

The Miraculous Medal and St. Maximilian Kolbe

A few days after atheist Alphonse Ratisbonne agreed to wear the Miraculous Medal, he converted to the Catholic Faith. His story inspired St. Maximilian to make wearing the Miraculous Medal a condition of membership in the Militia Immaculatae.

"Distribute her Miraculous Medal, wherever possible. To children, so they always wear it around their necks, to the elderly, and to young people in particular, so that under her care they have enough strength to resist so many temptations and pitfalls lying in wait for them in our times.

And to those who do not visit the church, are afraid to come to the confession, sneer at religious practices, laugh at truths of faith, are stuck in moral mud or stay apart from the Church in heresy – it is absolutely necessary to offer the Miraculous Medal to them and ask them to wear it, and beg the Immaculate for their conversion in the meanwhile.

Many find the way, even when someone absolutely does not want to accept the Miraculous Medal. Simply sew it in secret into their clothes and pray, and Immaculate Mary sooner or later shows what she can do. So, the Miraculous Medal is a bullet of the Knights of the Immaculata". (Hrodna, before May 1926)



About the Miraculous Medal

"All those who wear it, will receive great graces especially if they wear it around the neck. Those who repeat this prayer with devotion will be in a special way under the protection of the Mother of God. Graces will be abundantly bestowed upon those who have confidence."

Our Lady during Second Apparition
to St. Catherine Labouré (the 27th of November 1830)



Prayer in English:

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

Prayer in Latin:

O Maria, sine labe concepta, ora pro nobis, qui ad Te recurrimus.



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The Miraculous Medal



The Apparition of the Miraculous Medal

On the 27th of November 1830, Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to Catherine Labouré, who at that time was a novice from the Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul. Sister Labouré had three apparitions of Our Lady at Rue de Bac 140 in Paris.

During the second apparition the Immaculata instructed Catherine to mint and distribute the Miraculous Medal using the pattern revealed.

Many conversions

Only 3 examples

Conversion of Monseigneur de Pradt

Monseigneur de Pradt was an unlawful Archbishop of Mechlin because he had received his office from the emperor rather than from the Pope. He refused to admit his error even when he lay dying (in 1830), until the Bishop of Paris visited him, bringing him a Miraculous Medal and calling on the help of the Immaculata. Monseigneur de Pradt accepted the medal, renounced his mistake, and was reconciled with the Church. This was the first great triumph of the Miraculous Medal.

The Symbolism of the Miraculous Medal

A prayer to honour the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady: "O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us, who have recourse to Thee."

Rays coming forth from the hands of Mary, falling on all in the world. These are the graces she has begged from her Most Holy Son Jesus, to help us overcome Satan and endure his temptations. Mary is the Mediatrix of all graces.



Mary stands on a globe, which is a symbol of the earth. Under her feet is a serpent, representing Satan. Mary is crushing the head of the serpent. (Gen. 3:15)

The twelve stars refer to John's vision in revelation, "and on her head a crown of twelve stars" (Rev. 12:1). The stars symbolize the Church, founded by Jesus on the Twelve Apostles.



The Cross stands for Jesus and His sacrifice for us.

The Capital 'M' below the Cross stands for Holy Mary, our Mother, who stood by the Cross on Calvary, as her Son suffered for our sins. The Capital 'M' may also be a reference to the Holy Mass, because when we assist at Mass, we stand like Mary at the foot of the Cross.

The two hearts burning with love for humanity. On the left is The Most Sacred Heart of Our Lord Jesus Christ, crowned with thorns – our sins. On the right side is The Immaculate Heart of Mary – pierced by a sword.

Conversion of Alphonse Ratisbonne

Alphonse Ratisbonne was a Jew who did not even believe in God. In 1842, he visited Rome and met a friend of his brother, who gave him a Miraculous Medal. Alphonse mockingly allowed the Miraculous Medal to be hung around his neck. His brother's friend and a lot of other people prayed for him. A few days later, Our Lady revealed herself to him in the church of St. Andrea in Rome, and he was converted. Later he became a priest and founded the order for the conversion of Jews.

Conversion of Claude Newman

In 1942, Claude Newman killed a man and was sentenced to death. When he was in prison, he picked up a Miraculous Medal which another man had thrown on the ground and put it around his own neck. That night, Claude was awakened from sleep by a beautiful lady, who told him, "If you want me to be your Mother, and yourself to be my son, call for a Catholic priest." The next day, a priest came to Claude's cell and began to instruct him and four other prisoners on the Catholic faith. Claude was able to confess his sin and to receive the sacraments before he died.