

The Bell Ringer

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER, HYANNIS + AUGUST 2020



The Immaculate Heart of Mary

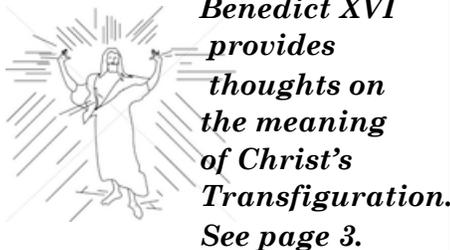
“In the depths of your being, in your Immaculate Heart, you keep the joys of men and women as they journey to the Heavenly Homeland. In the depths of your being, in your Immaculate Heart, you keep the sorrows of the human family, as they mourn and weep in this valley of tears.

“In the depths of your being, in your Immaculate Heart, adorn us with the radiance of the jewels of your crown and make us pilgrims, even as you were a pilgrim.”

Pope Francis offered this prayer to Mary at the beginning of his two-day pilgrimage to Fatima in Portugal May 12-13, 2017 to celebrate the centenary of Mary's appearance to three shepherd children. This month's liturgical theme is the Immaculate Heart of Mary and while Our Lady was prayed to under this title at the Fatima centenary, the devotion to her under this title goes back much further.

Historically, devotion to the Heart of Mary grew up in parallel, but at a lesser intensity than that of devotion to the Heart of Jesus, only starting to become more prominent through St. John Eudes during the 17th century. St. John brought people to love Christ and the Virgin Mary by speaking tirelessly about their hearts, the sign of the love God shows for us and the communion to which we are called. Without question the outstanding promoter of public devotion and veneration of Mary's Immaculate Heart, the Church has designated him as both “Author of the liturgical worship of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary” and “Father, Doctor and Apostle of this devotion.” St. John Eudes composed Masses and Offices in their honor to offer them liturgical worship.

But it was not until after the apparitions at the Rue du Bac concerning the “Miraculous Medal” made to St. Catherine Labouré in 1830, and the establishment of a society dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, at the Church of Our Lady of Victories in Paris in 1836, that this particular devotion became really well known. Since then devotion to the Immaculate Heart of (Continued on page 2)



Benedict XVI provides thoughts on the meaning of Christ's Transfiguration. See page 3.

Carlo Acutis, a 15-year-old computer whiz, lover of Eucharistic miracles, to be beatified in October. See page 4.



Cardinal Sarah on the value of Silence & Prayer, page 5.



Words of WISDOM

Humility, perfecting one's life, & how well God knows us, are topics found on Page 7.

Heart of Mary *Continued from page 1*

Mary, has gradually grown more widespread in the Church, particularly since the apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima.

One of the three shepherds, Lucia, in her *Memoirs* explained, “Our Lady told us, in the July secret, that God wished to establish in the world devotion to her Immaculate Heart. Our Lady said, ‘Jesus wishes you to make me known and loved on earth. He wishes also for you to establish devotion in the world to my Immaculate Heart.’ Three times her Immaculate Heart was mentioned in that July apparition, also referring to the conversion of Russia and the vision of hell. Our Lady said, ‘You have seen hell, where the souls of poor sinners go. It is to save them that God wants to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart.’

“I see that from the very beginning Jesus Christ united to his redemptive work the Immaculate Heart of her whom He chose to be His Mother,” Lucia says.

St. John Paul II has written similarly. “The work of our redemption began at the moment when the Word descended from Heaven in order to assume a human body in the womb of Mary. From that moment, and for the next nine months, the Blood of Christ was the Blood of Mary, taken from Her Immaculate Heart; the Heart of Christ was beating in unison with the Heart of Mary.”

Distinction in Devotion to the Two Hearts

The Catholic News Agency’s resource area offers an explanation of the distinction between the devotion to Jesus’ and Mary’s Hearts:

The main difference between the devotions to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary is that the one concerned with Jesus emphasizes His Divine



Heart as being full of love for mankind, but with this love for the most part being ignored or rejected, while devotion to Mary’s heart is essentially concerned with the love that her heart has for Jesus, for God.

Therefore, it is not an end in itself, so the love of her heart is meant to be a model for the way we should love God. The fact that her heart is immaculate, that is sinless, means that she is the only fully human person who is able to really love God in the way that He should be loved.

Honoring Mary’s Immaculate Heart is really just another way of honoring Mary as the person who was chosen to be the Mother of God, recognizing her extraordinary holiness and the immense love she bestowed on Jesus as His mother, the person who was called to share in and co-operate in his redemptive sufferings.

The aim of the devotion is to unite mankind to God through Mary’s heart, and this process involves the ideas of consecration and reparation. A person is consecrated to Mary’s Immaculate Heart as a way of being completely devoted to God. This involves a total gift of self, something only ultimately possible with reference to God; but Mary is our intermediary in this process of consecration.

Because of the strong analogy between Jesus and Mary, the consecration to Mary’s Immaculate Heart is closely linked to the consecration to Jesus’ Sacred Heart, although it is subordinate and dependent on it. That is, although the act of consecration is ultimately addressed to God, it is an act that is made through Mary. +

The Pope’s August Prayer Intention

The Maritime World

**We pray for all those who work and live from the sea,
among them sailors, fishermen and their families.**

Prayer for the Holy Father

Almighty and everlasting God, have mercy upon Thy servant, Pope Francis, our Supreme Pontiff, and direct him, according to Thy loving kindness, in the way of eternal salvation; that, of Thy gift, he may ever desire that which is pleasing unto Thee and may accomplish it with all his might. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory Be to the Father.

The Transfiguration

“For He revealed His glory in the presence of chosen witnesses and filled with the greatest splendor that bodily form which He shares with all humanity, that the scandal of the Cross might be removed from the hearts of His disciples and that He might show how in the Body of the whole Church is to be fulfilled what so wonderfully shone forth first in its Head.”

— Preface of the Feast of the Transfiguration

We celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration on Thursday, August 6, as well as meditating on it every time we pray the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary. Pope Benedict XVI, noted that the Transfiguration brings to our attention the need to “listen” to the Lord.

“Astonished in the presence of the transfigured Lord, who was speaking with Moses and Elias, Peter, James and John were suddenly enveloped in a cloud from which a voice arose that proclaimed: “This is my beloved Son, listen to Him”.

“. . . For a moment they experienced ahead of time something that will constitute the happiness of paradise. In general, it is brief experiences that God grants on occasions, especially in anticipation of harsh trials. However, no one lives ‘on Tabor’ while on earth.

“Human existence is a journey of faith and, as such, goes forward more in darkness than in full light, with moments of obscurity and even profound darkness. While we are here, our relationship with God develops more with listening than with seeing; and even contemplation takes place, so to speak, with closed eyes, thanks to the interior light lit in us by the word of God.”

Pope Benedict cited Mary, the Mother of God, “the human creature closest to God, [who] walked day after day as though on a pilgrimage of faith, keeping and meditating constantly in her heart the word that God addressed to her, whether through the sacred Scriptures or through events of the life of her son, in which she recognized and accepted the Lord’s mysterious voice.

“This is, therefore, the gift and commitment for each one of us ; . . . To listen to Christ, like



Mary. To listen to Him in the word, preserved in sacred Scripture. To listen to Him in the very events of our lives, trying to read in them the messages of providence. To listen to Him, finally, in our brothers, especially in the little ones and the poor, for whom Jesus Himself asked our concrete love. To listen to Christ and to obey his voice. This is the only way that leads to joy and love,’ the Pope emphasized.

A Prayer Event, Too

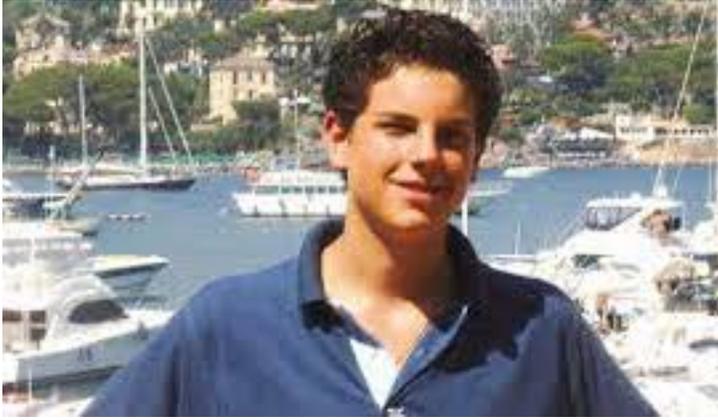
The Transfiguration is also a prayer event, Benedict explains. “It displays visibly what happens when Jesus talks with His Father: the profound interpenetration of His being with God, which then becomes pure light.”

“And He was transfigured before them,” Mark says quite simply, going on to add somewhat awkwardly, as if awed by the mystery: “And His clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on Earth could bleach them.”

Matthew’s account is more vivid: “His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became white as light.” Luke begins his account by indicating the purpose of Jesus’s ascent to Mount Tabor: He “went up on the mountain to pray.” It is in the context of Jesus’s prayer that he now explains the event that the three disciples are to witness: “And as He was praying, the appearance of His face was altered, and His clothing became dazzling white.”

Benedict says these garments speak of our own future. The Book of Revelation describes the saved as wearing white garments, washed in the blood of the Lamb.

The disciples must accompany Jesus back down the mountain and learn ever anew to “listen to Him.” So should we on the feast and whenever contemplating this mystery. +



Carlo Acutis

The Servant of God, Teen and Computer Whiz's Beatification Set for October 10 in Assisi, Italy

"To always be close to Jesus, that's my life plan. I'm happy to die because I've lived my life without wasting even a minute of it doing things that wouldn't have pleased God."

— Carlo Acutis, who died at 15 years

Many people have keenly awaited the announcement of the beatification of Carlo Acutis, the computer genius with a love for the Eucharist. However, because of the corona virus pandemic, the date was moved to October, as Cardinal Angelo Becciu, Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, told Vatican News' Benedetta Capelli.

The Cardinal explained that a date for the beatification had been set. But it was agreed with the Bishop of Assisi that it would be moved to October 10.

"It is hoped that more people will be able to attend the ceremony at that time; among other things, it will take place just two days before the anniversary of his death, because he died on October 12, 2006. So, we agreed on this date. Hopefully, people can come, otherwise many will be able to follow the celebration via streaming," he said.

Carlo Acutis was born in London on May 3, 1991 to Italian parents. As an infant, he moved several months later with them to Milan, where he lived before succumbing to leukemia at the age of 15. The computer genius will be beatified in Assisi, Perugia, Italy after a Brazilian boy's cure from a rare disease, due to Carolo's intercession, was declared a miracle..

A Boy of Exemplary Faith

Cardinal Becciu described Carlo Acutis' exemplary faith as an example for young people, and for all of us. "He was a little boy when he fell in love with the Eucharist, then he also turned his devotion to Our Lady." The Cardinal went on to say that he used his talents to spread the faith. "He created a computer project on the themes of faith; he had a site on Eucharistic miracles. So, he lived his faith to the

fullest." The website he developed is called *Miracles List - Miracolo Eucaristici* in Italian. This website was the genesis of The Eucharistic Miracles of the World, an international exhibition which highlights such occurrences.

Cardinal Becciu said the words of this young man are also striking. "He said, 'I want to offer all my sufferings for the Lord, for the Pope, and for the Church. I don't want to do purgatory; I want to go straight to Heaven.' At 15! A little boy who talks like that strikes us and I think it encourages everyone not to joke with our faith, but to take it seriously."

A Short But Fruitful Life

Carlo went to school in Milan and his high school studies were under the Jesuits at the Istituto Leone XIII. He also had several models as his guides for life: Saint Francis of Assisi, Sts. Francisco and Jacinta Marto (in his time Blesseds still), St. Dominic Savio, St. Tarcisius, and St. Bernadette Soubirous.

Carlo worried about friends of his whose parents were divorcing and so he would invite those friends to his home to support them. He defended the rights of the disabled and defended disabled peers at school when bullies mocked them. He loved travelling but loved to visit Assisi more than other places.

He caught the flu, and was then diagnosed with leukemia. The doctor treating him asked him if he was suffering much pain and he responded that "there are people who suffer much more than me." Carlo offered his pain for both Pope Benedict XVI and for the Universal Church in which he said that "I offer all the suffering I will have to suffer for the Lord, for the Pope, and the Church."

Carlo asked his parents to take him on pilgrimages to the sites of all the known Eucharistic miracles in the world but his worsening health prevented this from happening. Being so expert in computers, he had designed a website dedicated to careful cataloging of each (*Continued on page 5*)

“The righteous will shine like the sun in the Kingdom of their Father.” — Matthew 13:42

“God always watches over us. Man may experience the darkest nights, endure the worst outrages, confront the most tragic situations, yet God is with him. Often man forgets that God is present. . . . Confronted with evil, man gets organized by gathering the means necessary for his defense. His action is just, but sometimes it provokes greater evils. Our true grandeur lies in the humility of faith; the purer our belief, the more profound it is and the closer it brings us to God, who is infinitely great. Someone who is close to God becomes powerful; he can conquer the evil that corrodes the world, and he is capable of integrating it into his prayer of intercession.

“Silence and prayer are not a form of defection. They are the strongest weapons against evil. Man wants to ‘do,’ but above all else he must ‘be.’ In silent prayer, man is fully human. He resembles David before Goliath. For prayer is the noblest, most sublime, and most vigorous act, which elevates man to the level of God. Silence is not a form of passivity. By remaining silent, man can avoid a greater evil. It is not an earthly



dereliction of duty to place your trust in heaven.

“. . . In the parable of the good grain and the chaff, Christ invites us to let the wheat and the weeds grow until the hour of the harvest. Then the time will come when evil will be destroyed by good. Persevering patience, supported by providence, is an ally in all our daily battles. The combat against evil plays out over time, and it is important to persevere and not to lose hope. God is fashioning hearts, and evil never has the last word. In the darkest night, God works in silence. We have to enter into God’s time and into this great silence that is a silence of love, trust, and active abandonment. Let us never forget

that silent prayer is the strongest and surest act in the struggle against evil. . . .

“The devil invites mankind to rebellion and disorder. With his litany of subterfuges, he sows discord and incites us to pour out our hatred upon each other. ‘Old Scratch’ always makes noise and a lot of racket so as to prevent us from resting in God. The devil will not be able to reach us in the stronghold of silence. Let us guard against multiplying sins by satisfying our little egotistical or revolutionary passions.”

— **Cardinal Robert Sarah**

Carlo Acutis Continued from page 4

reported miracle. The website was created in 2005; Carlo had been cataloging miracles since he was 11 years old. He was fond of using the media to evangelize and proclaim the Gospel and aimed to do this with the website that he had created. He also liked film editing. It was on the website that he said: “the more Eucharist we receive, the more we will become like Jesus, so that on this earth we will have a foretaste of heaven”.

Zeal for the Lord

Speaking to Vatican News’s Eugenio Bonanata, Carlo’s mother, Antonia Salzano, said Carlo was “considered a computer genius because he knew logarithms, he knew how to make programs and read university texts on these topics. But what did he do? He didn’t use these media to chat, have fun, or anything like that. His zeal for the Lord and his love for the knowledge of Jesus prompted him to make use

of his talents to create a website on Eucharistic miracles and an exhibit on the same subject that has traveled around the world.”

She said that Carlo “knew that Jesus is really present in the Eucharist, but he realized that people need help to get closer to the Lord and especially to understand the importance of the sacraments.”

The calls for Carlo to be beatified began not long after he died and gained significant momentum in 2013 after the cause for sainthood began and he became titled as a Servant of God — the first stage on the path towards sainthood.

Pope Francis declared him to be Venerable on July 5, 2018. Medical experts approved a miracle attributed to him on November 14, 2019. Pope Francis confirmed the miracle of the Brazilian boy in a decree on February 21, 2020.

The beatification will take place in Assisi at 4 p.m. at the Basilica of Saint Francis. It will be chaired by Cardinal Angelo Becciu. Carlo’s body is now buried in Assisi’s Church of St. Mary Major. +

The Bulletin Board

St. Vincent de Paul's 'Housing with Love Walk' Ends the Weekend of August 8 - 9



Last year, the Walk raised almost \$5,000 from our parish in this, St. Vincent de Paul Society's major fundraising campaign. These funds and almost three times that amount obtained from the SVdP District, were used to provide payments to help families in our parish find new housing or stay in existing rental units or houses especially during the fall and winter months when our seasonal economy strongly impacts our working poor and those on fixed incomes.

This year with the pandemic, the future is very hard to predict in terms of health and financial needs, but based on the fact that many government subsidies – federal, state and local – may be ending or drying up, we wish to be prepared to help our neighbors as we have done in the past years, relying on that history to judge the need we may encounter in our town.

With health regulations stating no envelopes — or anything else—can be left in the pews of the Church, Father Michael is allowing us to place baskets near the doors of the Church for you to leave cash donations or checks [made out St. Vincent de Paul Society] as you leave the Church after the 4 pm Saturday or the 9 and 11 am Sunday Masses ending August 8 - 9.

Or mail your donation to St. Vincent de Paul, 21 Cross St., Hyannis MA 02601. Mark Housing with Love Walk on check and/or envelope. +

Bishop da Cunha Confirms Children from St. Francis Xavier and Our Lady of Victory

On Wednesday, July 29, Bishop Edgar da Cunha confirmed over a dozen children — from our own parish and Our Lady of Victory — at St. Francis Xavier Church before a “full church” covid-style. On August 12, the Bishop will return to St. Francis Xavier to confirm the rest of the 2020 Confirmation Class. Our congratulations to the 29 Confirmands!



Vatican Issues Document on Parish Life Renewal and Evangelization

The pastoral conversion of the parish community in the service of the evangelizing mission of the Church is a 24-page document, divided into 11 chapters, released on July 20 by the Vatican's Congregation for Clergy.

According to a report from Catholic World News, “The central message of the document is a call to drop ‘outdated’ conceptions of parish life, to avoid the repetition of tired routines, and to encourage an evangelical zeal ‘capable of transforming everything, so that the Church’s customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today’s world rather than for her self-preservation.’

However, for Catholics living in dioceses whose bishops are planning to close parishes, the most important part of the new Vatican document might be the stricter standards it sets for suppressing parishes.

The document, approved by Pope Francis on June 29, notes that the Vatican is not issuing new norms, but offering pastoral guidance for bishops. For a full text go to vaticannews.va “Parish at the service of evangelization. “ +



**Words of
WISDOM**

Humility, the Way of Holiness

"The destiny of that holiness which God gives to His children, gives to the Church, comes through the humiliation of His Son, who allows Himself to be insulted, who allowed Himself to be placed on the cross — unjustly — and this Son of God who humbles Himself, this is the way of holiness."

— **Pope Francis**

"If you should ask me what are the ways of God, I would tell you that the first is humility, the second is humility, and the third is humility. Not that there are no other precepts to give, but if humility does not precede all that we do, our efforts are fruitless."

— **St. Augustine**

"During a meditation on humility, an old doubt returned: that a soul as miserable as mine could not carry out the task which the Lord was demanding [of me]. Just as I was analyzing this doubt, the priest who was conducting the retreat interrupted his train of thought and spoke about the very thing I was having doubts about; namely, that God usually chooses the weakest and simplest souls as tools for His greatest works; that we can see that this is an undeniable truth when we look at the men He chose to be His apostles; or again, when we look at the

history of the Church and see what great works were done by souls that were the least capable of accomplishing them; for it is just in this way that God's works are revealed for what they are, the works of God. When my doubt had completely disappeared, the priest resumed his conference on humility"

— **St. Faustina**

"Whoever wishes to lead a perfect life has nothing other to do than scorn what Christ scorned on the Cross and to desire what He desired. There is not in fact a single example of virtue that the Cross does not give to us. You seek an example of charity? There is no greater love than to give up his life for his friends, and Christ did it on the Cross. . . Are you looking for an example of patience? The most perfect patience is found on the Cross. . . Are you seeking an example of humility? Look at the Crucified One. . . An example of obedience? Begin following Him who was obedient even until death. . . An example of scorn for earthly things? Follow behind Him who is King of Kings, Lord of Lords, in whom are found all the treasures of wisdom and who, nevertheless, on the Cross, appears naked, the object of mockery, spat on, beaten, crowned with thorns, given gall and vinegar to drink, and put to death."

— **St. Thomas Aquinas**

"Love your children. In them you can see Baby Jesus. Pray for them a lot and every day put them under Holy Mary's protection."

— **St. Gianna Molla**

"You must speak to Jesus, not only with your lips, but also with your heart; actually, on certain occasions, you should speak with only your heart."

— **St. Padre Pio**



Words OF WISDOM

"My great God, You know all that is in the universe, because You Yourself have made it. It is the very work of Your hands. You are omniscient, because You are omncreative. You know each part, however minute, as perfectly as You know the whole. You know mind as perfectly as You know matter. You know the thoughts and purposes of every soul as perfectly as if there were no other soul in the whole of Your creation. You know me through and through; all my present, past, and future are before you as one whole. You see all those delicate and evanescent motions of my thought which altogether escape myself. You can trace every act, whether deed or thought, to its origin and can follow it into its whole growth and consequences. You know how it will be with me at the end; You have before You that hour when I shall come to You to be judged. How awful is the prospect of finding myself in the presence of my judge! Yet, O Lord, I would not that You should not know me. It is my greatest stay to know that You read my heart. Oh, give me more of that openhearted sincerity which I have desired. Keep me ever from being afraid of Your eye, from the inward consciousness that I am not honestly trying to please you. Teach me to love You more, and then I shall be at peace, without any fear of You at all."

— St. John Henry Newman

"There is, actually, only one person in all humanity of whom God has one picture and in whom there is a perfect conformity between what He wanted her to be and what she is, and that is His own mother. Most of us are a minus sign, in the sense that we do not fulfill the high hopes the heavenly Father has for us. But Mary is the equal sign. The ideal that God had of her, that she is, and in the flesh. The model and the copy are perfect; she is all that was foreseen, planned, and dreamed. The melody of her life is played just as it was written."

— Venerable Fulton J. Sheen

"Let the Word of God come; let it enter the church; let it become a consuming fire, that it may burn the hay and stubble, and consume whatever is worldly; there is heavy lead of iniquity in many; let it be molten by divine fire; let the gold and silver vessels be made better, in order that understanding and speech, refined by the heat of suffering, may begin to be more precious."

— St. Ambrose

"I'm proud of my humility."

— Anonymous

"Thus, brethren, God has loved you from eternity, and through pure love, He has selected you from among so many men whom He could have created in place of you; but He has left them in their nothingness, and has brought you into existence, and placed you in the world. For the love of you, He has made so many other beautiful creatures, that they might serve you, and that they might remind you of the love which He has borne to you, and of the gratitude which you owe to Him."

— St. Alphonsus Liguori