



Spiritual Bouquet: When the Son of man comes, will He find faith on the earth? St. Luke 18:8

OUR LADY, HELP of CHRISTIANS (1815)

Feastday : May 24

Pope Pius VII, after he returned to Rome in 1815 from several years of captivity imposed by the emperor Napoleon Bonaparte, instituted this feast day in honor of the assistance which the Blessed Virgin had accorded the Church. The occasion of the Pope's exile and captivity was the emperor's resistance to the authority of the Vicar of Christ, superior before God to his own.

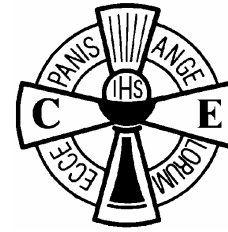
A decree of the emperor in 1809 had ordered that the papal States be joined to the French empire; violence followed in Rome, when the French tricolor flag was set up and the papal arms broken. The Pope's very courageous bull of excommunication of the emperor was made public in the following month. Then, one morning, a group of armed men entered the Quirinal Palace by breaking down the doors with axes, and its leader announced that the pope must either renounce his sovereignty over Rome or be taken by the troop to a French General, who would communicate to him his next destination.

The sacrilegious seizure of his person was executed, and he spent five years in exile in various places, finally at Fontainebleau, France. After 1815 the clemency of the great Pope towards the Emperor and his family is a matter of history; the latter were afforded a secure refuge in Rome itself, when Napoleon was exiled. And for the Emperor himself, relegated to the island of Saint Helena, the Pope pleaded for clemency with the Prince-Regent of England. When Napoleon died, it was with the assistance of chaplains sent to him by Pius VII.

Our Lady, Help of Christians, was made better known by Saint John Bosco, who consecrated his Order of Salesian priests to Her. And in Turin, beginning in 1865, he began to raise in Her honor a vast and magnificent church. Without ever having a penny in advance, always the needed sums of money arrived in time. About three-fourths of the gifts offered were presented in thanksgiving for favors obtained through Her intercession.

We will relate just one of those. A certain Senator of the Kingdom of Italy was ill; Don Bosco went to visit him and found him very discouraged and speaking of his imminent death. "What would you do," said Don Bosco, "if Our Lady Auxiliatrix obtained your cure from God?" "My cure! Well, I would give two thousand francs a month for Her church, for six months." "Be of good courage," said the Saint on rising; "I will see that prayers are said for you." Three days later, Baron Gotta, perfectly cured, went to Don Bosco to make his first payment, giving more than he had promised; and he did not cease to outdo himself in generosity.

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Handmaids of Christ and Children of Mary

Supplement to the Bulletin of the Eucharistic Crusade in Ireland

May 2008
Month of Our Lady

This leaflet is intended for high-school girls. Being part of the Eucharistic Crusade, you receive the bulletin of the Crusade and pray for the intentions of the Crusade. As girls, Our Lady is your special model. Therefore as well as being Crusaders and Handmaids of Christ, you are also Children of Mary. The purpose of these few pages is to help you in your spiritual life.

AN EASY WAY TO BECOME A SAINT By Fr Paul O'Sullivan, OP

Chapter 4 - GOD'S GREATEST PROOF OF LOVE (2)

GOD'S ESPECIAL LOVE WAS SHOWN TO SINNERS

The common fear that presents itself to most minds is that we are weak and sinful, full of faults and defects. How then can we be Saints?

Our Lord, answering this objection, tells us that He came on Earth, not for the just, but for sinners. He showed His friendship for sinners so clearly that His enemies in derision called Him "the friend of sinners." He tells us, "There shall be joy in Heaven upon one sinner that doth penance, more than upon ninety-nine just who need not penance." (Lk. 15:7). He assures us that if our sins are as red as scarlet He will make them as white as snow. This He is doing every day. He chose for His Apostles sinners, rude, weak men. St. Peter denied Him; St. Thomas refused to believe in His Resurrection; all, with the exception of John, abandoned Him in His Passion. St. Paul was a fierce persecutor of the Church and sought to destroy His work.

Yet these weak and sinful men He made so strong that they glorified in suffering for Him. In the face of every danger and difficulty they divided the whole world between them, as mighty conquerors, destroying paganism with all its horrors and implanting in its place Christian civilization.

How touching was His pardon of the poor woman taken in the commission of adultery. The Jews sought to force Jesus to condemn her to a cruel death, which was

the penalty established by the law for the crime that she had committed. They pushed her, covered with shame, forward before Our Lord and denounced her.

Our Blessed Saviour said to her accusers: "Let him among you who is without sin cast the first stone at her." Full of confusion, they slunk away. Then Jesus said to the sinner: "Woman, has anyone condemned thee?" She replied, "No, Lord." "Neither shall I. Go in peace. Sin no more." She left His presence overflowing with love for Him.

This is what He says to us each time we go to Confession, but alas, we are not so grateful as she was!

How lovingly He defended Magdalen who, in the house of the proud Pharisee, kissed His feet and washed them with her tears and wiped them with her beautiful hair. And the Pharisee who had invited Him, seeing it, spoke within himself, saying: "This man, if he were a prophet, would know surely who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him, that she is a sinner. And Jesus answering, said to him, Simon, I have somewhat to say to thee. But he said: Master, say it. A certain creditor had two debtors, the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty. And whereas they had not wherewith to pay, he forgave them both. Which therefore of the two loveth him most? Simon answering, said: I suppose that he to whom he forgave most. And Jesus said to him: Thou hast judged rightly.

And turning to the woman, he said unto Simon, Dost thou see this woman? I entered into thy house, thou gavest me no water for my feet; but she with tears hath washed my feet, and with her hair hath wiped them. Thou gavest me no kiss, but she, since she came in, hath not ceased to kiss my feet. My head with oil thou didst not anoint, but she with ointments hath anointed my feet. Wherefore I say to thee: Many sins are forgiven her, because she hath loved much . . . And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath made thee safe, go in peace." (Luke 7:39-50).

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(Continues next month)

Instruction upon meditation

Meditation, or mental prayer, is a devout and fruitful consideration of Divine things, and of all that is conducive to the acquirement of virtue and of eternal salvation.

Refer to the previous issue of this bulletin to learn how to make meditation properly. Remember that the Handmaids must meditate 15 minutes every day. St Teresa of Avila says that he who spends 15mn a day in mental prayer cannot be lost.

When Jesus Christ was in the world, He was despised by men; in the hour of need He was forsaken by acquaintances and left by friends to the depths of scorn. He was willing to suffer and to be despised; do you dare to complain of anything? He had enemies and defamers; do you want everyone to be your friend, your benefactor? How can your patience be rewarded if no adversity test it? How can you be a friend of Jesus Christ if you are not willing to suffer any hardship? Suffer with Jesus Christ and for Jesus Christ if you wish to reign with Him.

Imitation of Christ, Book 2, Chapter 1 "On Meditation"

18^h Meditation – On Eternity - 3

Almighty God has given me the power of choosing for myself a happy or a miserable eternity. Do I endeavour to secure to myself eternal happiness, or do I leave it to chance to decide whether I shall enjoy God for ever, or whether I shall suffer with the damned as long as eternity lasts? Alas! I have often risked my eternity, but I will do so no more. Do Thou, O Lord, give me Thy grace, that I may serve Thee here; and be Thou my portion for ever.

WHAT IS THE HOLY ROSARY?

The Rosary is the traditional devotion in honour of the Mother of God, combining vocal and mental prayer. It is composed of 15 decades which are divided into 3 parts of 5 decades, each of which recall Our Lord's Life, Passion, and Glory.

The Rosary is the prayer which is most pleasing to Our Lady. The word, rosary, means a garland or wreath of roses, thus each prayer said in the Rosary is a spiritual rose offered to our Blessed Mother.

In its present form the Rosary is due to St. Dominic, of the Order of Friars Preachers which he propagated in obedience to a revelation received from the Blessed Virgin



in the year 1206. To him we owe also the spread of the devotion which for many centuries has produced the most marvelous results in the Christian world: heresies have been uprooted, morals reformed, misfortunes averted, wars ended.

In keeping with tradition the complete set of Mysteries-----15 decades has 150 Hail Marys, the number of Psalms and there are 15 Promises attached to the faithful recitation of the Rosary. The Psalms, found in the Old Testament are hymns of praise to God. One of the best ways to praise God to praise His Holy Mother, Mary, by honoring her in the manner **she requested** renders homage to the Blessed Trinity Who created her free of Original Sin, the most pure and beautiful of all creatures, above even the Angels. With God there is no such thing as a "coincidence". Thus we know that there is a parallel between 15 Mysteries and 15 Promises and 150 Hail Marys in the decades of the whole Rosary [we do not include the first 3 in the count, which are for an increase in the virtues of faith, hope and charity, but the decades themselves, and the number of Psalms: each Hail Mary is a hymn of praise, begun by the Angel Gabriel and added to by Mary's cousin, St. Elizabeth.

As for the 15 Promises, they can also be divided into 3 sets of five each. The first five speak of protection and special graces and a desire for heavenly things and not the those of the world. These correspond to the Joyful Mysteries. The next five concern death and our everlasting fate, the promise that is we are faithful to the Rosary we will not have an unprovided for death, in essence. These correspond to the Sorrowful Mysteries. The last five address Heaven, the help of the Saints, becoming the children of God. And these call to mind the Glorious Mysteries.