



# League of the Immaculate Heart *Newsletter*

**"MY IMMACULATE HEART WILL TRIUMPH"**

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## The Blessings of the Hail Mary

By Saint Louis de Montfort

**T**he Heavenly Salutation draws down upon us the blessings of Jesus and Mary in abundance, for it is an infallible truth that Jesus and Mary reward in a marvelous way those who glorify Them. They repay us a hundredfold for the praises that we give Them.

"I love them that love Me...that I may enrich them that love Me and fill their treasuries." Jesus and Mary have always said: "We love those who love Us; we enrich them and fill their treasuries overflowing." He who soweth in blessings, shall also reap blessings.

Now, if we say the Hail Mary properly, is not this a way to love, bless and glorify Jesus and Mary?

In each Hail Mary we bless both Jesus and Mary: "Blessed art Thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of Thy womb, Jesus."

By each Hail Mary we give Our Lady the same honor that God gave Her when He sent the Archangel Gabriel to greet Her for Him. How could anyone possibly think that Jesus and Mary, who often do good to those that curse Them, could ever curse those that bless and honor Them by the Hail Mary?

Both Saint Bernard and Saint Bonaventure say that the Queen of Heaven is certainly no less grateful and conscientious than gracious and well-mannered people of this world. Just as She excels in all other perfections, She surpasses all in the virtue of gratitude; so She would never let us honor Her with love and respect without repaying us one hundredfold. Saint Bonaventure says that Mary will greet us with grace if we greet Her with the Hail Mary.

Who could possibly understand the graces and blessings which the greeting and tender regard of Our Lady effect in us? From the very first instant that Saint Elizabeth heard the greeting that the Mother of God gave her, she was filled with the Holy Ghost and the child in her womb leapt for joy. If we make ourselves worthy of the greeting and blessings of Our Lady we shall certainly be filled with graces and a flood of spiritual consolation will come down into our souls.

It is written: "Give and it shall be given unto you." To take Blessed Alan's [de la Roche] illustration of



### Inside this issue ...

The Blessings of the Hail Mary.....	1
The Stolen Hosts that Glowed.....	2
News from the Apostolate .....	3
Works of Mercy .....	4

*continued on page 4*

# The Stolen Hosts that Glowed!

By Father Frederick A. Reuter



*At Fatima, the angel administered Holy Communion to the three children, and prostrated himself in adoration of the Host and chalice suspended in the air. This reiterated the truth of Our Lord's presence in the Blessed Sacrament. What follows is another true story of a miracle that confirms the truth of Our Lord's Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist.*

**S**t. Alphonsus Liguori, in his book, *Visits to the Blessed Sacrament*, relates a most wonderful occurrence in connection with the Holy Eucharist. He obtained the full narration of the facts written by a priest who was one of the eyewitnesses of the miracle. He also states that he read the authentic process which was drawn up by the archiepiscopal court of Naples by order of His Eminence, Cardinal Sersale, the Archbishop of Naples.

On the morning of the twenty-eighth of January, 1772, at a place called St. Pietro-a-Paterno, in the diocese of Naples, the tabernacle of the parish church in which the Blessed Sacrament was reserved was found open, and the two ciboria, a large and a small one, containing many Sacred Particles, were missing. Search was made

on all sides, but for a time nothing was heard about the robbers nor could any clue be obtained as to what they had done with the Sacred Hosts.

At length, however, on Thursday the eighteenth of February, a certain youth, Giuseppe Crefici, saw a number of bright lights resembling stars as he was passing in the evening near the property of the Duke of Grottolle. The neighbors when they became aware of the prodigy were quite astonished and puzzled at the strange appearances. Night after night they were to be seen, and at last the conviction began to gain ground that these extraordinary lights might be a divine manifestation designating the secret spot of the missing Hosts.

Accordingly a number of pious persons gathered together and made a most careful search in the neighborhood of the lights, but all in vain. The following Monday evening, a great flame was seen moving around a heap of straw. With many others, the two brothers Giuseppe Crefici and Giovanni went there, and as Piccino, who was a companion of the others, approached the spot he fell suddenly upon his face; and after a few steps, Giuseppe felt himself pushed forward on the shoulders, and he also at once fell on the ground. In the same way and at the same moment the other two, Carlo Marrota and Giovanni, Giuseppe's brother, also fell, and all four felt their heads wounded, as if they had received a severe blow with a stick.

With some difficulty the four got on their feet, and to their great amazement, beheld a light brilliant as the sun coming forth from beneath a poplar tree; and rising out of this light, to the height of about five feet, a dove fluttered in the air. Instead of rising higher, however, the dove, gliding down again to the earth at the foot of the poplar tree, disappeared, as did the light also. All the persons present gave evidence of this fact upon oath before the Vicar General of Naples.

Several persons at once went to work digging up the ground around the poplar tree, and at length one of the diggers came upon the Sacred Hosts buried some little depth in the earth. A

*continued on page 3*



**T**he continuing violent persecution of Catholics in the state of Orissa, in the eastern part of India, has had an effect on several priests who are friends of Our Lady's Apostolate. We have been in contact by e-mail with some; they are touched that we have been thinking of them and including them in our prayers.

They are full of sorrow at the destruction and loss of life among their people. The raging Hindu persecutors have destroyed all of the churches, orphanages and Catholic homes in whole sections of Orissa. In the town of Bhubaneswar, for example, all the Catholic churches were burnt to the ground. Catholics, including the priest who contacted us, fled into the forests to escape their persecutors. They left with nothing to eat, but only with the clothes on their backs. The priest who wrote us had been unable to offer Mass for several days, but had continued to pray the Rosary.

**DEAR READER**, look on your map or globe for the state of Orissa, not so very far north of Chennai, where the Last Chance for World Peace conference was held just a year ago. Go back to last year's *Fatima Crusader* #88 (on the Peace Conference in India) and look at the faces in the pictures. Some of these priests are now suffering persecution in Orissa. Please pray for these priests, who have fervent devotion to Our Lady. Pray for their colleagues, and for their charges, whose blood and sorrow are planting the seeds of the future strength of the Church. May this continuing persecution of our friends abroad enkindle in us the desire to spread the whole Fatima Message to people everywhere. Thank you for your prayers and sacrifices. †



**Christians in Orissa have had their homes burnt to the ground.**

#### THE STOLEN HOSTS THAT GLOWED!

*continued from page 2*

priest who was with them placed the Hosts, some fifty in number, in a clean linen cloth, and amid general rejoicing carried them back to the tabernacle. It has been confirmed that the Particles found on this spot had not lost their whiteness, although they had been buried for nearly a month.

On Tuesday evening lights again appeared in the same field. From this the people concluded that they had not yet found all the Hosts. Another search was made, but in vain. Next night a quantity of tiny flames appeared around the heap of straw. A careful search was made at the exact spot, until on raising a clod of earth a large quantity of Particles was found lying underneath. The parish priest, after being informed what had happened, came quickly to the spot, where he found everybody kneeling before

the hidden Treasure.

The Sacred Particles were placed in a chalice, and a table with a silk covering was prepared. The Blessed Sacrament reposed on this improvised altar and around it a number of persons knelt with lighted torches, until many people with their priests arrived from the surrounding villages.

A procession was then formed, and amid the blaze of tapers and the music of sweet hymns the Blessed Sacrament was carried triumphantly to the church of St. Pietro-a-Paterno. As soon as they arrived at the church, Benediction was given with the chalice, amid the tears and cries of devotion of the people, thanking God Who had by such wonderful signs given proof of His Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist. †

# Works of Mercy

**A**mong the spiritual works of mercy is to teach the ignorant. Many people – good Catholics included — are not aware that the Rosary is our most important weapon and assistance of this time. It is a too frequent surprise to learn that families dutiful to Sunday Mass are yet slack in praying the daily Rosary. Are you one of these careless souls? Did you not teach your children how to visit with their Heavenly Mother a little each day?

Never mind. Make a firm purpose of amendment to help them now. You may have to face a little humiliation when your 30-year-old looks at you curiously, but you can consecrate this discomfort to the Immaculate Heart. Contact our office to get some copies of the beautiful, full color leaflet entitled, “Pray the Rosary every day in order to obtain peace for the world.” (LF087) Put them in your children’s hands. Show them, by kneeling down with them to pray.

Then put one in your purse to give to a cashier you may chat with, and one in the glove compartment of your car, so you can be ever-ready to offer it to someone in need. Even if you are rebuffed at first, they will remember. You will have put something into their hands that they will finger and unfold. Then they will learn what you started to tell them: it is never too late to have recourse to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. †



## THE BLESSINGS OF THE HAIL MARY *continued from page 1*

this: “Supposing each day I give you one hundred and fifty diamonds, even if you were my enemy, would you not forgive me? Would you not treat me as a friend and give me all the graces that you were able to give? If you want to gain all the riches of grace and of glory, salute the Blessed Virgin, honor your good Mother.”

He that honoreth his Mother (the Blessed Virgin) is as one that layeth up a treasure.” So every day do give Her at least fifty Hail Marys — for each is worth fifteen precious stones and they please Our Lady far more than all the riches of this world put together.

And you can expect such great things from Her generosity! She is our Mother and our friend. She is the empress of the universe and loves us more than all the mothers and queens of the world have ever loved any one human being. This is really so, for the charity of the Blessed Virgin far surpasses the natural love of all mankind and even of all the angels, as Saint Augustine says.

One day Saint Gertrude had a vision of Our Lord counting gold coins. She summoned the courage to ask Him what He was doing. He answered: “I am counting the Hail Mary’s that you have said; this is the money with which you can pay your way to Heaven.” †

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

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