

BLESSED MARIE-EUGENE: A SPIRITUAL GUIDE FOR OUR TIMES

“My calling is to lead people to God.”

Blessed Marie-Eugene of the Child Jesus (2 December 1894 – 27 March 1967) – born Henri Grialou – was a **French Roman Catholic priest and a professed member of the Discalced Carmelites** of which he was a member since just after his ordination (24 February 1922).

For more info on the life and spirituality of Bl Marie-Eugene:

<http://www.notredamedevie.org/fr-marie-eugene/>

Some of his books translated into English:

I want to see God & volume II *I am a Daughter of the Church* (Thomas More Publishing, November 1, 1998)

Where the Spirit Breathes (Alba House, 1998)

Under the Torrent of His Love (Alba House, 1995)

15 Days of prayer with Fr Marie-Eugene (Alba House, 2009)

Jesus Contemplation of the Paschal Mystery (Editions du Carmel, 1986)

His secret is as follows:

“All my life has been based on the discovery of the Holy Spirit. I call him my friend, and I believe I have reasons for doing that.”

“Yes, I have understood mercy : St Thérèse of the Child Jesus sensed its gentleness, I sense its power.”

Some quotes by Blessed Marie-Eugene:

Today, the great tool of mission is not discussion ; people no longer believe in that. It is not even works ! The great tool is the witness of someone who is possessed and taken by God, who through words and attitudes gives a glimpse and sight of God and shows what God can do in a life.

(*Fr Marie-Eugène, En marche vers Dieu (Journeying towards God)*, p. 93)

Silent prayer is a search for God ... at the beginning, it's a search ! One cannot find him, one is not used to it. Later on, it is he who draws one in. He responds. Silent prayer gives the experience of God. One looks for him in faith. One has to exercise that faith.

(*Fr Marie-Eugène, La Force de la prière (The Power of Prayer)*, pp. 16, 18)

Silent prayer is in a sense the sun and the centre of all the day's activities. Each day one feels that one has scarcely done anything else of importance.

The Holy Spirit, whom we receive in Baptism and in Confirmation, is a living God, capable of giving a penetrating light, of inspiring us, of enlightening us about people, events, about ourselves and the future. He will do it if necessary. (a homily in 1961)

The Holy Spirit is the soul of the Church, the soul of our soul, and the life of our life. He penetrates us “His delights are to be with the children of men”. The first thing we must do is to believe in the Holy Spirit, to be aware of His presence and develop our faith in Him.(Conference 1957)

God speaks in silence, and silence alone seems able to express Him. For the spiritual person who has known the touch of God, silence and God seem to be identified. He preserves with jealous care the silence that gives him God, and defends it against any agitation. (I want to see God Pg 410)

Great desires and humility go hand and hand, answering for one and other and mutually benefiting themselves. Humility alone can sustain the great desires and keep them fixed on their goal amid the vicissitudes of the spiritual life. On the other hand. It would be a false humility that would induce the soul to renounce its great desires and become a victim of tepidity or mere respectable mediocrity. (I want to see God pg 181)

Let us ask the Holy Spirit to make us know and understand God's will, not in all the details and in advance by a prophetic light, but enough for us to know it well. Let us ask Him not only to make us discover God's will but mostly to push us to accomplish it in our life. (Pentecost 1959)

Let us go at God's pace. It is He who does the willing and the doing. Let us be patient with ourselves and not say that grace is dead because it acts slowly. Let us believe in the strength of grace; let us believe in the call to sanctity which does not come from us nor from our capacities, but from the vitality of grace. (retreat 1944)

The Holy Spirit appears in this world under a thousand human faces that reflect the power and grace of His hidden presence. The Spirit never repeats Himself in the exterior forms He chooses. Is this not the reason why Saint John of the Cross asks us never to take a saint for our model? This would be to expose oneself to failure in suppleness, in fidelity to the movement of the Spirit, who manifests His power and perfection as Spirit in the variety of His works and the perfection of His incarnation in each one of His instruments.

Prayer through the intercession of Blessed Father Marie-Eugene God our Father,

we thank you for giving Blessed Father Marie-Eugene of the Child Jesus to the Church. He journeyed forward united to Christ and faithful to the Holy Spirit, whom he called his “Friend”. He lived the grace of Carmel to the fullest in contemplative prayer, apostolic zeal and trust in the Virgin Mary, Mother of Life.

In his footsteps, give us to discover the depths of your love and to persevere in prayer to become witnesses to your Mercy. Through his intercession, grant us the grace we are asking for (...).

May his teaching reach all those who need it as they journey in faith. And if it be your will, may he one day be canonized for the glory of your Name and the good of your people. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

With the authorization of the Most Reverend Jean-Pierre Cattenoz, Archbishop of Avignon.