



# ASSOCIATION OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL

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Bulletín N° 57

*LET US REMEMBER MARY*

*An Interesting Story*

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Certainly, we are all familiar with the flag of the European Union. The flag was the result of a competition that was won by Arsenio Heitz, a devout Catholic. He knew the history of the Blessed Mother's appearance to Saint Catherine Laboure and he had a great love for the medal that came into existence as a result of that apparition. He was also very aware of the Scripture passage: *A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars* (Revelation 12:1). He proposed making a flag that would have a blue background and, in the center would be a circle of twelve stars (the stars being a symbol of fullness). In 2004 he explained in an interview that his inspiration in designing this flag was Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal.



It could be said then that the flag of the European Union has a profound Marian significance and recalls the Virgin's appearance to Catherine Laboure. What do we mean when we speak about "recalling"? We mean that we remember some person or event, that we do not forget an important event and that recalling such an event continues to enrich us.

**Let us remember Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal**

To remember Mary is to fulfill the purpose of the Association:

*The Association arose to spread the message of the Medal, as a catechesis of Salvation History, offered by the Virgin Mary, for those who have a simple heart (International Statutes, #1)*

We remember Mary because we consider this necessary if we want to grow in the Christian life and if we want to live a qualitative life inspired by the teachings of Mary's son, Jesus Christ. Mary, who gave life to Jesus, should be at the center of every attempt to better our life.

***To remember Mary is to recall:***

That Mary has always been present and has taken part in the important and complex events that mark the life of individuals, families and nations. In the *Hail Mary* we pray that Mary will be present to us at the time of our death, at the time that we journey from this life to another life.

**To remember Mary is to recall** that Mary became present and revealed herself to Saint Catherine Laboure when France, the world, and the Vincentian Family needed the sign of her medal in order to confront the challenges that arose at the time.



# REMEMBER MARY

**To remember Mary is to recall** that Mary, through our instrumentality, wants to be present in the ministry of spreading the gospel, a ministry that is the realization of the Church's mission (a ministry that is intended to contain people, families, society and cultures from distancing themselves from God). It is in this process of evangelization that the Miraculous Medal Association must make greater effort, first, to evangelize its members and then second, to evangelize all those persons whom the members encounter.

It is important that we make every effort to fulfill the purposes outlined in our International Statutes: *The following of Jesus Christ after the example of Mary, disciple and model of the Christian life; the spreading of Marian spirituality by the message of the Miraculous Medal; sanctification by fellowship, spiritual life and apostolate; serving and evangelizing.*

**To remember Mary is to follow Christ in faith ... and to do so in the same way that Mary followed Jesus.** It is to seek personal sanctification through fulfilling our obligations as members of the Miraculous Medal Association.

The evangelizing mission of the Church is difficult. Today, some sectors of society have no element of anything religious. Each one of us has experienced this reality. **To remember Mary not only means** participating in pious acts but it also means experiencing her presence and her action in our midst ... and that experience enables us to glorify God and to serve our sisters and brothers who are in need.

**To remember Mary is especially important** in our cities and villages that are often lacking sound values. The person of Mary is characterized by integrity and by obedience to God and reflection on the Word. Mary knew how to be the mother of Jesus as well as the mother of the followers of Jesus. She is attentive to the needs of others.



To remember Mary in the midst of a violent, hungry, and unjust world, a world in need of living the values of marriage, the values of fatherhood and motherhood, is to place oneself (like Mary and with Mary) on the side of those who desire a distinct world, a world in which the kingdom of God is built up.

To remember Mary, for us as members of the Association, is to continue to know and to proclaim the message that was gifted us at the time of her appearance to Catherine Laboure ... a message that is imprinted on the medal that was given to the people ... a medal that from the time of its origin has been called "the miraculous medal".

### *A NEW CELEBRATION HONORS MARY*



On October 7, 2019, the Pontifical Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments promulgated a Decree in which it is stated that the optional memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Loreto should be inscribed in the Roman Calendar on December 10<sup>th</sup>, the day on which the feast falls in Loreto and is to be celebrated every year.

**DECREE:**

Since the Middle Ages veneration for the Holy House of Loreto has been the origin of that particular shrine which still today is visited by many faithful pilgrims in order to nourish their faith in the Word of God made flesh for us.

This shrine recalls the mystery of the Incarnation, leading all those who visit it to



consider "the fullness of time", when God sent his Son, born of a woman, as well as to meditate both on the words of the Angel announcing the Good News and on the words of the Virgin in response to the divine call. Overshadowed by the Spirit, the humble handmaid of the Lord so became the dwelling-place of divinity, the purist image of the holy Church.



Closely bound to the Apostolic See this shrine, praised by Popes and known throughout the world, has, over the years and no less than Nazareth in the Holy Land, been able to illustrate powerfully the evangelical virtues of the Holy Family.

In the Holy House, before the image of the Mother of the Redeemer and of the Church, Saints and Blesseds have responded to their vocation, the sick have invoked consolation in suffering, the people of God have begun to praise and plead with Mary using the Litany of Loreto, which is known throughout the world. In a particular way all those who travel via aircraft have found in her their heavenly patron.

In light of this, Pope Francis has decreed, by his own authority, that the optional memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Loreto should be inscribed in the Roman Calendar on 10 December, the day on which the feast falls in Loreto, and celebrated every year. This celebration will help all people, especially families, youth and religious to imitate the virtues of that perfect disciple of the Gospel, the Virgin Mother, who, in conceiving the Head of the Church also accepted us as her own.

Therefore the new memorial must appear in all Calendars and Liturgical Books for the celebration of Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours; the relative texts are attached to this decree and their translations, approved by the Episcopal Conferences, will be published after confirmation by this Dicastery.



Anything to the contrary notwithstanding.

From the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, 7 October 2019, the memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary of the Rosary.

Roberto Card. Sarah  
*Prefect*

+Arthur Roche  
Archbishop Secretary

Surely, we are interested in knowing more details about the Holy House of Loreto and so we provide the following information.

The Holy House in Loreto is the same house that the Angel Gabriel visited at the time of the Annunciation. It was there that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. It was also there that the Holy Family lived upon their return from Egypt and where Jesus lived for thirty- three years.

How did the house come to be in Loreto, Italy? There are various traditions. One of them refers to angels transporting the house through the air. Nevertheless, there are documents that seem to indicate that the transfer of the house was done by a businessman named Niceforo Angelo and that this occurred during the thirteenth century. Perhaps his name inspired the idea that the house was transferred by angels. In any case, this undertaking had heavenly protection and guidance. As the angel once said in that very house: *nothing is impossible for God*. The statue of the Virgin that was venerated in this Shrine was destroyed in a fire in 1921. The present statue is the work of Leopoldo Celani and was carved from a cedar of Lebanon that was taken from the Vatican gardens.





**LIFE OF THE ASSOCIATION  
AROUND THE WORLD**

**AMERICA**

**COLOMBIA**



From September 6-8 the Tenth Provincial Meeting of the groups of the Association was held in Cali, Colombia. The attractive logo reveals the theme of this gathering: *Christ wants us to be united - Rebuilding with Mary the common home.*



**CHILE**

The annual national gathering was held on November 8-10. During the meeting, Father Antonio Elduayen, CM (national advisor) was honored on the occasion of his birth and in recognition of the blessings that have been received as a result of his ministry.

We thank the members of this group for sending us their informational bulletin.



**ECUADOR**

The National Council shares the following news: the members of the Association are participating in the celebration of the 150 anniversary of the presence of the Vincentian charism. The members of the Company of the Daughters of Charity and the Congregation of the Mission arrived in this country in 1869.

Sister Genoveva Mejía is the National Advisor and in August the members of the Association held their annual meeting during which the present leadership team was elected to another term of office.



**PANAMÁ**

The National Council elected a new leadership team that is headed by Miriam Hernández Mojica.



## EUROPA

### SPAIN

The members of the Association in this country have sent us their informational bulletin (#126: May and June; #127: July and August). This is very good material for formation and provides information that allows the members to become more aware of the events that are unfolding in the various centers. Their National Assembly was held in October.

## OCEANIA

### AUSTRALIA

The members celebrated their National Assembly and are grateful for the guidance that Father Carl Pieber, CM (International Subdirector) provided.

The members also expressed their gratitude to Sister Marie Westblade, DC, who has concluded her ministry as National Advisor.

*Translated:  
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