



ENCOURAGEMENT

FROM

ST. MONICA SODALITY

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E-mail: stmonicasodality@yahoo.com Website: www.cantius.org

THE OFFERING OF MASSES

St. Augustine was a troubled young man. . . . Surrounded by friends and family, his career lay open before him. His future was secure, and he was healthy. But his devoted mother, Monica, lay dying. Augustine was crushed.

He had just converted to Christianity, fulfilling his mother's greatest longing, and the reason for all her tears and prayers. He found God. But now that he had finally learned to love God, how could he send his filial love to his mother in thanksgiving for all her prayers and sacrifices?

As Monica lay ill in bed, she revealed the way to him. She reminded him of the already ancient Christian tradition of having "Masses said" for loved ones or their intentions.

I ASK ONLY THIS OF YOU, THAT YOU REMEMBER ME AT THE ALTAR OF THE LORD, WHEREVER YOU MAY BE. Nothing is far from God. I need not fear that He will not know where to raise me up at the end of the world." Augustine later recalled, "She did not desire a carefully chosen monument, nor did she care for a grave in her own land . . . but she only desired to be remembered at Your altar, which she had served without the loss of a single day. (*Confessions, Book 9*)

Augustine learned how good and Christian it was to pray for the dead, and how the hopeful doctrine of purgatory allowed him to continue helping his mother even beyond the grave.

Through the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, Christ builds up His whole Church by uniting its members to Himself. Not even death separates us. And so, by keeping loved ones in our prayers and remembering them at Mass, we grow in grace together with them in Jesus Christ.

By offering Masses for individuals, the Church can obtain indulgences:

An indulgence is obtained through the Church who, by virtue of the power of binding and loosing granted her by Christ Jesus, intervenes in favor of the individual Christians and opens for them the treasury of the merits of Christ and the saints to obtain from the Father of mercies the remission of the temporal punishments due for their sins. Thus the Church does not want simply to come to the aid of these Christians, but also to spur them to works of devotion, penance and charity. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1478*)

I am pleased to report to the members of the St. Monica Sodality that the Augustinian priests who staff the Church of St. Augustine in Rome, where the Tomb of St. Monica is located, have begun offering Masses for the members of the St. Monica Sodality. If you would be interested in having a Mass offered for your loved ones at the Church of St. Augustine in Rome, send a \$12 Mass stipend (offering) and the name of the loved one for whom the Mass is to be offered, to the St. Monica Sodality, 825 North Carpenter, Chicago, Illinois 60622. The Sodality will in turn make arrangements with the Augustinian Fathers in Rome to offer Mass for your loved one at the Tomb of St. Monica.

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

FROM MONICA'S SON—

AUGUSTINE . . . *The most glorious, the most excellent sacrifice that can be offered to God is ourselves, and this is the mystery we celebrate in our oblations at Mass.*

BLESSED MARCEL CALLO: SACRIFICE AND THE MASS

Recently the sacrificial aspect of the Mass has been overshadowed in many parishes by “the sacred meal or celebrational” aspect of the Mass. The Catechism of the Catholic Church and the life and death of Blessed Marcel Callo are strong reminders of the sacrificial nature of the Mass as a living and ongoing sacrifice.

Catechism of the Catholic Church section 1368:

The Church which is the Body of Christ participates in the offering of her Head. With Him, she herself is offered whole and entire. She unites herself to his intercession with the Father for all men. In the Eucharist the sacrifice of Christ becomes also the sacrifice of the members of his Body. The lives of the faithful, their praise, sufferings, prayer, and work are united with those of Christ and with his total offering, and so acquire a new value. Christ’s sacrifice present on the altar makes it possible for all generations of Christians to be united with His offering.

On March 19 1945, the Feast of St. Joseph, Marcel Callo died at Mathausen Concentration Camp in Austria. Mathausen was the only major Concentration Camp in Austria. The young Frenchman was but one of the estimated 100,000 prisoners to die or be killed at the camp, this of a total of around 200,000 prisoners, most of whom were not Jewish.

Simply put, as we shall see, it was the Mass that lead young Marcel to Mathausen.

Marcel Callo was born to a working class family in the city of Rennes in Normandy. He was baptized on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8th 1921, just two days after his birth. He was one of nine children. His father worked as a laborer for the city government. The family financial situation was very modest. Marcel was cheerful and industrious. He seems to have been popular, and something of a natural leader and organizer. He became a printer’s assistant. Somewhat put off by the coarse language of some of his fellow workers he gravitated toward an organization called the Young Christian Workers whose members were more religious in their outlook.

Later reflections by those who knew him in the Young Christian Workers paint a portrait of a young man who combined idealism with a playful and outgoing nature. He is described as joyful, dynamic, and one who enjoyed sports and other games while possessing a good sense of humor and natural leadership ability. In



short he was a likeable young man. This was also the opinion of his young fiancée Marguerite Derniaux with whom he fell in love when he was about 20. Young Marcel and Marguerite’s happy plans, like those of many others, were soon to be interrupted forever by the evil designs of a very deformed being known to history as Adolph Hitler.

In 1939, as a result of a pact between Hitler and Stalin, Poland was invaded from both sides, and overtaken within a few weeks. France and Britain declared war on Germany but did not fight. In May of 1940 Hitler struck at France. France was overrun within a matter of weeks. Marcel, like other Frenchmen, found himself enslaved by Germany and bombed by those fighting to free France and Europe from German control. It was a dual nightmare, one which would strike the Callo family very hard and all at once.

In March of 1943, Marcel was drafted for labor service in Germany. As citizens of an occupied nation, Frenchmen were subject to the draft, not for military service for France, but for labor service for the German war machine. On nearly the same day that Marcel received his notice to report for labor duty in Germany his home city of Rennes was struck by a major allied air raid. Marcel joined his friends in digging out the dead who had been crushed in the rubble. To his horror he discovered that his sister Madeleine’s workplace was one of those leveled in the attack. Marcel’s worst fears must have been realized when he helped to dig her body out of the rubble. Within two weeks of his sister’s death Marcel was on a train headed for labor service in Germany.

Two brief conversations, one with an aunt, another with his fiancée before his departure, would prove prophetic. Marcel told his aunt that he was leaving France not a worker but as a missionary. His fiancée predicted that he would become a martyr, a concern that Marcel dismissed at the time.

Those on labor service, though under tight control, were not prisoners. So Marcel had some freedom of movement around the German town of Zella-Mehlis where he was sent to work in a rocket factory. For several months he was seriously depressed. Any person in such a situation would be depressed—Marcel however sought solace in his faith. He reported back to his family that there wasn't a Catholic Church in Zella-Mehlis, but he was able to find Mass being offered in a home for the local Catholics of the town. Following Mass he became inspired to devote himself to the morale of his fellow workers. He organized activities and games to improve their morale. He also began to organize on behalf of their spiritual welfare. He made arrangements for Mass to be said for the French workers. This was too much for the Gestapo. Marcel was arrested on April 19th 1944. It is unlikely there was any formal charge. When asked by one of Marcel's fellow workers the reason for the arrest the Gestapo agent simply replied that Marcel was "too much of a Catholic".

In the agonizing months that followed, Marcel went from Gotha Prison to Mathausen Concentration Camp in October of 1944. Despite his suffering, he encouraged his companions by saying, "It is in prayer that we find our strength." On March 19th 1945, just weeks before the end of Hitler's evil empire Marcel Callo would die of malnutrition and dysentery like so many millions of others in Hitler's death camps.

In his life and death Marcel Callo serves as an embodiment of the words of the Catechism of the Catholic Church when it reminds us all that:

In the Eucharist the sacrifice of Christ becomes also the sacrifice of the members of his Body. The lives of the faithful, their praise, sufferings, prayer, and work, are united with those of Christ and with His total offering, and so acquire a new value.

On October 4th 1987 Pope John Paul II beatified Marcel Callo.

by Kevin Haney

In 1942, the bishops of Holland denounced the Nazi occupiers' policy of deporting the Jews of Holland. In retaliation the Nazis promptly deported Jewish converts to Catholicism. Hundreds were sent to their deaths at Auschwitz. The most prominent of this group was the philosopher Edith Stein, who in the early 1930s had become a Carmelite nun with the religious name of Sister Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. In 1998, she was canonized by Pope John Paul II.

PETITION TO ST TERESA BENEDICTA OF THE CROSS

Dear Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Child of the Day of Atonement, Martyr of Auschwitz, Scholar of the Church. Embracer of the Cross of Christ-like love, Daughter of Abraham, Daughter of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, you who deeply abide in the hearts of the Messiah and His Mother, please pray for me. God, if it is Your Will, let Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, who believed in Your Son in life and followed Him to a martyr's death, intercede for me in this petition (*here mention your petition*). We ask You this in the name of Jesus our Lord! Amen!

Lord, God of our fathers, You brought Saint Teresa Benedicta to the fullness of the science of the Cross at the hour of her martyrdom. Fill us with that same knowledge; and, through her intercession, allow us always to seek after You, the supreme Truth, and to remain faithful until death to the covenant of love ratified in the blood of Your Son for the salvation of all men and women. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen!

The Feast day of Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein) is on August 9.

PRAYER OF ST. THOMAS MORE

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.

Give me the grace good Lord, to set the world at naught; to set my mind fast upon Thee and not to hang upon the blast of men's mouths; to be content to be solitary; not to long for worldly company but utterly to cast off the world and rid my mind of the business thereof. Amen.

DO YOU HAVE *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

A 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 play 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.

SODALITY MEMBERSHIP

Saint Monica Sodality members meet 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 (in the Traditional calendar), please renew your membership by sending \$20.00 U.S. funds (outside U.S.—\$30.00) 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, and rule booklets are available from: Saint Monica Sodality, 825 N Carpenter St, Chicago, IL 60622-5499. Phone: 312-243-7373 - Fax 312-243-4545. E-mail: stmonicasodality@yahoo.com Website: www.cantius.org.

PAST ISSUES of *Encouragement* and more information about the St. Monica Sodality are available on the website, www.cantius.org. under Parish Life Activities, St. Monica Sodality.

JUNE 2003

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IN MY DISTRESS
I CRIED UNTO
THE LORD

St. Monica, pray for us.