

Queen of the Holy Rosary Mediatrix of Peace,
Mediatrix Between God and Man



**Shrine
Newsletter**

Volume 23 Spring 2020



***Second Joyful Mystery:
The Visitation of Mary to
Elizabeth***

About Our Cover

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a city of Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and she exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!' (Lk 1:39-42)

Mary serves her cousin in all humility for three months until the birth of John the Baptist.

Ask for an increase in the Virtue of Charity.

A PROMISE

Mary Ann Van Hoof (seer, stigmatist, and mystic) was given the following promise before she was taken to her heavenly reward on March 18, 1984:

“When we take your sister home, I will be with you on all the Anniversary Days to Bless these Grounds. You will not see Me or the Celestials with Me. I will not abandon you, unless you abandon Me. Is that understood?”

OUR PLEDGE

To stand firmly for God and for Country;

To bring the Truth to all people;

To bring peace and unity between Home, School, and Church;

Thus bringing everlasting peace to the Nation.

Queen of the Holy Rosary Mediatrix of Peace Shrine

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1962

Pray for the Holy Father; pray for the Holy Father. He needs us all.

**REQUEST OF THE QUEEN OF THE HOLY ROSARY, MEDIATRIX OF
PEACE**

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Vigil Schedule at the Shrine

March 2020

17th Saint Patrick 8:00 p.m. Vigil

18th Mary Ann Van Hoof Death Anniversary 8:00 p.m. Vigil

19th Saint Joseph 8:00 p.m. Vigil

21st Saint Benedict 8:00 p.m. Procession and 8:15 p.m. Vigil

25th Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
8:00 p.m. Procession and 8:15 p.m. Vigil

April 2020

6th Father Martins Death Anniversary 8:00 p.m. Vigil

7th Anniversary of 1950 Apparition 8:00 p.m. Candlelite Procession
and 8:15 p.m. Vigil

May 2020

1st Saint Joseph the Worker 8:00 p.m. Vigil

24th Mary Help of Christians 8:00 p.m. Procession and 8:15 p.m. Vigil

28th Anniversary of 1950 Apparition 12 noon Procession and 1:00 p.m. Vigil

29th Anniversary of 1950 Apparition 12 noon Procession and 1:00 p.m. Vigil

30th Anniversary of 1950 Apparition 12 noon Procession and 1:00 p.m. Vigil

31st Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary 12:45 p.m. Procession/Crowning
and 1:00 p.m. Vigil

June 2020

4th Anniversary of 1950 12 noon Procession and 1:00 p.m. Vigil

7th Trinity Sunday 12:45 Procession and 1:00 p.m. Vigil

13th St. Anthony of Padua 8:00 p.m. Vigil

16th Anniversary of 1950 12 noon Procession and 1:00 p.m. Vigil

19th Feast of the Sacred Heart 12:45 Procession and 1:00 p.m. Vigil

29th SS. Peter and Paul, Apostles 8:00 p.m. Vigil

THESE ARE SACRED GROUNDS

The Mother of God graced these grounds with Her presence for a period of thirty-four years. She promised to continue to visit and bless these premises on the following days each year: April 7, May 28, May 29, May 30 June 4, June 16, August 15, October 7, and November 12.

Are you dressed properly? Our Blessed Mother has said that many fashions are displeasing to Our Lord. She is the model of modesty.

Clothing should conceal, not reveal. Both men and women should observe the virtue of modesty. We are given the choice to follow Christian standards of morality or follow the pagan standards of immorality. History reveals that when the morals of a nation collapse, the nation collapses! For women visitors wearing shorts or slacks, wrap around skirts are available. As the women go, so goes the nation!

MODESTY IS THE GEM OF ALL VIRTUES

Please Dress Modestly

The Blessed Mother, as well as many Saints, have visited these Grounds since November 1949 giving Messages to Mary Ann Van Hoof. This is Holy Ground, as many Saints walk these grounds every day as promised.

Pilgrims are asked to dress modestly when visiting the Shrine. Thus, reverence in manner of dress and behavior is appreciated. Please give the respect due to God at Our Lady's Shrine.

Wrap-around skirts are available at the Information Building.

OUR LADY'S MESSAGES

The Revelations and Messages shared at the Queen of the Holy Rosary, Mediatrix of Peace Shrine came from the Blessed Mother, or one of the Saints who assisted Her; such as St. Therese *The Little Flower*, St. Francis, St. Joan of Arc, and others.

Pilgrims who have visited the Shrine on Anniversary Days when the Revelations were given have seen Mary Ann in a state of ecstasy, noticing that she was not conscious of anything or anyone around her as she spoke. These Messages were taken down on a tape recorder; and in long hand by at least two people. Some Messages were repeated word for word as given by the Blessed Mother; however, in most cases Mary Ann was inspired to speak using her own language, grammar, and expressions. Many Messages were also given during suffering periods in her home, especially during Advent and Lent.

In a more general sense, the Revelations and Messages came from the Triumphant Church in Heaven, who used the voice of Mary Ann Van Hoof as a human transmitting device or instrument.

MESSAGES FULFILLED—BY TIME

Message

May 30, 1950 (see Pg. 10 "My Work With Necedah" Vol. I)

... "Remember, My Child, that the time is coming, sorrow and slaughter of My children will be worse than ever in history. It grieves Me to see innocent children, the sick and poor, destroyed because of greed and the desire for power by a few Nations' leaders. That is why I say pray: pray. Give this Message to the people; for prayers only will save the destruction of this world."

Fulfilled—By Time

Christians Are Being Slaughtered By Wahhabi Islamists All Over the World
by Archbishop Cranmer - *Syndicated Times News* August 8, 2013

The *Times* said that in April of 1996 Pope John Paul condemned Islamic persecution of Christians in Sudan; and would travel to Tunisia to plead for Islamic tolerance and Islamic-Christian dialogue.

In **Sudan** the situation for Christians is becoming worse. Aerial bombing of churches is taking place. In South Kordofan a Church leader said bombardments are causing great fear.

In **Egypt** the head of the Coptic Orthodox Church, Pope Tawadros II, had to cancel many public events because he feared attacks from the Brotherhood supporters.

In **Syria** the Christians are being executed in their homes; or subject to the judgements of Sharia Courts established to pass sentences upon those who violate precepts of Wahhabi Islam.

In **Nigeria** the Middle East Forum reported that 70% of all Christians killed around the World in 2012 were killed in this African nation.

In **Indonesia** is where Authorities demolished a church building with a bulldozer in West Java; even as Muslim bystanders cheered and denounced Christians as "infidels".

In **Iraq** it was reported by Fox News that there were more than 300 Christian churches; and now only 57 Christian churches remain.

In **Libya** a Coptic Christian church located in Benghazi was attacked by armed Muslims; and they severely beat Father Paul, the priest of the church, as a sign of humiliation.

In **Pakistan** thousands of Muslims attacked the Christian, Joseph Colony of Lahore; and burned two churches, one Catholic and one Seventh Day Adventist.

In **Turkey** the 5th century Studios Monastery, dedicated to St. John the Baptist which had been taken over by the Muslims, is now going to an active Mosque.

SHOCKING FACTS ABOUT CHRISTIAN PERSECUTION TODAY

By Arthur Weinstein August 21, 2013

Over 100,000 Christians Worldwide Killed For Their Faith Each Year

Christians Are Persecuted in at Least 60 Countries

Human Trafficking Rings Are Targeting Christians

Christians Are Being Denied Human Rights in Many Countries

Deadly Terrorist Attacks During Church Not Uncommon

United States Not Immune to the Horrors of Persecution



SHRINE NEWS



Anniversary Days Coming

May is chosen as the Month of the Blessed Mother in the Catholic Church. It is also the month that the Mother of God chose to start Her Outdoor Appearances to Mary Ann Van Hoof at Necedah.

We will again honor Our Holy Mother by special activities on these Anniversary Days: May 28, 29, 30. with a Procession at 12 Noon and a Prayer Vigil at 1.00 PM. Please try to join us if you can. Our Lady humbled Herself by coming to us with Her warnings and encouragement. Let us humble ourselves by honoring Her at Her Sacred Spot of Apparition.

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House of Prayer Plans

With the early Winter cold weather, we were unable to pour four columns and the 12"x 30" connecting-beam. The forms were completed and covered to be protected from the Winter weather. Everyone is now praying for Spring weather to come, so we can continue where we left off last Fall and make the concrete pour.

This year we plan on starting a similar project on the West Side of the House of Prayer. When the concrete columns and the beam are set, we will remove the forms and move them to the West Side.

Through the years, Volunteers have been dedicating time on Saturdays working for Our Lady. Men and women start about 9:00 A.M.; break at Noon for lunch that is provided by our kind ladies; and then work until about 5:00 P.M. Please join us if you can.

Shrine Grounds

As Spring approaches, some of the men will be doing construction work on the House of Prayer or doing Maintenance Projects; while other men and the women are preparing Flower Beds for planting, raking Lawns, washing Windows, or doing Grotto Cleaning.

Everyone considers Volunteering a "labor of love" for Our Blessed Mother; plus, the Volunteers enjoy the friendly time spent working together.

God bless our Volunteers!

FEATURE ARTICLE

Love of Neighbor

The following article is taken from excerpts of a Sermon by St. Francis de Sales. This Saint's two greatest masterpieces on the spiritual life, "Introduction to the Devout Life" and "Treatise on the Love of God" have become best sellers in years past, and continue to be popular today. Because of his writings, this Saint has become the Patron Saint of Writers and Journalists, as well as designated Patron Saint of the Catholic Press. We shall review one of his Sermons given in Lent of 1622.

St. Paul writes to the Ephesians, "*Beloved, walk the way of love for one another as very dear Children of God; walk in this way just as Jesus Christ walked in it, giving His own self for us, offering Himself to God His Father as a holocaust and oblation of sweet odor.*" (Eph. 5:1-2).

Oh, how lovable these words are, and worthy of reflection! These are golden words. By them this Great Saint helps us to understand what our Concord and our Dilection toward each other should be like. Concord and Dilection are the same thing. The word "Concord" signifies union of heart. "Dilection" signifies election of affections, or union of affections. He seems to want to make clear to us what the Savior meant when He prayed to His Heavenly Father that we might all be One (that is united), as He and His Father are One. Our Lord was somewhat brief in teaching us in words how He wanted us to practice this Holy and most Sacred Union. For this reason His Apostle developed them for us. He exhorts us to walk in the way of love as God's most Dear Children. It is as if he meant: Just as God, our all-good Father, has loved us so dearly that He has adopted us as His Children, you must show that you are truly His Children by your loving one another dearly in all Goodness of Heart.

Why, then, does Our Lord want us to love one another so much; and why did the majority of the Holy Fathers take so much care to equate this Precept to the Commandment of the Love of God? It astonished the Fathers that these two Commandments are said to be similar to each other, because one pertains to the Love of God and the other to the Love of the Creature: God, who is infinite, and the Creature who is finite; God, who is Goodness itself and from whom all good comes to us, and Man, who is full of malice, through whom so many miseries come upon us. For the Commandment to Love the Neighbor includes also the love of enemies. What disproportion between the objects of these two Loves. Yes, these two Commandments are alike to such a degree that the one cannot exist without the other, and must necessarily increase or perish in proportion as the other increases or perishes, as St. John declares. (Jn. 3:30).

Simultaneous with His Creation of Man in His Image and Likeness,

God commanded him to love both God and Neighbor. The Law of Nature has always taught these two precepts and has engraved them in the Hearts of all so, that even if God had not spoken of them nevertheless, all would have known that they were obliged to keep them. This seems clear in that the Lord was extremely displeased by the answer given Him by Cain who, when God asked him what he had done with his brother Abel, had the arrogance to respond that he was not obliged to watch out for him. No one can excuse himself from this and say that he does not know that he is to love his neighbor as himself, because God has imprinted this truth in the bottom of our Hearts in creating all of us in the image and likeness of each other. Bearing the image of God in ourselves, all of us are consequently the image of each other. Together we constitute the Image of One Portrait, that of God.

Speaking to His Apostles, He said, "*I give you a New Commandment: Love One Another.*" (Jn. 13:34). First of all, why does He call this Commandment "new", since it had already been given in the Law of Moses? Our Divine Master called it "new" because He wanted to renew it. When a quantity of new wine is put into a cask in which there is still a little of the old, we do not say that the cask contains old wine, but rather new wine. Because there is such a greater quantity of the new than of the old, Our Lord called this Commandment "new"; for even though it had been given before, it had been observed by only a very small number of people. He thus wanted it to be so renewed, that everybody would love one another, He designated it altogether "new".

Because the First Christians lived as with one Heart and one Soul, and preserved such a Union among themselves, there was never found any division among them. As a result of their Concord, they enjoyed a very great Consolation. That many grains of wheat are ground and kneaded together to make but one single loaf, a loaf which is made from all those grains which, though once separated, can no longer ever be separated or distinguished or recognized individually. In the same way, those Early Christians had so fervent a love for each other that their Wills and their Hearts were all holily blended as One. As this holy blending and divine mixture presented no difficulty, so neither division nor separation was possible. The bread thus kneaded from all these Hearts was infinitely pleasing to the taste of the Divine Majesty.

Many grapes are pressed together to make but One wine. It is no longer possible to distinguish what wine came forth from which cluster or which bunch. Being blended together haphazardly, they form but One wine drawn from the many clusters. In like fashion, the Hearts of the First Christians, in which holy Charity and Dilection reigned, were only One wine though made from many Hearts as from so many grapes. What built

that great union among them was none other than the Most Holy Communion. When later on Its reception was discontinued or was rarely received, Charity itself, by this very fact, became cold among Christians; and totally lost both its strength and its attractive sweetness.

This Commandment is “new” because of the new obligation that we have to observe it. He Himself came to teach this to us, not only in words, but much more in example. Thus He gave us no precept which He Himself had not first practiced. He gave Himself to us in the Most Holy Sacrament, and then He said: “*Love one another as I have loved you.*”

Our Lord, in coming into the World, has so raised our nature higher than all the Angels, the Cherubim, and all that is not God; and has made us so like Himself, that we can say with certainty that we resemble God perfectly. In becoming man, He has taken our likeness and has given us His. Oh, how earnestly should we summon up our courage to live according to what we are; to imitate as perfectly as possible Him who came into this World to teach us what we need to do to preserve in ourselves this beauty and divine resemblance, which He has so completely repaired and embellished in us!

Our Lord offered Himself to His Father as an offering for us, an oblation of sweet odor. From these words we learn to what degree our mutual love ought to extend, and to what perfection it should reach to give one another, soul for soul, life for life – in short, all that we are and all that we have, excepting only our own Salvation. For God desires only that one exception. Our Lord gave Himself for each one of us; He gave His Soul, He gave His Body. In short, He reserved nothing. Similarly, He wants us to hold back nothing, except our Eternal Salvation.

Our Divine Master gave us His life not only to heal the sick, to work miracles, and to teach us what we ought to do to be saved or to be pleasing to Him. He also spent His entire life even shaping His Cross; suffering a thousand, thousand persecutions from the very ones to whom He was doing so much good, and for whom He laid down His life. We must do the same, says the Holy Apostle. We too should shape our Cross in suffering for one another as the Savior taught us in giving our life for those very ones who would take it from us, as He so lovingly did; in spending ourselves for our neighbor, not only in agreeable things, but also in those which are painful and disagreeable such as bearing lovingly these persecutions which might in some fashion cool our Heart towards our Brothers.

It is to this sovereign degree of perfection in the love of our neighbor that Religious and we others, who are Consecrated to the Service of God are called, must aspire with all our strength. We must spend ourselves not only for his good and consolation, but also permit ourselves to be spent for

God by Holy Obedience – to do, without ever resisting, whatever shall be desired from us. For when we spend our- selves by doing our own Choice or our own Will, it only satisfies our own Self-love. But to allow ourselves to be spent for the neighbor in things which he or she wishes and we do not, that is, which we do not choose, therein lies the sovereign degree of abnegation which Our Lord and Master taught us in His dying. We would rather preach, but are sent to serve the sick; we want to pray for the neighbor, but are sent to serve instead. It is always of greater value by far to do what we are made to do, than to do what we choose of ourselves.

Let us then Love One Another, says St. Paul, as Our Lord loved us. He offered Himself as a holocaust: when He was on the Cross He poured out His blood upon the Earth even to the last drop, as if to make a Sacred Mortar with which He would mortar, unite, join, and attach to each other all the Stones of His Church, that is, the Faithful. He did this that they might be so united that there would never be any division found among them; so greatly did He fear that this division would be the cause of their eternal desolation. Oh, how powerful this motive is to move us to love this Commandment and to observe it exactly. We have all alike been washed with this Precious Blood, as with a Sacred Mortar, to bind and unite our Hearts together. Oh, how great is the Goodness of our God!

Our Lord was offered, or rather offered Himself, for us to God His Father as an offering, an oblation of sweet odor. What divine fragrance He spread before the Divine Majesty when He instituted the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar, where He so admirably demonstrated to us the greatness of His love. This act of incomprehensible perfection, by which He gave Himself to us who were His enemies and who caused Him His death, was an infinitely sweet fragrance. At the same time He bestowed on us the means to reach the Supreme Degree of Union which He desired for us, namely to be made One with Him as He and His Father are One, that is, one same reality. He had asked this of His Heavenly Father and now desires that it be realized. O incomparable Goodness! How worthy You are to be loved and adored!

To what extent did the Greatness of God lower itself for each one of us, and to what extent does He wish to exalt us? To unite us so perfectly with Himself as to make us One with Him. Our Lord did this to teach us that as we are all loved with one same love by which He embraces us all in this Most Holy Sacrament, so He wishes us all to love one another with that same love; a love which tends toward union, but a union greater and more perfect than can be conceived. We are all nourished with the same bread, this Heavenly Bread, the Divine Eucharist. The eating of It, called Communion, represents to us, as we have said, the Common Union that we ought to have together. Without this Union we would not be worthy of

bearing the name “Children of God,” since we would not be obedient to Him.

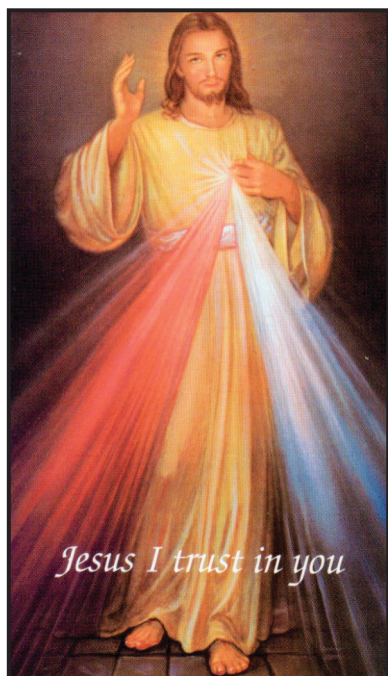
Children who have a good Father ought to imitate him and follow his commandment in all things. Now, we have a Father better than all others, and from whom all good is derived. His Commandment can be nothing but Perfect and Salutory. Thus we should imitate Him as perfectly as possible, and also obey His Divine Ordinances. But of all His Precepts, there is none which He stresses so earnestly, nor for which He has indicated that He desires so exact an observance, as that of the Love of Neighbor. The Commandment to love God is higher than the Commandment to love the neighbor; but since nature offers greater resistance to the love of neighbor, it was necessary that we should be encouraged to place more effort toward its practice.

Let us love, then, to the whole extent of our Heart, in order to please Our Heavenly Father. Let us love reasonably by letting our love be guided by reason, which desires that we love the Soul of the neighbor more than his Body. But let us love his Body also, and then, in proper order, all that pertains to the neighbor; each thing according to its merits, for the proper exercise of this love.

If we do this, oh how justly we can sing, and surely with great consolation, this Psalm which St. Augustine found such delight in reflecting upon: “Behold how good it is where Brethren dwell in holy Union, Concord, and Peace, for they are like the precious ointment they poured out upon the head of the High Priest Aaron, which then flowed down over his beard and onto his robes.” (Ps. 132(133)). Our Divine Master is the High Priest upon whom this precious and fragrant ointment of Most Holy Charity has been poured out in measureless profusion, both toward God and toward the Neighbor. We are as the hair of His head and His beard. Or else, we can be considered the Apostles as the Beard of Our Lord, who is our Head, and whose members we are. The Apostles were attached to Him in that they saw His example and His works and received His teachings immediately from His Sacred Mouth. The rest of us have not this honor. Rather, what we know, we have learned from the Apostles. We are, then, like the robes of our High Priest, our Savior, on which, nevertheless, overflowed that precious ointment of Most Holy Charity which He so greatly prescribed and recommended to us. And so this holy Saint has expressed this Charity more in detail for us, not wanting us to busy ourselves in imitating either the Angels or the Cherubim in this so very necessary Virtue, but rather to imitate Our Lord Himself, who taught it to us more by works than by words; especially when fastened to the Cross.

It is at the Foot of this Cross that we should remain always. It is the

THE MERCY OF GOD



The year 2016 was designated as the “Year of Mercy” by His Holiness Pope Francis. Understanding true mercy is important in view of the trends of society. The old adage still applies, “*Love the sinner, hate the sin*”.

We learn from our Catholic Faith that God is merciful. He manifests His love even to sinners. God continues to confer graces and benefits upon sinners until the last moment of their lives. He sends them troubles to bring them to repentance. He finds some good in all; and He also loves them for what He hopes they may become. God is most patient with us, because He has compassion on our weakness and desires our conversion. God is full of mercy and compassion. He readily forgives sins for which we are truly sorry. God gives the sinner time for repentance and a change of life. All

through Holy Scripture we read accounts of His patience with sinners: at the warning in Ninive, at the time of Noah, at the warning to the Jews forty years before the destruction of Jerusalem, etc.

Through God’s mercy we receive the chance to enter Paradise. Yet, the burden still lies with us in reforming our lives. If we convert and attempt to lead a truly Christian life, God’s mercy and graces will aid us to do so. But, adhering to a sinful life will not bring us God’s mercy and grace. This is critical to understand in light of present trends.

Yes, God is full of mercy; and as a Good Shepherd goes after His lost sheep. No one is lost who has committed great sins, but many are lost because they have committed sins of which they will not repent. Repentance and conversion are the keys. If we look at Mary Magdalene, we see her great sorrow for sin and her humility and love for Our Lord.

Truly loving our neighbor means wanting his eternal happiness. For our family, relatives, and friends, this should be the type of love we bear. True happiness will never be found in this world, only in the next if we live God’s Commandments. Thus we cannot accept those who persist in sins which cry for God’s vengeance, without praying for them and trying to help them return to the Shepherd’s fold.

Prayer is the key to salvation. “*Ask and ye shall receive.*” God is

waiting for souls to return to Him. His words as He hung on the Cross ring through our minds. *“I thirst”*. Our Divine Lord thirsts for souls.

The Mercy of God is indeed a motive for hope, but the most solid motive is God’s fidelity to His promises. God has promised, through the merits of Jesus Christ, to save us; and give us the graces necessary for our salvation. But, God will avail us nothing unless we pray. Prayer is a conversation with God; thus the more often we pray, the more we learn to know and love God.

Our Lord taught us how to be merciful to our neighbor, by performing the Spiritual and Corporal works of Mercy. This is true compassion and love of our neighbor. Again true love for another desires his eternal happiness.

Society today promotes accepting those who persist in sin, but without the encouragement for their conversion. May we as Christians pray and promote true Christian love for our neighbor. May God be merciful to our souls, and those we try to help.

How To Recite The Divine Mercy Chaplet

Begin with: Our Father . . . Hail Mary . . . I believe in God . . .

On the single beads of Rosary, in place of the Our Father recite: Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

On the ten beads, in place of the *Hail Mary recite:* For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

After the five decades, *recite three times:* Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.



Holy Father Spiritual Bouquet

We would like to again thank all of you who participated in the Spiritual Bouquet that has been sent to Our Holy Father. Our Blessed Mother asked us to offer our first prayer each day for him, so we can be assured that our efforts will be of benefit to him.

A Novena of 27 Holy Masses has been said for him starting January 15th

Holy Masses	<u>17,950</u>	Angelus	<u>1,023</u>
Holy Communions	<u>7,268</u>	Rosaries	<u>22,895</u>
Holy Hours	<u>7,877</u>	Ejaculations	<u>18,932</u>
Stations Of The Cross	<u>7,506</u>	Days of Fasting	<u>5,481</u>
Spiritual Holy Communions	<u>10,574</u>	Other Prayers	<u>15,361</u>
Acts of Penance & Sacrifice	<u>9,340</u>		

FOOD FOR THE SOUL

Preparing For Battle

Dom Lorenzo Scupoli's book, "The Spiritual Combat and a Treatise on Peace of Soul" is an excellent source for direction in fighting our defects and self-will, so as to reach Spiritual Perfection. Lent is an opportune time to conquer some of those defects in our character. The following short article is taken from this book, and hopefully will aid us in our "battle".

The first thing to do when you awaken is to open the windows of your Soul. Consider yourself as on the Field of Battle; facing the enemy, and bound by the iron-clad law – either Fight or Die. Imagine the enemy before you, that particular vice or disorderly passion that you are trying to conquer – imagine this hideous opponent is about to overwhelm you. At the same time, picture at your right Jesus Christ, your Invincible Leader; accompanied by the Blessed Virgin, St. Joseph, whole companies of Angels and Saints, and particularly by the glorious Archangel Michael. At your left is Lucifer and his troops, ready to support the passion or vice you are fighting; resolved to do anything to cause your defeat.

Imagine your Guardian Angel thus spurring you on: *"Today you must fight to conquer your enemy, and anyone who tries to ruin you. Be courageous. Do not be afraid or cowardly. Christ your Captain is here with all the power of Heaven to protect you from the enemy; to see that they never conquer you, either by brute power or by trickery. Hold your ground! Do violence to yourself, no matter how painful it is. Call out for the help of Jesus and Mary, and all the Saints. If you do this, you will be victorious."*

It does not matter how weak you are how strong the enemy may seem, either in number or in power. Do not be discouraged. The help you have from Heaven is more powerful than all that Hell can send, to destroy the Grace of God in your Soul. God, the Creator and the Redeemer, is Almighty; more desirous of your Salvation, than the devil can be of your Destruction.

Fight courageously, then, and do not neglect to mortify yourself. Continual war on your inordinate inclinations and vicious habits will gain the Victory, acquire the Kingdom of Heaven, and unite your Soul to God forever.

Begin to fight immediately in the name of the Lord; armed with distrust of yourself, with confidence in God through prayer, and with the correct use of the faculties of your Soul. With these weapons attack the enemy's predominant passion you want to conquer, either by courageous resistance,

SAINTS IN REVIEW

Dominic was born about 1170 in Calaroga, Spain in Old Castile. His parents, Felix Guzman and Joanna of Aza, both belonged to the nobility of Spain, though neither was connected with the reigning house of Castile. Both were very religious, with Joanna solemnly beatified in 1828 by Pope Leo XII.

The example of such parents had a profound effect on their children who became known for their sanctity. Antonio, the eldest became a Priest and, having distributed his wealth to the poor, entered a hospital where he spent his life ministering to the sick. The other brother, Manes, following in the footsteps of Dominic, became a Friar Preacher and later was Beatified by Pope Gregory XVI.

From his seventh to his fourteenth year, Dominic pursued his elementary studies under the tutelage of his Maternal Uncle, the Archpriest of Gumiel d'Izan, not far from Calaroga. Then in 1184 Dominic entered the University of Palencia where he remained for ten years and was admired by its Scholars as an example for all. On one occasion, he sold his books, annotated with his own notes, along with his writings, so he could use the money to feed the poor. When criticized, he said they would mean nothing if people starved instead.

While Dominic was still a student at Palencia, the Bishop of Osma asked him to be a member of his Cathedral Chapter for Reform. The Bishop soon realized the importance of Dominic's role in his plan for reform that he appointed him Sub-prior of the Chapter; and, in 1201 when Don Diego was made Bishop of Osma, Dominic took his place and became the Prior.

In 1203, the King of Castile asked Don Diego, Bishop of Osma, and Dominic to escort the daughter of a Danish Prince as a bride for his son, Prince Ferdinand. While on the trip, they were amazed and saddened at the spiritual ruin being caused by the Albigensian Heresy. It was in contemplation of this scene that Dominic first conceived the idea of founding an Order for the purpose of combating Heresy and spreading the Gospel to the ends of the World. Their Mission was brought to a sudden close when the betrothed Princess unexpectedly died.

In 1204 Don Diego and Dominic went to Rome to have Diego resign his Bishopric, so they could devote themselves to the Conversion of Unbelievers in distant lands. Pope Innocent III refused to approve this Project, and instead sent them to join forces with the Cistercians whom he had entrusted the Crusade against the Albigenses.

The Cistercians, on account of their worldly manner of living, had made little or no headway against the Albigenses. Dominic quickly saw the failure and convinced them to adopt a more Pious Manner of Life, which soon led to

increased numbers of Converts.

Dominic and his Companion lost no time in challenging their opponents in theological debates. The training Dominic received at Palencia now proved to be very valuable, and the Albigenses were unable to refute his arguments or counteract the influence of his teaching.

Early in his Apostolate around Prouille, Dominic realized the necessity of an Institution that would protect women of that Country from the influence of the Heretics, as many had embraced Albigensianism; and, were erecting Convents so they could teach this Heresy to the children of the Catholic Nobility.

In 1206, the Bishop of Toulouse permitted the establishment of a Convent at Prouille. To this Community, and soon afterwards to one in Rome, Dominic gave the Rule and Constitutions which have ever since guided the Nuns of the Second Order of Saint Dominic.

The year 1208 was to be a very important year in the life of Dominic. First, it was during a Three-day Prayer and Fasting Exercise in atonement for the Heresies of the Albigenses that the Blessed Mother appeared to Dominic and instructed him in how She wished for people to pray Her Rosary, while meditating on the fifteen mysteries in the life Jesus and Mary.

Secondly, on January 15, 1208 one of the Pope's representatives to the Cistercians was assassinated. This abominable crime precipitated the Crusade under Simon de Montfort. Dominic participated in the stirring scenes that followed, but always on the side of mercy; while others wrought death and desolation with the sword.

During this period Dominic followed the Catholic Army, reviving religion and reconciling Heretics that surrendered to victorious de Montfort. It was probably on September 1, 1209 that Dominic first came in contact with Simon de Monfort, and formed with him that intimate friendship which lasted till the death of the brave Crusader under the Walls of Toulouse on June 25, 1218. Dominic was with him at the Siege of Lavaur in 1211, and in early 1212 at the Capture of La Penne d'Ajen; then later in 1212 at Pamiers where he was asked to help restore religion and morality. Lastly, just before the Battle of Muret on September 12, 1213, Dominic knelt before the Altar in the Church of Saint-Jacques where he prayed for the triumph of the Catholic Arms. So remarkable was the Victory that de Monfort regarded it as miraculous, and attributed it to the Prayers of Dominic. In gratitude to God, de Monfort erected a Chapel in the Church of Saint-Jacques dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary, as devotion to the Rosary was coming into general use at this time through the promotion of Dominic as requested by Our Lady.

The influence of Dominic's preaching and holiness led a small band of devoted disciples to follow wherever he might lead. Never forgetting his goal of founding a religious order to combat Heresy and propagate Religious Truth, on April 25, 1215 Dominic got the approval of the Bishop of Toulouse

to start the first Convent of the Order of Preachers. Then in July of 1215 the Bishop canonically established the Community as a Religious Congregation of his Diocese.

In November of 1215, an Ecumenical Council was to meet in Rome “to deliberate on the improvement of Morals, the extinction of Heresy, and the strengthening of the Faith”. This was identically the Mission Dominic had determined for his Order. The Bishop of Toulouse was present at the deliberations and everything seemed to be falling in place, but when Dominic's request for Confirmation of an Order was presented, they were opposed to the institution of any new rules for religious Orders.

Upon returning to Toulouse, Dominic decided to adopt the Ancient Rule of St. Augustine, which on account of its generality, would easily lend itself to any form they might wish to give it. This done, Dominic again appeared before the Pope in August 1216 and again solicited the Confirmation of his Order. This time he was received favorably, and on December 22, 1216 the Bull of Confirmation was issued.

Dominic spent the following Lent preaching in various Churches in Rome, and before the Pope and the Papal Court. It was at this time that he received the Office and Title of Master of the Sacred Palace, or Pope's Theologian. This office has been held uninterruptedly by members of the Order from the Founder's time to the present day.

On August 15, 1217 Dominic gathered the brethren about him and announced his plan to disperse his little band of seventeen unformed followers over all Europe. To facilitate the spread of the Order, Pope Honorius III issued a Bull on February 11, 1218 to all Archbishops, Bishops, Abbots, and Priors requesting their support of the Order of Preachers. On December 3, 1218 Honorius III bestowed upon the Order the Church of St. Sixtus in Rome where the first Monastery of the Order was established.

At the invitation of Honorius, Dominic began the somewhat difficult task of restoring the Pristine Observance of Religious Discipline among the various Roman Communities of women. This was accomplished in comparatively short time to the great satisfaction of the Pope.

Dominic valued his training at the University of Palencia in Spain so much that he decided his followers should also be afforded the best educational advantages obtainable. It was for this reason that he sent Matthew of France and two Companions to set up a Foundation at the University of Paris in France, and later another at the University of Bologna in Italy.

The life of Dominic was one of tireless effort in the service of God. If he hated Heresy and labored for its extinction, it was because he loved Truth and loved Souls. He never failed to distinguish between the Sin and the Sinner. Brother Dominic died August 6, 1221.

After signing the Bull of Canonization on July 13, 1234, Pope Gregory IX declared that he no more doubted the Saintliness of St. Dominic than he did that of St. Peter and St. Paul.

PRO-LIFE NEWS

As the participants of the March for Life began to assemble for the 47th Year protesting the Legalization of Abortion by the Supreme Court decision, *Roe v Wade*, something new was added to their anticipation. They were going to be addressed, in person, by the President of the United States, Donald J. Trump. Never before had a sitting president (or a past president, for that matter) addressed, in person, those who were Marching as a voice for those who could not speak for themselves - the Unborn. This support, from arguably the most Pro-life President in U.S. history, was a welcome addition to the list of Senators and Congressmen who normally attend this Event to show their support for the Unborn.

President Trump has shown from the beginning of his Presidency that he is willing to do all that he is able to do to protect the Unborn. One of the very first Orders he signed reinstated and expanded the Mexico City Policy, via Presidential Memorandum, renaming it “Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance.” This Policy required foreign non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to certify that they will not “perform or actively promote Abortion as a method of Family Planning” by using funds from any source (including non-U.S. funds) as a condition for receiving U.S. Government Global Family Planning Assistance; and, as of January 23, 2017, most other U.S. Global Health Assistance as well.

Additionally, as a result of a March 2019 Policy Announcement and subsequent information that was released, in June 2019 still another Policy was released for the first time. This new Policy prohibits foreign NGOs who accept the Policy from providing any financial support using any source of funds, and for any purpose, to other foreign NGOs that perform or actively promote Abortion as a method of Family Planning. This now will greatly extend its reach into other areas of U.S. Development Assistance that go beyond Global Health and other non-U.S. Funding Streams.

Also, last September, at the opening of the 74th United Nations General Assembly, President Trump announced, “*Global bureaucrats have no business attacking the Sovereignty of Nations that wish to protect innocent life.*”

Besides these Policy changes, President Trump has appointed 187 Constitutionally Faithful Jurists to the Federal Court System, including two Supreme Court Justices. He also attacked Planned Parenthood’s reception of Federal Funding by prohibiting Title X Grantees from referring patients for Elective Abortions; which even included their physical co-locations who had Abortion Providers. As a result, Planned Parenthood quit the Program, thus cutting off its access to hundreds of millions of dollars in taxpayer funding.

President Trump also issued a robust Conscience Rule in order to ensure, among other things, that those who care for us when we are ill are not forced to perform or encourage Abortion. Moreover, the President has just finalized a Rule to stop insurers from quietly billing Taxpayers for Abortion Services; ending an Obamacare Loophole that left Pro-life Taxpayers unwitting accomplices to the violation of their Conscience. He has also restricted the use of fetal tissue from Elective Abortions to be used in Government-funded Medical Research.

As this Article is being written, the White House has just presented its 2021 Budget Plan which calls for eliminating the Taxpayer Funding that Planned Parenthood receives via US Departments of Labor and Health & Human Services (HHS); as well as the Funding for the Pro-abortion United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). This Budget Plan also strengthens the Federal Conscience Protections by adopting the Conscience Protection Act. The Plan explains, *“The Budget prioritizes the Value of Human Life by ensuring that Federal Funding does not support Abortions.”*

Some people, such as Destiny Herndon-De La Rosa, a writer in Richardson and the founder of New Wave Feminists, are skeptical of the intentions of this President by stating that it is all “a strategic political stunt to firm up a very large base of supporters in an election year.” Even if this is so, we can be thankful that he is taking the Pro-life side, and is doing all he can to save the lives of the Unborn.

Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann, Chairman of the U.S. Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities responded to the President’s Appearance at the March for Life with the following statement:

“As Chairman of the U.S. Bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities, I commend President Trump for announcing at today’s March for Life that he will oppose repealing or weakening any existing Pro-life Laws or Policies. These Pro-life Laws and Policies reflect the convictions of millions of Americans, many of whom attended today’s March; that Taxpayers should not be forced to fund Abortions, or Organizations that promote Abortion, or participate in any way in the deliberate destruction of Unborn Human Life.

We are deeply grateful for the President’s Pro-life Commitment, and for all the actions this Administration has taken to protect Unborn Children and their mothers from the violence of Abortion. We look forward to working with Congress and the Administration to advance policies that value human life and dignity from Conception to Natural Death.”

Study of Bible History shows that God does not choose “perfect” people to work His Justice or to complete His Plans. There is no way we can know for sure the mind of our President, but what we can know with certainty is what the opposing Party’s Candidates are saying. They approve Abortion through all nine months; and, when a baby is born surviving an Abortion,

will let the baby die. How can our Nation survive if this is the policy of its leaders?

God will not be mocked. If we want the United States of America to continue to be Blessed by Almighty God, we need to do all in our power to ensure that our elected officials are willing to defend life from Conception to Natural Death. God, alone, has the power to Create Life; and He, alone, has the right to End Life. In this Election Year, it is very important for every eligible voter to put the Right to Life first in assessing each Candidate. If the “Right to Life” is not first, no other “Right” matters.

Preparing For Battle continued from page 16

repeated acts of the contrary Virtue, or any means that Heaven gives you to drive it out of your heart. Do not rest until it is conquered. Your endurance will be rewarded by the Supreme Judge; Who, with the entire Church Triumphant, has witnessed your behavior.

To repeat – you must not become tired of this War. Everyone must serve and please God. It is impossible to avoid this fight. If anyone flees, he is exposed to being wounded; even destroyed. By revolting against God and indulging in a life of sensuality with the World, the difficulties are not lessened; because both Body and Soul suffer greatly, when given to luxury and ambition.

There is a great lack of vision in a person who does not avoid a great deal of trouble in this life, followed by endless agony in the next. By shirking small difficulties which will soon end, that person will be in an

Love of Neighbor continued from page 13

place where the imitators of our Sovereign Master and Savior ordinarily abide. For it is from the Cross that they receive the Heavenly Liqueur of Holy Charity. It streams out in great profusion from a Divine Source, the Bosom of our good God’s Divine Mercy. He loved us with a love so firm, so solid, so ardent and so persevering that death itself could not cool it in the least. Quite the contrary, it warmed and increased it infinitely. The waters of the most bitter afflictions cannot quench the Fire of His Charity toward us, so ardent it is. Even the persecutions wrought by His enemies were not powerful enough to vanquish the incomparable solidity and constancy of the Love with which He loved us. Such ought to be our Love for the Neighbor - Firm, Ardent, Solid, and Persevering.

SUPPORTIVE CLERGY/RELIGIOUS

WELCOME to another new Section of our Shrine Newsletter. Through the years many Clergy and Religious from near and far became supportive of the Apparitions at Necedah. By a Reflective Study over the history of some of these supportive members of the Catholic Clergy and Religious, one is led to be very impressed. With the recent passing of Sr. Genevieve, it seemed appropriate to have us ponder over what they must have witnessed to make them so supportive. This first Profile will lead us in that reflective venture.

MEMORIAM *Sister Genevieve Borduc*



Sr. Genevieve Bordac was born on June 17, 1921 in Blandburg, PA. She entered the Convent of the Sisters of St. Francis in Oldenburg, IN on September 8, 1938; and professed her Vows on June 11, 1941. Because of her natural teaching abilities, she was asked to begin some teaching in 1940 before she was officially a “teacher”.

After nearly 40 very successful years of teaching for the Sisters of St. Francis, Sr. Genevieve became disappointed in the Order’s Modernization Trends. Because Sister had heard about the Apparitions of Our Blessed Mother at Necedah, WI and greatly respected Our Lady’s Messages that were given, she moved to Necedah in 1979.

When Sister moved to Necedah, she quickly gained the respect and admiration of the people. Soon parents were calling upon her to do some tutoring of their children.

Later, when the Blessed Mother requested that a new Order of Nuns be established in Necedah in Her honor, Sr. Genevieve chose to join the Seven Sorrows of Our Sorrowful Mother Order of Nuns. Sister very proudly wore the full habit of the Seven Sorrows of Our Sorrowful Mother Order for the rest of her life.

In 1982 Sr. Genevieve joined the Teaching Staff at the new Queen of the Holy Rosary School in Necedah, where her talents and teaching experience were quickly recognized. Most of her teaching responsibilities were in the Primary Grades; and the First Communion Students were her pride and joy. It became an annual event for her First Communicants to join her in the May Days Procession at the Queen of the Holy Rosary, Mediatrix of Peace Shrine at Necedah. It became a tradition for her to assist one of the Communicants in crowning the Statue of Our Lady to start the Prayer Vigil.

MAIL CORNER

Wisconsin: I want to make sure I continue receiving the Shrine Newsletter, so I'm giving you my new address. I'm 85 years old and can't get around much anymore, but sure enjoy the Newsletter. God bless you all for the beautiful Shrine, and the House of Prayer that's being built. Thank you!



Texas: Please note my check for building the House of Prayer. May it be done soon. Thank you for the Shrine Newsletter that lets me know how it is progressing. May God bless this project as His Will. And, may God bless all of you in this Mission!

Wisconsin: I'm sorry I didn't get to talk to anyone at the time I came to the Shrine. What a very Holy Place; Peaceful Place; Godly Place. You keep sending me the Shrine Newsletter, for which I am very grateful. I know you need support. I can't give much, but must send this to you. Blessings and love in the New Year.

MEMORIAM continued from page 23

Sister's teaching was not limited to her Primary Grade Assignment only. Because of her willingness and ability to teach, she was often sought by other parents to help their children.

Sr. Genevieve spent many hours Catechizing some of the Public School students who desired a stronger Catholic Education; and she even did academic tutoring for students in need.

In 2008, after 26 years, Sister ended her teaching duties at the Queen of the Holy Rosary School; but still did some private tutoring before finally giving up her "teaching efforts".

Sr. Genevieve died on January 2, 2020. Some people feel this was providential; because this was the evening before the Feast of Saint. Genevieve which is observed on January 3rd.

Sister died at the age of 98; and a priest friend of hers was very impressed to learn that she had devoted nearly 70 of those years teaching God's Children.

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673 The Passion and Death of Our Lord Jesus Christ
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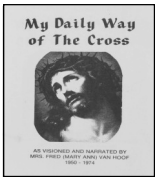
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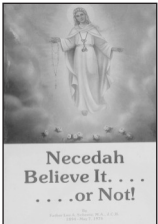
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By Father Leo Scheetz. Schooled in Mystical Theology, dedicated to his vocation as a priest and experienced in Canon Law, Father Scheetz gives the benefit of an excellent background to help everyone evaluate the truth of the Apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary to the seer, mystic and victim soul, Mrs. Mary Ann Van Hoof. Going back to its very beginning, and maintaining a close contact for almost 20 years, he shares with us the full detail of his observations and knowledge of the facts as he found them.

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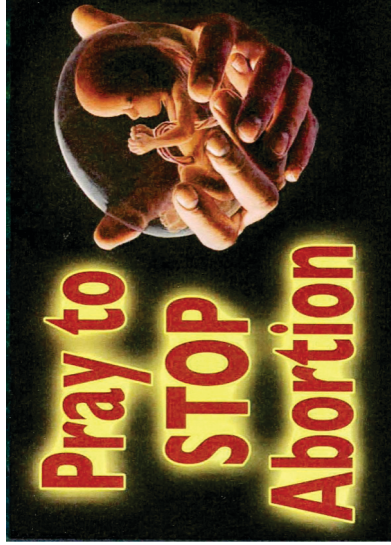
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