

CRUSADERS OF MARY

Newsletter

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Saint Macarius, the Elder, of Egypt

January 16 - (A.D. 390)

Saint Macarius, the Elder, was born in Upper Egypt, around the year 300, raised in the country and tended cattle. In his early years, in the company of some friends, he once stole a few figs, and ate one of them, but, from his conversion to his death, he never ceased to weep bitterly for this sin. By a powerful call of divine grace, he retired from the world in his youth, and, dwelling in a little cell in a village, made mats, in continual prayer and great austerities. A wicked woman falsely accused him of having deflowered her, for which supposed crime he was dragged through the streets, beaten, and insulted, as a base hypocrite under the garb of a monk. He suffered all with patience, and sent the woman what he earned by his work, saying to himself, "Well, Macarius, having now another to provide for, thou must work the harder." But God revealed his innocence; for when the woman was in labor, and in extreme pain, she could not deliver until she had named the true father of her child. The people converted their rage into the greatest admiration of humility and patience of the saint. To shun the esteem of men, Saint Macarius fled into the vast desert of Scete, when he was about thirty years of age. He lived in this solitude for sixty years, and became the spiritual parent of innumerable holy persons, who put themselves under his direction and were governed by the rules he prescribed them; but all dwelt in separate hermitages. St. Macarius admitted only one disciple with him to entertain

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strangers.

He was compelled by an Egyptian bishop to receive the order of priesthood around the year 340, when he was 40 years old, so that he might celebrate the divine mysteries for the convenience of this holy colony. When the desert became more populated, there were four churches built in it, which were served by so many priests. The austerities of St. Macarius were excessive; he usually ate only once a week. Evagrius, his disciple, once asked him for permission to drink a little water when he had a parching thirst, but Macarius told him to content himself with resting a little in the shade, saying, "For these twenty years I have never once ate, drank, or slept as much as nature required." His face was very pale, and his body weak and parched. To deny his own will, he did not refuse to drink a little wine when others asked him; but then he would punish himself for this indulgence by abstaining two or three days from all types of drink; and it was for this reason that his disciple asked strangers never to offer Saint Macarius a drop of wine. He delivered his instructions in few words, and principally instilled silence, humility, mortification, retirement, and continual prayer, especially the last, to all sorts of people. He used to say, with a sincere heart, "Lord, show me mercy as Thou knowest best! or, Assist me, O God!" He was delighted with this ejaculation of perfect resignation and love — "O Lord, have mercy on me, as Thou pleasest, and knowest best in Thy goodness!" His mildness and patience were invincible, and brought about the conversion of a heathen priest and many others.

The devil told him one day, "I can surpass thee in watching, fasting, and many other things, but humility conquers and disarms me." To a young man asking Saint Macarius for spiritual advice, he said, "Receive, from the hand of God, poverty as cheerfully as riches, hunger and want as plenty, and you will conquer the devil, and subdue

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Where is the Conversion of Russia?

On a recent Sunday morning, members of our church had the opportunity to listen to a lecturer who had just returned from Omsk, Russia, a city with about the same population as Dallas, Texas.

We were told about the majority of the families who could only afford to put meat on their tables once a week. There is no shortage, the people just can't afford to buy it. Most of the meals consist of vegetables: cabbage, onions, turnips, etc. grown on small plots of land outside the city.

Alcoholism runs rampant as young men walk down the streets with bottles of beer in their hand at any time of the day. Drugs are readily available and cheap, courtesy of the Russian Mafia.

"People knew there was an empty place in their hearts," Nikolai (the guest speaker) told the audience. "When I mentioned God their smiles lit up the room. They were very receptive to Sacred Scripture.

"Orphanages are filled with abandoned children. The small gifts handed out" by Maria, Nikolai's wife, "were, for

most of the young boys and girls the only presents they will ever receive."

Boys who try to escape the harsh conditions of the orphanage are locked in cold, damp rooms and given nothing to eat for days at a time. "Several children asked us to adopt them and bring them to our home. I wished with all my heart I could, but that was, of course, impossible," Maria said.

"There is a prevalent misconception that every American is rich," Maria told us, "and we received several requests for money. Those who asked us for financial assistance didn't believe we had none to spare since we were barely able to cover our own expenses."

Nikolai is hoping to return to Omsk for another three months. Maria wants to stay here and put their son in school. "We need a stable family life right now" Maria explained. "Besides it would be very difficult to raise the money needed to travel to and live in Russia again." †



SAINT MACARIUS, THE ELDER, OF EGYPT *continued from page 1*

all your passions." A certain monk complained to him that in solitude he was always tempted to break his fast, whereas in the monastery he could fast the whole week cheerfully. "Vainglory is the reason," replied the saint: "fasting pleases when men see you, but seems intolerable when that passion is not gratified." One came to consult him who was molested with temptations to impurity; the saint examining the source, found it to be sloth, and advised him never to eat before sunset, to meditate fervently at his work, and to labor vigorously, without sloth, the whole day. The other faithfully complied, and was freed from his enemy.

At one time, God revealed to Saint Macarius that he had not attained the perfection of two married women who lived in a nearby town. He visited them and learned how they sanctified themselves. They were extremely careful never to speak any idle or rash words; they lived in the

constant practice of humility, patience, meekness, charity, resignation, mortification of their own will, and conformity to the humors of their husbands and others, where the divine law did not interpose; in a spirit of recollection they sanctified all their actions by ardent ejaculations, by which they strove to praise God, and most fervently to consecrate to the divine glory all the powers of their soul and body.

Knowing that his end was drawing near, our saint visited the monks of Nitria, and motivated them to remorse and tears so pathetically that they all fell weeping at his feet. "Let us weep, brethren," said he, "and let our eyes pour forth floods of tears before we go hence, lest we fall into that place where tears will only increase the flames in which we shall burn." He went to receive the reward of his labors in the year 390, at age ninety, after having spent sixty years in the desert of Scete.

This glorious saint is honored in the Roman Martyrology on January 16th. †

The Rosary – Heaven’s Weapon for Peace

In a recent address Pope John Paul II stated “the liturgical Memorial of the Blessed Virgin of the Rosary moves us to rediscover this traditional prayer, which is so simple yet so profound.” This prayer, “a contemplative view of the face of Christ carried out, so to speak, through Mary’s eyes ... is at the very heart of the Gospel.

“Therefore, I wish to suggest the recitation of the Rosary to individuals, to families and to Christian communities.

“I wish to entrust once again the great cause of peace to the prayer of the Rosary. We are faced with an international situation full of tensions, of incandescent dimensions. In some parts of the world, where the confrontation is stronger ... the political attempts are worth little ...

“I am thinking of nations, but also of families: how much peace would be assured in family relations, if the holy Rosary was prayed by the family!”

Our Lady of Fatima told the three young Fatima seers on May 13, 1917, to “pray the Rosary every day, in order to obtain peace for the world, and the end of war.” Another Heavenly request was that they say after each mystery: “O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fire of hell. Lead all souls to Heaven, especially those who are most in need.”

She also told them that only Our Lady of the Rosary could help them obtain that peace. Then on October 13, She stated “I am Our Lady of the Rosary,” reminding Lucy and her cousins Francisco and Jacinta, and through them the whole world, that only Our Lady of Fatima can bring peace to the world. †



From the Closet ... to the Living Room ... to the Church

From the Closet ...

There was a time when admitting you were homosexual (coming out of the closet) was a painful and reluctant self-denunciation. Society did not accept or approve of that lifestyle and known homosexuals were shunned.

To the Living Room ...

One new television comedy series *Soap* “broke the barrier” and had an openly gay character as one of the stars. The show’s producers made sure the news of this storyline got “leaked” to the media and the publicity this character generated guaranteed a large audience. The producers laughed at the concerns of those who objected without first seeing the show.

The character was portrayed as a very likable young man who drew more sympathy than condemnation. Then, other shows jumped on the bandwagon and added “gays” to their list of regulars. Now there are TV shows specifically for and about gays and lesbians. Another “barrier” got broken, this one was the disapproval of

homosexuals in society and this disapproval is based on the teaching of Sacred Scripture, which condemns homosexuality every time it is mentioned. Yet, we became the victims of very clever Hollywood propaganda to the point where there is no stigma attached to their sexual preference.

TV stars are standing in line waiting to profess their abhorrent lifestyle. First Ellen and then Rosie came out of the closet. Of course other television and movie stars praised them for their “honesty”.

To the Church ...

Before we could recover from the shock of homosexuality now being considered as just another lifestyle, the scandal of pederasty in the Church spread like the forest fires in Colorado and Arizona. Before one flame could be put out, several more were uncovered.

The Catholic faithful waited for official condemnation. They waited for the guilty bishops who covered it up to be punished. It didn’t happen. While we pray, and wait, and hope, the wolves are ravishing the flock.

As Sister Lucy warned us, the final battle has begun; and so far Satan appears to be winning the ultimate war. We must join Our Lady’s army, pray the Rosary daily, and work for the Consecration of Russia. If we don’t win this battle, the consequences for our children will be a living nightmare. †

CRUSADERS OF MARY



Reader Mail

Hi Janice

Happy to hear from you too.

I'll be glad to have a new Brown Scapular, but would you believe my old one (which has been on four continents with me!) was returned to me by the proprietor of the small family-run hotel in Switzerland where I left it? And I'll tell you something ... having left it behind, I found I missed it, and valued it more ... Our Lady does work little miracles, every day.

Jim B., England

Dear Father,

I just had to write and let you know how impressed I am with the book *The Devil's Final Battle*. I have been studying it in great depth as I commute to and from work. I must have underlined half of it, and I'm not even finished!!!

It's one of the best books I've ever read, particularly about the crimes and corruption of Vatican II.

Keep up the GREAT work and God bless you all.

Jay from the Internet

(From the Editor: If you would like your own

copy of *The Devil's Final Battle*, contact us at the address below and we'll get it out to you. As a member of the Crusaders of Mary and the book will be yours for only \$7.47.)

Dear Father Nicholas,

Praised be Jesus Christ! I wish to express my gratitude to you and all of your staff at the Fatima Center for all of your efforts to bring the Message of Fatima to as many people as possible. Your letters and the www.fatima.org web site have

been the most helpful in keeping me up to date with current happenings regarding the Fatima Center and the spreading of the Message of Fatima. Thank you very much!

I also wish to reaffirm my support of you, and everyone at the Fatima Center. All of you are in my prayers and I will continue to aid you as far as I am able. God bless you!

Yours in Jesus, Mary and Joseph,

Philip S., NJ

Dear Fatima Center,

I recently received a small vial of Fatima Water. My wife was bitten by a spider. Her hand was swelled up and turned black and blue with a pain shooting up her arm. She went to the emergency room but nothing was done. I had her put Fatima Water on her hand and we prayed to Our Lady. Her hand cleared up overnight.

I volunteered to be a visitor to the sick of our parish at three local hospitals. I would like to share Fatima Water with those I visit if they should like to have some. Please advise.

Thank You,

Patrick H., MN

(From the Editor: We recently mailed Patrick more vials of Fatima Water to distribute at local hospitals. If you would like a vial of Fatima Water, just contact us at the address on this page.)

News from the Apostolate

Green Scapular and Rosary Distribution

Throughout the last year, our Volunteers helped us distribute 118,075 Brown Scapulars, 179,443 Green Scapulars and 139,124 Rosaries. These sacramentals were mailed to our worldwide chain of volunteers who distributed them in their churches, local hospitals, libraries, prisons, etc.

We'd Like to Hear From YOU!

Crusaders of Mary Newsletter

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

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

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