



# League of the Immaculate Heart Newsletter

**"MY IMMACULATE HEART WILL TRIUMPH"**

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## The Devil in Disguise

By Father Arthur Tonne

One night while the great St. Vincent Ferrer was at prayer, the devil appeared to him in disguise, saying he was one of the saintly fathers of the desert, come to give the young Dominican some advice. The devil began:

"In my youth I was very careless and sinful, but on reaching old age I began to think and prepare for death. I repented and am now in Heaven. I advise you to do as I did. You are still a young man. Go and enjoy the pleasures of the world. Then when you see the day of death approach, begin to lead a life of penance. God is so good that He will readily pardon you, and when you die the Lord will take you to Heaven, to enjoy unending delights in the company of the angels, and of so many others who were once sinners, as I was, but who are now glorious saints."

St. Vincent realized that the person before him was not one of the blessed, but that it was the devil in the disguise of a saint. At once St. Vincent cried out: "Begone, Satan. I have consecrated to God my youth as well as my old age, because I wish to give Him my whole life."

Seeing himself discovered, Satan fled.

The devil never comes to us as a devil. He comes in some attractive disguise. He comes as a gentleman in fine clothes and with courteous manner, he comes as an innocent young woman, he comes as a helper, he comes as one needing help. Always he chooses some costume or disguise that will catch us off our guard, some appearance that will appeal to us. He comes as one interested in our rights, our pleasures, our happiness.



Were he to come as he really is, ugly, repelling, with his wicked purpose painted on his wicked face, we would say at once: "Begone, Satan." Instead he comes as a friend or helper. He comes as one who wants to do something for us.

That is the way the devil came to Jesus in the Temptation in the Desert as described in the Gospel. As Jesus was hungry, the devil suggested that Our Lord turn stones into bread. A reasonable request apparently, but one designed to turn Christ from His purpose of fasting.

The tempter came to Adam and Eve, as a friend, as one who wanted to free them from an unjust prohibition. He would give them the knowledge of good and evil. He presented the forbidden fruit as something good to look at, good to taste, good to eat. Satan always works that way.

Satan comes to a young person and tells him: "God gave you your body and its appetites. Use them. It's not sinful; it's good for your health. It's self-expression, not sin."

To undermine the faith of a young man or woman, he does not come as he really is, hateful of Christ, but

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# God Permits Temptations for our Ultimate Welfare

By Dom Scupoli

**W**e are by nature proud, ambitious, and ever mindful to the whims of our sense appetites. Hence it is that we are apt to flatter ourselves continually, and esteem ourselves out of all proportion to our merit.

Such presumption is so great an obstacle to our spiritual progress, that the slightest taint of it impedes us in the attainment of true perfection. It is an evil which we do not always discern, but God, Who loves us and knows the true viciousness of presumption, is watchful in rescuing us from this deceit, waking us from the lethargy of self-love and bringing us to true self-knowledge.

Did He not once rescue the erring Peter when He permitted that apostle to deny Him, and forswear any knowledge of his Lord? Did He not grant to Peter self-knowledge and strength to cast aside his dangerous presumption? Did He not similarly deal with St. Paul when, in order to preserve him from this insidious vice and prevent him from making an improper use of the sublime revelations entrusted to him, He permitted a troublesome temptation to constantly remind the Apostle of his weakness?

Let us admire, then, the beneficence and wisdom of God, Who so treats us for our own good, favoring us imperceptibly, even when we imagine He is afflicting us.

We are perhaps prone to attribute our tepidity to our imperfections, and our emotional apathy toward the things of God; and we are easily persuaded that no one is so distracted or forsaken as ourselves, that God has no servants as wretched as we are, and that none but miscreants have their minds filled with thoughts like ours.

Thus by the effects of this heavenly medicine is the patient, once swollen with presumption, reduced in his own opinion to the status of an unworthy Christian.

Would such a transformation ever happen were man left to his own devices? Would man himself willingly descend from the lofty pinnacles of pride? Would he have been ever cured of his haughtiness? Would the illusory clouds of vanity have been dispelled from his head and heart without this divine remedy?

Humility is not the only benefit to be derived from such temptations, afflictions, and interior desolation which leaves the soul weary and disconsolate, depriving it of all emotional sweetness in devotion. For such trials compel us to have recourse to God, to fly from everything displeasing to Him, and to apply ourselves with greater dili-

gence to the practice of virtue. Such afflictions are a kind of Purgatory, which burn away the dross from our souls, and gain us crowns of glory when received with humility and patience.

The soul, convinced of the above truths, may judge whether or not it should be disturbed and grieves at losing a taste for devotional exercises or being engulfed in interior temptations. And it may judge too whether or not it is reasonable to attribute to the devil what comes from God, and to mistake the tokens of His tenderness for marks of His indignation.

On such an occasion all the soul needs do is to humble itself in the sight of God; to persevere and bear with patience the disgust it finds in exercises of devotion; to conform to the divine will, and try to preserve equanimity of soul by humble acquiescence to His decrees. For such is the will of our Father, Who is in Heaven.

Instead of languishing in sorrow and dejection, the soul should bloom forth into acts of thanksgiving, establishing itself in peace and submission to the appointments of Heaven. †



# News from the Apostolate

Dear friends, you will be heartened to know how  
*Our Lady's Apostolate has been making strides all around the world.*



## Philippines

Part from our North American office, our office in the Philippines is by far the best distributor of Apostolate publications and sacramentals. One of our oldest satellite offices, it

has become known in that country as a source of devotional and catechetical materials, as well as the source for the whole truth about Fatima. Lay people write and drop by our office requesting Brown and Green Scapulars, and we send these scapulars out by the thousands. Our Rosary booklets and *Crusader 49* on "The Magnificent Promise for the Five First Saturdays" are very popular. Priests also are requesting *Crusader 49* and related pamphlets to teach their own parishioners.

We asked Fatima Center staff what they thought caused this increased interest. The response was, 'Let's face it. People are looking at this world like it's crazy. They're looking back to what they learned as children.' In short, lay people and priests, concerned about the growing social disorder and the lack of spiritual roots in the present generation, are returning to God through Our Lady.

A practical result of this is that the Philippine office has for several months now been self-supporting. A spiritual result is that Our Lady is crushing the head of the serpent one little bit at a time. Whether or not Catholics are receiving the truth and spiritual assistance they need from their pastors, they are seeking these aids on their own. Our *Crusaders*, "Pray the Rosary" booklet and other materials remind them of the catechesis they learned as children; one by one, or perhaps family by family, people are grasping for their spiritual roots to regain their spiritual footing in this confusing world.

## By the way

Remember that the proper practice of the Five First Saturdays is not just a devotion of love for Our Lady, but also one of reparation to Our Lady's Immaculate Heart. This reparation involves proper confession, which repairs the order between an indi-

vidual soul and the Blessed Trinity. We cannot cooperate with God's will for us if we do not subordinate our own wills to His. Confession restores the subordination of the creature to the Creator. Thus, by our devotion of the Five First Saturdays, Our Lady leads us to our proper disposition to Almighty God. This is a particular remedy for our pride-filled times.

## The Secret Still Hidden

The Fatima Center is the distributor for the English and Italian editions of Christopher Ferrara's latest book, *The Secret Still Hidden*. We were forced to put on hold the release of the Italian hard-



cover edition because of recent financial constraints. A pre-publication run in soft cover, which is much less expensive both to produce and to mail was done with the help of overseas donors. We distributed these immediately to about 14,000 bishops, Cardinals, priests, canon lawyers, journalists and other lay people in Italy. We hope that we will be able to send many more additional copies to others in the Italian-speaking world, and look forward to releasing the hardbound edition to the general public when we have sufficient funds to do so.

The book can be ordered at [www.fatimashoppe.org](http://www.fatimashoppe.org) or at the address information on page 4 of this Newsletter.

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## Apostolate Events

Not everything that happens at the Fatima Center is strictly work and prayer. We paused last month for a little celebration of Father Gruner's 66<sup>th</sup> birthday. Family, friends and employees gathered



Sebastian Anthony

for a barbeque and cake on the grounds of the Fatima Center.

We also congratulate the head of the Rome office on his marriage this summer. Mr. Alessandro Fuligni was joined in the holy sacrament to his beloved Claudia. May Our Lady obtain for them every blessing.

And a fond farewell and thanks to Mr. Sebastian Anthony, a professional engineer, who has headed the India office from its beginning

seventeen years ago. He is retiring after this good service to the Apostolate, but will assist the

transition over the next few months to our new office manager, Brother Justin.

We are deeply grateful to friends who responded to our recent FatimaGram. Your generosity to Our Lady's Apostolate is heartening — and helpful. Know that you are in our daily prayers.



Alessandro Fuligni



## If you are in town ...

Visitors occasionally drop by when they are traveling through this area. You are welcome to visit the Fatima Center if you are in the Fort Erie area, and join us at Kraft Road for our procession and rosary on the 13<sup>th</sup> of every month from May

through October. Call the Fatima Center for more information, 1-866-871-7723. †

## THE DEVIL IN DISGUISE

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the tempter comes as a college professor, or a so-called scientist, delivers a lecture or writes a book that tears down all that is worthwhile. He disguises himself as a wise man, as one informed, as one speaking the last word in what is up to date and smart.

St. Paul pulled off this mask of the evil one when he warned the Christians of Corinth against false teachers who schemed to destroy their faith and morals: "Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light."

Shakespeare wrote that even the devil can quote Scripture to his purpose. Yes, in his words and ways the devil disguises himself. He hides his purpose in honeyed words. He hides his hideousness in dress suit and evening gown. He calls lust - love; he calls stealing - getting what belongs to you; he calls pride - asserting your rights; he calls doubt - using your own head; he calls disobedience - independence. He has a fine-sounding name and a bewitching costume for every kind of wrong.

Fortunately we know this; we know he comes to us in disguise. But how can we tell whether our tempter is sa-

tan or a saint? How can we recognize this wrongdoer?

The certain and unfailing test is our Catholic Faith. If what anyone tells you is contrary to Catholic Faith or Catholic morals, he is the devil in disguise. If he tells you to believe what the Church says is false; if he tells you what the Church says is wrong, you can be sure it is the devil. The better you know your Catholic Faith, the better able you will be to unmask him.

Another means is regular, thoughtful, confident prayer. True to spiritual faith is the couplet:

*"Satan trembles when he sees*

*The weakest saint upon his knees."*

The prayer to St. Michael after every low Mass is particularly appropriate: "St. Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the malice and snares of the devil ... " Yes, protect us against the snares of Satan. Help us, Holy Michael, to see through the deceptions of the devil. Help us to recognize the tempter, and to drive him off. Help us to say with Jesus: "Begone, satan." Keep this enemy from us and our loved ones. Help us to live and die with the powerful command upon our lips: "Begone, satan." † Amen.

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

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