

FRATERNITY RETREAT
PARAY-LE-MONIAL, 22nd-27th October 2019
Concluding remarks, Michel-Bernard de Vregille

Brothers and sisters, I would like to say something to you that I have in my heart.

I confess I was still uncertain until late this morning as to whether I should conclude our gathering by saying this to you ... I really hope that I do not hurt anyone by saying what I am going to say, and if that should be the case, I beg you do not hesitate to come and see me to talk about it. The unity of the Church is too important, it is the great request that the Lord is making to us and which therefore concerns the Fraternity of Jesus.

We have seen how much Pierre Goursat loved the Church! At a time when in many ways, especially in France, the Church was going through one of the greatest crises in its history, and even though more than 6,000 priests had left the priesthood, we have seen how, even at this time, he remained humble, praying constantly. Remember the testimony Martine gave at the evening programme – how, when brothers asked Pierre what he did before the outpouring of the Spirit, he replied: "I prayed and tried to be faithful!" Throughout this period Pierre loved the Church, and trusted the Church, and trusted its ministers.

So, brothers and sisters of the Fraternity of Jesus, I beg you, love the Church and make people love the Church! Offer yourself for the Church of Christ! Let us not be seduced by the little chorus of division that the "Enemy" is attempting to inspire here or there. The struggle for communion began from the very beginning! Today, it takes other forms, but it is the same temptation:

I'm for Paul VI!

I belong to the John Paul II generation!

I'm for Benedict XVI!

I'm for Pope Francis!

What pride! Who are we to judge the Holy Spirit? By what authority do we allow ourselves to question the decisions of the Spirit of Love, Tenderness and Mercy, the third Person of the Blessed Trinity who unites the Father and the Son? Who are we to question the very words that Christ spoke to Peter: *"You are Peter, and on this Rock I will build **my** Church and the gates of Hell will not prevail against it!"*? Brothers and sisters let none of us, members of the Fraternity of Jesus, participate in this sin. If temptation leads us to spend hours in endless discussion and gossip, let us ask Mary to watch over us, let us pray the Rosary. If we can, let us spend time before the Blessed Sacrament and pray faithfully and confidently, entrusting Pope Francis, our Holy Father, and the whole Church to the mercy of God! Let us listen to the Holy Father and, as he so frequently and so humbly asks us, let us be converted.

So brothers and sisters, like Pierre, we will humbly continue, with the little things we do - our little notebooks, and our little practical decisions - on the path of Christ! Enlightened by the Spirit of Truth, we will continue with gentleness and determination the struggles, **the real battles** that we will have to fight so that, through Jesus, all men may be saved. Because what is at stake is the salvation of the souls!

May Our Lady of Prayer accompany all the members of the Fraternity of Jesus on this journey.