

THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL



**O Mary,
Conceived Without Sin,
Pray For Us
Who Have Recourse
To Thee!**

THE MANY SIDES OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL



*"Have a medal struck on this model!
All who wear it will receive great graces."*

Our Lady's Promise to St. Catherine Labore

THE HISTORICAL SIDE

Apparitions are unusual. And, yet, they are dramatic reminders of what is going on all the time. About midnight on July 18, 1830, Catherine Labore (a novice with the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul) was led to the chapel of the Rue du Bac in Paris and there spoke with the Mother of God. In a dramatic way, she experienced the care and affection which Our Lady has for everyone but, especially, for those who bear the name of her Son and call themselves Christians.

Catherine was given a task. Four months later, on November 27, she was shown the design of a medal which would remind people - rather as the apparitions reminded Catherine - of the love and protection which Our Lady offers us. Wearing the Medal would be our gesture of acceptance.

For forty-seven years, Catherine lived an ordinary, obscure and laborious life as a Daughter of Charity - and no one, except her confessor, knew that it was she who had received from Our Lady the request to have the Medal made and distributed. In their various apostolates, the Daughters of

Charity and the Vincentian Fathers have since then publicized and promoted the Medal and its message to the world.

THE FRONT

Here, we see a woman, the Mother of God, encircled by a short and famous prayer: **"O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee."** Being conceived without sin - often referred to as her Immaculate Conception - means that from the beginning this woman was full of grace.

Mary stands on a globe, the world. Around her feet a twisted serpent, the devil, struggles for mastery. It is a conflict between good and evil. Satan's world is one of darkness and disgrace, Mary's - a world of light and grace. But hers is the victory, won by Christ - the Light of the world. So, we see the light and grace of Christ flowing from her hands; and those who choose grace rather than darkness turn to her for help: **"Pray for us who have recourse to thee."**

THE BACK

On the back of the Medal, we see a large letter "M" with a Cross above it. "M" is for Mary and Mother because she is indeed the Mother of God's people - a people founded on the twelve Apostles, signified by the twelve stars arranged around the side. And, God's people have learned to turn to their mother, knowing she will listen with a mother's sympathy and affection.

The two Hearts are those of Jesus and Mary. God's message for Mary was one of suffering: **'a sword will pierce your heart too'** - just as the Heart of her Son would be pierced by a soldier's lance. The showing of the two Hearts is a reminder of God's love for us; Mother and Son united in the work of redemption as Christ offers Himself on the Cross and Mary stands by that Cross, assenting in faith so that the world might be saved.

THE MEDAL, THEN, IS A SUMMARY IN ITSELF OF THE CHURCH'S TEACHING ON OUR LADY - AS WELL AS A PERSONAL MESSAGE TO EACH ONE OF US: MARY IS OUR MOTHER, MEDIATRIX AND CO-REDEMPTRIX.

THE SPIRITUAL SIDE

Suffering - in one form or another - comes to all of us as we travel along life's road. When we meet suffering, it is difficult for us to accept that God is a loving Father. Our Lady will help lighten our darkness for she brought forth Him Who is **"the Light of the world."**

Here, in Saint Catherine's own words, is a description of the apparition of November 27, 1830, when Our Lady showed the Medal to her:

Her feet rested on a white globe ... I saw rings on her fingers ... each ring was set with gems ... the larger gems emitted greater rays and the smaller gems, smaller rays ... I could not express what I saw, the beauty and the brilliance of the dazzling rays ... a frame ... formed round the Blessed Virgin. Within it was written in letters of gold: **'O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee'** ... at this instant, the tableau seemed to turn and I beheld the reverse of the Medal: a large **"M"** surmounted by a bar and a Cross; beneath the **"M"** were the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, the one crowned with thorns, the other with a pierced sword.

Then a voice said to me: **"Have a medal struck after this model! All those who wear it will receive great graces."**

When Saint Catherine related the vision to her confessor, Vincentian Father, Jean Marie Aladel, he asked her whether she had seen any writing on the back of the Medal. She answered that she had seen none at all.

"Ah," he said, **"ask the Blessed Virgin what to put there."** The Sister obeyed and prayed to Mary a long time for this information. One day, during meditation, she seemed to hear a voice saying: **"The (M) and the two Hearts express enough."**

In 1832, the first Medals were made in accordance to Our Lady's design. They were freely circulated and, in a short time, were worn by millions. Innumerable wonders followed: health was restored, bad habits broken, dangers averted - until the little Medal of the Immaculate Conception soon became known by the name it bears today, the **Miraculous Medal.**

Interestingly, it was not until the year of her death in 1876, Saint Catherine revealed that she had received the Medal from Mary. She had kept the secret for 46 years.

**"IN OBEDIENCE TO THE
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION,
I COMMAND YOU, EVERY
UNCLEAN SPIRIT, TO DEPART;
CEASE YOUR ATTACKS ON US,
OUR FAMILY, BUSINESS,
SURROUNDINGS, AND THOSE
FOR WHOM WE PRAY.
IN THE NAME OF JESUS
CHRIST, I COMMAND YOU
INTO THE DEEP PIT."**

**O Mary
Conceived Without Sin,
Pray For Us
Who Have Recourse
To Thee!**

(Three times)

NOVENA PRAYER

○ Immaculate Virgin Mary, Mother of Our Lord Jesus Christ and Our Mother, penetrated with the most lively confidence in thy all-powerful and never failing intercession, manifested so often through the Miraculous Medal, we thy loving and trustful Children implore thee to obtain for us the graces and favors we ask during this Novena, if they be beneficial to our immortal souls and the souls for whom we pray. (pause) Obtain for us, O Immaculate Virgin Mary, a deep hatred of sin, and that purity of heart which will attach us to God alone so that our every thought, word and deed may tend to His greater glory. Obtain for us also a spirit of prayer and self-denial so that we may recover by penance what we have lost by sin; and, at length, attain to that blessed abode where thou art the Queen of angels and of men. Amen.

**By THINE IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION, O MARY, MAKE MY
BODY PURE AND MY SPIRIT HOLY!**



Go For The Triumph!

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