

Stella Maris Institutions – A “Critique” (Word Borrowed into English) from a Modern Acadian Woman

Courchene-Cowdrey

After looking around at the many Stella Maris institutions, I find it very interesting that the pastors are still predominantly male. After obtaining the knowledge I have regarding the Acadian and Mi'kmaq diaspora and genocide, as well as their shared language, spirit, and culture, I find it notable that these cultures have not been adopted, but rather taken and made into something else.

The true path of the Acadian is not dominantly masculine, but devoted to a symbol of femininity, Stella Maris, as prior Indigenous French cultures were goddess-oriented. I see acclimatization to patriarchal storytelling as a form of corruption, an actual pathology, where women are kept out of leadership roles in traditions in which female entities are worshiped. The storytelling and interpretation of life, God, and spirit are told through the eyes of a separate culture. With Acadian heritage, spirit, and culture thwarted and replaced with “new norms,” a pattern emerges.

We see this also in the presence of foreign influences within Stella Maris institutions, which raises the question of what else may be occurring within church institutions that is corrupt. To be direct, we are concerned about war, erasure, genocide, and slavery.

While there may be a large following within “patriarchate” modern Catholic churches, the truth will still prevail. It may take a lifetime, in my case, 40 years of discovery, but with God's guidance, and fierce guidance it was, the message was received. We understand that churches have been used to continue instilling male dominance. Bibles such as the King James Version reflect the words of a man who persecuted many women, particularly those who were Indigenous or culturally rooted. They labeled these women as witches, though they were simply women carrying forward their cultures, heritage, nature, and spirit. These women were martyred, and this version is still used today. This is akin to venerating a serial murderer as a hero.

Those approving these texts are often male clergy. Catholics today often use the Latin Vulgate. French Canadians, Acadians, and many from the Basque region associated with Mari were largely not a Latin-impressed culture. They held their own distinct traditions, and despite wars and forced assimilation through the ages, their culture has endured.

Acadians and the Mi'kmaq shared traditions, culture, and spirit because these traditions were closely aligned. Acadians belonged to a culture that both preserved and adopted Indigenous norms from earlier periods of human development. It was a preservation and adaptation of two synergistic cultures.

The early Acadians were a gentle people. Women wore bonnets and long dresses, and the men were humbled by their work in the fields. Harsh winters kept these early settlers tending to their homes and families. Family was their priority, along with the sharing of culture.

Upon the decimation of these early settlements in Mi'kmaq Nation, much of this culture was forcibly assimilated into an English patriarchal structure. In our heart of hearts, we understand that today's world remains imbalanced; frankly, society can feel macabre. Both men and women in modern culture live in pain. Women cry out for understanding, and men do as well.

The culture of the Acadians and the Mi'kmaq, the sharing of ancestral traditions without force, without the "forced assimilation and cheapening" of modern ways, but instead through reverence and respect, can lead us home to God and Goddess, restoring balance, truth, justice, and order between men and women.

These are the lessons our ancestors passed down. They were balanced cultures, with both males and females in spiritual leadership. These high-spirited people, my ancestors, had a beautiful connection to spirit. Today, we honor Acadians. By strengthening truth, we strengthen our connection to God, Great Spirit and to ourselves.

Union of Saints celebrates the first peoples of America, including the Acadians and their spirit for Stella Maris, Mari, and the unaltered stories passed down.

Union of Saints introduces the prophecy of OZIRAH, which leads us to our first evolutions and centers US today.

In Ozirah's name, we pray.

So may it be.