

CANADA NEEDS OUR LADY BULLETIN

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To You, Dear Atheist

In 1980, Prof. Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira wrote three articles explaining the timeliness of Saint Louis de Montfort's "slavery of love" to Jesus Christ through Mary. Indeed, nothing could be so contrary to the spirit of our age, and yet, nothing can truly provide such a complete solution. The first and following article is titled "To You, Dear Atheist."—Ed.

BY PLINIO CORRÊA DE OLIVEIRA

Dear? This adjective may make readers wonder. After all, they have seen me, through my articles and other means, fight atheism for decades, especially the most actively imperialistic form it has assumed in the course of history, that is, Marxist atheism. How, then, can one justify the adjective "dear?" This is the explanation.

God wills the salvation of all men: of the good, so that they may receive the reward of their merits in Heaven; of the bad so that, touched by grace, they may amend and attain Heaven. Therefore, from different standpoints and for different reasons, both the former and the latter are dear to God. Now since they are dear to God, how could they not be so to a Catholic? Yes, dear even when to defend

the Church and Christendom, a Catholic fights them. So for example, at the very moment that a crusader was fiercely fighting a Mohammedan during the reconquest of the Holy Sepulcher, he could have addressed the Mohammedan as "dear brother."

The expression "dear atheist" is, therefore, valid and includes a range of different nuances; for there are nuances in atheism. Naturally, a specific sense of the word "dear" applies according to the nuance. Thus, there are atheists who rejoice to such an extent over their conviction that "God does not exist" that if some evident fact, such as a spectacular miracle should convince them of the contrary, they might easily come to hate God and even to kill Him, were this possible.

Other atheists are so mired in



Prof. Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira

the things of the earth that their atheism consists not in denying the existence of God, but rather in being completely unconcerned about the matter. If the distinction is permissible, they are not "atheists" in the most radical sense of the word but rather "a-theists" that is, secularists. God is not part of their conception of life and the world. Were it proven to them that God exists, they would see Him as being someone with whom or without whom the world would go on just as it does. Their reaction would be to totally and perpetually banish Him from earthly affairs.

There is still a third kind of



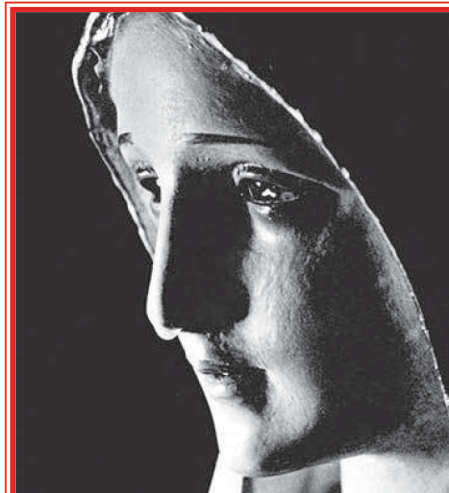
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atheist, those who, crushed by the labors and disappointments of life, and seeing clearly, by bitter personal experience, that the things of this world are no more than “vanity, and vexation of spirit” (Eccles. 1:14), desire that God would exist. Hobbled by the sophistries of atheism, however, to which they had formerly opened their souls, and tied by rationalistic mental habits, to which they had attached their minds, they now grope in the darkness, unable to find the God they once rejected. When I meditate on that apostrophe of Jesus Christ, “Come to Me, all you that labour, and are burdened, and I will refresh you” (Matt. 11:28), I think especially of this kind of atheist and feel especially inclined to call them “dear atheists.”

This explains the kinds of atheists to whom these reflections are particularly directed. Nevertheless, it is not only them that I have in mind, but many other readers who are much dearer to me: some brothers in the Catholic Faith, members, like me, of the Mystical Body of Jesus Christ. Having read a reference I made to the spirituality of Saint Louis-Marie Grignon de



“Pray, pray very much, and make sacrifices for sinners; for many souls go to hell, because there are none to sacrifice themselves and pray for them.”

-- Our Lady at Fatima, 1917.

Montfort, they wanted me to say something more about the matter.

So I speak now to the especially dear atheists, hoping to touch them to the depth of their souls, in the same text in which I speak to my very dear brothers in the Faith.

Imagine yourself, dear atheist, in one of those intervals of the daily life of yore in whose calm

the agreeable and profound impressions—which the labour of the day, charged with the dust of triviality and the sweat of effort, had smothered in the subconscious—would rise to the surface of the spirit. Those were the ample moments of leisure in which the yearnings for a smiling past, the enchantments and hopes of a harsh but luminous present, and the so-often treacherous fantasies would make an agreeable dance for relaxing the soul, “put in peace... in that gay and blind deceit that fortune does not permit to long endure” (Camões, *Lusiadas*, Canto III, verse 120).

In today’s scanty moments of leisure, on the contrary, it is the neurotic tumult of disappointments, worries, wild ambitions, and exacerbated weariness that rise to the surface. And over this tumult hovers an overwhelming, leaden, and obscure question: “What do I live for?”

The preceding article by Prof. Plínio Corrêa de Oliveira was first published in the *Folha de S. Paulo* on Aug. 31, 1980. It has been translated and adapted without his revision. –Ed.

Sir Winston Churchill: A Monarchy Would Have Prevented Hitler

“Personally, having lived through all these European disturbances and studied carefully their causes, I am of the opinion that if the Allies at the peace table at Versailles had not imagined that the sweeping away of long-established dynasties was a form of progress, and if they had allowed a Hohenzollern, a Wittelsbach, and a Habsburg to return to their thrones, there would have been no Hitler.”

Martin Gilbert, *Churchill: A Life* (New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1991), 837.

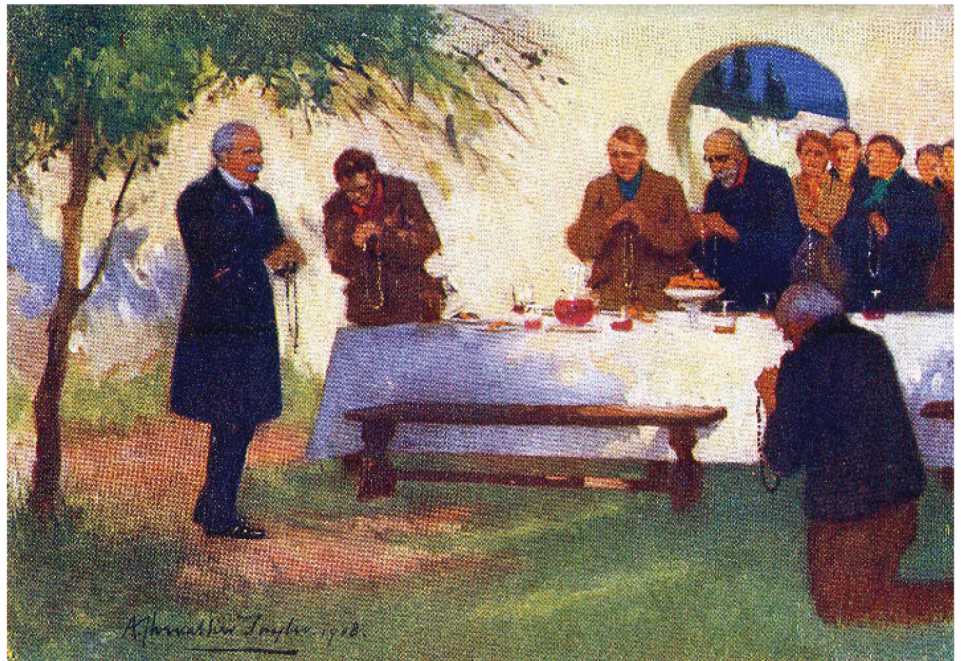


Sir Winston Churchill - the Roaring Lion (colorisée), Yousuf Karsh, colourization: Madelgarius, Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International license.

Garcia Moreno Returns to the Faith

Paris was, in fact, to Garcia Moreno a great school for the highest sciences; but, by the grace of God, Who was about to employ this man as an instrument of salvation to His people, it became also the focus of his true Christian life. For several years his early piety had been chilled. The tremendous political struggles in which he had been engaged had absorbed him so completely as to dry up his supernatural life.

A singular incident brought back this noble soul to its previous fervour. He had been walking one day with some fellow exiles in the Luxembourg Gardens when the conversation turned on a man who had died refusing the Last



“Then, my children, let us kneel down and say the Rosary together.” Garcia Moreno



Gabriel Gregorio Fernando José María García y Moreno y Morán de Buitrón, President of Ecuador.

Sacraments. Some of the party admired this act, saying the man had chosen his own line, and had kept it to the last. Garcia Moreno, on the contrary, argued that if a man had unhappily been irreligious in life, from the stress of business or other causes, it was monstrous to die in that impious condition. His adversaries then began attacking the doctrines of the Catholic Church; but they soon found that they had to do with one stronger than themselves.

With merciless logic and ardent faith, Garcia Moreno refuted all their arguments, and spoke of the Church with such ability and enthusiasm that his atheist companion, to cut short the discussion, exclaimed, “You talk well enough, my good friend; but if your religion be as beautiful as you describe it, it seems to me you are somewhat lax in its practice. Since when have you been to confession?”

This observation struck home, and Garcia Moreno bowed his head for a moment. Then, looking

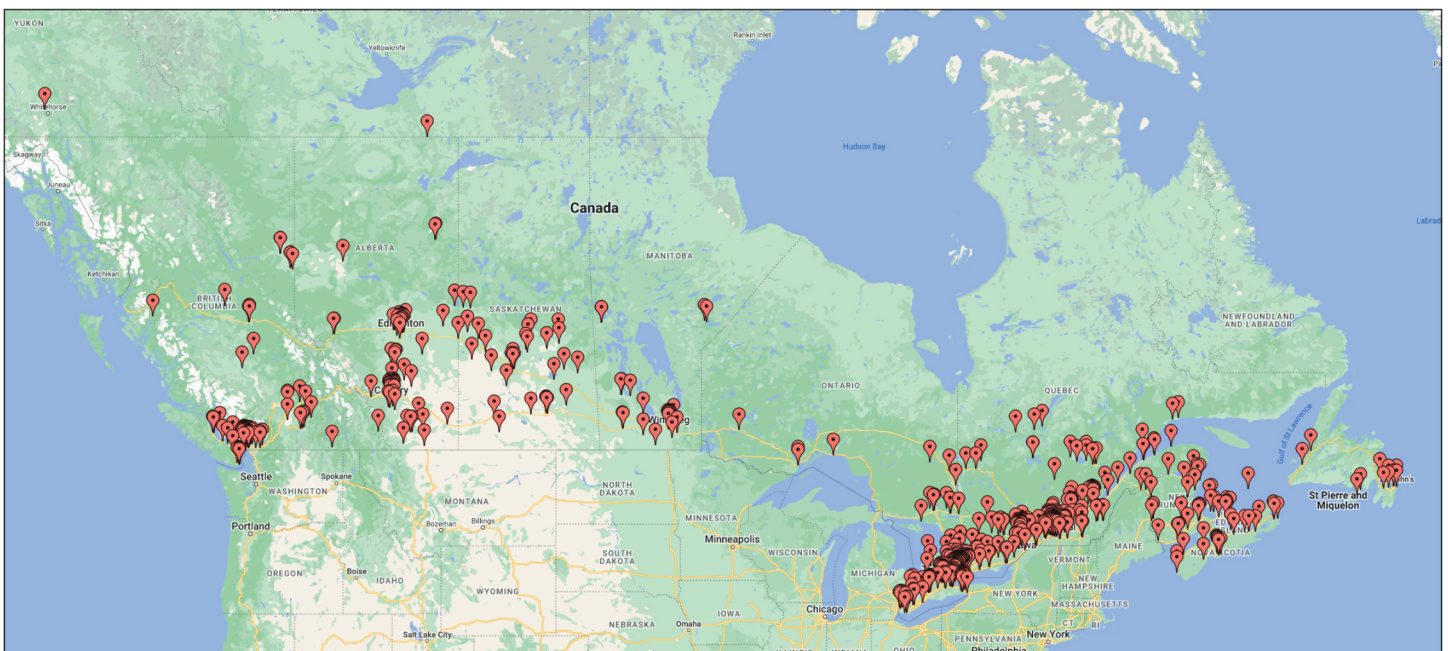
his friend full in the face, he said, “You have answered me by a personal argument which may be just today. But I give you my word of honour that tomorrow it will be worth nothing”; and so saying, he abruptly left them. In the solitude of his own room he reflected for some time on the years which had passed since the day, when, full of fervour, he had consecrated himself to the service of God at the feet of the Bishop of Guayaquil.... Stung with remorse, he threw himself on his knees, prayed fervently for some time, and then, that very evening, went to confession to the first priest he found in the church. The next day he received Holy Communion, thanking God, Who had forced him to blush for his coldness and negligence.

From that moment he went back to all his old habits of piety, and never again gave them up.

Rev. Fr. Augustine Berthe, *Garcia Moreno: President of Ecuador 1821-1875*, trans. Lady Herbert (Dolorosa Press, 2006; reprint of original published in London: Burns and Oates, 1889), 110-111.

1,200 Public Square Rosary Rallies for Mary in 2024

On October 12, 2024, over 1,200 public square Rosary Rallies honouring the Blessed Mother will be held in cities and towns across Canada. The rally prayer banner reads: “Praying the Rosary for Canada. Please join us! As human efforts fail to solve Canada’s key problems, we turn to God, through His Holy Mother, asking His urgent help.”



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.”

From our main office in Saint Hubert, QC, Society members and volunteers reach out to concerned Christian families and individuals across Canada. We promote and defend the principles and values of Christian civilization and spread the Gospel message far and wide.

Our charity number is
807291737RR0001.

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.