

The **WHITE ROSE**



ISSUE 05 January, 2010

YOUR MONTHLY SDBV
NEWSLETTER



From the
Founder:
Feast of Mary,
Mother of God
(Jan. 1st)

Q & A:
Bouting with
the "Christmas
Blues".

30th Year
Memorial of
ArchBishop
Sheen

And More...

This
Month
at the
Tree of Life:

Epiphany



This practice of (True) Devotion gives to those who make use of it faithfully a great interior liberty, which is the liberty of the children of God.

St. Louis de Montfort

Dear Children of Mary...

As the New Year begins with the Feast of the Theotokos on January 1st, I would like to share with you some thoughts about Mary, the Mother of God.

Mary is the mother of Jesus, not just the human part of Him but all of Him because He is one person even though He has two natures, so She is the Mother of God. When God became man, in Jesus, He gave Himself a mother. But not just any mother, a sinless mother, a perfect mother, a mother *full of grace*. She was destined to co-redeem with Him; therefore, the mother of the Lamb of God needed to be without blemish as well. Mary, the eternal fiat, being always in the divine will of God, always remained in God's favor. Consequently being assumed into heaven and made its Queen, took Her place, united to each person of the Holy Trinity, forever a part of each action of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

And the Mother of God was given to men, to be the Mother of all men. Though it is hard to imagine, this means that everything She was and is as Mother of God, She is for us as our mother, Mother of the Church, Mother of all of the children of God, Mother of grace. She was the means the Father chose to give Himself to men and the means He still chooses to give Himself to us, and for us to give ourselves to Him as well.

I realize we sometimes have a wrong idea of what a mother is due to issues with our own mothers... but, suffice it to say that She is the example that all others should find their model of motherhood in, and therefore should not project what Our Lady is to us by what other mothers have shown themselves to be.

By faith we can expect from Our Lady what God has made Her to be for us as our Mother. And faith gives us a truer image than our experiential knowledge. By faith I can know something as God Himself made it to be, whereas my experiences can give me the distorted image of fallen nature, especially when injustice and sin harm us. Faith gives us a direct line to God's view and His knowledge is perfect, therefore, faith gives us greater access to remaining in God's will.

So let us allow faith to show us who She is for us. Let us listen to the voice of faith. And when other voices, seemingly stronger and backed by bad memories, try to give us another image of Her than the one faith gives us, let us believe our faith. Let the other voices fall on deaf ears, keep them from entering our hearts. Let us repeat to ourselves what faith tells us, that we can receive all that God has to give us. Amen.

God bless you and Mary keep you
Br. Mariamartin de la Cruz



Dewdrops

Second reading from Solemnity of Mother of God:

Brothers and sisters: When the fullness of time had come, God sent his son, born of a woman, born under the law, to ransom those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. As proof that you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then also an heir, through God.

From left to right: St. Gregory of Nazianzen, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, St. Sebastian, St. Vincent Pallotti, St. Paul's Conversion, St. Angela de Merici, St. Timothy, St. Thomas Aquinas.

Q & A's



A: Our Lady said at Medjugorje that Christmas is the day most souls are released from purgatory. This tells me that more graces are dispensed on Christmas than any other day. I will not go into all the reasons why this is true or argue the points as to why this day and not Easter or Good Friday or Pentecost. I will simply use it as my foundation.

Christmas is a day of light, the light of Christ come into the world. In fact His birth coincides with the time of the feast of lights in the Jewish faith. Our Lord called the devil the "prince of this world." So the world experiences darkness due to the adversary of our souls and how he has influenced the ways of the world.

Because Christmas is when graces abound the most, and is the holiest day, it is the day also whereby God is most neglected. He is not given

Q: Every Christmas Season I experience a dark melancholy that increases the closer it gets to Christmas Day and by that day is agonizing! It's worse than anything I feel around Easter or Halloween which spiritually would make more sense. I've dealt with my own "issues" about Christmas the best I can and at this point it seems much bigger than just "me". So I was wondering if you had any discernment on that and a healthy way to come through it.

His due. It is a day that ought to be the day He is loved and remembered as God and savior more than other days. And yet it is the least proportionately.

All those who truly belong to God and that He has advanced enough, share in His sufferings co-redemptively. And this is one of those days, like all holy days, where those who belong to God share in His sorrow at the worldliness of His children who forget where all their good comes from. And part of this sharing is to experience the darkness that is the envelopment of this worldliness that those who have accepted it into their hearts dwell in.

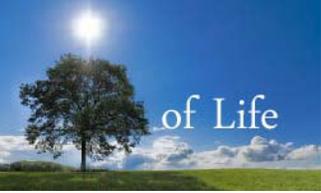
To come through it, a soul can do his best not to focus on it, but to surrender it all. Like a conduit, feel it and offer it, letting it go through us and not allowing it to get stuck in us by dwelling on it. It will not be helpful to try to reconcile it in ourselves as if it were due to our own sins or weaknesses. If we do this it will not work, it will not diminish in the least. In fact it will

grow stronger since we will not surrender it and it will get stuck in us like a clogged pipe.

By surrendering this suffering we allow ourselves to be vessels of grace and mercy. And in a way that is mystical, we help to make up for the effects of the neglect of God and assist in bringing light where there is darkness. As St. Paul says, "I am filling up in my body for what is lacking in sufferings in the body of Christ, which is His Church."

It may seem that we are giving up our would be experiences of Christmas, but the truth is we are sharing in the very heart of God and how He experiences Christmas. And in doing so we become part of the experience of transformation of sufferings to graces for the world.

This is not then a deprivation of good due to sins that need repentance, as it surely may feel; but is a sign of His favor and blessing upon us in a world that often is immersed in more darkness than light.



of Life



Epiphany

We all know that Epiphany means a manifestation of God. And liturgically we use the readings of the Magi's visit, or Jesus baptism in the Jordan by St. John the Baptist. But I would like us to reflect a little on the ordinary presence of God.

Our Father is always present to His children, simply because we are His children. Being His children means He loves us infinitely. This infinite love causes Him to always be solicitous for our good. This is His providential care for us. He orders everything in our lives for the benefit of our souls and to bring us into His will because He knows this is our true good. And since our life here on earth is the means to attain heaven, to be with Him for all eternity; He orders all in our material life for the spiritual good that we may live in Him and He in us in this life and the next for He made us to be united to Him for all eternity.

When we are in the state of grace, the Holy Trinity dwells in us. And it is from His presence within us that He communicates to us. We do not always apprehend what He communicates, but He communicates nonetheless. This is the ordinary union He has with a soul and a soul can reach the highest degree of union with God by this means of intimate communication without ever having any extraordinary communications or manifestations of His presence.

We can benefit most from this indwelling by acknowledging this Presence and communicating with this Presence just as if we could see Him visibly, by living this spiritual reality just as if it were a physical reality. We should not think that because His presence is not physically measurable it is less real. Since He has always existed, before He created the world and man, what is physical to us, His existence is a greater reality than what we perceive through our senses. So let us live this deeper reality of His indwelling presence. Whatever you are doing, do it with Him. Act as if He is always with you, for He truly is. Amen.

The 3 Kings

Tradition tells us that the Magi were not only holy men for their unique destiny in seeing the Star whereas others did not but little facts are known with certainty. Saint Gaspar, Saint Melchior and Saint Balthasar, "canonized by acclamation, however, not by the infallible process we use now to declare saints" are remembered on January 6th and the cathedral of Cologne contains what are claimed to be the remains of the Magi; these, it is said, were discovered in Persia, brought to Constantinople by St. Helena, transferred to Milan in the fifth century and to [Cologne](#) in 1163.



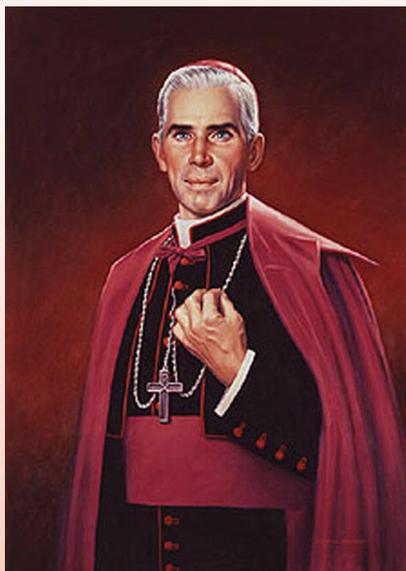
The "Shrine of the Three Kings" a large gilded sarcophagus dating from the 15th century, and the largest reliquary in the Western world is traditionally believed to hold the remains of the Three Wise Men, whose bones and 2,000-year-old clothes were discovered at the opening of the shrine in 1864.

+
Saints
Gaspar,
Melchior
& Balthasar.
+
Pray for us!



"If I were not a Catholic, and were looking for the true Church in the world today, I would look for the one Church which did not get along well with the world; in other words, I would look for the Church which the world hated. My reason for doing this would be, that if Christ is in any one of the churches of the world today, He must still be hated as He was when He was on earth in the flesh. If you would find Christ today, then find the Church that does not get along with the world. Look for the Church that is hated by the world as Christ was hated by the world. Look for the Church that is accused of being behind the times, as our Lord was accused of being ignorant and never having learned. Look for the Church which men sneer at as socially inferior, as they sneered at Our Lord because He came from Nazareth. Look for the Church which is accused of having a devil, as Our Lord was accused of being possessed by Beelzebub, the Prince of Devils.

We now are in the 30th year memorial of this great man who died Dec. 9, 1979 in his chapel before the Presence of the Blessed Sacrament. He always did preparation for his show in adoration so it is a beautiful and poetic end to his holy life!

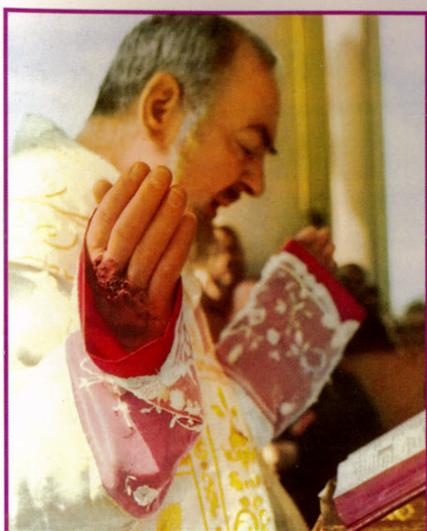


Servant of God
Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen



Look for the Church which, in seasons of bigotry, men say must be destroyed in the name of God as men crucified Christ and thought they had done a service to God. Look for the Church which the world rejects because it claims it is infallible, as Pilate rejected Christ because He called Himself the Truth. Look for the Church which is rejected by the world as Our Lord was rejected by men. Look for the Church which amid the confusions of conflicting opinions, its members love as they love Christ, and respect its Voice as the very voice of its Founder, and the suspicion will grow, that if the Church is unpopular with the spirit of the world, then it is unworldly, and if it is unworldly it is other worldly. Since it is other-worldly, it is infinitely loved and infinitely hated as was Christ Himself. But only that which is Divine can be infinitely hated and infinitely loved. Therefore the Church is Divine."

We have found this novena to be very powerful and highly recommend it. Just copy and past the prayer text to print... and the picture too if you want!



"I want to be only a poor Friar who prays . . . Pray, hope and don't worry. Worry is useless. God is merciful and will bear your prayer. . . Prayer is the best weapon we have; it is the key to God's heart. You must speak to Jesus not only with your lips but with your heart. In fact on certain occasions you should speak to Him only with your heart . . ."

Saint Pio of Pietrelcina

Received the Stigmata: Sept. 20, 1918
Entered Eternal Life: Sept. 23, 1968
Canonized a Saint: June 16, 2002

**Efficacious Novena
to the Sacred Heart of Jesus**

(This novena prayer was recited every day by Padre Pio for all who asked for his prayers. You are invited to recite it daily, so as to be spiritually united with the prayer of St. Pio of Pietrelcina.)

I. O my Jesus, You have said: "Truly I say to you, ask and it will be given you, seek and you will find, knock and it will be opened to you." Behold, I knock, I seek, and I ask for the grace of. . .

Our Father..., Hail Mary..., Glory be to the Father...
Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in You.

II. O my Jesus, You have said: "Truly I say to you, if you ask anything of the Father in My Name, He will give it to you." Behold, in Your name, I ask the Father for the grace of. . .

Our Father ..., Hail Mary ..., Glory be to the Father ...
Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in You.

III. O my Jesus, You have said: "Truly I say to you, heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away." Encouraged by Your infallible words, I now ask for the grace of. . .

Our Father ..., Hail Mary ..., Glory be to the Father ...
Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in You.

O Sacred Heart of Jesus, for whom it is impossible not to have compassion on the afflicted, have mercy on us sinners, and grant us the grace which we ask of You, through the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, Your tender mother and ours.

Say the Hail, Holy Queen prayer ...
Conclude with: St. Joseph, foster father of Jesus, pray for us.

Liturgical Calendar: JANUARY

(not on calendar) / Sunday overrides memorial

- 1: Solemnity of Mother of God
- 2: Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory of Nazianzen
- 3: Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord
- 4: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
- 5: St. John Neumann
- 6: Bd. Andre Bassette
- 7: St. Raymond of Penafort
- 10: Baptism of the Lord (*Feast*)
- 13: St. Hilary
- 20: Sts. Fabian & Sebastian
- 21: Agnes
- 22: St. Vincent Pallotti
Day of Penance
- 25: Conversion of St. Paul (*Feast*)
- 26: Sts. Timothy & Titus
- 27: St. Angela Merici
- 28: St. Thomas Aquinas



Can you guess this months Saints?
Answers on bottom of pg.2

Amazing!!!

2009 ended with an outpouring of Ecclesial blessings as in December His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI made Pope John Paul II & Pope Pius XII both Servants of God and approved miracles for both Bd. Brother Andre & Bd. Mary MacKillop which paves the way towards their Canonizations.



Do You have Questions?

As this is your Newsletter...

Email us your questions.
We'd love to hear from you!
It may be selected to be in
the Newsletter, so let us
know if you prefer to
remain anonymous.



YOUR
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Sons & Daughters of the
Blessed Virgin

sdbv@earthlink.net
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