



CRUSADERS of MARY Newsletter

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Mary's Love for Her Neighbor

by St. Alphonsus di Liguori

Love of God and love of neighbor are commanded by God in the same precept: *And this commandment we have from Him, that he who loves God should love his brother also (1 Jn. 4:21)*. St. Thomas says that the reason for this is that the person who loves God loves all that God loves.

One day St. Catherine of Genoa said: "Lord, You say that I should love my neighbor, but I can love no one but You."

But since there never was and never will be anyone who loved God as much as Mary did, so there never was and never will be anyone who loves her neighbor as much as She did. Father Cornelius a Lapide commenting on this passage from the Canticles: *King Solomon hath made him a litter of the wood of Libanus ... the midst he covered with charity for the daughters of Jerusalem (Cant. 3:9-10)*, says that "this litter was Mary's womb in which the Incarnate Word dwelt, filling it with charity for the daughters of Jerusalem. Christ, Who is love itself, infused in the Blessed Virgin the greatest possible

amount of charity, so that She could be helpful to all who appeal to Her."

While Mary was on earth, Her charity was so great that She was on the alert to help the needy even without being asked. We see this clearly in the case of the marriage feast at Cana when She reminded Jesus of the family's distress: *They have no wine (Jn. 2:3)*. She asked Him to perform a miracle. How quickly She always acted when there was need to relieve Her neighbor!

When She went to the house of Elizabeth to fulfill a duty of charity, She went into the hill country with haste (Lk. 1:30).

But She could not display Her overflowing charity more fully than She did when She offered the death of Her Son for our salvation. With regard to this, St. Bonaventure says: "Mary so loved the world as to give Her only-begotten Son." This also inspired St. Anselm to exclaim: "O blessed among women, Your purity surpasses that of the angels, and Your charity that of the saints!" "And this love of Mary for us," says St. Bonaventure, "has not diminished now that She is in Heaven.

On the contrary, it has rather increased, for She is now in a better position to see the miseries of men." And therefore, the saint goes on to say, the mercy of Mary towards those in distress when She was still on earth was prodigious, but it is far greater now that She reigns in Heaven.

St. Agnes assured St. Bridget that there was no one who ever prayed for grace who did not receive it through the charity of the Blessed Virgin. We would be extremely unfortunate if we did not have Mary to intercede for us! Jesus Himself, speaking to St. Bridget, said: "Were it not

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A MEMORIAL

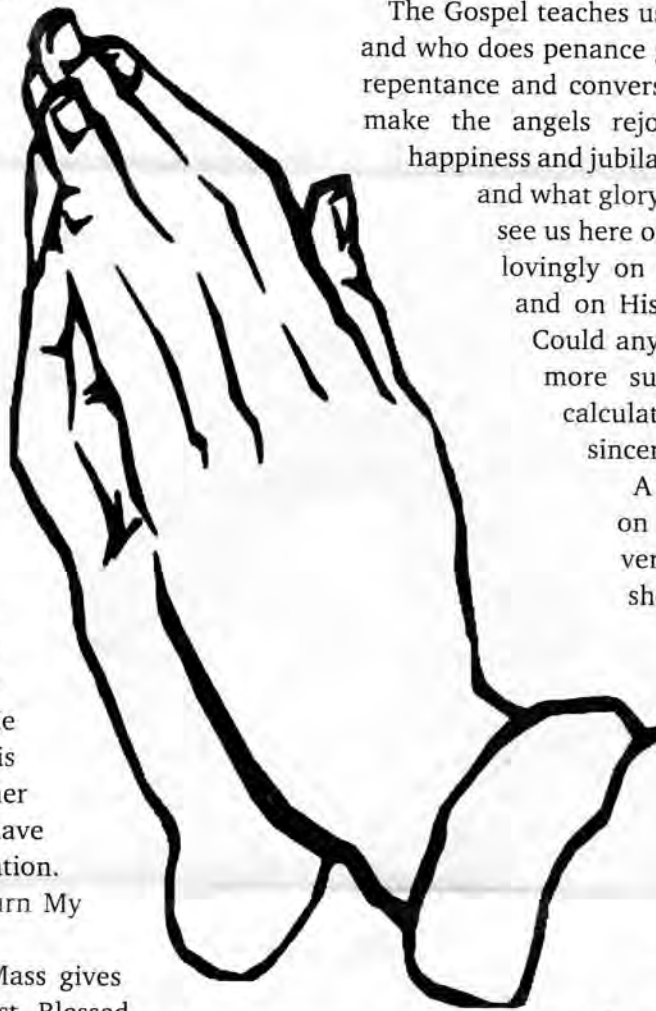
by St. Louis de Montfort

Jesus Christ, the divine Spouse of our souls and our very dear Friend wishes us to remember His goodness to us and all His gifts and wants us to prize them above all else. Whenever we meditate devoutly and lovingly upon the sacred mysteries of the Rosary, Our Lord has a joy and so has Our Lady and all the saints in Heaven.

These mysteries are the most signal results of Our Lord's love for us and the greatest presents that He could possibly give us, because it is by virtue of such presents that the Blessed Virgin Herself and all the saints are in their glory in Heaven.

One day Blessed Angela of Foligno begged Our Lord to let her know by which religious exercise she could honor Him best. He appeared to her nailed to His Cross and said: "My daughter, look at My wounds." She then realized that nothing pleases Our dear Lord more than meditation upon His sufferings. Then He showed her the wounds on His head and revealed still other sufferings to her and said: "I have suffered all this for your salvation. What can you ever do to return My love for you?"

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass gives boundless honor to the Most Blessed Trinity because it represents the passion of Jesus Christ and because through the Mass we offer God the merits of Our Lord's obedience, of His sufferings and of His Precious Blood. The whole of the heavenly court also receives a joy from the Mass. Several doctors of the Church—together with Saint Thomas Aquinas—tell us that, for the same reason, all the blessed in Heaven rejoice in the communion of the faithful because the Blessed Sacrament is a memorial of the passion and death of Jesus Christ, and that by means of it men share in its fruits and work out their salvation.



Now, the Holy Rosary, recited together with meditation on the sacred mysteries is a sacrifice of praise to God to thank Him for the great grace of our redemption. It is also a holy reminder of the life, sufferings, death and glory of Jesus Christ. It is therefore true that the Rosary gives glory, gives a joy to Our Lord, to Our Lady and to all the blessed because they cannot desire anything greater or more contributive to our eternal happiness than to see us engaged in a practice which is so glorious for Our Lord and so salutary for ourselves.

The Gospel teaches us that a sinner who is converted and who does penance gives joy to all the angels. If the repentance and conversion of one sinner is enough to make the angels rejoice, how great must be the happiness and jubilation of the whole heavenly court and what glory for Our Blessed Lord Himself to see us here on earth meditating devoutly and lovingly on His humiliations and torments and on His cruel and ignominious death! Could anything possibly touch our hearts more surely than this and be more calculated to inspire us to true and sincere repentance?

A Christian who does not meditate on the mysteries of the Rosary is very ungrateful to Our Lord and shows how little he cares for all that our Divine Savior has suffered to save the world. This attitude seems to show that he knows little or nothing of the life of Jesus Christ, and that he has never taken the trouble to find out about Him—what He did and what He went through in order to save us.

A Christian of this kind ought to fear that having never known Jesus Christ or having put Him out of his mind and heart, He will disown him at the Day of Judgment and will say reproachfully: "Amen I say to you, I know you not."

Let us, then, meditate on the life and sufferings of Our Lord by means of the Holy Rosary; let us learn to know Him well and to be grateful for all His blessings so that, at the Day of Judgment, He may number us among His children and His friends.

Rome Office

Our Rome office is currently expanding its activities from an on site distribution center — distributing to pilgrims and Romans petitions for the consecration of Russia and information on the Message of Fatima as well as occasional mailings to priests and bishops in Italy — to reaching out to the rest of Italy with large-scale mailings on the Message of Fatima.

Our most recent mailing was sending the Italian translation of the article *Don't Shoot the Messenger* to 18,300 priests in Italy. The office is now preparing for our first prospect mailing which introduces to the Catholic laity in Italy, our apostolate, the Message of Fatima, etc.

Preparations are also being made for the first large scale mailing of *The Fatima Crusader* in Italian.

Volunteers and Volunteer Distribution to priests and parishes

Our North American volunteers have been busy as usual especially during April and May when annually they approach the parishes and priests in their respective areas offering for free, Rosaries and Brown Scapulars for the children making their First Holy Communion. The response to this is quite good.

Our volunteers usually receive a monthly mailing from our volunteer department, and in that mailing are asked to concentrate on distributing a particular item. Our

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for the prayers of My Mother, there would be no hope of mercy.”

Blessed is he that listens to My instructions, who imitates My charity, and practices that charity toward his neighbor, says Mary. *Happy the man who obeys Me ... happy the man watching daily at My gates, waiting at My doorposts* (Prov. 8:33-34). St. Gregory Nazianzen assures us that there is no better way to make Mary love us than by practicing charity toward our neighbor. Just as Jesus exhorts us with the words: Be merciful, therefore, even as your Father is merciful, so Mary seems to say to us: “Be merciful, even as your Mother is merciful.”

We may take it for granted that our charity toward our neighbor will be the measure by which God and Mary

volunteers respond well to these mailings and generally distribute not only the item requested, but also large quantities of our Apostolate literature, etc.

Mailings to Clergy

In the past few months priests in the U.S. and Canada have been sent both Issue 67 and 68 of *The Fatima Crusader*, and in the coming week will be sent Issue 69. Also mailed to these priests was the article *Don't Shoot the Messenger*.

Likewise, Issue 67 of *The Fatima Crusader* has been sent to all Catholic Bishops throughout the world and this week Issue 68 of *The Fatima Crusader* will be sent.

Any time the *Crusader* is sent to Catholic clergy, they are always given a reply form where they may request more copies for distribution to their parishes and dioceses at no cost.

We are in the process of reaching out to our priests in this time of scandal within the Catholic Church. A letter of prayer and support is being sent to priests in the United States and Canada letting them know that they are not alone. That we, the workers of the apostolate, as well as supporters of the apostolate, who have asked that their name be added to the letter, are praying for them and doing all we can to protect all the innocent ones from slanderous, malicious gossip. We are also encouraging them, in these difficult times, to turn to Our Lady of Fatima, Who promised, “My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and the way that will lead you to God”.

They are being reminded that the only way to resolve the crises within the Church and in the world is through heeding the requests of Our Lady of Fatima.

will show charity toward us: *Give, and it shall be given to you. For with what measure you measure, it shall be measured to you* (Lk. 6:38). St. Methodius used to say: “Give to the poor and get paradise in return.” St. Paul maintains that charity toward our neighbor makes us happy both in this world and in the next. *Godliness is profitable in all respects, since it has the promise of the present life as well as of that which is to come* (1 Tim. 4:8.) St. John Chrysostom commenting on these words of Proverbs: *He that hath mercy on the poor lendeth to the Lord* (Prov. 19:17), says: “Whoever helps the needy makes God his debtor.”

O Mother of mercy, You have everybody's welfare at heart. Be mindful of my troubles. You know them very well. Recommend me to God, Who will give You everything. Ask Him to let me imitate You in holy love, love for God and for my neighbor.

Amen

CRUSADERS of MARY Reader Mail



Dear Father Gruner,

Thank you so much for sending me the Green Scapular. I am so happy and grateful and believe that this is the answer of God for me. He sent His answer through you, Father Gruner.

It is almost two years that I pray for my younger brother who is a drug addict, asking God and Mary that someday he will recover.

I have given the Green Scapular — the sign of Mary's love — to my younger brother and believe that through this Green Scapular, he will recover. Please pray for him.

Every morning after I pray the Rosary, I pray for you, asking God to protect and help you in this difficult time of trial and testing.

I have two more fallen-away Catholic brothers. I also want to give each of them a Green Scapular. A niece of mine is very ill with cancer and I also want to give her a Green Scapular and my friends, when they saw the Green Scapular you sent me, they also would like one.

So dear Father Gruner, I need 10 more Green Scapulars, and would be very happy if you could send them.

Thank you in advance. May God bless and keep you.

Mrs. T. Latumeten, Indonesia

Dear Father Gruner,

Thank you for *The Fatima Crusader* issue 59. When it came, I sat down that night after dinner and dishes were done and read "Jacinta's Tears".

Father, it is a moving and eye-opening story but mostly about Jacinta's body being incorrupt in the tomb.

I treasure every one of the articles in the *Crusader*.

I pray for you and your work and its success and for the people who work for you, for the 10 Point Plan, for Mary and for your television ministry, that all goes well for you.

I'm sure the Blessed Mother is always watching over you, and caring for you, as a mother for her son.

God Bless you and keep you in His loving arms always.

Sincerely, T. Conlon, NJ

HAIL, HOLY QUEEN

Hail, holy Queen,
Mother of Mercy;
hail our Life,
our Sweetness and our Hope.

To Thee do we cry,
poor banished children of Eve.

To Thee do we send
up our sighs,
mourning and weeping
in this valley of tears.

Turn then,
most gracious Advocate,
Thine eyes of mercy
toward us.

And after this our exile,
show us unto the blessed Fruit
of Thy womb, Jesus.

O clement,

O loving,

O sweet Virgin Mary.

We'd Like to Hear From

YOU!

Crusaders of Mary Newsletter

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