

from the
MATTHEW 10-27/
HouseTops

A Publication of the Crusade of Saint Benedict Center



Saint Benedict Center

The Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

To Our Readers:

This periodical is dedicated to two objectives: the conversion of America and the defense of the dogma “No salvation outside the Church.” Every article in our present issue is related to these objectives, as our readers will discover for themselves. Even if it seems superfluous, I will venture a few observations of my own.

I begin with a remark on the brilliant defense of the sublime truth of Our Lady’s perpetual virginity. Mark Alessio’s article is very timely, not only because people deny this doctrine, but also because liberal Catholics, who do not necessarily deny it, excuse those who do. St. Paul holds those who excuse perverts to be as culpable as the perverts themselves (cf. Rom. 1:32). This applies to matters of faith as well as morals.

Regarding Br. Thomas Mary’s “Pelagius Lives”: There is no more obvious opposition to the two objectives of our doctrinal crusade than secular humanism. The generally accepted belief is that we do not need the supernatural faith with its mysteries, because we can be saved by natural virtue. Our brother shows us, among other things, that this belief is merely the revival of an ancient, condemned heresy: Pelagianism.

The incident from the Gospel, Our Lord talking to the Samaritan woman at the well, an incident which surprised even His own disciples, deserves much greater attention than it is generally given. It reveals a desire of the Sacred Heart: His concern for the evangelization of all nations and individuals, especially those whom the Providence of God makes to be our neighbors.

Finally, our gratitude must go in a very special way to Gary Potter, who brings to our attention a most deserving hero of the modern Church. The adventures of Father Charles de Foucauld in the African Saharas is an inspiration to all of us, old and young, who love adventure guided by a holy purpose and governed by heroic charity. Brother Charles of Jesus, as he called himself, loved the Moslem people with the love of Jesus for all mankind, i.e., he truly desired their salvation. His dramatic martyrdom in the early morn of the twentieth century is a reminder to the modern Church of her supreme duty to continue to labor for the salvation of all the nations of the earth, by all means and at whatever cost. The Moslem people, among whom he lived by choice, are capable of performing the natural virtues and, naturally speaking, can be lovable and even admirable. (I know; I’m from the Arab world.) Liberal Catholics who breathe the revived Pelagian spirit consider that to be sufficient: “As long as a Moslem isn’t a terrorist, as long as he lives at peace with his fellow men and acts like a civilized American Presbyterian, he’s just fine.” But not Brother Charles of Jesus, who knew that the Moslems, like all other men, need to obtain salvation from the unique Savior of the world.

For that purpose, he — like his elder Brother, Jesus — joyfully shed his blood.

In the Hearts of Jesus and Mary,

Bro. Francis, MICM



from the MATTHEW 10-27 HouseTops

Contents

Serial No. 52 • Winter, 2002

Venerable Charles de Foucauld Page 2

A worldly and libertine French soldier becomes an ascetic monk-martyr in the deserts of North Africa. Brother Charles of Jesus is too often presented as an apostle of ecumenism and religious indifferentism. Here is a necessary corrective. By Gary Potter.

Did You Know...? Page 25

Catholic Trivia that's not so trivial.

Pelagius Lives Page 27

The fifth-century British monk, Pelagius, lent his name to one of the most persistent heresies of the ages. Though condemned and refuted, the heresiarch lives in the thinking of all those infected with liberalism. By Brother Thomas Mary, M.I.C.M.

Catholic Wisdom Page 42

Bite-sized portions of pious food for thought.

Mary's Perpetual Virginity Page 43

This doctrine, discussed in an earlier Housetops article, is here shown as a (super)natural complement to the doctrine of Our Lady's spiritual maternity. By Mark Alessio.

The Woman at the Well Page 56

Thoughts and meditations on Our Lord's well-side encounter with the Samaritan woman. By Brother André Marie, M.I.C.M.

A Letter From our Founder Page 69

An old book purchased on the Internet brings us a little jewel.

Cover: Brother Charles of Jesus (Father Charles de Foucauld) in Beni Abbès, Algeria. The photo is from the collection of the Little Sisters of Jesus in Rome. Cover design and electronic rendering by the Sisters of the Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. **Center:** The Flight into Egypt, by Paul Fournier with poem by Father Leonard Feeney. Digital composition by the Sisters of the Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

FROM THE HOUSETOPS is a Catholic quarterly journal published and distributed by The Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary at Saint Benedict Center. The effort is made possible only by the helpful support of subscribers and donors to our religious congregation. Subscription rate: \$15.00 annually (\$20.00 Canadian; \$25.00 other foreign). Three- and five-year subscription rates also available — call for details. For additional copies, a contribution of five dollars each is kindly requested. Please send subscriptions or tax deductible donations to:

Saint Benedict Center, 95 Martin Road, Richmond, New Hampshire 03470
Telephone: (603) 239-6485

E-mail: info@FromTheHousetops.com

Web: www.Catholicism.org -AND- www.Store.Catholicism.org

Copyright © 2002 by FROM THE HOUSETOPS Publications



Venerable Charles de Foucauld

By Gary Potter

In December, 1916, the United States was not yet a belligerent, but World War I had been raging by then for more than two years in Europe, the Middle East, and elsewhere. Hundreds of thousands of combatants and innocent civilians, if not millions, had already been killed or otherwise had died on account of the conflict. Amid the global disaster, the world at large did not notice, save for a few lines in French newspapers,



the death on the first of the month of a missionary priest and former soldier at a place called Taman-rasset in the Hoggar region of the Algerian Sahara. The name of the deceased was Charles de Foucauld or, as he had come to call himself, Little Brother Charles of Jesus. His death was not natural. He had been treacherously murdered by Mohammedan Tuareg tribesmen, ones with whom he believed he had successfully made friends. Last April 24 the Church declared him to be among her venerabili, a Servant of God worthy of the veneration of the Catholic faithful. The lines that follow are about him.

Reference to the Venerable has been made by this writer in two other articles published in *From the Housetops*. In “Islam vs. the Faith” (Issue No. 43) I wrote: “Our own century has not been without Christian witness, even to the point of martyrdom, given in Mohammedan lands. One thinks, in this regard, of the yet uncanonized but saintly

Charles de Foucauld.”

In the second article, “Louis IX, King and Saint” (Issue No. 45), I wrote that the Crusades “could fairly be described as a national enterprise of France. The first one was called by Pope Urban II, a Frenchman. He came into his native land, to Clermont in France, to issue his call. The Second Crusade was preached by St. Bernard of Clairvaux and led by King Louis VII. That it ended in disaster is beside the point. The French vision of the Faith and European Christian civilization taking root and flowering in the Mohammedan Middle East persisted right into the 19th Century, when the liberal Louis-Philippe I colonized Algeria in the 1830s and the Bonaparte Napoleon III sent French troops into Lebanon to protect the native Christians in the 1860s. Indeed, it still existed in this century. Charles de Foucauld was its martyr, and so, many would say, were the patriotic French officers who sacrificed their careers to oppose Charles de Gaulle for abandoning the



vision a scant forty years ago.”

Though I have twice referred to him in this publication’s pages, and both times in terms of martyrdom, now that I am to write of Ven. Charles de Foucauld at length, I see it will not be easy. That is for several reasons.

One has to do with the time of the writing. In real time it is November, 2001.

Since September the U.S. has been at war against “terrorism,” and the terrorists — so far — have all been Mohammedans.

(Well, not quite all. Right-wing paramilitaries in Colombia have now been added to the State Department’s official

list of terrorists. Apart from the addition suggesting how expansive the list of “enemies of freedom” may eventually become, it is obviously designed to justify, in the near term, intensified U.S.-supported operations against Colombians opposed to the Marxist insurgency of the FARC, but who are insufficiently imbued with the spirit of liberal democracy.)

Be that as it may, a writer can be