

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

## July 2009 Intention:

That Governments may desire to please God and obey His commandments

## August 2009 Intention:

For the return of those lost, those who have left the Faith and that the Jews may acknowledge their Saviour

### 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 ...



## MARCH 2009 RESULTS

The Intention was for the Pope and Bishops

Treasure Sheets	Offerings	Masses	Communions		Sacrifices	Decades of the Rosary	Visits to Blessed Sacrament	15 mins of meditation	Good Example
			Sac.	Spirit.					
33	984	267	249	616	1724	4651	61	199	881

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.

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



# The Irish Crusader

*Bulletin of the Eucharistic Crusade for Children in Ireland*

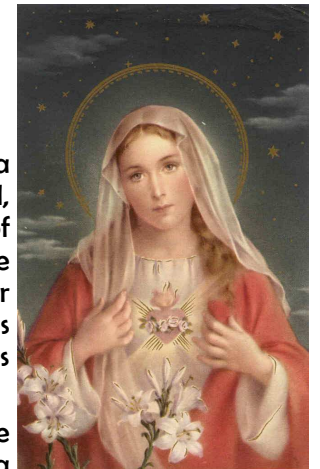
Summer 2009

Months of the Precious Blood and of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

## VACATION

Dear Crusaders and Friends,

Summer is with us, and hopefully will last for a while, although one never knows. After all, we are in Ireland, and not in the South of France, nor in Italy! What we know, is that we are on vacation, that is, we are finished with the labour and work of the past year. We now can spend this time in wholesome entertainment and activities with the family, and maybe with friends.



To vacate means to quit, to give up whatever we have been doing that was hard, schoolwork or a job. Our duty has been during the year to work, now our duty is different. We have our own duty for every day.

But vacation does not mean that we give up the practice of our Faith; on the contrary, God expects us to spend more time in prayer and meditation, as we have been relieved of our working duties. It is important to understand this and know how to keep the right balance between religious and temporal things. Let us not forget, we are body and soul!

One good example of that right balance would be the government of a country, the leadership of a king. A king is the temporal leader of a country, he must be concerned with the material welfare and interests of all his subjects. He has ministers and a court, who will assist him in the administration of his kingdom. He must also see to it that he himself practises the Faith with diligence, and keep his subjects in the observance of the law of God and of the Church.

During this month, let us pray for our governments, which are very corrupt

and very far from obeying the law of God. A law, that is not in accordance with the 10 commandments, is not a true law. It is a human invention, coming from the mind of evil people, who want the destruction of the Church, and the corruption of mankind. By our prayers, if we cannot change the governments of today, at least we can protect and defend ourselves from the worldly spirit, which is the work of the devil.

Indeed, there is no vacation for our sanctification and spiritual life. And it is just as well. What would we do without our Mass, without our Rosary, and without our prayers? How could we even pretend to be good? If you have the opportunity to go to Holy Mass during the holidays, take that chance as a source of many graces, and you will be able to note on your treasure sheet, an extra Holy Mass and Communion!

In August, we will pray for those who have lost the Faith. How can it happen that, after being baptised, having received many times the sacrament of Penance and Holy Communion, having learned catechism for many years, how is it possible that someone would just give up everything ?

« *The one who prays will be saved, the one who does not pray will be damned!* » says Our Lord. So it happens that a lot of young people, after having received many graces from God in their childhood and teenage years, let themselves be slowly absorbed by the spirit of the world, that is, little by little, they accept to make concessions, give up some prayers, go with doubtful friends who have bad influence on them, start following the fashion of immodest clothing, even when going to Holy Mass, thus giving scandal, they accept everything that modern technology is offering, magazines, movies, telephones, computers, internet, social networks, etc, without discerning what is good or bad, what is dangerous or not. What is worse, they do not listen to the advice of their parents or those who could help them. Therefore, many teenagers and young people today are taken in the whirlwind of the world, and are prisoners! Once you give the little finger to the devil, he will take you whole, like a grinding machine!

Yes, many lose the Faith, and no-one is so good that he cannot resist the attraction of the world. « *Woe unto the world because of sin* ». So my dear friends, we must be very careful. And if anything becomes an occasion of sin, then it must go out the window : « *And if thy hand, or thy foot scandalize thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee. It is better for thee to go into life maimed or lame, than having two hands or two feet, to be cast into everlasting fire.* »

Be good this summer, and use the time you have to please God and gain merits for Heaven. I hope to see many of you at the summer camp.

Meanwhile be assured of my prayers for you and your family and friends!

Father Paul Biérer +

## A STORY ON THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

APPARITION OF A DAMNED SOUL-----A young person of eighteen, who lived in Florence, had the misfortune to fall into temptation, and commit a great sin. No sooner had she done so than she found herself covered with confusion and tom with remorse. "Oh!" said she to herself, "how shall I have the courage to declare that sin to my confessor?" She went, nevertheless, to confession, but dared not confess that sin; she got absolution, and had the misfortune to receive Communion in that state. This horrible sacrilege increased still more her remorse and trouble. In the height of her interior anguish, a thought came into her mind to go into a convent and make a general confession. She did so, and commenced the confession she had proposed making; but, still enslaved by false shame, she related the hidden sin in such a garbled, confused way, that her confessor did not understand it, and yet she continued to receive Communion in that sad state. Her trouble became so great that life appeared insupportable to her. To relieve her heart, tormented as it was, she redoubled her prayers, mortifications, and good works, to such an extent that the nuns of the convent took her for a Saint, and elected her for their superior. . . this wretched hypocrite continued to lead outwardly a penitential and exemplary life, embittered still by the reproaches of her conscience. She at length made a firm resolution to

confess her sin in her last illness, which came sooner than she expected; for she was seized with a fever which quickly rose so high that she became delirious, and so died. Some days after, the religious of the monastery, being in prayer for the repose of the soul of this pretended Saint, she appeared to them in a hideous form and told them: "My dear sisters, pray not for me, it is useless----I am damned!" " How?" cried an old religious, more dead than alive; "you are damned, after leading such a holy and penitential life!" " Alas! yes, I am damned for having all my life concealed in confession a mortal sin which I committed at the age of eighteen years." Having said these frightful words, she disappeared.-----S. Antoninus



In November 1753, the plague broke out in Lacedonia; people were dying like flies. Bishop Amato asked Br. Gerard to come to Lacedonia to help the plague stricken victims. The young man made his way to that city and at once started his rounds of mercy. He prepared some to die, others he told that the disease would soon pass and he cured many with a simple sign of the cross.

In 1754, Br. Gerard underwent a great trial. A girl named Neria had joined a convent and then left, shortly after. She started saying untrue things about the nuns and then she slandered Br. Gerard! She wrote to St. Alphonsus Liguori, the Superior of the Redemptorists, saying that Br. Gerard had committed sins of impurity with another woman, which of course was a lie! St. Alphonsus called Br. Gerard to his office and asked him if the letter was true. But Br. Gerard remained silent and would not defend himself, even though he was innocent. St. Alphonsus then told Gerard that he could not receive Communion and that he could not speak to anyone outside the monastery. Sometime later, Neria became deathly ill and wrote a letter to St. Alphonsus, confessing that she had lied about Br. Gerard! When St. Alphonsus realized that Br. Gerard was innocent, he called him into his office saying, "You were innocent all the time, my son, and you said nothing!" Br. Gerard replied, "How could I, my Father, when our rule forbids us to make excuses!"

Many other things happened in the life of Br. Gerard. He often went into ecstasy while meditating on God or God's holy will and often his body was seen raised several feet above the ground. He had the gift of bilocation and was seen in two places at the same time. He blessed a small amount of wheat belonging to a poor family and it lasted until the next harvest. Several times he multiplied the bread which he was distributing to the poor. One day he walked on top of the water to save a boatload of men who were being tossed about on the waves of a stormy sea! And many times Gerard told people the secret sins on their souls, which they had been ashamed to confess and brought them to repentance. The funniest miracle he worked was when his Superior had told him not to work any more miracles; he was testing Gerard's humility. A man fell from a scaffold and Gerard said, "Wait, I have to ask my Superior permission to work a miracle." The man remained floating in mid air! When Gerard arrived with his Superior, the Superior had no choice but to give Gerard permission!

Br. Gerard was often sick and in 1755, more than a month before he died, he began to haemorrhage; and he had a burning fever! A priest brought him Holy Communion, as he was expected to die soon. However, his Superior commanded him to get well, if it were God's will! Gerard then rose up and joined in with the rest of the community, for about one month. Then he prepared himself for death. He had this sign placed on his door, "THE WILL OF GOD IS DONE HERE, AS GOD WILLS IT, AND AS LONG AS HE WILLS IT." He died on October 15, 1755, and was canonized a saint in 1904, by Pope St. Pius X.



## HOW DO I BECOME A MEMBER OF THE EUCHARISTIC CRUSADE?

In times gone by, those who left for the Holy Land to free the tomb of Our Lord promised to obey their chief, even if it cost them their lives. What did they receive in exchange? The grace to go straight to paradise if they were killed during the fight. What is more beautiful than that? He who wants to officially enter into the Eucharistic Crusade also makes promises. He starts off as a Page. If he is generous, after awhile he is accepted as a Crusader. It is as a Crusader that he will pray, go to Communion, and make sacrifices so as to be a true apostle, until he is found worthy to be admitted as a Knight/Handmaid.

Here are the promises:

**FIRST DEGREE:** The Page promises:

- To make the morning offering everyday
- To say his evening prayers and fill in his Treasure Sheet every evening

**SECOND DEGREE:** the Crusader promises as well:

- To say every day at least two decades of the Rosary.
- To receive Holy Communion every Sunday (if possible).
- To make at least one sacrifice every day.
- To fight against his dominant fault.
- To go to Confession at least once a month

**THIRD DEGREE:** the Knight promises also:

- To do fifteen minutes of meditation every day.
- To go to Confession every two weeks.
- To say the Rosary every day
- To make a spiritual Communion every day or to make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament if possible

These promises are serious and that is why one must prepare oneself carefully, by asking the advice of a priest. (The promises do not oblige under pain of sin). The enrolment is done during a special ceremony during which the future member replies to certain questions asked by the priest. He then promises to remain faithful to his promises and then he receives the badge of the Crusade which he will wear visibly and with a certain legitimate pride. Every enrolled Crusader automatically receives the monthly bulletin of the Crusade, "*The Irish Crusader*".

**SAINTS FOR CHILDREN****Saint Gerard Majella**

**S**t. Gerard was born on April 26, 1726, in Muro, Italy. As a baby, Gerard never cried and on certain days he even refused to be nursed by his mother. His mother often took him to Mass at the shrine of Our Lady of Graces. When he was five, he would often walk to this shrine to pray. Often he would return from these visits, with a loaf of bread. When asked from whom he got the bread he replied, "It was from a beautiful lady's child with whom I have been playing!" One day his sister Brigida followed him to the shrine. Gerard knelt down to pray, and the statue of Mary suddenly came to life. The Child Jesus left Mary's arms and came down to play with the boy. After some time the Child Jesus gave Gerard a loaf of bread and returned to His mother's arms.



Another time Gerard was with some children and he tied to a tree, a little cross which he had made, and asked his friends to kiss the cross. Suddenly the tree became sparkling with light, the Child Jesus came down from the tree and gave Gerard a little loaf of bread.

Gerard loved Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament! One day, when he was only seven, he went up to receive Communion with the other people. But seeing the boy so young, the priest passed him by and Gerard went away in tears. Then on the following night, St. Michael the Archangel came and gave Gerard his First Holy Communion. And one day a priest found him kneeling near the altar and asked him what he was doing there. Gerard answered, "A little Child came out of the tabernacle and gave me Holy Communion!"

When Gerard was twelve, his father died, so it was necessary for him to leave school and begin work. He got a job helping a tailor so he could learn the trade but this tailor was very mean and would hit Gerard, and call him names.

At the age of fifteen, Gerard went to work as a servant for the Bishop. He was always meek and humble, even when the Bishop sometimes got angry at him. One day the Bishop went out for a walk. Gerard locked the door of the Bishop's house and went to the well to get some water. But as he leaned down to pull up the pail, he accidentally dropped the house key into the well. He ran to the church to get a statue of the Infant Jesus. He tied a rope around it and lowered it into the well saying, "It is for Thee Lord, to bring me the key, that the Bishop may not be put to trouble!" Then as the people stared, Gerard drew out of the well, the statue of Jesus, which was holding in His hand, the lost key!

In June 1744, the Bishop died and Gerard returned to Muro. He opened up a tailor shop in his mother's house. His sewing was perfect and his prices were fair, and he never took any money from the poor. Gerard did well in his tailor business and he was always very generous. He gave his mother a third of all his earnings, another

third went to the poor in Muro, and the last third was used to have Masses said for the Souls in Purgatory. One day a poor man had sent him some material for a garment, but there was not enough material to make the garment. When Gerard picked up the material it suddenly became bigger and when the garment was finished, he even gave the man the left over cloth!

St Gerard did much penance. He was thin from all the fasting he did – he allowed himself only a little bread and rarely any vegetables. And he was pale looking from the long hours he spent on his knees, in prayer, at church.

Twice, Gerard tried to enter the Capuchin Monastery in Muro, but the monks thought that he was too sickly to become a monk. So Gerard continued working as a tailor and doing God's will, but he still wanted to become a brother. One day some Redemptorist priests came to Muro to give a mission at the church. Gerard asked one of the priests, Fr. Cafaro, if he could join their religious order but he was refused. The priest thought his health was not good enough for him to join their monastery. The lad was so determined to join them that he begged and begged, but to no avail. Gerard's mother and sisters didn't want him to join the Redemptorists, so they locked him in his room. But the next morning, when his mother opened the locked door, she found that Gerard had escaped through his bedroom window. He had left a note saying, "I am going to become a saint! Think no more of me!" Gerard caught up with the missionaries and was finally allowed to join the Redemptorists. But Fr. Cafaro sent a note with him saying, "I am sending you a useless lay brother!"

The priests in the Redemptorist Monastery at Illiceto, soon realized that Br. Gerard was not a "useless" brother at all; in fact, he was the best brother in the monastery!

He did the work of four men and helped others with their work as well. He was always praying, either in his heart or in the chapel. And what's more, Gerard could do the impossible! He read the minds of total strangers, he cured the sick – he worked miracles constantly. He knew the Redemptorist Rule by heart and obeyed his Superiors perfectly. Often they only had to think of a task for Br. Gerard to do, and he would immediately carry out their wishes!

In July 1752, Br. Gerard made the vows of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience, and a vow of Perseverance until death, in the Redemptorist Order. Two months later he made a fifth vow: To always do that which is most pleasing to God. He loved to say, "I would give my life a thousand times, if it were possible, in order to help my neighbour." But one of the most beautiful things that Gerard ever said was, "Only one thing is necessary when you are upset. Bear everything with resignation to God's holy will, for this will help you to go to Heaven. Hope with a lively faith and you will receive everything from almighty God."

He travelled with the missionaries helping them in every way possible, as they went from town to village. During these travels, children flocked to Br. Gerard. He told them stories and taught them to pray. In Muro, one little boy tumbled off a cliff and lay as if dead. But Gerard said, "It is nothing!" He traced a little cross on the boy's forehead and the boy awoke!

St. Gerard truly loved the Virgin Mary. When he knelt to pray before an image of Mary, he could not tear himself away. He often said, "The Madonna has stolen my heart, and I have made her a present of it!" The mere thought of Mary or the sound of her name would make his heart thrill with joy!