

said to Valerian, "Know, Valerian, that I am a Christian. From my infancy I have been consecrated to God, by dedicating to Him my virginity: and He has appointed an angel from Heaven to protect me from every insult. At thy peril, therefore, do not anything to me, by which thou mayest excite the wrath of the Lord." He said, "Dearest, if this be true, show me the angel." "You shall see him when you are purified" said Cecilia. Valerian asked, "how shall I become so?" "Go to Urban," said the Saint. "When the poor hear my name, they will take you to his sanctuary. He will explain to you our mysteries."

## St. Cecilia - Martyr

**Feastday: November 22**  
**Patroness of Sacred Music**

**I**n the city of Rome, there lived a virgin named Cecilia who was a member of a distinguished Roman family. As a young girl, Cecilia had consecrated by a vow her virginity to Heaven.

The Roman poor knew her charity. Often they had seen her alone in the caves of the martyrs (catacombs) or only accompanied by a faithful servant. Her father was a pagan but he respected the religion of his good and lovely daughter. Along with beseeching the saints and angels to guard her virginity, Cecilia wore sackcloth next to her skin and fasted. Despite her desire to remain a virgin, she was given in marriage to a nobleman named Valerian. She prayed and fasted, and the nearer the wedding-day approached, the more she increased her penances and her devotions. In the hour when her sorrow was the deepest, God revealed to her that He would send an angel to guard her honor.

The young Saint obediently participated in the marriage ceremony, but when she was alone with her bridegroom Cecilia successfully persuaded him to respect her vow of virginity and converted him to Catholicism. She

Valerian met with Pope St. Urban who baptized him; and when he returned, he saw Cecilia praying in her



chamber, and accompanied by the angel, surrounded with rays of Heavenly splendor. (The vision of Cecilia's guardian angel greatly comforted Valerian during his future trials.)

Shortly after, Tiburtius (the brother of Valerian) entered and was told what had happened to Valerian, and Cecilia, who was present during the conversation. While she spoke, the grace of God touched the heart of Tiburtius

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**ST. CECILIA – Martyr**  
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and he also was instructed and baptized by St. Urban.

After their baptism, the two brothers devoted themselves to relieving the poor, consoling the confessors of the Faith and burying the martyrs who were slain daily by the prefect of the city. They were arrested and brought before the prefect. They were executed with the sword when they refused to sacrifice to the gods.

Meanwhile, by teaching, St. Cecilia had converted four hundred persons, whom Pope St. Urban baptized. She was arrested for burying the brothers' bodies and was convicted of loving the poor and of adoring a crucified God. She was given the choice of sacrificing to heathen gods or being put to death. Cecilia chose to die for her Faith, as had Saints Valerian and Tiburtius.

Because Cecilia was a member of a distinguished and well-known family, Turcius Almachius, the Prefect of Rome, thought it best to execute her in private instead of in public and so it was decided that she should be placed in her bath (the caldarium) which was to be kept intensely heated until the suffocating atmosphere deprived her of life.

Cecilia entered the bath and remained there the rest of the day and night and the fires were heaped up, and made to glow and roar their fullest, but Cecilia did not even break into perspiration through the heat. Since this method of execution was unsuccessful, she was ordered to be beheaded in the same place. With a trembling hand, the executioner inflicted three wounds on the neck of Cecilia, but failed to sever her head. The executioner ran away terrified. The beautiful virgin-martyr lay dying on the pavement of her bath, fully conscious, with her head half severed. Crowds came to her and collected her blood with napkins and sponges, while she spoke of God to them or prayed. She was able to say goodbye to the poor, whom she had given all her wealth to.

At the end of three days, she died, and was buried by Pope St. Urban. The position of her fingers, three extended on her right hand and one on the left, was accepted as her final profession of faith in the Holy Trinity. Her left hand had one finger extended to show the unity of God and her right hand had three fingers extended to depict the Three Divine Persons. Christians clothed Cecilia's body in robes of silk and gold and placed it in a cypress coffin.

In 821 there was an old church, dedicated to St. Cecilia, which had been allowed to become run down. Pope Pascal I learned in a dream that the body of Saint Cecilia lay in the Catacombs of St. Callistus, along with

that of her husband St. Valerian and her brother-in-law Tiburtius. He searched for them and found them in the catacombs. He transferred the relics of the two holy brothers and the body of St. Cecilia to the church of St. Cecilia, and founded a monastery in their honor.

In 1599 an exhumation of the incorrupt body was made. A sculpture made by Stefano Maderno represents Saint Cecilia in the exact posture of her body when it was found during the exhumation and is also believed to be the position in which she died. The statue now lies slightly below and in front of the high altar. The marble slab on this altar is the one on which the Saint was placed during the attempted suffocation, and it may be the one on which she died. The body of Saint Cecilia, along with the relics of St. Valerian and St. Tiburtius, are interred in the crypt of the church.

St. Cecilia is often depicted in art with an organ to express what was often attributed to her in panegyrics and poems based on her Acts, that "... while the musicians played at her nuptials, she sang in her heart to God only." In 1584, when the Academy of Music was founded in Rome, St. Cecilia was made its patroness, resulting in Her veneration as patroness of Church music becoming more universal. ❖

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## **News from the Fatima Center Broadcast Department**

### **Guardian Angels**

We are doing a new program dedicated entirely to Guardian Angels. In the past, we received tremendous response from the public even when it is replayed on the same station.

By the way, do you have any special stories to tell us about your own encounter with your Guardian Angel? Please write and tell us all about it and address it to the attention of the Editor of the League of the Immaculate Heart Newsletter. Who knows, the account of your own personal encounter could help save souls!

### **Meditations on the Rosary with Father Nicholas Gruner**

We have just completed our first 2 programs in the *Meditations on the Rosary with Father Nicholas Gruner* series where Father prays the Rosary along with explaining the five Joyful mysteries.

The first half of the Joyful mysteries program aired December 31, 2000, and the conclusion aired January 7,

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## In the News

### Ideal Time to Consider Pilgrimage to Europe

The value of the euro dollar has dropped significantly in relation to the U.S. dollar since its introduction early in 1999.

The drop in the Euro dollar is making it easier for us to spread the Message of Our Lady of Fatima worldwide from our office in Rome.

It has also presented us with a golden opportunity to plan more pilgrimages to famous Shrines and Holy Sites in Italy and Portugal, at affordable prices for our pilgrims.

Why not call our office today at 1-800-845-3047 and ask for information about "the Spiritual Adventure of a Lifetime"?

### Visit Planned Despite Retirement Rumor

Pope John Paul II is not stepping down as head of the Roman Catholic Church because of poor health. Nor for any other reason.

In fact, the Vatican announced plans for the Pope to visit the Ukraine in June of 2001.

This visit may meet with some official resistance as the largest of the three Orthodox churches is loyal to the Russian patriarch in Moscow, where the Pope has never been invited. ❖

### NEWS FROM THE BROADCAST DEPARTMENT continued from page 2

2001, and throughout the programs we offered a free Rosary and Rosary booklets. We received many calls from viewers saying how nice it was to see the Rosary being prayed on TV. Many of our viewers requested the free Rosary while even more asked for information on how to say the Rosary.

With your help, we hope to produce the Sorrowful and then the Glorious mysteries in the very near future.

### Television/Radio Program Guests

#### Mary Sedore

Mrs. Sedore is one of 16 children born to an Irish family and grew up waiting for the Third Secret of Fatima to be released. She recently celebrated her 40th wedding anniversary, and is the mother of two daughters and grandmother of four children.

Mrs. Sedore met Father Gruner in 1983 when her 86-year-old mother, Mary Hubbard, saw Father Gruner's name in a magazine and invited him to Niag-

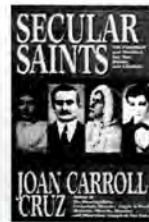
# Special Offer!

Research for the Saint Cecilia article was collected from *Little Lives of the Great Saints* by John O'Kane Murray, M.A., M.D., from *Victories of the Martyrs* by St. Alphonsus de Liguori and from *Secular Saints* by Joan Carroll Cruz. These books are offered in Our Lady's Book Service Catalog and, as a valued member of The League of the Immaculate Heart, these books are offered to you at a **25% discount**.



*Little Lives of the Great Saints*: Fascinating, true stories of 32 of the greatest saints in the history of the Church. Spiritual stories that all Catholics should know. Excellent for both children and adults. Big print, easy reading. 495 pages. Regular Price \$17.95 **Special Member Price \$13.45**

*Victories of the Martyrs*: This great Doctor of the Church recreates the inspiring lives and heroic deaths of a number of great martyred saints. A gem about saints written by a saint. Superb! Imprimatur. 458 pages Regular Price \$4.95 **Special Member Price \$3.70**



*Secular Saints*: 250 lives of saints who lived and died as lay persons. Many rose from great sins and lived with terrible problems. Written to inspire lay people to sanctity. Imprimatur. 780 pages Regular Price \$39.95 **Special Member Price \$29.97**

ara Falls for a Statue Visit. Mrs. Sedore and her sisters called many of the area churches and set up the visits to display the Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima and for Father Gruner to speak.

Mary has worked with Father Gruner for 15 years, directing our Telephone Ministry and leading pilgrimages. Since 1989 she has guided pilgrims through the shrines of Fatima, Spain, France, Italy and Guadalupe, Mexico.

#### Paul Clarke

Mr. Clarke is 28 years old, has been married for four years and is the father of a beautiful two-year-old daughter. Both he and his wife are planning on a large family.

Many hours of his youth were spent singing in the children's choir until he moved to the adult choir. He also rang the Church bells at all three Masses, funerals, and for weddings.

He has been with Our Lady's Apostolate for four years and spends a great deal of time scheduling our TV and Radio programs, and acquiring new stations, along with working on our purchases of broadcast equipment.

Be sure to catch Mr. Clarke on our TV programs where he asks Father Gruner questions many of you have written or called in and asked. ❖





**Dear Father Gruner,**

First, I want to say thank you for the photos, prayer cards, medals, *Fatima Crusader* magazine, the book called *The Golden Key to Heaven*, and also for the video you sent me. God bless you for all these items, also for all the reports and letters, I don't know if I'll ever be able to repay you for your kindness ...

Father, I am so sorry you had all kinds of problems with finances. I do hope that all those problems fall in place soon, they usually do.

Remember, a lot of people pray for you and your Fatima Apostolate and all your workers, also all the priests and bishops that so kindly help you.

I pledged a long time ago to pray three Rosaries per week for you and all your intentions and I still do this every week. I beg Jesus at Adoration ten, eleven times a month to keep you safe and help you with your work that's so important to each and every Fatima member and those that love you and the Blessed Mother so much. Take care. With Jesus and Mary,

*Anne K., Georgetown*

**Dear Father Gruner,**

Although I have been receiving *The Fatima Crusader* for some time, I have never made a donation. The last issue on the Third Secret **must** be made available to as many as humanly possible. It is wonderful. I am of limited resources, but I had to be a part

**Prayer**

**O** God, Who dost gladden us with the annual feast of blessed Cecilia, Thy virgin and martyr, grant that, as we venerate her, we may also follow her example in godly living. Through Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

of what you are doing.

As a traditional Catholic, I believe with all my heart in Our Lady of Fatima and know Her message is a true one.

I have been following your troubles with the enemies of Mary. My sister gave me a gift of "Fatima Priest". My admiration for you increases with each page. What a wonderful advocate for Our Lady you are. I pray for you that your work may continue.

I had a chance to see the Pilgrim Statue when it came to a town near to where I was living. It is magnificent.

I do pray that the present Pope will finally do what Mary asked to be done ...

May God be with you ...

*Margaret K., USA*

**(From the Editor:**

*If you are interested in having the Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima visit your area, please contact us at the address or phone number on this page. We'll try to arrange the visit for you.)*

**Dear Father,**

An article in *The Dallas Morning News* on Wednesday, August 23, 2000, states that the population of Russia has declined by 425,000 in the past six months and the population of Russia is now at 145,100,000 — a sharp decline from the 1950's when the population of the USSR was estimated at 207,000,000. The reasons are a falling birth rate, bad economic conditions, and the poor state of the health care system.

And yet people say that Russia has been Consecrated?

Oh what a Trojan Horse!

Those who say that Russia is consecrated are making the Consecration issue a hoax!

God bless you — by Thy Most Pure and Immaculate Conception, O Mary, obtain for me the Conversion of Russia, Spain, Portugal, Europe, and the entire world.

*Donald N. (from the Internet)*

**The Editor,**

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