

# THE REIGN OF JUSTICE

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Founder: F.L.A. Freytag

## The formation of the Family of Nations

A magnificent invitation is held out by David when he says: "Family of nations, give to the LORD glory and honour." It is a sad thing, however, that till today, there has, on Earth, constantly been the demonstration of a family of nations that does not give glory to the Lord, far from it. The outcome of mankind's line of conduct has been misfortune, trouble, pain and death. All this is indeed what they have experienced in the course of past centuries, and what they are experiencing today more than ever.

To give glory and honour to the Lord is yet surely what mankind should be disposed to do. They have the wonders of nature before them, and these speak eloquently to a heart that is sensitive enough to understand. The Sun with its wonderfully warming rays, and the fruit of the Earth which comes forth in profusion, all these things are the gifts of the great God of Heaven. There should be profound gratitude, deep appreciation and high esteem for the many gifts, constantly being renewed, all due to the Lord's kindness.

To be sure, there are presently a great many anomalies on Earth. Some people have the means to acquire all they want, while others have not even got the bare necessities. But this is not to be imputed to the Lord. He allows his Sun to shine on the good and on the evil, and He allows the rain to fall on the righteous and on the unrighteous. It is mankind themselves who have behaved so badly that they have upset everything on Earth, both socially and physically. For that reason, neither rich nor poor are happy, and soon, many well-to-do people have such terrible mental suffering or physical pain, that they are among the most wretched of mankind.

To be truly able to be at the benefit of what the Lord places at mankind's disposal, one has to be a child of God, who puts his trust in Him and is therefore at the benefit of his grace and of his communion. One is then able to obtain an insight into the beauty and the exquisite loving-kindness of the Lord's character.

In the many divine creations, there are glorious demonstrations of the power, the glory and the majesty of the Lord: the vast depths of wisdom, of love and of fidelity. Only think of the Earth, created through the action of God's Holy Spirit, and then you will feel bound to exclaim: "What wonders of power and of variety there are in the wisdom of the Lord!" It is something striking, to fill one with enthusiasm, and to carry one

away with gladness. What we find most moving is the fact that the Creator of all those sublime wonders, the great God of Heaven, intends to be our Father, and deals with us most tenderly, with immense kindness and wondrous nobility.

When our hearts are attentive, and our eyes wide open to examine the Lord's handiwork, we can experience joy upon joy by simply enumerating all the things the Earth contains: splendid demonstrations of divine perfection. Let us look at the animals that are so graceful in their movements and perform them with so much ease and nimbleness. How graceful is the gazelle, what magnificent balance it displays! How graceful and how light is the flight of the birds! And when we look at man — whose body is so wonderfully built, and whose mind is capable of reaching the heights of searching even the deep things of God — we are filled with emotion as we consider all that the earthly creation comprises in the way of power, of grace and of loving-kindness.

Thinking again of all that can be done in the way of being sociable and living in harmony, and in the way of giving joy and creating blessing among the human family whom the Lord has created for joy and gladness, we are carried away with enthusiasm and immense happiness. We are seized with an ardent desire to work on forming the Family of Nations, who gives glory and praise to the Lord God and to our dear Saviour.

Man is capable of developing sublime sentiments, wonderful in their nobility, and infinitely good and wondrous in wisdom. For that purpose, he needs to be in contact with the Source of those magnificent sentiments, and this Source is the Almighty God of Heaven. Then, he can be guided by his heavenly Father, and he is able to learn from our dear Saviour, the Son of God, who says: "Learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart." When he attains the destiny that the Lord created for him, man is an ideally beautiful creature and a happy and joyful one who lives in an atmosphere of constant happiness and blessing. Such, moreover, is the only atmosphere that suits him and is favourable to him. It is easy to realize for oneself that it is charming to live in such conditions.

Then, it is joy to be alive on that wonderful Earth which the Lord has created for the blessing of those who dwell there, especially man. He applied all care and every solicitude to making it a dwelling place worthy of the Family of Nations, of those noble creatures

whom mankind have to become. They will become so in the Restoration of All Things, after going through the trials indispensable to make them "wise for salvation".

Mankind could have forever been in that atmosphere of peace, of joy and of blessing. Adam and Eve used to live in the Garden of Eden, where they had everything at their disposal to make them happy and to give them sustenance. But they failed to choose the good part. They defiled their hearts with selfish thoughts, so that they were unable to remain that first part of the Family of Nations, who was to give praise and worship to the Lord. They turned their backs on their Benefactor and deprived themselves of the enjoyment of divine grace.

From that time forward, what terrible degeneracy mankind became prey to! When man does not fulfil the conditions of the Family of Nations, who praises the Lord, he becomes a thoroughly unnatural creature. Yet he can be so agreeable, display such noble sentiments, talk with so much refinement of feeling, and think such lofty thoughts when he lives the Universal Law, for which he was designed. But when he has his existence outside the conditions which are his own, he becomes rude, uncivil and very near to the brute beast. Nothing is left to him in common with the wonderful vision presented by a human being under the influence of divine grace.

Similarly, when a man grows old, his assurance in action diminishes, his sight grows dim, and his hearing is less keen. Balance is lost, and decrepitude sets in. But all these things are not the natural process of human life. It is man's line of conduct and his mentality that ages him. He was not intended for such a fate. He was intended to live on Earth with all the power and strength of eternal youth to be drawn from the Source of life, from the Most High, to Whom it is his joy to give honour and glory with enthusiasm as an active member of the Family of Nations.

At present, man is not under the wonderful influence of the Vital Fluid, God's Holy Spirit. However, his system still bears witness to his origin, which is divine, and so, when a man is still in his prime and does not have any great physical defects, though he is a fallen creature, he is still good to look at. He is harmonious in motion, and he is surprisingly well balanced. Acrobats are to be seen who can do fantastic things with their bodies. One can only wonder when observing the nimbleness of some people who have persevered in exercising their skills. Such things enable us to obtain a small idea of what mankind will be like when they are regenerated in the Restoration of All Things, when

### "And now, what are you waiting for?"

IT was on the outskirts of a small industrial town in the region of Loire (France), that Jannette awoke to the first impressions of life. This environment, a mingling of town and country, made it possible for her to have the advantages of both. She could play in the open air in the vast fields to be found around the unassuming little house her family lived in. The pure and wholesome joys to be found in nature enriched her young mind with impressions of happiness. Picking blackberries in the hedges, gathering nuts and apples, and looking for mushrooms, each in their season, was a pastime of great attraction and full of adventure. The pleasure was enhanced by the fact that most of the rural outings took place in the company of her daddy. She nursed, in her heart, a respectful admiration of this parent.

However, all her time was not spent in leisure.

To be the eldest of nine leads to a child being advanced for its years. And so, Jannette's development was always ahead of her age. She had to assist her dear mother to the best of her growing abilities. Mother was always preoccupied with the latest baby, who naturally called for all her care and affection. Inevitably and quite unintentionally, the eldest was neglected in the generous and abundant dispensation of the necessities of life. She felt somewhat frustrated, for, by nature, she would also have gladly received caresses and attention.

Jannette had just turned 13 when her parents were visited by evangelists propagating *The Message to Humanity* (the Book of Remembrance). When they read this book, they very quickly grasped God's wonderful plan for mankind, and his sublime character expressed in infinite mercy. They were de-

lighted to learn that He does not punish. The laws instituted by his perfect foreknowledge, regulated all the equivalents automatically, according to the works of each. How clear was this programme of Salvation obtained in Jesus Christ! How relieved they felt over this making-plain of God's vast wisdom! Henceforth, the doors of this home were thrown wide open to the dispensers of this Good News of the Kingdom. What delightful impressions were obtained from their visits! Small meetings regularly fanned the flame of their nascent faith and of their new hopes. Jannette's parents became closely attached to the divine family. Their hearts became ever firmer in their assurance of the things announced by the holy prophets and by the Lord's Messenger.

After leaving school, Jannette quite naturally has to help bring up her brothers and sisters. A nearby factory provides her with the work and the wages for this purpose. Then,

at the age of 21, feeling the household safe under father's direction and mother's watchful care, she gets married and, in the course of things, has three children, one boy and two girls, who provide some compensation for growing difficulties.

Anthony, her husband, quickly turns out to be unsteady. He is constantly dominated by the thought of change. However, her love makes up for everything, and Jannette is fortunately able to see the happy side of things. Anthony has plenty of initiative and is also hard working. Unfortunately, some failings prevent him meeting his responsibilities. Bankruptcy comes in the wake of some overbold undertakings.

He then opens a courier business under his wife's direction. The law does not allow him to direct it himself, him being a foreigner. Once again, Anthony is carried away by his impulses and goes beyond what his licence allows. So, this new enterprise goes the way

they have become capable of reaching their destiny, for which they were created.

Mankind's mentality has to be utterly transformed, and that calls for them to follow a line of conduct that is the exact opposite of the one they are following now. They must step out in the direction of altruism, and resolutely leave the way of selfishness, which they have been going along till today. Their hearts have to be transformed, that is the essential thing. In the world, they pay particular attention to appearances, but, as Samuel was told concerning David: "The LORD does not see as man sees...the LORD looks at the heart." So, we must allow our hearts to be educated so that they may become vessels of God's Holy Spirit. We have to be utterly refined. There must be no sentiments in us that are wounding to our fellows. Therefore, we must do our best to only cultivate thoughts of tenderness and nobility, with the sole desire of pleasing in accordance with the principles of the Kingdom of God.

### The great Family of Nations

Now is indeed the time for deciding to form the Family of Nations, mentioned in Psalm 96, and who gives glory and honour to the Lord by walking in his ways of uprightness and of truth. It is high time that the confusion which prevails among mankind, disappeared, and that the sorry and deeply wretched things going on in the world, made room for the expansion of the human family, fit to be introduced into the Kingdom of God and to live there in accordance with the principles by which that Kingdom is governed. If we want to work on forming that family, we must apply our whole heart to it. We need to lay aside self-interest and thoughts of taking things easy, and to give up thinking of our own convenience, in order to resolutely step out in the wake of our dear Saviour, being zealous collaborators in the Kingdom of God. We are called to become children of God, and we intend to become so. We know the Truth, and we are responsible to bring it to those around us.

Let us place ourselves in God's hands. Let us have the courage to give all and to carry out the divine programme integrally. Let us lay all hesitation aside. Then, the Lord will bless our efforts beyond all our fondest hopes. He will be able to magnificently employ us in building up that wondrous Family of Nations, who renders glory and praise to the Lord. Let us then keep that thought in mind and cultivate it in our hearts.

Let us actively work on the Kingdom of God, which is on the way, and in which the Family of Nations will take on the appearance of brethren who love one another and are united as one heart in giving glory to the Lord and in celebrating the Lamb of God. Then, there will be nothing but joy on Earth. It will be the blessed time announced by the prophets. Wretchedness and death will have fled for ever. Happiness, peace and life will go on for ever and ever, thanks to the Work of Redemption done by our dear Saviour, accompanied by his faithful Church. Mankind — regenerated, re-educated and transformed — will have been made viable, being sons of God, who reflect his glory on the earthly plane.

## When hunger knocks on our door

Wars, climate problems, and unemployment are plunging more and more people into distress. This is mentioned in a report published by the French newspaper *Ouest-France*, whose publication date is unknown to us:

### Food insecurity: "The worst is yet to come"

*"More and more of the most vulnerable and the working poor, are struggling to put food on the table," says the journalist Michel Urvoy.*

*Wars, disasters and the laws of economics, are causing significant price rises, which are likely to increase in a few months, due to global shortages. Food insecurity has doubled in ten years, and the worst is yet to come. And while more and more of the most vulnerable and the working poor, are struggling to put food on the table, the charities that help them are up against an economy that no longer leaves anything to chance, and a voluntary sector that is running out of steam.*

### "Double development"

*Food assistance [in France] is structured around three large charity organizations: Restos du Coeur and Secours Populaire, which collect donations to buy products and redistribute them to beneficiaries, and also Banque Alimentaire [Food Bank], which is a major participant in food aid, and which supplies to several dozen approved charity-distribution associations in each "department" [an administrative regional division of France], with 64 charity-distribution associations just in the area around the city of Rennes [in northwestern France].*

*Food Bank...receives, in equal shares, charity products financed by Europe and the national government, or donated by logistic platforms, shops, farmers and manufacturers. Private individuals contribute 10% of the charity products, which were collected, on the last weekend of November, by 130,000 volunteers in orange vests. There would be no danger if this system, which is well organized, were not confronted by a double development, namely, quantitative and qualitative.*

*Quantitative: faced with an increase in needs of 5 to 10% per year, or even 20 to 30% in some areas, money, volunteers and products have to be found.*

*The Garot anti-waste law (2016), whose purpose is not debatable, has caused a reduction in charity donations from large retail stores. Fortunately, this reduction has been more or less offset by an increase in the number of donor stores.*

*To cushion the commercial impact of the crises, the food industry is working in real time, which reduces the available charity stocks from time to time. Regarding organic food, this is not always the most accessible for people who want to eat first before worrying about labels.*

*Qualitative: government aid, which was debated in parliament on the 18th of July, is welcome. But it is impossible to ensure that it is put to the best possible use if it simply consists of handing out cheques (€100 [100 euros] per household receiving social assistance, plus €50 per child). The networks of charity associations, which some people seem to forget, remain the best guarantee for the effectiveness of aid.*

### "Triple challenge"

*Behind the need for food, there often hides great loneliness, which, for example, was revealed among students during COVID-19. Direct contact is a much better response than simply mailing a cheque.*

*Qualitative also in the sense that we simply cannot hand out whatever is available without ensuring a minimum of product diversity and nutritional balance.*

*Food aid is therefore facing a triple challenge. It must overcome "the single-window system" and give priority to charity-association networks, in order to maintain social bonds through support for beneficiaries. They must find and train volunteers in management, nutrition and even cooking. This is what Food Bank does.*

*And it has to negotiate differently, which means, at a very early stage, directly with the business managers and food companies, in order to integrate decision making and production processes, into the charity (tax-free) donation. Food aid must become a key component of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Ensuring the volume, the regularity and the diversity of products, is the only way to defuse this "food bomb" that threatens to explode.*

It pains us to think that many of our fellow citizens are living in poverty. It wasn't that long ago that we

spoke about the poverty in Africa, Central America, and Asia. Today, it has spread to our Western countries, and Michel Urvoy even talks about a "food bomb" that threatens to explode".

The report is very interesting because it clearly shows us that it is not easy to help the needy. This help encounters difficulties. It must be thought out and organized, and we are happy that there are people who dedicate themselves to help those in need.

As is also aptly mentioned in the report, poverty is often associated with loneliness. To those two factors, health should also be added. As we know from statistics, people who live alone have shorter lives than those who live in a family. They are more susceptible to certain diseases.

Apart from the actual fact of poverty, and the means of managing it, it must be stated that this phenomenon illustrates the failure of our society. In fact, there have always been poor, but we should not consider this fact as a fate, but as an anomaly. Our society, which prides itself on its technical progress, produces poverty. And we cannot hide behind circumstances such as wars, climate disasters, or epidemics as the main causes of poverty. Finance, profit-seeking and greed produce wealth for some and poverty for others.

If we widen our angle of vision to look at the world's problems, we can see that all people are poor. Indeed, when facing an illness, rich and poor are on the same level. Of course, the rich can afford care that the poor cannot hope to receive, but this care is not always a guarantee of a cure. Furthermore, a "rich person" is commonly described as "someone who possesses a great deal of money and all kinds of things". But is this "true wealth"? No, it is not!

As we know, and it is worth pointing out again, all humankind are sinners, and all have a share in condemnation and death, as "the wages of sin". Therefore, the only true wealth for humankind is divine grace, which we can receive by virtue of the Sacrifice of our dear Saviour. This is not acquired with money, but freely by faith. Thus, all people are equal before the Work of Salvation that our dear Saviour accomplished on Earth, by taking the place of the guilty, whom we are. We could even say that riches are an obstacle to the acquisition and development of faith in our hearts, according to the words of our dear Saviour himself: "How hard it is for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God!" (Mark 10: 23). And further: "What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world, but loses his own soul?" Mark 8: 36.

The day is coming, and it is not so far away anymore, when the "present wicked world" will pass away. It will make room for the Kingdom of God to come to Earth. There, there will be no poor people. There will be no more money. It will be replaced by love, which will reign as the supreme master. All humankind will live forever in happiness and bliss.

## What should we think about that?

In the French newspaper *Ouest-France*, on the 3rd of August 2022, in the column "Point de vue" ("Point of View"), there was a short article by Jean-Michel Dijan, which we quote below in its entirety:

### Stop widespread infantilization [treating someone as if they were a child]

*Not a day goes by without an advertisement, a government message, a billboard, a local-government by-law, or a text message for a medical appointment, sowing doubt about our ability to be responsible for ourselves. As if, in the year 2022, at a time when technology is supposed to free us from constraints, it comes as a reinforcement to require people to not deviate, to obey instructions and to abandon all free will.*

*One example among many: "Eat 5 servings of fruit and vegetables a day," which was a slogan launched in*

of the others, and it is Jannette who has to answer before the law and to pay the cost, being legally responsible.

As for Anthony, he makes a fresh start in the coal mines in the Loire region, and there, he contracts stomach troubles. This necessitates a serious operation, followed by 50 days in hospital. After that, he has some professional training. Woodturning satisfies him for a while. But, of course, he has to change employers several times... Then, he is attracted in another direction and becomes an insurance agent for several years. However, the contributions he has to collect become a temptation that he is unable to resist, and he appropriates them for his own use. And this brings about yet another change.

In the city of Toulon, he sells confectionery, and he sells chocolates in the city of Nice. Still tired of working for others, he decides to set up his own business again, and to be able to do this, he becomes a French citizen.

This time, he launches into frying chips, and, at first, he does so well that he becomes known as the Chip King. His fame spreads so far that a letter with no other address than the Chip King, Nice, reaches him in a very short time. As he makes the quality of his chips a point of honour, he does not make his fortune. Far from it. Probably owing to bad management, the business gradually declines till finally it collapses abruptly.

It is in the feverish atmosphere of that debacle that the birth of the fourth, and last, child becomes imminent. To be sure, it is far from being a propitious time. Money is becoming increasingly scarcer: it even deserts the home altogether when Anthony takes to drink. Under the influence of alcohol, he becomes brutal. The machinery is sold off, and this adds the finishing touch to their bankruptcy.

Now, Jannette feels immensely distressed. She intensely feels the urge to do away with herself. She is constantly haunted by the

thought of turning the gas on. It would seem that that is the way of a painless death. But in the end, her sense of duty towards her children prevails over all else.

Her parents come to visit her, and this reminds her of the unforgettable impressions received in contact with the evangelists of the Kingdom of God. The longing awakes in her to again enjoy the engaging atmosphere of the meetings they used to have in her father's house. She also feels the need to obtain communion with the heavenly Father. She clings to prayer as to a lifebuoy, and, little by little, recovers her serenity of mind. Sleep also returns to her, and this has a most favourable effect on her health.

Rose, the last child, arrives in exceptional conditions. Some kind neighbours, animated with great solicitude and compassion, help out with generosity and tact. This clear demonstration of God's care, impels Jannette to seek contact with the Family of Faith, and, little by

little, she attends the meetings more regularly. Her heart — which has been parched by the vicissitudes and the ups and downs of life — takes in the refreshing cordial of the divine teachings served in abundance.

Jannette's first care being to provide food for the children, she gets behind with the rent. The landlord faces her with the ultimatum: she must pay up or go. Here again, the kindness of the heavenly Father is made manifest tangible and reassuring. The court dealing with the matter rules that, seeing the want in which the family lives, the landlord must not only remit the back rent, but indemnify them to facilitate them finding other accommodation.

Once again, they have to start from nothing, and Anthony's thirst for independence is not quenched. His eldest son is now the only one who can open a business because he himself has been bankrupt twice. He sets up, in his son's name, as an itinerant merchant

2001 by the World Health Organization (WHO) in order to fight obesity. Certainly, good intentions. But who is fooled? Who really believes that the massive repetition of the health message for more than 20 years has served the cause in question? If it were true, we would know. A survey conducted 10 years later in France and the United Kingdom, concluded that 8 out of 10 people did not follow the advice. The 2 out of 10 who did follow the advice “found a good way to calm their bad conscience while eating more fat and sugar than before”.

The same goes for smoking. Which cigarette addicts are still sensitive to the words “smoking kills”, printed in black capital letters, on all the cigarettes packs behind the counter in shops selling them?

Regarding the French trains [SNCF: National Society of French Railways], all the advertising that they have on board their TGVs [their high-speed trains] could make you dizzy. Not only are there recurring audio announcements politely inviting travellers to follow the safety instructions, but the windows of the trains are covered with slogans, such as “Discover the countryside” and “Let yourself dream”.

The same goes for environmental protection: “Separate your rubbish”, “Don’t forget to recycle...”, etc., are repeated like mantras. They’re nothing very bad or threatening, but they’re constantly repeated principles that tire and generate anxiety, and that raise questions about their purpose, in view of the cost of advertising campaigns.

### Polluted public space

Where is the boundary between information and infantilization, when, at the same time, the government rightly requires its citizens to be increasingly responsible for their actions? When are schools and parents supposed to have prepared young people to live with at least a minimum of civility?

In view of the general state of resignation throughout the country since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is not inappropriate to ask why the public space has been polluted with such a mass of written, audio and visual information. Are the French so indomitable that we must find mischievous tricks to call them to order?

The French academic François Sureau, in his book *Sans la liberté* [Without freedom] (published by Gallimard in 2019, in the Tracts collection), put his foot in it. There, he said that “no one other than the free citizen has the capacity to judge the use they make of their freedom, except to see it disappear”.

But the devil is in the detail, and no one has taken the time to look at the examples of the infantilizing slogans mentioned above, which make us second-class citizens.

Yes, the peaceful and playful but systematic infantilization of the mind, is a flaw. In the long run, it plays against the need to think, to consider and to take responsibility; it unfortunately puts the malevolent minority and the benevolent majority on the same level of common sense, without any distinction.

We are not surprised to find that article especially in a country like France, which loves its freedom. One can, in fact, understand that the plethora of information, present everywhere, can displease a citizen who is able to judge and discern. These recommendations are often dictated by insurance companies that want to reduce, as much as possible, the risks of all types of injuries. Even on instruction leaflets for household items and especially computers, one can see a change. Previously, there were detailed instruction manuals and sometimes even books, in which, for example, there were explanations about how programmes work. Those things no longer exist, because all technical and other information is now found online. Instead, there is now a simple brochure on which it is recommended to keep plastic bags out of the reach of children, so that they don’t suffocate if they play with them, or to be careful when turning on a device, and so forth.

That lets us think about these recommendations that Apostle Paul, in his time, gave to the Colossians: “If you have died with Christ to the basic principles of the world, why, as though you still belonged to the world, do you submit to its rules: ‘Don’t handle, don’t taste, don’t touch!’? These rules will perish with use, because they are based on the commands and teachings of men. These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, in humility and in severe treatment of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh” (Colossians 2: 20–23). We can see that this phenomenon is not new, and as Jean-Michel Dijan points out, the majority of people concerned will probably not follow advice if it restricts freedom. One may also ask oneself, what are the intentions of those authors’ recommendations?

If all those warnings are irritating, then one should put this phenomenon into a context, because there is the risk that it will not decrease, but spread. In fact, some giant technology companies, like Neuralink, intend to implant microchips in the human brain for various purposes, for example, to help disabled people or to control digital devices from the brain. However, this project is causing great concern in the scientific community, which wonders what will happen to the data collected from the implant, which could also be used for malevolent purposes.

As we see, technology enables very advanced achievements, but it can go off the rails as soon as it falls into the hands of people with bad intentions. It is also possible that some people could be tempted to dominate others by implanting brain microchips that can be programmed in any way that they want to. Scientists are fascinated by the achievements, but also ask questions about the applications. It is a matter of being careful in view of any undesirable developments.

As far as we are concerned, we are of the opinion that humankind are playing “The Sorcerer’s Apprentice”. The brain should not be touched, because it is the noble part of the human being. But all of that doesn’t surprise us. When science and technology enable certain achievements, there will always be some people who exploit them. Curiosity leads these minds to always explore new possibilities, but we should think about the consequences of progress while we still have time.

Fortunately, we know that the future of humanity doesn’t lie in the hands of our scholars. The Lord God provided for our Salvation long ago, and for this purpose, our dear Saviour gave his life. During the entire Gospel Age, a group of people followed him in Sacrifice, and now, all people are invited to rejoice in the benefits of that Sacrifice, thanks to which, they can live eternally on the Earth restored to its original perfection.

## “Multiply, and fill the Earth”

### Genesis 1: 28

That was recommended to our first parents, in the Garden of Eden. Today, it seems that the world’s population and its growth, pose a problem, which is being taken into consideration. This is explained to us in an article by Philippe Boissonnat in the French newspaper *Ouest-France*, from the 13th and 14th of August 2022. We quote the article in its entirety:

#### Eight billion people

On Tuesday the 15th of November [2022], the world’s population is projected to reach 8 billion people. The United Nations statisticians announced this last month in their world-population report, which they update every three years.

Eight billion. That number only makes sense when it is put into perspective. Let us also compare it over time. There are “only” 67 million of us French. That is 0.8% of the total population. Let us consider the European Union (with its 27 member countries) and its almost 450

million inhabitants. That is 5.6% of the world’s population. In short, a bit of modesty is in order.

Let us consider the 8 billion over the course of time. When Victor Hugo [a French writer and politician] was born two hundred years ago, the Earth had 1 billion inhabitants. The 2 billion mark was reached in the 1930s. The 3 billion mark, in the 1960s. By the year 2000, the number had doubled. And here we are at 8! It took eighteen centuries to reach 1 billion humans, and two centuries later, there are 8 times as many of us. This is where we should listen to demographers.

Where did that astronomic rise come from? It is mainly based — thanks to science and medicine — on the tremendous increase in life expectancy worldwide, and on the reduction of infant mortality. Life expectancy has increased from 46 years in 1950, to 71 years today.

At the same time, behaviours have changed: in 1950, there were 5 births per woman; today, there are 2.3. However, the natural population growth — births minus deaths — remains high. Last year, it was 64 million people, the equivalent of a country like ours.

### Resources and lifestyles

In the year 2050, the population is estimated to be 9.7 billion people, before it stabilizes to between 10 and 11 billion by 2100. The concerns that such a prospect can cause are well known: how can all of these people be fed? How can global tensions be avoided in the migrations from the most dynamic regions (sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia) to the most aging areas (Europe, Russia, United States, Australia, etc.)?

The demographer Gilles Pison recently reminded us: “The question of whether there is enough room for so many people, was already asked when there was only 1 billion of us 200 years ago. The population is growing, but the growth rate has been decreasing for the last 70 years. And it will decrease more.”

For demographers, the two main challenges lie elsewhere. The first is the preservation of our natural resources, starting with water. Water, as we can accurately measure today, is directly dependent on our ability to regulate the climate hazards that our excessive consumption of fossil fuels generates.

Hence, the second challenge: what capacity will we have to change our lifestyle in order to balance modesty with human development? There is no magic answer to this question. But it will inevitably require a profound cultural change and a less narrow understanding of “the common good”. It is no longer limited to our borders or our countries. It is a difficult and ambitious change that must be completed within a short period of time. It is in our own best interests. And even more so, in those of future generations, those of November 2022 and beyond.

Those numbers are very interesting, and when they are analyzed, many conclusions can be drawn from them, as Philippe Boissonnat has done. It is firstly interesting to put the number of 8 billion into perspective. In 200 years, we grew from 1 billion to 8 billion people, which, in comparison to previous centuries, represents an exponential increase over a relatively short period of time. Furthermore, the comparison between Europe’s population and the world’s, makes it clear that we are only a very small percentage of the world’s population.

One attributes the progress of science and medicine, and particularly a healthy lifestyle, to those results, especially to the increase in life expectancy. However, one should also analyze this data if one wants to correctly understand it. We are reaching an older age, but under what conditions? A visit to hospitals and old-age homes, is sufficient to get an idea of the actual situation of our elderly. Some of them spend their twilight years at home, but they are not the majority.

On the other hand, there are already noticeable concerns about the future: can natural resources be preserved, and will there be enough to feed all people? The planet actually contains everything necessary to satisfy

of fruit and vegetables. As he is incapable of managing, this new enterprise falls through like all the others.

Before he goes off to military service, the boy’s mother advises him to give up the business for which he is responsible, for bankruptcy would damage his own future. This sudden decision, though it is quite justified, gets Anthony’s back up. He begins to feel belittled in the eyes of his family, so that the atmosphere of the home is spoilt.

Jannette now has to work like a slave to provide for the home and also to pay off her husband’s many debts. For a long time, she jumps every time she hears the doorbell, fearing it is someone come with an unpaid bill to pressure her.

To make matters worse, for the lad to take his father into his employment was against the law. So, all the family allowance received during that time has to be paid back.

Anthony is so downcast by all those dif-

iculties that he takes to drinking in earnest, and Jannette realises that for the sake of the children and of her own health, something energetic has got to be done.

On her employer’s advice, she decides to apply for a “separation from bed and board”. With her husband’s growing irresponsibility, she cannot go on being answerable for all his mistakes. For one thing, it would do him no good. Yet he appears, for the time, to have found a job which he is likely to hold. The firm, for which he is working, has just started up a series of building sites. But alas this gleam of hope soon fades, for he once more gets the sack. Not being satisfied, Jannette goes to his employer to enquire about the reason for it, and is told that he is incapable of coming to his work sober, and only yesterday seriously damaged a new truck. Jannette tries to reason with him, to awaken his manhood, threatening to institute separation proceedings. But he, thinking it is only

an empty threat, gives in to his habit of doing the round of the pubs.

That is the last straw, so the proceedings have to go through, and the court decides for the wife, who has shown so much courage. She obtains custody of the children, all the contents of the home go to her, and the husband is forced to pay child support.

For seven months, Anthony is able to think over all he has lost through his own stupid heedlessness. How much he misses his home and the warm affection of his loved ones! Then, when the second daughter gets married, she wants to have both father and mother present, and he is invited to the wedding. Jannette has always kept the door open for his return in case he showed a disposition to mend his ways, and this he truly appears to have made up his mind to do. So, he is received with open arms by his wife, who has never ceased to love him.

In spite of that joyful reconciliation, his

health, seriously undermined by his previous excesses, gradually declined. Although the doctors did all they could to lengthen his life with interventions, such as a plastic intestine, this was not able to permanently take the place of the one provided by nature, and death came to put an end to those latter days of happiness.

Around this time, little Rose was the only one of the children left at home, she was 10 and still had to be provided for. An accident at work, forced Jannette into an early retirement, so that as far as material things went, her future was amply assured. Together with young Rose, she has spent a good deal of time on the Test Stations of the Kingdom of God, where she has learnt how to be happy by bringing happiness to others.

Now, she feels irresistibly drawn to the vocation of evangelist, to carry to others the message which has brought her so much consolation and upheld her courage throughout

the needs of its inhabitants. What we must change are our habits of production, consumption and sharing.

In fact, it is not normal that some live in opulence while the majority of our fellow people live in need. We are all brothers and sisters, and cannot behave as though we are alone. When there are more people, we have to change our habits to adapt to this reality. We will have to learn to share. If a family only has one child, it receives all the affection and care of its parents. If a second child comes into the world and a third or more, room must be made and shared, which is a good "life lesson", which accompanies us throughout our existence.

The world's population forms a large family. That is how we should consider it. And if we were to think about others, we wouldn't need to talk about modesty. There is room and food for all, provided that we don't amass colossal fortunes at the expense of entire population groups. That is quite simply selfishness, and such a line of conduct produces poverty.

Philippe Boissonnat also talks about the possible migration of numerous and poorer population groups to the smaller and often more affluent population groups. This question can also be solved by the equitable distribution of natural resources and the regulation of buying power. If all people are happy at home and have enough to satisfy their needs, there is no reason to migrate, especially since poor countries often have a much better climate and environment than ours. Migration is not a pleasure. Some people are forced to migrate due to poverty or war.

There are also other problems to consider, apart from those mentioned by Philippe Boissonnat. War, violence, immorality and corruption, are all factors that must be taken into consideration. It is easy to understand that we cannot live together if we are becoming increasingly numerous and if everyone is pulling the blanket over to their side. Wealth and abundance do not come, as is generally accepted, through the accumulation of goods, through hoarding, but through altruism, according to the Universal Law, which says that each should exist for the good of others, and that all should have communion with each other. That is the great law to be followed if we want to exist in the coming times. That law governs Christ's Kingdom, which will soon be established on Earth. Then, everyone will be invited to become a benefactor to their fellow people, and to love them. When this is the case among all people, there will be no more poverty.

To obtain that result, there is a discipline to be kept to: the change of character. For this, we must become altruistic people, out of egotists whom we are. This great change is possible through the Sacrifice of our dear Saviour. Through his precious merits, which justify us, and through faith, we can consider changing our

mentality and attaining eternal life, which is humankind's destiny. From then on, we no longer need to fear about our means of existence, or that of other people. It is Almighty God Who provides for everything. He is the Giver of all life. We thus understand that He can give everything that contributes to it.

When all people have learnt to love each other, they will form a single family. The restored Earth will become Paradise again, which it originally was, and, according to the promise, there will be only "one flock and one shepherd" (John 10: 16). Then, there will be far more than 8 billion people, and there will be room for all. No one will lack anything. The deserts and the barren lands will be fertile again. They will be watered again and produce fruit in abundance. But above all, humankind will again be sons and daughters of God. The drama of the Permission of Evil, will have an end. Everyone will rejoice in peace and rest, for all eternity, and no one will forget the glorious Gift that the Lord gave, in his beloved Son, for our Salvation. The Earth will again be in harmony with the rest of the Universe, and will celebrate the glory of its Benefactor, the Lord, and of its Saviour, Jesus Christ.

## Unusual adoption

The following story appeared in the French-language Swiss daily newspaper *Le Matin*, under the title "Un petit prince sauvé" ("A saved little prince"), and was reported by Roger Juillerat:

**A lamb was condemned to die. Now, it has found a new mother.**

"Prince", which is two months old today, has come a long way. On the 6th of May, he was condemned to die by a shepherd moving his flock near a village.

Prince refused to suckle his mother sheep, while his brother was sucking her teats to his heart's content. He was destined to be sacrificed, when Sandrine Vautravers, a village teenager, heard the sad news. Riding a pony and accompanied by other local children, she rushed to the shepherd whom she regularly visited, and said: "Give him to me. I'll save him."

Sandrine says: "I remember, he was so cute, hardly bigger than my rabbit. I would have done anything to get him. Last year, the shepherd offered me one, but dad was against the idea. That little lamb later died because its foster family gave it cow's milk. This time, no problem. Mum and dad agreed, and we named him Prince. At first, I bottle fed him five times a day. Soon, he took me for his mother, and didn't want to leave me, even when I went to school. I would also take him for a walk in the parade ground, under the astonished eyes of the soldiers." One of them stated: "I couldn't believe what I was seeing. The lamb was following Sandrine

as if she were its mother. As soon as she moved away a little, or hid, it would bleat and look for her everywhere. And when it found her, it would throw itself into her arms." Prince is still allowed two bottles a day: powdered milk, designed especially for lambs. He also grazes like crazy and is healthy. However, two months ago, his life was in jeopardy. Sandrine had once fed him so well that he became too fat and got sick for a few days. But everything went back to normal. The proof: he even eats cherries...and spits out the pits!

When Sandrine is not around, Mrs Vautravers takes care of the little sheep. "He considers me his grandmother," says the girl's mother. He also likes to play with Roxane, a three-month-old goat, and with the rabbit whose pen he shares. But little Prince will grow up and get a new enclosure, complete with a splendid hut, which is already reserved for him. Sandrine is proud to have saved him from the guillotine: "He's so affectionate!"

The two charming photographs that highlight this short story show us a well-fed and plump lamb with its young, sympathetic and delighted adoptive mother, and are most expressive of the joy of living and feeling loved. They are comforting pictures compared to so many others in which misfortune, suffering and death, wipe out!

What could be more noble and generous than a spontaneous gesture to help and save! It is an extraordinarily charitable act, which emphasizes "the programme of good" and the respect for life. It is often found among animals. This instinct results in an immense tenderness for the orphaned or abandoned child. Even if it is of a completely different species, or classified by humankind as the designated prey of the one that adopts it because of "the law of predation".

For humans, nothing should be more natural than to extend a helping hand to any creature in need or difficulty. Already for their fellow creatures. Also for animals. However, this is becoming less common in our time in which the love of money has hardened the heart, which has made it insensitive to the misery of others. Indifferent to suffering, as long as it doesn't affect themselves or their loved ones, modern "civilised" humankind, sunk in selfishness, no longer even glance at those who are soaked in blood or groaning in pain. Humankind's only interest is "me", not realizing that they are thereby putting themselves outside of "the vital circuit" ("the circulation of life"), which itself is fed from the sources of altruism.

That, however, is the great lesson contained in the Gospel, and which the Lamb of God came to illustrate with the Gift of his life for the benefit of sinners. Humankind (the fallen royalty) are condemned to death by their current mentality, but are being offered the saving "anchor" of Salvation if they are willing to take hold of it.

the many vicissitudes that have been hers, for she feels deep gratitude as she hears the voice of divine grace expressed in this beautiful hymn:

*Cause the great times of refreshing,  
God's kind promise, forth to shine;  
'Midst so much that is distressing,  
Carry hope and joy divine.  
To us, envoys of compassion,  
Of his grace, who understand,  
God doth grant wealth, in profusion,  
To give out with lavish hand.  
Men, with troubles which divide them,  
Helpless, suffer and repine:  
They need someone who will guide them  
To the Doctor, great, divine,  
Who will lead them with his blessing  
And, with gentle hand, will heal  
At the waters, so refreshing,  
Of his love, supreme and real.  
Through his Messenger, devoted,  
God, his kind heart, did reveal.  
To his Work, we are invited,  
Truth to sow with burning zeal.  
Let us spread the law of blessing,  
From the early hours of morn;  
Scatter life until the setting,  
And begin again at dawn.  
Reeds that weaken and are breaking,  
With a gentle hand, repair;  
Grieving hearts, distraught and aching,  
Cheer with tender, loving care.  
In the midst of man's affliction,  
Cause the promise, forth to shine:  
For it is our glorious mission  
To bring happiness, divine.*

### News in brief of the Reign of Justice

On the 28th and the 29th of October last year, the dear Family of Faith in Germany had the joy of meeting and benefitting from two

exposés by the Faithful and Wise Servant of God, of which we give an overview as follows.

The *Heavenly Dew* Bible text on the Saturday was this affirmation by our dear Saviour: "But I say to you that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give an account thereof on the day of judgement" (Matthew 12: 36), of which we provide several commentary extracts:

"Those words were spoken by our dear Saviour to the Pharisees, who claimed that he was casting out demons by 'the prince of demons'. They are preceded by these words: 'A good man brings good things out of his good treasure of his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of his evil treasure.' 'By your words you will be justified, and by your words you shall be condemned.'

There is a whole world of immensely valuable teachings there, all of which are vitally important for us. We see that everything that we think, say and do, has a corresponding repercussion on us, either good or bad, and develops good or bad spirituality in us...

The most important thing to consider, above all, is that we are poor sinners, who can do nothing for themselves, and who would be lost forever if it were not for the Ransom, paid on their behalf, by the Son of God. We are saved, by pure grace, through our dear Saviour, who came to give the equivalent for all our deficits and poverty...

The Lord wants our heart. He wants the emotion of our soul, the enthusiasm of our sentiments, and the gratitude of our being, for his wonderful love, his great Salvation and his ineffable programme. He wants us to embrace his thoughts, to sympathize with humanity, and to eagerly wish, with Him, to shorten the Distress and to save humankind. It should be gratitude, attachment and ideal that lead us to act and dictate our line of conduct. Without that, we are like a clanging cymbal or a noisy gong...

Let us therefore take to heart, the Lord's own exhortation: 'Watch and pray, so that you do not enter into temptation.' It comes in all sorts of ways, so subtle that, if we are not careful, we don't realize that it's temptation. We might even believe that it is an advantage that the Lord is offering us, a blessing, or that our way is the right thing to do, that we are in the right, or that what we are doing is right. Nothing can give us discernment better than divine spirituality. Without it, we take one thing for another. The only way to thwart the Devil's wiles, is to want to know nothing but the Kingdom, and to want to imitate our dear Saviour at any price, who says to us: 'Learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart.' Then, the Adversary cannot have us."

On the Sunday, the *Heavenly Dew* Bible text was this exhortation from Apostle Paul to Timothy: "God has not given us the spirit of timidity, but of power, love and wisdom" (2 Timothy 1: 7), which the dear Messenger commented on as follows:

"Today's text is magnificent. When we look at some examples given to us in the Old Testament, we see what a spirit of power and strength that many of the faithful, of that time, received. The Three Hebrews, for example, faced the ordeal of the fiery furnace with magnificent confidence. Daniel also stood firmly in the lion's den. They speak deeply to us and allow us to thoroughly examine ourselves...

The spirit of timidity must completely disappear. Because with timidity, not only don't we dare speak our mind, but we also don't dare show ourselves as we really are. It is therefore the spirit of dissimulation, which hides the true face of things, and shows them behind another. Then, one says, someone is timid because they are humble, whereas one should say, someone is timid because they are proud.

The opposite of the spirit of timidity, is therefore the spirit of strength, which gives the courage to show one's true situation and to be as one really is. Have the courage of one's opinion when it is good, and have the courage to humble oneself when one sees that it is wrong. When one has recognized that something is right, consider it as such and follow it, even if it reveals all sorts of shortcomings in oneself, exposes oneself to one's fellow people, or humbles oneself. It is this spirit that one needs to cultivate, so that one can become sincere and true, so that one can transform oneself. A timid person is inevitably a hypocrite because they never show their true colours...

One can believe that one has a spirit of strength because one is not afraid to put oneself forward or to push forward, because one speaks freely, and one dares, if need be, to set one's fellow person straight by convincing them of their fault or error. But that is simply another form of pride, of weakness...

The more we live the Truth, the more it will be understandable to those around us. Nothing is as powerful as an example. The undeniable demonstration of blessing triumphs over all resistance and skepticism. For that to happen, the Spirit of God must have completely triumphed in us to the glory of God."

We thank the dear Family of Faith in Sternberg Castle and surrounds, in Germany, for its dedication to organize this congress.

The next congresses will take place, God willing, on the following dates:

Sternberg Castle: 6th and 7th of April  
Turin (Italy): 13th to the 15th of July  
Lyon (France): 7th to 9th of September  
Sternberg Castle: 28th and 29th September

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