



Dolorosa

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A Crusade For Our Time

Taken from a talk given by Father Paul Krug
at the 2018 Ladies' Communion Breakfast
in Round Top, NY

Several years ago, about the time the ISIS terrorist group was still making headlines, I was returning to Albany from the weekend Mass circuit in Florida. I had just boarded the plane in Jacksonville and taken my seat when I was joined by a middle-aged couple. They had just helped their son settle in at the University of Florida and were returning home to the Baltimore, Maryland, area.

During the flight we talked about various topics which ranged from sports to the state of the world to religion. They informed me that they were Catholics and that they were very concerned about the future. Among their concerns was the apparent rise of Islamism in the world. "Islam," the husband told me in so many words, "is the fastest growing religion in the world. The Muslims are overrunning France and numerous other nations, and soon they will take over America if something is not done." The man then started giving me numbers and percentages concerning Islam's rise in recent years to back up his point.

I listened understandingly as the man continued. At length he concluded by telling me, "Father, we need another crusade. We need a crusade to stop the radical

Muslims and to protect Catholics and America. We need a crusade, and we need one today."

Throughout the centuries the term *crusade* has taken on various meanings. In common usage *crusade* refers to a long and determined attempt to achieve something for a cause. The Catholic Encyclopedia is more particular. In its article "Crusades," the Catholic Encyclopedia defines this term as any one of a series of "expeditions undertaken, in fulfillment of a solemn vow, to deliver the holy places from Mohammedan tyranny." These expeditions were eight in number and took place between the years 1095-1272.

Contrary to modern historians and popular opinion, the Crusades were not a series of unprovoked attacks against the so-called "peace-loving" religion of Islam. University professors, modern historians, and people from all walks of life believe and broadcast certain politically correct myths regarding the Crusades, for which there is not a shred of real evidence. A careful study of history—history that has not been altered or twisted by modern authors—will clearly prove all of these allegations false and will, in fact, show that the opposite is true.

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In 638 the Muslims invaded and conquered the city of Jerusalem. They laid siege to the city, put numerous Christians to death, and took the city for themselves. For the space of about 400 years after this event, the Christians living in the city and the pilgrims traveling there to visit the holy places were persecuted by the Muslims. Priests were beaten and even put to death. If the Christians refused to convert to Islam, they were made to do the work of slaves. Furthermore, they were so heavily taxed by the Muslims that poverty reigned among the Christians. Many Christians were thus forced to flee Jerusalem for their Faith. These are facts that modern historians do not tell us.

The truth is that the First Crusade, called by Pope Urban II in 1095, and those that followed were a just reaction to centuries of unjust Muslim aggression and tyranny. They were called by the Church to defend herself and her children against Islamic violence and injustice. They were waged to take back what rightfully belonged to the Church, namely Jerusalem and the places made sacred by Christ.

In the centuries that followed, numerous other wars were fought against Islam to avert the unjust aggression sanctioned and encouraged by that religion. For instance, in the thirteenth century, Saint Ferdinand III, King of Castile, fought against the Infidel in Spain and successfully drove the invaders out of the country. In 1571 Pope Saint Pius V summoned Christendom to engage the Muslims in a naval battle at Lepanto to prevent them from invading and ultimately subjecting all of Europe to the yoke of Islam. In 1683 John Sobieski, the Catholic King of Poland, with his army of 76,000 overcame a Muslim force of over 250,000 in the Battle of Vienna.

It was thus when Islam sought to forcefully impose itself upon Christianity and upon Western Civilization that the Church courageously rose up and defended her rights and the rights of her children. The crusaders, that is, those who fought in the Crusades, were thus defenders of the Mystical Body of Christ, the Church. While there surely were some abuses, the crusaders, for the most part, stood up for Christendom against the Infidel and risked their lives to shield Our Lord's Mystical Body from the scourge of Islam.

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In our own day, violence and hatred toward Christ and His Church have reached an unprecedented level.



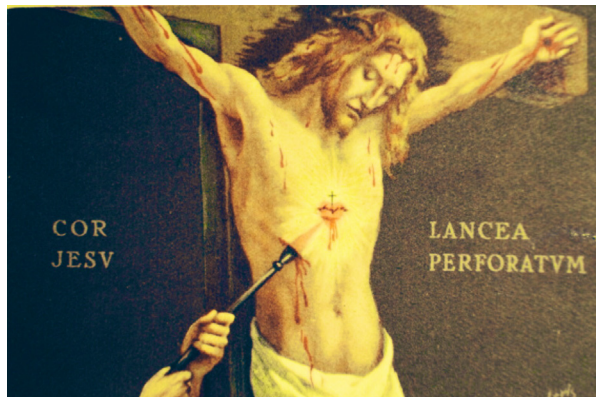
—Saint Ferdinand III, King of Castile

Today, however, it is not only Islam that wages war with Our Divine Savior, it is mankind in general. The violence done to Christ and His Church by the Muslims hundreds of years ago can hardly compare to the violence that is done to His Sacred Heart by the world at large today.

Modern society is characterized by three sins in particular: unbelief, blasphemy, and impurity. It takes only a glimpse of how people behave to get an understanding of how few believe in the true God, Who rewards goodness and punishes wickedness. It is unnecessary to describe or enumerate the horrible words directed towards Almighty God, Our Divine Savior, and the Blessed Virgin. Moreover, we need only look around us to witness the impurity and vice rampant in society and in the entertainment and literature of today.

These sins and all the mortal sins of the world pierce Our Divine Savior's Sacred Heart anew each time they are committed. In *The Dignity and Duties of the Priest*, Saint Alphonsus Liguori tells us that "mortal sin does so much dishonor, and gives so much displeasure to God, that were He capable of grief, sin would make Him die through pure sorrow" (71). That is how much mortal sin hurts Almighty God. Then, quoting the words of Saint Bernard, Saint Alphonsus concludes, "Sin, as far as in it

lies, aims at the destruction of God.” How much violence sin does to the Heart of Christ! How many countless times His Sacred Heart is punctured today by mortal sin! How many people, as Saint Paul lamented in his Epistle to the Hebrews, are daily “crucifying again . . . the Son of God, and making Him a mockery”! (6:6)



Our Divine Savior Himself has summoned us to this crusade. When He appeared to Saint Margaret Mary in the latter seventeenth century, He made an appeal not only to her but to all of us. His plea was this: that we be devoted to His Sacred Heart, that we make the Communion of Reparation on the First Fridays, that we strive to make up for the coldness and ingratitude of this

We must take this to heart. Consider Our Divine Savior hanging upon the Cross. He gasps for breath. His holy face is bloodied and bruised. His sacred body is a mass of scourged and shredded flesh. Then, imagine that all around Him stands a multitude of people that cannot be numbered. In their hands, they hold spears aimed at the Sacred Heart of Our Loving Savior. With every blasphemy uttered, with every mortal sin committed, these people drive their spears into Our Lord’s sacred side and gash His Heart again and again and again. I am not speaking here of those who sin through human weakness and who detest their sins, but of those who sin boldly and who do not care. Such people do tremendous violence to Christ—violence surely as great as, if not greater than, that done to Him by the Muslims during the time of the Crusades.

The man I met on the airplane was right. When he said to me, “Father, we need another crusade, and we need one today,” he was absolutely correct. We do need another crusade, but not the kind of crusade to which he was referring. We need a crusade for the defense of the Sacred Heart. That is, we need crusaders who are willing to stand up for Christ. We need crusaders who will be shields for the Sacred Heart and who will strive to defend Our Divine Savior from being pierced by the lances—the sins—of mankind. In other words, we need crusaders who are ready and willing to make the sacrifices necessary to make reparation to the Sacred Heart and thereby counter the evils hurled at Him today.

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world. In a word, He called upon us to be crusaders for His Sacred Heart. Our Lord and Savior thus inaugurated, as it were, a crusade—a crusade that could be fought by men, women, and even children, a crusade to defend

His Sacred Heart from the godless, wicked men of this world. He then commissioned Saint Margaret Mary to spread this devotion—to preach this crusade—and thereby appointed her to be the first crusader of His Heart.

It is sad, but all too true, that down through the centuries, very few, relatively speaking, have answered Christ’s call to join this

crusade. How many have left His Sacred Heart exposed to the spears of wicked men by not practicing devotion to the Sacred Heart and by disregarding His request for the Communion of Reparation on the First Friday of each month! How many have failed to comfort His Sacred

Heart by not spending time with Him in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament! For centuries Our Divine Savior has been forced to repeat His sad complaint: “I looked for one who would grieve together with me, but there was none; and for one who would comfort me, but I found none” (Ps. 68:21). It is as though He were saying, “Is there no one who will stand up for Me as I stood up for mankind when he was doomed to eternal perdition? Is there no one who will fight for Me as I fought for man on Mount Calvary?”

Considering all of this, we should ask ourselves, “Will I rise to the occasion? Will I be a crusader for Christ? Will I be a shield for the Sacred Heart?” Our





— Godfrey de Bouillon, General of the First Crusade

answer should be, “I will. I will rise to the occasion and step in front of the spears aimed at the Sacred Heart by means of reparation. I will look to my Savior and say to Him, ‘You have suffered enough, O Lord. Let me take this one for You.’”

This is the crusade Our Divine Savior has called us to fight and which we desperately need today. This is the crusade for our time. I believe that we can make a big difference in the crusade of the Sacred Heart. I am sure we have already done so, but we can always do more.

This is the crusade Our Divine Savior has called us to fight and which we desperately need today. This is the crusade for our time.

We will, therefore, begin a new sodality devotion: night adoration of the Sacred Heart. The idea behind this devotion comes from Father Mateo Crawley-Boevey, SS.CC. Father Mateo, who was truly a crusader and modern-day apostle of the Sacred Heart, lived in the late nineteenth-early twentieth century. He is best known for beginning the practice of enthroning the Sacred Heart in the home. In fact, having received orders from Pope Saint Pius X, Father Mateo traveled throughout the world preaching that particular devotion.

Besides the enthronement, Father Mateo strongly urged the faithful to undertake night adoration of the Sacred Heart. Very simply, it consisted in making a holy hour of reparation once a month in one’s home before an image of the Sacred Heart. Those who signed up for this

devotion were given a particular hour of the night during which they would comfort and console Our Divine Savior.

“While Judas watches to betray the Son of Man and finds plenty of accomplices to watch with him,” Father Mateo exhorted his readers in *Jesus, King of Love*, “shall the apostles, intimate friends of the King, always be overcome by sleep?” (240). He then made his plea for the Catholic faithful to make it a monthly practice to adore Our Divine Savior in their homes. He encouraged them to do this in the same spirit of love and reparation with which they would adore Him when before the Blessed Sacrament. As related in the pamphlet *Thy Kingdom Come*, Father Mateo wrote, “Will you not offer to watch one hour once a month with the Adorable Master during His mortal agony to which He is everywhere subject?” Continuing, he asks:

Is it asking too much of you to sacrifice one hour of your sleep once a month to console the sorrowful Heart of the King, when so many are devoting hours and even entire nights to sins which afflict and insult Him? Is not this the least we can offer? (17)

Father Mateo makes it clear that by means of night adoration, we can make a difference. We can console Our

—Father Mateo Crawley-Boevey, SS.CC.



Divine Savior Who is so offended by the despicable sins of the world. We can thus be true crusaders of the Sacred Heart.

In regard to night adoration for the sodality, I hope to develop it more over time and as the number of night adorers grows. In the meantime, here is the plan for this devotion.

- It will take place during the night of the First Friday of every month.
- The hours will range from 7 p.m. Friday evening through 8 a.m. Saturday morning.
- I will send a reminder email one week before the First Friday with a sign-up sheet listing the various hours and the special intention for each hour.
- If you plan to participate, I ask that you please email me a response as soon as possible informing me of which hour you intend to take.
- I will send updated lists showing which hours are still available several times in the days preceding the First Friday. A final list will be sent on Thursday.
- Multiple sodality members may select the same hour.
- If you select an hour and later want to change it, please let me know.
- If you are unable to make the hour you requested, please contact me or find a replacement.
- The hour of adoration may be made before the Blessed Sacrament exposed if your chapel has all-night adoration; if not, it should be made in your home before an image of the Sacred Heart. According to Father Mateo, if the hour of adoration is made in the home, it is ideal to make it before

the image that has been enthroned in your home. He even encouraged night adorers to light a candle before the image.

- The hour of adoration may be made alone, but I do encourage you to involve your family if possible.
- This devotion is open to the sodality members and to all who would take part in making reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Now, I do want to point out and emphasize that no sodality member is obliged to take part in this devotion. It is not sinful if one does not take part. There is no obligation whatsoever. Yet, at the same time, I do encourage all the sodality members to participate if they are able. The good that can and surely will be done through it is immeasurable. Not only will we comfort Our Divine Savior, but we will obtain from Him countless blessings for ourselves, for our loved ones, for those who have gone astray, and for countless other intentions. “What graces,” Father Mateo exclaims, “would be poured out . . . in reward for this monthly adoration!” Continuing, he writes in *Jesus, King of Love*, “The covenant of love between Jesus and His friends [will] one day be repaid by miracles of mercy, for Our Lord never lets Himself be outdone in generosity” (242).

May the sight of Our Crucified Savior surrounded by a hateful mob move us to stand up and be counted among His faithful friends. May Our Blessed Mother assist us to console her Divine Son on this crusade to defend His Sacred Heart. May the battle cry of the crusaders of old—the cry “Deus vult! (God wills it!)—be ever in our hearts. For this indeed is a crusade that God does will and that is most pleasing to the Sacred Heart. Indeed, it is a crusade that will certainly make a difference in our time and in eternity.



TO READ FATHER MATEO'S APPEAL
FOR NIGHT ADORATION IN THE HOME,
PLEASE SEE PAGE 6.

Appeal for Night Adoration in the Home

Written by Father Mateo Crawley-Boevey, SS.CC., to American Catholics in 1930

More than twenty years ago I launched my first appeal to generous souls to watch one hour at night in the home in reparation to the Sacred Heart for the sins of families. My invitation was intended for a chosen few—faithful friends of the Sacred Heart—the “little flock” of adorers who, once a month would offer consolation to the Master during the hours of the night, when He is so outraged and insulted by the sins of His so-called “friends.”

The response to the first appeal was overwhelming: a veritable Palm Sunday of “Hosannas” to the King, rising from thousands and thousands of family sanctuaries all over the world, sanctuaries wherein an army of Night Adorers is watching during the night in a spirit of love, of social reparation and apostolate. Truly, we may say an army of perpetual adorers who, “from the rising of the sun until the going down thereof,” in union with the priests offering the Holy Sacrifice of Mass, are making reparation for the sins of men.

Here in this great country, the number of Night Adorers is already well over the one hundred thousand mark, and perhaps even higher than we realize, for there are many who sacrifice an hour of their sleep each month and even more often, whose names are known only to the Sacred Heart.

If, twenty years ago, I was convinced of the necessity and importance of penance in the sanctuary of the home itself, I am convinced now more than ever before. The attack on the home, the last line of defense of Christian civilization, has been intensified, and pagan ways and pagan customs have invaded the homes that should be other Nazareths, to such an extent that many—far too many—superficial Catholic families are lifting their voices with those of the enemies of Christ: “We will not have this man reign over us!” If reparation is not made by penance for this modern betrayal, in the home itself, then may we expect and fear the swift punishment of a merciful but just God avenging the sacrilegious violation of a sanctuary consecrated by the Incarnation and Birth of His own Divine Son.

I say that I am more than ever convinced of the necessity of penance in the home itself. Naturally I praise and admire the great effort being made on all sides to develop the Eucharistic spirit in the church, and while I heartily applaud this splendid Christian idea, I must say that I cling more strongly still to the no less high ideal of Eucharistic Adoration in the home. Those really acquainted with the spirit of reparation of our crusade, and its transcendent importance in the home, will readily understand the “why” of this preference on my part for the Eucharistic Adoration within the family circle.

Not everyone is able to make the hour of Eucharistic Adoration in the church, particularly at night. Must they be deprived, then, of the honor and privilege of consoling the Divine Prisoner, alone and forsaken in so many tabernacles? By no means! In the sanctuary of their homes, let them prostrate themselves in spirit before the tabernacle, and, in union with the Priests who at that moment, in some part of the world, are offering the Sacrifice of Calvary to the Trinity, let them adore, praise, petition and atone in the name of their own and other families who offend and sadden the Sacred Heart by their daily denial of His rights as King.

I think there is no stronger, no better way to stress the beauty and necessity of family prayer, of penance and Eucharistic spirit, than by developing this threefold spirit in the home where the Sacred Heart has been enthroned in spirit and in truth. I would even dare affirm that the truest Catholic families are those that have understood the beauty and the duty of offering the homage of prayer and penance in the sanctuary of the home, where the family lives, struggles and where we die.

Once more then, Christian fathers and mothers, sons and daughters—all you who love the Sacred Heart, Priests and Sisters as well as the Laity, once more I appeal to you in His Name and for His outraged honor and glory, make reparation in a spirit of generous love and penance, for the fatal modern social apostasy of the home.

Will you not offer to watch one hour once a month with the Adorable Master during His mortal agony to which He is everywhere subject? Is it asking too much of you to sacrifice one hour of your sleep once a month to console the sorrowful Heart of the King, when so many are devoting hours and even entire nights to sins which afflict and insult Him? Is not this the least we can offer? Prove that you are His faithful friends!

I have never been disappointed in American Catholics, and I am convinced that I will not be disappointed now. To the thousands already giving consolation to the King, many more will come to Him as did the consoling Angel in the Garden of Olives. But—and this is most important—only generous and fervent souls are wanted, not those who think to console Him by night and insult Him by day, or those who try to make up in one hour for the offenses they have committed during the rest of the month.

And this is particularly true of those so-called Christian women, who by their pagan attitude, especially as regards dress, are piercing the Heart of Christ and His Blessed Mother. I am appealing to a select few now, as I appealed before. It is not the crowds of Palm Sunday we want, but the little band of faithful friends who stood by the Cross of Jesus as He died amid the taunts and insults of His own people. To them I stretch out my hands, pleading in the name of the Divine Outcast....what is your answer?