

‘Even thy speech betrays thee’

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It is the opinion of the Fathers of the Church that a third part of all the sins committed in the world are sins of the tongue.” A cynic has said that words were given to us to hide our thoughts. No matter what deception or affectation a person may practice, he inevitably reveals himself both in what he says and how he says it.

God did not make man to be alone

‘It is not good for man to be alone,’ God said, and He formed Eve to be Adam’s companion. But God also instilled in each of us the instinct to seek the company of others. This association requires that we communicate with each other; speech is the normal means to share our thoughts.

And it is speech which will distinguish the educated or virtuous man from the brute. The interview with the sports hero who can deliver only gibberish and grunts is all too common. Alas, however, that the garbled speech we might mock when we listen to the interview, is becoming as common among our associates as among the illiterate.

What is the value of speech? When we turn to the story of the Tower of Babel (Gen. 11:1-9), we see at once that it was speech which enabled the inhabitants of Sennaar to cooperate in the building of the tower. They discussed the tower, they instructed the planners, they agreed on the materials, they organized the workers, etc. – all ‘to make their name famous.’ When God came down to visit them, He rewarded their great pride and incapacitated the entire project by ‘confounding their tongue, that they may not understand one another’s speech.’



“And so the Lord scattered them from that place into all lands, and they ceased to build the city.”(Gen. 11:8)

Thus we observe that our speech enables us to live and work with others towards a common end and is best oriented when it bespeaks a proper fear of God.

But if content alone were sufficient to join us one with another, we would have neither the beauties of language, nor the anxieties that language cause. No, how we express our thoughts, how we speak to one another, how we pray – these manners tell much more than the words delivered what is in our hearts.

A Catholic who, with a pure heart, has received Our Lord on his tongue, and who has embraced

In this issue:

‘Even thy speech betrays thee’.....	1
Mary’s House in Ephesus	2
Back to School.....	3
News from the Apostolate.....	4

Continued on page 2

About the time that Herod was beginning to persecute the Christians in Jerusalem, Saint John urged the Blessed Mother to take temporary refuge in Asia Minor. The Lord also revealed to His Mother that She should accompany John to the city of Ephesus.

Therefore, Mary and Her adopted son John traveled to a port and embarked on a ship which sailed northward across the Mediterranean Sea. There they settled in an isolated home of some poor women, where the Mother of God spent many hours praying fervently for the Christians who were suffering the cruel persecution of Herod in the Holy Land.

While they lived there, they were visited by

Saint James, who was returning to Jerusalem to face his martyrdom. Our Lady encouraged him and blessed him as he set off.

During their brief stay in Ephesus, the Blessed Virgin converted a number of persons to faith in Christ by the example of Her charity among the poor and the sick, whom She regularly assisted with Her own hands, particularly when they were dying. She prayed especially for the deluded young pagan priestesses of the famous Temple of Diana and succeeded in bringing nine of them to belief in the true God.

Saint John and Our Lady left Ephesus when Peter requested them to return to Jerusalem for

Continued on page 3

'EVEN THY SPEECH BETRAYS THEE'

Continued from page 1

the Eucharistic Lord in his mouth, will desire to offer Our Lord a pleasing place in which to enter. The honor he would offer to the King of Kings who visits him in Holy Communion would make the recipient more honorable – in action, as well as in speech. Conscious that God has dwelt within, would he not want to refrain from ugly speech of any sort? No impure language ought to come from his mouth, nor slang expressions which these days become quite vulgar.

But if we observe ourselves speaking casually, as is the “mode”, we may suspect that our thoughts are no more refined and defined than are the “cool” utterances we emit. Then one must first resolve to eliminate the vulgarities at once, from his speech as well as from his thoughts. Moreover, one should stop accepting the vulgarities from others, walking away from doubtful stories before the punch-line, shunning obscene expressions, chastening those who tell them.

We must yearn to bear the standard of Our Lady: to be soldiers for Christ, not guttersnipes. Lest this seem quite difficult in these days of mass education, we can be inspired by St. Joan of Arc, who was canonized just a century ago. When she prepared the French soldiers to do battle with the English, she gave strict instructions to her soldiers that there was to be no bad language of any

sort. Anyone who broke this rule was to be turned out. And the better we observe this standard, the more we will be able to avoid and repair for blasphemies uttered by others.

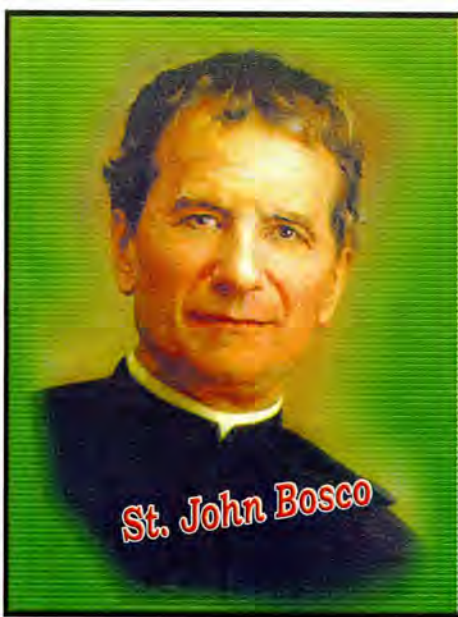
Bearing in mind the grace of the Blessed Mother, and Her great reserve in speech and manner, we can be sure that no word of Hers ever provoked scandal. When She spoke, it was always with humility, dignity and kindness. Even the corrections She offered to others were attractive, always drawing souls to love God. Her prudence in speech was educated by Her constant study of Scripture, and nourished by Her continual reflection and prayer.

Let us love Her perfect example, following the guidance of Scripture: *“Let every man be swift to hear, but slow to speak, and slow to anger.”* James 1:19. We will cultivate courtesy and learn a greater love of God if we will take instruction from Wisdom: *“Before thou hear, answer not a word: and interrupt not others in the midst of their discourse.”* Ecclus. 11:8. And: *“Let your speech be always in grace, seasoned with salt: that you may know how you ought to answer every man.”* Col. 4:6

Thus striving to do justice to others in our speech, we will learn wisdom and attract the pleasure of Almighty God. Then we will rejoice with the Psalmist: *“Let the words of my mouth and the thought of my heart find favor before you, O Lord, my Helper, and my Redeemer.”* Ps. 18:15 †

Back to School

Here are some words of wisdom from the saints,
to encourage our young people in their lives.



“The principal trap which the devil sets for the young people is idleness. This is the fatal source of all evil. Do not let there be any doubt in your mind, that man was born to work, and that when he does not do so he is out of his element and in great danger of offending God. I do not mean by this that you should be occupied from morning till night without some recreation. You should be able to find enjoyment in useful hobbies, and also take pleasure in the study of history and geography, the arts and sciences.” — *Saint John Bosco*

“Do you wish to

study to your advantage? Let devotion accompany all your studies. Consult God more than your books. Ask Him to make you understand what you read. Never begin or end your study except by prayer. Science is a gift of God. Do not consider it merely the work of your own mind and effort.” — *Saint Vincent Ferrer*

“St. Dominic Savio had a great devotion to the Mother of God, and every day did some little mortification in Her honor. On his way to school, he never let his eyes rest on any girl, and when asked why, he replied: ‘I want to keep them to rest on the beauty of my Mother Mary one day in Heaven.’” —

Saint John Bosco

“It is most important that you choose your career with care, so that you may really follow the vocation that God has destined for you. No day should pass without some prayer to this end. Often repeat with St. Paul: ‘Lord, what will You have me to do?’” — *St. John Bosco* †



MARY'S HOUSE IN EPHESUS *Continued from page 2*

the first Council of the Church. They did not ever return there; the house was lost to oblivion.

This information, drawn from *The Life of Mary as seen by the Mystics*, was revealed by Our Lord to Anne Catherine Emmerich, who died in 1824. Just before the turn of 20th Century, an explorer set out to find this house which the mystic had mentioned. The complete description – and the grace of God, led him to a location on the hill where he found a little house that was an exact match. *Meryem Ana Evi* (Mary's house) became a shrine which has been visited ever since, by Catholics and Muslims alike. The house and shrine are currently in the care of the Capuchins.

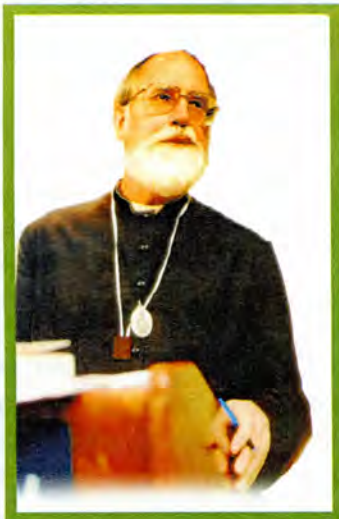
On Sunday, August 20 of this year, an enormous forest fire swept up the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. The torrid heat and the strong dry

wind pushed the flames through 1200 hectares of forest. Tourists were driven from Bodrum and Antalya by the fire. And the hills of Izmir were consumed. From the “House of Our Lady”, the Capuchin friars watched the flames racing up the hill furiously. Fearful for their own lives, they had to flee. They were told by rescue workers that everything was burning, nothing would be saved. The shrine in the midst of the hillside would be lost.

But when the fire was extinguished, the miracle was revealed: the devastating flames had come to a halt barely one meter from the House of Our Lady. The Franciscan who spoke in behalf of the shrine's caretakers did not himself call the event a “miracle.” But judge by his language: “Even around our houses, the fire reached the

Continued on page 4

The phones and faxes are ringing, the computers are whirring; the checklists are being double-checked as the Fatima Center prepares for the "Last Chance for World Peace" conference. In the chapel, Mass and the Rosary are offered each day for the success of the conference.



In the midst of all these preparations (and the other on-going projects), employees at the Fatima Center paused last August 22 to honor Father Gruner on the 30th anniversary of his priestly ordination: we had cake outside on the picnic tables, a few minutes to welcome some visitors from Orillia (Ontario) and England; and then, back to work!

God bless the children!

A father reported that his three-year-old son wanted to light a candle after Sunday Mass. As the father guided his child's hand with the flame, he asked his son, "Now, what intention are you going to offer your prayers for?" The little boy extinguished the flame carefully, then turned to his father to answer, "Father Gruner."

God bless that little one for his prayers for Father. Please join your prayers with his to thank God for thirty years as a priest, and to ask Our Lady's continued protection for Her servant. Thank you. †



MARY'S HOUSE IN EPHESUS
Continued from page 3

outer wall on three sides, and a burnt tree fell on the roof but the flames did not take hold in the residence; even a palm tree one meter from the house was burnt to cinders! The fire around the shrine came as far as the benches outside, where Mass is celebrated in the open, and stopped there. People who saw the devastation all around said it is a miracle. Certainly it is a scenario with incredible features."

Let us ask the Immaculate Heart of Mary, who



converted the confused hearts of the priestesses of Diana, to convert the hearts of the pilgrims who will visit Her house on the hill, which God has preserved in Her honor.

Information in this report was compiled from The Life of Mary and from www.asianews.it. †

We'd Like to Hear From YOU!

Crusaders of Mary
Newsletter

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