



ENCOURAGEMENT

FROM

ST. MONICA SODALITY

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Dear Members:

Welcome, especially to all new readers of our newsletter!

I am pleased to report that more of your prayer petitions were placed before the tomb of St. Monica in Rome during the closing days of the Great Jubilee Year 2000.

The petitions were delivered by Karen Bronson of Washington D.C., who graciously took time out from her own Jubilee Pilgrimage to carry our petitions to the tomb. We are very grateful to Karen for this kind act of charity for you and your families.

May we remind you that every Wednesday evening we gather here at St. John Cantius to unite our prayers for the Novena intentions. Although your sense of loss is unique, please remember that you need not bear your cross alone. The hands of many are united in prayer to God to help you and your lost loved ones.

Among them, Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J. was a very important link in the founding of the St. Monica Sodality. This respected theologian, renowned for his fidelity to the Holy See, died in Detroit on December 30, 2000. On Wednesday, January 31, following our regular St. Monica Novena Prayers, we hosted a special Memorial Requiem Mass in his memory.

In the mid-1980s there were several unsuccessful attempts to start a St. Monica Sodality. In 1994 a retreatant asked Fr. Hardon what could be done about the great number of fallen away Catholics. Father Hardon encouraged her to approach me to see if we could start something here at St. John Cantius. I agreed, not realizing that within a few years I would be writing to Sodality members throughout the United States and many other countries.



Karen Bronson at the Tomb of St. Monica

So we see how our efforts, ideas and sacrifices can grow, be pulled together, and transformed by the Holy Spirit.

Also in this issue is the story of an almost forgotten saint (a spiritual daughter of St. Monica) and the impact she had on the devotional life of the Church. In this story of St. Juliana, we see that those whom Christ calls to His service will often face hardship, disappointment, and may not even live to see their efforts realized. But they persevered—they didn't give up—no matter what—they trusted in God and continued to pray.

Father C. Frank Phillips, C.R.
Pastor, St. John Cantius Church
Director St. Monica Sodality

Pour out your heart like water in the presence of the Lord. Lift up your hands to him for the lives of your children. — Lamentations 2:19

QUESTIONS / ANSWERS

What can I do or say to get my daughter to go to Mass?

May we suggest reading *Prodigal Daughters* by Donna Steichen. . . . a noted Catholic author who collected the first person stories of 17 women who were raised in the Church, but who abandoned their childhood faith under the pressure of the sexual revolution, feminism, New Age spirituality, and the lure of worldly success. With refreshing humility and self-awareness, each of these women explains what led her away from the Church and how the hidden hand of God worked in the seemingly chaotic events of her life, slowly, gently, to bring her back to Him.

Prodigal Daughters will show you the power of God's grace for:

—The woman who tuned in Mother Angelica to ridicule her—and stayed to pray with her—

—Two women who found forgiveness and new life even after an abortion—

—The independent thinker who gradually began to realize she was caught in a straitjacket of fashionable but ill-thought-out positions—

—The feminist who sought freedom by purging her life of God and family—

—The committed New Ager who said goodbye to all of her past to find truth—

These 17 stories will give you hope for even the most hardened souls, and fill you with gratitude for God's inexhaustible grace and mercy. *Prodigal Daughters* will encourage you never to give up praying even for souls set against God!

This book is available from Sophia Institute Press, Box 5284, Manchester, NH 03108; web site: www.sophiainstitute.com; 1-800-888-9344

FROM MONICA'S SON —

Translated by John K. Ryan

Lord, hear my prayer . . . that I should find more delight in You than in all the temptations that once distracted me, that I should love You more intensely and hold on to Your Hand with all my heart's strength, and that I be delivered from evil to the end of my days.

Confessions of St. Augustine

RATHER THAN OBJECT

Augustine writes of his mother's devotion to the saints and to the bishop, St. Ambrose:

"One time when she had brought pottage, bread, and wine to a shrine in memory of the saints—for this was her custom in Africa—the doorkeeper forbade her to do so. When she learned this prohibition came from the bishop [Ambrose], she accepted it in such a devout and obedient manner that I marveled at how easily she accused her own custom rather than object to his command . . .

As soon as she found out, by order of that famed preacher and patron of devotions, that such things were not to be done—not even by those who would do them soberly, so that sots would not be given the opportunity to get drunk and because such tributes to the dead resembled Gentile superstitions—she willingly gave them up.

Instead of a basket filled with the fruits of the earth, she learned to bring to the martyr's memorials a breast filled with purer oblations. She gave what she could to the poor and the communication of the Lord's Body was celebrated in those places where, in imitation of His passion, the martyrs were sacrificed and received their crowns."

(From The Confessions, Book 6, Chapter 2, circa 397-400 A.D.)

Dear Lord, give us the humility to follow those who You set over us, whether they be church leaders who remain with us in the flesh or the saints who have passed before us in the spirit.

For all that we have we thank You, O Lord, and for all that we ask, we ask through Your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

FALSE HOPE AND ABUSE OF DIVINE MERCY

According to St. Augustine a person who offends God with the hope of pardon, "is a scoffer, not a penitent."

Today the abuse of hope and mercy runs rampant in Catholic circles. Just say "I'm sorry" and God will forgive everything—YES, BUT—don't plan on sinning just because you know God is merciful and you can always say "I'm sorry." Be careful. God will not be mocked!

ST. JULIANA OF LIEGE

St. Juliana, an Augustinian nun and spiritual daughter of St. Monica, is a little hard to find in the listings of the Saints. There are a couple of reasons for this. One is that, since she lived near Liege, she is sometimes called Juliana of Liege. And since she joined the convent at Mont-Cornillon she is sometimes called Juliana of Mont-Cornillon. The other reason for her being lost is more intertwined with events of our own century and I will conclude with that explanation.

Juliana was born in 1192 in France. Orphaned at the age of 5, she went to live with the Augustinian Sisters at Mont-Cornillon. In 1206 she decided to join the Augustinian Order and became a nun in the convent which had been the home of her childhood. She loved reading the writings of St. Augustine and St. Bernard. Juliana had a special devotion to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

In 1225, at the age of 33, she was elected as prioress of the convent by unanimous vote of the community. As prioress she was responsible not only for the convent but also for the administration of a nearby hospital.

In 1209 she was entrusted with a Divine request which became the focus and obsession of her life. According to the *Catholic Encyclopedia*: "About 1209 she (Juliana) reported a vision, many times repeated, of the full moon in splendor except for a dark area on one side. She came to understand that the moon represented the Church, and that the dark area was caused by the absence of a feast in honor of the Blessed Sacrament. Juliana told John of Lausanne, Canon of Liege, of her revelation. He in turn referred the matter to the Archdeacon of Liege, Jaques Pantaleon. Ultimately the bishop was prevailed upon in 1246 to institute a feast in honor of the Blessed Sacrament throughout his diocese."

Though the new feast was very popular with the faithful Juliana faced great obstacles and per-

secution. She was falsely accused of embezzlement from the hospital and was deposed as prioress. She was found innocent of wrongdoing and was restored, only to be again wrongly deposed and the feast suppressed by the new Bishop of Liege around 1248. She was forced to flee from the convent home of her childhood and was given refuge at a Cistercian monastery. Her new refuge fell victim to war and was burned down. Again she fled into homelessness and seclusion, along with her friend Blessed Eva of Liege. But Juliana never gave up, she continued to exert every energy to obey the vision she had been given and to promote devotion to the Blessed Sacrament.

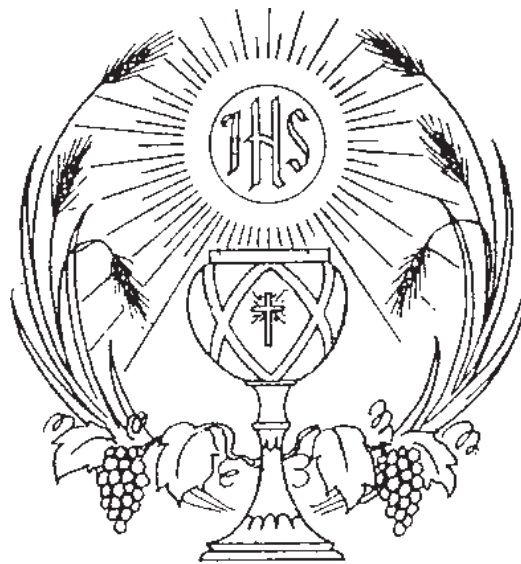
Juliana died April 5, 1258 and was buried at Villiers. This woman who had devoted her life to the veneration of the Blessed Sacrament and to the introduction of the feast of Corpus Christi, was left almost alone and abandoned by her own order and in exile, without seeing her dream fulfilled.

But a few years later Juliana's efforts were crowned with success. Jaques Pantaleon, her old friend and the former Archdeacon of Liege, became Pope Urban IV, and in 1264 he declared Corpus Christi a feast for the whole Church, ordering it to be observed on Thursday next after Trinity Sunday. St. Thomas Aquinas composed the office for this feast; the beauty of these prayers were admired even by Protestants. So, finally, St. Juliana had removed the dark spot from the splendid moon of her vision after half a century and much personal suffering.

In 1869 venerable Pope Pius IX declared Juliana a saint of the Church and made April 6th her feast day.

In the late 1960s St. Juliana's place on the liturgical calendar fell victim to the changes of that period. Corpus Christi, her life's work, remained as a universal feast of the Church. Juliana had lost a little, but through her the Church had gained so very much.

by Kevin M. Haney



DO YOU HAVE ANY LAPSI IN YOUR FAMILY?

Lapsi is a Latin word used to refer to persons who have lapsed from the practice of the Catholic Faith. (*Lapsi* is a collective plural. Singular is *lapsus* for a male and *lapsa* for a female.) If you do, here is what we suggest: Send their names to: St. Monica Sodality, 825 N Carpenter St, Chicago, IL 60622-5499.

From Pennsylvania

PRAY WHILE YOU DRIVE— USING ST. MONICA TAPES

The 50-minute professional audio tape of the St. Monica Novena Prayers and music is available for \$10.00 each, plus \$2.00 for postage. The “Seraphim Vocal Ensemble” provides the inspirational hymns. Order a tape to use in your car when you’re stuck in traffic, increase your prayer life, decrease tension. Order from St Monica Sodality, 825 N Carpenter St, Chicago, IL 60622-5499.

RECOMMENDED READING

“History of St. Monica” by Mgr. Bougaud is available from the The Hope of Saint Monica Catholic Restoration Shop, 1149 Vera Cruz Pike, (State Rt. 131), Suite D, Milford, Ohio 45150-2717 for \$9.95 plus shipping and handling.

SODALITY MEMBERSHIP

The St. Monica Sodality meets every Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm at St. John Cantius Church. Novena prayers and Rosary are followed by the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

On the feast of St. Monica, May 4th of every year, please renew your membership by sending \$10.00 (annual membership renewal fee) along with any change of address information, or letters of gratitude to St. Monica. New members are accepted at any time and prayer booklets, petition forms, medals, or rule booklets are available from: The Saint Monica Sodality, 825 N Carpenter St, Chicago, IL 60622-5499.

APRIL 2001

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IN MY DISTRESS
I CRIED
UNTO THE LORD

St. Monica, pray for us.

