

Padre Pio's Love For Mary

from *The Life of Padre Pio*, pp 151-3
by Gennaro Preziuso

At San Giovanni Rotondo, Padre Pio spent many hours in prayer before the image of Santa Maria delle Grazie. He asked Her heavenly intervention on behalf of those who had come to him. When he was presented with an especially difficult case, he would say: "Here we need the Madonna."

She was the one who directed his thoughts, suggested how he should act, and inflamed his heart. He went to Her under a variety of titles: Mediatrix, Auxiliatrix, Advocate. He loved to contemplate Her at the foot of the Cross, and he would say of Her: "The sorrowful Virgin obtains for us, from Her most holy Son, the ability to penetrate ever more deeply into the mystery of the Cross, and to be inebriated with the sufferings of Jesus."

He Wrote

"The greatest proof of love consists in *suffering for the beloved*, and since the Son of God endured so many sufferings out of pure love, there is no doubt that *any cross carried for Him becomes lovable to the degree of one's love*.

"May the most holy Virgin obtain for us a love of the Cross, of suffering, of sorrows... and may She who was the first to practice the Gospel in all its perfection, in all its severity, even before it was written, obtain for us on this very day the stimulus to come close to Her.

"Let us endeavor, like so many elect souls, to follow this blessed Mother, to walk always close to Her, not following any other path that leads to life, except the one trod by our Mother." (*Epistolario*, I, 602)

To a spiritual daughter who had asked him to say something about the Madonna, he wrote: "You should realize that Jesus, Who is the source of living water, cannot come to us without a channel, and the channel is Mary.

"Jesus comes to us only through the Blessed Virgin. Let us imitate the Virgin in holy humility and in prudence. May the Madonna make you experience all Her love. Let us abandon ourselves to the hands of the heavenly Mother if we want to find peace and well-being."

Rosary Always In His Hands

Padre Pio expressed his Marian devotion by his constant and practically uninterrupted recitation of the Rosary. He always had the Rosary in his hands. *He considered it a powerful weapon for putting the devil to flight, for overcoming temptation, for conquering the heart of God, and for obtaining graces through the Madonna.*

"This prayer," he said, "is a summary of our faith; the basis of our hope; the outpouring of our charity." With the Rosary, Padre Pio meditated and contemplated the Gospel foundations of the mystery of salvation.

Satan Tries To Destroy The Rosary

He had mentioned several times that some persons had stated that the Rosary was out of fashion, that it had been surpassed by other forms of prayer, but this only made him speak more forcefully in defense of the Rosary: "Let us do what we have always done, what our fathers have done, and all will be well. Satan always tries to destroy this prayer, *but he will never succeed.*

"It is the prayer of those *who are victorious*. It is the prayer that the Madonna taught us, as Jesus taught us the *Pater Noster*."

Padre Pio was once asked how the Rosary should be recited, and he answered: "Pay attention to the Ave Maria, the salutation made to the Virgin in the mystery that is being contemplated. Think of Her participation in that mystery. *Focus on Her feelings at that time*. She was present in all the mysteries of the Rosary. She participated in all of them with love and sorrow. *Think of Her love and sorrow.*" +++

Nine Gold Winners!

At the Seattle Special Olympics, not long ago, nine contestants, all physically or mentally disabled assembled at the starting line for the 100-yard dash. At the gun, they all started out, not exactly in a dash, but with a relish to run the race to the finish and win.

All, that is, except one little boy who stumbled on the asphalt, tumbled over a couple of times, and began to cry. The other eight heard the boy cry. They slowed down and looked back. Then they all turned around and went back... *every one of them!*

One girl with Down's Syndrome bent down and kissed him, and said, "This will make it better." Then all nine linked arms and walked together to the finish line.

What Really Matters!

Everyone in the stadium stood; the cheering went on for several minutes. People who were there are still telling the story. Why?

Because deep down we know this one thing: What matters in this life is more than winning for ourselves. What matters in this life is helping others win, even if it means slowing down and changing our course. +++

The Healing Power of One Hail Mary

by Tony Zuniga

*T*ony Zuniga is special. He has many gifts from the Holy Spirit. Like Padre Pio and John Bosco, one of them is "enlightenment." (We carry one of his fascinating books titled: "Mother of the Most Beautiful Love.")

We tell you this happening, so that perhaps in some way, you, too, can help someone who is "hurting." This is how Tony relates this event: ...

*S*everal years ago, a very dear friend of mine from upstate New York called me one day just to say hello. We had been talking for a few minutes, when suddenly she burst out, "Oh, my God Tony, I nearly forgot. There is a very good friend of my son visiting him today, and my son is worried because his friend wants to kill himself. Here, talk to the boy. Maybe you can help him."

And before I could even reply, the voice of a young boy about 13 or 14 years old said, "Hello." So, I answered, "Why, hello, what is your name?" He answered me in a somewhat sarcastic voice, "Tommy. What's yours, and what do you want?"

I said, "My name is Tony Zuniga and I do not want anything. But the mother of your friend there tells me that you want to kill yourself. Could you tell me why you want to do something as stupid as that?"

He retorted, "You don't understand because you don't have a father like mine. If you did, and you lived here, you, too, might want to kill yourself."

I Needed Spiritual Help

I knew immediately he needed personal help. But in order to be able to help him, *I knew I needed spiritual help.* So I said, silently "Holy Spirit Help."

This is an idea I adopted one day while watching a movie about a ship in distress that radioed "SOS," which of course, as most of us know, means "SAVE OUR SHIP."

Since then, I decided that whenever I need help, *any kind of help*, or feel confused, or I am in distress and I need immediate help, *I always ask the Holy Spirit silently to help me* and say, "HSH," or *Holy Spirit Help...* and prompting comes immediately.

I then know what to say, or not say... what to do, or not do... so I become relaxed and allow the Holy Spirit to take over.

Holy Spirit Speaking Through Me

When this young boy shouted at me on the phone and even challenged me that if I lived in his home and had a father like his, that I, too, would probably want to kill myself, I knew that whatever I said, it would be the Holy Spirit speaking for me and guiding my words.

I answered him, "What's wrong with your dad? Does he like your older brother better than he likes you?"

There was a brief silence, and then he said, "How did you know I have an older brother? And yes, you are right. My dad does love him more than he loves me."

I answered right back, "And you are going to kill yourself because of that!"

Apparently this young man was desperate and confused, but he was not afraid to speak his mind,

"My father is a big man. Over six feet tall, weighs over 250 pounds, and he has a very short fuse. He gets angry at everything I do. I am supposed to show him my report card tonight and he has to sign it. But when he sees that I flunked every subject this semester he is going to explode.

"And without saying a word, he will take the back of his hand and slap me on the face as hard as he can. I will go sailing through the air and hit a wall. He will probably break my nose or my jaw, or maybe both. He has done this before.

"Then my mother will come over and start yelling at me, 'Now look what you have done, you ungrateful son. You got your father all upset. Go upstairs and don't come down until tomorrow. You get nothing to eat tonight!'"

His voice sounded as if he was going to cry. "...And I just can't take it anymore, so I will go upstairs to my bedroom, and I will cut my wrists and kill myself."

A Miracle Tonight!

After listening to his desperate plea for help, I knew I had to move aside and let the Holy Spirit take over. When I do this, I feel I am no longer in control. The Holy Spirit speaks for me.

I asked the boy, "How would you like to see a miracle happen tonight?" There was surprise silence.

Then he asked, "What do you mean a miracle? What's a miracle? What kind of a miracle?"

"How would you like to go home tonight, and when you give the report card to your dad he will look at it for a few minutes. He will then walk up to you, put his arm around you and tell you that he loves you and wants to help you? Your mother will then come from the other side and hug you and kiss you."

He yelled back at me, "It will never happen! NEVER!"

"I will ask you again," I answered. "How would you like to see a miracle tonight?"

There was a long pause, but I waited until he was ready to talk. He then asked, "What do I have to do?"

I then asked him, "Do you still remember the *Hail Mary* prayer?"

He said, "Yes!"

"Good, so here is what you are going to do. Before you give him the report card, go to your room and be silent for about five minutes. Think of Mary, the Mother of God and how much She suffered at the foot of the cross. Then believe and *know* that She, as your beautiful mother, wants to help you more than you want to be helped.

"Then say one *Hail Mary* and that is all. See Her standing there

in front of you listening to your problem. Tell Her everything that bothers you. Ask Her to help you, and *through the power of Her Spouse, the Holy Spirit, She will.*

One More Thing

“But there is one more thing you have to do. It is important. You may not want to do it, but believe me, it is very, very important. As a matter of fact, from what little you have already told me about your life and how much you have suffered, you have no options.

“But it is your choice. Either you do what I am about to ask you to do and stay alive, or you can go on and kill yourself... and by tonight, in less than 12 hours, you will be dead.

“Even though I have never met you, I feel that you have so much to give to God and to the world. I feel that you have talents and abilities that need to be shared with everyone you meet, especially within your own family.

Here Is What You Must Do

“So here it is. Go up to your dad and, in a soft loving voice, ask him if you could talk to him for a few minutes. Do this before you even show him the report card. He will probably be somewhat surprised and even shocked, because I am sure you have never done this before. But be firm about talking to him.

“Tell him again, without being sarcastic, that you would like to talk to him for just a few minutes. Tell him that it is very important, because you have something very personal to say that he should be aware of.

“At this point you have now aroused his curiosity and he will turn around, look at you and ask, “What is it, son?”

“Then tell him the truth, just the way you told it to me. Tell him that you got your report card and that you failed all your grades this semester. And confess to him that you did it on purpose because you were angry with him.

“Tell him that for the last three years you always felt that he loved your older brother more than he loved you. So during this last semester, you failed on purpose just to get even with him, and you were really trying to punish him.

“Then ask him to forgive you for what you did, and mean it. Tell him also that you will make it all up to him by making straight A's during the rest of the year. And then do it. I know you can.

“Then give him the report card. He will look at it briefly. He will turn around and put his arm around you. He will then tell you, ‘Let us talk more about this son. Maybe I have been delinquent as your father. Maybe I can help you now with some of your school work.’

“And then your mother will come from the other side and hug you. She will smile and give you a kiss on your cheek.

“But if you go in there, as you probably have done in the past, and tell your dad in a sarcastic tone of voice, ‘OK dad, here is my report card. I failed again. Besides, school is for the birds, the teachers suck, and I hate books... and I just don't care anymore,’ ...then if I were your dad, I, too, might get very angry and yell at you. I know I would not hit you, but I would really get mad and probably just yell at you.”

No One Closer To God

There was a long silence. Then he said something I never expected him to say, “Is it all right if I say three *Hail Marys*?”

I said, “Sure, why not. Of course you can. Go for it. Say three *Hail Marys*.”

Another pause, and then he asked another question, “Is it all right if I give him the report card in the morning at breakfast time? He is more calm, friendly, and more relaxed during breakfast. It might be easier then.”

I said, “Sure, wait until tomorrow morning, and then give him your report card. This will give you more time to pray tonight... time to think and start visualizing Mary as being

your best friend. Next to Jesus, there is no one closer.

“And do not forget the one *Hail Mary* tonight, and one before you go down for breakfast. Call me tomorrow afternoon and give me the good news. Here is my phone number.”

It Happened!

The next afternoon he called me all excited. He said, “Mr. Zuniga, I am bursting with joy and gratitude. It happened exactly as you described it. *Exactly!*”

“He looked at my report card, hugged me and now wants to help me with all of my school work. He even cried a little and apologized to me. He even asked me to forgive him for not realizing that he was spending more time with my older brother than he was spending with me. And Mom did come over and kissed me, too. I am so happy, Mr. Zuniga. How can I thank you?”

“You can't,” I answered. “It was God who brought us together. Apparently God has big plans for you and your life. But thank our blessed Mother Mary who intervened for you. Give Her all your thanks and keep praying more *Hail Marys*. Perhaps one day very soon you will start praying the Rosary, too. Right?”

He said, “Right on. But I still feel that I must thank you. I am alive today, Mr. Zuniga, because of you.”

As I hung up the phone, I went straight to the Blessed Sacrament, knelt down and I thanked God one more time for using me as His instrument, and putting me at the right place and at the right time, exactly when I was needed.

Be His Instrument

We can all be an instrument for Him. Just ask the Holy Spirit (HSH) and Our Lady (HAIL MARY...), and then give thanks. If you trust in Him, God will surely use you.

It is marvelous to see how He solves all problems and never fails us! He and Our Lady are always with us, and they love us beyond all telling. God, You are wonderful! +++

Our Lady Is Increasingly Sad!

by Rosalie Ann Turton

Our Lady's increasing sadness, as She continues to appear in Medjugorje, may be a poor omen.

As the world becomes more and more immersed in sin, we are coming closer to experiencing the wrath of God. Still, by our prayers and sacrifices, we can mitigate God's punishments, bring a smile to Our Lady's face, and bring peace to the world. *The choice is ours.*

Medjugorje

In 2006, the 25th anniversary of Our Lady's apparitions were marked in Medjugorje. The six seers, a quarter of a century ago, were just children. Today they are mature adults. Each one has established a family with children and, as they did years ago on mount Podbrdo, all continue to assert Her messages to the world.

Six of the seers experienced the daily apparitions from June 25, 1981 until Christmas of the following year. From that day on, they see Our Lady with varied intensity and in different ways.

Significance Of Those Dates

Till now, three of them continue to see Her daily, and the other three periodically. Among the latter, is Mirjana Dragicevic Soldo, who reportedly has an apparition of Our Lady on the 2nd of each month, as well as on March 18th on Mirjana's birthday.

However, Our Lady does not do that just because it happens to be the date of her birth. Mirjana said that the symbolism of these particular apparitions, and those at the beginning of each month, will some day become very clear.

Mirjana said, "Our Lady appears to me in this way since 1987.

These apparitions are more like a prayer for those who have not yet recognized God's love. While much about the apparitions is the same, *lately, much more frequently, I see Our Lady very sad.* From time to time, She even has tears streaming down Her cheeks, in particular for those who still have not recognized God's love. All of us are Her children ...the believers *and* the unbelievers."

Mirjana, who after these apparitions appears quite drained, said, "It is extremely painful for me each time I see *Her profound sadness.*"

The Mysterious Parchment

All the seers know the secrets entrusted to them. However, Mirjana also has in her own possession a parchment (made of an unknown substance) on which all the secrets are inscribed. When will the secrets be revealed to the world? Except for the seers, no one else knows.

However, what is known is the name of the person who will disclose them. Mirjana has selected Father Petar Ljubicic to reveal her secrets to the world when the time comes. After fasting for seven days, Father Petar will disclose the contents of the secrets three days before each one of them is to be fulfilled... in other words, *before the event contained in a particular secret actually occurs!*

Three Visionaries Still Receive Daily Apparitions

I once read that Mirjana said that her secrets will *begin* to be revealed when *only one Medjugorje visionary is still seeing Our Lady.* Ivanka Ivankovic Elez and Jakov Colo no longer experience daily apparitions.

The three visionaries who do continue to receive daily apparitions no longer have Medjugorje as their primary residence. Ivan Dragicevic lives with his spouse in the United States, and only spends a portion of each year in Medjugorje.

Marija Pavlovic Lunetti resides with her spouse in Italy. It is from there, on the 25th of each month,

that she relays Our Lady's messages to the world.

Perhaps the most prominent among them is Vicka Ivankovic Mijatovic. She is now married and resides in the neighboring hamlet of Krehin Gradac.

Medjugorje & Garabandal

Until now, perhaps the most intriguing of the secrets is the third one, the one pertaining to a great and mysterious sign.

This secret refers to a sign that Our Lady will leave for the world to see, in order to confirm the authenticity of Her apparitions. The sign will be visible, permanent, and indestructible, and will be left on the hill where She first appeared 25 years ago.

Previously, in the 1960's to four children, a sign was also promised to be left at Garabandal, Spain, when, in the future, "the greatest miracle of all time" will occur there.

The Answer From Our Lady

Prayer is the answer. Do you have a regular prayer schedule? If not, how then can you expect to continue to receive God's blessings. If you care about your own life and the future of your children and grand-children, you **MUST** pray.

Otherwise, when God's wrath comes, we are obliged to understand that it is our own fault, because we did little to stem the tide of evil that is presently permeating the entire world. The saddest thing about it, is that the *remedy is so very clear!*

Our Lady at Garabandal told the children that when the warning occurs, the sins that we will see most predominantly, are our *sins of omission*, that is, spiritual sloth. What we will regret the most *is what we did not do!*

Fatima & The Five First Saturdays

Ask yourself, "What am I doing to remove the sadness from Mary's heart?" Our Lady in Fatima gave us the formula to make Her smile and to obtain peace in the world:

participate in the Five First Saturdays. However, too few people are doing it. It is not difficult, but we are often too uninformed or too slothful to make the effort.

On December 10, 1925, Our Lady appeared to Sister Lucia in the Dorothean convent at Pontevedra, Spain. *She promised Her assistance at the hour of death with all the graces necessary for salvation*, (read that again... it means *no hell!*) to all those who, on the first Saturday of five consecutive months, do the following things:

- 1) Go to Confession (within eight days)
- 2) Attend Mass and receive Holy Communion
- 3) Pray five decades of the Rosary
- 4) Keep Our Lady company by meditating for 15 minutes on the Rosary Mysteries.

But Most Important...

But, most important (and this is the omission), *ALL* of these four must to be done *with the intention of making reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary*.

Many individuals forget to make this intention with each and *every one* of the four above requests of Our Blessed Lady, and thus, they might not fully merit the promised reward. This is especially true of daily communicants. They mean well, but they simply forget to make the intentions.

The intention of making reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary is a necessary stipulation of Our Lady and Our Lord, to truly fulfill the Five First Saturday requirements.

Our Lady promised that by doing this, *we can bring peace to our souls and to the world*. Jacinta of Fatima said, *"God has entrusted the peace of the world to Our Lady."*

Unfortunately, it seems that too few are fulfilling Our Lady's requests accurately. The tide of evil, like a green slime, continues to spread over all the earth. To prevent this, *we need reparation*.

John Haffert, in *Soul Magazine*, said that, "The First Saturday devotion is so important that we

might well wonder if fulfillment of the basic conditions of Fatima for world peace (sanctification of daily duty) *might be impossible* without the practice of the First Saturday devotion.

In a book on the First Saturdays (Tequi, Paris, May 13, 1985) Fr. Coveliers points out that the First Saturday devotion is a great act of love *not accomplished easily*.

"The time we dedicate to Mary on the First Saturdays is a 'strong' time, and difficult to accomplish perfectly just on the spur of the moment. The devotion of the First Saturdays cannot be authentic if it is not the fruit of a constant attitude of the soul pervading all the days of our life," he says.

We need to know and understand that where evil weighs down on us, *we can mightily tip the other side of the scale with reparation*.

We Must Take Prayer and Reparation Seriously

Mary comes to us in many places in order to save our souls. Don't we love God, Her, ourselves, and our family enough to pray and make reparation? God and Mary, and all the visionaries everywhere, tell us that *this is the sure formula!*

Our love is so cold. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to set our hearts on fire, and begin again to *put God and His interests in first place in our lives*.

Start with asking yourself this most important question: *What time am I going to Mass tomorrow?* and then plan your day around that blessed hour. *Then watch your life and the entire world change for the better*. The victory is already won by Christ, but let us be a greater part of it. Let us participate more actively in God's plan for our salvation and for peace in the world.

The efforts of even a few souls can change the world for the better. *Much depends upon what YOU do ...daily Mass, daily Rosary, and the Five First Saturdays*. Many other favorite devotions are also spirit-filled and very rewarding. Think about it; *change and pray*. +++

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The Kiss of Bernadette to Marie Sentenac

from: *Queen*, March-April, 2001
(taken from the *Journal de la Grotte*, translated by A. Somers, S.M.M.)

Lourdes still lay under the spell of the wonderful apparitions. Bernadette Soubirous was now learning to read and write at the Hospice school. When the peasant folk of Bartres went with their laden donkeys to the Lourdes' market, they sought information about the happenings that had taken place during the past week at the Grotto of Massabielle. Before returning home with their baskets empty, but their minds and hearts filled with the marvelous things they had heard, they would go to kneel and pray before the Grotto.

Miraculous Spring

The people of Bartres listened eagerly to all the farmers had to tell, and whenever anyone was sick in a family, these good peasants were asked to request Bernadette to pray for the patient, and to bring some water from the miraculous spring which had cured Bouriette, the half-blind stone-mason, and the dying child of Bouhohorst.

Thus it was that Marie Sentenac, a girl of nine, heard of those cures, and every day the desire to go to Lourdes grew stronger in her young heart. She, too, wanted to go to Lourdes and pray at the Grotto to be cured. She was sure that Our Lady would give her help.

It was during the days of the apparitions that she suddenly became afflicted with an unknown illness which left her feet and legs powerless. She could now only hobble about on a pair of rough crutches. On the day she had listened to the peasant folk coming back from Lourdes, she said to her mother, "Mama, I, too, want to go to Lourdes not later than tomorrow; I believe that I shall be cured."

"My dear," answered her mother, "you can scarcely manage to go to school and back. How could you possibly go to Lourdes on your wretched crutches?"

We Shall Seek A Ride

"You are right, Mamma, but the blacksmith has a coach! He will surely take me. I am going to ask him. Shall I?"

"You may, my dear."

Like a happy little bird hopping on the lawn, Marie was off to the smithy. At every hop between her crutches, she repeated to herself, "I shall see Bernadette; I shall be cured." For her there were no doubts, no difficulties.

The blacksmith listened sympathetically to the exuberant pleading of the girl, whom he thought might be a prospective client. But after a while he bent over his anvil, and between strokes of the hammer, he said, "I am sorry my little one, but I cannot take you to Lourdes tomorrow. Go to the cart-maker and see what he can do for you."

The first disappointment did not discourage Marie, and off she went. The cart-maker, too, listened for a while to her pathetic words, then putting his hands more vigorously to the plane, he said: "I must deliver this new cart within three days. I cannot possibly take you to Lourdes tomorrow. I should advise you to inquire at the buttermen's. He goes to the market more." But, unfortunately, the buttermen was not going to Lourdes till the following week.

When the poor exhausted girl returned to her mother she said to her: "Mamma, all the village people are kind to me but they do not have the time to take me to Lourdes tomorrow, but Our Lady will not disappoint me. I will see Bernadette, and I shall be cured. Let us set off together for Lourdes tomorrow morning. There are many carts and coaches going to Lourdes every day, some one will give us a lift."

The mother who had lost all faith in the willingness of men to help, consented for the sake of satisfying her child. And so, they set off for Lourdes the next morning, Marie on

her crutches, and the mother supporting her as much as she could.

No Room Left

Every time they heard the rattling of a vehicle coming behind them, they stepped in the grass, hailed the driver and made signs for a lift, but the vehicle rode by. The driver had either turned his head the other way or cast a scornful smile at the tired beggars, and shouted, "No room left."

"*No room left!*" Are those not the very words which Our Lady once heard addressed to Her when there was not room for her in Bethlehem? So thought little Marie when they sat down by the wayside to take a short rest.

Her mother began to cry, Marie said, "Mamma, don't cry; *now I feel more sure than ever that Our Lady will help us to reach Lourdes and to see Bernadette.*" After a 15-minute rest, Marie said, "Mamma, I feel strong enough to hobble further. Let us try to reach Lourdes."

After another mile's painful hopping and walking, Marie suddenly exclaimed, "Look, Mamma; I see the Chateau Fort; we shall soon be at Lourdes!" Indeed, after another half hour, they accosted a man, and said to him, "Will you tell us where the Hospice is?"

"You are quite near it. There it is."

"It is here," said Marie, "that Bernadette goes to school. Come quickly, Mamma. I have so many things to tell her."

They were received by a smiling Sister who invited them to sit down and rest. "Soon," she said, "the class will be over. Bernadette will be the second coming out by this door. You may speak to her freely."

They waited. Would Bernadette also pass by like the cart and coach drivers on the highway? Then they heard the noise and scramble of the school children in their clogs. Soon the door opened and the children began to file out. The second in the marching row was a pale girl with large dark eyes. Her hair was covered with a white handkerchief marked with little red spots.

"Bernadette," exclaimed Marie. The mother jumped up and called

the little girl to her daughter. She explained the illness; told of the long tramping to Lourdes, and the great desire of Marie to see Bernadette and to be cured.

Visibly moved, Bernadette bowed down over Marie, and folding her arms around her, kissed her on both cheeks. For a moment Marie was speechless with joy. Her eyes glittered and, with her hand, she caressed her own cheek as if the kiss of Bernadette was still upon them. "Thank you, dear Bernadette, thank you. And what must I do now to be cured?"

Wash In The Spring

"Go to the spring;" said Bernadette, "wash your feet in it. Meanwhile, I will pray for you."

Marie did not feel tired any longer. The kiss of Bernadette had given her new strength. Her eyes were gleeful as she hobbled away to the Grotto. She turned several times to the Hospice where Bernadette waved her good-bye. "Isn't she kind? Isn't she lovely? Mamma, now I shall surely be cured!"

Soon they were at the Grotto. There they prayed with such fervor as only an afflicted child and her mother know how to pray, and in such a way as to force heaven to work wonders. When they took Marie to the water, she was more convinced than ever before that she would be cured.

The mother stood at a little distance, her eyes wide open to see what was going to happen. She scarcely dared to breathe; the beads of her Rosary slipped slowly through her trembling fingers. A lady took off Marie's clogs and stockings. One more fervent look at the Grotto and a smiling look at the mother, and Marie's lame feet sank into the water of the spring. She felt nothing but the sudden chill of the water.

When they took her out and tried to put the crutches under her arms, she felt so strong that she said, "I can stand!" She made a first step, then a second, and a third, and looking at her mother, she said, "Mamma, I am cured!"

The mother stood half-dazed where she had first stopped. It seemed almost as if the paralysis of

the child had now fallen upon the mother. All she could do was to shed tears of joy, but Marie now came to wipe away the tears and to transmit to her the kiss which she had received from Bernadette. "You see, Mamma, Our Lady has cured me. Bernadette knew well that She would."

The person who first wrote this account and sent it to *Le Journal de la Grotte*, concluded her statement by adding: "This is not a pious tale, it is a real story. Marie Sentenac herself told it to me."

"After the death of her mother she went to live with her grandmother, and when my own mother married, Marie went with her to Lourdes. I always loved her as a second mother. She made Bernadette known to me. Like Bernadette, over her head she always wore a white handkerchief with fifty red spots in it."

"The kiss of Bernadette brightened the whole life of the grown-old Marie. Every time I kissed her shriveled cheek, I was interiorly moved, because I knew that a Saint had kissed them before me." +++

Where There is Love

by Helen Steiner Rice

*Where there is love
the heart is light.
Where there is love
the day is bright.*

*Where there is love
there is a song
To help when things
are going wrong.*

*Where there is love
there is a smile,
To make all things
seem more worthwhile.*

*Where there is love
there's quiet peace,
A tranquil place
where turmoils cease.*

The 8th Deadly Sin

by Fr. Abram Dono, S.T.

The Catholic Catechism lists the seven deadly or capital sins as: pride, greed, lust, anger, gluttony, envy, and sloth (spiritual laziness).

But early Christians had one more... *sadness*. Only the devil has reason to be sad. We have Jesus. He is our ever present, risen, living, loving, Savior — and our reason for Joy. Mary is the "cause of our joy," because Her "yes" gave Jesus to us.

In a book by Malcolm Muggeridge titled, *Something Beautiful For God*, Mother Teresa of Calcutta expressed the following sentiments:

"Joy is prayer. Joy is strength. Joy is love. Joy is a net by which you can catch souls. God loves a cheerful giver. A person gives most, who gives with joy.

"The best way to show our gratitude to God and the people, is to accept everything with joy. A joyful heart is the inevitable result of a heart burning with love. Never let anything so fill you with sorrow, as to make you forget the joy of Christ risen.

"We all long for Heaven where God is, *but we have it in our power to be in Heaven with Him right now...* to be happy with Him at this very moment. But being happy with Him now means: loving as He loves, helping as He helps, giving as He gives, and serving as He serves.

"We are all called upon to do this, and thus to experience the great joy of being in love with Christ. If we truly are, our joy will be visible to everyone whom we encounter."

Once a certain sergeant in the armed services was especially respected by his men. It was obvious to everyone. A bystander asked him: "What makes you different?" He answered, simply: "*Christ makes me different.*" +++

I want to thank you for the incredible week that my daughter Annemarie has just experienced with you all in Fatima as a free youth recipient on the annual Retreat and Conference in July. She has said that the week surpassed everything she could have asked for, and has filled us in on every detail, from what she ate and saw, to what she experienced spiritually. It was the best week of her life, and it was not a week we could have provided her with, on our own. She was a strong young Catholic woman before going, but this has deepened both her love for Mary, and for the universal Church. She has received even more strength to go forth into the world of college life as a Catholic who is unafraid to live her faith. Thank you again for being present to her and providing her with the experience of a lifetime. With my deepest appreciation,
Michelle Naiman.



In Akita, Japan, on September 28, 1981, Sister Agnes suddenly felt the presence of the Angel at her side during the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. She did not see the Angel in person, but a Bible appeared open before her eyes and she was invited to read a passage (Genesis 3:15)...the voice of the Angel was heard explaining in sort of a preamble that the passage had relationship with the tears of Mary, then continued:

"There is a meaning to the figure one hundred and one. This signifies that sin came into the world by a woman and it is also by a woman that salvation came to the world. The zero between the two signifies the Eternal God Who is from all eternity until eternity. The first one represents Eve, the last the Virgin Mary." +++

Pilgrimage Program:

SEND FOR COMPLETE ITINERARIES

Guadalupe, Mexico — for Feast Day celebrations. Dec. 6 thru 13, 2006 (8 days) \$1499 (Land only, \$1099). Feasts of the Immac. Concep., Juan Diego, Our Lady of Guadalupe, and visits to **Ocotlan, Puebla, St. Michael's Well, & Our Lady of Good Remedies.** +++

Medjugorje & Prague — Mon., March 5 to Wed., March 14, 2007 (10 days), \$1499. (One day in Prague.) +++

Betania, Venezuela — Tues., March 20, to Mon. March 26, 2007, (7 days) \$1689. We will be there for the March 25 anniversary celebration. +++

Fatima — Mon., April 23, to Mon., April 30, 2007 (8 days) \$1399. Visit **Aljustsal, Lisbon, Santarem, Coimbra, Fatima, Ourem**, and the Shrine of Our Lady of Nazareth at **Nazare.** +++

Shrines of **Italy** — Wed., June 13, to Fri., June 29, 2007 (17 days) \$2899. Visit **Milan, San Damiano, Montichiari, Fontanelle (Rosa Mystica), Vincenza, Padua, Venice, Florence, Siena, Assisi, Loreto, Osimo, San Giovanni Rotondo, St. Michael's Cave, Pietrelcina, Mugnano (St. Philomena), Pompeii, Rome, & Civitavecchia.** +++

Fatima — Marian Conference and Retreat. International guest speakers. Sat., July 7, to Saturday, July 14, 2007 (8 days), \$1999 (Land only, \$1499.) One youth (age 25 or under) FREE with each paying adult. Special July 13 apparition anniversary celebration. +++

Fatima and Lourdes — Fri., July 20 to Sun., Aug. 5, 2007 (18 days) \$2799. Our most popular pilgrimage. Feast Day visit to **Santiago Compostella** (Shrine of St. James), **Pontevedra, Zaragoza, Avila, Braga, Santarem, Covadonga, Fatima, Ovieto, Lourdes, Garabandal, etc.** +++

Ireland — Sun., Aug. 12, to Fri., Aug. 24, 2007 (13 days) \$2399. **Knock, Inchigeela, Ballinspittle, Melleray Grotto, Attymass** (Fr. Patrick Peyton), **Achill House of Prayer, Dublin**, & time with visionary Tom Lennon. +++

WHITE MARTYRDOM PEACE

FLIGHT, Oct. 5 to Oct. 23, 2007, (19 days) \$4499 (if deposit is paid by 12/31/06). We visit **Fatima, Rome, Turkey, the Holy Land, Medjugorje, & Lourdes.** +++

Medjugorje & Prague — Mon., Nov. 5 to Wed., Nov. 14, 2007 (10 days), \$1499. (One day in Prague.) +++

Poland Shrine Tour — Sat., May 17, to Fri., May 30, 2008 (14 days), \$2749. Includes **Warsaw, Zoliborz, Krakow** (Corpus Christi Procession), **Niapokalonow, Zakopane, Zelazowa Wola, Wagnivniki** (Divine Mercy Center), **Wadowice** (birthplace of John Paul II), **Kalwari Zebrzydowska**, and the beautiful Shrine at **Lechen.** +++

France — Wed., Sept 10, 2008, to Sat., Sept. 27 (17 days), \$2899. Visit **Paris, Chartres, Paray-le-Monial, La Salette, Ars, Chateauneuf-de-Galaure St. Baume, Lisieux, Pellevoisin, Nevers, Lourdes, Normandie, Mont St. Michel, Pontmain, Carcasson & more.** +++

Germany, Austria, & Switzerland—(Passion Play) **Ulm**, 2008, \$3399, **Oberammergau**, in 2010, \$3699. +++

All pilgrimages include: priest on each bus, daily Mass & four Rosaries, breakfast & dinner, and a blue 101 jacket. Non-refundable deposit is \$150 per person.

VISIT FATIMA HOUSE
and the St. Joseph Great Room.
Spend a few quiet days near the
Blue Army Shrine in Washington, NJ.
Call the 101 Foundation for details.

Write for information regarding the
Garabandal Miracle Flight.

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