

THE SONG AT THE SCAFFOLD

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A 10-WEEK BOOK STUDY



SESSION NINE: CHAPTER 9, PAGES 63-71

People to know:

Louis XVI – King of France at the dawn of the Revolution [1789], executed in 1793, the year the Reign of Terror began. His queen: Marie Antoinette.

Robespierre – the leader of the Reign of Terror and its victim in 1794

Jean-Jacques Rousseau – “noble savage” – his political theory was to throw off all law, Church and State, and revert to the natural state.

Voltaire – Frenchman living in and writing essays on England – made Reason his god, Enlightenment thinking – freedom from Church dogma and the tyranny of the King.

Pope Pius VI – decried the Civil Constitution of the Clergy, an attempt to subordinate the Roman Catholic Church to the secular French government. Many Catholics turned against the Revolution when this decree came out in 1790.

Madame Acarie – see the note at the bottom of page 16

Madame Louise of France – see the note at the bottom of page 17

CHAPTER NINE: _____

(HOW WOULD YOU TITLE THIS CHAPTER?)

The image at the beginning of the chapter depicts the elevation of the chalice during the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

- ❁ Sister Marie joyfully took the Infant King to Paris to keep the Dauphin safe and to expose herself to danger. Her property was being confiscated by the Revolutionaries.
 - ✚ The mob would have hated her for being of royal blood and for being a nun.
 - ✚ She thought her fate was sealed and she gloried in it.
- ❁ When she sees Blanche, she exclaims: “Dear Lord Jesus, now do I understand your agony of fear!” Why?
- ❁ What was Sister Marie’s reaction when she heard of the chalice Blanche was compelled to drink? Her remark: “Life is more difficult than death!”
 - ✚ Does she apply this to Blanche, who was forced to drain the chalice and to live amongst the September Mothers?
 - ✚ Does she apply this to herself, who “missed out” on martyrdom by seeking it in Paris?
- ❁ Sister Marie of the Incarnation become docile and obedient, trembling with emotion as she heard of the life Blanche had been leading and as realization broke upon her that life was the penance she paid when she had eagerly sought martyrdom. Can you understand this change of heart?

