

*Noiceship*

A MAN AFTER GOD'S  
OWN HEART

LIFE OF  
FATHER PAUL GINHAC, S.J.

FROM THE FRENCH OF  
ARTHUR CALVET, S.J.

TRANSLATED BY  
WILLIAM DOYLE, S.J.

"Mihi vivere Christus est."—*Pbil.* i. 21  
(For to me, to live is Christ)

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## FOREWORD

THE publication of the fifth French edition of the *Life of Father Paul Gin hac, S.J.*, suggested the making known to a still wider circle of readers the heroic virtue and sanctity of one who has been justly called "The Man after God's own Heart—a Model for Priests."

Master of Novices, and Superior of the Tertian Fathers, in the novitiates of the Society of Jesus for forty years, Father Gin hac had few opportunities of attracting the attention of a world which is quickly won by the charm of holiness. He died as he lived, generously fighting the hard battle of self-conquest to the end, but practically unknown even in his native land of France, except to the numerous communities of priests and nuns whom the silent preaching of his example had urged along the path of perfection more powerfully than his burning words.

Death, however, seemed to lift the veil which had so long concealed this hidden saint, and God glorified His Servant. An immediate demand was made for the publication of his *Life*, which in a few years has already run through five French editions, amounting to ten thousand copies.

Translations have also been issued in German, Italian, Spanish, Flemish, Dutch and Chinese.

Numerous and striking miraculous favours have been obtained through his intercession, or by the application of his relics; written testimonies of over six hundred such favours, attributed to his power with Almighty God, are in the hands of the Vice-Postulator of his Cause.

Saints, like poets, are supposed to be born, not made, but Father Paul Gin hac was a striking exception to this rule. The following pages will show that his sanctity was no

gratuitous gift from God, but laboriously hewn out of the rough, coarse block of our corrupt human nature.

From the day when the great crucifix of the Cathedral of Ginhac, the young, dashing, pleasure-loving man of the world, put before him as his one ideal "to know Jesus Christ, and Him crucified," his sole ambition to reach the heights of sanctity. It was a long, desperate struggle for fifty-three years. What it cost him the Heavenly Master only knows; but when at last, on January 10, 1895, the wearied soldier laid down his arms at the feet of his Divine King, one who knew him well could write: "I can say with truth that I have met one saint at least in my life, a living saint, whose sanctity made the holiness of everyone else seem nothing; a man with only the appearance of humanity, who in every respect fulfilled all that I had ever read about the greatest saints placed by the Church on our altars."

The editor is deeply indebted to a religious of the Good Shepherd Community at Cork for much valuable assistance in the translation of this Life.

EASTER, 1914.

## PRAYER FOR A NOVENA.

O venerated Father Paul, you who so loved the Divine King, Jesus Christ, Our Lord, and to please Him were ever faithful to the practice of renunciation, mortification and humility, fervent in prayer, generous in the exercise of charity and apostolic zeal; you who were so dead to self that those words of St. Paul, "I live, now not I, but Christ liveth in me," were fully realized in you: We implore of you, by that love with which you burned for Christ Our Lord, to obtain for us the favour we now ask . . . ; obtain for us, above all, the grace to live and die as you did, faithful to the standard of Jesus Christ and His Blessed Mother, the Immaculate Virgin. Amen.

Most pure Virgin, you whom Paul Gin hac honoured with a tender piety and whom he invoked with such filial confidence, you whose glorious privileges he exalted: Obtain for us, through his merits, the grace we desire; grant, above all, that, by showing, as he did, our love for you, we may also, like him, love and imitate Jesus, Our Divine King. Amen.

Lord Jesus, Who gave to Thy faithful servant, Paul Gin hac, the grace of knowing the love of Thy Divine Heart and of being all on fire with its flames: Grant us, through his merits and intercession, the favour we now ask . . . ; grant also that we may feel, as he did, the fire of Divine charity, and that we may desire to live only to procure the greater glory of God and the salvation of souls. Amen.

*Pater, Ave, Gloria.*

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Small pictures with prayers for a novena, and relics of the Servant of God may be had on application to the Rev. W. Doyle, S. J., Rathfarnham Castle, Dublin.

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