

The Pilgrims of Saint Michael



*A Catholic
work of the press
and apostolate
for social justice*





Louis Even



Gilberte Côté-Mercier

The Pilgrims of St. Michael were founded in Canada in 1939 by Louis Even and Gilberte Cote-Mercier. Our goal is to promote the development of a better world, a more Christian society through the diffusion and the implementation of the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church in every area of society, especially through the economic field.





The House of the Immaculate, where the monthly meetings of the Pilgrims of St. Michael take place, also the residence of the men full-time Pilgrims.

For this purpose, they publish a journal called "Michael." The version in French is called "Vers Demain," it exists since 1939; the English edition started in 1953, Polish in 1999, and Spanish in 2003.

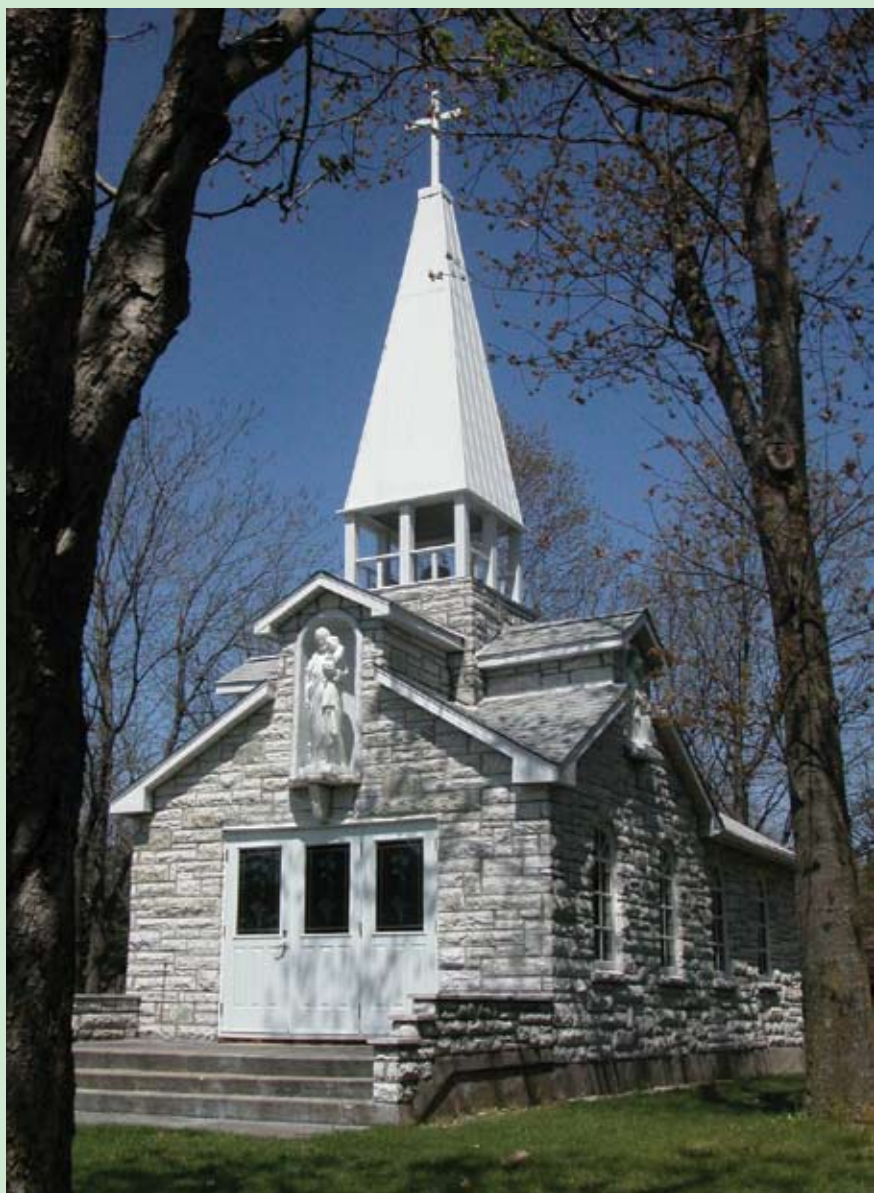




The expedition of the journal; blessing of our new printing press; containers loaded with leaflets to be sent to different continents.

Entrance into our grounds in Rougemont. Since 1992, our Movement is also called "Louis Even Institute for Social Justice" in honor of its founder.





The St. Joseph Chapel, situated between the House of St. Michael and the House of the Immaculate.

Louis Even was himself a great Catholic and he was convinced that a better world could not be built other than on the eternal principles of the Gospel of Christ and on the teachings of His Church — the Roman Catholic Church — with the Sovereign Pontiff as its visible head.



Rosary Procession in front of the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes on our grounds in Rougemont.

If the Pilgrims of St. Michael speak often about the monetary and economic system in their publication, it is because "it is on the economic grounds that the salvation of souls is at stake" said Pope Benedict XV.



John Paul II mentioned several times the need for a change of the financial and economic systems: "A structural reform of the world financial system is, without a doubt, one of the most urgent and necessary initiatives." (Message to the United Nations, September 26, 1985.)

That souls are being lost because of the economic conditions is very easy to understand: the human person needs a minimum of material goods to accomplish his short pilgrimage on earth, because if God created man with an immortal soul,

He also created him with material needs: to eat, to be clothed, and to be housed. But in order to procure food, clothing and lodging, man needs money to pay for them. If not, the products will stay on the shelves and the person will die of hunger.

In other words, money is a right to life for the individual: without money is a quick death. Those who have the power to create money — the bankers — literally control our lives, as mentioned Pope Pius XI in his encyclical *Quadragesimo Anno* in 1931:

“This power becomes particularly irresistible when exercised by those who, because they hold and control money, are able also to govern credit and its allotment, for that reason supplying, so to speak, the life blood to the entire economic body, and grasping, as it were, in their hands the very soul of production, so that no one dare breathe against their will.” A bit further, the Pope adds that the **“governments have come slaves”** and **“docile instruments”** of the powers of money.



Winter view of the St. Michael House.





Each year, towards the end of March, the Pilgrims of St. Michael organize a week of prayer called the "Siege of Jericho" before the exposed Blessed Sacrament. ho».

The control of money by private interests is the greatest swindle of all times and it has brought about disastrous consequences, such as economic depressions, etc.

The Church cannot remain indifferent in these situations, and this is why She presents the moral principles (the social doctrine of the Church) on which all economic and financial systems should be based. And once these principles are applied in a concrete manner, the Church calls the lay faithful — whose proper role, according to the Second Vatican Council, is precisely to renew the temporal order and bring it in order with God's plan. This means to work for the search of concrete solutions and the establishment of an economic system that conforms to the teachings of the Gospel and to the principles of the Church's social doctrine.



*Procession of Corpus Christi on the grounds in Rougemont.
Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament by a bishop from Congo.*





Statues of St. Anne, the Virgin Mary, and St. Joseph in the House of the Immaculate.

It is for these reasons that Louis Even decided to spread the Social Credit doctrine — a set of principles and financial proposals conceived in 1918 by the Scottish engineer, Clifford Hugh Douglas. (The words “social credit” mean social money — money issued by society, in opposition to present money that is a “banking credit” — money issued by the banks.)

In his first Encyclical Letter *Deus Caritas Est* (God is Love), Pope Benedict XVI wrote:

“In God’s family, no one ought to go without the necessities of life... The aim of a just social order is to guarantee to each person, according to the principle of subsidiarity, his share of the community’s goods.”



The Pilgrims of St. Michael can be recognized by the white beret that they wear during their apostolate; for example when they hold meetings, distribute leaflets, or when they visit the families to recite a decade of the Rosary (the "Rosary Crusade") and present to the people a solution to economic injustice.



When Louis Even discovered the great light of Social Credit in 1935, he immediately understood to what point this solution applied itself to the teachings of the Church on social justice. To our knowledge, Social Credit is one of the best means to put into application the principles of the social doctrine of the Catholic Church in economics.

Louis Even created a movement of apostles to spread his journal and to make Social Credit known, not just in Canada, but in the entire world. His apostles are known under the name of the "Pilgrims of St. Michael," after the Archangel St. Michael, who is the patron saint of the parish church in Rougemont, where the office of the "Michael" Journal is located..

The Pilgrims of St. Michael gathered in front of the St. Michael's Catholic Church in Rougemont, on the occasion of the Congress in the beginning of September.





A group of Pilgrims of St. Michael on a pilgrimage in Quebec City.

Besides thousands of “part-time” apostles who give all of their spare time to visit families to make the “Michael” Journal known, there is a core of full-time apostles who are lodged in our headquarters in Rougemont, but who are continuously on the road in different regions of Canada and other countries. Everything is done voluntarily and no one receives a salary, not even those who print the leaflets.

A group of full-time Pilgrims in Rougemont.





The editors of our four journals, and directors of the Pilgrims of St. Michael, in the hall of the House of the Immaculate.

The group of full-time apostles in Rougemont are similar to a religious community in every aspect, except no-one takes vows, each giving as many years as he or she wants to — some giving a few years, and others all of their lives. The Pilgrims of St. Michael have two houses in Rougemont: one for the ladies, the House of St. Michael, and one for the men, the House of the Immaculate, where the monthly meetings and annual Congress (on the first weekend of September) are held.

Holy Mass of the Pilgrims in St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church in Rougemont.





Pope John Paul II speaks to two Pilgrims of St. Michael at the sanctuary of the Canadian Martyrs in Midland, Ontario, during his visit to Canada in 1984.

The Pilgrims of St. Michael have their own print shop as well, where they print millions of free leaflets, which are financed

by the donations of our benefactors. The expansion of the movement is simply phenomenal: in over five years, for example, they have succeeded in printing and distributing an equivalent of 30 million 4-page leaflets in eight languages.



The Pilgrims of St. Michael are Roman Catholics who preach fidelity to the teachings of the Pope. They attend Holy Mass every day, and they received from Msgr. Albert Sanschagrin, who was bishop of their diocese during that period, the permission to keep the Blessed Sacrament in the chapels of their two houses. Msgr. Sanschagrin came to celebrate the first Holy Mass himself in the chapel of the House of the Immaculate in 1976. *(Photo on the left.)*



Bishop François Lapierre, of the Diocese of St. Hyacinthe, visiting the Pilgrims of St. Michael in Rougemont in 2003.





On the left, a group of young people during a retreat at the House of the Immaculate; on the right: one of our full-time Pilgrims in Australia. Our full-times are called to travel around the world in order to inform the people about our Movement.

To sum up, the battle of the Pilgrims of St. Michael is the battle for the salvation of souls, they do what the Pope and the Church ask: a new evangelization — to bring back basic Christian principles to those who unfortunately have forgotten or have ceased to put into practice — and a restructuring of the economic system. To be a Pilgrim of St. Michael is a wonderful vocation for everyone, especially the young people. All are invited to join our group, either as a full-time in Rougemont, or part time in their area. Many give a few years, and some give their entire life.

All are invited to take part in this work for social justice, either by assisting at our meetings, distributing leaflets, or soliciting subscriptions to our journals. Contact us !

The Pilgrims of St. Michael are all over the world. On this photo, a group of Pilgrims in Ghana, Africa.





To help us, subscribe (yourself and your friends) to "Michael" Journal: it is only \$20 for 4 years (in Europe, 18 euros for 2 years). It is published five times a year and is also available in French, Spanish, or Polish.

To contact us:

Pilgrims of St. Michael
 1101 Principale St.
 Rougemont, QC
 Canada — J0L 1M0
 Tel.: (450) 469-2209
 Montreal (514) 856-5714
 Fax: (450) 469-2601

website internet: www.michaeljournal.org

e-mail: mail@michaeljournal.org

For the United States:

Pilgrims of St. Michael
 P.O. Box 86
 So. Deerfield, MA 01373
 Tel/Fax: (888) 858-2163

Rougemont is situated 50 km east of Montreal on route 112, between Marieville and St. Césaire

