

St. Catherine's Academy Gazette ©

Holy Mother Church has dedicated this month to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Issue 27

August 2012

Feasts and Fasts This Month:

August 15th ~ The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

August 22nd ~ Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

August 7th is the day to start a Novena to the B.V.M. to end on the Eve of the feast of the Assumption.

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MARY'S PURITY

To follow the Blessed Virgin in her virtues you must know what it was that made her so pleasing to God. One of the greatest graces the Blessed Virgin received from God was that of purity. Purity is cleanliness of heart and soul. It was on account of her immaculate purity that she was chosen to be the Mother of God. Mary was so pure that not even the slightest stain of sin was on her soul.

One of the first things, then, that you should imitate is the purity of the Blessed Virgin.

How can you do this? First, by keeping your heart clean, that is, by keeping it free from sin. Telling lies, saying unkind words, thinking bad thoughts—all these soil your heart. But above all you must keep your soul free from those sins which would make you especially displeasing to God; I mean bad thoughts, words and actions. Never say or do anything that you would not do or say before your Guardian Angel, or when your mother is near you. Listen to the voice of your conscience. It will warn you when you are in danger of doing anything to soil the purity of your soul. Keep your heart clean; never let anything bad or wicked get into it. To keep your heart clean and free from evil, be careful with whom you go. Do not play with children who speak of bad things. Never let anyone tempt you to do an action which you know is sinful. Run away at once when you are with those who are not careful about what they say.

Pray every day to the Blessed Virgin and ask her to help you lead a pure and holy life. For this intention say every day, for as long as you live, three Hail Mary's, in order to receive the grace of keeping yourself pure. Often say, "Dear Mother, keep my heart free from sin." Never go to bed without asking your heavenly Mother to keep your heart and soul for Jesus.



MARY'S HUMILITY

Another virtue that the Blessed Virgin possessed was that of humility. Humility means being humble, and being humble means to know ourselves as we really are in God's sight. When we are humble we will not think ourselves better than others, even when we know that we are prettier, have more money, or wear better clothes. These things should not make a person proud.

Take a lesson from the Blessed Virgin. As you know, she was the loveliest being God ever created. Was she proud because of her beauty? Oh no! She praised God for giving her such wonderful graces, but she never for a moment thought herself better than others. She was obedient to her parents, kind and gentle to her companions, pure and holy in all her actions. Did she ever look down on her little friends in the temple and brag about anything she had? Sometimes we find children vain about their pretty faces or good clothes. Some children brag about what they have: their toys, their fine house, and other things. These things are nothing to be proud of; instead, such children should thank God for letting them enjoy these gifts.

The gifts of God should not make us proud. Some children look down on their classmates because they have more talents, can learn and understand their lessons better. Such children have no right to be proud, for a good mind is the gift of God. Perhaps they are not making the best use of the talents God has given them. If God had given you talents to learn, He wants you to use the talents. If you are lazy and do not study your lessons, God will not be pleased with you. If God has not given you many talents, He will be quite satisfied if you make good use of what He has given to you.

Never be vain, then, because you are more beautiful than others; do not think yourself better because you wear finer clothing, have richer parents or more talents than your companions. These things do not count before God.

Don't you think that if God looked upon riches, a fine house, pretty clothes, and fine foods as wonderful gifts, He would have given the Blessed Virgin all these things? Instead He gave her the most wonderful gifts of the heart and mind, and in great humility she thanked God for all. To show her gratitude she made use of her many graces to live a life of great holiness and purity; and so she became worthy to be made the Mother of God.

Try then, dear children, to imitate the Blessed Virgin in her humility. Just because you have many good qualities does not give you a reason to think yourself better than others. Instead, you should thank God for them. Ask the Blessed Virgin to help you to be humble so that you may please Jesus and become more like Him.





The Glass and the Lead

"The same God who works all things in all."

How often we forget that God is everywhere. He runs through all our lives, holding them together, working all things in all.

People used to come from afar to admire the rose window in the cathedral. So much were they admired that the pieces of glass became very conceited. "There is no doubt," said the blue pieces, "that people come to see us. The blues give body and strength to a design."

The pieces of rose glass had another opinion. "Blue is a very nice color, of course, and we want you to understand we have nothing against blue, but we ask you, where would the blue be without the rose to make a contrast?"

The gilt pieces thought they were pretty important, too, and they said, "Oh, no! People come to see the gold. Gold stands out like the stars on a November night." The greens and yellows had something else to say.

Well, they could not decide which was the best, so they decided to find out who was the worst. About this there was no argument. The worst part of the rose window, they all agreed, was the dull black lead. It ran in harsh black streaks all over the window like hen tracks in the snow.

"Without the lead strips people would admire us alone," they all agreed. Little did they know that without the lead strips to hold them together there would be no window at all for the people to admire.

How often we forget the most important things. Just as the lead held the glass pieces together, so God holds our lives together, "the same God who works all things in all." The bigger a thing is the easier we forget about it. The world is so big that we forget we are on it, but we do not forget the armchair that we are sitting in. We forget about great things like the sun and the stars, but we do not forget a little thing like the bubble gum that we are chewing. God is so big that we often forget all about Him, when He should be the one thing that we always remember. The old father had the right idea when he had an eye painted on every wall in his house. He told his children he did this because he did not want them to forget that God is everywhere and that the all-seeing eyes of God sees our thoughts, words, deeds, and omissions.

Kind David, the kingly poet and poetic king, knew that God is everywhere, and standing on the roof of his palace one day he sang this song:

Whither shall I go from Thy spirit?
 Or whither shall I flee from Thy face?
 If I ascend into heaven, Thou art there;
 If I descend into hell Thou art present.
 If I take my wings early in the morning,
 And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea;
 Even there also shall Thy hand lead me:

And Thy right hand hold me.
 And I said, "Perhaps darkness shall cover me,
 And night shall be my light in my pleasures."
 But darkness shall not be dark to Thee,
 And the night shall be as the day:
 The darkness thereof and the light are alike to
 Thee.



Faith, The Brave

It was a dreary day in mid-winter. In the narrow passages of the catacombs the rough stone walls were streaked with dampness, and the cold wind swept sharply through the rocks piled up to hide the entrance.

Toiling slowly along the dark, uneven passage was a Roman mother, a sleeping child in her arms. One hand was outstretched before her, as she half blindly felt her way. Over and over again she whispered softly to herself the name of Jesus. Brave though she was, and used to danger, the bitter cold and stillness of the catacombs filled her with terror, and every few steps she paused to listen for other footfalls than her own.

At last a faint glimmer of candlelight in the distance pointed like the star of Bethlehem, long ago, to the tiny cave-home of the King of kings, and she knew she was nearing her journey's end. The light streamed from the entrance to a small chapel, where a silver-haired priest was praying with bowed head and outstretched arms before a rude altar. Near him was a baptismal font, cut into the rocky floor.

"Father," she whispered softly. He heard and arose from his knees. Smiling, he came towards her and held out his arms for the child. "Not God's little one yet," he said gently, "soon to be. What name shall we give thee when thou art made God's child?" he said to the wee form in his arms.

The mother's eyes were full of happy tears. "Call her Faith, Holy Father," she cried, "that my child may hold that treasure dearer even than life."

A moment later, and the clear cold water touched the little brow and the solemn words were spoken, "I baptize thee, Faith, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

Kneeling before the altar, the mother held her child to her heart for an instant, then outstretched her arms in surrender and laid the little one at the foot of the rough cross that hung on the wall. "I give her to You, Jesus," she whispered. "Keep her soul always as pure as it is today."

The years passed, and baby Faith blossomed into maidenhood, true and sweet in the midst of the wickedness about her as a snow-white lily in a bed of rank weeds. She held her heart aloft for the King's love. Hope and Charity were her two little sisters, and the mother used to call them her trinity of daughters.

At last came the day so longed for by the brave little Christians of Rome, the great day when they were called to lay down their lives for the sake of Jesus Christ, Who had died for them. The three girls were brought captive together to the great court room, where they stood fearlessly before the judge.

Faith, the eldest, was tried first. Twelve short years had she spent on earth, but her courage was as dauntless, her resolve as high as though she had faced the storms of half a century. She was condemned to be thrown into a cauldron of boiling pitch. The brutal order was carried out, and she remained unharmed in the midst of the terrific heat.

The judge, unmoved by the evident touch of God's hand, ordered her to be beheaded. The child kissed her mother, and was held to her heart once more, as so long ago before the little altar of the catacombs, then was surrendered once more to the thorn-crowned King. And the girl passed joyously to that eternal land where faith is changed to vision and the soul is at home with God. Her feast day is August 1st.



Word Search for August

1. ASSUMPTION	V	G	I	S	N	L	R	E	H	T	O	M	D	E	S	S	E	L	B
2. IMMACULATE	N	X	P	I	E	Z	C	A	T	H	O	L	I	C	R	I	E	F	N
3. BLESSED MOTHER	C	E	B	U	L	N	T	Y	R	A	M	L	N	E	R	S	L	I	V
4. ROSES	L	S	V	O	T	E	H	S	A	I	L	N	T	E	S	A	D	F	V
5. QUEEN	O	C	U	A	Z	V	Y	L	N	M	O	U	P	H	E	Q	R	T	Z
6. APOSTLES	U	D	A	T	E	A	M	G	O	D	X	G	C	T	O	U	O	E	D
7. ANGELS	D	R	A	S	C	H	C	A	I	O	L	T	A	A	E	U	Q	E	C
8. CLOUDS	S	A	R	U	I	A	L	S	T	R	A	E	H	E	M	T	I	N	C
9. MARY	M	D	O	G	I	U	R	A	P	C	L	E	S	D	O	M	F	T	F
10. HEAVEN	I	C	I	U	C	A	L	E	M	D	I	R	O	S	E	S	I	H	T
11. BODY	S	O	N	A	V	I	C	T	U	O	S	E	L	T	S	O	P	A	R
12. SOUL	A	I	M	C	O	M	E	N	S	O	U	L	T	A	R	Y	B	C	E
13. CATHOLIC	X	M	S	L	E	G	N	A	S	P	L	A	I	N	M	E	D	I	M
14. HOLYDAY	I	P	R	I	B	O	D	Y	A	D	Y	L	O	H	A	I	T	U	R
15. DEATH																			
16. DOGMA																			
17. FIFTEENTH																			
18. AUGUST																			

FOUR THINGS

Four things a man must learn to do
 If he would make his record true!
 To think without confusion clearly;
 To love his fellow-men sincerely;
 To act from honest motives purely;
 To trust in God and heaven securely.

—Henry Van Dyke





Immaculate Heart of Mary ~ August 22nd



TARCISIUS, MARTYR OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

In the noisome dungeons of the Mamertine, the Christians were praying. The air was foul, broken potsherds were strewn on the floor, and the walls were streaked with dampness. Heavily chained and racked with pain were these chosen ones, yet a new joy brightened their eyes, hope throbbed in every heart. A messenger had been sent to the catacombs with the word of their coming martyrdom, and they were waiting for what they felt sure would be brought to be their strength in combat. He was coming Who was their God.

As they waited and prayed, a cloaked figure sought a hidden entrance to the cemetery. Off from the Appian Way, near the fountain of Egeria, a luminaria, or air shaft, opened directly into one of the underground crypts. It was used only in times of great danger, as at the present. Through it the man let himself down. Mass was being offered, and he knelt reverently until it was ended.

Then he slipped off his cloak, revealing his soldier's armor, and advancing to the altar said something to the priest in a low voice. A little hesitation, then the priest turned to the people and told them of the Christians in the Mamertine who were to be martyred on the morrow. Would any one be brave enough to carry the Lord to them?

The little altar boy, Tarcisus, looked up eagerly. "Choose me, Father," he begged. "Let me carry Jesus to them!"

The priest looked at him. The boy's lips were parted, and he seemed poised ready for flight as he knelt, so lightly, on the altar step.

"But you are young, child," he said gently. "Do you realize that you will be bearing God in your arms, and that you must rather die than let Him be taken from you?"

The boy's eyes filled. "I do, my Father," he answered simply.

The priest yielded. The task is yours, my little one," he said.

Carefully he wrapped the white Host in the finest linen, put It in a golden case, and gave It to the boy. With crossed hands Tarcisus held It close, and knelt still a moment in tremulous love. Then out into the sunlight he sped, bearing his precious Burden.

Half the journey was made, when he passed a group of pagan lads in the midst of a game.

"Ho, there, Tarcisus!" they cried. "Whither goest thou?"

The boy made no answer, but hurried on his way. A few quick strides and he was over-taken.

"What art thou bearing?" they questioned roughly. Open thy hands and show us."

Tarcisus shook his head. "Never," he answered courageously. They knocked him down, and tried to force his arms apart, but they clung to their Treasure.

With all his soul the boy prayed that he might keep his trust. Blows rained about him, strong hands tore at the childish arms, rough kicks covered him with wounds. But Jesus was safe.

It was almost over. Consciousness was slipping, and the shouts of his tormentors sounded far away. Suddenly the blows ceased. Summoning all his slight strength, the little martyr waited, but the end had come. A gentle voice sounded in his ears, and strong arms lifted him from the ground. Quadratus was just in time. The boy opened his eyes, and seeing the Christian soldier,



whispered, "I have Jesus with me," and fainted. Reverently, so reverently, the soldier held the boy, on whose heart, as on a Paten of love, lay his Lord.

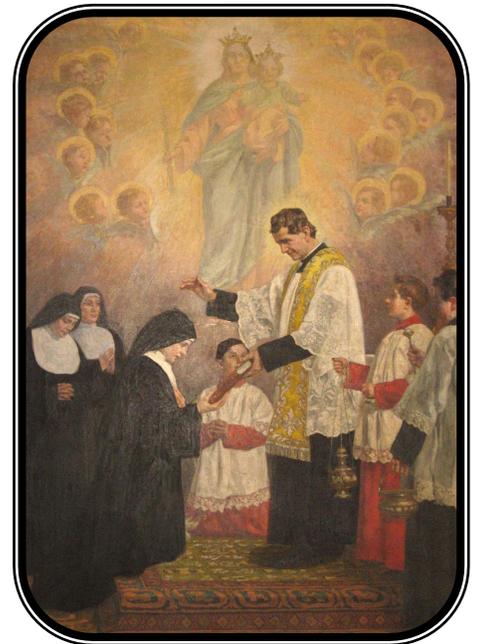
A few moments later the altar boy was with his King. On the shining step of the altar of heaven he knelt, and the Lord Whom he had died to save welcomed him in His glory. Not for a moment only was his reward to be but forever! And God's angels greeted with love the martyr of the Blessed Sacrament.

Feast day August 19th

~ "Children of The Kingdom," Imprimatur 1914 ~

SAINT QUIZ

1. Who founded the Redemptorist Order?
 - a) St. Francis de Sales b) St. Alphonsus de Liguori c) St. Philip Benizi
2. To whom did the Blessed Mother give the scapular?
 - a) St. Francis of Assisi b) St. Rose of Lima c) St. Dominic
3. Who is the patron saint of parish priests?
 - a) St. John Bosco b) St. John Vianney c) St. Francis Xavier
4. Who is the patron saint of the Universal Church?
 - a) St. Augustine b) St. Peter c) St. Joseph
5. Who is the patron saint of dentists?
 - a) St. Apollonia b) St. Cosmos and Damien c) St. Roch
6. What saint was chancellor to King Henry VIII of England?
 - a) St. Thomas a Becket b) St. Thomas More c) St. Thomas a Kempis
7. Who was the Maid of Orleans?
 - a) St. Germaine b) St. Catherine of Sienna c) St. Joan of Arc
8. Who is the patron saint of journalists and writers?
 - a) St. Francis de Sales b) St. John c) St. Lawrence
9. Who is the greatest missionary of the Church since the days of St. Paul?
 - a) St. Francis Xavier b) St. Peter Clavier c) St. Augustine of Canterbury
10. Who is the patron saint of automobilists?
 - a) St. Gabriel b) St. Christopher c) St. Raphael





REFUGE OF SINNERS—August 13

St. John Church, Cincinnati, Ohio, is in charge of the Franciscan Fathers. Every year for two decades and a half the people of the parish have staged a beautiful Passion Play. One Lent a young mother took her seven-year-old daughter to this pageant. Before the performance the mother explained as well as she could the great meaning of the passion.

The play went on to that tense moment when Judas in his despair cries out: “To whom shall I go? I am forsaken by everyone. Oh, to whom shall I go?”

The little girl was sitting on the edge of the seat, wrapped up in the performance, thinking that everything was real. What a woman's sympathy she felt sorry for Judas. She felt that there must be something he could do. So, turning to her mother at that tensely dramatic moment, the little girl exclaimed in a clear, silvery voice that could be heard throughout the hall:

“Mother, why doesn't he go to Mary? She will help him, I know.”

What that little girl said about Judas, the traitor, the thankless ungrateful traitor, we can say to every sinner: Why don't you go to Mary? She will help you, I know.

Mary is the Refuge of Sinners; she has been called that through the centuries; she has proven herself to be the refuge of those who have offended the Almighty.

That is why on August 13 we celebrate a special feast under the title, “Mary, Refuge of Sinners.” When we hear that title our thoughts go way back into the Old Testament. There we read of so-called cities of refuge. The pitying spirit, which even the old Jewish law showed toward criminals, established certain cities where those who had run afoul of the law might hide from the arms of authority. There were no less than six Levitical Cities, three on either side of the Jordan, where men who had been guilty of involuntary murder might find protection until they were released from banishment by the death of the high-priest. These cities had the obligation of receiving the culprit and lodging him without charge.

In addition there were at least 48 other cities which had this same privilege of asylum, as it was called. Even the Greeks and Romans had their cities of refuge. Christianity had them too.

We read that the Middle Ages had the beautiful custom of offering, “the right of sanctuary” to those who had broken the law. Men could find refuge in a church or sanctuary. This humane and Christian custom of showing mercy to those who needed it, was finally abolished by the Church, because it led to great abuses and flouting of the law. This showing of mercy to criminals was not in itself a defiance of law and justice. It was simply offering sanctuary and protection to those who had offended the law, men who might be punished by private vengeance. It prevented what we call lynch law, or taking the law into one's own hands.

Instead of a city, a town or a district, we have today as a place of refuge the heart of a Mother, the heart of our Blessed Mother. To her we fly in every need. To her we fly in every need of repentance and sorrow and contrition and forgiveness.

1. Since Mary is the Mother of the Redeemer, the one Savior of all sinners, we can expect her to be merciful to sinners. She shared with Christ in the salvation of the world. From the crib to the cross Mary took part in the redemption. She caught Christ's spirit of forgiveness and mercy, even to the worst offender. It is impossible that such a Mother should show no mercy towards the violators of God's law.

And now that she is in heaven, where her power is greater, where she is close to the throne of the Almighty, we can expect that she will continue to show this mercy to those who offend Almighty God.



We quote St. Peter Damian:

“Mary is powerful in heaven and on earth, and even those who are on the verge of despair she inspires with hope.”

2. Mary is not indifferent to sin. She hates it. But like her Divine Son she loves the sinner, she loves the souls for whom Christ suffered and died, she prays for them continually.

3. In the Old Testament we find many figures of Mary as the refuge of sinners, like Ruth who “gleaned the ears of corn after the reapers.” *Ruth, 2:3*. St. Bonaventure draws this comparison:

“As Ruth found grace in the eyes of Booz, so Mary found Grace before God. ...The reapers are the gleaners in the vineyard of the Lord, the missionaries, preachers and confessors who endeavor to gain souls to God. But there are obstinate and hardened souls who do not allow themselves to be gained; these can be saved only through the powerful intercession of Mary. There is no sinner so corrupt and sunk in vice that Mary will despise and reject him. If such a one seeks help with her, she will most certainly reconcile him with Jesus and obtain pardon for him.”

4. We have abundant proof that Mary helps in all needs of body and soul. She is especially willing to help in matters of salvation, in matters of forgiveness. St. Bernardine of Siena tells us:

“As the devil goes about seeking whom he may devour, so Mary goes about seeking whom she may save.”

5. There is another appeal in having a mother as a refuge. Sometimes out of fear children hesitate to go to their father. But every child runs to its mother. Those who have offended God will much more readily go to the Mother of God.

6. To every sinner we say what the little girl said about Judas in the Passion Play:

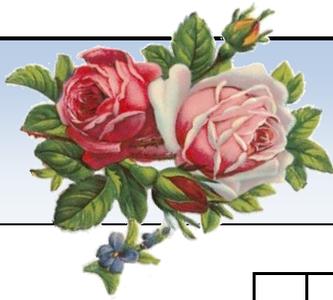
“Why doesn't he go to Mary? She will help him, I know.” Amen.

-“*Feasts of Our Lady, Imprimatur 1952*”

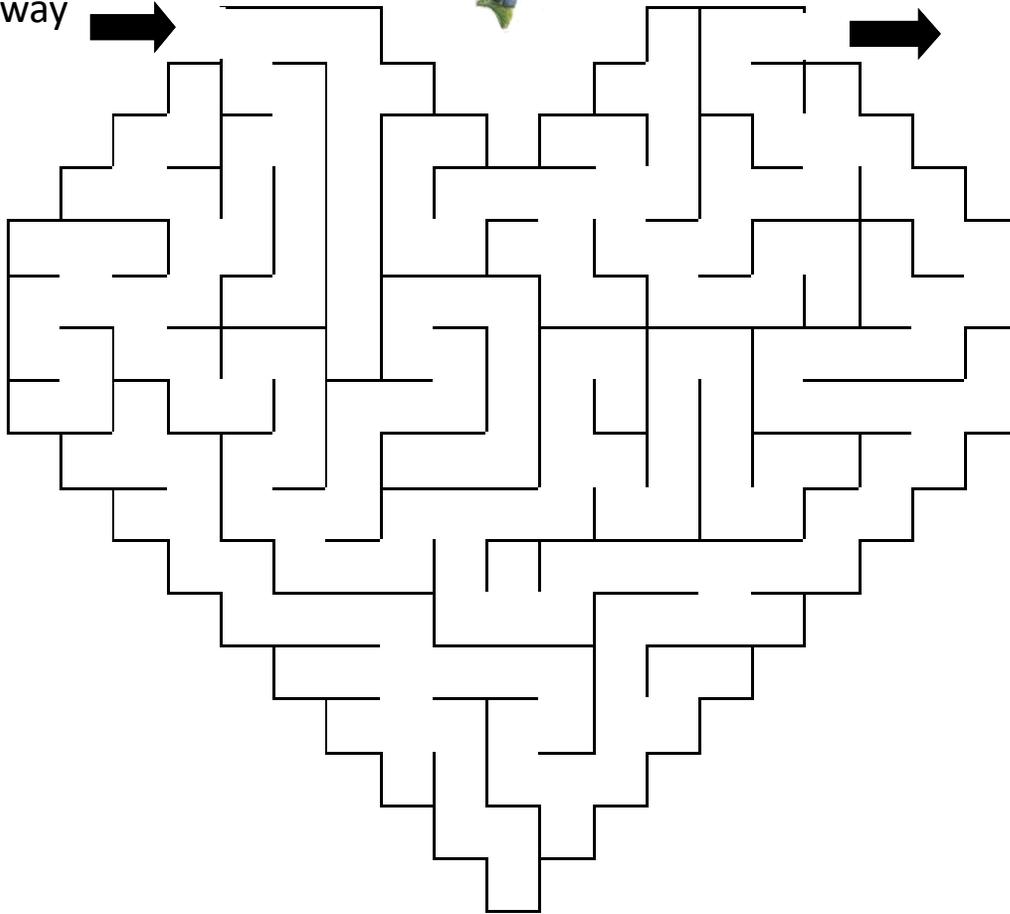
UNSCRAMBLE THE SAINTS NAMES

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. JOACHIM | A. LRACE |
| 2. AUGUSTINE | B. MIOJACH |
| 3. BERNARD | C. MINDOIC |
| 4. CAJETAN | D. GUSTAUNIE |
| 5. CLARE | E. NADRREB |
| 6. ALPHONSUS | F. NATCAJE |
| 7. DOMINIC | G. SALHPNOSU |
| 8. BARTHOLOMEW | H. AMYRND |
| 9. LAWRENCE | I. RENLAWEC |
| 10. RAYMOND | J. WBEARTOLOHM |





Find your way
to Mary ~



Each Daily Task

For future usefulness
I do not ask.
Grant, Lord, Thy succor for
Each present task.

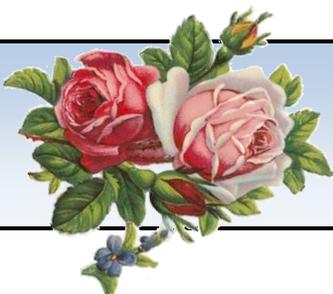
Let me show instant love
In other's needs;
Fill all my quickening hours
With kindly deeds.

Seize then each moment's
worth
Ere it depart.
Imprint time's golden coins
With present art.

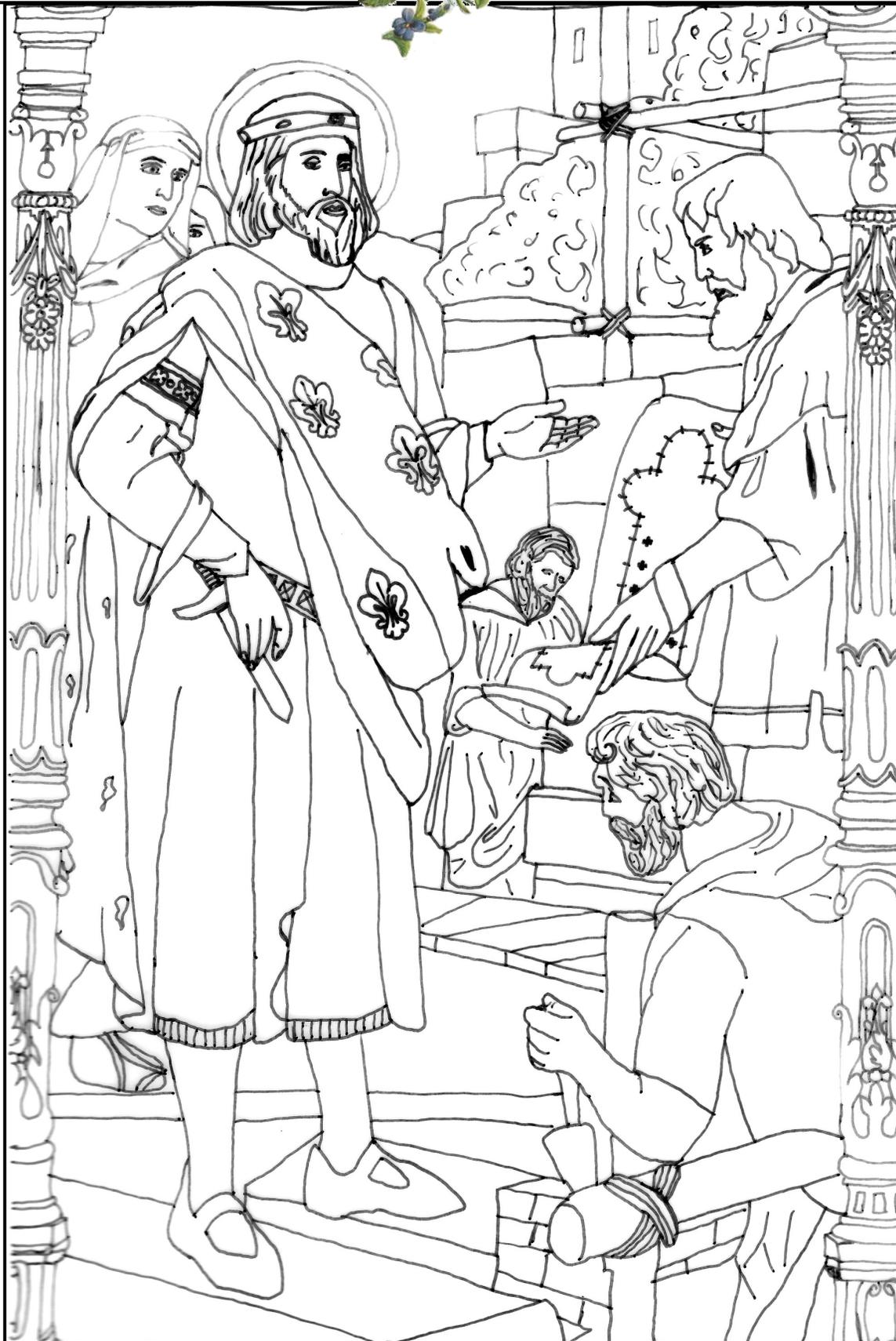
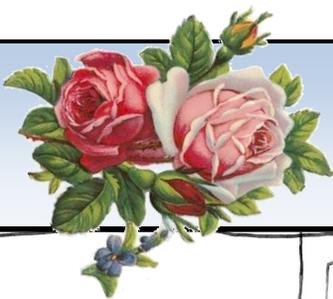
- Very Rev. T. L. Crowley, O.P.

On all my hastening
thoughts
Thy grace bestow;
Kindle each tepid one,
Teach it to glow.

Nobler our victories are
Small faults to shun.
More perfect manhood
comes
From things well done.



St. Louis, King of France ~ Feast day, August 25th



St. Louis, King of France ~ Feast day, August 25th



RECEPTION OF A CONVERT

My visitor had been under instruction for some time. This evening there was a smile of joy upon his face, because I had told him that he was now sufficiently prepared to be received into the Church. As the following Thursday had been set for the reception, he was anxious to know something of the ceremony. I opened the Ritual.

“in receiving a convert into the Church,” I said, “we consider three cases. If it is found that no Baptism had been conferred, or the one conferred was invalid, then the person must be baptized unconditionally. Where there is a reasonable doubt about that the validity of a former Baptism, the convert is baptized conditionally. In a case where it is certain that the Baptism was valid, then only the abjuration or profession of Faith is exacted.”

“As I am to be baptized conditionally, Father, what will be the ceremony of my reception?”

“First, you make your profession of Faith; then you will be baptized conditionally. The Baptism will be followed by sacramental Confession with conditional absolution.

“For the profession of Faith, the Ritual tells us that the priest, wearing a surplice and violet stole, sits down before the middle of the altar, if the Blessed Sacrament is not in the tabernacle; otherwise he sits on the Epistle side. The convert kneels before him and, touching the book of the Gospels with his right hand, reads or recites the words of the profession of Faith, that is, his renunciation of heresy and his acceptance of the doctrines of the Catholic Church. While the convert is kneeling, the priest recites Psalm 50 or Psalm 129, followed by a prayer and by absolution from possible excommunication.”

“But why will the absolution of sacramental Confession be given only conditionally in my case?”

“Your Baptism is conditional, that is, the formula will be: ‘If you are not baptized, I baptize thee in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.’ If your former Baptism was valid, then your sins would be remitted by the conditional absolution; if there was no former valid Baptism, your present Baptism will remit your sins without the need of absolution.”

“You say you are going to receive me into the Church on Thursday. Supposing I die between now and Thursday?”

“If your first Baptism was not valid and you die before Thursday,” I answered, “you would have Baptism of desire. If it happens to be valid, then remember that an act of Perfect Contrition remits sin in the time of danger, when it is not possible to go to Confession. An act of Perfect Contrition is sorrow for our sins, not because we fear the loss of Heaven or the pains of hell, but from a motive of love, namely, because God is all good and deserving of our love.”



THE SILENCE IS BROKEN

A young man named Esdras lived in Decapolis, a district of Palestine near the Jordan River. Though he loved other young people dearly, he was cut off from them in a very tragic way. For Esdras could neither hear nor speak. Often in the evenings he would stand and watch youths and maidens gathered for their games and dance. He longed to be able to hear their songs and laughter and to join in their sport. And how he yearned to talk to his own family! He was very lonely.

It happened one day that Esdras saw a commotion down on the shore of the river. Some men were getting out of a boat and the people were flocking around them. One Man, especially, seemed to be the center of attraction. Mothers were even bringing their children to Him, Esdras noticed, wondering who this Stranger could be.

Suddenly two familiar figures separated themselves from the crowds and started through the fields towards Esdras. They were his brothers, and they seemed very excited. Fearing they wished to take him into the crowd, Esdras turned to flee, for he was shy before strangers; yet something kept him from running away. Perhaps it was his curiosity about that Stranger on the shore, for he could not take his eyes off Him. When his brothers beckoned him to follow them, he could not resist. Slowly he walked along after them, a vague excitement stirring within him.

His brothers pushed through the crowd and made a way for Esdras. When they reached the side of the Stranger, they began to address Him, with expressions and gestures that made Esdras know they were pleading with Him. Esdras wondered what the Stranger had that his brothers wanted—He looked so poor. And yet Esdras could not take his eyes from the Stranger's face; in all his life he had never seen such goodness and majesty as he now beheld there.

Then the Stranger looked at him! Esdras could not help loving One Who looked at him with so much love and kindness.

The Stranger took his arm and led him to the fringe of the crowd. There He put His fingers first into Esdras' ears, then on his tongue. Last of all He looked up to Heaven, and His lips moved.

“Be healed!”

Esdras started violently. Had he heard those words or was he dreaming? No, he was not dreaming—he could hear the voices of the crowd, and the water splashing on the shore.

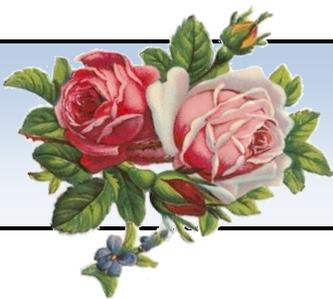
“I can hear!” he cried excitedly. Then he realized that he had spoken! The greatest desire of his life had been given to him. Esdras had never known such happiness.

The first thing he had heard had been the voice of Jesus; not the first use to which he put the gift of speech was to thank Jesus. Our Lord smiled at him in reply and then turned to listen to the pleas of other afflicted people.

A small group, however, remained around Esdras, speaking the praises of Jesus.

“Everything that He does is wonderful,” one man said. “He makes both the deaf here and the dumb speak.”

Esdras wanted more than anything in the world to learn more about Jesus, so he joined this group of people, His loving followers, His disciples.



St. Rose of Lima ~ Feast day, August 30th



The following is from a lovely old Catholic book that I acquired. It is called, "The Life on Earth of Our Blessed Lord" Imprimatur 1913. It is told in rhyme, story and picture for little Catholic children. We will be putting some of it in our Gazette every month for all to enjoy. It is a gem!

One of the ideas in this book is to teach the little ones the Our Father to the melody of, "To Jesus Heart All Burning," and the Hail Mary to the melody of, "Daily, Daily, Sing to Mary". Try it, it is really charming and the children will love it. My did anyway, they love to sing!!

Lesson I

IN the beginning (God created heaven and earth. . . . And God created man to His own image . . . male and female . . . God saw all the things that He had made, and they were very good. Genesis i,], 27, 31.

And He commanded him, .saying: Of every tree of paradise thou shalt eat. But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil thou shalt not eat. Genesis ii, 16. 17.

The Story of the King

To every little boy and girl,
This blessed tale is given:
About a King who loved us so
That He came down from heaven,
And died upon the cross for us,
So we might know and love
And serve Him ever in this world
And reign with Him above.

The Law Which God Gave

Do you know why He came to us?
Because, long years ago,
When God created all the world
And all the things that grow:
To Adam and Eve, in paradise,
He said: "That you may live
And never die, there's one command,
One law which I shall give."

HOW THE STORY MAY BE TOLD

THE beautiful land, heaven, is the home of God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, our blessed Lady, the angels, the saints, and all those who were the friends of God when they lived on earth. This earth, on which we all live, is our home only for a little while our real home is in heaven, With God.

But for years and years and years no one on this earth could go home to heaven because of a great sin which had been done against God. And God was so sorry for the people who could not go home to heaven, that His only Son, who was also God, came down on earth to pay for this great sin by dying, as man, on the cross.



So, because God died for us, we are now able, if we do right, to go home to heaven when we die.

What could this great sin be? So great that God's only Son had to come down on earth to pay for it? Well, when God the Father made the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, He made them "like Himself," and put them in paradise. Adam and Eve were innocent and holy when they came from the hand of God. He gave them everything on the earth—the rivers, the trees, the flowers, the animals, the birds—everything belonged to them and to their children.

To find out, then, if they really loved Him, who had given them so much, God told them there was one thing must never, never do. He told them if they kept this one command of His they would live forever. (To be continued in the next issue)



Adam and Eve in the Garden with God the Father



DEVOTIONS

Back in May of 1891 a crew of men began drilling for gas on the property of an orphan home at Lackawanna, New York, the site of the famous institutions of mercy under the protection of Our Lady of Victory.

“Father Baker must be mad.”

“This is folly, sheer folly.”

Many remarks like these were made, because no one expected to find gas in that region, no one except good Father Baker, the saintly founder of these institutions. His fuel bill had mounted beyond his financial abilities. He decided to drill for gas.

Weeks ran into months. They were down 600 feet, and still no gas. Father Baker and his charges made one novena after another. They were attending Benediction on the eighth day of the novena before the Assumption of our Blessed Mother. A boy suddenly burst into the chapel, tiptoed up to the kneeling priest, and whispered something into his ear.

There was a thrill in father's announcement that gas had been discovered at a depth of 1,145 feet. The flow was so plentiful that it supplied not only the buildings and needs of Father Baker, but also those of many neighbors.

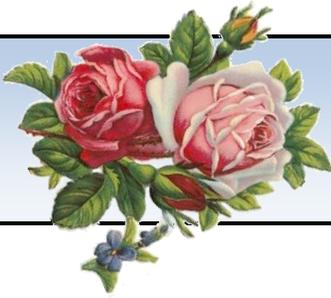
Instances like this, of answer to prayer in the form of novenas and other religious practices could be multiplied by the thousands. Such a novena to Our Blessed Mother is one of many popular devotions in the Church. Each of these devotions taps the well of God's blessings in a material and a spiritual way. Such devotions are sacramentals; they are religious practices approved by Mother Church and calculated to nourish piety. They are so varied and numerous that it would be impossible to mention all of them in one talk. We will, therefore, give some general divisions, with emphasis upon those which are more popular and appealing. We might divide all devotions into three classes according as they refer to our Lord, the Blessed Virgin, or to the Saints.

1. Among the principal devotions to our Savior we mention:

a. Devotion to the Blessed Sacrament:

i. Frequent Communion aims to give the Eucharistic Christ love for love by cooperating with His burning desire to give Himself to us.

ii. Communion of Reparation attempts to make amends to Him for the indifference, ingratitude, and insults offered to the Eucharist.



- iii. Visits to the Blessed Sacrament offer Him adoration, thanks, petitions and reparation.
 - iv. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament brings us the blessing of our Lord Himself.
 - v. Perpetual Adoration is an effort to have someone continually before the Blessed Sacrament.
 - vi. Forty Hours tries to do the same thing throughout a diocese.
 - vii. The Holy Hour is a time spent with others before the exposed Blessed Sacrament.
- b. Devotion to the Holy Childhood refers to the Child Jesus in His birth, circumcision, Epiphany, Presentation, and among the doctors of the temple.
- c. Devotion to the Passion of Christ takes the form of:
- i. Honoring the mysteries and phases of his passion and death.
 - ii. Recalling His passion every Friday, the day on which He died for us.
 - iii. Honoring His Precious Blood.
 - iv. Venerating the cross.
 - v. Making the Way of the Cross or the Stations.
- d. Devotion to the Sacred Heart, especially by making the Nine First Fridays.
2. Devotion to the Blessed Virgin expresses itself in:
- a. Celebrating her feasts and privileges.
 - b. Consecrating every Saturday to her.
 - c. Keeping the month of May and October.
 - d. Reciting her Rosary or her Little Office.
 - e. Saying the Angelus.
 - f. Wearing the scapular and the miraculous medal.
 - g. Belonging to some confraternity or congregation in her honor, like the Sodality.
 - h. Honoring her sorrows.
 - i. Honoring her joys. This is a Franciscan devotion which we followers of St. Francis keep by honoring the seven principal joys of Mary in the Franciscan Crown or Rosary of seven decades.
3. Devotion to the saints:



- a. St. Joseph is honored as the foster-father of the Son of God, spouse of the Blessed Virgin, and universal patron of the Church.
 - b. The Apostles Peter and Paul as co-founders of the Church.
 - c. St. Francis of Assisi as the closest follower of Christ.
 - d. St. Anthony of Padua as the Wonder-worker.
 - e. Each religious order or group has its favorite devotion to its favorite saint.
 - f. Devotion to one's patron saint or the patron of one's church.
 - g. Devotion to the Guardian Angels.
 - h. Remembrance of the Poor Souls.
4. These devotional practices take the form of wearing emblems, attending novenas, saying special prayers, keeping certain feasts, joining associations, making pilgrimages, etc. Such practices feed and develop devotion, when they are approved and encouraged by Mother Church.

Yes, they bring the good and perfect gifts from above, from the Father of all. They open up the well of God's goodness, just as the novena of Father Baker opened up an actual gas well on his property.



Do not attempt to adopt all these practices. Choose one or the other and be faithful to it. It will nourish your piety. It will nourish your love of God, His Mother and the saints. Amen.

~ *"Talks On The Sacramenals,"*

Imprimatur 1956 ~



Answers to Unscramble the Saints Names

1. B, 2. D, 3. E, 4. F, 5. A, 6. G, 7. C, 8. J, 9. I, 10. H

Answers to Saint Quiz

1. b) St. Alphonsus Liguori, 2. c) St. Dominic, 3. b) St. John Vianney, 4. c) St. Joseph,
5. a) St. Apollonia, 6. b) St. Thomas More, 7. c) St. Joan of Arc, 8. a) St. Francis de Sales
9. a) St. Francis Xavier, 10. St. Christopher

This is a series of Catholic Gazettes for children. We are trying to put a little information in each gazette for all ages. We pray that it will help all to know and love their Faith better. It is put together by the students of St. Catherine's Academy as part of their Language, Religion, Art and Typing Courses. A.M.D.G. We hope you enjoy it. If you have any suggestions, ideas or comments please let us know at : <jwillson61@charter.net>

God Bless all of you!

Tim, the father of this clan, Timmy, Mary, Sarah, Katie, Patrick, Elizabeth and the teacher, Julie. God is good!!

~ ALL ARTICLES ARE MEANT TO BE IN KEEPING WITH THE SOUND TEACHINGS OF THE HOLY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, WHICH IS THE SAME CHURCH FOUNDED BY OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST AND WILL LAST UNTIL THE END OF TIME.~