

To Our Readers:

Every Christian in our time who gives thought to his faith and to the condition of the world around us, must face two big questions. One: Why is it that such a large proportion of mankind has not yet been effectively evangelized? Two: Why is it that the Christian world itself, is so confused, so divided, and apparently helpless in the face of the forces of materialism from one direction, and false mysticism from another. All the inspiring articles in this, our twenty-seventh issue of *From the Husetops*, but especially the feature article dealing with the life and achievements of St. Francis Xavier, suggest the answer.

Even during the very lives of Our Lord's Apostles, we are told in Holy Scripture that their voice had reached the ends of the earth. Remember that there were no radio or television or jet planes in those days; and try to imagine how the Apostles did it. How did the Twelve Apostles establish the Kingdom of God on this earth?

The means and weapons used by the Apostles were spiritual and supernatural. The power of the Holy Mass, the efficacious Word of God, the faith that moves mountains, the burning zeal thirsting for martyrdom. But all supernatural realities have a divine side and a human side. The Holy Mass and the sacraments, on the divine side, work *ex opere operato*, as our catechisms tell us; but God wills that, for more abundant fruitfulness, there must be also human cooperation. God honored us by ordaining that His work of redemption and salvation be carried on and distributed and spread around, by means of men helping men. This is the deep meaning of the Catholic Church being His Mystical Body. While the physical Christ did a perfect work in paying the price of our redemption, and thus laying the foundations of the Kingdom of God on this earth, He left it to the Church Militant (His Mystical Body) to dispense His infinite and perfect gifts, and thus to extend the Kingdom. This does not cease to be also *His* work, for He continues to work in and through His faithful members who constitute the Church, the Communion of Saints.

In God's eyes, this work of God, this divine project, of spreading the message of salvation and dispensing the means thereof, is so urgent, and of such paramount importance, that any man, woman or child, can obtain an eternal reward for merely handing a glass of cold water to an apostle engaged in this project, provided the charity is done in the name of a disciple. (Matt. 10:42)

The two questions we raised in this short message have not two answers but only one, which will be given throughout this issue, dedicated to the honor of the greatest apostle of modern times, who, by his life and works, teaches us that to live the Gospel *spontaneously* leads to the extension of the Kingdom of God.



In the Immaculate Heart of Mary,

Brother Francis, M. I. C. M.

from the Husetops

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AN URGENT PLEA FOR MARIAN APOSTLES

by Saint Louis Marie de Montfort



REMEMBER, O LORD, remember Thy congregation which Thou hadst possessed from the beginning, thinking of it from all eternity; it was held in Thy Almighty hand, when, by a word, Thou didst create the world out of nothing; it was hidden in Thy heart when Thy Divine Son, dying on the Cross, consecrated it by His death, and confided it, as a precious deposit, to the care of His most dear Mother: *Remember thy congregation, which thou hast possessed from the beginning. (Ps. 73:2)*

Accomplish, O Lord, Thy merciful designs; raise up the men of Thy right hand, such men as Thou hast shown, in prophetic vision, to some of

Thy greatest servants—to St. Francis of Paula, to St. Vincent Ferrer, to St. Catherine of Sienna, and to many other noble souls during the last two centuries.

Remember, O Lord: O Almighty God, vouchsafe to remember this Company, applying to it all the might of Thy arm, which is not shortened, to create, to produce, and to bring it to perfection.

Great God, Thou Who out of the very stones canst raise up children to Abraham, in the might of Thy Godhead, say but one word to provide good labourers for Thy harvest and good missionaries for Thy Church.

Remember, O Lord: God of infinite goodness, remember Thy mercies of old, and, by the same mercies, remember this congregation; remember the reiterated promises which Thou hast made to us by Thy Prophets and by Thine own Son, to grant us all our lawful requests. Remember the prayers that have been offered Thee by Thy servants for this end for so many centuries; let their wishes, their sighs, their tears, and the blood they have shed for Thee come into Thy presence and earnestly implore Thy mercy. But, above all, remember Thy dear Son: *Look on the face of Thy Christ. (Ps. 83:10)* Contemplate His agony, His shame and confusion. His loving complaint in the Garden of Olives, when He said: *What profit is there in my blood. (Ps. 29:10)* His cruel death, His Blood poured out, cries aloud for mercy, in order that, by means of this congregation, His empire may be established upon the ruins of that of His enemies.

Remember, O Lord: Remember, O Lord, this community in the effects of Thy justice. *It is time, O Lord, to do: they have dissipated Thy law. (Ps. 118:126)* It is time to do what Thou hast promised. Thy Divine law is transgressed; Thy Gospel ignored, Thy religion abandoned; torrents of iniquity overwhelm the world, carrying away even Thy servants; the whole earth is made desolate; impiety is enthroned; Thy sanctuary is profaned, and abomination has reached even the holy place. Wilt Thou suffer this any longer, just Lord, God of vengeance? Will the end of all be like that of Sodom and Gomorrah? Wilt Thou be for ever silent? Must not Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven? Must not Thy Kingdom come? Hast Thou not given to some of Thy friends a prophetic glimpse of the future renovation of Thy Church? Are not the Jews to be converted to the Truth? Is not this what Thy Church expects? Do not all the Saints in heaven cry out to Thee: *Avenge thyself?* Do not all the just on earth say to Thee: *Amen. Come Lord! (Apoc. 22:20)* Do not all creatures, even the most insensible, moan under the weight of the numberless sins of Babylon and call for Thy coming to re-establish all things? *For we know that all creation groans. (Rom. 8:22)*

Lord Jesus, *Remember Thy congregation.* Remember to give to Thy Mother a new company, who, through her, will renew all things, and thus through Mary, complete the years of grace as, through her, Thou didst begin them.

Give me children, otherwise I shall die: Give to Thy Mother children, servants, or let me die. *Give Thy Mother children. (Gen. 30:1)* It is for Thy Mother's sake that I pray to Thee. Remember that Thou didst dwell

within her womb, wert nourished at her breasts, and reject me not; remember whose Son Thou art, and hear me; remember what she is to Thee, and what Thou art to her, and grant my request. What is it I am asking from Thee? Nothing for myself, all for Thy glory. What am I asking of Thee? What Thou canst, and even, I dare say, what Thou shouldst grant me, being, as Thou art, the true God, to Whom all power has been given in heaven and on earth, and the best of all children, loving Thy Mother with infinite love.

What am I asking of Thee? *Children*: Priests, free with Thy freedom, detached from all things, without father or mother, or brothers or sisters, without relations according to the flesh, without friends according to the world, without means, without worry, without cares, and even without any will of their own.

Children: Slaves of Thy love and of Thy will: men according to Thy heart, who, without self-will to soil and stop them, accomplish all Thy designs and crush all Thy enemies; other Davids, with the staff of the Cross and the sling of the holy Rosary in their hands.

Children: Souls elevated above the earth and filled with heavenly dew, who, without impediment, fly hither and thither in accordance with the breath of the Holy Spirit. It was of them, in part, Thy Prophets knew, when they asked: *Who are these that fly as clouds. (Isaias 60:8) With the impulse of the Spirit was to go, there they went. (Ezechiel 1:12)*

Children: People ever at Thy hand, ever ready to obey Thee, like Samuel, at the voice of their Superiors: *I am ready*; ever ready to run and suffer everything with Thee and for Thee, like the Apostles: *Let us also go, that we may die with him. (John 11:16)*

Children: True Children of Mary, Thy holy Mother, who are begotten and concealed by her charity, carried in her bosom, fastened to her breasts, nourished with her milk, reared under her care, upheld by her arms, and enriched with her graces.

Children: True servants of the Blessed Virgin, who, like other Saint Dominics, would go everywhere with the bright and burning torch of the holy Gospels in their mouth and the holy Rosary in their hand; barking, like faithful watch-dogs, at the wolves who would fain tear to pieces the flock of Jesus Christ; burning like fires, and lighting up the darkness of the world, like suns;—men who would, by means of a true devotion to Mary, that is to say, interior, not hypocritical; exterior, not critical; prudent, not ignorant; tender, not indifferent; constant, not unsteady; and holy, without presumption, crush, withersoever they go, the head of the old serpent, in order that the curse Thou gavest him might be entirely accomplished: *I will put enmities between thee and the woman, and thy seed and her seed: she shall crush thy head. (Gen. 3:15)*

It is true, great God, that, as Thou hast predicted, the world will lay mighty snares to entrap the heel of this mysterious woman; that is to say, the little company of her children who will come towards the end of the world, and that there will be a mighty enmity between this blessed posterity of Mary and the cursed race of Satan; but it is a divine enmity, and the only one of which Thou art the author: *I will put enmities. But*

these combats and persecutions which the children of the race of Belial will inflict on Thy Blessed Mother's race will only serve to show to greater advantage the power of Thy grace, the courage of their virtue, and the authority of Thy Mother; once Thou hast given her, from the beginning of the world, the commission to crush this proud spirit by the humility of her heart: *She shall crush thy head.*

Otherwise I shall die: Is it not better that I should die rather than see my God cruelly offended every day, and myself in constant danger of being carried away by the unopposed and ever-increasing torrents of iniquity? Ah, death would be to me a thousand times preferable. Either send me help from heaven, or take away my soul. Yes, if I did not hope that sooner or later Thou wouldst, in the interest of Thy glory, hear this poor sinner, as Thou hast already heard so many others: *This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, (Ps. 33:7) I would pray to Thee just as the Prophet did: Take away my soul. (Kings 19:4)*

But the confidence which I have in Thy mercy makes me say, with another Prophet: *I shall not die, but live; and shall declare the works of the Lord; (Ps. 117:17) until I can say with Simeon: Now thou dost dismiss thy servant, O Lord... in peace, because my eyes have seen thy salvation. (Luke 2:29)*

Remember, O Lord: O Holy Spirit, remember to produce and to form children of God with Thy divine and faithful Spouse, Mary. Thou didst form Jesus Christ, the Chief of the predestined, with her and in her; it is with her and in her that Thou shouldst form all His members; Thou begettest no divine person in the Divinity; but it is Thou alone Who formest all divine persons out of the Divinity; and all the saints that have been, or shall be until the end of the world, are so many works of Thy love united with Mary. The special reign of God the Father lasted until the Deluge, and was concluded by a deluge of water; the reign of Jesus Christ was concluded by a deluge of Blood; but Thy reign, Spirit of the Father, and of the Son, continues at the present time, and will be concluded by a deluge of fire, of love, and of justice.

When shall it come, this deluge of fire and pure love, which Thou art to enkindle in all the earth with so much strength and sweetness that all nations, Turks, idolators, even the Jews, will burn with it and be converted? *And there is no one that can hide himself from this heat. (Ps. 18:7)*

May it be enkindled: May this divine fire, which Jesus Christ came to bring to the world, be enkindled before that of Thy anger, which will reduce everything to ashes: *Send forth thy spirit, and they shall be created; and thou shalt renew the face of the earth. (Ps. 103:30)* Send forth the spirit of fire upon the earth to create thereon priests all aflame, by whose ministry the face of the earth may be renewed and the Church reformed.

Remember thy congregation, O Lord: It is a congregation, an assembly, a choice, a selection of predestined souls, which Thou must make in the world and of the world: *I have chosen you out of the world. (John 15:19)* It is a flock of peaceful sheep which Thou must collect from among the wolves; a company of chaste doves and royal eagles from among so many