

## OCTOBER 2006 RESULTS

The Intention was for the Devotion to the Holy Rosary

Treasure Sheets	Offerings	Masses	Communions		Sacrifices	Decades of the Rosary	Visits to Blessed Sacrament	15 mins of meditation	Good Example
			Sac.	Spirit.					
24	742	157	149	495	818	3533	41	239	882

You will find published again the results from October as I received a few more treasure sheets. November results, next month. Remember that all the good works and prayers from your treasure sheets are given each month to Bishop Fellay and they are put on the altar where His Excellency celebrates Holy Mass on the first Saturday of every month.

### January 2007 Intention:

#### For the Eucharistic Crusade for Children

#### Daily offering

*To be recited every morning when you wake up*

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer Thee all my prayers, works, joys and sufferings of this day, for all the intentions of Thy Sacred Heart in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world, and in reparation for my sins. I offer them particularly **for the Eucharistic Crusade of Children.**



# The Irish Crusader

*Bulletin of the Eucharistic Crusade for Children in Ireland*

January 2007  
Month of the Holy Family

Dear Crusaders,



*The Children's Crusade, by Gustave Doré*

**B**Y the grace of God, we find ourselves at the beginning of a new year, filled with the graces and joys of Christmas, and full of good resolutions in order to please Our Lord and Saviour Jesus-Christ each day more and more during this year.

The presence of the Child Jesus in the crib gives us a renewed courage, a courage that the children Crusaders of the Middle-Ages showed in their days ( you can read their story in this bulletin). In fact, the Eucharistic Crusade for children takes its origin in this incredible event. The intention of this month is for the Eucharistic Crusade, the Crusade of this century. It needs to grow in number and in holiness and generosity.

May you , dear crusaders of the 21st century, raise up and take the arms that the Popes have given you, the Mass, Holy Communion, the Rosary, your daily prayers and sacrifices and all your good works! We are fighting the devil and all the bad influences he has in the modern world we live in. This requires a great courage, a spirit of generosity, and a great charity, love of God, and love of our neighbour for the love of God.

With my best wishes and blessings for Christmastime and for the New Year,

Father Paul Biérer +

# The Treasure

## HOW TO FILL IN THE TREASURE SHEET?

The Treasure Sheet has to be filled in every day in order that you do not forget the good works you have done and keep track of how you fulfill your spiritual duties. After the end of the month, it must be sent to the Chaplain of the Eucharistic Crusade.

## Holy Mass

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the greatest act of worship and honour that we can give to God, as it is Christ, the Son of God, who offers Himself up to His Father. Each time a priest celebrates Holy Mass, many graces are given to souls in the whole world, but especially to those for whom the Mass is said and to those who attend the Mass. Strive to go to Mass as often as possible in order to receive many graces and blessings from God.

Write on your treasure sheet how many masses you have attended on each day, 0, 1, 2.



Colour this beautiful image of the Epiphany

Gratitude is a habit that every one should learn. It means that we appreciate things that are done for us and do not take them for granted. When something is done for us, which we have no right to expect, the least we can do is say, "Thank you."

We can tell whether or not we have the habit of gratitude by checking up on our prayers. Do we ever offer prayers of thanksgiving, or are all our prayers asking for something?

There were two angels in heaven who worked in the prayer department. One poor angel worked overtime. Prayers were coming through on his wire every second. The other angel just sat around playing his harp. Once in a great while a prayer would come through on his wire.

The first angel asked him, "Why is it I have to work so hard and you have almost nothing to do?"

The second angel replied, "That isn't my fault. It's the fault of the people on earth. You see, you have charge of all the 'Gimme' prayers and I have charge of the 'Thank you' ones."

## HOLY MASS



The Gloria

## The Banquet of the Virtues

One day, so says an old legend, God gave a banquet for all of his servants, and a really grand feast it was. All the virtues came and had a fine time. Humility was there sitting at the lowest place at the table. Charity was cutting the meat without rationing it. Patience was there and didn't mind at all being served last. Faith and Hope sat together. Everyone was having a wonderful time.

At the height of the banquet Charity noticed that two of the virtues were strangers to each other. He was surprised because he thought they were always together and he had purposely placed them side-by-side for just that reason. He came down to them and asked each one whether she had met her partner before. When they said they had not, Charity introduced them:

"Kindness, I want you to meet Gratitude.


Both the virtues were so surprised to find out who the other was. Kindness said to Gratitude:

"We are supposed to be always together. Where one of us is the other should be, but when men receive kindness they don't give gratitude. Isn't it a pity that we have never really met before.?"

It is a pity, a very great pity that kindness and gratitude so seldom meet. But it is true. To make it worse some of the most ungrateful people in the world are children. No matter what is done for them, some children are not grateful. From the day they are born they are always receiving kindness. Every minute of the day someone is doing something for them. It was probably children that Kindness had in mind when she said that to Gratitude.



**ST. JOHN BOSCO** WAS BORN IN PIEDMONT, ITALY, AUGUST 16, 1815. WHEN HE WAS ABOUT TWO YEARS OLD HIS FATHER DIED, LEAVING THE SUPPORT OF THE CHILDREN TO THE MOTHER. JOHN'S EARLY YEARS WERE SPENT AS A SHEPHERD AND HE RECEIVED HIS FIRST INSTRUCTION AT THE HANDS OF THE PARISH PRIEST. OWING TO THE POVERTY OF THE HOME, HOWEVER, HE WAS OFTEN OBLIGED TO TURN FROM HIS BOOKS TO THE FIELD, BUT THE DESIRE TO BE A PRIEST NEVER LEFT HIM.

IN 1835 HE ENTERED THE SEMINARY AND AFTER SIX YEARS OF STUDY WAS ORDAINED PRIEST ON THE EVE OF TRINITY SUNDAY BY ARCHBISHOP FRANZONI OF TURIN. LEAVING THE SEMINARY, FATHER JOHN WENT TO TURIN WHERE HE ENTERED ZEALOUSLY UPON HIS PRIESTLY LABORS. IT WAS HERE THAT AN INCIDENT OCCURRED WHICH CHANGED HIS AFTER LIFE. ONE DAY WHILE ACCOMPANYING DON CAFASSO UPON HIS VISITS TO THE PRISONS OF THE CITY, HE NOTED THE CONDITION OF THE CHILDREN CONFINED IN THESE PLACES, AND RESOLVED TO SPEND THE REST OF HIS LIFE IN RESCUING THESE UNFORTUNATE OUTCASTS.



**SAINT JOHN BOSCO**

NOT WITH BLOWS, BUT WITH CHARITY AND GENTLENESS MUST YOU DRAW THESE FRIENDS TO THE PATH OF VIRTUE. ( St. John Bosco )



SO INTO THE STREETS OF THE CITY ST. JOHN BOSCO WENT IN SEARCH OF WRETCHED YOUTHS, THE POOR AND THE SICK, THE OUTCAST AND THE ORPHAN. IN THE BEGINNING THERE WERE A FEW, THEN A HUNDRED, SOON A THOUSAND, AND STILL THERE WERE MORE TO BRING IN. GREAT SACRIFICE WAS MADE BY THE SAINT IN TURNING THE LIVES OF THESE LITTLE URCHINS TO GOD. IN SPITE OF DISAPPOINTMENT AT EVERY TURN, ST. JOHN, THROUGH OUR LADY'S HELP AND THE CHARITY OF A FEW FRIENDS, WAS ABLE TO SUCCEED WITH HIS UNDERTAKING, ALTHOUGH IT WAS CONSIDERED INSANE BY MANY PEOPLE AT THAT TIME.

THE MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES BY THIS TIME HAD COME TO RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE WORK WHICH DON BOSCO WAS DOING, AND HIS FUND FOR THE ERECTION OF TECHNICAL SCHOOLS AND WORKSHOPS MET WITH MUCH SUCCESS. HE BUILT THE CHURCH OF OUR LADY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS, WHICH WAS CONSECRATED ON JUNE 9, 1868, AND IN THE SAME YEAR FORMED THE SALESIAN SOCIETY WHICH SPREAD TO ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD. ST. JOHN BOSCO DIED, RICH IN MERITS, ON JANUARY 31, 1888.

## HISTORY OF THE CRUSADE OF CHILDREN IN THE MIDDLE AGES



One day in May 1212 there appeared at Saint-Denis, where King Philip of France was holding his court, a shepherd-boy of about twelve years old called Stephen, from the small town of Cloyes in the Orléannais. He brought with him a letter for the King, which, he said, had been given to him by Christ in person, who had appeared to him as he was tending his sheep and who had bidden him go and preach the Crusade. King Philip was not impressed by the child and told him to go home. But Stephen, whose enthusiasm had been fired by his mysterious visitor, saw himself now as an inspired leader who would succeed where his elders had failed. For the past fifteen years preachers had been

going round the country-side urging a Crusade against the Moslems of the East or of Spain or against the heretics of Languedoc. It was easy for an hysterical boy to be infected with the idea that he too could be a preacher and could emulate Peter the Hermit, whose prowess had during the past century reached a legendary grandeur. Undismayed by the King's indifference, he began to preach at the very entrance to the abbey of Saint-Denis and to announce that he would lead a band of children to the rescue of Christendom. The seas would dry up before them, and they would pass, like Moses through the Red Sea, safe to the Holy Land. He was gifted with an extraordinary eloquence. Older folk were impressed, and children came flocking to his call. After his first success he set out to journey round France summoning the children; and many of his converts went further afield to work on his behalf. They were all to meet together at Vendôme in about a month's time and start out from there to the East.

Towards the end of June the children massed at Vendôme. Awed contemporaries spoke of thirty thousand, not one over twelve years of age. There were certainly several thousand of them, collected from all parts of the country, some of them simple peasants, whose parents in many cases had willingly let them go on their great mission. But there were also boys of noble birth who had slipped away from home to join Stephen and his following of "minor prophets" as the chroniclers called them. There were also girls amongst them, a few young priests, and a few older pilgrims, some drawn by piety, others, perhaps, from pity, and others, certainly, to share in the gifts that were showered upon them all. The bands came crowding into the town, each with a leader carrying a copy of the Oriflamme, which Stephen took as the device of the Crusade. The town could not contain them all, and they encamped in the fields outside.

When the blessing of friendly priests had been given, and when the last sorrowing parents had been pushed aside, the expedition started out southward. Nearly all of them went on foot. But Stephen, as befitted the leader, insisted on having a gaily decorated cart for himself, with a canopy to shade him from the sun. At his side rode boys of noble birth, each rich enough to possess a horse. No one resented the inspired prophet travelling in comfort. On the contrary, he was treated as a saint, and locks of his hair and pieces of his garments were collected as precious relics. They took the road past Tours and Lyons, making for Marseilles. It was a painful journey. The summer was unusually hot. They depended on charity for their food, and the drought left little to spare in the country, and water was scarce. Many of the children died by the wayside. Others dropped out and tried to wander home. But at last the little Crusade reached Marseilles.



The citizens of Marseilles greeted the children kindly. Many found houses in which to lodge. Others encamped in the streets. Next morning the whole expedition rushed down to the harbour to see the sea divide before them. When the miracle did not take place, there was bitter disappointment. Some of the children turned against Stephen, crying that he had betrayed them, and began to retrace their steps. But most of them stayed on by the sea-side, expecting each morning that God would relent. After a few days two merchants of Marseilles, called, according to tradition, Hugh the Iron and William the Pig, offered to put ships at their disposal and to carry them free of charge, for the glory of God, to Palestine. Stephen eagerly accepted the kindly offer. Seven vessels were hired by the merchants, and the children were taken aboard and set out to sea. Eighteen years passed before there was any further news of them.

Meanwhile tales of Stephen's preaching had reached the Rhineland. The children of Germany were not to be outdone. A few weeks after Stephen had started on his mission, a boy called Nicholas, from a Rhineland village, began to preach the same message before the shrine of the Three Kings at Cologne. Like Stephen, he declared that children could do better than grown men, and that the sea would open to give them a path. But, while the French children were to conquer the Holy Land by force, the Germans were to achieve their aim by the conversion of the infidel. Nicholas, like Peter, had a natural eloquence and was able to find eloquent disciples to carry his preaching further, up and down the Rhineland. Within a few weeks an army of children had gathered at Cologne, ready to start out for Italy and the sea. It seems that the Germans were on an average slightly older than the French and that there were more girls with them. There was also a larger contingent of boys of the nobility, and a number of disreputable vagabonds. *To be continued next month*