



Star of the Stormy Sea

Quarterly Newsletter of the Apostolate of Our Lady of Good Success Vol. 7 Dec. 2007

“... When your souls suffer temptations and are immersed in grief ...turn to her with confidence and say,
‘Star of the stormy sea of my mortal life, May thy light shine upon me so that I do not stray from the path that leads me to heaven.’” (Taken from “The Testament of Mother Mariana de Jesus Torres” January 16th, 1635)

"Few are the days that remain to you on this earth of sorrow and pain. And, throughout the course of this time, you will accompany Me on the major steps of My sorrowful Passion, delivering your soul into My Hands, just as I delivered My Own into the hands of My Eternal Father. Unite yourself to My sorrowful Heart and, in the company of My Most Holy Mother, bear these tribulations and carry with valor and perseverance the cross that I will place on your shoulders for you to bear throughout your remaining years. For in all times I have need of valiant souls to save My Church and the prevaricating world, that is, to save the souls for whom I suffered such unspeakable pains. And, since so many souls are being lost, I desire that you, as My faithful spouse, lend Me your assistance."

(Our Lord asking Mother Mariana to accompany Him in His Passion, 1619)

In this issue you will find:

- ❖ Letter of Fundraising appeal for the charities in Quito and elsewhere.
- ❖ Devotion to the Holy Face—Why and How?
- ❖ Our Eucharistic Lord and His Importance at Christmastide
- ❖ We Refute and Condemn the Movie "The Nativity"
- ❖ Letter from around the world
- ❖ What's New?- SPECIAL ON NOVENA BOOKLETS AND HOLY FACE DEVOTION
- ❖ Christmas Novena – November 30th – December 24th

Dear Apostles of Our Lady of Good Success:

We are soon entering into the Blessed Season of Advent. We wish you now a most profitable one! Praying that you and your loved ones collect many treasures to bring to the Infant King in the little stable this Christmas!

First we wish to thank everyone for all of your Masses, prayers, cards, letters and phone calls expressing your Christian charity towards our family in the loss of our brother, David Heckenkamp. Our poor expression of thanks is very meager compared to all of the generous spiritual and corporal works of mercy shown to us in these past months. Truly, it has given us much consolation in this sorrowful time! We ask you for your continued prayers, as we would like to “make good” on our promise to the Holy Face of Jesus to spread this beautiful devotion here in the USA.

We also would like to thank all of you who most kindly and unselfishly sent us donations for the Carmelites in Quito, Ecuador. Emergency emails were sent out in October asking for donations for our beloved sisters who needed financial assistance for hip and knee surgeries and other medical needs. As of this date we can say that we have collected \$5,000 of the \$7,000 we had been asked to raise. So this effort continues...we are still taking donations for this worthy cause.

We are now entering our annual fundraising time for getting donations ready to be carried to Quito on our January pilgrimage to Our Lady of Good Success. Please help if you can the Carmelites, the Conceptionists and/or the orphanages in Quito – do send donations now as these donations are really and truly needed by our good Catholic friends in Ecuador. Additionally, the Apostolate tries to distribute Catholic materials in Spanish while in Quito. Printing for distribution in Quito runs into the hundreds of dollars. In the old days it was considered a noble cause and was titled “CATHOLIC ACTION” We still practice it here and in Quito. Unfortunately, this work also must be fueled by “the root of all evil.”—Money. So if anyone feels the urge to donate to one of our many good causes please do remember us!

Since we first visited Quito seven years ago, we had a desire to help the street children in Quito. If you have never been to South America, let me explain. Children, particularly boys, can be seen begging on many of the streets with shoe-shining boxes in tote or things to sell. They spend the day asking the tourists for a shoeshine or to buy something from them and conning them. They put a smile on your face when they ask if they could shine your sandals or white tennis shoes! Historic Quito is famous for this...perhaps the tourist center in Historic Quito quietly encourages this behavior as it is viewed by the tourists in general as being a very quaint practice for the poor to gain a little revenue. Since these children seem to need some kind of direction, we are planning to try supporting a catechism program for street children in Quito when we go to Quito in January - Please do pray for this intention as the Protestant sects are gaining ground and snatching the youth from the Catholic Church. There are many other projects “in the works” as well. An update about the Carmelites is given here below by “our very own” American Carmelite who recently sent us a letter asking for continued help.

October 3, Feast of St Therese,

May the sanctification to which we all aspire, be the means by which we continue as one Mystical Body of Christ Jesus, to help one another, to pray for one another and to experience the charity of God, in one another.



It is with the greatest pleasure and honor that I am given the opportunity to write to you. The "Carmelitas" here in Quito, all extend their prayers and sacrifices, to you and your families-- Especially to those, whom you have special intentions for. It is for the love of Jesus, that our work, is especially a continual sacrifice, and as Carmelites, the needs of all the priests, are remembered as well as we "bend the knee" in Adoration.

*I know some of you will **remember** my name, Sister Marie Perpetue but it is now changed, to Sister Maria de Jesus, Crucificado. With hope and prayer that you can understand the existing needs, I will try to be without too many words, and at the same time explain the life and needs here in Quito. And the needs are many... St Teresa of Avila, St. Therese of Liseaux and St Teresa de Jesus de los Angeles are very much alive, in spirit, for the Carmelitas. Please, always remember the sacrifices and suffering made daily and hourly by everyone.*

Explanaton: *We have several sisters that are infirm, but one in particular, who needed surgery. There is no archdiocese assistance in medical needs. The surgery bill charged to us was \$7,000 plus the blood transfusion, as the surgery needed was a hip replacement and orthoscopic repair of the knee. The hospital (I had the chance to visit) is more like a MASH unit with extreme potential for infection. Needless to say, the importance here is our need for you to understand we need your help. Your prayers and your help!! Your needs will be prayed for during our rosary, procession or anytime a sister is before Our Precious Lord. Unfortunately we have another problem building... Hermanita Fanny has been diagnosed now for certain with cancer near the mediastinum. She is having examinations and testing over the amount of \$3,000. This also, will not be covered with any help. After prayers to Our Lady and to Saint Joseph, inspired by the Holy Ghost to write, I was given permission with the hope that you would understand the needs are serious...*

There are many ways I wish I could express my thanks... the only way I can repay you is to keep you closely knitted in my heart, eternally--To pray for you in every prayer, to include you in every Mass and to consecrate you daily to the Blessed Virgin. May God bless you and be praised by your patience and loyalty to Him!

Your unworthy servant, Sister Maria de Jesus Crucificado – Carmelita

We were asked by the Carmelites in Brooklyn to help them. We have offered to assist them there in printing materials that they have made available to the faithful on the Holy Face Devotion. Funds are lacking for reprinting and as they are now running out of this literature we offered to help them. We feel very honored to be able to help them do this work as we recall the Holy Man of Tours, Leo Dupont was asked to do the same in France over 150 years ago. We have here below a letter from the Mother Superior of the Discalced Carmelite Nuns in Brooklyn, NY.

J.M.+ J. T. Pax Christi! October, 2007

We are sending a copy of the Holy Face materials that we have printed in the past, in both Spanish and English. May Our Blessed Lord reward you for helping us and the Sisters in Quito to spread this devotion to Our Lord's Holy Face. This devotion offers reparation and consolation to Our Lord who is still "undergoing His Passion" by the enemies of His Church who offer fresh blasphemies and outrages to His Holy name and despise His love. This wounds the heart of Christ, yet through this devotion Our Lord has revealed that it offers a sweet balm to His wounds.... Once again may God reward and bless you most abundantly.

In Jesus, Mary and Joseph,

Mother Maria Luz of the Trinity OCD, Monastery of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and St. Joseph, Discalced Carmelite Nuns, 361 Highland Blvd., Brooklyn, NY 11027

Chaplets of the Holy Face may be obtained for \$7.00 plus postage from the Carmelites in Brooklyn. Anyone wishing to obtain a Holy Protection Cross associated with the devotion to the Holy Face may contact: The Discalced Carmelites, Shrine of the Little Flower of Jesus, 75 Carmel Rd., Buffalo, NY 14214-1098 We recommend to enclose \$7.00 for the Cross and \$3.00 for postage.

We continue to spread this devotion to all part of the English speaking world. We thank all of you for sending traditional Catholic books for missions. This helps us immensely! It is shipping them to the Third World Countries that is causing us great expense. Once again we thank all of you for your continued generosity towards our work. Please remember us at Christmas! We need your support!

Devotion to the Holy Face--Why and How?.

Part 2 Work of Reparation for the Outrages that the Holy Face of Jesus received during His Passion and which He receives each day in the Eucharist sacrament.

In the last newsletter, we wrote about the work of Sr. Marie Pierre of the Carmelites who in 1843, received orders from Our Lord Himself to begin the Work of Reparation. His Holy Face was to be the object of this Reparation (see Sept. 2007 Newsletter). Our Lord wished the devotion to His Holy Face to be established as a weapon against Communism. However this devotion was not fully appreciated in the manner that Our Lord desired. Therefore, as a result of a lack of reparation for the sins of Blasphemy and profanation of Sundays, a planned worldwide Communist takeover was allowed by God which would eventually lead to World War I and continues to this day. However Our Lord is very patient and though He was not pleased with the progress of the devotion, He decided to choose another soul to further this work of reparation about one hundred years later. Her name in religious life was Sr. Maria Pierina De Micheli, a Daughter of the Immaculate Conception. He prepared this soul in this way. On Good Friday of 1902, When Sr. Maria Pierina was a young girl of 12 she was attending service when she heard "**Will no one give Me a kiss of love on My Face to make reparation for the Kiss of Judas?**" She proceeded to then kiss the crucifix on the face. This was the beginning of Sr Maria's preparation for the work she was to be given. It is the key to this devotion as you will see in the last years of her life she is asked to make reparation for bad religious. For as the kiss of Judas initiated Christ's Passion and Death, so the gaze of the Holy Face from the Cross consummated it--that Holy Face that Peter could not bear to look at when he swore an oath of betrayal against His Savior and yes, that same Holy Face that St. John courageously beheld beneath the Cross as he supported Our Lady in her grief.

Years later, on Good Friday, 1913, during her noviciate in the Daughters of the Immaculate Conception, Our Lord repeated his request as she once again heard the voice of Jesus saying to her "**Kiss Me.**" She immediately obeyed by kissing the statue of the crucifix but instead of the touch of plaster upon her lips, she felt the Sacred Cheek of Our Lord.

In many ways, Sr Marie Pierina's life mirrored the life of Mother Mariana and other great saints that have special missions. Not only did it seem as if God favored her at an early age with special gifts, but she also became a religious in an order dedicated to the Immaculate Conception. As well, her life was quite ordinary in her role as novice. She, too, like Mother Mariana, took on a variety of jobs within the convent. Additionally she suffered from many strange ailments and was attacked by the devil quite regularly- so much so in fact that whenever some kind of mishap occurred such as a fall or loud crash, it was assumed right away that the devil was the cause of this accident. In order not to frighten the other sisters, she always denied it and blamed it on her clumsiness. However, it was in fact the evil one tormenting her trying to tempt her to discouragement and despair.

In 1936, Our Lord revealed His desires to Sr. Marie on the first Friday of Lent. Jesus asked Mother Marie Pierina to share His spiritual agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. **"I desire that My Face, which shows My Soul's deepest anguish, My Heart's sorrow and love, may be more honored. Have Whoever contemplates Me, consoles Me."** Later on in that same Lent Our Lord shares a promise with her, **"Every time that anyone gazes at My Face, I will pour My Love into hearts and by means of My Holy Face, the salvation of many souls will be obtained."** Then in 1937, Our Lord instructed her; **"It may be that some souls fear that the devotion and cult of My Holy Face diminishes that towards My Heart. Tell them that on the contrary, it will be completed and augmented. In contemplating My Face, souls will share in all My gifts and will feel the need for love and reparation. Is that not perhaps the true devotion to My Heart?"** Sr. Marie Pierina submitted all of these revelations, to her spiritual director.

In May, 1938, Our Lord appeared with His bloodstained Face and repeated his offering of sanctifying and saving souls through the offering of His Holy Face but He adds that when this offering is made **"through My priests, miracles will be worked."** He asks for souls who will **"sacrifice themselves with Me for the salvation of the world."** She left it in her Superiors hands to get the necessary permission to begin this work of reparation. Later that month on the Queenship of Mary, May 31, Our Lady appeared to her in a dazzling light. She held two pieces of white flannel joined by a cord. It was a scapular on which held the Image of the Holy Face having the words around it **"Illumina, Domine Vultum Tuum Super Nos"** and then on the other, an image of the Sacred Host with rays of light shining out from It and the words around it saying **"Mane nobiscum, Domine"** Our Lady said, **"...This scapular is a weapon of defense, a shield of strength, a pledge of love and mercy which Jesus wishes to give to the world IN THESE TIMES OF SENSUALITY AND HATRED AGAINST GOD AND THE CHURCH. DIABOLIC SNARES ARE BEING LAID TO TEAR THE FAITH FROM MEN'S HEARTS AND EVIL SPREADS. True Apostles are few, a Divine Remedy is necessary and this remedy is the Holy Face of Jesus. All those who shall wear a scapular like this and will make, if possible, a visit to the Blessed Sacrament every Tuesday, in reparation for the outrages that the Holy Face of My Son, Jesus, received during His Passion and which He receives each day in the Eucharistic sacrament, will be fortified in the Faith, made able to defend it and in the end will have a happy death under the loving gaze of My Divine Son."** Some time later, Sr. Pierina was bothered as she had medals cast for distribution and she worried that she should have had scapulars made instead, Our Lady explained to her that either the medal or the scapular could be used. It did not matter which one, as both were equally pleasing to God.

Meanwhile, in daily life, the devil, seeing what tremendous merit this soul was accomplishing for the future of the Church and the Faithful, tormented her unceasingly. Poor Sr. Pierina could not manage to have a picture of either the Sacred Heart or the Holy Face venerated in her room for this evil being would waste no time in burning it or ripping it to shreds. As well, when the medals were finally delivered for distribution, he flung them out of her hands and they all went flying across the room. Such was the furious wrath of Satan towards the missionary of this devotion. But Sr. Pierina accepted all even going so far as to offer herself as a victim soul. She wrote to her Spiritual Director on November, 16th, 1938, these words, **" Then this idea came to me. If I were to ask Jesus to deprive me of all spiritual comfort for the rest of my life, to live in fact as one lives in certain terrible moments, knowing by faith alone that God is good, in order that Jesus might triumph in hearts?"** She was asking to be allowed to bear the trials of those in the state of despair even to experience the hopelessness of the damned in order to save souls from such horrendous fate. As Sr Pierina grew older, her mysterious sicknesses and injuries became more frequent. She continued to try to disguise her illnesses but at times a puzzling paralysis would takeover. Other times people would see marks on her body of bruises or scratches as the devil took advantage of the nighttime hours to attack her physically.

World War II brought more suffering upon Sr. Pierina both physically and spiritually. Despite all of this, she managed to work to spread this devotion. Throughout the war, medals were distributed across Europe. Many lives were saved under its protection.

In 1941, Our Lord asked Sister if she would be willing to join Him in the agony of His Soul in Gethsemane for the sins **"of those most dear to Me and especially for the rebuffs I receive from the souls of many religious."** Our Lord asked her in particular to make reparation for the sin of pride in religious souls. These last years were spent in doing just that. The "Kiss" that was to make reparation for the kiss of Judas now takes on new meaning for her. For as Judas was a priest and a bishop of Christ, Our Lord, in His request, was asking Sr. Pierina to make reparation for all of the "Judases" of the world that were offending Him-most particularly religious "Judases." For you see, those apostles who betrayed Our Savior on Holy Thursday ran from the Holy Face. There was only one Apostle who did not run from it—St. John. Through that gallant act in which he stayed and comforted Our Lady as they watched Jesus to have callers in the end of the law of a way to go the end of the one throughout His Passion, St. John was given something none of the other apostles dared to receive which was an active participation in His Passion. This active participation merited for him a fortification in His Faith and made him able to defend it as He stood beside Our Blessed Mother. In that gaze from the cross, Christ gave His Mother to us via St. John. This was one of the greatest gifts He could have given us short of a promise of Heaven.

In conclusion, all that Our Lord asked of Sr. Pierina, she did wholeheartedly until the end of her days. Her last words being, "I will see all of you again in Heaven." As she gazed at the Image of the Holy Face, she died in the odor of sanctity on July 26th, 1945. Let us have hope that she was not just talking to her dear fellow sisters, but all who have devotion to the Holy Face of Jesus. In that last love-filled look to Our Lord, she was showing us the way to Heaven.

As we began this article with a mention of the Carmelite missionary, Sr Marie Pierre of Tours, France, and her mission which was the Work of Reparation and the spread of the devotion to the Holy Face as being a weapon against Communism, we remind you that Communism is far from being dead. The enemy does not sleep. Here is a recent quote from one Communist website called www.redsun.org, "...we are unfolding within the new era, initiated with the October Revolution in 1917, in the past century, which is grand and glorious, a great milestone. You may be disturbed by the fact that restoration has taken place in the USSR and in China, but this implies not seeing the struggle between restoration and counter-restoration...Communism will not be in one country; it will be in the entire world, or it will not be at all...We are inexorably marching toward it. Nobody take us off this course."

These words filled with an ardent zeal for the spread of Communism are a reminder of what awaits us if we do not fight. We dare to say that we **MUST** take them off this course! With the Holy Face in one hand as our shield and Our Lady's rosary in the other as our weapon, we must march toward this final battle in which Our Lady will be triumphant and crush the serpent's head! For in this mystery of the Holy Face is the core theme—Reparation. A reparation for those who are attacking the Catholic Church from **WITHOUT AND WITHIN!** This is a battle to the death.- the death of Communism, the death of Masonry once and for all! Remember with the devotion of Our Lady of Good Success –she promises "good success" in all of our endeavors- we cannot fail! (All facts taken from "The Story of Sister Maria De Micheli by Sr. Maria Ildefonsa Rigamonti)

We will leave you with this excerpt from a lecture given by my Father Mateo Crawley-Bouvey-SS SC, Apostle of the Sacred Heart :

Are you really zealous? Are you really apostles of the Holy Face of Jesus? You must be the ones to set fire to other hearts. How many Catholics there are who have not grasped the duty of being apostles, the duty of gratitude! It is our positive duty - our obligation to bring others to Jesus, to give Him not only our souls, but the souls of others. Be grateful and generous in giving of the treasure of Holy Face of Jesus, which Our Lord has entrusted to your care, lavishing this treasure on souls, on poor starving souls. It is sad that so few truly love Jesus.



Adoration of the Second Person: Our Eucharistic Lord and His Importance at Christmastide

By Katie L. Visser

With the season of Advent, and eventually Christmastide, just a few steps around the corner, we Christians are beginning to envision the serene innocence and sweetness of the infant Christ Child. And like the Magi that first Christmas season, we will soon find ourselves bowing down in adoration before the manger, in awe of God made man.

As those of us who seek to keep Christ in Christmas know quite well, the Incarnation of Jesus Christ, Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, is truly the cornerstone of our Christmas tradition. Such adoration of Jesus in the earliest days of His humanity leads us to think of all the many ways in which we honor and adore our Lord's Divine Humanity throughout the various stages of His life.

Certainly one of the first of such ways to come to mind is the worship of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist. And while one may not immediately associate the adoration of the Christ Child with Eucharistic adoration, there really cannot be a stronger link between the two. From the holy catechism of our Catholic Church we learn that Our Lord's main reason for instituting the Eucharistic sacrament was so that His followers could have Him present in their midst after He had ascended into heaven. On the night He first transformed bread and wine into His sacred Body and precious Blood, Jesus promised each and every member of His Church for all of time that He would be with them in the Eucharistic Miracle on the altar. Thus, what our Holy Savior has done is given us the means by which we can constantly and immediately worship God made man, just as He was on that first Christmas night. Beautiful Infant, loving Shepherd, and crucified Lord are all equally present in the Blessed Sacrament.

Thus Advent and Christmas could not be a better season for us to renew and refresh our understanding of and appreciation for the sacrament of the Eucharist. So let us take a few moments to remind ourselves of the essence of this powerful Sacrament and all that It can and does do in our lives.

The Holy Eucharist- it has been called the greatest of all Christ's gifts to mankind. It is indeed a fountain of grace and blessings. And yet the Catholic Church teaches her children that it is so much more than this. It is the Redeemer and Savior Himself. Although hidden beneath a mystical veil, it is without a single, solitary doubt, Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Word, Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, Who lives within this precious Sacrament.

Of all the teachings, precepts or doctrines which Jesus Christ commanded be imparted to the world, the Eucharist is one of the most straightforward, clearly defined and carefully presented. Despite what certain Protestant sects have preached regarding Its institution and meaning, any reasonable, logically-thinking person can tell for himself exactly what Christ meant when He first conferred His Eucharistic gift upon His followers. Christ's words at the Last Supper were plain and simple. (This goes for the words of earlier sermons in His public life as well, wherein He made reference to the Sacrament which He would institute on the night before His death.) He was not making use of complicated language in any of these instances. Nor did He use the sophisticated language of higher education. He spoke words that every last one of His children could believe, accept and cherish no matter who they were or what their station or circumstances in life. He then left it up to His followers and the witnesses to His miraculous institution whether or not they would have faith in Him and in His word.

Then, when Christ had come down among men to do His Father's will of bringing the Good News, He Himself gave hints and foreshadowings as to the nature of the Precious Gift He would leave for all His children. In John 6:28 Christ told the crowds gathered to hear His sacred words, "I am the Bread of Life; he that cometh to Me shall not hunger." The people may not have known exactly what His words meant then, but He was nevertheless preparing them for the act of faith that they would have to make once the Eucharist was instituted. Later, in John 6:49, Christ continues giving hints of the miraculous events that would soon take place on Holy Thursday, "If any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever."

As with all teachings and commands which our Lord Jesus has set forth for His people, the teachings on the Eucharist and Christ's Presence within It do not find their basis in Scripture alone. Our Triune Godhead has given the faithful a three-fold source for knowing His will in all aspects of life. Those three sources are namely Holy Scripture, Divine Revelation and the teaching Magisterium of Holy Mother Church. These three work hand-in-hand to help souls to salvation and to bring Christ's message of redemption to all.

The Eucharistic Presence of Christ has been given extensive and serious attention in the dogmas, doctrine and other catechesis of the Holy Catholic Church. But perhaps the most definitive and detailed resource can be found in the catechism drawn from the Council of Trent (also known as The Roman Catechism) in 1546. It was this council that promulgated the teaching of transubstantiation for the entire world to realize and be aware of in full. This was a huge moment for Eucharistic doctrine as it laid down once and for all the exact teaching, which every Catholic has a duty to profess and share where the Real Presence is concerned. According to this great council transubstantiation can be defined as a change/transformation in which "the whole substance of the bread is changed by the power of God into the whole substance of the Body of Christ, and the whole substance of the wine into the whole substance of His Blood, and this, without any change in our Lord Himself" (Trent 238).


The term transubstantiation can be literally translated from the original Latin as meaning "complete substances being changed." This shortened definition, in fact, sums the doctrine of Eucharistic transubstantiation up quite neatly. For this is exactly what must be stressed most in Eucharistic doctrine- that a change takes place in which the substances of bread and wine disappear completely, leaving a brand new and completely different substance in their place. That new substance is Jesus Christ, metaphysically and substantially present all alone- His Body, His Blood, His Soul and His Divinity. The Council of Trent cites the words of Saint Ambrose on the topic of this mysterious and miraculous transformation taking place on the altar. "You see how efficacious are the words of Christ. If the word of the Lord Jesus is so powerful as to summon into existence that which does not exist, namely the world, how much more powerful is His word to change into something else that which already has existence" (Trent 238)?

Where the Holy Eucharist is concerned, Christ becomes the substance of the sacrament after the Consecration takes place, the new accidents (or physical manifestations) being the appearances of bread and wine, just the same as the old appearances. During the miracle of transubstantiation the substance of bread and wine is mystically removed, while the substance of Christ becomes present where the bread and wine used to be. The accidents, however, do not move at all as these changes occur. Nothing looks, feels or tastes different because the same accidents that were present before have now been handed over to the new substance, Jesus Christ, the Merciful Redeemer.

With the growing onslaught of modernism in today's world, Our Lord in the Eucharist has sadly been pushed aside more than ever. According to polls taken of Catholics in the 1990s, between 90 and 95% of those polled *did not* believe in the Real Presence dogma! What's even worse is that if the statistics gathered then were extended to include the answer of today's Catholics the percentage would probably be found to be much higher! What can one think when hearing such awful numbers? There is no way around it – the Christian world must be in terrible trouble and heading down a frightful road. Since it appears as though Christ's True Presence is not even recognized as being present on the altar at all.

It is important to recognize that Christ could not be satisfied with merely dying for the human race. Rather, Our Lord wanted to give Himself completely to his children in the Blessed Sacrament as well. It is most clear now why Saint Thomas Aquinas (one of the greatest philosophers, scholars and doctors of the Church) called It the "*sacrament of love*." In fact, that is the perfect name for It. Christ Jesus, the second Person of the Blessed Trinity, is present there and He is none other than Infinite Love Itself. There in the Blessed Sacrament is the Bread of Angels and a sacramental pledge of God's own love for man. Saint John Chrysostom once summed it up with perfect eloquence and precision, "He gave thee All. He left nothing for Himself."

So as we enter this Holy Season of Advent it would be well to remember during each of our communions, the presences of the the of Christ Child who gave us All. Let us recognize the little King of Kings in the Sacred Host. As we kneel at the Communion Rail let us be prepared to offer him our gifts of self-sacrifice, penance and prayer in place of the Magi's three gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. For as St. Alphonsus de Liguori put it, "For this end He sought to raise our confidence in Him; He, as the apostle expresses it, emptied Himself, humbling Himself so as to become man, in order to converse familiarly with us: 'Afterwards he was seen upon earth, and conversed with men.' He came to become an infant, to become poor, and even to be publicly executed on a cross; He came also to assume the appearances of bread and wine, in order to be our constant companion, and to be intimately united with us: 'He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, abideth in me and I in him.' (John 6:57). In a word, He loves you as though He had no love but for you alone."



In Reparation for the Sins Committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary ⁽¹⁾, We Refute and Condemn the Movie "The Nativity"

(This article was sent out in an email last year to help educate Catholics on the dangers of the movie "The Nativity" which is now out on video. Many people look for a good gift for Christmas – this is **NOT** one of them. We chose to reprint it here this year as we recommend good Catholics that you do not purchase the video of this movie as it is a tool of the devil used to cause further loss of the Faith. Please share it with family and friends)

On December 2, 2006, on the First Saturday of December, we went to the local movie theater to watch the movie "The Nativity." Based on previous reviews of this movie that we had heard, and the fact that the Vatican ⁽²⁾ held a premiere showing of this movie, we were expecting a movie that at the very least held to Catholic beliefs. However, from the very beginning of the movie we soon realized our high expectations had to be thrown into the trash, for as the movie progressed, we became more and more disappointed. The overall conclusion of this movie is that it is not a Catholic movie at all, but at best, a Protestant movie directed by men who did not even follow the Biblical account of the birth of Christ.

At worst, it is a vile anti-Christian movie created by people who hate Christ and His Church and whose main motive was to defame the name of the Blessed Mother and warp the story of the Birth of Jesus.

As mentioned before, this movie discredits our Catholic beliefs, beliefs that are so essential to our Faith that if we do not believe in them, the Church no longer considers us Catholic. What beliefs are these that have been maligned? Those beliefs which we hold sacred: the Immaculate Conception ⁽³⁾ and the Virgin Birth ⁽⁴⁾.

In one of the very first scenes of the movie, Mary is shown with her friends, sowing a field of what looks to be corn. These friends of Mary give sideways glances and smiles to each other after looking at a group of boys that are nearby. Then one of these girls runs to tackle one of the boys and what ensues appears to be a pileup of youths in the cornfield with Mary sort of participating in on the outer edges of this entanglement. Then from the house emerges Mary's mother looking stern and upset. She calls to Mary and shakes her head "No." The fact that Mary looks to have been participating in some kind of impropriety and had to be corrected by her mother is beyond belief but this is only one occurrence of "sinning" on the part of Mary. For throughout the first part of the movie, Mary is depicted as any normal 14 year old given to sullen, sulky moods. This movie shows her to be unhappy with the future marriage that is being arranged for her by her parents (which we know to be historically incorrect). She walks out of her house in defiance when her father tells her that she is now betrothed to Joseph. These scenes call into question the dogma of the Immaculate Conception issued by Pope Pius IX in 1854.

It also was implied in the betrothal scene that Mary and Joseph planned on a large family as Mary's parents indicated that they were to live as husband and wife in every way for one year except for that one act that would produce a family. Joseph began building the home for Mary and their future children indicating Joseph was planning on having many children. This is in line with the Protestant viewpoint that Mary and Joseph had many children after Jesus and counters the Catholic Church as it has always taught that both Mary and Joseph took vows of virginity and mutually consented to live as virgins in the married state.

The scene of Annunciation was not anything that a Catholic would contemplate while saying the Rosary. They depicted Mary reclining under a tree in the middle of the day while others were around her working. What is supposed to be the "Archangel Gabriel" is first shown as a hawk and then as a man with an Afro-like hairstyle and white robe looking as if he could be a son of Cheech or Chong. The "angel" had no mystical or holy appearance and he is shown at quite a distance from Mary. The portrayal makes you wonder if he's truly Heaven sent.

The Visitation was portrayed as an excuse to run away from her "intended", Joseph. A way out all of it — as if the whole idea of the coming of Our Lord and the idea of marriage was too much for her. The Magnificat was left out of this scene; however it was partially narrated at the end of the movie omitting the first half of this beautiful prayer:

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; because He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaid; for, behold, henceforth all generations shall call me blessed; because He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name; And his mercy is from generation to generation on those who fear Him...."

You can be certain, upon looking at these omitted words, just why they were omitted and the intentions of the creators of this vile cinematography!

The birth of Saint John was very degrading. This scene is about two minutes long, depicting Elizabeth holding her upper body up off a chair by holding onto ropes, screaming from pain while two women are ready to receive the child. She delivers, while Mary, with a horrified look on her face, stands by watching. This scene is not suitable for children to watch.

During Mary's absence at Elizabeth's, Saint Joseph was portrayed as being upset that Mary left. Also were included, implications that Joseph did not expect Mary to come back, as in one scene where he was deep in thought pondering his future with Mary holding his carpenter tools — then suddenly with a look of frustration and anger, he throws his tools to the ground. Sainly behavior for sure!

When Mary had returned to Nazareth, Joseph was excited to see her. However, on lifting her from the wagon he discovered that she was heavy with child and walked away upset. Mary tried to convince her parents and Joseph that she was not pregnant due to another man but that "an angel" appeared to her and told her she was going to have a baby. There was no evidence of any of the three believing Mary. It was implied that Joseph was ready to stone Mary until he had a vision through a dream (with that "angel" again) that Mary was telling the truth.

The traveling of Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem was the best of all scenes in the movie. But even during this trip there was an occurrence that was disturbing. While Mary and Joseph were walking through a market of a town, a palm-reading woman offered Mary a small piece of cheese or bread which Mary accepted, but then this sorceress read Mary's palm and claimed she was going to have a son. Mary accepted this prophecy with a smile and Joseph shook the woman's hand, thanked her and then they continued their journey. The implication was that Joseph and Mary had no objection to fortunetellers.

The scene of the Nativity was extremely heretical. Besides this grave evil, again we find it necessary to say that this movie should not be viewed by children. Mary was shown to be in labor while she was in the town of Bethlehem. Joseph rushed around carrying Mary in a frantic state trying to find a room for her as she groaned and breathed heavily as if she had taken Lamaze lessons. The worst of the worst occurs once they arrive at the stable with Joseph kneeling ready to deliver the baby. He partially lifts Mary's dress, putting his hands between her legs, ready to receive the child. Mary is laboring, her face sweating and in extreme pain with all of the normal actions of a woman in a delivery room and then she gives birth. Joseph raises Jesus in the air, showing the baby covered with blood, and Joseph laughs for joy, totally discrediting belief in the Virgin Birth. There is no sign of worship or adoration by either Mary or Joseph. Therefore, this was not only a Protestant view of the Nativity but also indirectly an act of disbelief in the Divinity of Jesus. There was no indication that Mary and Joseph believed Jesus to be God.

Meanwhile, the Archangel Gabriel (yes, that same "angel") appears to one shepherd to inform him of the birth. There are no other angels that appear as stated in St. Luke's Gospel: "And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among men of good will."

One by one, the shepherds seem to be leaving their sheep in a "zombie-like trance" and seen walking — NOT RUNNING — toward the star as it would seem natural to do considering they received this great news from a heavenly vision of great beauty! There was no joy exhibited in this scene by these shepherds. It only looked as if these guys were told to walk to this cave and stare at something. When the shepherds arrive at the stable, Mary is seen reclining and holding the Child; He is not lying in the manger. None of the shepherds worship or adore the Child, and they arrived simultaneously with the three Kings, who neither appear to be worshipping Him. Then there is this GREAT pause in the movie as we look on at this living Nativity Scene. Some kind of cold, blue lighting is glaring on Baby Jesus that causes Him to keep his eyes closed. Surely they could have done better than this!

This was to be the culmination of the greatest act of love — God becoming Man to die for us! And yet this movie could not convey even a hint of this profound act of God.

And so it is, with all of these facts exposed for your examination, we refute and condemn this movie, "The Nativity."

Since these cinematographers (who incidentally were the same ones that produced "The Lord of the Rings Trilogy" and had well within their grasp the ability and capability to make a work that would honor Our Lady and Our Lord instead of dishonor them) offended and blasphemed in a seemingly intentional way the Immaculate Heart of Mary in not just one way, but in ALL FIVE ways that Our [Lord] had mentioned to Sr Lucia of Fatima.

We sincerely hope and pray that our small effort to undo this travesty will help those of you who read this to know the truth and join us in making reparation for this movie by following the directives of the Queen of Heaven:

"Look, my daughter, at my Heart, surrounded with thorns with which ungrateful men pierce at every moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude. You at least try to console me and say that I promise 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 me company for fifteen minutes while meditating on the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary, with the intention of making reparation to me.”⁽⁵⁾

Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us!

Notes

1. From *Lucia Speaks, Memoirs and Letters of Sister Lucia* (Wash., NJ: AMI Press, 1976), p. 238:

“My daughter, the motive [for 5 First Saturdays of reparation] is simple: there are five ways in which people offend and blaspheme against the Immaculate Heart of Mary:

The blasphemies against the Immaculate Conception; against her virginity; against the Divine Maternity, refusing at the same time to accept her as the Mother of all mankind; those who try publicly to implant in the children's hearts indifference, contempt, and even hatred against this Immaculate Mother; and those who insult her directly in her sacred images.”

2. Reuters Online — "Vatican Berth for 'Nativity' Movie"--VATICAN CITY

(Hollywood Reporter) — For the first time ever, the Holy See hosted the world premiere of a mass-market film, with the Christmas drama "The Nativity Story" screening Sunday [November 26, 2006] to a large and enthusiastic crowd. The Vatican rarely gives more than tacit approval to films or other cultural phenomena. But the 7,000-strong crowd on hand for the New Line Cinema production at the Vatican's Paul VI Hall represented a rare and clear endorsement by the Holy See, the seat of the world's 1.1 billion Catholics.

3. In the Encyclical issued by Pope Pius IX on December 8, 1854, on THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION "Ineffabilis Deus" Apostolic Constitution, it is written in "The Definition":

“Wherefore, in humility and fasting, we unceasingly offered our private prayers as well as the public prayers of the Church to God the Father through his Son, that He would deign to direct and strengthen our mind by the power of the Holy Spirit. In like manner did we implore the help of the entire heavenly host as we ardently invoked the Paraclete. Accordingly, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, for the honor of the Holy and undivided Trinity, for the glory and adornment of the Virgin Mother of God, for the exaltation of the Catholic Faith, and for the furtherance of the Catholic religion, by the authority of Jesus Christ our Lord, of the Blessed Apostles Peter and Paul, and by our own: **We declare, pronounce, and define that the doctrine which holds that the most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instance of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin, is a doctrine revealed by God and therefore to be believed firmly and constantly by all the faithful.**

“Hence, if anyone shall dare — which God forbid! — to think otherwise than as has been defined by us, let him know and understand that he is condemned by his own judgment; that he has suffered shipwreck in the Faith; that he has separated from the unity of the Church; and that, furthermore, by his own action he incurs the penalties established by law if he should dare to express in words or writing or by any other outward means the errors he thinks in his heart.”

4. On August 7, 1555, Pope Paul IV, newly elected and nearly 80, issued an Ecclesiastical Constitution called "Cum quorundam," making it an article of faith that Mary, the mother of Jesus, "was a virgin before, during, and after the conception and birth of her" Son.

5. *Lucia Speaks*, p. 230.

Letters from around the world

From Cameroon: Beloved ones in Christ, I wish to let you know that I am a devotee to our lady of sorrow. I do the devotion everyday. I started the devotion as a child not knowing about your association. I am a sister from Daughters of Divine Love Congregation. I am a Nigerian working in Yagoua extrem Northern Cameroun as a missionary. I will like you people to pray for us over here for life is not easy. We are in the midst of the Muslims. They are doing us more harm than good by their way of influencing our young girls with money. Being that they are the richest over here, the Christians especially the girls do follow them and even marry them. So after our struggles to get souls for Christ, we end up loosing them in one way or another. However, we still thank God for those that are still faithful till now. I will like to start this very devotion in our parish here and some other places if it pleases God. I hope you would not mind sending me some chaplets, status, medals, spiritual books about the history of Our Lady of Sorrow in English and French languages respectively, tracks, and any other thing you can send that will enable me to convert more souls, as they are poor here, they can not afford buying certain things and books. We are also poor due to the situation of things here, we can not make it retaining them by giving them all they need in order not to follow the Muslims any longer. You can send anything to me with the above address. I will equally want you to pray for my younger sister in a special way. She needs the fruit of womb. I have introduced her to this prayer today. If God grant her that through your devotion, the child must be a member of this association as a child till end. My sister's name is Lilian.

May God bless you all and give you more graces to be propagation His reign all over the world. Amen Yours in Christ and Mary, Sr. V.

From Fr X- Having received at least two issues of “Star of the Stormy Sea” and noting, among many other things, that the Novena to Our Lady of Good Success has had results that I have situation that could benefit from praying that Novena I am sending you a check for your annual donation. I am now a retired priest ...offering the traditional Latin Mass. ...One of the situation for which I am asking for the novena booklet is for a couple who up to now has been unable to conceive-this has been true as long as I’ve know of them. Your Lenten Newsletter has several cases where pregnancy has happened having prayed the novena. There are several other situations that warrant this novena...I would like at least four copies of the novena booklet for myself and others...Thank you for making me aware of what you are and what you are doing. In Our Lord, Fr X

From USA- I am writing you these few lines to say that I really do enjoy the newsletter. Enclosed is a donation for this newsletter. Please pray for me because soon I will have eye surgeries plus I am a diabetic.

From Australia- Fr Y-Pardon the delay in sending you blessed herbs and also a donation for the Carmelite Sisters. I continue to pray for you and all the associates in Our Lady of Good Success.

From Ireland- Thank you so much for the books and sacramentals I am beginning to spread them around.

From USA Thanks for the wonderful newsletter. This time it was so full of wonderful insights and prayers!

From 66 year old Pilgrim- Highlights of October 2007 Pilgrimage--I enjoyed visiting all of the convents and monasteries. The convent I liked the most was at Our Lady of Good Success. I had a gift for the convent at OLOGS – a crucifix that I put together. When I went up the stairs in one of the villages we visited, I could feel the pressure in my lungs [due to high altitude]. I said to myself, “Jesus’ Passion!- He endured more pain than this!” So when I would walk up or down steep streets or roads I would repeat this. Besides the Conceptionist Church

of OLOGS, I liked the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Las Lajas in Colombia. Another favorite was Nuestra Senora de La Paz...I am ready to go back as soon as I have funds! Joseph

What's New?

- ❖ **TO CELEBRATE OUR FIFTH ANNIVERSARY---FOURTH EDITION OUR LADY OF GOOD SUCCESS NOVENA AND PRAYER BOOKLET CHRISTMAS SPECIAL IN PREPARATION FOR JANUARY NOVENA! BEAUTIFUL COLORED COVERS! BOOKLETS ARE NOW UNTIL JANUARY 24TH \$4.00 EACH. QUANTITY DISCOUNTS FOR ORDERS OF 50 OR MORE. CALL 262-567-0920**
- ❖ **HOLY FACE MEDALS AND HOLY CARDS AVAILABLE – PLEASE SEND \$1.00 TO THE APOSTOLATE TO COVER POSTAGE AND WE WILL SEND YOU A MEDAL AND HOLY CARDS AND INFORMATION ON THIS WONDERFUL DEVOTION THAT ALL GOOD CHRISTIAN FAMILIES SHOULD BE PRACTICING ACCORDING TO MANY POPES. INCLUDING POPE ST. PIUS X. HERE IS A RECENT LETTER FROM IRAQ OF A MIRACULOUS INTERVENTION DUE TO THE HOLY FACE MEDAL:**

To Whom It May Concern: When I was deployed to Iraq, I was wearing the Holy Face medal. A mortar landed 20 feet from me and seven others. No one was injured. On February 2006, I was on a convoy in Iraq, protecting my chaplain. As I was standing next to my chaplain (3 feet away) we received enemy It was a sniper, a bullet went through my left forearm just above the wrist. If I hadn't shifted my stance, I would not be here now. Thank you for the Holy Face medal. The Holy Face medal has saved my life at least twice since I've been deployed to Iraq. Sincerely, R/S. – USA

Christmas Novena to be said 15 times a day from November 30 –Christmas Eve

Hail, and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of a most pure Virgin at midnight in Bethlehem in the piercing cold. At that hour vouchsafe, Oh my God, to hear my prayers and grant my desires. (mention your intentions here) Through the merits of Our Saviour, Jesus Christ and His Most Blessed Mother. Amen

Quarterly Newsletter – In 2006, we started this project of a periodical to help spread the devotion to Our Lady of Good Success through the Apostolate members own testimonials. Currently, we are asking a **\$10.00 donation annually**. *We do not send out reminders to our members to send a donation. If you are not interested in this publication, please contact us to remove you from the mailing list. Presently, only 10% of our mailing list have been contributing to the newsletter. Thank you for your continued support! Donations are accepted, greatly needed and appreciated!*

The Apostolate of Our Lady of Good Success -1288 Summit Ave. Suite 107 Oconomowoc, WI 53066, USA Phone: 262-567-0920

www.ourladyofgoodsuccess.com

*The Apostolate of Our Lady of Good Success
1288 Summit Ave Suite 107
Oconomowoc, WI 53066 USA*