

## November 27th - Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal

### *The Meaning of the Front Side of the Miraculous Medal*



Mary is standing upon a globe, crushing the head of a serpent beneath her foot. She stands upon the globe, as the Queen of Heaven and Earth. Her feet crush the serpent to proclaim Satan and all his followers are helpless before her (Gn 3:15). The year of 1830 on the Miraculous Medal is the year the Blessed Mother gave the design of the Miraculous Medal to Saint Catherine Labouré. The reference to Mary conceived without sin supports the dogma of the Immaculate Conception of Mary—not to be confused with the virgin birth of Jesus, and referring to Mary's sinlessness, “full of grace” and “blessed among women” (Luke 1:28)—that was proclaimed 24 years later in 1854.

### *The Meaning of the Back Side of the Miraculous Medal*

The twelve stars can refer to the Apostles, who represent the entire Church as it surrounds Mary. They also recall the vision of Saint John, writer of the Book of Revelation (12:1), in which “a great sign appeared in heaven, a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of 12 stars.” The cross can symbolize Christ and our redemption, with the bar under the cross a sign of the earth. The “M” stands for Mary, and the interleaving of her initial and the cross shows Mary’s close involvement with Jesus and our world. In this we see Mary’s part in our salvation and her role as mother of the Church. The two hearts represent the love of Jesus and Mary for us. (See also Lk 2:35).



*O Mary conceived without sin,  
pray for us who have recourse to thee!*

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*If you wish to participate or share with others in this bulletin, please contact Fr. Biérier in Dun Laoghaire or at [bierer@spx.net](mailto:bierer@spx.net)*



# Handmaids of Christ and Children of Mary

*Supplement to the Bulletin of the Eucharistic Crusade in Ireland*

**November 2006  
Month of the Holy Souls**

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

Dear Handmaids,

**T**HE following meditation, as well as those in the next bulletins, are taken from a manual of the Children of Mary. Each month, there will be an short explanation on how to meditate and a subject-matter for meditation that you can use during the month, getting more and more accustomed to mental prayer, which is a most important moment in our spiritual life. There will also be some prayers according to the liturgical time.

Father Paul Biérier +

### Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament, I love you above all things; I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you and I unite myself entirely to you as if you had already come; do not permit me ever to be separated from you.

# Instruction upon meditation

*Meditation, or mental prayer, is a devout and fruitful consideration of Divine things, and of all that is conducive to the acquirement of virtue and of eternal salvation. By meditation, we dispose ourselves to receive the gifts of God, and obtain His aid to overcome ourselves, and to remove from our hearts every evil affection. Thus we enable ourselves either to ascertain more securely and embrace more readily the state of life to which we are called by God, or to improve ourselves in the one that we have chosen, by animating ourselves to the more perfect accomplishment of the duties imposed upon us.*

## 1<sup>st</sup> Meditation – On the end of man

1. **Man is created like unto God** : he is created to know God, to glorify him, and to enjoy Him. Therefore the end of man is not to acquire riches or reputation; he is not created to attend to the comforts or the follies of life. This is a fundamental truth which we all know and profess to believe; but do we show by our lives that we are practically convinced of it?

2. Consider the sublimity of the end for which we are created. God is his own end, and can have no other; He knows, glorifies, loves, and enjoys Himself; He forms plans for His own glory in eternity, and executes them in time. In this, Almighty God has made me like unto Himself, that **I can love, glorify, and enjoy Him**. God even places His glory in being loved by me, and receiving my actions as a tribute from my free choice.

3. **Man is created solely to enjoy God** : he cannot find any true and lasting happiness out of God : if the heart of man is created solely for

the love of God, it cannot remain satisfied until God alone be the centre of all its affections.

*“O Lord, Thou hast made us for Thyself,  
and our heart cannot rest until it rests in Thee!”*

St Augustine

*A quote that I will repeat often and even learn by heart.*

## De Profundis - Psalm 129

*To be said for the souls in Purgatory every day in November*

Out of the depths I have cried unto Thee O Lord, Lord hear my voice!

Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

If Thou, O Lord, wilt mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand it?

For with Thee there is mercy, and by reason of Thy law I have waited on Thee, O Lord.

My soul hath relied on His word; my soul hath hoped in the Lord.

From the morning watch even unto night, let Israel hope in the Lord.

For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plentiful redemption.

And He shall redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

And let perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace. Amen.

O Lord hear my prayer; and let my cry come unto Thee.

Let us pray: O God, the Creator and Redeemer of all the faithful, grant to the souls of Thy servants departed the remission of all their sins, that through our pious supplications they may obtain that pardon which they have always desired, Thou who livest and reignest world without end. Amen.