



CRUSADERS of MARY PLEDGE CLUB NEWSLETTER

Volume 1 - Issue 1 - July, 1999

In the Footsteps of Padre Pio ... A Remarkable Pilgrimage

(The following story was written by a pilgrim who attended the Pilgrimage to Rome for the Beatification of Padre Pio. Our Lady's Apostolate is now planning another Pilgrimage to Rome. Call our toll-free number listed in this Newsletter for more information on Pilgrimages.)



Our Lady's Apostolate welcomed 100 pilgrims on its Rome Pilgrimage, highlighted by the Beatification of Padre Pio. On Sunday, May 2, 1999, at 6:00 a.m., the pilgrims got on chartered buses at two different hotels heading into the heart of Rome for what was to be the main purpose

of the 12-day pilgrimage - the Beatification.

Thousands of pilgrims had descended upon the Eternal City for this great and unforgettable event. It was because of this event that hotel accommodations were difficult to obtain and thus our group was divided amongst two different hotels. Although the ceremony was not scheduled to start until 9:00 a.m., we were advised to leave early because of possible traffic difficulties. Indeed, there was a traffic stop caused by demonstrators protesting the war in Kosovo. Still, we reached our destination, the Basilica of St. John Lateran, well ahead of the scheduled start time.

The Beatification Ceremony was to take place in St. Peter's Square. Due to the massive number of persons attending, a second site was chosen where the ceremony would be shown on large screens and the Holy Father would come after the ceremony to speak. This second site, St. John Lateran, is the premier Catholic Basilica. It is the oldest Basilica and the adjoining Lateran palace was the original residence of the Popes and the center of the government of

the Church for one thousand years.

Hundreds of thousands arrived for this event! Expressions of gratitude were heard and could be seen on the faces of many present. Gratitude to Almighty God, to Our Lady, to Padre Pio, for having been granted the gift of being present at such an occasion. Tears could be seen in the eyes of many as the beloved Padre Pio was beatified. One could only wonder how many present may have personally met this Holy Priest (as our own Father Gruner did), or attended the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass offered by him or perhaps had been granted absolution in the confessional by God through him. So many lives touched in some way by this chosen instrument of God. And so it was on this day with so many present, that Padre Pio became Blessed Padre Pio.



Our early arrival and long wait paid off in two ways, our close proximity to the large screens, and to the Holy Father when he arrived. Pope John Paul II came by helicopter from St. Peter's Square, and went by popemobile from the helicopter landing area to the Basilica. The path taken by his vehicle brought him within twenty feet of where I was standing and many of our group were even closer. I had the feeling of being able to reach out and almost touch him.

What's Inside ...

Padre Pio Pilgrimage	page 1
Books About Martyrs	page 2
Persecuted Cardinal	page 3
Pledge Club Goals	page 3
Letters From Friends	page 4

They Were Punished for Their Faith...

Stories of Martyrs

Many books have been written about Martyrs and others persecuted in various ways for their Faith. Our Lady's Apostolate has a few books you may wish to add to your Catholic collection. *Martyrs of the English Reformation* by Dr. Malcolm Brennan tells the reader about martyrs who suffered and died horrible deaths rather than deny the truth of the Catholic faith. From the Foreword, written by Michael Davies:

"Clearly, Catholics should have a great veneration for all the martyrs of the Church. Alas, only too often they are virtually unknown to us. What do most of us know of the martyrs named in the Roman Canon? It is a matter for particular regret. In fact, it is a scandal that most English-speaking Catholics know little or nothing about the martyrs of the British Isles, those valiant men and women who died to uphold truth in the face of the Protestant heresy...

Times have indeed changed, but truth has not. It is one and indivisible. The claims and prerogatives of the Catholic

Church in the Sixteenth Century

remain the claims and prerogatives of the Church today: they are immutable because they were established by Our Lord to endure until He comes again. It would be very hard to find a diocese in the English-speaking world today where the least attempt is made to uphold the prerogatives of the Church. Ecumenism has degenerated into indifferentism...

Thomas Colton, a teenaged boy, endured terrible sufferings for his faith in the reign of Elizabeth I. He refused to mitigate those sufferings by so much as setting foot inside a Protestant church:

'If I should go inside your church, I should sin against God and the peace and unity of the whole Catholic Church, exclude myself from the holy sacraments, and be in danger to die in my sins like a heathen. Although I am but a poor lad, I have a soul to save as well as any other Catholic.'

Saint Anne Line was hanged at Tyburn on February 27, 1601. On the scaffold she said:

'I am sentenced for harbouring a Catholic priest, and so far am I from repenting for what I have done so that I wish, with all my soul, that where I have entertained one I could have entertained a thousand.'

Saint Swithun Wells, a schoolmaster, spoke to Richard Topcliffe, the priest-hunter, upon the scaffold:

'I pray God make of you, a Saul, a Paul - of a bloody persecutor, one of the Catholic Church's children.'

I have no doubt that some of those who read this book will

be encouraged to give their lives forthwith only for the Catholic cause. I am sure that Malcolm Brennan could ask no greater reward for the effort involved in providing us with this inspiring book. May God bless him."

Martyrs of the English Reformation is \$9.95 but pledge club members receive a 20% discount when they order books from Our Lady's Book Service. Other books on martyrs found in Our Lady's Book Service Catalog are: *The Song at the Scaffold* by Gertrud Von Le Fort; *Mexican Martyrdom* by Father W. Parsons, S.J.; *Martyrs of the Coliseum* by Father A.J. O'Reilly, D.D.; *Come Rack! Come Rope!* By Msgr. Robert Hugh Benson. Call our toll-free number today to order your copies!

PRAYER

To Mary, Our Queen

Who art Thou who so enchants the human heart that it can no longer dwell on earth but on wings of a burning devotion strives to win Thy love?

All the things of earth have lost their power to attract my consideration and I only pine to be close to Thee, to behold Thee and to love Thee as a child His most loving Mother.

Oh my gentle Queen and Mother, take pity on these longings of a heart totally surrendered to Thee and quickly sanctify me in Thy embrace. Amen.



Goals and Purposes of the Crusaders of Mary

- ✦ To convince all Catholics that the ONLY way to defend the Church against all her enemies, within and without is by obeying Our Lady's requests, particularly for the Consecration of Russia.
- ✦ To foster and preserve the sacred teachings and changeless traditions of our Holy Catholic Faith along with fighting the persecution of all Christians.
- ✦ To comfort Our Blessed Mother for the pain caused by those who blaspheme and ridicule Her and also to help bring Her words of hope and peace to a suffering world.
- ✦ To re-double our efforts to convince bishops to obey Our Lady and to bring, as she promised, the peace of Christ to all men by promoting full obedience to the requests made by the Blessed Virgin at Fatima.
- ✦ To bring the words of Our Lady of Fatima to all Catholics as a bulwark against all threats to the Church and a means of strengthening the faith of millions.
- ✦ To encourage ever greater devotion to Our Lady by organizing a great and continuous crusade of Holy Masses; offering Masses every day specifically for Our Lady's triumph and the blessing and protection of all Catholics - especially those promoting Her triumph, predicted at Fatima.
- ✦ To promote the Rosary, Brown Scapular and Five First Saturdays as "Heaven's weapons" and a true means of preventing further persecution and harassment of all Catholics in danger.

A Tortured Cardinal – Jozsef Cardinal Mindszenty

Jozsef Cardinal Mindszenty, who was appointed by Pope Pius XII on Sept. 16, 1945, as Primate of Hungary, is the legendary hero-priest who came to be regarded as the symbol of Catholic resistance to Communism. Hungary, at that time a nation of nine million people with six million Catholics, was an enslaved Catholic land and Cardinal Mindszenty personified his people.

Arrested two days before Christmas, 1948, for “conspiracy and espionage”, false charges laid against him by the anti-God communist government, he refused to compromise with darkness. At the notorious Secret Police Headquarters at 60 Andrássy St., Budapest, he was tortured and brainwashed. Stripped of his cassock and sacramentals and dressed in a wide multi-colored Oriental clown’s outfit, his sadistic tormenters interrogated him relentlessly demanding he sign a false confession. Scoffing him they said, “Here the police decide what is confessed, not the defendant.” Twice each night for 29 days he was beaten with a rubber truncheon all over his naked body until he passed out. During the day he was deprived of sleep and drugs were put into his food to break his will.

After a month of this indescribable mental and physical conditioning that he termed, “beyond the imagination of a normal human being”, he was subjected to the mockery of a show trial and condemned to life imprisonment. The world was able to witness the spectacle on television of the saintly Cardinal in the courtroom, humbly struggling to hold up his beltless trousers. Eight years of solitary confinement followed until the occasion the 1956 abortive Hungarian uprising, when, sharing in of diplomatic immunity, he became a

semi-voluntary prisoner for fifteen years in the American Embassy in Budapest. The whole Catholic world remembered him in prayers said in his behalf after Mass. Children all over the world prayed for him. His suffering was a cause of unity among Catholics everywhere.

In prison he had only a small prayer card of the Crucified Christ to console him and in front of which he said Mass during his internal exile in the embassy. He had a firm hope for the coming of the Reign of Christ the King, however he took a dim view of the immediate future of his native land being crushed under the domination of Marxism-Leninism: “We shall be free only when this country becomes the land of truth and justice, when peace and truth embrace, as taught by our Lord.”

We know that the tragedy of Communist enslavement has only one solution, a supernatural one provided by Our Lady of Fatima, namely the Consecration of Russia to Her Immaculate Heart by the Pope and all the Bishops of the world on one day, together with the official promotion of the Devotion of the Five First Saturdays by the Church and the promise of its widespread implementation. Naturally Cardinal Mindszenty was in favor of the Consecration of Russia and had a personal share in the great sufferings caused by its delay. His dramatic and



Cardinal Jozsef Mindszenty

well-publicized story can be found documented in *Look Magazine*, December 25, 1956, written by Leslie Bain, as well as in his Memoirs and portrayed in a movie called “Guilty of Treason”.

In 1974 he was deposed from his archiepiscopal office by Pope Paul VI and spent the rest of his life traveling around the world giving solace to dispossessed Hungarians. He died on May 6, 1975, in Austria, at the age of 83.

Surely he is one of the most well-known contemporary examples of persecution against the Catholic Church. The diabolical character of Communism using calculated methods of brutal mental and physical torture together with broadcast false accusation may possibly have no parallel in the history of Christianity.

Cardinal Mindszenty, Pray for us.

Crusaders of Mary



MAIL BOX

Our Lady's Apostolate receives hundreds of letters and telephone calls every day from friends who support our work of spreading the Message of Fatima worldwide. We would like to share some of these letters with you in this newsletter and we encourage you to share your thoughts and ideas with other pledge club members by writing to us at the address on page 4.

Dear Father Gruner:

I thank Our God with you for putting me on your mailing list! I received *The Fatima Crusader* about the Five First Saturdays and loved it. From cover to cover, it was simply wonderful! Through the grace of Our Lord, I will do all I can to share these words, to enlighten those who do not know Our Blessed Mother. God Bless,
Della N. ... Lone Star, TX

Dear Father Gruner:

I hope my greetings find you well. Rest assured that my prayers are with you as well, always to keep you

strong. The triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary is so near, therefore we must persevere. I was wondering if you could send me some scapulars, mostly for my Sunday School children. Thanks so much.

In Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
Maureen B. ... Dartmouth, NS

Dear Father Gruner:

Keep up the good fight Father, Our Blessed Mother will not let you down in reaching your ultimate quest. Let us pray that people will wake up and learn what is going on around them, and come to the realization they have brought about many of these conditions that exist in our world today. Perhaps then they will again seek out the spiritual nourishment they need rather than their concern for more power and monetary achievement. God Bless you, one and all,

Harold J. ... Culver City, CA

Dear Father Gruner:

God Bless you and may He help you abundantly! We have been forced to belong to a group of six churches because of the priest shortage. We now have two but in July we will be down to one. I pray for you more than once a day and at our Rosary prayer group. I am a convert and Our Lady of Fatima was my introduction and She and Her Rosary have led me by the hand since the 50s. Much love to you,

Grace K. ... Scipio Center, NY

Dear Father Gruner:

I read your 10-Point Plan. Then re-read it. I am at present saying the Sorrowful and Glorious Mysteries daily for your special intentions. Oh, what a plan! The material you sent me for distribution was taken up so speedily, I was dumbfounded. A special thank you, God, for giving us Father Gruner.

Sincerely,

Helene B. ... Manning, Alberta

We'd Like to Hear From **YOU!**

Crusaders of Mary Pledge Club

In U.S.A. – 17000 State Route 30, Constable, NY 12926

In CANADA – 452 Kraft Rd., Fort Erie, ON. L2A 4M7

Call us toll free at: **1-800-263-8160** or fax us at: (905) 871-3646