

Mary's Shrines

Miraculous Medal

by FATHER HENRY ATWELL

(This is the first of a series of articles describing the great Marian shrines of Europe. A diocesan pilgrimage now being organized by Father Joseph Grunione will visit these famous shrines next April and May.)

In response to Pope Pius XII's invitation to visit the great shrines of Mary during this year, pilgrims have already begun to visit 140 Rue du Bac, convent of the Sisters of Charity in the very heart of busy Paris, France.

In the chapel of this convent, on Saturday, November



The Blessed Virgin appears to Sister Catherine Laboure in the chapel of the convent of the Sisters of Charity on the Rue du Bac in Paris. In the chapel of this convent, Our Lady showed Sister Catherine the vision of the now-famous Miraculous Medal. During this Marian Year, thousands will make pilgrimages to this Shrine of the Miraculous Medal.

In 1830, the Blessed Virgin showed Sister Catherine Laboure the vision of the now-famous Miraculous Medal and promised that "those who wear it around their neck will receive great graces." Sister Catherine was canonized by Pope Pius XII in 1947 and her body, buried in a special tomb near the very spot where she saw Our Lady, remains still fresh today. High over the altar of the chapel is a copy of the Miraculous Medal. In the same spot where Mary first showed it to St. Catherine, thousands of pilgrims regularly visit this shrine each year, situated in the noisy downtown section of Paris. During 1954, Mary's Year, even more pilgrims are expected and special plans have been made to receive them.

These apparitions at Paris were the first in a series of remarkable visions from Our Lady during the 19th century. As at Lourdes at the end of the century, and as at Fatima in our own time, our Lady selected an obscure, humble soul to be the instrument of heaven's message. St. Catherine Laboure was born in 1806, one of seventeen children, near Dijon, and baptized Zoe. Her parents were devout Catholic farm people who had kept

alter rail and had her kneel. There was a rustling sound, as of a silk dress, and a Lady of incomparable beauty, dressed in an ivory robe, blue mantle and white veil, stepped toward her and talked with her and warned her, "You will have much to suffer." Our Lady foretold the evil times that were soon to come to France, but encouraged Sister Catherine to have confidence in Mary's prayers which are so powerful for every soul who confided in her.

Sister Catherine reported the vision to the convent chaplain, Father Aladel, who suspected it was merely the product of a young novice's imagination and paid little attention to her.

Within the week, however, revolutionaries stormed into Paris, profaned the churches and tore down the crucifixes. The Archbishop was forced into exile and sisters and priests were beaten and insulted. The convent on the Rue du Bac was left unharmed, even though in the very heart of the turmoil.

AGAIN IN November, the Virgin appeared to Sister Catherine and asked her to have a medal made according to the pattern she would now see, and then there formed round the Virgin an oval tablet, with the words in gold:

"O Marie, concue sans peche, priez pour nous qui avons recours a vous."

"O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee."

Then the vision altered, and Sister Catherine saw the letter M surmounted by a cross, and beneath were two hearts — the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The Archbishop of Paris ordered that copies of the medal be made, and from that moment, wonderful favors were granted, as our Lady promised, to those who wear it.

The medal's true title is "the medal of the Immaculate Conception" but God's graces have been poured out so abundantly to those who honor it that it soon was called "the Miraculous Medal."

It can be certainly expected, that during Mary's Year, thousands more will find the power of Mary's prayers for all who have recourse to her.

the birth (except the terror of the French Revolution. Zoe's mother died when Zoe was 10 years old, and one day, as she was helping with the housework and somewhat brooding over her mother's death, she glanced at the statue of the Blessed Virgin which was enshrined in her home. Zoe reached up to the statue, held it in her arms, and said, "Mary, my mother is dead; now, I'm by my mother."

Mary's prayer won for her chosen daughter the gift of a religious vocation to the Sisters of Charity, and she was sent to Paris to begin her novitiate at the Mother House.

A FEW WEEKS after she arrived there, one night near midnight, her guardian angel in the form of a little child, woke her and told her, "Come to the chapel. The Holy Virgin is waiting for you." When Sister Catherine reached the chapel, she found it brilliantly lighted, "as if for Midnight Mass."

The angel escorted her to the

1954 MARIAN YEAR PILGRIMAGE

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Diocese Of Rochester, New York

Tour "A"

France - Portugal - Spain - Italy

March 31 - New York - Sail SS "Queen Mary" of Cunard Line.

OR, April 14 - New York - Leave by Pan American World Airways.

April 6 - Paris - Arrive. One day city sightseeing including Notre Dame Cathedral, Napoleon's Tomb, Arc de Triomphe, Our Lady of Victory Church, St. Vincent de Paul Church and Sacre Coeur Basilica at Montmartre. Mass at Miraculous Medal Shrine.

April 8 - La Reole - Leave 11:50 a.m. by Sud Express with sleeper.

April 9 - Lieben - Arrive 4:30 p.m.

April 10 - Fatima - By motorcoach visit Monasteries of Batalha and Alcobaca.

April 11 - Lisbon - Mass at Fatima Shrine. Return via Sagrem Church of Bleeding Host to Lisbon.

April 12 - Lisbon - Morning city tour. Leave by sleeper.

April 13 - Madrid - City sightseeing including the Cathedral, the National Palace and a visit to Franciscan Church of Immaculate Conception.

April 14 - Zaragoza - By train. Visit Our Lady of Pilar Marian Shrine of Spain.

April 15-17 - Lourdes - By motorcoach to Lourdes. Good Friday, Saturday and Easter Sunday at the Shrine of Our Lady.

April 18 - Marseilles - By rail. See Statue of Our Lady of Notre Dame de Garde.

April 20-21 - Nice - By train to Nice on the Riviera. Afternoon excursion to Monte Carlo.

April 22 - Genoa - By motorcoach along the Riviera to Genoa.

April 23-27 - Rome - By train. Visit the Four Major Basilicas, the Catacombs, Vatican Museum, Sistine Chapel, The North American College and Holy House of Loreto. An Audience with the Holy Father will be petitioned.

April 28 - Rome - Leave by sleeper.

April 29 - Paris - Arrive. See Statue of Our Lady of Lourdes.

OR, April 28 - Rome - Leave by Pan American World Airways.

April 29 - New York - Arrive by air.

May 4 - New York - Arrive by sea.

Tour "B"

France - Portugal - Spain - Italy

Switzerland - Germany - Luxembourg - Belgium

March 31 to April 17 - New York to Rome - This portion is the same as Tour "A."

April 22 - Rome - At leisure.

April 23 - Andes - By motorcoach to Andes. See the hill where St. Francis worked and the crypt where he is buried.

April 24 - May 3 - Florence - Continue by motorcoach via Perugia to Florence. One day sightseeing tour including the Cathedral, the Baptistery, Our Lady of Annunciation Church, Pitti Palace and Uffizi Gallery.

May 3 - Milan - By train. Visit the Cathedral and see Da Vinci's celebrated fresco "The Last Supper."

May 4 - Lucerne - By rail. Afternoon excursion to Marian Shrine of Switzerland - Our Lady of Einsiedeln. One day at leisure.

May 7 - Maastricht - By train. Visit Romanesque Cathedral.

May 8 - Trier - By rail along the Rhine River to Cologne and to Trier. Visit Marian Shrine of Germany at Trier.

May 9 - Luxembourg - By train. See statue of Our Lady of Luxembourg. Continue by train to Brussels.

May 10 - Brussels - City sightseeing tour and visit Marian Shrine of Belgium - Our Lady of Beaurains.

May 11 - To Paris - By morning train.

May 12 - Paris - At leisure.

May 13 - Cherbourg - Sail SS "Queen Elizabeth."

OR, May 13 - Paris - Leave by Pan American World Airways.

May 14 - New York - Arrive by air.

May 15 - New York - Arrive by sea.

Tour "C"

France - Portugal - Spain - Italy

Switzerland - Germany - Luxembourg - Belgium - Ireland - England

March 31 to May 12 - New York to Paris - This portion is the same as Tours "A" and "B."

May 13 - Paris - One day excursion into Normandy to Lisieux to Shrine of the Little Flower. One day at leisure.

May 14 - London - By train and steamer.

May 15 - Dublin - Day service via Holyhead.

May 16 - Dublin - Half day city tour.

May 17 - Galway - Motor to Knock, visit Shrine of Our Lady.

May 18 - Killarney - Motor via Limerick to Killarney.

May 19 - Cork - Visit Muckross Abbey. Motor to Cork, visit Blarney Castle.

May 20 - Dublin - Motor via Waterford to Dublin.

May 21 - London - Train and steamer to London. Group joins His Excellency Bishop James E. Kearney.

May 22 - London - Motor to Rochester for the Dedication of the Church of Rochester, England.

May 23-24 - London - One day city tour including Buckingham Palace. Changing of the Guard. London Tower, Crown Jewels and Westminster Abbey.

One day excursion to Windsor Castle and Aylford Carmelite Shrine. One day at leisure.

May 27 - Southampton - Sail SS "Queen Elizabeth."

May 27 - London - Leave by Pan American World Airways.

May 28 - New York - Arrive by air.

June 1 - New York - Arrive by sea.

TOUR PRICES

Steamer	First	Second	Third
Tour A - \$168	\$1293	\$1378	\$187
Tour B - 1457	1582	1867	
Tour C - 1797	1920	2202	
Air	First Class	Tourist	
	\$1569	\$1337	
	1848	1632	
	2180	1964	

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