



Archdiocese of Dublin
Education Secretariat

Post Primary Diocesan Advisers R.E. News Blog – November 2022

Dear Chaplain and R.E. Teachers,

November can be a difficult time of year with the beginning of winter bringing long nights and cooler days. Throughout this month, we remember and pray for all those who have died, marked with the sign of faith: our family members, colleagues, neighbours and friends.

“The dead are not distant or absent. They are alongside us. When we lose someone to death, we lose their physical image and presence, they slip out of visible form into invisible presence. This alteration of form is the reason we cannot see the dead. But because we cannot see them does not mean that they are not there. Transfigured into eternal form, the dead cannot reverse the journey and even for one second re-enter their old form to linger with us a while. Though they cannot reappear, they continue to be near us and part of the healing of grief is the refinement of our hearts whereby we come to sense their loving nearness. When we ourselves enter the eternal world and come to see our lives on earth in full view, we may be surprised at the immense assistance and support with which our departed loved ones have accompanied every moment of our lives. In their new, transfigured presence their compassion, understanding and love take on a divine depth, enabling them to become secret angels guiding and sheltering the unfolding of our destiny.”

John O'Donohue, Poet and Philosopher - Excerpt from BEAUTY

The death of a loved one often leaves many unanswered questions as we continue to live our lives. Faith teaches us that we will meet our loved ones again in the joy of heaven. Death is an ending to life as we know it. Death is not the end, it is a transition.

Let us hold close to our hearts in prayer all those who have died and have been so much part of our lives. A Time to Remember - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RDQYetGLkms>

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Pope Francis to Swiss School Chaplains

7 October 2022



Pope Francis met a group of school chaplains and students in the Vatican.

He thanked the chaplains for letting him know about their experiences.

To the school chaplains, he said: *It is a demanding job, but which certainly gives a great deal to those who live it with strong motivation and a generous soul.*

“Every time one of you accompanies two or three young people on their journey, listening to them, listening to their disappointments, the failures and the doubts they carry within them, and then you speak about Jesus Christ to them, reawakening hope in their hearts, there something of the experience of the disciples of Emmaus is renewed. It does not depend on how good you are: it is the living Christ who passes, it is his Spirit that acts; but it is important that you are there, your presence beside them is necessary. Being there, accompanying”.

“I wish you all the best in your work. I bless you, your colleagues and your families from my heart. And I ask you, please, to pray for me.” Pope Francis

November Calendar



Each November, the Church invites us to reflect on all those who have gone before us, marked with the sign of the Cross, the Saints, those known and those unknown, who have completed their earthly journey and are now enjoying the fullness of happiness in God's presence.

According to Pope Francis, All Saints' Day is the feast of all of us, an occasion to increase our faith and hope. It is for the many hidden people whom we know and who, every day, live the Good News of the Gospel.

We too are called to be Saints, to be happy and complete people who have a purpose and a destiny to fulfil. We are created for happiness.

The question is sometimes asked today whether education should teach people how to cope with problems and be ever more productive or how to be happy. The answer, of course, must lie in teaching both as they are interdependent. We cannot be happy if we are unable to acknowledge conflicts or live with the tension they generate. On the other hand, if we associate happiness, holiness and sainthood with the absence of problems, we will never be happy. Neither will we be happy if we focus only on problem solving.

As educators, we teach students how to handle issues which constantly arise and, ultimately, to view problems as opportunities for growth. We also help them grow in the awareness that personal happiness is intimately connected with the happiness of the wider community. We cannot attain happiness, we cannot become Saints, in isolation. We are Saints in the Making!

Jesus has given us the blueprint for happiness, for becoming the saints we are meant to be, in the Beatitudes.

"The witness of a virtuous Christian life given daily by so many of the Lord's disciples represents for all of us an encouragement to respond personally to our own call to be saints."

Pope Francis, speaking to the "Holiness Today" conference on October 6, 2022

This month as we celebrate All Saints and All Souls, we invite you to reflect with us on the Beatitudes and use them as a teaching tool as we support the “Saints in the Making” who are our students and colleagues, preparing to take their rightful place in that vast and glorious throng whom we celebrate in a special way each November.

“Saints do not come from a ‘parallel universe’ but are believers who belong to God’s faithful people and are firmly grounded in a daily existence made up of family ties, study, and work, social, economic and political.”

Pope Francis, Apostolic Palace, October 6, 2022

Saints in the Making

“God creates human life - each human life - to know him, to love him, to serve him, and to be happy with him in this world and the next. That means God creates each person to be a saint.”

Saint in the Making - Mary Ortwein



The Beatitudes are a series of statements made by Jesus that begin with “Blessed are” which are found in the Gospels of St. Matthew, 5:1-12 and St. Luke, 6:20-23. The eight Beatitudes form the core of our Christian life and proclaim qualities which oppose many of the values of our world. The Beatitudes direct us along paths which will lead us to the happiness of true and lasting friendship with others and with God.

“The Beatitudes are often described as the Christian’s identity card. They identify us as disciples of Jesus. The Beatitudes are a self-portrait of Jesus. We know him exactly as the Beatitudes describe him – compassionate, merciful, solidarity and common cause with the poor, eager for justice and a welcome for everyone with no exceptions.”

Archbishop Dermot Farrell

“The Beatitudes are in some sense the Christian’s identity card. They identify us as followers of Jesus. We are called to be blessed, to be followers of Jesus, to comfort the troubles and anxiety of our age with the spirit and love of Jesus. Thus we ought to be able to recognise and respond to new situations with fresh energy”

Pope Francis

Pope Francis explained that each Beatitude is composed of three parts: the opening word “Blessed” followed by the situation in which those who are called blessed find themselves – poor in spirit, mourning, thirsting for justice – and finally the reason for which they are blessed.

The Beatitudes give us a picture of the person Jesus wants us to be. **What would it mean to live the Beatitudes? What is the message of the Beatitudes for us today?** We are invited to be humble, merciful, gentle, peacemakers and someone who seeks justice for others.

A Reflection during the month of November on the Beatitudes, Pathway to Sainthood and Happiness.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain;

And after he sat down, his disciples came to him.

Then he began to speak, and taught them saying:

Matthew 5:3-12 and Luke 6:20-23

Blessed / Happy are the poor in Spirit for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven



Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. . . Matt. 5:3

The poor include people in poverty, in need of basic necessities and also those, who are aware of their deep need of God and who acknowledge their dependence on Him. The reward is nothing less than the Kingdom of Heaven.

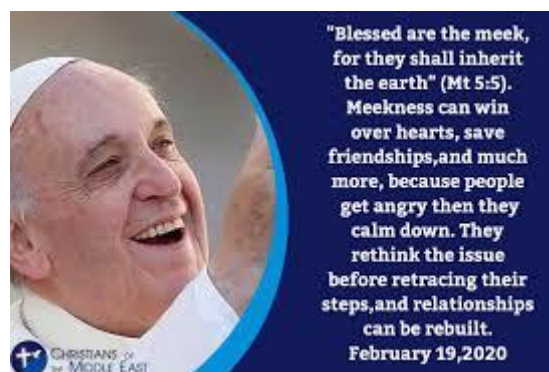
Everything is a gift which we receive from God. Those who are poor in spirit know this truth. They have grateful hearts and the words “thank you” fall readily from their lips. They know too that they are helpless to pray, to connect with God in any way except by grace. Their hearts are open to receive and they live with the emptiness which we often feel knowing that this emptiness, while uncomfortable, and calling out to be filled in other material ways, is a space in them that God can and will fill in His own time and way.

When we are “poor”, we depend on God’s goodness. We allow him to fill us with His Spirit, which help us to become more humble. We can live in a way that makes us happy with what we have – to be contented with the basics of life.

“Humility is nothing but the disappearance of self in the vision that God is all.”

Andrew Murray, Humility

Blessed / Happy are the meek for they will inherit the earth



To be “meek” calls for quiet and calm in our lives. When we are meek, we are willing to listen to what is going on around us in terms of challenges, trouble or distress. The meek are people who are humble, patient and choose other ways to resolve conflicts without resorting to aggression or violence in its’ many forms. They listen for the concerns of others.

Meekness is the special virtue associated with authority and it is needed by those who wield authority and by those who submit to it.

Meekness is the great virtue of life within family and school. The meek are pleasant people to work and live with. They think in terms of the happiness of others.

Blessed / Happy are those who mourn for they will be comforted



**"Mourning is an appropriate response to the brokenness of this world and of our own lives."
Chris Tiegreen – Heaven on Earth**

Those who mourn could be anyone who is sad or experiencing a loss of any kind. Jesus promises comfort for those who suffer. When we suffer, we have a choice to make: we can become bitter or better. We can become more compassionate to others in pain.

"Jesus praises the weeping class, those who can enter into solidarity with the pain of the world and do not try to extract themselves from it. Jesus is saying that those who can grieve, those who can cry are those who will understand."

Richard Rohr - Jesus Plan for a New World: The Sermon on the Mount.

The only comfort we can, and must offer, is that God is with us, even, perhaps most especially, in the pain our students are feeling. With God at our side, darkness cannot defeat us. This is at the heart of our faith; this is our hope and our comfort. God sees all that is in store for us every day and He is willing to bear our difficulties and burdens with us.

"Know that I am with you. I will protect you wherever you go. I will never leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Genesis 28:15

Blessed / Happy are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be filled



In our schools, students have a great capacity to see wrongs and often possess a simple view of complex issues. One of the most characteristic qualities of our young people is their insistence on fairness. They look to the adults in their world to treat them with fairness and they become indignant when they perceive something to be unjust. It is vital for us teachers to channel this positive energy that is in them into a commitment for a more just society both in their local community and among their friends and peers as well as in the wider world. Therefore, at the heart of our lives as educators we must teach courage. Repeatedly, we must encourage our students never to lose hope in people, in themselves, in the future or in their dreams which are what keeps courage alive.

This blessing is for people who hunger for justice.

The Vincentian Partnership for Social Justice – Our Understanding of Justice

Understanding of Justice:

- **A harmony which comes from right relations**
- **Relations with Self, God, Others and the Environment.**

Working for Justice:

- **Seeking to change whatever causes poverty and injustice.**
 - **Focusing on social and economic structures**

Blessed / Happy are the merciful for they will receive mercy



“The pearl of justice is found in the heart of mercy.” St. Catherine of Siena

God expects us to be merciful to others as He is merciful to us. To become merciful, we must first become aware of injustice and its causes.

Mercy is a word that holds many meanings: forgiveness, kindness and compassion. It is easier to extend mercy when we begin with ourselves. The great test of true mercy is that it seeks no reward in this life from those to whom it is extended. God is not outdone in generosity.

Love of God is the starting point of real mercy. Mercy encourages, mercy consoles and mercy lifts burdens.

The truly memorable teachers in our lives are the ones who had big hearts and who looked on us with compassion and saw beyond our limitations and frailties to the potential latent within us.

*“The good leader is a person of **heart**, with a **heart** for their colleagues, with a **heart** for their students, with a **heart** open to the promptings of the Spirit.”*

Archbishop Farrell

Blessed / Happy are the pure in heart for they will see God



The clean of heart are people who single-mindedly see God first in all situations and people.

We live in a virtual world ... much of our seeing and our connecting is virtual. Our students live within the cultural matrix of a digital world.

The blind man, Bartimaeus, asks Jesus for the gift of sight, “Lord that I may see.” Mark 10:52. We pray for ourselves and for our students that we, too, may see and recognise the creator in all that He has made and recognise its inherent goodness.

Blessed / Happy are the peacemakers for they will be called children of God



What risks do we take to make peace? We must continue to work for unity and understanding. Peace begins within ourselves.

We cannot accomplish our goals of creating a more just world alone. As peacemakers, we create opportunities for engagement. **“Do everything possible on your part to live in peace with everybody.” Romans 12:18**

We must continue to foster networks of community involvement. We must also develop ways that encourage our colleagues and students to enter deeply into the life and mystery of the Church and into service of all God’s people.

Blessed / Happy are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake for theirs is the kingdom of heaven



It can be difficult to do what is right, such as standing up to someone who is behaving like a bully. We learn from Jesus and through experience in our schools and within our families, that doing the right thing is what really means to be a follower of Jesus.

Leaders in our schools will certainly meet with difficulties and challenges, even opposition and persecution, but their belief in what they want to create and achieve will carry them through. Collaboration is challenging and time-consuming, but it is also time well spent in our efforts to bring new life.

The Beatitudes are a map, a guide marking the road to true happiness and to achieving our life’s calling - to be numbered among the saints. They are a path rather than a destination; we may never achieve them completely.

Archbishop Farrell ended his homily at the Mass for the Opening of the Academic Year in DCU, St. Patrick’s College, September 22, by sharing lines from a reflection of the late American Bishop, Ken Untener who, in speaking of education as a life of service remarked:

We cannot do everything and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something and to do it well. It may be incomplete but it is a beginning, a step along

the way, an opportunity for God's grace to enter and do the rest. We may never see the end results but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders, not messiahs.

We are prophets of a future not our own.

We are "Saints in the Making"!

The Beatitudes - Video Resource

Do you want to be happy? Do you know how to be happy?

<https://youtu.be/wwWCspyE71g>

Beatitudes to Teenagers – Barrington H. Brennan

www.soencouragement.org/beatitudes.htm

Teens' lives inspire authentic additions to the Beatitudes

<https://www.globalsistersreport.org/news/spirituality/column/teens-lives-inspire-authentic-additions-beatitudes>

The Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes - Lesson Plans and Spiritual

Reflection for Teachers

https://resource-macs.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/yr9_unit5a.doc

Posters

<https://www.caritas.org.nz/school-resources>

BE - BE Hope, BE Light, BE Love.....

Beatitudes and Values – Match each Beatitude verse with the most relevant pair of values shown around the sheet.



BEATITUDES FOR THE 21st CENTURY

Blessed be the earth and those who tend her, for she is the source and substance of our lives.

Blessed be the children who hunger for food, learning and homes that are safe, for their future is shaped by our choices today.

Blessed be the refugees fleeing the violence of war and poverty, may they find shelter, peace and work that sustains them.

Blessed are those who are calling for freedom, resisting oppression and risking their lives in the struggle for justice, for they are the shapers of a brighter world.

Blessed be the persecuted and wrongly judged, for theirs is a sorrow lessened only by mercy and human kindness.

Blessed be the prophets who speak and write of a world beyond war, for theirs are the words becoming flesh.

Blessed be the storytellers, music makers and artists in life, for they are the true light of the world.

Blessed be the tender hearted who mourn and grieve the wars we've fought, the lives we've lost, may peace ride in on the river of tears.

Jan Philips





The Pope's Intentions - NOVEMBER

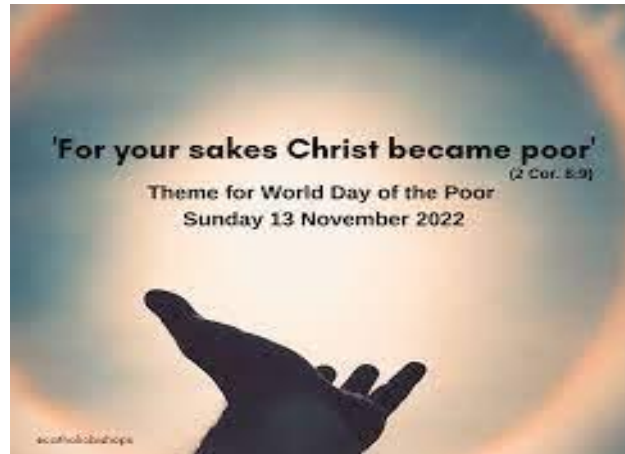
For children who suffer

We pray for children who are suffering, especially those who are homeless, orphans, and victims of war; may they be guaranteed access to education and the opportunity to experience family affection.

Group Reflection – For Children who Suffer

<http://popesprayerusa.net/>

November 13, World Day of the Poor



The World day of the Poor was first observed on the 19 November 2017 with the theme, “Let us love, not with words but with deeds.”

In his message for that first World Day of the Poor, Pope Francis said that the **Our Father** is the prayer of the poor.

Message of Pope Francis for the Sixth World Day of the Poor, 2022

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/poveri/documents/20220613-messaggio-vi-giornatamondiale-poveri-2022.html>

The World Day of the Poor is commemorated annually on the 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time in the liturgical calendar. Pope Francis has chosen the theme for this year's message, **"For your sakes Christ became poor." 2 Cor. 8:9**. He has noted that the World Day this year comes "as a healthy challenge, helping us to reflect on our style of life and on the many forms of poverty all around us."

Pope's Message for World Day of the Poor: "We must uphold values of responsibility, solidarity." Benedict Mayaki, SJ <https://catholicnews.ie/pop-es-message-for-world-day-of-poor-we-must-uphold-values-of-responsibility-solidarity/>

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030.

<https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals.html>

The measure of the greatness of a society is found in the way it treats those most in need, those who have nothing apart from their poverty!

Pope Francis, July 26, 2013

Doing a school project - St. Vincent De Paul Society

<https://www.svp.ie/what-we-do/young-svp/svp-in-schools/doing-a-school-project.aspx>



Within Young SVP, there are four main project categories: Befriending, Education, Social and Direct Aid Projects, all of which are relating to the mission and values of SVP.

youth@svp.ie

Telephone 01 8848233

Young people in SVP groups decide to act on issues that are important to them.

November 14, St. Laurence O'Toole

Patron Saint of the Archdiocese of Dublin



**Man of Peace, Man of Prayer, Man of Holiness, Man of Faith
and Man with a love of the Poor.**

The Story of St. Laurence O'Toole

<https://litmus.dublindiocese.ie/2011/12/the-story-of-st-laurence-otoole/>

The Icon of St. Laurence O'Toole

<http://litmus.dublindiocese.ie/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2011/12/PDF-version-of-LOT-icon-leaflet.pdf>

St. Laurence O'Toole was born in Castledermot, Co. Kildare in 1128. He studied at Glendalough, becoming a monk there and later its abbot in 1148. In 1162, he was chosen as the first native Archbishop of Dublin. He attended the third Lateran Council in 1179 and, returning as Papal Legate, he held synods to extend reform. While on a mission to King Henry 11 of England, Laurence O'Toole died at Eu, Normandy, France in 1180. He was canonized in 1225. He was buried in the Augustinian Abbey at Eu where his shrine still survives in the parish church. A small bone from his hand was brought from Eu and placed in a shrine in the church of St. Laurence O'Toole, North Wall Parish.

The Prayer to St. Laurence O'Toole

<https://education.dublindiocese.ie/2014/11/16/prayer-to-st-laurence-otoole/>

A Project Idea that may help to deepen and extend students' understanding of, and response, to the life of St. Laurence O'Toole.

“Laurence O’Toole helped people in the 12th century. Write about someone you know, or make up a story about someone who is like St. Laurence O’Toole, and helps people in today’s world. What kind of choices do they make in their life? What kinds of sacrifices, if any, do they make in order to help others”? The Man in the Middle - Desmond Forristal.

November 16, International Day of Tolerance



The **International Day of Tolerance** seeks to promote tolerance, respect, appreciation and cooperation amongst the world's different cultures. Tolerance refers to the recognition and acceptance of looks, opinions, beliefs and practices that differ from one's own. Tolerance is considered the backbone of [human rights](#) and fundamental freedoms as people are naturally different. Tolerance allows mixed communities to thrive and ensures that all humans are equally important.

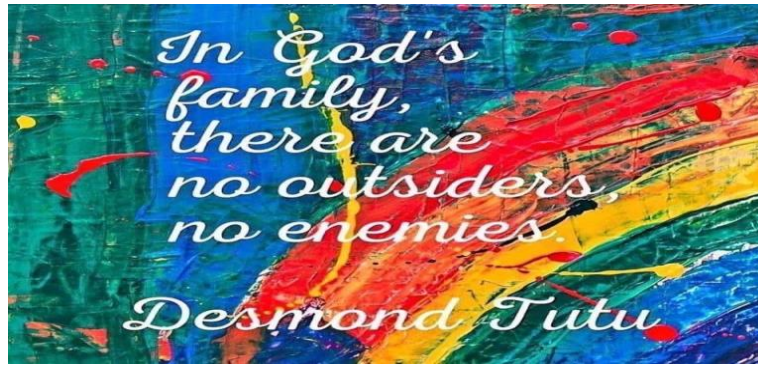
International Day of Tolerance is a great opportunity for us to think back and recall the last time we had a different perspective than one of our friends? We must be open to learn about the culture of others.

“No one is born hating another person because of the colour of his skin, or his background, or his religion.” Nelson Mandela

<http://.toleranceday.org/>

"Let us be very sincere in our dealings with each other, and have the courage to accept each other as we are.

Do not be surprised or become preoccupied at each other’s failures – rather, see and find in each other the good, for each of us is created in the image of God.” Mother Teresa



Loving God, you created humanity in your image and likeness. We pray that we may open our eyes to see your face in our brothers and sisters of different cultures, races and religions. May we focus on what binds us as a people rather than what separates us. Just as you chose your apostles from all walks of life, we pray that we may follow your example and embrace the unique qualities which each of us possess, so that we may bring about harmony on this earth.

20 November, **Feast of Christ the King**



Each year the Church celebrates the **Feast of Christ the King** on the last Sunday before Advent, also known as the last Sunday of the liturgical year. The Feast of Christ the King was instituted by Pope Pius XI in 1925. He called it “the peace of Christ in the reign of Christ.” The Church proclaims that Christ is the King and true leader of the universe.

Christ offers a kingdom of justice, peace and love. To experience the reign of Christ, we need the Peace and Love of Christ. We live in the peace of Christ when we surrender our lives to Christ every day in love. The call of Christ the King is for each of us, the call for constant conversion. “Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand.” Mark 1:15

The Kingdom of Christ is one that looks out for people who are experiencing poverty in its’ various forms, people on the margins, the distressed, the broken and the wounded.

“The crown he wears is of thorns; the throne he has is the cross; his royal banner is a scribbled sign that he is the King of the Jews.

That is the Gospel image of royalty: the king and the criminal who go *together* into paradise.

This is the king we celebrate and whose values we are pledged to live.”

Seasons of the Word – Denis McBride, C.S.S.R.

November 20, Universal Children’s Day



The theme of International Children’s Day is “A Better Future for every Child.”

The theme urges us to advocate, celebrate and promote children’s rights to secure the future of every child.

Universal Children’s Day is celebrated annually on 20th November. Its goal is to improve child welfare worldwide, promote and celebrate children’s rights and promote togetherness and awareness amongst all children. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child says childhood is separate from adulthood and lasts until 18; it is a special, protected time, in which children must be allowed to grow, learn, play, develop and flourish with dignity.

International Children’s Day is described as “*A fun day with a serious message*” by the UN when children get the opportunity to take over high profile roles in the media, politics and sports to raise awareness of challenges faced by children.

<https://www.unicef.org/world-childrens-day>

<https://nationaltoday.com/universal-childrens-day/>

November 21, Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qYVbgiAaY44>

The Feast of the **Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary** celebrates the dedication of the church of St. Mary built in Jerusalem near the site of the Temple. The present church of St. Anne, a favourite place of pilgrimage, marks the ancient site today.

According to an early tradition, Mary was born to Saints Anne and Joachim in Jerusalem, in a neighbourhood close by the temple.



In thanksgiving for God's gift of Mary's birth, they brought her to the temple to consecrate their only daughter to the Lord. What we celebrate on November 21, is the fact that God chose to dwell in Mary in a very special way at her Immaculate Conception. In response, Mary placed her whole self at the service of God, through her early childhood and beyond, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

The feast is linked with other feasts of the Birth of Mary, 8 September and of the Immaculate Conception, 8 December.

<http://catholicharboroffaithandmorals.com/Presentation%20of%20Mary%2002.html>

November 27, Feast of the Miraculous Medal



A message of Faith – A message of Hope – A message of Charity

Everything started in 1830 in the chapel at Rue du Bac of the Daughters of Charity, when Mary appeared to Sister Catherine Labouré. It was a moment in history when the world badly needed a concrete sign of nearness. Jesus sent Mary to show this love, this sign of closeness to the human person.

Fr. Tomaž Mavrič, C.M. Superior General of the Vincentians

There were no miracles worked and no secrets imparted at the Rue du Bac. Mary appeared to Sister Catherine Labouré, a novice of the Daughters of Charity, at the Rue du Bac in Paris.

The most important vision was on November 27, 1830. Sister Catherine described it as an image of the Blessed Virgin Mary standing on a half-globe and holding a globe in her hands.

Catherine's description of her first vision: "The Virgin had the globe in her hands. I had never seen this image before"!

"This globe that you see represents the entire world, particularly . "France...and each person in particular."

From Mary's hands, rays shone down and Catherine heard a voice saying, ***"These rays of light are the symbol of the graces that the Blessed Virgin obtains for those who ask them of her."***

There were stars around her head and around the figure of Our Lady were written the words, **"O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you."**

The entire image then seemed to turn around and on the back, she saw the letter M, a cross and two hearts, the hearts of Jesus and Mary.

The front of the Medal reveals LOVE. Mary with her open hands filled with light is the messenger of a God who loves us and continually comes to meet us.

The back of the Medal describes the demands of LOVE. The M symbolizes Mary's close collaboration with Jesus in His suffering, passion and death.



Mary gave Catherine a message from God: ***“Have a Medal struck on this model; All who wear it when blessed will receive great graces, especially if they wear it around the neck. There will be graces in abundance for all who wear it with confidence.”*** Catherine’s mission had been made clear. She was to have a medal of her vision struck in honour of Our Lady.

The gift of the Medal is a sign of God’s goodness. It is a treasure that is to be shared with everyone. Those who accept the medal and confidently recite the words inscribed on it will receive many blessings through Mary’s intercession.

The first medals became available in 1831. By early 1834, because of the extraordinary number of miraculous healings and conversions which the Lord worked through Mary’s intercession, the medal came to be known as the “Miraculous Medal.”

The devotion commonly known as that of the Miraculous Medal owes its origin to Sister Catherine, to whom the [Blessed Virgin Mary](#) appeared three separate times in 1830, at the mother-house of the Daughters of Charity in Paris.

The elements shown on the medal, the writing and the symbols, say something powerful about what it is to be a human being and to believe that you are made in the image of God.

For **Miraculous Medals**, contact: Telephone 087 3296171 or email virgopotents@gmail.com

The AMM – Association for the Miraculous Medal is a world wide organisation which was founded to spread the message of the Medal and to deepen the faith of its members. It is active in Dublin.

The Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal is in St.Peter’s Church, Phisborough.
<https://www.vincentianfamily.ie/association-of-the-miraculous-medal/>

Design and Meaning of the Miraculous Medal

<https://vinformation.org/>

- Printable Pamphlets from the Chapel of the Miraculous Medal, Paris
- Reflection on the Chapel of the Rue du Bacdu Bac Chapel
- Video Tour of the Rue
- Three Challenges of the Miraculous Medal

“Let us continue to believe in the Miraculous Medal and to utilise it. It bids us to think of Our Lady in many important ways. It is a representation of her Immaculate Conception, of her motherhood of grace, and of her company with us in our apostolic missions.”

A Thought A Day with, Frank Duff

November 28, Saint Catherine Labouré.



Catherine Labouré was born at Fain-lès-Moutiers, Burgundy, France to the farmer Pierre Labouré, the ninth of 11 children. When Catherine was nine years old, her mother died on October 9, 1815. Pierre's sister suggested that she care for his two youngest children, Catherine and Tonine, and after he agreed, the sisters moved to their aunt's house at Saint-Rémy, Côte-d'Or|Saint-Rémy, a village 9 km from their home.

Catherine Labouré was a young Daughter of Charity, a simple country girl with little education. By human standards, she was unimportant and insignificant.

As a young woman she became a member of the Congregation of the [Daughters of Charity](#), a community founded by St. [Vincent de Paul](#) and St. [Louise de Marillac](#). She chose the Daughters of Charity after a dream about St. Vincent. She was extremely devout. Having lost her mother at an early age, she developed a strong devotion to Mary.

On the night of July 19, 1830, the Feast of Saint Vincent de Paul, she woke up after hearing a voice of a child calling her to the chapel, where she heard the Virgin Mary say to her, "God wishes to charge you with a mission. You will be contradicted, but do not fear; you will have the grace to do what is necessary. Tell your spiritual director all that passes within you. Times are evil in France and in the world." Catherine did so, and after two years of investigation and observation of Catherine's normal daily behaviour, the priest took the information to his archbishop without revealing Catherine's identity. The request was approved and medallions began to be produced. They proved to be exceedingly popular. The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception was not official yet, but the Medal with its "conceived without sin" slogan was probably influential in the popular approval of the idea.

Catherine lived her remaining years as an ordinary sister. When her time of formation in the Mother House was over, she was assigned to a hospice for elderly men in Paris. She remained there all her life. The apparitions were an inspiration to Sr. Catherine's life of service. She was, as Pope Pius XII declared at the time of her Beatification: "The Saint of the duty of her state and of silence!"

Just before her death, she revealed that she was the sister to whom the Blessed Mother had given the images for the Miraculous Medal. Exhumed in 1933, her body was found incorrupt, and it now lies in a glass coffin at the side altar of 140, [Rue du Bac](#), Paris. Catherine died in 1876 and was canonized on July 27, 1947, by Pope Pius XII.

St. Catherine Labouré, Our Lady and the Miraculous Medal

<https://catholicfire.blogspot.com/2015/11/st-catherine-laboure.html>

Prayer of Saint Catherine Labouré

Whenever I go to the chapel, I put myself in the presence of our good Lord, and I say to him

"Lord, I am here. Tell me what you would have me do."

If he gives me some task, I am content and I thank him.

If he gives me nothing, I still thank him since I do not deserve to receive anything more than that.

And then, I tell God everything that is in my heart. I tell him about my pains and my joys, and then I listen.

If you listen, God will also speak to you, for with the good Lord, you have to both speak and listen.

God always speaks to you when you approach him plainly and simply.

