



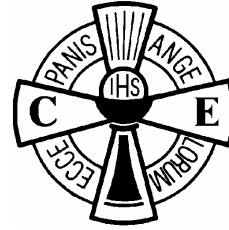
sufferings of her beloved Son Jesus, which, as so many sharp swords, rend and transfix her virginal heart. But the most acute pain endured by this afflicted Mother, is caused by the appearance of Jesus when He turns to address the holy woman. How is it, O Mary, that thou dost not die of grief and horror? How is it that thy heart does not break with sorrow? She beholds her dear Son sinking with exhaustion, His Body covered with wounds, and streaming with Blood, His head crowned with thorns, His face defiled with spittle, His whole adorable Person trembling, powerless and suffering; His neck encircled with a cord, and His shoulders burdened with the heavy and all but insupportable weight of the Cross. She beholds Him

overwhelmed with insults by the people, dragged onward by the soldiers, and His sacred Heart bleeding with agony at the sight of her, His sorrowing Mother. "My Son!" would Mary have said, "My beloved Son!" but her excessive sorrow deprives her of the power of utterance. She would willingly draw nigh to Jesus, relieve His sufferings, and enfold Him in a last embrace, but any such comfort is denied her, and she is permitted to give expression to her feelings by tears alone. My soul, contemplate this most afflicted mother, and understand that her sufferings are occasioned by the cruelty with which thou hast maltreated Jesus in committing sin. Art thou desirous of diminishing her woes, and of alleviating her bitter sufferings? Bewail thy sins, and never more inflict such torments upon her beloved Son. Compassionate her in her sufferings, and love her as thy Mother.

3. The sorrows of Jesus and Mary at the sight of the sins of men.

Jesus suffers, and Mary suffers, but oh, how far more do they suffer from the sins of men than from all the present and future torments of the Passion! In the insensibility and hard-heartedness of those crowds of people who line the road to Calvary, and who behold the sufferings of the Son, and the agony of the Mother, without a feeling of compassion for either, they see an image of the ingratitude of so many Christians, perhaps even of yourself, who never bestow even a single thought or feeling of affection upon Jesus Crucified, and upon Mary the Queen of Dolors. In the insults, outrages, and derisive words heaped upon Jesus in His sufferings by His enemies, they see an image of all those sins by which men will, with equal treachery and barbarity, renew His torments. Oh, what words can describe the sufferings of these two most sacred Hearts! The furious rage with which the Jews are hurrying Jesus to be crucified brings before them in strong colors the mortal sins by which multitudes of souls will, to the end Of time, crucify Jesus anew. Alas, that Jesus should have beheld me also on that mountain crucifying Him by my sins! Alas, that Mary also should have seen me; for oh, what a source of sorrow was to her tender heart! Never more, my soul, never more must thy sins renew the bitter anguish then endured by the adorable Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

If you wish to contribute or share with others in this bulletin, please contact Fr. Biérier in Dun Laoghaire. Email : bierer@sspx.net Eucharistic Crusade, 12 Tivoli Terrace South, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin



Handmaids of Christ and Children of Mary

Supplement to the Bulletin of the Eucharistic Crusade in Ireland

March 2008
Month of Saint Joseph

This leaflet is intended for high-school girls. Being part of the Eucharistic Crusade, you 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 these few pages is to help you in your spiritual life.

AN EASY WAY TO BECOME A SAINT By Fr Paul O'Sullivan, OP

Chapter 3 - THE WONDERFUL THINGS GOD HAS DONE FOR US (4)

OUR ANGEL GUARDIAN

One of the most marvelous dispensations of God's Providence is the fact that He has given to each one of us a special Angel to watch over us. At the moment of our birth God calls one of His glorious Princes, one of His mighty Angels, and bids this Angel guard and guide, defend and protect us. From that moment, this mighty Angel gives us all his loving care. He never leaves us, night or day. His duty after loving God is to love us. He devotes all his intelligence, all his strength, all his care to shield us from hurt and harm. We can form no idea of the evils and dangers he saves us from, the countless great favors he has done us and is doing us every day. Not content to use all his own power to help us, he is constantly praying for us to God.

Reading the story of St. Raphael in the Sacred Scriptures, we marvel at the infinite goodness of God in sending this great Angel to accompany the young Tobias on his long journey. The Angel proved to be a trusty friend. He not only accompanied him on his journey, protecting him from every danger, but he also obtained for him a most happy marriage and abundant wealth. He brought him home safely, to the delight of his parents, who were anxiously awaiting his return. As a final gift, he cured Tobias's old father, who had been blind. Before leaving the now happy family, he revealed himself to them as one of the seven great Angels who stand before the throne of God and bade them bless and thank the Good God who had sent him to them.

This is certainly one of the most consoling and wonderful stories in the Bible, revealing to us the infinite sweetness and goodness of God. Yet each one of us has a glorious Prince of Heaven with us, not for weeks or months but for all the long years of our lives, loving us most affectionately, defending us from countless evils and snatching us from dangers that we do not even see. This dear Angel came to us at the moment of our birth and has been with us ever since. He will console us in Purgatory if we go there and will then accompany us to Heaven, where he will be with us forever and forever. We marvel when reading this story of Raphael, but it is a much greater marvel that we have a glorious Angel ever at our sides and yet know and love him so little. Have we ever even thanked God for this astounding proof of His goodness?

The culpable neglect of our dear Angel is one of the most lamentable and shameful faults of our life.

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(Continues next month)

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.

Refer to the previous issue of this bulletin to learn how to make meditation properly. Remember that the Handmaids must meditate 15 minutes every day. St Teresa of Avila says that he who spends 15mn a day in mental prayer cannot be lost.

Why do you look about here when this is not the place of your repose? Dwell rather upon heaven and give but a passing glance to all earthly things. They all pass away, and you together with them. Take care, then, that you do not cling to them lest you be entrapped and perish. Fix your mind on the Most High, and pray unceasingly to Jesus Christ.

Imitation of Christ, Book 2, Chapter 1 "On Meditation"

16th Meditation – On Eternity - 1

I am made for eternity. Lately I began an existence that will never end. I now inhabit a perishable world, but I am made for a world that is eternal. The sun, the stars, the earth, and sea will pass away; years and ages will go by, and cease to exist; but my years, like those of God, will not fail. My soul was created immortal, and therefore nothing that is perishable is worthy of taking up my thoughts and affections. We have not here a lasting dwelling or a permanent city, therefore we seek a better.

For Lent—The Meeting Between Jesus and His Blessed Mother

Meditation

OUR blessed Redeemer, on His way to Calvary, has an interview with His most holy Mother, who is following Him, together with the other holy women.

Consider:

1. The anguish of heart experienced by Jesus at the sight of Mary.

He beholds her sorrowing, weeping, overwhelmed with the bitterest grief, and when the eyes of the Mother and of the Son meet, how deep a wound is inflicted on the tender Heart of Jesus! Jesus loves Mary as His Mother. Jesus, the most loving of Sons, entertains the most indescribable feelings of affection for Mary, the most amiable of mothers. How great, then, and how bitter must be His grief at beholding this beloved Mother so deeply afflicted and anguish-stricken on His account? Oh, hard indeed must that heart be which does not compassionate Jesus in this new suffering! The Cross of Jesus is heavy, the thorns pierce His sacred Head, His adorable Body is one single wound, but His Heart is transfixed with a sword of still deeper and more painful sorrow, from beholding the interior of the heart of Mary, in which love and compassion imprint, as in a clear mirror all His wounds, His thorns, His Cross, and His sufferings, and thus inflict the keenest anguish. What mind can conceive the indescribable sorrow experienced by the Heart of Jesus at this mournful spectacle! He would willingly bestow upon His Mother a last token of affection, speak one word of comfort to her sorrowing heart, and bid her a last farewell, but the fury of the Jews does not permit Him to linger one moment by her side. But if these two most holy personages speak not with their lips, their eyes and hearts certainly are not silent, but communicate to one another their mutual sorrows. Beseech Jesus to give you a share in His sufferings, and to touch your heart, that so it may be filled with compassion for them, and with contrition for your sins.

2. The grief of Mary on beholding Jesus.

Mary is anxious to bestow upon her adorable Son proofs of the most faithful love, which never forsakes the beloved object even amid the severest trials. She therefore leaves Jerusalem, and follows her dear Son to Mount Calvary, to be present at His most painful sacrifice of Himself. If you really love Jesus, you should follow Him to Mount Calvary, willingly bearing the Cross of your trials for His sake. Mary also bears her heavy Cross, for she bears in her heart an immense weight of sorrow and suffering, which renders her the most afflicted of mothers. Great, nay, incomprehensible, is her love for Jesus, her Son and her God, and therefore proportionally great and incomprehensible is the grief of her soul on beholding His sufferings. Jesus sympathizes in the anguish of Mary, and Mary partakes of all the

