

# Educating the Youth to Live the Mass

Experts from the Manual of the

## Eucharistic Crusade of the Apostleship of Prayer

Published in 1962 by the Central Office of the Eucharistic Crusade, Rome (Edited by Fr. Boulet)

### NOTE ON THE SPIRITUAL LIFE OF CHILDREN

Among children who have kept their innocence of heart and who live in the love of Christ, experience testifies that there are always to be found some who outstrip the ordinary ways of the spiritual life and who enjoy a special familiarity with Christ. Such children, who doubtless act under the influence of the Holy Spirit and who are called to a higher spiritual life, need particular help. Children of this age who are specially gifted with grace can be recognized as such without much difficulty, since ordinarily they are not yet capable of so feigning an authentic interior life. The signs of a deeper spiritual life in children are as follows: a knowledge of God and of the mysteries of faith in which simplicity and profundity are joined in a wonderful way; promptitude to make sacrifices, especially when not seen by others; sincerity and truthfulness; a reverent way of speaking about God and Christ; a certain facility in meditating or praying in their own words. These signs ought to be joined to a serious desire of doing good and exercising virtues (obedience, diligence, charity, etc.). Where these signs are found, Directors must see if perhaps a disposition and a vocation to greater progress in the spiritual life is present.

These children should in the first place be exhorted to fulfill the program of the Crusade, to do everything out of love for Jesus and as perfectly as they can. It should be stressed that they show love towards their parents, their brothers and sisters, towards the poor and the sick and all men in general. They should with prudence and discretion be invited to undertake special small sacrifices. As far as is possible, they should be exhorted to receive daily Communion.

These counsels must of course be adapted to the age of the child. Dealing with adolescents, we can insist more on apostolic sacrifices, especially that are implied in works of charity, so that the children will learn to forget themselves in order to help others.

In fostering these special vocations to a more perfect spiritual life, Directors must prudently consider the possibility that perhaps these children may afterwards receive a vocation to the priestly or religious state. If they observe a true inclination to the priesthood or religious life, they may prudently exhort them to pray that they may know the will of God and, if God really calls them, that they may promptly obey. A special joy, however, should not be manifested when a boy or girl seems to be thinking about a priestly or religious vocation; otherwise it can easily happen that the children will desire the vocation more out of love of the teacher than out of love of Christ. Give them the lives of the saints, invite them to help in apostolic work, encourage their companionship with apostolic men, so that the children in this way can discreetly get to know the ideal of a religious and apostolic life.

These children, clearly, should not be segregated from the others and much less should they be formed into their own group. Rather they ought to act as the leaven in the whole mass.

*(To be continued)*



## THE GUARDIAN OF CRUSADERS

Bulletin of the Eucharistic Crusade for Canada

November 2009 # 197

# The Conversion of The Dying

Dear Crusaders,

Today, let me give you a true story that happened recently to one of our priests in France, Fr. Louis-Joseph. So, it happened that, two years ago, Fr. Louis was in Lourdes with a group of young people. They had been hiking for a few days in the Pyrenean mountains, and they had come to the Marian city to entrust themselves to the Mother of God. It was actually on the feast day of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

So, Father Louis was waiting for his young people to arrive before starting Mass, but the young people were late to come! Then, an elderly lady who noticed that the priest was waiting approached him and said: "Father, I am sorry to disturb you, but I have a special favour to ask of you. I have a 60 year old nephew, who was never baptized. I prayed a lot for his conversion. Now he is very sick, and he is in a coma. I see that you are going to say Mass. Please would you offer Mass for him?" The priest answered: "I have already an intention for my Mass, but I will change it, and offer this Mass for your nephew."

Two years later, she finally tracked down Fr. Louis to tell him what happened after the Mass. On September 3rd, the feast day of St. Pius X, she was able to get a hold of Fr. Louis on the phone, and told him: "Father, you remember when I asked you to say Mass for my dying nephew?" At first, Father was hesitant, then he said: "Ah yes, now I remember: the Mass was late, and you came to me asking to offer Mass for your nephew". Then, the lady said: "Father, after you said that Mass, in the evening, I went to see my nephew in the hospital. He was in a very rough shape. But, suddenly, he rose from his bed and cried out: "Baptism, baptism, baptism!" Immediately, I called Father Nicholas, who came right away to baptise my nephew who died a few hours later."

"So, Father, I have been looking for you to tell you what happened, but it was not easy to track you down." Father Louis answered: "It was Our Lady that did that miracle, Our Lady of Lourdes, the immaculate Heart of Mary." "Yes, indeed" said the old lady, "but I prayed so much for him. Think about: 60 years of a sinful life erased by the sacrament of baptism"

So, remember to pray for the conversion of people who are dying!

Father Dominique Boulet

## THE OFFICER *Little Talks to Little People*

A French officer named Maurice had been seriously wounded during World War I. A few years after his wounds were all healed, the wounds reopened, causing him great pain. At first Maurice cursed and swore, saying that he had paid with his blood more than enough for what he owed his country. But as time went on, he gradually began to have a change of heart. As he lay in his hospital bed, he began saying his Rosary many times a day. Maurice prayed the Sorrowful mysteries of the Rosary over and over again. Then after a few weeks he began to bear his pains and sufferings with great patience.

One day when Fr. Vanier came to visit Maurice, he told the priest, "***My pains tell me that God remembers my sins.***"

"***And the crucifix tells you,***" answered the priest, "***that Jesus Christ, Who shed His blood for you, will give you a greater reward for your sufferings than your ruler has done.***"

Hearing this the brave old man smiled and remarked, "***Yes, I hope to wear in Heaven the crown of the truly great Christians. I am paying for it with the high price of my pains and sufferings.***"

"***Not higher than Jesus Christ purchased your salvation,***" replied Fr. Vanier, "***for you must remember that one drop of the Blood of Jesus is worth infinitely more than all the blood shed by all the people who will ever live in this world. And Jesus shed more than one drop of His blood. He shed all of His blood to the very last drop, when He was crucified on Mount Calvary.***"

"***Your right Father, very right,***" answered Maurice. "***Truly we have been bought at a very great price with the blood of Jesus.***"

Then Fr. Vanier added, "***And do you know Maurice that you can also offer up your sufferings to Jesus and Mary to save other souls as well? You could help save your mother, father, brothers, sisters, your friends and your enemies.***"

"***Me Father, help to save others?***" replied Maurice.

"***Yes, you Maurice,***" answered the priest. "***We can all help to save souls by our sufferings and sacrifices. And when we offer up our sufferings to God, we can even help souls get out of Purgatory!***"

So you see dear children, there is no pain that you can suffer in this world that is too great because Jesus has suffered a far greater pain than you will ever begin to suffer. Even if you were to fall off your bike and hurt yourself 100 times, though your sufferings would be great, the sufferings of Jesus were far greater.



The arrows buried themselves deep in Sebastian's flesh. But Sebastian remained brave and did not let out a cry. He stood there bleeding for some time. An arrow had not pierced his heart so life was only slowing leaving his body. It would be many, many hours before he would die.



Suddenly a woman approached Sebastian—it was St. Irene the wife of St. Castulus. She was now a widow, as her husband had already gone to Heaven. She had come to bury him. Leaning towards St. Sebastian to untie the ropes she said, ***“After helping so many to get to Heaven, now you too are a martyr Sebastian.”***

But wait! Suddenly she heard a groan. ***“You’re alive Sebastian. I’m taking you to my home to nurse you back to health, if I can.”*** After arriving at her house, Irene

carefully bathed Sebastian's wounds and bandaged them. She gave him food and wine to strengthen him and as the weeks rolled by Sebastian grew stronger. After he recovered from his wounds he refused to leave Rome. One day he waited by a staircase, which he knew Emperor Diocletian would pass. When the Emperor came near, Sebastian cried out, ***“How dare you treat the Christians so cruelly. They have done nothing to harm you. If you continue in this way you will most certainly go to Hell, and you will never see the true God in Heaven!”***

At first, the Emperor was surprised to see that Sebastian was still living. But after he recovered from his shock, he ordered his guards: ***“Take Sebastian and club him to death and throw his body into the sewer!”*** After this was done a pious woman called Lucia, had a vision. In the vision, St. Sebastian told her where his body was. She got Sebastian's body privately removed from the sewer and had it buried in the catacombs.

Outside of Rome there is a lovely basilica, which was completed in 611, built over the grave of St. Sebastian. There are also catacombs to visit under the basilica as well. The altar of St. Sebastian in the basilica contains his relics and there is also a beautiful carving of him in marble.

*The End*

**\* On October 3rd, I say Mass for the intentions of the Eucharistic Crusade in Canada.**

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## The Story of St. Sebastian

St. Sebastian was born in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Century, in Gaul, (now France), but since his parents were from Milan, Italy, he was raised in the city of Milan. Sebastian was a very good Catholic, and did many acts of charity for other people. Although he did not want to be a soldier, he decided to go to Rome and join the army because as a Roman soldier, he would be able to secretly help the Christian martyrs in the prisons. He entered the army under Emperor Carinus, around the year 283.



When Sebastian was a soldier in Rome, he got word that Marcus and Marcellianus were in prison because they were Christians. They were just about to give up their Catholic Faith because of the tears of their pagan friends. Sebastian was filled with holy zeal and marched to the prison. Although there were many people in the prison, he gave a long talk to Marcus and Marcellianus telling them: ***“There is nothing more beautiful than Heaven. You must always remember that the things of this earth pass away so quickly but Heaven is everlasting. And the best thing about Heaven is that you will be able to see God! What are a few tortures compared to the everlasting joys of Heaven? If you are tortured for days, or even months, these pains are no reason to give up your Faith.”*** These and other wonderful things Sebastian told the two men in the prison.

Suddenly a lady named Zoë fell at the feet of Sebastian. He made the sign of the cross on her mouth and a miracle; she could speak! Zoë had not been able to speak for six years! The whole prison was converted; Zoë and her husband Nicostratus, (who was in charge of the prisoners), the parents of Marcus and Marcellianus, the jailer Claudius, and sixteen other prisoners.

Nicostratus took all the people to his own house and Fr. Polycarp, a holy priest, instructed and baptized all the people who were not Catholic.

Later, Chromatius, the governor of Rome, was told about this. He was also told that when Tranquillinus, the father of Marcus and Marcellianus was baptized, he had been cured of gout (a painful disease of the toe). Chromatius desired to become a Catholic, because he too had gout. He sent for Sebastian. Sebastian cured him and baptized him and his son Tiburtius. Chromatius then helped more prisoners convert to the Faith, set his slaves free, and gave up his job as Governor of Rome.

In 285, Emperor Carinus was defeated and killed in Illyricum by Diocletian. In 286, Emperor Diocletian made Maximian his partner in ruling Rome. These two rulers still continued the persecution of the Christians; it would still take many years before Catholics could practise their Faith without being killed.



Emperor Diocletian admired the virtue and courage of St. Sebastian who still hid the fact that he was a Catholic. He made Sebastian the captain of all his guards, which was a special army. When Diocletian went into the East, Maximian who stayed on as the ruler of Rome, honoured Sebastian with the same respect as Diocletian did, and also made him Captain of the Guards.

In the mean time, Chromatius retired into the country taking many new converts with him. St. Sebastian and Fr. Polycarp both wanted to go with Chromatius to help the new converts complete their instructions in the Catholic Faith. So Pope Caius was asked to decide who was to go to the country and who was to stay in Rome. The Pope decided: ***“It is far better for you Sebastian to stay in Rome as a defender of the Faith. As a Roman guard you have many chances to go secretly into the prisons, to help the dying prisoners and encourage the martyrs. When doing so, the pagans will only think that you are going to the prison on business. But they will question you, Fr. Polycarp, because you are not dressed like a Roman soldier. Besides, we need you in the country to instruct the new Christians and to say Mass for them.”***

As the year 286 moved along, the persecution of the Christians grew worse every day. Pope Caius and many other Christians hide themselves in the Imperial Palace of Castulus, a Christian officer of the court. St. Zoë was the first Christian to be martyred. She was found on the Feast of the Apostles, praying at the tomb of St. Peter, the first Pope. As her punishment she was hung by the heels over a fire, and the smoke from the fire choked her to death.

*(Continued on page9)*

*(... Continued from page 4)*

Tranquillinus, wanting to show that he was at least as brave as St. Zoë, went to pray at the tomb of St. Paul. There he was grabbed by the common people and stoned to death. Nicostratus, Claudius, Castorius, and Victorinus were captured and tortured three times. Then they were thrown into the sea. A fallen away Catholic betrayed Tiburtius, who then had his head cut off. Castulus was accused of being a Christian by the same bad Catholic. He was put on the rack three times and was then buried alive. Marcus and Marcellianus were nailed by the feet to a post. They remained this way for twenty-four hours and were then shot to death with arrows.

It was because of good St. Sebastian that many of these people went to Heaven and his time to die wasn't far off. He was taken to the Imperial Court and accused in front of Emperor Diocletian, of not being a faithful soldier. ***“So, you're a Christian, Sebastian! I should have been more careful in checking up on you when you went to the prisons. And here I trusted you. How could you have dared to defy the gods and me, after I had raised you to the position of Captain of the Guards? My guards! You ungrateful wretch!”*** he exclaimed.

As Sebastian was mocked and scolded, he only stood there and prayed. He prayed that Diocletian would be converted to the Catholic Faith. He prayed that certain members of the Roman army would remain faithful Christians. And he prayed for all those who were in the prisons that they might die as martyrs for Heaven, and that not one of them would be lost.



***“Aren't you ashamed of what you have done?”*** cried Diocletian. ***“Don't you have anything to say for yourself?”***

Sebastian had nothing to say for himself and he had nothing to say to Diocletian. He thought: ***“My past actions speak for themselves. I have helped others become Christians and I am happy to have done so. I have done the will of God—the one and only true God, who livest and reignest forever. I have nothing to regret.”***

***“Death for you Sebastian! Death for you by arrows!”*** roared Diocletian. ***“Guards, bring here the archers of Mauritania. They will rid me of this insulting man. Away with you Sebastian!”***

The archers dragged Sebastian away and tied him to a tree. Then they stepped back and took aim. Twang! Twang! Twang! Thud! Thud! Thud!

November 2009

INTENTION FOR THE MONTH OF  
November 2009

S	F	R	P	O	L	Y	C	A	R	P	P	T	P
T	C	A	T	H	O	L	I	C	Q	W	R	R	U
S	H	E	A	V	E	N	S	O	L	D	I	E	R
E	C	I	R	U	A	M	S	O	U	L	S	V	G
B	A	Q	P	R	O	M	E	Q	M	A	O	N	A
A	P	Z	R	J	E	S	U	S	A	R	N	O	T
S	T	X	I	Z	X	Q	Z	X	S	M	Q	C	O
T	A	E	E	O	Z	B	E	D	S	Y	X	Z	R
I	I	M	S	E	X	Z	X	S	E	A	Z	X	Y
A	N	P	T	Z	H	O	P	E	Q	M	A	R	Y
N	X	E	N	E	R	I	T	S	U	F	F	E	R
A	R	R	O	W	S	G	O	D	L	U	C	I	A
Z	X	O	Z	X	Z	A	C	I	L	I	S	A	B
T	O	R	T	U	R	E	S	G	U	A	R	D	S



The death of St. Joseph

### Daily offering

(To be recited every morning when you wake up)

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer Thee all my prayers, works, joys and sufferings of this day, for all the intentions of Thy Sacred Heart in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world, and in reparation for my sins. I offer them particularly **for the dying people so that many of them will get the grace of final perseverance.**

ST SEBASTIAN  
FR POLYCARP  
PURGATORY  
TORTURES  
CATHOLIC  
EMPEROR  
MAURICE  
BASILICA  
ST IRENE  
SOLDIER

CONVERT  
CAPTAIN  
ARROWS  
GUARDS  
HEAVEN  
SUFFER  
PRISON  
PRIEST  
SOULS  
LUCIA

ROME  
MARY  
ARMY  
JESUS  
MASS  
HOP  
GOD  
ZOE  
BED  
SEA

August 2009 Treasure Sheets										
	Daily Off.	Mass	Sacr. Com.	Spir. Com.	Sacrif.	Dec. Ros.	Visit Bl. S.	15 Min.	Good Example	Quantity
QC	155	106	106	155	1085	775	106	403	1147	5
ON	1418	302	244	1077	2704	6769	282	379	1600	48
MB	179	46	38	42	257	1076	19	24	145	7
SK	212	80	61	294	1667	3222	96	77	1494	16
AB										
BC	356	78	42	72	72	369	71	36	128	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>2320</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>1640</b>	<b>5785</b>	<b>12211</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>919</b>	<b>4514</b>	<b>88</b>

TREASURE CHART FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2009

Day	Daily Offering	Mass	Sacr. Com.	Spir. Com.	Sacrifices	Decades of Rosary	Visits Bl. Sacr.	15 Minutes Silence	Good Example
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									
8									
9									
10									
11									
12									
13									
14									
15									
16									
Total									

Note about sending your total to the Secretariat:

**Vancouver, BC:** give it to Mrs. Leung

**Wilmot, ON:** give it to Fr. Peter Scott

**Welwyn, SK:** give it to Mrs. Mailloux

**Winnipeg, MB:** give it to Fr. Gerard Rusak

**Other locations: Preferably, e-mail the total:** [EucharisticCrusadeCDN@gmail.com](mailto:EucharisticCrusadeCDN@gmail.com)

Mailing address:

Eucharistic Crusade 905 Rang St. Mathieu E, Shawinigan, QC G9N 6T5

TREASURE CHART FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2009

Day	Daily Offering	Mass	Sacr. Com.	Spir. Com.	Sacrifices	Decades of Rosary	Visits Bl. Sacr.	15 Minutes Silence	Good Example
17									
18									
19									
20									
21									
22									
23									
24									
25									
26									
27									
28									
29									
30									
Total									

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**November 2009**

Total of the Month									
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To be send to the secretariat of the Eucharistic Crusade. See note on previous page.