



The Crusader prays, receives Communion, makes sacrifices and shows good example for the intention that is given him each month by Bishop Bernard Fellay, successor of Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre as General Superior of the Society of Saint Pius X

## November 2008 Intention: For the Departed and the Dying

### Daily offering

*To be recited every morning when you wake up*

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer Thee all my prayers, works, joys and sufferings of this day, for all the intentions of Thy Sacred Heart in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world, and in reparation for my sins.  
I offer them particularly **for the departed and the dying**

## JULY 2008 RESULTS

The Intention was for Christian families

Treasure Sheets	Offerings	Masses	Communions		Sacrifices	Decades of the Rosary	Visits to Blessed Sacrament	15 mins of meditation	Good Example
			Sac.	Spirit.					
33	954	270	243	668	1094	4569	56	117	1227

## AUGUST 2008 RESULTS

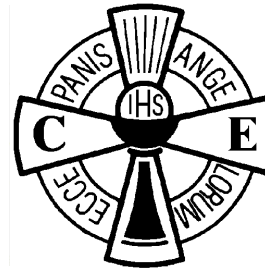
The Intention was for the holy Mass

Treasure Sheets	Offerings	Masses	Communions		Sacrifices	Decades of the Rosary	Visits to Blessed Sacrament	15 mins of meditation	Good Example
			Sac.	Spirit.					
30	898	222	258	730	1205	3972	31	221	1017

Remember that all the good works and prayers from your treasure sheets are given each month to Bishop Fellay and His Excellency offers them at his Mass on the first Saturday of every month.

**Publisher : Father Paul BIERER**

*Eucharistic Crusade, 12 Tivoli Terrace South, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin*



# The Irish Crusader

*Bulletin of the Eucharistic Crusade for Children in Ireland*

**November 2008**

Month of the Holy Souls in Purgatory

Dear Crusaders and Friends,

**W**hen a priest enrolled you in the Scapular he said, "Receive this blessed Scapular and ask the most Holy Virgin that, by Her merits, it may be worn with no stain of sin and may protect you from all harm and bring you into everlasting life." This story will give a very brief idea of how Our Blessed mother keeps Her promise.



One day in a town near Chicago, a priest was called to the bedside of a man who had been away from the Sacraments for many years. He did not want to see the priest; he would not talk. Then the priest asked him to look at the little Scapular he was holding, "Will you wear this if I put it on?" He asked nothing more. The dying man agreed to wear it. Within the hour he wanted to go to confession and make his peace with God. It did not surprise the priest because for over 700 years Our Lady has been working in this way through Her Scapular.

Dear friends, until the moment of death, Our Lord and Our Lady will perform miracles in order to bring souls back to sanctifying grace and enable them to go to eternal happiness. Prayers, sacrifices and good deeds for the dying are therefore very important. Who knows if a soul is not in need of our prayers right now? **PRAY FOR THE SOULS IN THEIR AGONY!**

The pilgrimage in Lourdes was beautiful. The Eucharistic Crusade was represented by 7 members and the chaplain, who spent 3 days in prayers, processions, holy masses at the shrine and especially the Grotto. We prayed for our spiritual welfare, for your intentions (I did put a candle for all of you) and for the apostolate in Ireland. Many graces did and will Our Lady grant us through this visit to Lourdes!

Don't forget to return you treasure sheet. Thank you and God bless,  
Father Paul Biérer +

## Thomas à Kempis (1379 - 1471)

**T**homas is the great author of the world famous book, "**The Imitation of Christ.**" His name will be remembered until the end of time, because of this famous work. Priests, nuns, and lay people have used it for hundreds of years, and it has helped many to become very holy Christians and saints for Heaven. His book is so beautiful, that you would almost think that an angel had come and told Thomas exactly what to write. We can be sure that his Guardian Angel and the Holy Ghost were nearby, helping him to write this beautiful book.



Thomas was born in 1379, in Kempen, a small village near Cologne, Germany. His real name was Thomas Haemerken, but later his last name was made up from the name of the town where he was born.

John Haemerken, the father of Thomas, was most probably a metal worker, which was one of the popular trades in Kempin, and his mother was a teacher at the village school. They were somewhat poor but they were happy, and the grace of God was with them.

Around 1392, when Thomas was only thirteen years old, he set out on a one hundred mile journey, for the schools in Deventer, Holland. He wanted to follow in the footsteps of his brother John. Twelve years before, John had left home and headed for Deventer, because he wanted to enter the community of the Devout Clerics of the Common Life.

The founder of this community was Gerard Groot, also known as Gerard the Great. He was born and raised in Deventer, Holland. His parents were quite rich, and when Gerard was fifteen, they sent him to the University of Paris, France. Two years later at the age of seventeen, he received his Masters Degree. Because he was very talented and rich, Gerard had many friends; and he was in fact the leader of those friends. He had the whole world before him and wanted to take life easy and enjoy himself. He decided to become a religious, but not for spiritual reasons. He wanted to enjoy getting land or money heaped upon him. Gerard was not evil, but he was very worldly, and

## STORIES FROM THE CATECHISM

**THE DEVIL'S REASON.**-----If you get hold of a bad book, the Devil will be sure to put some reason into your head why you should read it. A person was very sorry to see that a certain bad book was doing so much harm. He thought he would read it, that he might be better able to speak against it. So he read the bad book. The end of it was that, instead of helping others, he ruined himself. The Devil will whisper into your ear that a bad book will give you a knowledge of the world.-----It will give you a knowledge of Hell and lead you there.-----*Furniss*

**THE BOOK THAT NEVER STOPPED.**-----A boy heard of a bad book. A wicked companion had told him of it, and said that he would learn a great deal by reading it. This boy happened to see the book offered for sale, and bought it and read it. The reading of this book made him a thoroughly bad boy. He no more said his prayers or went to chapel. He went into the most wicked company he could find. He went from bad to worse. He lost his faith, and said that he believed there was no God. He died in despair, cursing most frightfully the boy who had told him of the book which ruined him. The mischief of that bad book did not stop with his death. He had lent it to others to read. Many of those to whom he had lent it became bad themselves, and ruined others; and where the evil of this one book stopped, or whether it ever stopped at all, God only knows!-----*Furniss*

### The Ten Commandments - 5



*Spiritual Bouquet: For the clean, all things are clean. Titus 1:15*

## SAINT ELIZABETH of HUNGARY

Widow  
(1207-1231)

**E**lizabeth was the daughter of the just and pious Andrew II, king of Hungary, the niece of Saint Hedwig, and the sister of the virtuous Bela IV, king of Hungary, who became the father of Saint Cunegundes and of Saint Margaret of Hungary, a Dominican nun. Another of her brothers was Coloman, King of Galicia and prince of Russia, who led an angelic life amid the multiple affairs of the world and the troubles of war.

She was betrothed in infancy to Louis, Landgrave of Thuringia, and brought up from the age of four in his father's court. Never could she bear to adopt the ornaments of the court for her own usage, and she took pleasure only in prayer. She would remove her royal crown when she entered the church, saying she was in the presence of the Saviour who wore a crown of thorns. As she grew older, she employed the jewels offered her for the benefit of the poor. Not content with receiving numbers of them daily in her palace, and relieving all in distress, she built several hospitals, where she herself served the sick, bathing them, feeding them, dressing their wounds and ulcers. The relatives of her fiancé tried to prevent the marriage, saying she was fit only for a cloister; but the young prince said he would not accept gold in the quantity of a nearby mountain, if it were offered him to abandon his resolution to marry Elizabeth.

Once as she was carrying in the folds of her mantle some provisions for the poor, she met her husband returning from the hunt. Astonished to see her bending under the weight of her burden, he opened the mantle and found in it nothing but beautiful red and white roses, though it was not the season for flowers. He told her to continue on her way, and took one of the marvelous roses, which he conserved all his life. She never ceased to edify him in all of her works. One of her twelve excellent Christian maxims, by which she regulated all her conduct was, "Often recall that you are the work of the hands of God and act accordingly, in such a way as to be eternally with Him."

When her pious young husband died in Sicily on his way to a Crusade with the Emperor Frederick, she was cruelly driven from her palace by her brother-in-law. Those whom she had aided showed nothing but coldness for her; God was to purify His Saint by harsh tribulations. She was forced to wander through the streets with her little children, a prey to hunger and cold. The bishop of Bamberg, her maternal uncle, finally forced the cruel prince to ask pardon for his ill treatment of her, but she voluntarily renounced the grandeurs of the world, and went to live in a small house she had prepared in the city of Marburgh. There she practiced the greatest austerities. She welcomed all her sufferings, and continued to be the mother of the poor, distributing all of the heritage eventually conceded to her, and converting many by her holy life. She died in 1231, at the age of twenty-four.

**Reflection:** This young and delicate princess made herself the servant and nurse of the poor. Let her example teach us to disregard the opinions of the world and to overcome our natural hesitation, in order to serve Christ in the person of His poor.



wanted worldly honours. God was watching over Gerard, and was about to make some changes in the young man's life.

The Prior of the Carthusian Monastery in Utrecht had been a long time friend of Gerard. When Gerard was in Utrecht, the Prior went in search of him. When he found the young man, he encouraged him to give up his worldly ways of thinking. Gerard was converted right then and there. He threw off his expensive clothing and gave up his riches of land and money. Gerard decided live the life of a religious that would be more pleasing to God.

So great was the change in his way of life that all his friends thought he was crazy. For three years Gerard lived at the Carthusian monastery, leading the penitential life of the monks. He became a great lover of the Blessed Sacrament. He would hear Mass daily with great devotion and afterwards he would devote himself to the service of his neighbour. When he entered the church, he did not stand up and gaze upon the stained glass windows, but humbly knelt before God.

He would hide among the monks and lay on the floor, prostrate in prayer, gazing upon the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. He would pray, "**Oh my God, I beg Thee to pardon my past sins, and to cleanse me from the passions of my past life and the temptations which threaten me. God, my Heavenly Father, I beg Thee also, to protect me for the future and to bless me, as Thou hast done in the past.**"

After three years, he went back to the world in order to give a good example to others whom he had given a bad example before. Gerard became a Deacon, but he never became a priest, because he thought himself unworthy of such a position. He went about preaching in many of the cities and towns, and he converted crowds of people. Many clergy and laity asked him for spiritual guidance and followed his holy way of life. But it was not easy for Gerard and his companions. He was criticized and later, he was forbidden to preach any more.

It was very Providential, and now Gerard could give more time to the training of souls and to the foundation of the community which he would soon start up. Many people came to see him at his home in Deventer, and among all his favourites were the poor clerical students.

In order that they might be able to continue their education for the religious life, Gerard taught them how to copy manuscripts, and paid them out of his own pocket. They worked and studied and were trained in the spiritual life, but it was a little difficult because they did not all live under the same roof.



One day, one of his disciples, named Florentius Radewyn begged him, "**Deacon Gerard, could you please arrange for all of us to live in one building? And, could we put all of our wages together into one pot, and live as a community from that money?**"

Deacon Gerard thought for a minute, "**Yes, that's an excellent idea! I will give you my own house so that you can all live a community life.**" Before long, some priests, clerics and laymen went to live in Gerard's house. There, they practiced a kind of religious life, praying, studying and copying manuscripts. They were called, "**Brothers of**

**the Common Life.**"

Another house was opened for women, and they followed a rule of life similar to that of the men. They were called, "**Sisters of the Common Life.**" So quickly did this new movement spread, that soon there was one or more houses in every city and town of Holland. The members of these communities took no vows. They were laymen or clerics in minor orders and Gerard placed these communities under the guidance of the Augustinian Monks. But good Deacon Gerard died before he could see the results of all this. During the plague, Gerard caught the disease while attending the sick. He urged his companions to build a monastery as soon as possible.

When Thomas arrived in Deventer, he found out that his brother John, and five other religious had gone to Windeshiem, to set up a new Congregation of Canons Regular. The young lad then headed for the town of Windeshiem, where his brother lovingly received him. John gave Thomas a letter of introduction which was to be given to Florentius Radewyn, the Superior in Deventer. Thomas returned to Deventer, and there the Superior gave him a warm welcome.

Thomas remained in Deventer for seven years, under the direction of Radewyn. Here the youth proved to be an intelligent pupil. He was also very neat and skillful in writing copies of books by hand, as the printing press had not been invented yet. In addition to his own writings, Thomas copied many articles from the Fathers of the Church, especially St. Bernard. He also copied a Missal for Community use, and the whole Bible, in four large volumes!

*Continues next month*

## RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

### What is Purgatory?

A. Purgatory is the state in which those suffer for a time who die guilty of venial sins, or without having satisfied for the punishment due to their sins.

### Why is this state called Purgatory?

A. This state is called Purgatory because in it the souls are purged or purified from all their stains; and it is not, therefore, a permanent or lasting state for the soul.

### Are the souls in Purgatory sure of their salvation?

A. The souls in Purgatory are sure of their salvation, and they will enter heaven as soon as they are completely purified and made worthy to enjoy that presence of God which is called the Beatific Vision.

### Do we know what souls are in Purgatory, and how long they have to remain there?

A. We do not know what souls are in Purgatory nor how long they have to remain there; hence we continue to pray for all persons who have died apparently in the true faith and free from mortal sin. They are called the faithful departed.

### Can the faithful on earth help the souls in Purgatory?

A. The faithful on earth can help the souls in Purgatory by their prayers, fasts, alms, deeds; by indulgences, and by having Masses said for them.

### Since God loves the souls in Purgatory, why does He punish them?

A. Though God loves the souls in Purgatory, He punishes them because His holiness requires that nothing defiled may enter heaven and His justice requires that everyone be punished or rewarded according to what he deserves.

### **Prayer for a Holy Soul in Purgatory**

**Have mercy, dear Jesus, on  
all the Poor Souls in  
Purgatory,  
and especially for [N.].**

**Grant them eternal rest, and  
may perpetual light shine  
upon them.**