

# CANADA NEEDS OUR LADY BULLETIN

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## The Marvellous History of Saint Anne

BY TFP.ORG

According to an ancient and uninterrupted tradition of the Church, the body of Saint Anne was carried to Gaul by the same vessel that, in the first century of the Christian era, had brought Lazarus and his sisters there when they had been banished from Palestine because of their faith. During Old Testament times, the Jews scorned sterile couples. They prided themselves in the possibility that one of their descendents would be the Messiah and derided those for whom this was impossible. Thus, the Jews looked down upon Saints Joachim and Anne.

These personal and devoted friends of Christ bore her precious remains for safekeeping to the city of Apta Julia (today known as Apt). The body was buried in a crypt, a fact to which the Martyrology of Apt, one of the most ancient in existence, testifies.

With the coming of the persecutions and barbarian invasions, the first Bishop of Apta Julia, Saint Auspicius,



Saint Anne with the Virgin Mary in Apt, France.

took precautions to guard this holy deposit from desecration. He buried it in a yet deeper subterranean chapel and sealed all approaches to it until a safer day.

Toward the end of the eighth century, when Charlemagne won a last decisive victory over the Saracens in the plains of Provence near Montmajour, peace and security returned to the land. The people

began to restore and rebuild the holy places destroyed by the invaders. Among these was the cathedral of Apta Julia. The Bollandists say that Charlemagne's first concern, upon arriving at Apt, was to have the cathedral re-consecrated by Archbishop Turpin during the Easter solemnities. Yet even amid the rejoicing of the people, sadness pervaded, since every effort to find the long-hidden remains of Saint Anne had proven fruitless.

It happened that a young noble boy of 14, the son of the baron of Casanova, was present at the ceremony. People near the boy in the sanctuary noted that during the divine service, he was carried away by some overpowering emotion. The boy, who had been born deaf, dumb, and blind, seemed to be listening with rapt and upturned face to voices from above. Moved by the impulse of grace, he walked toward the high altar and struck the steps leading up to it with his staff, making signs that they should dig there.

His behaviour caused no small disturbance during the solemn rites, but neither the clergy nor the royal



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Charlemagne, Holy Roman Emperor.

guards could quiet or restrain him. Charlemagne, deeply impressed by what he saw, ordered that the steps should be excavated after the Mass.

The steps to the altar were removed; thereupon everyone saw a door sealed shut with huge stones—the door of the ancient crypt built

by the provident Saint Auspicius centuries before. No sooner was this door opened and the flight of steps leading down to it discovered that the blind boy rushed forward as if his eyes were suddenly opened and led the way into the underground church. Charlemagne himself took the boy's hand and gave orders to hold back the excited multitude.

John, the young noble, struck the wall of the crypt to show that they must search yet further. Another and lower crypt was discovered at the end of a long, narrow corridor. There, a sudden beam of bright light flashed upon the king and his attendants. They beheld, in front of a walled recess, a burning lamp which flooded the area with unearthly splendour. As soon as the king and his cortege entered, the lamp went out of its own. More wonderful still, the boy could suddenly see, hear, and speak. "The body of Saint Anne, mother of the Virgin Mary, Mother of God, lies in that recess," were his first words.

After a moment of silence, the awestruck king and his followers burst into words of praise and thanksgiving. The walled recess was opened, and a sweet fragrance like that of oriental balm filled the air. They found there a casket of cypress wood containing the body of the saint, which had been wrapped round and round with folds of precious cloths. On the casket was an inscription saying: "Here lies the body of the Blessed Anne, mother of the Virgin Mary."

After venerating the relic before all present, Charlemagne had an exact account of the discovery drawn up by one of his notaries and a copy of the same sent to the pope with the royal seal. This letter and the pope's reply still exist to this day.

From that time forth, the cathedral of Apt became a center of attraction for Catholic pilgrims from all parts of France.

## The Forgotten Truths

### "Think of Mary, Call Upon Mary"

BY ST. BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX

In dangers, doubts, and difficulties,  
think of Mary, call upon Mary.  
Let not her name depart from your lips;  
never suffer it to leave your heart.  
And that you may obtain the assistance of her prayer,  
neglect not to walk in her footsteps.  
With her for guide, you shall never go astray.  
While invoking her, you shall never lose heart.  
So long as she is in your mind, you are safe from deception.  
While she holds your hand, you cannot fall.  
Under her protection you have nothing to fear.  
If she walks before you, you shall not grow weak.  
If she shows you favour, you shall reach the goal.





# Our Lady of the Bowed Head

Among the many miraculous images of the Mother of God through which she deigns to grant her favours, there is one in the monastery church of the Carmelites in Vienna, entitled the Mother of Grace, or Our Lady of Grace, also known as Our Lady of the Bowed Head.

In 1610, a Carmelite, Dominic of Jesus-Mary, found among the votaries of an old altar in the monastery church of Maria Della Scala in Rome an oil painting of the Mother of God, dust-covered and somewhat torn, which grieved him. Taking it into his hands, he shook off the dust and, kneeling down, venerated it with great devotion.

He had the picture renovated and placed it on the shelf in his cell, where he made it the object of his love and supplications in favour of those who came to him in their necessities and afflictions.

One night while he was praying fervently before the picture, he noticed that some dust had settled on it. Having nothing but his coarse woolen handkerchief, he dusted it with that and apologized,

“O pure and holiest Virgin, nothing in the whole world is worthy of touching your holy face, but since I have nothing but this coarse handkerchief, deign to accept my good will.”

To his great surprise, the face of the Mother of God appeared to take on life, and smiling sweetly at him, she bowed her head, which thereafter remained inclined.

Fearing he was under an illusion, Dominic became troubled, but Mary assured him that his requests would be heard: he could ask of her with full confidence any favour he might desire. He fell upon his knees and offered himself entirely to the service of Jesus and Mary and asked for the deliverance of one of his benefactor’s souls in purgatory. Mary told him to offer several Masses and other good works.



Our Lady of the Bowed Head

A short time after, when he was again praying before the image, Mary appeared to him bearing the soul of his benefactor to Heaven. Dominic begged that all who venerated Mary in this image of Our Lady of Grace might obtain all they requested. In reply, the Virgin gave him this assurance:

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**“All those who devoutly venerate me in this picture and seek refuge in me will have their request granted, and I will obtain for them many graces, but especially I will hear their prayers for the relief and deliverance of the souls in purgatory.”**

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Dominic soon after placed the image in the church of Maria Della Scala so that more devotees of Mary could venerate it. Many wonderful favours were obtained by those who honoured and invoked Mary there. Reproductions were made of Our Lady of Grace and sent to different parts of the world.

After the death of Dominic, the original painting was lent to Prince Maximilian of Bavaria. He gave it to the discalced Carmelites in Munich in 1631; they gave it to Emperor Ferdinand II of Austria and his wife, Eleanore. After Ferdinand’s death, Eleanore entered the Carmelite convent in Vienna and took the picture with her. During the succeeding years, the image was transferred to various places.

Today it is in the monastery church of Vienna Doabling. On September 27, 1931, it was solemnly crowned by Pope Pius XI—the 300th anniversary of its arrival in Vienna.

Canada Needs Our Lady is a special campaign of the Canadian Society for the Defence of Christian Civilization to win the hearts and minds of Canadians for Mary.

The Canadian Society for the Defence of Christian Civilization was incorporated on June 25, 2013 as a federal nonprofit organization “to advance religion by the promotion of the religious teachings, tenets, doctrines, morals, and observances of the Roman Catholic faith and their application to individuals, families, and society in Christian culture and civilization.”

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Our Tax Receipt Policy:

We issue official Tax Receipts at the end of January to all donors whose total donations (received) during the preceding calendar year come to \$30 or more.

# The Rosary: An Extraordinarily Efficacious Devotion

BY PLINIO CORRÊA DE OLIVEIRA



Photo Credit: Fr. Lawrence Lew, O.P. CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

For a Catholic, to be devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary is not a matter of preference, inclination, or sympathy, much less sentimentality. It is a matter of life or death, since it involves wanting eternal salvation or not.

If it is true that the only necessary mediator between Heaven and Earth is Our Lord Jesus Christ, it is also certain that no grace is communicated to man without the intercession of the Most Holy Virgin Mother of God. This is how Divine Providence was pleased to arrange the supernatural order.

It is very important, therefore, for the faithful to honour Mary Most Holy with tender, filial, and strong devotion, using the means that best contribute to maintaining in their souls the sentiments of true love and deep veneration for the Holy Mother of God. Among these means, in the very authoritative opinion of the Roman Pontiffs, is the frequent recitation of the Most Holy Rosary. History has demonstrated its extraordinary effectiveness

The faithful must always pray at least five decades of the Rosary—a chaplet. However, they should especially dedicate themselves to this devotion during October, the month of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary.

— Excerpt adapted from an article published in the newspaper “O Legionário,” no. 368, p. 3, on Oct. 1, 1939, without the author’s revision. –Ed.

## Become a Rosary Rally Captain!

- What?* Public Square Rosary Rallies
- When?* October 12, 2024 at Noon local time
- Where?* In a public place, busy intersection, park, in front of Government buildings, etc.
- Who?* Faithful Catholics, young and old from all walks of life.
- Why?* To beg Our Lady of Fatima for the much-needed conversion of our country.

On October 12, thousands of Catholics will be taking part of a growing number of faithful Catholics who believe in Our Lady of Fatima’s message and attend her request to pray the Rosary. Our nation desperately needs conversion and the Rosary is the one prayer the Mother of God asked us to pray in order to obtain the change of hearts.

### Sign up today to become a Rosary Rally Captain!

We will send you a free banner and rally manual. In time, contact your friends and family and invite them to join you at the place of your choice on October 12, at noon local time. A red rose bouquet will be delivered and offered to Our Lady in Fatima, Portugal in the name of all the Rosary Rally Captains and for their own personal intentions.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Visit: <https://cnol.org/sign-up/>  
Call: 1-844-729-6279