



League of the Immaculate Heart *Newsletter*

"MY IMMACULATE HEART WILL TRIUMPH"

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A New Virtue

by Father Joseph Rickaby, S.J.

There is a virtue, which may be new to the hearing of many of us. It was discovered and named by Aristotle; and he called it by the pretty Greek name of *eutrapelia*. *Eutrapelia* may be defined "playfulness in good taste." Aristotle himself defines it: "a chastened love of putting out one's strength upon others." ... It is a defect of character to have no playfulness, no drollery, no love of witnessing or even creating a ridiculous situation. *Eutrapelia* knows exactly when and how to be funny, and where and when to stop. "All things have their season, say Ecclesiastes; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance (3: 1, 4). A proud and quarrelsome man is never a funny man. Many a difficulty, many an incipient quarrel, many a dark temptation, is dissipated the moment one catches sight of some humorous side to the matter. A humble man makes merry over his own misadventure; and when he is inclined to storm and rage, listens to a good angel whispering in his ear: "John, don't make a fool of yourself." A merry boy is seldom a bad boy.

Life is not all play: indeed it is a very serious thing; but on account of its very seriousness we require some play to set it off. That is why you find excellent men and great doers of good with an extraordinary faculty, which they use at times, of talking nonsense and playing the fool. *Eutrapelia* is a blend of playfulness and earnestness. Without

earnestness, playfulness degenerates into frivolity. "O Lord, give me not over to a shameless and foolish mind" (*Ecclus. 23:6*). We generally wear our lighter clothing underneath, and our heavier



St. Philip Neri was never frivolous, but had a blend of that playfulness and earnestness called 'eutrapelia.'

clothing above it; and perhaps that is the best way for a man, to veil his *eutrapelia* under a serious exterior. But for a boy the other way about is the better fashion; he should be playful and mirthful to the eye, but have seriousness and earnestness underneath, known only to those who know him well.

In the earliest days of the Society of Jesus, there was a novice much given to laughing. One day he met Father Ignatius, and thought that he was in for a scolding. But St. Ignatius said to him: "Child, I want you to laugh and be joyful in the Lord. A religious has no cause for sadness, but many reasons for rejoicing; and that you may always be glad and joyful, be humble always and always obedient." †

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Sanctify the Month

It is not too late to apply some resolutions to the new year. One thing that may help us in an earnest reform, is to break the resolution into smaller segments. The Church directs our devotions to a different intention each month. By considering these intentions, we may at the same time meditate upon the mysteries of the Faith, and form virtuous habits.

For example, let January be our opportunity to love Our Lord the better by meditating on His infancy, the sufferings He endured in His poverty: the cold, the hunger, the homelessness. Let our April meditations on the Holy Ghost and His gifts enable us to turn all these prayers and practices to help us grow in patience.

To further aid one to sanctify the months of the year, one may

The monthly devotions are usually arranged in the following order:

January	The Holy Infancy
February	The Holy Trinity (also the Holy Family)
March	Saint Joseph
April	The Holy Ghost (also, for Lent: the Passion)
May	The Blessed Virgin Mary
June	The Blessed Sacrament and the Sacred Heart of Jesus
July	The Precious Blood of Jesus
August	The Most Pure Heart of Mary
September	The Holy Cross
October	The Holy Rosary and the Holy Angels
November	The Holy Souls in Purgatory
December	(Advent) The Immaculate Conception.

One may assign to each month a virtue to cultivate:

January	Love of Jesus Christ
February	Humility
March	Mortification
April	Patience
May	Meekness – purity – the spirit of poverty
June	Obedience – piety – faithfulness to duty
July	Simplicity – faith – liberty of spirit – cheerfulness
August	The sanctification of our actions – diligence – edification – fidelity in little things
September	Piety – fervor in the performance of sacred duties – the spirit of prayer
October	Confidence
November	Charity – kindness
December	Conformity to the will of God – divine love.



choose a patron saint for each month, in whose honor one may cultivate a certain virtue. If you were to choose a patron for each month, whom would you choose? Would you choose a saint from the month, or would you make a list of your favorite saints, and honor each with a particular devotion for the month? Either would seem a good plan, but there are special graces given when we observe the Church's feasts according to the season. Thus it would seem more efficacious to choose a saint whose feast day is that month, and to

prepare for the feast day of that holy friend with a novena. Our honor to them will increase their glory in Heaven. But it will also be returned to us with their heavenly assistance now, and at the hour of our death.

So, get out your pencil and a calendar and write in your notes for the year! May our will to grow in virtue be fortified with the penances we offer. Prayer and penance will get 2008 off to a good start. †

Pride Before a Fall:

A Story about St. John Bosco

(Feast: January 31)

by Peter Lappin



When Don Bosco was ordained he was invited to preach at a distant parish. Given the distance, to get there he had to choose between hiring a carriage or riding a horse. He chose the horse, for ever since his student days, he had considered himself a good horseman.

He himself tells the story of what happened along the way: "I had already covered half the distance at a fast clip when suddenly a flock of sparrows swished up in front of me. My horse took fright and dashed off across the fields, taking hedges and ditches in his stride.

To my horror, the saddle kept slipping until finally the bellyband broke, the saddle fell off, and I was thrown on a pile of stone, landing on my head. I lay there for some time, unconscious and unable to move. Fortunately for me, someone had seen the fall. From a nearby farmhouse a man ran out and with the help of friends brought me to a house and laid me on a couch.

Where am I? I asked when I came to.

You're among friends, the man reassured me. The doctor will be here soon, so don't worry.

I don't think there's much wrong with me, I said. At most I may have a broken collar-bone for I can't move my arm. But, tell me, where am I?

You're in the Brina farmhouse, answered the man, so take it easy. I've been around and more than once have needed a little help myself. You've no idea of the things that can happen to a man going to the fairs.

While we're waiting for the doctor, I suggested, why don't you tell me about some of them.

I remember one autumn I went to buy stores for the winter, he began. On my way back I was coming over hilly country when my poor beast fell into a ditch. I tried to drag him out but he was in too deep and it was useless. Midnight came and a bitter wind blew across the hills. Worse still, it began to rain. I was desperate for I couldn't see how I was going to get out of such a mess. The only thing left was to say a prayer and call for help.

Although I had very little hope of anyone coming to that deserted spot in the middle of the night, I started to shout for help. Imagine how I felt when I saw several lights bouncing up and down in the darkness! Someone had heard my call for help!

In a very short time they had unloaded the beast, dragged it out of the ditch, and brought both of us to their house. I was half-dead and splat-

tered with mud but these people helped me clean up, gave me a hot meal, and to top it off made me sleep in the best bed in the house! The next morning I thanked them and asked them how I could repay them for their kindness.

The best way to repay us, said one of them who told me he was in the seminary, is to help the next man you meet who needs it. Maybe one day even we ourselves might want help from you.

When I heard the story, I was so moved that the man noticed it. Are you all right? he asked.

No, no, I assured him. It's not my wounds that are affecting me. It's the story you've just told me. Do you, by any chance, remember the name of the family?

Bosco I think, he said, *Bosco* it is! And if that seminarian is still alive, I'll bet he's a good priest today.

Again I could hardly control my feelings. My friend, I told him before he could become upset, the seminarian who helped you then is the priest you're helping now!

The man could scarcely believe his ears but I had no trouble proving to him that I was indeed that person. When the rest of the family heard the story they were all deeply moved. It was an excellent lesson to everyone in Christian charity.

In the midst of all this the doctor arrived. He pronounced me whole, although he advised me not to move for a day or two. A few days later, when it was time to go, I felt as if I were leaving my own relatives.

Besides the lesson in charity, that accident taught me a still more important lesson. It taught me that when I went out to preach I should put aside my own ambition and have at heart only one aim: the glory of God and the salvation of souls." †



The International Conferences we have held this past year or so in Spain, Brazil and India have kept us busy. The planning is only the first part. After the conferences, there is follow-up to be done. We endeavor to make the follow-up the foundation of long-term work with the priests and bishops who have attended the conferences.

A representative from the Fatima Center has been working closely with a priest in Brazil. They will establish a Fatima Center office there, and



Father Nicholas Gruner addresses the recent, successful *Only Way to World Peace* Conference, held in India.

continue the work begun at the Conference, especially by way of distribution of the materials so many requested when they attended the conference. More translations into Spanish and Portuguese (the language of Brazil) are being done, too.

The “Only Way to World Peace” conference held in India from January 30 to February 5 was the most successful ever! We distributed more than 517,000 pieces of literature, sacramentals and prayer cards. We received many heartfelt thanks from those at the conference. A bishop who attended wrote these words of encouragement: “Keep going onward, do not give up!”

Other News

I hope you have received your booklet *Pray the Rosary*. We think it is a small, but most powerful package to foster devotion to Our Lady of the Rosary. Not only does it offer brief meditations to aid



in praying the Rosary more fervently, but it also instructs one on what graces to ask for with each decade. The fifteen promises Our Lady gave for praying the Most Holy Rosary are listed.

For those who do not know how to pray the Rosary at all, there are detailed instructions. All the prayers of the Rosary are included in both English and

Latin. Instructions for praying the miraculous 54-day Rosary Novena are also included, along with a helpful chart for keeping track.

Our Lady of Fatima’s words about the Rosary are collected here, and so are the Seven Fatima Prayers of reparation. This last inclusion is particularly valuable, for no other Fatima apostolate teaches the two prayers that begin ‘Sweet Heart of Mary’ and ‘By Thy pure and Immaculate Conception’. In short, this is a booklet for everybody – even small children, who can study the attractive color pictures.

Please do not hesitate to request more copies for family or friends. Make up several zip-lock bags that each contain a Rosary and the booklet. Bring them to shut-ins, First Communion classes, fallen-away Catholics. Challenge yourself: How many people can you arm with this weapon to defeat Satan, aid the Pope, and bring about the salvation of souls? †

**We'd like to hear from YOU!
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