



# League of the Immaculate Heart *Newsletter*

*"MY IMMACULATE HEART WILL TRIUMPH"*

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## Our Lord's Eighth Day

*The Church is always careful about the private revelations to mystics. She regards such information cautiously until the seers and the doctrinal soundness have been investigated thoroughly.*

*But those visionaries who have been approved offer to the contemplative reader a wealth of detail that may aid in his meditation and understanding. Some years ago, Raphael Brown compiled *The Life of Mary, as Seen by the Mystics*, drawing information from the revelations of St. Elizabeth of Schoenau, St. Bridget of Sweden, Ven. Mother Mary of Agreda and Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich. Here is an extract, to open a window on the circumcision of Our Lord:*



In the eighth day therefore, after having duly prepared everything in the stable, St. Joseph went to Bethlehem and returned with a dignified, elderly priest and his two assistants. At first, the priest was somewhat astonished and shocked at the primitiveness and poverty of the Holy Family's home. But the young Mother of God welcomed him with such modesty and grace that he was soon moved to deep respect and devotion toward such a saintly person. And when he saw the divine Child in Her arms, his soul was filled with tender mystic reverence for the adorable Babe of Bethlehem.

The ceremony was to take place at the entrance to the grotto, not far from the crib. St. Joseph lighted two candles and the priests began to recite some prayers. When the old priest asked Mary to give Her Son to the two assistants and to withdraw a bit so that She should not have to witness the painful sacrifice, the Mother of God hesitated, torn between Her spirit of humble obedience on the one hand and Her love and reverence for Jesus on the other. Finally She meekly requested to be allowed to stay and to hold Her Son in Her arms, as She did not wish to leave Him at such a moment. She asked only that the operation be performed as delicately as possible on account of the Child's unusual sensitiveness.

The priest consented, and Mary then unwound Her baby's swaddling clothes and drew from Her bosom a linen towel **continued on page 2**



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which which She had placed there in order to warm it, as the weather was very cold that day. After sitting down and spreading out this towel on Her lap, She placed Her Child on it, and the priest then proceeded to perform the ceremony of circumcision with a small flint knife, while St. Joseph recited the ritual prayer:

“Blessed be Jehovah the Savior. He hath sanctified His well-beloved from the womb of His Mother and hath written the law in our flesh. He hath signed His Son with the sign of His Covenant, that He may impart to Him the blessings of Abraham our father.”

– To which the assistants responded:

“Blessed be He whom Thou hast chosen for Thy child!”

Now, with infinite love, the divine Son of God offered up to His Father in Heaven the sacrifice of this first shedding of His Precious Blood as a pledge that He would one day give it all for the Redemption of mankind. True to His human nature, the tiny Babe of Bethlehem cried as other children do, though His tears were caused more by supernatural sorrow over the hardheartedness of men than by His physical pain, which was intense.

As usual His holy Mother perceived and felt all that He was doing and suffering, and She too wept. When the rite was over, in mutual love and compassion the Child clung to His Mother while She tenderly caressed and comforted Him as She wrapped Him again in His swaddling clothes.

After some more prayers, the priest asked the parents what name they wished to give the Child. Both Mary and Joseph now said at the same time:

“Jesus is His name!”

Then, while the old priest recited a prayer, a luminous angel appeared before him and showed him the name of Jesus written on a piece of wood. Profoundly moved and shedding tears of supernatural joy, the priest inscribed the Holy Name on a parchment register. And under the inspiration of divine grace, he exclaimed:

“I am convinced that this Child is to be a Prophet of the Lord! Take great care in raising Him, and let me know how I can relieve your needs.”

The ceremony being completed, Joseph and Mary gratefully offered a light meal to the priests and two shepherds who had also been present. And when the visitors left, Mary gave the old priest some candles as a gift. The three priests were good and devout men, and they later attained salvation.

When the Holy Family was alone again, as the Infant Jesus was crying from pain, Mary withdrew to the end of the grotto with Him, and sitting down, She lowered Her veil and soothed Him by nursing Him, weeping quietly as She did so.

During the day some poor persons came to the stable and St. Joseph generously gave them alms. But among them were some wandering beggars who insulted and cursed him because they were not satisfied with his presents.

That night Jesus' pain was so severe that He could not rest, and He often cried. So Mary and Joseph took turns walking up and down the grotto with Him. In moments when they were not grieving over His suffering, they sang canticles of praise and joy in honor of the Holy Name of Jesus.

A few days later St. Elizabeth came with an old servant to pay the Holy Family a visit. Mary was overjoyed when She affectionately embraced her cousin, who St. Joseph respectfully welcomed. Elizabeth wept as She reverently and lovingly clasped the Infant Jesus to her breast.

Mary and Elizabeth now had several long, intimate talks together, sitting side by side next to the crib. The Blessed Virgin told Her cousin all that She and St. Joseph had experienced, and when She described the trouble they had had in finding lodging, St. Elizabeth wept a great deal. And after the Mother of God had told her about the miraculous birth of Her son, Elizabeth said to Her:

“The birth of my John was indeed quite painless, but it certainly was very different.”

After St. Elizabeth left, various visitors came to see the Infant Jesus, bringing gifts. But Mary asked a woman who helped Her to distribute most of these presents among the poor families in Bethlehem. †

# The Council of Ephesus (431)

**T**here was once a bishop of Constantinople named Nestorius, who dared to say that the Blessed Virgin was not the Mother of God. “She is,” said he, “the Mother of Christ; that is, of a man, to whom the Son of God united Himself.” He dared to preach this from the pulpit, before the Faithful of Constantinople; but they arose in indignation, declaring that Jesus Christ was not only a man, that He was both God and man, and that the Blessed Virgin being His true Mother was the Mother of God, the real Mother of God. They appealed to the Pope, chief of Bishops, and infallible judge in matters of Faith.

Saint Celestine I, who was Pope at that time, summoned a General Council of all the Bishops, to meet in the City of Ephesus, in Asia Minor, in order to condemn the heresy of Nestorius.

The Council of Ephesus was opened with great solemnity in the year 431. In the early morning the people surrounded the Church of Saint Mary, where the Fathers of the Council had just gathered. All clamored for the honor of the Blessed Virgin to be vindicated. Nestorius, although summoned three different times before the Council, refused to appear. The house in which he had shut himself was guarded by a troop of soldiers, lent to him by a certain Count Candidien, the Ambassador of the Emperor.

At last by evening, the doors of the Council were thrown open, St. Cyril, Patriarch of Alexandria, the Pope’s legate proclaimed the Council’s Decree, which declared that the Blessed Virgin was truly the Mother of God; that Nestorius was guilty of blasphemy in saying the contrary; and that from then on he ceased to be Bishop and Patriarch of Constantinople. Immediately the whole city of Ephesus resounded with songs of joy: from every quarter was heard: “Long live Mary the Mother of God.” When the bishops left the church they were triumphantly escorted home by the light of a thousand torches. The air was filled with perfumes which were burned in pans by the women, in honor of the Fathers of the Council. The city was illuminated, and the joy felt by the children of God soon spread throughout the whole world.

As to Nestorius, at first he tried to resist the Pope and the Council, but the Emperor, informed of the truth, abandoned him, and condemned him to exile. He never consented to submit.

He lived eight years more, with rage in his heart and blasphemies on his lips. At last he died miserably, his body being putrified, and his tongue, that tongue which had blasphemed the Blessed Virgin, which had dared to say and to repeat: “If anyone says that Mary is the Mother of God let him be anathema,” that tongue was devoured by worms even before he had drawn his last breath. †

— From the Eymard Library



*The Blessed Virgin Mary*



### Newsflash!

**Y**ou may recall that last summer – with your generosity, we sent over 7,500 copies of the Italian edition of *The Devil's Final Battle* (DFB) to many priests in Italy. The Fatima Center has just received word that a major Italian writer has just had published a book which cites DFB extensively. The popular author was intrigued by the persistence of the Fatima Center's claim that the Third Secret has not yet been entirely released. He researched the topic extensively, and was able to



have access to highly-placed Vatican officials. To his own surprise, he has come to agree that the Vatican has not yet revealed the Third Secret. The author's renown, coupled with mass distribution of his latest work, puts the discussion of the Third Secret in the forefront of conversation throughout Italy. Please pray for Our Lady's will to be done. And watch for an upcoming *Fatima Crusader* for the complete story!

## On the Holy Mass

**O**f all the practices recommended by our holy religion – Morning and Evening Prayers, Prayers before and after meals, Visits to the Most Holy Sacrament, Rosary, Way of the Cross, etc. – the august Sacrifice of the Mass is the greatest, the most precious, and the most holy, as well as the most conducive to man's salvation.

Holy Mass was instituted by Christ Himself at the Last Supper. He commanded His Apostles to do the same that He had done, saying: "Do this in Commemoration of Me."

Assisting at holy Mass you should have the four-fold intention of *Adoration*, by which we acknowledge our dependence on God as the Ruler over life and death; of *Praise* and *Thanksgiving* for the benefits con-

The Volunteer Office recently received a call for help. 'Does one have to be enrolled in the Brown Scapular to receive the promises?'



Yes, we answered. 'My mother doesn't know if she was ever enrolled.' After some discussion about her background, it seemed reasonable to suppose that she had been. But this was not satisfactory. 'Do you have the enrollment formula; I need it right away.' We were eager to fax it to the caller. 'Well,' the caller replied, 'I'm in my mother's hospital room, and there is a priest here who will enroll her now. Could you dictate the formula over the phone?' This, we did. All the family was greatly relieved.

About a week later, we were notified that the mother had died a happy death, wearing the Scapular, and trusting in Our Lady's promises.

Is there someone you know who needs to put on the 'Garment of Grace'? You can request up to three free Scapulars from our office. †

ferred on us; of *Reparation* for our sins and negligences; of *Impetration* (*petition*), to implore of Him the graces necessary for our salvation. If you desire to implore other benefits from God through the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, very well, but do not forget the main intention.

You can offer the Mass in union with the priest for some particular end; for instance, to obtain the grace to practice a particular virtue, overcome a special temptation, or obtain any other favor either for yourself or your neighbor. †

We'd like to hear from YOU! Write or call:  
**The Editor,**  
**League of the**  
**Immaculate Heart Newsletter,**  
IN U.S.A. – 17000 State Route 30,  
Constable, NY 12926  
IN CANADA – 452 Kraft Rd.,  
Fort Erie, ON L2A 4M7  
Call us toll-free at: 1-800-263-8160  
or fax us at: (905) 871-3646  
www.fatima.org • E-mail: info@fatima.org