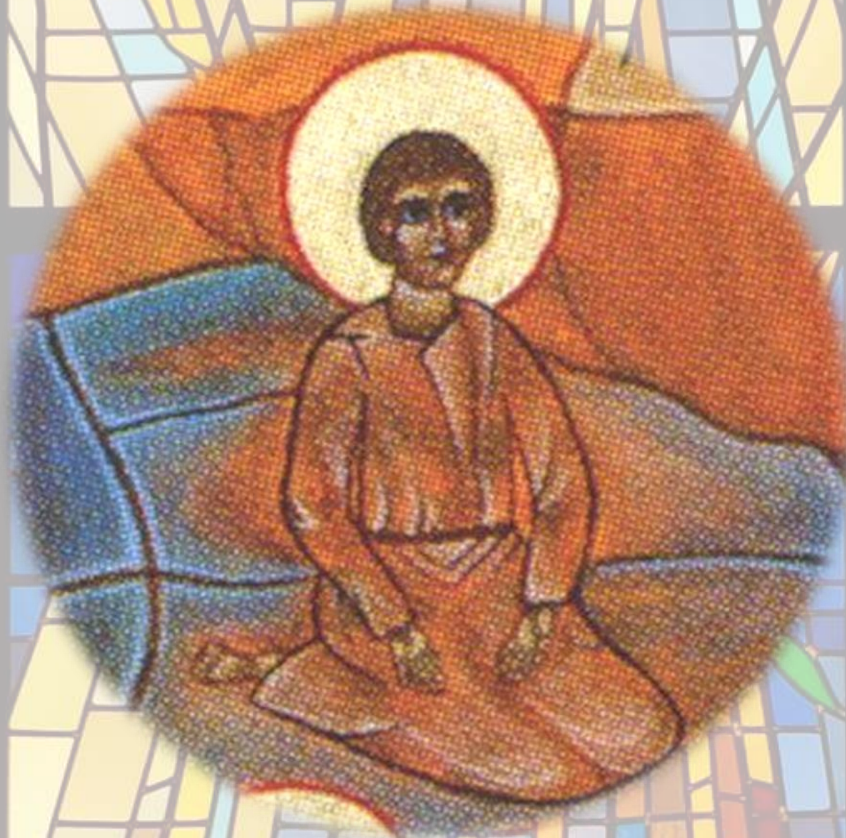




In Remembrance



***Sr. Paul-Hélène, Little Sister of the Assumption
Algerian Martyr ~ May, 8, 1994***



Sr. Paul-Hélène, Little Sister of the Assumption Algerian Martyr ~ May, 8, 1994

Sr. Paul-Hélène was the first martyr of Algeria along with Br. Henri Vergès, a Marist brother. She was killed at the beginning of the afternoon by a bullet to the head, fired by Muslim terrorists who had entered the library disguised as policemen. Seventeen other Algerian martyrs were assassinated between 1994 – 1996. They were Beatified by the Church on December 8th, 2018.

With Sr. Paul-Hélène, following Jesus in a dedicated life

On the threshold of our day, with her, let us put ourselves in the dispositions suggested to us by Father Pernet:

"Father, I place myself in the hands of your will for your glory and the salvation of our neighbor. Show me what I must see, inspire me with what I must say, support me in what I must do".

"In our tiny oratory, how many times have I seen her, on the floor, on her knees or sitting on her heels, eyes closed, hands on her knees, palms open as an offering...". (Sr. Anne Lucie, LSA)



For it is **rooted in Christ** that she lives her daily life.

"I believe that it was there that she found the strength to bear and to live what she was and what she had to live" (Sr Anne Lucie, LSA).

"The desire to place apostolate and interior life in opposition, is to distort them. They are two complementary aspects of our union with Christ. The apparent conflict comes from the fact that we have "too narrow understanding of each of them." July 1961



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Throughout the day, her course of action would be, unfailing:

"Availability to others" (February 60)

"Tact and sensitivity in daily, deflects attention from one's self and directs it towards others ...beware of the desire to be noticed." (4.04.1959).

"You must not only give yourself, you must do it with a smile." (1959).

"It is not necessary that things should be done well, but that people should be served well; pay attention to detail that gives pleasure because it makes people enjoy fraternal love".

With those entrusted to her: patients from the health center in Algiers from the Maarif district in Casablanca; students from Ben Cheneb's library, in her task as bursar or in the kitchen, one always finds this same dynamic of availability.

"My deepest desire is total availability wherever you want, or wherever God wants." (1960)

Of a love without exclusion, *"No one is excluded because of lack of importance or interest." (1985)*





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The task is immense but our strengths are fragile and this, for her in the context of Algeria, the Maghreb of her time.
"The Church wants to show solidarity with these peoples who welcome us; she asks us to make their sufferings our own, but also all the seeds of hope that they carry within them..."

Our small numbers, our ages and our strength keep us in humility and a poverty that we would not have chosen, but it is the source for us of a greater faith and hope in the strength of a God who wants to save all people."

Christ does not ask us to make numbers but to make sense. (Cardinal Duval)

**And this in a context full of uncertainty, insecurity, violence and suffering.
Isn't this a little bit like what we are given to live wherever we are in this year 2021?**

To give, to give everything, all to be given in total love, because, together with her Region, Paul Helene had made the choice at the Chapter of 1992 to **"stay and endure"**.

"Faithfulness is not circumstantial, it is vocational: you don't let your friends down when they are going through something difficult and painful. Solidarity in difficult and painful things and solidarity in prudent measures which restrict individual independence. Yes, we become one with the people whose lives we share."





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This is how on a certain day, 8 May 1994, in the early afternoon, at her place of work, at the opening time of the library, in the depths of her everyday existence, among the young people she loved and who loved her, with Henri Vergès the director, " both in the attire of servants, they were offered helplessly" to the violence of those who came to silence them.

"They had lived and had died like their Master." (Father Claverie, who would himself be assassinated on 1 August 1996).

"They have been authentic witnesses of love, of the absolute altruism of the Church and of fidelity to the Algerian people (Cardinal Duval, 12.05.1994).

With Paul Hélène, at the end of the day let us look at Mary and ask her for her humility, the humility to which our sister witnessed throughout her life.

"God chose his little servant who was not a saint, but who had said "yes" to him like Mary, because beneath her solemn appearance, she was truly humble and surrendered." (Sr. Aliette de Saint Gilles, LSA)



Notre Dame d'Afrique (Our Lady of Africa) is a [Catholic basilica](#) in [Algiers](#), [Algeria](#).



The **Martyrs of Algeria** were a group of nineteen individuals slain in [Algeria](#) between 1994 and 1996 during the [Algerian Civil War](#).^[1] They all were [priests](#) or [professed religious](#) belonging to religious congregations, including seven [Trappist Cistercian](#) monks; one was a [bishop](#). Their nations of origin were [France](#) (15), [French protectorate of Tunisia](#) (1), [Spain](#) (2), and [Belgium](#) (1).^[2]



*Sr. Paul-Hélène, LSA
May 8, 1994*





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*Blessed
Sr Paul-Hélène
Saint-Raymond
Little Sister
of the Assumption
Born on January 24, 1927,
in Paris
Assassinated in Algiers,
May 8, 1994*

[Sr. Paul Helene, LSA
Algerian Martyr](#)

[CLICK ON IMAGES
FOR 6 minute
YouTube of
Sr. Paul Helene's
Life in English](#)

*"Anyway,
our lives
are already
given."*

*Beatification of the 19 Martyrs of Algeria
Oran, December 8, 2018*

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