



Hostia

Bulletin of the Eucharistic Crusade for Children in Great Britain & Ireland



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April 2024
Month of the
Blessed Sacrament

*So that the Church
may triumph
over her enemies*

*The
Saint
of
the
month*

Saint Peter Canisius Doctor of the Church (1521-1597)



Born in 1521 of a distinguished family of Holland, Saint Peter Canisius studied in Cologne and received his licence as doctor of civil law; he then went to Louvain (Belgium) to learn canon law. These studies followed close upon the days when Luther had burnt in public, in Wittenberg, Germany, the decrees of the pope, leading half of Europe into Protestantism. Soon Saint Peter, become a Jesuit, was teaching at the University of Cologne; he was there when the unfortunate archbishop of that city fell into the new heresy. The Catholics who desired to depose him needed a deputy to the emperor to present their request, and Saint Peter was chosen.

His mission, helped by the Holy Ghost, succeeded; and the deputy was noticed by a Cardinal, who desired to send him to the Council of Trent as his representative and theologian. Saint Peter's superior, Saint Ignatius of Loyola himself, approved this choice, and the young Jesuit took his place among the Fathers of the Council. He was to explain the exact nature of the errors being preached in the Protestant lands, working with the Pope's theologian, another Jesuit named Jacques Laynez. Their work was admired; the Council was dissolved soon afterwards, however, and Saint Peter was recalled to Rome by Saint Ignatius, to consult with him concerning the formation of the religious and the future of their Order.

Afterwards Saint Peter and two other Jesuits founded a college at Ingolstadt,

going there with only two books in their baggage, the *Spiritual Exercises* of Saint Ignatius and the famous *Ratio Studiorum*, or Plan of Studies of their Order.

He was in demand everywhere; King Ferdinand of Rome obtained his presence for Vienna. A pestilence broke out there, and he was most often found at the bedside of the dying, caring for the bodies and regenerating the souls of the unfortunate citizens. He opened a boarding school for boys, and Vienna soon found itself reborn in the faith: the famous *Catechism* of Saint Peter Canisius had much to do with the renovation. During his lifetime it appeared in more than 200 editions, in at least twelve languages. It remains a monument of the triumph of the Church over error in the time of Luther.

Its author had tried to keep his name a secret but did not succeed, and then several nations disputed the honor of his presence. But Saint Peter was Provincial of Germany, named by Saint Ignatius, and he concerned himself above all with the colleges at Prague, Ingolstadt and Munich. Until his death in 1597 the Apostle of Germany continued the valiant and perpetual combat of the Church against error. For a long time forgotten, Saint Peter was canonised and declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Pius XI in 1927.

**Saint Peter Canisius' feastday
is on 27th April**

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

Dear Crusaders and Friends,

Christ is risen, Alleluia! You will hear these words frequently in the liturgy over the coming weeks...

It is a true source of joy for us that Our Lord rose from the dead on Easter Sunday, having suffered His Passion and Death for us on Good Friday, because it means He has vanquished the Devil who misled our first parents into committing Original Sin and introducing death into the world.

It is a source of joy because we, too, can vanquish the Devil and sin by sharing in this victory of Christ every day, as we did for the first time on the day of our Baptism.



Our Lord's triumph was the result of great efforts. A triumph of this enormity is not achieved just by wanting it. But we can triumph as well if we try as

best we can to live as He wants us to live. I hope you have had your triumphs over your own will this Lent by keeping your resolutions even though you might have been tempted to cheat on occasion.

Our Lord's Resurrection shows us that God will reward all the efforts we make for the good of our souls as we travel on what we hope will

be a long journey through life — but we must keep trying to do better, not only in Lent, but in every day to come.

Many people do not want us to be happy with God in Heaven for all eternity. They intend to mislead by encouraging us to behave in ways that we know will displease God. Someone might suggest you annoy another person for no reason, or to take what does not belong to you, or to hide the truth as stories are being told to land you in trouble. But we must not say nor do things that we know are wrong to say and do. We must try always to act as God wants us to act.

Anyone suggesting we behave differently is not a good person and, therefore, we should not choose to spend time in his or her company — if we cannot avoid them we must not be afraid to show good example by doing or saying what is right.

Pray this month that men who have been chosen to lead the Catholic Church on earth, on behalf of Our Lord Himself, do not listen to the bad suggestions that can mislead them and so many souls from the right way to Heaven. For, the Church has her enemies, too, although Christ will never abandon souls of good will.

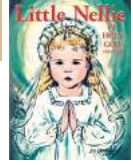
Christ is risen, Alleluia! May each of us have a Happy Easter in the joy of the risen Christ.

God bless you all.

Father Vianney Vandendaele +
Chaplain of EC
in Great Britain & Ireland

I WANT HOLY GOD — LITTLE NELLIE

By Father Bernard des Ronces



CHAPTER 8 — FIRST HOLY COMMUNION (3)

As the worthy Mother Superior remarked: “It was as if the presence of the great Light in her heart was reflected on her face”.

What a sight the little four-year-old child must have been then, surrounded by heavenly brightness, her hands joined piously on that heart which had become Jesus’ living Tabernacle, and lost in a thanksgiving that resembled ecstasy!

Those who saw her then found themselves near Heaven and will never forget it.

So, it was with great emotion and fervour that Nellie’s companions sang the First Communion Hymn:

O Mary, dearest Mother,
 In God’s sweet-scented bowers,
 Will you gather for a little child
 A wreath of fragrant flowers.
 I wish my heart to be
 A cradle fair and gay
 Where my Blessed Jesus may
 repose
 On my First Communion Day.



They still remembered it more than two years later when, writing their gracious letter to the Sovereign Pontiff, they said: “Dear Holy Father, we are sorry that you were not here that day; you would have realised the sentiments we felt seeing such a young child receive Holy God, like an adult would have, and with signs of such great love”.

Brought back to her little bed, Nellie continued her thanksgiving for a long time. Then, the whole day was a feast, with the little invalid its queen. One after another, nuns and children were delighted to congratulate her and

bring her little gifts: pictures, scapulars and medals. Nellie thanked them kindly and asked the nurse to hang them up at the head of her little bed.

When the visitors had left, she joined her little hands in prayer again, and her lips continued to utter over and over the gratitude and love that burned in her heart.

All had been struck by the child's profound calm and gentle serenity. This recollection is usually only found in people already advanced in perfection.

From that day on, it was also noticed that everything the child said and did seem inspired by superior guidance.

Filled with consolation, the good nuns realised that they had carried out the Will of "Holy God" in bringing their dear orphan to His Eucharistic Table, and that they had done so at the right time.

For, the terrible diseases were making distressing progress by the day. Tuberculosis was advancing. Decay was completing the corrosion of her jawbone. The extraordinary thing was that, up until the moment of her First Communion, a foul-smelling pus used to form in the inner wound and enter the

child's mouth, which had to be constantly disinfected. But from that moment on, the nauseating smell completely disappeared and never came back.

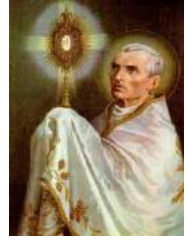
Nellie, who was to experience so much suffering in four years was also to experience all the Lord's graces and sweetness. Two more months, two months of agony, separated the little victim from the consummation of her sacrifice. She was climbing Calvary.

But no one understood or experienced better than her these beautiful words of Cardinal Mermillod: "What does the Cross on your shoulders matter when you have the Eucharist in your heart!"



To be continued.

EUCCHARISTIC DEVOTION



Jesus Meek and Humble of Heart (4)

The meekness of Jesus scored its greatest triumph in His virtue of silence. Jesus, Who was come to regenerate the world, began by keeping silence in public for thirty years. And yet, there were so many vices to reform in the world, so many wandering souls to bring back, so many imperfections in Divine worship, so many transgressions among the Levites and the rulers of the nation! Our Lord reproveth no one. He is content with praying, with doing penance, and with resisting evil and asking God's pardon for it.



What beautiful things Our Lord could have said during those thirty years for our instruction and consolation! He did not say them. He listened to the ancients and attended the instructions given in the synagogue by the scribes and the doctors of the Law, just like a simple Israelite from the lowest rank of the people. He could have reprimanded and reformed

delinquents; but He did not. It was not yet the time.

He was Uncreated Wisdom, the Word of God, the Creator of speech, and the Source of truth, but He did not speak. He honored His Father by His meek and humble silence. His silence tells us more eloquently than words, "Learn that I am meek and humble of heart."

Oh! What a condemnation of our life! We talk nonsense, often speaking of what we do not know, solving doubtful matters by declaring them certain, asserting and imposing our own opinion. How often we say things we ought not to say, and reveal what the most elementary humility should hush! And so Our Lord treats us like chatterboxes or impertinent persons. He lets us do all the talking, but to our own confusion. His thought is not one with ours, and His grace is not in our words to make them effective.

The silence of Jesus was patient. He listened to everything others had to say to Him without ever interrupting them, although He knew beforehand what they were going to say; He answered them Himself. He reproveth and

corrected people with kindness like the best of masters would a young pupil, without humiliating anyone or hurting anyone's feelings. He listened to things unpleasant to hear and irrelevant to the topic of conversation. He always managed to find an opportunity to instruct and do good.

With us, things are altogether different. We cannot withhold an answer on matters we are well acquainted with. We are bored to have to listen to what delays or crosses us. We show it in our face and manner. That is not the spirit of Our Lord, not even of a well-bred man, of a good and honest pagan. There are a host of circumstances in life when patience, meekness, and a humble silence become the virtue of the moment and must be, in God's sight, the only fruit of a time we think lost. His grace tells us so. Let us hearken to His voice and obey Him simply and faithfully.

What shall we say of the meekness of Our Lord's silence in the time of suffering?

Jesus was habitually silent when confronted with the incredulity of several of His disciples, or with the wickedness and ingratitude of the heart of Judas, whose perfidious thoughts and infamous machinations He well knew. Jesus was self-possessed, calm, and affectionate with everyone as if He knew nothing. He carried on His usual relations with them and respected His Father's secret concerning them.



Oh! What a lesson against rash judgments, suspicions, and secret antipathies! Jesus gave precedence to the law of charity and social duties over His knowledge of the secret of hearts, because such was the order of Divine Providence. Before His judges Jesus declared with simplicity the truth of His mission and of His Divinity. Before the High Priests He declared that He is the Son of God, and before the Roman governor, that He is King. He remained silent in the presence of the curious and lascivious Herod. He kept the silence of a convict while the Praetorian Guard made sacrilegious and mocking sport of Him. He accepted without complaint the stripes of the scourging, the affront of the *Ecce Homo*. He did not appeal at the reading of His unjust condemnation. He accepted His Cross with love and ascended Calvary in the midst of the curses, the insults, and the ill-treatment of all the people. When the malice of men had spent itself and the executioners had done their work, then He opened His mouth and spoke: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do!"

Ah! How can such a sight fail to break our heart with sorrow and move it with love!

KNOW YOUR MASS



THE COLOR OF THE MANIPLE, STOLE, AND CHASUBLE IS CHANGED ACCORDING TO THE FEAST OR MASS.

WHITE (PURITY): ON FEASTS OF OUR LORD, OUR LADY, AND SAINTS WHO WERE NOT MARTYRS.

RED (LOVE): ON FEASTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE PRECIOUS BLOOD, AND MARTYRS.

VIOLET (PENANCE): DURING PENITENTIAL TIMES, ESPECIALLY ADVENT AND LENT.

BLACK (SORROW): FOR GOOD FRIDAY AND MASSES FOR THE DEAD.

GREEN (HOPE): FOR DAYS WHEN NONE OF THE OTHER COLORS IS PRESCRIBED.



THE NEW TESTAMENT

The Annunciation (2) (Luke 1:26-38)



Mary hears what Gabriel has spoken to her, but this Most Prudent Virgin is silent. She is surprised at the praise given her by the Angel. The purest and humblest of virgins has a dread of flattery, and the heavenly Messenger can get no reply from her until he has fully explained his mission by these words: *“Fear not, Mary, for thou hast found grace with God. Behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and shall bring forth a son: and thou wilt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God shall give him the throne of David his father: and he shall reign in the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there shall be no end.”* What magnificent promises are these, which are made to her in the name of God! And yet, it tempts her not. She has forever consecrated her virginity to God in order that she may be the more closely united to Him by love. The grandest possible privilege, if it is to be on the condition of her violating this sacred vow, would be less than nothing in her estimation. She thus answers the Angel: *“How shall this be done, because I know not man?”*



The first Eve evinces no such prudence or disinterestedness. No sooner has the wicked spirit assured her that she may break the commandment of her divine benefactor and not die, that the fruit of her disobedience will be a wonderful knowledge which will put her on equality with God Himself, than she immediately yields.

Such is the woman that caused our perdition! But how different is she that was to save us! The former cares only for her own interests. The latter forgets herself to think only of her God, and of the claims He has to her service. The Angel, charmed with this sublime fidelity, thus answers the question put to him by Mary and reveals to her the designs of God: ***“The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Most High shall overshadow thee. And therefore also the Holy which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And behold thy cousin Elizabeth, she also has conceived a son in her old age. And this is the sixth month with her that is called barren, because no word will be impossible with God.”*** This said, he is silent and reverently awaits the answer of the Virgin of Nazareth.

Let us look once more at the Virgin of Eden. She plucks the fruit. She eats it and death takes possession of her: death of the soul, for sin extinguishes the light of life; and death of the body, which, being separated from the source of immortality, becomes an object of shame and finally crumbles into dust.

But let us turn away our eyes from this sad spectacle and fix them on Nazareth. Mary has heard the Angel’s explanation of the mystery. She, the humble maid of Nazareth, is to have the ineffable happiness of becoming the Mother of God, and yet the treasure of her virginity is to be left to her! Mary bows down before this sovereign will and says to the heavenly Messenger: ***“Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it done to me according to thy word.”*** ***And the angel departed from her.***



Thus, as the great Saint Irenaeus and so many of the Holy Fathers remark, the obedience of the second Eve repaired the disobedience of the first: for no sooner does the Virgin of Nazareth speak her fiat — be it done — than the Eternal Son of God (who, according to the divine decree, awaited this word) is present by the operation of the Holy Ghost in the chaste womb of Mary, and there He begins his human life. A Virgin is a Mother, and Mother of God. And it is this virgin’s consenting to the Divine Will that has made her conceive by the Power of the Holy Ghost.

THE HOLY GHOST OUR GREATEST FRIEND

THE EXCEEDING BEAUTY OF OUR SOULS, MADE WORTHY TO RECEIVE THE HOLY GHOST



Our Souls, God's Masterpiece

One of the first questions of the Catechism is, "Who made you?" The answer is, "God made me." These few words do not impress us; they are not sufficiently explained to us, and as a consequence, few people have the faintest idea of the wonders of their creation. They never think of thanking God for all that He has done for them when bringing them into being.

Instead of me, He might with the same facility have created a great 'saint or a glorious angel. Why did He create poor me? Because He loved me with an infinite love.

Let us pause to meditate on this first immense proof of God's love for us.



God Himself created us with His own "divine hands." He created us simply because He loved us. He made us to His perfect image and likeness. He did not create us as He created others of His creatures. He created us with a special love. He created us as His own dear children, children who will be His forever and forever, children who will be with Him for all eternity, seated on glorious thrones in His presence, enjoying His happiness and sharing in His glory.

In creating us, He used His infinite wisdom, His infinite power, His infinite love, His infinite generosity in making us to His own perfect image and likeness.

Our likeness to God is not a merely external appearance; it is in the very essence of our being. He made our souls spirits like Himself; He made our souls immortal like Himself. Our souls will live as long as God lives.

He gave us faculties like His very own. He gave us a glorious intelligence like His divine intelligence. He gave us a free will, independence in our actions, a will that nothing can coerce, a will so wonderful that, if we only use it rightly, its every act will have an eternal reward. He gave us the power of looking at the past, the present and the future, as He Himself does.

The soul of man, thus formed and fashioned by God, is the most wondrous thing in creation.

HOLY SOULS CORNER**Mary Magdalen de Pazzi and Purgatory**

Some time before her death, which took place in 1607, the servant of God, Mary Magdalen de Pazzi, being one evening with several other Religious in the garden of the convent, was ravished in ecstasy, and saw Purgatory open before her. At the same time, as she made known later, a voice invited her to visit all the prisons of Divine Justice, and to see how truly worthy of compassion are the souls detained there.

At this moment she was heard to say, *“Yes, I will go.”* She consented to undertake this painful journey. In fact, she walked for two hours round the garden, which was very large, pausing from time to time. Each time she interrupted her walk, she contemplated attentively the sufferings which were shown to her. She was then seen to wring her hands in compassion, her face became pale, her body bent under the weight of suffering, in presence of the terrible spectacle with which she was confronted.

She began to cry aloud in lamentation, *“Mercy, my God, mercy! Descend, O Precious Blood, and deliver these souls from their prison. Poor souls! you suffer so cruelly, and yet you are content and cheerful. The dungeons of the martyrs in comparison with these were gardens of delight. Nevertheless there are others still deeper. How happy should I esteem myself were I not obliged to go down into them?”*

She did descend, however, for she was forced to continue her way. But when she had taken a few steps, she stopped terror-stricken, and, sighing deeply, she cried, *“What! Religious also in this dismal abode! Good God! How they are tormented! Ah, Lord!”* She does not explain the nature of their sufferings; but the horror which she manifested in contemplating them caused her to sigh at each step.

She passed from thence into less gloomy places. They were the dungeons of simple souls, and of children in whom ignorance and lack of reason extenuated many faults. Their torments appeared to her much more endurable than those of the others. Nothing but ice and fire were there. She noticed that these souls had their angel-guardians with them, who fortified them greatly by their presence; but she saw also demons whose dreadful forms increased their sufferings.

Advancing a few paces, she saw souls still more unfortunate, and she was heard to cry out, *“Oh! How horrible is this place; it is full of hideous demons and incredible torments! Who, O my God, are the victims of these cruel tortures? Alas! They are being pierced with sharp swords; they are being cut into pieces.”* She was answered that they were the souls whose conduct had been tainted with hypocrisy.

Advancing a little, she saw a great multitude of souls which were bruised, as it were, and crushed under a press; and she understood that they were those souls which had been addicted to impatience and disobedience during life. Whilst contemplating them, her looks, her sighs, her whole attitude seemed both compassion and terror.

MY CATHOLIC FAITH

Chapter 79. Souls in Purgatory

We should be generous in helping the poor souls in Purgatory, who long for God. The best thing we can do for them is to have Masses offered for them. The Church puts no limit to the time during which we may pray or offer Masses for the suffering souls in Purgatory. If we cannot have a Mass said, we should at least hear Masses for our dear departed. If God so willed, a single Mass could release all the souls in Purgatory. We should offer Masses especially on All Souls' Day and on the anniversaries of death of our relatives and friends



In what ways can we help the poor souls in Purgatory?

We can help the poor souls Purgatory
by Masses, by prayers, and by her good works.

1. *Masses.* The Holy Sacrifice is the greatest help we can offer, because its effect depends on itself, and not on the piety of the priest who offers it. Whenever possible, *Gregorian Masses* should be offered; these consist of thirty Masses celebrated on consecutive days for some deceased person.

If we cannot have a Mass said, we should at least hear Mass for our dear departed. A Mass has infinite merit, for it is the sacrifice of Our Lord Himself. It will surely avail our dead to offer for them God the Son Himself in Holy Mass.



2. *Prayers.* We should pray with devotion for the poor souls. God does not regard the length of the prayer or the words so much as the love in the heart of the one who prays.

There are special prayers enriched with indulgences, applicable to the souls in Purgatory. We should also receive the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Eucharist for the poor souls. "Know ye that the Lord will hear your prayers if you continue in perseverance" (Judith 4: 11).

3. *Alms-giving.* No pompous funeral or profusion of flowers is of any avail for the poor souls in purgatory. As St. John Chrysostom says, "Not by weeping, but by prayer and alms-giving are the dead relieved."

It is better to give to charity the money spent on idle and worldly show, which cannot help the poor souls. Instead of sending costly wreaths to the 'family of a dead friend, it is an excellent custom instead to have Masses offered for his soul.

LITURGY THIS MONTH

*The month of April is dedicated to
the devotion to the Blessed Sacrament*

*O Sacrament most Holy,
O Sacrament Divine,*

*All praise and all thanksgiving
be every moment Thine.*



April 7th: Low Sunday

So called in order to show the end of the great festivities of the week of Easter, the Festival of Festiva.

April 8th: Annunciation (transferred)

The Incarnation of the Son of God is the beginning of our Salvation, and it starts with our Mother Mary.

April 14th: Good Shepherd Sunday

It is a special Sunday during which we pray for VOCATIONS. May God send many labourers in His vineyard, to save many souls in the whole world! As you know, without priests, there is no Mass, no Sacrament. So PRAY EARNESTLY!

April 21st: 3rd Sunday after Easter

Our Lord continues to teach and guide His Apostles during 40 days, before ascending into Heaven.

April 25th: Saint Mark

He was the disciple of Saint Peter and wrote under his direction one of the Gospels.

April 28th: 4th Sunday after Easter

Our Lord promises us the Holy Ghost, who will come at Pentecost, after Our Lord is gone to the right hand of the Father. Then everything will become clear to the Apostles.

The Mysteries of the Rosary - 8



The Crowning with Thorns



The Crusader prays, receives Communion, makes sacrifices and shows good example for the intention that is given him each month by Reverend Father Davide Pagliarani, successor of Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre as Superior General of the Society of Saint Pius X



PRAYER

April 2024 Intention:
So that the Church may triumph over her enemies



COMMUNION

Daily offering

To be recited every morning when you wake up



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

so that the Church may triumph over her enemies



SACRIFICE



APOSTOLATE

JANUARY 2024 RESULTS

The Intention was for the future of the Society of Saint Pius X

	Treasure Sheets returned	Morning Offering	Masses	Communions		Sacrifices	Decades of the Rosary	Visits to Blessed Sacrament	15 mins of meditation	Good Example
				Sac.	Spirit.					
GB	14	416	185	153	276	392	2545	243	120	219
Ireland	11	308	60	59	853	1004	1675	21	94	641

Remember that all the good works and prayers from your treasure sheets are given each month to Father Pagliarani and so that he may be able to offer them at his Mass on the first Saturday of every month.

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