

## St. Philomena, Virgin, Martyr

Feast Day — August 11

While searching for the graves of martyrs in the catacomb of St. Priscilla, workers discovered, on May 24, 1802, the tomb or loculus of a girl martyr. It was closed by three earthenware slabs or tiles on which a legend was written in red paint, which when rearranged became *Pax tecum Filumena* — “Peace be with thee, Filumena.” The name Filumena or Philomena (“Beloved,” in Greek) was taken to be the name of the martyr whose skeleton was found inside the tomb. It was that of a girl about fourteen years old and was entire except for the skull, which was broken. The cement held a small vial with traces of what seemed to be blood and on the tomb were various symbols: two anchors, two arrows, a javelin, a flower or torch, and a palm. The tomb dated from the latter half of the 2nd Century.



For three years her sacred remains were preserved with other relics in Rome, and then in 1805 the pastor of Mugnano, near Naples, asked for the relics of the saint, hoping that through her intercession and by her presence in his church, his parishioners would be restored to religious fervor. The relics were solemnly transferred to Mugnano and enshrined under an altar of the church.

Soon numerous miracles occurred, and her fame spread throughout Italy, then to France and the rest of the world, bringing thousands to her shrine. Among these was Venerable Pauline Marie Jaricot, foundress of the Propagation of the Faith, who was miraculously cured of a hopeless illness and who brought St. Philomena to the notice of St. John Baptiste Vianney, the Curé of Ars. He, in turn, erected a shrine of the saint in his church and recommended her warmly to his clients. He called her his “dear little saint,” his “agent in Heaven,” and ascribed to her the miracles which others attributed to him.

In 1837, Pope Gregory XVI authorized the veneration of the saint and permitted the clergy of the Nola diocese to celebrate Mass in her honor, a privilege soon extended to other dioceses. In 1855, Pius IX approved a proper Mass and Office for her feast. This Office states that though “her life, her acts, and the kind of martyrdom she suffered have remained hidden,” St. Philomena was “a virgin and martyr,” who came forth from the darkness of the catacombs and the obscurity of the past to adorn the altars of the Church. ■

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# A True Letter of Our Savior Jesus Christ

## Consecrating the drops of Blood which Our Lord Jesus lost on His way to Calvary.

This is a copy of a letter of the Oration found in the Holy Sepulchre of Our Lord Jesus Christ in Jerusalem, preserved in a silver box.

St. Elizabeth, Queen of Hungary, with St. Matilda and St. Bridget, wishing to know something of the Passion of Jesus Christ, offered fervent and special prayers, upon which there appeared to them Our Lord Jesus Christ Who spoke to them in the following manner:

I descended from Heaven to the Earth in order to convert you.

In olden times people were religious and their harvests were abundant; at present, on the contrary, they are scanty.

If you want to reap an abundant harvest you must not work on Sunday, for on Sunday you must go to church and pray to God to forgive your sins. He gave you six days in which to work and one for rest and devotion and to tender your help to the poor and assist the Church.

Those people who brawl against My religion and cast slurs on this Sacred Letter shall be forsaken by Me.

On the contrary, those people who shall carry a copy of this Letter with them shall be free from death by drowning and from sudden death. They shall be free from all contagious diseases and lightning; they shall not die without confession, and shall be free from their enemies and from the hand of wrongful authority, and from all their slanderers and false witnesses.

Women in peril at child-birth will, by keeping this Oration about them, immediately overcome the difficulty. In the houses where this Oration is kept no evil thing will

ever happen: and forty days before the death of a person who has this Oration about him or her, the Blessed Virgin will appear to him or her. So said St. Gregorius.

To all those faithful who shall recite for 3 years, each day, 2 Paters, Glorias and Aves, in honor of the drops of Blood I lost, I will concede the following 5 graces:

- 1) The plenary indulgence and remittance of your sins.
- 2) You will be free from the pains of Purgatory.
- 3) If you should die before completing the said 3 years, for you it will be the same as if you had completed them.
- 4) It will be upon your death the same as if you had shed all your blood for the Holy Faith.
- 5) I will descend from Heaven to take your soul and that of your relatives, until the fourth generation.



Be it known that the number of armed soldiers were 150; those who trailed me while I was bound were 23. The executioners of justice were 83; the blows received on my head were 150; those on my stomach, 108; kicks on my shoulders, 80. I was led, bound with cords by the hair, 24 times; spits in the face were 180; I was beaten on the body 6666 times; beaten on the head, 110 times. I was roughly pushed, and at 12 o'clock was lifted up by the hair; pricked with thorns and pulled by the beard 23 times; received 20 wounds on the head; thorns of marine junks, 72; pricks of thorns in the head, 110; mortal thorns in the forehead, 3. I was afterwards flogged and dressed as a mocked king; wounds in the body, 1000. The soldiers who led Me to the Calvary were 608; those who watched Me were 3, and those who mocked Me were 1008; the drops of blood which I lost were 28,430. ■

# How Is it Possible?

## The Real Presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist

Taken from *Jesus, Our Eucharistic Love* by Father Stephen Manelli, O.F.M., S.T.D.

"How is it possible," an educated Mohammedan asked a missionary bishop, "the bread and wine should become the Flesh and Blood of Christ?"

The bishop answered, "You were small when you were born. You grew big because your body changed the food you took into flesh and blood. If a man's body is able to transform bread and wine into flesh and blood, the God can do it far more easily."

The Mohammedan then asked: "How is it possible for Jesus to be wholly and entirely present in a little Host?"

The bishop answered, "Look at the landscape before you and consider how much smaller your eye is in com-

parison to it. Now within your little eye is an image of this vast countryside. Can God not do in reality, in His Person, what is done in us by way of likeness or image?"

Then the Mohammedan asked, "How is it possible for the same Body to be present at the same time in all your churches and in all the consecrated Hosts?"

The bishop said, "Nothing is impossible with God — and this answer ought to be enough. But nature also answers this question. Let us take a mirror, throw it down on the floor and break it into pieces. Every piece can carry the same image that the whole mirror formerly reproduced. Likewise, the self-same Jesus reproduces Himself, not as a mere likeness, but as a reality, in every consecrated Host. He is truly present in each One of Them."

*From the Editor: If you would like to purchase a copy of Jesus, Our Eucharistic Love, please contact us at the address on page four of this newsletter.* ■

*"The final battle is where one side will be victorious and the other side will suffer defeat. Hence from now on we must choose sides. Either we are for God or we are for the devil. There is no other possibility."*

... Sister Lucy

*The Devil's Final Battle* is taking place right now and Father Paul Leonard and other authors reaffirm Sister Lucy's warning in their hard-hitting, masterful style. First, the authors take us back to 1917, and the great Miracle of the Sun, so that all may believe in the messengers and the Message. Then they introduce the devil's forces ... and the battle begins.

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Don't forget to tell our order desk (1-800-263-8160) that you are a member of the Crusaders of Mary when you order *The Devil's Final Battle*, and you will receive this book for only \$7.97 plus shipping and handling and taxes where applicable.



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# CRUSADERS OF Mail MARY

**Dear Father Gruner,**

You have been in my prayers daily for a long time. I'm praying the Three Hail Mary's that the Pope will Consecrate Russia.

We had our First Saturday Fatima Devotion after 8:00 a.m. Mass this morning with almost 40 people (not many I guess —

but at least the priest is letting us have this). Father, I'm very devoted to Our Lady of Fatima and I always say — She is the Answer!

A friend of mine has his licence plate — Fatima! I really liked that so several years ago when I applied for mine, I got Fatima 5 — I associate this with the 5 Blasphemies against Our Blessed Mother!

I get very upset at times with all the evil in the world but I've been told to just keep praying (which I do a lot) and stay close to Jesus and Mary.

God Bless you Father and I pray that things will work out just fine for you, that one of these days we'll hear some Good News!

Sincerely,

*Dorothy M., IL*

**Dear Father Gruner,**

It gives me great pleasure to say Congratulations to you on your twenty-seven years in the Priesthood. Sorry I haven't a nice card to send to you on this special day. I will remember you in my prayers and at Mass, when I go on Sunday. Being a priest for this long of a time is a wonderful blessing to us all, and to the Church. I am sure the Blessed Mother remembered you for sure on this great day, Father Gruner.

Father, it is wonderful to hear from you, now and then getting wonderful mail from the Center. It keeps us all on our toes for sure. Our Blessed Mother really isn't getting too much attention in the world today, especially with the young girls and boys today, most of them not even going to church at all. We really have to pray to Our Blessed Mother for them all. I guess also grown ups as well, as so many have left the Church over the years. Of course most of them blame the priests in the Church — so many do go astray. God bless them all. We need to pray for them as well, Father. I am sure the Blessed Mother will look after them (try to anyway).

So Father Gruner, God Bless you on this lovely occasion of your Anniversary. Glad to hear from you at any time.

Friend in Antigonish,

*John M., NS*

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

*Crusaders of Mary Newsletter*

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