

The Pious Universal Union for the Children of the Divine Will
Official Newsletter for "The Pious Universal Union for Children of the Divine Will -USA"
Come Supreme Will, down to reign in Your Kingdom on earth and in our hearts!



ROGATE!



FIAT !

"May the Divine Will always be blessed!"

Newsletter No. 118 - March 4, A.D. 2012

The Triumph of Luisa



The Servant of God Luisa Piccarreta died in Corato in the odor of sanctity on March 4, A.D. 1947

The Last Words of Luisa Piccarreta

Now I die with greater contentment, because the Divine Will has consoled me more than usual with Its presence in these last few moments of my life.

"Now I see a long, beautiful and spacious road, all illuminated by an infinite number of resplendent suns - Oh, yes, I recognize them! They are all my acts done in the Divine Will!

"This is the road that I must now take; it is the road that the Divine Will has prepared for me. It's the road of my victory: it's the way of my glory, which will unite me with the immense happiness of the Divine Will.

"It's my road; it's the road that I have prepared for you. It's the road that I will keep reserved for all the souls who will ever want to Live in the Divine Will."

"Luisa the Saint has died"



Luisa died at the age of eighty-one years, ten months and nine days, on March 4, A.D. 1947, after a fortnight of illness, the only one diagnosed in her life, a bad attack of pneumonia. She died at the end of the night, at the same hour when every day the priest's blessing had freed her from her state of rigidity. Archbishop Francesco Petronelli (May 25, 1939- Jun 16, 1947) Archbishop at the time. Luisa remained sitting up in bed. It was impossible to lay her out and – an extraordinary phenomenon – her body never suffered *rigor mortis* and remained in the position in which it had always been. Four days her mortal remains were exposed for the veneration of an immense throng of the faithful who went to her house to have a last look at Luisa the Saint, so dear to their hearts. The funeral was a realm triumph; Luisa passed like a queen, borne aloft on shoulders among the lines of people. All the clergy, secular and religious, accompanied Luisa's body. The funeral liturgy took place in the main church with the participation of the entire chapter. In the afternoon, Luisa was buried in the family Chapel of the Calvi family. Her mortal remains were laid to rest in Santa Maria Greca.

Hardly had the news of Luisa's death spread, like a river in full spate, all the people streamed into her house and police intervention was necessary to control the crowds that flocked there day and night to visit Luisa, a woman very dear to them. A voice rang out: "*Luisa the Saint has died*". To contain all the people who were going to see her, with the permission of the civil authorities and health officials, her body was exposed for four days with no sign of corruption. Luisa did not seem dead, she was sitting up in bed, dressed in white; it was as though she were asleep, because as has already been said, her body did not suffer *rigor mortis*. Indeed, without any effort her head could be moved in all directions, her arms raised, her hands and all her fingers bent. It was even possible to lift her eyelids and see her shining eyes that had not grown dim. Everyone believed that she was still alive, immersed in a deep sleep. A council of doctors, summoned for this purpose, declared, after attentively examining the corpse, that Luisa was truly dead and that her death should be accepted as real and not merely apparent, as everyone had imagined.

Luisa had said that she was born "upside down", and that therefore it was right that her death should be "upside down" in comparison with that of other creatures. She remained in a sitting position as she had always lived, and had to be carried to the cemetery in this position, in a coffin specially made for her with a glass front and sides, so that she could be seen by everyone, like a queen upon her throne, dressed in white with the *Fiat* on her breast. More than forty priests, the chapter and the local clergy took part in the funeral procession; the sisters took turns to carry her on their shoulders, and an immense crowd of citizens surrounded her: the streets were incredibly full; even the balconies and rooftops of the houses were swarming with people, so that the procession wound slowly onwards with great difficulty. The funeral rite of the little daughter of the Divine Will was celebrated in the main church by the entire chapter. All the people of Corato followed the body to the cemetery. Everyone tried to take home a keepsake or a flower, after having touched her body with it; a few years later, July 3, 1963 her remains were translated to the parish of Santa Maria Greca..

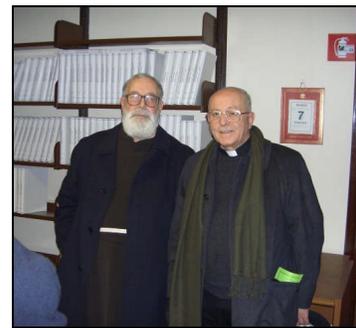
Nov 20, - Feast of Christ the King: Archbishop Cassati officially opened the 1994 beatification cause of the Servant of God Luisa Piccarreta in the principal church of Corato, in the presence of a huge crowd of people, locals and foreigners.

In October 2005 at the end of the closure of Luisa's cause by the Archdiocese of Trani, all official documents were packaged and sealed for shipment to **Congregation for the Causes of the Saints** - The dicastery, or department, of the Roman Curia responsible to the Holy Father for the investigations which lead to the beatification and canonization of holy men and women. On March 7, A.D. 2006 these packages will be officially opened by the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints. In attendance will be the Postulator of Luisa's cause, Silvia Monica Corrales, who was born in Argentina and appointed by the Congregation to represent Luisa's Cause. **Thus will begin the "Roman Phase" of Luisa's Cause.**

THE ROMAN PHASE



On March 7th, three days after the 59th anniversary of Luisa's passage to Heaven Luisa's cause was officially opened in Rome. The official seals on the cases containing the documents from the Archdiocese of Trani were broken and the cases opened by the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints. In attendance were Padre Bernardino Bucci and the Vicar General of Trani Msgr. Savino Giannotti.



The Congregation for the Causes of the Saints appoints a *Relator* from among its College of Relators. His task is to supervise the writing of the *Positio*, a complete biography containing the evidence for or against the candidate. When completed the *Positio* is judged by the Congregation's consultors, and then by a panel of theologians, whose vote determines whether the *Positio* is presented to the Cardinals of the Congregation for their vote. If the Cardinals approve, the Cause goes to the Pope, whose positive judgment on the *Heroic Virtues* of the Servant of God permits the person to be called Venerable. This Decree on the Heroic Virtues, together with a Decree approving a Miracle, permits the person's Beatification.

Mass Reading for March 7, A.D. 2006

Matthew 6: 7 - 15

- 7 "And in praying do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do;
for they think that they will be heard for their many words.
8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.
9 Pray then like this: Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.
11 Give us this day our daily bread;
12 And forgive us our debts, As we also have forgiven our debtors;
13 And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
14 For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you;
15 but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

PRAYERS FROM LUISA'S BISHOPS
To implore the Beatification of the Servant of God, LUISA PICCARRETA



O merciful Heart of my Jesus, who for the salvation and sanctification of many souls have deigned to keep for numerous years on earth Your humble servant **LUISA PICCARRETA** Your *Little Daughter of the Divine Will*, grant my prayer: that she be glorified soon by Your Holy Church. And through her intercession may You grant me the grace that I humble ask of You

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be.

Trani, November 28, A.D. 1948
† **Fr. REGINALDO ADDAZI O. P.**
ARCHBISHOP

O Most Holy Trinity, Our Lord Jesus Christ taught us that as we pray, we should ask that our Father's Name be always glorified, that His Will be done on earth, and that His Kingdom should come to reign among us.

In our great desire to make known this Kingdom of love, justice, and peace, we humbly ask that You glorify Your Servant, **LUISA PICCARRETA**, the little daughter of the Divine Will, who, with her constant prayer and suffering, deeply yearned for the salvation of souls and the coming of God's Kingdom in the world.

Following her example, we pray to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, to help us joyously embrace the crosses of this world, so that we may also glorify Your Name and enter into the Kingdom of Your Will. **Amen.**

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be.

Curia of the Archdiocese
+Carmelo Cassati
Archbishop Emeritus

Oh Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit we praise and thank You for the gift of holiness You granted to Your faithful servant **LUISA PICCARRETA**.

She lived, dear Father, in Your Divine Will and became, under the influence of the Holy Spirit, similar to Your Son, who died on the cross due to His obedience.

She was a victim and a host welcome to You, thus contributing to the Redemption of mankind.

Her virtues of obedience, humility, love of Christ and to the Church urge us to ask You for the gift of her glorification on earth, so that Your glory may shine, and Your kingdom of truth, justice and love may spread all over the world in the particular charisma of:

“Fiat voluntas tua sicut in coelo et in terra.”

We appeal to her merits to obtain from You, Holy Trinity, the particular grace for which we pray to You in Your Divine Will. **Amen.**

Three Glory be's ...

Our Father ...

Our Lady, Queen of Saints, pray for us.

Trani, Italy October 29th A.D. 2005
+Archbishop Giovan Battista Pichierri

**Testimonies of Sister Letizia Lotito and Sister Vincenza Caputo
who knew the Servant of God Luisa Piccarreta – Provided by Padre Bernardino Bucci**



Sister Letizia Lotito

My name is Sister Letizia Lotito. I was born in Corato on March 7, A.D. 1934. I have personally known the Servant of God, having been born in Corato where I remained without interruption until my entrance into the Institute of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Until 1950, I was a member of the parish of “Saint Mary the Greek”, the same parish as Luisa Piccarreta. There I grew in the Catholic Action movement = dell’Azione Cattolica (A.C.) and had the opportunity to meet many beautiful spiritual souls one of which was Miss Cimadomo who never failed to speak about Luisa, her life and her incessant prayers.

It was not easy to go to the house of Luisa. This same Miss Cimadono, on various occasions, gave details to a small group the possibility to go there to spin, to greet and to offer small gestures of love to this Person, who was known to them as “The Saint” while they were still alive. From my early childhood, I felt the need to speak about Luisa with my aunts, grandmother and other persons much larger than myself. They turned to Luisa for her intercession for their necessities and in order to recommend their beloved ones who were called to war (before and after the second world war); for she always had a word of comfort, and encouragement. She never stopped reassuring them of her prayers for their intentions because all their necessities were granted.

The Servant of God said: “We pray, we only pray” – with these words she wanted to say – “do not trust just my prayers but our prayers together”. My mother was a pupil of Rosaria Bucci who lived many years with Luisa and directed the embroidery school. The Servant of God, especially during her last few years, lived only on faith and she did not dedicate much time to the work of the tombolo; however she was always alert for the girls who attend this school. My mother, in her turn, has also taught me how to work the tombolo, which I appreciated very much.

She took me a few times to the house of Luisa, but that was enough for me to save the beautiful memory of her. It was always her serene face, always turned toward something or Someone that it was not given to us to see.

Luisa had the ability to reach others, not because of her persona, but through the grace of God, the diffusion of the Spirituality of the Divine Will and her writings. In fact, even though Luisa lived in silence and hiddenness, she was well known, loved and respected by everyone; however this did not create fanaticisms around her. In fact, as for Padre Pio, there was such fanaticism (and probably still is now), but for Luisa I have not seen this in anyone.

Because I had the opportunity to meet Luisa many times during her life, this made it possible for me to participate in Luisa's funeral which we can call "**The Triumph of Luisa**". Always guided and directed by the A.C., groups of little ones were given the opportunity to see Luisa even though many people wanted to see the body of Luisa, dressed in white, even if just for a few minutes. From the largest to the smallest, everyone followed Luisa's coffin over the long distance. It was carried on the shoulders of the larger of us (the youth of the A.C.) and also that of the nuns. Even The Daughters of Mary, other congregations had the joy to carry it on their shoulders.



The memory of that day remains always alive in my mind, the pain for the loss of a person so very much beloved but at the same time the great joy in seeing the participation and accompaniment of the entire country which was like a sign of affection and thanks which everyone gave to Luisa. This soul left a great impression on the world, in fact when the news of her death was announced, all of Corato exclaimed: "The Saint Luisa has died". Her holiness and spirituality was already recognized during her life, in fact, everyone asked her for her prayer and intercession.

I thank the Lord for giving me the opportunity to know Luisa and for the gift of a religious vocation; it is not a mistake to say that Luisa prayed for all vocations, Luisa also prayed for my vocation which is a fruit of the prayers of Luisa.

The memory of Luisa is very much alive in me; she had wonderful eyes which spoke directly to your spirit and I will not be able to ever forget them. When I have the occasion to see Luisa's image, I again relive, see and feel it. It appeals to me to deepen the thoughts that she has left with us to write and read the testimonies of those who knew her during her life. In my life I have had the fortune to know two great souls; first Luisa Piccarreta and then Padre Pio.

I have known the Servant of God Luisa Piccarreta since I was a young girl; in 1961 I became a novice in the community of nuns in the House of Relief of the Suffering. I also knew Padre Pio while he was still alive, who today is now a Saint, thus while I am still alive I want to see the Servant of God, Luisa Piccarreta raised to the altar and venerated as a Saint.



Scheme of the life of Luisa

81 YEARS and 10 MONTHS	<p>1865 - April 23: Birth and Baptism (Sunday "in Albis").</p>	24 years and 5 months
	<p>1874 - (9 years old): First Communion and Confirmation. Luisa begins to hear the voice of Jesus.</p>	
	<p>1878 - (13 years old): First vision of Jesus with the Cross ("Soul, help Me!")</p>	
	<p>1881 - (16 years old): Luisa accepts the state of Victim, and starts to be bedridden. Christmas Novena.</p>	
	<p>1887 - November: She remains definitively in bed.</p>	
	<p>1888 - October 16: The Mystical Marriage.</p>	
	<p>1889 - September 8 (24 years old): Renewal of the Mystical Marriage. Luisa receives the Gift of the Divine Will.</p>	33 years
	<p>1899 - February 28: For obedience she begins to write.</p>	
	<p>1900 - March and November: Jesus begins to speak about the Gift of the Divine Will, Which He had already given to her.</p>	
	<p>1911 - November: Jesus renews what He had shown her 11 years before (Vol. 10).</p>	
<p>1919 - (Vol. 12): Luisa begins to act in the Divine Will.</p>		
<p>1922 - (Vol. 14): Accomplishment of the formation of Luisa as another Humanity of Jesus.</p>	24 years and 5 months	
<p>1938 - August 31: 3 books of Luisa put on the Index. December 28: The obedience to write ceases (end of volume 36).</p>		
<p>1947 - March 4: Prodigious death and triumphant funeral.</p>		

SAINT JOSEPH IN THE DIVINE WILL

March 15th Feast of Saint Joseph



Saint Joseph in the Kingdom of the Divine Will

Saint Joseph, you will be my protector, the guardian of my heart, and will keep the keys of my will in your hands. You will keep my heart jealously and shall never give it to me again, that I may be sure of never leaving the Will of God

December 25, A.D. 1900

*...Who can tell the beauty of the Little Baby who, at the moment of His birth, transfused, also externally, the rays of the Divinity? Who can tell the beauty of the Mother, who remained all absorbed in those Divine rays? And **Saint Joseph**? It seemed to me that he was not present at the act of the birth, but remained in another corner of the cave, all engrossed in that profound Mystery. And if he did not see with the eyes of the body, he saw very well with the eyes of the soul, because he remained enraptured in sublime ecstasy.*

December 26, A.D. 1900

*As I continued to see the Holy Baby, I saw the Queen Mother on one side and **Saint Joseph** on the other, adoring the Divine Infant profoundly. Being all intent on Him, it seemed to me that the continuous presence of the Little Baby kept them engrossed in continuous ecstasy; and if they could work, it was a prodigy that the Lord operated in them; otherwise they would have remained motionless, unable to attend to their external duties. I too did my adoration, and then I found myself inside myself.*

May 9, A.D. 1907

*...Now, since I do not remember everything distinctly, I will tell of the past, all together and confusedly, starting from where I left when I was praying that He would take my mother to Paradise without her touching Purgatory. **Then, on March 19, the day dedicated to Saint Joseph**, in the morning, while I was in my usual state, my mother passed from this life into the sphere of eternity; and blessed Jesus, allowing me to see her as He was taking her, told me: "My daughter, the Creator takes his creature."*

December 25, A.D. 1918

*‘My Love, there are certain times in which my life becomes bitter, especially because of the conditions in which You put me.’ And Jesus, knowing what I wanted to say to Him, added: “What do you fear? I will take care of everything; and when one directs you I give my grace to him; when another does, I give grace to the other. And then, it is not you whom they will assist, but Me; and I will be generous with them according to how they will appreciate my work, my sayings and my teachings.” And I: ‘My Jesus, the Confessor appreciated very much what You said to me. He cared very much about it, and he worked very hard to make me write. What will You give to him?’ And Jesus: “I will give him Heaven as recompense, and I will consider his office as that of **Saint Joseph** and of my Mama, who, having assisted my Life on earth, had to go through hardships in order to nourish Me and assist Me. Now, since my Life is in you, I consider his assistance and sacrifices as though my Mama and **Saint Joseph** were doing them again for Me. Aren’t you happy?” And I: ‘Thank You, O Jesus.’”*

December 25, A.D. 1920

*...However, know that my Sacramental lot is even harder than my lot as an Infant. Though cold, the grotto was spacious, and had air to breathe; the Host too is cold, but so small that I almost lack air. In the grotto I had a manger with a little hay for bed; in my Sacramental Life, I don’t even have hay, and I have nothing but hard and ice cold metals for bed. In the grotto I had my dear Mama who took Me very often with her most pure hands, covered Me with ardent kisses in order to warm Me, soothed my crying, and nourished Me with her most sweet milk. In my Sacramental Life it is all the opposite: I do not have a Mama; if they take Me, I feel the touch of unworthy hands which smell like earth and muck. Oh! how I feel their stench - more than the manure I smelled in the grotto. Instead of covering Me with kisses, they touch Me with irreverent acts; instead of milk, they give Me the bile of sacrileges, of indifference, and of coldness. In the grotto, **Saint Joseph** never left Me without the light of a little lantern at night. Here in the Sacrament, how many times I remain in the dark also at night! Oh, how much more painful is my Sacramental lot! How many hidden tears, not seen by anyone. How many wails not listened to. If my lot as an Infant moved you to pity, much more should my Sacramental lot move you to pity.”*

January 24, A.D. 1921

*“My daughter, calm yourself - I choose whomever I please. However, know that I begin all of my works between Myself and one creature; and then they are spread. In fact, who was the first spectator of the FIAT of my Creation? Adam, and then Eve. It surely wasn’t a multitude of people. Only after years and years did crowds and multitudes of people become spectators of It. In the second FIAT my Mama was the only spectator; not even **Saint Joseph** knew anything, and my Mama found herself more than in your condition: the greatness of the Creative Power of my work which She felt within Herself was such that, confused, She did not feel the strength to mention it to anyone. And if, then, **Saint Joseph** knew it, it was because I manifested it to him. So, this FIAT germinated like a seed within Her virginal womb; the ear of grain was formed in order to multiply It, and then It came to the light of day. But who were the spectators? Very few. In the room of Nazareth my dear Mama and **Saint Joseph** were the only spectators. Then, when my Most Holy Humanity grew up, I went out and I made Myself known - but not to all. Afterwards, It spread more, and It will still spread. So will the third FIAT be. It will germinate within you; the ear of grain will be formed; only the priest will have knowledge of It. Then, a few souls - and then, It will spread. It will spread, and will follow the same path as Creation and Redemption. The more crushed you feel, the more the ear of the third FIAT grows and is fecundated in you. Therefore, be attentive and faithful.”*

June 15, A.D. 1926

*...The same will be for my Will: knowledge will give life to the fruits of my Will. This is why I wanted to renew what I did in Redemption, choosing another virgin, remaining hidden with her for forty years and more, segregating her from everyone as if in a new Nazareth, to be free with her to tell the whole story, the prodigies and the goods contained in It, so as to be able to form the life of my Will in you. And just as I chose **Saint Joseph** to be together with Me and my Mama, as our cooperator, tutor and vigilant sentry for Me and for the Sovereign Queen, in the same way, I have placed near you the vigilant assistance of my ministers, as cooperators, tutors and depositories of the knowledges, goods and prodigies contained in my Will. And since my Will wants to establish Its Kingdom in the midst of peoples, through you I want to deposit this celestial doctrine in my ministers as my new apostles, so that first I may form with them the link of connection with my Will, and then they may transmit it into the midst of peoples. If it were not so, or were not to be so, I would not have insisted so much on having you write, nor would I have permitted the daily coming of the priest, but I would have left all my work between Me and you. Therefore, be attentive and leave Me free to do what I want in you.”*

Now, who can say how confused I remained at this speaking of Jesus? I remained mute, and from the depth of my heart I repeated: ‘Fiat, Fiat, Fiat...’

The Annunciation of the Lord



The First Joyful Mystery of the Rosary. Today the Church celebrates that day when the Archangel Gabriel requested Our Lady to be the Mother of God. Mary accepts and declares herself to be the handmaid of the Lord. The Annunciation is one of the three most ancient feasts of Our Lady. The feast probably dates from the Council of Ephesus in 431, when Our Lady was proclaimed the Mother of God. This proclamation was because of a heresy which denied Mary's Divine Motherhood. It was also the Council of Ephesus which added the following words to the Hail Mary: **"Holy Mary Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death, Amen."**

Day Nineteen - The Queen of Heaven in the Kingdom of the Divine Will The Doors of Heaven open, the Sun of the Eternal Word places Itself on the lookout and sends Its Angel to tell the Virgin that the Hour of God has come

...Now, child of my Heart, pay attention to Me and listen: several days before the descent of the Eternal Word upon earth, I could see Heaven opened and the Sun of the Divine Word at Its doors, as though to look out for the one upon whom He was to take His flight, to render Himself Celestial Prisoner of one creature. Oh, how beautiful it was to see Him at the doors of Heaven, as though on the lookout to spy the fortunate creature who was to host her Creator! The Sacrosanct Trinity no longer looked at the earth as alien to It, because there was little Mary who, by possessing the Divine Will, had formed Its Divine Kingdom in which the Word could safely descend, as in His own residence, in which He would find Heaven and the many suns of the many acts of Divine Will done within my soul. The Divinity overflowed with love, and removing the mantle of Justice which It had worn with the creatures for so many centuries, It covered Itself with the mantle of infinite mercy, and decreed the descent of the Word... and It was now in the act of sounding the hour of fulfillment! At this sound, Heaven and earth were astounded, and all stood at attention, to be spectators of such a great excess of love, and a prodigy so unheard-of.

Your Mama felt ignited with love, and echoing the love of my Creator, I wanted to form one single sea of love, so that the Word might descend upon earth within it. My prayers were incessant, and while I was praying in my little room, an Angel came, sent from Heaven as messenger of the great King. He came before Me, and bowing, he hailed Me: "Hail, O Mary, our Queen; the Divine Fiat has filled You with grace. He has already pronounced His Fiat, for He wants to descend; He is just behind my shoulders, but He wants your Fiat to form the fulfillment of His Fiat."

At such a great announcement, so much desired by Me – although I had never thought I was to be the chosen one – I was stupefied and I hesitated one instant. But the Angel of the Lord told Me: "Do not fear, our Queen, for You have found grace before God. You have conquered your Creator; therefore, to complete the victory – pronounce your Fiat."

I pronounced my Fiat, and – oh, marvel! - the two Fiat fused together and the Divine Word descended into Me. My Fiat, which received the same value as the Divine Fiat, from the seed of my humanity, formed the tiny little Humanity which was to enclose the Word, and so the great prodigy of the Incarnation was accomplished.

Oh, power of the Supreme Fiat! You raised Me so high as to render Me powerful, to the point of being able to create within Me that Humanity which was to enclose the Eternal Word, Whom Heaven and earth could not contain! The Heavens were shaken, and all Creation assumed the attitude of feast. Exulting with joy, they peeked over the little house of Nazareth, to give homages and obsequies to the Creator made man; and in their mute language, they said: "Oh, prodigy of prodigies, which only a God could do! Immensity has become little, power has made itself powerless, His unreachable height has lowered itself deep into the abyss of the womb of a Virgin and, at the same time, He is little and immense, powerful and powerless, strong and weak!" My dear child, you cannot comprehend what your Mama felt in the act of the Incarnation of the Word. All pressed upon Me and awaited my Fiat, I could say, omnipotent.

Pope Shares Vision of a Better Earth



Draws Lesson on Conformity to God's Will From Christ's Prayer in Gethsemane By Kathleen Naab

VATICAN CITY, FEB. 1, 2012 (Zenit.org).- Benedict XVI says that earth can become a place of love, goodness, truth and beauty **if the will of God is done here, as it is in heaven.**

The Pope made this reflection as he spoke today at the general audience about Christ's prayer in Gethsemane, saying that *"nowhere else in sacred Scripture do we gain so deep an insight into the inner mystery of Jesus as in the prayer on the Mount of Olives."*

"In Jesus' prayer to the Father on that terrible and wondrous night of Gethsemane, 'earth' became 'heaven'; the 'earth' of his human will, shaken by fear and anguish, was assumed by the divine will, so that the will of God might be accomplished on earth," the Holy Father said. He added that this is *"important for our prayer as well."*

"We must learn to entrust ourselves more and more to divine Providence, to ask God to conform our wills to his," the Pontiff stated. *"It is a prayer that we must make daily, because it is not always easy to entrust ourselves to God's will, to repeat the 'yes' of Jesus, the 'yes' of Mary."*

True man

The Holy Father explained the stages of Christ's prayer in the garden, noting how *"Jesus 'alone' turns to the Father."*

"The Evangelist Mark tells us that, 'going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him' (14:35). Jesus falls face to the ground: It is the prayer posture that expresses obedience to the Father's will -- a total, trusting abandonment to him. [...] 'Jesus continues by asking the Father that, if it were possible, this hour might pass from him. This is not only the fear and anguish of a man faced with death; it is the inner turmoil of the Son of God, who sees the terrible flood of evil that he must take upon himself in order to overcome it, to deprive it of its power.'"

Benedict XVI said this is a lesson for our prayer: *"[W]e too must be capable of bringing before God our struggles, the suffering of certain situations, of certain days, the daily undertaking of following him, of being Christians, and also the weight of evil that we see within ourselves and around us, so that he may give us hope, that he may make us feel his closeness and give us a little light on the path of life."* The Holy Father reflected on Jesus' own struggle, as he -- unlike Adam and Eve -- *"draws the human will back to its full 'yes' to God. [...] His human will is drawn into the 'I' of the Son, who abandons himself totally to the Father."*

"Thus," the Pope said, *"Jesus tells us that it is only in conforming one's own will to the divine will that the human being attains his true greatness, that he becomes 'divine'; it is only by going out of himself -- only in his 'yes' to God -- that the desire of Adam and of us all is fulfilled -- that of being completely free. This is what Jesus accomplishes in Gethsemane: by placing the human will within the divine will the true man is born, and we are redeemed."*

Due Reverence Before the Blessed Sacrament

excerpt from Book IV, Chapter XVI of

The Imitation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

by Rev. Peter J. Arnoudt, S. J.



To kneel or stand when receiving Holy Communion? Pope Benedict XVI wants communicants to kneel at Papal liturgies, but some Bishops mandate standing on the grounds that standing up shows respect. Yes, standing may show respect for human persons, but Jesus is a Divine Person. Every knee shall bend before the Lord (see Philippians 2:10; Romans 14:11).

As you read the following passage from the above-named book, written in 1846, bear in mind that it is a classic on traditional Roman Catholic spiritual direction, considered by many to even surpass *The Imitation of Christ*.

1. *The voice of Jesus.* - My Child, if the heavens were thrown open before thee, and if thy eyes beheld there My glory; how thou wouldst be affected by this sight! How thou wouldst tremble with holy awe! With what reverence thou wouldst fall prostrate!

For, before My throne, sending forth the splendors of glory, like blazing flames and lightnings, thou shouldst behold thousands of thousands of Angels praising Me with all veneration; and, standing around the throne, ten thousand times a hundred thousand ministering to Me.

Thou shouldst, also, behold the mighty throng of Saints, whom thou couldst not count, falling upon their faces in sight of the throne, adoring, and melting with love.

Thou shouldst behold how everything is aglow in My presence: at one time thou shouldst perceive how, by reason of the greatness of the all-pervading reverence, there reigns a deep silence throughout heaven; at another, how the whole place resounds with the voice of its inhabitants, bursting forth and singing in unison: Amen, blessing, and glory, and wisdom and thanksgiving, and honor, and power and strength, to our God, forever and ever!

Now, My Child, I the same, who in heaven am worshiped with such a manifestation of honor and praise, am here present in the most Blessed Sacrament, surrounded by a multitude of heavenly spirits.

See, therefore, and consider, how mortals ought to conduct themselves toward Me. If the very pillars of heaven tremble with awe, what should the dust of the earth do?

2. Here, I desire reverence, here I claim honor, here I exact due worship.

By the free choice of My Heart, I was born in a stable, and I so passed My mortal life, that I had not where to recline My head; but, when I was about to institute this most Holy Sacrament, I ordered to be prepared a large Supper-room furnished, to show how much I wished to be respected and honored, and worshiped in My Sacramental life.

Taught by this, the Church has ever loved the beauty of My house, and erected, to the best of her power, magnificent temples: she has called to her aid nature, that by richness, and art, that by genius, they might adorn My chosen dwelling-places; ever full of solicitude, she has taken care that, according to the desire of My Heart, she may honor Me every way in this most august mystery, and thus testify her own love for Me.

If thou lovest Me, My Child, yea, if thou hast faith, and by its supernal light, viewest My Majesty here veiled, and all that visibly and invisibly surrounds Me, thou wilt surely ever exhibit here supreme reverence.

Thou wilt not here appear before Me among the Angels, except inwardly and outwardly full of recollection and veneration; thou wilt show interiorly and exteriorly naught save piety and devotedness, reverential awe, and love.

Book of Heaven - July 1, 1902

True victims must expose themselves to the pains of Jesus. Machinations against the Church and against the Pope.

As I was in my usual state, *I found myself outside of myself, **kneeling on an altar** together with two more people.* In the meantime *Jesus Christ appeared over this altar*, and He said: "True victims must have communication with my very life; they must avail themselves of my very self, and expose themselves to my very pains." While saying this, **He took a pyx in His hand and gave Communion to all three of us**. After this, behind that altar there seemed to be a door which led into a street filled with people and jam-packed with demons, in such a way that one could not walk without being squeezed by them; and since it was full of thorns, extremely sharp, one could not make a movement without feeling one's flesh being pricked deep inside. At any cost I would have wanted to escape those diabolical furies, and I almost tried to do it, but someone, I don't know who, prevented me by saying to me: ***"Everything you see are machinations against the Church and against the Pope. They would want the Pope to get out of Rome by invading the Vatican and seizing it, and if you want to avoid these bothers, men and demons will acquire strength and will make these thorns come out which will prick the Church bitterly. But if you content yourself with suffering them, both the one and the other will be weakened."*** On hearing this I stopped, but who can say what I went through and suffered. I thought I would never again get out from the midst of those diabolical spirits; however, after staying there almost one whole night, divine protection freed me.

The Seraphim declare the Trinity



Saint Athanasius, on Luke 10:22 and Matthew 11:27

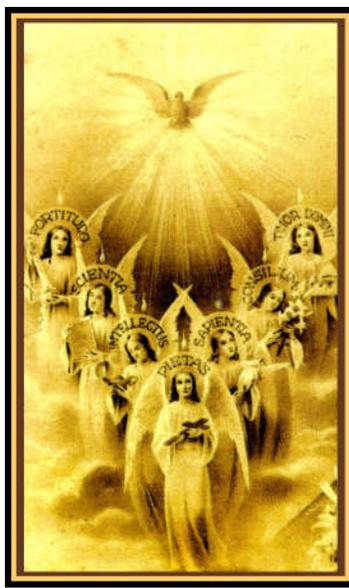
And how do the impious men venture to speak folly, as they ought not, being men and unable to find out how to describe even what is on the earth? But why do I say 'what is on the earth?' Let them tell us their own nature, if they can discover how to investigate their own nature? Rash they are indeed, and self-willed, not trembling to form opinions of things which angels desire to look into 1 Peter 1:12, who are so far above them, both in nature and in rank.

For what is nearer [God] than the Cherubim or the Seraphim? And yet they, not even seeing Him, nor standing on their feet, nor even with bare, but as it were with veiled faces, offer their praises, with untiring lips doing naught else but glorify the divine and ineffable nature with the Trisagion. And nowhere has any one of the divinely speaking prophets, men specially selected for such vision, reported to us that in the first utterance of the word Holy the voice is raised aloud, while in the second it is lower, but in the third, quite low—and that consequently the first utterance denotes lordship, the second subordination, and the third marks a yet lower degree.

But away with the folly of these haters of God and senseless men. For the Triad, praised, revered, and adored, is one and indivisible and without degrees (ἁ σχηματοιστός). It is united without confusion, just as the Monad also is distinguished without separation. For the fact of those venerable living creatures Isaiah 6; Revelation 4:8 offering their praises three times, saying '*Holy, Holy, Holy,*' proves that the Three Subsistences are perfect, just as in saying 'Lord,' they declare the One Essence. They then that depreciate the Only-begotten Son of God blaspheme God, defaming His perfection and accusing Him of imperfection, and render themselves liable to the severest chastisement. For he that blasphemes any one of the Subsistences shall have remission neither in this world nor in that which is to come. But God is able to open the eyes of their heart to contemplate the Sun of Righteousness, in order that coming to know Him whom they formerly set at naught, they may with unswerving piety of mind together with us glorify Him, because to Him belongs the kingdom, even to the Father Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

Saint Ambrose Exposition of the Christian Faith

107. What means this threefold utterance of the same name Holy? If thrice repeated, why is it but one act of praise? If one act of praise, why a threefold repetition? Why the threefold repetition, unless that the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit are one in holiness? The seraph spoke the name, not once, lest he should exclude the Son; not twice, lest he should pass by the Holy Spirit; not four times, lest he should conjoin created beings [in the praise of the Creator]. Furthermore, to show that the Godhead of the Trinity is One, he, after the threefold Holy, added in the singular number the Lord God of Sabaoth. Holy, therefore, is the Father, holy the Son, holy likewise the Spirit of God, and therefore is the Trinity adored, but adores not, and is praised, but praises not. As for me, I will rather believe as the seraphim, and adore after the manner of all the principalities and powers of heaven.



Book of Heaven - October 30, 1924

Why the Angels are Angels, and why there are different choirs of Angels. The pains of love suffered by Jesus are the most bitter, the most cruel; they are more painful than those of His very Passion.

...Then, I was thinking to myself about what had passed through my mind – that is, that instead of Jesus it seemed to me as if I had my Angel near me; and I said to myself: ‘And why the Angel and not Jesus?’ At that moment, I felt Him move in my interior, saying to me: **“My daughter, do you want to know why the Angels are Angels – why they have kept themselves beautiful and pure, as they came out of my hands? Because they have always remained in that primary act in which they were created. Therefore, being in that primary act of their existence, they are in that single act of my Will which, not knowing succession of acts, does not change, it neither decreases nor increases, and contains within Itself all possible imaginable goods. And the Angels, keeping themselves in that single act of my Will which issued them to the light, maintain themselves immutable, beautiful and pure. They have lost nothing of their original existence, and all their happiness is in maintaining themselves, voluntarily, in that single act of my Will. They find everything in the circuit of my Will; nor do they want, in order to be happy, anything other than what my Will administers to them. But do you know why there are different choirs of Angels, one superior to the other? There are some which are closer to my Throne - do you know why? Because, to some, my Will manifested one act alone of my Will; to some, two; to some, three; to some, seven; and in each thing pertaining to the additional act which my Will manifested, some were made superior to others, and were rendered more capable and worthy to be close to my Throne. So, the more my Will manifests Itself, and they keep themselves in It, the more they are raised, embellished, made happy and superior to others. See, then, how everything is in my Will, and in their keeping themselves, without ever going out, in that same Will from which they came. And from their greater or lesser knowledge of my Supreme Will are the different choirs of Angels constituted - their distinct beauties, the different offices, and the celestial hierarchy. If you knew what it means to know my Will more, to do one more act in It, to keep oneself and to act in that Will of Mine which one has known, by which the office, the beauty, the superiority of each creature are constituted – oh! how much more would you appreciate the different knowledges I manifested to you about my Will! One more knowledge about my Will raises the soul to such a sublime height, that the very Angels remain stupefied and enraptured, and they confess Me, incessantly: ‘Holy, Holy, Holy’. My Will manifests Itself and calls things from nothing, and forms beings. It manifests Itself and embellishes; It manifests Itself and raises the creature higher; It manifests Itself and expands more the Divine Life in the creature; It manifests Itself and forms in her new portents, never before known. So, from the many things I have manifested to you about my Will, you can comprehend what I want to make of you and how I love you, and how your life must be a chain of continuous acts done in my Will. If the creature, like the Angel, never went out of that primary act within which my Will issued her to the light - what order, what portents would not be seen on earth? Therefore, my daughter, never go out of your origin, in which my Will created you, and let your primary act be always my Will.”**