



The Crusader

Bulletin of the Eucharistic Crusade for Children in Australia & New Zealand



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April 2024
Month of the
Blessed Sacrament

So That the Church
May Triumph Over
Her Enemies

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

Dear Crusaders and Friends,

As Crusaders of the Eucharist, we are called to be the special friends of Our Lord Jesus Christ. As His special friends, He calls us to share with Him very closely in His sufferings and in His cross. During Holy Week, did you notice how, in the Passion (which I hope you read in your Missals on Palm Sunday and Good Friday) Jesus chose three of His best friends among the Apostles – Peter, James and John – to share His agony in the garden of Gethsemane? How disappointed He must have been, during His terrible suffering (so great that He sweated blood), when He came to seek consolation from His dearest friends and found them sleeping. Later, one of His own Apostles would betray Him by the sign of friendship and love – by a kiss – and all His other disciples would run away in fear.

Jesus spent the night of Maundy Thursday abandoned by His friends in the prison of the High Priest. The next day, He was scourged and crowned with thorns alone; alone He carried His cross up Mount Calvary (Simon of Cyrene, whom the Roman Soldiers forced to help Jesus, was not His friend, though he became one later). Nailed to the cross, He had with Him only His Blessed Mother, St Mary Magdalen who, Gospel tells us, ‘loved much’, and St John, the beloved disciple. So very few are the true friends of Our Lord who truly love Him!

Yet Christ was not defeated by the High Priests and Pharisees on the cross. The cross was His victory. Christ died on the cross, but He rose again the third day. Having conquered

death, He would never die again. Those who follow Him to Calvary will receive the same victory. St Peter and the other Apostles (except Judas, who was not truly sorry for his sin) were moved by contrition for having disappointed Our Lord. And Jesus forgave them; He gave them another chance to live by His grace. They did not disappoint Him again. They all carried their cross for love of Him, and everyone of them died a martyr for love of Him (all except St John, who, though he suffered the pains of martyrdom by being boiled in oil, was miraculously saved from death, and died of old age years later).

Dear Crusaders, if we are proud to wear our badge that marks us as special friends of Jesus, are we also quick to follow Jesus in suffering and sacrifice? Did we disappoint Our Lord during Lent? All is not lost. We must be sorry and start again. Renew your prayer and sacrifice. Even as we rejoice in the Resurrection of Jesus, we must remember that we are not yet victorious with Christ. Now is the time to live our union with Christ that we feed by our Holy Communions and the spirit of prayer and sacrifice. And by doing so we will be true Apostles who bring others to follow Jesus by their example.

Remember also to fill out and return your treasure charts faithfully! This month of April we are praying so that the Church may triumph over Her enemies; next month we will pray for the conversion of sinners and unbelievers through the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Blessed Mother with your Loving Son, bless us each and everyone!

Fr Joseph Ockerse



Place
Stamp
Here

The Crusader
61 Koplick Road
Park Ridge, QLD 4125

Use tape to seal this edge

The Sisters' Corner

A Word of Encouragement from the SSPX Sisters in Sydney

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*“May the Eucharistic Crusade,  
O Jesus, O Thou, our King,  
Heroically form a vanguard,  
Serving Thee ever faithfully.”*

Dear Crusaders,

Perhaps some of you already know this Crusader song or maybe you will learn it one day and then sing it at the top of your voice! Yet do you know what a “vanguard” actually is?

A vanguard is a troop of elite soldiers – that is, of the best soldiers, the bravest ones who will be the first to encounter the enemy! Certainly they run the greatest risk of losing their lives, since they are at the front, but that does not stop them! They are not afraid to advance and to be the first into battle, no matter what it may cost!

Crusaders, if earthly armies need a vanguard, how much more important it is for the Christian army, the spiritual army of the Church, which fights for the reign of Jesus Christ! You, dear Crusaders, must form part of this vanguard, by faithfully saying your morning offering, praying the rosary daily, receiving the sacraments often, always showing a good example and never letting a day pass without offering your King valiant sacrifices, concrete victories over that enemy inside you, that is, your dominant fault... If you do all this, brave Crusaders, then even if you do not always see the results of your efforts, you can be sure that the army is advancing, wresting more territory from the enemy!

Now, how did the song say this vanguard must be formed? “Heroically”. And how can you be heroic? Simply by fulfilling the obligations of the Crusade, with an ever greater love and devotion for your beloved, victorious King, that He may reign here on earth as He does in Heaven!

How enthusiastic you should be to be part of this great army!

# A Little Heart to Heart Talk

By Fr. Mark Stafki

## #22: The Multitude Pressed Upon Jesus to Hear the Word of God (30-6-2023)

Dear Children,

God became man in Nazareth (*Introit*). He was born in Bethlehem (*Gloria in excelsis*). He fled into Egypt, and then returned to Nazareth and lived a hidden life for almost 30 years (*Collect*). When He was about 30 years old He went to the Jordan River where St John the Baptist was preaching and baptizing (*Epistle*), and then He went into the desert to pray and fast for 40 days (*Munda cor meum*). And now, He is about to preach His Gospel for three years. How much happened in those three years! It was unlike anything else that had ever happened.

Perhaps that is one of the reasons why the Gospel is said at the “wrong side of the altar.” Everything at the Mass is read either at the epistle-side or at the centre of the altar, except for the Gospel and the Last Gospel. Nothing quite like Jesus’ three years of public life had ever been seen before! Nothing quite like Jesus’ preaching had ever been heard before!

You might ask: “But if His preaching and public life are so important, then why doesn’t it happen at the right side of the altar instead of the wrong side of the altar? I mean the left side. The right side is always the most important side, so it should be read there.”

Ah, but you are making a very common mistake. You are looking at it from your place in the pew. It looks like the left side from there. However, if there is one thing that Jesus taught us again and again when He preached His Gospel, it is that we must learn to see everything from God’s point of view. Learn to look at the altar and at *everything* in life from God’s point of view. God is on His throne over the centre of the altar; He is looking out towards His children. He has sent His beloved Son to heal our diseases (especially sin) and to teach us the way to heaven. Is it not perfectly normal that He should do this at the right-hand side of His Father? “Think of God sitting throned over the altar, with Our Blessed Lord on his right hand, and you will see why the Gospel of Jesus

is read out from that side.”<sup>8</sup>

Jesus went about healing sicknesses. Imagine that! What if you had been cured from leprosy or blindness? Wouldn't you listen closely to what He had to say after that? But you *have* been cured by Him of the leprosy and blindness of your sins. He cast out devils. He forgave sins. He raised some people from the dead. Imagine if your brother died, and Jesus came, brought him back to life and gave him back to you. Wouldn't you listen closely to what He had to say after that? But he *has* raised some of your loved ones from the dead by good confessions after many years away from church. The people gathered from all around to hear Jesus preach, “standing room only.” Notice that we still stand during the Gospel at every Mass. The people back then saw the miracles. They listened eagerly to every word. Take your place in that crowd. Draw as close as you can and be very quiet. Listen to every word. Jesus' Sermon on the Mount is about to begin: “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.”



## *The Sisters' Corner*

*(continued)*

However, there is one more thing a faithful soldier must do. For the honour of Our Lord Jesus Christ, for the love of souls, you must endeavour to enlarge this gallant vanguard! Encourage your friends to join the “shock troops,” or to become Crusaders! In order to convince others, you cannot be a half-hearted Crusader, but a fervent one! If your friends see your good example and if you encourage them to be generous as well, they will surely be happy to follow Our Lord more closely and to become valiant soldiers!

Go forth then, dear Crusaders, under the standard of the Immaculate, who is as “terrible as an army set in battle array”... and the victory will be yours! Crusaders, become Apostles of the Eucharistic Crusade!

*The Sisters*

<sup>8</sup> *The Mass in Slow Motion*, p 40, by Fr Ronald Knox.

# **ON SILENCE & MEDITATION**

## *For Knights & Handmaids*

*Taken & edited from "The Crusader" #59,  
October 1994*

### **First Meditation**

#### *The Last Day*

Our Lord's description of the end of the world is frightening. But is it meant to be so for those who love Him? The first Christians looked upon Jesus Christ's second coming with a joyful expectancy. The tears of anguish shed on the last day will belong not to those who love Christ, but to those who have rejected Him. The last day will be doomsday only for those who are eternally doomed; for those who are living in the state of grace, the last day will be but another Easter.

I should not fear the approach of the end of the world. If I show my love for Jesus now, He will spare me from calamity on the last day.

Jesus, let the promise of Thy return be always before my eyes. Give me the fear of offending Thee now, so that I may be confident on the day of Thy glorious return.

Resolution: I will say the acts of Faith, Hope and Charity.



### **Second Meditation**

#### *Maturity*

What are the signs of maturity? High heels and lipstick for a girl? The first cigarette a boy lights in the presence of his parents? Staying out late? Acting callous or sophisticated? Is a beer bottle the badge of maturity? Is vulgarity a sign of adulthood? Is an approaching driver's license a certificate of completed adolescence? None of these. The true signs of maturity are these: A deeper spiritual life, a more vital practice of the virtues, a more acute sense of responsibility, the willingness to accept duties and obligations. This is the stuff maturity is made of.

Perhaps I have unconsciously identified maturity with the wrong signs. Maturity reposes not in the privileges I am given nor in "acting big." Maturity reveals itself in sound attitudes and responsible behaviour.

Jesus, turn the soil of my soul; plant the seed of wisdom there. Grant that Thy grace may give growth to that seed, and let that growth bloom into correct attitudes and responsible behaviour.

Resolution: I will try to find ways to accept duties and obligations willingly.



**Third Meditation***Convinced Catholics*

Some people are “merely born” Catholics. They go to church on Sunday; they say their prayers and in general fulfil the surface obligations of their religion. But their Catholicism isn't more than a fraction of an inch deep. In times of crisis and temptation these “merely born” Catholics become *lapsed* Catholics, fallen-aways. If we expect to save our souls, we must become more deeply Catholic; we must prize the Catholic Faith more than anything else.

It's so easy to become complacent and indifferent in the practice of my religion. It's so easy to become a routine Catholic. I need not reflect too long to see in how many ways some of my attitudes are more pagan than Catholic.

Jesus, protect me from the evil of complacency and the spiritual sickness of indifference. In Thy Inspired written Word, the Catholic Faith is called “the pearl of great price.” Let me value this pearl above all of the sparkling trinkets which the world holds up for my admiration. Give me a firm and zealous faith; a faith that will inspire all of my actions.

Resolution: I will visit Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament today (or if impossible, make a spiritual communion), and thank Him for the gift of faith.

**Fourth Meditation***Those Who Love Us*

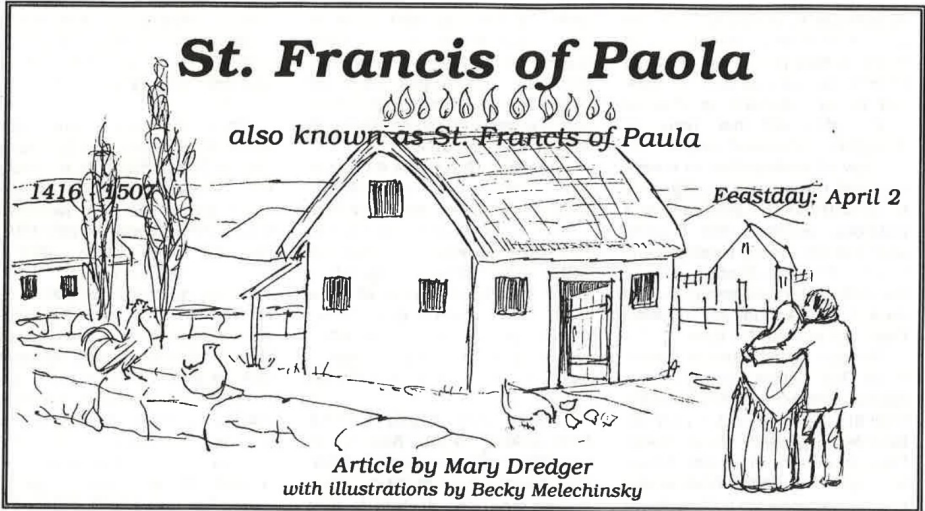
Those who love us expect much of us. Our parents, priests and teachers have laboured, sacrificed and prayed for us. They want so much to be proud of us. When we get into trouble or mischief, they cannot help but feel that their efforts have been wasted. It is unfortunate that we are unappreciative of their feelings. They stand on the sidelines watching us perform in the game of life. They feel helpless to a certain degree; all that they can do is to cheer us on. Our victory is the cause of their joy; our defeat, the source of their sadness.

I will not fully realize what my parents and others have suffered because of their love and concern for me until I take my place somewhere in their ranks. But I can strive now to fulfil their high expectations by avoiding anything that is opposed to the standards of Christian behaviour.

Jesus, keep me from bringing grief to those who love me by my misconduct. Soothe the worries and concern of those who have placed me on the pedestal that their love has built. Let them have reason to take pride in me. Jesus, keep me from offending Thee.

Resolution: I will offer a decade of the Rosary for those who love me.

# Story Hour



*Taken and abridged from "Crusade" Vol. XII, #2, March/April 1994*

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This story begins about six hundred years ago in the southern part of Italy. There, in the "toe" of Italy in the region known as Calabria, is the town of Paola where lived a holy couple by the name of d'Alessio. Giacomo, the husband, and Vienna, his wife, lived to love and serve God. For fifteen years they had prayed to have a child, but their prayers were never answered. God was keeping a big surprise for them. He planned to make them the parents of a great saint!

One night, the d'Alessios heard their neighbours calling to them excitedly. "Look above your house!" they shouted.

Giacomo and Vienna raced out of the house and turned to look. What a strange sight! There were tongues of fire dancing over the house, but they did not burn it! Little did anyone guess that the tongues of fire were a sign, for Vienna would soon bear a son who would one day be the advisor of kings and popes.

Some nine months later, on March 27, 1416, a boy baby was born to Vienna. What joy this baby brought the d'Alessios, who had prayed so long for the gift of a child! They named him after St. Francis of Assisi, to whom they had specially prayed for a baby.

When a month old, little Francis developed a swelling sore over his eye. The couple were saddened, for no doctor could heal the abscess. Vienna took baby Francis and ran to the church with him. She threw herself at the feet of the statue of St. Francis of Assisi, and with tears streaming down her face, but full of confidence, she begged him to heal Francis' eye. A few days later, the sore was completely gone. To thank St. Francis, Vienna promised him that when her son was older, he would spend a year living with Franciscans.

Like his parents, the young boy Francis was a very good Catholic, but early in

life he began to show signs of being even an extraordinary Catholic. He would pray and meditate for such a long time each day that his mother had to tell him to go outside to play. Otherwise he would forget to, so interested was he in thinking about God.

On his thirteenth birthday, Francis received a wonderful present from God: a visit from his patron. St. Francis of Assisi appeared to him and told him that now was the time God wanted him to live with the Franciscans. The next day, the d'Alessios brought their son to a nearby monastery where he lived and worked with the good friars. While he was there, the friars taught him how to read and write, and instructed him more about God and His Church.

After his year at the monastery, Francis went home again, filled more than ever with the desire of God alone in his soul. He and his parents went on a pilgrimage to Assisi to visit the town where his great patron had lived. It was after this trip that Francis decided to live by himself in an old barn so that he could give all his time to thoughts of God and prayer.

Now of course, this is a very unusual thing for a teenage boy to do without the guidance of a religious superior. But Francis was not the usual teenage boy; like St. John the Baptist alone in the desert, he was being formed directly by God for the mission God had in store for him. Soon, Francis moved to a cave where he could live hidden from everyone, to be alone with God.

He loved the quiet prayerful life which he lived, almost uninterrupted for five years. His parents and a few other good souls knew of his secret home and visited him from time to time. But there was someone else who knew of his cave and came to annoy and tempt him to leave his holy life. This was the devil and other bad angels. They did their worst to make him suffer, but he resisted them through prayer and penance.

One day, God made it clear to Francis that it was time for him to leave his cave and serve Him in the world outside. He went to live on his parents' property in a little room that they helped him build on the outskirts of their farm. Francis could go on living a life of prayer and silence while receiving visitors who came to ask for his prayers or spiritual advice.

Young men began to visit him, asking to join him in his holy life. Francis understood that God wanted him to guide other young men who desired to give their lives to Him. First there were just two others. The neighbours helped them build three cells and a little chapel. There they sang the divine praises and Mass was offered for them by a priest from the nearest village church. That year, 1436, is considered to be the beginning of the Order Francis would found. He was only twenty years old.

Over the years more men came, so that eventually Francis had to begin building a monastery where they could all live. Since the people of the neighbourhood loved the monks very much, they all joined in erecting the monastery.

It was during the construction of the monastery that God showed the people how pleased He was with Francis by the miracles He allowed the saint to perform. On one occasion, while the men were busy working on the building, a giant rock came rolling down the mountain right toward them! Francis simply raised his hand and shouted at the boulder, "In the name of Charity, stop!" And

the rock came to an instant halt!

Another time, a huge pine fell on one of the workers and killed him. Francis went to the body and knelt down beside it. He raised his arms to Heaven, rose to his feet and called out: "In the name of Charity, Domenico, arise!" Immediately the man got to his feet and went back to work!

After the monastery was built, the saint endeavoured to set up a regular monastic life for his community. Towards himself, however, he never relaxed the severe austerity which he had imposed on his own body. His bed was no longer on a rock, but it was still a bare plank, with only a log for a pillow! Only in extreme old age would he allow himself a mat on which to sleep!

Penance, charity, and humility formed the basis of Francis' rule, with charity his motto. His monks observed a kind of Lent all year long, with abstinence not only from meat, but also from eggs and anything made with milk. Why did God encourage Francis to be so strict? Because people had become very worldly and lax in the practice of virtue. They needed the example of the holy men to help them amend their lives.

God continued to manifest Francis' holiness by allowing the saint to work miracles. News of these miracles encouraged more good men to join Francis' way of life. During a terrible famine, starving people from miles around came to Francis and his monks. Miraculously, Francis was able to supply everyone with food. When supplies ran low, he would enter the church and pray. Soon, the crops would flourish so that he could give more provisions to the hungry ones.

Francis realized that this famine had come because of the sins of selfishness and worldliness. To make up for the sins of others and to ask for God's forgiveness for them, Francis and his monks did even more penance than usual and prayed very hard. Gradually, the people felt sorry that holy men like Francis and his followers were doing penance for their sins. They changed their evil ways and began to go to church again. God had sent the famine to bring men back to Himself. He made the villagers realize that their sufferings would have been much worse if Francis and his monks had not been in their country praying and suffering for their sins.

Like all saints, Francis was very humble. Though we think of him as a great saint and miracle-worker, he thought of himself as a poor sinner. In fact, the name by which he and his monks eventually became known was the "Minimi," a word which means "the least." The Minims think of themselves as the least important people in the world. Francis was right about one thing: no saint is great except for God's grace making him holy. A saint's greatness is that he uses the graces that God gives him.

People in distant places began to hear about Francis and his Minims, and they invited him to their lands to found monasteries. One place he visited was Sicily, the large island right at the "toe" of the boot of Italy. To reach Sicily, the holy monk had to cross the sea at the Strait of Messina. This was the occasion of the most famous miracle in the life of St. Francis.

The saint approached a seaman by the shore, and asked if he would be willing to carry him across the water in his boat. Now the sailor was a greedy and unkind man, and when he realized the saint had no money and was humbly begging for a



ride, he said, “If you do not have money to pay me, I do not have a boat to carry you.”

This mean remark did not bother Francis at all. He walked away quietly to the shore where he knelt to pray. In a few moments, he got to his feet, took off the cloak he wore and spread it on the waves. With one end of his staff, he picked up the edge of the cloak, creating a sail, and proceeded to float across the sea on his cloak! The astonished seaman quickly invited the saint's companions to cross the waters in his boat.

Everywhere he went in Sicily, Francis worked marvellous miracles. Rich men invited him to stay in their homes, but the Minims always stayed in the homes of the poor, or in hospitals where they could help the sick. Francis remained in Sicily for three years, inspiring all with the beautiful example of his life, and building a monastery of Minims to continue his work when he returned home.

At this time, the Pope, Paul II, had many worries, and one of the greatest was the continuing attacks of the Turks. These men hated the Catholic Church and wanted to destroy it and everyone in it. Little did he dream when he first heard of St. Francis and his monks that it was through the prayers of this humble man that the advance of the Turks would be averted.

Meanwhile, the Pope continued to hear of the holy life and miracles of Francis, and also of the hard life he was living to make up for the sins of men. The Pope had to be certain that the miracle worker was not a fake leading people astray. He was concerned too that the Minims were ruining their health by doing so much penance. When a congregation of religious start living by an entirely new rule of life, they need guidance so they don't go to extremes. Like a good father, the Pope has to watch over his spiritual children to see that they are taking care of themselves. So Pope Paul sent a good bishop to visit Francis and find out about his new way of life.

When the bishop arrived at the monastery, he did not reveal his mission. He

was very impressed by the holiness of Francis and the other Minims. When he attempted to kiss Francis' hand, Francis protested that it was for him to kiss the hands which had been offering up the Holy Sacrifice for thirty years. The bishop was amazed that Francis knew how long he, a stranger, had been a priest. Still, he was worried about the monks' many austerities. He saw that they ate very little and worked very hard, besides doing difficult penances. He spoke to Francis about these thoughts in the small, cold room where the saint lived. The saint listened very politely to everything the bishop had to say. He had had a brazier of coal brought in for the bishop so that he would not be so cold. The bishop said that he did not think that other men would be able to survive this strict way of life.

At these words, to prove what the grace of God would enable single-minded men to bear, Francis went over to the burning coals and picked them up in his hands! By a miracle, the coals did not burn him. Francis wanted to show this bishop that God could give not only him, but other men He would call to this life, the grace to live it. The bishop fell to his knees in front of the saint and kissed his garment. When he returned to Rome, he gave a wonderful report to the Pope.

Sadly, before the Pope had a chance to approve the Minim's way of life, he died. However, a new Pope, Sixtus IV, was able to approve it some years later. The Pope decided to make Francis the head of the Minims everywhere. Francis, in his humility, did not want to be the superior of everyone, but he obeyed. He continued to live as humble and prayerful a life as before.

At this time, the Italians were fighting among themselves for power. They were killing each other and destroying the countryside to gain each other's lands. Here were Christians fighting Christians at a time when the Turks were winning important battles, taking over Christian areas of the world. God allowed the Turks to win because people were again forgetting Him and His laws. While the Turks marched closer and closer to Italy, all the Italians could think of were their petty wars.

Francis and the Minims went about Italy, warning their countrymen of their need for penance and prayer to stop the foes of Christianity from overrunning Italy and all of Europe. The holy hermit even wrote a letter to the King of Naples, begging him to stop fighting other Catholics and start fighting the enemies who were coming to destroy his religion as well as his kingdom. This king ignored Francis and was actually angry with him for writing to him.

Soon, the Turks attacked Otranto, a busy port on the coast of Italy. They swarmed into the city, killing and burning, destroying everything and everyone. Finally, the king woke up and gathered a great army to fight the Turks. The soldiers attacked the Turks at Otranto, but the Turks would not give up the city.

For eight days during the fighting, Francis stayed in his little room, praying and doing penance. On the evening of the eighth day, he came out very happy and said, "Blessed be God, brothers; He has decided to take pity on us! Shortly the Turks will be cast out of our land."

When we consider that the Turks intended to take over all Catholic lands and kill all those who would not become Moslems, we can say that this was the greatest miracle of St. Francis of Paola!

After this great victory through the intercession of Francis, one would have thought that the King of Naples would have great respect for the holy monk. Instead, he listened to evil men, who were jealous of the love the Italian people had for Francis, and convinced the king to arrest him! He sent soldiers to capture Francis and destroy his monastery.

When the soldiers arrived, they searched everywhere for Francis, who was praying in the church, but he was invisible to them! At last, God made the saint visible to the men. They realized how wrong it was for them to arrest this holy man, and begged his forgiveness. He gave them some blessed objects for the king and his family and sent them back to him. By a special grace of God, the king was not angry that the soldiers returned without Francis, and he accepted the blessed objects from the saint. Francis' prayers had obtained a change of heart for the king. The king even invited him to set up a monastery in his city!

By now, the fame of Francis' holiness and miracles had spread even farther. One day he received a letter from no less a person than Louis XI, the King of France! The king had suffered a stroke and hoped to be cured by the saint. He also wanted Francis to start a monastery of Minims in France. By this time, the holy man was sixty-five years of age and considered a journey of that length to be too much for a man of his age. In those days, before trains or airplanes or super-highways, it was a very long and hard journey to travel on foot or in a wagon the length of Italy, cross over to France, and continue across that country to meet the king. Francis wasn't sure that it was God's will for him to attempt such a trip just because a worldly king was afraid of dying. Perhaps too, loving his own country, he didn't want to leave it, maybe never to return, if it was not what God wanted.

The King of France was not used to refusals, so he asked the King of Naples to order Francis to leave for France. In a matter like this it was not the whim of kings to whom Francis owed religious obedience. Again, the saint very politely declined. It took a letter from the Pope himself to assure the monk that it was God's Will he go to France.

In this difficult test, the saint's obedience was perfect. He was leaving all his family and friends and his native land. No complaint passed his lips, but it was with tears that he took leave of his people and country, as well as his fellow Minimi, only three of which he took with him as companions. Francis knew by a special grace from Our Lord that he would never return.

On the long and hard journey, Francis worked many miracles along the way. Of course, as he travelled northward, he stopped in Naples to visit the king, and in Rome to visit the Pope. When the travellers reached Ostia, they boarded a ship that took them to the port of Marseilles in the south of France. On the voyage, they encountered rough weather, so they dropped anchor near the coast to wait out the storm. Suddenly, a Turkish pirate ship approached and started to bomb the Italian ship, even though the storm was still raging. The frightened captain turned to the holy monk for advice. "Brothers, raise the anchor and have no fear! With the help of God, none of you will be hurt!" At these words, the pirate ship could no longer move, and the saint's ship sailed away unharmed by storm or pirates.

Having reached France, the travellers were told that a terrible plague was

spreading along the southern coast of France. Through Francis' intercession, several cities he passed through were freed from the horrid disease that was destroying their population. Wherever he was, Francis of Paola always wished to help others for the love of God.

After three months of travel, Francis and his companions reached Tours, where the king was living at the time. When they reached the palace of the king, Louis XI was overjoyed, hoping that he would soon be cured. Little did he know that God had informed Francis that it would not be good for the soul of the king if he were cured in body, and that he would be unable to heal him. He could only assure the king that the lives of all men are in the hands of God, and urge the king to pray. As time passed, and the king did not get well, he began to think that Francis wanted some payment or gifts before he would cure him. He tempted him with various things such as food, money, and a beautiful golden statue of Our Lady. Such things are not bad in themselves, but Francis and his Minimi had given up rich possessions to imitate Our Lord in His poverty. So, Francis politely refused all the gifts.

Francis and the king had many conversations. Those who heard the saint speak said that while he was a humble and unlearned man, his words were full of wisdom. His hearers were convinced that the Holy Ghost spoke through his lips. Through the words, prayers, and saintly example of the holy monk, the king realized that it was not God's Will to cure him. It was God's Will that he live a more holy life, and treat those around him more kindly. He began to change his life. Four months after St. Francis arrived France, the king died in the saint's arms, a happy, peaceful death as a good Christian.

After the death of the king, the holy Minims stayed in France. Francis became the advisor to Princess Anne, who was the ruler of the country after the death of the French king, as well as to Charles VIII, who ruled after her. Both of these monarchs were worldly people, but they greatly esteemed Francis and asked his advice and prayers. Through the example of the saint, they became more religious and tried to live better lives. Charles died young, and another worldly man, Louis XII, came into power. Again, Francis had a good influence on this king, helping him to change his life for the better, but the French monarchs would never let the saint go home to Italy.

Francis had been twenty-five years in France; he was ninety-one years old, and he knew that his life was nearly over. For seventy-eight years he had lived a life of severe penance. His life had been given totally to God. Now his Lord wished to take him to Himself. Francis told his Minims that he would soon die, and spent the last three months of his life preparing for death. He developed a fever which weakened him. Even so, the saint continued to do penance and pray every three hours, even interrupting his sleep during the night to pray.

On Palm Sunday of the year 1507, his fever had become so high that moving grew very difficult. By Holy Thursday, he knew the end was near, so he called together his monks to say goodbye and give them his blessing. Kneeling on the floor of his room, with tears of repentance he begged God to forgive his sins. Then he embraced each monk and gave a personal blessing. The monks wept unashamedly. With a few of them supporting him, he was able to attend the Mass



of Holy Thursday, at which he joined in the singing and received Holy Communion. The monks assisted him back to his room, where he received the sacrament of Extreme Unction.

The next morning, Good Friday, he asked the Minimi to read certain Psalms from the Bible and recite the Litany of the Saints. The sorrowing monks were kneeling around his poor bed of vine leaves, or in the chapel, praying. On this day is read Our Lord's Passion according to St. John. During this reading, Francis kept blessing himself with holy water and kissing his crucifix.

When the saint spoke for the last time he said, "O my Lord Jesus Christ! O Good Shepherd, save the just, reclaim sinners, have mercy on all the faithful, living and dead, and on me, a miserable sinner. Amen."

Thus, on the very day of our Savior's death, and breathing the names of Jesus and Mary, St. Francis heaved a sigh and gave his pure soul to God. The holiness of St. Francis of Paola was so well known and proven that he was canonized only twelve years after his death by Pope Leo X.

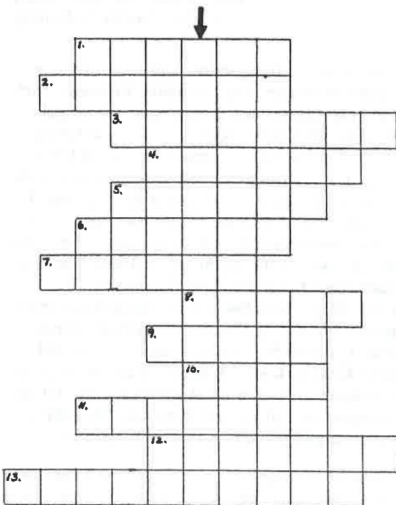
The End.

+ + + + + + +

# Crusader Games

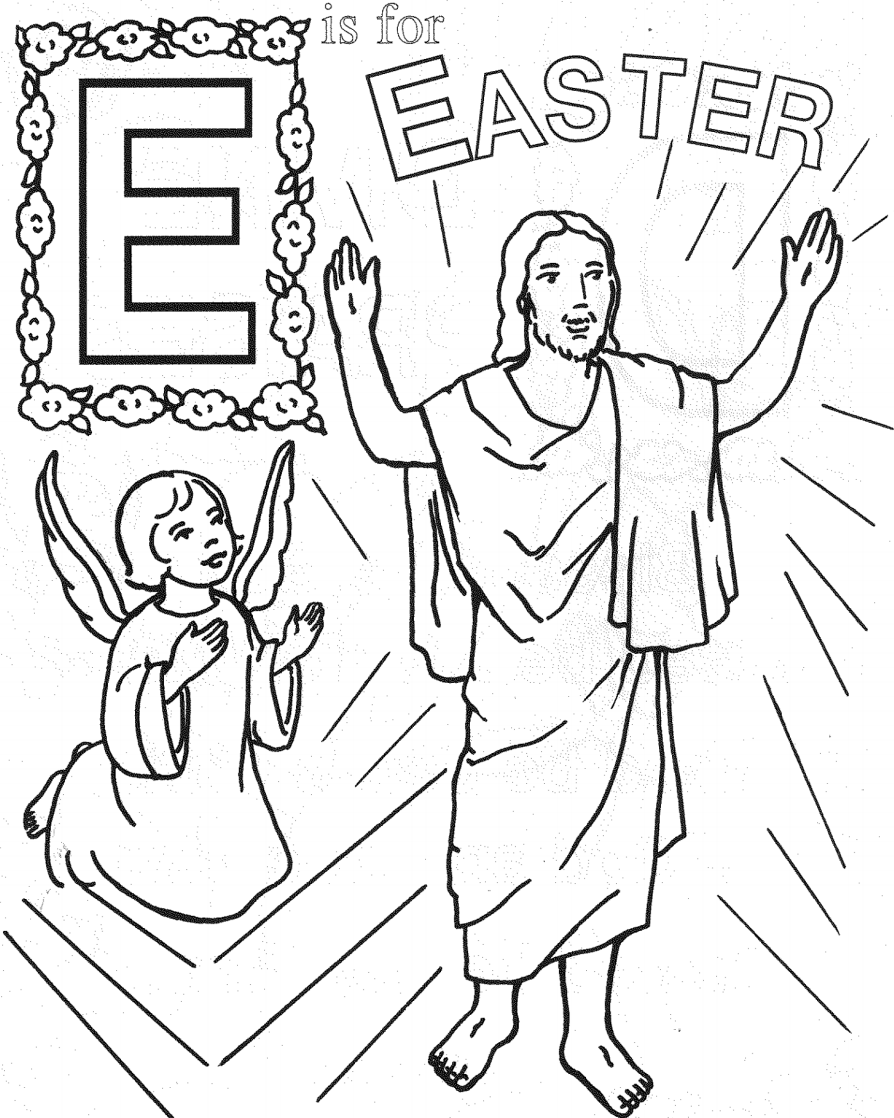
## St. Francis of Paola Word Puzzle

Read the story to find the answers. When the puzzle is finished the vertical row of boxes under the arrow will spell a word that applied to St. Francis.



1. St. Francis lived the life of a \_\_\_\_\_ in a cave.
2. The holy hermit raised a dead man to life by saying, "In the name of \_\_\_\_\_, arise!"
3. Many \_\_\_\_\_ were performed by St. Francis.
4. When the people forgot about God, a \_\_\_\_\_ came to Italy.
5. St. Francis visited the island of \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The Pope was worried that the Minimi were ruining their \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The king of \_\_\_\_\_ was angry with St. Francis for begging him to stop fighting wars with other Catholics and fight the Turks.
8. The soldiers from Naples realized it was \_\_\_\_\_ for them to arrest the saint.
9. King Louis XI lived in \_\_\_\_\_, France.
10. On his way to France, St. Francis stopped in \_\_\_\_\_ to see the Pope.
11. While traveling by boat to France, a \_\_\_\_\_ ship attacked the ship on which St. Francis was sailing.
12. Even when St. Francis grew old, he continued to do \_\_\_\_\_ for the sins of others.
13. St. Francis died on \_\_\_\_\_, the day we remember Our Lord's death. (two words)

# Colouring Page

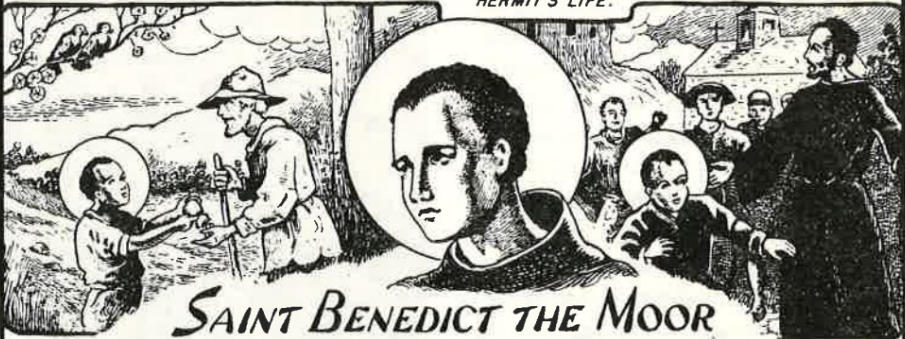


On Easter morning, Our Blessed Lord rose from the dead.

## SAINT SPOTLIGHT: ST. BENEDICT THE MOOR

**ST. BENEDICT THE MOOR** WAS THE SON OF CHRISTOPHER AND DIANA MANASSERI WHO WERE SLAVES ON A FARM IN SAN FILADELFO, SICILY. HIS ANCESTORS HAD BEEN BROUGHT IN CHAINS FROM AFRICA TO SICILY. ALTHOUGH BENEDICT SPENT HIS YOUTH ON THE QUIET, OUT-OF-THE-WAY FARM, LABORING HUMBLY WITH HIS PARENTS, THE PEOPLE SOON RECOGNIZED HIS REAL GOODNESS AND DEEP PIETY. AT THE AGE OF 18 HE WAS GIVEN HIS FREEDOM, AND WITH THE WAGES HE RECEIVED FOR HIS WORK AS A FREE MAN HE BEGAN TO HELP THE SICK AND THE NEEDY.

THERE WERE ENOUGH JEALOUS PEOPLE IN THE TOWN, HOWEVER, TO RIDICULE HIS PIETY AND TO INSULT HIM WITH REMARKS ABOUT HIS RACE, HIS COLOR AND HIS PARENTAGE. ONE DAY, WHILE BENEDICT WAS PATIENTLY SUFFERING INSULTS FROM A GROUP OF SUCH PEOPLE, A MAN WHO WAS PASSING BY STOPPED AND SAID, "YOU ARE MAKING FUN OF THIS POOR NEGRO NOW, BUT LET ME TELL YOU THAT IN A FEW YEARS HIS NAME WILL BE FAMOUS." THE MAN WHO SPOKE THOSE PROPHETIC WORDS WAS JEROME LANZA, A NOBLEMAN WHO HAD GIVEN UP WEALTH AND HONOR TO LIVE A HERMIT'S LIFE.



**SAINT BENEDICT THE MOOR**

HE WHO HUMBLING HIMSELF SHALL BE EXALTED. ( ST. LUKE 18, 14.)  
SO SHALL THE LAST BE FIRST AND THE FIRST LAST. ( ST. MATTHEW 20, 16. )



AT JEROME'S INVITATION, BENEDICT GAVE TO THE POOR WHAT LITTLE HE HAD AND JOINED THE HERMIT IN A LIFE OF EXTRAORDINARY HOLINESS WITH HIS FELLOW-HERMITS. WHEN JEROME LANZA DIED, THEY CHOSE BENEDICT TO BE THEIR LEADER. THE WISDOM OF THEIR CHOICE WAS PROVED BY THE FACT THAT UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP THESE HERMITS LED LIVES OF SUCH SANCTITY THAT THEIR REPUTATION SPREAD TO EVERY CORNER OF SICILY. WHEN POPE PIUS IV IN 1562 ADVISED THE HERMITS TO JOIN ONE OF THE OLDER ORDERS OF THE CHURCH, BENEDICT CHOSE TO ENTER THE ORDER OF FRIAR MINORS AS A LAYBROTHER.



HIS INTENSE DEVOTION TO THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AND HIS LOVE FOR OUR LADY WERE REWARDED BY MANY MIRACLES AMONG THE PEOPLE OF PALERMO WHO CAME TO HIM FOR HELP AND CONSOLATION IN ALL THEIR NEEDS. HE KNEW THE DATE OF HIS DEATH BEFOREHAND - APRIL 4, 1589; SO ON THE MORNING OF THAT DAY HE RECEIVED HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE LAST TIME AND LATER CLOSED HIS EYES IN DEATH. HE WAS CANONIZED BY POPE PIUS VII IN 1807.



The Crusader prays, receives Communion, makes sacrifices and shows good example for the intention that is given him each month by Reverend Father Davide Pagliarani, successor of Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre as Superior General of the Society of Saint Pius X



PRAVER

**April 2024 Intention:**  
**So that the Church may triumph over Her enemies**

### 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

**So that the Church may triumph over Her enemies**



COMMUNION



SACRIFICE



APOSTOLATE

### DECEMBER 2024 RESULTS

The Intention was for all our benefactors

|              | Treasure Sheets returned | Morning Offering | Masses     | Communions  |            | Sacrifices  | Decades of the Rosary | Visits to Blessed Sacrament | 15 mins of meditation | Good Example | % returned |
|--------------|--------------------------|------------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|------------|
|              |                          |                  |            | Sacramental | Spiritual  |             |                       |                             |                       |              |            |
| Brisbane     | 3                        | 88               | 42         | 41          | 86         | 147         | 562                   | 32                          | 32                    | 184          | 4%         |
| Jolimont     | 1                        | 31               | 5          | 3           | 10         | 0           | 50                    | 2                           | 0                     | 10           | 7%         |
| Seminary     | 4                        | 124              | 24         | 23          | 146        | 323         | 596                   | 10                          | 112                   | 214          | 36%        |
| Rockdale     | 7                        | 221              | 45         | 41          | 344        | 320         | 441                   | 17                          | 187                   | 114          | 16%        |
| Tynong       | 13                       | 290              | 100        | 81          | 33         | 265         | 1866                  | 17                          | 40                    | 123          | 22%        |
| Whanganui    | 17                       | 521              | 250        | 246         | 135        | 1168        | 2507                  | 333                         | 243                   | 812          | 29%        |
| Albury       | 8                        | 219              | 65         | 55          | 108        | 359         | 949                   | 47                          | 55                    | 253          | 57%        |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>53</b>                | <b>1494</b>      | <b>531</b> | <b>490</b>  | <b>862</b> | <b>2582</b> | <b>6971</b>           | <b>458</b>                  | <b>669</b>            | <b>1710</b>  | <b>19%</b> |

***Eucharistic Crusade in Australia,  
St. Philomena School, 61 Koplick Road, Park Ridge, 4125, Queensland***