



CRUSADERS of MARY

Newsletter

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Our Lady Explains the Hail Mary

By Saint Louis de Montfort



When we praise and bless Our Lady by saying the Angelic Salutation, She always passes on these praises to Almighty God in the same way as She did when She was praised by St. Elizabeth. The latter blessed Her in Her most elevated dignity as Mother of God and Our Lady immediately returned these praises to God by Her beautiful *Magnificat*.

Just as the Angelic Salutation gives glory to the Blessed Trinity, it is also the very highest praise that we can give Our Lady.

One day, when St. Mechtilde was praying and was trying to think of some way in which she could express her love of the Blessed Mother better than she had done before, she fell into ecstasy. Our Lady appeared to her with the Angelic Salutation in flaming letters of gold upon Her bosom, and said to her:

My daughter, I want you to know that no one can please Me more than by saying the salutation which the Most Adorable Trinity sent to Me and by which He raised Me to the dignity of Mother of God.

By the word Ave, I learned that in His infinite power God had preserved Me from all sin and its attendant misery which the first woman had been subject to.

The name Mary, which means "lady of light," shows that God has filled Me with wisdom and light, like a shining star, to light up heaven and earth.

The words "full of grace" remind Me that the Holy Spirit has showered so many graces upon Me, that I am able to give these graces in abundance to those who ask for them through Me as Mediatrix.

When people say "the Lord is with Thee", they renew the indescribable joy that was Mine when the Eternal Word became incarnate in My womb.

When you say to Me "blessed art Thou among women", I praise Almighty God's divine mercy which lifted Me to this exalted plane of happiness.

And at the words "blessed is the fruit of Thy womb, Jesus", the whole of Heaven rejoices with Me to see My Son, Jesus Christ, adored and glorified for having saved mankind. †

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The Centrality of the Cross

By Bishop Luis M. Martinez

By dying on the Cross for us, Jesus showed to what lengths God would go in His love for man; by dying for the glory of the Father, He expressed the depth of the love of man for God. The Cross is the supreme symbol of this love.

In the letter to the Hebrews, St. Paul reveals the mystery of the will of God: "Therefore, in coming into the world, He says, 'Sacrifice and oblation Thou wouldst not, but a body Thou hast fitted to Me. In holocausts and sin-offerings Thou hast had no pleasure. Then said I, "Behold, I come ... to do Thy will, o God!" And in this will, adds St. Paul, we were sanctified, in the unique offering of the body of Jesus Christ.

Each one of the mysteries of Jesus, each instant of His life, is the fulfillment of His Father's will, but we have St. Paul's revelation that the coordinating center of all the divine dispositions is the Cross.

God wills many things that are in reality but one thing. For unity is the mark of all that is His, a rich unity that holds the universe in magnificent harmony. The human artist, in his masterpiece, wills and arranges all the elements, lights and shadows, colors and figures, seeking in this variety a central theme that will unify and harmonize the artistic elements, and which is the key to the work and the reason for its beauty. The divine Artist has willed many things: the earth with all its marvels, history and all its vicissitudes, the supernatural order with all its prodigies. Yet among this immense variety, His gaze, His search, His love, are only for Jesus Crucified. The Cross is the key to God's magnificent work, the secret of its unity and beauty, the coordinating principle of the world and history, of time and eternity.

Therefore, St. Paul could say that the will of the Father was accomplished by the oblation of the Body of Christ, and that we are sanctified in that will.

The devotion to the Father that filled the soul of Jesus – that soul great beyond measure – had the Cross for its terminus. Only on the Cross was His longing to glorify the Father satisfied, His immense hunger for doing the will of the Father appeased; only there did His infinite love attain rest.

The loving dream of Jesus during His mortal life was the Cross; He longed for it as only the heart of the Man-God could long for the culmi-



nation of all His infinite aspirations. Although He hid His supreme secret under the mantle of divine serenity, it escaped Him as a perfume escapes its containing vial. It undoubtedly revealed itself at Nazareth, to be received in Mary's heart; and again, in intimate conversations with His Apostles, as when He said, "I have a baptism to be baptized with and how distressed I am until it is accomplished," (Luke: 12:50) and that other time in the Cenacle, when He told His disciples of His ardent desire to celebrate the Pasch with them. (Luke 22:15)

Jesus carried in His heart for thirty-three years the cruel, torturing martyrdom of longing for sacrifice and of waiting for the hour appointed by the heavenly Father. Therefore, His devotion to the Father had a definitive form – sacrifice; a clear symbol – the Cross; and a precise formula – Christ through the Holy Ghost offered Himself unblemished unto God. †

The Saints and Adoration of the Holy Eucharist

By Father Stefano M. Manelli

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament has been the great passion of the saints. Their adoration lasted hours and hours, sometimes whole days or nights. There “at Jesus’ feet” like Mary of Bethany (Lk. 10:39), in loving union with Him, absorbed in contemplating Him, they surrendered their hearts in a pure and fragrant offering of adoring love.

Let us listen to St. Peter Julian Eymard who would fervently exclaim: “May I serve as a footstool, O Lord, at Your Eucharistic Throne!” Listen to what Ven. Charles de Foucauld wrote before the tabernacle: “What a tremendous delight, my God! To spend over fifteen hours without having anything else to do but look at You and tell You, ‘Lord, I love You!’ Oh, what sweet delight ... !”

All the saints have been ardent adorers of the Holy Eucharist, from the great Doctors of the Church like St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Bonaventure, to Popes like St. Pius V and St. Pius X, priests like the holy Curé of Ars and St. Peter Julian Eymard, down to humble souls like St. Rita, St. Paschal Baylon, St. Bernadette Soubirous, St. Gerard, St. Dominic Savio, St. Gemma Galgani ..., all the saints were ardent adorers of the Eucharist. These chosen ones, whose love was true, kept no count of the hours of fond adoration they spent day and night before Jesus in the tabernacle.

Consider how St. Francis of Assisi spent so much time, often entire nights, before the altar, and remained there so devoutly and humbly that he deeply moved anyone who stopped to watch him. Consider how St. Benedict Labre, called the “poor man of the Forty Hours,” spent days in

churches in which the Blessed Sacrament was solemnly exposed. For years and years this Saint was seen in Rome making pilgrimages from church to church where the Forty Hours was being held, and remaining there before Jesus, always on his knees absorbed in adoring prayer, motionless for eight hours, even when his friends, the insects, were crawling on him and stinging him all over.



Once when it was proposed to do a portrait of St. Aloysius Gonzaga, a discussion ensued about the posture in which to paint him. Eventually, the Saint was portrayed in adoration before the altar, because Eucharistic adoration was the most distinctive characteristic of his sanctity.

That favored soul of the Sacred Heart, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, one Holy Thursday, spent fourteen hours without interruption prostrate in adoration. St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, on a feast of the Sacred Heart, remained in adoration twelve continuous hours, absorbed and, as it were, so magnetized to Our Lord in the Eucharist that when a Sister asked her if she had liked the arrangement of flowers and drapings adorning the altar, she answered, “I did not notice them. I only saw one Flower, Jesus, and no other.” †



The Fatima Crusader Mailed to over 57,000 Priests

In late March, the Fatima Center mailed over 57,000 issues of *The Fatima Crusader* Issue #91 to English-speaking priests the world over.

This issue contains the all important article “Now is the Time”.

In the letter that accompanied the *Crusader* to each of the priests, Father Gruner wrote, “The article ‘Now is the Time’ argues persuasively regarding one of the main reasons Vatican officials have not yet properly consecrated Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary is for fear of



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the Orthodox, who look upon such a Consecration as an insult.

"Yet as the article explains, 'Fatima offers perhaps the best key in our time for breaking the impasse in Catholic-Orthodox reconciliation', for it is the Mother of God Herself who has promised to do the converting, and promised a period of peace to be granted to the whole world. Only this will avert God's punishment for the colossal number of sins in our time."

Father Gruner explains that "Now is the Time" is the means to overcome the last excuse that our highest Church leaders have for not obeying Our Lady of Fatima." He notes the excuse of not doing the Consecration for fear of offending the Orthodox "is demolished in a charitable way" in Issue 91 of *The Fatima Crusader*.

The Apostolate hopes this mailing may urge more priests to take the Fatima Message to heart, and that some of the thousands of priests who receive this issue may have friends who are bishops, Cardinals, Vatican prelates, or even the Pope himself.

These priests, persuaded of the importance of the Consecration of Russia, may pass on this issue of the *Crusader* to demonstrate to our highest Church authorities that there is no excuse – absolutely no excuse whatsoever – for delaying the Consecration one day longer.

Father Gruner details the urgency of the Consecration of Russia:

"It has been 80 years this year since the Blessed Virgin said *The moment has come when God asks the Holy Father to make, in union with all the Catholic bishops of the world, the Consecration of Russia to My Immaculate Heart.*'

"Eighty years have passed and we have suffered. Humanity together has suffered: WWII with 50 Million dead; the genocide of over 150 Million people murdered by Communist regimes – Lenin with his 22 Million, Stalin with 50 Million, Mao in China with another 50 million. The Ukrainians alone have suffered the loss of 20-30 Million. Many (at least 50 Million) of these victims were Catholics.

"Then there is the *ongoing* worldwide genocide of billions of babies murdered in their mother's wombs – an *ongoing* genocide guaranteed to drastically increase now that the United States is under such radical, pro-abortion leadership.

"The brutality and killings in war are in the news every day: mass killings of civilians and children in the Gaza Strip; countless numbers of Iraqi

Introductory Note from Father Nicholas Gruner
This article was recently published by another magazine. We reprint it here with permission as it was published in August, Sept. 2008, in the interest of helping Our Lady of Fatima and every man of good will bring about world peace as soon as possible to our war-torn world. We reprint it here to give it much wider circulation. We urge everyone to read it carefully and prayerfully. It is easy to read, yet very profoundly written. It will offend no one of good will. It is helpful, hopeful, non-partisan and non-aggressive.

For all people who seek the truth; who seek to love and to serve Our Lady of Fatima; for all who want world peace; for all who seek greater and genuine understanding between East and West, between the Orthodox and the Catholic, we urge you to read this article.

It could be the catalyst that finally helps bring all men of good will, both Catholic and Orthodox, both Russian and American, both traditionalist and New Mass supporters to join together to bring about the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and total world peace.

Now Is the Time Consecrating Russia Will Help, Not Harm, Catholic-Orthodox Dialogue

by Cathy Pearson

Original Editor's note: The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith's document on the Message of Fatima of June 26, 2000 says explicitly that the consecration was done in 1984, and that Lucia (Lucy) said it was done. It follows with the terse comment: "Hence any further discussion or request is without basis." Of course despite this assertion, Catholics are free to discuss the matter. And that is what Cathy does in the following article. Cathy Pearson, an American Catholic laywoman of deep faith and traditional piety, argues that the Pope should once again call for the Consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. We welcome letters from readers on this important and often controversial matter.

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The Fatima Crusader

dead;
a powder keg of war
in the Middle East ready to explode at any moment."

There is only one answer, explains Father Gruner, the answer given by the Queen of Heaven Herself: obedience to the Fatima Message and for the Pope, in union with the world's bishops, to consecrate Russia by name to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, according to what Our Lady specifically requested.

Please pray that as many priests as possible take this message to heart; that they will pass on this important issue of *The Fatima Crusader* to those who hold the highest places of responsibility in the Church, so that Our Lady's requests may finally be obeyed.

And please help us continue to distribute this important issue of *The Fatima Crusader* through your generous contributions, and let us know if you need extra copies of this issue to pass to friends and to priests of your acquaintance. †

We'd Like to Hear From YOU!

CRUSADERS OF MARY NEWSLETTER

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