

# League of the Immaculate Heart Newsletter

"MY IMMACULATE HEART WILL TRIUMPH"

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## Jesus Our Eucharistic Love

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

### Knowing, Loving, Living the Eucharist

**H**ow shall we receive the Eucharist with a pure and ardent heart, as the Saints have done? It should never be too much trouble for us to grow familiar with this unspeakable mystery. Meditation, study and reflection on the Eucharist should have an important place each day on our time-table. It will be the time of our day richest in blessings.

In order to explore at least some of the immense riches stored up in the Mystery of the Eucharist, let us undertake an exercise which, while one and constant, uses the mind, the heart and the will.

First, it uses the mind. Here one meditates in an attentive, orderly way on the Eucharist. This may be done with books which lead us to personally uncover and deeply ponder this Mystery of Love. A simple booklet which is rich in content is St. Alphonsus M. de Liguori's *Visits to the Blessed Sacrament and to the Blessed Virgin Mary*. Also, there are the two precious booklets by St. Peter Julian Eymard entitled, *The Real Presence* and *Holy Communion*.

We should, above all, turn to the school of St. Peter Julian Eymard, who was unequalled as an Apostle of the Eucharist. His vocation and mission was to lead all Christians to the Eucharist. When he founded the Congregation of Priests of the Blessed Sacrament, he offered his life for the Eucharistic reign of Jesus. At that time he wrote these ardent words: "Here, dear Jesus, is my life. Behold me

ready to eat stones and to die abandoned, just so that I may succeed in erecting a throne for Thee and give Thee a family of friends, a nation of adorers."

If we but knew the gift of God Who is Love and Who gives Himself to us as a Gift full of Love! "The Eucharist," said St. Bernard, "is that love which surpasses all loves in Heaven and on earth." And St. Thomas Aquinas wrote: "The Eucharist is the Sacrament of Love: It signifies Love, It produces Love."

St. Peter Eymard declares, "The Eucharist is the supreme proof of the love of Jesus. After this, there is nothing more but Heaven itself." Yet, how many of us Christians have no idea of the vast extent of the love contained in the Eucharist.

Second, to explore the riches of the Eucharist, we use the heart. Love for the Eucharist must spring from the heart and be ever alive in us all. Now even love needs exercise. The heart needs to be exercised to love the true God, to long for "the author of Life." (Acts 3:15)

Holy Communion represents the loftiest point of this exercise of love, Whose consuming flames unite the heart of a creature and Jesus. St. Gemma Galgani could exclaim in this regard, "I can no longer avoid the thought that in the wonderful scope of His Love, Jesus makes Himself perceptible



### In this issue:

Jesus Our Eucharistic Love .....	1
News from the Apostolate .....	2
Thoughts on Christ's Sufferings .....	3
Sad News, R.I.P. ....	4

Continued on page 2

and shows Himself to His lowliest creature in all the splendors of His Heart.” And what may we say about the “exercises” of the heart of St. Gemma, who desired to be a “tent of love” in which she would keep Jesus always with her? She longed to have a “little place in the ciborium” to be able to stay always with Jesus. She asked that she could become “a flaming ball afire with love” for Jesus.

When St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus had become quite ill, she dragged herself with great effort to church to receive Jesus. One morning, after Holy Communion, she was in her cell, exhausted. One of the Sisters remarked that she should not exert herself so much. The Saint replied, “Oh, what are these sufferings to me in comparison with one Holy Communion?” Her sweet complaint was that she could not receive Holy Communion every day. (It was not permitted in her times.) She ardently pleaded with Jesus: “Remain within me, as You do in the Tabernacle. Do not ever withdraw Your presence from Your little Host.”

St. Catherine of Siena said often to her confessor: “Father, I am hungry; for the love of God give this soul her food, her Lord in the Eucharist.” She also confided: “When I am not able to receive my Lord, I go into the church, and there I look at Him ... I look at Him again ... and this satisfies me.”

This we call “exercise of the heart.”

Third, to find the riches of the Eucharist, one should exercise the will. One must do this by bringing the divine lessons of the Eucharist into his life. What good would it be to discover the infinite worth of the Eucharist as we ponder It and seek to

love It at Communion time, if we do not then proceed to live It?

The Eucharist teaches a love that goes beyond telling. It teaches total self-sacrifice, and an unequalled lesson in humility and self-effacement. It teaches patience and unrestricted dedication. But what do we draw from all this? We surely ought to achieve something! Can we continue to be indifferent and do nothing when Jesus has loved us and still loves us with this great generosity “even to the end”? (John 13:1)

If we feel frail, we need to turn to Him, to speak to Him and not tarry about asking His help and support, for He is the very One Who said, “Without Me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5) First of all let us go before Him: “Come to Me ... and I will refresh you.” (Matt. 11:28) Let us often visit Him, entering a church every time we can and pausing a little while before the tabernacle, and put both our heart close to Him and our body before His! The Saints were constantly eager to make visits to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, to make Holy Hours of adoration, spiritual communions, ejaculatory prayers and earnest acts of love that come from the heart. How much profit they gained from this and how much good they passed on! †

***From the Editor:* All three of the books mentioned above are available from Our Lady’s Book Service. Contact us at the address information on page 4 of this Newsletter to order your copies.**



## Rosary Rally Schedule

To carry the Message of Fatima, and to encourage devotion to the Most Holy Rosary of Our Lady, we arrange “Fatima Rosary Rallies” throughout the year in various cities in North America and overseas. Attendees will have the opportunity to welcome the Pilgrim Virgin Statue, pray the Rosary, and meet with other

volunteers. They may also be invested in the Brown Scapular. Past attendees of our Rosary Rallies have found the rallies to be stimulating and uplifting (and even fun!). Please contact Brunetta, at 1-800-263-8160 or email her at: [fatimamarketing@lastmilenet.ca](mailto:fatimamarketing@lastmilenet.ca).

## Web News:

Fatima Radio will be airing a series of interviews with Father Malachi Martin. They can be heard on Wednesdays and Sundays at 9:30 a.m., 2:30 and 6:30 p.m. They may be heard again the following Sunday. If you have not heard the late Father Martin, you will find his comments

*Continued on page 3*

# Thoughts on Christ's Sufferings

by Abbot Marmion

**H**ow holy souls are touched and how they humble themselves when they consider Christ's sufferings. On the night of the Passion, Peter, the Prince of the Apostles to whom Christ had revealed His glory upon Thabor, who had just received Holy Communion from Jesus' own hands, Peter, at the voice of a servant-maid, denies His Master. Soon afterwards, the gaze of Jesus, abandoned to the caprices of His mortal enemies, meets that of Peter. The Apostle understands; he goes out, and bitter tears flow from his eyes: *Flevit amare*. [Mt. 26:75]

A like effect is produced in the soul that contemplates the sufferings of Jesus with faith: it, too, has followed Jesus, with Peter, on the night of the Passion; it, too, meets the gaze of the Divine Crucified, and that is for it a true grace. Let us often keep close in the footsteps of the Suffering Christ, by making the "Way of the Cross." Jesus will say to us: "See what I have suffered for thee; I have endured a three hours' agony, endured the desertion of My disciples, and having My Face spat upon, the false witnesses, the cowardice of Pilate, the derision of Herod, the weight of the Cross beneath which I fell, the nakedness of the gibbet, the bitter sarcasms of My most deadly enemies, the thirst which they would have quenched with gall and vinegar, and, above all, the being forsaken by My Father. It was for thee, out of love for thee, to expiate thy sins that I endured all; with My Blood I have paid thy debts; I underwent the terrible exigences of Justice that mercy might be shown to thee!" Could we remain insensible to such a plea! The



gaze of Jesus upon the Cross penetrates to the depths of our soul and touches it with repentance, because we are made to understand that sin is the cause of all these sufferings. Our heart then deplores having really contributed to the Divine Passion. When God thus touches a soul with His light, in prayer, He grants it one of the most precious graces that can be. †

**APOSTOLATE NEWS**  
continued from page 2

riveting. You can see the complete broadcast schedule of the Malachi Martin interviews by going to: [www.fatimaradio.org/malachi/](http://www.fatimaradio.org/malachi/). *Don't miss them!*

You may also want to visit the website to join in the daily recitation of the Rosary, which is broadcast three times a day at 8 a.m., 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. EST, or to see the complete programming schedule. Materials and books are also available at [fatima.org](http://fatima.org). Or click on Fatima Bookstore to browse

our gift selection available for purchase online.

## **Educational Programs and Outreach:**

The Fatima Center works constantly to spread the complete Message of Fatima, to teach the need for reparatory sacrifice and to encourage devotion to Our Lady. You may be interested to know that in 2005, the total number of pieces of literature and sacramentals given free was over 6,000,000!

We think this is a great accomplishment and

*Continued on page 4*

your contributions have helped us to reach that number.

## Bishops' Visits

We continue to visit bishops around the world to discuss the full Message of Fatima. We let them know about our teaching materials and the availability of sacramentals, which we offer for free. Many are surprised to learn that the Consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart has not yet been done in the manner Our Lady requested.

We learn about some of the difficulties our bishops face in other countries. For example, evangelical sects are everywhere in Africa and South America. One bishop recounted that on one building there were three signs for three different evangelical sects, all housed in that

building! He worries that his people are not well versed in the Faith, they are unable to answer the accusations against the Roman Catholic Church, and so are persuaded to abandon the Faith. Young people in particular are at risk; to counter these purveyors of false doctrine, he is working to develop Catholic student unions in the universities. He was pleased to see the materials we showed. And he was astonished and grateful that we could provide them for free, thanks to your generosity.

Many other bishops express this same amazement that our materials are provided free of charge. Their living conditions are not consistent with our standards. Sometimes we have found that bishops do not have the facilities to play audio-visual materials we would like to give them. †

## Sad News, R.I.P

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Father Gregory Hesse, a long-time friend of the apostolate, who died on January 25, of complications due to diabetes. Father Hesse, S.T.D., J.C.D., was ordained in 1981 in Saint Peter's Basilica. He held doctorates in both Thomistic Theology and Canon Law. From 1986-88 he served as Secretary to Cardinal Stickler at the Vatican. He spoke at the Fatima Center's Bishops' Conference in Rome in 1996 and at many other gatherings. He was a contributor to *The Devil's Final Battle*; he also helped edit the Italian translation of the book. He was pleased that the book was sent to 9,000 priests in Italy last Spring. Father was also preparing the German translation when he died. Father was an outspoken critic of the post-

Vatican II "reforms". He was devoted to the Rosary and, wherever he went he urged souls to pray fifteen decades daily and to wear the scapular. He had a great love for Our Lady.

Father was at home when he was overcome by an erupted blood vessel in his head. Managing to get himself to the hospital, he was told there that his condition was hopeless. Within a few minutes, he had slipped into a coma.

Meanwhile, another priest stopped by the house to visit. He learned that his friend had gone to the hospital, so he went at once to assist his colleague. At the hospital, where no priest had been called to assist Father Hesse, he found Father and gave him Last Rites. Shortly afterwards, Father Hesse passed away. Our Lady protected Her servant in the hour of his death, insuring that he receive the Sacraments to prepare him to meet Her Son. †



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

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*Eternal rest grant unto him,  
O Lord, and may perpetual light  
shine upon him. Requiescant in pace.*