Interview with Ludovine de la Rochère, founder of the La Manif Pour Tous

On June 19th, 2014, several John Paul II Institute students had the opportunity to conduct a small interview with Ludovine de la Rochere, founder of the La Manif Pour Tous, or the Pro-Marriage movement in France.

Elise Crawford: What drew you to this cause, the cause of promoting traditional marriage?

Ludovine de la Rochere: I have worked for years with Christians in societal debates, especially debates concerning bio-ethical issues. And just in the last year, in 2013, President Hollande published his program, and same-sex marriage became legal. So at once we began to work with some friends and we began to think about a strategy to organize {a movement}. It {the same-sex law} was such a scandal. And we really felt that French people, in their hearts, couldn't accept it, couldn't accept anything other than traditional marriage. The government denied our opinion and they didn’t hear us. So we began to march. There is some progress. At least the laws for surrogacy are now completely stopped.

It is everywhere, the gender ideology... surrogacy. It is promoted in schools. It all goes together. It is opposed to civilization and it divides society. This is why we work.

Elise Crawford: When did you begin the movement?

Ludovine de la Rochere: We began officially in October of 2012. We needed time to strategize. We needed to gather people to launch the movement.

Elise Crawford: Where do you see the movement going in the near future?

Ludovine de la Rochere: We would like the movement to go on and grow. We would like the law on same-sex marriage, we want it to be removed. Perhaps we will be able to do so in 2017, because that is when the President of the Republic resigns. So we need to communicate to educate the French Republic citizens so that they are able to claim their opposition {to the same-sex law}. Mobilization is very important in order to maintain the consideration of the law.

Elise Crawford: Many people are for traditional marriage but they are fearful to speak out. How do you allow people to speak for traditional marriage and allow their opinions to be heard?

Ludovine de la Rochere: To mobilize or begin a conference. There are certain things to know in order to promote a movement- we have to use emailing, etc, to communicate, communicate, communicate; and then at a good moment, to organize
a public demonstration. We have to let people know what is happening because they do not know. Networking is very important.

Thank you so much Ludovine for the opportunity to speak to you!