

And Raymond thoughts began to work under the influence of grace; the lessons of the little book grew clearer, the first prayer went up from his youthful heart:

— "My God, if you exist, show yourself to me!"

Henceforth he was even more anxious than ever to sacrifice himself. Every day he submitted some new scheme to his superior officers, and whether his company was under orders or not, he had to be on the alert. Something seemed to tell him that by sacrificing self he would win a grace of light.

Prone on the ground he crept stealthily along to the German lines to reconnoitre, hurl grenades, or shoot sentries at close range.

It was just at this time I made his acquaintance through the hostile taube that forced me to seek shelter in his dugout...

After a few explanations he very soon made up his mind.

— But, give me as soon as possible, this Baptism and this white Host. I don't want to die before receiving them. . . . And teach me how to pray also.

We decided to baptize him three days afterwards on the 21 of November, feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin, so that the ceremony might be more solemn and take place in one of the near by churches.

During those three days of waiting, Raymond had a big scruple which he confided to me:

— I am afraid I have not acted just right those three days. I accepted all commands, did what I was obliged too, but never even asked to do anything of myself, so afraid was I to be killed before becoming a Christian. But I promise you, Father, I'll make up for it once you have baptized me.

The ceremony was very impressive. The young lad in his uniform spattered with mud, riddled with bullets, answered in French the grand liturgical prayers. At his side, stood his Sponsor, the Captain Major, whose simple word had ignited the first spark of faith in his soul. After baptism where he had taken the name of Mary, I gave him Holy Communion. He arose radiant and proud, and clasping my hand warmly said:

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