

# CRUSADERS OF MARY

## Newsletter

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### A Bishop's Devotion to the Rosary

By St. Louis de Montfort

A Spanish Countess, who had been taught the Holy Rosary by Saint Dominic, used to say it faithfully every day with the result that she was making wonderful strides in her spiritual life. Since her one and only thought was how she might attain to perfection she asked a bishop who was a renowned preacher for some practices that would help her become perfect.

The bishop told her that, before he could give her any counsels, she would have to let him know the state of her soul and also what her religious exercises were. She answered that her most important exercise was the Holy Rosary which she said every day meditating on the Joyous, Sorrowful and Glorious Mysteries, and that her soul was greatly helped by so doing.

The bishop was overjoyed to hear her explain what priceless lessons the mysteries contain. "I have been a Doctor of Theology for twenty years," he exclaimed "and I have read many excellent books on various devotional practices. But never before have I come across one better than this — for it is of the essence of Christianity and is a devotion which cannot but bear fruit. I shall follow your example, and from now on I shall preach the Rosary."

The bishop's preaching met with great success, for in almost no time his diocese changed for the better. There was a notable decline in immorality and worldliness of all kinds as well as in gambling. There were several striking instances of people being brought back to the Faith, or sinners making restitution for their crimes and of others sincerely resolving to give up lives of vice. Religious fervor and Christian charity began to flourish. These changes were all the more remarkable because this bishop had been striving to reform his diocese for some time but with hardly any results.



#### In this issue:

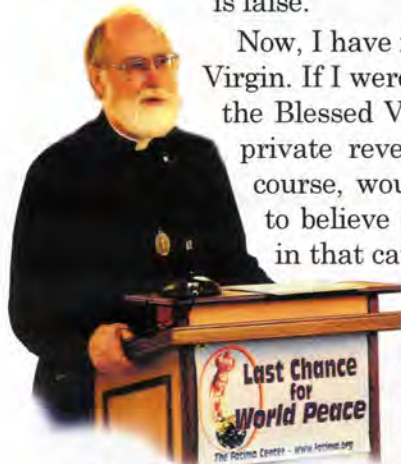
A Bishop's Devotion to the Rosary .....	1
Fatima is a Public, Prophetic Revelation .....	2
Spiritual Communion .....	3
News from the Apostolate .....	4

To better inculcate devotion of the Rosary, the bishop also wore a beautiful rosary at his side and always showed it to the congregation when he preached. He used to say: "My dear brethren in Jesus Christ, I am a Doctor of Theology and a Doctor of Canon as well as Civil Law, but I say to you, as your bishop, that I take more pride in wearing Our Lady's Rosary than in any of my episcopal regalia or academic robes." †

# Fatima is a Public, Prophetic Revelation

By Father Nicholas Gruner

**F**atima is treated as if we can have the option of ignoring it without consequences to ourselves. When it comes to Fatima, that theory is false.



**Father Gruner**

Now, I have never seen the Blessed Virgin. If I were to tell you I had seen the Blessed Virgin, that would be a private revelation to me. You, of course, would have no obligation to believe me, but Fatima is not in that category because Fatima has been backed by a miracle and by public prophecy that has been proven time and time again. Our Lord, speaking to the cities of Capharnaum and

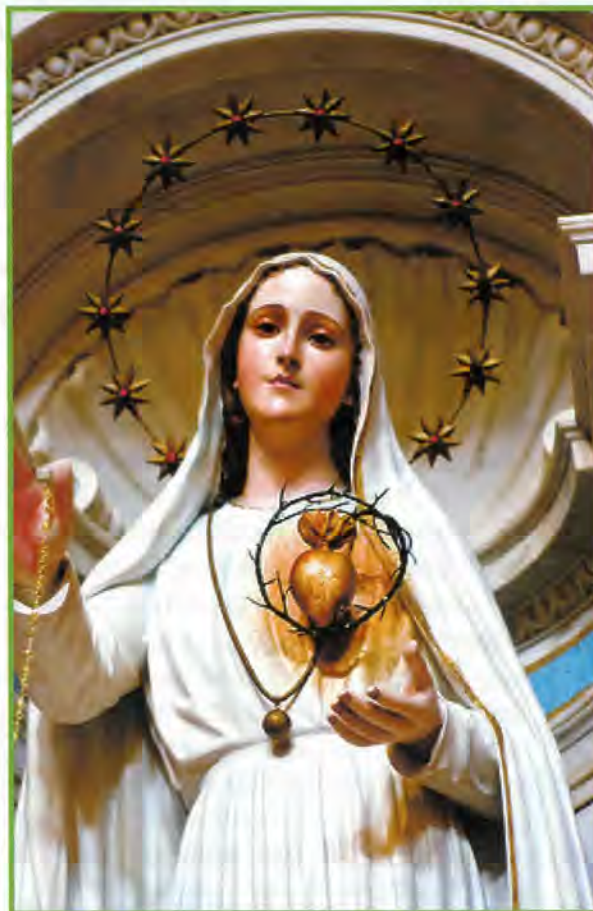
Bethsaida said, "And thou Capharnaum, and thou Bethsaida, do you think you will go as high as Heaven? No. You shall be cast as low as Hell." And why? Because, He says, "if Sodom and Gomorrah had seen the miracles that had been worked in you they might have done penance and stood to this day."

God is just but He is also unequal. I'll explain what I mean. He gave the miracles to Capharnaum and Bethsaida which He did not give to Sodom and Gomorrah; knowing full well had He given those miracles to Sodom and Gomorrah they might have repented. Yet He did not give them those miracles. He gave them to Capharnaum and Bethsaida. They refused the grace that He gave and He said for this reason, and this reason alone, they were going to be cast as low as Hell. So, to refuse a message of God certified by public miracles is obviously a serious matter.

What will Our Lord say to the 20th Century? "And thou 20th Century, do you think you will be raised as high as Heaven? No. You will be cast as low as Hell because I did not work the Miracle of the Sun before the Pharisees who said to Me, 'Show us a sign in the Heavens and we will believe in You.'" But, at the request of Our Lady of Fatima, He did.

Will He say to us then, "Well, you thought it was a private revelation so you're off the hook"? I'm sorry. He expects a little more intelligence from us.

Fatima is a 'public, prophetic revelation'. Father Joseph de Sainte-Marie said, "There is a relationship between the hierarchy and the prophet." It is explained in Scripture, Ephesians 2:20. We are all



familiar with the first part of the verse but not with the next part. The Church is "built upon the foundation of the apostles and the prophets, with Christ Jesus, Himself, as the cornerstone". The prophets referred to are the prophets of the New Testament.

St. Thomas Aquinas tells us that God sends prophets to every generation not to give a new doctrine but to remind the faithful of what they must do to save their souls. The Church is founded upon the apostles and the prophets.

It is the role of the prophet to deliver the message God gives. It is the role of the apostles to determine if the prophet indeed comes from God. The apostle does not have the option of ignoring it. He must examine it. He does not have the option of saying everything or anyone that comes forward is true. Once examined and found to be true, he is bound to hold onto it himself. We have that in 1 Thessalonians 5: 19 to 21. St. Paul writes, "Do not extinguish the spirit. Do not despise prophecy. Test all things and hold fast to that which is good." If we can just say to any prophetic revelation that God gives that it is just a private revelation that we can ignore if we simply

*continued on page 4*

# Spiritual Communion

By Father Michael Muller

**S**piritual Communion, according to St. Thomas, consists in an ardent desire to receive Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Most Holy Sacrament. It is performed by making an act of faith in the presence of Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, and then an act of love, and an act of contrition for having offended Him. The soul then invites Him to come and unite Himself to her and make her entirely His own; and lastly, she thanks Him, as if she had really received Him sacramentally.

The Spiritual Communion may be made in the following manner: "O my Jesus, I firmly believe that Thou art truly and really present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love Thee with my whole heart, and because I love Thee, I am sorry for having offended Thee. I long to possess Thee within my soul; but as I cannot now receive Thee sacramentally, come at least in spirit into my heart. I unite myself to Thee as if Thou wert already there; never let me be separated from Thee."

The graces which are bestowed in this way are so great that they may be likened to those which are imparted by an actual reception of the Sacrament.

One day Our Lord Himself told St. Jane of the Cross, that as often as she communicated spiritually, she received a grace similar to that which she received from her Sacramental Communions. He also appeared to Sister Paula Maresca, foundress of the Convent of St. Catherine of Siena at Naples, with two vessels, one of gold and the other of silver; and told her that in the golden vessel He preserved her Sacramental Communions, and in the silver vessel her Spiritual Communions. The Fathers of the Church go so far as to say, that one who has a very great desire for Communion, accompanied with great reverence and humility, may sometimes receive even more graces than another who, without these dispositions, should actually receive Our Lord in the Sacramental species; for as the Psalmist says: "The Lord hears the desire of the poor, and fills their hearts with good things."

The advantages of this mode of Communion are very great. To practice it you will not need to go to church, or make a long preparation, or remain fasting; you will not need to ask the permission of your confessor, or to seek a priest to give it to you as in Holy Communion. Hence the venerable Jane of the Cross used to say: "O my Lord, what



an excellent mode of receiving without being seen or remarked; without giving trouble to my spiritual Father, or depending on any one but Thee, Who, in solitude, dost nourish my soul and speak to my heart."

But the chief advantage of Spiritual Communion is that it may be so often repeated. You can receive Sacramental Communion, at most, but once a day, but Spiritual Communion you may receive as often as you please. St. Alphonsus advises one who wishes to lead a devout life to make Spiritual Communions at his meditations, at his visits to the Blessed Sacrament, and whenever he hears Mass. But especially he should endeavor to multiply them on the eve of his Communions, because, as Father Faber of the Society of Jesus remarks, they are most powerful means to attain the dispositions necessary for a good Communion. The saints were much addicted to this devotion.

The Blessed Angela of the Cross, a Dominican nun, was accustomed to make a hundred Spiritual Communions every day, and a hundred more every night, and she used to say: "If my confessor had not taught me this method of communicating, I could scarcely live." If you ask how she could make so many, I answer with St. Augustine: "Give me a lover, and he will understand; give me a soul that loves nothing but Jesus Christ, and she will know how to do it." †



## Brazil

Why would it be so difficult to find manufacturers of brown wool cloth that can be used for making scapulars? Yet in the past several years this chal-

lenge has arisen in India, in the Philippines and in Brazil. Nonetheless, the Brazil office has recently met the challenge, and having found a supplier, is now able to prepare to open our Scapular factory in Brazil. This is timely, because a number of priests who attended last August's conference in Brazil (2007) are eagerly awaiting the sacramentals.

One of our Fatima Center staff in Brazil, Joseph, has also been meeting with a number of Brazilian bishops whose hearts were uplifted by last year's conference. We have been finding warmer receptions from many bishops who want to bring Our Lady's Message to their charges as quickly as possible.



## India

The worst heat in the area of the orphanage is in April and May. Now that the heat has subsided to below 100-degrees, a new school year has begun. All the children received new uniforms this year, which was a cause of great enthusiasm.



Cover of *The Fatima Crusader*, Spring 2008 issue, shows Father Gruner leading a procession during the India Conference.

## At Home

Please remember that a Crusader of Mary is an example of Mary-like modesty in dress and comportment. Even the way one holds one's body when relaxing can bespeak the example of Mary, Our Mother. Men and women both: Let us carry ourselves nobly and with restraint, rather than loll about as we might see the wanton do. Let our clothing be the veil of reserve, not ever a provocation to others. †

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FATIMA IS A PUBLIC, PROPHETIC REVELATION

*Continued from page 2*

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choose to do so, then we are, in effect, despising prophecy. If it is truly just a private revelation we can ignore it with no obligation. No problem. If we do not make this important distinction between private revelations and true public prophetic revelations, we can end up falling into the very crime of despising prophecy and extinguishing the spirit.

Sister Lucy refers to refusing the light of the truth, the known truth. Refusing the known truth is a sin against the Holy Spirit for which there is no forgiveness. She says, "My mission is not to indicate to the world the material punishments which are certain to come if the world does not pray and do penance beforehand. No! My mission is to indicate to everyone the imminent danger we are in, of losing our souls for all eternity if we remain obstinate in sin." †

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*We'd Like to Hear From YOU!*

## Crusaders of Mary Newsletter

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