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



Shrine Newsletter

Volume 22

Spring 2019





Our Lady of Sorrows

About Our Cover

The title, "Our Lady of Sorrows," given to Our Blessed Mother focuses on Her intense suffering and grief during the Passion and Death of Our Lord. Traditionally, this suffering was not limited to the Passion and Death Event; rather, it comprised "the Seven Dolors" or "Seven Sorrows" of Mary, which were foretold by the Priest Simeon who proclaimed to Mary, "This Child [Jesus] is destined to be the downfall and the rise of many in Israel, a sign that will be opposed; and You yourself shall be pierced with a sword, so that the thoughts of many hearts may be laid bare." (Luke 2:34-35). These Seven Sorrows of Our Blessed Mother included the Prophecy of Simeon, the Flight of the Holy Family into Egypt; the loss and finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple; Mary's meeting of Jesus on His way to Calvary; Mary's standing at the Foot of the Cross when Our Lord was Crucified; Her holding of Jesus when He was taken down from the Cross; and then Our Lord's Burial. In all the Prophesy of Simeon, that a sword would pierce Our Blessed Mother's Heart, was fulfilled in these events. For this reason, Mary is sometimes depicted with Her Heart exposed; and with Seven Swords piercing it. More importantly, each new suffering was received with the courage, love, and trust that echoed Her Fiat, "Let it be done unto Me according to Thy Word;" first uttered at the Annunciation.

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.

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Shrine Newsletter

MARCH 15, 1957

Prayer is all that is left—pray and save souls!

INSIDE THIS EDITION

	Page
About the Cover	2
Vigil Schedule at the Shrine	4
Messages Fulfilled —By Time	5
Holy Father Spiritual Bouquet	7
Shrine News	8
Food for the Soul - Few Love the Cross of Jesus	10
Feature Article - The Martyrdom of Mary	12
The Medal St. Benedict	15
Saints In Review - St. Mary Magdalene	21
Pro-Life News.	23
Mail Corner	24
Items For Sale	25
Order Form	26

Vigil Schedule at the Shrine

March 2019

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

Procession and 8:15 p.m. Vigil

April 2019

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 2019

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** 12:45p.m. Procession/Crowning

and 1:00 p.m. Vigil

June 2019

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

9th Pentecost 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 St. Romauld 8:00 p.m. Vigil

28th 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

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 ecstacy, 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

WELCOME to this new Section of our Shrine Newsletter. When Our Heavenly Mother appeared to Mary Ann Van Hoof in 1950 with Her Messages of Concern, She was most concerned for the Youth who were being neglected by their parents; and being led astray by the evil forces who were trying to destroy our Country, our Church, our Families, and our Souls. Along with those Messages of Warning, also came Her Requests for Action on our part if we wanted to avoid what was coming before us.

As one reflects on the fact that Mrs. Van Hoof was just a common farm wife in 1950 with no Internet available with information to fore-see the future, it is startling to find these Messages being proven "true over time". It is also startling to learn that two of her Bishops admitted that none of these Messages were ever found to be against Faith or Morals of the Catholic Church.

Mary Ann was told by Our Lady that fulfillment of Her Messages, regarding Church and World Conditions, would prove the validity of Her Apparitions at Necedah.

Long ago Heaven's Messages here at Necedah warned of the disasters that would befall Our Nation and the World. Many of these are "acts of God"; yet others are man-induced. As Heaven has said, God permits these things (floods, fires, storms, earthquakes, etc.). Man has long tinkered with the elements of nature; worked against the natural laws of God in such a way that He has set in motion a chain-reaction that knocks nature out of

balance. Man has tampered and modified the natural pattern by playing "god"; and now Man has incurred the wrath of God upon himself.

May 29, 1950: "Wake up America! The enemy of God is creeping all over America. Yes, you believe it can't happen here. I am warning you people again as I warned you at Fatima, Lipa, and LaSalette of what did already and will happen. Still you believe Me not; and you have no faith in Me."

February 26, 1957: "The whole Pacific Coastal Strip will be under water; just the mountains will stick out. There will be lots of people lost if that happens; and, it will happen if they throw a bomb on the coast line."

December 5, 1958: "More disasters. Many more martyrs. Storms, floods, fires. West Coast fire no accident."

March 4, 1966: "There will be floods, fire, storms, disaster; but it will not wake them up. Those are just called the elements."

February 21, 1969: "Fires, storms, floods, hurricanes, destruction of crops bringing hunger..."

February 28, 1969: "Earthquakes, storms; which will take many lives. Floods, floods; tremendous floods. God's devastation on Earth. Crack in the Pacific Ocean is breathing. There will be tremors; and then there will be the huge one. God help Alaska and the Pacific Coast interior devastation."

March 28, 1969: "Earthquakes, severe floods, tidal waves, internal tremors."

April 4, 1969: "Many large cities will be shook with the rumblings of an earthquake. Even then they will not believe that those things could happen. He will not hold back. But destruction will be befalling; be it man-made, or be it from the elements. Man has made enough powerful material to cause devastation; to destroy much earth. Only God can control these things."

May 28, 1969: "Earthquakes where there have never been earthquakes before. Floods and elements that God will permit – all through God's wrath."

June 16, 1977: "There will be shortages of food, when there are none. There will be many shortages that will all be created; just to get the poor man on his knees, not in prayer, but in begging and pleading. For when the stomach is hungry, one does most anything. And those that love their children, when they see them cry from hunger, they will go and steal; and even kill. Yes, man is forced in certain situations because of the greed of the powerful; the greed and hated towards Christianity. The Godless are ruling thy Nation."

There isn't a part of nature that man hasn't manipulated or interfered with in some way; and unfortunately that includes earthquakes. He has found several different ways to induce earthquakes by artificial means. Even Heaven has referred to this in some of the above Messages. In fact, Mary Ann Van Hoof has described what she has seen in connection with this in her Visions; "...that bombs were being set underneath the inundated shore line of California; and that will collapse the San Andreas Fault completely down, even the side fault which leads to San Diego, all the way to San Francisco, and all the way up into parts of Canada. There is a weak vein going out that far, and they are setting bombs that just one finger will help this along. They have been working at this, because it is out in no-man's land, during the night with a covered shield over them so they cannot be seen with airplanes. But they are pretty well set up here to go further. They are stupid. Can't they see what's happening if they do that? All the rest of the USA they want, will be under water. Death Valley will be under water. Some of the proving- grounds will be inundated. The Rockies will be out. A mess is what they want? They are trying to keep Kansas, Oklahoma, and the Dakotas' grain fields. water is going to reach them if they are not careful. Well, this is the picture I give you."

As stated above, some of these natural disasters are acts of God; but some, more than we might think, are created by or induced by man through weather-warfare technology. This has led to contrived shortages of food. This, also, was prophesied to happen by Heaven at Necedah over 30 years ago.

Wake Up America!

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	1,023
Holy Communions	7,268	Rosaries	22,895
Holy Hours	7,877	Ejaculations	<u>18,932</u>
Stations Of The Cross	7,506	Days of Fasting	<u>5,481</u>
Spiritual Holy Communions	10,574	Other Prayers	<u>15,361</u>

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



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. Please try to join us if you can. The Vigil Scheule on the inside front cover will help you plan your visit. 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.

.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.

Annual Nativity Pageant Report

The 2018 Nativity Pageant effort by our Shrine Volunteers was a bit different from other years. It started out as usual with our volunteers: hauling all the wooden plank out of the storage building and setting up the two large bleacher sections; hauling out of storage all of the building "faces" for the cities of Nazareth and Bethlehem and then assembling them; cutting 38 – 8 ft. pine trees, then mounting some onto movable sleds and planting some as background scenes; assembling the tables for the Nazareth Market Place; and then proceeded with all of our night rehearsals with the large cast of volunteers.

This brought us to Pageant Day for our last-minute preparations such as: curtains for the building windows; setting up props on the woven-baskets table; setting up props on the blankets table; setting up props on the wine and grapes table; setting up the drape on Herod's Castle; and bringing out of storage the life-size animals for the Cave and the Castle. But here is where the "usual" was put on hold.

The drizzle of rain in the windy morning was, by all reports,

predicted to become sleet and snow with gusts of wind up to 30 - 40 miles per hour. Safety concerns now became an issue for our cast walking in and around the propped-up buildings and trees; and concern for possible damage to our many light-weight pops, curtains, and the drape.

We knew that Our Blessed Mother asked for an effort on our part to "Put Christ Back Into Christmas"; thus, developed our Annual Nativity Pageant for sharing this with visitors attending. When the drizzle changed to windy snow, and we know Heaven controls the weather, it was decided to change the "out-door" performance of the Pageant to the "in-door" showing of the exact same Pageant performance that would now be projected on a DVD Movie Screen. Some local people did attend the in-door event; but because road conditions were very unsafe, no traveling out-of-town visitors were in attendance. We were thankful to have this option available.

House of Prayer Plans

Now that we have three of the first five 19'column extensions completed, it is our plan to finish the next two. We then plan to install forms and steel rods into a 12"x30" beam that will connect them all. After the beam forms and their steel rods are installed, concrete can be poured for the beam and columns.

When the concrete is cured the forms will be moved to the west side. There are is a total of 46 columns.

We are now studying structural drawings for the anchor bolts size and number needed for the roof members..

Everyone is praying for Spring weather to come, so we can continue where we left off last Fall. Please continue your prayers and support for this new goal, so we can pour concrete and then continue with forming more columns.

Shrine Grounds

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.

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!

FOOD FOR THE SOUL

Few Love the Cross of Jesus

Jesus has many who love His Heavenly Kingdom; but few who bear His Cross. He has many who desire consolation; but few who care for trial. He finds many to share His table; but few to take part in His fasting. All desire to be happy with Him; few wish to suffer anything for Him. Many follow Him to the Breaking of Bread; but few to the Drinking of the Chalice of His Passion. Many revere His miracles; few approach the Shame of the Cross. Many love Him, as long as they encounter no hardship; many praise and bless Him, as long as they receive some comfort from Him. But if Jesus hides Himself and leaves them for a while, they fall either into complaints or into deep dejection. Those, on the contrary, who love Him for His own sake and not for any comfort of their own, bless Him in all trial and anguish of heart as well as in the bliss of consolation. Even if He should never give them consolation, yet they would continue to praise Him and wish always to give Him thanks. What power there is in pure love for Jesus; love that is free from all self-interest and self-love!

If a man give all his wealth, it is nothing; if he do great penance, it is little; if he gain all knowledge, he is still far afield; if he have great virtue and much ardent devotion, he still lacks a great deal; and especially the one thing that is most necessary to him. What is this one thing? That leaving all, he forsake himself; completely renounce himself; and give up all private affections. Then, when he has done all that he knows ought to be done, let him consider it as nothing; let him make little of what may be considered great; let him in all honesty, call himself an unprofitable servant. For truth itself has said: "When you shall have done all these things that are commanded you, say: 'we are unprofitable servants.""

The Royal Road of the Holy Cross

To many the saying. "Deny thyself, take up thy cross and follow Me," seems hard; but it will be much harder to hear that final word: "Depart from Me, ye cursed, into Everlasting Fire." Those who hear the Word of the Cross and follow it willingly now, need not fear that they will hear of eternal damnation on the Day of Judgment. This sign of the Cross will be in the heavens when the Lord comes to judge. Then all the servants of the Cross, who during life made themselves one with the Crucified, will draw near with great trust to Christ, the Judge.

Why, then, do you fear to take up the Cross, when through it you can win a kingdom? In the Cross is salvation; in the Cross is life; in the Cross is protection from enemies; in the Cross is infusion of heavenly sweetness; in the Cross is strength of mind; in the Cross is joy of spirit; in the Cross is highest virtue; in the Cross is perfect holiness. There is no salvation of soul, nor hope of everlasting life, but in the Cross.

Take up your Cross, therefore, and follow Jesus; and you shall enter eternal life. He Himself opened the way before you in carrying His Cross, and upon it He died for you; that you, too, might take up your Cross and long to die upon it. If you die with Him, you shall also live with Him; and if you share His suffering, you shall also share His glory.

Behold, in the Cross is everything; and upon your dying on the Cross everything depends. There is no other way to life and to true inward peace, than the way of the Holy Cross; and daily mortification. where you will, seek what you will; you will not find a higher way, nor a less exalted safer way, than the way of the Holy Cross. Arrange and order everything to suit your will and judgment, and still you will find that some suffering must always be borne, willingly or unwillingly; and thus you will always find the Cross. Either you will experience bodily pain, or you will undergo tribulation of spirit in your soul. At times you will be forsaken by God; at times troubled by those about you; and, what is worse, you will often grow weary of yourself. You cannot escape, you cannot be relieved by any remedy or comfort; but must bear with it as long as God Wills. For He wishes you to learn to bear trial without consolation; to submit yourself wholly to Him, that you may become more humble through suffering. No one understands the Passion of Christ so thoroughly or heartily, as the man whose lot it is to suffer the like himself

The Cross, therefore, is always ready; it awaits you everywhere. No matter where you may go, you cannot escape it; for wherever you go you take yourself with you, and shall always find yourself. Turn where you will - above, below, without, or within - you will find a Cross in everything

REQUESTS OF THE QUEEN OF THE HOLY ROSARY, MEDIATRIX OF PEACE

Wear the crucifix (with wood) for guidance and help especially during times of danger, or temptation; place your hand on it and say the "Our Father" in honor of God the Father, the "Hail Mary" in honor of the Blessed Mother and the "Glory Be" in honor of the Blessed Trinity.

FEATURE ARTICLE

The Martyrdom of Mary

St. Alphonsus de Liguori writes of the Seven Dolors of Our Holy Mother in his book, "The Glories of Mary". Simeon, at the Presentation of the Christ Child in the Temple, foretold of a sword piercing the Heart of His Mother. Thus, Mary knew from early on that Her Son would suffer His Passion and Death on the Cross for sinners. Mary with the greatest calmness received this announcement, and peacefully submitted to it. But what grief must She have continually suffered. This article is taken from excerpts of this beautiful work on Our Holy Mother.

"There stood by the Cross of Jesus His Mother." St. John believed that in these words he had said enough of Mary's martyrdom. Consider Her at the foot of the Cross in the presence of Her dying Son; and then see if there be a sorrow like unto Her Sorrow? Let us remain for awhile this day on Calvary; and consider the sword which, in the Death of Jesus, transfixed the Heart of Mary.

As soon as our agonized Redeemer had reached the Mount of Calvary, the executioners stripped Him of His clothes, pierced his hands and feet, and fastened Him on the Cross. Having Crucified Him, they planted the Cross; and thus left Him to die. The executioners left Him, but not so Mary. She then drew nearer to the Cross, to be present at His death: "I did not leave Him" (thus the Blessed Mother revealed to St. Bridget), "but stood nearer the Cross".

St. Bonaventure states of Our Lady, "Ah, Thy Heart did not then think of its own Sorrows, but of the sufferings and death of Thy Dear Son." What a cruel sight was it there to behold, this Son in agony on the Cross; and at its foot this Mother in agony, suffering all the torments endured by Her Son. All these Sufferings of Jesus were also those of Mary; "Every torture inflicted on the Body of Jesus," says St. Jerome, "was a wound in the Heart of the Mother." "Whoever then was present on the Mount of Calvary," says St. John Chrysostom, "might see two Altars, on which two great Sacrifices were consummated; the one in the Body of Jesus, the other in the Heart of Mary." Better still may we say with St. Bonaventure, "there was but one Altar that of the Cross of the Son; on which, together with His Divine Lamb, the victim, the Mother was also sacrificed." St. Augustine assures us of the same thing: "The Cross and Nails of the Son were also those of His Mother; with Christ Crucified, the Mother was also Crucified." St. Bernard says, "Love inflicted on the Heart of Mary, the tortures caused by nails in the Body of Jesus." So much so, that as St. Bernardine writes, "At the same time that the Son sacrificed His Body, the Mother sacrificed Her Soul."

Mary heard Her Son exclaim, "I thirst!"; but She could not even give Him a drop of water to refresh Him in that great thirst. She could only say, as St. Vincent Ferrer remarks, "My Son, I have only the water of tears." She saw

that on that bed of torture Her Son suspended by three nails; and could find no repose. She would have clasped Him in Her arms to give Him relief, or that at least He might there have expired; but She could not. "In vain," says St. Bernard, "did She extend Her arms; they sank back empty on Her breast." She beheld that poor Son; who in His Sea of Grief sought consolation, as it was foretold by the Prophet, but in vain. But who amongst men would console Him, since all were enemies? Even on the Cross, He was taunted and blasphemed on all sides.

But that which most increased the Sorrows which Mary endured through compassion for Her Son, was hearing Him complain on the Cross; that even His Eternal Father had abandoned Him: "My God, My God; why hast Thou abandoned Me?" (Matt. Xxvii. 46). Words which the Divine Mother told St. Bridget could never, during Her whole life, depart from Her mind. So that the afflicted Mother saw Her Jesus suffering on every side. She desired to comfort Him, but could not.

That which grieved Her the most was to see that She herself, by Her presence and sorrow, increased the Sufferings of Her Son. "The grief," says St. Bernard, "which filled Mary's Heart; as a torrent flowed into and embittered the Heart of Jesus." "So much so," says the same Saint, "that Jesus on the Cross suffered more from compassion for His Mother, than from His own torments."

Passino writes that Jesus Christ Himself one day speaking to Blessed Baptista Varani of Camnerion, assured her that when on the Cross, so great was His affliction at seeing His Mother at His feet in so bitter an anguish, that compassion for Her caused Him to die without consolation.

"All," says Simon of Cassia, "who then saw the Mother silent, and not uttering a complaint in the midst of so great suffering, were filled with astonishment." But, if Mary's lips were silent, Her Heart was not so; for She incessantly offered the life of Her Son to the Divine Justice for our salvation. Therefore, we know that, by the life of Grace; and hence we are the Children of Her Sorrows. "Christ," says Lanspergius, "was pleased that She, the Cooperatress in our redemption, and whom He had determined to give us for our Mother, should be there present; for it was at the foot of the Cross that She was to bring us, Her children, forth." If any consolation entered that Sea of Bitterness, the Heart of Mary, the only one was this - that She knew that by Her Sorrows She was leading us to Eternal Salvation; as Jesus Himself revealed to St. Bridget: "My Mother Mary, on account of Her compassion and love, was made the Mother of all in Heaven and on Earth." And indeed these were the last words with which Jesus bid Her farewell before His death; this was His last recommendation leaving us to Her for Her children, in the person of St. John: "Woman, behold Thy son." (John xix. 26). From that time Mary began to perform this good office of a Mother for us; for St. Peter Damian attests, "that by the prayers of Mary, who stood between the cross of the good thief and that of Her Son, the thief was converted and saved; and thereby, She repaid a former service." For, as other authors also relate, this thief had been

kind to Jesus and Mary on their journey to Egypt; and this same office the Blessed Virgin has ever continued, and still continues to perform.

A devout author says, that when Our Beloved Redeemer was dead, the first care of the Great Mother was to accompany in spirit the most Holy Soul of Her Son; and present it to the Eternal Father.

That the joy of the following Paschal Sabbath might not be disturbed, the Jews desired that the Body of Jesus should be taken down from the Cross; but this could not be done unless the criminals were dead. Men came with iron bars to break Our Lord's legs, as they had already done those of the two thieves who were crucified with Him. Mary was sill weeping over the death of Her Son, when She saw these armed men advancing towards Her Jesus. She implored them, writes St. Bonaventure, "not to break His legs." But while She thus spoke, She saw a soldier brandish a lance and pierce the side of Jesus. "One of the soldiers with a spear opened His side; and immediately there came out blood and water." (John xix. 34). At the stroke of the spear the Cross shook; and as it was afterwards revealed to St. Bridget, the Heart of Jesus was divided into two. There came out blood and water, for only those few drops of blood remained; and even those Our Savior was pleased to shed, that we might understand that He had no more blood to give us. The injury of that stroke was inflicted on Jesus, but Mary suffered its pain. "Christ," says the devout Lanspergius, "shared this wound with His Mother. He received the insult; His Mother endured its agony."

The holy Fathers maintain that this was literally the sword foretold by St. Simeon: a sword, not a material one; but one of grief which trans-pierced Her Blessed Soul in the Heart of Jesus, where it always dwelt. Thus amongst others, St. Bernard says: "The lance which opened His side passed through the Soul of the Blessed Virgin, which could never leave Her Son's Heart." The Divine Mother herself revealed the same thing to St. Bridget: "When the spear was drawn out, the point appeared red with blood; then, seeing the Heart of My Most Dear Son pierced, it seemed to Me as if My own Heart was also pierced." An Angel told the same Saint, "that such were the Sufferings of Mary, that it was only by a miraculous interposition on the part of God, that She did not die." In Her other Dolors, She at least had Her Son to compassionate Her; but now, She had not even Him to pity Her.

The afflicted Mother, fearing that other injuries might still be inflicted on Her Son, entreated Joseph of Arimathea to obtain the Body of Her Jesus from Pilate; that at least in death She might guard and protect it from further outrage. Joseph went, and represented to Pilate the grief and desires of this afflicted Mother. St. Anselm believes that compassion for the Mother softened the heart of Pilate; and moved him to grant Her the Body of the Savior.

Jesus' Body was then taken down from the Cross. The holy disciples first drew out the nails from the hands and feet; and according to Metaphrastes,

Continued on page 20

The Medal or Cross of St. Benedict

For the early Christians, the Cross was a favorite symbol and badge of their faith in Christ. From the writings of St. Gregory the Great (540-604), we know that St. Benedict had a deep faith in the Cross and worked miracles with the Sign of the Cross. This faith in, and special devotion to, the Cross was passed on to succeeding generations of Benedictines.

Devotion to the Cross of Christ also gave rise to the striking of Medals that bore the image of St. Benedict holding a Cross aloft in his right hand and his Rule for Monks in the other hand. Thus, the Cross has always been closely associated with the Medal of St. Benedict, which is often referred to as the Medal-Cross of St. Benedict. In the course of time other additions were made, such as the Latin petition on the margin of the Medal, asking that by St. Benedict's presence we may be strengthened in the hour of death, as will be explained later.

We do not know just when the first Medal of St. Benedict was struck. At some point in history a series of capital letters was placed around the large figure of the Cross on the reverse side of the Medal. For a long time the meaning of these letters was unknown, but in 1647 a manuscript dating back to 1415 was found at the Abbey of Metten in Bavaria, giving an explanation of these letters. They were the initial letters of a Latin prayer of Exorcism against Satan, as will be explained by the JUBILEE MEDAL.

THE JUBILEE MEDAL OF MONTECASSINO

The above features were finally incorporated in a newly designed Medal struck in 1880 under the super-vision of the Monks of Montecassino, Italy, to mark the 1400th anniversary of the birth of St. Benedict. The design of this Medal was produced at St. Martin's Abbey, Beuron, Germany, at the request of the Prior of Montecassino, Boniface Krug, O.S.B. (1838-1909). Prior Boniface was a native of Baltimore and originally a Monk of St. Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, Pennsyl-vania, until he was chosen to be Prior and later Abbot of Montecassino.

Since that time, the Jubilee Medal of 1880 has proven to be more popular throughout the Christian World than any other Medal ever struck to honor St. Benedict. There is still a constant and heavy demand for this Medal.

DESCRIPTION OF THE JUBILEE MEDAL

Since the Jubilee Medal of 1880 has all the important features ever associated with the Medal of St. Benedict, the following description of this Medal can serve to make clear the nature and intent of any Medal of St. Benedict, no matter what shape or design it may have.

Front Side of Medal



On the face of the Medal is the image of St. Benedict. In his right hand he holds aloft the Cross as the symbol of our salvation; also reminding us of the vast work of evangelizing and civilizing England and Europe carried out mainly by the Benedictine Monks and Nuns, especially from the sixth to the ninth/tenth Centuries. In Benedict's left hand is his Rule for Monks, which could well be summed up in the words of the Prologue

exhorting us to "walk in God's ways, with the Gospel as our guide."

On a pedestal to the right of St. Benedict is the poisoned Cup, shattered when he made the Sign of the Cross over it.

On a pedestal to the left is a Raven about to carry away a loaf of poisoned bread that a jealous enemy had sent to St. Benedict.

Above the Cup and the Raven are the Latin words: CRUX S. PATRIS BENEDICTt (The Cross of Our Holy Father Benedict).

On the margin of the Medal, encircling the figure of, St. Benedict, are the Latin words: Ellis IN own: uosrso PRAESENTIA MUNIAMURI (May we be strengthened by his presence in the hour of our death!). Benedictines have always regarded St. Benedict as a special Patron of a Happy Death. He himself died in the Chapel at Monte-cassino while standing with his arms raised up to Heaven; and supported by the brethren, shortly after having received Holy Communion.

Below the figure of St. Benedict is a Latin inscription giving the origin and date of the Jubilee Medal: Abbey of Montecassino, 1880.

Reverse Side of Medal



On the back of the Medal, the Cross is dominant. On the arms of the Cross are the initial letters of a rhythmic Latin prayer: CRUX SACRA SIT MIHI LOX! NUNQUAM DRACO s t r MIHI DUX! (May the Holy Cross be my light! The dragon never be my guide!). In the angles of the Cross, the letters

c s p b stand for CRUX SANCTI PATRIS BENEDICTI (The Cross of our Holy Father Benedict).

Above the Cross is the word PAX (Peace), which has been a Benedictine Motto for centuries.

Around the margin of the back of the Medal, the letters v R s N s M v—s M q L i V b are the initial letters, as mentioned before, of a Latin prayer of Exorcism against Satan: VADE RETRO SATANA! NUNQUAM SUADE MINI VANA! SUNT MALA QUAE LIRAS. IPSE VENENA BIBAS! (Begone, Satan! Tempt me not with your vanities! What you offer me is evil. Drink the poisoned cup yourself!).

USE OF THE MEDAL

There is no special way prescribed for carrying or wearing the Medal of St. Benedict. It can be worn on a chain around the neck, attached to one's rosary, kept in one's pocket or purse, or placed in one's car or home. The Medal is often put into the foundations of houses and buildings, on the walls of barns and sheds, or in one's place of business.

The purpose of using the Medal in any of the above ways is to call down God's blessing and protection upon us, wherever we are; and upon our homes and posses-sions, especially through the intercession of St. Benedict. By the conscious and devout use of the Medal, it becomes, as it were, a constant silent prayer; and a reminder to us of our dignity as followers of Christ.

The Medal is a prayer of Exorcism against Satan; a prayer for strength in time of temptation; a prayer for a peaceful death in the Lord; a prayer for peace among ourselves and among the Nations of the World; a prayer that the Cross of Christ be our light and guide; a prayer of firm rejection of all that is evil; a prayer of petition that we may, with Christian courage, "walk in God's ways, with the Gospel as our guide," as St. Benedict urges us.

A profitable spiritual experience can be ours if we but take the time to study the array of inscriptions and representations found on the two sides of the Medal of St. Benedict. The lessons found there can be pondered over and over to bring true peace of mind and heart into our lives as we struggle to overcome the weaknesses of our human nature, and realize that our human condition is not perfect; but that with the help of God and the intercession of the Saints, our condition can become better.

The Medal of St. Benedict can thus serve as a con-stant reminder of the need for us to take up our Cross daily and "follow the true King, Christ our Lord;" and thus learn "to share with patience in the sufferings of Christ; so that we may one day share in His heavenly Kingdom," as St. Benedict urges us in the Prologue of his Rule.

REMINDER regarding (Blessed Objects of Devotion)

According to "The Baltimore Catechism", the blessed objects of devotion most used by Catholics are: holy water, candles, ashes, palms, crucifixes, medals, rosaries, scapulars, and images of Our Lord, the Blessed Virgin, and the Saints.

Catholics should make use of the Sacramentals with faith and devotion; and never make them objects of superstition.

TWO SPECIAL USES OF THE MEDAL

By a rescript of the Sacred Congregation of Religious (May 4, 1965), Secular Oblates of St. Benedict are permitted to wear the Medal of St. Benedict instead of the small cloth scapular formerly worn by Oblates.

By a decree of the Sacred Congregation of Rites (March 6, 1959), the Blessing of St. Maur over the sick is permitted to be given with a Medal of St. Benedict instead of with a Relic of the True Cross, since the latter is difficult to obtain.

BLESSING OF THE MEDAL OF ST. BENEDICT

Medals of St. Benedict may be blessed by any Priest (Instr. Sept. 26, 1964). The following English form may be used.

V. Our help is in the name of the Lord;

R. Who made Heaven and Earth.

In the name of God the Father + Almighty who made Heaven and Earth, the Seas and all that is in them, I Exorcise these Medals against the power and attacks of the evil one. May all who use these Medals devoutly be blessed with health of soul and body. In the name of the Father + Almighty; of His Son + Jesus Christ our Lord; and of the Holy + Spirit the Paraclete; and in the love of the same Lord Jesus Christ who will come on the last day, to judge the living and the dead and the World by fire. Amen.

Let us pray. Almighty God, the boundless source of all good things, we humbly ask that, through the intercession of St. Benedict, you pour out humbly ask that, through the intercession of St. Benedict, You pour out Your blessings + upon these Medals. May those who use them devoutly, and earnestly strive to perform good works, be blessed by You with health of soul and body; the grace of a holy life; and remission of the temporal punishment due to sin. May they also, with the help of Your merciful love, resist the temptations of the evil one; and strive to exercise true charity and justice toward all, so that one day they may appear sinless and holy in your sight. This we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Medals are then sprinkled with Holy Water.

Nihil obstat: Rev. Joseph C. Kremer, S.T.L., Censor deputatus.

Imprimatur: +George H. Speltz, D.D., Bishop of St. Cloud, April 24, 1980.

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INDULGENCES ATTACHED TO THE ST. BENEDICT MEDAL

Plenary Indulgences:

Those who habitually and with devotion carry on their person a properly Blessed Medal of St. Benedict and are in the habit of performing, at least once a week, any one of the good works given below, can gain, on the usual conditions of Confession and Holy Communion, a *plenary indulgence* on the following days:

Jan. 6; Epiphany Purification of the B.V. M.

Feb. 2; feast of St. Benedict

Mar. 21; Annunciation of the B.V.M.

Mar. 25; Nativity of the B.V. M.

Sept. 8; All Saints

Nov. 1; Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M. (Dec. 8)

Dec. 25; Christmas

Easter Sunday; Pentecost Sunday;

Ascension Thursday;

Trinity Sunday

Corpus Christi.

Following are the *good works* mentioned above: to recite, at least once a week, the whole Rosary, or a third part of it, or the Little Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary, or the Office of the Dead, or the Seven Penitential Psalms, or the gradual psalms, or to teach the catechism to children or to the poor, or to visit prisoners, or to visit the sick in hospitals, or to help the poor, or to assist at Mass

A *plenary indulgence* in the hour of death on condition that the dying person recommend his soul to God and receive the sacraments, or, when unable to do this, make an act of contrition and invoke with his lips, or at least in his heart, the holy names of Jesus and Mary.

Additional *plenary indulgence* attached to the Jubilee Medal on reception of the Sacraments and a visit to any Church or public Oratory, and praying there for the intentions of the Holy Father: on the Feast of St. Maurus (Jan. 15); St. Scholastica (Feb. 10); St. Benedict (Mar. 21); Dedication of the Church of Monte Cassino (Oct. 1); St. Placid (Oct. 5); all Saints of the Benedictine Order (Nov. 13); St. Gertrude (Nov. 17); and once a year on any convenient day.

All the indulgences attached to the Medal of St. Benedict are applicable to the souls in Purgatory.

gave them to Mary. Then one supported the upper part of the Body of Jesus, and the other the lower; and thus they took it from the Cross. Bernardine de Bustis describes the afflicted Mother as standing, and extending Her arms to meet Her Dear Son; She embraced Him, and then sat at the foot of the Cross. She examined His mangled flesh and uncovered bones, the injuries inflicted by the Crown of Thorns, and the holes in his hands and feet. Her thoughts must have been on the love which brought about such suffering for sinners. She must have grieved over how cruelly He was tormented.

Our Blessed Lady revealed to St. Bridget, "When he was taken down from the Cross, She could not close His arms." Jesus Christ giving us thereby to understand, that He desired to remain with His arms extended; to receive all penitent sinners who return to Him.

Now that Our Lord has died to save us, it is no longer for us a time of fear, but one of love – a time to love Him who, to show us the love He bore for us, was pleased to suffer so much. "The Heart of Jesus," says St. Bernard, "was wounded that, through the visible wound, the invisible wound of love might be seen." And if you desire, O Children of Mary, to find a place in the Heart of Jesus without fear of being rejected, "Go" says Ubertino da Casale, "Go with Mary; for She will obtain the Grace for you."

When a Mother is by the side of her suffering and dying child, she undoubtedly feels and suffers all his pains; but after he is actually dead, when, before the body is carried to the grave, the afflicted Mother must bid her child a last farewell; then, indeed, the thought that she is to see him no more is a grief that exceeds all other griefs. Behold the last sword of Mary's Sorrow. For, after witnessing the death of Her Son on the Cross and embracing for a last time His lifeless body, this Blessed Mother had to leave Him in the Sepulcher; never more to enjoy His beloved presence on Earth.

That we may better understand this last Dolor, we will return to Calvary and consider the afflicted Mother; who still holds the lifeless Body of Her Son clasped in Her arms. Thus was Mary, with Her Son locked in Her arms, absorbed in grief. The holy disciples, fearful that the poor Mother might die of grief, approached Her to take the Body of Her Son from Her arms to bear it away for burial. This they did with gentle and respectable violence; and having embalmed it, they wrapped it in a linen cloth which was already prepared. On this cloth, which is still preserved at Turin, Our Lord was pleased to leave to the World an impression of His Sacred Body.

The disciples then bore Him to the tomb. To do this, they first of all raised the Sacred Body on their shoulders, and then the mournful train set forth. Choirs of Angels from Heaven accompanied it; the holy women followed; and with them, the afflicted Mother also followed Her Son to the place of burial. There are many authors that say She accompanied the Sacred Body of Jesus into the Sepulcher where, according to Baronius, the disciples also deposited

SAINTS IN REVIEW

St. Mary Magdalene

Mary was given the name 'Magdalene' because, though a Jewish girl, she lived in a Gentile town called Magdala, in northern Galilee; and, her culture and manners were those of a Gentile.

Mary was well known as a sinner when she first saw Our Lord. She was very beautiful and very proud; but after she met Jesus, she felt great sorrow for her evil life.



When Jesus went to supper at the home of a rich man named Simon, Mary came to weep at His feet. Then with her long beautiful hair, she wiped His feet dry and anointed them with expensive perfume. Some people were surprised that Jesus let such a sinner touch Him; but Our Lord could see into Mary's heart, and He said: "Many sins are forgiven her, because she has loved much." Then to Mary He said kindly, "Your faith has made you safe; go in peace."

From then on, with the other holy women, Mary humbly served Jesus and His Apostles. When Our Lord was crucified, she was there at the foot of His cross, unafraid for herself; and thinking only of His sufferings. No wonder Jesus said of her: "She has loved much."

After the body of Jesus had been placed in the tomb, Mary went to anoint it with spices early Easter Sunday morning. Not finding the Sacred Body, she began to weep. Upon seeing someone whom she thought was the gardener, she asked him if he knew where the Body of her beloved Master had been taken. But then the person spoke in a voice she knew so well: "Mary!" It was Jesus, risen from the dead! He had chosen to show Himself first to Mary Magdalene the repentant sinner.

The Church has recognized St. Mary Magdalene as the patron of sinners and has often called her, "St. Mary the Penitent".

The Martyrdom of Mary continued from page 20

the Nails and the Crown of Thorns. In raising the Stone to close up the entrance, the holy disciples of the Savior had to request of the Holy Mother to bid Her Son farewell. Mary herself revealed to St. Bridget saying: "I can truly say that at the burial of My Son, one Tomb contained, as it were, two Hearts."

Finally the disciples raised the Stone and closed up the Holy Sepulcher; and in it the Body of Jesus, that great Reassure – a treasure so great that neither Earth nor Heaven had a greater. Here I may be permitted to make a short digression; and remark that Mary's Heart was buried with Jesus, because Jesus was Her whole treasure: "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Luke xii. 34).

PALM CROSSES

Perhaps there has never been a time in history, that the protection of the Cross of Christ was more needed to subdue His enemies, than in these our present days. We know the wicked spirits dread and flee from this, our Sign of Redemption. All true priests have the power to bless, either the Crucifix or the Palm Crosses.

When blest, the palms made in the form of Crosses, even though as small as 1 1/2 to 2 inches, are a tremendous protection. So, they should be put in a small glass or plastic container; and placed on the four corners of your land and your house.

This idea for protection actually goes back to the Apocalypse, where St. John warns that the evil forces <u>are</u> permitted to molest us. The official blessing for Palm Crosses is given in the **Large Roman Ritual**. The Palm that you have saved from other years, or just obtained this year on "Palm Sunday", can be used for this purpose. You could also take the Palm Crosses to a Priest on May 3rd. the "Feast of the Finding of the Holy Cross", for the extra blessing from the Large Roman Ritual.

IF YOU WISH - Blessed Sacramental Packets from the Shrine, containing a Palm Cross, may be used in place of your own Palm Crosses. They can be ordered as: #876 Blessed Sacramental Packet \$1.00 Shipping ea.

The Martyrdom of Mary continued from page 21

Before leaving the Sepulcher, according to St. Bonaventure, She blessed the Sacred Stone which closed it. Then raising Her Heart to the Eternal Father, She recommended Him to His Father. Thus bidding Her beloved Jesus farewell, She returned to Her house. "This Mother," says St. Bernard, "went away so afflicted and sad, that She moved many to tears in spite of themselves; and wherever She passed, all who met Her wept;" and could not restrain their tears. And he adds, that the holy disciples and women who accompanied Her "mourned even more for Her, than for their Lord."

St. Bonaventure states that as the mourners passed the Cross again, She was the first to adore that Infamous Gibbet. She then left the Cross, and returned home. When there, the remembrance of His beautiful life and cruel death presented itself before Her eyes. The nails, the thorns, the lacerated flesh of Her Son, those deep wounds, those uncovered bones, those dimmed eyes; all presented themselves before Her. Ah, what a night of sorrow, as that night for Mary!

We need to turn to Mary and entreat Her; to at least let us weep with Her. She weeps for love; do we weep with sorrow for our sins? Mary is our intercessor before Her Divine Son. She will lead us through the sufferings and trials of our life. She will lead us to Her Son, and teach us to truly love He who shed His Blood for us; all for love. May we make this a Holy Lent; learning from the Sorrow of Our Holy Mother.

PRO-LIFE NEWS

On the 46th Anniversary of the infamous Supreme Court Decision, Roe v Wade, the State of New York dealt a blow to babies that has left the Nation reeling. On that day the Democratic governor of New York, in spite of his "Catholic" upbringing (he even cited his time serving as an altar-boy) signed a Bill removing abortion from the Criminal Code; and allowing non-physicians to perform abortions. To be clear, the Bill that's called the Reproductive Health Act allows all abortions up to 24 weeks. After that, it allows abortions "when the fetus is not viable or a woman's health is at risk". It does not define the health risk of the Mother; and therefore, it can be presumed that abortions for any reason are possible. As he signed the Bill into law, there was cheering and clapping and big smiles all around him. And to show how "wonderful" this Bill was, he ordered the World Trade Center to be lit up in pink to celebrate; and to do so for other New York landmark buildings as well.

Following closely on the heels of this horrendous law in New York, several other States are working to pass similar laws. The New Mexico House Bill 51, among other provisions, compels doctors and nurses and hospitals to perform abortions; and removes the "conscience" law which protected them. It passed the House, and will now be taken up by the Senate. The Democratic governor has pledged to sign it, if it reaches her desk.

Vermont's proposed law goes beyond New York's; and declares, that in Vermont, an abortion could be performed up until the point of birth for any reason. It would insure a constitutional right to abortion. Public hearings will now be held on the Bill.

Virginia also attempted to pass such a Bill. The Democratic governor said he was happy to say he would sign it; even though it promoted the idea that if the parents didn't want the child to live, the child would be given comfort care as the parent and doctor discussed the fate of the live child. In other words, he was fine with infanticide. Fortunately, at least for now, the Bill was defeated.

Many States already have very permissive abortion laws. New Jersey allows abortions at all stages of pregnancy; but just requires late-term abortions be done in or near a hospital where the abortionist has admitting and surgical privileges.

In California, abortions can still be performed post-viability if the pregnancy threatens the Mother's life, health, or well-being. It appears to be safe to say, that this could be for just about any reason at all.

Colorado has no gestational limit to abortion; though there are some restrictions as to by whom, and where late-term abortions may be performed.

These and many other States are trying to keep abortion "legal"; just in case the Supreme Court does reverse Roe v Wade, as it once did with the Dred Scott Decision regarding slavery. If the Supreme Court does reverse the horrendous decision arrived at in 1973, it will more than likely revert back to the States to decide the legality of abortion. It is for this reason we must pray and make sacrifices that they do reverse the decision; and then that every State recognizes the personhood of every child from the moment of conception, and pass laws to protect these most vulnerable of our Citizens - the Unborn.

MAIL CORNER

Illinois: I just love getting your Newsletter. I get so much out of it, every time! I wish I lived closer, so I could visit more often. God bless all of you. May Mary Ann, Fred, and all the others be up There, still working for Her Shrine.



<u>Minnesota:</u> I make a Holy Hour for the Pope, all Bishops and Priests, and all Religious each Friday. I will include the Constant Vigil of Prayer Program with this Holy Hour. I truly believe that prayer is the only answer to America's Problems. Thanks for the Shrine Newsletter. My husband died, so I can't afford much.

<u>Illinois:</u> For all your hard work, may our Dear Lord bless you.

<u>Minnesota:</u> Thank you for your wonderful Newsletter which is so news-worthy, and so informative. I always enjoy reading it. God bless you in all your projects. Our Dear Lord is always watching over you.

<u>Illinois:</u> Enclosed is my donation for the Shrine. Please use it as it is needed. I always enjoy receiving your Newsletter!

<u>Minnesota:</u> For over thirty years you have sent us your Shrine Newsletter. Thank you so very much. I have gone to your Shrine many times. I am up in age now. Don't get down much. My sister was cured of a bad foot there. I love your Shrine News. Keep up all the prayers. Am sending you money to help with your House of Prayer. Pray I can see it done. Love the Grounds with all the Grottos. My mother had her Rosary turn gold.

Wisconsin: I'm sending along a contribution to your Shrine Fund for the erection of the House of Prayer. My husband and I visited the holy grounds of the Shrine many times in the past. We've had some mini-miracles happen to us while there. My dear husband, Robert, passed away going on two years now. He battled prostate cancer for 15 ½ years. A good, patient, loving man he was. We both always read your Shrine Newsletter from cover to cover. Such wonderful insights to our Faith. I may not ever get to the Shrine again, as I'm going on 86 and have severe back problems. Would you dear folks please remember me in your prayers and rosaries?? I shall also pray for you and the completion of the House of Prayer. May Our Dear Lord continue to bless you and the work you do.



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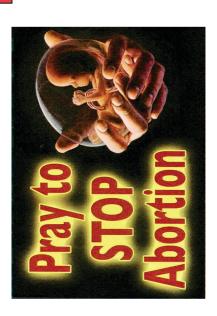
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