


# The First Station of the Cross, Jesus is condemned to Death

by Saint Francis of Assisi

The  
**FATIMA**  
Rosary Crusade  
NEWSLETTER

HELP OUR LADY REACH OUT TO MILLIONS OF FAITHFUL SOULS

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V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we praise Thee,

R. Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Priest: Jesus, most innocent, who neither did nor could commit a sin, was condemned to death, and moreover, to the most ignominious death of the cross. To remain a friend of Caesar, Pilate delivered Him into the hands of His enemies. A fearful crime — to condemn Innocence to death, and to offend God in order not to displease men!

People: O innocent Jesus, having sinned, I am guilty of eternal death, but Thou willingly dost accept the unjust sentence of death, that I might live. For whom, then, shall I henceforth live, if not for Thee, my Lord? Should I desire to please men, I could not be Thy servant. Let me, therefore, rather displease men and all the world, than not please Thee, O Jesus.

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name.

Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

*Amen*

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with Thee.

Blessed art Thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of Thy womb, Jesus.

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Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. *Amen*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. *Amen*



*Jesus is condemned to death*

V. Lord Jesus, crucified,

R. Have mercy on us!

*At the cross, Her station keeping, stood the mournful Mother weeping, close to Jesus to the last.†*

# Christmas Gift Suggestion

**A**t a time when critics rave about just-released books that are meant for a young audience, there is undue pressure placed on our children to be part of the “sophisticated” group of readers who have stood in line to purchase every volume in the series.

This is not the time to corrupt young minds with tales of sorcerers, witches and unrealistic heroes. Saint Padre Pio well understood the value of a good book and was quick to criticize the time wasted with frivolous reading.



Children should read more, but the quality of the material they should choose from must be overseen by concerned family members.

A Gift Certificate and a new catalogue from *Our Lady's Book Service* would put everyone's mind at ease. The books described therein have been examined

by priests of our Apostolate and approved for their Catholic content. The saints and other heroes are the best examples of how our lives should be lived in pursuit of true happiness.

Our children need something positive to believe in. There is nothing more positive than the love of Our Lord and Our Lady. They need you to help them find that love. †



**St. Padre Pio understood the value of a good book and criticized time wasted with frivolous reading.**

**Note: To order Gift Certificates, please contact us at the address on page 4 of this newsletter.**

## The Angels

**T**he Angels' love and hate suffer no limitation from physical causes, the limits that are perpetually insisted on in us by our bodies. We can be terribly angry, but for just so long: new joys can dim the sorrow that provoked anger, new sorrows swamp the old in their magnitude, old joys come back to dim the memory of injury; or we just get too tired by the violence of anger to seek the revenge it demands. Our love suffers the same distractions, the same rivals, the same opposites, and even the same fatigue. There are no such passions in the angels, for they are pure spirits, unencumbered by anything of the physical; in them there are only those



corresponding movements of the will for which we have no other names than the tags we have put on the movements of passion: love, hate, desire, aversion, joy, sorrow and all the rest. Clearly, the fury of a devil far surpasses the anger of the loudest, most violent, most vicious of men; quite aside from its superior intensity and wholeheartedness, there need be no lessening of it, no end to it, indeed it is certain that it will never be less consecrated to destruction than in its first moment. So too the love of an angel reduces the breathless wonders of our love's first moments to the echo of a whisper, to a light dimmer than a candle's light in the heart of the sun. †

### *Prayer:*

Lord Jesus Christ, Thou accepted an unjust judgment. Grant to us and to all the men and women of our time the grace to remain faithful to the truth. Do not allow the weight of responsibility for the sufferings of the innocent fall upon us and upon those who come after us. To Thee, O Jesus, just Judge, be honor and glory for ever and ever.

*Amen.*

# The Virtues of the Blessed Virgin Mary

by Saint Alphonsus de Liguori

**S**t. Augustine says that if we wish to win the favor of the saints with greater certainty and in greater abundance, we must imitate them. When they see us imitating their virtues, they are more inclined to pray for us. As soon as the Queen of saints and our chief advocate, Mary, delivers a soul from the grasp of Lucifer and unites it to God, She wants it to imitate Her. Otherwise She cannot enrich the soul with graces. Mary called *blessed* those who imitate Her life diligently: *Now, therefore, children, hear Me; blessed are they that keep My ways* (Prov. 8:32).

## Mary's Poverty

Our Redeemer chose to be poor on earth, so that we could learn from Him to despise worldly things. Being rich, says St. Paul, He became poor for your sake, that through His poverty you might be rich (2 Cor. 8:9). Jesus exhorts each one who wishes to be His disciple: If thou wilt be perfect, go sell what thou hast, and give to the poor ... and come, follow Me (Mt. 19:21). Mary, His most perfect disciple, imitated His example most perfectly. St. Peter Canisius shows that Mary could have lived in comfort on the property She inherited from Her parents, but She preferred to remain poor. Retaining only a small portion for Herself, She distributed the rest to the Temple and the needy.

Many authors even believe that Mary made a vow of poverty. Perhaps the basis for this is what She said to St. Bridget: "From the beginning I vowed in My heart that I would never possess anything on earth." The gifts She received from the wealthy Magi were surely not of little value. But we are assured by St. Bernard that She distributed them to the poor through the hands of St. Joseph.

It is quite clear that Mary immediately disposed of these gifts from the fact that at Her purification in the Temple She did not offer a lamb, as was prescribed in Leviticus for those who could afford it (Lev. 12:6), but two turtle-doves or two pigeons, which was the offering prescribed for the poor (Lk. 2:24). Mary told St. Bridget: "I gave to the poor all that I could, and only kept a little food and clothing for Myself." Because of Her love of poverty She was willing to marry St. Joseph who was only a poor carpenter.

She needed to maintain the family by working with Her hands, by spinning or sewing, as St. Bonaventure assures us. The angel told St. Bridget that "worldly riches were of no more value in Mary's eyes than dirt." She always lived poor, and She died poor.

Metaphrastes and Nicephorus tell us that at Her death She left nothing except two simple dresses. She left these to the two women who had served Her during the later years of Her life.

St. Philip Neri used to say that "no one who loves the baubles of the world will ever become a saint." We may add that St. Teresa said on the same subject: "It follows that anyone who chases after perishable things is in danger of perishing himself." But, on the other hand, she adds that the virtue of poverty is a treasure that comprises in itself all other treasures. She says the "virtue of poverty," for as St. Bernard remarks, poverty does not consist of merely being poor, but in loving poverty. Therefore Jesus Christ said: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven" (Mt.5:3). Such persons are blessed because they do not desire anything but God and find everything in God. Poverty for them is paradise on earth.

Let us then, as St. Augustine exhorts us, "love that one good in which all good things are found." Let us address Our Lord in the words of St. Ignatius: "Give me only Your love and Your grace, and I shall be rich enough." "When we have to suffer from poverty," says St. Bonaventure, "let us console ourselves with the thought that Jesus and His Mother were also poor like ourselves." Most holy Mother, You had good reason to say that Your whole joy was in God: *And My Spirit hath rejoiced in God My Savior*. In this world You desired and loved nothing but God. *Draw Me ... after Thee* (Cant. 1:3). O Lady, detach me from the world, that I may love Him alone, Who alone deserves to be loved. †



**St. Peter Canisius said that Mary could have lived in comfort ... but She preferred to remain poor.**

**THE**  
*International*  
**FATIMA**  
*Rosary Crusade*  
**Readers' Mail**



Dear Father Gruner,

Our apologies to you for not replying sooner. Thank you for the recent issues of *The Fatima Crusader* magazines, particularly issues No. 72 and 73. Both are excellent and a tremendous encouragement to stand firm and keep the Faith of Our Fathers. That Faith which never does change. A big thank you for that effort!

We are fully aware of the supreme efforts that you yourself and your fine priests and lay worker assistants make for Our Lady of Fatima and Her Full Fatima Message. Know well that your sacrifices do not go unnoticed by us "Down Here" or, I suspect, those "Up There". Your calling is truly a veritable Calvary. But you are not alone. For we suffer with you in this "CRUCIAL CAUSE FOR OUR LADY OF FATIMA". We are right behind you and also standing by your side in this fight to the death, for let us be clear, that is what this is. And we already know the outcome.

We pray for you and the Fatima Apostolate every day. Know that each day in this little corner of the world, hundreds of Hail Mary's are said for Our Lady's (soon) coming Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. For the Pope to consecrate Russia, which he will do (hopefully soon) in fine, for the needs of the Church in this our worst crisis ever, for the Victory. Here at home, this is what we work for. Everyday. I repeat, you are not alone. We are with you all the way, Father.

Our Lady of Fatima and Her Peace Plan from Heaven, the Consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary by the Pope in union with all the bishops of the world on the same day in a solemn act together with the establishment of the Five First Saturday Reparation for the offenses committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary, is the only answer to this unprecedented crisis in the Church and the world. This is the only thing that will give us peace. True peace. What a great cause you have been chosen to work for, Father! With our small efforts, we are more than happy to work with you too. Thank God you stood up to the lies and defended Our Lady of Fatima — you have not let Her down when She called out to us for help!

We will continue to back you 100% for as long as we have breath in our mouths. We will continue to support

you, your workers in the front line, your beautiful Apostolate, in all that you do for the Immaculate Heart of Mary. We do love you for what you do for Our Lady under the most trying and difficult circumstances that any soul could ever be asked to work and suffer. It must be gut wrenching to know that enemies constantly are trying to crush you and Our Lady's coming Triumph. They are poor souls really, and at first hand this may appear a little simplistic, but I do not think it is really. The way I look at it is this, you do your best, and you do, we all know that. And that is all that Our Blessed Mother asks of us. And not more. One thing is necessary to save our soul and escape eternal damnation. It goes without saying, of course, that we try to help others save their souls too. And we do that.

So, that's it in a nutshell, as they say, Father. We know you are not guilty of anything, save the unforgivable crime of spreading devotion to Our Lady of Fatima throughout the whole world in this time of so much weakness on the part of men. Heaven forbid that the poor foolish creatures that call themselves Catholics these days could ever be referred to as "men".

We are not far from an hour that will be decisive for our world. To choose sides, we all must. Either we stand next to Our Lady of Fatima with Her soldiers, with you at the head, or we stand next to the devil. There is only one choice for a soul of sound thinking and a good heart and that is to support you and Our Lady of Fatima and to reject the way of the devil and the cowards who support him. We must be prepared to die for Our Lady or we are not Her children. Her cause must be our cause too, it must be our first cause; it must be our first priority and not just a Sunday thing. We have to be prepared to lose everything for the cause of Our Lady of Fatima and Her (soon) coming Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary! I know that you are, Father, but know that we are too. We are with you, dear Father.

May the Holy Family of Nazareth, Jesus, Mary and Joseph watch over you, comfort you, support you in this critical hour for the Church and the world. May God pour down upon you, and all of your workers, the choicest graces and blessings, both now and for ever. God bless you, Father, always.

Very Sincerely,

*P. and J. O'Donnell, New Zealand*

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