



# INTERNATIONAL FATIMA ROSARY CRUSADE

## Newsletter

HELPING OUR LADY REACH OUT TO  
MILLIONS OF FAITHFUL SOULS

Volume 7 - Issue 20 - February, 2004



### Consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

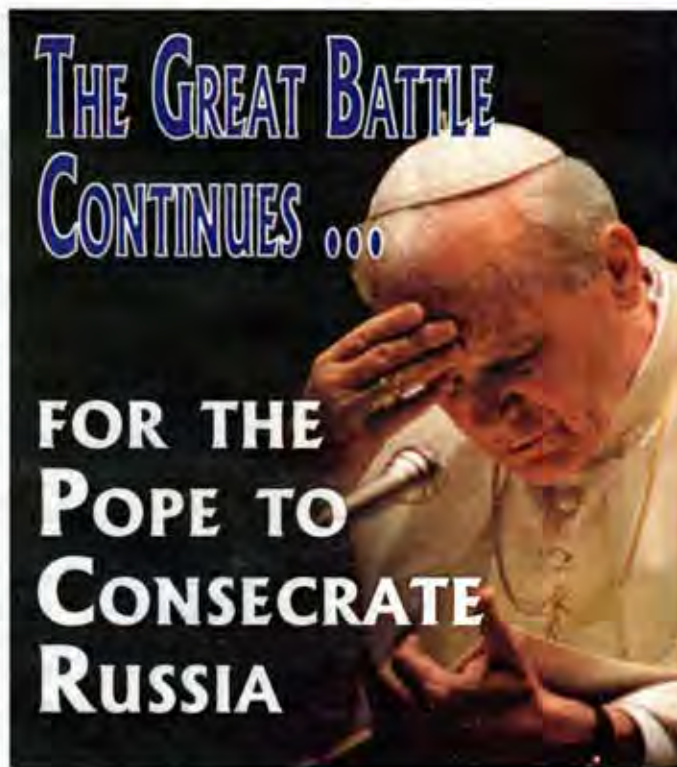
We can all play a part in bringing about the consecration of Russia. Pray the following consecration prayer daily. Order prayer card copies from the Fatima Center and circulate them to all your relatives and friends, and to your pastors and bishops. Encourage all to pray this simple consecration prayer and offer it fervently for the Holy Father to soon make the solemn, public consecration of Russia together with the Catholic Bishops of the world, as Our Lady requested at Fatima.



Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, although it is over 86 years ago that Thou first

came to Fatima, we hasten today to come before Thee. We prostrate ourselves at Thy throne of grace and we seek to fulfill as far as we are capable of, all that Thou hast so graciously requested when Thou didst visit the Church Militant in Thy Fatima apparitions.

The abominable sins of the world, the persecutions waged against the Church of Jesus Christ, still more the apostasy of the nations and of Christian souls, and finally the forgetting of Thy motherhood of



grace by a great number grievously wound Thy Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart, so united in its compassion to the suffering of the Sacred Heart of Thy Divine Son, Jesus Christ.

In order to make reparation for so many crimes, Thou hast asked for the establishment of the reparatory devotion to Thy Immaculate Heart; and with the purpose of ending the punishments sent by God that Thou didst foretell, Thou didst make Thyself the messenger of the Most High to request of the Vicar of Jesus Christ, united with all the bishops of the world,

the consecration of Russia to Thy Immaculate Heart. Alas, Thy message has not yet been fully taken into consideration.

This is why, in order to hasten the happy day when the Sovereign Pontiff will accede at last to the requests of Thy Divine Son, without ascribing to ourselves an authority that does not belong to us, but penetrated with solicitude for the condition of the

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# *Saint Benedict of Anian, Abbot*

February 12 (A.D. 821)

Saint Benedict was a son of Aigulf, Count or Governor of Languedoc, and served King Pepin as cup-bearer, enjoying great honors and possessions. Grace made him sensible of the vanity of all material goods, and at twenty years of age he took a resolution of seeking the kingdom with his whole heart. From that time he led a most disciplined life in the court itself for three years, eating very sparingly, and allowing himself very little sleep.

In 774, after narrowly escaping being drowned in the Tesin, near Pavia, while trying to save his brother, he made a vow to quit the world entirely. He went to the Abbey of St. Seine, fifteen miles from Dijon, and became a monk. He spent two and a half years in wonderful abstinence. He took no other sustenance but bread and water; and when overcome with weariness, he allowed himself nothing softer than the bare ground

whereon to take a short rest, thus making even his repose a continuation of penance. He frequently passed the whole night in prayer, and stood barefoot on the ground in the sharpest cold. He studied to make himself contemptible by all manner of humiliations, and received all insults with joy. God bestowed on him an extraordinary spirit of compunction, and the gift of tears, with an infused knowledge of spiritual things to an eminent degree. Not content to fulfill the rule of St. Benedict in its full rigor, he practiced all the severest observances prescribed by the rules of St. Pachomius and St. Basil.

Upon the abbot's death, his brethren chose our saint, but he being unwilling to accept the position, left them, and returned to Languedoc, in 780, where he built a small hermitage. Here he lived for some years in extreme poverty, praying continually that God would teach him to do His will, and make him faithfully correspond with His eternal designs. Some solitaries put themselves under his direction. They earned

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**CONSECRATION OF RUSSIA TO THE  
IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY**  
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universal Church, by a humble supplication addressed to Thy Immaculate Heart and united to all faithful bishops, priests and believers, we are resolved to respond for our part to the requests of Heaven.

Deign then, O Most Holy Mother of God, in the first place, to accept our solemn act of reparation that we present to Thy Immaculate Heart. We offer it to Thee in reparation for all the offenses by sinners and unbelievers, which most certainly deeply offend Thee and the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

In the second place, as much as it is in our power, we give, deliver, and consecrate Russia to Thy Immaculate Heart: we implore Thee, in Thy maternal mercy, to take this nation under Thy powerful protection, to make of it Thy domain where Thou reignest as Queen, to make of this land of persecutions a "vessel of election" and of blessing.

We beseech Thee that Thou make this nation submit to Thyself so well that, converted from its "legal" impiety, it may become a new kingdom for Our Lord Jesus Christ, a new inheritance for His sweet scepter, and having returned from its ancient schism, and come back to the unity of the one fold of the eternal Shepherd and thus subject to the Vicar of Thy Divine Son, may it become an ardent apostle of the social Kingdom of Our Lord Jesus Christ over all the nations of the world.

O Ever Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Mercy, we implore Thee furthermore to manifest to the world the truth of Thy universal mediation of grace by so brilliant a miracle of Thy suppliant all-powerfulness. Deign at last, O Queen of Peace, to bring to the world the peace that the world cannot give, the peace from weapons and the peace for souls, the peace of Jesus Christ in the Kingdom of Christ; and the Kingdom of Christ through the reign of Thy Immaculate Heart, O Mary. *Amen*

**Pray this prayer of consecration every day.**

**From the Editor:** Please cooperate in the worldwide diffusion of this prayer by ordering extra copies of this prayer to distribute. See address on page 4 of this Newsletter.



# Miraculous Medal Story

The Immaculate Virgin Mary promised many graces to those who invoked Her and wore Her medal of the Immaculate Conception. This medal has had such profound effects throughout the world that it has been termed the Miraculous Medal. Our Lady has not only offered protection and cures to those who wear Her medal, but She has saved countless souls through it. Here is one account of a Russian non-Catholic who was converted through Our Lady's Miraculous Medal, given by a Daughter of Charity who cared for him:

"In an ambulance crowded with Russians was a young Pole, severely wounded and suffering intolerable pain; he earnestly invoked the sweet and merciful Virgin Mary. By his side lay the Russian, wounded also, and attacked by violent dysentery. So offensive was the odor from his disease, that both patients and nurses complained. He appeared utterly indifferent to everything concerning religion. He took no notice of the Sister as she passed and re-passed; he never even deigned to look at her. The young Pole, on the contrary, called her frequently, and gratefully received her care and consolations. One evening our young Catholic Pole was suffering more than usual; the pain drew tears from his eyes; his groans and cries were incessant. He called the Sister and begged her to help him, saying his patience was exhausted; he was in despair; his sufferings were excruciating. The Polish Sister, consoling and encouraging him, bade him have confidence, and gave him a medal to apply to the wounded limb. The young man followed her suggestion; and laying his hand on the medal to keep it in place, he soon fell asleep. The Russian appeared unconscious of what was going on, yet he had seen and examined all. Some days after, he called our Polish Sister



to him and said: 'Sister, please give me what you gave this young man that did him so much good, for I suffer greatly!' 'My friend,' she replied, 'I desire nothing better than to relieve you also; but you lack what effected his cure, faith and confidence. You non-Catholics deny the power of the Blessed Virgin; you do not acknowledge Her as your Queen, your Advocate, your Mother. So what can I do? It was a medal of Mary that so speedily relieved your neighbor, the young Pole.' 'Give me one also, Sister,' he answered; 'I believe all that you tell me; you do good to every one, why should you deceive me?' 'But,' said the Sister, 'have you confidence in Mary, the Mother of God? Do you believe in Her mercy and Her power?' 'I believe all that you believe, Sister, since Mary hears the prayers of the unfortunate, and brings relief to the suffering, She cannot deceive us!' The Sister, much consoled at hearing these words, gave him a Miraculous Medal, which effected in his soul the most gratifying results. He asked to receive instruction from a priest, and after some days employed in studying the holy doctrines of the Church, and in assiduous prayer to Mary, he abjured his errors. After his baptism, and the reception of the Holy Eucharist, being unable to restrain his transports, he exclaimed: 'Oh! How happy I am! My heart has never known such joy! I am content to die, and I do not regret having been struck on the battlefield! To my wounds do I owe my salvation. Oh! How we poor Protestants are deceived! By what lies are we led astray! How good God is to rescue me from error! May the sweet and holy Virgin be known and loved always and everywhere!' And in these beautiful dispositions, he expired."

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## **SAINT BENEDICT OF ANIAN, ABBOT** *Continued from page 2*

their livelihood by their labor, and lived on bread and water, except on Sunday and solemn festivals, on which they added a little wine and milk when it was given in alms. The holy superior did not exempt himself from working with the rest in the fields, either carrying wood or ploughing; and sometimes he copied good books. With the number of his disciples increasing, he built a monastery in a more spacious place, in

that neighborhood. He showed his love of poverty by his rigorous practice of it; including very poor ornaments for the chapel, and if any presents of silk or ornaments were made for him, he gave them to other churches. However, some time later he changed his way of thinking with respect to the church; built a cloister and a stately church adorned with marble pillars, furnished it with silver chalices and rich ornaments, and bought a great number of books. In this

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Dear Father Nicholas Gruner:

I am writing this letter to you to tell you that you have my ongoing support in the effort you are trying very hard to bring to many the message of Our Blessed Mother's Message of Fatima, when I pray this intention when saying the daily Rosary. Thank you for your good wishes. It was a joy to hear again from you, Father. Take great care.

Sincerely,

*Elizabeth A., Vancouver*

Dear Father Gruner,

I am reading *Fatima in Twilight* and it is such a good book. Mr. Mark Fellows did such a good job writing it. It is easy to read and I have trouble putting it down. I am also reading *The Devil's Final Battle* and that also is so very good.

Some of my most-loved childhood memories are of going to the U.S. Air Force Base chapel and making my First Communion and serving as an altar boy at the Latin Tridentine Mass. I really cling and hold on to those memories, Father Gruner.

Please remember me in your prayers, Father. I thank God that there are a few priests like you around still.

Love sincerely, your friend,

*Mark K., MO*

Dear Father Gruner,

You are walking in Jesus's footsteps and He is with you all the way. Yours is the best work ever known.

Look after your health and keep going strong and

### **To reach us:**

Call or write us at

**International Fatima Rosary Crusade Newsletter,**

In U.S.A. - 17000 State Route 30, Constable, NY 12926

In CANADA - 452 Kraft Road, Fort Erie, ON L2A 4M7

Or call us toll-free at: 1-800-263-8160

or fax us at: 1-905-871-3646

Visit Our Lady on the World Wide Web at: [www.fatima.org](http://www.fatima.org)

or E-mail us at: [info@fatima.org](mailto:info@fatima.org)

God be with you all the way.

You are in my thoughts, prayers and in my heart every hour of every day.

God Bless you always,

*Birdie G., Ireland*

Dear Father Gruner and Fatima Crusaders,

Just to let you know how much I appreciate your good and very open comments and also your magazine *The Fatima Crusader*.

Praying for all your intentions, hopefully you are fine and this letter reaches you okay. Keep up your good works, Father Gruner.

Yours in Christ,

*Francine Z., Vancouver*

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### **SAINT BENEDICT OF ANIAN, ABBOT**

*Continued from page 3*

short time, he had three hundred religious under his direction, and also exercised a general inspection over all the monasteries of Provence, Languedoc, and Gascony.

In 813, it was ordained that the canons should live according to the canons and laws of the church, and the monks according to the rule of St. Bennet, by which regulation a uniformity was introduced in the monastic order in the West. The emperor Louis Debonnair assigned the saint the inspection of all the abbeys in his kingdom and requested the saint live in the Abbey of Marmunster to provide constant assistance in his councils. As this was still too remote, the emperor built the Monastery of Inde much closer to the emperor's estate.

St. Benedict still had a hand in restoring monastic discipline throughout France and Germany, as he also was the chief instrument in drawing up the canons for the reformation of prebendaries and monks in the Council of Aix-la-Chapelle in 817, and presided in the assembly of abbots the same year, to enforce restoration of discipline. His statutes were adopted by the order, and annexed to the rule of St. Benedict, the founder. He wrote the Code of Rules, being a collection of all the monastic regulations which he found extant; and a book of homilies for the use of monks.

This great restorer of the monastic order in the West suffered much from continual sickness the latter years of his life. He died in extraordinary tranquility and cheerfulness, on February 11, 821, being seventy-one years of age. His relics remain in the Monastery of St. Cornelius, and have been honored with miracles.