

Elise and the Builders' Circle



Domuspatris.com

Once upon a time, in the same small village in the green hills, there lived Elise, her mother, her grandmother, and her father. Her father's name was Thomas. He was a lawyer. He defended people while remaining fair and honest. His inner light always shone brightly, thanks to the prayers of the whole family.

One evening, a very elegant colleague invited him to dinner.

“Thomas, you are a man of justice. We have a circle of friends: ‘The Builders.’ We also call ourselves Freemasons. There are several lodges: lodges for men, women’s lodges, mixed lodges, cultural lodges... We meet to discuss, help each other, and build a better world. We have a fantastic network. If you join, your career will take off. We promise you a real rise.”

Thomas was troubled. The Builders spoke of brotherhood, of light, of compasses to trace the right path, of a great Eye that sees all, and of a black and white chessboard.

“On this chessboard,” they said, “there is no real good or evil. There are only squares. Everyone chooses the actions that suit them.” They also spoke of secret feasts (large meals reserved for members) and high ranks: very high-ranking brothers who directed everything from the shadows.

Thomas thought, "They're defending justice... maybe that will help me serve better." Elise soon noticed that her father was coming home later, that he spoke less about Jesus, and that his inner light seemed a little dimmed. One evening, she approached him with her rosary.



"Dad, are you still building on the Rock?" Thomas smiled, but his smile was tired.

"My dear, these Builders are helping me. They are building something great." Elise then remembered the words of Jesus that she had learned in catechism:

"Whoever hears my words and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew; yet the house did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But whoever hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand... and it collapsed." (Matthew 7:24-27) Elise took her father's hand.

"Father, builders construct with a compass and an eye, but if they do not build on Jesus, the true Rock, then they build in vain. Jesus said that He is the only Way."



≠



The following evening, Elise, her mother, and her grandmother knelt together. They prayed the Rosary. With each "Hail Mary," they asked the Blessed Virgin to protect Thomas's heart and to close every door that was not Jesus's.



A few days later, Thomas came home earlier. He sat in the living room, his face serious but peaceful.

“My dears, I understand. These Builders’ Lodges, these Freemasons, truly offer a group, discussions, a powerful network. They speak of justice and light. But their chessboard says there is no true good or true evil. Their Eye sees everything, but it is not the eye of God. Their high-ranking members rule in secret. And their gatherings remain private.”

Jesus has no secrets. His house is open. His light needs no ranks. I cannot build my life and my family on anything other than Him. Even if it means giving up a promising career, I choose the Rock.

Elise jumped into his arms. The family lantern shone brighter than ever.

From then on, when Thomas spoke about justice, he always said:

“True justice comes from the One who built the world on the Rock of Love.”



Morale

The Builders (the Freemasons) may seem appealing: they offer a group, discussions, a useful network, and they talk about building a supposedly just world. True Justice is about everyone being equal before the law, not elitist or forming small cliques—that's true Fraternity!

But if they do not place Jesus as their sole foundation, their house is built on sand.

Keep your heart, like Elise's, turned towards the true Rock. Pray the Rosary. Always choose the light that never fades.



Prayer always helps us to discern:

