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Suggestion For The New Year

Abbe Trochu in his book, Insight of the Cure d'Ars, tells the following well-authenticated story of the value of even slight devotion to Our Blessed Lady:

One day, Pere Guillaumet, superior of some French Religious, rode with some others to visit the saintly Cure d'Ars. In the carriage, the sole conversation was, of course, about the marvelous things done by the saintly priest.

A woman, dressed in black, rode for a long time in silence beside the venerable Pere Guillaumet. Finally she addressed him:

"Father, allow me to accompany you to Ars. Why should I not go there as well as anyone else ? I travel merely for recreation. Would you please tell me when we are there ?"

Pere Guillaumet took her along with him to visit the famous Cure. After some minutes of waiting, the Cure appeared in his surplice and suddenly stopped before this woman in mourning. Pere Guillaumet heard him say to her softly:

"He is saved. Yes, he is saved."

An expression of incredulity was the woman's only reply. Then the Cure d'Ars, carefully accentuating all his words, replied:

"I tell you he is saved. He is in Purgatory and needs your prayers. Even in his fall off the bridge he had time enough to repent. It is the most Holy Virgin Mary who obtained this grace for him. Remember the month of May and the altar erected in your room ? Your godless husband used not to oppose it in any way. He even sometimes joined you in prayer. That won him pardon at his last hour."

Pere Guillaumet, of course, did not fully understand these words. It was only the next day that he heard the story and came to know the wonderful enlightenment that God had granted to the saintly Cure.

On the lady's departure from Ars, she went to thank Pere Guillaumet for having arranged the interview that had entirely changed her life.

"I came to Ars, sad and sick," she said to him. "I am going back cured. The doctors insisted on my travelling for the sake of my health, but it was dark despair over my husband's tragic end which lay at the bottom of it all. He was an unbeliever; and I lived in the hope of bringing him back to God. I could only think of him as being damned ... I should never see him again! And you heard what the saint said to me, 'He is saved!' I shall see him again in Heaven."

The suggestion is obvious -- namely, that you start off the Marian Year with some special, daily devotion to the Mother of God, even if it is only 3 Hail Mary's in honor of Mary every day this year. Or say the Beads daily; or visit the Grotto.

When you were home, this Christmas vacation, you heard much conversation concerning dividends, bonuses -- and how very important is the sound investment on which these rewards depend. Yes, only wise investments pay dividends!

Devotion to Mary is an investment that outranks any and all investments. And the dividends, it seems, always come when you need them most! Be wise this year. Invest heavily, and constantly, in these gilt-edge securities!

Wednesday is Epiphany -- High Mass in Sacred Heart Church at 7 a.m.