

# Food For Thought

## Contents

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1. **Meaning of the Names from Adam to Noah**
  2. **God Plans Things to the Day**
  3. **Mary and the Muslims**
  4. **The Last Pope—Peter II**
  5. **What if There is No Rapture?**
  6. **Our Lady Will Conquer All Nations With Your Help and Prayers**
  7. **A Gift from Jesus**
  8. **Please Don't Kill the Child**
  9. **Youth in Peril**
  10. **Important Quotes from Learned Men**
  11. **Preach the Gospel**
  12. **Living Wills Kill—Don't Sign Them**
  13. **The Blessed Virgin Mary Speaks**
  14. **On Reuniting the Catholic and Orthodox Churches**
  15. **How Old is Your Church?**
  16. **Our Lady of Fatima and the Demise of the Soviet Union**
  17. **Eucharistic Miracles Strengthen Our Faith**
  18. **Our Lady of Guadalupe Speaks**
  19. **Our Mother of Perpetual Help**
  20. **Padre Pio: The Saint Who Bore The Wounds of Christ for 50 Years!**
  21. **St. Anthony: Friend of Jesus and Mary**
  22. **Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus**
  23. **The Suffering Souls in Purgatory**
  24. **The Two Hearts That Beat In My Life!**
  25. **Those Who Are Promoting Abortion Are Breaking All Of The Commandments**
  26. **Wear the Miraculous Medal!**
  27. **The Wisdom and Holiness of Mother Teresa of Calcutta**
  28. **The Sword Pierced Mary's Heart, As Prophesied**
  29. **The Eucharistic Miracles of the World**
  30. **Our Mother of Good Success**
  31. **Our Lady of Good Help Appeared in Wisconsin in 1859**
  32. **True Devotion to Mary by St. Louis de Montfort**
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# Meaning of the Names from Adam to Noah

| In Hebrew  | In English            |
|------------|-----------------------|
| Adam       | Man                   |
| Seth       | Appointed             |
| Enosh      | Mortal                |
| Kenan      | Sorrow                |
| Mahalalel  | Blessed God           |
| Jared      | Shall come down       |
| Enoch      | Teaching              |
| Methuselah | His death shall bring |
| Lamech     | Despairing            |
| Noah       | Comfort               |

Or in sentences:

Man is appointed mortal sorrow. The Blessed God shall come down teaching. His death shall bring the despairing comfort.

Jesus Christ is the Messiah, the Blessed God, who came down teaching. Right now is the time of His Divine Mercy (as explained in the Warnings section) before His second coming.

# God Plans Things to the Day

In Nehemiah 2:1, we learn that the Jews are given permission to rebuild Jerusalem including the wall, by King Artaxerxes in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of his reign. That, in our modern calendar, is March 14, 445 B.C. The task was completed in 49 years.

The second part of the prophecy refers to the presentation of Jesus Christ as King. The Messiah will be cut off after seven weeks and sixty two weeks of years, for a total of 69 weeks of years, times seven, or 483 years. Now, take 483 years and multiply it by the Jewish year of exactly 360 days. That comes to 173,880 actual days.

From March 14, 445 B.C., when permission was given to rebuild Jerusalem and the wall, to the day that Jesus Christ rode into Jerusalem on the foal of a donkey on Palm Sunday (April 6, 32 A.D.), exactly 173,880 days had passed.

The second coming of Christ is near, say Jesus and Mary (see the Warnings section). The prophecies of Daniel will soon be fulfilled, with the 70<sup>th</sup> week of years (the seven-year period of tribulation and the time of the Antichrist). The final week of years comes to 2,520 days, fully explained in the final chapter in the Bible.

Now, we must all come under Jesus Christ's Divine Mercy, because the day of His Justice is near. Sadly, many will follow the Antichrist on the path to hell.

# Mary and the Muslims

Our Lady of Fatima is known throughout the world for her six appearances to three shepherd children in 1917, when the mother of Jesus came down from Heaven.

She foretold what communism would do in the world. She spoke about an even greater war (World War II) than World War I, which ended the next year in 1918.

Mary is held in the highest esteem by all Muslims.

Her appearances in the only place named Fatima in Europe, has future ramifications. Fatima is also the name of Muhammad's daughter, whom the Islamic faith teaches that among women, is second only to Mary in Heaven.

Our Mother Mary's statue as Our Lady of Fatima was taken to Islamic countries in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. Millions flocked to see her and pray. She is the key to her Son, Jesus, the Word who came down from Heaven to become flesh in her womb. Jesus wants us all to love God and love our neighbors.

Jesus was crucified and died on the cross, after first being scourged and crowned with thorns, dying for forgiveness of our sins—and rising from the dead on the third day. It is almost 2,000 years since His Resurrection. He sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty in Heaven and is the sole judge of every soul in life and at death! That being the certain truth, we should all be Christians!

Mary could not be, even in the eyes of Muslims, the most blessed of all women of heaven if she had not also borne One Who was the Savior of the world, stated Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen.

# The Last Pope—Peter II

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*Pastor et Nauta....That is what I was in Venice, a "shepherd" or head of the diocese, and a "sailor" because of its waterways.*

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"I had the privilege of an audience with Pope John XXIII every year during his pontificate. On the very first visit, he asked me if I knew what Malachy had prophesied concerning him. Malachy was a monk of the Middle Ages, a friend of St. Bernard, who prophesied in cryptic terms each Pontiff (Pope) until the end of history—the last one being Peter II. I answered 'Pastor et Nauta.'"

"That is what I was in Venice,' he continued, 'a 'shepherd' or head of the diocese, and a 'sailor' because of its waterways. Because you knew that, I am giving you a little special gift—not precious; you need not take it if you wish.' He presented me with a small silver gondola."

said world-famous Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen in his autobiography and last book "Treasure in Clay" (1980)

Based on the predictions of the monk Malachy, the pope after Pope Benedict XVI is Peter II.

# What if There is No Rapture?

Many Christians today who are not Catholic or Orthodox, believe that they will one day be raptured suddenly, taken up into Heaven before the seven-year period of tribulation on the earth when the Antichrist comes to rule the world.

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*The Lord is my light and salvation;  
whom shall I fear?*

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The question, food for thought, is: Will you who believe this still believe in Jesus Christ, His commandments and teaching, or will you give up your faith if you are still alive on earth, and the time of tribulation has begun and no rapture has taken place?

The Catholic Church does not teach this rapture and may well be your only place to turn in that grave time, unless you do it now, which is better.

When Jesus Christ does come, there will be a gathering in the air, which is not the same as the rapture as taught by many Christian pastors. Ask yourself, did the first Christians, for hundreds of years, escape the cruelty of Rome by being raptured? Of course not! Many suffered and some became martyrs for their faith. It will be so again.

The Lord is my light and salvation; whom shall I fear? (Psalm 27:1)

# Our Lady Will Conquer All Nations with Your Help and Prayers

Now, Mary shall conquer! We are to pray, daily, the following prayer given by Our Lady of All Nations:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Father, send now Your Spirit over the Earth. Let the Holy Spirit live in the hearts of all nations, that they may be preserved from corruption, disaster and war. May the Lady of All Nations, the Blessed Virgin Mary, be our Advocate.

The Lady of All Nations apparitions were approved in May 1996. Our Lady had appeared standing before a cross. She wants all to understand She is the Immaculate Conception and through it, the Coredemptrix (co means with Jesus, not equal to, for She herself was redeemed by Her Son) Mediatrix (graces from God through Her hands to us) and Advocate (our personal advocate).

Our Lady has brought Her prayer above to be said daily in this diabolical world, for the Holy Spirit has still to descend upon all nations.

The Blessed Virgin Mary said to Ida Peerdeman (peer of man certainly):

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*“No nations listen to what the Lord has said. It is not an idea but Himself under the species of bread and under the species of wine. Thus it is the Lord wants to be with you every day. Take! Do take! He is giving you the foretaste of eternal life.”*

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“No nations listen to what the Lord has said. It is not an idea but Himself under the species of bread and under the species of wine. Thus it is the Lord wants to be with you every day. Take! Do take! He is giving you the foretaste of eternal life.”

Of course, one has to be in the state of grace to receive the Lord, and therefore a good examination of conscience leads frequently to the sacrament of Confession. All serious sins must be confessed to a priest.

The dogma of Coredemptrix, Mediatrix and Advocate should be prayed for by all good Catholics. Pope John Paul II said it will come. When? Perhaps when enough people’s prayers have stormed Heaven.

Look at history! On March 25, 1984, Pope John Paul the Great led the bishops of the world, including many Orthodox bishops, into a collegial consecration of Russia and the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Within a short period of time, all the nations under Russia—without a shot being fired—threw off communism and Russia itself followed suit on Christmas Day 1991, dissolving the U.S.S.R., the Soviet Union on the day we celebrate Christ’s birth.

In Akita, Japan, Our Lady of All Nations statue came alive and spoke to novice Agnes Sasagawa. She told the novice that fire will destroy a great part of humanity. This fire will be worse than the deluge, she said. Of course, all were destroyed except Noah and his family—eight in all—in the worldwide flood.

We now even see Mexico City, where Our Lady of Guadalupe is present, embracing legal abortion and same-sex marriage. Wickedness is spreading everywhere.

Satan is still prince of darkness over the world. He grabs and holds onto anyone he can. That is why the Lady of All Nations had to come.

Now is the time for the Lady of All Nations. When the world recognizes her as Queen of the Universe, there will be peace on earth, as prophesied by St. Catherine Laboure, to whom Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal appeared in 1830 in Paris.

We have two things to do to help bring all this about: saying the prayer at the top of this article daily (save it by printing or typing it). And pray for Our Lady of All Nations request to be fulfilled by the Holy Father, proclaiming Our Lady of All Nations as Coredemptrix, Mediatrix and Advocate, known as the last dogma. Pope John Paul II said it would happen.

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send now Your Spirit over the Earth.  
Let the Holy Spirit live in the hearts of  
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# A Gift from Jesus

Everyone knows that Jesus worked His first miracle, changing water into wine at the marriage feast at Cana, at His mother's request.

Jesus's last recorded miracle before His Ascension into Heaven, may have also –indirectly— been for His mother.

He knew, as God knows everything – past, present and future – that the rosary would bring many souls to him.

The 15-decade rosary, with its 153 Hail Marys, is a most powerful prayer.

The rosary is like a net, catching souls for Christ through His mother. Many millions have prayed the rosary, for themselves and for others.

In the last recorded Gospel miracle (John 21) Jesus called out to Simon Peter, John, Thomas, Nathanael, and four others, as their boat neared the shore after an all-night, totally fruitless, fishing trip. "Have you caught anything?" asked the resurrected Christ, unrecognized by the Apostles, as the rising sun pushed back the night.

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*Jesus said to them, "Children, have you caught anything to eat?" They answered him, "No." So he said to them, "Cast the net over the right side of the boat and you will find something." So they cast it, and were not able to pull it in because of the number of fish.*

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About 100 yards away, the men answered from the boat, "Not a thing."

Jesus called out to them to cast their net on the right side of the boat, promising that they will catch some.

They did so – and were amazed! The net was so full of fish that they could not even pull it into the boat.

Then John said to Peter, "It is the Lord".

Simon Peter immediately jumped into the water to reach the Lord first.

When the boat reached the shore, Simon Peter helped pull in the net. It was full of fish, 153 in all.

Why exactly 153?

Is not the rosary used to catch many fish, many souls?

Does not it contain exactly 153 Hail Marys, if 15 decades are prayed?

Does not the rosary bring in souls, when sometimes all else fails? The apostles and disciples failed in their all-night fishing trip. Yet following the instructions of Christ, the net was so full of fish it couldn't be pulled into the boat.

Perhaps, Jesus – and only God knows – looked down through the centuries and saw His mother's rosary with its 153 Hail Marys, bringing in a lot of souls, and had 153 fish gather in the net!

We do know that Jesus did anything he could for His mother, then and now, from his first miracle on earth at Cana, to, perhaps, this last miracle in the Gospels before His Ascension into Heaven.

“Mother Teresa asked me to encourage all clergy and laity to speak out on the sanctity of human life as often as possible... and to distribute her speech to as many Americans as possible.”

-- Fr. Frank Pavone

National Director, Priests for Life

1-888-PFL-3448 or [www.priestsforlife.org](http://www.priestsforlife.org)

## “Please Don’t Kill the Child!”

**Speech of Mother Teresa to the National Prayer Breakfast**

February 3, 1994

Washington, D.C

On the last day, Jesus will say to those on His right hand:

“Come, enter the Kingdom. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was sick and you visited me.” Then Jesus will turn to those on His left hand and say, “Depart from me because I was hungry and you did not feed me, I was thirsty and you did not give me drink, I was sick and you did not visit me.” These will ask Him, “When did we see You hungry, or thirsty or sick and did not come to Your help?”

And Jesus will answer them,

“Whatever you neglected to do unto one of the least of these, you neglected to do unto me!”

As we have gathered here to pray together, I think it will be beautiful if we begin with a prayer that expresses very well what Jesus wants of us to do for the least. St. Francis of Assisi understood very well these words of Jesus and His life is very well expressed by a prayer. And this prayer, which we say every day after Holy Communion, always surprises me very much, because it is very fitting for each one of us. And I always wonder whether 800 years ago when St. Francis lived, they had the same difficulties that we have today. I think that some of you already have this prayer of peace – so we will pray it together.

### **Prayer of St. Francis**

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace:  
where there is hatred let me sow love,  
where there is injury let me sow pardon,  
where there is doubt let me sow faith,  
where there is despair let me give hope  
where there is darkness let me give light,  
where there is sadness let me give joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may  
not try to be comforted but to comfort,  
not try to be understood but to understand,  
not try to be loved but to love.

Because  
it is in giving that we receive,

it is in forgiving that we are forgiven, and  
it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen

Let us thank God for the opportunity He has given us today to have come here to pray together. We have come here especially to pray for peace, joy and love. We are reminded that Jesus came to bring the good news to the poor. He had told us what that good news is when He said: "My peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you." He came to give the peace of heart which comes from loving—from doing good to others.

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*God gave His Son to the Virgin Mary, and what did she do with him? As soon as Jesus came into Mary's life, immediately she went in haste to give that good news.*

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And God loved the world so much that He gave His Son—it was a giving. God gave His Son to the Virgin Mary, and what did she do with him? As soon as Jesus came into Mary's life, immediately she went in haste to give that good news. And as she came into the house of her cousin, Elizabeth, Scripture tells us that the unborn child—the child in the womb of Elizabeth—leapt with joy. While still in the womb of Mary, Jesus brought peace to John the Baptist who

leapt for joy in the womb of Elizabeth.

As if it were not enough that God the Son should become one of us and bring peace and joy while still in the womb of Mary, Jesus also died on the Cross to show that greater love. He died for you and for me, and for that leper and for that man dying of hunger and that naked person lying in the street, not only of Calcutta, but of Africa, and everywhere. Our Sisters serve those poor people in 105 countries throughout the world. Jesus insisted that we love one another as He loves each of us.

Jesus gave His life to love us and He tells us that we also have to give whatever it takes to do good to one another. And in the Gospel Jesus says very clearly: "Love as I have loved you." Jesus died on the cross because that is what it took for Him to do good to us—to save us from our selfishness in sin. He gave up everything to do the Father's will to show us that we must be willing to give up everything to do God's will—to love one another as He loves each of us. If we are not willing to give whatever it takes to do good to one another, sin is still in us. That is why we too must give to each other until it hurts.

It is not enough for us to say: "I love God," but I also have to love my neighbor. St. John says that you are a liar if you say you love God and you don't love your neighbor.

**How can you love God whom you do not see, if you do not love your neighbor whom you see, whom you touch, with whom you live?**

And so it is very important for us to realize that love, to be true, has to hurt. I must be willing to give whatever it takes not to harm other people and, in fact to do good to them. This requires that I be willing to give until it hurts. Otherwise, there is no true love in me and I bring injustice, not peace, to those around me.

It hurt Jesus to love us. We have been created in His image for greater things, to love and to be loved. We must "put on Christ" as Scripture tells us. And so, we have been created to love and to be loved, and God has become man to make it possible for us to love as He loved us. Jesus makes Himself the hungry one, the naked one, the homeless one, the unwanted one, and He says, "You did it to me." On the last day He will say to those on His right, "Whatever you did to

the least of these, you did to Me,” and He will also say to those on His left, “Whatever you neglected to do for the least of these you neglected to do it for Me.”

When He was dying on the Cross, Jesus said, “I thirst.” Jesus is thirsting for our love, and this is the thirst of everyone, poor and rich alike. We all thirst for the love of others, that they go out of their way to avoid harming us and to do good to us. This is the meaning of true love, to give until it hurts.

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*Jesus makes Himself the hungry one, the naked one, the homeless one, the unwanted one, and He says, "You did it to me." On the last day He will say to those on His right, "Whatever you did to the least of these, you did to Me"....*

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I can never forget the experience I had visiting a home where they kept all these old parents of sons and daughters who had just put them into an institution and forgotten them—maybe. I saw that in that home these old people had everything—good food, comfortable place, television, everything, but everyone was looking toward the door. And I did not see a single one with a smile on the face. I turned to Sister and I asked: “Why do these people who have every comfort here, why are they all looking toward the door? Why are they not smiling?”

**I am so used to seeing the smile on our people, even the dying ones smile.**

And Sister said: “This is the way it is nearly every day. They are expecting, they are hoping that a son or daughter will come to visit them. They are hurt because they are forgotten.” And see, this neglect to love brings spiritual poverty. Maybe in our own family we have somebody who is feeling lonely, who is feeling sick, who is feeling worried. Are we there? Are we there to be with them, or do we merely put them in the care of others? Are we willing to give until it hurts in order to be with our families, or do we put our own interests first? These are the questions we must ask ourselves, especially as we begin this year of the family. We must remember that love begins at home and we must also remember that “the future of humanity passes through the family.”

I was surprised in the West to see so many young boys and girls given to drugs. And I tried to find out why. Why is it like that, when those in the West have so many more things than those in the East? And the answer was: “Because there is no one in the family to receive them.” Our children depend on us for everything—their health, their nutrition, their security, their coming to know and love God. For all of this, they look to us with trust, hope and expectation. But often father and mother are so busy they have no time for their children, or perhaps they are not even married or have given up on their marriage. So the children go to the streets and get involved in drugs or other things. We are talking of love of the child which is where love and peace must begin. These are the things that break peace.

**But I feel that the greatest destroyer of peace today is abortion, because it is a war against the child, a direct killing of the innocent child, murder by the mother herself.**

And if we accept that a mother can kill even her own child, how can we tell other people not to kill one another? How do we persuade a woman not to have an abortion? As always, we must persuade her with love and we remind ourselves that love means to be willing to give until it hurts. Jesus gave even His life to love us. So, the mother who is thinking of abortion, should be

helped to love, that is, to give until it hurts her plans, or her free time, to respect the life of her child. The father of the child, whoever he is, must also give until it hurts.

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*The greatest destroyer of peace today is abortion, because it is a war against the child, a direct killing of the innocent child, murder by the mother herself. And if we accept that a mother can kill even her own child, how can we tell other people not to kill one another?*

**By abortion, the mother does not learn to love, but kills even her own child to solve her problems.**

And, by abortion, the father is told that he does not have to take any responsibility at all for the child he has brought into the world. That father is likely to put other women into the same trouble. So abortion just leads to more abortion.

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**Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love, but to use any violence to get what they want. This is why the greatest destroyer of love and peace is abortion.**

Many people are very, very concerned with the children of India, with the children of Africa where quite a few die of hunger, and so on. Many people are also concerned about all the violence in this great country of the United States. These concerns are very good. But often these same people are not concerned with the millions who are being killed by the deliberate decision of their own mothers. And this is what is the greatest destroyer of peace today—abortion which brings people to such blindness.

And for this I appeal in India and I appeal everywhere—“Let us bring the child back.” The child is God’s gift to the family. Each child is created in the special image and likeness of God for greater things—to love and to be loved. In this year of the family we must bring the child back to the center of our care and concern. This is the only way our world can survive because our children are the only hope for the future. As older people are called to God, only their children can take their places.

But what does God say to us? He says: “Even if a mother could forget her child, I will not forget you. I have carved you in the palm of my hand.” We are carved in the palm of His hand; that unborn child has been carved in the hand of God to love and to be loved, not only now in this life, but forever. God can never forget us.

I will tell you something beautiful. We are fighting abortion by adoption—by care of the mother and adoption for her baby. We have saved thousand of lives. We have sent word to the clinics, to the hospitals and police stations: “Please don’t destroy the child; we will take the child.” So we always have someone tell the mothers in trouble: “Come, we will take care of you, we will get a home for your child.” And we have a tremendous demand from couples who cannot have a child—but I never give a child to a couple who have done something not to have a child. Jesus said, “Anyone who receives a child in my name, receives me.” By adopting a child, these couples receive Jesus but, by aborting a child, a couple refuses to receive Jesus.

**Please don’t kill the child. I want the child. Please give me the child. I am willing to accept any child who would be aborted and to give that child to a married couple who will love the child and be loved by the child.**

From our children's home in Calcutta alone, we have saved over 3000 children from abortion. These children have brought such love and joy to their adopting parents and have grown up so full of love and joy.

I know that couples have to plan their family and for that there is natural family planning.

**The way to plan the family is natural family planning, not contraception.**

In destroying the power of giving life, through contraception, a husband or wife is doing something to self. This turns the attention to self and so it destroys the gift of love in him or her. In loving, the husband and wife must turn the attention to each other as happens in natural family planning, and not to self, as happens in contraception. Once that living love is destroyed by contraception, abortion follows very easily.

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*Even if a mother could forget her child, I will not forget you. I have carved you in the palm of my hand.*

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I also know that there are great problems in the world—that many spouses do not love each other enough to practice natural family planning. We cannot solve all the problems in the world, but let us never bring in the worst problem of all, and that is to destroy love. And this is what happens when we tell people to practice contraception and abortion.

The poor are very great people. They can teach us so many beautiful things. Once one of them came to thank us for teaching her natural family planning and said: "You people who have practiced chastity, you are the best people to teach us natural family planning because it is nothing more than self-control out of love for each other." And what this poor person said is very true. These poor people maybe have nothing to eat, maybe they have not a home to live in, but they can still be great people when they are spiritually rich.

When I pick up a person from the street, hungry, I give him a plate of rice, a piece of bread. But a person who is shut out, who feels unwanted, unloved, terrified, the person who has been thrown out of society—that spiritual poverty is much harder to overcome. And abortion, which often follows from contraception, brings a people to be spiritually poor, and that is the worst poverty and the most difficult to overcome.

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*We cannot solve all the problems in the world, but let us never bring in the worst problem of all, and that is to destroy love. And this is what happens when we tell people to practice contraception and abortion.*

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Those who are materially poor can be very wonderful people. One evening we went out and we picked up four people from the street. And one of them was in a most terrible condition. I told the Sisters: "You take care of the other three; I will take care of the one who looks worse." So I did for her all that my love can do. I put her in a bed, and there was such a beautiful smile on her face.

She took hold of my hand, as she said one word only: "thank you"—and she died.

I could not help but examine my conscience before her. And I asked: "What would I say if I were in her place?" And my answer was very simple. I would have tried to draw a little attention to myself. I would have said: "I am hungry, I am dying, I am cold, I am in pain," or something. But

she gave me much more—she gave me her grateful love. And she died with a smile on her face. Then there was the man we picked up from the drain, half eaten by worms and, after we had brought him to the home, he only said:

**“I have lived like an animal in the street, but I am going to die as an angel, loved and cared for.”**

Then, after we had removed the worms from his body, all he said, with a big smile, was: “Sister, I am going home to God”—and he died. It was so wonderful to see the greatness of that man who could speak like that without blaming anybody, without comparing anything. Like an angel—this greatness of people who are spiritually rich even when they are materially poor. We are not social workers. We may be doing social work in the eyes of some people, but we must be contemplatives in the heart of the world. For we are touching the body of Christ and we are always in His presence.

You too must bring that presence of God into your family, for the family that prays together, stays together.

There is so much hatred, so much misery, and we with our prayer, with our sacrifice, are beginning at home. Love begins at home, and it is not how much we do, but how much love we put into what we do.

If we are contemplatives in the heart of the world with all its problems, these problems can never discourage us. We must always remember what God tells us in Scripture: “Even if a mother could forget the child in her womb—something impossible, but even if she could forget—I will never forget you.”

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*Abortion, which often follows from contraception, brings a people to be spiritually poor, and that is the worst poverty and the most difficult to overcome.*

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And so here I am talking with you. I want you to find the poor here, right in your home first. And begin love there. Be that good news to your own people first. And find out about your next door neighbors. Do you know who they are?

I had the most extraordinary experience of love of neighbor with a Hindu family. A gentleman came to our house and said: “Mother Teresa, there is a family who have not eaten for so long. Do something.” So I took some rice and went there immediately. And I saw the children—their eyes shining with hunger. I don’t know if you have ever seen hunger. But I have seen it very often. And the mother of the family took the rice I gave her and went out. When she came back, I asked her: “Where did you go? What did you do?” And she gave me a very simple answer: “They are hungry also.” What struck me was that she knew—and who are they? A Muslim family—and she knew. I didn’t bring any more rice that evening because I wanted them, Hindus and Muslims, to enjoy the joy of sharing.

But there were those children, radiating joy, sharing the joy and peace with their mother because she had the love to give until it hurts. And you see this is where love begins—at home in the family.

So, as the example of this family shows, God will never forget us and there is something you and I can always do. We can keep the joy of loving Jesus in our hearts, and share that joy with all we come in contact with.



**Let us make that one point—that no child will be unwanted, unloved, uncared for, or killed and thrown away. And give until it hurts—with a smile.**

Because I talk so much of giving with a smile, once a professor from the United States asked me: “Are you married?” And I said: “Yes, and I find it sometimes very difficult to smile at my spouse, Jesus, because He can be very demanding—sometimes.” This is really something true.

**And there is where love comes in—when it is demanding, and yet we can give it with joy.**

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*I want you to find the poor here, right in your home first. And begin love there. Be that good news to your own people first. And find out about your next door neighbors. Do you know who they are?*

One of the most demanding things for me is traveling everywhere—and with publicity. I have said to Jesus that if I don't go to heaven for anything else, I will be going to heaven for all the traveling with all the publicity, because it has purified me and sacrificed me and made me really ready to go to heaven.

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**If we remember that God loves us, and that we can love others as He loves us, then America can become a sign of peace for the world.**

From here, a sign of care for the weakest of the weak—the unborn child—must go out to the world. If you become a burning light of justice and peace in the world, then really you will be true to what the founders of this country stood for. God bless you!

# Youth in Peril

Youth is sadly running to its perdition, the easy life and drugs. Such is the panorama which the evil one uses in facing young people. A whole gamut of a variety of sins separates them from

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*Turn to me and be safe, all you ends of the earth, for I am God; there is no other! By myself I swear, uttering my just decree and my unalterable word: To me every knee shall bend; by me every tongue shall swear, saying, "Only in the LORD are just deeds and power. Before him in shame shall come all who vent their anger against him." (Isaiah 45:22-24)*

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God more and more. It would only be necessary for them to look toward the Mother of God, their Mother and she would lead them to God. It would be necessary for them to introduce themselves into the heart of the Mother, in order to listen to the voice of the Lord. I do not hide myself; let no one avoid me! (9/21/87)

I ask the young people of the whole world, those who have borrowed evil ways: Why do you do then so many foolish things? Are you orphans? Do you not have a God? Do you not have your heavenly Mother? It is time to purify yourselves, my dear children! How many lamentations later, if you do not do it! Read Isaiah 45:22-24 (6/7/86)

My dear children, the young find themselves facing a corrupt, horrifying world...Do not allow yourselves to be taken in by calamities which you have before your eyes. Do not forget that they lead to perdition by subjecting you to evil. Pray, so that you can become a youth dedicated to the Lord; a youth which is looking for peace. May this novena (9 days of prayer) then, be dedicated to all the young people and you will confirm that the Lord does not reject the children who look for him. Read Matthew 18:6-7 (5/8/85)

Parents, during this novena, recommend yourselves to the Lord insistently, so that He may be able to shed light for your children in their own journey in this life...You are responsible for their steps. You must lead them to the Lord so that they may say: "God is our beginning and we turn to Him." (11/9/85)

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*Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.*

*Woe to the world because of things that cause sin! Such things must come, but woe to the one through whom they come!*

*(Matthew 18:6-7)*

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He who is compassionate toward a child, is compassionate toward God. He who gives his love to a child, gives it to God. He who makes the Word of God known to a child is truly a son of God. (8/7/88)

all said by the Blessed Virgin Mary in her apparitions in San Nicolas, Argentina

# Important Quotes from Learned Men

The God of the Bible is also the God of the genome. He can be worshiped in the cathedral or in the laboratory. His creation is majestic, awesome, intricate, and beautiful—and it cannot be at war with itself.

Dr. Francis S. Collins  
“The Language of God”

“In the beginning God created the heavens and earth” implies that God always existed. This description is certainly compatible with scientific knowledge of the Big Bang.

Dr. Francis S. Collins  
“The Language of God”

For one hundred and fifty years many scientists have insisted that “chance and necessity”—happenstance and law—jointly suffice to explain the origin of life. We now find, however, that orthodox evolutionary thinking—with its reliance upon these twin pillars of materialistic thought—has failed to explain the origin of the central feature of living things: information.

Dr. Steven C. Meyer  
“Signature in the Cell”  
DNA and the Evidence  
for Intelligent Design

# Preach the Gospel

In the past, the world was saved by the Ark of Noah. Today, my mother is the Ark. It is through her, that souls will be saved, because she will lead them to me. He who rejects my mother, rejects me. Many are those who allow the grace of God to pass these days...

Go and preach the Gospel. Little does it matter where you do it. Wherever you are, preach the Gospel to your brothers who do not know the word of God. Preach the Gospel.

said Jesus Christ  
at San Nicolas, (Buenos Aires) Argentina  
on December 30, 1989

# Living Wills Kill—Don't Sign Them

By Daniel P. McGivern

Many people today do everything they can to avoid pain and suffering. They see no value in it.

Yet, most Americans are Christians and see the value in the pain and suffering related to the death of Jesus Christ. This the spotless Lamb offered for the sins of mankind.

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*If you love me, keep my commandments....*

*But if you will enter life, keep the  
commandments.... You shall not kill.*

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If one chooses to follow Christ, he must also do as Christ says: "If you love me, keep my commandments." Jesus also said, "But if you will enter life, keep the commandments." One of the commandments forbids murder. "You shall not kill."

Living wills are written declarations authorizing others – attorneys, physicians and even family members – to kill you, to legally murder you, by removing food, water or normal life-sustaining machines. This is commonly called "mercy killing." But it is killing just the same, a grave violation of the laws of God if you made a living will authorizing this to be done.

If you sign a living will, you are responsible to God and to His Son, Jesus Christ, who judges all men. How do you reconcile a living will with loving and obeying Christ and His commandments?

Every believer knows the final destination of every soul is heaven or hell. We sentence ourselves to hell, by knowingly, willingly and deliberately choosing things that are contrary to the commandments, and refusing to repent and be reconciled with Christ.

## Embrace Suffering

Suffering has been embraced, longed for and desired by many saints. St. Therese of Lisieux, one of the greatest of modern saints, said, "I felt the dawning in my heart of a great desire for suffering. At the same time, Jesus seemed to assure me that He had reserved a great many crosses for me."

Too many people today want to run away from crosses, suffering and pain. All suffering, all trials, whatever their nature or origin, are a part of His plan for our souls, and serve as purification for past sins and misdeeds.

Our holy faith teaches us to offer up our sufferings for our sins, the conversion of sinners, for the souls in purgatory. We need always to remember that God's providence includes

His providential timing. He knows how long we will live and when we will die. God will take a person at the very moment He wants, when that soul is ready; when they have been striving to live His will daily. I've seen this happen twice – my wife and my first great-grandson.

In the case of my wife, she died slowly and painfully from cancer. She walked the hallway many days and nights, praying the Rosary. On the night she died, there had been no indication she would die that night. Yes, she was suffering. But she suffered many days and nights. She received Holy Communion that day in her sick bed. At night, listening to her suffering, the thought came to my mind, "Lord, if it is Your will, take her." Two seconds later, totally unexpected, my mother exclaimed that my wife had stopped breathing. God's timing was perfect. He had prepared me also to accept His will.

When my first great-grandson was born, he had many problems. He bled profusely and was kept on a machine for breathing. Surgery was required. In the rush from one hospital to another, an arrangement was made to have the baby baptized on arrival. With prayer, he made it to the second hospital and was baptized. After surgery, the doctors wanted to disconnect everything, saying, "It will end all suffering." Fortunately, my granddaughter asked me what she should do.

My answer was simple. "Leave everything hooked up. Let God decide. Give the baby every chance to live. Don't put it on your conscience that you decided when your baby should die." It would be killing the baby to disconnect everything. The baby died a few days later, at the age of ten days with every machine available trying to keep him alive.

Two wonderful things happened: the first was a miracle most people would not believe, but was proof that the baby was indeed in heaven. My daughter and granddaughter were talking about the baby after he died. My granddaughter broke down in tears as she spoke. Suddenly, both were consoled with the pleasant perfume of the baby. A very distinct and beautiful perfume was smelled, coming, they felt, from heaven.

The second thing that happened was the entire bill, amounting to over \$100,000, for 10 days of fighting for life, was all covered by only one month's premium paid on a brand new medical plan on the baby. Everything had been done in accordance with God's will and He removed all the financial burdens which would otherwise have been a disaster.

Suffering? Yes. The baby and my wife both suffered greatly. Both were taken in God's good time. No man decided when they should die.

### **Allow God to Choose**

When a person signs a living will, he or she is not willing to allow God to choose His own good time. Furthermore, if the living will determines life or death, they are in effect killing themselves and breaking God's commandment. They are trying to avoid suffering and expense. But what about the next life, and the further guilt of having another person kill you because of signing a living will?

Never, ever make a living will. If you have done so, rescind it. Let it be known that your wish is to let God decide when you die – not a doctor, hospital or lawyer.

Live according to God's commandments. Living wills are just one more trick of the devil in

the modern world.

Remember, Christ's love exists every day in a world starving for love; His word proclaimed to the hopeless, giving them hope, and to the suffering and dying, giving them comfort to the end. Sometimes, the patient will miraculously recover, which can never happen if someone has already pulled the plug. Even Jesus' death on the

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*He bowed His head and  
gave up the spirit (John 19:30).*

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Cross was according to the exact moment ordained by God the Father. Prior to the first Good Friday, attempts on His life came to naught "for his hour had not yet come." When it came, "He bowed His head and gave up the spirit" (John 19:30).

My special thanks to Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J., the eminent moral theologian, world-famous author and Vatican advisor for his help in advising me for this 1991 article.

P.S. We now use Hawaii Protective Medical Decisions Document. You can obtain one for your state for a suggested donation of \$8.50 from 740-282-3810 or [www.patientsrightscouncil.org](http://www.patientsrightscouncil.org). It would also be helpful for those in other countries to use as a guide.

# The Blessed Virgin Mary Speaks

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*I ask my children to love and to glorify the Most Holy Trinity.... the Triune God. May He be praised and blessed forever and ever.*

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My daughter, as previously in Fatima (1917), today my visits are renewed on earth. They are more frequent and more prolonged, because humanity is passing through very dramatic times.

Has man not understood that he must be uniquely at the service of God? If he resists, his soul is going to perish.

Many hearts do not accept my invitation to prayer and to conversion. That is why the work of the devil is growing and is expanding. My dear children, it is only through prayer and conversion that you will return to God. May He not find your hearts dry.

said the Blessed Virgin Mary  
on May 13, 1989  
in San Nicolas, (Buenos Aires) Argentina

I ask my children to love and to glorify the Most Holy Trinity. Do not look for an answer to that which is forbidden to mankind. The Most Holy Trinity remains the secret of God. Only He knows it and it only belongs to Him alone. Glory to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. (6/13/87)

I ask my children to believe in the Holy Trinity, to love the Most Holy Trinity. Love the Father, Creator of Heaven and earth; love the Son, Redeemer of mankind; love the Holy Spirit, Light of Hope. The child cannot be strengthened if it is not through the Father. He can save his soul only if the Son saves it. He can renew his spirit only if the Spirit Himself renews him. Glorify the Triune God. May He be praised and blessed forever and ever. (7/11/88)

said the Blessed Virgin Mary  
in San Nicolas, Argentina



# On Reuniting the Catholic and Orthodox Churches

The Roman Catholic Church, through its Popes, can trace its beginnings all the way back to Peter. However, one thousand years ago, the church was fractured, leaving the Roman Catholic Church and Orthodox Church. Today, the greatest number of Orthodox Christians are in Russia. In 2004, Pope John Paul II sent the famous icon of Our Lady of Kazan, which he obtained from the World Apostolate of Fatima, back to Russia. She is the patroness of households in Russian families.

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*We firmly believe these apparitions are  
happening and are true.*

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An Orthodox Archbishop a decade ago wrote to the Pope for the purpose of entering his society and priests into communion with the Roman Catholic Church, while remaining Orthodox. In a similar letter to the Archbishop of Constantinople, the reasons explained for doing this was the apparitions of the Holy Theotokos at Soufanieh, Damascus, Syria.

There the ever Virgin Mary told the seer that Our Lord desires His church to be reunited and that it have one day for Pascha (Easter). She told the seer that those who divided the Church were wrong, those who kept it apart are wrong, that it is up to us to reunite it, and that if we do not reunite it, He will reunite it Himself and rake it over the heads of those who oppose Him. "We firmly believe these apparitions are happening and are true," wrote the Orthodox Archbishop to the Pope, the Archbishop of Constantinople and the Orthodox Patriarch of Moscow.

The late Sister Lucia of Fatima fame, said that Christian unity was always part of the purpose of the collegial consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, accomplished on March 25, 1984, by Pope John Paul II and the bishops, including Orthodox bishops, in communion with him.

from "Fatima is Forever"  
by Fr. Robert J. Fox  
pages 196-198

also "Light from the East—Miracles of Our Lady of  
Soufanieh" by Fr. Robert J. Fox  
[www.FatimaFamily.org](http://www.FatimaFamily.org)

# How Old is Your Church?

If you are a Lutheran, your religion was founded by Martin Luther, an ex-monk of the Catholic Church, in the year 1517.

If you belong to the Church of England, your religion was founded by King Henry VIII in the year 1534 because the Pope would not grant him a divorce with the right to remarry.

If you are a Presbyterian, your religion was founded by John Knox in Scotland in the year 1560.

If you are a Protestant Episcopalian, your religion was an offshoot of the Church of England founded by Samuel Seabury in the American colonies in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

If you are a Congregationalist, your religion was originated by Robert Brown in Holland in 1582.

If you are a Methodist, your religion was launched by John and Charles Wesley in England in 1744.

If you are a Unitarian, Theophilus Lindley founded your church in London in 1774.

If you are a Mormon (Latter Day Saints), Joseph Smith started your religion in Palmyra, N.Y., in 1829.

If you are a Baptist, you owe the tenets of your religion to John Smyth, who launched it in Amsterdam in 1605.

If you are of the Dutch Reformed church, you recognize Michaelis Jones as founder, because he originated your religion in New York in 1628.

If you worship with the Salvation Army, your sect began with William Booth in London in 1865.

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*If you are a Catholic, you know that your religion was founded in the year 33 by Jesus Christ the Son of God, and it is still the same Church.*

If you are a Christian Scientist, you look to 1879 as the year in which your religion was born and to Mrs. Mary Baker Eddy as its founder.

If you belong to one of the religious organizations known as "Church of the Nazarene," "Pentecostal Gospel," "Holiness Church," "Pilgrim Holiness Church," "Jehovah's Witnesses," your religion is one of the hundreds of new sects founded by men within the past century.

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**If you are a Catholic, you know that your religion was founded in the year 33 by Jesus Christ the Son of God, and it is still the same Church.**

Source: <http://www.ewtn.com/faith/teachings/churb4.htm>

# Our Lady of Fatima and the Demise of the Soviet Union

Millions of people—many of them Blue Army members—have prayed many millions of rosaries for the conversion of Russia for over 50 years.

Communism was overthrown, first by Poland and then other satellite countries, and eventually Russia herself. All without a shot being fired!

After Pope John Paul II, in union with the world's bishops, including many Orthodox, consecrated Russia and the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on March 25, 1984, things happened quickly. Sister Lucia said that God had accepted this consecration as complying with the request of Jesus. A year later, Mikhail Gorbachev became the head of Russia. He wanted freedom of religion, and by Christmas Day 1991, the U.S.S.R. was dissolved.

Along the way we have several unique proofs of the intervention of God and Blessed Mother, which we can easily see by the specific dates on which big things happened, and —of course— the results.

On December 1, 1989, President Gorbachev met with Pope John Paul II at the Vatican. The Pope said, "Your visit enables us to look with greater confidence to the future of the communities of believers in the Soviet Union...the new perspectives which have opened up lead us to the hope that the situation will change...and that the law on freedom of conscience, soon to be discussed by the Supreme Soviet, will help to guarantee all believers the full exercise of the right to religious freedom which, as I have said many times, is the foundation of the other freedoms."

On March 15, 1990, the Vatican established diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and an archbishop was named to serve in Moscow.

In September and October 1990, the new law on religion was widely promulgated. The law abolished over 70 years of repressive (Lenin and Stalin) laws against religion.

The Holy Father himself told Bishop Pavol Hnilica, S.J. that he was convinced what was happening in Russia was related to the promises of Fatima. Another key factor was the request of then President of the USA Ronald Reagan to Fr. Robert J. Fox to dedicate the USA to the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Fatima. This was done with the condition that it must be kept secret. Fr. Fox mentioned it in Immaculate Heart Messenger magazine years later.

On May 12, eve of the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, Cardinal Meisner, archbishop of Cologne, Germany, told the people, "Setting out from Fatima, Our Lady could begin her task of bringing Christ again to Europe. In Russia and in other nations of Eastern Europe, faith in Christ was practically forbidden. The people of East Europe, who had venerated Mary so much, were unable to give her even a little space because atheism had occupied all spheres of their lives. Therefore, Mary went forth from Fatima to help the troubled disciples of her Son in the Communist countries of Eastern Europe. Fatima is like the head of a bridge, as it were, which

Mary uses to bear Christ to the peoples of the East, for it is He who in reality gives freedom to man. Europe will never forget this opening of the doors to Mary by Portugal. Departing from here, Mary could convert the European states in the east of this continent.”

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*Setting out from Fatima, Our Lady could begin her task of bringing Christ again to Europe....Mary went forth from Fatima to help the troubled disciples of her Son in the Communist countries of Eastern Europe. Fatima is like the head of a bridge, as it were, which Mary uses to bear Christ to the peoples of the East, for it is He who in reality gives freedom to man.... Departing from here, Mary could convert the European states in the east of this continent.*

Now, for some key specific dates, which are clearly attributable to Our Lady of Fatima:

October 13, 1990—First religious ceremony, since the Marxist Revolution in 1917, was held at the Cathedral of the Assumption inside the Kremlin. The cathedral had previously been used as a museum of atheism. The next day, the first Orthodox Mass was held at St. Basil's Cathedral in Red Square “in celebration of the Virgin Mary's intercession to alleviate human suffering.” October 13, 1917 was the date of the miracle of the sun, witnessed by 70,000 at Fatima.

Mary's presence, without question, thwarted the attempt by hardliners to restore communism in August 1991. Look at what

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happened on specific dates.

Readers may recall that Our Lady of Fatima appeared on the 19<sup>th</sup>, not the 13<sup>th</sup>, of August 1917 to the three shepherd children. The children had been forcibly abducted by the administrator of Ourem. Each of the children had thought the other had been boiled alive, as the administrator told them. Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta were willing to give up their lives rather than deny the truth of what they saw and heard from Our Lady.

The coup against President Gorbachev was launched on exactly the same day, August 19, in the year 1991, in an effort to restore hardline communism. The next day, August 20, the Pope in Hungary asked in a consecration of Hungary to Our Lady, for her to come to the aid of the nation, preventing former Hungarian communists from a retaliatory coup of their own, like the one started the day before in Russia.

The Russian coup collapsed on August 21, at 6:30 p.m., the eve of the feast of the Queenship of Mary. August 21 is also the feast of Our Lady of Knock in Ireland, the first Marian shrine Pope John Paul II visited after he became Pope.

The final dissolution of Marxism and Communism was set in motion August 22, which for years was the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary until it was placed alongside the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in June. The feast of the Queenship of Mary is celebrated on August 22.

By the 24<sup>th</sup> of August, the Communist party was banned from all state bodies.

Later, on another key date, December 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, President of Russia Boris Yeltsin and the leaders of Ukraine and Byelorussia announced that they had signed an agreement setting up a commonwealth. On that day, the death of the old Soviet Union became a foregone conclusion, replaced by a commonwealth with religious freedom, with free elections.

The final act in the immense change in Russia took place on Christmas Day, 1991. Mikhail Gorbachev announced his resignation as president of the U.S.S.R. That day, the hammer and sickle flag of the former Soviet Union was lowered for the last time, and the tricolor flag of Russia was raised.

Also on December 25, celebrated as the birth of Jesus, the Russian Parliament gave birth to the Russian Federation, dropping the Soviet Socialist Republic. The U.S.S.R. was dead! On the birth of Christ!

All of these changes took place between Pope John Paul II's consecration of Russia and the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, March 25, 1984, and December 25, 1991—7 years and 9 months.

Even those who don't pray the rosary, or don't believe, would be hard pressed to call all of these dates coincidences. They are all, in truth, God-incidents. Divine Providence and Our Lady were at work for the desires of her Immaculate Heart and Jesus' Sacred Heart.

"The underlying providential disposition that may be discerned through the remarkable concurrence of key events and dates is one of the principle themes," wrote Timothy Tindal-Robertson in "Fatima, Russia and Pope John Paul II". Mr. Tindal-Robertson did a great service in the 1990's for believers and Our Lady with his important book, whose revised edition was published in 1998.

Father Fox, known everywhere as "America's Fatima Priest" did a great service for the citizens of the United States of America, when, without any news about it, he dedicated, at Fatima, our country to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, at the request of President Ronald Reagan. The White House had made it clear at the time that it would deny such a request was made if the press learned about it, Fr. Fox told me. It was Reagan who kept a great deal of pressure on Gorbachev.

# Eucharistic Miracles Strengthen Our Faith

By Daniel P. McGivern

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“I am the living bread that came down from Heaven.”

*I am the living bread that came down from Heaven....Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink His blood, you shall not have life in you.*

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“Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink His blood, you shall not have life in you.”

During the nearly 2000 years since Christ instituted the Sacrament of the Eucharist on Holy Thursday, He has chosen to work perhaps 100 documented Eucharistic Miracles. He has done so for specific reasons at the time, and also to strengthen the faith of those who live in later generations.

## The Miracle at Lancia

This miracle took place 1200 years ago, in a small church in Lancia, Italy, near the Adriatic Sea. It was initially a response by God to a priest who had doubts about the Real Presence of Christ in the Mass. He had just spoken the words of the Consecration when the host was suddenly transformed into a circle of flesh, and the wine in the chalice changed to blood. He confessed his doubts to all attending the Mass and invited them up to the altar to see the miracle. They were astonished, and many cried and prayed. The fresh Blood coagulated into five globules, of different sizes and shapes. Since 1713, both the host and Blood have been kept in a beautiful silver monstrance, retained at St. Francis Church in Lancia. The Franciscans Minor Conventual Friars have been in charge of the miracles since 1252 and built the present church in 1258.

Over the centuries, there have been various Church investigations and recognition of the miracle. Science stepped in during the last 40 years to verify the miracle. In 1970-71, and again in 1981, the most thorough scientific investigation took place. It was conducted by Professor Odoardo Linoli, professor of anatomy and

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*I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh....Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat of the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you; he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.*

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pathological histology, chemistry and clinical microscopy. He was assisted by Professor Roggero Bertelli of the University of Sienna, Italy. The analyses determined that the Flesh is real flesh. Just as Jesus said, in John 6:51-57:

“I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat of the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you; he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.”

The Flesh at Lanciano consists of the muscular tissue of the Heart. Jesus chose this miracle to visually show us His Heart, for the heart symbolizes one's love. In the Flesh, the scientists saw in sections the myocardium, the endocardium, the vagus nerve and also the left ventricle. The Flesh is a piece of a human heart. In examining the Blood, the scientists found proteins and minerals in the same proportion as fresh, normal blood. The Blood (and the Flesh) are both blood type AB.

It should also be noted that there has been no special attempt over the centuries to do anything other than to reserve the Body and Blood and to show it to the devout. The scientists determined that there were no preservatives. This miracle is one of about 100 known Eucharistic miracles in the world.

### **The Miracle at Santarem**

For all of my life, I have approached Holy Communion, knowing full well that I am about to receive Christ Himself. I have never had any doubts that the bread is changed at the moment of consecration into His body, blood, soul and divinity. In my 54<sup>th</sup> year, however, I had the opportunity to see two Eucharistic miracles firsthand – one in Portugal and another in Austria.

*As she began to walk the 100 yards from the church to her small home, people noticed she was bleeding profusely from beneath the veil wrapped around her arm....That night, after she and her husband had gone to sleep, they were both awakened by a very bright light which illuminated the entire home. They both got up and saw that the light was coming from the closed chest.*

Located halfway between Lisbon and Fatima in Portugal is the city of Santarem. In the year 1266 A.D., a Catholic woman of that city was at her wit's end because her husband was unfaithful to her. In desperation, she approached a sorceress, who told her that she could restore her husband to her if she would do one thing: bring a consecrated Host to the sorceress. The Catholic woman knew this was wrong, but she decided to do it anyway. She was desperate.

Immediately after receiving Holy Communion on her tongue at St. Stephen's Church, she hurried down the aisle and took the Host out of her mouth and wrapped it in a veil around her arm. As she began to walk the 100 yards from the church to her small home, people noticed she

was bleeding profusely from beneath the veil wrapped around her arm. Burdened with guilt, she ran home to avoid the passersby concerned about her bleeding. Once inside her home, she put

aside all thoughts of seeing the sorceress. She took the Host in her blood-drenched veil and placed it inside of a chest, and closed the top.

That night, after she and her husband had gone to sleep, they were both awakened by a very bright light which illuminated the entire home. They both got up and saw that the light was coming from the closed chest. The wife told her husband everything, what she had done, and why she had done it. Both the husband and wife spent the rest of the night on their knees in adoration before the chest containing the miraculous Host.

The next morning, neighbors came over, attracted by the illuminating light. Next, a priest was summoned from St. Stephen's. After being told everything, and undoubtedly hearing the confessions of both, he carried the bleeding Host back to the Church, moulded clay around the Host to hold it, and to contain the bleeding. He then put it inside the tabernacle, and locked it securely. When he opened the tabernacle later, there was another miracle! The clay had broken into many pieces and the Host and Blood were contained inside of a clear crystal.

This miracle took place over 700 years ago and the lines of blood are very clear to anyone who looks closely. Sometimes the blood has the color of fresh blood, and other times, that of dried blood – a continuing miracle. The Host is somewhat irregularly shaped with delicate veins running from top to bottom, where a quantity of blood collected in the crystal.

### **The Miracle at Seefeld**

This Eucharistic miracle took place high in the hills of Austria, near Innsbruck, in the town of Seefeld. In the year 1384, a knight named Oswald Milser, was the guardian of Schlossberg Castle, just north of Seefeld. On Holy Thursday, the day Christ instituted the Sacrament of the Eucharist to nourish us, Knight Milser decided to unworthily receive Holy Communion. He and his men went into St. Oswald's Church (no relation to Oswald Milser) in Seefeld. They were armed, and at Communion time Knight Milser, filled with pride, went up to the stone altar and told the priest that he wanted to receive the larger Host, at that time reserved solely for the priest, instead of one of the smaller ones distributed to parishioners.

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*As soon as [Knight Oswald Milser] received [the larger host ordinarily reserved solely for the priest], the ground gave way beneath his feet. He sunk up to his knees. In desperation, he clutched at the altar to keep himself from sinking further. The altar started to sink! ...When [the consecrated Host] was removed from the Knight's tongue, it was blood-red.*

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All eyes were on the priest. What would he do? Nervously, he placed the larger Host on the tongue of the knight. As soon as he received it, the ground gave way beneath his feet. He sunk up to his knees. In desperation, he clutched at the altar to keep himself from sinking further. The altar started to sink! He instinctively knew what to do next. He stuck out his tongue for the priest to remove the Host. He then climbed out of the depression made by his feet and legs. Hurrying off to a nearby monastery, he confessed, and did penance until his death two years later.



Today, St. Oswald's Church is filled with artwork depicting the miracle. In addition to the artistic evidence, we have three visible proofs of the miracle. First, in front of the stone altar, over which a free standing modern altar has been placed, is a grating on the floor. Removing it and turning on the light, one can easily see the feet and leg impressions of Milser. You can just picture him climbing out of the hole and running off to the monastery over 600 years ago.

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*First, in front of the stone altar, over which a free standing modern altar has been placed, is a grating on the floor. Removing it and turning on the light, one can easily see the feet and leg impressions of Milser....The second miraculous proof is the stone altar itself. When the knight began to sink into the ground he grabbed the altar. His hand-prints are still in the altar and one can feel them, and put one's own hands into them. The third proof is the consecrated Host. When it was removed from the Knight's tongue, it was blood-red.*

The second miraculous proof is the stone altar itself. When the knight began to sink into the ground he grabbed the altar. His hand-prints are still in the altar and one can feel them, and put one's own hands into them.

The third proof is the consecrated Host. When it was removed from the Knight's tongue, it was blood-red. It was placed in a monstrance, and is still there, located in a side niche in the church, kept under lock and key. The Host is clearly visible when one looks at it in the monstrance. It is no longer blood-red.

An interesting but sad footnote is the story of Knight Milser's wife. She was separated from him and the Church. When she was told the full story of what had happened in front of so many witnesses, those attending Mass and Milser's armed men, she refused to believe it. The church records say she stubbornly refused to accept the truth, then went mad and lived in the woods as a wild beast. One can only hope that she came to her senses and repented before her death.

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Eucharistic miracles are not worked by God for just the people who witness it. Proof remains! The Host, which should have crumbled into nothingness hundreds of years ago, remains after 600 and 700 years in these last two cases. The Hosts were exposed to the elements over all those years and should have dissipated. The Eucharistic Miracles are proof positive of what happens at our Catholic Mass, where bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ at the consecration. When we receive Jesus, we must receive Him worthily. We must be in the state of grace, with no mortal sin, or hurry to a priest to confess all of our mortal sins, and complete the penance assigned promptly. Then we can receive the Eucharist at Mass.

Eucharistic miracles are visible proof of what we believe in Faith! We don't thoroughly understand it – what the theologians call transubstantiation. Yet I know that we receive the True Presence of Jesus at Mass. The veins of blood at the Church of the Miracle at Santarem will be etched in my memory forever, because I knew I was looking at Christ's blood.

The Catholic faith is unchanged from that first Holy Thursday in the upper room, when Jesus Himself gave His Body and Blood to His apostles, to Holy Thursday in 1384 when Knight Oswald Milser unworthily received Holy Communion, to Mass this very day all over the earth. Jesus Christ's sacrifice for us is taking place at every Mass. He gives His Body and Blood to us,

to nourish us, to sustain us, and He leads, guides and directs us in our lives – if we ask Him and let Him!

*For further reading: Joan Carroll Cruz's **Eucharistic Miracles** is available from Tan Books, (call toll-free 1-800-437-5876). **This is My Body! This is My Blood! Miracle of the Eucharist** by Bob and Penny Lord, and also a video on several famous Eucharistic miracles, including Lanciano, are available from Bob and Penny Lord, P.O. Box 429, Slidell, LA, 70459 (call toll-free 1-800-633-2484). The best book of all is the **The Eucharistic Miracles of the World** with many color photographs and great documentation. Go to [www.lifeeternal.org](http://www.lifeeternal.org) or buy one from 1-800-842-2871, Eternal Life Publishers.*

**The following daily prayer was obtained at the Church of the Eucharistic Miracle in Lanciano, Italy:**

**“O Jesus, living Bread descended from heaven, how infinitely great and good is Your love! In order to perpetuate and strengthen our faith in Your Real Presence in the Eucharist, you changed the consecrated species of bread and wine into Flesh and Blood, which are perpetually reserved in the Eucharistic Sanctuary of Lanciano. Oh, increase ever more our faith in You, Sacramental Lord.**

**Grant that burning with love for You, we may come to seek comfort in dangers, in necessities and in anxieties, only at your feet, O Divine Prisoner of our tabernacles, O perpetual fount of every grace.**

**Excite in us hunger and thirst for Your Eucharistic food, so that in keeping Your Word, tasting this heavenly Bread, we may be able to enjoy true life now and forever. Amen.”**

# Our Lady of Guadalupe Speaks

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*Do not be troubled or weighed down with grief. Do not fear any illness or vexation, anxiety or pain. Am I not here who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection?*

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“Do not be troubled or weighed down with grief. Do not fear any illness or vexation, anxiety or pain. Am I not here who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection?”

These words—spoken to Juan Diego 480 years ago in Mexico—have to be the most comforting words ever spoken by the Virgin Mary in any of her apparitions.

Who does not have fear? Who is not distressed by illness or pain? Who is spared anxiety or stress?

Yet, in all of these things, the Mother of God asks us to turn to her in love, in prayer, in complete trust and confidence.

Our Lady of Guadalupe first appeared to Juan Diego in the year 1531 on December 9.

Within four days, Mary appeared to her humble servant Juan a total of four times, leading to the image she left of herself on Juan Diego’s tilma. Made from the cactus plant, the tilma should have disintegrated in 20 years. That was four and one-half centuries ago!

“This is Mary’s only apparition in the world where she left a picture of herself. Mary left part of Heaven on earth,” states Mary Therese Helmueller of Guadalupe Travel in St. Paul, Minnesota, which takes pilgrimages twice a year to Mexico City.

The picture of Our Lady was so meaningful to the native Indians that they turned in amazing numbers from their Aztec worship and human sacrifices to adopt the Christian religion. The number of conversions totaled 8,000,000 in just eight years.

The image spoke clearly to the Indians. “She was standing before the sun, so she was stronger than the sun. She stood on the moon, so she was greater than the moon,” said Fr. John Meyers, spiritual director of Guadalupe Travel’s pilgrimages. This picture of Mary was a powerful message to the Indians, who had deified the sun and moon.

He also pointed out that the stars on the Virgin Mary’s mantle are in the same position as the major stars appeared in the heavens on the night of December 12, 1531.

She also had a cross on her neck, representing Christianity and her hands are in prayer. When the natives saw all of this revealed through a fellow Indian, they knew what to do. They converted!

When Juan Diego first went to Bishop Juan Zumarraga carrying roses in his tilma, Juan was unaware of the fact that the bishop had, in prayer, asked the Virgin Mary for Castilian roses, which didn’t even grow in Mexico “as a sign that the Franciscans should keep up their work trying to get the natives to convert,” added Father Meyers, also a Franciscan.

The Franciscans had arrived seven years earlier and conversions had gone slowly, but one of them was Juan Diego, the one Mary called "Juanito, my son, dearest of my sons."

Juan walked many miles to attend daily mass and on December 9, 1531 as he crossed Tepeyac Hill he heard blissful harmony and music coming from the top of Tepeyac Hill. Naturally curious, he climbed to the top and saw a lady of overpowering brilliance and beauty.

She told him, "Know for certain dearest of my sons, that I am the perfect and perpetual Virgin Mary, Mother of the true God, through whom everything lives."

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*She told him, "Know for certain, dearest of my sons, that I am the perfect and perpetual Virgin Mary, Mother of the true God, through whom everything lives.... I am your merciful Mother, the Mother of all who live united in this land, and of all mankind, of all those who love me, of those who cry to me, of those who have confidence in me."*

She went on to say, "I am your merciful Mother, the Mother of all who live united in this land, and of all mankind, of all those who love me, of those who cry to me, of those who have confidence in me."

She asked Juan to tell the Bishop of Mexico City to build a temple on Tepeyac Hill.

Juan did his best, but after seeing the bishop, he felt he had failed and went back to the Virgin Mary on Tepeyac Hill and suggested she get somebody more important for the job of telling the bishop what she wanted done.

Mary told Juan she has many servants and messengers and it was he whom she wanted to undertake this important mission.

On his second try at the bishop's residence, Juan had to wear the servants' resistance down in order to see Bishop Zumurruga again.

After asking Juan Diego many questions, Bishop Zumurruga told Juan that he would build a temple if the Lady gave him a sign she was from Heaven. Juan wondered aloud what kind of sign did the bishop want.

That evening Juan went to see his uncle Juan Bernardino and was startled to find him seriously ill with cocolixtle, a fever that took the lives of almost all of its victims. Juan knew his uncle was dying and went early the next morning to fetch a priest.

Upon approaching Tepeyac Hill, he went around the other side, hoping to avoid the Virgin Mary. He was in too much of a hurry to get a priest for his dying uncle. He didn't have time to talk.

Then Juan saw Mary coming down from the side of the hill. After intercepting Juan, she asked him where he was going.

Juan explained how ill his dear uncle was and that he was going to get a priest to hear his uncle's last confession and to administer the last rites.

Then Mary spoke great words of compassion and tenderness, the words first quoted at the beginning of this article. Then, she went to the heart of Juan Diego's concern. "Do not let the illness of your uncle worry you because he is not going to die of his sickness. At this very

moment, he is cured,” the Virgin Mary assured Juan, who later learned from his uncle that the Virgin Mary appeared to him too and cured him.

The Virgin Mary, to provide the sign requested by the bishop, told Juan to go to the top of the hill and gather the flowers he would find growing there. Juan knew nothing grew on the top of that hill except weeds, thistles, bushes and cactus—but he dutifully went up there and was surprised to find beautiful roses and other flowers in full bloom.

He picked the flowers, filling his tilma, using it like an apron. He went back down the hill to the Virgin Mary, who rearranged them in the tilma and told Juan not to let anyone see what was inside his tilma until he was in the bishop’s presence.

Juan did as he was told and after some delay, he convinced the servants that he should be allowed to see the bishop.

Juan then told everything to the bishop and at the end of his story, he released the ends of his tilma. The flowers, including the Castilian roses the bishop had prayed for, cascaded to the floor.

Bishop Zumarraga knew it was the sign he had asked for from the Blessed Virgin Mary. Filled with awe and wonder, the bishop looked up at the tilma and at that instant the glorious image of Mary appeared on it.

Juan Diego was as amazed as anyone else. Here was a picture of the lady he saw on his tilma!

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*Ordinarily, when one is close to a painting, the detail is sharper than from a distance....The plan of this holy picture is so singular, so perfectly accomplished and so manifestly marvelous that we hold it for certain that anyone who has any knowledge whatever of our art must, on seeing it, at once declare it to be a miraculous portrait.*

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“To me, the strangest thing (about the image on the tilma) is this: ordinarily, when one is close to a painting, the detail is sharper than from a distance. But with the holy portrait, this isn’t so. You can scarcely see the stars in her robe, yet they are dazzling from a distance... (up close) her robe is not the greenish-blue one sees from a distance, but a much bluer and darkish blue. The pink of her gown is very pale close up, but very rosy at some distance,” stated the late American author Coley Taylor, quoted in the best book one can find on Our Lady of Guadalupe. It is written by Francis Johnston and called: “The Wonder of Guadalupe” published by TAN Books and Publishers in Rockford, Illinois. Many of those quoted here are from Johnston’s book.

The name Guadalupe comes from what Juan’s uncle related when he said she told him she was to be known as Our Lady of Guadalupe. At least that’s what it sounded like to the bishop, who of course was familiar with a shrine to Our Lady in Guadalupe, Spain.

In a very short time, Christianity replaced the Aztec religion. The Indians were frankly tickled pink that the Mother of God chose an Indian to appear to, and they were quick to convert after gazing at the miraculous image.

Over the years, the tilma has been touched by thousands, survived the smoke of many thousands of candles, survived acid accidentally spilled on the image by a workman cleaning the frame holding the tilma, and survived a bomb explosion directly beneath it (not even the glass was cracked although a brass crucifix was bent, stained glass windows in the church shattered and masonry crumbled).

In the year 1736, Mexico was ravaged by typhus, which claimed 700,000 lives. The people turned in prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe and the government—yes, the government—asked the clergy to proclaim her National Patroness of Mexico, which was done in solemn ceremonies on May 26, 1737. The typhus plague immediately ended.

The most famous painter in Mexico at the time was Miguel Cabrera, who after examining the sacred image, declared, “The plan of this holy picture is so singular, so perfectly accomplished and so manifestly marvelous that we hold it for certain that anyone who has any knowledge whatever of our art must, on seeing it, at once declare it to be a miraculous portrait.”

How miraculous came to light in this century! In one eye, a professional photographer found an image of Juan Diego, confirmed as a likeness of Juan from an old painting. In the other eye, you can also see—in a picture blown up 25 times—two other images besides Juan Diego. These are believed to be Bishop Don Sebastian Ramirez Fuenleal and Juan Gonzales, the interpreter.

The three men were shown in a 1533 painting discovered in 1960 during restoration of the old 1622 church.

Therefore, this portrait, this picture of Mary, in turn took a picture of Juan Diego and two others, as reflected in her eyes as the three first gazed at the wondrous tilma. Bishop Zumarraga, who is not shown, is believed to have been behind the tilma, holding it for Juan and the others to see.

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Over the years, the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe has been elevated in stature to the rank equal to St. John Lateran Basilica in Rome, ranking second in importance only to St. Peter's.

Many titles have been added to Our Lady of Guadalupe. Of the 45 popes since 1531, 25 have issued decrees concerning Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Pope Pius XII proclaimed her Empress of All the Americas. Pope John XXIII proclaimed a Marian year of Our Lady of Guadalupe from December 12, 1960 to the same date in 1961, and called her “Mother of the Americas.”

Pope Paul VI presented a golden rose to the Basilica, an honor only accorded to the basilicas at Lourdes and Fatima, the two great Marian shrines in Europe which draw millions of pilgrims every year.

But Our Lady of Guadalupe's Basilica in Mexico City has to be the greatest Marian shrine from two aspects: over 20,000,000 go there every year (some 2 to 3 million arrive for her December 12 feast day annually) and it is the only place where Mary actually left a portrait, a picture, of herself.

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*There was no coloring of any kind in the fibers. The materials used to produce what resembled colors were unknown to science, being neither animal, vegetable or mineral dyes....It may seem strange for a scientist to say this but as far as I'm concerned the original picture is miraculous.*

The coloring of this picture is so unique that a German Nobel Prize winner in chemistry, Richard Kuhn, said after examining fibers from the image that there was no coloring of any kind in the fibers. The materials used to produce what resembled colors were unknown to science, being neither animal, vegetable or mineral dyes. That statement was made by Kuhn 55 years ago.

In 1979, Professor Phillip Callahan of the University of Florida, said of the image, "It may seem strange for a scientist to say this but as far as I'm concerned the original picture is miraculous."

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Yes, the 1531 image cannot be explained by science. Powerful lenses have even revealed that Mary's face in the image utilizes the coarse weave of the tilma so precisely as to give depth to her face.

Pope John Paul II, who has been a pilgrim to Mexico City twice, sums up what many feel when he said he feels drawn to her picture.

For her December 12 feast day, millions are drawn to the basilica opened in 1979 (the old one is cracked and sinking). Most who come are poor peasants. Many approach the basilica on their knees. Hundreds arrive by bicycle. Tens of thousands arrive in crowded trucks, huddled together. Others walk or take public transportation. On the night of the feast day, many thousands sleep outside the basilica—only a grass mat, blanket or piece of cardboard separating them from the cold concrete.

Seldom is such faith seen anywhere in the world.

They come from all over Mexico—and other parts of the world—to be with, pray to, and look upon Our Lady of Guadalupe.

When you look at her, you know the image is from Heaven. When you look at the people (10,000 can crowd into the basilica) you know that they too are aware that this sacred image from Heaven is truly a picture of Our Mother—and that she is here to help them!

In conclusion, here is a special prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe:

Dear Mother, we love you. We thank you for your promise to help us in our need. We trust in your love that dries our tears and comforts us. Teach us to find our peace in your Son, Jesus, and bless us every day of our lives.

Help us to build a shrine in our hearts. Make it as beautiful as the one built for you on the Mount of Tepeyac. A shrine full of trust, hope and love of Jesus growing stronger each day.

Mary, you have chosen to remain with us by giving us your most wonderful and holy self-image on Juan Diego's cloak. May we feel your loving presence as we look upon your face. Like Juan, give us the courage to bring your message of hope to everyone.

You are our Mother and our inspiration. Hear our prayers and answer us. Amen.



# Our Mother of Perpetual Help

Who do we turn to for help most of our lives? Our mothers, of course, until the Good Lord calls them home.

Mary's greatest title, the one that tells us she is ready to help us at every moment, is Mother. She is the Mother of God—for Jesus is truly God and truly man—and Our Mother as well, for Jesus gave her to us on the cross. The Blessed Virgin Mary is Our Mother offering her perpetual help.

The famous image of Our Mother of Perpetual Help is prayed before by millions of people, especially at Tuesday night novenas, which are held in thousands of churches, very popular devotions which originated in the United States.

Countless miracles have taken place before the original painting, as well as before thousands of duplicates sent all over the world by the Redemptorist Fathers in Rome.



The original, which has a recorded history going back to the 1400's, has been honored in St. Alphonsus Church in Rome for the past 145 years, since 1866.

Pope Pius IX prayed before it as a little boy and as pope he bestowed several honors on the image including fixing the feast of Our Mother of Perpetual Help (now celebrated everywhere on June 27).

From 1499, for 300 years, this image of Our Mother of Perpetual Help hung in St. Matthew's Church in Rome and many cures and requests were granted to the people who came to pray there. After the destruction of that church by Massena under Napoleon Bonaparte, the rescued painting was placed in two successive churches until the Redemptorists built St. Alphonsus on the site next to where St. Matthew's once stood.

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*O Mother of Perpetual Help, we call upon your most powerful name ... [which] is confidence and power.*

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On the day of Our Mother of Perpetual Help's triumphal return to the grounds of her original site in Rome on April 26, 1866, two cures took place—one the healing of a boy with meningitis and the other the cure of a girl with a paralyzed leg.

In the 1870's, devotion to this miraculous image of Our Mother of Perpetual Help spread to the United States, which takes credit for beginning the Tuesday night devotions to her in St. Alphonsus Church in St. Louis.

The prayers of this novena, which are very beautiful, have spread worldwide and are recited at weekly novenas to Our Mother of Perpetual Help. It is almost impossible to find a city without at least one church or more with Our Mother of Perpetual Help devotions on Tuesday evenings for a half hour.

Let's look at some of the beautiful words in this novena.

"Most holy and Immaculate Virgin and our Mother Mary, you are our Perpetual Help, our refuge and our hope. We come to you today. We thank God for all the graces you have obtained for us. Mother of Perpetual Help, we love you. To show our love we promise to serve you always and to do all in our power to lead others to you."

"O Mother of Perpetual Help, we call upon your most powerful name. You are the safeguard of the living and the salvation of the dying. Your name will always be on our lips, especially in time of temptation, and at the hour of our death. Your name is confidence and power."

"O Mother of Perpetual Help, with the greatest confidence we kneel before you. We implore your help in the problems of our daily life. Trials and sorrows often depress us; reverses of fortune and painful privations bring misery into our lives; everywhere we meet the cross. Have pity on us, compassionate Mother. Take care of our needs, free us from our sufferings or if it be the will of God that we should suffer still longer, grant that we may endure all with love and patience. These graces we ask, trusting not in our merits but in your love and patience. These graces we ask, trusting not in our merits but in your love and power, O Mother of Perpetual Help."

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*O Mother of Perpetual Help ... take care of our needs, free us from our sufferings or if it be the will of God that we should suffer still longer, grant that we may endure all with love and patience.*

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In one of the concluding prayers, we pray:

"O Mother of Perpetual Help, you are both rich and generous. You distribute all the gifts that God grants us. You are the hope of sinners. Come, then, dear Mother, for we turn to you. In your hands is salvation and we are in your hands. We are your children. Take care of us, dear Mother."

And she does!

Let's look at the image itself! Our Mother of Perpetual Help is holding the child Jesus, who is looking over His shoulder at St. Gabriel holding the cross and nails. The other archangel is St. Michael holding the lance and spear with the vessel of gall and vinegar of Christ's Passion on the cross. All the letters are in Greek. The initials ICXC by the Child Jesus identify Him as Jesus Christ, while the initials by Our Mother identify her as Mother of God.

A sandal dangles from the foot of the Child Jesus as He grips the hand of His Mother and gazes sideways at the instruments of torture, the cross and nails.

Mary's head gently touches that of her Son, just as she gently touches all of us who turn to Our Mother of Perpetual Help.

# Padre Pio: The Saint Who Bore The Wounds of Christ for 50 Years!

Four days after his ordination, Padre Pio of Pietrelcina celebrated his first high mass in Pietrelcina, Italy. On the traditional commemorative picture, he wrote these words, “Oh Jesus, my breath and my life, on this day when I raised you up with my trembling hands in a mystery of love, may I be, in unison with you, the Way, the Truth and the Life for the world, and for you, a holy priest, the perfect victim.”

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*Oh Jesus, my breath and my life, on this day when I raised you up with my trembling hands in a mystery of love, may I be, in unison with you, the Way, the Truth and the Life for the world, and for you, a holy priest, the perfect victim.*

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Padre Pio did become the perfect victim, bearing the painful, bleeding wounds of Christ, pierced side, and wounds piercing his hands and feet—miraculously given to him as he prayed before a crucifix in a church choir loft on September 20, 1918.

He had been told by Jesus that he would bear these wounds for fifty years—and then he would see Him! Fifty years later, he died on September 23, 1968. The wounds closed and healed completely days before his death.

During those fifty years, Padre Pio became an “alter Christus,” another Christ on earth, as he served His Lord and Savior by serving others.

His miracles are many, from curing the lame to healing the little girl who was brought to him with no pupils in her eyes. She left seeing, through totally white eyes with no pupils!

He brought tens of thousands to Jesus Christ’s open arms in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Using a number system, people waited up to 10 days to confess to the holy man, the first priest in church history bearing the stigmata, the wounds of Christ. Holy St. Francis, a brother, bore Christ’s wounds also—but for a shorter time.

When Padre Pio prayed to be in union with Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life for the world, he had no idea he would be given God’s greatest gift as a Confessor: he was able to see and read souls, knowing all unconfessed mortal sins. If a person came to confession, and didn’t confess a serious sin, perhaps from years ago and long forgotten, Padre Pio gently reminded the person of the sin and the penitent acknowledged and confessed the sin with proper sorrow.

This all led to Padre Pio spending up to 16 hours a day in the confessional. Occasionally, a person would come to Confession and lie to him, or perhaps Padre Pio would see there is no sorrow at all for the sins. In that case, he would stop the person, telling the person why, and held out the offer to hear his or her Confession when the penitent returned. Some went right back to the end of the line and got ready for Confession in a proper manner.

Padre Pio's fame spread far and wide, drawing many to him for cures and for healing of their souls in Confession.

In spite of all his suffering from the constantly bleeding wounds of Christ, he was always willing to suffer for souls to have them turn to God and His love.

He had a close relationship with his Guardian Angel. "How comforting to think that, right at our side, stands a spirit who never leaves us from the cradle to the grave; not for an instant, not even when we dare to sin.

And this heavenly spirit guides us, protects us like a friend, like a brother."

*How comforting to think that, right at our side, stands a spirit who never leaves us from the cradle to the grave; not for an instant, not even when we dare to sin. And this heavenly spirit guides us, protects us like a friend, like a brother.*

From the age of 5, when he knew he wanted to become a monk in the Franciscan order, he had visions of both Jesus and Mary. All through his life, they helped him in his battles with the evil one.

He was so close to Mary, he promised to say at least 15 rosaries a day, which he did faithfully.

Even at the moment of death, right after confessing to a priest, he said he saw two mothers. The priest saw only the picture of Padre Pio's mother. Padre Pio insisted there were two mothers there. The other mother was the tender, loving, caring mother he turned to all of his life—the Blessed Virgin Mary to take him to his Lord and Savior.

Today, 8 million pilgrims a year come to pray at his tomb in San Giovanni, Italy, in Our Lady of Grace Church. More millions come to this shrine than any other shrine in the world except for the Basilica of our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City.

"I will do much more after my death," promised the holy priest. Obviously, his words have proved to be true. Not only do millions go to Italy, but many more have a great devotion to Padre Pio, including Pope John Paul II who beatified and canonized him for just two of his many miracles after death, raising Padre Pio to the altar as a saint on June 16, 2002. He was beatified three years earlier on May 2, 1999.

Pope John Paul II, while he was still a bishop in Krakow, Poland, was told by Padre Pio to learn many languages, and it is said, never denied by the Vatican, that Padre Pio prophesied directly to the young bishop that he would become Pope.

Padre Pio's wounds gave off a heavenly perfume. He was also able to be in two places at once, known as bilocation. We must remember that nothing is impossible with God.

One of the greatest pieces of advice Padre Pio has left us is the following: "Pray, hope and don't worry. Trust in the infinite goodness of Almighty God!"

Few men would have the courage to say what Padre Pio said, "My Jesus, save everyone; I offer myself as victim for them all. Strengthen me, take my heart, fill it with your love and then command whatever you will."

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*Love the Madonna and make her loved by others.  
Always pray the rosary....I wish I had a voice strong  
enough to call the sinners of the whole world to love  
our Blessed Mother.*

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Jesus commanded that Padre Pio would suffer like no priest ever has! But he was also given great gifts too—from healing to prophecy, to reading and reconciling souls with God.

Every time we go to Confession, we know that Christ Himself hears us and forgives us. The priest is His divine instrument—and in the case of Padre Pio, it is evident he was given the light of Christ to see

each soul as Christ saw that soul.

Many books have been written about Padre Pio. An article cannot hope to encompass all this priest did, but can only shine some light on this holy saint, who constantly stands ready in Heaven to live up to his promise, “I will do much more after my death.”

Padre Pio’s legacy is two-fold: his Home for the Relief of Suffering which draws ill pilgrims from all over the world to San Giovanni Rotondo in southern Italy. It has state-of-the-art equipment, top physicians and above all, a reliance on Christ with prayer. Padre Pio never wanted it to be a hospital, but a home for ill pilgrims. Those who can pay, do so; those who can’t, offer their prayers.

The second part of his legacy is the Padre Pio prayer groups—all over the world, most of whom meet every week. Individuals devoted to Padre Pio outnumber these prayer groups for with sainthood, even more are devoted to this saint who became another Christ, “alter Christus,” on earth for all of our good.

## **The Rosary and the Madonna**

Someone asked Padre Pio one day what the inheritance would be that he would leave his spiritual children. He answered at once, “The Rosary.”

Another asked him what prayer to choose for use throughout one’s life. He promptly replied, “The Rosary.”

Shortly before his death in 1968, Padre Pio was asked by some of his spiritual children for some words of wisdom. He answered, “Love the Madonna and make her loved by others. Always pray the rosary.”

Padre Pio also said, “I wish I had a voice strong enough to call the sinners of the whole world to love our Blessed Mother.”

Known for his long, devout Masses, Padre Pio said, “If men only appreciated the value of a holy Mass, they would need traffic officers at church doors every day to keep the crowds in order.”

# St. Anthony

## Friend of Jesus and Mary

*“O blessed tongue! That never ceased to praise God, and taught others to bless him, it is now manifest how precious thou art in his sight!”*

These are the words of St. Bonaventure upon seeing the uncorrupt tongue of the great St. Anthony when his coffin was opened in 1263. Most of the remains of the saint had crumbled to dust, except for the skeleton, in the 32 years since his death in 1231.

The skeleton of St. Anthony also revealed that the saint's lower jaw (consisting of teeth, flesh and bone) was intact. Both the jawbone and the tongue were placed in reliquaries in the great Basilica of St. Anthony which was completed in 1263 in Padua, Italy.

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O blessed tongue [of St. Anthony]! That never ceased to praise God, and taught others to bless Him, it is now manifest how precious thou art in His sight!

– St. Bonaventure

St. Anthony's remains have been exhumed twice – once in 1263 when they were transferred to the Basilica, and again in 1981, the 750<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death. This was when the saint's vocal chords were discovered totally intact. They too have been placed in a third reliquary in the Basilica. Although the flesh was there since St. Anthony's death, it took modern medical science to reveal that the remains now found intact in 1981 were what we know as the vocal chords.

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Just who was this towering saint who spoke so well for God that He preserved all elements relating to the Saint's voice?

He was the son of the Governor of Lisbon, Portugal, born on August 15 (Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady) in the year 1195. Saint Anthony's given name was Ferdinand and he was placed by his mother at baptism on an altar where he was dedicated to the Blessed Mother. St. Anthony had a life-long devotion to Our Lady. We know that at least on one occasion, she actually appeared to him!

The Friars had planned to read the lesson from the Martyrology in general use in France, which in referring to the next day's beautiful feast for Mary, said: *“As yet the Church has given no decision upon the bodily assumption of the Blessed Virgin, exercising a prudent reserve as to trivial or apocraphal legends.”*

To treat a truth so certain in St. Anthony's mind, wounded the heart of the faithful servant of Mary. When the bell rang for Prime, St. Anthony did not want to disobey and break the rule by not attending; at the same time, he didn't want to attend, which he felt gave tacit approval to what was being said.

Then, miraculously, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to St. Anthony in all the splendour of her beauty, surrounded by a dazzling light.

She said to St. Anthony: *"Be assured, my son, that this body of mine, which has been the living Ark of the Word Incarnate, has been preserved from the corruption of the grave. Be equally assured that, three days after my death, it was carried upon the wings of angels to the right hand of the Son of God, where I reign as Queen."*

St. Anthony understood that this apparition was not a mere personal favour. He spoke out boldly, becoming a champion and the apostle of the glorious mystery of Mary's Assumption.

St. Anthony, when we see his statue in churches, is always holding the Infant Jesus, who is standing on the Bible, arms outstretched to the saint.

This is another great apparition, witnessed by a person who was drawn to great light coming from St. Anthony's room. He peeked in and saw St. Anthony embracing the child Jesus, standing on a huge volume on a wooden table. The peeping visitor then saw Jesus whisper something to the saint. Knowing he'd been discovered, the man left and later revealed what he had seen to the saint himself. The man told others what he saw in the saint's room after St. Anthony's death.

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*The Blessed Virgin Mary said to St. Anthony: "Be assured, my son, that this body of mine, which has been the living Ark of the Word Incarnate, has been preserved from the corruption of the grave. Be equally assured that, three days after my death, it was carried upon the wings of angels to the right hand of the Son of God, where I reign as Queen."*

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St. Anthony was known as a great preacher, a man who traveled for the Lord all over Europe.

St. Anthony's vocal chords, tongue and jaw were preserved from the corruption of the grave by God to prove emphatically that when this Saint spoke, he spoke God's holy truth and did so eloquently inspired by the Holy Spirit.

On one dramatic occasion, Pope Gregory IX commissioned St. Anthony to speak to the people shortly after the saint's arrival in Rome. It was Holy Week, in fact the last three days of Lent. St. Anthony's desire had been to remain unknown in the city and to replenish his soul at the tombs of martyrs. The Pope, however, had invited him to speak on the real meaning of the great Gospel story the church was observing.

Amazingly, the Holy Spirit gave St. Anthony the gift of tongues, for even though men and women from every corner of Europe were present, each heard the saint speak in his or her native language. Pope Gregory IX in the presence of all, pronounced the young friar to be the *living ark of the testament* and pressed him to be in the Pontifical Court, but the saint pleaded to return to the silence of the Italian hills.

Years before this speech, St. Anthony had been ordered by the great St. Francis to preach, and teach fellow Franciscans.

St. Anthony today is known primarily as the finder of lost items, which suits him quite well. While he's finding lost items, he leads many a soul to Jesus and his Church.

In his lifetime, he caused many to repent. When he arrived in a town and spoke, the confessionals were filled.

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*[The citizens of] the town of Rimini ... were a stubborn people who didn't want to turn from their ways. When no one would pay any attention to [St. Anthony] in Rimini, he went to the banks of the river and proceeded to give his sermon to the fish. ... God, who controls all of nature, had hundreds and then thousands of fish line up, bobbing on the surface of the water, seemingly intent and nodding to St. Anthony as he spoke. The cautious townspeople came and watched the fish, and then listened to St. Anthony and repented.*

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But, in the town of Rimini he ran into trouble on two occasions. They were a stubborn people who didn't want to turn from their ways. When no one would pay any attention to him in Rimini, he went to the banks of the river and proceeded to give his sermon to the fish.

We know from the Gospel that Jesus told Peter and the others with him to cast their net over the side of the boat, after a useless night of fishing. They did so and hauled in a great catch.

This time, God, who controls all of nature, had hundreds and then thousands of fish line up, bobbing on the surface of the water, seemingly intent and nodding to St. Anthony as he spoke. The cautious townspeople came and watched the fish, and then listened to St. Anthony and repented.

On another occasion in the same town of Rimini, a heretic refused to believe that Jesus was truly present in the consecrated Host. He challenged St. Anthony in front of others.

He said that if his donkey was starved for three days and then brought out to the street to choose between adoring Jesus and food to eat, he'd believe if the donkey chose to adore Jesus in the consecrated Host. St. Anthony had only one condition: if he failed, it was only because of the saint's sins and, no other reason. Then St. Anthony prayed and fasted for three days.

The donkey, after starving for three days, was taken out to the street and shown both food and Jesus in the monstrance. He headed straight to the saint holding the consecrated Host and knelt down on its two front legs. Not to be outdone, the heretic threw himself before Jesus in the Host, too.

The number of miracles worked by St. Anthony is amazing, both during his lifetime and after his death, to this very day! There were so many documented miracles after his death that he was proclaimed a Saint by Pope Gregory IX in less than one year, which is incredible when it usually takes 100 or so years to proclaim even a great saint officially a saint of the church.

St. Anthony is also one of thirty-two Doctors of the Church, because of what he said and wrote.

Miracles are exciting to read about. They are such confirmations of faith.

We all know the story from the Gospel telling how Jesus took the severed ear, cut off by Peter's sword, and reattached it to the soldier among those arresting Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.



St. Anthony also miraculously reattached a severed man's foot. The man had gone to St. Anthony for confession, telling him that in the heat of anger he kicked his own mother. St. Anthony made the comment, not to be taken literally, that the foot which kicks a mother should be cut off! The young man went home, took an axe and hacked off his offending foot! Shortly afterward, the man's mother came running for St. Anthony and bade him come to her son's aid. Upon arriving, St. Anthony picked up the foot and pressed it against the man's leg. Making the sign of the cross, St. Anthony once again showed his full faith in the power of God. The foot was instantly attached to the leg and the young man was able to get up and stand on it, totally healed.

On another occasion, St. Anthony was asked to preach at the funeral of a miser, a man who made his living by usury and many were cast into jail for failing to pay their debts. It was St. Anthony who succeeded in pushing to have the law changed so that if a man gave all he had, he couldn't be put in jail.

Standing before the body of the miserly man, St. Anthony said it should be cast out and buried where dogs are buried. His soul is already in hell, exclaimed St. Anthony, and his heart is no longer in his body, but where his treasure is, there is his heart! The old man's chest was cut open. There was no heart. His treasure chest was opened. There was his heart.

A mother's young child drowned at the age of two. The parents lived near the Basilica in Padua, Italy, built after the saint's death. The woman promised St. Anthony at his tomb that if the child was restored to life, she would give a measure of grain to the poor. Toward midnight, the child rose up as if from sleep. This miracle gave rise to the devotion today known as St. Anthony's Bread, helping to feed the poor.

Another woman, unable to reach her husband by mail for months as he was in a foreign country, with full faith placed a letter in the hand of a statue of St. Anthony in a church. The next day there was a reply from her husband, saying her letter had been delivered by a Franciscan priest. Enclosed were some gold coins as well.

I too prayed, and still do pray to St. Anthony, for financial help and assistance. On one dire occasion, I needed \$10,000 before the end of August to send two sons off to college. After weeks of praying, there was still no money. As my business was seasonal, I couldn't expect funds until the Fall. In the last week of August the money came in very unexpectedly, as a loan to me. The money I had asked St. Anthony for, in the end, came just in time. Imagine my surprise when I learned the \$10,000 was coming to me as a loan from the St. Anthony Alumni Association.

Inside the Padua Basilica erected for the tomb of St. Anthony are almost sixty various representations of the Blessed Virgin Mary, painted or sculptured, scattered throughout the huge Basilica. This would please him beyond any doubt for he was so devoted on this earth to his heavenly mother.

Near his tomb are nine marble panels in bas-relief. From the left, they are: St. Anthony receiving the Franciscans habit; the Saint healing an innocent woman stabbed by her jealous husband; St. Anthony raising to life a young man so that he can reveal the true assassin; the saint restoring life to a child who drowned; the saint bringing to life a little boy; the miser's heart found in a treasure chest; the saint reattaching the foot of the penitent youth; the miracle of the unbroken drinking glass, and the saint making a newborn speak to proclaim his father.

St. Anthony was tall for his day, five foot, seven inches. He wasn't exceptionally healthy. He had a very large head and it's been determined that he had as much grey matter in his brain as Leonardo DaVinci, who is known to have had more grey matter than any human on earth, including Albert Einstein. We know he was very smart, for he turned to prayer often. His enlarged knees point to the many hours spent on his knees in penance and prayer. At night, he used a rock for a pillow. The rock is on view in the Padua Basilica.

On the day St. Anthony died, June 13, 1231, he had been staying by day in a cell in the woods for meditation and prayer. The son of the Governor of Lisbon was content. But at the age of thirty-six, God called him home.

He died before reaching St. Mary's Church where he had asked to be taken. After confessing and receiving absolution, he then began to sing his favourite hymn to the Blessed Virgin, *O Gloriosa Domina*.

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*On the day St. Anthony died, June 13, 1231 ... after confessing and receiving absolution, he then began to sing his favourite hymn to the Blessed Virgin, O Gloriosa Domina. Shortly before he died, a brother noticing the saint's eyes were turned toward Heaven, asked St. Anthony what he saw. He replied, "I see my Saviour."*

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Shortly before he died, a brother noticing the saint's eyes were turned toward Heaven, asked St. Anthony what he saw.

He replied, "I see my Saviour."

The holy oil of unction was brought and administered. As the sun was sloping toward earth, the words of the penitential psalms were the last that St. Anthony uttered.

In less than one year, with forty-seven duly authorized miracles, Pope Gregory IX proclaimed him a saint.

And he's still working as a saint, working great miracles and small ones like finding lost articles. In the process, he still brings many souls to Our Lord and His Blessed Mother.

# The Greatest Saint of Modern Times

## St. Therese of the Child Jesus

“I feel that my mission is about to begin: Making people love our good Lord as I love Him, showing my little way to souls.”

These are the words of St. Therese of the Child Jesus, spoken a few short months before her death at the age of 24 on September 30, 1897.

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*The Church has a heart—a heart on fire with love. I saw that love alone imparts life to all the members so that should love ever fail, apostles would no longer preach the Gospel and martyrs would refuse to shed their blood.*

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St. Therese had a great love for the Church. “The Church has a heart—a heart on fire with love. I saw that love alone imparts life to all the members so that should love ever fail, apostles would no longer preach the Gospel and martyrs would refuse to shed their blood.”

“Finally, I realized that love included every vocation, that love is all things, that love is eternal, reaching down through all the ages and stretching to the uttermost limits of earth.”

“Beside myself with joy, I cried out: ‘O Jesus, my love, my vocation is found at last—my vocation in love.’ I have found my place, in the bosom of the Church, and this place, O my God, Thou hast given me: in the heart of the Church, my Mother, I will be love.”

This then was and is St. Therese: love. Her great love for Jesus, her love for the Church, her love for others—all filled her life, every moment.

She was a nun from the age of 15 to her death at age 24. When she entered the convent, she stated her desire: “I have come to save souls and especially to pray for priests.”

Four of the Martin girls became nuns at the same Carmelite convent in Lisieux, the little town nestled among the rolling hills of Normandy in western France. One girl became a Visitation nun.

St. Therese’s mother and father were both deeply religious. Her father had wanted to become a monk, but was turned away by St. Bernard’s monastery. Her mother had wanted to become a nun and she too was turned away.

With humility, she then prayed constantly to God, “I beseech Thee to make me the mother of many children and to grant that all of them may be consecrated to Thee.”

In 1858, Louis Martin and Zélie Guérin were married. She bore nine children. Both boys and two of the girls died at an early age. Of the five surviving girls, the last to be born was the future St. Therese, baptized Marie Françoise Therese. She was born January 2, 1873 and baptized in the church of Notre Dame where her parents were married.

At the age of ten, Therese was cured by the Virgin Mary. The inexplicable malady carried with it chills, fevers, convulsions, hallucinations and a great deal of crying. On one desperate occasion, Leonie and Marie, joined by Therese, knelt before a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary and implored her intercession. Therese described later what happened. "Suddenly the statue became animated and radiantly beautiful—with a divine beauty that no words of mine can ever convey. The look upon Our Lady's face was unspeakably kind and sweet and compassionate, but what penetrated to the depth of my soul was her gracious smile. Instantly, all my pain vanished, my eyes filled and big tears fell silently, tears of purest heavenly joy."

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*"I beseech Thee to make me the mother of many children and to grant that all of them may be consecrated to Thee,"*  
*Zelie Martin said.*

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This illness and cure, together with her first Holy Communion, helped the spiritual growth of Therese.

At the age of 15, she appealed to the Pope personally, on a pilgrimage with her father, saying to Pope Leo XIII, "Holy Father, in honor of your jubilee, allow me to enter Carmel at the age of fifteen." The Pope told her that she would enter "if it be God's will." She entered within six months with the expressed hope that "like the face of Jesus, mine should be as it were hidden and despised, so that no one on earth should esteem me: I thirsted to suffer and be forgotten."

Suffer she did. A month later, her father was removed from Lisieux and put into a private mental home. She wrote, showing her spiritual growth, "How sweet and precious was the bitter chalice, since from each stricken heart there came only sighs of grateful love. We no longer walked—we ran, we flew along the road to perfection."

On September 8, 1890, Therese pronounced her vows. Next to her heart she bore a letter in which part read: "Take me from this world rather than allow me to stain my soul by committing the least willful fault. May I never seek or find anything but Thee alone."

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*Take me from this world rather than allow me to stain my soul by committing the least willful fault. May I never seek or find anything but Thee alone.*

For nine years in the Lisieux Carmel convent, she lived the doctrine of sanctity—devoting all her prayers to loving God, totally, in absolutely everything she did.

In her "little way" everything was most ordinary for "all I do must be within their (ordinary souls) reach in the same way."

She started her autobiography at the request of her sister Pauline, who was then the prioress.

One remarkable feature was that there was no crossing out or alteration on the text which Therese wrote. Later again, another prioress urged her to continue the story of her life, which Therese had ended upon admission to the convent. Chapters nine and ten dealt with her life at the convent, while in the final chapter she described her own special way of life, spirituality and prayer, which she referred to as her "little way".

The writing was completed shortly before her death, and called “The Story of a Soul.” In a conversation with her sister, Mother Agnes (Pauline), she said, “I feel that my mission is soon to begin—to make others love God as I love Him—to teach souls my little way. I will spend my Heaven in doing good on earth.”

The disease she had, tuberculosis, riddled her lungs. She had terrible attacks of suffocation, exhausting sweating spells and coughing up blood several times daily. This began in April 1896 and she died September 30, 1897.

Therese’s spiritual trials during the time were more intense than the physical. She wrote, “God allowed my soul to be enveloped in complete darkness.”

“I realized that to become a Saint, one must suffer much, one must always choose the most perfect path. I understood that there are many degrees of holiness, each soul being free to respond to the calls of Our Lord, and to do much or little for His love—in a word, to select amongst the sacrifices He asks. Then also, as in the days of my childhood, I cried out: “My God, I choose everything—I will not be a Saint by halves, I am not afraid of suffering for Thee. One thing only do I fear, and that is to follow my own will. Accept then the offering I make of it. I choose all that Thou wilt.”

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*My God, I choose everything—I will not be a Saint by halves, I am not afraid of suffering for Thee. One thing only do I fear, and that is to follow my own will. Accept then the offering I make of it. I choose all that Thou wilt.*

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A realist in her illness, Therese faced death with joyful anticipation. She consoled her sisters, joked about her condition and cheered those who helped her.

Her last words in extreme agony were spoken as she looked at the crucifix, “Oh, I love Him! My God... I love... Thee.”

Four days after her death, the Carmel doors were opened and her body was accompanied to the Lisieux hillside cemetery by her sister Leonie.

All four of her sisters lived to see Therese become St. Therese of the Child Jesus. Her autobiography, “The Story of a Soul”, is famous throughout the world.

Moreover, St. Therese has kept her promise to “let fall from Heaven a shower of roses” and to “spend my Heaven in doing good on earth.” So many miracles have been worked through her intercession that Pope Pius XI called her “the Star of my Pontificate.”

She is still busy working miracles for those who ask for her intercession. Her remains now lie in the Carmel church on the grounds where she lived.

A giant basilica, begun in 1929, was built by three generations of the Cordonnier family, overlooking the town of Lisieux.

Many thousands of pilgrims are drawn to Lisieux each year to spend time with and pray to St. Therese of the Child Jesus.

# The Suffering Souls in Purgatory

Belief in purgatory is essential for all, for at death each soul goes before Jesus Christ for judgment. Heaven's bliss, hell forever or purgatory for purification before Heaven are the only three possible judgments.

Our Lady of Fatima's first visit to the three children on May 13, 1917 led to Lucia asking Our Lady if Maria das Neves (who died at 16) was in Heaven. The Blessed Virgin Mary assured Lucia she was in Heaven.

Then Lucia asked about a young woman who died between 18 and 20 years of age. Her name was Amelia. The Blessed Mother's reply was, "She'll be in purgatory until the end of the world."

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*Lucia asked about a young woman who died between 18 and 20 years of age. Her name was Amelia. The Blessed Mother's reply was, "She'll be in purgatory until the end of the world."*

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Much later, when Lucia was questioned by theologians, she was challenged on this point, but wisely replied, that for one mortal sin a soul will go to hell forever, so it is not hard to accept that a soul can be in purgatory until the end of the world, then go to heaven.

What exactly is purgatory? The late great Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J. in his Pocket Catholic Dictionary defines purgatory as follows: "The place or condition in which the souls of the just are purified after death and before they can enter heaven... The sufferings in purgatory are not the same for all, but proportioned to each person's degree of sinfulness. Moreover, these sufferings can be lessened in duration and intensity through the prayers and good works of the faithful on earth. Nor are the pains incompatible with great peace and joy, since the poor souls deeply love God and are sure they will reach heaven."

The poor souls in purgatory can do nothing for themselves, to lessen their sufferings or shorten their purification.

But we can do much for them: the offering of sacrifices, the offering of Masses for the poor souls or a particular deceased person, and daily prayer.

One of the most touching stories of the release of a poor soul from purgatory is as follows: A young lady had the good habit of having masses said for any poor soul in purgatory. She went to the city to find a job. Having no luck, she stopped in a church and asked the priest to say a mass for a poor soul in purgatory. The priest didn't know it, but those were the last two coins the young lady had. She was broke, totally dependent upon God's Providence.

After the mass, she left the church. On the steps a young man, very pale, stopped her and asked her if she needed a job. She said yes and he told her that she should go to a nearby home where a maid was needed. Upon arriving at the very grand home, a woman answered the door and the young lady said she was told by a young man that a maid was needed. The older woman said she didn't know how anyone could know that since she had just fired her maid.

The young lady was invited into the home and led into the living room to be interviewed. Looking up, the young lady was startled by a color painting of the young man she had just met on the church steps. The older woman asked what was wrong and the younger woman told her what had happened.

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*The mass you had said for a poor soul in purgatory released my son, who died at an early age. I now know that he is in Heaven ....*

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The older woman then said, "The mass you had said for a poor soul in purgatory released my son, who died at an early age. I now know that he is in Heaven and it was indeed he who sent you here. I'm so grateful to God for this wonderful blessing. As for you, I do not have a position in my home for you as a maid. No, you will be accepted by me as my only daughter. All that I have is yours. Come live with me in your home."

While a person is still alive, the sacrament of the sick can free the soul from sin and the temporal punishment due for sins already forgiven. Fr. Hardon says, "The Sacrament of the New Law, instituted by Christ is to give back the sick spiritual aid and strength and to perfect spiritual health, including, if need be, the remission of sins." Fr. Hardon points out the words of the priest in anointing the sick, "Through this holy anointing and His most loving mercy, may the Lord assist you by the grace of the Holy Spirit, so that, freed from your sins, He may save you and in His goodness raise you up." It is extremely important for very sick and dying family members to receive the Sacrament of the Sick. It can be received numerous times.

The following prayers should be said daily and it is suggested that you cut this out and save it to say these daily prayers for the poor souls. As you will see, the prayers each day are for a different soul: that soul most destitute of spiritual aid, the soul nearest to its entrance into Heaven, that soul for which I am most bound to pray, that soul who amongst them all was the most devout to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and other special intentions over the seven days of the week.

Never, ever, forget the poor souls in purgatory in your daily prayers!!!

### **Prayer for SUNDAY**

O Lord God Almighty, I pray Thee, by the Precious Blood which Thy Divine Son Jesus shed in the garden, deliver the souls in purgatory and *especially that soul amongst them all which is most destitute of spiritual aid*; and vouchsafe to bring it to Thy glory, there to praise and bless Thee forever. Amen.

### **Our Father**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

## Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Eternal rest give unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

## Prayer for MONDAY

O Lord God Almighty, I pray Thee, by the Precious Blood which Thy Divine Son Jesus shed in His cruel Scourging, deliver the souls in purgatory, and *especially that soul amongst them all which is nearest to its entrance into Thy glory*, that so it may forthwith begin to praise and bless Thee forever. Amen.

Our Father. Hail Mary.

Eternal rest give unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

## Prayer for TUESDAY

O Lord God Almighty, I pray Thee, by the Precious Blood which Thy Divine Son Jesus shed in His bitter crowning with thorns, deliver the souls in purgatory, and *in particular that one amongst them all which would be the last to depart out of those pains*, that it may not tarry so long a time before it come to praise Thee in Thy glory and bless Thee forever. Amen

Our Father. Hail Mary.

Eternal rest give unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

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*Fr. Hardon points out the words of the priest in anointing the sick, "Through this holy anointing and His most loving mercy, may the Lord assist you by the grace of the Holy Spirit, so that, freed from your sins, He may save you and in His goodness raise you up."  
It is extremely important for very sick and dying family members to receive the Sacrament of the Sick.*

## Prayer for WEDNESDAY

O Lord God Almighty, I pray Thee, by the Precious Blood which Thy Divine Son Jesus shed in the streets of Jerusalem, when He carried the Cross upon His sacred shoulders, deliver the souls in purgatory, and *especially that soul which is richest in merits before Thee*; that so, in that throne of glory which awaits it, it may magnify Thee and bless Thee forever. Amen.

Our Father. Hail Mary.

Eternal rest give unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.



### **Prayer for THURSDAY**

O Lord God Almighty, I pray Thee, by the Precious Body and Blood of Thy Divine Son Jesus, which He gave with His own hands upon the eve of His Passion to His beloved Apostles to be their meat and drink, and which He left to His whole Church to be a perpetual sacrifice and the life-giving food of His own faithful people, deliver the souls in purgatory, and *especially that one which was most devoted to this mystery of infinite love*, that it may with Thy Divine Son, and with the Holy Spirit, ever praise Thee for Thy love therein in eternal glory. Amen.

Our Father. Hail Mary.

Eternal rest give unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

### **Prayer for FRIDAY**

O Lord Almighty, I pray Thee, by the Precious Blood which Thy Divine Son shed on this day upon the wood of the Cross, especially from His most sacred hands and feet, deliver the souls in purgatory, and *in particular that soul for which I am most bound to pray*; that no neglect of mine may hinder it from praising Thee in Thy glory and blessing Thee forever. Amen.

Our Father. Hail Mary.

Eternal rest give unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

### **Prayer for SATURDAY**

O Lord God Almighty, I beseech Thee by the Precious Blood which gushed forth from the side of Thy Divine Son Jesus, in the sight and to the extreme pain of His most holy Mother, deliver the souls in purgatory, and *especially that one amongst them all which was the most devout to her*, that it may soon attain unto Thy glory, there to praise Thee in her, and her in Thee, world without end. Amen.

Our Father. Hail Mary.

Eternal rest give unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

# The Two Hearts That Beat In My Life!

By Daniel P. McGivern

Without the two hearts that beat in my life, I would be lost! I love these two hearts—the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary—with all of my heart.

When I receive Jesus in Holy Communion, I receive His precious heart—His body and blood, as well as the soul and divinity of our Lord and Savior. Jesus wishes to dwell with you and me.

Science, investigating the famous Eucharistic miracle of Lanciano, Italy, determined that the host that turned into flesh, became real flesh. Scientists concluded that the flesh was from a human heart, and furthermore, was part of a living heart.

Did not Jesus say that He is the living bread, came down from Heaven? What a daily gift He has given to us, through His priests, all over the world! And it is a great gift that is only available to practicing Catholics, and the Orthodox.

Mary is also ours to have and to hold as our dear mother! When we pray to her and ask for help, she always hears and does what is best for us.

Her Immaculate Heart is perfectly pure, holy and immaculate—without stain of sin from the moment of conception, through all of her earthly life.



A good way to be close to these two hearts is to observe First Friday and First Saturday devotions.

*A good way to be close to these two hearts*

*is to observe First Friday and*

*First Saturday devotions.*

Jesus Christ promised St. Margaret Mary that whoever receives Him in Holy Communion on the first Friday of nine consecutive months, will receive the grace of final penitence; they shall not die in disgrace and without receiving the sacraments. Naturally, each person going to

communion must be in the state of grace, free from serious sin.

Mary promised to assist at the hour of death, with the graces necessary for salvation, all those who, on the first Saturday of five consecutive months, shall confess, receive Holy Communion, recite five decades of the rosary, and keep her company for 15 minutes while meditating on the 15 mysteries of the rosary, with the intention of making reparation to her Immaculate Heart for the blasphemies and ingratitude of mankind.

What we give Jesus and Mary is so little compared to the Love we receive from their hearts.

With First Friday and First Saturday devotions, they even promise us salvation. What a great gift to share with every member of your family!

# Those Who Are Promoting Abortion Are Breaking All Of The Commandments

By: Fr. Robert J. Fox

Abortion is a sin, first of all, against the Seventh Commandment. Its sin is based in that particular Commandment, "You shall not kill." And from there we have all the different ramifications and implications of the sinful crime reaching into the other nine Commandments.

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*The person(s) involved in abortion do not love God, as simple as that. Their "god" is their own selfishness, thus an idol of self and selfishness. Instead of the image and likeness of God, present in the baby being aborted, those involved in that sin, develop in its place the "carved image" forbidden by the Lord.*

It is against the first three Commandments strictly reserved for the Lord Himself because the person(s) involved in abortion do not love God, as simple as that. Their "god" is their own selfishness, thus an idol of self and selfishness. Instead of the image and likeness of God, present in the baby being aborted, those involved in that sin, develop in its place the "carved image" forbidden by the Lord. How? Why? Because they chose their crime for the reality of the Image and Likeness of God present, like a sacrament of His Presence among us, in those babies being killed. The "carved image" of the Old Testament is, in my understanding, the false and void

and evil decision of killing a real human being fully alive. They worship what they think will be a better quality of life for themselves. Their "carved image" is their crime, their sin, it is themselves filled with selfishness. They worship that evil. See how they defend their "right" to do this so they themselves can have a better worldly quality of life, turned in on themselves, for their own pleasure. They place other gods before them; they take God's Name in vain in that they justify their acts of murder even claiming it is not sinful. They cannot keep any day holy with this state of mind and selfish will.

Abortion is a sin, against the first three Commandments and against the other seven Commandments. They honor not father or mother but desecrate the meaning of parents by killing what should be the fruit of parental love. How do you steal by committing abortion? You steal a human being's right to live. That is stealing in such a serious degree which depth of evil can be fully known to God alone. We were created to live and to live fully, on this earth, naturally and supernaturally as well. God wills that we be reborn into Christ's life through the saving waters of Baptism so that we will have eternal life.

We are to grow in our sharing of the life of God [sanctifying grace] thus building up this treasure for greater happiness in heaven and a greater power to glorify God for all eternity. The fullness of the fruit of this supernatural life will take place on the day of Jesus Christ, that is when we will live in the Presence of God seeing Him "face to face." His Most Blessed Mother in heaven, the

Mother of Grace, Mother of life, is thus deeply offended as well. Therefore, once that right to life is denied, the person(s) involved steals the very first gift God wanted to share with His children: Life! Human and divine life. The abortionist deprives the child of human life and the grace along with the indelible character of Christ he/she could have received in Baptism.

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*The abortionist deprives the child of human life and the grace along with the indelible character of Christ he/she could have received in Baptism.*

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The Sacramental indelible and eternal character in Jesus Christ in the soul comes only through true Christian Baptism, not through Baptism of Desire, even if that somehow is supplied by members of the Church.

See the two accounts of creation (Gen. 1:26-31; 2:7-15). We are told that God created man in a very special and loving way. Man was not just the result of that supreme “fiat” (let it be) which God spoke for everything that came into being. But for man God spoke in a special way: “Let us make man in our own image, in the likeness of ourselves.”...Right here we see and contemplate that unique plan of God for His masterpiece, and crowning of His creation, man. The Three Divine Persons are fully acting, participating, communicating in love in the creation of this immortal being, loved in God’s mind and from all eternity and meant to live in time and for eternity. Man was actually to be truly a “sacrament of God’s Presence.” How is this? Man, was created in the Image and Likeness of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Blessed Trinity was to live in him already upon this earth. The Blessed Trinity does for those who are permitted to live, who are baptized and formed in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ.

Thus, the instant an abortion is decided by a parent or parents, they are stealing something which does not belong to them. The life of an unborn belongs by divine right, to the infant, not to the parents. Only God has the right to end human life on this earth. The soul is to be God’s domain, for special indwelling. That soul is created at the moment of conception. The right to life is stolen from that baby, that human person, and all that God intended for its life.

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*How painful must it be for an unborn baby to know that he/she is being aborted, not wanted, not loved, even hated so as to kill him/her.*

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“You shall not give false evidence against your neighbor” (Ex 20:16). Nowadays, science knows that the fetus is even more sensitive than a baby already born. The baby, called a fetus, withdraws, even tries to escape the executioner’s hands and instruments--which is impossible for it to do. Those involved in abortion lie to a human being, to the most sensitive and fragile of human beings by killing him/her through abortion while they say it is for something better! If a fetus is more sensitive than a baby already born, if his/her perceptions of the outside world in this

are more realistic than ours, how painful must it be for an unborn baby to know that he/she is being aborted, not wanted, not loved, even hated so as to kill him/her. And by the killing of an unborn baby, “false evidence is being given against my neighbor.” And my “neighbor,” for the parent who is guilty, is the aborting parents’ son or daughter.

Adultery is committed in abortion for the sacred fidelity to an unborn son/daughter is betrayed by a lustful crime. They also go against the purpose of marriage in their union with each other which is not one of love and generosity, and when God wills, fruitfulness.

“You shall not set your heart on your neighbor’s spouse, or servant, man or woman...” The heart of the woman and man involved in abortion is “set” on lust for the “neighbor’s body.”

States Fr. Fausto Zelaya of the ancient See of Smyrna in Turkey--the Muslim present name is Izmir--“Indeed, I must fully agree regarding abortion as the sin breaking the entire Decalogue. This statement is indeed deep and Scriptural. My conclusion is that serious sin against human life by abortion is indeed a sin against the total Decalogue. The reason is because God is Life. Period.”

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*Indeed ... regarding abortion as the sin breaking the entire Decalogue ... serious sin against human life by abortion is indeed a sin against the total Decalogue. The reason is because God is Life.*

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# Wear the Miraculous Medal!

What better gift could a person give to someone than saying: here, wear this, and whenever you need help, call on me!

This is what the Blessed Virgin Mary did for all of us—yes, you and me—when she miraculously appeared to a young nun in Paris in 1830.

In the convent chapel, while the entire community was at prayer, Mary appeared to the 24 year-old nun—still in her novitiate—and asked that what we now call the miraculous medal be cast and widely distributed.

Besides the scapular, the miraculous medal is the greatest sacramental that the Blessed Virgin Mary—in 2,000 years—has come on earth to ask that we wear.

When Mary appeared in the Daughters of Charity chapel at 140 rue du Bac in Paris, she was “flesh and bone” said St. Catherine Laboure.

When Catherine was only 9 years old—shortly after her mother died—she went before a statue of Mary in her home, threw her arms around it, and said “Now dear Blessed Mother, you will be my mother.”

Mary did truly take her as her own daughter.

At the age of 18 or 19, Catherine had a dream that an elderly priest was calling her to care for the sick. Catherine felt called to be a nun, but her father initially opposed the idea and sent her to Paris to work and live. There, she visited the motherhouse of the Daughters of Charity on rue du Bac. Inside, she saw a portrait of the very same elderly priest she had dreamt about. She inquired who he was. A nun told her that it was a portrait of their founder—St. Vincent de Paul.

He had obviously called her, by God’s grace, personally to his order and to taking care of elderly men in the hospice run by the sisters. Not one of the men in Catherine’s care died without receiving the last sacraments.

But the great visions Catherine received were during her novitiate period in 1830.

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*I was favored with a great grace.  
It was to see Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament*

“I was favored with a great grace. It was to see Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament,” said Catherine.

She reported all of her visions to no one except her confessor, who frankly didn’t really believe she was seeing Christ.

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He advised her to keep silent and continue working, humbly—something St. Catherine did all of her life.

The early visions seemed to prepare her for seeing the special visions God had obviously chosen St. Catherine for—a special gift from Mary.

On the night of July 18, 1830, she had her first vision of Mary. She was awakened by a young child—really an angel—who called her to the convent chapel, telling her that the Mother of God was awaiting her.

She followed the child to the chapel. There was the most resplendent sight. The chapel was brightly lit and a woman entered, the most beautiful woman, with light shining about her!

The young child said, “Here is the Blessed Virgin.” The Mother of our Lord sat on a chair and St. Catherine, who had asked her to be her mother at age 9, now flung herself at Mary’s feet on the steps of the altar and “put my hands on her knees.” This tender scene is painted on the ceiling of the convent chapel at rue du Bac for all to see.

Mary gave St. Catherine several prophecies during this vision. She also told the young nun that, “The good God, my child, wishes to entrust you with a mission. It will be the cause of much suffering to you, but you will overcome this, knowing that what you do is for the glory of God.”

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*The good God, my child, wishes to entrust you with a mission. It will be the cause of much suffering to you, but you will overcome this, knowing that what you do is for the glory of God.*

Mary also told her words that are now inscribed on the chapel wall: “Come to the foot of this altar; there, graces will be showered upon all.”

The Blessed Virgin Mary, after conveying her messages to Catherine, disappeared like a “light that is extinguished.”

The Mother of God waited a few months before appearing to the young saint again, entrusting her this time with the special mission.

On November 27, 1830, St. Catherine was praying with the entire community in the chapel. Suddenly, the Virgin Mary appeared. Streaks of light came from her fingertips, representing “the many graces Our Lady grants to those who pray to her.”

Mary had appeared to St. Catherine “in all her perfect beauty.”

At first, Mary held a globe—representing the entire world, especially France, and each person in particular.

Then Our Lady, seen by no one else in the community, appeared on the globe and—printed in gold letters—words formed an arch over her head. The words in French said, “O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.”

Then the Blessed Virgin Mary revealed the other side of the medal. St. Catherine saw a large M, surmounted by a bar with a cross on top. Beneath are the two hearts of Jesus and Mary—the heart of Jesus surrounded with thorns and the heart of Mary pierced with the sword of sorrows. A total of 12 stars formed an arch over this scene.

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*Have a medal struck after this model. All who wear it will receive great graces; they should wear it around the neck.*

A voice, interiorly, told St. Catherine, "Have a medal struck after this model. All who wear it will receive great graces; they should wear it around the neck."

Again, St. Catherine told her confessor what she saw and heard.

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Mary's request to the archbishop of Paris. When Catherine kept insisting that the Virgin Mary was not satisfied (she had been told this interiorly), he decided to approach the archbishop and relate everything.

The confessor, once again, doubted her, and he dragged his feet in passing on

After due consideration, the archbishop decided in 1832 that the medals should be cast. Two million medals were distributed.

Soon, miracles were being reported, numbering in the hundreds and the thousands—all kinds of miracles.

One of the most spectacular was a Jew who put on the medal after receiving it from a good friend. He went to a Catholic church and, while praying, received a vision of Mary. He became not only a convert, but a priest and went to Israel and spent years converting his fellow Jews.

After the apparitions and on receiving the habit of the order, Catherine was transferred from the Daughters of Charity motherhouse to the hospice they ran for old men.

She worked quietly and humbly at the hospice until her death at age 70. No one knew throughout the years which nun had received the special visions that led to the casting of the miraculous medal. But it was known that the person was one of the Daughters of Charity.

Catherine felt the message was of great importance, for this meant she was doing the will of God and His mother. The messenger—Catherine and other saints God chooses—are only the instruments of God. She didn't want to draw any attention to herself. She kept silent, so silent, that when St. Pius XII declared her a saint, he called her the "Saint of Silence."

She accomplished her task of making Mary's requests known and complied with—bringing the fruit of many miracles to thousands who wore the medal.

When St. Catherine was nearing death, she told the mother superior that she was the sister who had received the visions that led to the miraculous medal.

The mother superior kept this knowledge to herself, until after Catherine's death on Dec. 31, 1876. St. Catherine had been a Daughter of Charity for a few years short of half a century. Immediately after St. Catherine's death, the entire community—and then all of Paris—learned that Catherine was the one who had seen Mary.

The street leading to the convent was lined with hundreds of Parisians who came to pay their final respects to this nun—this great nun who was so willingly used by God and Mary to give all of us such a special gift, the Miraculous Medal.



Mary had promised, “Graces will abound for persons who wear it with confidence.”

It is the same today—181 years later! What is needed is a great resurgence in people wearing this great gift from the Blessed Virgin Mary herself. She was the model and the originator of the medal.

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*Graces will abound for persons who wear [the Miraculous Medal] with confidence.*

St. Catherine’s body was exhumed in 1933 for beatification proceedings. It was found to be incorrupt. Today her body is in the very chapel where Mary appeared to her. It lies under a side altar within a glass coffin, her blue eyes are wide open and she is wearing the religious habit worn in her day.

The words on the medal “conceived without sin” were an answer to prayer. Several leading clergy, including the future Pope Pius IX, had been praying that God would send a sign, a confirmation from heaven, that Mary was indeed conceived without sin. They felt sure that Mary was herself preserved from original sin, and therefore conceived without sin. These men prayed to God for a sign—and the medal was the answer!

Mary was conceived—not just born—without sin. This, therefore, proves that souls are implanted by God in everyone at the moment of conception. All of us, however, are conceived with original sin on our souls—implanted at the moment of conception in our mothers’ wombs.

In 1854, Pope Pius IX declared the dogma of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. He had a great devotion to Mary. Then in 1858, Mary reaffirmed the pope’s declaration when on her 16<sup>th</sup> appearance to St. Bernadette at Lourdes, France, she declared, “I am the Immaculate Conception.”

Today, millions flock to Lourdes yearly—while thousands go to the Chapel of The Miraculous Medal in the heart of busy Paris, at 140 rue du Bac.

The chapel is the final resting place of the incorrupt body of one of the Church’s greatest and most privileged saints—St. Catherine Laboure.

# The Wisdom and Holiness of Mother Teresa of Calcutta

The following are quotes from Mother Teresa, a Catholic nun who died in 1997 and was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 2003. Mother Teresa is now known as Blessed Mother Teresa. The quotes below are from "[Mother Teresa: Her Essential Wisdom](#)" edited by Carol Kelly-Gangi.

We must know exactly when we say yes to God what is in that yes. Yes means "I surrender," totally, fully, without any counting the cost... Our yes to God is without any reservations.

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*Because I cannot depend on my own strength, I rely on [God] twenty-four hours a day. If the day had even more hours, then I would need his help and grace during those hours as well. All of us must cling to God through prayer.*

I don't think there is anyone who needs God's help and grace as much as I do. Sometimes I feel so helpless and weak. I think that is why God uses me. Because I cannot depend on my own strength, I rely on him twenty-four hours a day. If the day had even more hours, then I would need his help and grace during those hours as well. All of us must cling to God through prayer.

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Holiness grows fast where there is kindness. I have never heard of kind souls going astray. The world is lost for want of sweetness and kindness.

One cannot expect to become a saint without paying the price, and the price is much renunciation, much temptation, much struggle and persecution, and all sorts of sacrifices. One cannot love God except at the cost of oneself.

A gentleman of the Protestant faith, the son-in-law of Malcolm Muggeridge, told me: "I love you, your work, everything I see, but there is one thing I do not understand: Our Lady. You are full of Mary." I replied to him: "No Mary, no Jesus—no mother, no son." A few months later he sent me a card with these words printed in big letters: "I believe, no Mary, no Jesus! This has changed my life."

It is true, people are very anxious about the future and about over-population. But there is natural family planning. That method can help couples plan their family without destroying God's gift of life... By properly using the natural family planning method, couples are using their bodies to glorify God in the sanctity of family life. I think that if we could bring this method to every country, if our poor people would learn it, there would be more peace, more love in the family between parents and children.

If we deliberately allow venial sin to become a daily bread, a moral anemia, the soul becomes weak all around, the spiritual life begins to crumble and fall apart. God preserve us from any deliberate sin, no matter how small it may be. Nothing is small when it means going against God.

Motherhood is the gift of God to women. How grateful we must be to God for this wonderful gift that brings such joy to the whole world, women and men alike! Yet we can

destroy this gift of motherhood, especially by the evil of abortion, but also by thinking that other things like jobs or positions are more important than loving, than giving oneself to others. No job, no plans, no possessions, no idea of “freedom” can take the place of love.

Our lives have to continuously feed on the Eucharist. If we were not able to see Christ under the appearance of bread, neither would it be possible for us to discover him under the humble appearances of the bruised bodies of the poor.

How is it that nowadays all over the world so many priests and nuns abandon their calling? Were they not chosen by Christ? Did they not commit themselves to follow him after long and mature reflection? How then can a nun pronounce perpetual vows, and some years later give up the religious life? Are married people not bound to remain faithful to each other until death? Then, why should the same rule not apply to priests and nuns?

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*Our lives have to continuously feed on the Eucharist. If we were not able to see Christ under the appearance of bread, neither would it be possible for us to discover Him under the humble appearances of the bruised bodies of the poor.*

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# The Sword Pierced Mary's Heart, As Prophesied

When we look upon the crucifix, we see the nails, the crown of thorns and the wound from the lance in Jesus' right side.

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*Father, into Your Hands,  
I commend my Spirit*

Jesus suffered greatly from all of these wounds—save one. The lance that pierced His heart through and through was not felt by Him, but by His mother for Jesus had already died, when He said to the Father, “Into Your Hands, I commend my Spirit.”

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The man on horseback who plunged the lance with violent force into Jesus' side to make sure He was truly dead, shoved the lance through His ribs straight through His heart and the point came out of the Lord's left breast. The lance pierced Him on a downward angle, as the centurion was on horseback.

As he did this, the Blessed Virgin Mary, as if the lance had gone through her own heart, felt the sharp point piercing her through and through. She sank into the arms of her friends.

The act of the centurion prevented the executioners from breaking Jesus' legs and arms, as they had just done to the two thieves to hurry their deaths. Scriptures tell us not a bone in Jesus' body was broken.

The blood and water flowing from Jesus' side at His crucifixion is a foreshadow of what happened 1900 years later, when He appeared to St. Faustina Kowalska in Poland with blood and water streaming from His heart for mankind. Yes, the Divine Mercy image we all should know of Jesus Christ, shown in The Warnings section of this website.

As soon as the Body of Christ was taken down from the cross, the men laid Him in His mother's arms, as we see in the famous Pieta sculpture by Michelangelo.

The piercing of Our Blessed Mother's heart fulfilled Simeon's prophecy at Jesus' presentation as a baby at the temple, when Simeon told Mary “a sword will pierce your heart.”

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*A sword will pierce  
your heart.*

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Her suffering was extraordinary all of Good Friday, starting with the scourging of her Son. Her suffering was beyond the suffering of any mother who lost her son or daughter. She offers special help and love to these mothers to this very day, and to all who turn to her, love her Son and obey His commandments and teachings.

# The Eucharistic Miracles of the World

A link to purchase [the above named book](#) is in The Warnings section, the last page on [references](#).

This tremendously important book presents some of the principal Eucharistic miracles that took place throughout the ages in various countries in the world, and have been recognized by the Catholic Church.

Frankly, I don't see how anyone can read the entire [6<sup>th</sup> Chapter of John](#) in the Gospels and this book, and then not run to become a Catholic. Elsewhere in this section on Food For Thought is [an article](#) by the author on Eucharistic Miracles he personally saw and paid homage to in Portugal (Santarem), Italy (Lanciano) and Austria (Seefeld). All three are just some of the supernatural miracles from God in these countries as well as the following countries described in this book: Belgium, Columbia, Croatia, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Island of La Reunion, Martinique, Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Spain and Switzerland.

These narratives of Church-approved Eucharistic miracles bring a greater understanding and appreciation of what the unbloody Sacrifice of the Mass gives us: the Real Presence of Jesus Christ, His Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity, in the Most Holy Eucharist. To contemplate Christ involves being able to recognize Him wherever He manifests Himself, in His many forms of presence, but above all in the living sacrament of His Body and His Blood. The Church draws her life, said Pope John Paul II, from Christ in the Eucharist; by Him she is fed and by Him she is enlightened.

This book describes the story of 126 miracles associated with faith in and worship of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Each of the miracles is venerated at a shrine, all of which have been approved by the Diocesan Bishop and some of which have the approval of the Holy See.

The book [The Eucharistic Miracles of the World](#) provides a wonderful service to the work of the New Evangelization.

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*I have put you in the world so that you may draw life only from Me, to bear witness to the world how precious the Eucharist is... The strongest chain that keeps souls in bondage to satan is the flesh and sins of impurity. Never has there been such a spread of vice, wickedness and crime as there is today!*

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Near the end of the book is a special section entitled "Saints, Mystics and the Eucharist."

From 1942, at the age of 38, until her death, Blessed Alexandrina Maria da Costa was nourished by the Eucharist alone, and during a period of observation at Foce del Douro Hospital near Oporto, Portugal, for forty days and nights she was under supervision by several doctors in her absolute fast and her condition of anuria (absence of urine). Jesus had appeared to her, saying, "I have put you in the world so that you may draw life only from Me, to bear witness to the world how precious the Eucharist is... The strongest chain that

keeps souls in bondage to satan is the flesh and sins of impurity. Never has there been such a spread of vice, wickedness and crime as there is today!" Alexandrina relived the sufferings of

the Passion of Christ 182 times. She died in the state of holiness on October 13, 1955, the anniversary of the last famous apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Fatima, Portugal.

Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich, while praying, was visited by Jesus from Heaven, offering her a crown of roses or a crown of thorns. She chose the crown of thorns. Immediately, the first stigmata appeared on her forehead. Later on, after another apparition of Jesus, wounds also appeared in her hands, feet and side—and remained there. She had practically stopped eating. A little water and the daily consecrated Host was enough to keep her alive for years. Blessed Anne always united her sufferings with those of Jesus and offered them for the redemption of mankind.

In 1848, Saint Don Bosco realized at Mass that the ciborium in the tabernacle contained only 8 Hosts. Yet about 360 young people wanted to receive Holy Communion. Don Bosco prayed fervently, and altar server Joseph Buzzetti was overcome with emotion as he saw Don Bosco multiply the Hosts and give Communion to each of the 360 boys. Don Bosco is also famous for what he related about two tall pillars in the sea. The first held up a huge Host with the inscription “Salvation of the Faithful” and the other pillar, which was lower, supported a statue of Mary Immaculate with the inscription, “Help of Christians”.

St. Catherine of Siena was told by Jesus Christ, regarding the Eucharist: “You receive the whole divine essence in that sweetest Sacrament under the whiteness of the bread. Just as the sun cannot be divided, so the God-Man cannot be divided in the whiteness of the Host. Let us suppose the Host is broken, even if it were possible to break It into thousands of tiny Particles. Christ, fully God and fully Man, is in every one of them... If you had just one candle and everyone in the world came to light his candle from that single candle, the flame would not diminish, and each one would have an entire flame.”

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*You receive the whole divine essence in that sweetest Sacrament under the whiteness of the bread. Just as the sun cannot be divided, so the God-Man cannot be divided in the whiteness of the Host. Let us suppose the Host is broken, even if it were possible to break It into thousands of tiny Particles. Christ, fully God and fully Man, is in every one of them... If you had just one candle and everyone in the world came to light his candle from that single candle, the flame would not diminish, and each one would have an entire flame.*

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*I assure you, daughters, that you will suffer no harm. Only have faith in Christ.*

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During an enemy attack against Assisi, Italy, the fierce Saracens invaded the confines of the monastery and even the very cloister of the nuns. Saint Clare turned to the Lord for protection for her nuns. The Lord Jesus told her out loud He will always protect her. She told the nuns, “I assure you, daughters, that you will suffer no harm. Only have faith in Christ.” There was no delay. The fierce Saracens, seeing Saint Clare holding the

monstrance with the consecrated Host, were immediately filled with fear and fled back over the walls they had just scaled.

St. Faustina Kowalska’s visions of the Divine Mercy are told in detail regarding the Lord’s soon return in the extensive article on Divine Mercy in The Warnings section in this website. In

addition, the Lord showed hell to St. Faustina. She saw seven tortures detailed in the book, and she wrote, "Let the sinner know that he will be tortured throughout all eternity... I am writing this at the command of God, so that no soul may find an excuse by saying there is no hell, or that nobody has ever been there, and so no one can say what it is like... What I have written is but a pale shadow of the things I saw." (Divine Mercy in My Soul #741)

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*Let the sinner know that he will be tortured throughout all eternity... I am writing this at the command of God, so that no soul may find an excuse by saying there is no hell, or that nobody has ever been there, and so no one can say what it is like... What I have written is but a pale shadow of the things I saw.*

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With the Eucharist, Jesus Christ is actually present with us in His own substance. As the risen Christ said prior to His Ascension to Heaven, "And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20) ...He would remain and be with them even by His Bodily Presence, stated Pope Urban IV. He extended the feast of the Body of Christ to the universal Church in the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

St. Margaret Mary Alacoque in France received many mystical gifts and revelations from Jesus. We list here the famous "Twelve Promises of the Sacred Heart of Jesus" as revealed by the Lord to Saint Margaret Mary for devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

1. I will give them all the graces necessary for their state of life.
2. I will give peace in their families.
3. I will console them in all their afflictions.
4. They shall find in My Heart a secure refuge during life and especially at the hour of death.
5. I will pour abundant blessings on all their undertakings.
6. Sinners shall find in My Heart the source and infinite ocean of mercy.
7. Tepid souls will become fervent.
8. Fervent souls shall speedily rise to great perfection.
9. I will bless the homes in which the image of My Sacred Heart will be displayed and venerated.
10. I will give to priests the power to touch the most hardened hearts.
11. Those who propagate this devotion shall have their names written in My Heart, never to be blotted out.
12. The all-powerful love of My Heart will grant to all those who shall receive Holy Communion on the First Fridays of nine consecutive months the grace of final repentance; they shall not die under My displeasure, nor without receiving the Sacraments; My Heart shall be their assured refuge at the last hour.

At the end of the book, parishes are invited to exhibit the Church-approved photographic Vatican International Exhibition by going to [www.therealpresence.org](http://www.therealpresence.org).

# Our Mother of Good Success

On her death bed, Mother Mariana de Jesus Torres, said about the Blessed Virgin Mary to her nuns (and to all of us): “Have recourse to her in all your spiritual and temporal needs. When your soul suffers temptations and hardships, and if the star of the divine vocation, by divine permission, is hidden from your soul’s sight, run to her with confidence and say:

“Star of the stormy sea  
of my mortal life,  
may your light shine upon me  
so that I do not stray  
from the path  
that leads me to Heaven.”

The writer suggests memorizing this prayer and saying it daily to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

This is the story of Mother Mariana and the prophecies of Jesus and Mary, made to her 400 years ago about the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and the evils that would abound then.

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*I am Mary of Good Success, the Queen of Heaven and earth....Queen of Victories and the Mother of Good Success, and it is under this invocation I desire to be known throughout time.*

On February 2, 1594, Mary appeared to Mother Mariana at the convent, and said “I am Mary of Good Success, the Queen of Heaven and earth.” She also said she is the “Queen of Victories and the Mother of Good Success, and it is under this invocation I desire to be known throughout time.”

On January 21, 1610, Mother Mariana was told by Our Lady of Good Success that shortly after the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, “It will be difficult to receive the sacrament of baptism

and also the sacrament of confirmation. They will receive the sacrament of confession only if they remain in Catholic schools, for the devil will make a great effort to destroy it through persons in position of authority. The same thing will happen with the sacrament of Holy Communion. Alas! How deeply I grieve to manifest to you the many enormous sacrileges—both public as well as secret—that will occur from profanation of the Holy Eucharist.”

Addressing Mother Mariana, the Mother of Christ said, “But in those times you will already be known, as well as the favors that I am bestowing on you.”

“Since this poor country (Ecuador) will lack the Catholic spirit, the sacrament of extreme unction (now called sacrament of the sick) will be little valued. Many people will die without receiving it—either because of the negligence of their families or misconceived affection for their sick ones. Others, incited by the cursed devil, will rebel against the spirit of the Catholic Church and will deprive countless souls of innumerable graces, consolations, and the strength they need to make the great leap from time to eternity,” said the Virgin Mary.

She added, “The devil will try to persecute the ministers of the Lord in every possible way; he will labor with cruel and subtle astuteness to deviate them from the spirit of their vocation and



will corrupt many of them. These depraved priests, who will scandalize the Christian people, will make the hatred of bad Catholics and the enemies of the Roman Catholic and Apostolic church to fall upon all priests.”

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Mary told Mother Mariana, “Further, in these unhappy times (20<sup>th</sup> century), there will be unbridled luxury which will ensare the rest into sin and conquer innumerable frivolous souls who will be lost. Innocence will almost no longer be found in children, nor modesty in women.”

This time will, however, be “an epoch when there will be a great devotion to me, for I am Queen of Heaven under many invocations.” She added, “This devotion will be the shield between Divine Justice and the prevaricating world to prevent the release of God’s formidable punishment that this guilty earth deserves.”

The archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael took charge of making her statue, secretly, after the sculptor made the statue but didn’t finish it.

“A simple, humble faith in the truth of my apparitions to you, my favored child, will be reserved for humble and fervent souls who are docile to the inspirations of grace, for our Heavenly Father communicated His secrets to the simple of heart, and not to those whose hearts are inflated with pride, pretending to know what they do not or infatuated with empty science,” pointed out Mary to Mother Mariana.

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*My spirit was lost in the immensity of God, and divine love expanded in my small heart. Then, the tabernacle opened, and I saw that in the Holy Host were the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. I saw the sublime mystery of the Incarnation of the Divine Word in the most pure womb of the Blessed Virgin take place. Then, I understood the infinite love of the Three Divine Persons for Mary Most Holy, Our Lady, who was present there, so magnificent, beautiful and captivating.*

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*It will be difficult [shortly after the middle of the 20th century] to receive the sacrament of baptism and also the sacrament of confirmation. They will receive the sacrament of confession only if they remain in Catholic schools, for the devil will make a great effort to destroy it through persons in position of authority. The same thing will happen with the sacrament of Holy Communion. Alas! How deeply I grieve to manifest to you the many enormous sacrileges—both public as well as secret—that will occur from profanation of the Holy Eucharist.*

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“The vices of impurity, blasphemy and sacrilege will dominate in this time of depraved desolation.”

In one of His appearances to Mother Mariana, Jesus told her, “As Christians and, even more, as religious, I desire that they have My spirit in every act of their lives. My spirit is one of patience, meekness, abnegation and total abandonment to the Divine Will. Let them serve Me with diligence and disinterest, abandoning even their eternal happiness to the loving will of My Divine Heart.”

Mother Mariana said, “My spirit was lost in the immensity of God, and divine love expanded in my small heart. Then, the tabernacle opened, and I saw that in the Holy Host were the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. I saw the sublime mystery of the Incarnation of the Divine

love of the Three Divine Persons for Mary Most Holy, Our Lady, who was present there, so magnificent, beautiful and captivating.”

The nine choirs of angels sang praises to the Virgin Mary and rendered her homage as their Queen and Lady.

The Archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael came before the throne of the Divine Majesty of the Most Holy Trinity and then approached the Queen of Heaven. St. Michael saluted her as “Mary Most Holy, Daughter of God the Father”; St. Gabriel said, “Mary Most Holy, Mother of God the Son” and St. Raphael, said: “Mary Most Holy, Pure Spouse of the Holy Ghost.” In modern times, the Holy Ghost is now called the Holy Spirit.

Then, all three archangels, said together: “Mary Most Holy, Temple and Sacrament of the Most Holy Trinity.”

Mary pointed out to Mother Mariana that men would work to oppress the church in their assemblies and prevent public devotion, for they would have already entered the party of Satan by becoming members of the Masonic lodges.

On another occasion, the nun was shown the infidelity of the ministers of the altar to their holy vocation, and the unworthy way that some would approach the Holy Sacrifice. She considered the causes of this and her soul was overcome with a profound unearthly sorrow.

Our Lady of Good Success told Mother Mariana, speaking of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, “The spirit of impurity that will saturate the atmosphere in those times; like a filthy ocean, it will inundate the streets, squares and public places with an astonishing liberty.”

“There will be almost no virgin souls in the world,” said Mary. “Without virginity, it would be necessary for fire from Heaven to fall upon these lands to purify them.”

She added, “The Masonic sect, having infiltrated all the social classes, will be so subtle as to introduce itself into domestic ambiances in order to corrupt the children, and the devil will glory in dining upon the exquisite delicacy of the hearts of children. During these unfortunate times, evil will assault childhood innocence.”

“Every type of vice will enter, which will attract, in their turn, every type of chastisement, such as plagues, famines, internal fighting and external disputes with other nations, and apostasy, the cause of the perdition of so many souls so dear to Jesus Christ and to me,” said the mother of Jesus.

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“The laxity and the negligence of those who possess great wealth, who will indifferently stand by and witness the church being oppressed, virtue being persecuted and the triumph of evil, without piously employing their riches for the destruction of this evil and the restoration of the Faith, will be very sad in these times.”

In the end, however, Mary “will dethrone the proud and cursed Satan, trampling him under my feet and fettering him in the infernal abyss.”

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*Star of the stormy sea  
of my mortal life,  
may your light shine upon me  
so that I do not stray  
from the path  
that leads me to Heaven.*

Jesus, one day showed Mother Mariana his Sacred Heart, which was covered with small but piercing thorns which tormented Him with extraordinary cruelty. He said, “Understand that they are the grave as well as slight faults of my priests, secular and religious... I lavish on them a deluge of spiritual graces, giving them also serious, prolonged sickness so that they might become like unto Me. But, ungrateful and heartless, they complain about My loving Providence. They think I am being cruel to them, and withdrawing with indifference, they leave Me alone.”

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Jesus further stated to Mother Mariana, “The times will come when doctrine will spread among the learned and the ignorant, accessible to priests and religious, and even the common people. Many books will be written (20<sup>th</sup> century). But the practice of the virtues and these doctrines will be found only in a few souls; for this reason, saints will become rare.”

Jesus Christ further enlightened Mother Mariana, “Divine Justice releases terrible chastisements on entire nations, not only for the sins of the people but for those of priests and religious persons. For the latter are called, by perfection of their state, to be the salt of the earth, the masters of truth, and the shields to hold back Divine ire.”

“Do you see what the three Archangels St. Michael, St. Gabriel and St. Raphael carry with joy?” asked the Blessed Mother of Mother Mariana.

“St. Gabriel carries this precious chalice bearing the Blood of the Redeemer: this signifies the grace of the resurrection from death and the restoration of souls by means of the Sacrament of Penance.”

“St. Gabriel also carries a ciborium filled with Hosts: this signifies the most august Sacrament of the Eucharist, which will be distributed by my Catholic priests to the faithful belonging to the Holy, Roman, Catholic and Apostolic Church, whose visible head is the Pope, the King of Christendom. His pontifical infallibility will be declared a dogma of Faith by the same pope chosen to proclaim the dogma of the mystery of my Immaculate Conception.” (Pope Pius IX did both in the 19<sup>th</sup> century).

Mary further told the now famous Venerable Mother Mariana, the Hosts in the ciborium are a sublime Mystery and the reverence with which it should be treated and received by the faithful must be comprehended. “It will be an antidote against sin and an easy and powerful means for souls to unite themselves to their God and Redeemer, Who, in the excess of His love, hides Himself under the white accidents of the Host, exposed to the sacrilegious profanations of His ungrateful sons.”

“No one on the face of the earth realizes whence comes the salvation of souls, the conversion of great sinners, the deferral of great scourges, the production and fertility of the lands, the end of pestilences and wars, and the harmony between nations. All this is due to the prayers that rise up from monasteries and convents,” explained Mary.

The Archangel Raphael carried violet-colored stoles, which symbolize “the effective action and zeal of good priests, who with self-abnegation, forget themselves to make Jesus Christ and myself known and loved.”

In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and obviously thereafter, this devotion to Our Lady of Good Success will work prodigies in the spiritual as well as temporal spheres. Mary explained that each Archangel fulfills a mission in assisting decadent humanity to overcome evil.

Mother Mariana was born in 1563 and died in 1635. In 1885, her body was exhumed and it was found to be whole and incorrupt. Her face even retained its natural color with a rosy hue in the cheeks and lips. The whole body exhaled a perfume of lilies, the flowers most used at Easter time. In fact, the bodies of the other Founding Mothers were also discovered incorrupt, and are located today in the newly restored sepulchre of the Convent of the Immaculate Conception of Quito, Ecuador where all these appearances of Jesus and Our Lady of Good Success took place with Mother Mariana de Jesus Torres.

In her Last Testament, she wrote that Jesus “gave to redeemed humanity His mother as Our mother... Behold your Heavenly Mother, Our Lady of Good Success. She will always give you good successes,” she said to her nuns in her care.

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Her very last words before she died January 16, 1635, were these: “Have recourse to Her in all your spiritual and temporal needs. When your soul suffers temptations and hardships, and if the star of the divine vocation, by divine permission, is hidden from your soul’s sight, run to Her with confidence and say (to Our Lady): ‘Star of the stormy sea of my mortal life, may your light shine upon me so that I do not stray from the path that leads me to Heaven.’ ”

Postscript: In 1986, the Archbishop of Quito, Ecuador, issued an Episcopal decree to initiate the cause of the Beatification of the Venerable Mother Mariana de Jesus Torres. Archbishop Antonio J. Gonzalez also held a solemn canonical coronation of the statue of Our Lady of Good Success at the convent of the Immaculate Conception in Quito.

First Approved Apparition of Virgin Mary in U.S.A.

# Our Lady of Good Help Appeared in Wisconsin in 1859

By Daniel P. McGivern

In 1858, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to 14-year-old Bernadette Soubirous in Lourdes, France. This site is world-famous and draws millions of pilgrims annually.

Very little known, until now, is Our Lady's appearances the following year—1859—to a 28-year-old French Belgian immigrant to northeastern Wisconsin in the U.S.A.

In 2010, the Bishop of Green Bay (world-famous as the home of the National Football League's Green Bay Packers) approved the apparitions of Our Lady of Good Help to Adele Joseph Brise.

Our Lady appeared on three occasions to Adele, who later became a lay Third Order Franciscan and was known as Sister Adele. She and her sisters wore habits.

Many miracles have taken place, quietly, for the past 150 years at the chapel and crypt built where the Virgin Mary appeared and spoke to Adele.

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*"I am the Queen of Heaven who prays  
for the conversion of sinners, and I wish you to  
do the same. You received Holy Communion  
this morning and that is well. But you must do more.  
Make a general confession and offer communion for the  
conversion of sinners. If they do not convert and do  
penance, my Son will be obliged to punish them."*

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As recently as 2010, a little boy, born on the feast day of Our Lady of Fatima (May 13) was cured of acute leukemia, praying at the crypt. In the hospital the next day, the doctor told the mother "There are no leukemic cells in this boy's body." Later, on the hospital's 10<sup>th</sup> floor, he told his mom who noticed he was sitting next to the Infant of Prague statue, "I'm sitting by Jesus. He healed me."

For many years, there have been crutches placed at the shrine's crypt by those who could now walk normally.

Miraculously, hundreds of adults and children were spared by Our Lady's intercession during the great Peshtigo fire in Wisconsin, which burned 2,400 square miles, killing 1,500 to 2,500 people.

Adele Brise and her companions, and many in nearby areas in all directions fled to the shrine for Mary's and God's help.

Fr. Peter Pernin reported what Sister Adele told him later. They knew they could not escape the fire, so the people took up the statue of Mary—as she appeared to Adele dressed in white with a yellow sash—and bore it in procession around the grounds. When the flame and wind blew so strongly in the direction of the chapel they awaited a lull or turned in the other direction around the chapel, praying and hoping.

In the morning, October 9, 1871—12 years to the day after Mary spoke to Adele as Queen of Heaven—rain came.

All the houses and fences in the neighborhood had been burned with the exception of all structures on the six acres of land consecrated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. It was an emerald field of green amid a sea of ashes outside the green land on which the school, chapel, crypt and wood fences still stood.

On October 8, there was also another famous fire, the great Chicago fire which destroyed only four square mile of the city, killing over 300 people. So although the Peshtigo fire was much worse, it was little written about or known outside the state of Wisconsin.

Messages were given by Our Mother to Adele on only one day, unlike those given to St. Bernadette over a period of months at Lourdes.

The following are the Blessed Virgin Mary's words to the young woman Adele Joseph Brise on October 9, 1859: "I am the Queen of Heaven who prays for the conversion of sinners, and I wish you to do the same. You received Holy Communion this morning and that is well. But you must do more. Make a general confession and offer communion for the conversion of sinners. If they do not convert and do penance, my Son will be obliged to punish them."

The two young women with Adele knelt down as Adele did, although that saw and heard nothing, as was also true with Bernadette's two companions in Lourdes.

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*"Gather the children in this wild country and teach them what they should know for salvation. Teach them their catechism, how to sign themselves with the sign of the cross, and how to approach the sacraments. That is what I wish you to do. Go and fear nothing. I will help you."*

Looking at Adele's kneeling companions, Our Lady said, "Blessed are they that believe without seeing."

Mary went on to ask, "What are you doing here in idleness while your companions are working in the vineyard of my Son?"

Adele started to cry and asked what more she could do.

"Gather the children in this wild country and teach them what they should know for salvation. Teach them their catechism, how to sign themselves with the sign of the cross, and how to approach the sacraments. That is what I wish you to do. Go and fear nothing. I will help you." Then Our Lady's apparition ended.

Adele took her “marching orders” to heart and went to all the surrounding homes for years, offering her household services for free in return for teaching the children as Our Lady instructed.

Funds were eventually donated to build a school (no tuition was charged so attendance was great) church and crypt on the site of the apparitions of Mary. In 2010, Bishop David L. Ricken approved the apparitions of Blessed Mother as worthy of belief, the first such site approved as authentic by the local bishop in the history of the United States of America.

Many thousands go to the site on August 15 annually for the solemnity of the Feast of the Assumption. The website is [www.shrineofourladyofgoodhelp.com](http://www.shrineofourladyofgoodhelp.com). The phone number is 920-866-2571.

The Fathers of Mercy are serving as priests at the shrine, near the little town of Champion, 17 miles from Green Bay which has more than ample accommodations for pilgrims who choose to stay overnight or longer.

On a daily basis, hundreds go to the shrine, small compared to other great shrines of Our Lady. But it has only become really known since last year.

Our Lady's message on October 9, 1859 is just as important today: teach the children their catechism, the sign of the cross and how to approach the sacraments—especially confession and the Eucharist. The message applies to all parents. It is ultimately their responsibility.

# True Devotion to Mary

by St. Louis de Montfort

*Editor's Note:* A quarter of a century ago, I began writing articles for Catholic magazines, starting with *Queen of All Hearts* magazine published by the St. Louis de Montfort community. The magazine, like many other Catholic publications, has ceased to exist. The latest was *Lourdes* magazine, which went online entirely.

My own mother, Viola Elizabeth McGivern, who died on April 28, the feast day of St. Louis de Montfort, had a very strong devotion to Mary. I'm quite sure that she never read St. Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort's treatise on "True Devotion to Mary." America Needs Fatima organization recently published a commemorative edition of it on the 150th anniversary of the death in 1863 of Fr. Frederick William Faber who translated the saint's work from the original French to English.

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*St. Augustine...affirms that all the predestinate, in order to be conformed to the image of the Son of God, are in this world hidden in the womb of the most Holy Virgin; where they are guarded, nourished, brought up, and made to grow by that good Mother until she has brought them forth to glory after death which is properly the day of their birth, as the Church calls the death of the just.*

At the time of the French Revolution, many religious manuscripts such as St. Louis de Montfort's treatise written by hand were hidden on farms, buried in dust for years. St. Louis de Montfort had predicted his manuscript would be lost for years, then found. It was found in 1842 by a priest, and it had been turned over to a library of missionaries.

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the library, "I took it, hoping to find it useful for making a sermon on Our Lady. I read by chance the place where he speaks of his Company of Mary. I recognized the style and thoughts of our venerable founder, and his way of addressing his missionaries, and after that, I had no doubt the manuscript was his. I took it to our superior, who identified the handwriting."

"After I had read a few pages," said a priest who found it in

At the time, de Montfort was only venerable. Pope Pius XI canonized the "Apostle of Mary" in 1917. The cause for his declaration as a Doctor of the Church is now in progress.

This synopsis of "True Devotion to Mary" is dedicated to my late mother who spoke of Mary as her friend. Everyone should obtain a copy of the book from America Needs Fatima ([ANF@ANF.org](mailto:ANF@ANF.org)) or other publisher or bookstore. The only update I have used is to change Holy Ghost to Holy Spirit, wherever used by St. Louis de Montfort.



## A Treatise on True Devotion to Mary

Just as, in the natural and corporal generation of children there is a father and a mother, so in the supernatural and spiritual generation there is a Father, who is God, and a Mother, who is Mary. All the true children of God, the predestinate, have God for their Father, and Mary for their Mother. He who has not Mary for his Mother has not God for his Father. This is the reason why the reprobate, such as heretics, schismatics, and others, who hate our Blessed Lady, or regard her with contempt and indifference, have not God for their Father, however much they boast of it, simply because they have not Mary for their Mother. For if they had her for their Mother, they would love and honour her as a true and good child naturally loves and honours the mother who has given him life.

St. Augustine, surpassing himself, and going beyond all I have yet said, affirms that all the predestinate, in order to be conformed to the image of the Son of God, are in this world

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*It is an infallible mark of predestination to be entirely and truly devoted to Mary. "To be devout to you, O Holy Virgin," says St. John Damascene, "is an arm of salvation which God gives to those whom He wishes to save."*

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hidden in the womb of the most Holy Virgin; where they are guarded, nourished, brought up, and made to grow by that good Mother until she has brought them forth to glory after death which is properly the day of their birth, as the Church calls the death of the just. O mystery of grace, unknown to the reprobate, and but little known even to the predestinate!

The formation and education of the great Saints, who shall come at the end of the world, are reserved for her. For it is only that singular and miraculous Virgin who can produce, in union with the Holy Spirit, singular and extraordinary things.

It is an infallible mark of reprobation to have no esteem and love for the Holy Virgin; while on the other hand it is an infallible mark of predestination to be entirely and truly devoted to her.

"To be devout to you, O Holy Virgin," says St. John Damascene, "is an arm of salvation which God gives to those whom He wishes to save."

The Most High has made her the sole treasurer of His treasures, and the sole dispenser of His graces, to ennoble, to exalt, and to enrich whom she wishes; to give the entry to whom she wills to the narrow way of heaven; to pass whom she wills and in spite of all obstacles, through the straight gate of life; and to give the throne, the scepter, and the crown of the King to whom she wills. Jesus is everywhere and always the Fruit and the Son of Mary; and Mary is everywhere the veritable tree, who bears the Fruit of life, and the true Mother, who produces it.

According to the explanation of St. Bernard, all the rich (to make use of an expression of the Holy Spirit) among the people shall supplicate thy face from age to age, and particularly at the end of the world, and indeed presently, because the Most High with

His Holy Mother has to form for Himself great Saints, who shall surpass most of the other saints in sanctity.

These great souls, full of grace and zeal, shall be chosen to match themselves against the enemies of God, who shall rage on all sides; and they shall be singularly devout to our Blessed Lady, illuminated by her light, nourished by her milk, led by her spirit, supported by her arm, and sheltered under her protection, so that they shall fight with one hand and build with the other. With one hand they shall fight, overthrow, and crush the heretics with their heresies, the schismatics with their schisms, the idolaters with their idolatries, and the sinners with their impieties. With the other hand they shall build the temple of the true Solomon, and the mystical city of God; that is to say, the most Holy Virgin, called by the Holy Fathers the temple of Solomon and the city of God. By their words and their examples they shall bend the whole world to true devotion to Mary. This shall bring upon them many enemies; but it shall also bring many victories and much glory for God alone.

In the second coming of Jesus Christ, Mary has to be made known and revealed by the Holy Spirit, in order that by her Jesus Christ may be known, loved and served. The reasons which moved the Holy Spirit to hide His Spouse during her life, and to reveal her but very little since the preaching of the Gospel, subsist no longer.

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*God then wishes to reveal and discover Mary, the masterpiece of His hands, in these latter times... Being the sure means and the straight and immaculate way to go to Jesus Christ, and to find Him perfectly, it is by her that the holy souls, who are to shine forth especially in sanctity, have to find our Lord. He who shall find Mary shall find life; that is, Jesus Christ, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.*

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God then wishes to reveal and discover Mary, the masterpiece of His hands, in these latter times... Being the sure means and the straight and immaculate way to go to Jesus Christ, and to find Him perfectly, it is by her that the holy souls, who are to shine forth especially in sanctity, have to find our Lord. He who shall find Mary shall find life; that is, Jesus Christ, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. But no one can find Mary who does not seek her; and no one can seek

her, who does not know her: for we cannot seek or desire an unknown object. It is necessary, then, for the greater knowledge and glory of the Most Holy Trinity, that Mary should be more known than ever.

Mary must shine forth more than ever in mercy, in might, and in grace, in these latter times: in mercy, to bring back and lovingly receive the poor strayed sinners who shall be converted and shall return to the Catholic Church; in might, against the enemies of God, idolaters, schismatics, Mahometans, Jews, and souls hardened in impiety, who shall rise in terrible revolt against God to seduce all those who shall be contrary to them, and to make them fall by promises and threats; and, finally, she must shine forth in grace, in order to animate and sustain the valiant soldiers and faithful servants of Jesus Christ, who shall do battle for His interests.

And, lastly, Mary must be terrible to the devil and his crew, as an army ranged in battle, principally in these latter times, because the devil, knowing that he has but little time, and now less than ever, to destroy souls, will every day redouble his efforts and his combats. He will presently raise up new persecutions, and will put terrible snares before the faithful servants and true children of Mary, whom it gives him more trouble to surmount than it does to conquer others.

It is principally of these last and cruel persecutions of the devil, which shall go on increasing daily till the reign of Antichrist, that we ought to understand that first and celebrated prediction and curse of God, pronounced in the terrestrial Paradise against the serpent. It is to our purpose to explain this here, for the glory of the most Holy Virgin, for the salvation of her children, and for the confusion of the devil.

“I will put enmities between thee and the woman, and thy seed and her seed; she shall crush thy head, and thou shalt lie in wait for her heel.”

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*“I will put enmities between thee and the woman, and thy seed and her seed; she shall crush thy head, and thou shalt lie in wait for her heel.”*

The power of Mary over all the devils will especially break out in the latter times, when Satan will lay his snares against her heel; that is to say, her humble slaves and her poor children, whom she will raise up to make war against him. They shall be little and poor in the world's esteem, and abased before all, like the heel, trodden underfoot and persecuted as the heel is by the other members of the body. But in return for this, they shall be rich in the grace of God, which Mary shall distribute to them abundantly. They shall be great and exalted before God in sanctity, superior to all other creatures by their animated zeal, and leaning so strongly on the divine succor, that, with the humility of their heel, in union with Mary, they shall crush the head of the devil, and cause Jesus Christ to triumph.

This no doubt will take place, if the predestinate enter, with the grace and light of the Holy Spirit, into the interior and perfect practice which I will disclose to them shortly. Then they will see clearly, as far as faith allows, that beautiful Star of the Sea. They will arrive happily in harbor, following its guidance, in spite of the tempests and the pirates. They will know the grandeurs of the Queen, and will consecrate themselves entirely to her service, as subjects and slaves of love. They will experience her sweetness and her maternal goodnesses, and they will love her tenderly like well-beloved children. They will know the mercies of which she is full and the need they have of her succor; and they will have recourse to her in all things, as to their dear advocate and mediatrix with Jesus Christ. They will know what is the most sure, the most easy, the most short, and the most perfect means by which to go to Jesus Christ; and they will deliver themselves to Mary, body and soul, without reserve, that they may thus be all for Jesus Christ. They shall be the true apostles of the latter times... to whom the Lord of Hosts shall give the word and the might to work marvels, and to carry off the glory of the spoils of His enemies. They shall sleep without gold or silver, and what is more, without care, in the middle of the other priests, ecclesiastics and clerks; and yet they shall have the silvered wings of the dove, to go, with the pure intention of the glory of God and the salvation of souls, wheresoever the Holy Spirit shall call them.

We know that they shall be true disciples of Jesus Christ, who, marching in the footsteps of His poverty, humility, contempt of the world, and charity, shall teach the strait way of God in the pure truth, according to the Holy Gospel, and not according to the maxims of the world, without putting themselves in pain about things, or accepting persons, without sparing, fearing, or listening to any mortal, however influential he may be.



They shall have in their mouths the two-edged sword of the Word of God. They shall carry on their shoulders the bloody standard of the cross, the crucifix in their right hand and the rosary in their left, the sacred names of Jesus and Mary on their hearts, and the modesty and mortification of Jesus Christ in their own behaviour. These are the great men who shall come. But Mary shall be there by the order of the Most High, to extend His empire over that of the impious, the idolaters and the

Mahometans. But when and how shall this be? God alone knows. It is for us to hold our tongues, to pray, to sigh, and to wait, “expecting I have expected.”

*Editor's Note:* This is the end of the synopsis of Chapter 1 of St. Louis de Montfort's "[True Devotion to Mary](#)" book available everywhere in bookstores including America Needs Fatima at [ANF@ANG.org](mailto:ANF@ANG.org) and 1-888-317-5571.