



# LAY WITNESS

December 25, 2021

Christmastide

Vol. 39, No. 5

*to unite the faithful from all walks of life in order to  
support, defend and advance the efforts of the teaching Church*

## **A Letter from the President**

Dear Friends,

“Grace to you, and peace from Him Who is, Who was, and Who is to come” (Rev. 1:4).

*And there shall come forth a rod out of the root of Jesse, and a flower shall rise up out of his root. And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him: the spirit of wisdom, and of understanding, the spirit of counsel, and of fortitude, the spirit of knowledge, and of godliness. And he shall be filled with the spirit of the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge according to the sight of the eyes, nor reprove according to the hearing of the ears. But he shall judge the poor with justice, and shall reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked. And justice shall be the girdle of his loins: and faith the girdle of his reins.*

*The wolf shall dwell with the lamb: and the leopard shall lie down with the kid: the calf and the lion, and the sheep shall abide together, and a little child shall lead them. The calf and the bear shall feed: their young ones shall rest together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp: and the weaned child shall thrust his hand into the den of the basilisk. They shall not hurt, nor shall they kill in all my holy mountain, for the earth is filled with the knowledge of the Lord, as the covering waters of the sea (Is. 11:1-9, DRV).*

This prophecy from Isaiah is commonly read at Mass during Advent each year. Perhaps you remember it being read recently. In our North American, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Catholic culture, we often hear the reading and think of happy times. I would guess that some people simply think this prophecy was fulfilled in the birth of Jesus, and that Christmas is a celebration of how this prophecy was fulfilled. I also think most people who hear this reading probably don't give it much thought, but simply associate this reading with Christmas without considering what it says. For my part, I do not believe that this prophecy has been fulfilled.

If one reads this prophecy carefully, you will notice a few things right away. The first half of the first paragraph describes the origin and characteristics of the Messiah. Of course, these elements of the prophecy are fulfilled in the person of Jesus. However, there is a sentence toward the end of that paragraph that remains unfulfilled, “*But he shall judge the poor with justice, and shall reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: he shall strike the earth with the rod of*

*continued on page 2*

## **Prayer of Catholics United for the Faith**

O God our Father, who sent Your only-begotten Son to suffer and to give His life for the life of His Church, rule, protect, and nourish her continually, we beseech You. Teach us of Catholics United for the Faith to direct our zeal first of all to the renewal of our own hearts. Then, if it be Your holy will to allow us to be in any way Your instruments in the wider renewal of Your Church, give us the grace to know what services, small or great, You ask of us, and let the Holy Spirit teach us to perform them in obedience, patience, and charity, leaving entirely to You what fruits they may bear. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **AMEN.**

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus,  
have mercy on us.  
Holy Mary, Mother of the Church,  
intercede for us.  
St. Joseph, Head of the Holy Family  
and Patron of the Universal Church,  
pray for us.

Lay Witness is a publication of  
Catholics United for the Faith  
85882 Water Works Rd.  
Hopedale, OH 43976, 740-283-2484  
ISSN: 1541-602X.  
Philip C. L. Gray, Publisher/Editor  
© Copyright 2021.

continued from page 1

his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked.” I recognize that Jesus did judge the poor with justice, reprove with equity the meek of the earth, and struck with the rod of His mouth while He walked this earth so many years ago, but since He ascended into Heaven, such judgments and reproofs continue to be sorely needed. Except for the pronouncements of Peter in the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 5:1-10), I do not know of any time in the New Testament when Jesus or his Apostles slayed anyone with the breath of lips.

The second paragraph has no fulfillment in time.

My point is this, many of the prophecies about the Messiah remain unfulfilled. These prophecies are given in time and they are meant to be fulfilled in time. Quite simply, they haven’t been. Consider a few others. “*And He shall destroy in this mountain the face of the bond with which all people were tied and the web that he began over all nations. He shall cast down death headlong forever*” (Is. 25:7-8). “*Everyone shall help his neighbor, and shall say to his brother: Be of good courage*” (Is. 41:6). If you listen carefully to the prophecies from Isaiah and the other prophets, you will understand that many of them remain unfulfilled.

So, why do we read them during Advent as though they are fulfilled in the coming of Jesus at Christmas? Because they are not intended to be heard as though they are fulfilled. Because Christmas is not just a celebration of the Birth of Jesus. Christmas is also a reminder that Jesus will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. Advent and the celebration of Christmas are intended to imbue the People of God with Hope and anticipation for the return of Christ in glory. When He does come again, these prophecies will be fulfilled.

In this issue of *Lay Witness*, I chose to re-publish an article by Father Larkin on the Sacred Heart of Jesus. I carefully considered the text, and I thought the article instructive on the real meaning of Christmas; a meaning that recognizes the message of so many unfilled prophecies.

When Adam and his woman sinned, the Devil was right there tempting the woman and influencing man. In response, God promised that his head would be crushed

by the “Woman” and her offspring (Gen. 3:15). The Devil continued to influence man, and he appears to Jesus to tempt Him at the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry (Mt. 4:1-11). Throughout His public ministry, Jesus and His Apostles drove out demons and devils from those who were possessed. So what does all this have to do with Christmas?

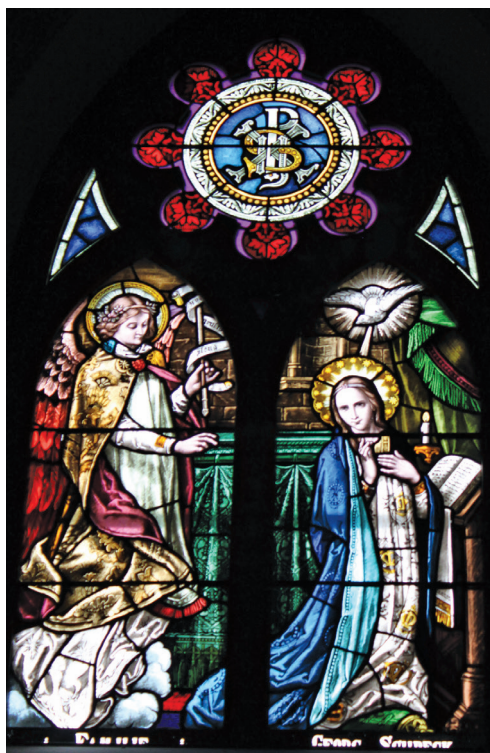
If you read the prophecies about the Messiah, most of them have a context that could be read during Lent, Easter, Advent, or Christmas. Try picking one from an Advent Mass reading and read the whole chapter that the reading is taken from. You will see what I mean. These beautiful liturgical seasons are closely related in time. Without Advent, we could not have Christmas. Without Christmas, we could not have Lent and Easter. And, Easter fulfills Christmas, but the Second Coming of Christ will fulfill Easter. And, it’s this Second Coming that Christmas points to. And so we are back to the prophecies that are unfulfilled.

In the lead article, Father Larkin explains the significance of a devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Such devotion is intended to pursue the grace necessary for the fulfillment of Christmas prophecies. We are in a great spiritual battle, and the powers of darkness are working overtime to influence man, both in and out of the Church. It was no less true at the time of Jesus’ birth. Didn’t Joseph have to take Mary and Jesus and flee to Egypt to keep the child safe? A true devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus does just that; it allows each of us to flee to Egypt in safety while we await the return of our Lord.

During this great celebration of Advent and Christmastide, let us not forget the unfulfilled Christmas prophecies that seek fulfillment in time. The Light of Christ has come into the world. The Just One is born of the Woman; but His reign on earth and over every human heart has not come to fulfillment. Our devotion to His Sacred Heart advances the fulfillment of prophecy and gives us Hope as we await His return in glory.

God bless you; St. Joseph keep you; and a very blessed Christmas to all!

Peace,  
Philip C. L. Gray



## **"I will reign through My Heart, despite Satan"**

By Fr. Francis Larkin, SS. CC.

Our Blessed Lord knew that the hatred which would be rampant in these evil days could best be conquered by a practical form of spirituality, which would inspire a return of solid love manifested by trust, sacrifice, reparation, Eucharistic piety and apostolic zeal – a spirituality that could be practiced by everyone in all walks of life, from little children to the most learned theologians.

Such a form of spirituality is to be found in the practice of devotion to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, as He Himself requested and taught it, and as it is warmly approved and strongly encouraged by the Church.

In the revelations made to St. Margaret Mary, 1673-1675, our Divine Savior made known HIS program of sanctification and salvation for our times: Eucharistic practices in honor of, and in reparation to, His Sacred Heart. Thus He revealed "the designs of His Heart; to deliver them from death and preserve them in spite of famine." (Ps. 33).

One of the reasons for prejudice against devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is a very superficial knowledge of what Jesus really said and requested at Paray-le-Monial. What were these great revelations? What is their significance and importance for our troubled times?

### **The Four Great Apparitions**

Actually Jesus manifested Himself to St. Margaret Mary on many occasions, but His principal requests are contained in four apparitions that occurred in 1673, 1674, and 1675. All of them took place in relation to the Blessed Sacrament, a point to keep in mind, if we are to understand their Eucharistic character. We will describe the first in St. Margaret Mary's own words and summarize the other three.

**I. December 27, 1673, Feast of St. John the Evangelist.** The Saint is praying before the Blessed Sacrament. She writes in her autobiography; "It seems to me that this is what took place. 'My Divine Heart,' He told me, 'is so inflamed with love for men, and for you in particular, that It is unable any longer to contain the pent-up flames of Its burning love. They must burst out through you and reveal My Heart to the world, so as to enrich mankind with My precious treasures. I am letting you see them now; and they include all the graces of sanctification and salvation needed to snatch men from the very brink of Hell. You are the one I have chosen for this great scheme – you are so utterly unworthy and ignorant, it will be MY work.'"

**II. 1674. The Heart alone is shown as on a "throne of fire."** Visible are the symbols of the Passion: the wound,

the crown of thorns, the cross. Because of His great love, He wishes to save mankind from Satan...He asks that His divine-human love be honored under the symbol of His human Heart...In return, He promises great blessings... This "is the last effort of His love: a loving redemption."

**III. Shortly after the Feast of Corpus Christi, 1674.** Jesus appears in glory, flames issuing from His sacred humanity. His five wounds shining like the sun...He shows His Heart as the living source of these flames...Because He is not loved in return for His love shown in the Eucharist, He asks for reparation, specifying frequent Communion, especially on the First Friday of each month, and the Holy Hour...To nullify the effort of Satan to deceive her, He warns Margaret Mary to act always under obedience.

**IV. June, 1675.** As Margaret Mary kneels before the exposed Blessed Sacrament, our Lord shows her His Heart, "Behold this Heart which has so loved men..." and complains about the "irreverence, sacrilege, coldness and contempt shown towards Him in the Eucharist" which He calls "ingratitude," especially on the part of consecrated souls. In atonement, He requests a new liturgical feast in honor of His Heart, specifying the date, with Communion of reparation. (This is now the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.)

### **For Our Day**

These complaints and these requests were not intended solely for the 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. If this were true then our Lord's desires were carried out two centuries too late. The Feast of the Sacred Heart was extended to the universal Church only in 1856. No, these requests for Eucharistic love and reparation are not outdated, but are for NOW! Recall what Jesus complained about; ingratitude in return for the Eucharist – the gift of His Heart – manifested by "irreverence, sacrileges, coldness and contempt for Me in this Sacrament of Love."

How widespread these attitudes and sins are on the part of so many Catholics today! All of us can give examples of lack of respect for the Blessed Sacrament, including our own.

### **Nature of the Sacred Heart Devotion**

The better to understand the purpose of these revelations, let us first consider their true nature. No one is better qualified to enlighten us than Father Jean Croiset, S.J., who wrote a book on devotion to the Sacred Heart of

*continued on page 4*



continued from page 3

Jesus at the request of Saint Margaret Mary, whose spiritual director he became after Father (Saint) Claude de la Colobriere, S.J., had left for England. Father Croiset's explanation of the devotion is based on letters written to him by Saint Margaret Mary. From these letters he learned how Our Lord wanted this devotion understood and practiced. After the book was completed Saint Margaret Mary told him: "I have no doubt that He Himself has inspired you to write your book" (Letter #133).

Here is how Father Croiset understood devotion to the Heart of Jesus. Note its Eucharistic nature:

The devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is a more

warm-hearted and ardent devotion towards Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament; its principal motive being the extreme love which He shows us in the sacrament, and the principal end to make reparation for the contempt and outrages which He suffers in this same sacrament...The sensible object of this devotion is the Sacred Heart of Jesus, all ablaze with love for men; a very ardent and tender love for the adorable Person of Jesus Christ ought to be the fruit.<sup>1</sup>

In one of her letters to Father Croiset Saint Margaret Mary wrote, quoting Our Lord's words; "I thirst with such a terrible thirst to be loved by men in the Blessed Sacrament that this thirst has consumed me."

In view of Our Lord's plea for Eucharistic love and considering that all the apparitions had a Eucharistic setting, we can understand why Father Croiset's definition of the devotion is so closely linked to the Eucharist, and why its practice is so important. With this definition in mind we are in a better position to understand the purpose of this devotion and why Our Lord promised that through its practice He would destroy the rule of Satan.

## Purpose of the Revelations

What are the reasons for these extraordinary interventions on the part of the Son of God? He Himself furnished the answer. St. Margaret Mary merely repeats what He told her: "This devotion is as a final effort of His love which wished to favor men in these last centuries with this loving redemption, *in order to withdraw them from the empire of Satan which He intends to destroy*" – "the reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the Devil" (*I Jn. 3:8*) – "and to replace it with the reign of the His love and thus, through His grace, to bring many souls to eternal salvation" (Letter #102).<sup>2</sup>

### Promises of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque

1. I will give them all the graces necessary for their state of life.
2. I will establish peace in their families.
3. I will bless every house in which a picture of My Heart shall be exposed and honored.
4. I will console them in all their difficulties.
5. I will be their refuge during life and especially at their hour of death.
6. I will shed abundant blessings upon all their undertakings.
7. Sinners shall find in My Heart a fountain and boundless ocean of mercy.
8. Tepid souls shall become fervent.
9. Fervent souls shall rise speedily to great perfection.
10. I will give to priests the power of touching the hardest hearts.
11. Those who propagate this devotion shall have their names written in My Heart never to be blotted out.
12. I promise thee, in the excessive mercy of My Heart that My all-powerful love will grant to all who communicate on the first Friday of the month for nine consecutive months, the grace of final penitence; they shall not die in My displeasure nor without the sacraments; My Divine Heart Shall be their safe refuge in this last moment.

The tremendous importance of the devotion, as revealed to St. Margaret Mary, may be inferred from the words quoted above. The idea which attracts our attention is that which states that the devotion of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is a "loving redemption," that is, a deed that can be compared in importance to the redemption of the human race. In reading these words, one must either conclude that the Saint is greatly exaggerating or that she is dealing with a subject of extreme importance. If she had used this expression only once in a moment of enthusiasm, one might be inclined to the first hypothesis. But this phrase was used repeatedly in one form or another when she spoke of this devotion, all of which proves that the idea was deeply engraved in her mind.

Here is an example, found in a letter she wrote (under obedience) dated June 21, 1686:

It seems to me the great desire which Our Lord has that His Sacred Heart be honored with a special devotion is for the purpose of renewing in the souls of men the effects of the redemption. He wishes that His Sacred Heart be, as it were, A SECOND MEDIATOR between God and men, whose sins have so multiplied that it takes all His power to obtain mercy and the graces of sanctification

and salvation which He longs to impart to them abundantly” (Letter #48).<sup>3</sup>

These little known passages indicate that the practice of devotion to the Heart of Jesus is something above the ordinary and not just “another pious practice.” Consider, for instance, these two statements:

1) “Loving redemption...renewing the effects of the redemption.” Evidently this means that the practice of this Eucharistic devotion to the Heart of Jesus will revive in the hearts of men an enthusiasm similar to that of the first Christians when they learned the Good News of the Life, Death and Resurrection of the promised Messiah. Likewise it is intended to renew that vigorous apostolic fervor of the early Christian Church, especially as regards daily reception of Communion.

Again, the revelation of the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is called a “new redemption” because it is such a copious communication of the fruits of the Passion and Resurrection of Jesus. Pope Pius XII refers to this when he writes in his Sacred Heart Encyclical, *Haurietis Aquas*; “It is altogether impossible to enumerate the heavenly gifts which devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus has poured out on the souls of the faithful, purifying them, offering them heavenly strength, rousing them to the attainment of all virtues.” (2)<sup>4</sup>

2) “A second Mediator.” Pope Pius XII gives us the best explanation of the meaning of this expression. He writes: “He shows His living, wounded Heart throbbing with a love yet more intense than when it was wounded in death by the soldier’s lance...It is beyond doubt that His Heavenly Father ‘Who spared not even His own Son, but delivered Him up for all of us,’ when appealed to with such loving urgency by so *powerful an Advocate*, will through Him send down on all men an abundance of divine graces” (Ibid. 87-88).

Further on the Holy Father states: “The honor to be paid to the Sacred Heart is such as to be raised to the rank – so far as external practice is concerned – of the highest

expression of Christian piety. For this is the religion of Jesus which is centered on the *Mediator* Who is God and Man, and in such a way that we cannot reach the Heart of God save through the Heart of Christ, as He Himself says: ‘I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father save by Me’” (Ibid. #106).

## A Last Effort

Many times in the writings of St. Margaret Mary we find statements like these:

And He gave me to understand that this devotion was the FINAL EFFORT of His love...This Divine Heart is the treasure of Heaven and earth, which

has been given to us as the FINAL ENDEAVOR OF HIS LOVE...This is as a LAST EFFORT of the Savior to draw sinners to repentance.”

Devotion to the Heart of our Divine Master represents the final effort of His love, which in these last ages wished to favor men with His loving REDEMPTION FROM THE TYRANNY OF SATAN and to establish in them the sweet liberty of His love.

My Divine Master revealed to me that it was His ardent desire to be known, loved and honored by men and His eager desire TO DRAW THEM BACK FROM THE ROAD TO HELL, along which Satan is driving them in count-

less numbers, that induced Him to manifest His Heart to men...

While we do not pretend to understand the full import of these mysterious words, they do tell us something about the seriousness of these revelations. Perhaps these words of Pope Pius XII will help us to understand their meaning:

Christ the Lord, showing His Most Sacred Heart, willed in an extraordinary and special way to call the minds of men to the contemplation and

*continued on page 6*

veneration of the mystery of God's most merciful love for the human race. In this special manifestation Christ pointed to His Heart, with definite and repeated words, as the symbol by which man should be attracted to a knowledge and recognition of His love; and at the same time He established it as a sign and pledge of mercy and grace for the needs of the Church of our times" (Ibid. #97).

## **Satan – and the Heart of Jesus**

There is much evidence that it is the will of God that devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is destined to be the deciding factor in the last great struggle between God and Satan. Are we witnessing the "final attack" of the devil? I do not pretend to know. But recent Popes have hinted at this.

In 1953, the far-sighted Pope Pius XII wrote the encyclical *MYSTICI CORPORIS*:

In this most decisive hour of history, the kingdom of evil and infernal cunning uses all means to destroy faith and morality...The battle – the most bitter, the most ferocious the world has ever known – has been joined.

On June 29, 1972, the Holy Father, Pope Paul VI, stated something that many have suspected, namely, that Satan is largely responsible for the widespread confusion, uncertainty, doubt and dissatisfaction that followed the Second Vatican Council. Here are his words: "It was believed that after the Council there would be a day of sunshine in the history of the Church. There came instead a day of clouds, storm and darkness, of search and uncertainty."

The Pope said: "This came about through an adverse power; his name is the devil...We believe in some preternatural thing which has come into the world precisely to disturb, to suffocate the fruits of the ecumenical council." He said he had the feeling that "by means of some fissure, the smoke of Satan has entered the temple of God."

On November 15, 1972, Pope Paul gave his second talk on Satan and his influence in "individual persons, communities, whole societies and events." The Holy Father began by asking this question: "What are the greatest needs of the Church today? Do not let our answer surprise you as being over-simple or unreal; one of the greatest needs is defense from evil that is called the devil...it is not a question of one devil, but of many...But the principal one is Satan, which means the adversary, the enemy..."

The greatest adversary, the most hate-filled enemy of devotion to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus is Satan. Jesus Himself explained the reason for this hatred to St. Margaret Mary: "The devil has a most intense fear of this devotion because of the salvation of the multitude of souls

which it affects." That is why he warned her to be on her guard, and said her greatest defense was obedience: "Don't believe lightly in every inspiration, and don't be too sure of it – Satan is furiously bent on deceiving you. SO DON'T DO ANYTHING WITHOUT THE APPROVAL of those who are guiding you. As long as you have the sanction of obedience, he can never delude you; HE IS COMPLETELY POWERLESS OVER THOSE WHO OBEY."<sup>5</sup>

Perhaps this explains the great power Satan is wielding today, especially within the Church. Where disobedience is rampant, Satan has a field-day. On the other hand, "he is completely powerless over those who obey."

Many are convinced that one of the main reasons for the decline of devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is due to the action of Satan. How explain, otherwise, the widespread ignorance, indifference and even opposition to this God-given and Church-backed devotion, especially on the part of the very ones who should be most zealous promoters, and particularly those in a position to propagate this devotion among the faithful? Why the smokescreen of silence in so many pulpits and publications? In convents and classrooms?

The devil strides to downgrade and block the Sacred Heart devotion because he knows something that many Catholics ignore, namely, that Jesus' plan in revealing this devotion was to destroy the reign of Satan and to replace it with His reign of love.

Jesus knew there would be fierce opposition to the establishment and spread of this powerful means of saving souls. To encourage and sustain those engaged in propagating the merciful love of the Heart of Jesus, He made a remarkable promise which is expressed many times and in various ways in the writings of the Saint. In a letter of April 10, 1690, she writes: "Eventually this Divine Heart shall reign in spite of all those who oppose it. Satan and all his followers will be confounded."

## **A Challenge to Jesus' Friends**

The famous statesmen, Edmund Burke, long ago stated: "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing." Father Mateo Crawley-Boevey, SS. CC., put it this way: "If the Left is strong, it is because the Right is weak. The attack of the Left and the apathy of the Right – that vast army of worldly Christians whose timidity and human respect far outweigh their faith – had led to a terrible social upheaval everywhere – the well-merited chastisement of Divine Justice for the deicide of some, and the weakness and guilty silence of others."

## **The Sacred Heart and Reparation**

The most effective means of reparation is the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, and prayers and acts of expiation



before the Blessed Sacrament – either exposed or in the Tabernacle.

This is precisely the kind of reparation that Our Lord Himself requested at Paray-le-Monial. As Pope Pius XI pointed out in his Encyclical, *On the Sacred Heart and Reparation*: “The spirit of expiation, or of reparation, has always played one of the chief roles in the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.”

The form this reparation was to take was clearly indicated by the Savior Himself. Since He is our Mediator, our Reconciler, our Advocate, “always living to make intercession for us” (*Heb. 7:25*) with His Father in Heaven, and on earth in the Eucharist, He directed that our reparation was to be united with His, in order that it be fully accepted by His Father. Thus, He requests Eucharistic atonement through communions of reparation, especially on the Feast of the Sacred Heart and on the First Fridays; and by prayers and acts of reparation before the Blessed Sacrament, called the Holy Hour.

### Life Up Your Eyes to Mary

I would like to conclude with some quotes from a stirring message, given in 1944 by Father Mateo Crawley-Boevey, SS. CC., Founder of the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart. These words will help keep you from discouragement, and will give you great hope in these evil days:

Now lift up your eyes! Through the black clouds of the tempest fix them on a shining Star, enlightening and comforting this storm-tossed earth. It is the Woman crowned with stars, the Immaculate Queen. She is the rainbow appearing amidst the darkening deluge and the deafening thunder.

She is the Queen of the Christmas Angels and she is our Queen too. Listen to Her, as smilingly She cries to us from the heights: “Peace, great peace, unshakeable peace! Do not tremble, do not give in to despair...”

Pointing to the Christ of Calvary and of our altars, she continues; “Don’t be too afraid, for it is He Who has overcome this world, and I myself have crushed beneath my feet the head of the infernal serpent. So, like good soldiers, form your ranks! Co-operate with us, my children, be vigilant and full of confidence; be Apostles, and He will reign as He has promised. Yes, He will reign by His Heart, by the all-powerfulness of His Mercy, despite Satan and his agents. It is true, they are strong because of their daring. But you can be even stronger by faithfulness and Eucharistic fervor. Lift up your hearts, peace!

I, your Heavenly Queen, am knocking on your doors, and I beg you to open them wide to My

Jesus, your King... Oh! Let Him truly reign as Master and well-beloved Friend in the family sanctuary! Then the waves of Satanic hatred will break in vain on the rock of the Church and the citadel of the Christian home.

Often you say to Me, “pray for us now.” Yes, my dear children, I do pray for you in this present hour of battle; I watch over and guide your steps, for anything that concerns your soul – your sorrows and your joys – is of vital concern to me. But I will also be at the side of Jesus at the hour of your death, for I, Who am your Star and your Mother during life, will be the Gate of Heaven at the last hour. But in return, love Jesus with a love stronger than death, with a trusting love that will take His Heart and Mine by storm.

*Fr. Francis Larkin SS. CC., was the Director of the Nation Enthronement Center in Fairview, Massachusetts at the time of this article's original publication in 1978. Boston born, Fr. Larkin studied for the priesthood in Belgium and was the first American-born member of the Fathers of the Sacred Hearts. A preacher of retreats and conferences in many countries, Fr. Arkin is also the author of, among other things, Enthronement of the Sacred Heart and Understanding the Heart, and has also translated such works as The Heart of Father Damien and The Firebrand.*

#### (Endnotes)

- 1 *The Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Our Lord Jesus Christ*, Jean Croiset, S.J., pp. 51-52. International Institute of the Heart of Jesus, 7700 West Bluemound Road, Milwaukee, WI 53213, 1976.
- 2 *Letters to St. Margaret Mary*, National Enthronement Center, Fairhaven, MA 02719, 1976.
- 3 *Ibid.*
- 4 Pope Pius XII, *Haurietis aquas*, International Institute of the Heart of Jesus, Milwaukee WI 53213, 1976.
- 5 *The Autobiography of St. Margaret Mary*, Darton, Longman & Todd, London.



# CUF LINKS

## Chapter News

All are welcome to join CUF's Gregory VII Chapter of Milwaukee on December 12<sup>th</sup> for the annual Msgr. Popek Birthday and Christmas Lunch celebrating the approaching Nativity of the Lord and the life of one of His wonderful priests. Prior to his death in 1986, the CUF Board members would take Msgr. Popek to lunch or dinner to celebrate his December 9<sup>th</sup> birthday, and Christmas, all at the same time. In recent years, the invitation was expanded to include all members and friends

of the chapter.

Considering starting a CUF chapter, but not sure how to get it off the ground? Contact our office to schedule an in-person visit with CUF President, Philip Gray. He is eager to speak on CUF's mission, learn about the situation in your area and what is driving you to organize, and brainstorm with you about ways a CUF chapter could help bring about the restoration you want to see in the Church.

## Information Services

Have you ever wondered why Christmas is celebrated on December 25<sup>th</sup>? CUF's FAITH FACT, "Is Christmas a Pagan Feast?" delves into this question and much more as it explores the ways the early Church evangelized the

pagan world through the Christian celebration of the birth of Our Savior. Request your copy today at CUF.org or by calling 1 800 MY FAITH.

## Saint Joseph Foundation

Advent is upon us; and it has been an interesting season. On the First Sunday of Advent, a parish SJF has been working with finally received recognition as such following two years of canonical recourse. In the world of canon law, the new penal law of the Church (Book VI of the Code) became effective on 8 December 2021, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. The coincidence of this feast day celebrating the Patroness of America and the Supreme Court case *Dobbs vs. Jackson's Women's Health* was not lost on the Catholics

of the country or SJF. Of obvious import to this case is the question of when human life begins. The doctrine of the Church is clear...*at the moment of conception*. The legal arguments of Mississippi's Solicitor General, Scott G. Stewart relied on Natural Law principles, which are the inherited tradition of the US Constitution *and the Church*. It was quite the battle to witness. As I complete the end of year processes, I will be able to provide statistics on SJF's activity for the year in the first publication of 2022. -Natasha

## Yakin' About

CUF members in the Denton, Texas area are invited to mark their calendars. Philip will be giving a talk on the Role of Moral Conscience in the Right to Life Movement on February 8, 2022. Invitations will be sent out as the event nears. Contact our office for more information.

In August, Philip gave four talks during a one-day retreat sponsored by a Padre Pio Prayer group in Dallas, TX. The talks were on the Virtue of Silence, Reparation, Justice and Charity, and the Virtue of Mercy. He used

the examples of Sts. Joseph, Padre Pio and Blessed Solanus Casey to demonstrate the practice of these virtues. The day closed with a Q&A session that focused primarily on the exercise of the moral conscience in relation to current issues in the Church. If you would like a copy of the talk on CD or USB, please contact our office. We can provide them on a CD or a flash drive.

Got an announcement? If your event is CUF friendly, and we have space to spare, we will gladly post it here!