



CRUSADERS OF MARY

Newsletter

Volume 6 - Issue 20
August, 2004

A Soldierly Christian Spirit



W e are the soldiers of Christ, engaged in open, active and incessant warfare with His enemies. In vain we can hope to escape it. In vain we delude ourselves that Christ came to establish peace and make all things move in harmony. To no purpose we appeal to the prophecy that styled Him "Prince of Peace," to the angelic Christmas wish, "Peace on earth to men of good will," to His own resurrection greeting, "Peace to you." It is not His fault if the kingdom of the promised Prince of Peace must suffer violence and only the violent can take it away. It is the fault of His enemies that He has declared so plainly that He came to send not peace, but a sword. Can we ask why we should forever be engaged in this struggle? "If the world hate you, know that it hath hated Me before you." There is the fact.

How common it is to hear weak and timid souls plead that it is not Christian to be always on the defensive! How pleasant it sounds to be assured that the age of bigotry has passed away; that people about us are no longer prejudiced, but only ignorant, or, since that too is a hard saying, not properly informed about our belief; that we deem them distant and opposed to us because we do not appreciate their difficulties: as if the ignorance, prejudice and bigotry were all on our side, not on theirs! Religious controversy is to be avoided as it may hurt the feelings of those who are too easily presumed to be in good faith.

It is embarrassing for some to mention religion at all, and quite natural to make light of some principle or prac-



St. Michael, defender of all that is good.

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tice of the faith, because one is either not energetic enough to study the reason of it, or courageous enough to uphold it before non-believers. This is plainly to desert Christ, and to escape the hatred He predicted for His followers. It is peace with His enemies at their own terms. It is cowardice and poltroonery, not surely the soldier-like Christian spirit we are praying for here.

Again, this warfare of life on earth is not always with visi-

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THE GLORY OF HEAVEN

from *Stories from the Catechist*, compiled by Very Rev. Canon G.E. Howe

Jesus Christ one day gave Saint Mechtildes a view of the glory of Heaven. And as she was gazing on it in rapture, and wishing that the happy day were come when she also would enjoy the happiness of the Saints, she heard a voice that seemed to come from the immense multitude of the blessed, saying: "O thrice happy you who still live in the world, because it is in your power to increase your glory and your merit forever.

"If men did but know how much they might increase their merit every day, they would never awake in the morning without their hearts being filled with gratitude to God for His goodness in giving them another day in which they might increase their glory for Heaven, their eternal home.

"This thought alone ought to be sufficient to strengthen them in all their difficulties and trials, and to give them courage to lead a mortified life, since each one of these things is of so much avail for them in eternity."



News Update

Overseas Activity

During the months of April and May there was much activity on the Iberian Peninsula by Our Lady's Apostolate. In April workers prepared a mail-out of almost 16,000 Spanish *World Enslavement or Peace* books, sent to priests and religious houses throughout Spain.

In May apostolate workers were in Portugal, where they personally distributed and mailed literature. Through both mail and direct distribution, 49,000 *Open Letter to the Portuguese Faithful* (see *The Fatima Crusader*, issue 76 for a translation of this letter), 67,000 *Chronology of a Coverup* and 52,000 flyers for *The Devil's Final Battle* were put into the hands of the Portuguese people. Please pray that this effort will produce many fruits throughout Spain and Portugal. ■

A SOLDIERLY CHRISTIAN SPIRIT continued from page 1

ble but more frequently with invisible enemies. "For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood; but against principalities and powers, against the rulers of the world of this darkness, against the spirits of wickedness in high places."¹ Who are these principalities, powers, rulers, spirits of wickedness? Our own experience could tell us, even if St. Paul had not just before bidden us "Put you on the armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the deceits of the devil." Satan and his agents, and too often our own depraved appetites, are the hidden enemies against whom we must stand. Shall we ask still, why man's life on earth is a perpetual warfare? Shall we traitorously accept the open taunt of the enemy, that the fault is in Christianity, which generates in its followers a spirit of

contention, or at least in Christians who cultivate such a spirit, or who at least will not conform to the world? Or shall we murmur that Christ should have left us such a legacy, instead of praising Him forever that He rank us as His followers and fellow soldiers and endows us with a soldierly spirit brave and strong enough to resist and overcome every attack of the enemy.

In our combat with the devil, with our own concupiscences, and with the open enemies of our faith we need self-restraint, courage, obedience, self-sacrifice, loyalty, vigilance ready for every emergency, endurance indomitable to every assault; in a word, the spirit of true soldiers, the spirit we received in the sacrament of Confirmation, the chivalrous spirit of the knighthood of Christ.

1. Ephesians 6, 12; *ibid.* ii.

— from *The Messenger of the Sacred Heart*, Vol 5, number 12. ■

The Message of Fatima in General

In general, the Message of Fatima is not complicated. Essentially, its requests are for prayer and sacrifice, and the abandonment of sin. Requests are made of both the faithful and the Church hierarchy, as each has a role to play in the fulfillment of the Fatima Message.

Before Our Lady appeared to the three children, the Angel of Peace, Saint Michael, visited them. The Angel prepared the children to receive the Blessed Virgin Mary, and his instructions are an important aspect of the Message that is often overlooked.

In his apparitions the Angel demonstrated the proper attitude we should all have when praying, and the reverence we should show toward God; he also explained to them the great importance of praying and making sacrifices in reparation for the offenses committed against God. He told them: "Make of everything you can a sacrifice and offer it to God as an act of reparation for the sins by which He is offended, and in supplication, for the conversion of sinners." He also taught them two prayers of reparation.

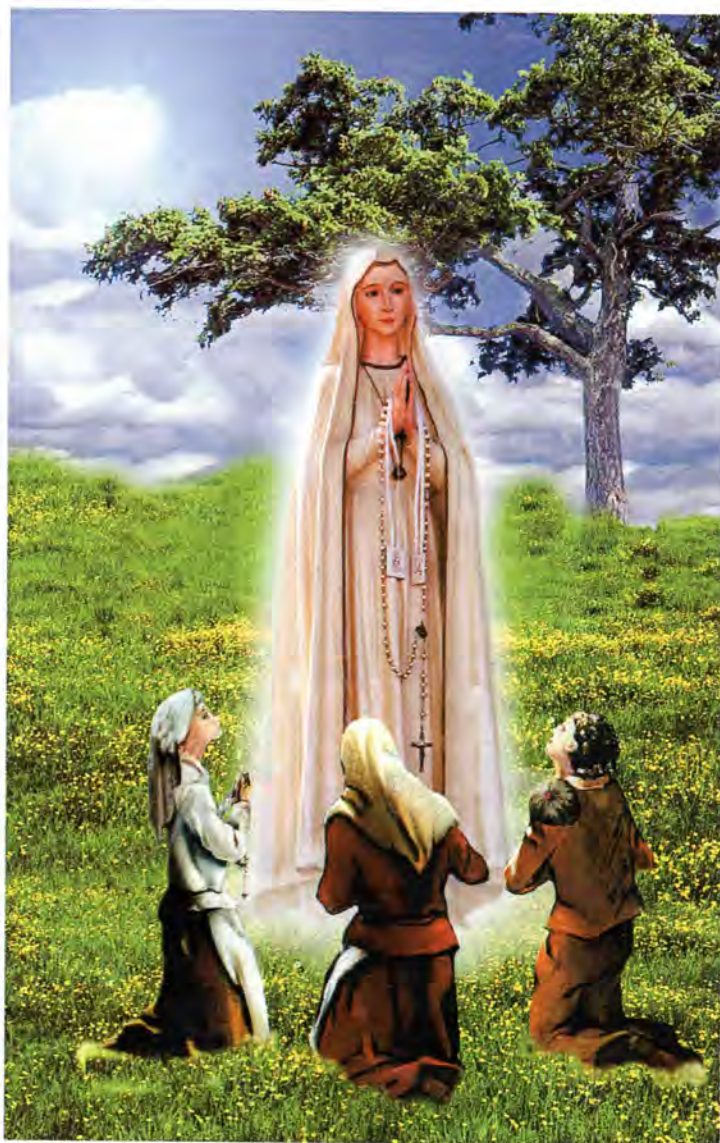
In his final apparition to the three children, the Angel gave them Holy Communion, and demonstrated the proper way to receive Our Lord in the Eucharist: the children knelt to receive Communion, and Lucy was given the Host on the tongue.

In each of Her apparitions, Our Lady stressed the importance of praying the Rosary, and asked the children to pray the Rosary every day for peace. Another principal part of the Message of Fatima is devotion to Our Lady's Immaculate Heart, which is terribly outraged by the sins of many ungrateful men and women and demands reparation. She showed Her Heart, surrounded by piercing thorns, to the children, who understood that their acts of reparation (sacrifices and prayers) could help to console Her.

The children also saw that God is terribly offended by the sins of the faithful, and that He wishes them to abandon sin and make reparation for their crimes through prayer and sacrifice. Our Lady sadly told the children: "Do not offend the Lord our God any more, for He is already too much offended!"

The children were also told to pray and sacrifice themselves for sinners, in order to save them from hell. The children were shown a brief vision of hell, after which Our Lady told them: "You have seen hell where the souls of poor sinners go. To save them, God wishes to establish in the world devotion to My Immaculate Heart. If what I say to you is done, many souls will be saved and there will be peace."

She said that if people did not stop offending God, He



Our Lady of Fatima describes the Fatima Message to the three seers.

would punish the world severely through a second great war. To prevent this, Our Lady offered a remedy: She would return to ask for the Consecration of Russia to Her Immaculate Heart and the Communion of Reparation on the five First Saturdays. If Her requests were heeded, there would be peace. If not, Russia's errors would spread throughout the world, causing wars, famine, persecution of the Catholic Church, martyrdom of the good and the annihilation of nations. The world still awaits the collegial conversion.

Our Lady also indicated the specific root of all of the troubles in the world, the cause of world wars and terrible suffering: sin. She then gave a solution, first to individual people, then to the Church's leaders. God asks each one of us to stop offending Him. We must have devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and work to spread this

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Dear Father Gruner,

In addition to enrolling me in the Crusaders of Mary and accepting my monthly pledge, please pray for my special intentions and send me two new Brown Scapulars and two vials of holy Fatima water. I enjoy watching your program every Sunday, am deeply inspired by your words and ways, and will continue to support you in bringing Our Lady's Fatima Message to many, like myself, around the world. The healing power you speak of, whether it be from wearing the Scapular or just having faith and a strong belief in Who can help you the most, is certainly true and deeply appreciated. Thank you for what you do.

With thanks,

Elizabeth M., NS

Dear Father Gruner,

I'd like to say I support all your efforts to bring the Message of Fatima to consecrate Russia to Our Blessed Mother, and to expose the scandal at Her shrine. Fr. Gruner, we need more priests like you. Sometimes I think you must feel like St. John the Baptist, as the lone voice in the wilderness. But I say that for your mission, you are a champion.

Dominus Vobiscum.

John P., TX

Dear Father Gruner,

I just wanted to write a few lines of support to you at this time. I was overjoyed to hear you recently twice on the "Coast to Coast AM" radio program. I am also pleased to hear about your new projects, as well as your support for "The Passion." ... Attacks on your own credibility are designed to diminish support for you and your Apostolate. I, for one, ignore these attacks and I hope you are able to as well. I will continue to pray daily for you and your staff.

In Jesus and Mary,

Andrew T., B.C.

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

Crusaders of Mary Newsletter

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Action

by Peter Wust

Why then, we may ask, should not God raise up among ourselves also some great figure, like, for instance, St. Francis or St. Dominic, who through the miracle and grace of his character would bring about at one blow the great reaction, which the weakness of our hands and the poverty of our souls makes it impossible to effect by the natural way of isolated actions? It would surely be a mistake if we men of little faith denied the possibility of such an amazing intervention of Providence. But it would be equally mistaken to sit still and placidly await such a miracle of grace in order thereby to get rid of all personal responsibility. That would be as disastrous a fatalism as that described above. It is true, *spiritus ubi vult spirat*; we can never force the Spirit's miracle of grace; we must hope for it, wait for it, beg for it. But we must never make such a hope the pretext for sinking into a mystic lethargy, for shirking personal effort. We ourselves must begin to take action, and only then may we justly expect that God will act with us. We must ourselves try to prepare for the new outpouring of the Spirit. ■

THE MESSAGE OF FATIMA IN GENERAL *continued from page 3*

devotion throughout the world. Our Lady said, "My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and the way that will lead you to God." If we wish to go to God, let us be led to Him through the Immaculate Heart of His Mother. And if we wish to save others from going to hell, let us likewise strive to promote the only way that will lead them there.

When Sister Lucy questioned Our Lord as to why He would not convert Russia without the collegial consecration of that nation specifically, Our Lord explained that He wanted devotion to His Mother's Immaculate Heart to be placed alongside devotion to His Sacred Heart. Devotion to the Immaculate Heart is central to the Fatima Message. God has determined that the Consecration of Russia and the Communion of Reparation on the Five First Saturdays be the means of implementing this devotion throughout the world, and gave this task to His Pope and bishops, who together must consecrate Russia specifically to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

In order to move ever closer to Her, and therefore to Her Son, Our Lady stressed the necessity of praying the Rosary daily. And we must make sacrifices, especially the sacrifice of doing our daily duty, in reparation for the sins committed against Our Lord and Our Lady, and to save poor sinners from hell. We must pray that the Consecration of Russia is done soon, and in the meantime do all that we can to truly live the Message of Fatima. ■