

For a Church like a garden to cultivate...

10th Portal

A time to welcome

Sharing of news : events, sufferings and joys...

The Church? some brief reactions : what it is for me?

what is said about it?

P. Baudouin

A young priest during the French Revolution, P. Baudouin paid the price for belonging to the Church. He knew prison, exile, clandestinity, daily persecution.



Placed in the diocese with posts of responsibility, he suffered from the authoritarianism of the various bishops. He knew the price of his obedience to the Church

He suffered for her.

He suffered because of her.

But he loved the Church as a person loves ones mother. His faith enabled him to contemplate the Mystery in her , and to live it.

He spoke about her as he would about his family, a family which he served with the devotion that gives love.

Among the biblical images to which he gave priority we retain here that of the garden to tell of the richness and diversity of gifts in the Church. *(Introduction to Grain de Moutarde n° 13)*

The Church, a garden and a gardener

For him, the church was always the place of communion and of sending forth on mission.

Extract from the Commentary on the Canticle of Canticles, No 83 & 84

I like to represent the church as a beautiful garden full of all sorts of plants arranged with an admirable symmetry ! Our good Lord is the gardener and the fruit of life !

After his Resurrection he appeared first of all in a garden, disguised as a gardener !

In the garden of 'delices' where our parents were created, we see there all sorts of trees and fruit pleasing to the eye, delicious to taste but all species were different : the orange tree was not the pomegranate : the pear was not the peach, the myrtle was not the rose bush...Such are the faithful who cross each other in the paradise of the Church. The Apostle tells us : Some have the gift of prophesy, others the gift of languages, others the gift of science, others are pastors, others have the gift of caring and healing the sick, others to catechise. » The faithful often allow themselves to be mistaken by illusion and ignorance ; they desire with a mad jealousy the gifts of others : let them make use of their own ! and then they will produce a concert and please the wise gardener.

God said in the terrestrial paradise : "Let each tree produce according

A garden with an abundant fountain...



to its species. A Word that has not been sufficiently deepened.

A good and perfect garden should have water to water the plants. In the garden of 'delices', the terrestrial Paradise, there was in

the middle, an abundant fountain pouring out into four rivers which watered Paradise, it was an image of the church. . "I am the source of living water", said our good Master, it is the source of the the garden of the Church. This source divides into seven beautiful channels, the Sacraments....

If the Spouse of the Canticle had told everything, you would have seen, in the middle of the garden, a crucified man, with an open side, as a source gushing forth, forming seven rivers. Each plant in the garden finds there, its substance and its life. It is this fountain that produces all these wonders...

The sacraments are mysteries, they are veiled, one sees the the effects of grace when one is attentive, but one no longer sees the grace : it is sealed under material symbols, such as water, oil, wine, bread and words pronounced by a human mouth, it is the seal !

The flame of faith sees beyond the seal, but it is only available for those who have completed the journey and who are in the 'patrie' (fatherland)

In 'A Treasure in Common'

Here there is no discourse on the church, but testimonies on a life in the Church animated by a « spirituality of the Incarnation »



Life of proximity

Like He who pitched his tent on our earth, we are called

✓ **to live :**

- on this earth common to all of humanity, rooted in a people, in a Church, and here, welcome its life, listen to needs, discover seeds of life...share in the events of the people, - close to the other tents,

- with simplicity of life.

✓ **to live a different way** of being in today's world, integrated into society, but involved with the poor. Be close to the poorest people, the most marginalised, those most alone, by both prayer and mission.

✓ **to be involved in life**, by feeling, accompanying and weaving the dreams and hopes of the women and men of today, collaborating with others, developing responses, based on the salvific strength of the Gospel, to contribute to :

-*humanisation*... awakening the power of life that exists in the poor, instigating and accompanying processes that help people to display their full dignity.

- *the building up of human community*... weaving relationships, networks, spaces for meeting and organising

- *the building up of the christian community*... by weaving an ecclesial life, instigating, animating and accompanying spaces for the vitality and the nourishment of the Faith...

**To welcome « the other »
- in their « mystery » in their differences**

The more « the other who is different » is accepted, the more our adoration will make sense and the more it can become « a treasure in common » which constitutes the Family. The more it will become a call for others who may desire to come and be part of this family that gives life.

- in the mission

The importance given to the person, to the mission which is confided to each one. Mission lived with their personal capacities, their gifts, in freedom...gifts to develop : mission of formation.

The contemplation of " the Word made flesh " in our world leads us to develop our attitude of openness, of wonder, of amazement to « welcome » the mystery of the other and respect their story, their culture as a meeting place with God. .

Word of God

- ◆ *1 Cor 12, 13-27 : the body is one with many different members.*
- ◆ *Jn 15, 1-16 : I am the true vine and my father is the vinedresser.*
- ◆ *Gen 2, 1-15 : «The garden of Eden »...*



Practise....

- ◆ P. Baudouin writes : « *God said, in the terrestrial paradise, (the garden of the Church) : Let each tree produce according to its species.* »
A Word that has not been sufficiently deepened
- * Each one can take the time to deepen this word for themselves.
- ◆ « *The faithful often allow themselves to be deceived if they desire with a mad jealousy the gifts of others : Let them profit from their own ! Then they will please the wise gardener. »*
- * The gifts that I develop for my own pleasure, that of others, and that of the « wise gardener » ?



- * The fountains where I go to quench my thirst and nourish my faith?