

AN EXORCIST SPEAKS ON THE POWER OF THE ROSARY

Father Gabriel Amorth, the chief exorcist in Rome, recently noted the following regarding the power of the Rosary: "One day a colleague of mine heard the devil say during an exorcism: 'Every Hail Mary is like a blow on my head. If Christians knew how powerful the Rosary was, it would be my end.' The secret that makes this prayer so effective is that the Rosary is both prayer and meditation. It is addressed to the Father, to the Blessed Virgin, and to the Holy Trinity, and is a meditation centered on Christ."

"Today more than ever," said Father Amorth, "the world is in need of prayer and meditation. It is in need of prayer because people have forgotten God, and without God the world has put itself on the edge of a precipice. This is why in Her messages, Our Lady insists so much on prayer. Without God's help, Satan wins. The world is also in need of meditation because if the great Christian truths are forgotten, souls become void. This void is grabbed up by the enemy, and he fills it with his lies. And today we see the results with widespread belief in superstition and occultism."

Father Amorth went on to exhort Catholic fami-



lies to pray the Rosary together: "The most obvious danger for our society today is the downfall of the family", he said. "The rhythm of today's world has broken the family unity. Little time is spent together, and even when the family is together, its members don't speak because the television speaks. Where are the families that recite the Rosary together in the evenings? Pope Pius XII insisted in his own time: 'If you pray the Rosary together, you will experience peace in your families; you will get on together.'"

Likewise, says Father Amorth, Father Patrick Peyton, the untiring apostle of the family Rosary, always counseled, "The family that prays together will stay together."

Let us take up with greater fervor the daily Rosary, and let us pray it together as a family, as both

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CONFIDENCE

By Saint Maximilian Kolbe

When a storm strikes a ship out at sea, the ship does not stop, does not struggle, but peacefully sails onward. Similarly when the storm in our soul rages, we should not struggle, we should not lose our peace, but turned toward the Immaculate Virgin Mary, let us go forward with entire confidence.

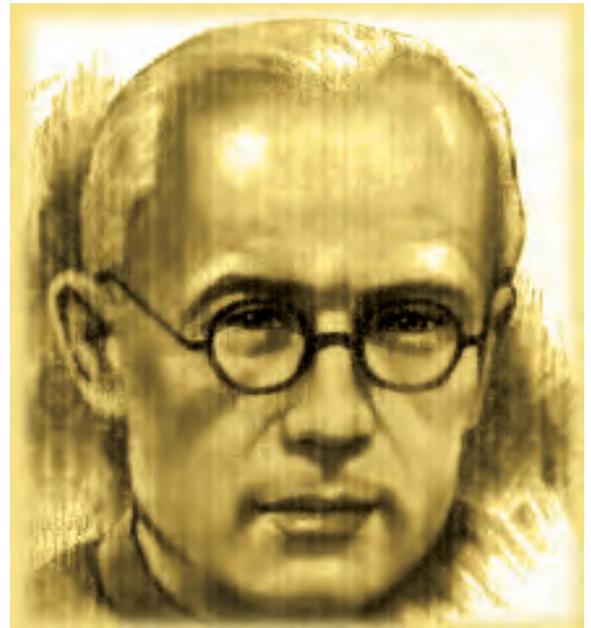
If the thought of your past life and sins oppresses you and you have no courage to look into the future beyond the grave, give yourself to the Immaculate wholeheartedly, without restriction. Entrust Her with the work of your whole salvation, your whole life, death and eternity. You will perceive what peace and happiness is, a foretaste of Heaven, and you will sigh for Heaven.

If we have a difficulty, let us hasten to the Immaculate!

Be confident that from Her you will surely receive all that you need for salvation, for perseverance and for sanctification. Storms will come, it is true, but he who sincerely loves the Immaculate will pass through these tempests, no matter how dangerous, untouched and unsullied by sin.

Let us have no confidence in ourselves, but also let us not place any bounds to our confidence in

Her. In every difficulty and temptation let us have recourse to Her, and we will assuredly not fall. Let us entrust to Her every undertaking, and we will surely attain whatever She wants.



Nothing will happen, dear children, except whatever the Immaculate will permit. Let us hand over all our difficulties to Her, and for the rest, be at peace.

It is our ideal to win the whole world for the Immaculate and through Her hands the souls who are and who will be, all of them collectively and each of them individually.

When we say "through the hands of Mary," we should not understand this exteriorly, but as something interior. Whatever we do, we give to Her as Her own. We give ourselves and our belongings to Her as Her property. She in turn gives it to Jesus as Her own. These are very profound matters, and we learn them in humble prayer. †

SAINT CLAUDE DE LA COLOMBIERE APOSTLE OF THE SACRED HEART

B. 1641 - D. 1682

Note: *Devotion to the Sacred Heart is intimately linked to the Message of Fatima and Our Lady's call for devotion to Her Immaculate Heart. Here we learn about one of the earliest propagators of the devotion, the spiritual director to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, the 17th Century nun who received the revelations from Heaven concerning devotion to Our Lord's Sacred Heart.*

The spread of the Sacred Heart devotion is due in great measure to Claude de la Colombiere. He had joined the Society of Jesus in Lyons, France, and as a young priest enjoyed widespread renown as an educator and pulpit orator in Paris. His sermons were directed in particular against the error of Jansenism, which presented salvation as difficult, if not impossible, to attain. As an antidote against this pernicious doctrine Claude advocated devotion to the Merciful Heart of Jesus, particularly by the act of consecration. He was giving an instruction one day to the nuns of the Visitation convent at Paray-le-Monial, when Our Lord revealed to Margaret Mary Alacoque, who was a member of the convent, that Claude was to help establish the

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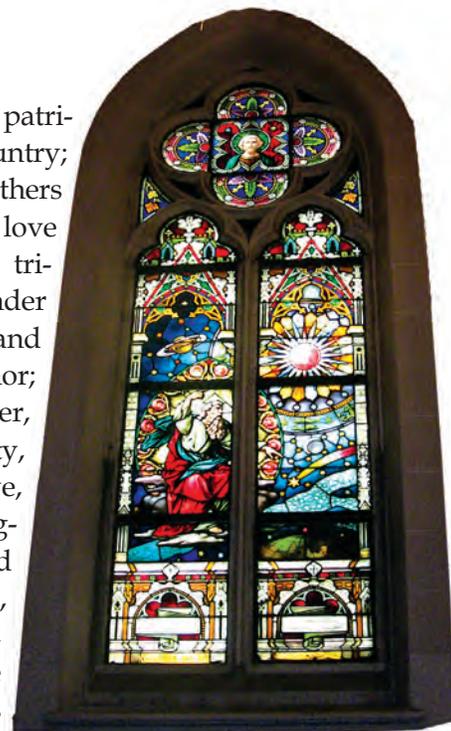
THE INFINITY OF GOD

By Archbishop Michael Sheehan

Infinity belongs to all the Perfections of God, and is reflected, but ever so imperfectly, in the works of His hands.

Think of all the power that lives in the wind and the lightning, in the volcano, the earthquake, the ocean, in the on-rushing planets and stars; think of all the wisdom manifested in the orderly movements of the universe, in the growth and preservation of living things; of all the beauty that has ever shone on land or sea, and of all the fair visions and noble ideals that have ever filled the mind and thrilled the heart of man; of all the knowledge and ingenuity of the philosophers, statesmen and inventors of all the ages; think of all the

love of martyrs and patriots for faith and country; of all the love of mothers for their children, love proof against every trial, patient and tender in sickness, pitiful and true even in dishonor; think of all this power, wisdom, beauty, pity, kindness and love, and suppose it magnified and multiplied countless times over, and all concentrated, in some unspeakable way, in one being as the source of all, and you are still no appreciable step nearer the adequate idea of the Infinite Perfection of God; your mind is still hovering in the shadows, still only straining towards the light, and has caught but the weakest, poorest glimmering of His Glory. †



SAINT CLAUDE DE LA COLOMBIERE

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devotion to His Sacred Heart. She had been troubled about the revelations made to her and in her humility feared to act.

Claude encouraged her to obey Our Lord's command and he himself became an apostle of the devotion, seeing in it the means of reviving religious fervor. He was sent later to London as preacher to the Duchess of York, Maria Beatrice d'Este, and there continued to promote the devotion, converting many Protestants, among them the Duke of York himself.

Hostility against Catholics was intense at the time in England, and Claude was accused of being implicated in the trumped up "Popish plot" of Titus Oates, and of converting heretics and lapsed Catholics. He was imprisoned and sentenced to death, but Louis XIV of France obtained a commutation to banishment.

With broken health Claude returned to France and died at Paray-le-Monial at the age of forty-one. His relics are preserved in the monastery of the Visitation nuns at Paray-le-Monial.

His feast is celebrated on February 15. †



Saint Claude de la Colombiere, Spiritual Director to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque.

NEWS FROM THE APOSTOLATE

The response to the 2008 Great Rosary Crusade was memorable. We received almost 10,000 pledges to unite prayers in the Crusade itself, and in the Novena for its success. Many people pledged 10's or 100's of Rosaries to be prayed for the intentions of the Crusade. Some people pledged a year's worth. Families promised to pray together. Other groups of friends or neighbors did the same.

Altogether we received pledges for more than 2.5 million Rosaries to be joined to the Great Crusade. Is this all that is needed? Is the Crusade now finished?

'No' to both questions. We need many more Rosaries prayed even now — one might add *'more than ever.'* We must not cease knocking on Heaven's door. Our Lady brings the prayerful message to Her Son just as Blessed Juan Diego brought the roses to the bishop. You may recall the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe and Juan Diego. Sent to the top of the hill to cut some miraculous roses, Juan Diego returned to Her with an armful. Our Lady then arranged the roses Herself in Juan Diego's tilma, before sending him on his mission to the bishop. Returning before the bishop, the obedient Indian opened his arms to present the December roses, the requested sign. The bishop payed homage to the Queen of Heaven at once, for he saw not just

the roses, but Our Lady Herself — the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Juan Diego's tilma.

Our Crusade of Rosaries and prayers are the roses Our Lady arranges Herself. Presenting them to Her Divine Son, She opens Her arms to Him, showing the confident and hopeful blossoms — our prayers for Her assistance. Moreover, the Blessed Trinity beholds the most exquisite creature, the



Queen of the Universe Herself. Will Our Lord respond to His Mother with less homage than did the earthly prelate to Our Lady of Guadalupe? Did the King refuse Queen Esther to come before him?

If you would like to make a pledge to the Crusade, it is not too late; if you would like to extend or renew a pledge, you may still do so. Contact us at the address or phone number below.

One more point: whether you made your pledge last year or today, be diligent in fulfilling the obligation. Offer your Rosaries to this united effort to obtain the revelation of the entire Third Secret, as well as the Consecration of Russia, as Our Lady requested. Do not exclude children from this opportunity to bring their 'flowers' to their Heavenly Mother. †

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Pope Pius XII and Father Peyton encouraged us to do.

The daily Rosary is central to the Message of Fatima. Sister Lucy of Fatima spoke of the great power of the Rosary in her famous interview with Father Fuentes.

"Look, Father," said Sister Lucy, "the Most Holy Virgin, in these last times in which we live, has given a new efficacy to the recitation of the Rosary to such an extent that there is no problem, no matter how difficult it is, whether temporal or above all spiritual, in the personal life of each one

of us, of our families, of the families of the world, or of the religious communities, or even of the life of peoples and nations, that cannot be solved by the Rosary. *There is no problem I tell you, no matter how difficult it is, that we cannot resolve by the prayer of the Holy Rosary.* With the Holy Rosary we will save ourselves. We will sanctify ourselves. We will console Our Lord and obtain the salvation of many souls."

Let us make use of this great spiritual weapon given us by the Mother of God, and ponder the words of the devil himself who admits during exorcism, *"Every Hail Mary is like a blow on my head. If Christians knew how powerful the Rosary was, it would be my end."* †

We'd like to hear from YOU! To reach us: Call or write us at
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