



League of the Immaculate Heart Newsletter

"MY IMMACULATE HEART WILL TRIUMPH"

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The Source of Our Adoration: God's Supreme and Infinite Majesty

by Blessed Abbot Columba Marmion

When, in prayer, we contemplate the perfections and works of God, when a ray of divine light reaches us, what is the first movement of the soul touched by grace? It is one of self-abasement; the soul is lost in adoration. This attitude of adoration is the only "true" one that the creature, as such, can have before God.

What is adoration? It is the avowal of our inferiority before the Divine perfections; it is the acknowledgment of our absolute dependence in face of Him Who, alone, is of Himself, the plenitude of Being; it is the homage of our subjection in face of the infinite Sovereignty. When a creature does not remain in this attitude, it is not in the truth.

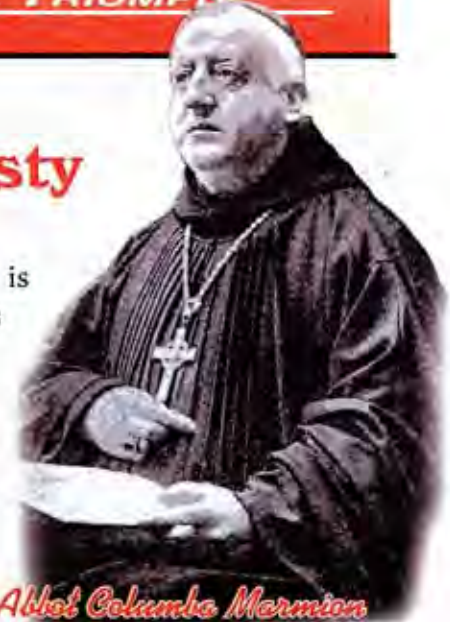
In Heaven, the Blessed are locked in God's embrace, an embrace surpassing all that the most ardent love can imagine; they are possessed by God, they possess Him in the essence of their soul; God is all in them; and yet they do not cease to be lost in deep reverence... Should not the annihilation of self be likewise our law here below? When faith, which is the prelude to the Beatific Vision, makes us touch something of God's unfathomable perfections, we at once cast ourselves down in adoration. The soul understands, under a strong inner light, what a close contact there may be between itself and God; it beholds the infinite contrast of the two terms: littleness and lowliness contrasted with greatness and majesty; greatness and majesty contrasted with littleness and lowliness.

The soul may moreover concentrate its attention the more upon the one or other of these two terms of the relation. Is it upon the term: "God"? The soul tends to *adore* Him. Is it the term of "self"? The soul tends to *humble* itself. It is at the precise instant of our self-annihilation in presence of the Divine Maj-

esty that humility is born in the soul. As soon as reverence towards God fills the soul, it is like the source whence humility springs up. If this cause is lacking, humility cannot exist. This is a point which cannot be too much insisted

upon. We see how eminently humility is a "religious" virtue, permeated with religion, and therefore essentially proper to our state.

We understand too, how important it is, in order to strengthen humility, to give ourselves up to the contemplation of the Divine perfections. God is Almighty: "He spoke and all things were made." With a word, He drew out of nothing a wonderful creation; and this creation which is so beautiful, these legions of angels, these nations of human beings, so great and numerous, are in regard to Himself, like an atom, as if they existed not. He is eternal; all creatures pass away or pay their tribute to the order of succession, while He remains immutable in the full and sovereign possession of His perfections. So perfect is He that He has no need of anyone. His infinite wisdom attains all His designs with strength and sweetness; His adorable justice is equity itself; His goodness and



Abbot Columba Marmion

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Have you wondered about the Apostolate's visits to bishops throughout the world? One of our workers, Mrs. Mairead Clarke, kept a travel journal during her trip to Nigeria last fall. Here are some extracts, adapted for your consideration.

Mrs. Clarke was able to share a cab from an airport that had no public transportation. Her travelling



Mairead Clarke is shown here assisting in the distribution of rice, a staple food of the people affected by the 2004 tsunami disaster.

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companion for the fare was a woman doctor who had given up her practice in order to do advocacy work for the poor.

“She explained that as a doctor she had seen many cases where the children were malnour-

ished, and had thought that the parents just did not know how to feed the children. But that through experience, she had learned that the parents did not have the funds to feed the children nor themselves. She asked about my reason for travelling in Nigeria. I explained. She told me that she had married a Catholic and converted many years ago.”

“Contrary to information published on Nigeria, this country is very large. The Archdiocese of Lagos alone covers an area of 3,345 sq. kms. It seems that the diocese is approximately the same size as the state. Lagos city roads are in terrible condition. Until the road deteriorates to extreme conditions, it is not repaired. Currently the roads in the vicinity of the hotel, are so bad, that the overnight thunder storms have filled the elephant traps, (very large potholes) and all traffic comes to a standstill. This applies to the downtown area as well. The open drains at the side of the road simply cannot carry the overload of rain. Walking is treacherous, as some roads are bricked, and stepping on the overturned bricks submerged in dirty water could cause feet and legs seri-

ous damage. This applies to the downtown area and the main roads as well as the side streets.

“This morning I decided that it was time to send some of the reports that I had gotten ready. Off I go to the internet place. But only as far as the hotel gate. There has been more rain overnight and the street is now, including the sand sidewalk, totally under water, in both directions. Since the street is so bad, the regular taxis (yellow cabs) will not go up or down the street. The assistant manager is very helpful, but afraid for my safety.”

Mrs. Clarke had an appointment in Kaduna on this particular morning. Arrangements could not be made in advance of her arrival, so she needed to negotiate her travel. After being told that the trip should be two or three hours by car, she enquired about a bus, to save on expenses. But, she is warned, road travel is difficult enough by car! Not only is the bus a longer and more dangerous ride, but “many times the buses are stopped and police expect payment from the driver and passengers. If the police or army find the bus or driver to not be in conformity with the laws, the passengers will be stranded and the bus held.”

Negotiations for travel that day were challenging, at best. On another day, traffic in the city she was visiting was tied up by army training exercises, so that it took hours to get out of town. But once they got out of the city, “There was no sign of army training or exercises, so we made good time as far as the other side of Owerri. However, there the road, as we recognize roads, ended. We hit major road works, at which point I closed my eyes and prayed like fury. There was at least a ten-foot drop with nothing between the dirt track we were on and the bottom. Where there had been road, it had disintegrated in places which looked remarkably like sink holes to me.

“The whole area is nothing but sand. When I looked down to where the heavy machinery were smoothing the promised road, it was sand all the way. All I could think of was that one wrong move, the pavement would give way and we would go hurtling to our deaths. I was not being unrealistic, as I had seen areas where the sand had washed out from under the road and rusting vehicles were upended at

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Visits to Jesus

by Father Stefano Manelli, O.F.M. Conv., S.T.D.

Jesus is in our tabernacles, and this fact we call the Real Presence. The same Jesus Who was sheltered by Mary Immaculate within Her virginal body, is in the little body of a white Host. The same Jesus Who was whipped, crowned with thorns, and crucified as a Victim for the sins of the world, remains in the ciborium in the Host as a Victim sacrificed for our salvation. The same Jesus Who rose from the dead and ascended into Heaven, where He now is gloriously reigning at the right hand of the Father, resides on our altars, surrounded by a multitude of countless adoring Angels – a sight that Blessed Angela a Foligno beheld in a vision.

The saints desired no more than the privilege of keeping inseparable company with Him, both in their affections, and by bodily presence. Being ever with our beloved – is this not one of the primary things true love calls for? Indeed it is; and, therefore, we know that visits to the Blessed Sacrament and the Eucharistic Benediction were the secret yet evident loves of the Saints. The time of paying a visit to Jesus is wholly the time of love – a love we will resume practicing in Paradise, since love alone “does not come to an end.” (I Cor. 13:8) Saint Catherine of Genoa made no blunder in saying, “The time I have spent before the tabernacle is the best spent time of my life.”

How often does it happen that we pass by a church? Are we perhaps rather thoughtless and callous? The Saints hoped they would meet a church along the road they were taking; whereas, we are quite indifferent, even if we find churches before us. Ven. J.J. Olier wrote: “When there are two routes to get me to a certain place, I take the one on which I meet more churches, in order to be nearer the Blessed Sacrament. When I see a place where my Jesus is, I am so happy, and I say, ‘You are here, my God and my All.’”

St. Alphonsus Rodrigues was a door-keeper. His duties often took him by the chapel door; and



then he would never fail to at least look in to give Our Lord a loving glance. When he left the house and when he returned, he always visited Jesus to ask His blessing.

St. Augustine has left us an account about his mother, St. Monica, which tells how, every day, besides attending Mass, she went twice to visit Our Lord, once in the morning and once in the evening. Another holy mother of seven children used to do the same, Blessed Anna Maria Taigi. And St. Wenceslaus, King of Bohemia, used to make frequent trips, day and night, even in the rigors of winter, to visit the Blessed Sacrament in churches.

Here is another happy example in a royal family. When St. Elizabeth of Hungary was a little girl and used to play about the palace with her companions, she would always pick a spot near the chapel so that every now and then, without being noticed, she might stop by the chapel door, kiss the lock, and say to Jesus, “My Jesus, I am playing, but I am not forgetting You. Bless me and my companions. I will see You again.” What simple devotion! †

Other News

Summer Reading: Check www.fatimashoppe.org for graduation, First Communion and wedding gifts, or for your own spiritual reading. You may want to order *Fatima! Through the Eyes of a Child*, for someone you know; or perhaps a statue for the mantel of someone's new house.

Issue 49 of *The Fatima Crusader*, "The Magnificent Promise for the Five First Saturdays" has been reprinted. You may obtain copies in English, Spanish or Portuguese by contacting the Volunteer Department, 1-800-263-8160 or e-mail: fatima@forterie.com.

Please pray for: Jim Bubb, a volunteer, who had a massive stroke while standing on the church steps after Sunday Mass. Jim and his wife Brenda have long been supporters of the Fatima Center. Brenda has made countless Green Scapulars and other sacramentals over the years. She begs your prayers for herself, too, and for the family.

Please let us know your scapular and Miraculous Medal stories. These are always encouraging to others. Also, how have you distributed the "Three Hail Marys" pamphlet? We need your creative ideas and successes. Please continue to pray for the success of the Fatima Peace Conference to be held in Spain and Portugal this coming October. We must remember the adage, 'To work as if everything depends on us; to pray as if everything depends on God.' †

**THE SOURCE OF OUR ADORATION:
GOD'S SUPREME AND INFINITE MAJESTY**
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power are unequalled; He has but to open His hand to fill every living creature with blessings.

And what accents would have to be found to celebrate the Divine works in the supernatural order? We have many times spoken of the magnificence of the Divine Plan. God wills to make us His children by making us partakers of the very filiation of His Son Jesus, and thus cause us to draw eternal beatitude at the very fountainhead of the Divinity. The Masterpiece of the eternal thoughts which is Christ, the wonderful mysteries of the Incarnation, the Passion, the Resurrection and the triumph of Jesus, the institution of the Church and the Sacraments, grace, the virtues, the gifts of the Holy Spirit, all this marvellous supernatural order has come forth from this movement of the Heart of God so as to make us His children. It is an admirable order, a work of power, of wisdom and love of which the spectacle ravished St. Paul.

When our souls contemplate these Divine perfections and works, not according to a philosophy that would make of it an abstract, cold and dry study, but in prayer, and, when God touches us with His light, all terrestrial superiorities are effaced, all created perfections appear as nothingness, all human greatness fades away like smoke. Before this omniscient, this sovereign wisdom, this absolute power, this august sanctity, this justice into which not the least movement of passion enters; before this boundless goodness, this inexhaustible tenderness and mercy, the soul cries out: "Who is like to Thee, O my

God?" And how profound are Thy thoughts! An intense reverence seizes us to the very depths of our souls, and we are lost in our nothingness: what are we, what are the celestial spirits, what are the human multitudes, in face of this wisdom, this power, this eternity, this holiness? †

NEWS FROM THE APOSTOLATE: ON THE ROAD
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the side. I saw little more until we were into the town. Closed eyes was less harrowing."

These are just some "road notes." During this trip, Mrs. Clarke endured extreme heat, fatigue, mosquitos and other crawling creatures, robbery and more, in order to reach bishops who were sometimes hostile to the Message of Fatima. Other times, however, Mrs. Clarke was received with kindness and curiosity about Our Lady's request to consecrate Russia to Her Immaculate Heart. Some bishops are ignorant of the whole story, or have heard only pieces. The Fatima Center offers materials free of charge to these bishops who are so far removed from our world. They are often astonished at such an offer: Free! "They are a gift from our supporters, who urgently desire Our Lady's Message be preached around the world, and Her request fulfilled. Our supporters desire the peace that only Our Lady can obtain." †

We'd like to hear from YOU! Write or call:

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