

The Miraculous Medal and the Lives of Saints



THE OFFICIAL EOHSJ SPIRITUALITY NEWSLETTER



INTRODUCTION TO THE 2ND EOHSJ SPIRITUALITY NEWSLETTER:

Welcome to the 2nd edition of the EOHSJ quarterly newsletter for the year. In this issue, we explore the profound significance of the Miraculous Medal and the inspiring lives of incorruptible saints, including St. Catherine Labouré, St. Louise de Marillac, and St. Vincent de Paul.

We delve into the spiritual benefits of having Masses said for others and share the remarkable life of St. Bernard of Clairvaux.

Additionally, save the date for an upcoming presentation with Bishop François Beyrouiti.

Please join us as we journey through these stories of faith, devotion, and the enduring impact of our Catholic heritage.

Sophia Rose Dodd
Spirituality Team Liaison



The Miraculous Medal, also known as the Medal of the Immaculate Conception, is a symbol of devotion and divine grace within the Catholic Church. The origin of this powerful sacramental traces back to 1830 when the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to St. Catherine Labouré, a novice in the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, in Paris, France.

During the apparitions, Mary instructed Catherine to have a medal struck according to her vision, promising that those who wear it with faith would receive great graces. The medal features Mary standing on a globe, crushing a serpent beneath her feet, with rays of light streaming from her hands. Encircling her are the words: “O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.”

One significant detail of the apparitions is the blue chair on which Mary sat when she appeared to Saint Catherine Labouré. This chair remains in the chapel at Rue du Bac and is venerated by pilgrims. It serves as a tangible connection to the miraculous events of 1830 and a reminder of Mary’s special presence and intercession.

The Miraculous Medal quickly became a popular sacramental, with millions of medals distributed worldwide. Its success can be attributed to numerous reported miracles and conversions, fostering a profound devotion among Catholics.

Today, countless faithful wear the Miraculous Medal as a sign of their faith and trust in Mary's intercession. It is estimated that tens of millions of people wear the Miraculous Medal, making it one of the most widespread and cherished sacramentals in the Catholic Church.



ST. CATHERINE LABOURÉ



St. Catherine Labouré (1806-1876) was a humble and devout nun whose visions of the Virgin Mary led to the creation of the Miraculous Medal. Born in Fain-lès-Moutiers, France, she was the ninth of eleven children in her family. At an early age, Catherine experienced profound loss when her mother died when she was only nine years old. After her mother's death, Catherine developed a deep devotion to Mary, the Mother of God. She expressed her sorrow and asked Mary to be her mother, seeking comfort and guidance from the Blessed Virgin.

Before entering religious life, Catherine had a remarkable dream in which she saw an old priest who invited her to serve God. Later, when she joined the Daughters of Charity in 1830, she was astounded to see a portrait of the same priest in the convent. He was Saint Vincent de Paul, the founder of her order, affirming her path in the religious life.

Her deep faith and unwavering dedication to her vocation allowed her to serve the poor and sick with great compassion. Catherine's life was marked by simplicity and humility, and she remained relatively unknown until after her death. Her body was found to be incorrupt when exhumed in 1933, and she was canonized in 1947 by Pope Pius XII. Today, her incorrupt body lies in a glass coffin above the altar in the Chapel of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal at the motherhouse of the Daughters of Charity on Rue du Bac in Paris, France.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

St. Vincent de Paul (1581-1660) is one of the most beloved saints in the Catholic Church, known for his charitable work and dedication to the poor. Born in Pouy, France, he was ordained a priest in 1600. Vincent's deep compassion and organizational skills led to the founding of the Congregation of the Mission (Vincentians) and the Daughters of Charity, in collaboration with St. Louise de Marillac. His legacy includes the establishment of hospitals, orphanages, and schools. Vincent's bones and heart were found to be incorrupt when exhumed, and he was canonized in 1737 by Pope Clement XII.



ST. LOUISE DE MARILLAC



St. Louise de Marillac (1591-1660) played a pivotal role in the foundation of the Daughters of Charity alongside St. Vincent de Paul. Born in Le Meux, France, Louise faced numerous personal challenges, including the death of her husband, before dedicating her life to serving the poor and the sick. Her collaboration with Vincent de Paul led to the creation of a new model of religious life that combined active service with deep spirituality. Louise's body, like Vincent's and Catherine's, was found to be incorrupt upon exhumation. She was canonized in 1934 by Pope Pius XI. Her incorrupt body is also enshrined at the Chapel of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal on Rue du Bac in Paris, France.

The Phenomenon of Incorruptibles

The term "incorruptibles" refers to the phenomenon where the bodies of some saints are found to be preserved without the typical processes of decay after death. This preservation is considered by many in the Catholic faith to be a sign of holiness and divine favor. Incorruptibility is not a requirement for sainthood, but it has been observed in several saints throughout history, including St. Catherine Labouré, St. Vincent de Paul, and St. Louise de Marillac.

There are over 100 documented cases of incorruptible saints around the world, each one serving as a testament to their extraordinary holiness and the divine grace that preserved their bodies. The Church regards this phenomenon with reverence, seeing it as a testament to the sanctity and purity of the individuals.

Conclusion

The lives of St. Catherine Labouré, St. Vincent de Paul, and St. Louise de Marillac, along with the history of the Miraculous Medal, highlight the profound impact of faith, devotion, and charity in the Catholic tradition. Their incorrupt bodies serve as a reminder of their extraordinary holiness and the divine grace that accompanied their earthly missions. As members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre, reflecting on these remarkable figures can inspire us to deepen our commitment to service, faith, and devotion.

THE SPIRITUAL BENEFITS OF OFFERING MASSES FOR OTHERS



“The Holy Mass is the most precious gift one may offer.” – St. Pope John Paul II

In the heart of our faith, the Holy Mass stands as the most profound expression of God’s love and mercy. For members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre, there lies a unique opportunity to deepen this sacred experience through the act of offering Masses for the intentions of others, both deceased and living. By making a donation to have Masses offered in the Holy Land, members not only contribute to the spiritual well-being of others but also enrich their own spiritual journey.

Benefits for the Recipient



1. **Spiritual Graces and Blessings:** When a Mass is offered for someone, whether living or deceased, all the graces of Calvary are poured upon that person’s soul. The Church teaches that these graces help to purify souls in Purgatory, easing their path to Heaven, and provide spiritual strength and guidance for the living.
2. **Intercession and Mercy:** For the deceased, a Mass can be a powerful plea for God’s mercy, aiding their souls in the afterlife. For the living, it serves as a source of divine intercession, bringing God’s guidance, healing, and protection into their lives.
3. **A Sense of Connection:** For those who have passed away, having a Mass said in their memory fosters a profound sense of connection among their loved ones. For the living, it offers comfort and hope, knowing that they are remembered and prayed for in such a significant way.

Benefits for the Donor

1. **Spiritual Growth and Fulfillment:** Offering a Mass for someone else is an act of selfless love and charity. It reflects Christ’s commandment to love our neighbors and strengthens the donor’s own faith and spiritual life.
2. **Participation in the Communion of Saints:** By offering Masses for others, donors actively participate in the Communion of Saints. This reinforces the bonds within the mystical body of Christ, reminding us that we are all united in prayer and purpose.
3. **Peace and Joy:** Knowing that you have contributed to someone’s spiritual welfare brings a profound sense of peace and joy. It is an act of generosity that returns to the giver a hundredfold in spiritual blessings.





THE SPIRITUAL BENEFITS OF OFFERING MASSES FOR OTHERS

(Cont'd)

The Unique Privilege of Supporting the HOLY LAND

Our Order's mission includes supporting the Christians in the Holy Land. By having Masses offered in this sacred part of the world, members contribute to the preservation of our holy sites and support the local Christian community. This connection to the very land where Jesus walked, taught, and sacrificed His life adds an additional layer of spiritual richness to the offering.

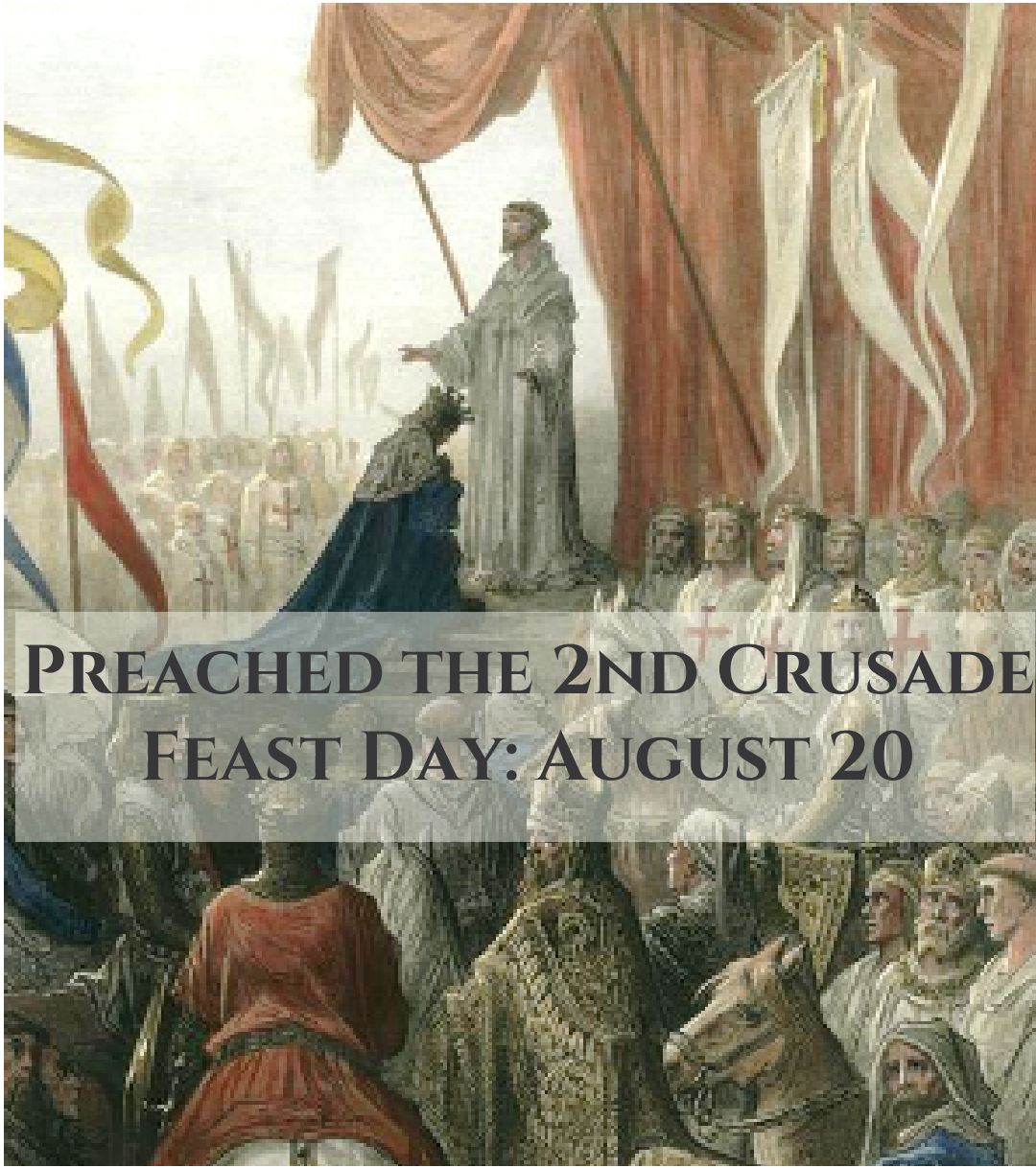
We invite all members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre to embrace this beautiful tradition. Consider having Masses offered in the Holy Land, for the intentions of your loved ones or for your own personal intentions. By doing so, you are participating in a sacred act that bridges heaven and earth, bringing countless blessings to both the giver and the recipient.

Together, in faith and charity, let us make this practice a cornerstone of our spiritual journey within the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre.

**USE THE QR CODE TO
REQUEST MASSES
IN THE
HOLY LAND**



ST. BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX: A PILLAR OF FAITH AND ZEAL



**PREACHED THE 2ND CRUSADE
FEAST DAY: AUGUST 20**

St. Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153) stands as one of the most influential figures in the history of the Catholic Church. Renowned as a Doctor of the Church, a theologian, and a fervent promoter of monastic life, his legacy continues to inspire the faithful.

Born into a noble family in Burgundy, France, Bernard exhibited early signs of a deep spiritual calling. In 1113, he joined the Cistercian Order at the Abbey of Cîteaux, bringing along thirty of his relatives and friends. His profound commitment to monastic reform revitalized the struggling Cistercian Order, and in 1115, he founded the Abbey of Clairvaux, which became a beacon of piety and learning.

Bernard's influence extended far beyond the monastic walls. He was instrumental in the preaching of the Second Crusade. In 1144, the fall of Edessa to the Seljuk Turks threatened the Christian presence in the Holy Land. Pope Eugenius III, recognizing Bernard's oratorical prowess and spiritual authority, commissioned him to rally support for a new Crusade.

At Vézelay in 1146, Bernard's impassioned sermon moved King Louis VII of France, Queen Eleanor, and countless nobles to take up the cross. His journey across Europe saw numerous miracles attributed to his intercession, and his preaching reached Emperor Conrad III of Germany and his nephew, the future Emperor Frederick Barbarossa, both of whom joined the Crusade.



St. Bernard of Clairvaux

(1090-1153)



Bernard's contributions to the Church were not limited to his Crusade efforts. His theological writings, including the acclaimed "Sermons on the Song of Songs," remain central to Christian mysticism and spirituality. His ability to combine deep theological insight with a profound love for Christ and His Church earned him the title of Doctor Mellifluus, the "Honey-Sweet Doctor."

Moreover, many people attribute the "Memorare," a prayer invoking the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary to St. Bernard of Clairvaux. This prayer has become a cherished part of Catholic devotion, reflecting Bernard's profound Marian piety.

His role in resolving the Papal Schism of 1130, by supporting Pope Innocent II against the antipope Anacletus II, showcased his dedication to the unity and orthodoxy of the Church. Bernard's counsel was sought in various ecclesiastical and political matters, underscoring his significant influence during a critical period in Church history.

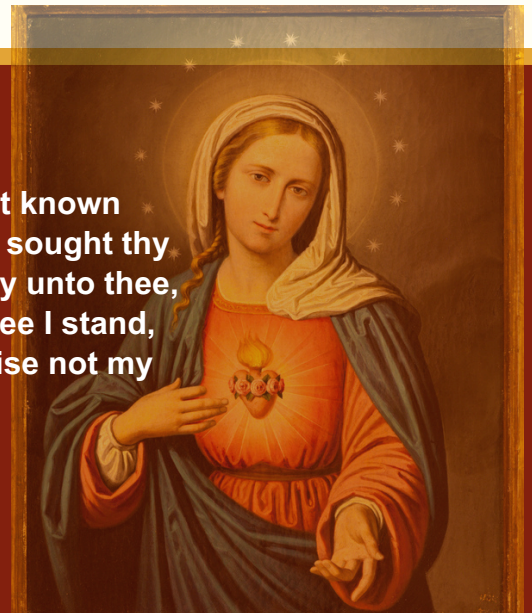
For members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre, St. Bernard of Clairvaux's life offers a compelling example of unwavering faith, courageous leadership, and deep spiritual devotion. His commitment to defending and promoting the Christian faith, particularly through the Crusades, resonates with our Order's mission to support the Christian presence in the Holy Land.

As we commemorate his feast day on August 20th, let us draw inspiration from St. Bernard's life and works. His legacy encourages us to deepen our faith, engage in fervent prayer, and commit to the mission of the Church with zeal and dedication.

In celebrating St. Bernard of Clairvaux, we honor a true pillar of the Church whose contributions continue to guide and inspire us in our spiritual journey and our efforts to support the Christian faithful in the Holy Land.

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me.

Amen.





SAVE THE DATE!

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH

7:00PM PST



We are excited to announce a special presentation by Bishop Francois Beyrouti in anticipation of the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross and St. Helena. Mark your calendars for Thursday, September 12th at 7pm PST.

Bishop Francois Beyrouti is a renowned theologian with a Doctorate in Theology, who is known for his deep insight, engaging teaching style, and dedication to faith formation. Bishop Beyrouti was consecrated bishop on October 12, 2022, and invested into the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre in 2022.

He will delve into the historical and spiritual significance of this feast, exploring St. Helena's discovery of the True Cross and its enduring legacy in our Catholic faith.

Don't miss this opportunity to deepen your understanding of one of the most significant symbols of Christianity.



BISHOP FRANCOIS BEYROUTI



PRAYER FOR PEACE IN THE HOLY LAND



Queen of peace,

Chosen daughter of a land still devastated by wars, hatred, violence. We confidently address our plea to you:

Do not allow that Jesus' cry at the sight of the Holy City· which did not understand the gift of peace may, once again, fall into indifference and political calculation.

Look at the afflictions of so many mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, children, victims of destructive energies that are blind and without a future. Inspire ways of dialogue, a vigorous will in solving problems and a collaboration of certain hope.

Don't let us ever get used to oppression, to consider the struggles as 'inevitable' and the victims they produce as 'collateral'.

Make sure that the logic of aggression does not prevail over good will and that the solution of many problems is not considered impossible. Just like with Your prayer in the midst of the Disciples on Pentecost, obtain from the Almighty that situations, even if apparently insurmountable in the Holy Land, find ways of happy solution.

AMEN

Fernando Cardinal Filoni

Grand Master of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem

