



# CRUSADERS of MARY NEWSLETTER

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**D**o you want to know a sure way to touch Our Lady's Heart? Put flowers before Her images — but not just any flowers: *violets, lilies* and *roses*. St. Bernard tells us these are symbolic of Her three principal virtues: Humility, Purity and Charity. So if you want Mary to intercede for you, adorn Her with Her favorite flowers. Here is the ancient prayer of St. Bernard, to recite once you've ornamented your favorite portrait, icon or statue of Her in this most appropriate and significant way.

## Prayer of St. Bernard of Clairvaux †1153

We raise our eyes to Thee, O Queen of the world. We must appear before our Judge after so many sins: who will appease Him? No one can do it better than Thou canst, O holy Lady, Who hast loved Him so much, and by Whom Thou art so tenderly beloved. Open, then, O Mother of mercy, Thy heart to our sighs and prayers. We fly to Thy protection; appease the wrath of Thy Son, and restore us to His grace. Thou dost not abhor a sinner, however loathsome he may be. Thou dost not despise him, if he sends up his sighs to Thee, and, repentant, asks Thy intercession. Thou, with Thy compassionate hand, deliverest him from despair. Thou animatest him to hope, and dost not leave him until Thou hast reconciled him with his Judge. Thou art that chosen Lady in whom our Lord found repose, and in whom He has deposited all His treasures without measure. Hence the whole world, O my most holy Lady, honors Thy chaste womb as the temple of God, in which the salvation of the world began. In Thee was effected the reconciliation between God and man. Thou, O great Mother of God, art the enclosed Garden. Thou art the beautiful garden in which God has planted all the flowers that adorn the Church, and amongst others the *violet* of Thy humility, the *lily* of Thy purity, the *rose* of Thy charity. With whom can we compare Thee, O Mother of grace and beauty? Thou art the paradise of God; from Thee issued forth the fountain of living water that



irrigates the whole earth. O, how many <sup>3</sup>benefits Thou hast bestowed on the world by meriting to be so salutary a channel!

Of Thee it is that the question is asked, "Who is She that cometh forth, like the morning rising, fair as the moon, bright as the sun?" Thou camest, then, into the world, O Mary, as a resplendent dawn, preceding with the light of Thy sanctity the coming of the Sun of justice. The day on which Thou camest into the world can indeed be called a day of salvation, a day of grace. Thou art fair as the moon; for as amongst all planets the moon it is that is most like the sun, so amongst all creatures Thou art the nearest in resemblance to God. The

moon illumines the night with the light that it receives from the sun, and Thou enlightenest our darkness with the splendor of Thy virtues. But Thou art fairer than the moon, for in Thee there is neither spot nor shadow. Thou art bright as the sun. Thy Son who created the sun, He was chosen amongst all men, and Thou wast chosen amongst all women. O sweet, O great, O all-amiable Mary, no heart can pronounce Thy name but Thou inflamest it with Thy love; nor can they who love Thee think of Thee without feeling themselves strengthened to love Thee more. O holy Lady, help our weakness. And who is more fit to address our Lord

Jesus Christ than Thou, who enjoyest in such close vicinity His most sweet converse? Speak, then, speak, O Lady; for Thy Son listens to Thee, and Thou wilt obtain all that Thou askest of Him.

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### **International Offices:**

The International offices of India and Philippines are preparing to set up their own web sites and promote Our Lady of Fatima's Message through mailings from their own countries. The children in our Immaculate Heart of Mary Orphanage are studying hard for their government exams which they will take in May of 2001. The Rome office delivered petitions with 61,993 signatures from Catholics around the world requesting the Consecration of Russia to the Vatican.

### **Distribution:**

Thousands of Scapulars, Rosaries, medals, prayer cards and leaflets have been sent to bishops and priests in Third World countries for distribution among their people. The bishops and priests have written us asking for this help, and then written to thank us for our generosity.

### **Volunteers:**

Our volunteers have been working hard at distributing the Fatima message, many even paying for the postage to get the materials to them. Their prayers are assisting us as well.

### **Broadcast Department:**

Over the Christmas season Father Gruner worked with the television department to put together three very special episodes of **Fatima: "The Moment Has Come"**.

### **Encouragement:**

Many priests and bishops are quietly encouraging us to continue our work for Our Lady of Fatima and include us and our work in their daily Mass and prayers.

## **Holy Family of Nazareth Martyrs Offered Their Lives to Save Others**

*Taken from the March 8, 2000 edition of L'Osservatore Romano*

Blessed Maria Stella of the Most Blessed Sacrament and 10 Companions, Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, suffered martyrdom at the hands of the Nazis on August 1, 1943, in Nowogródek, Poland (today Navahradak, Belarus). In 1929 the Servant of God Bishop Zygmunt Lozinski invited the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth to Nowogródek to care for the Church of the Transfiguration, known as the *Biala Fara* ("White Church"), and to educate the children and young people. The Sisters, who resided in Christ the King Convent during World War II (1939-1945), had arrived over a period of several years. Similar to the people of the easternmost part of pre-war Poland, the Sisters formed a

mosaic of temperaments and personalities. They were united by one goal: the spreading of the kingdom of God's love, bequeathed to them by their foundress, Blessed Mary of Jesus the Good Shepherd (Frances Siedliska, 1842-1902).

The outbreak of World War II and the ensuing occupation of the territory, first by the Soviet Union (1939-41), then by the Germans (1941-45), disturbed the harmony of Nowogródek. Amid the darkness of war, the "White Church" became a beacon of light, and it was not unusual for the faithful to come to church in droves.

The invaders were unable to tolerate the vibrant religious life of the church, the home of all that is Polish and the bastion of Catholicism. With the arrival of a special Gestapo unit in the neighboring town of Baranowicz, terrorist activity intensified in the area. The first mass execution took place in July 1942, when 60 people were killed.

On July 18, 1943, the Polish people were subjected to a new wave of arrests; 120 were imprisoned for the purpose of being executed. The people hurried to share their suffering with the Sisters. The Sisters responded by collectively reaching the decision to offer themselves in place of the imprisoned family members. In the evening, when Sister Maria Stella, superior of the community met Father Alexander Zienkiewicz, the chaplain and rector of Fara, she expressed their decision: "My God, if sacrifice of life is

**"O my God! You, Father, are more needed here on earth than we, so we are now asking God, if further sacrifice is needed, to take us rather than you".**

needed, accept it from us who are free from family obligations and spare those who have wives and children in their

care. We are even praying for this". As if in response to the Sisters' prayers, the plans were changed. Some of the men were released, but the majority was sent to forced-labor camps in Germany. All of those men survived the war. Further intimidation included a threat to the life of the only surviving priest in the region, Father Zienkiewicz. The Sisters responded by renewing their readiness to sacrifice their lives: "O my God! You, Father, are more needed here on earth than we, so we are now asking God, if further sacrifice is needed, to take us rather than you".

On July 31, 1943, a police officer issued an oral command to Sister Stella ordering her to appear, together with all the Sisters, at the Gestapo headquarters. Eleven Sisters complied with the order. The Sisters' sentence had already been decided. The Gestapo was determined to exterminate priests and religious without even an investigation. The Sisters were to be executed that same evening. Though they were driven to the outskirts of Nowogródek, there was so much activity on the road and so many people milling about that the Gestapo returned to town. The next morning, Sunday, August 1, 1943, the Sisters were executed in the birch-pine woods about five miles beyond Nowogródek.

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## Sister Lucy of Fatima Speaks on The Rosary



In 1970, following a campaign in Portugal, led by some progressive theologians, against the Rosary, Sister Lucy wrote to a friend, Mother Maria Jose Martins, the following lines:

“As for what you are telling me concerning the recitation of the Rosary, it is a great pity! Because the prayers of the Rosary (15 decades) and ‘The Beads’ (5 decades) are, after the Sacred Liturgy of the Eucharist, what unites us the most to God through the richness of the prayers which compose it, all coming from Heaven, dictated by the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. The ‘Gloria’ which we recite with all the mysteries, was dictated by the Father to the Angels when He sent them to sing near His Word Who had just been born, and it is a hymn to the Most Holy Trinity. The ‘Our Father’ was dictated to us by the Son, and it is a prayer directed towards the Father. The ‘Hail Mary’ in its entirety is impregnated with a Trinitarian and Eucharistic meaning: the first words were dictated by the Father to the Angel when He sent him to announce the mystery of the

Incarnation of the Word: ‘Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with Thee. Thou art full of grace because in Thee resides the Fountain of that same grace. It is through Thy union with the Most Holy Trinity that Thou art full of grace.’ Moved by the Holy Ghost, St. Elizabeth said: ‘Blessed art Thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of Thy Womb.’ If Thou art blessed, it is because Jesus, the fruit of Thy Womb, is blessed. Moved by the Holy Ghost, the Church also has added: ‘Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.’”

**HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH MARTYRS OFFERED THEIR LIVES TO SAVE OTHERS**

*Continued from page 2*

**Sister Maria Stella of the Most Blessed Sacrament** (Adela Mardosewicz) was born on December 14, 1888, at Ciasnowka in the district of Nieswiesk (now in the Belarusian Archdiocese of Minsk-Mohilev). When she entered the Sisters of the Holy Family on September 14, 1910, she was a certified teacher, who later fulfilled the duties of moderator in a boarding school, bursar and sacristan. Arriving in Nowogródek in 1936, she served as local superior during the war. Goodness, generosity and love of neighbor were her outstanding characteristics. The people remember her prayerful expression, deep faith and great sensitivity to the suffering of others.

**Sister M. Imelda of Jesus Host** (Jadwiga Karolina Zak) was born on December 29, 1892, in Oswiecim (Auschwitz) in the Diocese of Bielsko-Zywiec. She was executed on August 1, 1943.

**Sister M. Raymond of Jesus and Mary** (Anna Kokolowicz) was born on August 24, 1892, in Barwaniszka near Vilnius, which is now in the Lithuanian Archdiocese of Vilnius. She was executed on August 1, 1943.

**Sister M. Daniela of Jesus and Mary Immaculate** (Eleanora Aniela Jozwik) was born on January 25, 1895, in Poizdow, a village in the Poldlasie region (at present the Siedlce Diocese). She was executed on August 1, 1943.

**Sister M. Canuta of Jesus in the Garden** (Józefa

Chrobot) was born on May 22, 1896, at Raczyn in the Wielun region (Archdiocese of Czestochowa). She was executed on August 1, 1943.

**Sister M. Sergia of the Sorrowful Mother of God** (Julia Rapiej) was born August 18, 1900, in the village of Rogoczyn in the district of Augustów (Diocese of Elk). She was executed on August 1, 1943.

**Sister M. Gwidona of the Mercy of God** (Helena Cierpka) was born April 11, 1900, in Granowiec in the district of Odalanów (Diocese of Kalisz). She was executed on August 1, 1943.

Among the 11 martyred Sisters there were four Sisters in temporary vows. Three of them were unable to make their final profession because of the war and the occupation. The youngest martyr, Sister M. Boromea, had just taken her first vows less than a month before the outbreak of the war.

**Sister M. Felicita** (Paulina Borowik) was born on August 30, 1905, in Rudna in the province of Lublin (Diocese of Siedlce). She was executed on August 1, 1943.

**Sister M. Heliodora** (Leokadia Matuszewska) was born February 8, 1906, in Stara Huta in the province of Swiecie (Diocese of Pelplin). She was executed on August 1, 1943.

**Sister M. Canisia** (Eugenia Mackiewicz) was born September 9, 1903, in Suwalki (Diocese of Lomza). She was executed on August 1, 1943.

**Sister M. Boromea** (Weronika Narmontowicz) was born December 18, 1916, in Wiercieliszki in the Grodno region (Diocese of Grodno). She was executed on August 1, 1943.

# The Exorcist ... More Than a Movie

Movies such as "The Exorcist" and "The Entity" have brought some lapsed members back to the Church but multi-million dollar epics such as "The Titanic" soon captured the attention of easily distracted members of today's society. Special effects have taken the place of reality and numbed the senses of everyone seeking to be "entertained". Too many have forgotten the old adage: *Truth is stranger than fiction.*

When Our Lord gave His 12 disciples power over unclean spirits, to cast them out (Matt. 10:1), He knew it would be a continuous struggle.

Archbishop Emmanuel Milingo believes the Church has neglected to put this gift to good use. In a speech given at "Fatima 2000: World Peace and the Immaculate Heart of Mary" he stated that some members of the Church hierarchy



"think that those who are engaged in the ministry of healing and exorcism are just individuals who are taking this upon themselves. ..."


There is, however, a growing movement in the U.S. to combat the evils of satanic possession. In 1999 the archdiocese of Chicago appointed a full-time exorcist, bringing the total to 10 currently performing this service throughout America. This is completely opposite to the direction taken by some Church officials in Rome who, according to the Archbishop "think we do this because we are seeking personal fulfillment or publicity."

The Roman Catholic Church does not allow an exorcism to be performed until the existence of a medical or psychological condition has been ruled out.

There is a growing belief that satan doesn't exist. This belief cannot withstand even the slightest scrutiny, but it makes people feel better.

The devil thrives in this environment and the workload of exorcists will only increase dramatically until Our Lady's Message is understood and Her Peace Plan accepted for what it is ... *the only answer.*

## CRUSADERS of MARY



# Reader Mail

**Dear Clergy and all at the Fatima Center,**

Sorry for taking so long to reply. I want you to know that I am with you in helping to defend Father Gruner and nothing will ever change my opinion on him and his work to make known the full Fatima Message.

When one looks at the world and everything that is happening, the world is a thousand times worse now than it was in 1939. But it's like it says in the book "The Prophets and Our Times," people want to be deceived. Well, not all of us. And when anyone speaks the truth they get the same treatment Our Lord got. Keep up the good fight and remember it is always darker before dawn. God bless you all.

*Sean K., Ireland*

**Dear Father Gruner,**

You are in my prayers at Mass daily and especially your requests in reparation to Immaculate Heart of Mary and for your 10-Point Plan to end persecution and to defend the Catholic Faith around the world. Above all, may Our Lady of Fatima grant you good health and spirit while on your travels to visit many bishops. Your letters are always so enjoyable, filled with good hope and faith. Yours in Christ.

*Regina M., Milwaukee*

## We'd Like to Hear From YOU!

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