



# INTERNATIONAL FATIMA ROSARY CRUSADE

## Newsletter

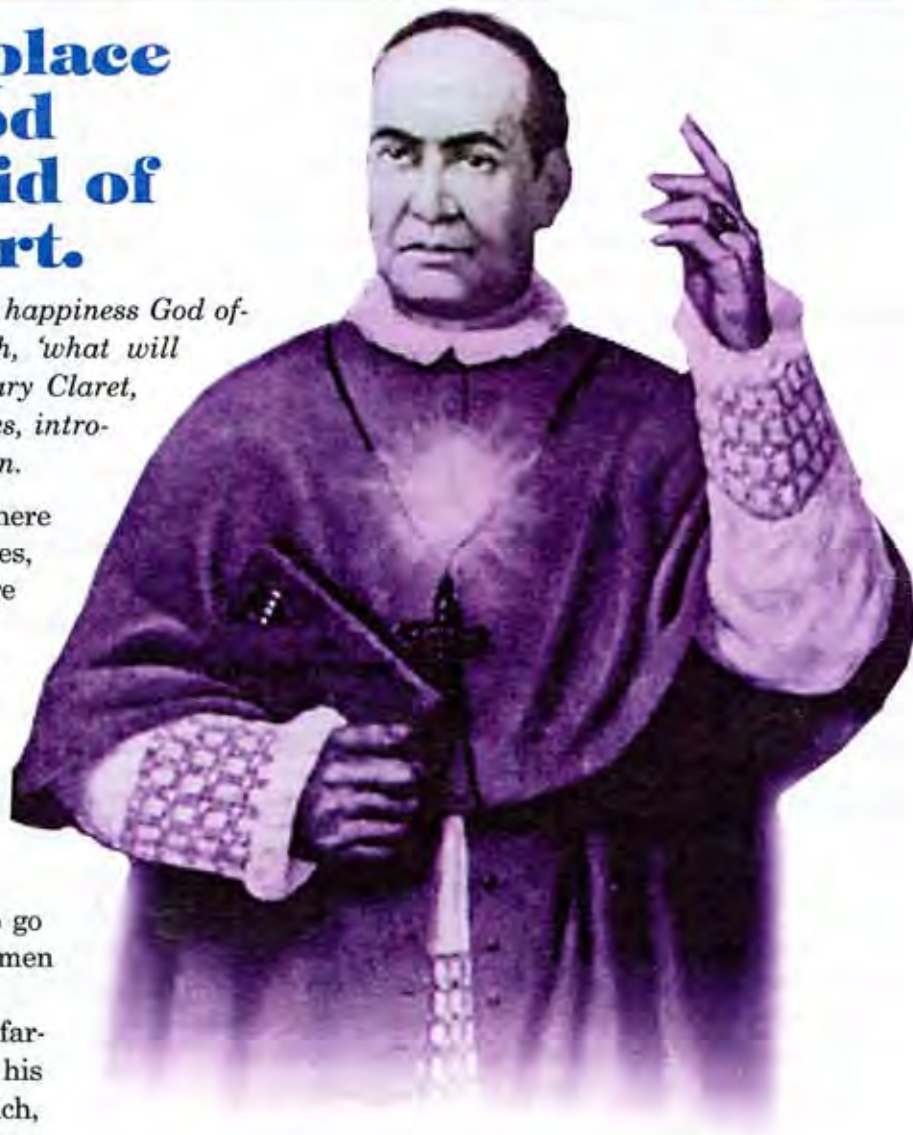
HELPING OUR LADY REACH OUT TO MILLIONS OF FAITHFUL SOULS

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## Heaven is the place assigned by God to fill every void of the human heart.

*Not often enough do we consider the happiness God offers us, nor do we consider enough, 'what will Heaven be like?' Saint Anthony Mary Claret, the great Spanish prodigy of miracles, introduces this idea for our contemplation.*



If somewhere in the world there were a city where squares, streets and buildings were made of precious stone, of silver and of purest gold; if all its inhabitants were very rich and noble, very kind, agreeable and courteous; if, furthermore, this city were governed by a king who was a man of peace and of virtue, fond of doing good and who truly brought happiness to all who wanted to go live in his fellowship — how quick would men not be to journey to that blessed city?

Would they not be hastening from the farthest parts of the world to enroll under his banner? Knowing he would become rich, honored, and well-blessed, would anyone hold back so as not to suffer the little trouble of travel?

My soul, with a little trouble during this life, you can become a citizen of the city of God, the city of heavenly

glory. You can dwell in endless peace amid all that is good. You can live with a King Who is infinitely kind, peace-loving, rich and mighty, Who has the power, the will and the means to bring happiness to whoever chooses to live in His company.

### ***In this issue ...***

Heaven is the place assigned by God to fill every void of the human heart.....	1
Interior Peace .....	2
News .....	3
EWTN .....	3

*Continued on page 2*

# Interior Peace

Our Lady's stress on our daily duties as our penance and means to sanctification sometimes seems daunting. One must want to be perfected, for it is work. But the answer begins with contemplation on the life of Our Lady. Through reflection we can begin to imitate Her, to answer the questions "what would Mary do? How would She do what I must do?" We address our actions to imitate those of our Queen Mother.

The spiritual writer Father Quadrupani considered the necessity of interior peace in all that we would do. 'Be on your guard lest your zeal degenerate into anxiety and eagerness. These two defects cause us to lose sight of God in our actions and make us very prone to impatience if the slightest obstacle should interfere with our designs. It is only by acting peacefully that we can serve the God of peace in an acceptable manner.'

He advises, "When our bodies or minds are engaged in any work, we should perform it peacefully and with composure, not prescribing for ourselves a definite time to finish it, nor being too anxious to see it completed." Isn't this anti-American?! Time is money, is it not? No!

As Martha worked to prepare a pleasant meal for Our Lord, she was engaged in a good work. Nevertheless He reproved her because she performed it

with anxiety and agitation. This goes to show, Saint Francis de Sales observes, that it is not enough to do good, the good must moreover be done well, that is to say, with love and tranquillity.

How does this advice speak to me? The baby's shoe must be tied for the tenth time this morning with kindness and love, not with churlish agitation. Notes must be written with consideration, not with a sense of production. Homeschool work must be guided, not "churned out." God wills it that whenever we are doing well, we are always doing enough and doing it sufficiently fast. Those persons who are restless and impetuous do not accomplish any more, and what they do is done badly.

Saint Francis de Sales was never seen in a hurry no matter how varied or numerous might be the demands made upon his time. When on a certain occasion some surprise was expressed at this he answered: "I was not put in this world to cause fresh disturbance: is there not enough of it already without my adding to it by my excitability?"

Father Quadrupani reminds us, however, do not on the other hand succumb to sloth and indifference. All extremes are to be avoided. One must cultivate a tranquil activity and an active tranquillity.

Let us not, then, love ourselves too much, for it is

*Continued on page 4*

## HEAVEN IS THE PLACE Continued from page 1

Ah! What has God failed to provide in Heaven for those who dwell there? If on earth He has made such beautiful things, what would He not provide in the heavenly Jerusalem for His citizen-subjects?

If I were to say that this eternal city is paved with finest silver and purest gold, I would be saying nothing. If I said that this blessed Sion were constructed with diamonds, rubies and emeralds, I would say nothing. If I said that in that blessed country rivers flowed with milk and honey, that it has the most delightful flowers and gardens, that one finds tasty and right fruits of every kind, I would say nothing.

Oh, paradise! You are the masterpiece of things produced by the magnificence of an all-powerful God. You are the price of the Blood of an infinitely kind and generous Savior. You have the best of all

good things, to the exclusion of all that is bad. Oh paradise, in you is found a river of delights into which the person who has been saved is plunged.

In you is found light, glory, gleaming splendor that causes darkness to flee. Oh, my sweet homeland! My heart is wonderfully gladdened as I think of you. My soul feels inexpressible joy as I reflect on your sacred courts. O divine tabernacles! When will I come to possess you? O Heaven! When will I leave this valley of tears to enjoy your delights?

My ears, my eyes, all my senses and faculties direct themselves to thee, assured as I am that in possessing thee, I would find the fulfillment of all my desires. Might I be deceived? No. Faith and reason assure us that God made man to be perfectly happy. As he does not find this perfect happiness on earth, faith, and reason as well, teach me that Heaven is the place assigned by God to fill every void of the human heart. †

## Fatima Radio

Thank you to all those who have visited our Fatima Radio website this spring. Your enthusiasm for the project has been encouraging, and your comments have helped us to improve the webpage design. Log onto [www.fatimaradio.org](http://www.fatimaradio.org)



to see our all-new look. The pages are easier to read and easier to navigate. What's more, program Archives are now up and running. You can look for a favorite program by guest, topic or program number. Was there an interview you wanted to hear again? A story you missed? Now you can find it easily in our expanded format, and you won't need to install other media players to listen to them. We hope you will find the changes helpful, as well as inviting.

**“I want My Church to ... put the devotion to this Immaculate Heart beside the devotion to My Sacred Heart.”**

One of our most important pieces of literature in presentations with bishops and priests is *Fatima Crusader 49* (Summer 1995), which treats of “The Magnificent Promise for the Five First Saturdays.” This 32-page *Crusader*, with its Imprimatur, gives one of the best presentations available on the request of Our Lady to make reparation to the Immaculate Heart by this simple devotion.

Many priests and bishops, as well as laypeople, are not aware of the request for the reparation of the Five First Saturdays; others are not sure what is involved to perform the devotion. This issue includes the story of the apparitions and the message; even how to pray the Rosary; and explains

# EWTN: A Network Gone Wrong and Your Letters

Many of you have responded in kind and thoughtful notes to the book we sent earlier this year:

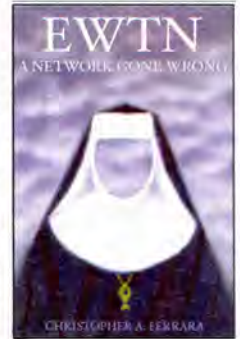
“It is a shocking book. I started reading it, couldn't put it down...” wrote one reader. Another: “This book is excellent.” Another: “You sure

picked the proper person in Christopher Ferrara to do this masterpiece of Truth.” Many readers requested additional copies to give to others.

Among many responses, we are touched to read of the sacrifices you make to support Our Lady's Apostolate. Despite restricted incomes, medical expenses and other problems, you send contributions to continue Our Lady's work; you also send assurances of your prayers for the Apostolate's efforts and for Father Gruner.

On behalf of Our Lady, we thank you, and beg you not to cease in those prayers and daily sacrifices. During this Easter season, let us remember to pray for Our Lady's faithful ones, and for the intentions these readers have mentioned in their letters.

*God bless you. Dear Holy Mother, protect you and pray for you.*



everything in a succinct and inspirational manner. Since this issue was first published in 1995, over a million copies have been distributed worldwide. But our inventory of the English edition was almost entirely depleted. So we have reprinted another 100,000 of the English edition, as well as 50,000 of the Spanish and Portuguese editions. If you do not have Issue 49, please contact our office for a copy for yourself — and a few for your friends! It is worthwhile to reread Our Lady's promises because it helps us to renew our ardor to console Her, and thereby to console Her Son.

*Continued on page 4*

## Do you have your Green Scapular?

This past Low Sunday, we spoke by phone with a young woman whose happiness was overflowing. It happened that she had met a young man when she started college two years ago. But he was not Catholic. It did not take her much time (a month!) to figure out that this young man was the one she wanted for life. So she slipped into his room and tucked a Green Scapular into his pillow. With fervent hope, she prayed each day the invocation, "Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us now and at the hour of our death." The young man became a suitor, and because she went to Mass, he thought it important that he should go, too. Often they would sit with her family at Sunday dinner and talk about Catholicism. He would join the family in the Rosary.

The following spring, they were engaged. He announced that he wanted to become a Catholic. So, a good priest was found to give him instruction. He studied diligently, and despite his own family's objections, was received into the Church on Easter Saturday this year. The next day, after his First Communion, his fiancée dug into the pillow tick, to discover for him the Green Scapular she had hidden nearly two years ago!

"I never stopped praying that prayer," she told me. "I always remembered how my mother had hidden the Green Scapular in my father's pillow tick."

We shall all rejoice with the couple when they will be wed this August. What a wonderful story – especially that the child, off to the perils of university, recalled the story and good example from her mother. We must congratulate Our Heavenly Mother for Her gentle guidance and maternal protection, not once, but twice!

Have you "planted" a Green Scapular for someone? Just as a seedling needs daily watering, so does that soul need your daily prayer, "Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us now and at the hour of our death." Our Lady will rain down graces, but you

### To reach us:

Call or write us at

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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)

must do the hoeing!

Would you like to help make Green Scapulars? All you need is an iron. We will send you a kit. Just contact the Volunteer Office at 1-800-845-3047.

## In Your Prayers...

Please remember a dear couple who work tirelessly for the Apostolate. He was hospitalized for serious health problems, but no sooner was he released from the hospital than his wife went in, for serious problems of her own. Both are home now, but they have some recovering to do. They are indefatigable volunteers; neither cares to have his name mentioned, but we hope you will remember Mr. and Mrs. X in your Rosary intentions. Thank you.

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## INTERIOR PEACE continued from page 2

this vice, according to Saint Francis de Sales, that makes us ever more anxious to do *much* rather than to do *well*. One must consider carefully what one is capable of accomplishing and never undertake more than that. This is the beginning of the acquisition of tranquillity. By this process we throw off the burden of self-imposition of great undertakings and numerous obligations. We learn to work deliberately, as did Saint Joseph and Our Lady.

Let us also remember the story of Elias in the Book of Kings (III Kings Ch. 19). The prophet had fled to a mountain cave to wait for the Lord. God did come to him, but not in the great and strong wind, nor in the earthquake, nor in the fire. He came in the gentle movement of an almost imperceptible breeze. Anxiety and agitation contribute nothing towards success. The desire of success is good, but only if it be not accompanied by solicitude. Peace is necessary in all things and everywhere. If any trouble come to us, either of an interior or exterior nature, we should receive it peacefully: if joy be ours, it should be received peacefully: have we to flee from evil, we should do it peacefully, otherwise we may fall in our flight and thus give our enemy a chance to kill us. Is there a good work to be done? We must do it peacefully, or else we shall commit many faults by our hastiness; and even as regards penance, — that too must be done peacefully: *Behold*, said the prophet, *in peace is my bitterness most bitter.* †