

# MANCIPIA

August, 2006

THE REPORT OF THE CRUSADE OF SAINT BENEDICT CENTER



## TO FRIENDS OF THE CRUSADE:

### A DIFFERENT KIND OF MARTYRDOM



Br. André Marie, M.I.C.M., Prior

Usually, this space is where I say a few words about a saint or a mystery of the month. Since it is August, the month of the Immaculate Heart, one would expect some comments on that devotion — given, after all, that our very identity as *Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary* is intimately bound to it. I will reserve space towards the end for some thoughts on that mystery. For now, I have to dwell briefly on one of my least favorite subjects.

I do not like to beg for money. In fact, I have been criticized by friends for not asking for the stuff. One reason for my pecuniary shyness is that many Catholic organizations tend to be mercenary in their quest for funding, allowing their publications to take on a militantly fiscal tone. Often they will engage in shameful hyperbole, flashing bold headlines like “Unless you help us, our Lady’s work will stop!” (That’s almost word-for-word from an otherwise reputable Catholic publication!) Worse than insulting the reader’s intelligence is contradicting our Lord’s assurances in the Gospel.

All this I want to avoid. Our way is to be militantly Catholic and substantive in content, and more reserved in asking for money. However, ask we must, for it is a certain rule that *if you*



The brothers in our new refectory.

*don’t ask, you don’t get.* And we do need funding for our work.

Right now, our apostolate is experiencing growing pains. We have a serious physical need to expand beyond our present buildings. The sisters are outgrowing their convent; our school enrollment is soon to exceed building capacity; and our chapel is more than inadequate in size.

We have just procured two abutting pieces of property in order to meet our need for land and living space. We need the land because town law will not let us build anything else unless



The newly purchased Saint Augustine’s Priory.

we have a minimum of twenty acres. While that law governing educational and cultural institutions was not on the books when we started here eighteen years ago, we are bound to it for any future projects. We need the living space now because of the happy circumstance of the sisters’ exceeding the parameters of their convent.

To kill two birds with the most frugal stone possible, we have just closed on two abutting pieces of property at very good prices, giving the Center just enough land and a house to accommodate our need for living space. It was decided that the best arrangement was for the brothers to take the newly-purchased house and the sisters to take over what used to be our monastery, in addition to their old convent space in St. Paul’s House. You can see a picture of the brother’s new priory above.

Venerable Emmanuel D’Alzon, the founder of the Assumptionists, used to speak of “the martyrdom of money.” He often

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# FOUNDER'S COLUMN



Sr. Catherine, M.I.C.M.

## EXCERPTS FROM *GATE OF HEAVEN*

The truths of Revelation, given to us by Our Lord Jesus Christ, through His Apostles, are contained in what is called the “Deposit of Faith.” The revealed truths in the Deposit of Faith have been gathered from two sources: the Sacred Scriptures and Apostolic Tradition. And these truths

make up the Catholic Faith. They were given by Our Lord to His Apostles to be zealously preserved and guarded by them and their successors, with the guarantee of infallibility for the guidance of the Church, that all generations — in holding them — would possess the one true Faith and the key to salvation. They have been guarded, these sacred truths, with tenacity, and have been Divinely protected, else they would not have come down to us. We, in our turn, cannot relax our vigilance for an instant with regard to them. They should be guarded militantly. If there is no one else to do it — and it seems, as I write, that that is pretty close to being true — St. Benedict Center, the Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, will guard them — militantly. The Boston Heresy Case has provided all the evidence we or anyone else needs in order to know how abandoned pure Catholic dogma has become in our day.

“The doctrine of faith which God revealed,” says the [First] Vatican Council, “is proposed, not as a mere philosophical discovery to be elaborated by human minds but as the Divine Deposit delivered by Christ to His spouse, to be by her faithfully guarded and infallibly declared.”

One of our boys, in a Sunday talk on Boston Common, likened the doctrines of the Church to a knitted robe. The dropping of one stitch means the eventual dropping of all. The very life of the Catholic Church depends on the successful defense of her doctrine.

Every dogma of the Catholic Faith is a revealed truth. One cannot choose one or discard another. Each is held on the Divine Word of God. To say that we approve some and disapprove others, is to presume to stand in judgment on the veracity of God.

I wish it were possible, in this small book, to trace the stages of study in the definition of a doctrine. It is an enlightening experience. I once had this privilege, under a Jesuit priest, for a year. Nothing so reveals the integrity of the mind of the Church, and nothing so illustrates how perfectly one doctrine follows from another, how dependent one is upon the other, as such a study.

The Jesuit priest who opened up these riches of the Church for me failed to support Father Feeney and St. Benedict Center in our fight against the Liberal Catholic assault on doctrine

when the opportunity was given him in the Boston Heresy Case. I have, ever since, never ceased to worry about his salvation. He taught his class that dogma can never change, and that it means precisely what it says. What I did not know was that he thought Catholic doctrine was for a few, and not for everyone, and that it does not mean what it says.

The most recently defined doctrine of the Church is the Assumption of Our Lady’s body and soul into heaven. Everyone knows that antecedent to its definition, this doctrine was firmly believed. Its feast, on the 15th of August, was a Holy Day of Obligation. This feast is so old, and so universal in the Church, that some have said it is not only an apostolic doctrine but also an apostolic institution. We do know that it was celebrated by the Church after the Council of Ephesus, in 431. Everyone knows, too, that Our Lady was intended, or at very minimum included, in the statement of the Sacred Scriptures: “. . . nor wilt thou give thy holy one to see corruption.”

Christians had long known that the Ark of the Covenant, which was made of imperishable wood, was a type of Our Blessed Lady, and she is so called in the Litany of Loretto:

*Ark of the Covenant*, pray for us.

St. Thomas Aquinas, in his commentary on the Hail Mary, says:

The last curse common to man and woman, lies in this, that they must return to dust; and from this Mary was free. We believe that after her death she was restored to life and carried to Heaven, according to verse 8, Psalm cxxxix, a text very often applied by early Christian writers to the two-fold resurrection of Our Lord and His Blessed Mother, she being the true Ark of the Covenant, which the Lord has sanctified.

Everyone knows, also, that Our Lady did not deserve to die — since she never was under the yoke of original sin — and having willed to die, in union with her Divine Son, it was no

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# SAINT BENEDICT CENTER NEWS



Home post.

## RETIREMENT HOME APOSTOLATE - SUCCESS STORY

As we explain in our MICM Apostolate Overview (on the Internet), we have recently begun a weekly visitation by one of our brothers and a lay companion to a local retirement home, where they talk with the elderly shut-ins, give out sacramentals, and encourage them in the life of grace. Recently the fruits of this apostolate have been made manifest in the conversion of a resident of the home.

Harvey used to be a Congregationalist, but he would talk to Brother Louis Marie regularly about the true Faith and expressed his good will by agreeing to accept and wear our Lady's brown scapular. The week after he put on the scapular, Harvey, who previously did not want to speak to a priest, agreed to talk to one. The next day, our dauntless chaplain, Father Michael Jarecki, himself eighty-seven years old, with failing eyesight and a whole host of other physical ailments, dutifully presented himself at the home and spoke with Harvey.

Father briefly explained, "The Catholic Church teaches that Jesus founded it and that there is no salvation outside it." He followed immediately with the question: "Do you want to be a Catholic?"

### Quips to Equip

The word "saunter," which means to "wander about," is derived from *Saint Terre* [Holy Land]. The connection is this: After the age of the catacombs, with the ascent of Constantine and Theodosius to the imperial Roman throne, Christians were free to make pilgrimages to Palestine. This was always a dangerous journey, especially after the seventh century and the rise of Islam, drawing all sorts of wayfarers: the genuinely pious, the penitents, the adventurers, the seekers of fortune, and the runners from justice. Usually the pilgrims traveled in caravans for safety. Many saints, and good priests and bishops, from the East and West, preached against what they often saw in such journeymen as a spirit of uncertain and sometimes even scandalous restlessness. The French coined the word *saunter* to describe such itinerant meanderings of vagabond types on their way to *Saint Terre*.

"Yes" was the clear answer from Harvey. It was deemed necessary to baptize him conditionally. Being baptized, making his confession, and receiving his first Holy Communion and Extreme Unction (he seemed not long for this world), Harvey was moved to tears by the charity he received from our Lord and His servants.

Sometimes the most important work of a Catholic priest happens in near total obscurity, hidden in a corner where few can see. Sometimes all it takes for any committed Catholic to convert a person of good will, who knows the basics of Catholic doctrine, is to have the charity to extend an invitation in the Name of our Lord.

One evening (June 13<sup>th</sup>), right as the community was beginning the Rosary, we received a phone call. It was Walter, one of the other residents at Harborside Healthcare. He wanted to let us know that Harvey died that day, wearing his brown scapular and holding his Rosary in his hands. The physician who attended the deceased related to Walter that Harvey's last words were: "Thank you, God, for the gift of life." Our new Catholic was baptized on Friday (June 9<sup>th</sup>).

Walter, by the way, is a convert from Lutheranism. He was instructed here at the Center and baptized in our chapel.

This retirement home apostolate takes little else than patience, the willingness to show kindness and charity to lonely strangers, a zeal for spreading the Faith, and a few sacramentals. It is not a "program" or a "service." It is a simple way to be an apostle.

Brother Louis Marie and other companions will continue to visit Harborside, where they will, *Deo Volente*, find some new "Harveys".

*Nos, cum Prole Pia, benedicat Virgo Maria!*

(Bless us, O Virgin Mary, with thy Holy Child!)



Br. Louis Marie with Alice, one of the Harborside residents.

# KELLY'S FORUM



Mr. Brian Kelly, Editor

## COMMENTARY AND OTHER RELEVANT MORSELS

The original purpose, and present one as well, of this monthly newsletter was to provide our friends and benefactors with current information regarding the Crusade of Saint Benedict Center. It also aims, especially by way of the Prior's Column, to keep our readers informed

about the holy seasons of the liturgical year lest we forget, in our everyday hustling and bustling, that the Holy Ghost who dwells within us, is the same Person who made our Lady fruitful and effected the Incarnation of the Son of God whose Body is the Church, and whose members we are. "Let that mind be in you," wrote Saint Paul to the Philippians, "which was also in Christ Jesus" (2:5). The Church, then, has her own mystical life as a living organism, and that is the extended life of our Lord Himself in time. This is the life we baptized Catholics are invited to share in throughout the liturgical year. And how can we share in that life if we are not mindful of the holy cycle that re-presents the life of Christ in our thoughts and affections? This is what Brother Andrè so graciously encourages us to do every month in his timely and momentous reflections. To nourish our mind with the mind of the Savior, this is why we have the holy calendar set before us: "But we have the **mind** of Christ" (1 Cor. 2:16). And, finally, the *Mancipia* is an excellent venue for keeping alive the traditional spirit of our doctrinal crusade by means of the timeless wisdom found in the writings of Father Feeney, Sister Catherine, and Brother

Francis, excerpts of which you will find posted in the Founder's Column.

The format of our monthly unfortunately cannot exceed the eight pages you have in your hands. I have received many wonderful ideas from some of our readers regarding what they would like to see in the newsletter and I wish I could incorporate all of them. However, I cannot. One suggestion, for example, was that we include a regular feature, by way of a block item, with some inspiring tidbit of information, an anecdote, factoid, adage, maxim, pun, quip, humorous quirk, pet peeve (no, scratch that), or some such thing that would be deserving of the reader's instant attention.

(After all, everyone reads pull quotes and big lettered headlines first, do they not?) This suggestion was duly noted and subsequently passed into law by a caffeinated quorum late last Friday night in order to bring a certain determined person's anesthetizing promotional filibuster to a salubrious end. (The identity of this person cannot be revealed.) I am not sure exactly what will be the theme of my monthly forum, but you can be sure that the material will be oriented to the Catholic Faith, and that there will be an frugal economy of words.

By the way, I hope all of you got the quip in our July issue. Did you??? Philip II and Fill up two!!! Now you know. Father Feeney was a master of the witty compliment, as he also was with the witty retort. To be continued . . .

After all, everyone reads pull quotes and big lettered headlines first, do they not?

**Question:** What are the differences between the Queen's Tribute and the Crusade Associate programs?

**Answer:** Queen's Tribute members donate at least \$5 monthly. Crusade Associates donate at least \$25 annually. The former program is designed to be a higher level of support.

**Things that are the same:** Both receive our newsletter *Mancipia*, our quarterly *From the Housetops*, and have prayers and Masses offered for their intentions.

**Things that are different:** Queen's Tribute members donate monthly. They also can arrange to have their donations made automatically.

**Why should I join one of these programs?** To help support and expand the Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Marys' missionary and educational work and to do your part in the Crusade to convert America to the Catholic faith.

**For more information, please call 877.773.1773 or 603.239.6485; email [donate@catholicism.org](mailto:donate@catholicism.org); or visit our website [www.catholicism.org/donate](http://www.catholicism.org/donate). All contributions are fully 501(c)(3) tax-deductible.**

# From the Houselops Magazine

A Production of From the Houselops Publications

*From the Houselops* is a Catholic Quarterly journal featuring well-written, informative articles on important subjects: authentic Lives of the Saints, militant Apologetics, un-revised Church History, non-ecumenical Marian studies, sound dogma, and general Catholic erudition. The magazine is edited by the Religious Brothers and Sisters of the Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, a traditionalist missionary congregation. Contributors to the magazine include veteran journalists such as Gary Potter.

All issues \$5.00

## No. 64

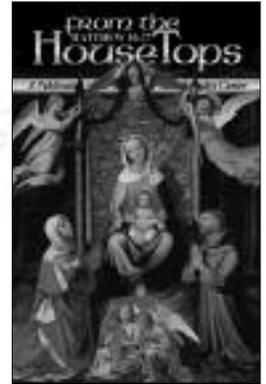
Articles:

Holy and Roman, by Gary Potter

Catholic Teaching Concerning a "Just War", by Brother Lawrence Mary, M.I.C.M., Tert.

Homesick for Heaven, by Sister Mary Monica M.I.C.M., Tert.

Mary Co-Redemptrix, by Brother Thomas Mary, M.I.C.M.



## No. 63

Articles:

Crushing the Infamous One, by Gary Potter

The Catholic World of Fr. Denis Fahey, by Brother Lawrence Mary, M.I.C.M., Tert.

The Contradiction of Core, by Brother André Marie M.I.C.M.

Holy Mary, the Flower of Carmel, by Mark Alessio



## No. 62

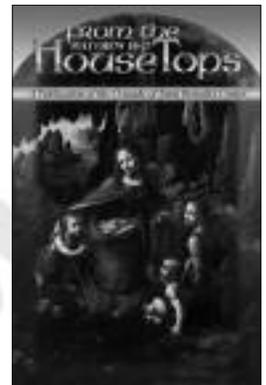
Articles:

Gnosticism Sells Big, by Gary Potter

La Reconquistadora, by Brother André Marie M.I.C.M.

In the Company of Ignatius, by Sister Mary Monica M.I.C.M., Tert.

The House upon a Rock, by Jacob Michael



## No. 61

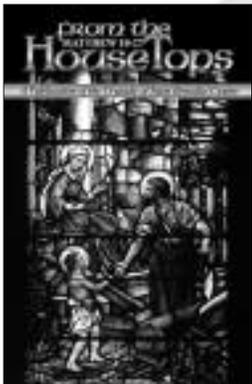
Articles:

July 20, 1944, by Gary Potter

The Second Eve, by Brother André Marie M.I.C.M.

A Man Against His Times, by Sister Mary Monica, M.I.C.M., Tert.

They Prove Too Much, by Br. André Marie, M.I.C.M.



## No. 42 (50th Anniversary Issue)

Articles:

Latter-Day Athanasius: Fr. Leonard Feeney by Brother John Neumann, Tert.

Ignorant Savages by Brother Thomas Mary

Salvation in the Psalms by Brother Francis

The "Good Old Days" by Gary Potter

The Maxims of Father Feeney collected by The Sisters of St. Ann's House



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- "Who Will it be?" - On choosing a partner
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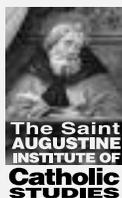
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## A DIFFERENT KIND OF MARTYRDOM

from page 1

felt the same “pinch” we are feeling. The complex and bureaucratic nature of modernity renders almost every project costly, drawn out, overly regulated, and paperwork-heavy. This was true even in the nineteenth century. Fr. D’Alzon’s apostolates often

“My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and the way that leads you to God.”  
Our Lady of Fatima

suffered grave financial needs. Many times, mounting debts occasioned desperate calls upon old friends and even family members to ensure that certain schools and religious houses would stay open.

In the spirit of Venerable Emmanuel, I have made some of those calls recently.

As a result of God’s blessing

on the effort — and the generosity of certain benefactors — we were able to sign papers on the closing date. What secured this for us was a last-minute, no-interest loan from someone who is already a generous donor.

We aren’t out of the woods yet, not even figuratively. Soon, we will have to begin paying back that loan, as well as continuing to make payments on the new properties. In addition, we must go ahead with the building projects we have envisioned, without which our school and chapel will not become realities. We are therefore forced to ask for financial help.

Any bills we cannot pay will be duly placed under the little statue of Our Lady of Victory on my desk. Venerable Father Nelson Baker invented this appeal, and he ended up building a basilica near Buffalo, New York, during the Depression!

From time to time, you will see mailings giving you details and asking for help on our projects. Some have already been mailed. If you appreciate the value of our missionary and educational apostolate for Holy Mother Church, we ask you to be generous with these appeals and to invite others to help as well.

And now, as promised, I move to one of my favorite subjects.

The *Introit* for the Mass of the Immaculate Heart (August 22) applies the words of St. Paul to our Lady’s heart: “Let us come with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may obtain

mercy, and may find grace for a timely help” (Heb. 4:16). Our Lady encouraged the children at Fatima to think of her heart in similar *confident* terms: “My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and the way that leads you to God.”

Both of these sentences provide abundant matter for deep reflection and meditation.

In all our needs, material as well as spiritual, we ought to approach this *throne of grace*, this sure *refuge* and straight *path to God*. The Blessed Virgin’s Immaculate Heart has tremendous power with the Holy Trinity, for it is also a “Sorrowful Heart.”

The heavenly Queen we approach so confidently is the Queen of Martyrs, whose heart was more poignantly transfixed by the spear of Longinus than our Lord’s could have been, since His soul had already left His blessed body. The iconography of the Immaculate Heart shows us not only the flame of her ardent love and the white lilies of her immaculate purity, but also the sword of her deep affliction. She knew sorrow as none of us are capable of knowing it, and God has rewarded her grace-aided suffering by giving her the highest place in Heaven.

“Let us come with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and may find grace for a timely help.”  
Heb. 4:16

We can benefit from all that.

In 1944, Pope Pius XII instituted the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary on the octave day of the Assumption. In so doing, the Holy Father sought to obtain “peace among nations, freedom for the Church, the conversion of sinners, the love of purity and the practice of virtue.” If our Lady’s messages at Fatima are ever taken seriously by the whole Church, these intentions will be granted.

In the meantime, our Crusade will be all the more arduous, because we know that our Lady’s work will expand with the urgent need of the suffering Church!

## EXCERPTS FROM *GATE OF HEAVEN*

from page 2

more fitting that she should see corruption than that He should. His Resurrection and Ascension are the complement of her Assumption into heaven, upon which glorious entrance of our Queen, there was “silence in heaven as it were for half an hour.” That is a long pause in eternity.

A doctrine or a dogma of the Church, then, is a truth, which has been revealed by God, and must be believed by all Catholics. A definition of a dogma is the more precise expression of the

dogma. A definition is made by the pope, or by an ecumenical or general council, acting with the pope, and it is infallible. A definition is the last word on the subject. It never can make a doctrine more obscure since its very purpose is to clarify. Each word in a definition is significant. There is always an economy of words in a definition because truth is simple. We have an example of this in the doctrine: *Extra Ecclesiam nulla salus*: (Outside the [Catholic] Church there is no salvation.)

## A PRAYER FOR THE CONVERSION OF AMERICA

**O**Mary, Mother of mercy and Refuge of sinners, we beseech thee, be pleased to look with pitiful eyes upon poor heretics and schismatics. Thou who art the Seat of Wisdom, enlighten the minds that are miserably enfolded in the darkness of ignorance and sin, that they may clearly know that the Holy Catholic and Apostolic Roman Church is the one true Church of Jesus Christ, outside of which neither holiness nor salvation can be found. Finish the work of their conversion by obtaining for them the grace to accept all the truths of our Holy Faith, and to submit themselves to the supreme Roman Pontiff, the Vicar of Jesus Christ on earth; that so, being united with us in the sweet chains of divine charity, there may soon be only one fold under the same one shepherd; and may we all, O glorious Virgin, sing forever with exultation: Rejoice, O Virgin Mary, thou only hast destroyed all heresies in the whole world. Amen.

Hail Mary, three times. (Pius IX, Raccolta No. 579.)

### CALENDAR NOTES:

- Auriesville Pilgrimage, Wednesday, September 27 to Saturday, September 30. If you are interested in joining one of our brigades, please call us at 603.239.6485 (men and boys) or 603.239.6495 (women and girls). Please visit [www.national-coalition.org/pilgrim](http://www.national-coalition.org/pilgrim) for more details.
- Fall Ember Days, September 20, 22, and 23. Traditionally, these are days of fast and abstinence to ask for God's blessings on the new season.
- Christ the King Novena, Saturday, October 21 to Sunday, October 29. Please see the Third Order Manual for the novena prayers.

## OUR CRUSADE:

The propagation and defense of Catholic dogma — especially *extra ecclesiam nulla salus* — and the conversion of America to the one, true Church.

For more information:

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## MANCIPIA August, 2006

## THE REPORT OF THE CRUSADE OF SAINT BENEDICT CENTER

Of interest:

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**Donation programs explained.** How can I help the Crusade? Two ways are detailed on page 4.

**New Priory Purchased.** As part of the Crusade expansion project, two abutting pieces of property have been purchased. Find more information on page 1.



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