

## **A Leader in Battle**

By: Charles Peguy

O dear God, it is You of whom we are in need,  
Whose hand has marked the earth as it passes.  
You have done it before.  
You have done it for other people.  
Won't you do it for the people of France?

For other people you have sent saints,  
You have even sent warriors,  
We are sinners, but we are Christians, all the same.  
O dear God, send us saints!  
O dear God, send us a leader in battle!

O dear God, send us a leader in battle!  
O dear God, give us soon a leader in battle!  
Valiant as an archangel, one who knows how to pray,  
Like unto the knights of old, who, once, upon the Mount  
Defeated and sent the enemy away.

May he march like a saint in the battles of men,  
And may all his soldiers be as holy as he;  
May he be victorious in field and in fen,  
May he enter towns, causing the foe to flee.

And the enemy, at last, chased out of France,  
Messire the Dauphin anointed as King  
Victorious over suffering in its last stance  
The end of sin and of fright we shall sing.

May the leader of battle assemble on the plain  
His triumphant soldiers in the presence of the King,  
May he say the first words of the prayer of all men,  
To the God of Heaven who saved His children.  
    "Our Father . . . ."

But dear God, give us first of all this leader.  
O dear God, give us a leader in battle.