - Altinho-PE BRAZIL



### Marian Feasts: October: Ave Maria

**7: Our Lady of the Rosary.** This feast was instituted by St. Pius V in thanksgiving for Mary's assistance during the battle of Lepanto. According to Church tradition St. Dominic was the first to teach and preach the Rosary in 1213.

**12: Our Lady of Aparecida:** In 1717 three Brazilian fishermen found a statue of Our Lady in the Paraíba river.....and then found themselves overwhelmed by a miraculous catch of fish. Our Lady of Aparecida is the patroness of Brazil, her feast is celebrated on the 12th.

**12: Our Lady of the Pillar:** She appeared to St. James in Saragossa to encourage him during his mission in Spain. Devotion grew and in 1730 Pope Clement XII declared her patroness of Spain and all Hispanic peoples.



No. 9-10 2020



MARY is present in a very special way during the months of September and October. The feasts succeed one another providing us with a wonderful opportunity to renew our devotion to Mary, Mother of God and our Mother too. The words of Blessed Peter Vigne might surprise us and even inject new life into the way we pray the **AVE MARIA...HAIL MARY**

## AVE MARIA: Thoughtfully

*Intense prayer through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary leads to deeper communion and trust in the will of God. The more intense your desire in prayer the stronger and more effective will your prayer be. It is the loving wish which is important—and not the words we use. "Your desire is your prayer" .... Saint Augustine said "A great desire is a great cry in the ears of God".*

*Why not decide sometimes to say the rosary in this way:*

*\* ask the Blessed Virgin in union with her Son to obtain for you the grace to be faithful to each of the commandments..*

*\* or ask for forgiveness for any sins committed against the commandments.*

*\* or to obtain with each Ave Maria deliverance from the seven capital sins, and from sins of thought, words or deeds.*

*\* or to obtain each of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit and the three theological virtues, faith, hope and charity with a heart felt desire to obtain each gift and virtue as you say the Hail Mary.*

*\* to live with deeper faith the seven days of the week, and at the hour of death to receive worthily the Sacraments of Penance, Extreme Unction and Holy Communion dying peacefully in the love of God.*

Rgt de Vie 1<sup>ère</sup> p.. chap.XXXII

*Vigne p. missionnaire.*



## MARY companion on our faith journey

Although Peter Vigne never wrote a book

about Our Lady all his writings show how intimately present she was in his missionary life and in his life as Founder of a religious Congregation. She is the living Gospel who brings us the Good News of Jesus her Son. Peter Vigne wanted Mary present at every station of the extended Way of the Cross he built in Boucieu. Mary is also present at every sad and sorrowful "station" of our lives, always close and attentive to us, just as she was at the wedding feast at Cana.

The method proposed by Peter Vigne for praying the Rosary is surprising and quite novel ... Before this, of course, he spoke about the joyful, the sorrowful and glorious mysteries.

But here, he is asking Mary's help for very specific needs. Why ? What has he in mind when he suggests this method of prayer?

**What has he to say to us today?** Quite simply, that the Virgin Mary is the Mother who is close to all those who follow her Son, to every Christian.

A decade of the Rosary considering the Commandments of God? These "ten precepts" of God, engraved on the Tablets of the Law and also written on our hearts tell us "what is required in the love of God and love of neighbour" CCC 2067. **Mary is there to help us live them** ...giving us the courage to pick ourselves up and start again when we fail to respect them.

Why pray an Ave Maria considering the seven deadly sins and sins of thought, word and deed? Because **Mary is with us in whatever difficulties and challenges** we face as we try to live consciously and with integrity the Good News of her Son.

An Ave Maria with each of the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit and the virtues of faith, hope and charity. Why ? Because "the theological virtues are the foundation of Christian moral activity; they animate it and give it its special character" our catechism tells us. (1813) Who better than Mary to help us live them and **make us more attentive to the action of the Holy Spirit** in us as we welcome his Gifts?

Peter Vigne thus gives us leads which might seem surprising but in fact they make us revisit our life with Mary, our model and guide. In this way she invites us to correspond better to the love of God ... "in every detail", as Father Vigne says.

Why not occasionally pray a decade of the Rosary in this way during these two months? B.R.



## MARY our powerful INTERCESSOR

At the wedding of Cana the Gospel clearly shows the power of Mary's intercession as she makes known to Jesus the needs of others: "*They have no wine*" (Jn 2:3). **The Rosary is both meditation and supplication.** Insistent prayer to the Mother of God is based on confidence that her maternal intercession can obtain all things from the heart of her Son. She is "**all-**

**powerful by grace**", to use the bold expression, which needs to be properly understood, of Blessed Bartolo Longo ...This is a conviction which, beginning with the Gospel, has grown ever more firm in the experience of the Christian people. The supreme poet Dante expresses it marvellously in the lines sung by Saint Bernard: "**Lady, thou art so great and so powerful, that whoever desires grace yet does not turn to thee, would have his desire fly without wings**".

When in the Rosary we plead with Mary, the sanctuary of the Holy Spirit (cf. Lk 1:35), she intercedes for us before the Father who filled her with grace and before the Son born of her womb, praying with us and for us.

John Paul 11 Rosary of the Virgin Mary. 16



## Mary, Virgin and Mother,...

Obtain for us now a new ardour born of the resurrection, that we may bring to all the Gospel of life which triumphs over death. Mother of the living Gospel, wellspring of happiness for God's little ones, **pray for us.**

Amen. Alleluia!

Pope Francis E.G.

## MARY'S INEXHAUSTIBLE LOVE

The words addressed by the crucified Lord to his disciple—to John and through him to all disciples of Jesus: "**Behold, your mother!**" (Jn 19:27)—are fulfilled anew in every generation. Mary has truly become the Mother of all believers. Men and women of every

time and place have recourse to her motherly kindness and her virginal purity and grace, in all their needs and aspirations, their joys and sorrows, their moments of loneliness and their common endeavours.

They constantly experience the gift of her goodness and the unfailing love which she pours out from the depths of her heart. The testimonials of gratitude, offered to her from every continent and culture, are a **recognition of that pure love which is not self-seeking but simply benevolent.**

At the same time, the devotion of the faithful shows an infallible intuition of how such love is possible: it becomes so as a result of the most intimate union with God, through which the soul is totally pervaded by him—a condition which enables those who have drunk from the fountain of God's love to become in their turn a fountain from which "flow rivers of living water". **Mary, Virgin and Mother, shows us what love is and whence it draws its origin and its constantly renewed power.**

Benedict XVI Deus caritas est 42

### Marian Feasts: September

**8th...Nativity of Mary:** *The church celebrates only three natiivities: Jesus' birth, Mary's birth and John the Baptist's birth. Fr. Vigne and the Sisters chose this day in 1722 for the celebration of their First Vows.*

**12th...Holy Name of Mary:** *Established in 1683 and restored by John Paul 11 in 2002. "The name of Mary is the key of the gates of Heaven", (St. Ephrem).*

**15th ..Seven Sorrows of Mary:** *This feast recalls the compassion of Mary accompanying her Son to Calvary. Fr. Vigne dedicated a chapel in her honour as part of the Way of the Cross, Boucieu.*