



INTERNATIONAL FATIMA ROSARY CRUSADE

Newsletter

HELPING OUR LADY REACH OUT TO MILLIONS OF FAITHFUL SOULS

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The Life of the Holy Family

St. Peter Julian Eymard



et us meditate upon the life of the Holy Family, the life of Mary and of Joseph in Jesus.

I Jesus was the center of Mary's and Joseph's love.... "where thy treasure is, there is thy heart." So to possess Jesus was the sole joy of these happy parents. He was their all. They held neither to Bethlehem, nor to Egypt, nor to Nazareth; Jesus was the home of their hearts.

After an enforced absence from that humble home, how quickly St. Joseph returns! With what joy, what happiness does he approach the house where dwells Jesus, the Divine Child. He does not waste any time away from Him! He knows Jesus is Divine Love Incarnate.

In the same way, my house, my family, my center is the Eucharist, the Tabernacle near which I dwell. Like Mary and Joseph I should feel at home only there.

II Jesus was the end of Mary's and Joseph's existence; they lived only for Him; they labored for Him alone. O how gladly did St. Joseph labor to gain for Him and His Divine Mother their daily bread! With what great satisfaction he brought home the meager pittance received for his work! And when his menial task was more than usually laborious, how sweet that fatigue was to him, since it was all for Jesus!

And for us, too, Jesus Eucharistic should be the object of our life, our joy – the inspiration of our work. What life could be more beautiful than that which is passed in the company of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament!

III Jesus was the constant nourishment of Mary's and Joseph's life of union and love. They found their delight in gazing at Him, listening to Him, in admiring His obedience, in watching Him at His work and at prayer, for "He did all things well."

But, above all, they were happy in studying His intentions, in acquainting themselves with His sentiments, the motive of His virtues. They beheld Him incessantly seeking after and selecting, by preference, occasions of poverty, obedience and penance. They contemplated His humility and self-annihilation, while they admired His fidelity in referring all to the glory of His Father, never desiring, like mankind, to be the object of any praise, any glory.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph had but one aim in life, they wished but for one thing, the honor and glory of the Heavenly Father.

This should be my ambition; but in order to accomplish this, I must unite myself with Mary and Jesus. I must share their life, their family life, that intimate life of which God alone holds the secret.

O how happy is the soul in contemplating the hidden life of the Holy Family, all that is said and done therein – the Gospel of the family of Jesus! What wonderful evenings they must have had together at *continued on page 4*



The Holy Family

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January: The Holy Name

Each month of the Church Year is designated by the Church for us to focus our prayers and meditations. January is devoted to the Holy Name of Jesus.

What is the power of this divine Name? How have the saints worked wonders by it? How can we ourselves obtain by its means every grace and blessing? The Dominican Father Paul O'Sullivan answers these questions in a little treatise on the Holy Name of Jesus, from which this extract is taken.

You may ask, Dear Reader, how it is that one word can work such prodigies?

J answer that with a Word God made the world. With His Word, He called out of nothing the sun, the moon, the stars, the high mountains and the vast oceans. By His Word He sustains the whole universe in existence.

Does not the priest, too, in Holy Mass, work a prodigy of prodigies; does he not transform the little white host into the God of Heaven and earth by the words of Consecration; and though God alone can pardon sin, does not the priest also in the confessional pardon the blackest sins and the most awful crimes?

How? Because God gives to his words this infinite power.

So, too, God in His immense goodness gives to *each of us* an all-powerful word with which we can do wonders for Him, for ourselves and for the world. That word is "**Jesus.**"

Remember what St. Paul tells us about it. That it is "a name above all names," and that...

"In the Name of Jesus, every knee shall bend in Heaven, on earth and in Hell."

But why?

Because "**Jesus**" signifies "God-made man," viz., the Incarnation. When the Son of God became man, He was called "Jesus," so that when we say "**Jesus,**" we offer to the Eternal Father the infinite love, the infinite merits of Jesus Christ; in a word, we offer Him His own Divine Son Himself; we offer Him the great Mystery of the Incarnation. Jesus IS the Incarnation!

How few Christians have any adequate idea of this sublime mystery, and yet it is the greatest proof that God has given, or could give us, of His personal love for us. *It is everything to us.*

The Incarnation

God became man for love of us, but what does it avail us if we do not understand this love?

God, the Infinite, Immense, Eternal, all-powerful God, the mighty Creator, the God that fills Heaven with His Majesty, hid all His power, His Majesty, His greatness, and became a little child in order to become like us and so to gain our love.

He entered into the pure womb of the Virgin Mary

and there lay hidden for nine whole months. Then He was born in a stable between two animals. He was poor and humble. He passed 33 years working, suffering, praying, teaching His beautiful Religion, working miracles, doing good to all. He did all this to prove His love for *each* of us and so constrain us to love Him.

This stupendous act of love was so great that not even the highest Angels in Heaven could have conceived it possible, had not God revealed it to them.

It was so great that the Jews, God's chosen people, who were expecting a Saviour, were scandalized at the thought that God could humble Himself so much.

The Gentile philosophers, notwithstanding their vaunted wisdom, said that it was madness to think that the Almighty God could do so much for love of man.

St. Paul says that God exhausted all His power, wisdom and goodness in becoming man for us: "He emptied Himself out."

Our Lord confirms the words of the Apostle, for He says: "What more could I do?"

All this God did, not for all men in general, for *each one* of us in particular. Think, think, of this.

Do you believe, do you understand, Dear Reader, that God loves you so much, that He loves you so intimately, so personally? What a joy, what a consolation if you really knew and felt that the great God loves you — *you*, so sincerely!

Our Lord has done still more, for He has made over to us all His infinite merits so that we can offer them to the Eternal Father as often as we like, a hundred, a thousand times a day.

And that is what we can do **each time** we say "**Jesus,**" if only we remember what we are saying.

You are perhaps surprised at this wonderful doctrine; you may never have heard it before.

But now at last that you know the infinite wonders of the Name of Jesus, say that Holy Name constantly; say it devoutly.

And in the future, when you say, "Jesus," remember that you are offering to God all the infinite love and merits of His Son. You are offering Him His own Divine Son. You cannot offer Him

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anything holier, anything better, anything more pleasing to Him, anything more meritorious for yourself.

How ungrateful are those Christians who never thank God for all He has done for them. Men and women live 30, 50, 70 years and never think of thanking God for all His wonderful love.

When you say the Name of Jesus, remember, too, to *thank Our Sweet Lord* for His Incarnation.

When He was on Earth, He cured ten lepers of their loathsome disease. They were delighted and went away full of joy and happiness, but only one came back to thank Him! Jesus was very hurt and said: "Where are the other nine?"

Has He not much more reason to feel grieved and hurt with you and me, who thank Him so little for all He has done for us in the Incarnation and in His Passion.

St. Gertrude was wont to thank God often, with a little ejaculation, for His goodness in becoming man for her. Our Lord appeared to her one day and said, "My dear Child, every time you honor My Incarnation with that little prayer, I turn to My Eternal Father and I offer all the merits of the Incarnation for you and for all those who do as you do."

Shall we not then try to say often, "**Jesus, Jesus, Jesus,**" sure of receiving a like wonderful grace?

The Passion

The second meaning of the word "Jesus" is "Jesus dying on the Cross," for St. Paul tells us that Our Lord merited this most Holy Name by His sufferings and death.

Therefore, when we say, "Jesus," we should also wish to offer the Passion and Death of Our Lord to the Eternal Father for His greater glory and for our own intentions.

Just as Our Lord became man for each one of us, as if each one of us were the only one in existence, so He died, not for all men in general, but for each one in par-



ticular. When He was hanging on the Cross, He saw me, He saw you, Dear Reader, and offered every pang of His dreadful agony, every drop of His Precious Blood, all of His humiliations, all the insults and outrages He received, for *me*, for *you*, for *each one of us!* He has given us all these infinite merits as our very own. We may offer them hundreds and hundreds of times every day to the Eternal Father – for ourselves and for the world.

We do this *every* time we say "Jesus." At the same time, let us wish to *thank* Our Lord for all He has suffered for us.

It is appalling that many Christians know so little of this Holy Name and all that it means. As a result, they are losing precious graces every day, and they are forfeiting the greatest rewards in Heaven. Sad, deplorable ignorance! †

The Two Guardians of the Virgin

Msgr. Van den Berghe

God from all eternity having ordained the course of Mary's life, elected two men destined successively to become the guardians of that incomparable Virgin; and the mission He reserved for them being a most sublime one, He called them both to an eminent, and even exceptional, degree of sanctity. What traits of

resemblance existed between the two men? Being called to live in close intimacy with a Virgin, it was fitting they should both be resplendent: this is why they were both



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News from the Apostolate

Looking back on an exciting year for Our Lady's Apostolate, the "Last Chance for World Peace" Conference is one of the highlights. Many generous souls shared the enthusiasm. They/you helped build a program and bring bishops and priests to an event that will reverberate far and wide. We cannot thank you enough for your contributions and prayers. A six-year-old who attended the Conference helped Sister Frances all week to put out scapulars for the priests and bishops to take. "But," she told us, "I couldn't help anymore, because they were all gone." Five thousand scapulars were given out during those few days.

- As exciting as the Conference, was the news that a major Italian author had published a book agreeing with the Fatima Center that the entire Third Secret has not yet been revealed. This has stirred up quite a lot of discussion in Italy. It is causing people to reconsider the Fatima Message.
- We are recording a new series of television programs for "The Truth in Crisis", to debut soon.
- Past programs of "The Truth in Crisis" are now available on DVD. As one friend of the Center said, "They are quite good." Another said, "I love your new format!"

For information and to order copies of your favorite programs, log on to fatimashoppe.org or call us toll-free: 1-800-263-8160. †

THE LIFE OF THE HOLY FAMILY ~ continued from page 1

Nazareth! What heavenly conversations, what prayers! Assuredly Jesus must have explained to Mary and Joseph all that the Scriptures have said concerning Him. We will listen while He reveals Calvary to them, tells them of all the humiliation and suffering through which He has to pass. He shows them in His hands the places where the nails are to be driven; and this in order that Calvary may even now begin to bear fruit in the soul of His Mother and His holy guardian. He speaks to them of the Church, of the Apostles, of the Religious Orders which will consecrate themselves to His, and to their, honor. He speaks to them of us, of our miseries, and of the immense love that He bears us.

Nazareth has become a heaven of love, the paradise of the second Adam and the new Eve; a heaven of the

adorned with the virtue of virginity.

One sums up in himself the most brilliant glories of the ancient Covenant; he inherits the dignity of the patriarchs; he is the possessor of all the good things promised by the prophets. The other obtains the most august dignities of the New Covenant; he is an Apostle; he is a Pontiff; he will be an Evangelist, a prophet and a martyr.

In the one we honor the true Spouse of the Virgin; in the other, Her son through grace.

The one is Mary's guardian before and while She possesses Jesus; the other is Her guardian when Jesus is taken from Her.

It is given to the one to press the Son of Man to his heart; it is given to the other to lean on the the Heart of the Son of Man.

The one nourishes Jesus by the fruit of his labors; the other in nourished with Jesus — at the Last Supper, where he drank of Love from the fountain head.

The one faithfully accompanies Jesus and Mary.

When the mysteries begin he is in the Temple beside the Priest and the Virgin during the oblation of the great Victim; the other, no less faithful, accompanies Jesus and Mary.

When the mysteries are nearing their end, he is before the altar of the Cross, near this same priest and this same Virgin during the consummation of the sacrifice.

Incomparable men to whom God confided His most precious treasures. Their hands were worthy to touch the Word of Life and to serve His Holy Mother; this is why every age touched with admiration will honor their virtue, and sing their happiness. †

purest virtues, of the holiest love. What a delicious perfume ascended to the Lord from that delectable garden in which blossomed the Incarnate Word, Mary, and Joseph the Just! The Heavenly Father found therein His delight; the angelic spirits looked upon it in admiration. As for me, I desire to glean from it love for a pious and recollected life in Jesus, Mary and Joseph. †

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