

MARY'S TOUCH ④

MARY, THE STRING THAT TIES HEAVEN AND EARTH TOGETHER

A DESCENT OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST IN NAJU WITNESSED FOR THE FIRST TIME BY A KOREAN BISHOP

On June 12, 1997, Thursday, His Excellency Bishop Paul Chang Yeol Kim of the Cheju Diocese in Korea visited the Chapel in Naju.

While the Bishop was praying with others in front of the Blessed Mother's statue, a large-size Sacred Host descended from above. It was approximately 11:45 a.m. In total amazement and joy, the Bishop worshiped and prayed before the Eucharist. Then, he picked up the Eucharist and gave a blessing to those who were present in the Chapel. The Sacred Host was then moved to the Naju Parish Church by the Pastor, and was placed in a monstrance so that people could worship the Eucharist. Later, the Eucharist was moved to the Kwangju Archdiocesan office. Bishop Kim visited Archbishop Yoon of Kwangju and reported the details of this miracle to him.

This was the 16th Eucharistic miracle through Naju; the fifth Eucharistic miracle witnessed by the Holy Father or bishops,* and the first Eucharistic miracle before a Korean bishop. It was also the fifth time that the Holy Eucharist descended in the Chapel in Naju.

*Four previous Eucharistic miracles witnessed by the Holy Father and bishops

1. **October 31, 1995** - The Vatican. During a Mass celebrated by the Holy Father;
2. **November 24, 1994** - The Chapel in Naju. Witnessed by Archbishop Giovanni Bulaitis, the Apostolic Pro-Nuncio in Korea;
3. **September 22, 1995** - A mountain near Naju. During a Mass concelebrated by Bishop Roman Danylak from Toronto, Canada, and two other priests;
4. **September 17, 1996** - The Cathedral in Sibul, Malaysia. During a Mass concelebrated by Bishop Dominic Su and other priests

The following is Julia's account of the Eucharistic Miracle on June 12, 1997, and the messages she received from the Blessed Mother immediately after the miracle.

His Excellency Bishop Paul Chang Yeol Kim of the Cheju Diocese in Korea, and Fr. Anthony Jung Yong Kim of the Kwangju Archdiocese, came to the Blessed Mother's House. Bishop Kim and Father Kim were conversing with Rufino and myself in front of the Blessed Mother's statue. Bishop Kim said that the Sacred Hosts that had turned into visible Flesh and Blood and the Sacred Hosts that had come down from above should have been preserved. He was expressing concern over the indifference in the Church.

When the Bishop was saying, "If Eucharistic miracles occur again, (the Sacred Hosts) must be preserved," light began radiating from the Crucifix. Then, the Bishop said, "Let's pray together." At that moment, a white object was descending. I tried to receive it in my hands, but it was so sudden that I could not receive it. The white object fell on the altar before the Blessed Mother's statue making a loud sound. The Bishop, the priest, and others present heard the sound of the white object falling on the altar and went closer to the Blessed Mother's statue. Rufino shouted, "Oh, the Eucharist! The Eucharist!" The Bishop looked at the Sacred Host and knelt,



During Bishop Paul Kim's visit to Naju, a Sacred Host miraculously came down from above to the altar in front of the Blessed Mother's statue in the Chapel. - June 12, 1997

saying, "Jesus Who is alive!"

I knelt, too, unable to control my tears thanking the Lord for giving a sign to the Bishop who was saying, "If Eucharistic miracles occur again, (the Sacred Hosts) must be preserved." I continued weeping, remembering how all of us who love the Blessed Mother were crying and feeling pain when the seven Sacred Hosts that came down on June 30, 1995, could not be preserved. Then, I heard the loving, kind and beautiful voice of the Blessed Mother.

THE BLESSED MOTHER:

My beloved daughter! Today is truly a joyful day. (This) Bishop, who came to me saying "Amen" to this Heavenly Mother's call, understood my concern and gave me consolation. Therefore, God manifested, with a special love, a sign of love by personally sending down the Eucharist, which is a substantial presence of Jesus Christ. God promised an inheritance to Abraham, not because he observed the laws well. God recognized him as a just man because of his faith and also bestowed graces upon those who were his followers. Likewise, all the souls who believe in the sign given to you today and follow it will receive the same graces as you.

Beloved Bishop! My dear son whom I can put in my eyes without feeling any pain! Make known to everyone the Mystery of the Eucha-

rist, in which the Lord is truly present, and the burning love of my Immaculate Heart and, thus, help the little soul whom I have chosen. When you follow me, keeping in mind that helping her is helping me, I will mark you with a seal of flames of the sublime and powerful love from my burning Immaculate Heart. Therefore, do not avoid me or be hesitant because of the desires of the corruptible body, face-saving and others' eyes.

In the Church, covering up one's own faults, having the spirit of being critical of others, and being quick and thorough about finding fault in others are what theorists do, not priests. That is because, even though reason-

ing is necessary, one must not jump to impatient judgment on the love of the soul who is immersed in love.

Because even many of the clergy know with their minds and say with their mouths that a pursuit of the world and the flesh will lead to perdition and that a pursuit of the spiritual matters will lead to eternal happiness but are not practicing it, I called the Bishop, who is following me, in a special way and wish to spread the burning love of my Immaculate Heart.

Become littler. I invite you to Heaven where only little souls can enter. Because the gate of Heaven is small and proud souls cannot enter it, you must become littler continuously and bring many souls to me so that they may be nurtured with my spiritual milk of love and become little souls.

My babies who have been invited to become little! The cup of God's wrath is overflowing, because the world has reached a saturation point with sins and degradation. Expedite your efforts, remembering that the time of judgment is being delayed thanks to the little souls despite their small number. When the number of the little souls increases, God's voice of wrath and breath of anger will turn into blessing and this world will become the Kingdom of the Lord.

It is now the very time of purification. Hurriedly hold my hands and stay in the burning Sacred Heart of Jesus and the burning Immaculate Heart of this Mother. And offer up yourselves totally and spread the Lord's love according to the wish of this Mother, who is the Helper in Redemption, in order to save this world which has become corrupt and polluted in great degradation. Then, even those souls who are rushing toward hell may return to the bosom of the Church through you who think that you are not qualified.

My beloved little souls! My Son Jesus redeemed numerous souls with His cruel and terrible sacrifices. But numerous children continue offending (the Lord) and are not responding to the sublime love in (His) sacrifices. But the burning Sacred Heart of Jesus and my Immaculate Heart are waiting for the return of all the children by leaving the door widely open and wish that this obstinate and wicked world will repent hurriedly and that the Kingdom of the Lord will be accomplished.

My dear souls who have responded to my anxious calls! I already said, "Those souls who carry their crosses following the Lord, spread and practice the Gospel, and accept my messages of burning love will be saved and en-

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Bishop Paul Kim holding the Sacred Host that miraculously came down in the Chapel in Naju. - June 12, 1997

Our Lord's Words in Naju on June 5, 1988

It is My Love that prompted Me to come down to this world and call sinners rather than the just. I want everyone, without a single exception, to belong to Me, and I am relying on My Mother Mary for that. Therefore, by following Her, you will be following Me.

HISTORY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL

By Rev. Robert J. Billett, C.M.F.

The Virgin Mary inaugurates the Marian Era

The night of July 18, 1830, was a night that changed the history of the world. It was the night that the Blessed Virgin Mary ushered in the modern Marian era. It had been almost 300 years since the apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe in 1531. This night in 1830 Our Lady's apparition began a series of Marian apparitions, manifestations and ecclesial events that were to succeed one another down to our own day. We can very well see why Pope Paul VI declared, "Our era may well be called the Marian Era" (*The Great Sign*, #6, p.11; May 13, 1967).

That night in 1830 was a blessed night. The Holy Mother of God began her plans with a twenty-four year-old novice in the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity, on the Rue du Bac in Paris. That novice, whom we now know as St. Catherine Labouré, was sleeping in her curtained bed in the dormitory with the other novices. She was awakened by her Guardian Angel, who called her softly several times. She awoke to see her Angel as an extremely beautiful child about five years old, whose vesture was dazzlingly bright. The Angel said, "Come to the chapel; the Blessed Virgin is waiting for you."

In following the Angel to the Chapel, Catherine was surprised to find that all the lights were lit as if it were for Midnight Mass on Christmas. She was led toward the sanctuary and knelt by the chair that the Director used when giving conferences to the Sisters. Suddenly she heard the rustle of silk and saw a most beautiful Lady walking toward her. The Lady was dressed in an ivory-colored dress with a blue mantle and a white veil covering her head and draping down over her shoulders. She sat down on the Director's chair next to Catherine. The Angel told Catherine, "This is the Blessed Virgin." Catherine leaned her hands on the Lady's lap and looked into her Mother's eyes.

Preparing Catherine for the mission

The Lady spoke, "My child, the good God wishes to entrust to you a mission." She told Catherine that she would have to endure trials in carrying out the mission, but she would have consolation in knowing that she was working for the glory of God. The Lord would be with her and would guide her. "Have confidence. Do not be afraid." The mission would be revealed at a later time.

The Blessed Virgin told Catherine that she loved the Vincentian Communities and promised to protect them, but she complained, urging that there should be stricter observance of the Rules, more fervor in praying, especially the Rosary, and less worldliness in their lives.

Sorrows for France

The Lady continued, "The times are evil. Sorrows will come upon France; the throne will be overthrown. The Cross will be thrown down and trampled. The Archbishop will be stripped of his clothes. Blood will flow in the streets. The side of Our Lord will be pierced anew. The whole world will be afflicted with tribulations." The Virgin appeared sad and could hardly speak as she said this. But as if giving a remedy, she pointed toward the foot of the altar and said, "Come to the foot of the altar. Here graces will be shed on all who ask for them. Graces will be shed especially on those who ask for them."

Our Lady specified other sorrows and tribulations that were to come: There will be victims in other Religious Communities and among the clergy. The Archbishop of Paris will be killed. The whole world will be in sadness. And she gave Catherine to understand that some of these things would take place soon, and others in forty years.

Our Lady's predictions came true. The following week, on July 27, 1830, a revolution broke out in Paris. The King, Charles X, was

dethroned. The mobs desecrated churches, destroyed statues and threw down crucifixes and trampled them. Bishops and Priests were imprisoned, beaten and killed. Archbishop Hyacinthe de Quélen of Paris had to flee into hiding twice to save his life.

In another revolution, that of 1848, King Louis Philippe was dethroned and went into exile. Archbishop Affre of Paris was shot while trying to plead for peace at the barricades.

Then forty years later, in September of 1870, yet another French Monarch was toppled, Emperor Louis Napoléon III, through the Franco-Prussian War. Six months later a



revolution broke out in Paris. It lasted only two months; but before it was over, the sorrows and tribulations that had been predicted by Our Lady would be a matter of history. Many churches in Paris were desecrated, including the venerable church of Our Lady of Victories. Sacred things were publicly profaned. Even the graves and bodies of the dead were not spared. Many priests, both Diocesan and Religious were arrested; and finally thirty of them were executed, including Archbishop Darboy. True to the promise of the Blessed Virgin, the Vincentian Communities were saved, although the Sisters went through some very frightful moments.

After having revealed these events to Catherine in 1830, the Blessed Virgin spoke to her about many other things which were for Catherine alone. Then Our Lady disappeared. The Angel, after having led Catherine back to the dormitory, also disappeared, just as the clock struck two in the morning. The groundwork for Catherine's mission was now laid.

God's mission is revealed to Catherine

The mission that God wanted to entrust to Catherine was made manifest to her on November 27, 1830. It was the mission of making and distributing the Medal of the Immaculate Conception, now known as the Miraculous Medal. That day was the Saturday before the first Sunday of Advent. The Sisters were gathered in the chapel as usual for prayers at five-thirty in the afternoon. Suddenly Our Lady appeared to Catherine.

At first Mary appeared standing on a globe and dressed in white and with a long white veil which fell to her feet. The Virgin held in her hands, at the height of her shoulders, a golden ball which she seemed to be offering to God as she raised her eyes to heaven. Her fingers were covered with rings whose precious jewels sparkled brilliantly and showered down innumerable rays of light on the globe beneath her feet, almost obscuring the view of her feet. Mary lowered her eyes and looked directly at Catherine. Mary said nothing, but Catherine heard this message, "The ball which you see represents the world, especially France, and each person in particu-

lar. These rays symbolize the graces I shed upon those who ask for them. The jewels which give no rays symbolize the graces that are not given because they are not asked for." Then the apparition changed.

Our Lady appeared with a white dress, a blue mantle, and a white veil which draped back over her shoulders. She was still standing on the globe, and had one foot on the head of a serpent which lay at her feet. The year 1830 was marked on the globe. The Virgin had her arms and hands pointed downwards, and a cascade of rays was falling down from both hands onto the globe. An oval frame

could be Heaven's way of indicating the year opening the Marian Era.

Our Lady is standing on the globe of the world. Catherine could distinguish France in particular. In this we can see Mary both as the Victorious Woman and as the Queen of Heaven and Earth.

Mary's hands are shown showering a cascade of brilliant rays on the world, as if she found them too heavy with graces and was eager to pour them on us. We can see her as our "Advocate, Auxiliatrix, Adjutrix and Mediatrix. Of this intercession of hers for the People of God with the Son, the Church has been persuaded ever since the first centuries . . ." (*The Great Sign*, Part I, p. 4; Pope Paul VI; May 13, 1967).

Around the oval frame of the medal we read the words, "O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you." In this brief prayer we find the truth of (a) the Immaculate Conception of Mary, and (b) Mary's intercessory power with God for us who ask for her aid.

The reverse side of the Medal

On the reverse side of the Medal we see a Cross, the symbol of Christ's Redeeming Sacrifice on Mount Calvary for the salvation of the world.

At the base of the Cross is a bar, which symbolizes the foot of the Cross. Intertwined with the bar is the letter "M" symbolizing the Mary's intimate involvement at the foot of the Cross with her Son's Redemptive Sacrifice. We see the "M" is below the line or foot of the Cross, signifying Mary's subordinate role to that of Jesus. "This union of the Mother and her Son in the work of Redemption (cf. *Lumen Gentium*, #57) reaches its climax on Calvary, where Christ 'offered Himself as the perfect Sacrifice to God' (*Hebrews* 9:14), and where Mary stood by the Cross (cf. *John* 19:25), 'suffering grievously with her only-begotten Son. There she united herself with a maternal Heart to His Sacrifice, and lovingly consented to the immolation of this Victim which she herself had brought forth' (II Vatican Council, *Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, Lumen Gentium*, #58), and also was offering to the Eternal Father" (*Marialis Cultus*, #20, p. 19, Pope Paul VI, Feb. 2, 1974).

It was also at the foot of the Cross that Jesus gave us, in the person of the Beloved Disciple, His own Mother to be our Mother. "Woman, behold your son; son, behold your Mother" (*John* 19: 25-27). And the beloved disciple gives us an example to follow, so that we learn to take Mary into our homes, into our lives, into our hearts, as do loving children.

So the "M" stands not only for **M**ary, but also for **M**other. "The new Motherhood of Mary, generated by faith, is the fruit of the 'new' love which came to definite maturity in her at the foot of the Cross, through her sharing in the Redemptive Love of her Son. Thus we find ourselves at the very center of the fulfilment of the promise contained in the Proto-gospel . . . (*Gen.* 3:15)" (*Mother of the Redeemer*, #23-24; p. 33; Pope John Paul II; March 25, 1987). "Mary's mediation is intimately linked with her Motherhood" (ib. #39; p. 54).

Since the Cross is the symbol of Christ's Redemptive Sacrifice, we can also see a Eucharistic symbolism on the Medal. "To perpetuate down the centuries the Sacrifice of the Cross, the Divine Savior instituted the Eucharistic Sacrifice [the Mass], the Memorial of His Death and Resurrection, and entrusted it to His Spouse the Church" (cf. II Vatican Council, *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, #47), which the Church continues to do "in union with the Saints in Heaven, and in particular with the Blessed Virgin" (*Marialis Cultus*, #20, p. 19-20; Pope Paul VI; Feb. 2, 1974). In every Eucharistic Liturgy the Church involves the Blessed Virgin Mary, so befitting to her who stood heroically at the foot of the Cross unit-

formed around the Blessed Virgin, and written around within it, in letters of gold, was the beautiful prayer, "O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you." This was the front side of the medal that was to be made.

Then the vision revolved to show the reverse side of the medal. Catherine saw a Cross with a bar at its feet with which was intertwined an "M." Beneath the "M" were the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, both surmounted by flames of love, one having a crown of thorns, and other pierced with a sword. Encircling all of this were twelve stars around the oval frame.

The front side of the Medal: messages and symbolism

On the front side of the medal we see the Blessed Virgin Mary as the Victorious Woman of Genesis. God Himself put enmities between the Woman and the serpent, a battle to be carried on "in that 'monumental struggle against the powers of darkness' which continues throughout human history" (*Mother of the Redeemer*, #47, p. 67; Pope John Paul II; March 25, 1987).

On the medal we see Mary Immaculate with her foot crushing the head of the serpent. "She who as the one 'Full of Grace' was brought into the Mystery of Christ in order to be His Mother and thus the Holy Mother of God . . . remains in that mystery as 'the Woman' spoken of by the Book of Genesis (3:15) at the beginning . . ." (*Mother of the Redeemer*, #24, p. 23; Pope John Paul II; March 25, 1987). In many other official documents of the Church and writings of Saints we find Mary referred to as this Victorious Woman of Genesis destined to crush the proud head of the devil.

"The Bible is replete with the mystery of the Savior, and from Genesis to the Book of Revelation, also contains clear references to her who was the Mother and Associate of the Savior" (*Marialis Cultus*, #30, p. 28; Pope Paul VI; Feb. 2, 1974).

The year 1830 was shown inscribed on the globe at the base of the Medal, so it is clearly meant to convey some message. It can very well indicate the year which begins the final stages of the battle between the Woman and the serpent, between good and evil. It

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ing her sufferings to the Sacrifice of her Son, filling up in her body those things that are wanting to the sufferings of Christ, for the sake of His Mystical Body, the Church (cf. Col. 1:24). In all of the approved apparitions of Our Lady there is a Eucharistic thrust. She usually asked for a church to be built, in which the Eucharistic Sacrifice and the Blessed Sacrament always have prime place. Mary always leads us to Jesus, and Jesus is especially present in the Eucharist.

On the Medal beneath the Cross and the "M" we see the two Hearts, the Sacred Heart of Jesus encircled with a crown of thorns, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary pierced with a sword. We see the prophecy of Holy Simeon fulfilled: the Son who was destined for the sign of contradiction, dying on the Cross, and the Mother pierced with a sword of sorrow beneath the Cross "so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed" (Luke 2: 34-35). The union of the two Hearts foreshadows the message of Fatima: "The Sacred Heart of Jesus wants the Immaculate Heart of Mary to be venerated at His side" (*Lucia Speaks*, III Memoir, World Apostolate of Fatima, Washington, NJ: 1976; p. 137). "God wishes to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart" (ib. p.126).

The two Hearts are surmounted by flames, symbolizing the burning love with which Jesus and Mary accomplished the work of Redemption, each in their proper way. No greater love does one have than to lay down one's life (cf. John 15:13). "Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her . . ." (Ephesus 5:25-27).

Around the oval frame of the Medal, encircling the Cross, the "M," and the two Hearts, we see a crown of twelve stars. This can be seen as a reference to the "the Great Sign" in the Book of Revelation/Apocalypse; the "Woman clothed with the sun, with the moon beneath her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars." The Woman engaged in battle with the "huge red Dragon . . . the ancient serpent, who is called the devil, or Satan" (Rev./Apoc. 12:3 & 9) is the Queen of the Apostles, the Mother of the Church. "The enmity, foretold at the beginning, is confirmed in the Apocalypse (the book of the final events of the Church and the world), in which there recurs the sign of the 'Woman,' this time 'clothed with the sun' (Rev. 12:1). Mary, Mother of the Incarnate Word, is placed at the very center of that enmity, that struggle which accompanies the history of humanity on earth and the history of Salvation itself" (*Mother of the Redeemer*, #11; p. 16; Pope John Paul II, March 25, 1987).

We can see then in the Miraculous Medal a symbol of the whole history of salvation from Genesis to Apocalypse, and we can see the vital role that the Victorious Woman is destined to play in the final defeat of the devil. It is amazing how in such a small medal God can give us so many profound lessons. As is the case with all of God's graces, it is up to us to humbly accept what He offers, as Mary did (cf. Luke 1:38), and to cherish and ponder it in our hearts, as Mary did (cf. Luke 2:19, 51).

"Have a medal struck..."

Catherine heard the voice telling her, "Have a medal struck after this model. All who wear it will receive great graces. They should wear it around the neck. Graces will abound for persons who wear it with confidence." So this was the mission entrusted to Catherine: to see to the making of this medal and to spread its use. During 1830 and 1831 this vision of November 27 was repeated some six times to encourage Catherine in fulfilling her mission. She had to suffer much for this cause; first in trying to get the medals made, and then in trying to keep herself hidden, which she did for forty-six years till she died in 1876.

Meditate often on the sorrows of the Holy Mother, sorrows inseparable from those of her beloved Son. If you seek the Cross, there you will find the Mother; and where the Mother is, there also is the Son.

— St. Paul of the Cross

Catherine begins the struggle

Catherine spoke to no one about her visions and her mission except her Spiritual Director, Fr. Jean Marie Aladel. He was only thirty years old in 1830, and this was no small task that was thrust upon him. He and Catherine had many confrontations before the first medals were struck in June 1832. Eventually, at his request, Catherine wrote out three full accounts of her visions. She was a person of sound common sense, had a great eye for details and a gift for describing well what she saw and heard.

After almost two years of stormy discernment, Fr. Aladel took advantage of a visit to Archbishop Hyacinthe de Quélen of Paris in January of 1832 to discuss about his penitent, her visions, and the request of the Blessed Virgin for a medal to be struck. The Archbishop listened carefully and questioned Fr. Aladel in detail, and finally gave his permission for the medals to be made. He himself was very devoted to the Immaculate Conception of Mary and asked that he be given some of the first medals that would be made.

The first two thousand medals were delivered on June 30, 1832. The spread of the Medal was almost like a miracle in itself. The first supply disappeared very fast. Pope Gregory XVI put one of them at the foot of the crucifix on his desk. The Redemptorist Founder of the Sisters Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in America, Fr. Gillet, had the design of the medal placed on his ordination card in 1836. The stories of the cures and wonders of the medal helped to spread its use far and wide. By 1836 the firm of Vachette had sold several million medals. Eleven other engravers in Paris had done the same. And four engravers in Lyons were hard-pressed to meet the demands for the medal.

Canonical Inquiry

Archbishop de Quélen instituted a Canonical Inquiry starting February 11, 1836. The conclusions of the Inquiry were that the Medal was of supernatural origin, and that the wonders worked through it were genuine. This Inquiry helped win approval of the Holy See in 1895 for a feast in honor of the Medal, and helped in the process of Beatification and Canonization of Sister Catherine.

Wonders worked through the Medal

Archbishop de Quélen attributed to the Miraculous Medal the deathbed conversion of a publicly impenitent sinner, Baron Dominique de Riom de Frohliac de Fourt de Pradt. The Archbishop had tried to see him on several occasions and had been rebuffed. So he took a Miraculous Medal with him, and was finally allowed in to see the Baron, who was so touched by grace that he repented and confessed his sins. The next day he received the Sacraments from the Archbishop and died in his arms in 1837.

Another of the stupendous workings of the Miraculous Medal was the conversion of Alphonse Ratisbonne on January 20, 1842. On January 15 he had been prevailed upon to wear a Miraculous Medal and say the "Memorare." Alphonse was a staunch Jew, and had great antipathy for Catholicism. Yet on that day of January 20 he saw an apparition of the Blessed Virgin of the Miraculous Medal in all her dazzling glory, and his whole life was radically changed. Cardinal Patrizi, the Vicar of Rome, after a careful investigation, received Alphonse into the Church on January 31, 1942. Baptizing him, confirming him, and giving him First Communion. Alphonse became a priest and spent some 30 years in the Holy Land as a missionary to his own people.

Death and Glory

Sister Catherine died on December 31, 1876. In 1895 her cause for Beatification was introduced in Rome. She was beatified on May 28, 1933. When her body was exhumed, after fifty-seven years of burial, it was found to be completely incorrupt and supple. Catherine was canonized a Saint on July 27, 1947. This approval by God and the Church was like a seal on the apparitions of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal. □



The first apparition of the Blessed Mother to Sr. Catherine Labouré on July 18, 1830. Our Lady told Catherine of God's plans for her and promised to confide a mission to her. The little angel, who led Catherine to the Blessed Mother, is looking on. (This picture is reprinted with permission from The Daughters of Charity, Emmitsburg, Maryland.)

Marian Era: from 1830

- 1830 The Miraculous Medal apparition in Paris, France
- 1836 Our Lady of Victories Church. Archconfraternity of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Paris, France
- 1840 The Green Badge/Scapular of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Blangy, France
- 1842 St. Louis de Montfort's book *True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary* is found in Saint Laurent-sur-Sevre, France
- 1846 Apparition of Our Lady of La Salette, France
- 1854 Dogma of the Immaculate Conception declared by Pope Pius IX
- 1858 Apparition of the Immaculate Conception at Lourdes, France
- 1871 Apparition of Our Lady at Pontmain, France
- 1875-6 Our Lady of Pompeii. Confraternity of Queen of the Holy Rosary, connected with Bl. Bartolo Longo. Italy
- 1876 Apparition at Pellevoisin, France
- 1879 Apparition at Knock, Ireland
- 1883 Establishing Shrine of Our Lady of the Cape: Queen of the Holy Rosary, Canada
- 1895 First National Marian Congress at Livorno, Italy
- 1900 First International Marian Congress at Lyons, France (The first of at least sixteen such Congresses regularly held all over the world down to our own day)
- 1906 Our Lady of Sorrows; miraculous painting at Quito, Ecuador
- 1917 Our Lady of the Rosary appears at Fatima, Portugal
- 1921 The Legion of Mary was founded. Ireland
- 1932 The Immaculate Heart of Mary appears at Beauraing, Belgium.
- 1933 Apparition at Banneux, Belgium
- 1942 Consecration of the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, (1st) by Pope Pius XII on October 31
- 1946 Apparition at Marienfried, Germany
- 1950 Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary: dogma defined by Pope Pius XII
- 1952 Consecration of the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, (2nd), by Pope Pius XII on July 7
- 1953 Weeping Image of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (August 2-September 1) at Syracuse, Sicily, Italy
- 1954 Marian Year, (1st), decreed by Pope Pius XII in *Fulgens Corona* (September 8, 1953)
- 1954 Proclamation of Queenship of Mary in *Ad Coeli Reginam* by Pius XII (October 11)
- 1964 Consecration of the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary (3rd), by Pope Paul VI. November 21, during the II Vatican Council
- 1964 Mary declared "Mother of the Church" by Pope Paul VI on November 21 at II Vatican Council
- 1964 Victory of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary (Brazil)
- 1967 *The Great Sign* on the 50th anniversary of Fatima, by Pope Paul VI (May 13)
- 1974 *Marialis Cultus* by Pope Paul VI on devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 1982 Consecration of the world to the Immaculate Heart (4th), by Pope John Paul II on May 13
- 1984 Consecration of the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary (5th), renewed by Pope John Paul II on March 25, together with the Bishops of the world
- 1985 Our Lady manifests herself at Naju, Korea (under investigation)
- 1987-8 Marian Year (2nd) (June 1987 till August 15, 1988) decreed by Pope John Paul II in *Mother of the Redeemer* (March 25)



The Eucharist that came down on June 12, 1997 was moved to the Naju Parish Church and preserved in a monstrance in the church. Later, the Eucharist was moved again to the Kwangju Archdiocesan office.



On the Eucharist, there was an image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus encircled by thorns. Two drops of the Precious Blood were flowing from the wounds on the Heart. There also were a small cross above the Heart and a flame of fire under the cross, representing Jesus' love for us.

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joy eternal life." However, numerous souls implore me for help as if hanging on to a life buoy only when they are in pains and, when they receive the graces they have been asking for, return to their miserable lives instead of reforming their lives and practicing my messages of love because of preposterous false rumors and their pride. That is why my Heart is hurting so much that I make

a request to the Bishop who came to me today. Help prepare a tabernacle beside me and celebrate Mass. Consult with the Bishop (of the local diocese) and the Pastor so that the Mass may be celebrated (in the Chapel). Quench my thirst by complying with my earnest and anxious request. That way, prepare wholesome opportunities to present the joy of love and repentance to those souls who have become so infected with sins that they have lost even their sense of direction and are wandering about.

The Blessed Mother's Messages on August 27, 1997

At about 11:40 a.m., while I (Julia) was praying before the Blessed Mother's statue in the Chapel together with Fr. Raymond Spies and other pilgrims, I saw a beautiful light beginning to radiate like the sunlight from the Crucifix and the Blessed Mother's statue. When we were praying the Third Glorious Mysteries of the rosary, the Holy Eucharist came down from above. It was approximately 12 noon.

Later, at about 6 p.m., I was again praying before the Blessed Mother's statue, worshiping and praying to the Holy Eucharist placed in front of the Blessed Mother's statue. At about 6:40 p.m., the Crucifix and the Blessed Mother's statue became bright and the Blessed Mother began speaking through her statue with a very sorrowful voice.

THE BLESSED MOTHER:

My beloved daughter! Even those who say that they know me are spiritually blind and deaf and cannot see or understand (the messages and signs that I bring from God). This Mother's Heart is being so overwhelmed with sorrows that it is burning.

My Son Jesus, Who is divine, deserves all the power, honor, glory and worship, but comes to you in person in the form of bread,

hiding all of His Power, Dignity, Divinity and Humanity to save the children who have gotten lost and are wandering. However, (some of those who) have seen so many Signs of Love until now think that the Holy Eucharist, which is the Substance of Jesus, Who is alive, is breathing and wants to be with you, is just a host, and they judge (the Signs) . . .

Ah! I am sad. The number of the children who understand the Mystery of the Holy Eucharist, truly accept it, and make the Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist known is extremely small.

The Blessed Mother wept so sorrowfully, as if her Heart were being torn apart. A while later, she resumed speaking with a sorrowful and anxious voice.

THE BLESSED MOTHER:

My beloved children! My Son Jesus, Who has become covered with Blood on the Cross and is wearing the crown of thorns instead of a royal crown, comes to you because of His Love (for you) in order to save even those who are most wicked. The Lord, Who is your Savior, loves all the children in the world so much that He comes to you in the form of bread. However, (you) are wasting time uttering useless words instead of thanking Him and worshiping Him with fervent love and a devoted heart. Hurriedly worship and pray to the Holy Eucharist, which is the Bread of Life, with a most sublime heart, and, thus, do reparations for the insults that my Son Jesus, Who is truly present in the Holy Eucharist, has received and give consolation to Him.



From left: Fr. Anthony Kim, Bishop Paul Kim, Julia, Fr. Gabriel Park (Naju Pastor), and Julio (Julia's husband). This photo was taken right after the Eucharistic miracle on June 12, 1997.

Now, consecrate your souls to the cause that is precious to me and become dissolved in the divine virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity in a holy and universal way. As I will always be beside you who are following me, do not have fear of anything, but spread (my messages). Those who are now opposing and criticizing you will beat their chests and repent later, making the number of the people on your side increase. The reason why I speak often and repeat my request is that many of the clergy, religious and (lay) children do not

understand my words. Who will be responsible, if the herds of sheep which have become lost get dispersed and fall into hell?

The subjects of Satan are dazzling many souls even by secretly employing spiritualism. Therefore, hurriedly discern (them) and spread my messages of love solidly to the whole world. Thus, let us enjoy eternal happiness together with the Lord Who is truly present in the Eucharist. You, who are following me and working for me, will surely stand by my side and see the glory. □

Children! My beloved children! There is no time to pause and hesitate. Hurriedly spread the messages of my Immaculate Heart that is burning with love to the children in the world and, thus, help the poor and pitiful children, who are mired in sins, gain a new life and be saved.

Many children in the world have lost their sense of direction in the middle of a whirlpool of confusion, are unable to discern, are spiritually confused and unstable, and are trying

to follow false prophets like people who have become so weak that they are reduced to skin and bones. The devils must be overjoyed.

Therefore, wake up from sleep hurriedly and respond to this Mother's pleas, which she makes to you shedding tears and tears of blood, and turn your lives into prayers. Cry out to the children in the world so that the

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From left: Fr. Francis Elsinger, Fr. Raymond Spies, and Julia right after the Holy Eucharist miraculously descended in the Chapel in Naju for the seventh time so far. This Eucharist had the same image as the one on June 12, 1997: the Sacred Heart of Jesus encircled by thorns. - August 27, 1997

GOD'S INTIMATE LOVE FOR US AND OUR LADY'S ROLE IN HUMAN REDEMPTION

By Fr. Francis Su

From eternity, the Almighty God, our merciful Father, has loved us all, His beloved, "with an everlasting love" (Jeremiah 31:3). We have always been "precious" in His sight (1 Samuel 26:21). Throughout the history of mankind, God has never stopped to show His intimate love and concern for us as revealed in the Book of the Prophet Isaiah (49:15-16), "Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb? Even should she forget, I will never forget you. See, upon the palms of my hands I have written your name." Yes, indeed, with such a fatherly heart-rending expression of His love for us, how could God, our loving Father, ever forget us, His children?

Again, in Isaiah 43:1, it is stated, "I have called you by your name, you are mine." How close we are to His Heart! How special we are in His sight! As the Psalmist says, "What is man that you should be mindful of him, or the son of man that you should care for him? You have made him a little less than the angels, and crowned him with glory and honor" (Psalm 8:5-6). How blessed we are! And indeed how unfathomable the mystery God's love for us is!

Today, we are reminded again of God's infinite love for us by the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, in his apostolic letter, *Tertio Millennio Adveniente*, had this to say, "In particular, man (vivens homo) is the epiphany of God's glory, man who is called to live the fullness of life in God" (#6). We are not just mere human beings but the ones specially chosen to share in His Divine Life. Praise the Lord!

Soon after the Creation, man in his pride, in his disobedience to God's words and in his wanting to be like God after being instigated by the devil, and of his own free will, chose to abandon God in the Garden of Eden. Since the fall, God set in motion His Eternal Plan of Salvation by sending one prophet after another to warn people of their sinfulness and to woo back "His unfaithful love." Man in his stubbornness of heart repeatedly strayed away from God and wallowed in his own slime of sins and unfaithfulness despite the continuing mercy and love from God. But God never

gave up to win back the "crowns" of His creation.

God's original plan was that man was created for Heaven and to share in His glory. His fall from grace was a terrible tragedy for mankind. God in His manifold Wisdom and Infinite Love had already readied His Redemptive Plan from eternity to come to the rescue of the fallen mankind through His Son, Jesus, with the "fiat" of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the "Woman" from the Book of Genesis. God's infinite and undying love for the fallen humanity was manifested once again through this Saving Plan.

This Saving Plan was that God Himself had to come into this world to redeem all in the Person of Jesus Christ, His only Son. This was the Father's concrete expression of the depth of His love for us through Jesus Who "emptied himself, taking the form of a slave even to accepting death on a cross" (Ephesians 2:7-8). He freely chose to become one of us. And this was only possible by clothing Himself in human flesh through the power of the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary, the lowly "handmaid of the Lord."

Yes, the salvation of mankind came from the Incarnation of the Son of God through the Blessed Virgin Mary. It was destined that God the Son had first to lower Himself in order for us to rise up with Him to our sublime dignity as God's children! In this Saving Plan, God the Father had shown Himself always as a loving, merciful and forgiving Father awaiting the return of His prodigal children. Beneath the Cross, the Virgin Mary was given to us as our Blessed Mother and, by His Death on the Cross, His Son, Jesus, became our Savior and Lord.

God, in His salvific plan, specifically deemed Mary of Nazareth to be the channel of the Grace of our Redemption. Mary was His privileged chosen vessel and vehicle to bring Jesus to redeem humanity from the clutch of its own perdition. Her helping role in Christ's Work of Redemption made the full realization of the highest and greatest act of God's saving love possible in the Person of Jesus Christ. Without conceiving Jesus in her



Fr. Francis Su and Julia during the 14th Eucharistic Miracle. The Sacred Host turned into visible flesh and blood in Julia's mouth. Bishop Dominic Su, who was the main celebrant of the Mass, later wrote a testimony to this miracle. – September 17, 1996, Sibul, Malaysia

womb and giving birth to Him, mankind could never have escaped from wallowing in the slime of their sins and wickedness. Man himself was responsible for his own fall from grace. Now, Mary's total surrender to God's Will made it possible for man to restore the grace through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Yes, in the womb of the Virgin Mary and through the Power of the Holy Spirit, "the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (John 1:14). It was an incredible but true story of "hypostatic union" beyond human comprehension and acceptance except for those with the gift of faith. Jesus, God the Son incarnate through the Virgin, was Salvation come into the world and His saving presence was a living reality right in our midst even until today all because Mary has given Him the "cloak" of humanity.

Thus, the Redeemer of mankind made

His entrance into the world through her "fiat." This is the highest expression of the Father's love for us in the Humanity of Jesus. And the highest expression of Jesus' self-giving love for us, sinners, is the Eucharist, His Body and His Blood, united with His Soul and Divinity. The Blessed Virgin Mary, in her co-redemptive role, cooperated with the Heavenly Father's Divine Plan of Salvation through Jesus in giving the Eucharistic Life to the world.

During her earthly life, Mary always followed the work of her Son and went out toward all those whom her Son had embraced and continued to embrace in His inexhaustible love. God the Father from eternity had plans to use her even to this day and especially more so at "the end time." From her heavenly throne, the Blessed Mother contin-

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Our Lady brings a message of hope for China

Julia Kim of Naju, Korea visited Hong Kong and Macao from May 23 to May 29, 1997, giving testimonies to the signs and messages from Our Lady. On May 25, Sunday, Julia and her companions attended Mass in the Chapel at the Pastoral Care Center for the Disabled in Kowloon. During the Gospel reading, Julia saw the Blessed Mother appearing behind the altar, between the Crucifix and her statue and received a message from her.

After Mass, Julia returned to her hotel room and began writing down the message. Soon, the devil came with a large army of his subjects and began attacking Julia. He said, "How daring you are to come even to this place! I have put in so much effort here, and the prey is almost ready (for me to swallow). And now you come here and try to spoil it for me!" He was so filled with anger. The devil and his subjects physically attacked Julia. The fight was so fierce that Julia fell down on the floor and became unconscious. Fr. Francis Elsinger of Hong Kong and Julia's interpreter were notified by phone and rushed to Julia's room. Fr. Elsinger began praying over Julia. About 15 minutes later, Julia opened her eyes and sat up. She said that it was the devil's attack and also that the devil was repelled when Our Lord and Our Lady appeared. She said that a powerful light then radiated from the two hands of Our Lord and penetrated Julia's two hands. Fr. Elsinger and the interpreter saw clear Stigmata on both of Julia's hands. Julia was asked if there was much pain in her hands and answered, "Yes." The

Stigmata on Julia's hands lasted several days.

The following is Julia's testimony:

During a Mass at the Hong Kong Pastoral Care Center for the Disabled, the Blessed Mother appeared as the Mother of Mercy, wearing a blue mantle, holding a scapular in her left hand and an ivory-colored rosary in her right hand, and with a bright light surrounding her head. Soon her blue mantle turned into a white mantle. She stretched out her hands toward us, who were attending the Mass, and then put her two hands together for prayer. This happened during the Gospel reading from Matthew 28:16-20 about Our Lord, just before the Ascension, giving the mission to His disciples to spread His teachings to the ends of the world. The Blessed Mother was smiling beautifully and lovingly and began speaking:

Dear children! Remember that I am always with you wherever you may be in the world. Especially console the disabled by letting them know that I love them very much. The devil is so active, employing all the available means to topple you. However, remember that I am guarding and protecting you who are striving to follow me, and entrust yourselves totally to me with faith and trust.

I also want you to practice my messages of love. If you accept my words well and live them in union with each other, my messages of love will spread to China also, they (=the people in China) will accept the Lord, and their souls will change. Therefore, for the con-



Julia saw the Blessed Mother appearing between the Crucifix and her statue during the Mass in the Chapel for the Disabled in Hong Kong. – May 25, 1997

version of sinners and for peace in the world, pray and make reparations and do penance without ceasing.

Whenever you pray, I, your Heavenly Mother, pray with you. However, I cannot pray with you, when you pray in a selfish way.

My beloved children! Always remember that the door of my Ark of Salvation, an Ark larger than the universe, remains open and that I wish all the children in the world to come aboard the Ark and help me so that

not only you but also (other) sinners may repent and gain Heaven. If you all live following my messages of love, the just anger of God the Father will be softened and the Lord will be comforted. To all of you, I give a blessing in the Lord's Love. An-nyoung (=Good-bye).

While the Blessed Mother was speaking, a powerful light was radiating from above and shining upon everyone in the Mass. □

THE ESSENCE OF THE MARIAN SIGNS

1. OUR DESTINY IS SUPERNATURAL

"God has conferred on man a supernatural Destiny." This is an official doctrine of the Church, defined by the First Vatican Council (1869-70), and means that our final end consists in our truly knowing God and His infinite Goodness and Love and participating in His Divine Life, loving and worshipping Him as His children for all eternity. This supernatural life can only be fully realized in Heaven, but can and must start and grow even while we live on earth. Regardless of our other achievements and prosperity on earth, our life will still be a miserable failure and will be devoid of true happiness and true value, unless we attain our supernatural goal. St. Augustine said, **"for you have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you"** (Confessions, Ii (1)).

The reason why the full realization of our supernatural destiny is not immediately available on earth is that God has created us in His image and likeness, giving us intellect and free will. He therefore allows us to freely choose between using our intellect and free will to pursue our proper destiny given by God and using them for our self-centered agenda in place of our proper destiny. By our power alone, however, the task of truly knowing and loving God is not possible, because we belong to the natural order and are incapable of reaching and associating with the supernatural world of God. Out of His Mercy, however, God not only gave us the supernatural destiny but also is making available to us ample supernatural graces to enable us to habitually participate in His Life and associate with Him in Love (= the Sanctifying Grace) and to enlighten our intellect and strengthen our will as needed so that we may effectively move toward Him (= the Actual Grace).

Our First Parents Failed the Test

The Church teaches that our first parents succumbed to the devil's temptation and misused their intellect and free will. As a result of disobeying God, they lost the Sanctifying Grace, which God had infused in them when He had created them. All their descendants would also be born without the Sanctifying Grace and with a wounded nature, which makes them vulnerable to the disorderly inclinations from within and the evil influences from without. As the humans continued misusing their intellect and free will, the weight of evil and misery was pressing down heavily upon the poor humanity. People were becoming hopeless, unable to remedy the situation by themselves.

God Sent His Only Son as Our Savior

Despite all the failures by humans, God did not abandon them. Out of His Infinite Mercy and Love, God the Son became incarnate and began His Work of Human Redemption. Through His absolute obedience to God the Father even to the extent of His most cruel Death on the Cross, Christ more than fully offset the sins of Adam and Eve and all their descendants. Now, by the merits of the Savior's reparation, any humans who choose to turn away from their sins, entrust themselves to the loving Fatherhood of God, and begin using their intellect and free will properly, according to Christ's Teaching, will be saved. Now, the door is fully open again to the

achievement of humans' supernatural destiny. Through the Savior's shedding His Precious Blood, a full reconciliation between God and humans became possible and, now, it is up to the individual humans to embrace this New Reality or still reject it.

2. GOD'S SIGNS CONTINUE IN SALVATION HISTORY

The revelation of the Divine Truths for human salvation was completed in the time of Christ and His Apostles two thousand years ago. There is no possibility of God's revealing additional new Truth for our salvation after the Apostles' time. This does not mean, however, that God has stopped His intervention in Salvation History altogether. In fact, God has continued His active intervention throughout the life of the Church for the purpose of encouraging, warning, edifying and helping His children on earth. We need not be surprised by this, because God is the Lord of History and can do anything that He wills to lead His people to salvation. God's continuing intervention in Salvation History seems to be aimed at two specific purposes which reinforce each other: (1) doctrinal edification of the faithful and (2) practical mobilization of the faithful to reject sins and reform their lives.

(1) First, when the revealed truths were given to the Church by Christ, they were not all in a form that was immediately and fully clear to the early members of the Church. As a tree grows and bears fruit over time, the understanding of the Divine Truths in the Church also deepens over time. Our Lord said, **"When he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will teach you all truth"** (John 16:13). This process also represents the light of Our Lord's Truth becoming brighter in order to repel the worsening darkness of errors in the world as the decisive time of Our Lord's triumph over the devil approaches.

This deepening of the doctrinal understanding in the Church does not seem to always require additional heavenly signs for confirmation, but sometimes is preceded, accompanied or followed by supernatural signs as in the cases of Our Lady's apparitions to Sister Catherine Labouré in Paris in 1830 and to Bernadette Soubirous in Lourdes in 1858 to support the doctrine of her Immaculate Conception. Our Lady's earlier apparitions in Guadalupe in 1531 also were rich in the doctrinal significance regarding her Immaculate Conception, her Perpetual Virginity, her Divine Motherhood, and her Spiritual Motherhood for us. In fact, the whole series of the Marian signs, which originally began with the divine promise after the fall of Adam and Eve that the Woman (or the Seed of the Woman) would crush the head of the devil, have been intensifying in the past several centuries. These signs are clearly and powerfully drawing our attention to the Marian dimension of God's Plan of Human Salvation, which has been so ignored for the past several decades. A clarification of the Marian role in Human Redemption will represent the full blossoming of our understanding of the Divine Mystery of Human Redemption and will also be a key factor in the decisive defeat of the devil's power.

(2) Second, the heavenly messages and signs continue also for practical reasons that are especially applicable to particular times. Thus, Our Lady's apparitions in Guadalupe in 1531 were especially aimed at converting the Mexican people and at stopping the evil practice of human sacrifices in the 16th Century. A replica image of Our Lady of Guadalupe also played a key role in defeating the Moslem forces in the Battle of Lepanto in 1571, saving Europe from an Islamic domination (Dr. Charles Wahlig, **A Handbook on Guadalupe**, published by Franciscan Friars of the Immaculate, 1997). Now, it seems clear that the miracle in Guadalupe is also relevant for our time. Our Lady's apparitions in Fatima in 1917 were particularly aimed at the con-

version of the world, especially Russia, through the devotion to her Immaculate Heart. In the Old Testament also, we see many examples of God's warnings to His people during the time of their corruption. So, the reason for the powerful signs and messages in this 20th Century must be the particular abundance and ferocity of evils in our time and God's Will to help us overcome these evils and return to His Truth and Love.

3. OUR LADY'S ROLE IN HUMAN REDEMPTION

When God the Father sent His only Son as the Savior for the fallen human race, He willed that the Savior's Redemptive Work be supported by Our Lady in essential ways. She would not be another Savior, but would be the essential Helper to the Savior. Her role would be constantly united with that of the Savior and would be indispensable in the Savior's accomplishing His mission. As Eve's role was essential in Adam's fall, Our Lady's role would be essential in Christ's saving the human race.

Thus, Christ was conceived and grew in Our Lady's womb, willingly dependent on her for love, nourishment and protection. Then, He was born of her, was nurtured by her, and grew up continuing to rely on her love, dedication and companionship. Also at the most painful time of the Crucifixion, Our Lady was standing under the Cross, suffering together with her Divine Son for our salvation. Even after Christ's Ascension, Our Lady remained with His disciples and prayed with them in the cenacle in Jerusalem until the Descent of the Holy Spirit, which marked the birth of the Catholic Church. Our Lady thus represents the perfection of womanhood as willed by the Creator, just as Christ represents the perfection of manhood. She was a total love, total dedication, and total humility and obedience before God. God filled her with grace from the moment of her Conception and decorated her with all the virtues, holiness and beauty that are proper for the Mother of God and the Queen of Heaven.

The Church teaches that, soon after her death, Our Lady's body was again united with her soul and was assumed into Heaven. Throughout the history of the Catholic Church, Our Lady continued her role as the Helper to Christ in human redemption, as evident in all the Saints' lives. As she was the most loving and dedicated Mother to Christ, she is also the most caring and powerful Mother to all those who follow her Son and, therefore, are members of the Mystical Body of Christ, the Church. As the true Mother of the Church, she never neglects her role in the sanctification of each of her members.

When the mother is taken away from her children, their normal, healthy growth is in jeopardy. When the motherhood is suppressed, the family loses love and vitality. Unfortunately, this is exactly what has been happening in the Church for the past several decades. By pushing her away from beneath the Crucifix and from the center of the Christian theology and devotion, we have become increasingly out of touch with the reality of God the Son's Incarnation and Redemptive Work truly continuing in the Church. In consequence, we have been losing faith in Christ's Real Presence in the Eucharist, neglecting the Sacrament of Confession, failing to pray for the Saints' intercession and for the poor souls in Purgatory, and becoming unable to accept the totality of Christ's teachings in His Church. As the Faith among the Church members has been weakening, the tides of evil have been sweeping over the entire world.

God is now offering us the last decisive chance to rescue ourselves from this crisis by entrusting ourselves and our problems totally to the Mother, who is uniquely and powerfully equipped by God to change our hearts, to break the devil's grip over the world, and take us safely to her Divine Son's Kingdom. This is the meaning of God's promise right after Adam's fall that the Woman would crush the head of the devil (Genesis 3:15), of the Woman clothed with the sun, wearing a crown of twelve stars and battling the Red Dragon (Revelation 12:1), and of the many signs and messages that Our Lady has been giving us in Guadalupe, Paris, Lourdes, Fatima, and now Najau.

4. DISCERNMENT OF THE NEWLY-REPORTED REVELATIONS

The Need for Discernment

A danger we face in considering the new supernatural signs is that we usually encounter not only true revelations from God but also many false ones from the devil. The devil was created as a powerful angel and is still capable of apparitions, messages and miracle-like phenomena. He is also eager to infuse errors into people's minds to mislead them and ruin their lives. For example, simultaneously with Our Lady's revelations to Bernadette in Lourdes, France, many other apparitions and messages were reported to be in progress in the vicinity of Lourdes, which all faded away after the true one was officially approved by the Church. Our Lord Himself warned us: ***False messiahs and false prophets will arise and will perform signs and won-***

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Mary's compassion for the afflicted was so great while she lived in this world. Her pity for us is certainly far greater now that she reigns in Heaven, where she has a better knowledge of our miseries and greater compassion for our afflictions.

- St. Bonaventure



The Seventh Eucharistic Miracle through Julia on November 24, 1994. A few minutes after Julia received a large Sacred Host from St. Michael the Archangel, she received a the Eucharist again, this time a small Sacred Host on her tongue. The Apostolic Pro-Nuncio (right) soon removed the Sacred Host from Julia's mouth and placed it in the pyx that Fr. Raymond Spies (left) brought. This Sacred Host is being preserved at Fr. Spies' residence in Anyang (see the photograph on page 8).

Continued from Page 6: THE ESSENCE

ders in order to mislead, if that were possible, the elect. Be watchful! (Matthew 13:22-23) St. John also gave us a similar warning: *Beloved, do not trust every spirit but test the spirits to see whether they belong to God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world* (1 John 4:1).

All the false messages contain errors, as the devil is the father of all errors. Errors, which are distortions of the truth, lead people to evil, whereas the Truth leads us to eternal life. Adam and Eve first believed in an error before eating the forbidden fruit. Abortion continues in our world, because many people still believe that unborn babies are less than full human lives. The errors, which are contained in the otherwise pious-sounding messages, are poisons that can gradually weaken our true Faith and lead us to a path that is foreign to the true way of salvation laid by Christ.

We need to keep our minds open

If false revelations are so harmful, then, wouldn't it be a good idea to close our minds toward all the reported revelations until the Church makes her decision? This may sound like the safest way, but actually involves the serious risk of missing true signs from God until it becomes too late. If certain members of a living body do not promptly respond to the signals coming from the brain, they may soon develop a callous condition that is harmful to the whole body. We should remind ourselves that the shepherds in Bethlehem two thousand years ago did not wait for an official confirmation of the signs that they witnessed before rushing to the Baby Jesus. When St. Joseph was told by an angel to flee to Egypt, he immediately knew that it was a true message from God and carried out His Will right away. If everyone had been insisting on a prior approval by the Church before visiting Lourdes or Fatima, it would have been impossible for the Church to conduct any investigation and make a decision because of the absence of fruits and witnesses. We should remember that God's signs usually come through humble and poor channels, in the same way as how the Baby Jesus came to the world two thousand years ago, that cannot be easily recognized by the proud and complacent and become humble persons ourselves so that we may not miss the precious signs from God. At the same time, we should always remain alert not to be tricked and carried away by the false revelations caused by the devil.

The Criteria in Discernment

Newly-reported revelations cannot authenticate themselves regardless of the strength of their following. Nor can one revelation be authenticated by another revelation. The Church is the only divinely-instituted proper authority on matters concerning faith and morals. In other words, the new supernatural signs are to be subjected to the teaching authority of the Church. Even after they are authenticated, they are to play supportive roles only for the main Work of Human Salvation already in progress in the Church. This supportive nature of the new supernatural signs does not mean that their effects can only be modest. On the contrary, they can have powerful effects on the Church and the world by drawing humans closer to the Divine Truths and by stimulating them to reform their lives according to the Divine Truths. A good example is the mass conversion by the Mexican people in response to the Miraculous Image of Our Lady in Guadalupe in 1531.

Until the Church makes her decision, individuals themselves will have to form their private discernment regarding the new revelations, following the guidelines of the Church, always keeping in mind that all private discernments are to be subjected to the official discernment by the Church.

The best criterion in discerning supernatural signs or anything that concerns faith and morals was summarized by St. John, who said: *This is how you can know the Spirit of God: every spirit that acknowledges Jesus Christ come in the flesh belongs to God* (1 John 4:2). This phrase used by St. John: *Jesus*

Christ come in the flesh, refers to the very essence of God's Plan of Human Salvation – namely, the Incarnation of God the Son in our human world, His teachings by words and examples, His redemption of humans through His sufferings and death, and the establishment of His Church on earth so that He could continue the reality of His Incarnation and Redemptive Work for people in all corners of the world until the end of the world. This is the only way of human salvation that God bestowed upon the human race. Anything that offers a different way or promises a "better" and easier way is false.

So, in discerning the newly-reported revelations, scholarly works or anything that concerns faith and morals, we should determine (1) if they conform perfectly to the already-laid path of human salvation through Christ – in other words, if they conform to the official teachings of the Church, (2) if they subject themselves totally and humbly to the proper teaching and pastoral authority in the Church, and (3) if they help the accomplishment of God's Plan of Human Salvation already at work through His Church. If the reported apparitions, messages and miracles contradict any of the official teachings of the Church, contain or promote any defiance and disobedience toward the proper teaching and pastoral authority in the Church, and do not help the Church in accomplishing her mission from Christ, we must not accept such reported revelations, because they cannot be from God. St. Paul said, *"But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach (to you) a gospel other than the one that we preached to you, let that one be accursed! As we have said before, and now I say gain, if anyone preaches to you a gospel other than the one that you received, let that one be accursed!"* (Galatians 1:8-9)

Because the new revelations and anything else that concerns faith and morals are to be judged by the standards of the official Church teachings, it is essential that we diligently and humbly study the Divine Truths in the Church and meditate on them. Just as any worldly profession requires much study and experience, the task of our salvation also requires much effort to deepen the necessary knowledge.

5. HOW WE SHOULD RESPOND TO OUR LADY'S CALL

If we are well informed about the messages and the miraculous signs from Our Lady, are amazed by them and believe in their genuineness, are we doing what Our Lady is calling us to do? Even though these can be the initial steps in responding to Our Lady's call, they do not by themselves constitute sufficient answers. Unless we proceed further, we remain at a superficial level.

If we go on pilgrimages to the Marian shrines and acquire many holy objects, aren't we doing great in responding to Our Lady's call? Pilgrimages can certainly provide us with precious opportunities for experiencing the presence of Our Lord and Our Lady and receiving special graces. Some people even experience a complete change in their lives because of a pilgrimage. However, they are also only the means and are not by themselves a sufficient response to the heavenly call.

How about experiencing miracles? If we smell the sweet heavenly fragrance frequently, witness the miracles of the sun, and even become instruments of miraculous physical healings for others, isn't this the evidence that we are doing fine? Maybe or maybe not. Genuine miracles are blessings from God and signs of His Love. But miracles are not by themselves signs of our sanctity, which only comes from true humility, self-renunciation, and love and sacrifices for others. The miracles that we experience are God's special encouragements for us to serve Him more diligently rather than marks of anything that we did well.

Then, what is the proper way of doing what Our Heavenly Mother is asking of us? In Naju, Korea, all the messages and signs that Our Lady has been bringing to us are pointing at two main themes: (1) God the Son's Incarnation and Redemptive Work became a reality two thousand years ago and still con-



On July 1, 1996, a bright light radiated from the Crucifix in the Chapel in Naju, and penetrated Julia's two hands, causing them to bleed. Fr. Francis Su (left), Fr. Raymond Spies (second from right), and Rufino Park, witnessing the Stigmata on Julia's hands.

tinue as a powerful reality through the Catholic Church and (2) God assigned a unique and indispensable role to Our Lady in Christ's Human Redemption as His Helper – in other words, as the Co-Redemptrix.

Some people may find it difficult to accept this concept of Our Lady being the Co-Redemptrix, but they will have no problem, if they remember that all of us are called to be little co-redeemers and co-redemptrices, offering up our prayers, sacrifices, and missionary work for the completion of the Mystical Body of Christ and the salvation of the human race. The Protestant reformers of the 16th Century said that human salvation had been completed by Christ two thousand years ago and all we had to do was to accept it by faith. That is not true. Our Lord said, *"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me"* (Matthew 16:24). St. Paul also said, *"Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ on behalf of his body, which is the church"* (Colossians 1:24). It is a correct Chris-

tian doctrine that, by becoming members of Christ's Mystical Body, the Church, we receive the mission to imitate Christ and walk the same way that He walked, offering up sacrifices, fighting our ego, practicing love, and spreading the Truth so that God's Kingdom may be realized on earth as in Heaven. And what was completed in the Head of Christ's Mystical Body must also be accomplished in the members through the workings by the members, drawing all the necessary graces from the Head through Our Lady, through whom the Savior was given to the world.

Then, a proper response to Our Lady's call would involve our truly waking up to the awesome reality of God's Work of Human Salvation continuing through the Church and also to the essential role that God assigned to Our Lady in His Plan of Salvation for each individual as well as for the whole human race. Based on this reawakening, we need to dedicate ourselves to the advancement of Our Lord's Work through the Church, imitating Our Lady, in a total union with her, in the true spirit of a missionary. □

SEES DEVOTION TO MARY AS ANSWER TO CATECHETICAL ILLS

BY JOANNA BOGLE (London)

Current religious education schemes, used in Catholic schools, downplay or even ignore the full divinity of Christ. In order to address the problem, it is essential for Catholics to restore genuine devotion to Mary and to understand the significance of her role, says a leading Catholic magazine in Britain.

Faith magazine, edited by Fr. Timothy Finigan, says that "the divinity of Christ is played down in catechesis and has been for many years now. The effect on Catholic life has been devastating. It is easy from a parish perspective to see the decline in action.

"One generation ceased to be active in Catholic life and began to treat the Mass obligation with less seriousness. Their children grew up into the practice of Mass only at Christmas and Easter and significant occasions. The generation that is growing up now no longer sees even Christmas and Easter as important."

Fr. Finigan comments on *Here I Am*, the religious education syllabus used in many of Britain's Catholic primary schools (ages 7-11): "It has been my own experience that children who simply and honestly follow the presentation of Christ in *Here I Am*, without further input, come up with a Jesus who was sorry for his own sins as well as for ours, a Jesus who was going to give up but soldiered on with help from the Father, a Jesus who was a great saint but no more than that."

He notes that the final resolution of the Arian controversy in the early centuries of the Church opened the way for a better understanding of the authentic role of Mary. The Arians sought to see Christ as less than God: They confused His role with that of Mary. Today, faced with a similar crisis, an

emphasis on Mary's true role will help to resolve the problem.

"If we wish to restore faith in the full divinity of Christ, genuine devotion to Mary, the Mother of God, will be a most powerful help in the work . . . Mary is 'Queen and Mother' by right of her vocation and mission in the plan of salvation. Mary is the Mother of the Church because she is the Mother of God. That latter title is the most fundamental of her titles and it is the guarantee of the Church's faith in the person of Christ.

"To address her as the Mother of God is only possible if Jesus Christ is true God, true man, one person, two natures neither divided nor confused."

Fr. Finigan suggests that "devotion to Mary can be an effective counter to the worst elements in the declining life of the Western Church." This is not only true at the theological level – because true devotion to the Mother of God cannot exist with ambiguity about the divinity of Christ – but also in the devotional dimension. Practices such as the rosary, the crowning of Mary's statue, and lighting votive candles are all popular and "user-friendly," speaking to the emotions and to the intellect at once. "They can teach us to achieve the same in the liturgical life of the Church proper, where the search for intimacy can lead to tomfoolery and the revival of the sacred can be come overformal. The *pietas* of Marian devotion leads us to Jesus whom Mary adored in the closeness and intimacy of the family home. The parish church, too, can be that family home where Christ is adored as utterly transcendent, yet loved with fervor and warmth." □

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Continued from Page 5: GOD'S INTIMATE LOVE

ues to come to embrace her sinful children and to reach out to them through her Eucharistic Son. Thanks to her many recent messages and signs in Naju, Korea, including numerous Eucharistic miracles, her children's attention is being drawn to focus on the Holy Eucharist. Yes, she came to lead us to her Son Jesus, the Eucharistic Source of Life. Why?

In her messages, Our Lady mentioned that her many spiritual children nowadays, suffering from the loss of faith, are receiving Communion sacrilegiously. Many are receiving it just as a piece of bread with indifferent disposition and incorrect faith understanding, and also with disbelief in Jesus' Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist.

Clearly, our Blessed Mother wishes to rejuvenate the correct faith understanding regarding the importance of the Holy Mass, the centre of our Christian worship and the Eucharist, the spiritual food for our souls. She invites all her children to come and open their hearts to her Son, Jesus, present in the Blessed Sacrament but also to listen to His teachings in the Scripture on "the Bread of Life." They are to believe and accept with faith that Jesus is "the living bread come down from heaven" for the life of the world. The new life He offers is an everlasting life which comes from partaking in the eating of His Flesh and in the drinking of His Blood, for He said, "For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink" (John 6:55). The fruit He promises is an intimate union with Him and a sharing in His own Divine Life. And Our Lady's maternal heart will surely be one with us as we gather to truly express this faith and our acceptance of the Lord's teaching on the Eucharist.

The Blessed Mother's continuing role in Salvation History and her constant motherly

love and concern for her children at every moment in human history must never be doubted. She is being used by God in a greater way now than ever to rekindle our weakened faith. In our time, at Fatima, she appeared as the "woman clothed with the sun" and at the end time, the Book of Revelation states that she will appear as "a woman, robed with the sun, standing on the moon, and on her head a crown of twelve stars" (Revelation 12:1) offering us hope and love.

Within this century, the frequency of her signs reflects the urgency for the sinful mankind to heed her call for repentance and conversion. Her maternal instinct to protect her children is making her cry out for the change of heart by all her wayward children who are in the grave danger of eternal perdition. In addition, the increased intensity of the numerous miraculous signs in Naju such as the Eucharistic miracles in the form of visible flesh and blood, the shedding of tears and tears of blood, the exuding of fragrant oil and fragrance of roses are signs of her love, presence and friendship with pleas to her children not to ignore the ignominy of their own sins.

The spiritual warfare, which will culminate in Satan's final defeat at her hand, has already long begun. The beginning of the end of this reign of darkness in the world is leading up to the Triumph of her Immaculate Heart in preparing for the second Triumphal return of her Son. Yes, ultimately, she always leads us to her son, Jesus Christ. □

Continued from Page 4: AUGUST 27 MESSAGE

devils, who have been afflicting you, may be finished off and you may gain Heaven.

All of you, whom I have chosen, must unite with each other with a greater love and must soften the just anger of God as little souls. You must realize that God can make you successful and prosperous, but He can also exterminate you (=the human race) and sweep you away. I want all of you to wake up hurriedly and be saved, offering up fervent prayers and practicing love.

When the Blessed Mother speaking, the light disappeared and it became quiet. □

Words of St. John Vianney

My children, I often think that most of the Christians who are lost, are lost for want of instruction: they do not know their religion well.

MATERIALS AVAILABLE

❶ Book: *Messages of Love* — *The Mother of the Savior Speaks to the World from Naju, Korea*

All the messages that Julia Kim in Naju, Korea, received from Our Lord and Our Lady between July 1985 and January 1996. Fr. Raymond Spies, Julia's spiritual director, says that these messages are like Our Lady's letters to us, filled with motherly love and concern. 304 pages, including about 60 B&W photos.

Price: \$12.95 plus \$3.00 S&H

❷ Book: *Our Lady's Messages from Naju* — *Compiled according to subject*

A selection of the messages that Julia Kim in Naju received from Our Lord and Our Lady, compiled according to about 100 different subjects. 112 pages and 13 B&W photos.

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❸ Video: *Mary Draws Us to the Eucharist*

Actual video footages and photos taken during the Eucharistic miracles through Julia Kim between June 1988 and July 1995. Powerful for revitalizing our Eucharistic devotion. VHS, 68 minutes. Available in NTSC and PAL.

Price: \$15.95 plus \$2.00 S&H

❹ Video: *The Queen of the Holy Rosary in Naju, Korea*

A comprehensive summary of the supernatural signs and messages in Naju since their beginning in 1985. Scenes of the Blessed Mother's statue weeping tears and tears of blood, fragrant oil flowing from the same statue, Julia suffering the pains of the Crucifixion and of abortion, Eucharistic miracles, and more. VHS, 55 minutes. Available in NTSC and PAL.

Price: \$14.95 plus \$2.00 S&H



The Sacred Hosts that descended to the Chapel in Naju during the Apostolic Pro-Nuncio's visit on November 24, 1994, being preserved in the chapel at Fr. Raymond Spies' residence in Anyang.

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