



## St. Andrew Corsini, Bishop and Confessor

February 4 — (A.D. 1373)

**T**his saint was baptized Andrew in Florence, in 1302. At that time, the Corsini family was one of the most illustrious of that territory. Andrew was the fruit of the



St. Andrew Corsini

prayers of his pious parents, who consecrated him by vow to God before his birth. Notwithstanding the care his parents took to instil good principles into him, he spent his youth in extravagance, in the company of those who were as wicked

as he himself was. His devout mother, Peregrina, never ceased praying for his conversion, and said to him, "I see you are the wolf I saw in my sleep," leading him to understand that when she was carrying him, she had dreamed she was brought to the bed of a wolf, which, running into a church, was turned into a lamb.

She added that she and her husband had consecrated him, while in her womb, to the service of God, under the protection of the Blessed Virgin, and that, in consequence of his being born not for them, nor for the world, but for God, a very different kind of life from what he was leading was expected from him. This made such a strong impression on his heart that he went immediately to the church of the Carmelite friars, and prayed there for some time before the altar of Our Lady. He was so touched by God that he resolved to never return to his father's house, but to embrace the religious state of life professed in that friary. He was admitted in 1318, and after a novitiate, during which he eluded his worldly companions, and firmly rejected the solicitations of an uncle, who tried to draw him back into the world, he made his solemn profession.

He never departed from the first fervor of his conversion. He strenuously labored to subdue his passions by extreme humiliations, and obedience, by silence and prayer; and his superiors employed him in the meanest duties, often in washing the dishes in the scullery. The progress he made in learning, particularly in the Holy Scriptures and in theology, was very great. In the year 1328 he was ordained a priest; but to prevent the music and feast which his family had prepared for the day on which he was to say his first Mass, he privately withdrew to a little convent out of town, where he offered his first-fruits to God with wonderful recollection and devotion.

After some time employed in preaching at Florence, he was sent to Paris, where he studied for three years. In 1332 he returned to Florence and was chosen prior of that friary by a provincial chapter. God honored his extraordinary virtue with the gifts of prophecy and miracles; and the astonishing fruits of his example and zealous preaching made him be looked upon as a second apostle of his region. Amongst other miracles and conquests of hardened souls was the conversion of his cousin, John Corsini, an infamous gamester; and the miraculous cure of an ulcer in his neck.

In the town of Fiesoli, three miles from Florence, the bishop died and the chapter unanimously chose our saint to fill the vacancy. Being informed of their proceedings, he hid himself, and remained concealed so long that the canons were going to proceed with a second election, when, by Divine Providence, he was discovered by a child.

Being consecrated bishop in the

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## When Will They Bite the Hand That Feeds Them?

**R**ussia is a country in turmoil. Even a brief attempt at their version of democracy only accelerated the slide into economic and financial chaos. Bread lines and alcoholism are the visible results of a godless society that cares little about the people living in abject poverty. Organized crime is the invisible dilemma subjecting the peasants to a very bleak future.

Medical supplies are as scarce as they are expensive, one of the reasons for a declining life-expectancy rate. Many hospitals are what would be expected in a Third World country.

The seemingly obvious, and expected, solution is more foreign aid. Of course, most of the money is expected to come from the U.S. The irony is that Russia

continues to be very successful at producing military weaponry, but the people cannot live on that. Sophisticated submarines and jet fighters, envied worldwide for their superiority, continue to be produced by a country that claims to be working for peace throughout the world.

As we continue to subsidize Russia's faltering economy, that nation will continue (as Our Lady of Fatima warned) to spread her errors. This time it is by weapon stockpiling as well as sales to its allies against Christendom.

### A Mirror Image

The similarities between Russia and China are so obvious (as made *continued on page 4*

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beginning of 1360, he redoubled his former austerities. To his hair shirt he added an iron girdle. Daily, he said the seven penitential psalms and the litany of the saints, and gave himself a severe discipline while he recited the litany. His bed was of vine-branches strewn on the floor. All his time was taken up in prayer or in his official functions. Holy meditation and reading the Scriptures he called his recreation from his labors.

He avoided discourse with women as much as possible, and would never listen to flatterers or informers. His tenderness and care of the poor were incredible, and he had a particular regard for the bashful, that is, those that were ashamed to make known their distress; these he was diligent in seeking out, and assisted them with all possible secrecy. With an excellent talent for resolving differences and dissensions, he never failed to reconcile persons at odds. Urban V, on this account, sent him to Bologna, where the nobility and people were miserably divided. He happily pacified them, and their union continued during the remainder of his life.

Every Thursday night, with char-

ity and humility, he washed the feet of the poor. One excused himself, alleging that his feet were full of ulcers and corruption; the saint insisted upon washing them, and they were immediately healed. In imitation of Saint Gregory the Great, he kept a list of the names of all the poor, and furnished them all with allowances. He never dismissed any without an alms, for which purpose he once miraculously multiplied bread.

He became ill while he was singing high Mass on Christmas night in 1372. His fever increasing, he gave up his happy soul to God, with a surprising joy and tranquility, on January 6, 1373, at seventy-one years old, having been a bishop for twelve years. He was honored with many miracles, and immediately canonized by the voice of the people. The state of Florence has often experienced his powerful intercession. Pope Eugenius IV allowed his relics to be exposed to public veneration. He was canonized by Urban VIII in 1629. His festival was transferred to February 4. Clement XII being of this family, in conjunction with his nephew, the Marquis of Corsini, sumptuously adorned the chapel of the Carmelite friars' church in Florence, in which the saint's body is kept. He also built and endowed a magnificent independent chapel in the great church of Saint John

Lateran, under the name of this his patron, in which the corpse of that Pope is interred.

The example of all the saints confirms the fundamental maxim of our divine Redeemer — that the foundation of all solid virtue and of true sanctity is to be laid by subduing the passions and dying to ourselves. Pride, sensuality, covetousness, and every vice, must be rooted out of the heart, the senses must be mortified, the inconstancy of the mind must be settled, and its inclination to roving and dissipation fixed by recollection, and all depraved affections curbed. Both in cloisters and in the world, many Christians take pains to become virtuous by multiplying religious practices, yet lose in a great measure the fruit of their labors because they never study with their whole hearts. So long as self-love reigns in their souls, almost without control, this will often blind and deceive them, and will easily infect even their good works, and their devotion will be liable to a thousand illusions, and always very imperfect. Hence religious persons, after many years spent in the rigorous observance of their rule, still fail upon the least trial or contradiction which thwarts their favorite inclination, and are stopped in their spiritual progress, as it were, by every grain of sand in their way. †

## Don't "Shoot" the Messenger!

Some "old" sayings have refused to yield to new buzz-words, slang, colloquial expressions and misunderstanding. One such expression is "don't shoot the messenger," which refers to the ancient, barbaric practice of killing the hapless bearer of bad news in the hope that it would somehow alleviate the situation.

Today we have progressed from our misconceptions of the past, we do not "shoot the messenger". *We silence him.*

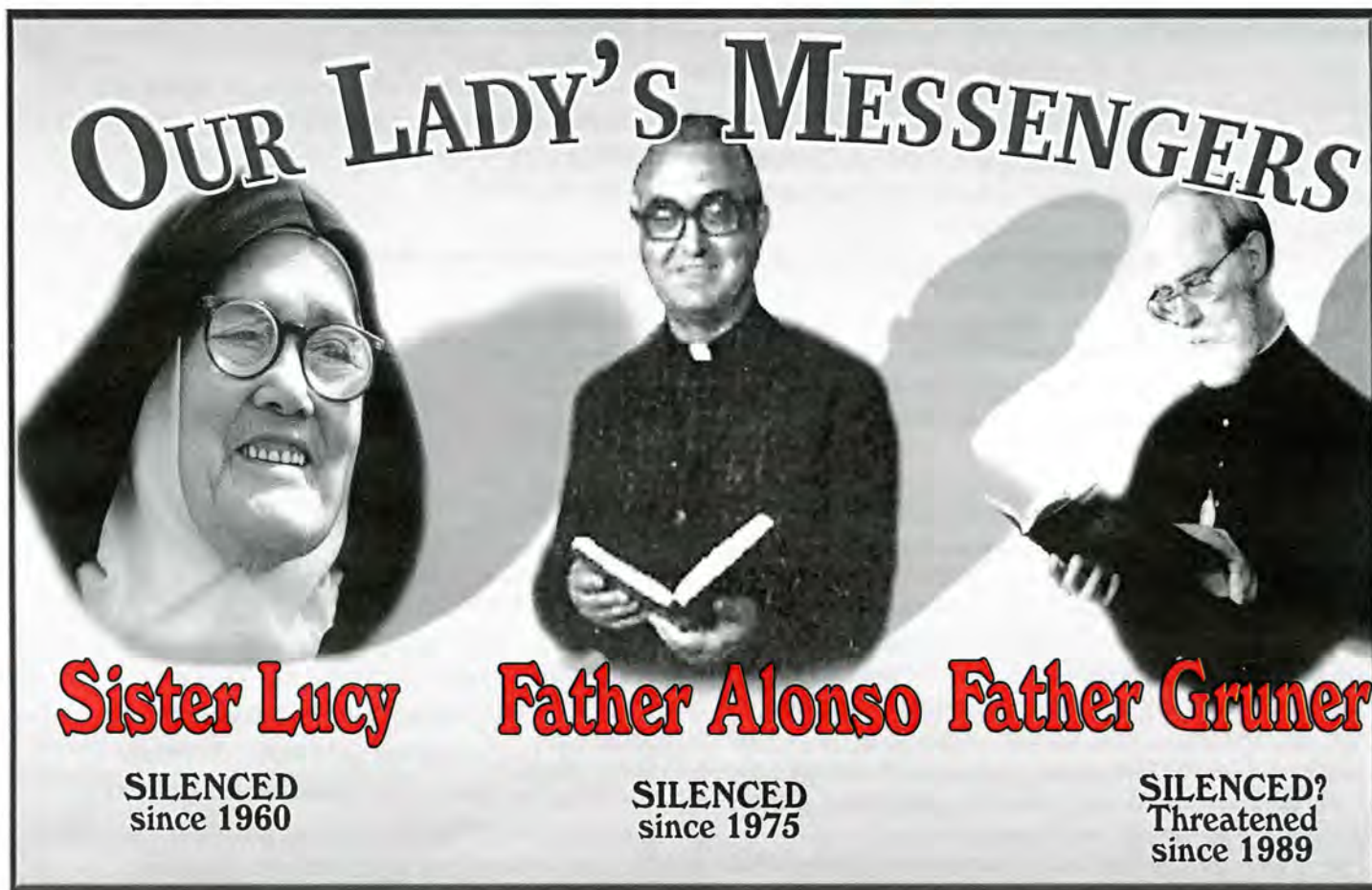
Sister Lucy has been "silenced" by Church authorities who do not want her to talk about the contents of the Third Secret, written on one sheet of paper. These Church "leaders" have taken it upon themselves to ignore Heaven's request to release the full contents of the Third Secret of Fatima. They claim that "since up to the present (1959), Sister Lucy has said everything she believed it her duty to say about Fatima, she has said nothing new and consequently has authorized nobody, at least since February 1955, to publish anything new that might be attributed to her on the subject of Fatima." (*The Whole Truth About Fatima - Vol. III, The Third Secret*, page 550) They anonymously withheld the promised information in 1960.

In 1981 Father Alonso passed away leaving behind a 24-volume work on Fatima. His research could not be published because of an ecclesiastical ban.

And now it is Father Gruner, a messenger since 1978, who is coming under the gun. The enemies of Our Lady and Her message of peace have used every resource available to them to try to force Father Gruner into silence. This priest in good standing is being persecuted for not being silent about the Catholic Church-approved Message of Fatima. They have used Papal Nuncios to spread fear into the hearts of bishops to dissuade them from attending Peace Conferences organized by Father Gruner's Apostolate.

They have blocked his incardination in two benevolent dioceses; they have demanded he return to the diocese of Avellino, Italy to do virtually nothing, knowing that such a demand is morally and legally (both in Church law and in Italian civil law) impossible to obey. For upholding and obeying the law, he is attacked and slandered.

What do Sister Lucy, Father Alonso and Father Gruner have in common? They are all messengers. The message? The whole Fatima Message, including the full Third Secret and the absolute necessity for the Consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary by the Pope, together with all the bishops at the same time, to obtain world peace — before it is too late. †





### Dear Father Gruner,

I know you are extremely busy with your apostolate and that you probably cannot begin to read all of the mail that comes your way, but it is my hope that you read this letter. It is a remarkable story, one that demonstrates just how God works in our lives and if you pray and listen, you are able to discern and follow His lead.

About 4½ years ago, I happened to catch your program on TV. I began to follow you and also began to read *The Fatima Crusader*. I pledged \$10.00 to you and I am ashamed to say I never sent it. My reason? As I read *The Fatima Crusader*, I formed the opinion that you were speaking against the Pope. It was my own opinion, a wrong one, I now can see. Nevertheless, I felt at that time it would be wrong to support you.

Now we come to the point in time where God opened my eyes and heart. When I first saw you, I had just come “home” (back to the Church) after having been away for many years. I got a job in a Christian (mostly Catholic) store. I began reading and informing myself more and more. Early this year, a friend of my mother’s gave her a book to give to me. I put it on the bookshelf and it sat there for months. A month ago I picked it up and began to read it. I couldn’t get that book out of my mind no matter what. I knew in my heart I had to read it. Once I picked it up, I could not put it down. About the same time I began attending the Tridentine Mass. The name of the book was *Fatima Priest*.

Father Gruner, I am very sorry that I let you down. I have learned so much in the last five years. At first I was very happy with the parish I joined and I became very involved. Little things kept happening such as when I went to confession, Father would say “weren’t you just here?” or “Is that all?”. I went to Father with concerns about my son’s public school education — new age concepts, and Father laughed at me. I had read books on the “New Age” and then saw exactly the same in a notebook my son brought home. Father thought it was simply very creative.

I began to notice the lack of reverence at Mass. You

can’t even pray in church before Mass because everyone is chatting and laughing. I watch kids fight during Mass, people chat during the Consecration, then they get up and receive Our Lord with their hands hung at their sides, chatting and shaking hands on the way up. No one genuflects anymore, women sometimes in short skirts or revealing clothing, are lectors or eucharistic ministers. Our Sunday bulletin has contained an article by Father about tradition. He stated that there are some people who would go backwards in time and are not to be listened to.

Father Gruner, what are we to do? For now, we do have the Latin Mass but I don’t look for it to remain long.

Father Gruner, I will be sending you that \$10.00 and I wish I had more.

I thank you for your Apostolate and your love of our Church. I thank you for being traditional. I don’t know a priest I feel comfortable going to anymore and it is refreshing to know there are good and holy priests out there and that you are one of them.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rhea S., PA

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apparent in Andrew Cesanek’s article, “China: a Threat to Peace” in *The Fatima Crusader*, Issue 65) that the companies who deal with Communist China should hold their heads in shame. But, unfortunately, greed can impair the senses of many a corporate executive.

#### **It’s Time for an About-Face**

U.S. politicians should re-examine their stand on Russia and China. Trade has taken precedence over human rights issues. †

#### **We’d like to hear from YOU!**

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