

League of the Immaculate Heart Newsletter

"MY IMMACULATE HEART WILL TRIUMPH"

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Refuge of Sinners

by Rev. A. Biskupek, S.V.D.

In the Message of Fatima we are reminded of the gravity of offenses committed against God, and the need for the conversion of poor sinners. The first part of the Secret of Fatima consisted of the vision of hell shown to the three children, and the words the Blessed Virgin subsequently spoke: "You have seen hell, where the souls of poor sinners go. To save them God wishes to establish in the world devotion to My Immaculate Heart." The Blessed Virgin Mary is the refuge of sinners, and to Her has been granted the power to rescue even the most hardened sinners from the fires of hell.

Much more deserving of pity and in need of help than those sick in body are the sinners. They are sick in soul when in venial sin; they are spiritually dead when in mortal sin. Moreover, sin, especially habitual mortal sin, has left the soul in a state of general weakness, accompanied by an increase in power of inordinate passions. Whereas in bodily sickness men often have remedies to relieve or remove suffering, there is no natural remedy for the alleviation or removal of sin. However, we are not left without hope and help. The present invocation directs our attention to Mary as the Refuge of sinners. The sinner can do nothing better than entrust his case to Her; to help and to save sinners is Her delight as it was the delight of Jesus Who had come to call sinners to repentance and to seek the lost sheep.

The Mind of Jesus

If ever two hearts beat in unison, they are the hearts of Jesus and Mary. If therefore we want to know the attitude of Mary toward sinners, we must first know the attitude of Jesus. The evangelists have given us a moving portrait of Jesus in His love and quest of sinners. He seeks sinners wherever they are: in cities and villages, on streets and in

public places. He follows them, mingles with them, eats with them, shows them so much kindness that the Pharisees are scandalized and murmur, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them" (Lk. 15:2). Jesus answers His critics with the parables of the lost sheep and the lost drachma, and concludes, "I say to you that even so there will be joy in heaven over one sinner who repents, more than over ninety-nine just who have no need of penance" (Lk. 15:7).

No sin, no matter how grievous or repulsive to the Heart of Jesus, is excluded from His love and forgiving mercy. He saves the adulterous woman from condemnation, defends the sinful woman who came to anoint His feet, has a look of tender pity for Peter who denied Him, and the promise of paradise for the repentant thief.

The Mind of Mary

The mind of Jesus is also the mind of Mary. Could Jesus' love for sinners, so deep and tender, leave the heart of Mary unaffected? What must we expect of the most loving Mother of men, of the Virgin merciful? The desire

continued on page 2



In this Issue:

Refuge of Sinners	1
News	2
He is Merciful	3
Eve and Mary	3
Letters	4

Apostolate Web Update

For many months we have been diligently working to improve the Fatima Center's existing web sites and add new sites to our network — and we have been making much progress. The following sites have recently gone on-line and are now accessible:

📧 www.fatimaperspectives.org

This site contains commentary on such topics as: the “conversion” of Russia, Ecumenical Follies, “Springtime of Vatican II,” the Party Line on Fatima, the Third Secret, etc., from attorney and author Christopher A. Ferrara.

📧 www.fatimacrusader.com

This is *The Fatima Crusader* magazine's official web site, and contains 26 years of the quarterly magazine on-line.

📧 www.heavenspeaceplan.com

This site contains over 600 audio recordings of the Heaven's Peace Plan radio shows, grouped into 18 categories of topics, and by program guests.

📧 www.fatimarosaryrallies.com

This site contains audio recordings and transcripts of past Rosary Rallies, as well as information about upcoming Rallies.

📧 www.fatimatv.com — coming soon!

This site will contain five-minute video clips of the Fatima: “the Moment has Come” television program, grouped by categories of topics, and by program guests.

📧 www.fatimapeaceconferences.com — coming soon!

This site will contain audio recordings, transcripts, and five-minute video segments from our Bishops' Conferences.

We're also working on reconstructing our www.fatima.org web site, giving it a new look and adding much new material. In addition, we have been posting updates concerning the ongoing interreligious scandal at the Fatima Shrine on our www.fatima.org site, so be sure to check it frequently.

Visit our new and revamped web sites today!

See also www.fatimaintwilight.com, www.fatimapriest.com and www.devilsfinalbattle.com — These sites provide commentaries, reviews and sample chapters of the acclaimed books, *Fatima in Twilight*, *Fatima Priest* and *The Devil's Final Battle*.

REFUGE OF SINNERS continued from page 1

of Jesus for the salvation of sinners fills Her heart, She shares in His grief and sorrow over unrepentant sinners. The joy of Jesus over finding the lost sheep is also the joy of His Mother. But let us see this MIND of Mary in more detail.

Mary's profound knowledge of the justice and holiness of God gives Her a penetrating vision of the malice of sin, which is a rebellion against Almighty God, a provocation of His justice. The mere thought of sin is unbearable to Her sinless heart, the commission of a sin is so revolting a sight that She turns away from it in horror. Spiritual shortsightedness and blindness are the reasons why the sinner does not see the abysmal deformity and ugliness of his act. Mary sees, and Her innermost being urges Her to bring to an end such a dreadful state.

The Blessed Mother loves Jesus as no other human heart ever loved Him; His interests are Her interests. She feels that every sin is a profound disappointment of His

love. Unrepentant sinners render in vain the shedding of Jesus' precious Blood and make forgiveness impossible, “since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God and make Him a mockery” (Hebr. 6:6). Mary's motherly impulse to save Jesus from such sorrow and disappointment and to glorify His mercy cannot but urge Her with irresistible force to love and seek the salvation of souls for whom Jesus shed His blood.

Lastly, the Mother of the Savior is fully aware of the office assigned to Her in the economy of our salvation as the new Eve and the spiritual Mother of men. It is the thought stressed by Pius XII: “As another Eve She offered Him on Golgotha to the eternal Father for all the children of Adam, sin-stained by his fall, and Her mother's rights and mother's love were included in the holocaust. Thus She, who was corporally the Mother of our Head, through the added title of pain and glory became spiritually the Mother of all His members” (*Mystici Corporis*).

continued on page 4

He is Merciful

by Saint Teresa of Avila

Writing on God's boundless mercy, Saint Teresa of Avila explains that even though we may be poor sinners, by persevering in prayer we will steadily return to God and gain salvation.

How often I failed in my duty to God, because I was not leaning on the strong pillar of prayer. I passed nearly twenty years on this stormy sea, falling and rising, but rising to no good purpose, seeing that I went and fell again. I may say that it was the most painful life that can be imagined, because I had no sweetness in God and no pleasure in the world.

When I was in the midst of the pleasures of the world, the remembrance of what I owed to God made me sad, and when I was praying to God my worldly affections disturbed me. This is so painful a struggle that I know not how I could have borne it for a month, let alone for so many years. Nevertheless I can trace distinctly the great mercy of Our Lord to me, while thus immersed in the world, in that I still had the courage to pray. I say courage, because I know of nothing in the whole world which requires greater courage than plotting treason against the King, knowing that He knows it, and yet never withdrawing from His presence; for, granting that we are always in the

presence of God, yet it seems to me that those who pray are in His presence in a very different sense, for they, as it were, see that He is looking upon them, while others may be for days together without even once recollecting that God sees them.



During eight and twenty years of prayer, I spent more than eighteen in that strife and contention which arose out of my attempts to reconcile God and the world. As to the other years, of which I have now to speak, in them the grounds of the warfare, though it was not slight, were changed; but inasmuch as I was – at least, I think so – serving God, and aware of the vanity of the world, all has been pleasant.

The reason, then, of my telling this is that, the mercy of God and my ingratitude, on the one hand, may become known; and, on the other, that men may understand how great is the good which God works in a soul when He gives it a disposition to pray in earnest, though it may not be so well prepared as it ought to be. If that soul perseveres in spite of sins,

continued on page 4

Eve and Mary


from *The Ave Maria, Volume I*

Eve and Mary will live forever in the annals of all nations. Eve brought ruin which Mary repaired. To Eve we are indebted for our terrestrial life; to Mary we owe our celestial life. Children of Eve, we sigh and weep, while waiting for death; children of Mary, we shall say one day “Oh death, where is thy victory?”

A fallen angel negotiated with Eve our ruin; a faithful angel negotiated with Mary our salvation. In order to destroy innocence, peace, happiness, and to make man an eternal slave, satan spoke of independence and greatness: “you will be as Gods.” To re-establish all, and place man upon the road to life, glory and happiness, a God descends from Heaven and becomes our brother.

Eve believed a lie brought from hell; Mary believed a truth brought from Heaven. In great sorrow Eve gave birth to Cain; without sorrow Mary gave birth to God. The name of Eve recalls malediction, the name of Mary is blessed among all women. Eve has been called the gate of death, Mary the gate of life.

In the terrestrial paradise, Eve opened her heart to satan; the foot of Mary crushed eternally the head of this first murderer of souls. Eve fallen, presents the fruit of death; Mary faithful, presents the fruit of life.

“O Adam,” exclaims Saint Bernard, “change thy excuse into thanksgivings and say to the Lord: the woman whom Thou hast given me presented me with the fruit of life and I have been regenerated by it.” In imitating Eve woman descends very low, in imitating Mary she ascends to Heaven. 



Dear Father Gruner,

God bless you! I am hoping this letter reaches you. For years I have prayed for you and admired your dedication to Our Lady's request. I feel as you do, and only wish I could do more to help you. I thank you for all your prayers, and assure you they are deeply appreciated.

God bless you abundantly, and bless all your wonderful work, and I know He will one day reward your wonderful dedication to His Mother's request.

Irene M., LA

Dear Father Gruner,

Your Fatima Crusader magazine is wonderful, so true, though no one hears anything about it. If I can find extra money I will send it along. We pray the Rosary every day and we go to church every day except Saturday.

Father, we pray for you and your good work. You are not forgotten.

Sincerely yours,

Blanche B., NS

Dear Father Gruner,

I was very excited about reading your newsletter and receiving a prayer card of St. Joseph. I was honored to read about him and know the things he has done.

So I want to thank you for sending me this letter and card. I will read it a couple of times ... I hope you count on me as a messenger for *The Fatima Crusader*. And, I hope to spread the news about this saint to others.

May God be with you always.

Yours Truly,

Leonardo A., CA

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

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HE IS MERCIFUL
continued from page 3

temptations, and relapses, brought about in a thousand ways by satan, our Lord will bring it at last – I am certain of it – to the harbor of salvation, as He has brought me myself; for so it seems to me now. May His Majesty grant I may never go back and be lost! He who gives himself to prayer is in possession of a great blessing, of which many saintly and good men have written – I am speaking of mental prayer – glory be to God for it and, if they had not done so, I am not proud enough, though I have but little humility, to presume to discuss it.

I may speak of that which I know by experience; and so, I say, let him never cease from prayer who has once begun it, be his life ever so wicked; for prayer is the way to amend it, and without prayer such amendment will be much more difficult. 

REFUGE OF SINNERS
continued from page 2

Dangers beset the paths of men, satan and the evil spirits are prowling about the world seeking the ruin of souls, the world holds out all her attractions to weak human hearts. Could Mary, the Mother of men, be indifferent, seeing Her children snatched away by satan and dragged down to eternal perdition?

Truly, it has never been heard that anyone was ever forsaken who placed his confidence in Mary the Refuge of sinners, performed some little act of devotion in Her honor, and did not completely reject Her help. The most hardened sinners have returned to God when Mary's help was sought. It was the experience of St. Clement Hofbauer that he never failed to arouse a dying sinner to repentance, if he had time to say the Rosary on his way to the dying. The prayer addressed to Mary daily by millions of men will not go unheard: Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.

Two thoughts suggest themselves at the end of these reflections: never to lose courage because of our own sins and never to despair of the conversion of a sinner, no matter how obdurate he may be. Mary is the Refuge of all sinners. Let us take to Her loving and motherly heart all our sins and infidelities, all our regrets and sorrows, all our fears and anxieties because of sins committed in the past. In Mary, the Refuge of sinners, we will find mercy, peace, and joy in the Lord. 