



INTERNATIONAL FATIMA ROSARY CRUSADE

Newsletter

HELPING OUR LADY REACH OUT TO MILLIONS OF FAITHFUL SOULS

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Seven Glorious Promises of Our Lord to Saint Gertrude

The holy Benedictine nun, Saint Gertrude, was especially beloved to Our Lord. During her life, He favored her with many revelations about His love for mankind. He also promised her that at a much later date He would reveal to the world His Sacred Heart. Saint Gertrude's complete confidence in Our Lord was irresistible to Him – He promised her that He would grant many graces to those who honored her.

Even during her life, Saint Gertrude's prayers were miraculously answered. Through her intercession, many were delivered from long and serious illnesses. Others were admonished in their dreams to disclose their troubles to her, and were delivered from their afflictions. Our Lord once said to her:

"If anyone, being oppressed by sorrow and grief, humbly and sincerely seeks consolation in thy words, he will not be deceived in his desires; for I, the God abiding in thee, urged by the liberality of My love and goodness, desire through thee to bestow much good on many. Whosoever commends himself with full confidence to thy prayers will obtain life eternal by thy mediation. Just as much as anyone hopes to receive from thee, so much will he surely obtain. Besides this, whatever thou shalt promise anyone in My Name, that I shall certainly grant him."

St. Gertrude received from the Eternal Truth Himself the most consoling promise that whenever anyone



Saint Gertrude

devoutly praises and thanks God for the graces bestowed on her, Our Lord will enrich that person with similar virtues and graces. And if this does not come to pass immediately, it will be fulfilled at an opportune time.

Another time Our Lord promised her that no one who had venerated her would depart this life without having first received the grace of making his life pleas-

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The Church: The Great Civilizer

Protestants and others never cease to malign the Catholic Church and Her illustrious history. "The Church is anti-intellectual. It oppresses men (and women), etc."

We know that this is not true, but sometimes it helps to remember some of Her contributions to society. Turning to the Spirago *Catechism* (first published in 1899, and again in 1921), one is quickly reminded of a few of these glorious facts: It was the Church which first charged itself with the education of the young and founded the first schools during the period of Charlemagne. It was the Church which rescued the great works of antiquity from destruction – monks worked tirelessly to transcribe, translate, and comment on the ancient philosophers and historians. They preserved the writings of the Fathers and of Scriptures. Moreover, often they illuminated them with exquisite and painstaking works, the better to teach or enable their service to God.

It has been the Church which has always raised the noblest buildings, buildings which have lifted man's heart, caused him to reflect on the mysteries of life, taught him God's design and inspired him to greater deeds.

It was the Church which made whole tracts of land fertile and habitable; the work of the Benedictines and Cistercians in the way of clearing and draining land and developing agriculture was

especially conspicuous in the German forests.

It was the Church which from earliest times gave the greatest encouragement to the fine arts. Considering music alone: Solfagio was developed in the monastery. The organization and codification of Plain Chant was encouraged by Saint Ambrose and later by Saint Gregory the Great. Palestrina and other musicians were commissioned by the Popes of the time.

It is to priests and monks that we owe some of the greatest discoveries.

The Deacon Flavio Gioja discovered the magnet and compass in 1300; Veit, a monk of Arezzo, discovered the scale, the rules of music and harmony; the Dominican Spina the use of spectacles; the Franciscan Berthold Schwarz gunpowder (1300); the Jesuit Kircher exhibited the first burning (magnifying) glass (1646); Copernicus, a canon of Frauenberg, discovered the Copernicus Theory (1507); the Jesuit Cavaliere the components of white light (1647); the Spanish Benedictine Pontius invented a method of teaching deaf-mutes (1570); and the Jesuit Secchi (1878) made many discoveries with regard to sun-spots.

And let us not forget the Augustinian Gregor Mendel, whose work in the monastery garden (1865) became the foundation for the modern science of genetics.

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ing to God, and that, furthermore, he would enjoy the comfort of a special friendship with God.

Once our Divine Savior, opening His lips and inhaling, said to His beloved spouse: "Just as I have now drawn in My breath, so shall I in truth draw to Myself all who incline toward thee with love and devotion for My sake, and I shall grant them the grace to make progress in virtue from day to day."

Our Lord promised Gertrude that if anyone should praise and thank Him for the graces lavished on her, and ask for a favor, He would, in that love with which He had pre-elected her from eternity, assuredly grant the plea, provided it were for the eternal welfare of the suppliant. [It is remarkable, however, that St. Gertrude does not seem to interest herself greatly in obtaining mere temporal and earthly favors for her clients. Her intercession is particularly powerful for needs of the soul.]

In addition, St. Gertrude received the promise that if anyone performs a good work in her honor, in union with

that love in which God descended from Heaven and accomplished the work of our Redemption, he should obtain as his merit whatever is performed in honor of the saint. No sinner who had loved and venerated her should die suddenly!

St. Gertrude once asked Our Lord for a sign as a solemn confirmation of these favors. "Stretch forth thy hand," said Jesus. She did so. Immediately He opened the ark of His Deified Heart, and placed her hand in the Wound of His side. Then He said: "Behold, hereby I promise to preserve inviolable the gifts I have bestowed on thee. If, however, according to My wise foresight, I suspend their effects for a time, I hereby bind Myself to recompense thee threefold, by the omnipotence, wisdom and goodness of the Triune God." When Gertrude withdrew her hand, she saw a golden circlet on each finger, and on the signet finger, three. "Seven rings shall be to thee a certain proof that the seven favors I have promised thee for the salvation of the world have been ratified," said Our Lord. †

It is exciting to recall these works and discoveries which have helped to civilize the Western World. Every action became a vehicle for the workers' meditations. The products of their work were offered to teach the succeeding generations.

One is sobered however by the questions, 'How am I imitating the noble service of my predecessors? How am I helping to advance the Church's position in my life?' 'How am I laying the foundation stones for the souls who come after me?' Two considerations come to mind.

As Mendel, for example, went about his garden work, he observed the little details of God's creation. He pondered God's design and considered what Order might be revealed if he applied himself to answer one question, 'Why are some peas wrinkled, and some smooth?'. Rather than be bored with the repetition of his daily duties, he explored them, and in doing so, rendered them glorious – not for himself, but the better to honor the Mind of God.

We have our duties in our fields of work. Do we consecrate our days to God? Do we try to do our work, offering everything to God? In every case, the faithful cultivation of one's knowledge in one's field is most fruitful when consecrated to God's service. Our various American cultures drive us always to "get ahead." But to what end? 'Unless the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it.' (Psalm 126:1)

Secondly: We spend thousands upon thousands of dollars every year for more education, more certifications, more updates, etc. in our fields in order to 'get ahead.' Do we do the same for our Faith? We need to pursue knowledge of the Faith with the same diligence and careful application that our predecessors applied to their own fields of study. We are obliged to learn the Faith, and to study and review the Faith for the rest of our lives. Catechism is not over when we graduate from eighth grade. Do we try to advance our knowledge and skills in the Faith? Do we study the Catechism, or the Bible? Do we learn the history of the Church, the writings of the Fathers, the Lives of the Saints, the Summa of Saint Thomas? Do we study the mystics, or



The intricate and ornate Santiago (Spain) Cathedral is said to be built on the original burial spot of St. James. This photo was taken by one of the Fatima Apostolate's helpers during the recent *Last Chance for World Peace Conference*.

the division of knowledge in Church studies? Do we read the papal encyclicals of the Popes through the ages? Do we learn the hymns of the Church? There is so much to learn about the Church; and this knowledge will make us more useful to serve God, whether it enables us to defend the Faith in casual conversation, or something else.

It was Saint John Vianney's opinion that most of the Christians who are lost are for want of instruction, they do not know their religion well.

No one can be master of it all. But we can always learn something new about the Faith, so that we can correct and instruct others. Thus we will lay the foundation stones for the working of grace in the souls of those who come after us. What a gift to give our children's children. †

Two prayers

Thanksgiving for Graces Bestowed on St. Gertrude *To implore favors through her merits*



O most sweet Lord Jesus Christ, I praise, extol and bless Thee, in union with that heavenly praise which the Divine Persons of the Most Holy Trinity mutually render to each other, and which thence flows down upon Thy sacred Humanity, upon the Blessed Virgin Mary and upon all the angels and saints. And I give Thee thanks for all the graces Thou didst lavish upon Thy beloved spouse, St. Gertrude. I thank Thee especially for that ineffable love wherewith Thou didst pre-elect her from all eternity, didst draw her so sweetly to Thyself by the strongest bonds of love, didst unite her so blissfully to Thyself, dwell with such delight in her heart, and crown her life with so blessed an end. I recall to Thee now, O most compassionate Jesus, the promise Thou didst make to Thy beloved spouse, that Thou wouldst most assuredly grant the prayers of all who come to Thee through her merits and intercession, in all matters concerning their salvation. I beseech Thee, by Thy most tender love, grant me the grace ... which I confidently expect. Amen.

Saint Gertrude's Prayer before Work

O Lord Jesus Christ, in union with Thy most perfect actions I commend to Thee this my work, to be directed according to Thy adorable will, for the salvation of all mankind. Amen.

News from the "Last Chance for World Peace" Conference

Readers are eager to hear about the Conference held in October in Iberia. Was "Last Chance for World Peace" a success? Did the bishops and priests listen to the message? Will the Pope soon consecrate Russia to the Immaculate Heart, as Our Lady requested at Fatima?

It will be a while before we learn the answer to the last question. But it would seem from our experiences there, and from early review of the comments of our participants, that the priests and bishops took the message very much to heart. The review of the whole Message of Fatima was helpful to those who were not certain of the sequence of events. Speakers also discussed the broader meaning of the Fatima Message, to help show its impact even now. This background was excellent preparation to address the question, "What are we going to do to respond to Our Lady's Message?"

One could see how thoughtfully participants listened. Conversations at dinner tables were animated, serious

and happy (not to mention multilingual!). It seemed as if Our Lady had hand-picked each attendee. A group of priests from Ceylon told Father that they had made some resolutions together, how to spread the Fatima Message more effectively when they returned home.



After Father Gruner's closing talk at Fatima on the afternoon of October 13, Father Panakal Thomas from India stood up to address the conference. He spoke deeply from the heart, with ardor and gratitude. Here are his brief remarks:

"Your Graces, Archbishops, Your Excellencies, bishops and many priests, dear friends, and our dear Father Gruner and his team:

We are very proud to be with Father Gruner. Really, through this conference, you have made an international community of messengers or ambassadors for the Message of Fatima. So my dear Father Gruner, it is really a success that we all go to the world, in short, to all the nations, to dedicate ourselves to the Message of Fatima. We thank you for inviting us, and for making us an international community to spread the Message of Fatima.

Thank you." †

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