

ST. AGATHA, VIRGIN AND MARTYR

Feast Day:
February 5 (A.D. 251)



**"My Immaculate Heart
Will Triumph"**

LEAGUE of the IMMACULATE HEART

Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 11 - April 2001

against her virtue infinitely more terrible to her than any tortures, or death itself. But placing her confidence in God, she was immovable in her resolution to maintain both her Faith and her virginity.

After being there thirty days, Quintianus was informed that Agatha would continue to resist his proposal so he ordered her to be brought before him. The virgin told him "Better by far is the lowliness and slavery of a Christian than the wealth and pride of kings." Offended at her adamant answers, he commanded her to be beaten and led to prison. She entered it with great joy, offering up her future conflict to God.

St. Agatha belonged to a noble family and was a native of Sicily. She had extraordinary beauty and consecrated herself to God in her tender years.

Quintianus, the governor of Sicily, proposed marriage to the innocent virgin. Because of her vow of chastity, Agatha refused and he, angered by her refusal, had her arrested and brought before him in Catania in compliance with the Emperor's decree against Christians.

Seeing herself in the hands of her persecutors, Agatha made this prayer: "Jesus Christ, Lord of all things, You see my heart, You know my desire — possess alone all that I am. I am Your sheep, make me worthy to overcome the devil." She wept, and prayed for courage and strength all the way as she was led to Quintianus.

After her continual refusal, Quintianus gave orders for Agatha to be put into the hands of Aphrodisia, a most wicked woman, who had six daughters — all prostitutes — in the hopes that he could weaken her resolve to remain a virgin.

In this infamous place, the sweet saint suffered assaults



St. Agatha — Virgin and Martyr

The next day Agatha was arraigned a second time at the tribunal, and answered with equal constancy that Jesus Christ was her life and her salvation. Quintianus then ordered her to be stretched on the rack, which torment was usually accompanied with stripes, the tearing of the sides

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Means of Perfection

by St. Louis de Montfort

The Saints always made Our Lord's life the principal object of their study; they meditated on His virtues and sufferings and in this way they arrived at Christian perfection.

Once Saint Bernard began this meditation he always continued it. "At the very beginning of my conversion," he said, "I made a bouquet of myrrh made up of the sorrows of my Savior. I placed this bouquet upon my heart, thinking of the stripes, the thorns and the nails of His passion. I used all my mental strength to meditate on these mysteries every day."

This was a practice of the Holy Martyrs too; we know how admirably they triumphed over the most cruel sufferings. Saint Bernard says that the martyrs' wonderful constancy could have only sprung from one source: their constant meditation on the wounds of Jesus Christ. The martyrs were Christ's athletes, His champions; while their blood gushed forth and their bodies were wracked

with cruel torments, their generous souls were hidden in the wounds of Our Lord. These wounds made them invincible.

During her whole life, the Blessed Mother's chief concern was meditation on the virtues and sufferings of Her Son. When She heard the angels sing their hymns of joy at His birth and when She saw the shepherds adore Him in the stable, Her heart and mind were filled with wonder and She meditated upon all these marvels. She compared the greatness of the Word Incarnate to His deep humility and the way He lowered Himself; She thought of Him in His manger filled with straw and then on His Throne in Heaven and in the bosom of His Eternal Father. She compared the might of God to the weakness of a Baby — and His wisdom to His simplicity.

One day Our Lady said to Saint Bridget: "Whenever I meditated on the beauty, modesty and wisdom of My *continued on page 4*

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with iron hooks, and burning them with torches or matches.

The governor, enraged to see her suffer all this with cheerfulness, commanded her breasts to be tortured, and afterwards to be cut off. Agatha stated this ad-

monishment: "Cruel tyrant, art thou not ashamed to cut a woman's breast, who wast thyself fed at the breast of thy mother?" He remanded her to prison, with a severe order that neither salves nor food should be allowed her.

But God Himself would be her physician, and the apostle St. Peter, in a vision, comforted her, healed all her wounds, and filled her dungeon with a Heavenly light.

Four days later, not the least bit moved at the miraculous cure of her wounds, Quintianus ordered Agatha to be rolled naked over live coals mixed with broken pottery.

Suddenly the whole city was shaken by a violent earthquake, and two of the governor's intimate friends were killed by the falling of two walls. The people were in such a state of fear that the governor, fearing sedition, ordered the almost lifeless Agatha taken back to prison. Once there, she made this prayer: "O God! Who hast watched over me from my infancy, Who hast separated me from the love of this world, and hast given me strength to bear the tortures of my executioners, receive my soul!" After which words she sweetly expired.

Because Agatha died on February 5, the Church observes her feast on that day. St. Agatha's name is mentioned in the Canon of the Mass. †

Victories of the Martyrs

by St. Alphonsus de Liguori



If you are interested in learning more about the inspiring lives and heroic deaths of a number of great martyred saints, why not purchase *Victories of the Martyrs* by St. Alphonsus de Liguori.

A gem about saints written by a saint. As a member of the League of the Immaculate Heart, our special price to you is \$3.70, a savings of \$1.25 off our regular price of \$4.95.

Only Following Orders

When the dust and debris from two atomic bombs had finally settled and peace was restored to Western Europe and America, it was time for history to be written by the victors.

The media frenzy that accompanied the Nuremberg Trials was a very clever distraction. Instead of examining the inexplicable kowtowing to Russia both during and after World War II, German commanders were paraded before a tribunal and explanations for their barbaric treatment of prisoners demanded.

Their response, echoing the military chain of command from time immemorial was "I was only following orders." It was a statement that denied any culpable guilt.

And the world, in one voice, condemned every innocent death at the hands of the losers (vanquished) whether it be in prison camps or in towns and cities devastated by bombs. Ironically, no one pointed a finger at Stalin, a mass murderer without equal.

Despite Our Lady of Fatima's warnings, Stalin's quest for more victims rivalled the Aztecs of Mexico. The major difference between the choice of victims, and their cries to Heaven for vengeance, is that those chosen for death are now defenseless children in their mother's womb. And what is even more appalling is that the rest of the world has taken up the battletory "death by abortion."

The doctors are "only following orders." Governments have legalized this form of sacrifice to whatever pagan gods the mothers are appeasing.

The Church **appears** to be fighting a losing battle as even some persons who claim to be Catholic have opted for abortion and contraception, in spite of the Pope's condemnation of both.

The Catholic Church is being attacked on other fronts as well. Satan has been dropping his "atomic bombs" on targets that were invincible just a few years ago: the smoke of satan has entered the Church; exorcists are being sought by several American archdioceses; there is a severe shortage of priests and seminarians; attendance at Mass continues to drop; many church pews remain empty on Sundays; pedophiles and heretics are subverting the Church from within; innocent priests are being ostracized by their superiors.

Papal Nuncios are "only following orders" as they travel around the world spreading lies and half-truths in an attempt to silence the only message that tells us how to bring about real and lasting peace in the world. Under orders from certain Vatican bureaucrats, the nuncios have targeted one man, Father Nicholas Gruner, the "Fatima Priest". This holy priest has championed Our Lady's cause since 1978. The attacks against him have increased in proportion to the success of his campaign.

His allies, loyal friends and supporters, have stood by his side

Our Lady ... Our Salvation

We can never hope to understand what evil forces could take control of men's minds to the point where they would sacrifice 8,000 victims, in one day, to their gods. Mexico had become a nation destined to self-destruct.

Our Lady had other plans for God's children. Her weapon in this battle against the forces of satan was Cortes, who defeated the Aztecs and put an end to this senseless slaughter.

A short time later, in 1531, Our Lady appeared to Juan Diego and used him to make Her message known. As proof of Her appearance, there was imprinted on his tilma an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe and, like the Holy Shroud of Turin, it baffles scientific explanation even today.

Among other things that baffle scientific explanation about the tilma:

- The fibers should have deteriorated within 20 years, that would have been more than 450 years ago;
- The stars on Her robe depict the position of the constellation in the heavens at the very moment She appeared;

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as Our Lady has led him through the mine fields placed by Her enemies.

She has been fighting satan in other battles. She continues to fight. Our Lady prophesied a miracle in Fatima for October 13, 1917, and 70,000 people were on hand to witness that event. Three months earlier, She told three young children a Secret. Part of that Secret has been arbitrarily withheld from the faithful for more than 40 years.

This time no one is following orders. Our Lord and Our Lady have stated Their requests very simply and very plainly. The Holy Father has to command Our Lord's ministers to obey the order for the Consecration of Russia.

Sister Lucy has told us not to wait for the Holy Father and the bishops to act. We must sacrifice and pray. We must continue to spread Our Lady's Message throughout the world. We must be soldiers for Our Lady. †

Dear Father Gruner:

I placed your letter on the Church Bulletin Board, some one has taken it already. I hope it means they are going to use it for the right purpose...



Last year my wife had everything on the inside of her removed because she had cancer, and she took Chemo, from January to June, when the cancer disappeared, which was like receiving the Miracle I had asked the Blessed Mother for. It was the second time the Blessed Mother had granted a Miracle to me. The first time was when my wife had an aneurysm break in her head. Three doctors in Chicago wrote her off, and I asked the Blessed Mother for a Miracle and She granted it. My wife was in a coma for three weeks and the day they were going to declare her brain dead, she came out of the coma and was in the hospital for four months before she was able to come home. That was the greatest Miracle of all times for me.


If people don't think Miracles happen, they should listen to our story...

Your Friend,
Morris L., Ohio

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- Scientific photographic scrutiny of the iris and pupils reveal a detailed picture of at least 3 people, believed to be those present when Juan Diego unrolled his tilma in front of the bishop;
- The texture of the tilma reproduces the effect Aztec artists perfected, delicately weaving feathers so that the colors changed as one moved closer;
- Our Lady's "living" eyes would follow you as you moved about the room.

One of the Church's greatest treasures, a miracle in itself, this is one more reminder of the Blessed Virgin Mary's abundant love and Her Motherly desire to have peace in the world. †



Join Us!!
on our pilgrimage to Mexico in December
to visit the sites where Our Lady of
Guadalupe appeared to Juan Diego.

MEANS OF PERFECTION
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Son, My heart was filled with joy: and whenever I thought of His hands and feet which would be pierced with cruel nails, I wept bitterly and my heart was rent with sorrow and pain."

After Our Lord's ascension, Our Blessed Lady spent the rest of Her life in visiting the places that had been hallowed by His presence and sufferings. When She was in those places She used to meditate upon His boundless love and upon His terrible passion.

Saint Mary Magdalene did nothing other than religious exercises of this kind during the last thirty years of her life when she lived in the prayerful seclusion of Sainte Baume.

Saint Jerome says that devotion to the Holy places was widespread among the faithful in the early centuries of the Church. They came to the Holy Land from all corners of Christendom so as to impress a great love and remembrance of their Savior more deeply upon their hearts by seeing the places and things He had made holy by His birth, by His work, by His sufferings and by His death.

All Catholics have but one Faith and adore one and the same God, all hoping for the same happiness in Heaven. They have one Mediator Who is Jesus Christ and therefore they must all imitate their divine Model and in order to do this they must meditate on the mysteries of His life, His virtues and of His glory.

It is a great mistake to think that only priests and religious and those who have withdrawn from the turmoil of the world are supposed to meditate upon the truths of our Faith and the mysteries of the life of Jesus Christ. If priests and religious have an obligation to meditate on the great truths of our holy religion in order to live up to their vocation worthily, the same obligation, then, is just as much incumbent upon the laity — because of the fact that every day they meet with spiritual dangers which might make them lose their souls. Therefore they should arm themselves with the frequent meditation on the life, virtues and sufferings of Our Blessed Lord — which are so beautifully contained in the fifteen mysteries of the Holy Rosary. †

The Editor,

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