

OPEN LETTER TO THE MARTINISTS



In these times when the world seems to be faltering, when nations clash, when tensions are escalating and when consciences are filled with anxiety, it becomes more necessary than ever to return to what underpins our path: the inner life.

The current upheavals, whether political, social or spiritual, are not merely external events; they remind us that true peace can only be born in the heart, and in the very heart of prayer.

Louis-Claude de Saint-Martin invites us, through his writings, into the silent depths of the soul. His work leads us back to that place where Being remains intact, where peace is not dependent on circumstances, where Presence is given without fanfare. It is in this context that the following reflection unfolds.

There are truths that only reveal themselves as the soul consents to strip itself bare.

Among them, prayer—not the kind that is recited, but the kind that arises from within—remains the most secret and the most transformative. Louis-Claude de Saint-Martin understood this: prayer is not an act that one performs, but a state that one becomes. It is the intimate movement by which the being allows itself to be reached, illuminated, transfigured.

In the early years, prayer is as natural as breathing: with the innocence of a child repeating what they've been taught. The words are simple, the gestures sincere, and one still believes that God is somewhere outside, ready to answer our prayers. Then comes the time when prayer becomes recitation, habit, sometimes a mechanical refuge.

We pray because we must pray, because life shakes us, because hardships call for help. There are moments when the storm subsides and a space of gratitude, thanksgiving, and praise arises, like a sigh.

And yet, already, something is working silently.

Years pass, and prayer transforms. It lengthens, then becomes stripped bare. It searches for words, then loses them.

But when does prayer truly reach its sublime end?

It is when we manage to make prayers that pray within us and for us, and not those prayers that we are obliged to support from all sides, drawing on formulas or on childish and scrupulous habits;

Ten prayers of Saint Martin taken from the Posthumous Works

**This summer, we learned of the departure to the Eternal East of several brothers, known or unknown: René Champs and Benoit Mouroux, both former members of the OM board of directors, as well as some brothers from OM in Belgium....
Let us pray for them.**

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It becomes listening: listening to the breath, to the beating heart, to the body settling.

In this state of listening, everything calms down. Sometimes a thought arises, intrusive, like a fragment of the ego that refuses to fade away. But little by little, the soul learns to let these shadows pass without clinging to them.

One day — without knowing when — prayer ceases to be a discourse. It becomes silence.

No more demands. No more dialogue.

No more "me" speaking to a "You." Only a presence remains, subtle, immense, enveloping and permeating us. Only desire remains. In this silence, we are no longer the one occupying the space: we withdraw to let the Other take the place that has always been rightfully theirs.

Then the secret that Louis-Claude de Saint-Martin whispered to those who knew how to listen is revealed:

To pray is to let God pray within us.

It is no longer the human being who addresses Heaven, but Heaven that unfolds within the human being. We become listening, receptacle, transparency. We shrink to allow infinite Life to find its way. Prayer is no longer an effort, nor an intention: it is a state of being. It is no longer an act one performs, but a presence one welcomes.

No more doing... Just being.

To be the place where God breathes.

To be the matrix where His light descends.

To be the heart where His prayer becomes our prayer.

And in this silent union, the soul finally understands that true prayer is not a word addressed to God...

... but a place made for God.

Pascale Dimanche, Sister Gadai, Grand Master of the Martinist Order

"Prayer is a fruitful silence in which God speaks to the soul." – The Man of Desire

"Prayer is not about asking, but about receiving what God wants to give." The New Man

"True prayer is that which the Spirit forms within us." Man of Desire

**"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
Isaiah 59:8-9**