

Our Guardian Angels Warn and Admonish Us

Before the city of Jerusalem was captured by the Romans, voices were heard above the Temple saying, "Let us withdraw from hence!" Similarly, our holy Guardian Angel often urges us to leave those places, those companionships, those conversations, books and pastimes where danger threatens our soul and where, because of his angelic purity and delicacy, he cannot bear our company. His voice cries out to us in various ways — through the counsel of a friend, through the reading of a good book, through the voice of conscience, etc. How often, how lovingly, how mildly he instructs, warns, entreats and invites us! He is most anxious to be our advocate at the throne of God, but if we do not heed his voice he will be compelled to be our accuser, for he can only fulfill his sublime task if we cooperate with him with ready willingness. If we harden our heart and refuse to heed his admonitions, he will one day be compelled to reveal our sins before all the world. Disobedience on our part would therefore be not only the basest ingratitude, but, the greatest folly as well, for it is only for our own eternal welfare that our Angel thus warns us.



Our Guardian Angel is likewise our loving admonitor. To reprove is an act very proper to love, for since love cherishes an inmost desire for the good of the beloved and shows itself also in deed, so it seeks to avert evil from the one beloved. The

administering of reproofs is a means toward this end, and this the Angel accomplishes by inflicting the sting of remorse of conscience. The moment we have committed sin, our holy Angel withdraws his consolations and pierces our soul with pain. He strives to awaken in our heart vehement qualms of conscience and to move us to true contrition and penance. How great are our obligations toward this true friend who thus warns us of evil, chastises us, and fills us with anxiety when we have done wrong! †



THE International FATIMA Rosary Crusade NEWSLETTER

Volume 4 - Issue 11 - June 2001

HELP OUR LADY REACH OUT TO MILLIONS OF FAITHFUL SOULS

Saint Margaret of Cortona, Penitent

Feast Day: February 26

Saint Margaret of Cortona was born in Laviano, Tuscany in 1247 to a poor but respected peasant family. Her mother loved and watched over her child with tenderness and diligence but, just when a girl needs her mother the most, God called her mother to Himself. At age seven Margaret was deprived of her mother's care and love. Shortly thereafter, her father remarried. It was to become for Margaret a test of wills with her stepmother. The harsh treatment Margaret received from her stepmother instilled in her a great desire to marry in order to escape the home situation. Her father, not being concerned with his daughter's moral rectitude, allowed her to dress in a style of vanity. Her winning ways soon attracted the attention of a young and wealthy noble of Monte Pulciano, with whom Margaret went to live. Shortly after, she gave birth to a son.

God in His mercy was working out the path of her conversion. One day her lover was murdered and, after a few days, his dog returned home alone. Letting him out, Margaret decided to follow him. Arriving at the scene of the murder, the dog began to paw frantically until part of the corpse appeared and Margaret ran to help him. The horror of the discovery caused her to faint.

This was the moment of grace. It was at this sight that

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Story of the Blessed Sacrament

- *First American Nun*

from *Moments Divine before the Blessed Sacrament*
by Father Frederick A. Reuter, K.C.B.S.

Many years ago, a young American girl journeyed from her home in Vermont to a convent in Montreal. She had read about nuns and had a great desire to see for herself what a convent was like. She was a Protestant and her people were not too well pleased at her request, but they granted it. She would learn much in the convent, they said. Other Protestant girls had finished their education in convents; why not Fanny?

So one day Fanny went to the door of the old Congregation Convent in the heart of Montreal.

The portress admitted her and the good religious welcomed her most tenderly.

Weeks passed; Fanny was not happy. She mocked openly the rites she could not understand. The children wondered much, and fearing that they would be scandalized, the Reverend Mother decided to send the young girl back to her people in Vermont.



Among the Sisters was one who had a deep attachment for the Protestant pupil. She

SAINT MARGARET OF CORTONA, PENITENT

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God raised her mind to the brevity of life. She realized her soul was stained with mortal sin, and she was in danger of being plunged into hell as her lover had been. Margaret understood how greatly she had outraged the Divine Majesty of God. This revelation was so powerful that Margaret spent the rest of her life in tears and reparation and could not be satisfied with all her penances and always longed for more. The grace was so powerful that it transformed her from a great sinner into as great a penitent as was Saint Mary Magdalene.

Having laid aside all vanity and placing the affairs regarding the estate of her ill-fated lover into the hands of his relatives, she set out on the road to her village together with her son with fear and trepidation in her heart.

Falling at the feet of her father, she begged forgiveness, despite the rage and hostility of her stepmother. Margaret became a silent slave. Each silent acceptance only infuriated the stepmother more and she finally won Margaret's father over to her side and drove Margaret and her son

longed to bring her into the fold, and make her life satisfied and happy.

"I grieve to send the child home," said Reverend Mother, "but she does not improve and there is nothing else to be done."

"Give her another trial, dear Mother," pleaded the Sister. "Let her stay with us a few more weeks. God and His Blessed Mother may change her heart."

The Superior granted the petition and again was disappointed in the result. The last day of Fanny's probation was drawing near. It was September 8, the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Fanny spent the afternoon with the teacher she loved, but there was nothing in her conduct to show a change of spirit. She was still a doubter and spoke her thoughts in words that deeply grieved the religious. Yet Fanny helped to prepare the flowers for the altar, for Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

The Sister lifted the vase and was about to take it to the chapel, when something made her pause.

"Why not send Fanny? Fanny, the unbeliever!" Turning to the young girl she bade her take the vase and place it on the altar. "Be sure", added the Sister, "to adore Our Lord when you are there."

Fanny laughed and went away with the flowers. She did not believe. Why should she bow before the altar? In her home town, Catholics were called idolaters. She would not become one. Thinking thus she reached the gate of the

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out. Being at the lowest point and with nowhere to go, Margaret experienced the most violent temptations because of her former way of life. In anguish, she lifted up her heart to God in prayer. In a very real and powerful inspiration she was told to go immediately to the sons of St. Francis at Cortona.

Cortona was destined by God to be the place of her apostolate. By her penances, example and prayer, she reformed the people, averted disaster, dispelled misfortune by prodigies, glorified its name by the fame of her stupendous life, her blessed death and by her special protection. She obtained for them from God every prosperity.

She retired to live a life of solitude and severe penance. At the vision of the lacerated body of Her Beloved, outraged by the sins of men, she resolved to leave her solitude and work for the salvation of souls. Our Lord Himself gave her the titles of "Mirror of Sinners", "Mother and Fisher of Souls". Here her life's work began. Margaret's life was to be one of total sacrifice in the love of God and neighbor. God attested His good pleasure in her by countless miracles and conversions which continue to this day. †

sanctuary, opened it, but could go no farther. She made another effort and yet her feet seemed powerless to move. For the third time she tried, only to fail; and then, overcome by awe and a strange compelling influence, she fell upon her knees and said her act of faith, the first she had ever made. Her God was present in the tabernacle, and there, humbled and ashamed, she knelt for some time. Then rising, she approached the altar and placed her fragrant flowers before the Blessed Sacrament.

Fanny's conversion was complete. "After such a miracle," she said, "I must give myself to my Savior."

There was bitter opposition to overcome, but at last her mother yielded, and accompanied her daughter to Montreal, where, in the chapel of Hotel-Dieu, Fanny realized that her lifework was to be among those holy women.

High above the altar a picture of the Holy Family looked down upon the Americans. "See, dear mother, Saint Joseph wants me here," said Fanny, and there she found absolute content.

Wonderful are the ways that our dear Lord opens to His children to find their true home. As we read the story of the "First American Nun," our hearts are stirred by the Divine Mercy that gave to Fanny Allen the grace to become a Catholic and a devoted religious.

Fanny Allen was born November 13, 1784, at Westminster, Vermont, and she died of lung trouble at Hotel-Dieu, Montreal, December 10, 1819. Her father was General Ethen Allen, the patriot; he professed no religious belief.

GLORY be to God on high; and to Thee, O Jesus, on earth be all honor and adoration in the Blessed Sacrament forevermore! Amen.

A Prayer

Most glorious Saint Margaret, true pearl whom Almighty God with so great love plucked from the hand of the infernal enemy who possessed thee, in order that, by means of thy wonderful conversion, holy life and most precious death, He might move all poor sinners to forsake sin, by doing good and avoiding evil as well as all sinful occasions: obtain for us, thy faithful clients, from thy exalted place in heaven a place to which thy tears and thy penance elevated thee, the grace of a sincere repentance, a lively sorrow for our sins and, after a holy life spent, like thine, in the love of Jesus Crucified, the grace of a happy death and a crown of glory in paradise.

Amen



Save Our Students

Catholic Teachers, Principals, reach out to the children in your lives

Send for a sample kit to **Save Our Students' Souls**

Kit includes: Rosary, Rosary leaflet, How to Make a Rosary leaflet, Our Lady of Fatima Prayer Card, Green & Brown Scapulars with leaflets, *Garment of Grace* booklet, What is Fatima Leaflet, Miraculous Medal and Prayer Card.

Schools receive a 40% discount when you purchase 10 or more kits for distribution to students. The first kit is free for the asking. Price per kit is \$9.95 U.S. For quantities over 10, the price per kit is \$5.97 U.S. after discount.

For information on how to receive a free kit, please contact us at address or phone number on page 4 of this newsletter.

Who or What Are They?

In 1847 Our Lord warned Sister Mary of St. Peter, "Oh, if you only knew their secret and diabolical plots and their anti-Christian principles! They are waiting for a favorable day in order to inflame the whole country. ..."

"Most of these wolfish men ... had been born in the Church, whose bitter enemies they now openly declare themselves to be.

"They are the ones who have dragged Me from My tabernacles and desecrated My sanctuaries."

Pope Pius XI wrote: "It has at its disposal great financial resources, gigantic organizations, international congresses and countless trained workers. ... It is satan's army on earth."

Renowned scholars believe it is "the puppet conspiracy and that its masters hide within secret societies in concentric circles operating from the West."

"They claim that all rights come from the state, that marriage is a purely human contract, can be broken at will, and that the children belong to the state."

The Answer is ...

Trotsky, in 1917, financed by Wall Street bankers, imported *Communism* into Russia.

Since that time, Russian leaders have killed more than 80,000,000 of their own people. Russia has spread her errors throughout the world, including abortion, persecution of the Church and the Holy Father, revolution, and war.

Our Lady of Fatima warned us about the errors of Russia and the ongoing threat of wars and persecutions against the Church. She came to show us the only way to stop Russia's errors from spreading. To stop the whole world from being overcome by Russia's wars and persecutions against the Church, Russia must be consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary as Our Lady of Fatima requested. If this is done, then the whole world will have peace.

To prove the truth and the urgency of Her warning, Her message and Her promise of eventual triumph and peace, Our Lady of Fatima promised a miracle 3 months in advance, and fulfilled Her promise as predicted before 70,000 witnesses on October 13, 1917. We must spread the lifesaving Message of Fatima more and more. †

Apostolate Updates

Brown Scapular Workshop

The process for pricing supplies and finding the workers is now actively being done in India to help set up our Brown Scapular workshop. As soon as we are set up, we hope to produce 10,000 Brown Scapulars. Since the first of the year, over 30,000 Brown Scapulars have been distributed to 24 countries by Our Lady's Apostolate. Along with those, many 50-piece Green Scapular Making Kits were also distributed.

Distribution

From January until now, over 1.7 million pieces of Russia Consecration material have been sent out. Included in this number were 5,054 Consecration packages which contain the Questions and Answers on the Consecration of Russia leaflet, petitions, prayer cards, etc. which were mailed to 24 countries. We hope to distribute another 2 million pieces in the near future. †

Pilgrimages are the Most Spiritual of Journeys.

They inspire faith and hope, encourage prayer and devotion and strengthen love within oneself. Pilgrimages are truly an



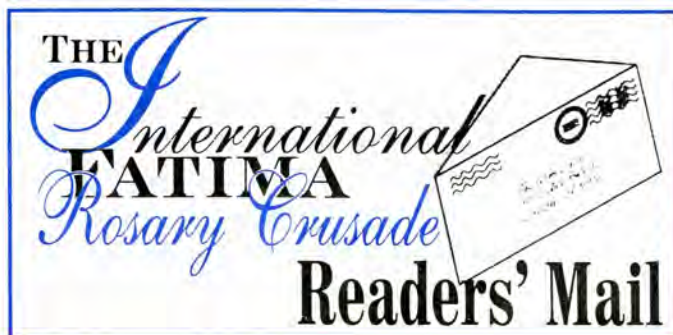
event of a lifetime — filled with praying the Rosary and enjoying the holiest of places with renewed faith.

For 2001 we have yet to travel to some of the most sacred of places.

In September we will visit the places Our Blessed Mother Herself chose to visit in Fatima and in Spain. In October we will fly to Rome. A visit to the Eternal City will begin this awe-inspiring pilgrimage.

The extended journey includes San Giovanni Rotondo, the home of Blessed Padre Pio. In December we will visit Mexico City, and see the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe — or as She is known, "Our Lady of the Americas". These journeys will enrich your spiritual life and bring you closer to God.

For more information, call or write to us.



Dear Father Nicholas,

Taking a few minutes to say thank you for all of the years' blessings and teachings of Fatima, I've come to learn a little already, and believe your honest integrity is well appreciated from others as well as myself. Your life, your hope and assistance makes this world a better place. Sincerely

Christine S., CA

Dear Father Gruner,

Some time ago, when you were accused by some within the Church as being disobedient to your bishop, we wrote and asked to be removed from your mailing list. Today, being more fully informed, we are writing to apologize for our rash judgment of you and your case, to ask your forgiveness for our readiness to believe evil of you, and to humbly ask to be reinstated on your mailing list. We trust in your goodness of heart, and are confident of your forgiveness.

Enclosed please find a donation for your Apostolate, and also an order for twenty-five copies of the summer 2000 (issue 64) *Fatima Crusader* magazine.

Again, please accept our apologies, Father. You are in our prayers.

Very Sincerely Yours,

Larry and Patti

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