



**One, Holy, Catholic,
Apostolic and Palmarian Church**

HOLY APOSTOLIC SEE

**Sacred History
or
Palmarian Holy Bible
Children's Grade**

**(Brief narrations of episodes taken from
Sacred History or the Palmarian Holy Bible)**

Given in El Palmar de Troya, Apostolic See, on the 2nd of February,
Feast of the Holy Face of Our Lord Jesus Christ and
50th Anniversary of Its Enthronization in Palmar,
in the Year of Our Lord Jesus Christ MMXX and
fourth of the Pontificate of the Pope happily reigning.



Sacred History or Palmarian Holy Bible Children's Grade

(Brief narrations of episodes taken from Sacred History
or the Palmarian Holy Bible)

Prologue

Dear children,

In your hands you have the most important Book of all, the one which will show you the way to Heaven, if you practise its teachings and follow its good counsels.

Sacred History, or the Palmarian Holy Bible, is the history of the People of God from the beginning of the world. It consists of two parts, called:

The Old Testament, the Sacred Books written before the Birth of Jesus, and

The New Testament, the Sacred Books written after the Ascension of Jesus into Heaven: that is, **the Gospels** – the Life, Teachings, Passion and Death of Jesus – **the Acts of the Apostles**, and finally **the Apocalypse**, containing announcements for the present times by the Apostle John the Evangelist.

It would be well, each time you start reading, to bless yourself in the name ✕ of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, so that God and His Most Holy Mother may help you to understand better and put into practice what you learn, and so come to be Saints.



The Old Testament

Book I

Chapter I

Universal Creation



God

Before Universal Creation, God alone existed: God, One and Three, that is, the Most Blessed Trinity, one only God in three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Ghost. And He was happy.

God was so happy that He longed to share His happiness with other beings who would acknowledge Him as God and love Him as the Father He is; and so He decided on the Creation of the Universe.

Creation

At Creation, in one instant, God created:

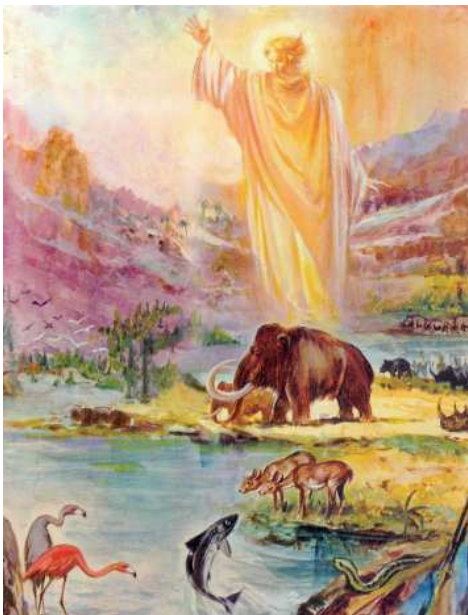
- the Souls of Jesus and Mary;
- the angels;
- the mineral kingdom, namely, the

earth and other planets, mountains, seas, rivers and so on;

– the vegetable kingdom, namely plants, trees, fruits, and so on;

– and the animal kingdom, namely land animals, birds, fish, and so on.

– Finally, God created the first man Adam and the first woman Eve.



Chapter II

The Souls of Christ and Mary

God wanted Creation to have a Father and a Mother, and so first of all He created the Soul of Jesus, also called Christ or Jesus Christ, so that He might be the Father and Head of Creation; and then at once He created the Soul of Mary, so that She might be the Mother and Heart of Creation. No creature on earth has ever been an orphan, since all have a Father, who is Jesus, and a Mother, who is Mary.



Chapter III

The angels

Creation of the angels



God created countless angels to serve Him, all different from one another, divided into nine choirs – like regiments in an army – from the higher ranks, like the Seraphim and the Cherubim, down to the lower ranks, like the Archangels and the Angels.

He gave them great graces, and they could see God: His goodness and His beauty. They knew besides that they had received everything from Him. They were happy and they were free, that is, they could not sin.

Trial of the angels

God is good and wants to be served out of love for Him and not just out of duty, so shortly afterwards He willed to try the angels. To do so, He deprived them of being





able to see Him, and even let them sin – though they knew they should not – so that if they overcame, they would enjoy yet greater happiness, forever.

Luzbel or Lucifer, who was the most beautiful angel, rebelled against God, and a third part of the angels followed him, disobeying God and offending Him deeply.

Battle of the angels

Then Archangel Saint Michael, who was the last of all the angels, cried out with great force: “*Who is like unto God?*” preparing to do battle for God and heartening the rest to follow him. And the good Angels followed Saint Michael’s wonderful example, answering: “*No one is like unto God!*” and resolved to do battle.

Lucifer, on the contrary, rebellious and proud, cried out: “*We shall not serve Him!*” and the other wicked angels, rising up against God their Creator, replied: “*We are God’s equals!*” Then began the battle of the angels.

Chastisement of the bad and reward for the good



Archangel Saint Michael, displaying Jesus’ Holy Face on his shield, and with him all the faithful Angels, cast Lucifer and all the bad angels into Hell, turned forever into demons. Lucifer became Satan or the Devil, chief of the demons, whom no one obeys.

The good Angels, on the contrary, were forever rewarded with greater happiness than before the trial, and are now always good. And Saint Michael, from then on, is Prince over all the Choirs of Angels.

During the trial, the Souls of Christ and Mary powerfully assisted and strengthened the Angels who humbly sought to obey God, and those Angels thus succeeded in overcoming the trial.

Chapter IV

Adam and Eve



In the most beautiful, wonderful and breathtaking place in Paradise, where the Holy Land now is, close to Jerusalem, God created our first parents, Adam and Eve. They married, wanting to form a family. They saw God, were happy and free to love and serve God, and could not die. However, God wanted to try them as well, so that if they overcame the trial they would be happier still, and forever.

Trial of Adam and Eve

To tempt Adam and Eve, the devil took the form of a tree, called the Tree of Death, which had a very special false fruit, different to that of the other trees.

God warned Adam and Eve that they could eat the fruit of any tree in Paradise; but never to eat the fruit of the Tree of Death, because they would sin grievously and be punished.

To help Adam and Eve in the trial, in the midst of Paradise stood the



Tree of Life, which was the Soul of Jesus in the form of a beautiful Olive Tree; and there was a stream of crystal clear water, which was the Soul of Mary under that form.

Eve's sin

The devil then took the form of a serpent, and from up on the Tree of Death, told Eve to eat its fruit, and she would become like a goddess. Eve, curious to see everything, rejected the graces God gave to help her, let herself be deceived by the devil and ate the forbidden fruit, committing a very grievous sin.

Adam's sin



Afterwards, the devil impelled Eve to invite her husband Adam to eat of that fruit as well, so she took one and offered it to him. God gave Adam



good thoughts and graces as well for him to be obedient, but like Eve he rejected divine grace and ate the forbidden fruit, sinning grievously as well.

The punishment

God chastised Adam and Eve for their sin, called original sin, by depriving them of many graces. He cast them out of Paradise and closed the Gates of Heaven. This punishment was for them and for all their children,

for already at birth our soul has original sin. So from then on we have to suffer the devil's temptations, as well as pain, sickness and bodily death,

until the time decreed by God for the trial comes to an end.

The promise

God, however, seeing Adam's and Eve's great sorrow, promised them that one day His own Son would come, to be born of the Most Holy Virgin, Who would free man from the devil, restore Grace to him and open the Gates of Heaven to



those who do His Will. This promise passed down from parents to children and gave great hope to God's People.

God also taught Adam and Eve everything they had to do to enter Heaven. Our first parents repented deeply of their sin, did much penance and never sinned again.

And God gave them a new Paradise: the Church, a Paradise of Sacraments and blessings, in which they would be happy and holy. But to be always children of the Church, they would have to strive hard to lead lives of virtue and sacrifice.

Chapter V

Adam's and Eve's children

Cain and Abel

Cain and Abel were the first children to be born to Adam and Eve.

Abel was a shepherd. From early childhood he was humble and obedient. He served God very well and





offered Him sacrifices of animals, as his father Adam had taught him. God, who saw his good heart, accepted his sacrifices with pleasure.

Cain was a farmer. From early childhood he was rebellious and envious and did not serve God well, though he knew he should. But he did not obey his parents. He kept the animals for himself and offered God the worst of his fruits, so that God did not accept his sacrifices. Every day Cain felt greater envy for Abel, whom God rightly blessed.

One day Cain deceitfully led his brother Abel far from home and killed him, out of the envy he bore him. Later he ran away and with his own family lived errant, that is, with no fixed place to live. Cain never repented of his sin and burns in the eternal fire of Hell.

Seth, Adam's successor

Adam, as father he is of men, was also Head and Guide of the People of God, and in His honour offered sacrifices of animals, for God had so commanded. Adam was respected as a king.

Adam was our first Patriarch, as the principal Heads and Guides of God's People in the Old Testament are called.

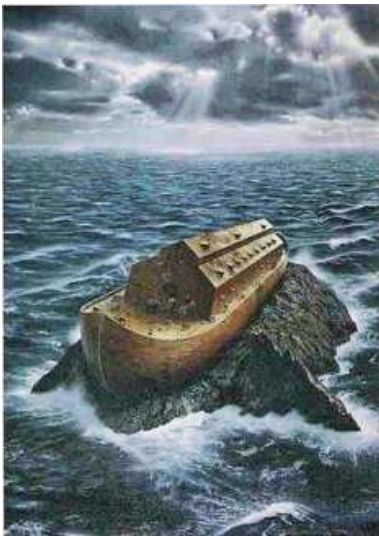
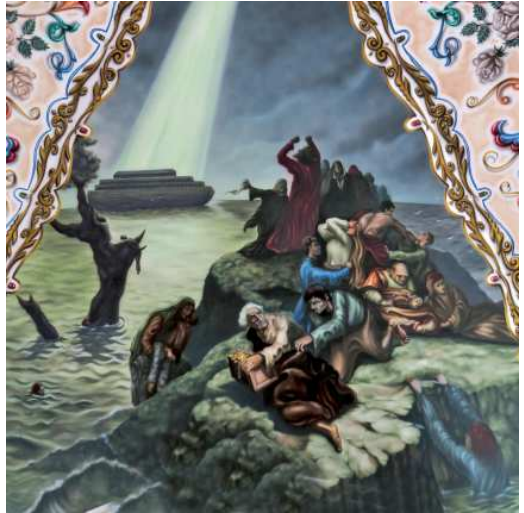
Adam and Eve had many other sons and daughters. The most important of Adam's sons was Seth, who was very obedient, good and faithful to God. He married Liria and they had many sons and daughters. He was Head and Guide of the People of God after his father Adam's death, and so is called Adam's successor.



Chapter VI

Patriarch Noah and the Universal Flood

Noah was a very good man and faithful to God. He fulfilled God's Commandments and taught others to fulfil them. He was Head and Guide of



the People of God.

Humanity at that time was very numerous. But the majority of men were straying ever further from God and no longer obeyed His Law.

The warning

God then ordered Noah to tell them to be converted and to sin no more, to do penance and to be obedient to His Law; and to warn them that if they disobeyed, He would punish them with the Universal Flood.

The Ark

But men made fun of Noah. God then ordered him to build a large Ark, that is, a great ship, with space for animals as well.

When finished, God made animals and birds of the air enter so that they might not disappear in the punishment. Afterwards, Noah and his family entered the Ark, a total of eight persons, the only ones faithful to God among all mankind.

The Flood

Once the Ark was closed, the Flood began, and rain poured down for forty days and forty nights. The waters covered the whole earth, and all the men and animals that had not entered the Ark died.



Many of those who died in the Flood acknowledged their guiltiness and their sins. Asking forgiveness of God, they saved themselves.

The Pact

When the Flood ended, the earth became



more beautiful and fertile than before. And when it was dry, God ordered Noah to leave the Ark with his family and the animals. To honour God, Noah made an Altar and offered up a sacrifice of animals. God then made a pact with Noah: He promised He would not send another Flood. But as the Ark had been borne away very far from their land, God ordered His people to pilgrim towards where Jerusalem had stood and not to build cities as yet.

Chapter VII

Patriarch Heber and the Tower of Babel



As time passed, many of Noah's descendants, tempted by the devil, once again committed many sins. God always gave His People a Patriarch Guide who taught men to observe His Law and everything He commanded, but not everyone obeyed. It was Patriarch Saint Heber's time. Against God's Will and against the warnings God gave through Patriarch Heber, they made up their minds to build a city.

The Tower of Babel

They began to build a very high tower, called the Tower of Babel, in order to practise their sinful vices. At that time, man's skin colour was white, and everyone spoke the same language, so that they all understood the Patriarch's teachings very well.

God's command

While they were building the tower, God commanded Patriarch Heber to tell them to stop the work. They did not obey, however, and made fun of Heber.

Chastisement

God then punished them. All of a sudden they began to speak in different languages and their skin colour changed. They did not recognize or understand each other any more. Everything fell into complete chaos, and they became so confused that they had to stop the building.

Separation

They then joined up in groups of the same race and language, and each group went off in a different direction. Those faithful to God went with Heber, and are therefore called Hebrews. Patriarch Heber, as Head and Guide of the People of God or Hebrews, went with his faithful family to the place where God sent them, and they obeyed God in everything.

Chapter VIII

Story of Job



In Ur of Chaldea there was a man very faithful to God, virtuous and simple, called Job, to whom God gave great graces and riches, for Job had ever so many animals, like sheep, camels, oxen, and so on, and also many servants. He was married to Racca, by whom God gave him children. Job kept his heart united to God and thanked Him for the riches He gave him, without becoming attached to them; Racca, on the other hand, was happy because she loved the riches more than God.



God allows trials

Satan, meanwhile, wanted to try Job, to make him turn his back on God, curse His Holy Name and commit sins. God gave Satan permission to tempt him, so that Job might be an example of patience and love for God for others to imitate, and for God later to reward him as his virtues deserved.

Job's trials

So then Job's tremendous misfortunes began. They robbed his cattle, donkeys and camels and killed his servants; fire came down from heaven and burnt his



sheep and his shepherds; and yet another report came, that while his sons and daughters were dining a strong wind from the desert had blown down the house where they were, killing them all. Lastly, God allowed him to be covered with sores, repugnant and foul-smelling, so that he left home and went off to a dung heap.

Job's patience

With great grief, Job dressed in mourning as the Hebrews did at that time, rent his garments, had his head shaved and adored God, without complaining and with great patience, saying: *"The Lord has given it all to me, and the Lord has taken it away... Blessed be the Name of the Lord."*

Racca's punishment

When his wife Racca saw him in that state, she rebelled against God and made fun of Job, so that Job reprimanded her. Racca was punished by God: she died and was plunged into the fire of Hell.

God always rewards the good

But God had not abandoned Job: He restored his health and rewarded him with a double measure of all the riches he had before. Then his friends and relatives came to see him again, and consoled him for all he had suffered.

Since the wicked Racca had died, Job married again and had many children. Job died at a great age, leaving to his children the Book of Heber and his own Book, so that they might teach others too the way to Heaven.

Book II

Chapter I

Patriarch Abraham

The Call and the Promise

Abraham, a good man faithful to God, was born in Ur of Chaldea. One day God





appeared to Abraham and said: *“Go out from your land, and come to the land I will show you.”* Abraham obeyed. Moreover God promised him: *“In one of your descendants all generations of the earth shall be blessed.”* That is, in one of his children’s children God the Father would send His own Son, Jesus, also called Christ, or Jesus Christ, repeating the promise He had made to Adam.

Reign of the Most Holy Monarchs Melchisedech and Essenia

At that time, Melchisedech and Essenia had begun to reign in the Land of Canaan.

They lived in the city of Salem, today Jerusalem. Melchisedech was the Soul of Jesus who appeared at that time as King, and Essenia was the Soul of Mary who appeared as Queen.

Most Holy King Melchisedech and Most Holy Queen Essenia instructed the Canaanians, who lived in sin and did not know God, that is, they were pagan peoples. Many were converted to the true God.



Most Holy Melchisedech blesses Abraham

When Patriarch Abraham, who was Head and Guide of the People of God or Hebrews, entered this land of Canaan with his family faithful to God, the Lord appeared to him, and told him that this was the land He would give to him for his people. Abraham then went to Salem, where the Holy Monarchs lived, to place himself at Their service.



King Melchisedech, who was the Eternal High Priest – as He was the Soul of Jesus – blessed Abraham, and made him a Priest and a Bishop. From then on Abraham offered sacrifices to God of bread and wine; and Melchisedech also made him King of that land, for him to rule over it. Thus did the reign on earth of Melchisedech and Essenia come to an end, and Patriarch Abraham

in turn became king.

Abraham's great trial

Abraham had a son called Isaac whom he loved dearly, for Isaac had been born when he and Sarah were by then very old. To test his obedience, God ordered Abraham to offer up his son Isaac to Him in sacrifice. With deep suffering and great faith, Abraham prepared to fulfil God's orders. He took his son Isaac with him and made his way to where God had commanded.

Abraham's great obedience and Isaac's self offering

On the way, Isaac said to his father: "*We are carrying the fire and the firewood, but where is the victim?*" Abraham replied: "*My son, God has commanded that you be the victim.*" Isaac, by then six years old and well able to understand his father's words, accepted without complaint and continued on his way, bearing a bundle of firewood for the sacrifice.

God saves Isaac

When they arrived at the place God had shown him, Abraham, bathed in tears, bound Isaac and placed him upon the altar over the firewood, and took hold of the knife to sacrifice him. When he had raised up his hand, however, the Angel of the Lord cried out from Heaven not to kill him, because God now saw that he loved Him so much that he had not pardoned

even the life of his son. Close by, Abraham saw a ram caught by the horns in some briars, took hold of it and offered it up to God in sacrifice in place of his son Isaac.

God rewards Abraham

Then God praised Abraham for his faith and obedience, and gave him many blessings and made him great promises for his descendants. Abraham is our Father in the Faith.

Before dying, Abraham, now old, blessed his son Isaac and made him Priest, Bishop and heir to the divine blessings and promises. And at his death, he was to become Head and Guide of God's People.



Chapter II

Patriarch Isaac and Jacob's blessing

Patriarch Isaac was Head and Guide of the People of God. Moreover, as Priest that he was, he celebrated sacrifices to God of bread and wine. He married Rebecca and by her had two twin boys called Esau, the elder, and Jacob, the younger.

Esau and Jacob

Esau was strong, a good hunter and very hairy, and his father Isaac loved him dearly. Jacob, on the other hand, was more pacific and very obedient, and

was preferred by Rebecca, because God had told her that the elder son would serve the younger.

One day Esau left home. He also left his religion and abandoned the upright way, so that his father Isaac, very angry, said that he would not give him his Blessing. This Blessing was the one that made him Priest, Bishop and Head of the People of God.

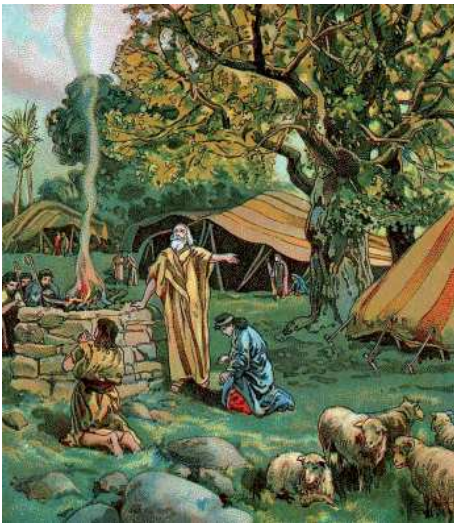
Esau sells his rights for a dish of lentils

Some time later, as Esau was very hungry and was not humble enough to go to his parents to ask their forgiveness, he went to Jacob, who was about to eat a dish of lentils. So he said to Jacob: *“Give me that dish to eat”*. Jacob replied: *“On condition that you sell me your firstborn rights”*, as that Blessing was called. And Esau sold it as though it mattered nothing to him, ate, and went off again.

Esau returns before Isaac dies

Many years later, Esau learnt that his father was about to die. He then returned home saying that he was repentant, which was not true, so as to receive the

Blessing from his father. Isaac was very pleased at his return and believed in Esau's repentance. He charged him to hunt a goat kid for him to eat, and told him that afterwards he would give him his Blessing.





Rebecca and Jacob deceive Isaac

Rebecca, who found out, called Jacob and told him to bring her two goat kids from the flock to prepare according to Isaac's liking. She gave Jacob Esau's clothes she had and placed the goat kids' skins on his hands and neck, so that Isaac, who by then was blind, on touching him, might believe he was Esau.

Rebecca and Jacob did very wrong to deceive Isaac, but afterwards repented deeply and were forgiven.

Isaac blesses Jacob

Isaac, surprised to hear Jacob's voice, but Esau by touch, thought that he really was Esau and, after eating, blessed him, making him head over his brother, and gave him all the blessings of Heaven, by which Isaac made Jacob a Priest, a Bishop and, at Isaac's

death, Head and Guide of the People of God.

Esau abandons the People of God forever

When he had finished blessing him, Esau arrived with the goat-kid he had hunted and, realizing what had happened, began to weep out loud and accuse Jacob, so that Isaac, pitying him, blessed Esau with a blessing of

this earth, leaving him subject to his brother. Esau, proudly, to wound his father deeper, then told him that he was unrepentant. Such was his hatred for

Jacob that he only awaited his father's death to kill him. But he was unable, because Jacob followed his mother's good counsel and left home when she told him.

Isaac blesses God who permitted the deception

Isaac praised God for not having allowed him to bless the disobedient and villainous rebel Esau, who separated himself forever from the



People of God and is in Hell. Shortly afterwards, Isaac died, leaving Jacob as Head and Guide of the People of God.

Chapter III

Patriarch Jacob and his children

Jacob, by counsel of his mother Rebecca, went to Haram to seek a wife from among his relatives. There he married Lia and Rachel – as God at that time permitted – and later on returned to Canaan with his numerous family, servants and animals.



Jacob had twelve sons, but he loved his son Joseph, almost the youngest, more than the others for his innocence, and this caused his brothers to become so jealous that they even started to ill-treat him.

Joseph's dreams

It came to pass that, at the age of twelve, Joseph had two dreams, and told them to his brothers: *“We were all tying up sheaves in the fields, and my sheaf arose and stood upright; while your sheaves, round about, adored mine.”* And then Joseph recounted the other dream, saying: *“I saw how the sun, the moon and eleven stars adored me.”* Even more jealous, his brothers asked him: *“Are you perhaps to become our king?”*

Joseph is sold by his brothers

Days later the brothers, moved by their jealousy of Joseph, sold him to some merchants going down into Egypt. Then they took his tunic, tinged it with the blood of a goat-kid, and sent it to their father Jacob, who believed that a wild animal had devoured his son, and wept for a long time.



At that time, God appeared to Jacob and told him that he would no longer be called Jacob, but that

Israel was to be his name, which is why the People of God or Hebrews were also called Israelites.

Chapter IV

Joseph in Egypt.

From prison to viceroy

Once in Egypt, the merchants sold Joseph to Putiphar, an important man in the court of the pharaoh, as the kings of Egypt were called. When Joseph was sixteen years of age, as he was good and God blessed him, Putiphar put him in charge of his household and goods.

Joseph in prison

But one day, Putiphar's wicked wife falsely accused Joseph. Putiphar believed her and sent the innocent Joseph into prison.

It happened that, when Joseph was in prison, the pharaoh had two dreams: he saw seven fat cows, and then saw another seven lean cows, which devoured the seven fat cows. Later he saw seven grained ears of wheat, and then saw another seven grainless ears, which devoured the seven grained ears. And nobody could explain to him the meaning of the two dreams. As Joseph in prison had explained other dreams, the pharaoh ordered him to be summoned.

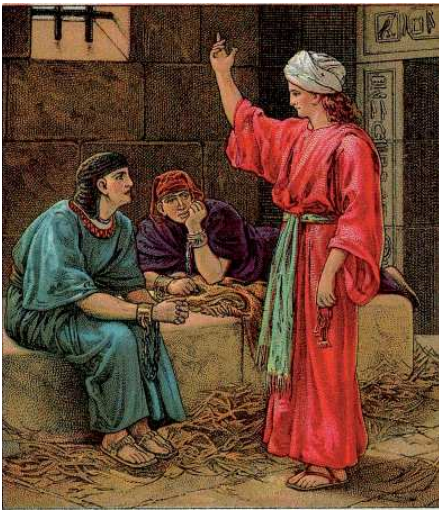
Joseph interprets the pharaoh's dreams

Joseph explained the dreams, saying: *"The seven fat cows and the seven grained ears of wheat are seven years of plenty which are to come. And the seven lean cows and the seven grainless ears of wheat are seven years of famine which are to come."*

Afterwards, Joseph told the pharaoh to choose a wise and intelligent man and make him governor of Egypt so that, during the seven years of plenty, sufficient grain be stored away so that in Egypt there might be food during the seven years of famine which would follow.

Joseph, Viceroy of Egypt

The pharaoh then said to Joseph: *"You then shall be the one to govern. I hereby constitute you Viceroy over the whole land of Egypt."* From then on, after the pharaoh or king, Joseph governed in Egypt as Viceroy.



Chapter V

Joseph's brothers go down to Egypt

When the seven years of famine began, there was a shortage of food in the land of Canaan. Jacob ordered some of his sons to go down into Egypt to buy wheat. They spoke with the viceroy there, who was their brother Joseph, but did not recognize him.

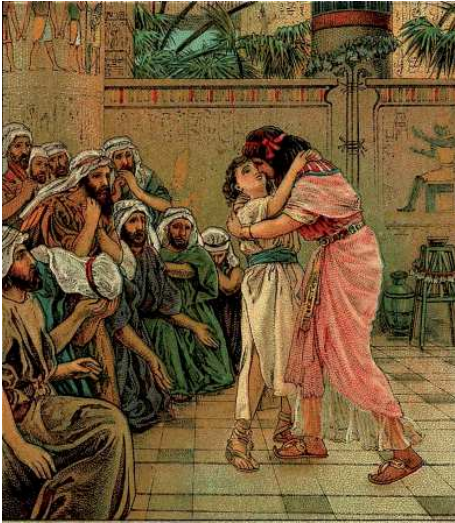


Joseph makes himself known to his brothers

Then Joseph told his brothers: “*I am Joseph*”, and they were very afraid; but Joseph forgave them and, weeping, kissed them. And he told them that God had permitted everything so that he come to Egypt first, and be able to feed them so that they might not die of hunger. Then he told them to return promptly to the land of Canaan, to tell their father Jacob that he was alive and that all should come to live in Egypt. This they did, to the great joy of all.

Jacob's death

Shortly before dying in Egypt, Jacob made his son Joseph heir to all the divine blessings and promises. Jacob made him Priest, and Joseph was to be Head and Guide of the Hebrews or Israelites on his father's death.



The tribes of Israel

From Jacob's sons, who were: Ruben, Dan, Nephtali, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Gad, Asser, Issacar, Zabulon, Joseph and Benjamin, came the tribes who made up the People of God or people of Israel.

Joseph's death

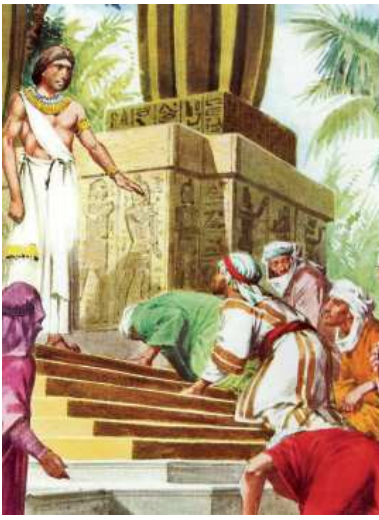
Joseph continued as viceroy of Egypt until his death, and guided the People of God with authority. He offered up to God sacrifices of bread and wine, as Priest that he was. But he was not a Bishop, so he could not bless anyone else and make him a Priest.

From Holy Patriarch Joseph's death, the Israelites in Egypt were guided for many years by Holy Prophet Shepherds. A Prophet is someone to whom God shows things that will happen, and makes them known by God's order.

Book III

Chapter I

Story of Moses



Many years had passed since Joseph had been viceroy of Egypt, and the children of the People of God, or Israelites, who were in Egypt became ever more numerous. A new pharaoh, fearing that the people of Israel might become stronger and more powerful than the Egyptian people, forced them to do hard labour; and besides forbade them to have more than two children; and if they did have more, such children were to be killed.

Moses means:

Saved from the waters



When Moses was born in Egypt, his parents already had two children. To prevent him being killed, his mother put him into a little basket, which she left on the water among the reeds on the banks of the River Nile, praying to God to save his life. The pharaoh's daughter then came down to bathe in the river, and saw the little basket on the water with a baby inside crying. Taking pity on the child, she took him as a son, and ordered that a woman be found to nurse him. And the pharaoh's family became so fond of him that the pharaoh removed the unjust law against the children of Israel. Moses was brought up in the royal palace as a son of the pharaoh, and came to be Prince over all Egypt.

New sufferings

for the children of Israel

As time passed, another pharaoh reigned in Egypt who gave orders for the people of Israel to be very harshly treated. Moses, as an Israelite, was removed from his post at court. He was forced to flee from Egypt, and he left for the desert.

Chapter II

Moses, Caudillo of Israel

When Moses was on Mount Sinai, God





appeared to him in the midst of a burning bush, and said to him: “*I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. I have seen the affliction of My people in Egypt. I will send you to the pharaoh for you to take the children of Israel out of Egypt.*” God named Moses Caudillo Liberator of the People of Israel. Moses then went down into Egypt to carry out what God had ordered him.

Moses appears before the pharaoh

Once in Egypt, Moses asked the pharaoh several times to let the Israelites go, but the pharaoh refused. God then sent the Egyptians ten great and miraculous chastisements, called plagues, until the pharaoh finally allowed the Israelites, who were God’s People, to leave Egypt.

The children of Israel

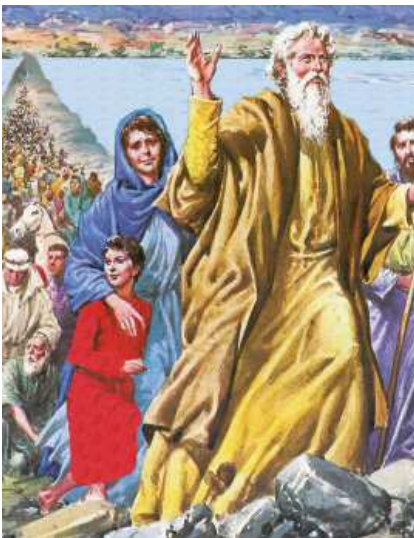
miraculously cross the Red Sea

But when they had left Egypt under Moses’ command and arrived at the shores of the Red Sea, they were surrounded by the pharaoh’s numerous army. God then miraculously made a highway of earth, like a bridge over the waters, and the Israelites were able to pass over to the other shore. But when the pharaoh with his army came up behind and were crossing the bridge, God made it disappear, and the pharaoh and his army perished beneath the waters.

Chapter III

The People of Israel through the desert

Moses guided his People to a desert valley facing Mount Sinai. Then God ordered Moses to climb up the mountain. There, in a mysterious cloud, with flashes like fire, which the people saw from below, God appeared to him. But as Moses was long in coming down, many of the people ceased to obey God.



The golden calf



These rogues went to Aaron, Moses' brother, so that he might make them an idol, that is, a figure to adore as though it were a god. Aaron cowardly accepted, and made them an image of a calf in gold. Moses, warned by God, came down from the mountain and called on them to repent, which Aaron and many did. Those who continued to offend God were killed by God's wrath. Then Moses went back up the mountain.

The Ten Commandments

God gave Moses the Decalogue or Ten Commandments of His Law, miraculously engraved in stone, which are called the Tablets of the Law, for His people to keep. Later Our Lord Jesus Christ, in His Public Life, perfected the Ten Commandments, which are now as follows:

The first is to love God above all things.

The second is not to swear in vain by the Holy Name of God.

The third is to sanctify Holydays.

The fourth is to honour father and mother.

The fifth is not to kill.

The sixth is not to commit acts of impurity.

The seventh is not to steal.

The eighth is not to bear false witness nor to lie.

The ninth is not to commit idolatry.

The tenth is not to desire espoused persons nor covet the goods of others.

These Commandments are fundamentally the same as those which God taught Adam after his fall, and which



the Church teaches us today. For God, what is good is always good; and what is bad is likewise always bad and must be avoided.



The Ark of the Covenant and the Tabernacle

God ordered Moses to construct the Ark of the Covenant, which was a coffer with a cover – beautifully made and covered over with gold – and there all the most sacred things of God’s People were kept. God also ordered them to make a portable Temple of wood for them to give Him sacred worship, which they called the Tabernacle, and that was where the Ark was kept. The People of God bore this Temple from one place to another through the desert, on their way to the land which God had promised them.

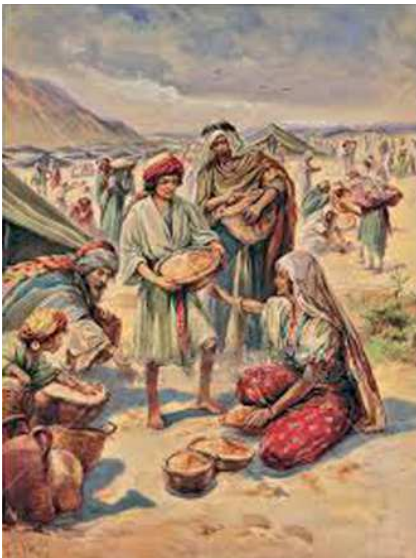


The Levitical Priesthood

Ever since Joseph there had been no more Priests, so that God – by way of Moses – commended the Priesthood to those of the tribe of Levi, to serve God and the people. Thus it was called the Levitical Priesthood. The first High Priest was Aaron, Moses’ brother. This Priesthood was inferior to the one Patriarch Abraham had received.

Manna

When natural food from the earth became scarce, given that God’s People continued to journey through the desert, God then miraculously sent them ‘manna’ in the form of granules which appeared in the fields in the morning, so that they might



always have something to eat.

Law of Moses

God gave Moses all the norms for God’s worship and for ruling the people;



and, as they received all these norms from Moses, they called them the Law of Moses or Mosaic Law, which was still in force when Jesus came into the world.

In the Commandments given to our first parents Adam and Eve, God established Sunday as the Day of the Lord; however, in the Commandments given to Moses, God commanded the sanctification of Saturday, in memory of the reception of the Law by His People. Later Our Lord Jesus Christ, with His glorious Resurrection, re-established Sunday as the Day consecrated to the Lord.

Chapter IV

The People of God in Canaan

Moses, at the head of the People of Israel and by God's order, organized an army with which he conquered part of the land of Canaan and other neighbouring lands.

Moses then began to share out the conquered lands among the tribes of Israel, so that each might have its own territory.

Caudillos following Moses.

Caudillo Joshua and Caudillo Caleb

Before he was rapt up to Mary's Planet by God, Moses, by order of God, appointed Joshua as Caudillo of the People of God, or Israel. Caleb followed Joshua as the last Prophet, Pastor and Caudillo of God's People. Both died in holiness.

Book IV

Chapter I

Judges of the People of Israel

For many years God governed His People by way of Judges. A judge is someone who decides who is to blame for something, and can punish; in the world there are many judges. Yet the Judges of Israel in those times not only settled people's problems, but also ruled the people, who obeyed them.





Thirteen judges ruled Israel over many years. Each came from a different tribe of Israel's thirteen tribes, and ruled over all the tribes. God told the High Priest of the time whom He had chosen, and the High Priest then daubed his head with a little holy oil, that is, he anointed him, and thus gave him the powers for ruling, making him Prophet, Judge and Caudillo of God's People.



The Judges of the People of God were: Othniel, Aod, Samgar, Deborah, Gedeon, Tola, Jair, Jephte, Abesan, Elon, Abdon, Samson and Samuel. Eleven of these Judges died in holiness; Jair and Samson however were bad judges, because they wanted to do wrong and cause harm, and are in Hell.

When Samuel, the last Judge, was old, the elders of Israel asked him to name a king to rule over them. And though God did not want this, because it was not for their good, He accepted the petition. God told Samuel that Saul would be king, and Samuel himself then anointed him. From then on, the People of God were ruled for many years by kings, until Jerusalem was destroyed as a punishment by God for the sins of the people.

Chapter II

Story of Ruth

When Judge Aod ruled, Elimelech, his wife Noemi and their two sons left Bethlehem where they had been living and went to the region of Moab, to the east of the Jordan, because of the famine at that time in Bethlehem.

Ruth and her sister Orpha

In Moab Noemi met Ruth and her sister Orpha, who lived with their widowed mother and did not know the true God. Thanks to Noemi's good counsel the three were converted to the true faith. Some time later Elimelech died, and Noemi's two sons





married, one with Ruth and the other with Orpha, but years later the two sons died, leaving no children by their wives.

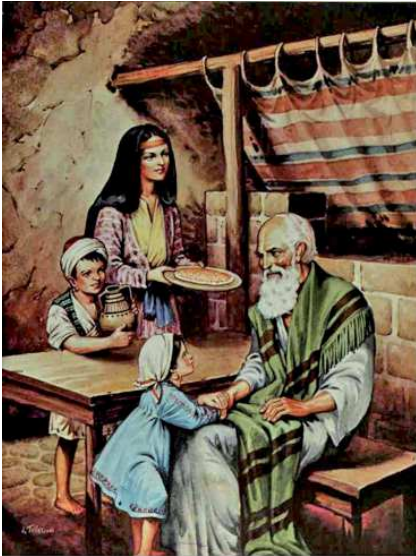
Noemi returns to Bethlehem with Ruth

As the famine in her land had ended, Noemi decided to return to Bethlehem, and wanted her daughters-in-law themselves to say if they wanted to go with her. Orpha at once chose to return to her mother, as her faith in God was not deep. But Ruth, tearful, told her: *“Wherever you go I am to go too. Your people is my people, and your God is my God. Only death will separate me from you.”* Noemi, seeing with great joy that Ruth’s decision was firm, went with her to live in Bethlehem,

and arrived when the harvest was beginning.

Ruth goes to glean in Booz’s field

Noemi had an elderly relative, very virtuous and rich, called Booz, who owned land. It happened that Ruth, who had gone to glean, or gather up the ears of wheat that the reapers let fall, reached one of Booz’s fields. When he saw her, he asked who she was, and they told him that she was the Moabitess, Noemi’s daughter-in-law. Booz then approached and told her that she could continue to glean there with the other girls. As Ruth was surprised to be so well treated, Booz answered that he had heard how good she had been to her mother-in-law.



When Ruth went back home with her grain, she told Noemi what had happened with Booz. And Noemi told her that he was a man of great charity and a relative of hers. Ruth continued gleaning there the whole season until all the wheat and barley had been gathered into the barns.

Booz marries Ruth

As it was God’s desire that Booz and Ruth join together in holy matrimony, while Ruth was gleaning, Booz went to

Noemi’s home to ask for Ruth’s hand. Noemi then waited for Ruth, to let her decide for herself.



With great joy Ruth told her that it was her desire to accept Booz as husband. The two married and had a son, Obed, who was the grandfather of King David. From the family of Booz and Ruth was to be born Jesus, the Son of God.

Book V

Chapter I

Saul, first King of the People of Israel

King Saul began to reign, but only during the first years of his reign was he obedient to God. Later on he was a bad king, and is in

Hell. As he lived saddened by remorse, he ordered the young David, already



designated by God as the next king, to be brought to his palace to console him, as he played the harp very well and wrote beautiful songs to God, which gave the king peace.. Saul, however, became intensely jealous of him seeing that he was better than himself, and constantly laid traps to kill him.

Young David kills Goliath

When David was still young, the enemies of God's People, who were preparing to wage war on them, were encamped close to the Israelite army.

Among the enemies there was a giant soldier called Goliath, dressed in strong heavy armour and, taking up position between the two camps, insulted and challenged the soldiers of Israel.





When David saw the giant Goliath, moved by God, he went out to face him carrying his shepherd's staff, his sling and five small stones which he had taken from a stream. Goliath told the youth scornfully: "*Am I by chance a dog that you come out against me with a stick?*"

David then took one of the stones and launched it with his sling so perfectly that he struck Goliath on the forehead. Goliath fell to the ground and David took the sword the giant bore and cut off his head.

When the enemy soldiers saw that Goliath had died, they fled terror-stricken, and the sons of Israel pursued them and slew many.

Chapter II

David, second King of the People of Israel



King David, after conquering Jerusalem, had the Temple in Hebron disassembled and brought there in all haste. Meanwhile, the Ark of the Covenant was taken to the Bethlehem Cave where Jesus was to be born, where it stayed for forty days. And David himself made a triumphant entry into Jerusalem. He was acclaimed as King of Israel and as King of the Jews, because Jerusalem is in the region of Judea, so that in time the People of God were also called Jews. Then David had the Ark of the Covenant brought to the Temple, now assembled, from the Sacred Bethlehem Cave to Jerusalem, with great beauty and solemnity, to the great joy of all.

King David, moved by God, reconquered all the lands invaded by enemies, and a period of peace and splendour began.

After a time, David committed a most grievous sin. God corrected him through a prophet. As he was sincerely repentant, God forgave him. Yet God purified David for his sin, permitting great sufferings to befall him from within his own family.



Death of David



Before dying, King David named his son Solomon as future king of Israel, and ordered him to build a great Temple to God in Jerusalem. David died a holy death in Jerusalem, leaving a strong and far-reaching kingdom to his son Solomon, and to God's People a book of songs on the glory of God, on Jesus and His Most Holy Mother, and with many teachings as well. This book is in the Bible and is called 'The Psalms of David'.

Chapter III

Solomon, third King of the People of Israel

Solomon, the wisest of kings

God endowed King Solomon with great wisdom, and with so much wealth



that he had more than all the kings of earth, and people came from afar to hear his teachings and see his wonderful palaces and gardens.

Solomon constructed the great Temple to God in Jerusalem that his father David had commanded him. During the first years of his reign he was a model of virtue, and ordered the building of temples to God in every city and town.

Solomon falls ever more deeply into sin

But later, gradually, Solomon turned his back on God's Law and stained his glory by dreadful sins, owing to his great love for wealth and pleasure.

God, by means of several prophets, reproached Solomon. But Solomon, blinded by pride, scorned the reprimands of God, who announced to him that in punishment his kingdom would be divided after his death.





Solomon's repentance and death

King Solomon afterwards repented of his crimes and left to the People of God several books full of wise counsels, which are in the Bible, such as



Proverbs, Wisdom and others. Solomon is in

Purgatory until the Return of Christ, because in life his repentance was not complete.



Following Solomon's death, his son Roboam became King of Israel.

Chapter IV

Kingdom of Israel divided

God did not desire the division of the Kingdom of Israel, but permitted it as punishment for the sins of Solomon and of many of the people. In the reign of Solomon's son Roboam, the people of Israel were divided into two kingdoms: the Kingdom of Judah to the south, and the Kingdom of Samaria to the north. In both kingdoms there were many kings, some faithful to God and others unfaithful. Both in Judah and in Samaria there were descendants of all the tribes of Israel, some good and others bad.

Chapter V

Kingdom of Judah

The Kingdom of Judah had as capital the city of Jerusalem, where the Temple raised up by Solomon stood and the Levitical High Priest resided.

The kings of Judah were twelve, all from the tribe of Judah: Roboam, Abia, Asa, Josaphat, Joram, Ochozias, Joas, Amasias, Ozias, Joathan, Achaz, and Ezechias, who was to unite the two kingdoms of Israel together again.



Chapter VI

Kingdom of Samaria

The Kingdom of Samaria had as capital the city of Sichem, where a portable Temple was set up, so that faithful Israelites could keep God's Law whenever they were unable to go up to Jerusalem.

The Kingdom of Samaria had eighteen kings, who were: Jeroboam, Nadab, Baasa, Ela, Anri, Achab, Ochozias, Joram, Jehu, Joacaz, Joas, Jeroboam II, Zacharias, Sellun, Menahem, Faceia, Faceas and Oseas.

Elias' curse

In the times of the kings, it happened that wicked King Achab let himself be led astray by his evil wife who did not know the true God, and besides did not want to renounce her life of sin.



God then sent the Prophet Elias to announce to the king that, because of his sins, rain would cease to fall, and that this would be the Kingdom of Samaria's punishment.

After three and a half years without rain, such was the lack of food and water that Achab sent to call Elias to remedy the great evil.

Elias then told the king: *"All this evil is your doing and that of many in your kingdom."* Elias told Achab as well that, if he wanted rain to fall again, he should summon the whole people to gather on Mount Carmel, together with the prophets of the idol Baal – that is, of the image called Baal which they adored as though it were a god.

Elias challenges the false prophets

Once gathered, the Prophet Elias told the people: *"I am going to demonstrate to you that my Lord is the true God. Bring two bullocks: one for the prophets of Baal to cut up and lay over firewood, and the other bullock I will cut up and also lay over firewood."* When all was prepared, Elias said to the prophets of Baal: *"You, invoke the name of your god, and I will invoke the name of my God; and whichever of the two has the power to bring down*



the two has the power to bring down



fire upon the victims will show that He is the true God.”

The false prophets asked Baal to bring down fire upon their altar. To be better heard they gave great shouts and cut their bodies with knives until they were covered in blood.

Elias then invoked the Lord God Almighty, and at once fire came down from Heaven upon the altar raised up by Elias, which consumed the victim and everything else there.

Conversion of the people and death of the false prophets

When the people saw the miracle they said: *“The Lord of Elias is the true God.”* Then Elias ordered the prophets of Baal to be seized, and he killed them with his own sword. At last, that same day, it rained, and the drought ended.

King Achab, for scorning the holy and wise counsels of the Prophets of the Lord and placing his trust in the favour of idols, died with signs of despair.

The Kingdom of Samaria comes to an end

During the reign in Samaria of perverse King Oseas, and as punishment for the king’s wickedness and that of his people, God permitted the kings of Nineveh to invade the Samaritan kingdom three times, and to lead off many of the people as captives, or

prisoners, to the land of Nineveh. At the last invasion, the Kingdom of Samaria came to an end, and the land became subject to the Ninevites.

Israel reunited

Guided by God, valorous King Ezechias with his army reconquered the former Kingdom of Samaria from the power of the Ninevites, who had invaded it. From then on, the Kingdom of Israel was again formed by the united kingdoms of Judah and Samaria, and Ezechias was the first of the eight sovereigns who governed reunited Israel. And he died in holiness.

Chapter VII

Story of Tobias



Amongst the Samaritans led captive to Nineveh was Tobias the elder and his wife Anne, who were faithful to God's Commandments and exceedingly generous. They had a son whom they likewise called Tobias. Tobias the elder became blind, and bore his blindness with patience and love for God. One day, in order to collect some money in a distant city, he sent his son, who went accompanied by a gallant youth who protected him on the journey.

Tobias the younger's journey

This youth was the Archangel Saint Raphael, though he did not yet say so. On their long journey they passed through the city of Ecbathana, where a cousin of Tobias the elder lived, who had a virtuous daughter called Sarah.



This daughter had suffered greatly, because she had been married several times, but no sooner did she marry than her husbands died, one after another, before they had lived together, for the husbands were not pleasing to God who wanted to give Sarah a husband virtuous like herself.

Tobias marries Sarah

As it was God's wish that they unite in marriage, the young Tobias, by the Angel's counsel, asked for her hand, and their marriage was piously celebrated to the great joy of all.



Tobias and Sarah are an example of the virtuous married couple. Meanwhile, Archangel Saint Raphael had gone to collect the money Tobias the elder had asked for.

Archangel Saint Raphael makes himself known

At their return to Nineveh, Tobias the elder also miraculously recovered his eyesight, likewise by means of the mysterious youth, who finally made



himself known, saying: *“I am the Archangel Raphael.”* And all of them together praised and gave thanks to God.

Counsels and death of Tobias

The aged Tobias gave very good counsels to his son, saying: *“Always keep God in your thoughts, observe His Commandments. Give alms and never turn your back*



on any of the poor. Keep yourself from all impurity.” The aged Tobias and his wife Anne died in holiness. Many years later Tobias the younger returned to Israel with his wife Sarah and all their large family, where he too died in holiness.

Chapter VIII

Kingdoms of Judah and Samaria united

Following the death of the first king of reunited Israel, namely the valorous King Ezechias, who had his throne in Jerusalem, bad kings reigned. A very difficult time then began for the children of Israel faithful to God, since the majority of the people did not respect His Law.

In those years, the Kingdom of Babylon became ever stronger and with great cruelty conquered many lands.

God then ordered High Priest Joachim to install a portable Temple in the town of Bethulia, in Samaria, for Divine Worship, and that Joachim himself should govern the town. Bethulia thus became the refuge of those Israelites faithful to God; for even in Jerusalem and its Temple, God





was deeply offended through the fault of the bad kings and also of the bad priests.

Rule by the heroine Judith then followed. At Judith's death, virtuous King Josias reigned in Israel. But after his death, came the reign of four wicked kings who provoked a great chastisement from God.

Invasion by the Babylonian army and destruction of Jerusalem

God chastised the wickedness of His people by allowing the Babylonians to invade the Kingdom of Israel three times. They conquered many cities, killed many of God's People and took others away captive to Babylon. In the third invasion, Nabuchodonozor III, king of Babylonia, conquered Jerusalem as well, entered God's Temple and took away the sacred vessels and other treasures. Then he destroyed the city of Jerusalem and the great Temple of God, and took many Israelites captive.

The far-reaching land of Israel, then, fell into the hands of the king of Babylonia.

Chapter IX

Story of Judith

Judith's heroic feat occurred in the time of King Nabuchodonozor I, king of Babylonia. He had already conquered many lands and, full of pride, wanted all to adore him as a god. He therefore sent out his general Holofernes to make war and conquer those who would not recognize him as such. Holofernes conquered many cities and succeeded by threats in forcing other kings to surrender their kingdoms without a struggle, out of fear for his armies.



Bethulia is surrounded by Holofernes' armies

News of the conquests and cruelties of Nabuchodonozor I and Holofernes filled with terror the children of the People of God sheltering in the town of Bethulia.

High Priest Joachim, governor of the town, strengthened the walls, stored away abundant provisions, and ordered all to pray and do penance. Holofernes arrived with his army not far from the town, and then encircled it with his soldiers and tents, planning to conquer it.



Judith beheads Holofernes

But God impelled a valorous woman called Judith, who was a Nun, to defend the town. Judith and another virtuous Nun from her convent, with great faith in God, and with a sword and a satchel, left Bethulia dressed as Israelite soldiers and headed for Holofernes' encampment.

When they arrived, Judith warned Holofernes not to try to conquer Bethulia, and told him: *“God will grant His people victory. Bow your head then, O Holofernes, before the true God. It is not too late to withdraw.”* Perverse

Holofernes, taking no notice of her words, commanded his servants to bring wine for the two soldiers to drink.

Judith and her companion refused the wine Holofernes offered them, and he began to drink to excess until he fell asleep from the wine.

Then Judith, after praying to the Lord for help, with the sword she carried, cut off Holofernes' head, and took it to Bethulia in the satchel. Both Nuns were able to enter and leave Holofernes' encampment freely thanks to miraculous help from God.

The People of Israel defeat Holofernes' army

Judith, once inside Bethulia, showed to all the head she had brought, and commanded it to be placed high up on one of the walls' towers.

The Babylonian soldiers soon realized that Holofernes was dead, and fled in terror. The soldiers of Israel then went out in their pursuit, and many enemy soldiers died at the hands of Bethulia's soldiers.

Judith, Caudilla of the People of Israel

God named Judith as Caudilla of the far-reaching Kingdom of Israel. Judith ordered the embellishment of God's Temple in Jerusalem, and transferred her government there. Judith's rule was one of great peace, and afterwards she died a holy death.

Chapter X

Israel governed by Viceroy

When God permitted the invasion of Israel as punishment for the sins of His People, and the land fell into the hands of the King of Babylonia, Nabuchodonozor III, many Israelites were led away captive.

But many others of God's People stayed on to live in Israel, and the King of Babylonia then named virtuous Godolias as viceroy of Israel to govern the far-flung land; at his death he was followed by Godiel, and later Goniel, who were also very virtuous viceroys. Among those who stayed in Israel were all the prophets and religious who lived on Mount Carmel.

Book VI

Chapter I

Story of the Prophet Elias

At twelve years of age the Prophet Elias was taken by his parents to Mount Carmel and remained there from then on in the service of God.

Elias went to speak on God's behalf to perverse King Achab of Samaria, to reprove him for his sins and warn him of the chastisements which would come if he did not amend. However, as the king refused to give up his bad life, Elias launched three curses, which made rain cease to fall in Samaria and other places for three and a half years.

Elias is fed by ravens

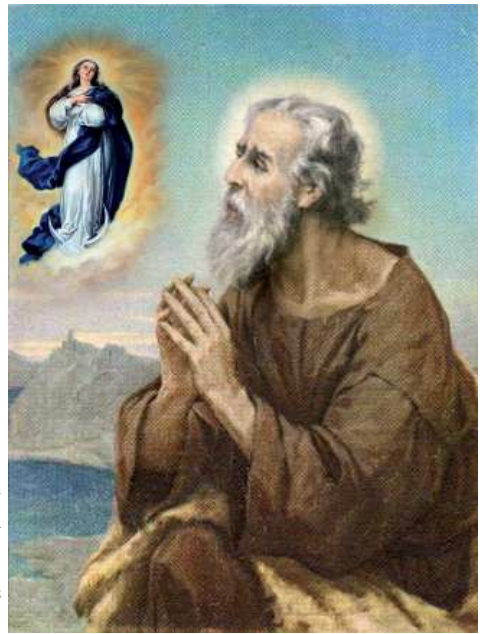
Afterwards, God spoke to Elias: *“Withdraw from here and go up beside the Carith brook. There you will drink from the brook; I have already commanded the ravens to bring you food.”* Elias abandoned everything to live solely in God's service; he prepared himself there to carry out well all that God expected of him.

Beside the brook he was fed with meat and bread by the ravens.

The Prophet Elias brings the son of the virtuous widow Magnolia back to life

By God's order, Elias went far away, to the house of a virtuous widow,





who lived in poverty with her only son Jonas, both very faithful to God. And it happened that Jonas suddenly died, to his mother's great anguish, and she went to Elias weeping.

Jonas had been dead for three days, and people came to console Magnolia. Elias then took the boy up to his room and began to pray. Of a sudden Jonas rose to life and Elias gave him back alive to his mother.

By this miracle, many were converted to the true God.

Eliseus' calling

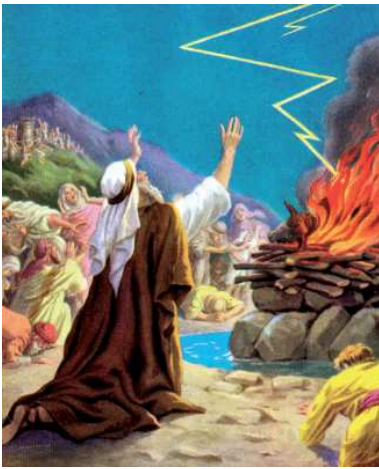
After three years absence, God ordered Elias to return to Mount Carmel. On his way back, he met up with Eliseus, who was ploughing with eleven of his labourers, and Elias called him to the religious life. Eliseus at once left everything and generously followed him. His good example was imitated by his eleven labourers who, leaving everything, also followed Elias.

Foundation of the Order of Mount Carmel

The Carmelite Order was founded by the Most Holy Virgin Mary when She appeared, vested in white with sky blue mantle, to the Prophet Saint Elias on the 16th of July in the year 4280 of Creation, on Mount Carmel.

Almost from its beginnings the Order was formed by Friars, Nuns, and





Tertiaries. Elias set down the norms for the Order and was Father Founder and Superior General.

The Essenian Priesthood

God gave the Essenian Priesthood to the Carmelite Order. Many of the Friars received this Priesthood, which had a sacrifice of bread and wine, and so was superior to the Levitical sacrifice, which was with blood; yet these two priesthoods were inferior to the Abraham's, and greatly inferior to today's Priesthood.

Elias is rapt up to Mary's Planet

After having been persecuted with his life in danger, the Prophet Elias returned to Mount Carmel, and there lived until

shortly before he was rapt up to Mary's Planet in a chariot of fire, in the presence of the Prophet Eliseus, who had not left his side that whole day, so as to be with him at that moment.

Chapter II

The Prophet Eliseus



to succeed Elias as Second Superior of the Order of Carmel; he performed many miracles by God's grace.

Eliseus curses some terrible children

One day when the Prophet Eliseus was on a journey, forty-two children came out from a town and began to insult him and make fun of him for being a Prophet and a Priest. Eliseus, with zeal for God's glory, cursed them, and at once two fierce bears came out of a wood, killed all the children and devoured them.

Eliseus helps a virtuous widow

On another occasion, a tertiary widow of the Order arrived, deeply afflicted, to tell him that she had no money to pay her debts, and was afraid that her two children might



be taken off as slaves. Eliseus then asked her what she had at home, and she told him that she had just a little oil in a flask and nothing else.

The Prophet then told her to go to the homes of all her neighbours and ask



for empty vessels, and in each of them to pour a little of the oil she had. She and her children did this. And the vessels all became filled with oil, which she sold and was thus able to pay her debts.

The Prophet Eliseus died in holiness on Mount Carmel.

Chapter III

The four Prophets known as ‘major’

Prophets spoke to the people in the name of God, and announced the future events which God made known to them, thus making ‘prophecies’.

Through them God corrected, reprovved and warned the kings and the people when they strayed from the right path. Through them as well He guided and encouraged the faithful, when they so needed.

The Prophets known as ‘major’ are: Isaias, Jeremias, Ezechiel and Daniel.

The Prophet Isaias

He became a prophet after his wife’s death. Before long he entered as a Friar on Mount Carmel with his two sons.

Isaias, on God’s behalf, for example, encouraged King Ezechias when the king was



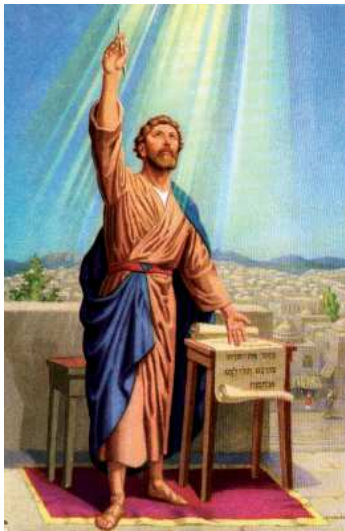


humanly afraid of losing a war; and God helped the king by great miracles, because he was faithful, kept God's Law, and made others keep it.

When God, through the Prophet, called people to be converted to Him and to keep His Law, Isaias did as God commanded, correcting kings and people, and threatened them with the chastisements which God announced to him. The Prophet Isaias died a martyr, because wicked King Manasses ordered him to be sawn apart to free himself from the Prophet's reproofs.

Chapter IV

The Prophet Jeremias



The Prophet Jeremias, on God's behalf, often reproved bad priests and false prophets. He also performed other missions from God to prevent the wrongful use of sacred things by the false prophets and bad priests there were.

He also warned the wicked Holophernes of his tragic end, for which Jeremias was bound and taken prisoner, and suffered greatly.

Jeremias announced the chastisement of the destruction of Jerusalem, both to the king and to the people, but they would not listen to him, so that he was seized, scourged and put into a filthy dungeon. Later on he wept bitterly over the ruins of Jerusalem and its Temple.

As secretary he had the Prophet Baruch, who delivered his messages when Jeremias was

held in prison.

For his fidelity to God, Jeremias was taken down by force into Egypt by Israelite enemies of his, where he died crucified.

Chapter V

The Prophet Ezechiel



The Prophet Ezechiel, who was born in Bethlehem, married a virtuous maiden, and they had seven sons. He had a vision of the evils and of the terrible suffering which would be caused in Jerusalem by the Babylonian army, but he was mocked. God then permitted his wife and sons to die at the same time, to portray the forthcoming destruction of Jerusalem and the death of so many in the city.

After the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians, Ezechiel was led away captive together with many other Israelites. The virtuous Ezechiel was an example and a great support for the Israelites in Babylon. He died a martyr, killed by a perverse Israelite judge whom Ezechiel had accused of adoring false gods.

Chapter VI

Story of the Prophet Daniel



At twelve years of age the Prophet Daniel was taken captive to Babylon together with other Israelites. As he was intelligent and good, he was called to the palace to serve King Nabuchodonozor III, together with three companions: Ananias, Mishael and Azarias.

The chaste Susanna

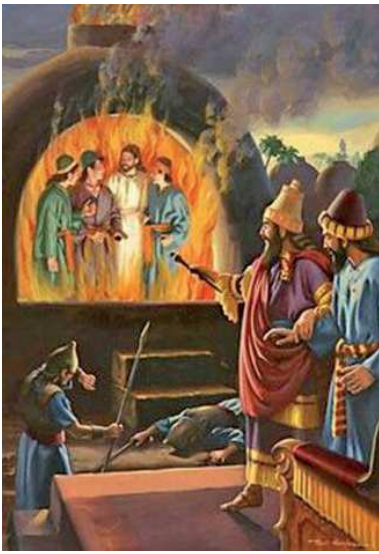


While still a youth, inspired by God, he saved from death a beautiful and virtuous woman called Susanna, who had been falsely accused by two very wicked judges. They were about to kill Susanna when Daniel arrived.

At once Daniel had the two judges summoned separately, and asked them why they had accused Susanna. As they each gave a different reply, the people who were there then realized that the judges were liars and very wicked. So the two judges were condemned to death.

Nabuchodonozor III's dream

Also assisted by God, Daniel brought to King Nabuchodonozor III's mind



a difficult dream the king had dreamt and then forgotten, and revealed its meaning. The king, then, with admiration, made Daniel prince over all the Babylonian provinces.

Ananias, Mishael and Azarias in the fiery furnace

But later the king, full of pride, ordered a golden statue of himself to be made in order to be adored. As the Prophet Daniel and his three companions refused to adore the statue, the king commanded that the three companions be thrown into a fiery furnace. God however protected them, and the fire did them no harm. The king then set them free, and also Daniel, but the king did not avail himself of this grace to be converted to the true Faith.

Nabuchodonozor III is turned into an animal

The Prophet Daniel, on God's behalf, told the king to demolish the statue, but as he did not do so the king was punished, for God turned his body into that of an animal, and he could only walk about on all fours and live out-of-doors. After seven years, Nabuchodonozor III returned to the normal state of man, was converted to God and died a pious death.

Daniel in the lions' den

During the reign of King Darius of Babylon, those close to the king began to feel very jealous of the Prophet Daniel. King Darius, forced by Daniel's enemies, gave orders that he should be thrown to the lions.

God then ordered Archangel Saint Raphael to take the Prophet Habacuc there with a meal he had prepared, for Daniel to eat.

Days later the king went and saw the Prophet seated amid the lions, who surrounded him like lambs. Darius said to him: "*O Daniel, servant of the God of Israel, how is it possible that you are still alive in the midst of the lions?*"





Darius was not yet converted, but ordered that Daniel be drawn out of the lions' den, and commanded that those who had accused Daniel unjustly be thrown in, and the lions devoured them all.

Daniel destroys the idol Bel and its temple

Some time later, as the king thought that Bel was a living idol and ate much, he wanted to confirm this.

Bel was a figure of clay within and bronze without, which the Babylonians adored as though it were a god.

The false prophets told the king to leave the idol its food, and close and lock the



temple, so that no one might enter or leave – because they had a secret entrance to take away the things for themselves – and the king accepted. But before leaving, Daniel sprinkled ashes on the floor.

The next day the food was no longer there, but in the ashes there were footprints of men, women and children – the false prophets' families.

The king then ordered them all to be killed, and Daniel, in God's name, destroyed the idol Bel and its temple, and thus won the conversion of King Darius, who died piously.

Afterwards Daniel returned to Israel, where he died in holiness in his old age.

Chapter VII

The twelve Prophets known as 'minor'

The Prophets known as 'minor' were: Abdias, Jonas, Micheas, Amos, Joel, Nahum, Baruch, Oseas, Habacuc, Sophonias, Aggeus and Zacharias. The twelve died holy deaths.

Story of Jonas

The Prophet Jonas was a Carmelite Friar, and was the son of the virtuous widow Magnolia; he was the one raised to life by Elias when still a boy.

The Prophet Jonas was sent by God to the





city of Nineveh, to tell everyone there to repent of their sins, change their lives and be converted to the true God.

**Jonas, sent to Nineveh,
runs away from his mission**

Jonas, however, fearful of all he would have to do in Nineveh, fled by ship to Tarsis – today Seville. God then unleashed such a great storm at sea that it seemed that they would all perish.



Each of those on the boat began to pray to their god, but the storm continued. Seeing that Jonas slept peacefully, they concluded that he was the one to blame. So they went up to him and asked him the reason for the storm. Jonas told them that he was an adorer of the true God and that he was running away from his mission, but that if they threw him into the sea, the storm would abate – since God had made this known to him.

Jonas is swallowed up by a whale

Jonas was then thrown into the sea, the storm calmed and many were converted to the true God. He, however, was swallowed up by a whale, which miraculously took him to a beach on the river Tigris, close to Nineveh; Jonas came out of the whale unharmed, and this was seen by many people there.



Conversion of Nineveh

There he did penance for his disobedience to God, and told the king of Nineveh and the people all that God wanted of them. The Ninevites, then, struck by the miracle of the whale, believed in God, were converted from the heart, did penance and God forgave them.

Chapter VIII

**Some prophecies
or announcements by the Prophets**

Prophecies on the birth of Jesus:

“The time will come when the Righteous Man, to be espoused to the Virgin, will receive the Holy Name of Joseph.”

“The time will come when the Immaculate Virgin will receive the Holy Name of Mary.”





“Behold the Virgin shall conceive and bring forth a Son.”

“And you, O Bethlehem, little town in Judah: in you shall be born the Messiah of Israel.”

“The Christ of God will be given the Holy Name of Jesus. Kings from afar will seek Him to adore Him and kings from nearby will seek Him to kill Him. His refuge will be in this land of Egypt”.

“The ox knows his owner and the ass his master’s crib”.

On Jesus Christ’s Passion: *“After being condemned to death in iniquitous trial, He was raised up on high, and was counted among evildoers, despite there being no evil in Him, nor lie upon His lips.”*

Also: *“The Messiah will be salvation for those who have recourse to Him.”*

Referring to Holy Communion: *“The bread and the wine that is proper to My People, shall not be eaten or drunk by those outside of her”.*

On the eternal reward for the good: *“Those who have been truly wise in the things of God, and taught justice and virtue to many, shall shine like the stars for all eternity.”*

The Prophets also made important announcements for these times, including on El Palmar de Troya, which is called *desert*, and about Pope Saint Gregory XVII, who appears as *the great blind one, who sees with spiritual eyes*.

Book VII

Most Holy Prophet Malachias

The Most Holy Prophet Malachias is the Holy Ghost, who appeared as a Prophet in the Old Testament, ever since the foundation of the Order of Mount Carmel up till a few months prior to the Immaculate Conception of the Most Holy Virgin Mary.

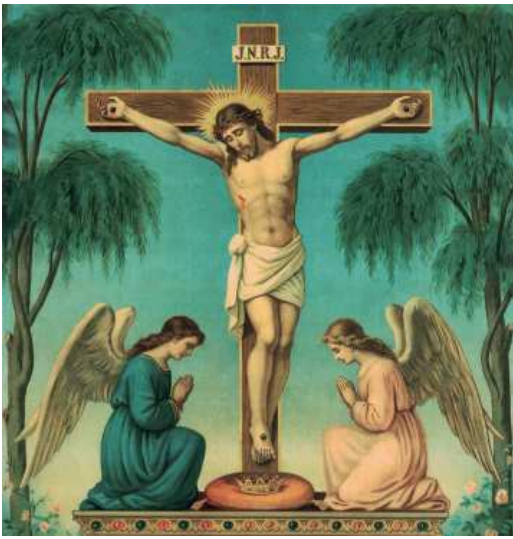
He teaches clearly that God loves good and rewards it, and also that He hates evil and punishes it. Most Holy Malachias, when He corrects and reproveth, says that God is always ready to forgive anyone who is sincerely repentant, amends and returns to Him.

On Priests He says: *“In the good Priest there is doctrine of truth, and wickedness is not found on his lips. They will seek the law from his mouth, since the Priest is an Angel Mediator”*, that is, the good Priest should be respected and obeyed, because he prays to God for all, and through him God sends us very many graces, which is the meaning of *Mediator*.

Most Holy Malachias, besides His prophecies, also wrote the Book of ‘Ecclesiasticus’, also in the Bible, full of wise counsels.

He says to the father of the family: *“In all things maintain your authority. Instruct and educate your children well from childhood. Whoever loves his child reproveth and punishes him when he does wrong.”*

He also says to the children: *“Son, hearken to the good counsels of your parents and carry them out, that is if you wish to be saved. Honour your father and your mother with all your heart. Honour your father and your mother in deed, in word and with all patience.”*



Book VIII

Chapter I

Story of Esther



Among the Israelites led to Babylon by order of Nabuchodonozor III was Mardocheus, as well as his brother Abihail, who in Babylon married an Israelite damsel and God gave them a daughter, whom they called Esther. But shortly afterwards the mother died and, when Esther was aged five, her father too died. Her uncle Mardocheus, who was single, then adopted her as a daughter. He gave her a very good upbringing and taught her to observe the Holy Law of God in everything. They were both known for their love of God and charity towards the poor and sick.

Mardocheus enters the king's service

King Nabuchodonozor III of Babylonia summoned Mardocheus to court, as he was very upright, intelligent and good. This kingdom, however, became subject to the Persian empire, so to represent him there in commercial affairs, King Nabuchodonozor III sent Mardocheus to Susa, capital of the Persian Empire, where King Assuerus lived.

So Mardocheus left with Esther, a sixteen-year-old young lady of great virtue.

Assuerus, surnamed Cyrus, king of Persia

Assuerus, surnamed Cyrus, king of the Persian Empire, was converted to the faith of the God of Israel when still a prince by the teachings of the Prophet Sophonias, and he was a very upright person, of great piety and wisdom.



Assuerus holds a banquet to present his betrothed

Shortly after the arrival of Mardocheus and Esther at Susa, King Assuerus invited them to a banquet he gave in his palace to present his future spouse, the young Vasthi, who pretended to be Israelite by religion, but in reality adored false gods.



There were ministers, generals, governors and also magnates present from other realms, each with his wife. And Mardocheus went accompanied by his niece Esther, dressed very elegantly and modestly, reflecting her great purity and beauty.

Shocking example of Vasthi, and her punishment

Assuerus had directed Vasthi to come to the banquet a little later dressed as queen. But Vasthi wanted to dress in light clothing and dance before all. Learning of her plans, Assuerus ordered her to be told that no daughter of God did any such thing, nor would his future queen.

The capricious Vasthi then went in to the great hall and appeared indecently before all. The king, deeply angered, immediately gave orders to his guards that she be expelled from his kingdom, and they obeyed at once.

King Assuerus marries Esther

In the face of Vasthi's scandal, the prudent and pleasant Esther stood out all the more. Shortly after, the king asked Mardocheus to give him virtuous Esther's hand in marriage. And as this was God's Will, Esther accepted.

The traitor Amman

But close beside such powerful kings there are many traitors, and thus too it was with Assuerus, for his Prime Minister was the traitor Amman, who desired to become king and sought some way of killing Assuerus. Mardocheus, by his virtues and the king's trust in him, was an obstacle to Amman, so Amman decided to kill him first.

Amman falsely accuses Mardocheus and God's People

Amman, backed by some apostate Israelites, falsely accused Mardocheus, together with the Israelites in captivity, to be planning the death of King Assuerus. He presented so many false witnesses that the king believed him, and commanded Amman to do whatever might be



necessary. Amman, then, sent out the order, sealed with the king's ring, to all the provinces, to kill all Israelites after four weeks, on the same day.



Queen Esther places her trust in God

Queen Esther, deeply pained at this situation, sent Mardocheus a note saying that he and the whole people should unite in prayer and fasting during three days, that she and her maids would fast in the same way, and that after the three days she would go to the king.

Queen Esther, the resolute woman

Following these three days, Queen Esther, dressed in her finest robes, went to the throne room, where she found her husband the king with his trusted ministers, among them as well the traitor Amman. Esther, though turning pale on reaching the throne, fulfilled her mission: she told the king that there was no treason by the People of God, rather that Amman was the traitor who sought his death.

Assuerus prevents the death of the Israelites

The king, then, very surprised, began to think and to question, and realized that Queen Esther had spoken the truth. Mardocheus was named Prince of the Empire and Amman was condemned to death. Messengers left in haste for all the provinces to explain what had happened and prevent the death of the Israelites.

The true religion then became the official and obligatory one of the great Persian Empire, by order of King Assuerus.

Chapter II

The Israelites return from the Babylonian captivity

When the Israelites had been in Babylonia for seventy years, God, through the Prophet Daniel, commanded virtuous King Assuerus to rebuild the Jerusalem Temple and the city walls.

Thus began the time of the return to Israel of the Israelites in Babylonia. It was a glorious time for Israel. They were captive in Babylonia, it is true, but the kings and





people of Babylonia had embraced the true Faith. And throughout the far-reaching lands of the Persian Empire – to which Israel also belonged – the laws were in accord with God’s Will, and in the temples the True God was adored and blessed.

Three Caudillos for the People of Israel

There were three Caudillos who guided the three hosts of Israelites who wanted to return to their land, each named by the corresponding virtuous Persian King. The first was Zorobabel, the second was Esdras and the third was Nehemias. Each of them, on arriving, began to rule the land of Israel, which at that time was very far-reaching, and made it obligatory to keep the whole Law of God well.

The best for God

King Assuerus, moreover, returned all the sacred objects which had been taken from the Temple of God by Nabuchodonozor III, to the new Temple they were going to build.

The Israelites who wanted to stay on in Babylonia helped with generous and valuable contributions to the Temple of God, and to utensils for sacred worship.



Before the first expedition set out, in a miraculous way Esdras received the Tablets of the Law, some Sacred Books of that time, several books with David’s Psalms, and other sacred objects which they devoutly took with them on the journey.

The return to Israel

They set out from Babylonia with Zorobabel, as previously from Egypt with Moses, accompanied by great miracles and helps from Heaven. They crossed the Arabian Desert. Before reaching Jerusalem they went to Mount Carmel to give thanks to God.

Reconstruction of the Temple and the walls of Jerusalem

During the rule of Zorobabel, the reconstruction of the Temple of God began in the same place where the Temple of Solomon had previously stood, and they started work on the walls of the city. During the rule of Esdras they





continued the work, which they ended when Nehemias was Caudillo of the People of God.

Book IX

Chapter I

Rule by the Caudillos Michael in Israel

The Caudillos Michael

For many years afterwards, the land of Israel was ruled by eight virtuous Caudillos Michael, who were Carmelite Friars. Each ruled for thirty-two years, and then went back to the Order as a Friar. All these Caudillos afterwards died in holiness.

End of the Persian Empire during the rule of the Michaels

At this time in Persia, following so many virtuous kings, bad kings began to reign who did much harm, allowing all kinds of wrongdoing in their lands and also in Israel, which at that time belonged to the Persian Empire.

God chastised them for their sins, and Persia was conquered by the powerful and wicked Alexander I the Great, who died young.

At his death, the empire was divided up among his generals, who became kings of each region. Israel then fell under the king of Egypt and Israel. Later, however, the king of Syria, Antiochus III, conquered part of the land of Israel.

Chapter II

Great struggle by the Caudillos Michael

The Caudillos Michael had a very hard time, having to defend the faith of God, His holy Law and His worship by their swords, for many of the people had again abandoned the right path and did not want to observe the Law of God. There were also wars, because they lost parts of their land, conquered by kings from other countries, so that there were few periods of peace.

Problems during the rule of Michael VIII

During the rule of Michael VIII, the last of the Michaels, perverse and cruel Antiochus IV began to reign in Syria and in a great part of Israel. This king ordered that in every temple figures should be adored as though they were gods, and punished with death anyone who did not obey his commands. Many Israelites cowardly abandoned their Faith, but there



were others as well who gave examples of love for God, preferring to die rather than offend Him.

Apostasies in the Carmelite Order, and sects in Israel

During the last year under Michael VIII's rule, many friars and tertiaries left the Carmelite Order; a false prophet was to blame for this. Moreover the sects of the pharisees and the sadducees appeared. A sect is a group which separates from the true Faith, for not accepting all the truths which must be believed, and are left just with the truths they want to accept. These sects did much harm to the Faith in Israel.

Lands under Israelite rule faithful to God

God reserved for Himself and for His faithful people Mount Carmel and certain cities such as Jerusalem, Hebron, Bethlehem, Jericho, Bethulia and others, which their enemies were unable to conquer.



Book X

Chapter I

Rule by the Caudillos Machabee in the land of Israel.

Mathathias Machabee begins his rule

At that time, the land of Israel was almost reduced to just certain cities protected by God. Then began the rule of the Caudillos Machabee in Israel. They were: Mathathias, Judas, Jonathas, Simon, John Hyrcanus and Aristobulus Asmoneus.

The Caudillos Machabee were also Levitical High Priests in their time; all had been Carmelite Tertiaries and had become Friars when widowed.

Caudillo Mathathias left his son Eleazar Machabee as Governor of Jerusalem, and with zeal called upon all Israel to fight a holy war in defence of God's rights. He waged great battles against the armies of wicked Antiochus IV, king of Syria, who had much of the land of Israel in his power.

Mathathias reconquered many provinces and cities. He fought with vigour against those Israelite groups that refused to accept all the truths of Faith, and as well defended



the true Carmelite Order and demanded observance of God's Law everywhere.

Chapter II

Story of Heliodorus

The first town Mathathias Machabee visited, and called upon to defend the Faith, was Modin, that of his own family, where certain Israelites had already given their lives for God's Law, against Antiochus IV's perverse laws.

While Mathathias was speaking with faith and vigour to the people before the temple, Heliodorus arrived, one of Antiochus IV's chief ministers, with a statue of the false god Zeus to place inside. After making great promises to Mathathias and the rest if they accepted the laws against God, Heliodorus entered the temple.



Heliodorus' chastisement

Suddenly a mounted Soldier appeared with brilliant apparel and armour like gold, and from Him came rays which struck down those who bore the statue of Zeus and destroyed it, and the rider – who was Most Holy Melchisedech, that is the Soul of Jesus, appearing as a Warrior – attacked Heliodorus, trampled

him with His horse and disappeared. Then two Angels, like strong youths, splendidly attired, began to scourge him. Afterwards they drew Heliodorus out of the temple. Mortally wounded, he could neither speak nor see.

Heliodorus is healed

Then some Syrian soldiers begged Mathathias to pray to the God of Israel to save Heliodorus' life, and Mathathias began to pray. The mysterious youths who had scourged him approached Heliodorus and told him that God had pardoned his life for love of Mathathias, and that he should now announce God's power to all. At that moment, Heliodorus recovered his speech, his sight and his wounds healed over.

Heliodorus' conversion

Heliodorus went back to Antiochus IV, but solely to tell him what had happened, and to inform him that from then on he would fight only for the God of Israel, and Him alone would he serve. Heliodorus joined Mathathias' holy war and later died fighting heroically for God and His Law.

Chapter III

Martyrdom of the agè Eleazar Machabee



It happened in those times that the chief Levitical Priest in Bethel, the agè Eleazar Machabee, had not allowed a statue of Zeus to be placed in God's temple. Wicked king Antiochus IV then went to Bethel, sacrificed pork meat to his idols and tried to force Eleazar to eat this meat forbidden by the Law of Moses.

Eleazar is tempted by pharisees

Learning of this, some pharisees from Bethel came and told Eleazar that they could put permitted meat instead of the pork, so that he might eat it before the king and save his life.

Eleazar gives testimony to his faith

But the agè Eleazar told them: *"I would rather die, for I would grievously offend the Lord God of Israel and would be cause of perdition for many by my bad example. Besides, though I might free myself from the torments of men, I cannot escape from the hands of the Almighty. By dying courageously for God's Law, I will leave to all an example of fortitude in defence of the most holy and venerable Law."* So he died a martyr, giving example of virtue and love for God.

Chapter IV

Martyrdom of Machabea and her seven Machabee sons

Likewise during the rule of Mathathias, took place in Mafa the martyrdom of the prophetess Machabea and her seven Machabee sons.



King Antiochus IV ordered mother and sons to disobey the Holy Law of God by eating forbidden meat, and they refused.

The eldest son said to King Antiochus: *"We are willing to die rather than violate the laws of the God of Israel."* The king ordered that, in the presence of his mother and brothers, his tongue be cut

off, and then his hands and feet, and he be thrown alive into a frying pan in which he died burnt to death.

The second son amidst great torments said to the king: *"You, O utterly*



perverse king, take our present life, but the Lord God shall reward us with eternal life for having died in defence of His Holy Law.”

They asked the third son for his tongue to cut off, and he thrust it out at once, stretching his hands out for them to cut off, saying with great confidence: *“From God I received these bodily members. But now I despise them for love of His Holy Law, and I hope to recover them from His same divine hands.”*

When he was dead, the fourth was tortured until he died. And they did the same to the fifth and sixth brothers.

As the youngest of the brothers still remained, villainous King Antiochus promised him under oath that he would make him rich and happy if he abandoned the Law of the God of Israel. However, the child said to the executioners in a loud voice: *“What are you waiting for? I do not obey the command of the king but the Law of God.”* King Antiochus, seething with rage, unleashed his fury upon the child more cruelly than upon his other brothers. This seventh son also died.

Finally Machabea died amidst cruel tortures.

Chapter V

Siege of Jerusalem and victory of Mathathias Machabee

At the death of Antiochus IV, his son Antiochus V became king, also perverse and an adorer of false gods. This wicked king attacked the city of Jerusalem when Caudillo Mathathias and his

army were far away.

But God warned Mathathias of the grave danger to Jerusalem, and he was able to arrive with his army on the third day of the enemy attack. Thanks be to God, Jerusalem had been able to resist. Mathathias Machabee then surrounded the city and trapped the Syrians between his army and the city walls. Antiochus V was able to escape, but did not again dare to attack Jerusalem during Mathathias' rule.

Chapter VI

Death of Caudillo Mathathias Machabee

Shortly before dying, Mathathias – by God’s wish – appointed his son Judas Machabee as Caudillo, and after him his other sons from the eldest to the youngest.

On blessing them, Mathathias told them to remember the examples of their fathers who, whenever they trusted in God, God Himself helped them, and ended: *“You then, my children, strive in defence of the Holy Law of God; let all continue to labour for our God and our people, so that all observe His commandments.”* Mathathias Machabee died in holiness and all Israel kept mourning.



Chapter VII

Rule by Judas Machabee

Judas Machabee, Caudillo of Israel, from his father inherited a far-reaching land with good laws, though some of the cities still belonged to Syria, such as Sichem, in which besides there was an anti-high priest, who backed the Syrians. The better

to prepare his attacks on the People of God, the Syrian king had a palace there as well.

Enemy attacks against Jerusalem

As the Syrian army had already been routed several times, Antiochus V, with ever greater hatred and desire for revenge, ordered his generals to organize enormous armies with soldiers from different nations in order to wreak vengeance on the Israelites.

The support of prayer



Eleazar Machabee, Governor of Jerusalem and Vice-High Priest, gathered together all those who were unable to go out to war, so that during the battle they might stay praying in the Temple.

Military defence

Caudillo Judas Machabee prepared his soldiers with fasts, prayers and military exercises. And he encouraged his soldiers, telling them that for God it is quite easy to make



a few soldiers triumph over many, if they keep and defend God's Law, because then God Himself confounds the enemy.

The battle

The Israelites then launched themselves at the Syrians with such force that they routed them. On one occasion, in the most important battle for Jerusalem, Most Holy Melchisedech, that is, the Soul of Jesus, appeared as Warrior of God, and caused tremendous slaughter. While the soldiers fought with their arms, with their hearts they prayed to the Lord. The sole name of Judas Machabee caused great dread to his enemies.

Judas Machabee orders prayers for the dead

On the day following the conflict, Judas toured the battlefield so as to recover the bodies of dead Israelite soldiers and bury them piously. Then he ordered sacrifices to be offered for the eternal rest of their souls, so that God might take pity on those still in Purgatory.

Other victories and death of Judas Machabee



Months after the great Syrian rout, Antiochus V died, and his son began to reign with the name Demetrius I. Judas Machabee fought as well against perverse Demetrius I, who strove to attack Mount Carmel, and he defeated him with abundant help from God. He also routed the Egyp-

tians, who strove to occupy parts of Israel.

Judas Machabee died in holiness in Jerusalem, after blessing his own and appointing his brother Jonathas as the next Caudillo.

Chapter VIII

Rule by Jonathas Machabee

Like his father Mathathias and his brother Judas, Jonathas Machabee, Caudillo of Israel, defended the People of God against her enemies, always trusting in God, keeping up strict vigilance over the far-reaching land of Israel and battling with vigour, valour and generous self-sacrifice.

False friendship, used as a weapon of war

Both Alexander I Balas, the new Syrian king, as later Arius, king of Sparta, tried to win Jonathas over by false shows of friendship, with invitations and

splendid gifts, in order to weaken Israel's strength, and thus, so they hoped, be able to overcome them.

There can be no peace with God's enemies

But the two were rejected by Jonathas, who sent them a very clear message saying that he would never make peace with God's enemies, and that he kept his sword ever in readiness in defence of God, of His Law and of any portion of His people's Land, however small it might be.

Jonathas' victories

The two kings, each in turn, felt the power of God in support of His People's army. King Arius of Sparta even joined up with the Syrians against Israel, but this only caused the rout to be greater still.



Jonathas and his soldiers also defeated the king of Egypt, who strove to occupy territories of the People of God.

Death of Jonathas Machabee

Jonathas died in Jerusalem after blessing his own and appointing his brother Simon as the next Caudillo.

Chapter IX

Rule by Simon Machabee

Simon Machabee, Caudillo of Israel, continued the labour of his father Mathathias and of his brothers Judas and Jonathas. To his brother Eleazar he left the government of the city of Jerusalem, and to his brother John the government of Bethulia and the Samaritan region; also to his son, John Hyrcanus, he left the government of Hebron and the Judean region – except for Jerusalem and Bethlehem. He appointed his other son Aristobulus



Asmoneus to govern Bethlehem and the lands of Moab, Ammon and Arabia.

Threat to Jerusalem

At that time, Simon was warned that the king of Syria, Antiochus VI, had gathered a great army to attack the region of Judea and conquer Jerusalem. He immediately went to Jerusalem to hearten his people, and did so to such effect that

they said: *“Conduct our war, since we trust in you and will follow your every order.”*



Simon, then, called up more men into the army, hastily reinforced the walls of the city and pitched his armies' tents around Jerusalem.

The battle and the victory

When the Syrians, who came down from the north, were approaching Jerusalem, Almighty God sent a great storm of lightning, strong winds and hailstones so large as to cause many deaths in the Syrian army, and others were left unconscious on the ground, struck by the hail. The Syrians, however, went on ahead with the attack. The Israelites, on their part, with great trust in God, faced up to

the enemy and completed the rout begun by the storm.

With their trumpets, the watchmen on the walls announced the victory to the people, whose cries and songs of praise to the Lord God of Israel were heard from outside.

Rebellion in Gaza

Years later, invaders from Egypt entered Gaza from a nearby port, and in a short while took the city, since they were helped by many of Israel's people who had ceased to practise their faith, and by others who did not really believe in the true God. Though there were also many citizens who, faithful to God, died defending their Faith.

Another victory by Simon Machabee

Simon Machabee went there swiftly with his army. They scaled the walls, overcame the guards, and his soldiers leapt down into the city, where they opened the gates for the whole army to enter, amid a great uproar among the Gaza inhabitants, who shouted out pleading forgiveness for their wickedness.

Simon pardoned the repentant, and killed the invaders and those who had helped them. Then he ordered the city to be cleansed of idols, which he destroyed, and sent pious people observant of God's Law to live there and teach the rest to observe the Law well.

Eleazar and John are rapt up to Mary's Planet

At this time, Eleazar Machabee and his brother John Machabee were rapt up to Mary's Planet.

Death of Simon Machabee

Shortly afterwards, Caudillo Simon Machabee died in holiness in Jerusalem, after blessing his own and announcing that his son John Hyrcanus was to be the next Caudillo of Israel.

Chapter X

Rule by John Hyrcanus Machabee

From his father, John Hyrcanus received a far-reaching land with well protected cities, a large well-equipped army and a people who kept God's Law with love. On the same day he began as Caudillo, John Hyrcanus appointed Simeon, who years later presented the Child Jesus in the Temple, as Vice-High Priest and Governor of Jerusalem.

Great conquests by John Hyrcanus Machabee

After having overcome the Syrians, who again strove to take Jerusalem, John Hyrcanus began a three-year campaign to



recover the lands which Israel had held under Zorobabel, in which he succeeded, and besides conquered part of Asian Turkey, farther north than what today is Istanbul.



Of his forty years as Caudillo, for thirty years John Hyrcanus ruled the largest territory Israel had ever held.

Defence of the Faith

In all the lands conquered by his sword, John Hyrcanus did away with all wickedness, and destroyed temples to false gods with their altars and idols. He imposed the Law of God and holy morals everywhere, and vigorously persecuted divisions in the Faith by bad priests and false prophets.

Great apostasy among the People of God

During the seven last years of John Hyrcanus' rule, the People of God again began to stray from the right path and committed many sins, so that they provoked divine punishments.

God's punishments

Once again great regions of Israel, such as the Sinai Peninsula, Moab, Ammon, Lebanon, Syria, Cilicia, and so on, were invaded.

Moreover, the powerful and perverse Davidann strove to seize power from Caudillo John Hyrcanus so as to rule in Israel himself. He was helped by everyone from the tribe of Dan, to which Davidann belonged. The last years of John Hyrcanus were full of wars against Davidann.

In Idumea, the pagan Herod made himself king, with the help of Israelites of that region who had thrown away their Faith. This happened shortly before the Immaculate Conception of the Most Holy Virgin Mary.

Death of John Hyrcanus Machabee

John Hyrcanus Machabee, after blessing his own and appointing his brother Aristobulus Asmoneus as Caudillo of Israel, died in holiness in Jerusalem.

Davidann attempts to enter the Temple to be adored

That same day, knowing that John Hyrcanus was dying, Davidann suddenly arrived in Jerusalem with everyone he could gather from his tribe, to separate once and for all from the People of the Lord God Whom they did not wish to serve. Davidann besides tried to enter the Jerusalem Temple to be adored as a god. Those of the other tribes in Jerusalem, however, using force, prevented him. All those of the tribe of Dan then left Jerusalem for the north of Israel, and there settled in a land which was called Dan.

From then on, the tribe of Dan formed no part of God's People. But if anyone from the tribe of Dan responds to the graces he receives from God, he too can be saved.

Chapter XI

Pitiful rule of Aristobulus Asmoneus Machabee

Following the death of John Hyrcanus, his brother Aristobulus Asmoneus became Caudillo of Israel.

God warns him of chastisements

At that time, Aristobulus Asmoneus decided to marry his only daughter Mariana off to the pagan king of Idumea, Herod the Great, despite God's warning that if he did so he would die by assassination and that the assassin would sit on Israel's throne.



Aristobulus Asmoneus despised God's warning and brought the wedding forward. For these and other reasons he was outside God's People.

Death of perverse Aristobulus Asmoneus

But the perverse Herod wanted to be king of Israel, and leagued up with the Romans, who had armies in Egypt, and with them attacked Jerusalem.

After a year's rule, the apostate caudillo Aristobulus Asmoneus died, killed by his son-in-law Herod the Great, when Herod conquered Jerusalem at the head of the Idumean-Roman army.

Simeon is anointed Levitical High Priest

Then Most Holy Melchisedech, namely the Soul of Christ in Apparition, anointed as Levitical High Priest the elderly Simeon, who till then had been Vice-High Priest and Governor of Jerusalem. Herod did not object, as Simeon was respected by all, but he did remove him as governor of the city.

Book XI

King Herod the Great

King Herod the Great began to reign after seizing the throne of Israel by killing his father-in-law Aristobulus Asmoneus.

If God at that time had re-established kings in Israel, then Jacob, Most Holy Joseph's father, would by right have been king, as he was the direct descendant of King David.



On the day itself of Herod's coronation, the elderly Essenian Nun, Ana the Prophetess, on God's behalf, told him: *"Herod, during your reign the King of the Jews, the Saviour, will be born. Beware, because if you are not converted, your destiny will be Hell."*

Therefore the wicked king knew about Jesus, and yet ordered the slaughter of the Innocent Children

of Bethlehem. Herod the Great is in the fire of Hell.



New Testament

The Most Holy Virgin Mary, Golden Gate of the New Testament

Family of the Most Holy Virgin Mary

Saint Anne and Saint Joachim, parents of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, were from Sefhoris, a village near Nazareth. They were Carmelite tertiaries and very holy. For long years they had prayed so very hard for God to give them children, and had the grace of having Her who is the Mother of God Himself.



The Immaculate Conception of the Divine Mary

Precisely because She was to become the Mother of God, the Virgin Mary was free from original sin. This means that in Her soul She never had what is called the guilt of Adam's sin, which inclines us to evil. Moreover, She was full of the Light of God from the first moment of Her life. These two graces are called Mary's Immaculate Conception.



Birth and hidden life of the Most Holy Child Mary

Like Her holy parents, the Divine Mary was born in Sefhoris. Full of love for God, from Her first moments She made reparation to the Eternal Father for the sins of mankind by acts of all the virtues.

She was very pious and gentle, and obeyed Her parents Saint Anne and Saint Joachim lovingly. As a daughter She was exemplary in everything. She was unable ever to sin.

When She reached the age of three, Her parents presented Mary in the Temple of God in Jerusalem, for Her to live as a Nun in the Carmelite convent there. The Child Mary was received by the aged Simeon and the Convent Superioress, Ana the Prophetess.

Mary was an exemplary model of religious life, complying with all the convent rules and norms and, afterwards, with school duties as well, like the other girls.





The Most Holy Virgin Mary's sisters

When Saint Joachim died, Saint Anne fulfilled God's will by marrying again, and Mary Cleophas was born to this marriage. And following the death of her second husband, Saint Anne married once more, and Mary Salome was born to this marriage. For it was God's will to give the Most Holy Virgin Mary two sisters, Mary Cleophas and Mary Salome, who would later console Her in Her sorrow on Mount Calvary. Saint Anne died in holiness in Jerusalem.

Most Holy Joseph's Family

Saint Joseph was the only child of Saint Jacob, from Nazareth, and Saint Rachel, from Bethlehem. Both were direct descendants of King David, and Carmelite tertiaries of great piety, charity and spirit of sacrifice.

Birth and Presentation of the Child Saint Joseph

Saint Joseph was born in Bethlehem. His presentation in the Temple was by the aged Simeon, who announced to his Holy Parents that their Child would be the consolation of all who placed themselves under his protection.



Joseph's childhood and youth

The Child Joseph was full of virtue and grace and never ever sinned. He lived in great obedience to his parents and made many sacrifices. During his life he grew ever more in love for God, which he united to his sacrifices and sufferings, for the benefit of all. After the Most Holy Virgin Mary he is holier than all the Angels and Saints together. Until the death of his parents he lived in Nazareth. Afterwards he shared out his possessions among the poor, though keeping his house in Nazareth, and lived beside the Jerusalem Temple, working as a carpenter.

The Holy Family

Enlightened by God, the agèd Simeon knew that the Most Holy Virgin ought to marry, as the time had arrived for the coming of the Son of God. Therefore it was necessary to give Her the husband whom God had chosen, to protect and care both for Her and for the Divine Child who was to be born later.

Saint Joseph's staff

To prove before all that Saint Joseph was the one chosen, the agèd Simeon called the noblest and holiest men from the House of David and gave them each a dry staff, telling them to remain in prayer in the Temple, and ask God to make the staff of Mary's Spouse blossom. And it was Saint Joseph's staff that blossomed.

Espousal of the Most Holy Virgin Mary to Most Holy Joseph

The Most Holy Virgin Mary and Most Holy Joseph married on the 23rd of January in the year 5199 in the Temple of Jerusalem, and the agèd Simeon, Levitical High Priest, blessed them. Afterwards they went to live at Nazareth, each in their own home, according to Carmelite custom, until the Incarnation of the Son of God. Then Saint Joseph, by God's



command, took his Most Holy Spouse home to where he lived.

Some episodes from The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Book I

From the Annunciation to the Most Holy Virgin up till the death of Saint Joseph

Chapter I

Annunciation to the Most Holy Virgin Mary



On the 25th of March in the year 5199, Archangel Saint Gabriel was sent by God to the Virgin Mary, who was espoused to Saint Joseph. Both lived in the town of Nazareth, each in their own home.

It was midday, and the Most Holy Virgin was at the public well to fetch water, when the Archangel greeted Her saying: *“God hails You, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with You, blessed are You among all women.”* Because of Her deep humility, She was troubled on hearing these words and, on arriving back home, started to pray.

Incarnation of the Divine Word

And the Archangel came again and said to Her: *“Do not be troubled, Mary. You shall give birth to a Son to whom You will give the Name Jesus. He shall be the Son of the Most High and His Kingdom shall have no end.”* The Virgin Mary understood that Saint Joseph had already accepted this mystery.

Mary then said: *“Behold the Slave of the Lord. Let it be done in Me according to your word.”* She did not doubt God’s power, but had to practise faith, believing that She was the one chosen to become God’s Mother. And when Mary accepted, at that same instant the Divine Word, or Second Person of the Most Holy Trinity, became Man in all perfection, though very tiny, in the Virgin Mary. The Archangel then vanished.

Saint Joseph’s mission

Saint Joseph had a vision of the Archangel’s annunciation to his Divine Spouse and of the mystery of the Son of God and so, as Head of the Holy Family, he wanted to take Her home with him to protect Her. But out of humility he thought himself unworthy to live with the Mother of God and that, if they lived together, the world would not believe that Mary was a Virgin, so he decided to live apart from Her.

Then in dreams he saw the Archangel Saint Gabriel saying: *“Joseph, do*

not feel unworthy to take Mary, your Spouse, to your home”, and the Archangel told him that he ought to be Father to the Child She had received from the Holy Ghost. “To Her Son you will give the Name Jesus, because He will save His people”, the Archangel added. Following this, Saint Joseph

took his Spouse Mary to his home.

Chapter II

Visitation of the Most Holy Virgin Mary to Her cousin Saint Elizabeth

As Mary desired to help Her cousin Elizabeth, who was six months expectant with her son John, and to tell Her own Good News, She and Her husband Joseph then went into the hill

country, to the village near Jerusalem where Zacharias and his wife Elizabeth lived.

When Mary entered their home and greeted her, Elizabeth was full of great joy and understood many mysteries of God and of her Most Holy Cousin, and said to Mary: “Blessed are You amongst all women, and blessed is the Fruit of Your womb. Whence to me that the Mother of my Lord should come

to visit me? Blessed are You, because You have believed”.

And Mary said: “My Soul magnifies the Lord, and My spirit rejoices in God My Saviour. Because He has seen the littleness of His slave, henceforth they shall call Me Blessed. Because He who is Almighty has done great things in Me.”

Birth of Saint John the Baptist, the Precursor

When Zacharias’ and Elizabeth’s son was born, some wanted him to be called Zacharias, like his father, but they both opposed, because an Angel of God had

told Zacharias that he was to be called John.

And Zacharias, full of God, told the boy: “You, child John, shall be a Prophet, for you will go before your Lord, to prepare His ways.” After the birth and circumcision of Saint John the Baptist, the Most Holy Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph returned to Nazareth.



Chapter III

Birth of the Son of God

In those days, the Roman Emperor Caesar Augustus, who ruled in Israel by way of perverse king Herod the Great, ordered everyone to register in their family's hometown, as he wanted to know how many people there were in his empire.

Looking for lodging

As Saint Joseph was from the family of King David, he and his Divine Spouse, who was expectant, had to go to Bethlehem to register. They looked for lodging, but there was no room for Them. While They were searching in Bethlehem, they found the place where they had to register, and did so, and then continued to look for somewhere to spend the night, among acquaintances and relatives as well, but no one took them in.

As it was late at night, Saint Joseph, deeply pained, sought refuge in a cave or grotto used for animals on the outskirts of Bethlehem.

Birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ

In the Bethlehem cave, at midnight beginning Sunday the 25th of December in the year 5199, the Divine Mary gave birth to Her Son Jesus. And She took Him up gently into Her arms and adored Him with all Her Heart, as did Saint Joseph. Then the Divine Mary wrapped Jesus in swaddling clothes and laid Him in the manger of the cave, where they also had an ass and an ox for company.

Chapter IV

Adoration by the shepherds

Some shepherds near Bethlehem were keeping watch over their flocks by night. Archangel Gabriel appeared to them and said: *"Fear not, for I bring you tidings of great joy: This day is born to you the Saviour, who is the Christ, in Bethlehem. You shall find the Child in a cave wrapped in*





swaddling clothes and laid in a manger.”

Suddenly there appeared a host of Angels saying: “*Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace to men of goodwill.*”

The shepherds went in haste to Bethlehem; and found Mary, Joseph and the Child laid in a manger, just as the Angels had said. And they, kneeling, adored the Child Jesus.

Circumcision of Our Lord Jesus Christ

On the eighth day of His birth, that is, on Sunday the 1st of January in the year 1 of the Christian era, Saint Joseph circumcised his Divine Son in the cave of Bethlehem and gave Him the Name of Jesus.

Chapter V

Adoration by the three Holy Kings

In Orient there lived three virtuous kings, called Melchor, Gaspar and Balthassar, who believed in the true God. They knew that when they saw a miraculous Star, that would be the sign of the Birth of the Saviour of the world, whom they were awaiting.

Thus, when Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the Star appeared, and the three Magi Kings joined up and, guided by the Star, set out on the long journey to adore the Child.

The three kings of Orient reach the Kingdom of Judah

However, once they entered the Kingdom of Judah, the Star disappeared, leaving the kings perplexed. The three kings then went into the city of Jerusalem, causing a great impression among the people, and asked everyone: “*Where is the King of the Jews, who has been born? We have seen His Star in Orient and have come to adore Him.*”

The three kings in Herod’s palace

When wicked king Herod the Great heard why the three kings had come, he feared that a new king might snatch his throne from him, and asked the Priests where the Christ was to be born. And they told him: “*In Bethlehem of Judah*”.





Then Herod, intending to kill the Child Jesus, invited the three kings to his palace to find out how long ago they had seen the Star. He then told them deceitfully: *“Go and inquire carefully about the Child; and when you have found Him, let me know, so that I too may go and adore Him.”*

Adoration by the three Wise Kings

When the three Holy Kings were leaving the city, the Star appeared to them again and guided the Kings’ caravan to the cave of Bethlehem, and rested upon the Head of the Child Jesus.

The three kings adored the Child Jesus and received great graces for understanding many things about God. Then they offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

The three kings encamped nearby and went to the grotto many times to visit the Holy Family. And while the kings stayed there, perverse King Herod dared do no harm to the Divine Child Jesus.

Chapter VI

Purification of the Most Holy Virgin Mary and Presentation of Jesus in the Temple of Jerusalem

On the 2nd of February in the year 1, aged Simeon presented Jesus to God Most High, and praised and gave Him thanks, since he recognized in Jesus the Saviour of mankind. Then he announced to His Divine Mother that a sword of sorrow would pierce Her Heart.





Chapter VII

Flight of the Holy Family into Egypt

Archangel Saint Gabriel came another time, to warn the three Holy Kings to depart for their own lands, but without visiting Herod again, and they obeyed, taking a route that did not pass through Jerusalem.

After the kings had departed, Archangel Saint Gabriel appeared to Joseph in his sleep and said: *“Arise, take the Child and His Mother, and flee into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because Herod seeks the Child to kill Him.”* Joseph quickly left with Jesus and Mary for Egypt, staying there for seven years.



Slaughter of the Holy Innocents

But Herod, that very bad king, seeing that the Magi Kings had got the better of him, was furious, and gave orders for all boys of two years of age and under in Bethlehem and its neighbourhood to be killed; hoping that among them the Child Jesus too would die. Besides, he wanted to take revenge on the people of Bethlehem, whom he thought were hiding the Child God.

Return of the Holy Family to the land of Israel

After the death of King Herod, Archangel Saint Gabriel, in Egypt, appeared to Joseph in his sleep and told him to return with Jesus and Mary to Israel. And that same day, after sharing out their goods among the poor, They set out on the







journey. The Holy Family, by God's Will, went to live in Nazareth.

Chapter VIII

The Child Jesus lost

The Holy Family – Jesus, Mary and Joseph – went up each year to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. And when Jesus was twelve years old, He went up again with His Parents as usual. But, on Their return to Nazareth, the Child Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without His Parents knowing. For Mary thought that He was with His father in the men's caravan, and Joseph thought that He was with His Most Holy Mother in the women's caravan. Only after a day's journey did they notice His absence. So, deeply grieved, They sought Him among relatives and friends, without finding Him.

The Child Jesus found in the Temple

So They went back to Jerusalem, where Mary and Joseph, grieving, sought Him everywhere, until on the third day They found Him teaching in the Temple amid the doctors of the Law, who were astounded at such wisdom in a twelve-year-old Child. They thought within themselves that perhaps He was the Son of God, since twelve years previously they had seen many signs: in Bethlehem with the shepherds, and in Jerusalem with the Kings. But seeing that the Child's Parents were poor, they cast the truth aside.

The Divine Mother's loving complaint

As the Most Holy Virgin did not always know everything, so that She might suffer for sinners, She could not understand why Jesus had not told Her, and said to Him gently: "*Son, why have you done this? See how, sorrowing, your father and I have been searching for You.*" Jesus answered that He had been doing the will of His Heavenly Father, teaching us that when God so requests, love for family must be sacrificed as well.





High Priest Annas decides to combat Christ

Annas, the Levitical High Priest at that time, was a bad man, who had heard the divine teachings in the Temple and recognized that the Child Jesus was the Son of God, the promised Messiah. However Annas decided to combat the truth, and the next day he and a large number of base sanhedrites and doctors of the Law leagued together to fight against the true Messiah.

Jesus' hidden life in Nazareth

The Holy Family returned to Nazareth, and Jesus was submissive and obedient to His Parents. And His Mother praised God seeing how everything foretold by the Prophets was being fulfilled, and kept it all in Her Heart.



In Nazareth, Jesus helped Saint Joseph in his trade as a carpenter.

Death of Saint Joseph

On Sunday the 19th of March in the year 29, Saint Joseph died of love in the arms of Jesus and Mary, in the Jerusalem house which Lazarus, a friend of the Holy Family, had lent them for the days of the Passover, and which had previously belonged to Saint Anne. Soon afterwards Jesus began His Public Life.

Book II

Mission of Saint John the Baptist and beginning of Christ's Public Life

Chapter I

John the Baptist, the Precursor

John the Baptist, clothed in a camel skin, travelled the region along the banks of the Jordan, preaching the baptism of penance and preparing the people to



receive Jesus as the Son of God. Hence John the Baptist is called the Precursor of Our Lord Jesus Christ. And many from Judea came, repenting of their sins, and John baptized them with water from the river.

John the Baptist preaches

John the Baptist preached, telling those who were bad to be converted and do penance: *“For every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and cast into eternal fire”*, said John. He reminded the ordinary people to help the poor, and the soldiers not to maltreat anyone.

And he said as well: *“Do penance, for the Saviour is close at hand; from Him we shall receive Grace, and He will open the Kingdom of Heaven to us.”*

John the Baptist says that he himself is not the Son of God

Many thought that John might be the Son of God, the promised Messiah, but John said: *“I baptize you with water, but after me will come another more powerful. He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.”*

Chapter II

Christ’s Public Life begins

Jesus, accompanied by His Divine Mother, arrived at the banks of the Jordan to be baptized by John the Precursor. But John, knowing that Jesus was the Son of God, was



unwilling, and said to Him: *“I should be baptized by You, and do You come to me?”* Jesus replied that he should do so, as that was the divine will. Then John yielded; but before baptizing Jesus, he said of Him to the crowd there: *“Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him who takes away the sins of the world.”* Thus John taught them all that Jesus was the Son of God.

Christ institutes the Sacrament of Baptism

Next, John baptized Jesus in the River Jordan. The Heavens then opened, and the voice of the Eternal Father was heard, saying: *“This is my Son, the Beloved, in whom I am well pleased.”* And the Holy Ghost in the form of a dove came down upon His Head. Everyone there was able to hear and see this.

Jesus was baptized to show us that we too should be baptized, that is, the Sacrament of Baptism is obligatory.

Christ in the desert is tempted by the devil



Afterwards Jesus withdrew to the desert and stayed there alone. He fasted for forty days and forty nights to teach us the value of prayer and sacrifice.

He wanted to suffer hunger and, feeling hungry, allowed the devil to approach and tempt Him and say: *“If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into bread.”* But Jesus said to him: *“It is written: ‘Man does not live by bread alone, but by spiritual nourishment, which is every word that comes from God’s lips’,”* overcoming Satan.

The devil again approached to tempt Him, and taking Jesus up to the pinnacle of the Temple, told Him: *“If You are the Son of God, cast Yourself down below, for it is written: ‘God will send His Angels who will bear You up in their hands, so that You come to no harm’.”* And Jesus told him: *“It is also written: ‘You shall not tempt the Lord your God’,”* a worse defeat for Satan.



Satan approached yet once more. This time he took Him up to the top of the mountain where Jesus was fasting, and showed Him the riches and glories of this world, and told Him: *“All these things will I give You, if You adore me”.* Jesus then rejected the devil telling him: *“Begone, Satan, for it is also written: ‘The Lord your God shall you adore, and Him alone shall you serve’.”*

In this way Jesus taught us to overcome temptation swiftly.

And Satan, who wanted to know whether or not Jesus was the Son of God, left defeated and confused more than ever.

Chapter III

Christ’s first eleven disciples

After His stay in the desert, Jesus went to the banks of the River Jordan, where Andrew and John were with John the Baptist. The Baptist then told them of Jesus: *“Behold the Lamb of God, He who takes away the sins of the world.”* Andrew and John then followed Jesus. The following day, they



brought to Jesus a brother of Andrew called Simon, who was baptized 'Peter', and a brother of John called James the Greater.

At that time, in the Jerusalem Temple, Jesus made His first Calling to the levitical priests to follow Him as disciples, telling them that He is the Son of God, but they would not follow Him.

Later, Jesus met Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Thaddeus, Simon, James the Less and Matthew. Jesus baptized each of them in turn, and they all followed Him as disciples.

Chapter IV

Christ teaches how to pray

And one day when Jesus was praying with His first disciples on the Mount of Olives, Peter said to Him: *"Lord, teach us to pray."* And Jesus answered him: *"When you pray, say: Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name; Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And let us not fall in temptation; but deliver us from evil. Amen."*

Chapter V

Wedding at Cana

At that time a wedding was celebrated in Cana of Galilee, and Jesus was there with His Mother and disciples. And it happened that at the banquet the wine ran out.

Jesus' Mother, noticing the distress of those



in charge, turned to Her Son to remedy the need, telling Him: *“They have no wine.”* Jesus said to Her: *“What is that to Me and to You? It is not yet My hour to perform miracles.”* Yet She, knowing that Jesus would listen to Her request, told the servers: *“Do whatever He tells you.”*



Jesus converts water into wine

There were six large stone jars there. Jesus told them: *“Fill the jars with water.”* And they filled them to the brim. Then He told them: *“Now draw out from one of the jars and take to the chief steward”*, which they did. The chief steward, who was the man responsible, did not know where the

wine was from, though the servers did know because they had drawn up the water from the well; and when he had tasted it, he summoned the bridegroom and said: *“Every man serves the best wine first, and then gives one not so good; but you have kept the best wine till last.”*



This miracle of Jesus was the first of His public life, and He

performed it to please His Most Holy Mother. Afterwards Jesus left for Capernaum, where He taught and performed many great public miracles. And His fame grew day by day, and He was spoken of.

Book III

First year of Christ’s preaching, up till the Passover of the year 32

Chapter I

Merchants are driven out of the Temple for the first time

Jesus warns the merchants

On the days of the Feast of the Passover, Jesus had gone up to Jerusalem with His Mother and disciples. When He arrived at the Temple, He saw many merchants changing money and selling bullocks, sheep, doves and other things, inside part of the precincts. Jesus went up to them and told them that they should respect the sacred place and remove their stalls from there.



Jesus expels them from the Temple

Days later, when He visited the Temple again, Jesus saw that the merchants had not fulfilled His orders. Jesus, then, filled with zeal for the House of the Lord, fashioned a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the Temple, together with their bullocks, sheep, doves and other things for sale, threw the money-changers coins onto the ground and overturned tables, seats, awnings, kiosks, canopies and the like, saying with great authority: *“Take these things away from here, and do not turn the House of My Father into a den of thieves.”*

The bad priests see their profits threatened

The levitical priests allowed that trade there because they received great profits from it. So, furious, they said to Him: *“What sign do You give us of Your authority to do these things?”* Jesus, pointing at His own Body, replied in these words: *“Destroy this Temple, and in three days I will raise It up.”* The bad priests, though understanding Jesus’

words perfectly well, maliciously twisted their meaning, saying: *“Forty-six years it took to build this Temple, and will You raise it up in three days?”* But He was speaking of the Temple of His Body.



Chapter II

Judas Iscariot is accepted as a disciple

It was the feastday of the Passover when Jesus again went up to the Temple of Jerusalem, where He taught the people and wrought many miracles, so that many also believed in Him.

Judas Iscariot was there as well, and, moved more by self-interest than by piety, asked Jesus to accept him as a disciple. Jesus, who desired to save Judas’ soul, accepted him and baptized him.

Chapter III

Testimony of John the Baptist

At this time, Jesus went about the cities and towns of Judea, preaching and baptizing, with His twelve disciples. Then He went to the banks of the Jordan, to Bethabara of Perea. And He stayed there, teaching those who came to Him.

The pharisees try to sow discord between John and Jesus



John was found preaching and baptizing elsewhere, on the other side of the River Jordan. And it happened that some pharisee jews, trying to sow discord between John and Jesus, told John's followers that Jesus was becoming ever better known and that many were leaving John to follow Jesus.

John the Baptist again preaches that Jesus is the Christ of God

And John's followers went to tell him, so John said to them: *"You yourselves are witnesses that I said: 'I am not the Christ, but have been sent before Him to lead you to His Church.' I am just the friend, under His authority, I hear His teachings and am filled with joy. It is necessary that He increase in His mission, and that I conclude by my death."*

Chapter IV

Nicodemus, pharisee and sanhedrite, seeks Jesus



In those days, a friend of Lazarus, called Nicodemus, a man of goodwill, a pharisee, doctor of the Law and member of the jewish Religious Council or Sanhedrin, visited Jesus at Lazarus' home, and told Him: *"I know You are sent from God, for no one could perform the miracles You do unless God were with him."* Jesus replied: *"Whoever is not born anew, cannot see the Kingdom of God, nor have any part in it."*

Baptism with good works leads to Heaven

Nicodemus then asked: *"How can a man be born anew?"* Jesus answered: *"No one can enter the Kingdom of God except one who is reborn through My Baptism, and thus born of the Holy Ghost and on his way to God."* Nicodemus asked: *"How can this be done in me?"* Jesus replied: *"You, who are a teacher in Israel, should understand these things. I speak of what I know, and give testimony to what I have seen; and you do not admit the testimony I gave in your presence, before the*





entire Sanhedrin, that I am the Son of God.”

Christ opens the Gates of Heaven to those who do God's Will

Jesus went on to say to Nicodemus: *“It is necessary that the Son of Man be lifted up on a cross, so that whoever believes in Him may not perish, but possess everlasting life; for God so loved the world that He sent His Onlybegotten Son. Whoever believes in Him, receives Baptism and perseveres until the end, saves himself. But whoever is not willing to accept Him, or to act according to the true Faith, is already damned: for he is not willing to be reproved for his evil deeds, and prefers to be damned.”*



Baptism of the sanhedrites Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea

Afterwards, Nicodemus went in search of his friend Joseph of Arimathea. Both were doctors of the Law, sanhedrites, and with goodwill awaited the Kingdom of God.

The two were baptized by Jesus. From then on, Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea followed Jesus as secret disciples, because that was the Divine Master's will.

Chapter V

Conversion of the Samaritaness

When Jesus was on His way back to Galilee, passing through Samaria, it happened that on reaching Sichem, He sat down on the rim of a well. And a Samaritan woman arrived there to draw water, and Jesus asked her to give Him to drink.



She was surprised that Jesus had spoken to her. But Jesus told her that if she knew who was asking her for water, then she would ask Him for water.

And Jesus taught her: *“Whoever drinks of this water shall thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I give him, shall never ever thirst.”* The woman, who did not understand what Jesus was saying, said to Him: *“Sir, give me of that water, so that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw it up.”*



And Jesus tells the woman her sins

Then Jesus asked her to bring her husband and the woman said: *“I have no husband.”* *“You say truthfully that you have no husband, and the one you live with now is not your husband either”*, Jesus replied, and told the woman her sins. And Jesus’ words touched her heart, so that she said: *“Sir, I see You are a Prophet.”*

Jesus came to gather into His Church all those who seek to love God

Jesus then spoke to her of Holy Mass, which He at the Last Supper, the night before He was crucified, was to leave us, and how He, charged by God the Father, had come to gather together all those who seek to love God, telling her: *“Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when true adorers will adore the Father by means of an infinite Sacrifice, full of mysteries of Faith. Therefore, through His Son, the Father seeks out people to adore Him in this way.”*

Jesus is the Son of God

The woman then answered: *“I know that the Messiah will come, who is called Christ; and He will reveal all things to us.”* And Jesus told her: *“I am.”*

The woman, believing that Jesus was the true Son of God, left her pitcher and went into the town, telling everyone: *“Come, and see a Man who has told me everything I have ever done. He is the Christ.”* Many people then left the city and went out to where Jesus was.

Jesus’ teachings show that He is the Christ

As the Samaritans who went out to Jesus asked Him to stay there, He remained with them, and many more believed in Him, for having heard Him; and they told the Samaritaness: *“Not because of what you said do we now believe, for we ourselves have heard Him, and we know that He is the Saviour of the world.”*

Photina, the Samaritaness, and many other Samaritans were baptized during the days Jesus and His disciples stayed in Sichem.

Chapter VI

Monstrous offence to Jesus in Nazareth

At that time Jesus returned to His hometown Nazareth, and they received Him enthusiastically; but as He reproached many of them for their sins, the enthusiasm waned. Jesus cured some few sick and the Nazarenes wanted Him to do great things there, as in Capharnaum.

The prophecies are fulfilled

It was Saturday, and Jesus in the temple read from the Prophet Isaias: *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me. He sent Me to evangelize the meek and humble, cure the contrite of heart, publish reconciliation with the Lord for those who*



accept His doctrine, and the vengeance of God for those who reject it. The Lord sent Me to care for the children of the Church, in order to give them a crown for their virtues, and glory in exchange for their afflictions. And those who persevere in Grace will be called the strong of the Lord for His glory.” And He told them: “The Scripture you have just heard has been fulfilled today.”

Envy and ill-will cause blindness

But many said: “How does this knowledge come to Him?” “Is He not the son of Joseph the carpenter? Is He not the son of Mary?” And they were furious that He should manifest Himself as the Messiah, coming as He did from a humble family. Though understanding that Jesus really was the Messiah, out of envy they refused to acknowledge Him, and demanded great miracles from Him. Owing to their ill-will, the things Jesus told them made them still more furious with Him.

Image of Calvary

Then He told them: “No prophet is accepted or honoured in his home country.” At this the chief priest and those present became enraged and, surrounding Him, took Jesus outside the town to a nearby cliff, to throw



Him down. But when they were about to do so, Jesus passed through their midst and disappeared from their sight.

Chapter VII

Healing of the ruler's son

At that time, Jesus again visited the town of Cana, where He had turned water into wine, and an important man from the court of King Herod Antipas came to see Him, because his son was sick and dying, and he begged Jesus to accompany him to Capharnaum to heal the boy.



Jesus said to him: “Unless you see miracles, you do not believe.” And the man of the court answered Him: “Lord, come before my son dies.” Then Jesus told him: “Go, for your son will not die.” The man believed in Jesus, and went.

When Chusa Menahem went back home to Capharnaum, his servants came out to meet him with the news that his son was well again. He asked them at what time his son had begun to recover, and they answered: *“Yesterday at seven.”* The father then realized that it was at that time when Jesus had told him: *“Your son will not die.”*

And he and all his household believed that Jesus was the Messias.

Chapter VIII

In Capharnaum, Christ heals a demoniac

Jesus then went to Capharnaum and entered the synagogue, or temple, on Saturdays, and taught. Those who heard Him marvelled at His teachings.

That day in the synagogue there was a man called Isai, possessed by a demon, and on seeing Jesus he cried out loud, saying: *“Leave us in peace. What have we devils to do with You, Jesus the Nazarene? Have You come to destroy us?”*

Jesus, however, threatened the demon: *“Be silent, and leave this man.”* The demon, with great shrieks, left him without doing

him any harm.

All who witnessed this wonderful event were filled with dread, and said to one another: *“What is this? For with power He commands the unclean spirits, and they obey Him and leave.”* By this miracle Jesus’ fame spread further throughout the land of Galilee.

Chapter IX

Christ heals Mara, Peter’s mother-in-law, and other sick

Jesus, being in Capharnaum on those days, went to the home of Peter and there saw Peter’s mother-in-law in bed with high fever, and they petitioned Him for her. Drawing near, Jesus touched her with His hand, and at once the fever ceased. She then arose and served them.

That same day, as the people had learnt that Jesus was there, they brought many sick and possessed to the door of Peter’s home. Jesus, laying His hands on each, healed them of their illnesses and cast out many devils, who departed shrieking and saying: *“You are the Son of God.”* But Jesus rebuked them, and did not allow them to say that He was the



Christ; for what the demons sought was to hear from His own lips that He was the Messiah, since they did not know for certain.

Chapter X

Definitive calling of the first ten disciples

Peter, his brother Andrew, as likewise James the Greater and his brother John, as they were fishermen, sometimes used to fish while Jesus taught by the shores of the Sea of Galilee, also called Sea of Tiberias and Lake of Genesareth.



Miraculous catch of fishes

One day Jesus preached to the people from Peter's boat. Peter was also there with Andrew, and when Jesus had finished speaking He said to Peter: *"Go out a little further and cast your nets out to fish."* Peter replied: *"Master, we have laboured all night long without catching anything; but trusting in Your word I will cast out the net."* Having done so, they caught such a great number of fishes that the net was breaking.

This miracle was witnessed as well by James the Greater and John, who had to come up with their boat to help draw in the fishes, so many that it seemed that the two boats would sink under the weight.



Priests are Fishers of men

When Peter saw this, falling at Jesus' feet, he said: *"Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!"* And Jesus said to Peter: *"Fear not, from today on you will be a fisher of men."*

As soon as they reached land, Jesus made the definitive calling to the four disciples, and they, leaving their nets, followed Him in the religious life.

On the following days Jesus gave the definitive calling to Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, James the Less, Thaddeus, and Simon; they, leaving all their occupations, followed the Master as well.

Chapter XI

Simon the leper is healed

At that time Jesus was on the outskirts of the town of Magdala, beside the



Sea of Galilee, and a leper went up to Him. On seeing Jesus he adored Him, saying: *“Lord, if You will, you can cleanse me.”* Jesus, pitying him, touched him and said: *“I will, be cleansed.”* The leper, called Simon, was cured, and as soon as he had left he began to tell everyone of the miracle.

The fame of Jesus was so great that He could no longer enter towns unnoticed, for people came to Him from everywhere to hear Him and be healed of their sicknesses, and He sought out secluded places to pray.

Chapter XII

The paralytic of Capharnaum is healed

On one occasion, Jesus was to be found teaching at Peter’s home in Capharnaum, and so many people gathered to see and hear Him that it was no longer possible even to enter. Some men came up bringing a paralytic on a stretcher.

Ask with faith

But not finding any way to get the invalid inside to reach Jesus, they made an opening in the roofing and lowered him down on his stretcher, setting him before Jesus. He, seeing their faith, said to the paralytic: *“Have confidence, son, your sins are forgiven you.”*

Jesus, as God that He is, can pardon sins and heal

Also in the house were some pharisees, who began to say within themselves: *“Who is this Man? Who but God alone can forgive sins?”* Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said to them: *“Why do you think evil?”* In order that they might realize that He was the Son of God and therefore had power to forgive sins, He told the paralytic: *“Arise, take up your bed and go home.”* At once healed, he rose up and, taking his stretcher, went home glorifying God.



When the people saw this, they praised God saying: *“Never have we seen such a thing. Wonders have we seen today.”*

Chapter XIII

Definitive calling of the other two disciples

At that time Jesus went in search of Matthew, who was working. Jesus said to him: *“Follow Me”*. Matthew, rising up, left everything and followed Him.

Matthew was a publican, that is, a tax collector for the Romans, and because publicans had contact with the Romans, the doctors of the Law said that they were impure.

Jesus attends a banquet with publicans and sinners

Matthew then gave a banquet at his home for Jesus, His Divine Mother and the other disciples, and other publicans and sinners came as well and sat down to eat with Jesus.

Some pharisees – who were besides doctors of the Law – saw this, and began to say to the disciples: *“Why does your Master, and why do you too, eat with publicans and sinners?”*

Jesus seeks out sinners to convert them

When Jesus heard this, He told them: *“I have not come to call the just to penance and conversion, but sinners. For those who are healthy have no need of the doctor, rather the sick. Learn the meaning of: ‘I prefer mercy to sacrifices and virtue to holocausts’.”* For the pharisees wanted to appear before the people as though they led a life of sacrifice; but in reality they evaded the norms of the Law, and above all its true sense, full of mercy towards sinners who repent and amend.

During the feast, Jesus made Judas Iscariot the definitive calling as a disciple, and Judas followed Him.

Chapter XIV

First Christian communities

Jesus organized the first Christian communities of Carmelite religious, formed by His disciples, who had two monasteries in Capharnaum, as well as by the Divine Mary’s disciples, the pious women, who had their own convent between Capharnaum and Bethsaida.



The Order of Mount Carmel, with these two communities, went on ahead, now enriched according to Jesus' teachings or the Gospel.

This Order had been founded centuries previously by the Most Holy Virgin Mary in Her apparition to the Prophet Saint Elias.

Chapter XV

Martyrdom of Saint John the Baptist

John continued in Bethabara on the banks of the Jordan, telling everyone that they should follow Jesus the Son of God, be baptized and do penance; and he preached against sin.

John's arrest

As John had rebuked king Herod Antipas for the sinful life he led with Herodias, who was his brother's wife, the king had John the Baptist arrested on the banks of the Jordan; and ordered that he be led bound to a prison in one of his palaces.

John's martyrdom

It came to pass that Herod, on his birthday, gave a dinner to the grandees of his court and to other chief persons. At the banquet the wicked Salome, Herodias' daughter, danced and pleased Herod so much that the king said to her: *"Ask of me whatever you will, and I shall give it to you."* Then Salome, by order of her mother, told the king: *"I want you to give me here and now the head of John the Baptist on a dish."*

By order of Herod, one of the guards went to the prison, beheaded John the Baptist, and brought the head to Salome on a tray, and she handed it over to her mother Herodias.

Book IV

Second year of Christ's preaching, up till the Passover of the year 33

Chapter I

Healing of the paralytic at the pool of Bethesda

One Saturday, Jesus, accompanied by His disciples, in Jerusalem visited the sheep pool or Bethesda. Many sick lay there awaiting the movement of the waters, for the Angel of the Lord descended at certain times and stirred the waters, and the first to enter the water was healed.

Elpidius, a paralytic for many years, was there. Jesus asked him: *"Do you wish to be healed?"* He replied: *"Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water stirs; for while I try to enter, another goes in*



before me.” Jesus then told him: “*Arise, take up your stretcher and walk.*” Straightaway the man was healed, and took up his stretcher and walked.

Works of mercy sanctify the day

By the healing of the paralytic, and everything Elpidius said in favour of Jesus, the jews persecuted the Master and accused Him of doing these things on Saturday, as they said that the Law of Moses did not permit that. For, as we know, at that time Saturday was the Day of the Lord, until the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ, when Sunday again became the Day of the Lord.

But Jesus taught that the Saturday rest should not be understood to the point of leaving out the practice of charity; for that day, specially dedicated to God, was the best day for works of charity, thus to sanctify it better.

Chapter II

Ears of wheat cut off on the Day of the Lord



After the Passover, Jesus returned from Jerusalem to Capharnaum with His followers. As His disciples felt hungry, and were passing through some wheat fields, they went on ahead; and cutting off ears, they grained them in their hands and ate. Some pharisees, when they saw this, went to Jesus to tell Him that His disciples did not keep the Law of Moses.



But Jesus replied: “*Have you not read in the Law that priests in the Temple, on Saturdays, kill the victims for sacrifice, and nonetheless do not sin?*” And added: “*Saturday was*

made for man and not man for Saturday”, as the Saturday rest law was for the good of the soul, by dedicating it to God, and for the good of the body, by the rest itself, and was obligatory as long as there were no just grounds for not observing it.

He told them besides: “*The Son of Man is Lord of Saturday*”; for Jesus, as God, has the power to exempt from it whomever He pleases, and to change the Law as well.

Chapter III

Christ heals the man who had a withered hand

At that time, Jesus entered the synagogue or temple of Capharnaum, as He usually did, to teach. There was a man there who had a withered hand. Some pharisees were waiting to see if Jesus would heal him, for, being a Saturday, they wanted to accuse Him of not keeping the Law.



But Jesus, who knew their wicked thoughts, asked them: *“Is it lawful on Saturday to do good or to do evil?”* But they remained silent, for if they said that it was right to do good on Saturday, they approved of what He did; and if they said the opposite, they would lose authority before the people, for doing good is always pleasing to God; so that, confused, they could not answer Him.

Jesus then said to them: *“Will there be anyone who, having a sheep, if it falls into a pit on a Saturday, will not pull it out? Well then, how much more is a man worth than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on a Saturday.”* And looking around at them with great indignation, pained at their hardened hearts, Jesus said to the man: *“Stretch out your hand.”* And the man stretched his hand out, and it was cured.

The pharisees, enraged, then left the temple and gathered with others to plan Jesus’ death in secret.

So Jesus withdrew from there to avoid the pharisees, and a multitude followed Him.



Chapter IV

Election of the twelve Apostles

One day, having retired with His disciples to the Mount of Beatitudes, beside the Sea of Galilee, Jesus chose twelve of them whom He named Apostles, to be with Him and send them out to preach. The names of the twelve Apostles are: Peter, James the Greater, John, Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the Less, Thaddeus, Simon and Judas Iscariot. And He gave them besides power over devils and illnesses.

By the election of the twelve Apostles, Jesus left the chiefs of the Jewish church outside His Church, for in the Temple of Jerusalem He had already called them three times, and they had persisted in rejecting Him.

Then they went down the Mount to where a great crowd was waiting to see Jesus.



Chapter V

Sermon on the Mount

Since the fame of Jesus continued to grow, many Galileans sought Him, as well as people from Judea, Samaria, Decapolis and even Syria. And Jesus, when He went down the Mount with His Apostles and disciples, healed the sick and performed many miracles.

Then He went up the Mount again a short way so that all could see and hear Him better, as He wanted to teach them. His Most Holy Mother was beside Him, and the Apostles and disciples stood to either side of the Two.

The Beatitudes

Jesus taught the great multitude gathered there, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall possess the land.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall have their fill.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are those who suffer persecution for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Blessed are you when men shall revile and persecute you and speak all manner of evil against you untruly for My sake. Be glad, then, for your reward will be very great in Heaven.”



The risk of falling into Hell

After this, Jesus warned of the risk of falling into Hell run by all those whose interest in life is to possess ever more goods and money, by those who live to enjoy the pleasures of this world and by those who seek comfort and luxury for the body.



If not converted in time, they will not enter Heaven. Hence He said:

“Alas for you who are wealthy, because you have already had your consolation in this world!

Alas for you who are satiated, for you shall go hungry!

Alas for you who now laugh, for you shall groan and weep!

Alas for you when worldly men praise you, as it will be a sign that your bad conduct is in accord with theirs!”

The Law of God

Before all present, Jesus recited the Commandments of the Decalogue or Law of God:

The first is to love God above all things.

The second is not to swear in vain by the Holy Name of God.

The third is to sanctify Holydays.

The fourth is to honour father and mother.

The fifth is not to kill.

The sixth is not to commit acts of impurity.

The seventh is not to steal.

The eighth is not to bear false witness or to lie.

The ninth is not to commit idolatry.

The tenth is not to desire espoused persons nor covet the goods of others.

He then said that whoever breaks one of these Commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall not enter the Kingdom of Heaven; but whoever keeps them, and teaches others to keep them, shall be rewarded in the Kingdom of Heaven, and added: *“For if you do not perform acts of virtue, you shall not enter the Kingdom of Heaven.”*

Other teachings

Among many other things, Jesus taught them:

“Do not return wrong for wrong. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, offer him the other cheek as well. And whoever wishes to take your tunic, let him take your cape as well. And whoever should compel you to go a thousand paces with a load, go another two thousand with him.”

“To whoever asks of you, give; and do not turn your back on whoever seeks a loan from you.”

“Love your enemies; do good to those who detest you and pray for those who persecute and calumniate you.”

“Be merciful. Give, and you shall receive. Give without measure, and God will fill your hearts with graces. Be then perfect, as your Heavenly Father is perfect.”

“Let your alms be hidden from men; and your Heavenly Father, who sees what is hidden, will reward you in Heaven.”

“When you pray, let your prayer, recollected and confident, come from your heart, and your Father, seeing your intention, will reward you. Pray much, the more the better.”

“Do not try to store up treasures on earth, where rust and moth consume and where thieves steal them. Rather, store up treasures in Heaven. These treasures are everlasting. For where your treasure is, there is your heart.”

“You cannot at the same time serve God and wealth when the latter draws you into sin.”

“Do not be anxious about the nourishment you need, nor about clothing. For will not God, the Author of your existence, procure for you food and clothing so that you can live? Seek first, then, the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all those things shall be given to you in addition.”

“Do not judge, and you will not be judged. For with the judgement you judge by, you shall be judged; and with the rule you measure by, you shall be measured.”

“Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; whoever seeks, finds; and to whoever knocks, it shall be opened.”



“I am the Good Master, who guides you by the way that leads to eternal salvation. Enter by the narrow gate; because wide is the gate and broad the way that leads to perdition, and many there are who follow that way. On the contrary, how strait the gate and how narrow the way that leads to eternal life, and how few there are who follow that way!”

“Beware of deceivers who come to you disguised as sheep, but inwardly are wolves. By their fruits you shall know them. Every good tree produces good fruit, and every bad tree produces bad fruit.”

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord!’ shall enter the Kingdom of Heaven; rather whoever does the will of My Father.”

“Whoever hears My words and puts them into practice will be like a prudent man who built his house upon rock. And though rain fell and rivers overflowed, the house did not fall down because it was built upon rock. But



whoever hears My words and does not put them into practice will be like an imprudent man who built his house upon sand. And then when rain fell and rivers overflowed, the house collapsed, and great was its ruin.”

When Jesus had ended the Sermon on the Mount, all who heard Him marvelled at His teachings; because they saw that He taught them with authority, and not arrogantly as did the pharisees.

Chapter VI

Healing of the centurion’s servant

When Jesus entered Capharnaum, followed by many people, a centurion named Cornelius, who was a Gentile, that is, not of the Jewish religion, sent some Jewish messengers asking Him to come to his home to heal a servant of his who was very ill.

Jesus went over with them to Cornelius’ home. And the centurion, who was waiting for Jesus, seeing Him come up, went over to Him and kneeling asked: *“Lord, my servant lies paralysed and suffers much.”* Jesus then said to him: *“I will go and heal him.”*

Cornelius’ faith

But the centurion, though he ardently wished Jesus to come into his home, replied: *“Lord, I am not worthy that You should enter my home; command by Your word and my servant shall be healed. For if I, having soldiers at my orders, have power to command and be obeyed, how much more do You, who are the Almighty.”*

The miracle

Jesus, marvelling at the centurion’s faith, told Him: *“Go, and let it be done according as you have believed”*, and the servant was healed at that moment. And turning to the people who were following Him, Jesus said: *“Truly, I have not found such great faith even among the children of Israel. And many Gentiles will come and sit at table with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in Heaven, while many jews will be cast out into everlasting darkness, where will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”*

Next Jesus, with His Divine Mother, the twelve Apostles and some pious women, entered the home of the centurion.

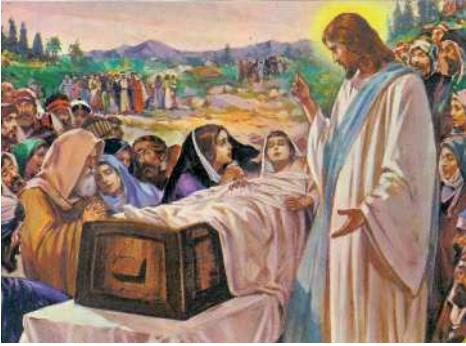
Cornelius, his family and servants were converted and baptized by Jesus.

Chapter VII

Christ raises to life the son of the widow of Naim

At that time Jesus went with His Mother and His Apostles to Jerusalem, as the Feast of Pentecost was drawing near. And during the journey, when He passed close by Naim, He saw that a deceased youth was being borne out for burial; he was Martial, the only son of the widow Maroni, and with her came many people from the town.

When the Lord saw her, moved to compassion, He said: *“Do not weep.”*



Jesus went up and touched the bier. And those who bore it halted. Jesus then said: *“Young man, I say to you, arise.”* Martial then sat up and began to speak, and Jesus handed him over alive to his mother.

At this, all glorified God saying: *“God has visited His people.”* And the fame of this miracle was voiced throughout the district and spread all over Israel and beyond.

Jesus stayed a few days in Naim, teaching and baptizing many.

Chapter VIII

Three candidates

Jesus, with His own, continued on His way to Jerusalem. And it came to pass that along the way, close to Bethel, Jesus was approached by three men who wanted to follow Him in the religious life, whose vocation He put to the test.

First a scribe, coming up to Him, said: *“Lord, I will follow You wherever You go.”* Jesus answered him: *“Foxes have holes in which to live, and birds of the air nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His Head”*; the scribe, hearing this, went away.

The Master called another who also approached: *“Follow Me.”* And he replied: *“Lord, first let me go and bury my father.”* But Jesus told him: *“Let the dead bury their dead; you, come and announce the Kingdom of God”*; and neither did he follow Him.

Jesus teaches us that those who have no Faith should care for their own; let them be. But whoever has received a grace should respond to it and follow God’s call, without concerning himself further with the things of this world.

Finally another came and said to Him: *“Lord, I will follow You; but first*



let me go home and settle the affairs I have pending.” Jesus warned him: “Whoever, after putting his hand to the plough, turns to look back, is not worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven”; at this admonition, neither did he follow Him.

Chapter IX

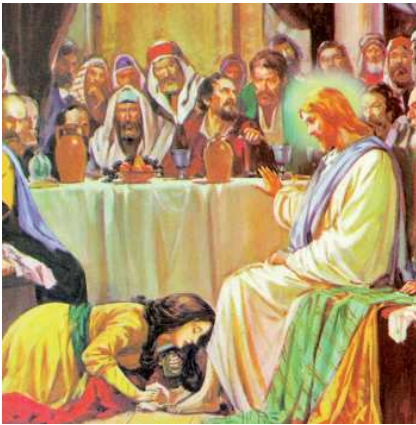
Conversion of Mary Magdalen

Lazarus and his sister Martha prayed much for the conversion of their younger sister, Mary, who was living a sinful life in Magdala. One day Martha invited her to listen to the teachings of Jesus, who was preaching on a hill close to where

Mary lived.

First, sincere repentance for love of God

Mary Magdalen went there and, hearing Jesus’ words, repented deeply of her many sins. As Jesus knew Mary’s feelings, He said gazing at her: *“If but a single spark of penance, of repentance, of love, of faith, of hope, falls into a heart and bears fruit, I wish to tend it and make it grow in order to take it to My Father.”* These words filled Mary Magdalen with great love for Jesus.



Then invoke the Blessed Virgin

Afterwards, Martha took her sister to the Most Holy Virgin Mary, and the repentant sinner begged Her to ask Her Divine Son to obtain forgiveness for her.

Meanwhile, Jesus had been invited to a meal by that Simon whom Jesus had cured of leprosy some time previously. And Jesus sat at table with His Apostles.

Acts of love for God are always pleasing to Him

The repentant sinner, accompanied by the Divine Mary and by Martha, went too, bringing with her a flask filled with ointment. When she saw Jesus seated at table, Mary Magdalen went up to Him and, falling down at His feet, washed them with her tears and dried them with her tresses, kissed them and anointed them with the ointment.

Only God knows the interior of each person

When Simon saw this he thought: *“If this man were a Prophet, he would know that the woman touching him is a sinner”*. And Jesus, knowing the pharisee’s perverse thoughts, said to him: *“Simon, a certain creditor had*



two debtors: one owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. But as they had nothing with which to repay him, he forgave both of them their debts. Tell Me, then, which of the two do you think will love him more?” Simon answered: “The one whom he forgave most I suppose.” And Jesus said: “You have judged rightly.”

Forgiveness is received by works of love for God

Jesus, turning to the repentant woman, said to Simon: “Do you see this woman? I entered your home, and you gave Me no water to wash Myself; but she, with her tears, has bathed My feet, and with her tresses has dried them. You gave Me no kiss of peace; but she has not ceased to kiss My feet. You did not anoint My Head with perfume; but she has anointed My feet with perfume. Therefore her many sins are forgiven her, because she has loved Me much. For whoever loves less, is forgiven less.”

Then Jesus said to the woman: “Your sins are forgiven you. Go in peace.”

Mary Magdalen was baptized by Jesus that same day of her conversion. As Simon was deeply moved by Mary Magdalen’s repentance, he humbly begged the Lord to forgive him his sins as well, and was baptized that same day, and with him many others.

Chapter X

Christ’s journey through Galilee

Jesus, accompanied by His Most Holy Mother, the twelve Apostles and others, went about the towns and villages of Galilee preaching and healing every illness.



When He saw the people coming up to hear Him, He felt compassion, as they were like sheep without a shepherd. So comparing them to the wheat or harvest now ripe in the fields, He told His Apostles: “The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers few. Pray then to the Lord of the harvest to send labourers out to His harvest.” Thus He made them see the need for others as well to preach, so that more people be converted.

Chapter XI

Christ sends the twelve Apostles out to preach

Some days later, Jesus sent the twelve Apostles out to preach two by two. Before they left He said to them: *“Go out and preach, saying that the Kingdom of Heaven, which is the Kingdom of grace in souls, has now arrived.”*



“I send you out as sheep among wolves; be, then, intelligent as serpents and simple as doves. And when they deliver you up to the courts, do not be anxious thinking of what to say, for it is not you who will speak then, but the Spirit of your Heavenly Father.”

“The disciple is not greater than his Master. Therefore the disciple shall be treated in like manner to his Master. Do not be afraid of those who persecute you. Do not be afraid of those who kill the body and cannot kill the soul; be afraid of him who can kill your soul by sin and cast you into Hell.”



“Whoever therefore shall acknowledge and confess Me as Messias before men, I will also acknowledge as My disciple before My Father who is in Heaven. Do not think that I have

come to bring peace on earth; I have not come to bring peace, but warfare. Since, because of My teaching, I have come to separate the son from his



father, and the daughter from her mother, and the daughter-in-law from her mother-in-law. For those who believe in Me will have as their worst enemies members of their own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; whoever loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. Whoever does not take up his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me. Whoever, at the cost of losing his soul, keeps his life, will lose eternal life; and whoever loses his life for love of Me, shall find it again in Heaven.”

“Whoever receives you receives Me; and

whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me. Whoever gives a glass of fresh water to a disciple of Mine to drink, out of regard for his being My disciple, will not lose his reward.” The Apostles later carried out their apostolate around Galilee; and when they returned, reported to Jesus all they had done and taught.

Chapter XII

Christ chooses seventy-two disciples and sends them out to preach

After the Apostles had returned, Jesus also chose seventy-two disciples among those who followed Him, to assist them. But before sending them out to preach, He taught them how they should do so, just as He had taught the Apostles, and besides told them: *“Do not stop to greet anyone with vain courtesies and conversations, as this will weaken your preaching.”*

Chapter XIII

Christ shows His pleasure at the Apostles’ and disciples’ preaching

When they returned weeks later, full of joy, the seventy-two disciples told



Jesus: *“Lord, even the demons are subject to us through Your Name.”*

Jesus then answered them: *“Do not rejoice with conceit, rather that because of your good deeds, your names are written in Heaven.”*

Overflowing with joy, He

thanked His Father saying: *“I praise You, My Father, because You have hidden these things from those held to be wise and prudent in this world, and have revealed them to the little and humble.”*

Then turning to His Apostles and disciples, Jesus told them: *“Blessed are the eyes that see the things that you see. For many prophets and kings desired to see the things that you see and did not see them. Come to Me all you who are weary and are burdened, and I will relieve you. Learn from Me, who am meek and humble of heart, and you shall find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden light.”*



Chapter XIV

Christ teaches by way of parables



Jesus often taught by way of parables; which are comparisons taken from happenings in the lives of farmers and fishermen. He taught in this way so that all might understand Him, according to their capabilities; if they had goodwill, that is, if in their hearts they wanted to be good and love God, they understood His teachings better, for by accepting that grace, God gave them yet more graces. Those of bad will, however, that is, those who did not want to love God, simply did not understand the things of God, since their hardness of heart led them to reject the graces.

Chapter XV

Christ teaches the parable of the good Samaritan

One day Jesus taught in the town of Jericho. A doctor of the Law, who was listening, asked Him: *“Master, what shall I do to possess eternal life?”* And as the Law tells us to love God and neighbour, and he knew it, he asked as well: *“Who is my neighbour?”*



Jesus then told him the following parable: *“A man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and on the way fell into the hands of some robbers, who stripped him of everything; and*

having beaten him, they went their way leaving him half dead. A levitical priest went by that way; and having seen him, passed him by. Likewise a levite minister, seeing the wounded man, continued on his way. But a Samaritan who went by that road came up to where the wounded man lay, and was moved to compassion. Approaching, he bound up his wounds; and setting him upon his own donkey, brought him to an inn and tended him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, telling him, ‘take care of this man for me, and however much more you spend, on my return I will repay you’.”

And Jesus asked the doctor of the Law: *“Which of the three do you think was neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?”* He replied: *“The one who showed him compassion.”* Then Jesus said: *“Then go yourself and do likewise.”* The doctor of the Law followed Jesus as a disciple.

Chapter XVI

Mary Magdalen and Martha



At that time Jesus, on His way to Jerusalem, stopped at Bethany where Mary Magdalen, Martha and Lazarus lived, and began to instruct them.

While Mary, seated at the Lord's feet, listened to Him, her sister Martha, who was very busy attending Jesus, went in to where He was and told Him: *“Lord, do You not see that my sister has left me to attend You alone? Tell her to help me.”*

So the Lord said to her: *“Martha, you take great pains to attend Me well. But you are busy to excess”*.

Jesus made Martha see that her interest in serving Him was good, yet that Mary was acting more perfectly, as she was listening to His teachings; for while He spoke, Martha should have been listening attentively to His words, and afterwards, both sisters prepare everything necessary.



Chapter XVII

Christ teaches the parable of the importunate friend

Jesus, who was touring Judea again, prayed with His own in the Bethlehem Grotto and insisted that they frequently pray the Our Father, for the power this prayer enfolds and how pleasing it is to God the Father.

So that all might better understand the power of prayer, He told them: *“If one of you has a friend, and at midnight you go to his home and ask: ‘Friend, lend me three loaves, because another friend of mine has just arrived at my home from a journey, and I have nothing to give him’; and if he replies from inside and says: ‘Don’t trouble me, my door is now locked and my servants are in bed as well’; and if despite this you keep on knocking at the door, I assure you that if he does not get up and give you the loaves out of friendship, at least to free himself from your impertinence he will get up and give you whatever you need.”*

“Well, if you know how to give good things to your children, how much more will your Father who is in Heaven give to those who ask Him!”

Chapter XVIII

Christ heals a blind and dumb possessed man

In those days, Jesus was back at the monastery in Capharnaum, where He usually stayed when in that region. As soon as the people found out that He was there, many came to see Him and listen to Him; and they were so many that He and His Apostles and disciples had no time even to eat.

Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of David

Then they brought to Him a possessed man, blind and dumb. And Jesus healed him, so that the man, now healed, saw and spoke normally.

The people there were so astonished at the wonders they saw, that they said: *“Is He perhaps the Messiah, the Son of David?”*

Ill-willed pharisees and sadducees accuse Jesus

Among the people, however, there were also some ill-willed pharisee and sadducee scribes, come from Jerusalem, who maliciously sought to turn away His followers, saying that He cast out devils by the power of the devil, and asked Him, if He were the Messiah, to show it by a sign from Heaven. And they accused Him of being possessed; and lastly, began to say that He was mad.

The Apostles and disciples then came out in His defence, and when the scribes saw them defending Him, they decided to calm down and look for a more underhand way of attacking Him.

Chapter XIX

Christ preaches in Capharnaum

At sunset, Jesus used to go to preach at the jews’ temple or synagogue in Capharnaum. And many people went there to hear His teachings.

As He had been accused by the perverse scribes of being possessed, He told the people: *“How can Satan cast out Satan? Any kingdom divided against itself cannot last.”* He thereby showed that if He cast out devils, He did so by God’s power.

Moreover, if He cast out devils by the power of God, then surely the Promised Messiah had arrived to bring us the Kingdom of God. Thus did Jesus teach.

Whoever is not with Christ is against Him

And He went on to say: *“Whoever is not with Me is against Me; and*





whoever is not with Me gathering in the harvest which I have sown, is scattering it about so that it be lost”, warning the scribes that they were opposing God; and He added: “Any sin can be forgiven; but whoever speaks against the Holy Ghost with malice, scorning His Grace, will become incapable of forgiveness, whether in this life or whether in the other”, that is, he will go to Hell forever.

He also said: *“The good man from his good heart draws good things; but the evil man from his evil heart draws evil things.”*

Chapter XX

Christ announces His resurrection

From the Capharnaum temple Jesus returned to the monastery, but the people did not leave Him, and He went on teaching them. As certain pharisees there asked for signs that He was the Messiah, Jesus answered them: *“No other sign will be given than that of the Prophet Jonas. For as Jonas was in the whale for three days and three nights, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights buried in the earth.”*

Thus He announced that after His death He would rise again on the third day, so that those who were not converted by His teachings and miracles might at least be converted when they saw this sign; and for those who believed in Him to become firmer in the faith, when this was to happen.

Chapter XXI

Christ places His Mother and other followers as models of obedience to God’s Will

Jesus was speaking in the monastic house at Capharnaum to those who went to Him, and they were so many that His Divine Mother, His aunts, cousins and others who arrived at that moment to speak with Him, could not reach Him and stayed outside waiting.



So some there, informed from outside, told Him: *“Your Mother and Your brethren are outside and want to see You.”* But Jesus replied: *“My Mother and My brethren are those who hear the word of God and keep it.”*

And He made them enter so that all might understand the teaching He wanted to give them, and pointing to His Mother



said first: “*See here My Mother*”; and then pointing to those accompanying Her: His aunts, His cousins, His Apostles and disciples, said: “*See here My brethren*”; and added: “*Because everyone who does the Will of My Father who is in Heaven, is indeed My brother and sister and mother.*”

That is to say, His Mother is the most perfect model of obedience to God’s Will; and His brethren, by grace, are those who fulfil the Will of God.

Chapter XXII

Christ dines at the home of Isai the pharisee

At that time, the pharisee Isai, from whom Jesus had cast out a devil some time previously, and who had still not been wholly converted, invited Him to his home to dine. And Jesus, who sought the good of his soul, went there with His own.

Before eating, Isai offered Him a basin with water to wash His hands; but not for cleanliness’ sake, rather out of respect for a jewish rite, and for that reason Jesus rejected it.

So the pharisee began to think: “*Why has He not washed before eating?*” And Jesus told him: “*You pharisees take great care to clean the outside to excess. However, you have neglected the cleansing of your souls, which are full of wickedness. O fools!*”

For bodily dirt does not soil the soul; so that without neglecting normal bodily cleanliness, it is much more important to keep the soul clean of all sin.



And Jesus’ words touched Isai’s heart, so that he repented for his sins, was baptized and, after sharing out his goods among the poor, both he and his wife Lea followed Jesus in the religious life.

Chapter XXIII

Christ teaches the parable of the sower

One day Jesus stood by the shore of the Sea of Galilee, and many people drew up. So Jesus boarded a boat there in the sea, accompanied by His Apostles, and taught the parable of the sower. The people listened to Him from the shore, and the disciples from other boats likewise listened to His teachings.



Jesus said: “A sower went out to sow; and as he sowed, some seeds fell by the wayside, and the birds of the air came and ate them. Others fell upon stony ground where there was not much earth, and they sprang up; but when the sun rose they withered, because the soil was not deep and moist, and they had scarcely any roots. Others fell among thorns, and both growing up at the same time, the thorns choked the seeds so that they gave no fruit. And others fell on good ground, and sprang up and grew and gave fruit.”

Later on, Jesus explained this parable to His Apostles and disciples, saying: “*The seed is the word of God. I, His Envoy, am the Sower. The seed fallen by the wayside is the word of God poured out into the hearts of those who hear it; but then, because of their lack of response, the devil comes and snatches the word from their hearts, so that they may neither believe nor be saved.*”

“*The seed fallen upon stony ground is the word of God poured out into the hearts of those who, when they hear, receive it with joy, believing at that moment. Yet when beset by temptation, trials or persecution for the Gospel’s sake, they cowardly succumb and turn back, so that the word of God does not take root in their hearts.*”

“*The seed fallen among thorns is the word of God poured out into the hearts of those who hear it and try to put it into practice. Later, however, on account of worldly concerns, longing for wealth, and the passions and delights of this life, the word of God is choked in their hearts, yielding no fruit at all.*”

“*Finally, the seed fallen upon good ground is the word of God poured out into the good and simple hearts of those who receive it with joy and struggle patiently not to lose it, and it produces in them fruits of virtue according to the measure they respond to grace.*”

Chapter XXIV

Christ teaches with parables on the Kingdom of Heaven

During those days, Jesus preached by the shores of the Sea of Galilee, or of Tiberias, which they also called Lake of Genesareth.

Parable of the mustard seed

Jesus told them the parable of the mustard seed: “*To what shall we compare the Kingdom of God? The Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is a tiny seed; but when grown it is larger than all the vegetables and becomes a bush, so that the birds of the air perch*



on its branches and can dwell in its shade.”

The grain of mustard seed is the Church of Christ in her beginnings, small on account of the fewness of her faithful; but later, in time she spreads throughout the world.

This parable means as well that the word of God, sincerely followed, makes the Kingdom of God grow in hearts, that is, it increases virtue in the faithful.

Parable of the leaven

The Master also told them the parable of the leaven: *“To what shall we liken the Kingdom of God? The Kingdom of God is like the leaven which a woman took and mixed with three measures of flour, till all was fermented.”*

Just as a little leaven has the power to improve the whole dough, the teachings of the Church, together with Grace, change a person’s heart, and can turn whole peoples to God.

Parable of the hidden treasure and the pearl of great price

Jesus also taught the parables of the hidden treasure and the pearl of great price: *“The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field, that when a man finds it, he hides in some other place; and goes and sells all he has and buys that field. Likewise the Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant who seeks fine pearls; and having found one of great worth, went and sold all he had and bought it.”*

The hidden treasure and the pearl of great price are the grace of God; and, moreover, other special graces, such as religious and priestly vocations, which require a special renunciation to obtain and safeguard.

Parable of the net

The Lord taught as well the parable of the net: *“The Kingdom of Heaven is like a net which, cast into the sea, catches fish. And when full it is drawn to the shore, and there the fishermen sort out the good ones into baskets and throw out those of bad quality. So shall it be at the end of time. The Angels shall come and separate out the righteous, and will cast the unrighteous*



into eternal fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Afterwards, the Lord told those listening to Him: *“Have you understood these things well?”* They said: *“Yes, Lord.”*

Parable of the seed which springs up by itself

Jesus told them as well the parable of the seed which springs up by itself: *“The Kingdom of God is like a man who casts seed onto the soil. And the seed springs up and grows without the man realizing. Because the earth yields its crop: first the stalk, next the ear, and finally grain in the ear.”*

Jesus’ teachings produce fruit in people’s hearts by means of grace; so that they must be preached earnestly and zealously, though the good results of this labour may be unseen, since it is God who acts in souls and causes the seed to bear fruit.

Chapter XXV

Christ teaches the parable of the cockle

When Jesus was preaching in those days by the lake shore, He also told them this parable: *“The Kingdom of Heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while his labourers slept, an enemy of his came and sowed cockle in among the wheat. And when the wheat sprang up, the cockle also appeared. Then the servants told him: ‘Sir, surely it was good seed you sowed in your field? Why then is there cockle as well?’ He said to them, ‘Some enemy of mine must have sown it.’ The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and remove it?’ He replied, ‘No, lest perhaps pulling up the cockle, you uproot the wheat as well. Let the one and the other grow, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers: Collect the cockle first and tie it into bundles to burn; but gather up the wheat and store it in my granary’.”*



Later Peter went up to Jesus and said: *“Explain the parable of the cockle to us”*.

He then explained it, teaching them that the Sower is the Son of God. The good seed are the sons of God. The devil sowed the cockle, who are the sons of the devil. The field is the world. The harvest is the end of the world. The reapers are the Angels. Accordingly, as the cockle is gathered up and burnt in the fire, thus

the wheat is gathered up and stored in the granary, thus the sons of God will be gathered up and stored in the Kingdom of God, and the sons of the devil will be gathered up and burnt in the fire.

shall it be at the end of the world: the Son of God shall send out His Angels, who will drive all evildoers out of His Kingdom, and cast them into the eternal fire of Hell, where there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine out like the sun in the Kingdom of His Father.

Chapter XXVI

Another of Christ's sermons by the shores of Lake Genesareth

Wherever Jesus preached, many people always came up wanting to hear Him; but pharisees and others also approached and wickedly sought to set the people against Jesus, even using threats.

Parable of the rich fool

He then narrated the parable of the rich fool, saying: *"A rich man's fields had produced an abundant harvest. And he thought to himself and said: 'What am I to do? For I have nowhere to store my harvest.' And finally he said: 'I shall pull down my granaries and build larger ones; and in them I will gather all my crops and goods. And I shall tell my soul: Soul, you have*



many goods stored away for very many years; take your ease, eat, drink, hold banquets.' God, however, told him: 'Fool, this night I will demand your soul of you, since you will die. And all that you have stored away, whose shall it be?'"

Jesus concluded the parable saying that thus will it happen to everyone who just wants to possess the riches of this world, but is not rich in virtue in God's eyes.

God wants us to reach Heaven and tells us how

Jesus said to all who were listening to Him: *"Do not fear, little flock: because it has pleased your Father to give you the Eternal Kingdom. Keep the lamps of Grace and of virtue alight in your hands."*

Chapter XXVII

Parable of the watchful servants

Jesus also taught them the parable of the watchful servants, saying that they should be like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding: who stay at their posts, ready and awake, so that, at the hour it may be, they may open to their master and serve him. Jesus told them that if they did that they would be blest of God, and added: *"Truly I tell you, He will make them sit down at table and serve them."* And speaking of the hour of death, He told them that they should always be prepared, *"for at the hour you least expect the Son of Man will come."*



Parable of the faithful and prudent steward

Apostle Peter then asked Him: “*Lord, is this parable just for us, or for all the rest as well?*”

The Lord replied with the parable of the faithful and prudent steward. This parable says that the faithful and prudent steward is the one whom his master put in charge of his goods and, when the master comes, is at his post working away and carrying out his duties.

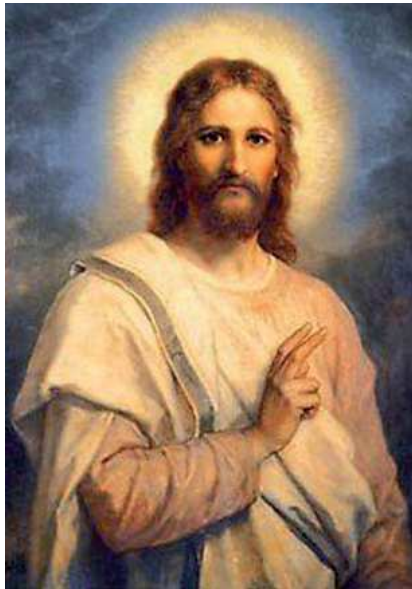
But if that servant, seeing that his master is long in coming, begins to maltreat the other servants and eat and drink to excess, then when the master does come he will remove him from his post and chastise him.

And He ended the parable saying: “*Because from everyone to whom much has been given much shall be demanded, and to whom much was entrusted more shall be asked.*”

That is to say, that we must all be prepared, each doing our duty. And as those to whom God has given great missions have also received from Heaven the great graces they need to carry them out, then they too will have to give a very strict account of everything.

Chapter XXVIII

Christ manifests His great desire to make reparation to the Father and redeem men



Jesus continued to preach, manifesting His great desire promptly to make reparation to the Father and quickly free men, opening the Gates of Heaven to them. Hence, displaying His sentiments of love for mankind, He said: “*I came to put fire on earth. And what do I wish, but that it blaze up? For I have come to set the Earth ablaze with the Fire of Charity, to destroy the false peace the world gives. By baptism of blood must I be baptized, and what anguish I feel until it is accomplished!*” That is, He was impatient to shed His Most Precious Blood on the Cross, as only in this way would His desires be fulfilled.

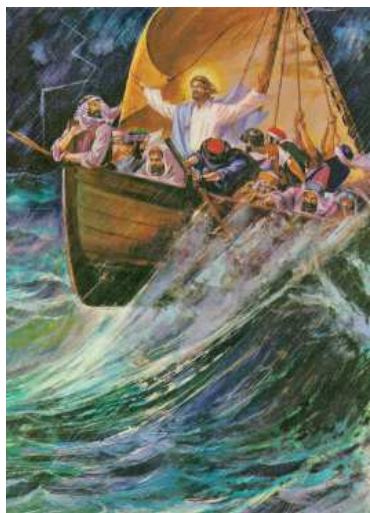
And He reproves those who do not wish to acknowledge Him as the Son of God

At the same time, He reproved those who basely refused to acknowledge Him as the Son of God, for not only had there been clear signs at His birth, but they had also seen the miracles He wrought and, especially, had listened to His divine teachings. And He told them: *“When you see clouds rising towards the west, you say: ‘A storm is coming’; and so it happens. And when a south wind blows, you say: ‘It will be hot’; and so it is. Hypocrites: you know how to judge the weather from the signs in the sky, why then are you unable to recognize that the present time is that of the Messias, by the signs that confirm it?”*

Chapter XXIX

Christ calms a colossal storm on the Lake of Genesareth

One day while Jesus was teaching by the shores of the Lake of Genesareth,



some pharisees there stirred up and confounded the people, and provoked disorder. To avoid arguments, and besides, as it was late, Jesus wanted to cross over to the other side of the lake, and climbed into a boat with His twelve Apostles, and His disciples into other boats, and they departed.

That night, while they were sailing, Jesus slept. A colossal wind-storm then arose, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it filled with water and they were in danger.

His Apostles woke Him up, shouting out: *“Lord, save us, we perish! Master, we perish!”*

When Jesus awoke He said: *“What are you afraid of, men of little faith?”* And rising up,

He commanded the winds and the sea to be still, and the wind ceased and a great calm ensued. And they marvelled, and said: *“This is the Son of God, for even the wind and the sea obey Him.”*

Chapter XXX

Christ heals two possessed men from Gerasa

At that time Jesus went with His Apostles and disciples in several boats to the Gerasa region. And when they disembarked, two possessed men came to Jesus. They lived in nearby caves, always howling out and throwing stones, and were so fierce that no one dared pass by that way.

These possessed men came to Jesus impelled by the demons themselves, because the demons suspected that He was the Son of God, and begged Him not to cast them out of those men.

There was a great herd of some two thousand pigs in that place, and the



devils entreated Him: *“If you cast us out of here, send us to the herd of pigs, so that we may enter them”*. And Jesus told them: *“Go.”*

The devils’ malice

And the devils, leaving the men, entered the pigs. And the whole herd then charged over a cliff and fell headlong into the lake, and the pigs drowned in the waters.



The demons asked Jesus to allow them to enter the pigs with the aim of casting them into the lake; and by that material damage cause the Gerasa people, who were pagan, that is, who did not know the true God, to reject Jesus.

Jesus’ goodness

The men who cared for the herd of pigs were very frightened by what they had seen, and ran to report it in the city; many then went out to see what had happened, and found the two ex-possessed completely well at Jesus feet, and were greatly afraid.

And those who had seen everything informed others; and the Gerasenes, fearing that Jesus would moreover put an end to their vices, asked Him to leave. But He stayed a few days without entering the city, baptizing and teaching those who wanted to hear Him.

The two ex-possessed men want to follow Jesus

And when Jesus, at the end of a few days, was about to leave this region, the two ex-possessed, grateful and with faith, asked Him to take them with Him; but Jesus did not allow this, and told them: *“Go back to your homes and to your own, and relate to them what great mercies the Lord has shown you.”* They went off and fulfilled their mission. Later on they joined the disciples.



Chapter XXXI

Christ raises Jairus's daughter to life



On a certain occasion a levitical priest called Jairus came to the shores of the lake and knelt down at Jesus' feet, saying: *"My daughter is close to death. Come and lay Your hand upon her so that she may live."* Jesus, then, with His Apostles, disciples and many who followed Him, set out for Jairus's home.

When they reached Capharnaum, people came from Jairus's home to tell him that his daughter Salome had already died. But Jairus, again falling to his knees before Jesus, said to Him: *"Lord, my daughter has just died. But*

come and lay Your hand upon her, and she shall live."

When Jesus reached the house, everyone was weeping with deep grief. He went in to where the dead girl lay and, taking her by the hand, said: *"Child, I say to you, arise."* The girl rose up and began to walk. Her parents were stunned, and Jesus' fame grew further.

Jairus and his entire family were converted and were baptized by Jesus.

Chapter XXXII

Christ heals a possessed mute

Among the pharisees who were maliciously spying on Jesus there was one called Joas, who was well known among the people and was quite important. This Joas had often said that Jesus performed miracles by the power of the devil. God then permitted that, as chastisement, the devil enter Joas and leave him dumb and, by this, give him an opportunity of conversion.



It came to pass that they took Joas to the monastery in Capharnaum, when they were sure that Jesus was there, and presented him. And when Jesus had cast out the devil, Joas was able to speak. Then the people, marvelling, said: *"Never has such a thing been seen in Israel."*

Joas, once he had recovered his speech, knelt before the Divine Master and, repentant, confessed his sins before all, and was baptized by Him in the sight of the people.

Other pharisees who were there, bad ones, deeply stung by Joas' public conversion, provoked a disturbance, so that Jesus, with His Apostles and disciples, left to seek a more solitary and retired place, and they boarded the boats to go to another part of the lake.

Chapter XXXIII

Miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes

Later on Jesus, who had left by boat with His own to look for a more secluded place, on leaving the boat saw people there already awaiting Him, because they had followed Him around the lake shore on foot. And Jesus had compassion on them, healed the sick and taught the great crowd. When it was quite late, the Apostles told Him: *“Send the people away, so that they may go out to the villages and farms round about to lodge and find something to eat, because here we are in a deserted place.”*

Then Jesus told them three times to give them to eat themselves, and bid them go and buy food. But they did not have enough money, as the people were many. At last Jesus asked them what food they had: *“How many loaves do you have? Go and see.”*



There was a boy there who had five loaves and two fishes. Jesus said to His Apostles, *“Bring Me here the five loaves and the two fishes, and have the people sit down in groups*

of fifties and hundreds.”

Jesus then took the five loaves and the two fishes in a small basket and, raising His eyes to Heaven, blessed them; and giving thanks, He broke them into several pieces. He then inserted portions of fish into each piece of bread and distributed them among the twelve baskets there, which miraculously became filled.



Then Jesus told His Apostles to share out the food. They observed with astonishment that the baskets never emptied. And all ate their fill, and they numbered over ten thousand. When all saw the miracle, they said of Jesus: *“He is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.”*

They then wanted to make Him king, but not for God’s glory. He sent the Apostles on ahead in the boats and dismissed the people. Then Jesus went up a mount to pray. When night fell, He was there alone.

Chapter XXXIV

Christ goes out to His Apostles walking on the waters



The twelve Apostles and the disciples rowed by night over the lake. But they felt confused, for they did not understand why Jesus had not wanted to become king. They argued among themselves, especially Judas Iscariot, who by then only sought power and wealth. Jesus was not with them.



A strong wind then arose against them, and Jesus, from the shore, seeing that rowing was becoming very hard, went out to them walking over the waters, but passed them by, to show His displeasure at their having argued.

They, alarmed at what they thought was a vision, began to cry out. Jesus, taking pity on them, turned towards them. And Peter said: *“Lord, if it be You, bid me go out to You over the water.”* And He said: *“Come”*. Peter then left the boat and walked out over the waters towards Jesus. But of a sudden he doubted, and was afraid at the strong wind. He then began to sink, crying out: *“Help me, Lord”*. And Jesus took hold of him saying: *“Man of little trust, why did you waver in your faith?”* When the two had entered the boat, the wind ceased.

At the sight of this miracle, the Apostles adored Jesus saying: *“Truly You are the Son of God.”*

Chapter XXXV

Sermon of the Promise of the Eucharist

Jewish Saturday had begun when Jesus, with His own, entered the main synagogue or temple in Capharnaum, and He was followed by a large crowd, among whom were also scribes and doctors of the Law.

On this occasion, Jesus promised the Sacred Eucharist as spiritual nourishment for souls, saying: *“I am the Bread of Life. I came down from Heaven, not to do My own will, but the Will of Him who sent Me: that whoever sees the Son and believes in Him may have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”*

It was a very important sermon, because the Holy Eucharist is the very centre of Holy Mass, which He was to leave to His Church. Those who did



not wish to follow Him, especially the pharisees and other scribes and doctors of the Law, displayed great irritation and said: *“Is This not Jesus, the Son of Joseph? So how can He say: I came down from Heaven?”* And Jesus corrected and cautioned them, telling them that no one comes to Him unless by the grace of God, which they rejected.

And He went on to say of Himself: *“I am the living Bread come down from Heaven. Should anyone eat of this Bread, he will live eternally.”* He said that such a person would live eternally because, by receiving Communion worthily, he would have supernatural life in his soul.

And He said: *“The Bread that I will give you is My Flesh”*. The Jews then began to wrangle among themselves, saying: *“How can this Man give us His Flesh to eat?”* Then Jesus said to them: *“Truly, truly I tell you, whoever eats My Flesh and drinks My Blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day: for My Flesh is food indeed; and My Blood is drink indeed. Whoever eats My Flesh and drinks My Blood lives in Me, and I in him.”*

Although the Jews knew that Jesus had shown that He had the power to feed a multitude in a miraculous way, and that He therefore had the power to feed us with His Body and His Blood likewise miraculously, as they refused to accept that He is the Son of God, they did not understand that He spoke to them of a nourishment specially for the soul, of eucharistic mysteries.



Jesus left the synagogue when night had fallen and, to avoid arguments, departed with those who still wanted to follow Him.

By His words full of mystery, Jesus also tried the faith of His listeners. Some of the disciples said: *“This sermon is hard; who can bear it?”* And many abandoned Jesus. He then asked the twelve Apostles and the disciples who had not left: *“Do you wish to leave as well?”* Peter answered Him:

“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. And we have believed and known that You are the Christ, the Son of God.”

Thanks to Jesus’ Mother, who was also there present, those who wished to continue faithful felt strengthened to overcome the trial.

Judas Iscariot, who had previously contributed to the confusion, joined in falsely with Peter’s words.

Book V

Third year of Christ’s preaching, up till the Passover of the year 34

Chapter I

Parable of the sterile fig tree

Jesus, who was in Jerusalem for the Jewish Passover feast, went up every day to the Temple and preached there to the people. At that time He taught them the parable of the barren fig tree.



Jesus said: *“A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and went looking for fruit on it, and found none. And he said to the vine-dresser, ‘look, for three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree and find none. Cut it down then; why should it encumber the ground?’ But he answered, ‘Sir,*

leave it still this year, and I will dig around it and dress it, and see if with this it bears fruit; and if not, you shall then cut it down’.”

By this parable Jesus showed the people the conduct of the Jewish religious authorities, who refused to acknowledge Him as the Son of God, doing great harm to themselves, and to the people whom they ought to be leading to God. Those Jewish priests are the barren fig tree. The owner of the vineyard is the Eternal Father. The vine-dresser is Jesus Christ, who requests His Father not to chastise them yet, but to allow them one more year; since He would work hard on that fig tree by His Death on the Cross, and water it by His Blood. If after that the fig tree still remained fruitless, He could then cut it down, that is, abandon it to its own baseness.

Chapter II

Cure of the woman with the stoop

One day Jesus was teaching in the Bethany synagogue, and a woman there called Venusia was present, who for the space of eighteen years had such a stoop that she was unable to look upwards, because a devil was causing that deformity.

Seeing her, Jesus told her: *“Woman, you are free of your infirmity.”* And at



that moment the devil left her, and she straightened up and glorified God.

Yet the chief of the synagogue, furious because Jesus had healed on Saturday, said to the people: *“Six days there are for working; on those you can come to be healed, but not on Saturday.”*

Jesus replied: *“Hypocrites, do you not untie your ox or ass and lead it out to water on Saturday? And this daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen years: is it forbidden to untie her from this bond on Saturday?”* And before the people He treated the bad priests as hypocrites, that is, as phoney and frauds, so they hated Him

all the more.

When He said these things, His adversaries were all ashamed; the people, however, were delighted at Jesus' deeds and rejoiced in them.

Chapter III

Parable of the last place at dinners

At that time in Jerusalem Jesus was invited to eat at the home of the pharisee, doctor of the Law and sanhedrite Gamaliel, a very upright man. And Jesus, seeing the guests choosing the first places at table, narrated to them the parable of the last place at feasts: *“When you are invited, do not sit in the first place,*



lest perhaps there be a more distinguished guest than yourself, and the host who invited you say to you, ‘Leave this place to him’; and then, shamefaced, you will have to take the last place. Therefore, when you are invited, go and sit in the last place, so that when your host comes, he may tell you, ‘Friend, come up higher.’ Then you shall be honoured before those at

table with you. For everyone who raises himself up shall be humbled, and whoever humbles himself shall be raised up.”

Parable of those invited to dinner

There too He taught the parable of the guests invited to dinner. *“A man arranged a great dinner and invited many people. When it was time for the dinner he sent one of his servants out to tell the guests to come, since everything was ready; and all began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a farm and must go and see it.’ Another said, ‘I have bought*



five yoke of oxen and want to go and try them out.' And another said, 'I have married and so cannot go.' The servant returned and gave an account of everything to his master. Angered, the master then said to his servant, 'Go out into the streets and squares of the city and bring me here all the poor and crippled and blind and lame that you can find. For I tell you that none of those who were the first to be invited shall partake of my banquet'."

By this parable, Jesus explains why He had chosen humble and simple men like the Apostles and disciples to form His Church; and also says that He rejected the chiefs of the Jewish church because they refused to accept His invitation, though He had previously invited them. The pharisee Gamaliel, impressed, was converted and baptized by Peter.

Chapter IV

Christ teaches the three parables of Divine Mercy

One day when Jesus was preaching in a Jerusalem temple, many sinners drew near to hear Him, and He taught them these parables:



The lost sheep

Jesus said: "Is there anyone among you who, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the sheepfold and go out to look for the one that was lost until he finds it? And when he finds it, lays it joyfully upon his shoulders. And coming home, he calls his friends and neighbours: 'Rejoice with me for I have found my sheep that was lost.' I tell you that there will be more joy in Heaven for one repentant sinner who does penance, than for ninety-nine righteous who have no need of penance."



The lost drachma or coin

Then Jesus went on: “What woman, having ten drachmas, if she loses one, does not light a candle and sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? And after finding it, she calls together her friends and neighbours, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the drachma I had lost.’ Likewise I tell you there

shall be joy before the Angels of God for one repentant sinner who does penance.”



The prodigal son

And finally He told them this parable: “A man had two sons. The younger of them said to his father: ‘Father, give me the part of the property that falls to me’; and the father divided the property between the two. Some days later, the younger son went off to a very distant country, and there squandered all his inheritance, living a bad life. After he had spent it all, a great famine came upon that land, and he began to suffer want. So he went to work for a man, who sent him out to keep pigs. And he would have filled his belly with the vetches the pigs ate, but no one gave him any. Reflecting, he said, ‘Ah, how many labourers in my father’s

house have bread in plenty, while I am here perishing of hunger! I will rise up and go to my father, and say to him: my father, I have sinned against



Heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your labourers.’ And he set out for his father’s home. While he was still far off, his father saw him and was moved to compassion; and running out to him, threw his arms about his neck and kissed him. The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against Heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your

son.’ But the father told his servants, ‘Bring here the finest clothes and put them on him, and place a ring on his hand and shoes on his feet. And bring



a fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate a feast. For this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found'.”

In these three parables of Divine Mercy, Jesus teaches us: When a sinner repentant for his sins sincerely asks forgiveness from God, He forgives him and gives him back the grace lost. This conversion brings great joy to the whole Church.

Chapter V

Jesus returns to Galilee

Owing to Jesus' intense apostolate in Jerusalem and district during the days of the Passover, both the sanhedrin, which was the religious council, as well as the pharisees and sadducees, were enraged against Jesus. Hence He decided to return to Galilee, where He again preached by the shores of the Lake of Genesareth.

Jesus rebukes the pharisees for their hypocrisy or falsity



Pharisees from Jerusalem arrived there and pestered Jesus. *“Why do Your disciples not observe the traditions, but eat without washing their hands?”* they asked Him. He replied: *“Hypocrites! Well did Henoah prophesy of you: ‘This people honours Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. In vain do they honour Me, teaching doctrines and precepts not given by God but by men’.*” Because the pharisees, with great zeal, followed traditions invented by themselves, such as the washing of hands and jars, but were unconcerned about the most important of all: keeping the soul clean and serving God, observing His Law for love of Him.

Jesus teaches in the Capharnaum temple and monastery

Later, in the Capharnaum temple, where many people had gathered, Jesus continued to teach them many things, and said as well: *“Listen to Me all, and understand. Whatever enters a man's mouth does not stain his soul; the evil that comes from a man's heart, however, does indeed stain him.”*

When in the conventual house, Peter said to Him: *“Master, explain to us.”* He replied: *“Are you incapable of understanding? Do you not grasp that everything that enters into a man from outside cannot make him unclean, as*

it does not enter the heart, but goes to the stomach? But the things that come from a man's heart do make his soul unclean; because from the heart come bad thoughts, thefts, avarice, wickedness, frauds, impure acts, evil intentions, blasphemies, pride, folly. All these evils stain a man's soul, and he has to purify himself of them. But to eat without washing his hands does not stain him."

Chapter VI

Christ cures the Canaanean woman's daughter in Dan

Jesus with His own went to the north of Israel, and wherever He went many people soon gathered and followed Him. There was also a pagan or Gentile woman – as the Jews called them – who followed Him crying out, for she was asking Him to cure her daughter, who was possessed. But Jesus continued on His way without making any reply.

The Apostles then entreated Him: *"Attend to her and send her away promptly, for she is coming after us crying out."* But Jesus answered them: *"I am not sent except to the sheep of Israel."*



The faith of the Canaaneeanness

They then entered a house, and the Canaaneeanness entered as well and, casting herself at the Master's feet, adored Him saying: *"Lord, help me"*; and implored Him to cast out the devil from her daughter.

But Jesus said to her: *"Let the children have their fill first, for it is not good to take the bread from the children and throw it to the dogs"*, for thus did Jews term pagans; which Jesus said to try the woman's faith.

But she replied: *"True, Lord, but the dogs under their masters' tables feed on the crumbs the children let fall."* Then Jesus said to her: *"Oh, woman, great is your faith. For those words of yours, go your way, for the devil has gone out from your daughter"*. And when the Canaaneeanness arrived home, she found her daughter already free of the devil. Days later, Justa the Canaaneeanness and her daughter Berenice were baptized.

Chapter VII

Christ's apostolate in Cyprus

At that time Jesus embarked for the island of Cyprus, where there were groups of followers of John the Baptist who desired to receive Baptism. During His stay on the island, Jesus healed many sick, among them twenty while He was going along a street; they afterwards followed and praised Him, while His enemies tried to silence them.



In a synagogue, or Jewish temple, after Jesus had preached, there were many who began to argue with Him. An elderly rabbi or doctor of the Law, for many years paralytic, then requested silence and begged Jesus to bid him go over to Him to be healed. Jesus replied: “*As you believe, rise up and come to Me.*” At once he rose up healed, exclaiming: “*Lord, I believe.*” Then he

went over to Jesus, moved, and thanked Him from the heart.

Chapter VIII

Christ’s apostolate on His return journey to Galilee



On His return from Cyprus, Jesus made a great tour, baptizing many, preaching, teaching and moreover healing the sick.

When He reached Bethsan, He went as always to teach in the temple, and they brought a deaf-mute there and asked Him to lay His hand upon him.

Jesus, taking him aside, placed His fingers in both ears at the same time, and then, wetting His fingers with a little saliva, touched the man’s tongue with them. Then the Master, looking up to Heaven, sighed and said: “*Be opened.*” And at that moment the man heard and spoke well.

And Jesus bid them all to say nothing. But the more He bid them, the more they spread the news, and the more they marvelled saying: “*He has done everything well: He has made the deaf hear and the dumb speak.*”

Chapter IX

Second multiplication of loaves and fishes



Jesus, back in Capharnaum, wanted to go to the Mount of the Beatitudes to pray alone, but now it was no longer possible to withdraw, as the people followed Him and brought Him very many sick, whom He healed. And then He preached and taught those who wanted to hear

Him. And they all praised God for the miracles they saw. Thus it was this time as well. And those who went up to Him were many.

Mediation of the Most Holy Virgin



As it was close to midday, the Most Holy Virgin, worried because She saw that the people had nothing to eat, spoke to Jesus, who decided to give them to eat and thus please His Most Holy Mother.

Jesus then said to His Apostles and disciples: *“I feel compassion for these crowds because they have nothing to eat, and I do not want to send them away fasting; for they will faint on the way, since some of them have come from afar.”* His Apostles said to Him: *“How shall we find loaves enough to satisfy so great a crowd in this deserted place?”*

Jesus said to them: *“Men of little faith! How many loaves do you have?”*

They replied: *“Seven, and a few little fishes”*, which were the leftovers of the provisions the Apostles had brought with them.

Jesus works the miracle

Jesus bid the people sit down on the ground. Then taking the seven loaves and the fishes,

giving thanks, He broke them and inserted portions of fish into the pieces of bread, distributing them among seven of the baskets there; which, once miraculously filled, He gave to the Apostles for them to share out among the people.

So they fed them, without the baskets ever becoming empty. They all ate and had their fill. Those who had eaten were about eight thousand.

With the leftovers gathered up after the meal they filled the seven baskets again.



Chapter X

Christ cures the blind man from Bethsaida Julias

In those days Jesus, with His Apostles and disciples, made His way to Bethsaida Julias. Once in this town, they brought Him a blind man called Jonathan, and asked Jesus to heal him. Taking him by the hand, Jesus led him

outside the town, followed by neighbours. He then spat on the blind man's eyes, and touched them with His hands; at the same time asking if he saw. Jonathan said: *"I only see people hazily as if they were walking trees."* Then Jesus touched his eyes again and Jonathan was completely healed.

Call to the religious life

By that different manner of healing him, Jesus sought to try the blind man's faith and to show him that the sight of soul is more important than that of the body; and besides, showed him as well the bad will of his neighbours and the danger he ran by staying with them: it was a gentle and mysterious call to the religious life.

Jesus afterwards baptized Jonathan, and told him: *"Go home; but when you enter the town, tell no one who has healed you; as your neighbours will not value that testimony, but will use it to confound you."*

Jonathan did not go back home again, but responded to this special calling, and followed the Master as a disciple.

Chapter XI

Triple confession of Apostle Peter



At that time Jesus went to the north of Israel with His Apostles and disciples, and along the way asked them: *"Whom do men say that I am?"* They replied: *"Some, John the Baptist; others, Elias; and others, one of the ancient prophets risen from the dead."* And He went on: *"And you, whom do you say that I am?"* Then Peter, moved by the Holy Ghost, said: *"You are the Christ."*



Days later, He asked them again, and Peter, with yet greater firmness, confessed Jesus a second time, saying: *"The Christ of God."*

On the following day, Jesus asked them anew: *"And you, whom do you say that I am?"* Peter, now with great ardour, confessed Jesus a third time, saying: *"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."*

Christ promises Peter the Papacy of the Church

When He heard these last words of Peter, Jesus manifested in His Countenance something of the splendour of His glory, and blessed him. Then Jesus promised Peter the Papacy of the Church

and the power of the Keys, in these words: *“I say to you that you are Peter, and upon this Rock I will build My Church, and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against Her. To you will I give the Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. And whatsoever you bind on earth shall be bound in Heaven; and whatsoever you loose on earth shall also be loosed in Heaven.”*

The Pope is the Sweet Christ on Earth

That is, the Pope is Head of the Church because he represents Christ on earth, so that whoever obeys the Pope obeys Jesus, and whoever disobeys the Pope disobeys Jesus.

Chapter XII

Christ announces His Passion for the first time



Shortly afterwards He told them: *“It is necessary that the Son of Man go up to Jerusalem to suffer; He will be rejected by the chief priests, and by the sadducees and pharisees, and will be delivered up to death; but on the third day He will rise again.”* But Peter and the rest resisted the idea of a suffering and humiliated Christ; and Jesus severely admonished Peter and the other Apostles and disciples, as they did not yet understand the things of God.

Conditions for following Christ

Then Jesus said to His Apostles and disciples: *“If any man wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever, at the cost of losing his soul, keeps his life, will lose eternal life; and whoever loses his life for Me, shall find it again in Heaven. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and then loses his soul?”*

The one important thing is the soul’s salvation, and the things of this world are worthless if, because of them, the soul be lost. Because those who damn themselves will stay forever in Hell, which no one ever leaves.

Chapter XIII

Transfiguration of Christ on Mount Tabor

Jesus, with His Apostles and disciples, went one day to Mount Tabor. He went up to the summit to pray, accompanied by Apostles Peter, James the Greater and John.

While Jesus prayed somewhat apart, the three Apostles, tired by the walk, began to doze. Jesus, whilst praying, was transfigured; that is, He manifested part of the glory that He always had and kept hidden, and His Countenance shone brighter than the sun and His garments more than the whiteness of snow. Then the Divine Mary appeared glorious. And then Elias and Moses



appeared with great majesty, and stood to the right and left of the Lord. These two Saints spoke with Jesus of His Passion and Death in Jerusalem.

While they were speaking, Peter, James the Greater and John awoke, and saw the glory of Jesus, that of His Divine Mother and that of the two Saints. The three Apostles heard Jesus' conversation with Elias and Moses. Jesus stretched out His arms in the form of a cross and said that thus would He be crucified on Calvary. Finally, the Eternal Father appeared, and said of Jesus: "*This is My Son, the Beloved, in Whom I have all My delight, to Him you must listen.*" As soon as they heard the words of the Eternal Father, they adored God on their knees with face to the ground, filled with fear. Jesus, however, told them: "*Rise up, and fear not.*" Raising their eyes and looking around, they saw no one but Jesus.

Chapter XIV

Christ teaches the three Apostles on their way down from Mount Tabor

On their way down from Mount Tabor, Jesus said to the three: "*Tell no one of the vision you have had until the Son of Man shall have risen from among the dead.*" And they obeyed, but without understanding why He said that.

On the person of Elias



Then they asked Jesus: "*Why do the pharisee scribes say that Elias has to come first?*" And He answered them: "*Elias, in truth, has to come, and will restore all things. And the same as the Son of Man, Elias must suffer much, and will be despised.*" Because the Prophet Elias in truth will come to earth and attempt to convert the peoples, before the Second Coming of Christ to make a reality of His Kingdom on earth, namely the Messianic Kingdom; and will die martyred in his struggle against Antichrist.

On the spirit of Elias

Jesus went on telling them: "*I tell you, however, that Elias has already come, and they did not acknowledge him, and did with him as they pleased, as was written of him. Thus too will they make the Son of Man suffer.*" And they understood rightly that He was speaking then of John the Baptist, full of the spirit of Elias.

Chapter XV

Healing of a possessed lunatic boy



Some of the Apostles and the disciples and those who were waiting for Jesus, saw Him coming and ran out to greet Him. Scribes and doctors of the Law and others opposed to Him, who were arguing and confusing the people, also went out. A man went up to the Lord, and kneeling asked Him: *“Master, I have brought my son, who is possessed by an evil spirit that has left him deaf and dumb, he is lunatic and suffers much. For the unclean spirit seizes him and makes him howl out; and he wastes away more*

each day. I told Your Apostles and disciples to free my son and they could not.”

Jesus, before healing him, reproves many for their lack of faith

Jesus reproved His enemies for their life of sin and lack of faith, and asked for the boy to be brought up. And Jesus told the father: *“If you believe in My power, all things are possible.”* With tears, the boy’s father asked: *“Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief, strengthening my trust in You.”* And Jesus said: *“Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you: leave him and never enter him again.”* It then departed from the boy; who became like one dead. But taking him by the hand, Jesus helped him to get up, and handed him over now well to his father. Seeing Jesus’ great power, many believed in Him. After this miracle, Jesus baptized that whole family.

The force and power of faith

The Apostles and disciples had not been able to heal the youth because faith was lacking in many, owing to the confusion sown by Jesus’ enemies; and for their part, neither had the Apostles and disciples exercised their faith in the powers that Jesus had given them.

Jesus told them later: *“If you have just a mustard seed of faith, you would tell this mount: ‘Move from here over to there’, and it will move.”* And He told them as well: *“This kind of unclean spirit can only be cast out by much prayer and fasting.”*

Chapter XVI

Episode of the didrachmas tax

On those days Jesus was in the Capharnaum monastery when the collectors came for the didrachmas, a tax for the upkeep of worship in the Temple of Jerusalem. The collectors had been sent by the pharisees and sadducees, hoping that Jesus would refuse to pay, and thus later to be able to accuse Him.

The collectors asked Peter: *“Does your Master not pay the didrachmas?”*



He said: “Yes”. But when Peter entered the house, Jesus spoke to him first: *“What do you think, Peter? The kings of the earth, whom do they tax? Their children or others?”* Peter replied: *“Others.”*

Jesus then told him that the children have no need to pay; so that if a king is not obliged to pay, and neither his children, then less obliged is He, God and King of the Universe; and the same went for His Apostles and disciples, who were very dear children of the Divine King.

Besides, according to Jewish Law, religious persons and the poor were free from this payment; so that Jesus, the Apostles, the disciples and the pious women were also free,

since they, as religious, lived by alms. And this the collectors knew.

Even so, Jesus told Peter: *“However, so as not to scandalize them, go down to the sea and cast out a line. And the first fish that comes, take it; and opening its mouth you will find a four-drachma coin. Take it and give it to them for Me and for you.”* By this miracle, which was seen by the collectors, Jesus gave a sign of His poverty, of His divine power, and of the sacred obligation to contribute to Divine Worship.

Chapter XVII

Jesus sets up an innocent child as model

As the Apostles still had the idea that Jesus would reign at that time as true king on earth, they argued together about who would be first among them. Jesus then taught them about the Kingdom of Heaven and told them: *“If anyone desires to be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.”*

Then He called an innocent child, embraced him and set him down beside Him in their midst. And said: *“Truly I tell you: if you do not become simple and humble like children, you shall not enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Whoever shall become humble like this child, will be greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven.”*

Despise not any of these little ones, because their Guardian Angels in Heaven are forever gazing upon the Face of My Heavenly Father.”

The power of prayer

Jesus told them as well: *“I tell you besides: if two of you unite together to*

ask for anything, whatever it may be, you shall obtain it from My Father who is in Heaven. For wherever two or three are gathered together in My Name, there am I in the midst of them.”

Chapter XVIII

Forgiveness of offences

Jesus also said to His Apostles: *“If your brother offends you, correct him charitably; and if he is sorry, forgive him. If he offends you seven times a day, and each time that day goes back to you saying, ‘I am sorry for what I have done;’ always forgive him.”*

Whenever we offend God and ask for His forgiveness with repentance, humility and purpose of amendment, God forgives us. Consequently, we are always obliged to forgive whoever offends us and then asks our forgiveness; and if he does not ask to be forgiven, we must still forgive him from the heart.



Parable of the lenient king and the pitiless servant

In order that His teaching on the forgiveness of offences be better understood, Jesus told them: *“The Kingdom of Heaven is like a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. One owed him ten thousand talents, and as he had no way to repay them, the king commanded that he be sold together with his wife and children and all that he had, and the debt thus be paid. The servant then begged him: ‘Sir, be patient, I will repay you everything.’ And the lord, compassionate, let him go free, and forgave him the whole debt. But after the servant had left, he encountered one of his companions who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, tried to choke him, saying, ‘Pay me back what you owe me.’ His companion begged him saying, ‘be patient and I will repay you everything.’ Yet he would not, but had him put into prison to pay back what he owed. The other servants, seeing what was happening, went and told it all to their lord. Then the lord summoned the pitiless servant and told him, ‘wicked servant, I forgave you the whole debt because you asked me. So should you not have had pity on your companion, as I had on you?’ And his lord, angered, had him delivered up to repay all that he owed. So also shall My Heavenly Father do with you, if you do not each forgive your brother from the heart.”*

Chapter XIX

Christ abandons Galilee and sets out for Jerusalem

As a result of the Sermon on the Promise of the Eucharist, many from Galilee left Jesus; and of the multitudes who had previously followed Him,

few remained firm. And Jesus, who had chosen Galilee, and Capharnaum in particular, as the centre of His apostolate, saw bitterly that many showed themselves ever more indifferent and even aggressive.

Jesus then toured Galilee for the last time. But His enemies, ever more numerous, did everything possible for Him to be given a cold reception, as was the case; for besides, seeing their ill-will, He performed no miracles. Instead, tenderly calling them again, He reminded them of the graces they had received, and warned them that they would be chastised if they did not respond.

Lastly He preached in the principal synagogue of Capharnaum, reminding all of His Heavenly Father's love for Capharnaum, and of how obliged they were to respond to so many graces received. Ending, He announced the dire chastisement that would befall the towns where He had performed so many wonders, and which, despite this, had not done penance, and cursed several Galilee towns, including Capharnaum.

The Apostles felt discouraged, unable to understand many things, and Judas



Iscariot, underhandedly, increased their unease and confusion.

But Jesus did not wish to leave without first removing all the Friars and Nuns from the now apostate town of Capharnaum, and send them to live in Bethany so that, on

the following days, first the Apostles, and then the disciples left. The pious women also left their convent to go to Bethany.

Chapter XX

Christ heals ten lepers

After leaving Capharnaum, Jesus went with His Most Holy Mother and



aunts on the way to Jerusalem; and it happened that, in a village, ten lepers came out to meet Him. Without coming close, they raised their voices and said: "*Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.*" And Jesus told them: "*Go, and show yourselves to the priests.*"

And while they were going, they were healed. Only one of them, however,

came back and prostrated at Jesus' feet to give Him thanks, and he was a Samaritan. And Jesus said: "*And the other nine, where are they? Rise up and go, your faith has saved you.*"



This healed leper was baptized by Jesus and, for having shown gratitude to God, later received the grace of a religious vocation and joined the disciples.

Chapter XXI

Feast of the Tabernacles

The feast of the Tabernacles began that year 33, and the Jews were surprised at not seeing the Master in Jerusalem, while they did see His Apostles and disciples, and said: *“Where can that Man be?”* Some said: *“Jesus is a good Man”*; but others said: *“Not so, rather He deceives the people.”* Those speaking well of the Master did so with great caution for fear of the leading Jews.

Jesus then came to the Temple, where He joined His Apostles and disciples, and preached much there, despite His enemies, who persecuted Him to death.

Arguments among the people



Jesus' holy teaching further confirmed the belief in the people that He was the Messiah. But the scribes and doctors of the Law, pharisees and sadducees, mingled among the people, claimed that He was a carpenter, the son of humble parents, and that they knew His whole family.

Some then asked: *“How does He know the Scriptures without having studied them?”* Jesus Himself replied and said: *“My teaching is not Mine, but of Him who sent Me. Whoever speaks of himself, seeks his own glory; but whoever seeks the glory of the one who sent him is truthful in what he teaches, and in him there is no fraud.”*

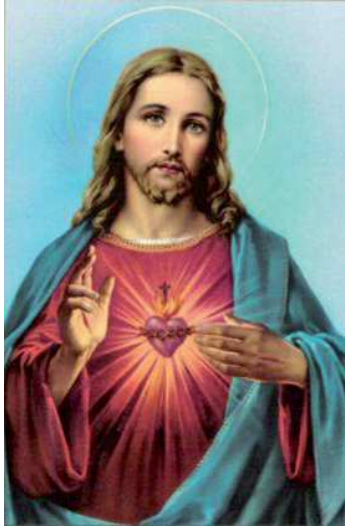
Then, addressing those bad Jews who persecuted Him to death, He told them: *“Did Moses not give you the Law, and yet not one of you does what the Law commands? Why do you seek to kill Me?”* They replied: *“You have the devil. Who wants to kill you?”*, so trying to cover up their evil intentions from the people.

Some from Jerusalem then began to say: *“Is He not the One they are trying to kill? Well, see how He speaks in public and they say nothing to Him. We know the family He is from; and when the Christ comes, no one will know where He is from.”* They said this maliciously, as they knew that Jesus was the Christ.

Jesus' enemies want to seize Him

Jesus then gave proof of His teaching by great miracles, converting many who were listening to Him. The enemies present among the people, hearing His teachings, seeing the miracles He performed and that many were converted, wanted to seize Him; but no one dared, as His hour had not yet come.

Since the members of the sanhedrin had heard that many of the people were in favour of Jesus, they assembled that same day, for they wanted to order the Divine Master's seizure.



Jesus' warnings

On the following day, Jesus continued teaching in the Temple and said: *"I will still be with you a little while, and then I will go to the One who sent Me. Then you will seek Me, and will not find Me; and where I am going, you cannot come."*

By this He was saying that the hour of His death had not yet come, and that, when it did come, He would return to the Father, where they could only go through Him – that is, by believing in Him and practising the virtues – and that they still had time to be converted, but that later it would be difficult, for they would seek Him and not find Him.

The Temple guards, impressed by the Master's words, did not dare to seize Him. However, they kept Him under constant watch.

Chapter XXII

Christ preaches in the Temple and His enemies try to arrest Him



Jesus preached in the Temple of Jerusalem on the last day of the feast of the Tabernacles as well, and many who heard Him said: *"He is truly the Prophet, the Messiah we are awaiting."* But others replied: *"Has the Christ then to come from Galilee? Does Scripture not say that from David and from the village of Bethlehem He is to come?"* So there was dissension among the people regarding Jesus. Some of them wanted to seize Him, but no one did.

The guards dare not arrest Him

Some of the Temple guards had been sent to arrest Jesus, but as they thought that He was the Messiah, they did not dare to do so. Consequently, when they went back to the chief priests, the pharisees asked them: *"Why have you not brought Him?"*



The guards replied: *“Never has any man spoken like this Man.”* The pharisees protested: *“Have any of the chief priests believed in Him? Rather only the common people, who do not know the Law, curse them!”*

Nicodemus gives testimony to Christ

Thereupon Nicodemus, who was a sanhedrite and a secret disciple of Jesus, came out in His defence and gave testimony that he believed in Him, saying: *“Does our Law judge a man without having first heard him and without being informed of his doings?”* They answered him: *“Are you too a Galilean? Understand that the Messiah does not arise from Galilee,”* thus pretending to be unaware of Jesus’ birth in Bethlehem. However, as they expected that their false arguments would be refuted by Nicodemus, whom Gamaliel and Joseph of Arimathea would doubtless back up, they deemed the session concluded without allowing Nicodemus to speak, refraining for the time being from arresting Jesus, to await another more favourable occasion.



Chapter XXIII

Episode of the adulterous woman

On those days in the Jerusalem Temple, at Jesus’ arrival the whole people gathered around Him and He taught them. On this occasion, He was speaking in an unpaved court.

The pharisees’ trap

Some pharisees came up with a woman unfaithful to her husband, which is a grievous sin, and placed her in the midst, saying: *“Master, Moses commanded us to stone such as commit this offence. What do You say?”* They said this to trap Him. If Jesus said that they should put her to death, they would accuse Him before the Roman procurator, since the death penalty in Moses’ Law required permission from the Roman authorities. But if Jesus absolved her, they would accuse Him before all as an enemy of Moses’ Law.



Everyone should examine himself, repent and amend

Jesus, however, leaning forward, with His finger started to write down on the ground the sins of the accusers. As they insisted, Jesus rose up and said to them: *“Whoever is without sin, let him be the first to cast a stone”*, to show them that they too deserved punishment for their sins. The accusers, hypocrites, seeing their own sins written down and hearing Jesus’ words, filled with shame and horror, slipped away, one after another, so that Jesus and the woman were left in the midst of the people who were previously listening to Him.

Response to grace

Then the woman, Lycinia by name, seeing the Master’s goodness, moved by grace sincerely repented of her sins and knelt at Jesus’ feet weeping. He said to her: *“Where are those who accused you? Has no one condemned you?”* She answered: *“No one, Lord.”* Then Jesus said to her: *“Neither will I condemn you. Go, and do not turn to sin again”*. And she was converted and afterwards baptized.

Chapter XXIV

Christ lets His grief be seen

And afterwards Jesus, with deep sadness, said: *“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you. How often would I have gathered your children as the hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you would not! Your home shall be left deserted. And you shall not see Me until the time comes when you say: ‘Blessed be He who comes in the Name of the Lord!’”*

Jesus lamented the baseness and depravity in Jerusalem, cause of the apostasy of the Jewish People, and announced the destruction of the city and the Temple; and also made it known that, before killing Him in Jerusalem, they would acclaim Him with those same praises.



Chapter XXV

Christ, Light of the world



Jesus also said to the people: *“I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows Me does not walk in darkness, but shall have supernatural Light.”* The pharisees said to Him: *“You bear testimony to Yourself, so that Your testimony is not worthy of belief.”* Jesus then replied: *“Though I give testimony to Myself, My testimony is true for I am the Father’s Envoy; and to Him I am to return; you, however, having refused to acknowledge Me as the Messiah, out of hypocrisy and pride pretend to be unaware of where I come from and where I am going.”*

Jesus went on to say to those pharisees: *“You judge Me without uprightness. But if I judge, My judgement is true, because I am not alone in giving testimony to Myself, but I and the Father who sent Me.”* With refined malice those pharisees asked Jesus: *“Where is Your*



Father?” Jesus replied: *“If you acknowledged Me, truly you would acknowledge My Father as well.”* Jesus spoke these words teaching in the Temple; and no one laid a hand on Him, for His hour had not yet come.

Chapter XXVI

Further arguments with the jews

Among the doctors of the Law there were some more willing to accept



Jesus, but Jesus’ enemies tried to convince them to reject Him. So He told them: *“If you persevere in My words, you will know the truth better, and the truth will make you free.”* But some angrily retorted: *“We are Abraham’s descendants, and have never been slaves of anyone; how can You say that we will become free?”*

Only a soul in God’s grace is truly free

And Jesus, who was speaking to them of the life of grace in the soul, taught them saying: *“Everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin and has no right to everlasting glory. If the Son of the Most High makes you free by His Grace, you*



shall be truly free from slavery to sin and shall obtain the dignity of sons of God.” And for greater clarity He told them: “Truly I tell you, that whoever observes My teachings will not die forever.”

Jesus is the Christ of God

Then, however, those jews who had previously doubted now opposed Him openly as well saying: “Are You greater than our father Abraham, who died? Who do You take Yourself to be?” Jesus responded: “Abraham earnestly desired to see My day; and saw it in vision, and rejoiced at it.” The jews, with polished malice, said to Him: “You are not yet fifty, and have seen Abraham?” Jesus told them: “Truly, truly I tell you, that before Abraham was, I am.” Those base jews remembered that the words “I am” were those God spoke on Mount Sinai to name Himself; and that Jesus now, with that same intention, had proclaimed Himself God. They wanted to throw stones at Him, but could not.

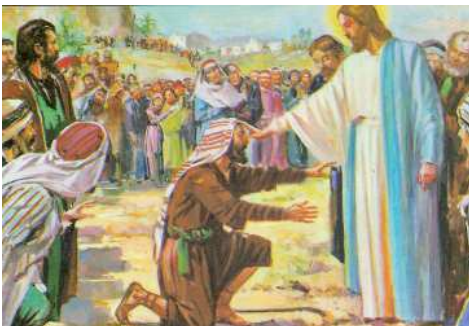
Certain powerful sanhedrites, some of Jesus’ worst enemies, then had it declared that anyone who said that Jesus is the Christ of God was to be thrown out of the synagogue.

Chapter XXVII

Christ heals a man blind from birth

Jesus, with His own, passed by the pool of Siloe, where a man blind from birth called Sidonius was begging alms. Jesus made clay and daubed it on his eyes, telling him to wash them, and went His way. Sidonius then washed his eyes and saw; but Jesus was no longer there. He later went to his home in the Ophel district and his neighbours

asked him: “How were your eyes opened?” and Sidonius said: “Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes, and told me: ‘Go to the pool of Siloe and wash’. I went, I washed, and see.”



Sidonius bears testimony to Jesus before the pharisees

But some jews, angry because it was a Saturday, brought Sidonius to the pharisees, and he told them: “He who healed me put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” Some of the pharisees said of Jesus: “This Man is not from God, for He does not observe the Saturday rest.” Others said: “How can a sinner work such miracles?” And they did not agree. They asked

Sidonius again: “What do you say of the Man who opened your eyes?” And he said: “He is the Christ, the Prophet.”

The pharisees throw Sidonius out of the synagogue

The pharisees cursed Sidonius and told him: “Be a disciple of His yourself, for we are disciples of Moses; this Man whom you say healed you, we neither know who He is nor where He is from;” by which they feigned ignorance of Jesus’ identity. And Sidonius replied: “You do not know where the Man who healed me is from, and yet He opened my eyes. We know that God does not hear proud sinners; but does indeed hear someone who fears God and does His will. If He were not God’s Envoy, He could do nothing of what He has done.” The pharisees answered Sidonius: “You want to teach us?” And they threw Sidonius out of the Synagogue, and he went back home again.



Sidonius’ baptism. The pharisees’ sin

There Jesus went and made Himself known, and Sidonius, kneeling, adored Him. Shortly afterwards Jesus baptized Sidonius at the pool of Siloe in the sight of the people and of some pharisees. And Jesus said: “I came into this world so that those who do not see, may see; and that those who out of pride presume that they see, become blind”. The pharisees, on hearing this, said to Jesus: “Are we blind?” presuming on the knowledge they possessed of Scripture. Jesus told them: “If you were blind, you would not be guilty for not acknowledging Me as the Messias; however, as you see the truth and at the same time keep rejecting it, the sin against the Holy Ghost abides in you.”

Chapter XXVIII

Christ the Good Shepherd

That Saturday Jesus preached in the Ophel synagogue, where many had gathered owing to Sidonius’s cure. Jesus told them: “I am the Good Shepherd. The good shepherd gives his life for his sheep; the mercenary, to whom the sheep do not belong, when he sees the wolf coming, abandons the sheep and flees; and the wolf seizes them and scatters the flock. I am the Good Shepherd: I know My sheep and My sheep know Me. I lay down My Life for My sheep.”





Jesus announces His Death and Resurrection

Jesus gave many other teachings, and finally said: *“Therefore the Father loves Me, because I give My life for My sheep, later to take it back again. No man has the power to take My life from Me. I lay it down voluntarily and generously for the salvation of men. For as God that I am, I have the power to give My life, and have the power to take back My life, by rising again; because the commandment I received from My Father is to die so as later to rise again.”* There was fresh dissension among the Jews at these words. And many of them said of Jesus: *“He is bedevilled. Why do you listen to Him?”* But others said: *“These words are not of anyone bedevilled. Can the devil open the eyes of the blind?”*



Chapter XXIX

Christ teaches the parable of the poor Lazarus and the wealthy Epulon

Jesus was preaching in Bethabara of Perea and told them: *“There was a wealthy man called Epulon, who held splendid dinners every day. There was a beggar there, Lazarus by name, who, full of sores, lay at the wealthy man’s gate longing to fill himself with the crumbs that fell from his table, but no one gave him any. When the poor man died he was borne by the angels to Abraham’s Bosom. The wealthy man also died and was buried in Hell. And when Epulon was in torment, he saw Abraham and Lazarus afar*





off. And he cried out: 'Father Abraham, take pity on me and send Lazarus to dip his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am burning in these flames.' And Abraham said to him: 'Remember that you received good things in your lifetime, and Lazarus received ills. So now he is consoled, but you tormented in Hell. Besides, between us and you there is an abyss; so that whoever might wish to pass from here over to you cannot, neither come here from over there'."

The wealthy Epulon represents one who lets himself be drawn by vice; and Lazarus, one who follows virtue. The dialogue between Abraham and Epulon is to make clear that the punishment of the damned is never-ending.

Chapter XXX

Christ blesses some children

One day, when He was in the Bethany monastery, some children were presented to Jesus for Him to lay His hands upon them and pray for them. But the Apostles and disciples scolded them so that they might not trouble the Master. And Jesus rebuked His Apostles and



disciples, saying to them: "Let the children come to Me, for the Kingdom of Heaven is for those who are innocent as they are. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God like an innocent child, shall not enter." And Jesus, embracing the children, and laying His hands upon them, blessed them.

Chapter XXXI

Episode of the wealthy young man

While Jesus was on His way to Bethabara with His Apostles and disciples, a wealthy and distinguished young man hastened up to Him. Since childhood, he had kept the Commandments of God's Law, and had been baptized. The young man desired to be a religious in the community of Apostles and disciples, but had not considered the sacrifices it meant.

The perfection of religious life



On reaching Jesus, he asked kneeling: *“Good Master, what must I do to obtain eternal life?”* Jesus replied: *“Keep the Commandments.”* The young man said: *“Master, I have kept the Commandments from my childhood, what else must I still do?”* by which he showed Jesus his desire to follow Him in the religious life. Jesus, gazing at him with pleasure, told him:

“You lack just one thing if you want to be perfect: go, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you shall have a treasure in Heaven; and then come and follow Me.” But the young man withdrew saddened, because he was very wealthy; and hence threw away the grace of a religious vocation.

Many are called but few are chosen

Then Jesus told the Apostles that those who left all to follow Him would receive many graces in this life and afterwards eternal glory.

And He concluded telling them: *“For many who in this world think themselves foremost in honours and riches, if they do not employ them in God's service, will be least in the Kingdom of Heaven; and those who, having left everything for My sake, are regarded as least in this world, will be foremost in the Kingdom of Heaven. Many are called but few are chosen.”*

Chapter XXXII

Christ teaches the parable of the workers in the vineyard

Crowds of people had gone to Bethabara of Perea to hear Jesus, and He then told them the parable that follows: *“The Kingdom of Heaven is like a man, father of a household, who went out early one morning to take on labourers for his vineyard. And having agreed with them to pay one denarius a day, he sent them to his vineyard. Then going out again at about nine in the morning, he saw others in the plaza and told them: ‘You as well, go to my vineyard and I will pay you a fair wage’.* And they went. *The father of the household went out again close to noon, and afterwards, at about three in the afternoon, and did the same with others. And finally, going out at about six in the evening and finding others there with nothing to do, he asked*



them: ‘How come you are idle here all day long?’ They replied: ‘Because no one has hired us’. The father of the household told them: ‘You too, go to my vineyard’.”

“When night fell, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward: ‘Call the labourers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last.’ When those who had gone in at about six in the evening came, each of them received his denarius. Finally, when the first came, they imagined that he would give them more; but they received one denarius each; and on receiving it, they complained about the father of the household, saying: ‘These last have only

worked one hour, and he has equalled them to us, who have borne the burden of the day and the heat.’ But the father of the household replied: ‘Friend, I do not treat you unfairly. Did you not agree with me to one denarius? Take what is yours; for I wish to give the last ones as much as to you. Can I not do as I wish with what is mine, then? Or must you be envious and sour-faced because I am good?’” And Jesus concluded saying: “In this way, the last in this world shall be the first in the Kingdom of Heaven; and the first, the last.”

Chapter XXXIII

Christ raises Lazarus to life

In those days, when Jesus was at the banks of the Jordan with His Apostles, Lazarus fell gravely ill at his home in Bethany. He was Mary Magdalen’s and Martha’s brother.

The two sisters, greatly distressed, turned to the Most Holy Virgin Mary, who was in the Bethany convent, in order that She ask Jesus to heal Lazarus. The Divine Mother with some nuns then set out to find Jesus, and She told Him what had happened.

Lazarus’ death

Jesus gave His Mother this message for Mary Magdalen and Martha: “*This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God.*” When the Divine Mary returned to Bethany, Lazarus had already died and been buried.



Days later Jesus set out for Bethany, and first Martha and then Mary went out to meet Him, and the two told Him: “*Lord, if You had been here my brother would not have died.*” Jesus told Martha: “*Your brother shall rise again.*” And



seeing Mary weep, He was deeply touched.

Mary Magdalen's and Martha's home was full of people, among whom there were many Jews from Jerusalem, who had come to console them, some opposed to the Master. When the sisters reached the house with Jesus, they took Him to the tomb, which was in the garden, and was a grotto closed off by a large stone. And Jesus wept.

Lazarus' resurrection

Jesus then said: *"Take the stone away."* But Martha cautioned Him: *"Lord, by now he has been buried there four days."* Jesus, however, said to Martha: *"Did I not tell you that you will see the glory of God?"* And Jesus crying out, said: *"Lazarus, come forth!"* At that same instant, Lazarus arose. And many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and Martha, on seeing the miracle, believed in Jesus.

The sanhedrin condemns Jesus to death

On account of the miracle of Lazarus' resurrection, the sanhedrin or Jewish religious council gathered and said of Jesus: *"What are we to do, for this Man performs many miracles? If we let Him be, everyone will believe in Him."* And they looked for reasons to condemn Him.

But as Nicodemus, Joseph of Arimathea and Gamaliel were openly opposed, the perverse Caiphas, who was High Priest at the time, said: *"Do you not realize that it is fitting that just one man die for the good of the people?"* Thus God permitted Caiphas to prophesy that Jesus was to die for all those who wanted to become children of God. Gamaliel, angered, withdrew from the sanhedrin and returned no more.

From that day on those base sanhedrites looked for a way to put Jesus to death.

Chapter XXXIV

Christ withdraws to the Mount of the Quarantine

The three secret disciples Nicodemus, Joseph of Arimathea and Gamaliel informed Jesus of the sanhedrin's decision; hence Jesus left the Jerusalem area and afterwards retired with His Apostles and disciples to the Mount of the Quarantine. He had stayed there at the beginning of His Public Life, fasting alone, and He stayed there now fasting as well, but this time accompanied by His Apostles and disciples. For His Passion and Death were





approaching, and thus He taught them how they should prepare themselves in trials.

During those days, to those who wanted to follow Him from the heart, He explained many things about how they were to save themselves, namely the mysteries of Redemp-

tion. He announced Pentecost to them, when the Holy Ghost was to come upon the Apostles, and other mysteries.

On their part, the Apostles and disciples accompanied the Master in His penances, each in his measure. Judas Iscariot, on the other hand, throwing the graces away, left there resolved to deliver Jesus up to the sanhedrin for money.

The devil again tempted Jesus three times, and by His permission, took the figure of the Eternal Father, and in a kind voice told Him: *“My beloved son: It is not necessary that you die; it is enough that you offer up these twelve apostles, and the disciples who are here with you, to me in holocaust, in order that reparation be made to me and mankind be redeemed.”* Jesus, however, told Satan: *“It is written: ‘You shall not kill’.*” Yet twice more he tempted Him in the same way, and the devil left more defeated and confused than before.

Chapter XXXV

The sanhedrin orders the arrest of Christ

Before Jesus ended His retreat, even though the secret disciples were strongly opposed, the sanhedrin decided to give an order to the people saying that if anyone knew where Jesus was, he should make it known for Him to be arrested.

The pilgrims beginning to arrive in Jerusalem for the coming feast of the Passover looked for Jesus and did not find Him, and commented among themselves that this was probably due to the sanhedrin’s order.

Chapter XXXVI

Christ sets out for Jerusalem and foretells His Passion and Death

Jesus, leaving the Mount of the Quarantine, passed through Jericho on His way to Jerusalem. And He went on ahead of them all, and the Apostles and disciples followed Him admiring His courage, but somewhat fearful owing to the danger they would run in Jerusalem.

Jesus, taking the Apostles aside, told them: *“We are going up to Jerusalem, where the things the prophets wrote about the Son of Man shall be fulfilled: for He shall be delivered up to the doctors of the Law, the pharisees and sadducees, namely to the sanhedrin, who shall condemn Him to death, and*





deliver Him up to the gentiles, who shall mock Him, spit upon Him, scourge Him and put Him to death; but on the third day He shall rise again.”

This was the third time He had announced these things. The Apostles did not understand how that could be, if He is the King of the Universe.

Chapter XXXVII

Conversion of Zachaeus

The streets of Jericho were more lively than usual because, owing to the proximity of the Passover, many pilgrims were passing through there on the way up to Jerusalem. In Jericho lived Zachaeus, a wealthy and important



publican, that is, a tax collector for the Romans, and therefore impure according to the doctors of the Law.

For some time Zachaeus had wanted to meet Jesus, and when he heard that He was coming to Jericho, as he was short of stature he climbed up into a fig tree on the way Jesus had to pass, to wait for Him there and be able to see Him despite the crowds.

When Jesus passed by, He stopped beside him and told him: *“Zachaeus, come down, for today I must stay at your home.”* So he came down in all haste and, overjoyed, received the Master into his home with a banquet at which were present the Apostles and disciples, prominent people of Jericho and Zachaeus’ wife and children. The pharisees, when they saw Jesus enter the house, murmured against Him saying that He had gone to stay at a sinner’s home.



During the meal, in the Master’s presence, Zachaeus acknowledged his sins publicly and said: *“Lord, half of my goods I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone in any way, I will pay him back four times as much.”*

Jesus said: *“Today salvation has come to this house, because Zachaeus too is a son of Abraham”*; by this, Jesus meant that Zachaeus, though a publican, was also entitled to be called to salvation.

When the dinner was over, Zachaeus and his family were baptized at their home.

Chapter XXXVIII

Parable of the ten minas

Towards evening, Jesus went with His own and with Zachaeus to the Jericho



synagogue. There He narrated the parable of the ten minas, saying that there was a nobleman who went into a far country to receive a kingdom and then return. Before leaving he called his servants, and gave to each a mina, or silver coin, telling them, *'trade with these until I return'*. As the people of the city detested him, as soon as he left they sent an embassy after him, saying: *'We do not want this man to return and reign over us.'*

When the nobleman returned after receiving his kingdom, he summoned his servants to find out what each had done with his mina. And Jesus continued: *"The first came up and said, 'Lord, your mina has yielded ten minas'.* To whom he



replied, 'well done, good servant; given that you have been faithful, I give you ten cities'. The second servant came up and said, *'Lord, your mina has yielded five minas'.* To whom he said, *'you shall have five cities'.* Finally the third servant came up and said, *'Lord, here is your mina, which I kept in a handkerchief, being afraid of you, as you are a demanding man, for you harvest what you have not sown'.* Then the lord said to him, *'bad servant. If you held me to be a demanding man, why did you not put my money into the bank, so that on my return I might have recovered it with the interest at least?'* So the lord told those present: *'Take the mina away from him and give it to the one who has ten'.* But they said to him, *'Lord, he already has ten.'* *'Well, I tell*

you', the lord replied, 'to everyone who has, more shall be given; but from one who has not, even what he seems to have shall be taken away. As for my enemies who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and kill them in my presence'."

Jesus told this parable because the hour was coming for Him to return to the Father, and He wanted to teach us that we should all respond to the graces we

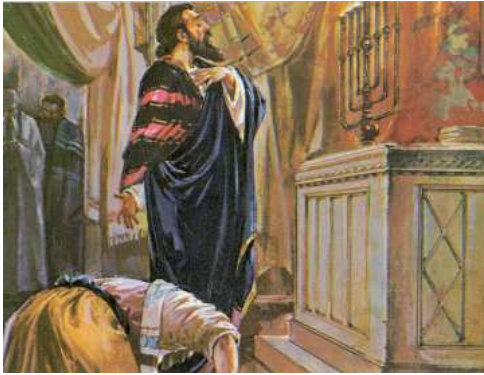
receive; the greater the response, the more graces received; the less the response, the less graces received. As for those who scorn those graces, they shall find that even what they think they have shall be taken away from them.

Chapter XXXIX

Parable of the wicked judge and the widow

Jesus next told them the parable of the wicked judge and the widow. The parable says: *“There was a judge who did not fear God or respect any man at all. In the same city lived a widow, who came to him and said, ‘Give me justice’; and for a long time the judge would not. But afterwards he said within himself, ‘Though I do not fear God or respect any man at all, yet so that this widow leave me in peace I will do her justice, so that she may not come so often’.”*

And the Lord told them that if a bad judge does justice simply to avoid being pestered, then God – who is just – will surely not make His elect, who implore Him day and night, wait for long. Meaning that it is necessary to pray always and never lose heart.



Chapter XL

Parable of the pharisee and the publican

In the synagogue of Jericho, since not only publicans, but also a good number of pharisees had gathered to hear Him, Jesus used the opportunity to reproach the pharisees for their vanity, pride and scorn for those whom they regarded as sinners. So



He taught them the parable of the pharisee and the publican, and said: *“Two men went up to the Temple to pray, one a pharisee and the other a publican. The pharisee, standing, prayed within himself: ‘O God, I give You thanks that I am not like the rest of men, who are thieves, unjust, adulterous; neither like this publican. I fast twice a week and give tithes of all I possess.’ But the publican, on the contrary, kneeling far off, struck his breast saying, ‘My God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner’. I say to you that the publican went back home justified by his humble and sincere repentance; but not the pharisee, who was full of hypocrisy and arrogance. Because whoever raises himself up shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be raised up.”*

Chapter XLI

Christ heals two blind men in Jericho



When Jesus, followed by many, was leaving Jericho, on the way He was to go there were two blind men begging alms. When they heard that Jesus was passing by, they began to shout out: *“Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us.”* Many scolded the two to silence them. But Jesus stopped and asked them: *“What do you want Me to do for you?”* They answered: *“Lord, that our eyes be opened.”* And Jesus, taking pity on them, with one hand touched the eyes of the first, and with the other the eyes of the second, saying to each: *“Receive back your sight, for your faith has saved you.”* At that very moment both blind men saw. Then Jesus baptized the two, and they followed Him as disciples. And the crowd praised God.

Chapter XLII

Mary Magdalen anoints Christ’s Divine Body



Jesus continued on His way to Jerusalem for the Passover that year 34, and went to Bethany where the conventual houses were. As His Death was close, His

Most Holy Mother received Him with a special supper, attended by all of His own. When He was still seated at table, Mary Magdalen went up to Him with a flask filled with very costly balm of spikenard; and she poured it out upon Jesus’ head and also anointed the Master’s feet and wiped them with her tresses.

Judas Iscariot, who was to betray Him, said: *“Why was this balm not sold for three hundred denarii, and given to the poor?”* He said this because he was a thief, and being in charge of the purse, stole from what was put into it. And the other Apostles backed him up and were furious with Magdalen.

Works of adoration are pleasing to God

But Jesus said to them: *“Why do you trouble this woman and reprove what she does? The deed she has done is good. For the poor you shall have with you always; but you shall not always have Me. This woman, by pouring out this balm upon Me lovingly, has anointed My Body for burial in advance. Wherever this Gospel shall be preached, what she has done shall be told in remembrance of her.”*

Chapter XLIII

Christ's Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem



On Palm Sunday the 20th of March in the year 34, while Jesus was on the Mount of Olives, He sent Peter and John to a nearby village to get an ass and a foal. Jesus seated Himself upon the ass and, in the midst of the Apostles and disciples, descended the Mount heading for Jerusalem.

The Angels glorify Jesus

On the way, Archangel Saint Michael appeared in the sky to those who were with Jesus and to many others in the city, announcing to them Jesus' Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem. A multitude of Angels then appeared in the heavens and glorified Jesus saying: "*Blessed is the King who comes in the*

Name of the Lord! Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord, the King of Israel! Glory on high and peace on earth!"

His own followers and the multitudes acclaim Jesus



The Apostles and disciples, on contemplating these heavenly wonders, overjoyed, praised God with the same praises as the Angels. At the Master's passage, they spread their cloaks out along the way, and cut down palm and olive branches for greater splendour. A vast multitude of people came out to meet Jesus, acclaiming Him with the same praises as the Angels and the Apostles.

Before entering into the city, Jesus dismounted the ass and, now seated upon the foal, made His Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem by the Golden Gate, amid the acclamations of the multitudes, who proclaimed Him as the Messias, and they too spread out their cloaks where He was to pass and cut down palm and olive branches. And the whole city of Jerusalem was deeply moved, as they saw Jesus full of extraordinary majesty and mysterious royalty.

The pharisees obstinate in their baseness

But the pharisees said to one another: "*Can't you see that we are getting nowhere? See how the whole world is running after Him*"; saying in this way that His death could now no longer be delayed.

Chapter XLIV

Christ drives the merchants out of the Temple for the second time



The following day, Jesus saw that the merchants were again doing business in the Temple, though He had warned them not to.

Therefore Jesus, full of Holy Wrath, began to drive out the buyers and sellers, and overturned the bankers' tables and the seats of those who sold doves. And in a powerful and unwavering voice, cried out: "*It is written: My House is a House of prayer; but you have turned it into a den of thieves.*"



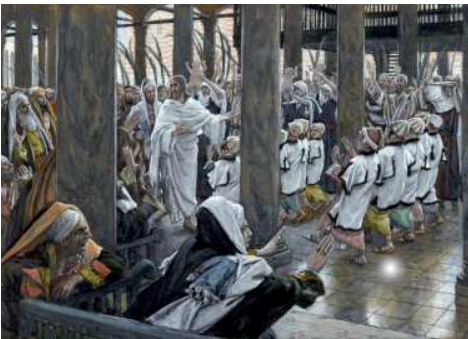
All this happened under the watchful gaze of priests and people, without them daring to seize Jesus on that account. Many of those who witnessed the event, at the sight of His zeal for God's House, praised Him.

Chapter XLV

Children acknowledge Christ as the Son of God

While Jesus was in the Temple, people came up to Him with the sick, blind and lame, whom He healed, and these miracles were seen by some school-children who had been brought to the Temple for the feast of the Passover.

As Jesus was passing through their midst, moved by the Holy Ghost, they acknowledged Him as the Son of God; and full of enthusiasm, began to acclaim



Him with the same praises as the multitudes had the previous day, saying "*Hosanna to the Son of David!*"

The malice of the perverse jews

When the doctors of the Law, the pharisees and the sadducees saw the wonders Jesus had performed, and how the children were acclaiming Him in the Temple, they were indignant and said to Jesus: "*Do You hear what they*

are saying?" And He told them: "*Yes, surely; for have you not read the prophecy: 'Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings You brought forth perfect praise to silence the enemy and the persecutor'?*"

Jesus thus recriminated the baseness of those blackguard jews who, besides

not giving Him praise for the prodigies He had wrought shortly before, were exasperated as well at the praise the children gave.

Chapter XLVI

Incident of the cursing of the fig tree

On one of those days, Jesus went in the morning from the Bethany convent to the Temple of Jerusalem, accompanied by His Apostles and disciples. And He was hungry. He then went up to a fig tree on the way and looked for figs among the leaves, but found none, as it was not the season for figs, and said: *“May fruit never ever grow on you. Never may anyone ever eat fruit from you”*; and at once the fig tree withered up. Hearing these words, His Apostles and disciples, seeing the leaves and branches wither, marvelled and said: *“How it has withered up in an instant!”*



By this Jesus taught that though of course the fig tree could not bear fruit at that time of the year, nevertheless, men are obliged to bear fruits of virtue at all times, under pain of receiving the same punishment as the fig tree; as came to pass with the Jewish people, which had received so many favours from God – especially by the coming of Jesus – but refused to acknowledge Him as the Messiah. Hence they

received their punishment, giving no more spiritual fruits. This is a warning to each in particular.

Chapter XLVII

Christ makes Himself known to many Gentiles as the Messiah

On those days leading up to the Passover, in the Jerusalem Temple there were many Gentiles, namely non Jews, who wanted to accept the true God and were learning the catechism with interest. And as they had heard of Jesus, they wanted to see Him, and Jesus went to speak to them.



He made Himself known as the Messiah, and they were surprised that they had not heard His teachings previously. He then told them: *“The hour is coming in which the Son of Man is to be glorified. Truly, truly I tell you, that if the grain of wheat fallen to the ground does not die, it remains fruitless; but if it dies, it yields much fruit”*, telling them in this way that, following His death and resurrection, the

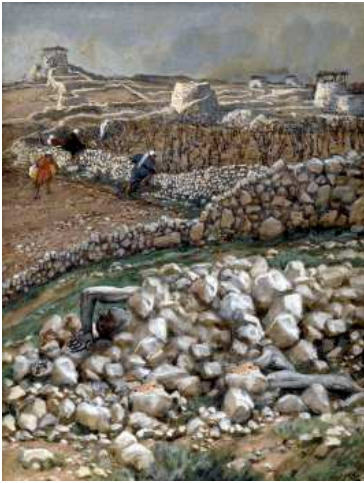
evangelization of the Gentiles would come. He also gave them to understand it was from the Gentiles that He hoped for faithfulness.

And Jesus added: *“Father, glorify Your Name.”* The Heavens opened and, visible to all, the Holy Ghost in the form of a Dove rested upon Jesus’ Head, with the following testimony of the Father: *“This is My Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased”*; words which were heard as well by the Apostles, disciples and many of the Gentiles who were there. Afterwards He left, and had no more contact with them, as the time had not yet come to call the Gentile people.

Chapter XLVIII

Parable of the murderous farmers

In the Temple Jesus was teaching many from Jerusalem as well as pilgrims come for the Passover feast. When perverse sanhedrites also came up to listen to Him, sent by Caiphas, He then related the parable of the murderous farmers.



So He said: *“There was a father of a household who planted a vineyard and fenced it around, dug a wine press in it, leased it to some farmers and went far away. When the fruit season was near, he sent a servant of his to the farmers, for them to give him fruit from the vineyard. But they injured him and sent him away empty-handed. Again, the father of the household sent them another of his servants, whom the farmers injured, threw out and killed. Then he sent a third, whom they wounded and threw out. He sent many, some they injured, and others they killed. But as the lord of the vineyard had a son whom he loved dearly, he said, ‘I will send my beloved son. Perhaps when they see him they will respect him.’ However, when the farmers saw the son they said to one another, ‘This is the heir; let us kill him, and we shall possess his inheritance.’ So seizing him, they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. When the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those farmers?”* Those listening to Jesus said: *“He will make those villains perish miserably, and will lease his vineyard to other farmers who shall pay him the fruit in due season.”*



As the Master’s enemies also heard these words, seeing themselves

identified as the murderous farmers, they replied: *“By no means will this ever come to pass.”*

Jesus next spoke to those perverse sanhedrites, saying: *“Accordingly I tell you that the Grace of belonging to the Kingdom of God shall be taken from you and given to a people who shall yield its fruit”*; meaning non jews or Gentiles, who would accept His Gospel.

Chapter XLIX

Christ teaches that He is the Foundation Stone of His Church

Jesus taught the people and, speaking directly to those blackguard sanhedrites who were listening to Him in the Jerusalem Temple mingled among the crowds, told them: *“Have you never read in the Psalms of David: ‘The Stone which the builders rejected, that one has been placed as the Cornerstone?’ God the Father is the One who has done this in these days, and it is a wonderful thing.”*

Jesus, speaking with majestic severity, warned them: *“And whoever falls upon this Stone shall be broken; and whoever It falls upon shall be crushed.”*

Jesus told those villainous sanhedrites that, by rejecting Him, they were working against the Gospel Law, to keep on with their false traditions and vile customs, and for their base intentions would be chastised. In turn, Jesus showed Himself to be the Foundation Stone of the New Church, a Church sustained by His infinite power and nourished by His divine teachings.

Chapter L

Parable of the wedding of the king’s son

Jesus, speaking again to the sanhedrites, told them: *“The Kingdom of Heaven is like a certain king who celebrated the wedding of his son. And he sent his servants out to call the guests, but they would not come, and went their way; some, to their farms; others, to their businesses; and others laid hands on the servants and killed them. And the king was exasperated and, sending out his armies, he burnt down their city. Then he said to his servants: ‘Go out to the highways: and as many as you find, invite them to the wedding.’ And his servants gathered everyone they found, good and bad; and the wedding*



was filled with guests. Then the king went in to see those at table and saw a man there not wearing a wedding suit. And he asked him: 'Friend, how come you entered here without a wedding suit?' But the man kept silent. Then the king said to his officers: 'Cast him outside, into outer darkness, where there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called but few are chosen."

In this parable Jesus speaks of the apostasy of the Jewish people, who were the first guests to reject the invitation, and announces the destruction of Jerusalem as chastisement for not having responded. The guest without the wedding suit represents Judas Iscariot who, scorning grace, stayed on with Jesus, and if he did not change, would deserve eternal Hell.

Chapter LI

Tribute to Caesar



Certain pharisees, in agreement with the sanhedrin, went back and forth to where Jesus was, seeking ways to catch Him out so that He might say something for which they could accuse Him before the Romans or before the people. So, going up again to where Jesus was, they asked Him: "Master, tell us, what do You think: is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar or not?" But Jesus, knowing their malice, asked: "Why do you try Me, hypocrites? Show Me the coin of tribute." And they presented a denarius to Him. And Jesus asked them: "Whose is this figure?" They answered: "Caesar's." He then told them: "Then give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." And they were unable to accuse Jesus before the people; rather, marvelling at His reply, they kept silent and withdrew.

Chapter LII

Resurrection of the dead



As the pharisees had not succeeded in catching Jesus out, and the people marvelled at His teaching ever more, the sadducees went to ask Him about the resurrection of the dead, in which they did not believe.

Jesus gave them proof of the truth of the immortality of the soul and of the resurrection of the dead in these words: "That the dead are to rise again, have you not read in Moses' book how God spoke to him from the bush saying: 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? And God is not God of the dead, but of the living".

So then, if in Moses' time God had called Himself the God of those three Patriarchs, at that time long deceased, it was because, though dead, they were still alive in their immortal souls; and yet more so by their supernatural life.

Chapter LIII

The greatest and most important Commandment



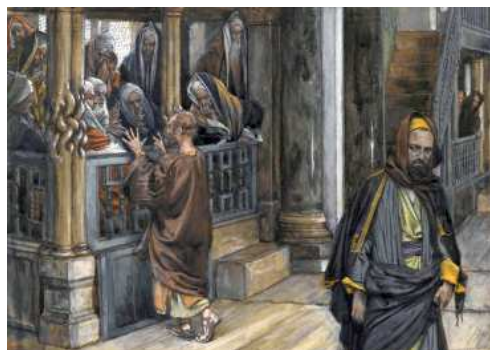
In the meantime, a pharisee scribe and doctor of the Law, Manasses by name, went up to ask Him with upright intention: *“Master, what is the great Commandment of the Law?”* And Jesus answered him: *“It is in the Law: ‘The Lord your God is one single God; therefore you shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart and with your whole soul and with your whole mind and with your whole strength.’ This is the greatest and first Commandment. And the second is alike: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ There are no other Commandments greater than these.”* The scribe said to Him: *“Master, in truth You have spoken well, that God is one, and there is no other besides Him; and to love Him with our whole heart and with our whole mind and with our whole soul and with all*

our strength, and to love our neighbour as our self, is greater than all sacrifices.” When Jesus saw that the scribe had responded wisely, He said to him: *“You are not far from the Kingdom of God.”*

From then on the villainous pharisees feared to approach Jesus with further questions. After this conversation with the Master, Manasses withdrew from the other pharisees, and later joined the disciples.

Chapter LIV

Judas Iscariot proposes to deliver up the Master to the sanhedrin



Taking advantage of the great crowd in the Temple and the presence there as well of Jesus' enemies from the sanhedrin, Judas Iscariot went to tell them that he would be able to deliver Jesus up to them. After they had told him to come back later to

settle the details, he quickly returned to the Apostles. And neither they nor the disciples noticed his absence.

Chapter LV

Christ is the Promised Messiah, Son and Lord of David

Jesus asked the sanhedrin: “*What do you think of the Christ? Whose Son is He?*” They replied: “*David’s*”. So He asked them: “*Then how can David call Him his Lord, saying: ‘The Lord God said to the Messiah my Lord: Sit at My right hand until I place Your enemies as a footstool for Your feet?’ For if David calls Him ‘Lord’, how can He be his son?*” And no one could answer Him a word. So they decided not to question Him further.

Chapter LVI

Christ harshly reproaches His enemies



In the presence of the Apostles, disciples and the multitude gathered in the Temple of Jerusalem, Jesus sternly reproached the priests and other doctors of the Law, saying: “*But woe to you, hypocritical guides! who close up the Kingdom of Heaven to men. For neither do you enter, nor do you allow those to enter who would do so, if you did not hinder them from believing in Me.*”

“*Woe to you, hypocrites! You pay tithes on things like mint, cummin, rue and greens; yet you fail to fulfil the more important things of the Law: love of God, justice, mercy and good faith. These must be fulfilled first, without neglecting those other things.*”

“*Woe to you!, who allow men and women to dress alike.*”

“*Woe to you, hypocrites! You purify vessels, yet your hearts are full of filth.*”



“*Woe to you, hypocrites! Your bad example shows that you are the sons of those who killed the prophets; and yet worse than them, because you seek to kill God’s Son Himself.*”

“*Serpents, brood of vipers! How shall you escape Hell?*”

Although the sanhedrites had no wish any longer to argue with the Master, hearing the maledictions now launched against them, stung to fury, they again attacked Him to see if He might lose His composure and say something for which to accuse Him. But Jesus took no notice of them.

Chapter LVII

The widow's mite



Jesus went up beside the coffer where alms were given in the Jerusalem Temple, and sat down. He observed that many of the wealthy put large sums in, so as to be praised by men. A poor widow, called Elizabeth, also came up and

put two small coins into the coffer.

And Jesus told His Apostles and disciples: *“Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the coffer than all the others. Because they contributed to God from their surplus; but she has put in all she had.”*

Elizabeth and her son Henoah later became religious, she joining the pious women, and her son the disciples.

Chapter LVIII

Christ makes the final calling to the Jewish People



There were many Jews as well, among them also chiefs of synagogues and other priests, who believed in Him, as they had seen His miracles, heard His holy teachings and had observed the baseness of many of the pharisees, but did not say so out of fear of being expelled from the synagogue.

In a powerful voice, Jesus then said: *“Whoever believes in Me, believes not only in Me, but as well in Him who sent Me. I, who am the Light, have come into the world so that everyone who believes in Me may not remain in darkness. If anyone accepts My words, for he wants to be saved, but out of weakness breaks the commandments, I will show him great mercy, because I have not come to condemn the world, but to save it. Nevertheless, whoever does not accept My words and obstinately rejects grace, already has someone to condemn him; for the same words I have spoken will condemn him.”*

Chapter LIX

Christ's Second Coming

After having preached and taught intensely the whole day, Jesus retired with His own to the Mount of Olives. Peter and others, a little apart from the rest, asked the Master: *“What sign shall there be of Your Second Coming at the end of time?”*

Jesus, addressing His word to His Apostles and disciples, replied with this

important Sermon which deals specially with these times.

Jesus said: *“See that no man deceives you: When you see wars, do not be troubled. It will not yet be the end. There shall be diseases and epidemics, earthquakes and famine, and great signs from Heaven. And prior to all these things, the Gospel shall be preached throughout the world, and then shall the end come.”*

“You shall be detested by all men for My Name’s sake. By your patience and perseverance you shall save your souls.”

“Wickedness shall multiply owing to the great apostasies. But whoever perseveres till the end shall be saved.”

“Then if anyone should say to you: ‘Look, the christ is here, or there,’ do not believe it. Because false christs and false prophets shall arise. Be then on the alert.”

“And then shall the sign of the Son of Man appear in the heavens, and they shall see the Son of Man coming with great power and majesty. And He shall send His Angels out with trumpets, and they shall gather the elect from the four winds.”

Then He told them a comparison: *“See the fig tree and many other trees; when their branches are tender and the leaves have budded, you know that summer is at hand. When you shall see all this, then know that the Kingdom of God on Earth, namely the Messianic Kingdom, is at hand. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away.”*

Chapter LX

In Bethany, Jesus speaks of His Second Coming

When Jesus had finished speaking to the Apostles and disciples, He went with them to Bethany, where they joined His Most Holy Mother and the pious women. Then Jesus continued teaching, now to all who were there, that we must always be ready to present ourselves before Him, for no one knows when death will come to him, and then judgement. He also told them to be prepared for His Second Coming, when He shall come to judge all mankind, called the Last Judgement.

Jesus said: *“For as it was in the days of Noah, so likewise shall it be in the days before the Second Coming of the Son of Man. People ate and drank, refusing to take account of the chastisements announced to them, until the day Noah entered the ark and the Flood came and put an end to them all. Thus too shall it be shortly before the Second Coming of the Son of Man.”*



“Be on your guard. Watch and pray, for you know not the hour when the Son of Man will come.”

Chapter LXI

Parable of the prudent virgins and the foolish virgins



The better for them to understand His teachings on being always prepared, He told them the parable of the prudent virgins and the foolish virgins.

Jesus said: *“The Kingdom of Heaven is like ten virgins who went out with their lamps to receive the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and the other five prudent.*

The five foolish ones, having taken their lamps, did not take oil. But the prudent ones took oil in their flasks and in their lamps. As the bridegroom tarried, they all fell asleep. Then at midnight, a cry was heard: ‘The bridegroom is coming, go out to receive him!’ They then rose up. And the foolish ones said to the prudent: ‘Give us oil, because our lamps are out.’ The prudent replied: ‘No, lest our oil does not suffice, go and buy for yourselves.’ But they did not want to go and buy. And when the bridegroom came, the prudent ones, as they were ready, went in with him to the wedding. And the bridegroom said to the foolish virgins: ‘I do not know you.’ And they



were thrown into outer darkness, and the doors were closed.”

Jesus finally said: *“Keep watch, then, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”*

Chapter LXII

Last Judgment

That same afternoon of Wednesday the 23rd of March, Jesus ended His teachings by explaining the Last Judgement.

Jesus said: *“When the Son of Man shall come in majesty, accompanied by all the Angels and other Blessed, He shall sit upon the throne of His glory. Then all the peoples shall be gathered before Him, and He shall separate them one from another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And He shall place the sheep at His right and the goats at His left. Then shall He say to those at His right, ‘Come, blessed of My Father, possess the Kingdom prepared for you: For I was hungry and you gave Me to eat; I was thirsty and you gave Me to drink; I was a pilgrim and you gave Me lodging; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in*



prison and you came to see Me.’ Then shall the just answer Him: ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and give You to eat; or thirsty and give You to drink?’ And replying He will tell them: ‘Truly, I tell you, whenever you did this to any of these brethren of mine, you did it to Me’.”

“At the same time He shall say also to those at His left, ‘Depart from Me, accursed of My Father; go off to everlasting fire: For I was hungry and you did not give Me to eat; I was thirsty and you did not give Me to drink; I was a pilgrim and you did not give me lodging; I was naked and you did not clothe Me; I was sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’ Then they too shall answer Him: ‘Lord, when did

we see You hungry or thirsty or a pilgrim or naked or sick or in prison, and did not serve You?’ Then shall He reply: ‘Truly I tell you, whenever you failed to do this to any of my brethren, you failed to do it to Me.’ And these last, who were not merciful, shall go to everlasting punishment, and the just to everlasting life.”

Jesus announces His Passion to His own



As the feast of the Passover was now close, also called of Unleavened Bread, He said to His Apostles and disciples: “You know that in two days shall be the Jewish Passover; and now you should know that the Son of Man shall then be delivered up to be crucified.”

Chapter LXIII

The sanhedrin condemns Jesus to death

After Jesus had prepared His followers by His teachings, He withdrew to pray alone on the Mount of Olives. Meanwhile the sanhedrin in full, gathered in council, decided to arrest Jesus using guile, and put Him to death. Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea firmly opposed



this perverse decision and, renouncing their offices, withdrew from the Council Hall. Gamaliel had left his office previously for the same reason.

However, those wicked sanhedrites said: *“We shall not do so on any of the eight days of the feast, lest the people form a disturbance.”* This idea of waiting came from Satan, as he was ever more inclined to believe that Jesus

was the Son of God, and were Jesus to die, He would open the Gates of Heaven, which Satan did not want.

Judas Iscariot betrays Jesus

Judas Iscariot, who had been on the lookout for a chance to speak with the sanhedrites without the others noticing, when all had retired to sleep, left the monastery and went to Jerusalem, to the Council Hall. And they talked about how he would deliver Jesus up to them, and Judas asked them: *“What will you give me?, and I will deliver Him up to you.”* And they settled to give him thirty silver coins. From then on Judas Iscariot sought an opportunity for delivering Jesus up in a place without any gathering of people.

Book VI

The First Holy Mass

Chapter I

Christ celebrates the First Holy Mass in the Jerusalem Cenacle



On Holy Thursday, March 24th in the year 34, at sunset, Jesus with His Apostles and disciples went to the Jerusalem Cenacle, where the Passover Supper was ready.

The Last Supper

Along the way, with great tenderness on His Countenance, Jesus announced to them that on that night He would give them His Body and Blood in inheritance. He also explained the Sacrament they were to receive, by which they would be Priests and Bishops for ever.

On Her part, the Most Holy Virgin in the Bethany convent had also prepared the Nuns for the mysteries which Jesus was to celebrate that night. From there they went to the Jerusalem Cenacle.

Jesus sat down at table with His twelve Apostles; and the Disciples at another table; and the Most Holy Virgin Mary with the Nuns at another.

Announcement of Judas' betrayal

As they supped, Jesus said to His Apostles: *"Truly, I tell you, that one of you eating with Me is to deliver Me up."* Full of sorrow, they each began to say to Him: *"Is it I, Lord?"* He replied: *"One of the Twelve is the one who shall deliver Me up. But woe to the one by whom the Son of Man shall be delivered up! It would have been better for him not to have been born."* And Judas Iscariot, who was to deliver Him up, asked: *"Is it I, Master?"* Jesus said to him: *"You have said it."* But the other Apostles did not understand what He meant by that, and so did not know who was the traitor.

The First Holy Mass

After supper, Jesus commenced the First Holy Mass. To show us that we should be humble towards one another, He washed the feet of the twelve Apostles and dried them with a towel.

And He told them: *"You call Me Master and Lord; and in truth I am. Well, if I have washed your feet, I have given you example, so that you do likewise"*.

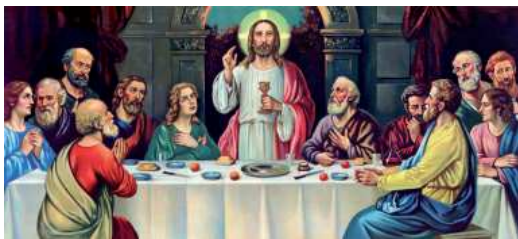
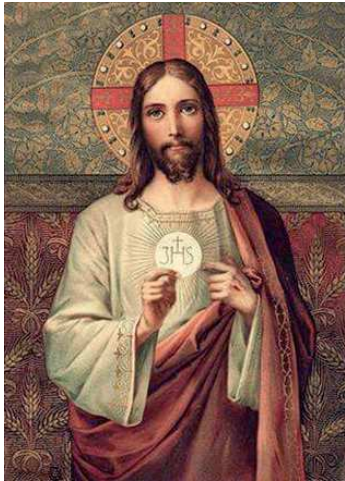
He went on: *"The servant is not greater than his master. If you understand this well, blessed will you be if you practise it. I do not speak of you all. I know those whom I have chosen, knowing that one was to deliver Me up. But it is necessary that scripture be fulfilled. I am telling you now, so that when I am betrayed you will believe more steadfastly that I am the Son of God."*

Holy Communion

Jesus, then, standing at the Altar, continued Holy Mass, with everyone kneeling. Jesus gave Holy Communion to His Most Holy Mother, to the Apostles and to all the others on the tongue and kneeling.

Jesus desired Judas to be converted, but seeing that he was determined to deliver Him up, when Communion was over, told him with great meekness: *"What you are about to do, do quickly."* Full of hatred, Judas left the Cenacle, by then night.

Afterwards, Jesus ended the Holy Sacrifice of Mass by blessing all gathered there, who were kneeling.



Chapter II

Sermon of the Last Supper

Jesus began speaking to them and said: *“Little children, for a short while I am still with you. Where I am going, you cannot come; since you must first fulfil the mission I have entrusted to you.”*

Announcement of Peter’s denials

But Peter, who with vigour and ardour yearned to follow the Master wherever He went, and trusting too much in his own strength, told Him: *“Why can’t I follow You now? I will give my life for you.”* Jesus answered him: *“You, give your life for Me? Truly, I tell you, the cock will not crow before you have denied Me thrice.”* And He repeated this announcement twice more, saying the third time: *“Before you hear the cock crow twice, you will deny Me three times”*, and Peter, with exaggerated confidence in his own strength, said: *“Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death.”*

The Apostles disheartened

As the eleven Apostles were disheartened at the closeness of their Beloved Master’s Passion and Death, also at the announcement of a traitor and that of Peter’s three denials, Jesus told them: *“Let not your hearts be troubled. For since you believe that I am God, have confidence that My words are from God Himself. In the house of My Father there are many mansions. When I have prepared a place for you, I will come at the hour of your death and take you with Me. Now you know where I am going, and you know the way or mission you must fulfil, so as later to go with Me.”*

Chapter III

Need for faith and good works

That night Jesus spoke to them of many important things, and said: *“If you love Me, keep My commandments. If anyone loves Me, he will keep My words, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode in him. Whoever does not love Me, will not keep My words.”*





That is, faith alone is not enough; the Commandments must be kept and acts of virtue must be practised; only thus is love for God shown.

He also told them: *“Peace I leave you, My peace I give to you. I do not give it to you as the world does”*, thus teaching them that they should always be ready to battle for true peace, which is the life of Grace.

Jesus said: *“I am the true vine and My Father is the vine dresser. Every shoot that does not bear fruit in Me, He shall cut off, and every shoot that does bear fruit He shall clean so that it may yield more fruit. Whoever is united to Me will yield much fruit, because without Me you can do nothing. Whoever does not remain united to Me will be cut off, will wither up and be cast into the fire and will burn.”*

Chapter IV

Promise of the Coming of the Holy Ghost or Pentecost



Jesus spoke to them thus: *“I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Consoler and Advocate to be with you always. You know Him, since He dwells within you; and will moreover be with you assisting My Church. I will stay with you, in your hearts. I tell you the truth: it is well that I go because, if not, the Consoler will not come upon you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. I still have many things to tell you, but for now you are unable to understand them. Yet when He comes, He will teach you the whole truth with greater force.”*

In these words Jesus announced to them the Coming of the Holy Ghost upon the Apostolic College, and also the Holy Ghost’s assistance to Holy Church in the Sacred Person of the Pope.

Chapter V

No one has greater love than one who lays down his life for his friends



That same night, Jesus told them as well: *“This is My commandment: that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than one who lays down his life for his friends. You are My friends as long as you do the things I command*



you. You have not chosen Me, rather I have chosen you, and have appointed you to go out into the whole world and bear fruit.”

“If the world detests you, it detested Me first. Remember the words I spoke to you: the

servant is not greater than his master. If they have persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If I had neither come nor spoken to them, they would have no sin; but now they have no excuse.”

Chapter VI

On Priests

Jesus went on to tell them: *“Truly, truly I tell you: All that you ask of the Father in My Name in the exercise of your priestly ministry He will grant you. For until now you have asked for nothing in My Name as My ministers”*; thus telling them that, following His Resurrection, He would teach His Apostles the great value of Holy Mass, and also that they, when serving God and the people as Priests, would possess His own divine power.

Chapter VII

On His approaching Passion, Death and Resurrection

“But a while and you shall no longer see Me; another while and you shall see Me, because I go to the Father”, Jesus told them. Some of them then said to one another: *“What does this mean? We do not know what He is saying.”* Jesus saw that they wanted to ask Him, and told them: *“You are now surely sad, but I shall see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one shall take your joy away.”*



By these words Jesus told them that very soon He would die and be buried, which would cause them great affliction. But that on the third day He would rise again, and to their immense joy they would see Him once more.

He also told them: *“I will no longer speak much to you, because the prince of this world, who can do nothing against Me, has now moved My enemies to arrest Me. But I will voluntarily give Myself up to death, and thus submit to the commandment the Father gave Me.”*

Jesus also encouraged them, saying: *“You will not lack divine assistance. You will have trials in this world; but have confidence, since I have overcome the world together with Satan, author of all its ill-will.”*

Chapter VIII

Priestly Prayer

Having said these things, Jesus, raising His eyes up to heaven, His Divine Face showing great love, said: *“Father, the time is coming, glorify*



Your Son so that Your Son may glorify You. I have completed the Work You entrusted to Me. I have manifested Your Name to those You have chosen. They were Yours and have believed that You have sent Me. I pray for them, because they are Yours. I shall no longer be in the world, but they remain in the world.”

“Holy Father, I have kept those whom You gave Me, and not one of them has perished, except the son of perdition – speaking of Judas Iscariot. I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but that you keep them from evil. They are not of the world, as neither am I of the world. As You have sent Me into the world, so also have I sent them into the world.”

“I do not pray just for them, but also for those who are to believe in Me through their word.”

“Father, I want those You have given Me to be with Me, so that they may see the glory You have given Me. Father, the world has not known You, but these here have known that You sent Me. I have made Your Name known to them, so that the love with which You have loved Me may be in them.”

Afterwards, that same night of Holy Thursday, Jesus went to the Garden of Olives with His eleven Apostles.



Book VII

Passion, Death, Resurrection and Ascension of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Chapter I

Jesus' Prayer and Agony in the Garden of Olives

It was night when Jesus with His eleven Apostles went to the Garden of Olives. Once there, Jesus left eight of them in a grotto to pray. And He went with Peter, James the Greater and John to another part of the Garden, and said to them: *“My Soul is sorrowful unto death. Wait here and pray, so that you do not fall in temptation.”* And He withdrew a

little from the three Apostles. It was midnight, at the start of glorious Good Friday that year 34.



The first hour

Jesus, kneeling with His Face to the ground, began to feel sadness and anguish, seeing all the sins for which He had to make reparation; and His suffering was so great that He prayed saying: *“My Father, if it be possible let this chalice pass from Me. Yet not as I will, but as You will.”*

When an hour had passed, He went over to where Peter, James the Greater and John were, and found them asleep. Jesus said to them: *“Could you not watch one hour? Watch and pray so that you do not fall in temptation.”*

The second hour

Jesus withdrew the second time and prayed to the Father; and suffered seeing the betrayals by so many priests, friars and nuns of all times.

When an hour had passed, He again went over to the three Apostles, and they were sleeping. He said to them again: *“Arise and pray so as not to fall in temptation.”*



The third hour

Then Jesus went and prayed a third time to the Father, for He was about to open the Gates of Heaven by shedding His Blood with very great suffering; yet for many it would be of no avail, for they would rather be damned; and, entering into agony, He sweated drops of Blood that trickled down to the ground. He then went over for the third time to where the three Apostles were, and found them asleep, so He said to them: *“Arise, let us go, for the one who is to deliver Me up is at hand.”*

Chapter II

Christ is arrested and taken to the palace of the pontiffs



Jesus, accompanied by Peter, James the Greater and John, returned to the grotto where the other eight Apostles were, whom He found sleeping as well, and rebuked them for their lack of prayer.

Judas' betrayal

While Jesus was still speaking, Judas Iscariot arrived. With him came some of the sanhedrites, roman soldiers, guards of the pontiffs and many of the people, Jesus' enemies, bearing swords, sticks, hatchets and lanterns. There was a full moon, but the shadows cast by the trees prevented them from seeing well, so that the traitor had told them: *"He whom I kiss is the one."*

Judas Iscariot then went up to Jesus and said: *"God keep you, Master."* And he kissed Him on the Face. Jesus said to him: *"Friend, why have you come? Judas, with a kiss do you betray the Son of Man?"*

Jesus' infinite power

Jesus, before permitting His capture, drew up closer to His enemies and asked them: *"Whom do you seek?"* They answered: *"Jesus the Nazarene."* Jesus said to them: *"I am."* Having said this, those going up to seize Him



stepped back, and all fell knees to the ground and rendered Him irresistible adoration. The same occurred a second and a third time, after they had risen up and He had repeated the question. Then Jesus, for the fourth time, again asked them: *"Whom do you seek?"* They answered: *"Jesus the Nazarene."* Jesus replied: *"I have told you that I am."* Then they went up to arrest Him.

Jesus' infinite goodness

When they went to seize hold of Jesus, Peter stepped out in His defence, drew out his machete and cut off the right ear of Malchus, a servant of Pontiff



Annas. But Jesus reproached Peter and, retrieving Malchus's ear from the ground, restored it to its place, miraculously healing him.

Jesus sadly forsaken in the Garden of Olives

Those perverse men seized Jesus and bound Him. Then the eleven Apostles, seeing that Jesus had allowed Himself to be arrested, were afraid and doubted God's protection. They then forsook their Master, and fled. They were overcome by cowardice, for not having prayed with Jesus during His three hours of agony.

The betrayal price paid

Next, Malchus, in charge of the arrest, gave Judas Iscariot the thirty silver coins, the price they had agreed upon with the traitor for delivering Jesus up to them.

They threw Jesus bound into the Cedron Brook

That horde, headed by the traitor Judas Iscariot, led Jesus bound with ropes and chains, amid jostling, mockery and blows, to the palace of pontiffs Caiphas and Annas, in Jerusalem.

As Jesus crossed the little bridge over the Cedron, they threw Him off violently onto the stones in the stream, scarcely covered by water, telling Him to slake His thirst, as if He were an animal. Thus was fulfilled as the Prophet David foretold: *"From the torrent He will drink along the way."*

Jesus, taken prisoner by His enemies, crosses the Ophel district

The simple folk of the Ophel district who venerated the Master, hearing that Jesus was being led away prisoner, left their homes to see what was happening, but were driven back by the soldiers who, induced by Judas



Iscariot, said: *"Jesus the evildoer, your false prophet, is being led away prisoner"*. Grieving, the folk wept and cried out to Heaven remembering the Master's benefits.

Chapter III

Christ before the tribunal of pontiff Annas

On Good Friday the 25th of March in



the year 34, very early in the morning, Jesus was led before Annas. Many chief priests and sanhedrites were there, besides officials and servants of the pontiffs. Pontiff Annas then asked Jesus mockingly about His disciples, who had abandoned Him, and about His doctrine. Jesus answered: *“I have always taught in the synagogues and*

in the Temple, where all the Jews gather. Ask those who have heard what I said. Here present are many of those who have heard Me, and they know what I have taught.”

Jesus’ Holy Face is sacrilegiously humiliated before Annas

Then Malchus, Annas’ base servant, whose ear Jesus had healed in the Garden of Olives, gave Jesus a blow, saying: *“Is that how You answer the pontiff?”*



Jesus told him: *“If I have spoken wrongly, give evidence of the wrong; but if rightly, why do you strike Me?”* Annas sent Jesus, bound, to the palace, facing his own, of high priest Caiphas, where all the members of the sanhedrin or jewish religious council had gathered.

Chapter IV

Peter denies Christ three times

Meanwhile, Peter had succeeded in entering the pontiff’s enclosure, to see Jesus’ trial.



First denial

While Peter was standing with the servants beside a bonfire lit for the cold night, the portress said to him: *“Are you not one of Jesus’ disciples?”* Peter denied it before everyone, saying: *“I am not; nor do I know Him.”* And he left the fire and went to the entrance hall. Peter then heard the cock crow.

Second denial



When they took Jesus to Caiphias, another maid saw Peter and told those who were there: *“He too was with Jesus the Nazarene.”* But Peter denied again with an oath saying: *“I do not know any such Man.”* Peter then returned to the bonfire where he had been before.

Third denial



There, close to the bonfire, one of the pontiffs’ officials, Malchus’ brother, told him: *“I saw you in the Garden with Jesus.”* Then Peter, full of fear, denied again, and began to swear that he knew no such Man. At that moment Peter heard the cock crow the second time.

Chapter V

Christ before Caiphias for the first time



Jesus had by then been led bound to Caiphias’ palace. There too all the perverse sanhedrites arrived. And that same morning, though very early, began the trial against Jesus. They sought some false testimony in order to deliver Him up to death, but did not find any, because the false witnesses contradicted one another. And Jesus was silent.

Jesus is condemned to Death



Caiphias proudly asked Jesus: *“Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed God?”* Jesus’ silence exasperated him further. Furious, the high priest asked Him again: *“I adjure You by the living God to tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God.”* Jesus said to him: *“You have said it. I am. And I tell you besides that soon you will see the Son of Man, seated at the right of God, coming upon the clouds of Heaven.”*

Then Caiphias rent his garments to show his rage, and said: *“He has blasphemed, what*



need have we now of witnesses? What do you think?" Then all began to shout out furiously: "He is guilty of death!" So they condemned Him to death.

Jesus' Holy Face is spat upon by the chief priests

It was not yet six in the morning when this first part of Jesus' trial ended. Afterwards, all those present outraged Him amid a great uproar and, beginning with Caiphias and followed by the chief priests, they spat with hatred on Jesus' Holy Face, all the while humiliating Him with blows and other outrages. Next they led Him to the palace dungeon.

Chapter VI

Peter's repentance

It was then that the cock crew the second time. Peter, beside the fire, was able to see Jesus bound and maltreated amid the bailiffs taking Him from the judgement hall to Caiphias' palace dungeon. The Apostle ran towards the Master, and once close to Him, the Lord looked at Peter.

At that moment Peter remembered Jesus' words when He had said: "*Before you hear the cock crow twice, you will deny Me three times.*" Repentant, he began to



weep; since Christ's look pierced his heart and drew from him tears of repentance, and right there Peter received his beloved Master's forgiveness. Then the Apostle left the pontiffs' enclosure, and withdrew to a nearby cave to weep bitterly.

Chapter VII

Christ tortured in the dungeon

When Jesus was in the dungeon, the chief priests, officials and servants outraged and struck Him. And they spat in His Face. Next, covering His whole Head, they rained punches down upon





Him. Others slapped Him in the Face, and mockingly asked Him: *“Christ, tell us, who is it that struck You?”*

Moreover they brutally tore out tufts of His beard, thus fulfilling Isaias’ prophecy: *“I gave My Body to those who struck Me, and My cheeks to those who plucked out My beard; I did not turn My Face away from those who insulted Me and spat upon Me.”*

Chapter VIII

Christ before Caiphas for the second time

Afterwards Jesus was taken from the dungeon and again brought before the tribunal of Caiphas. The members of the sanhedrin were present



together with a great multitude of people from Jerusalem and of pilgrims, as this part of the trial was public.

The arrival of Jesus, tremendously disfigured and wounded, caused dread in many, but the sanhedrites presented themselves as champions of religion, and the majority there, out of cowardice, followed them, and soon an outcry was raised up against Jesus.

Though they all knew that He was the Son of God, high priest Caiphas nevertheless again asked Him if He were the Christ. Jesus remained silent.

Some sanhedrites asked Him the same. Jesus then said to them: *“If I tell you, you will refuse to believe Me. Moreover, if I ask you, you will not reply nor let Me go free.”*

Jesus gives testimony before His enemies that He is the Son of God

In a majestic voice, He added for all to hear Him: *“However, from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of God.”*



Thereupon high priest Caiphas and the members of the sanhedrin said: *“Are You then the Son of God?”* He said: *“You say that I am.”*

Jesus is condemned to Death by the sanhedrin

They said: “*What need have we of further testimony? We ourselves have heard it from His lips.*” Following these words, high priest Caiphias condemned Jesus to death for blasphemy, and was backed up by all the sanhedrites and the majority of those present with great uproar.



Chapter IX

Christ before Pontius Pilate for the first time

At that time the Roman procurator was Pontius Pilate, who represented the emperor in Judea and other parts. Without his permission, the sanhedrin could not execute anyone condemned to death. So Caiphias ordered Jesus to be taken to the Praetorium, or Fortress Antonia, the palace of Pontius Pilate, to whom he had already sent a report on events. And that whole great horde of people took Him brutally up to Pilate.

Pilate knew that the jews had condemned Jesus out of hatred

Once there, the sanhedrites told him the charges against Jesus. Pilate realized that they had condemned Him unjustly. As the sanhedrites saw that the charges against Jesus were insufficient, they said to Pilate, to put pressure on him: “*We have found this Man saying that He is Christ the King.*” Thus they



accused Jesus of going against the Roman emperor. But Pilate from his office knew that Jesus had been born in Bethlehem and that He was the legal son of Joseph, and that He was therefore by right king of the jews, but that He had never spoken against the Romans in Israel. And he was further convinced that they had condemned Him out of hatred,

because Jesus reproached their vices and abuses.

Pilate rejects the truth out of cowardice

Pilate then asked Jesus: “*Are You the King of the Jews? Your nation and pontiffs have placed You in my hands: What have You done?*” Jesus replied: “*My Kingdom is not of this world. If it were of this world, my ministers would fight so that I might not be delivered up; but now My Kingdom is not here below.*”

Pilate, convinced that Christ’s Kingdom was chiefly spiritual, asked Him:



“Are You then a King?” Jesus answered: *“You say that I am a King. I was born for this, and came into the world for this: to give testimony to the truth. Whoever is of the truth hears My voice.”* Pilate said to Him: *“What is truth?”* But he rose from his seat and ended the conversation to avoid Jesus’ reply, as he was afraid of the obligations it could mean for him.

Jesus is sent to Herod Antipas

Pilate then said to the Jews: *“I find no misdeed in this Man.”* And as he learnt that Jesus lived in Galilee, to free himself from that tangled religious affair, he sent Jesus to King Herod Antipas, who in those days was in Jerusalem, and was governor or tetrarch of Galilee.



Chapter X

Christ before King Herod Antipas

Perverse King Herod Antipas, bold and arrogant, was overjoyed to see Jesus, for he had heard many things spoken of Him, and hoped to see Him perform some miracle. The iniquitous king plied Jesus with many questions, but He answered nothing. The sanhedrites accused Him with great insistence, as they feared that Jesus might perform some miracle and Herod then try to save Him.

But the silence of Jesus – who did not even look at him – inflamed Herod’s arrogance, and with his soldiers he ridiculed Him in word and deed, causing Jesus bitter grief. Afterwards, Herod ordered Jesus to be robed in white, as a madman, and be taken like that to Pilate, to give him to understand that he found no guilt in Jesus.



Chapter XI

Christ before Pilate a second time

At Jesus’ return to the Praetorium, the crowds, ever greater, moved by Jesus’ enemies, shouted out the same accusations as the sanhedrin. But as Pilate found no fault in Jesus, in order to please His accusers, he weakly told the chief priests: *“After punishing Him*

I will let Him go.” But this did not succeed in calming the frenzied crowd as



he had hoped.

On the day of the Passover, it was the custom for the Roman procurator to set one of the prisoners free. Pilate, who wanted to free Jesus from death, showing Him to them, said: *“Well, do you wish that I release to you the King of the Jews?”* But they all wanted Jesus to be killed and, with a thundering roar, asked for Him not to be released.

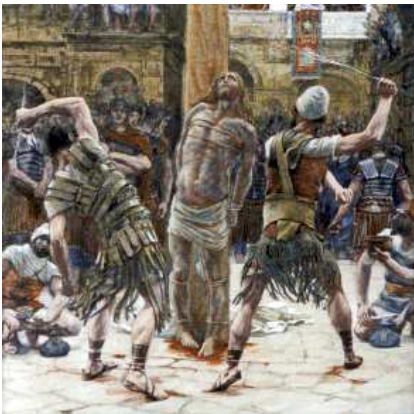
At that time there was a dangerous criminal called Barrabas in prison. The procurator then said to the multitude: *“Whom do you wish me to release to you: Barrabas, or Jesus, who is called the Christ?”* The whole people, moved by Jesus’ enemies, cried out with even greater force: *“Put Jesus to death, and release Barrabas to us.”* And they cried out as well: *“Crucify Him, crucify Him.”*

Pilate, however, asked them: *“What evil has He done?”* And they shouted out all the more, saying: *“Crucify Him, crucify Him!”* Pilate asked them a third time: *“Well, what evil has He done? I do not find any cause deserving of death in Him: I will punish Him, therefore, and let Him go.”* But they insisted, and with a wild outcry asked for Him to be crucified.

Chapter XII

Christ is scourged and crowned with thorns

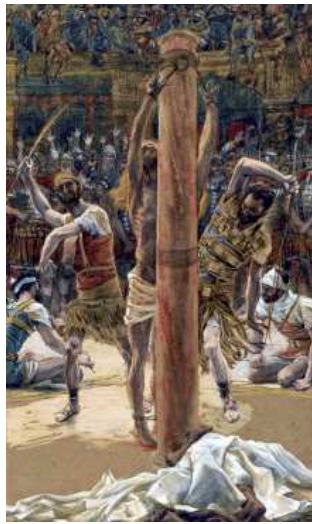
Pontius Pilate, with great cowardice, and knowing that He was innocent, commanded Jesus to be tied to a column and scourged, thinking that perhaps His enemies, seeing Him wounded and maltreated, might be moved to



compassion.

Jesus, with infinite meekness, embraced the column while receiving the scourges given to Him by the executioners with a scourge full of metal spikes.

Next they clothed Him in a red mantlet and, at the petition of the sanhedrin,



set a crown of thorns upon His Head, woven in the form of a helmet from the briars of a very thorny bush.

Then they placed a reed in His right hand as a royal sceptre, adored Him mockingly and struck Him, saying: *“Hail, King of the Jews.”* And they took the reed and struck Him on the Head with it, spat on Him and slapped Him in the Face.

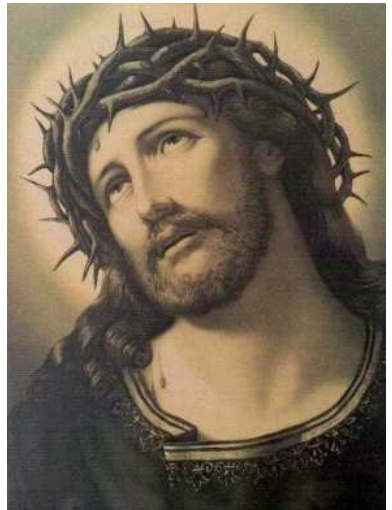
Chapter XIII

Christ is presented to the people

Pontius Pilate was greatly impressed on seeing Jesus’ pitiable state after being scourged and dressed in the red mantlet and crowned with thorns. And he himself presented Jesus to the people, since he hoped that those villains would take pity on Him.

Pilate then said to them: *“Behold the Man.”* But the chief priests and other sanhedrites understood from this the prophecy of Daniel which presents Christ as King of Eternal Majesty, so that furious and with greater hatred they roared out saying: *“Crucify Him, crucify Him.”*

Standing beside Jesus, Pilate again spoke out in His defence: *“Behold your King”*, warning those blackguard jews that there





before them stood the Promised Messiah, whom they had so long desired. He asked them: “*Am I to crucify your King?*” Annas and Caiphas, who had just arrived, answered: “*We have no other king but Caesar.*”



Chapter XIV

Christ is condemned to death

Pontius Pilate, seeing the uproar of the Jews, condemned Jesus to death on



the cross. Then he ordered water to be brought, and washed his hands before the people saying: “*I am innocent of the Blood of this Just Man; look you to the crime you commit by forcing me to condemn a just man.*” But Pilate was also to blame, for a judge must never condemn anyone innocent.

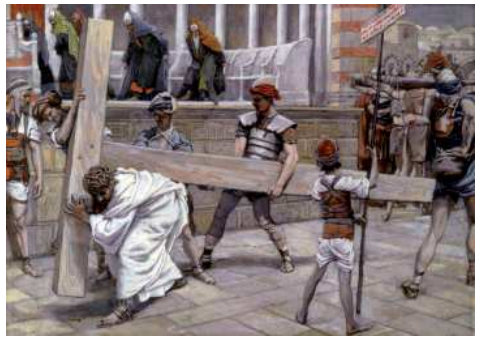
The people answered: “*Let His Blood fall upon us and upon our children.*” Next, Pilate set Barrabas free, and delivered Jesus up to them to be crucified.

Chapter XV

The Divine Mary in the Praetorium with the Friars and Nuns

From the Cenacle the Dolorous Mother and all the other Carmelite religious, namely the eleven Apostles, all the disciples and the pious women, had gone up to the Praetorium in groups and arrived there just when Pontius Pilate was about to condemn Jesus to die crucified. So they were clearly able to hear Pilate’s words condemning the Son of God.

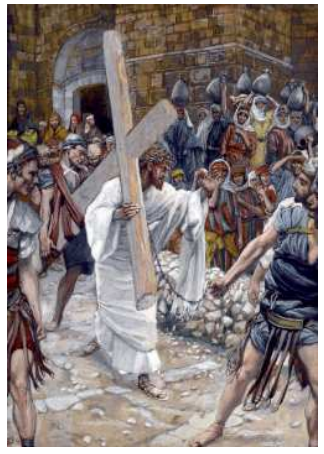




Chapter XVI

Christ bears the Cross on His shoulder along the Way of Bitter Sorrow up to Calvary

The Jews bound Jesus, laid the Cross on His right Shoulder, and took Him away along the Via Dolorosa or Way of Bitter Sorrow, up to Calvary to be crucified. Among the crowd, not far from Jesus, were Mary Most Holy, the Apostles, the disciples and the pious women.





Jesus falls three times along the Way of Bitter Sorrow

Along the Way of Bitter Sorrow, Jesus fell to the ground three times. Jesus went along with great difficulty: without having eaten or drunk from the Last Supper, covered with wounds, His feet bare, in immense pain and trembling. At each step He stumbled on His long tunic, and the crown of thorns struck against the Cross which He bore on His right Shoulder, and further opened up His wounds.



Jesus meets His Most Holy Mother

On the way, Jesus met His Beloved Mother, and the two exchanged glances of bitterness and deepest grief, without speaking. But Their meeting gave Them greater strength to make reparation to the Eternal Father and rescue mankind from the chastisement for Adam's sin, and with Their tremendous sufferings, open up to us the Gates of Heaven, if we do God's Will.

Simon the Cyrenean helps Jesus to carry the Cross

As Jesus' weakness was very great, the Jews feared that He might die on the way and they be unable to crucify Him. So they decided to find someone to help Him.

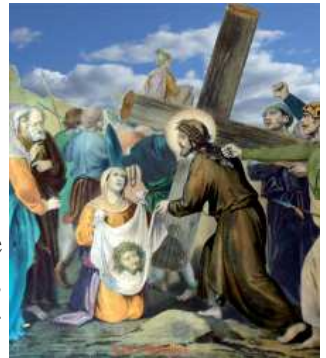
A man called Simon, from Cyrene, was passing by there, and they forced him to help Jesus by sharing the weight of the Cross with Him up to Calvary. And Simon accepted out of compassion for the Blessed Virgin, whom he recognized as Jesus' Mother. Simon's charity won for him the grace of the Faith, and the Cyrenean and his family were converted.





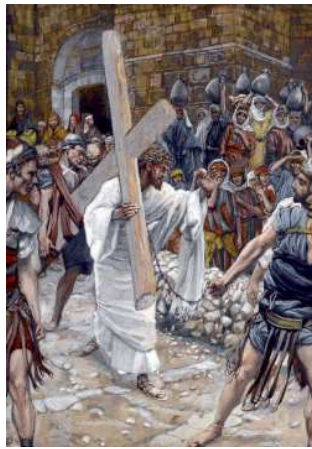
The Veronica wipes the Face of Jesus

One of the Carmelite Nuns called Seraphia, seeing Jesus' Countenance covered by sweat, blood and mud, with great courage succeeded in slipping past the brutal soldiers and, falling to her knees before Him, wiped His Divine Countenance with a white cloth, on which the Holy Face of Jesus became miraculously impressed. Hence Seraphia was afterwards called Veronica, which means "true image".



Jesus consoles the pious women of Jerusalem

Among the crowd of people who followed Jesus to crucify Him, there were



seventeen women, some with their children, who



went on seeing the meek and humble Jesus so maltreated, for they understood that He was innocent. These pious women did not belong to the Carmelite Nuns. Jesus, turning towards the women, said: *“Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for Me; rather weep for yourselves and for your children.”*

Jesus did not reproach those pious women because they wept for Him, rather called them to turn their weeping into repentance for their sins. Some of them later became nuns, and the rest Carmelite tertiaries.

Chapter XVII

Christ on Mount Calvary

Shortly before midday on that Holy Friday the 25th of March in the year 34, Jesus reached the summit of Mount Calvary, the Cross laden on His Shoulder, helped by the Cyrenean.



Jesus is offered wine mixed with gall to drink

Among the Jews there was the custom of giving those to be crucified wine

with a little myrrh, a drink with a pleasant taste which dulls the senses a little to mitigate suffering; and the Romans respected this custom.

But the chief priests gave money to the soldiers not to put myrrh, but gall, very bitter, into the wine for Jesus, and thus increase His sufferings. But when they offered it to Him, He tasted but did not drink it.

Then the chief priests asked for wine with myrrh for Him, hoping that He would drink it all, to accuse Him of being a drunkard, but Jesus refused it.



Jesus is stripped of His garments

They then stripped Jesus of His tunic with violence and great cruelty, by which they reopened the wounds of His body, to which the tunic was partially stuck, and also the wounds of the crown of thorns, pulled off with the tunic. Then Jesus knelt and prayed to the Heavenly Father, imploring consolation; and the Eternal Father answered Him: *“My beloved Son, I will sustain You up till the last moment.”*

Chapter XVIII

Christ is nailed to the Cross

Then they ordered Jesus to stretch Himself out on the Cross, and He obeyed. He was then crucified with three nails: one in the right hand; another in the left; and another in the feet, the right foot placed over the left, all with the greatest pain.





On the top section of the Cross, the following words were written: “*Jesus the Nazarene, King of the Jews (INRI).*” Then they raised up the Cross, and Jesus was left in agony hanging from it.

Next they crucified the two thieves: Dismas to the right of the Lord and Gestas to the left; so that Jesus was between the two.



To the right of the Cross stood the Divine Mary with Her two sisters Mary Cleophas and Mary Salome, also Mary Magdalen and Martha; to the left of the Cross stood Apostle John. Peter and the other nine Apostles, as well as the disciples and the rest of the pious women, were on Calvary among the crowd.

Chapter XIX

Death of traitor Judas Iscariot

When Judas Iscariot learnt that Jesus had been sentenced to death, he began to feel such remorse and despair – yet without ceasing to hate Jesus – that he felt the thirty coins scorching his whole being.

He then went to the temple of Jerusalem wanting to return them to pontiffs Caiphias and Annas, saying: *“I have sinned by betraying innocent Blood.”* But they told him: *“What is that to us? You should have thought beforehand.”* Judas Iscariot then cast the silver coins into the Temple, and went off and hanged himself with his own belt from a tree. Since then Judas burns in the eternal fire of Hell.

This happened just at the same hour as Jesus was lifted up on the Cross.

Chapter XX

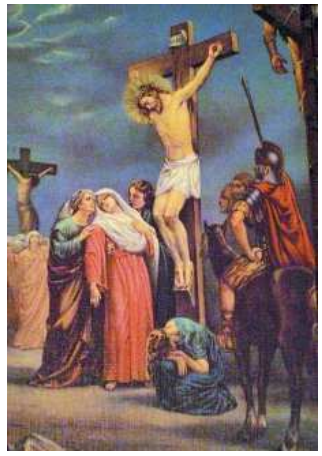
Christ’s three hours of Agony on the Cross

The villainous crowd insulted Him, and the two thieves crucified with Him did the same, while Jesus prayed: *“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”*

However, when Dismas heard Jesus ask pardon of the Heavenly Father for His enemies, moved to compassion, he acknowledged his sins, and with sorrow said to Jesus: *“Lord, remember me when You are in Your Kingdom”*; Jesus told him: *“Truly, I tell you: today you shall be with Me in Paradise.”*

Yet Gestas went on insulting Jesus. While Dismas saved himself and went to Heaven, Gestas damned himself and burns in Hell.





Later, Jesus told His Mother: “*Woman, there is your son*”, meaning Apostle John; and so bestowed His own Mother on the Church, as Mother. Then He said to the Apostle: “*There is your Mother*”; and John received Her as Mother in the name of the whole Church.

In the measure that Jesus’ dolorous agony advanced, His sufferings grew. Finally Jesus, raising His Divine Countenance heavenwards, cried out in a loud voice: “*My God, My God, look upon Me! Why have You forsaken Me?*”, but received no reply from His Father. He felt bitterly abandoned.

As Jesus knew that all things were fulfilled and now had nothing else to offer up, from His desire to save souls He said: “*I thirst*”. As there was a vessel there with vinegar and another with gall, a soldier took a sponge and soaked it in the vinegar and gall, set it on the point of his lance and pressed it to Jesus’ lips.



Jesus tasted that bitter brew, to suffer yet more, and said: “*All is consummated.*”

Death of Our Lord Jesus Christ

He then said: “*Father, into Your hands I commend My Spirit.*” Next He gave a great death-cry, inclined His Head, and died, at 3 in the afternoon that Good Friday the 25th of March in the year 34.

Signs of God’s Wrath

At the moment of death, the sun turned completely black, and for eight seconds the earth and the whole Universe were plunged into the most absolute darkness.

There were other great signs, and a great earthquake, showing that the jews had crucified the Son of God. Many were filled with fear and some with repentance.

There is only one true Church

At the Death of His Son, God showed His Wrath, especially at the jewish church, now apostate: the great veil which covered the Holy of Holies in the Jerusalem temple was torn from top to bottom; the images of the Most Holy Trinity fell smashed to the ground; the internal and external Sacred Fire, used for ritual sacrifices, went out, so that all might know that there was nothing sacred in that temple anymore.

Chapter XXI

Christ’s right Side is transpierced by the lance

The sanhedrites present there wanted Jesus’ legs to be broken, as they used to do to hasten death, so that the people might not think that the great miracles and the darkness were because of Him. The Romans, however, seeing that He was dead, did not break them. Those same sanhedrites then gave money to a Roman soldier to transpierce His Heart, so that the people might think that He had died from the lance thrust.

That soldier, then, who was on horseback, opened up Jesus’ right side with a lance which transpierced His Heart.

The soldier was blind in one eye; and at the moment he transpierced Jesus’ Side, he recovered sight in that eye. He then dismounted from his horse





and, kneeling with grief for his sins, confessed that Jesus was the Son of God. Later he was baptized and received the name of Longinus. At the miracles and signs, other Roman soldiers and certain pilgrims come for the Passover were also converted.

Chapter XXII

Mary's Spiritual Death at the foot of the Cross

Mary Most Holy, the Sorrowful Mother, shared in all the sufferings of Her Divine Son in His Passion and Crucifixion, and at the same time, without anyone seeing, but with true suffering. She also spiritually shared in the death of Her Divine Son, this being Her greatest suffering up till then.



When the Heart of Christ – then dead – was transpierced by the lance, the Immaculate Heart of His Most Holy Mother too was transpierced, as announced by the aged Simeon at the Presentation of the Child Jesus. At that moment occurred Mary's Spiritual Death at the foot of the Cross. This was the greatest suffering of Her whole life on earth.



Mary, Mother of the Church

Mothers bring their children into the world with suffering, and so too the Most Holy Virgin, by Her bitter sorrow – accepted generously for our sakes – made it possible for so very many children to be born to the life of Grace for God. Hence this suffering was the dolorous birth of the Church, for Her who really and truly is Mother of the Church of Christ.



Chapter XXIII

Holy Burial of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Afterwards the Divine Mother told the Apostles, John excepted, the majority of the Disciples and almost all the Nuns to go down to the Jerusalem Cenacle, to stay there in prayer.



Descent from the Cross

The dead Body of Jesus was taken down from the Cross by the Apostle John, the secret disciples – Joseph of Arimathea, Nicodemus and Gamaliel – Lazarus and other followers.

The secret disciples, as former sanhedrites, were respected by the people, and took care that everything be done with the greatest reverence. As the majority of the people had moreover already left, for the Saturday rest was soon to begin, those who stayed wept in silence and watched as Jesus was lowered down.



Mary offers the Divine Victim to the Eternal Father

Then the dead Body of Jesus was laid in the arms of His Most Holy Mother, who lovingly removed the crown of thorns, cleansed the wounds of His Divine Face and adored Him. While Her two sisters, Mary Cleophas and Mary Salome, tenderly helped and consoled Her, Mary offered the Divine Victim up to the Eternal Father for mankind.

Jesus is taken to the sepulchre

Apostle John, the disciples Joseph of Arimathea, Nicodemus and Gamaliel, with other followers,





took the dead Body of Jesus from Mary's arms and conveyed Him down to the sepulchre grotto close by, a new sepulchre opened up by Joseph of Arimathea for himself in a rock.

Jesus is laid in the sepulchre

After placing the Deific Body on a sheet, known as the Holy Shroud, and anointing Him with balms and salves, they laid Him in the sepulchre. Then the grotto was sealed off by a great stone or slab specially prepared.

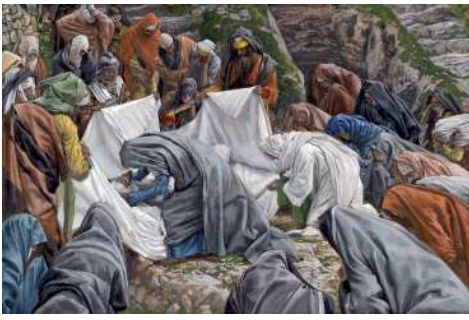
It was then six in the evening, when Jewish Saturday began. At once the Divine Mary and those with Her returned to the Jerusalem Cenacle.

Chapter XXIV

Guards at the sepulchre

The following day, in the morning, perverse sanhedrites went to tell Pilate: "Sir, we remember that this Jesus said: 'After three days I will rise from the dead'. So then, order the sepulchre to be guarded until the third day, lest His disciples





come, rob His Body and say: 'He has risen from among the dead'; which would be an even greater fraud." Pilate ordered a uniformed guard of Roman soldiers to seal and watch over Jesus' sepulchre.

Chapter XXV

Five pious women go to the sepulchre

Shortly after six in the evening on that same Holy Saturday the 26th of March in the year 34, Mary Cleophas, Mary Salome, Mary Magdalen and





Martha went into the city to buy balms and salves so as to pour them out upon Jesus' Body in the sepulchre.

Thus was fulfilled Elias's announcement: *"Women of great piety, carried away by holy folly, will prepare a priceless perfume intending to pour it out upon the Body of the Messiah. This holy daring will turn those women into trumpets announcing the Resurrection of the Christ of God."*



They left everything prepared for the following morning when, very early, they left the Cenacle, accompanied by Johanna Chusa, when it was still somewhat dark, and went to the sepulchre. On the way they asked one another: *"Who will take the stone away from the sepulchre entrance for us?"*

But they were surprised by a great earthquake which occurred at six in the morning on Sunday the 27th of March in the year 34, when Jesus arose. On reaching the sepulchre, the sun had already risen. And they found the stone sealing it removed, for Jesus had already risen.

Chapter XXVI

Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ

At 6 am on Sunday the 27th of March in the year 34, occurred the glorious Resurrection of the Lord. Jesus, on rising, with Heavenly garments white as snow, passed through the stone sealing the entrance to the sepulchre, and a great earthquake then occurred. The guards saw Jesus risen and feared greatly; so that they fled and fell to the ground as though dead.

Immediately after His Resurrection, Jesus appeared to His Most Holy Mother in the Cenacle, She thus being the first to receive the visit of Her



Divine risen Son.

Shortly afterwards

Mary Cleophas, Mary Salome, Mary Magdalen, Martha and Johanna Chusa arrived at the sepulchre, and saw it open, and upon the stone which had sealed it a man like an angel who told them: *“Have no fear, for I know that you seek Jesus, He who was crucified. He has risen, as He said. Tell His Apostles and disciples that He has risen.”*

Then the five pious women entered the grotto and saw that Jesus was not there, and that two men in white garments, resplendent, were there, and they too said the Jesus had risen. Though they all heard this, Magdalen thought that someone had robbed Jesus' Body.

They then returned in all haste to the Cenacle, to tell the Apostles with surprise and joy what had happened, but also somewhat confused. Mary Magdalen arrived first and told Peter: *“They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him”*. But the others arrived hard on her heels and explained all that had taken place. Though no one believed them.

Chapter XXVII

Peter and John go to the sepulchre

Peter and the rest hoped that Jesus would rise, but three days had not yet gone by. To find out what was happening, Peter and John went to the sepulchre, and following them, Mary Magdalen.

The first to enter the sepulchre chamber where Jesus had been was Peter,



who saw that Jesus' Divine Body had become

impressed on the Holy Shroud, therefore believing that He had risen. Taking the Holy Shroud with great veneration they returned to the Cenacle where the majority, on seeing this miracle, believed. But some of the Apostles and disciples, confused, argued.

Chapter XXVIII

Christ appears to Mary Magdalen

While Peter and John returned to the Cenacle, Mary Magdalen stayed on at the entrance to the sepulchre weeping. She then peered inside and again saw the two men like angels, who said to her: *“Why do you weep?”* She told them: *“Because they have taken my Lord away from here and I do not know where they have laid Him.”* She then turned to look behind, and saw a man standing, but did not know it was Jesus.



She then, thinking it was the gardener of the property, went to ask Him if He knew anything. Jesus, however, said to Mary Magdalen: *“Woman, why do you weep? Whom do you seek?”* She, weeping with her back to the Lord, said to Him: *“If You have taken the Body of my Lord from here, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away”*; Jesus then called her: *“Mary”*. Turning round, she saw Him resplendent, and falling to her



knees at His feet, while trying to cling to them, she said to Him: “*Master*”. Jesus told her: “*Do not touch Me, for I have not yet shown Myself at the right of My Father to the chiefs of the apostate jewish church; but go to where My Apostles and disciples are, and tell them: ‘I am at the right of My Father and your Father, of My God and your God’.*”

Chapter XXIX

Christ appears to Caiphias, Annas and three perverse chief priests

After this, Jesus, seated at the right hand of God and upon clouds, appeared to Caiphias, Annas and three of the most perverse chief priests, and told Caiphias: “*I come before you, who attribute to yourself the dignity of High Priest, so that you give thanks to God for the miracle of My Resurrection.*”

The voice of the Eternal Father was heard saying: “*This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased, glorify Him.*” To which Caiphias, Annas and the three chief





priests answered: “*We shall not serve*”; rejecting this fresh opportunity for conversion.

Later, when the sepulchre guards arrived to inform Caiphias and Annas of events and of the great signs they had seen, the two blackguards tried to convince them that it was not true and, in agreement with the other sanhedrites, gave them money to say that the Apostles had come by night and stolen Jesus’ Body. Many Jews still believe this falsehood.

Chapter XXX

Christ appears to the pious women and to Peter

Afterwards, Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalen and to the other four pious women, and shortly afterwards to Apostle Peter who, in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in the Cenacle, had asked for this grace, not because he did not believe, but so that the rest might believe through his word.

They told the other Friars and Nuns who were in the Cenacle that Christ had risen. Yet Apostle Thomas did not believe, because he had not seen Him.



Chapter XXXI

Christ appears to some disciples on their way to Emmaus

After Peter and John had arrived at the Cenacle with the Holy Shroud, and before Jesus had appeared to Peter, the disciples Luke and Cleophas left for Cleophas’ home in Emmaus, since, like Thomas, neither had they believed in the Resurrection.

Luke’s and Cleophas’ confusion

The two talked and argued along the way. Jesus, who was following them, caught up with them and walked with them. But He did not let Himself be recognized, and asked them: “*Why are you sad?*” Cleophas told Him: “*Are you the only one in Jerusalem who has not heard the things that have happened there?*” He said to them: “*What things?*” They answered: “*Regarding Jesus the Nazarene, who was a Prophet, powerful in deed and in word; and how those of the sanhedrin delivered Him up to death and*





crucified Him. We, however, hoped that He, being the Messiah, would be the liberator of Israel; and besides this not being fulfilled, today, the third day since His Body was buried, He is neither to be found in the sepulchre, nor have we seen Him risen from the dead.”

The Master teaches



Jesus, going over the prophecies on the Messiah starting with Henoah, and including Abraham, Moses, David, Isaias and Himself, told them: *“O foolish! Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and so enter into His glory?”* Luke and Cleophas, surprised at hearing these things from a pilgrim, invited Him to stay with them in Emmaus.

Jesus celebrates Holy Mass

When Jesus was seated at table with the two disciples, after having eaten, He celebrated Holy Mass before them. At that same time they saw Him glorious, and He gave them Communion. At this the two disciples realized that the Man was Jesus, and He then disappeared from their sight. And they said to one another: *“Were our hearts not burning when He spoke to us along the way and explained the Scriptures?”*

Luke and Cleophas return to Jerusalem

The two then returned to Jerusalem to tell everyone at the Cenacle. There they found the Apostles and those with them who said: *“The Lord has truly risen, and has appeared to Peter.”* Then the two recounted all that had happened to them.

But doubting Thomas did not have recourse to Mary Most Holy

Even so, Thomas and one or other disciple still did not believe that Jesus had risen. Thomas then abandoned the Cenacle, instead of consulting with the Most Holy Virgin Mary, who was praying all by Herself; for by Her counsel he would have believed in Christ’s Resurrection.

Chapter XXXII

Christ appears to those in the Cenacle

The same day of His Resurrection, in the evening, Jesus appeared to those in the Cenacle.

Jesus told them: *“Peace to you: I am, do not fear.”* As the majority of them were startled, Jesus said: *“Look at My side, My hands and My feet, for*



it is I myself”, and He allowed them to touch the Wounds in His hands and His feet.

Sacrament of Confession

Jesus then celebrated Holy Mass for His Divine Mother and the Friars and Nuns, except for Thomas who had left. He then said to the ten Apostles: *“Peace be to you. As the Father sent Me so likewise I send you.”* And He breathed over them and said: *“Receive the Holy Ghost: those whose sins you forgive, will be forgiven them; and those whose sins you retain, will retain them”*; by this Jesus left us the Sacrament of Penance or Confession.

Unbelieving Thomas

Shortly after Jesus had disappeared, Apostle Thomas arrived, and the other Apostles told him: *“We have seen the Lord”*; and besides, they had touched the wounds in His hands and His feet. Thomas said that, until he saw Christ’s Wounds and placed his hand in His Side, he would not believe that He had risen. Peter told him to ask the Most Holy Virgin Mary, but Thomas took no notice and again abandoned the Cenacle.

Chapter XXXIII

Christ appears to the Apostles with Thomas now present

Days later Thomas returned to the Cenacle to ask the Most Holy Virgin Mary if Jesus had risen; and whatever She said he would accept as the truth. But he had no time, for Jesus appeared and said:



“Peace to you.” He then said to Thomas: *“See My hands, and place your finger in the Wounds.”* And the Lord added: *“Bring your hand now and put it into My right Side, and do not be unbelieving but faithful.”* Thomas, putting his right hand into the Wound of the right Side, exclaimed repentant: *“My Lord and My God.”* Jesus told him: *“Thomas, because you have seen you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”*

Next, Jesus celebrated Holy Mass and gave all Holy Communion; and told them to leave for Galilee where He would appear to them again. So the Divine Mary, the eleven Apostles, the disciples and the pious women left for Galilee.

Chapter XXXIV

Christ appears to the Eleven by the shores of the Sea of Galilee



To obtain food for the Friars and Nuns in Capharnaum, the eleven Apostles set out to fish in the Sea of Galilee. They laboured all night but caught nothing. At dawn, discouraged, they were making for shore when Jesus, from land, asked them: *“Have you anything to eat?”* They replied: *“No”*. Jesus told them: *“Cast the net out to the right of the boat, and you will catch.”* They cast the net out, and could not draw it back in for the great number of fish they had caught.

Peter walks upon the waters



At this prodigy, John realized that it was Jesus, and said so to Peter, who then leapt out onto the lake and walked miraculously upon the waters over to Jesus, and beside Him waited for the rest to arrive.

God Himself feeds Priests

After they had gathered in the fish necessary for the two communities, Jesus invited them to eat: there were live coals laid, and over them a fish not from their catch, and a loaf of bread.



Then Jesus miraculously multiplied the foods, and first gave Apostle Peter to eat, and then the rest. Thus Jesus taught them that, as Priests, they should no longer work for their own sustenance – since God would give them everything necessary – but should dedicate themselves exclusively to their Ministry.

Chapter XXXV

Christ confers the Papacy on Peter

While Jesus was with the eleven Apostles on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, the Divine Mary arrived too with the disciples and pious women, since Jesus wanted them all to be present when He conferred the Papacy on Peter.

Jesus then asked Peter: *“Do you love Me more than they do?”* Peter replied: *“Yes, Lord, You know that I love You.”* Jesus told him: *“Shepherd My lambs.”* A second time Jesus asked Peter: *“Do you love Me?”* The Apostle replied: *“Yes, Lord, You know that I love You.”* Jesus told him: *“Shepherd My lambs.”*



A third time Jesus asked Peter: *“Do you love Me?”* Peter was grieved because He had asked him a third time, and said to Him: *“Lord, You know all things: You know that I love You.”* Jesus told him: *“Shepherd My sheep.”* Next, placing His Divine Hands on Peter’s head, Jesus conferred the Sacrament of the Papacy upon him. Shortly afterwards they saw

Him no more.

Chapter XXXVI

The Apostles, the other religious and the tertiaries return to Jerusalem. Christ appears in the Cenacle

The Most Holy Virgin Mary, the eleven Apostles and all the rest left Galilee for Jerusalem, as Jesus had ordered them. When they were gathered in the Cenacle about the Divine Mary, Jesus appeared to them with great majesty and reminded them of many things He had taught them, and how the prophecies had been fulfilled, and then said especially to the Apostles: *“You are witnesses of these things. Upon you I shall send the Holy Ghost, promised by My Father.”* Afterwards, He told them all to remain in Jerusalem until they had received this Grace. Later the Lord celebrated Holy Mass, and disappeared.



Chapter XXXVII

Christ commands His Apostles to preach the Gospel throughout the world

The following day, the 5th of May in the year 34, Jesus went to the summit



of the Mount of Olives together with His Divine Mother, the eleven Apostles and all the rest. There, with His Countenance glorious, Jesus spoke to His Apostles: *“Go throughout the world, and preach the Gospel to all peoples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all the things I have commanded you. Whoever believes, receives baptism and practises, shall be saved; and whoever does not, shall be damned.”* He also promised them to be with His Church always, assisting Her through the Pope, His representative.

Chapter XXXVIII

Ascension of Our Lord Jesus Christ into Heaven

That day the 5th of May in the year 34 at six in the evening, Jesus, on the Mount of Olives with His Divine Mother, the Apostles and the rest, after speaking to them, raised up His hands and blessed them. Then, while all watched, Jesus rose up with majesty and glory into Heaven, and was hidden within a Cloud. They understood that the Cloud was the Eternal Father, who thus showed Himself to receive and glorify the Son.

When Jesus disappeared from sight, on the Mount beside them they saw two men in white garments, the Prophets Elias and Henoch, who said: *“This Jesus, who in your sight has ascended into Heaven, will return at His Second Coming as you have seen Him go up into Heaven.”*

Following the Lord’s Ascension, all entered Jerusalem with great joy. In the Cenacle, the first



Christian Church, together with Mary the Mother of Jesus, they stayed in prayer, and so prepared for the Coming of the Holy Ghost.

**Episodes from
The Acts of the Apostles
by the Evangelist Saint Luke**

Book I

***From the Coming of the Holy Ghost
up to the conversion of Saul***

Chapter I

Preparation for the Coming of the Holy Ghost

At this time, after Jesus' Ascension into Heaven, the Friars and Nuns prepared themselves with charity, prayer and fasting, directed by the Most Holy Virgin Mary, to receive the Holy Ghost. The Tertiaries did the same, in all that they could.



Every day all the faithful – Religious and Tertiaries – gathered at the Cenacle when Pope Peter celebrated Holy Mass and gave Holy Communion to all, from which they received their greatest spiritual strengthening.

One day, with great ceremony, Peter elected Matthias as Apostle, to occupy the post left vacant by Judas Iscariot. Thus the Apostles continued to be twelve.

Chapter II

**Coming of the Holy Ghost
upon the Apostolic College**

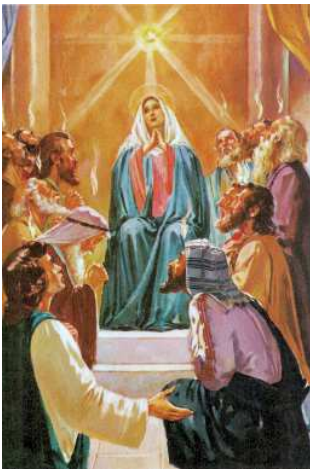


The Coming of the Holy Ghost was on Sunday the 15th of May in the year 34 in the Jerusalem Cenacle where, together with the Divine Mary, were gathered the twelve Apostles, the disciples, the pious women or Mary's disciplesses – who were the Friars and Nuns – and many Tertiaries. As the Most Holy Virgin Mary knew the day and the hour of the Holy Ghost's Coming, She told

Pope Peter to celebrate Holy Mass in the Cenacle hall, which had been turned into a Chapel.

They were all filled with the Holy Ghost

Once Holy Mass had ended, when all were in prayer together with the Divine Lady, there was a resounding thunderclap and a great brilliance



of fire, filling the Cenacle building with light. And the Holy Ghost came down, and a Tongue of Fire rested upon the head of each of them, and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and ready to preach the Gospel throughout the world.

Amazement and conversions

Many of those in Jerusalem, when they heard the thunder and saw the fire, hastened to the Cenacle and saw the building enveloped in a gentle and agreeable radiance.

The Apostles, above all Peter, then went outside and spoke to them of Jesus and of the wonders of God. Many, with hearts full of grief, asked: *“What should we do?”* Peter taught them that they should repent of their sins, leave the apostate judaic church, receive the Baptism of Christ and persevere in the Faith.

Those converted to the Faith of Jesus, the Christ of God, were more than three thousand. They were baptized by Pope Peter and the other Apostles, and then confirmed.

Chapter III

Preaching of the Apostles and fruits of their apostolate

The Apostles preached the Gospel Faith with great courage and performed great miracles before the people, for God acted through them. By their apostolate, the number of men and women who believed in Jesus increased, and religious vocations also increased, so that new conventual houses had to be organized.

Exemplary life of the first Christians

Many faithful generously gave their goods to the Church, with great merit, as they had no obligation



to do so. These new Christians led an exemplary life in everything, in God's love and in commitment and obedience to Holy Church.

The Apostles celebrated Holy Mass in the Cenacle, and also in the Chapels of the monasteries and convents, and in the houses of certain of the faithful.



Chapter IV

Healing of the cripple from birth

The Apostles, to give valiant testimony to Jesus, went out to preach the Gospel where the Jews used to gather, speaking to them at the entrances to the apostate churches.

On one of those days, Elias, crippled from birth, was at the Golden Gate begging alms, and when he begged from Peter and John, the former told him: *“What I have I give you: in the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.”* Elias stood up and began to walk, glorifying God; and would not separate from Peter and John.

Then Peter preached to those who had begun to gather at the miracle, and this time the baptized numbered five thousand.

Chapter V

Persecutions against Christ's Church

All this led to fierce persecution of Christ's Church by the chiefs of the Jewish church, who were her enemies.

Peter and John were imprisoned in Jerusalem for preaching the Gospel, and the Sanhedrites warned them never to preach the Name of Jesus again.

Peter's reply

But Peter replied, telling them: *“Judge for yourselves if it be just before God to obey you instead of Him”*. That is, man should always obey God before men. And they set them free.

Later on they imprisoned the Twelve for preaching the Name of Jesus, but the Apostles were freed from prison by Archangel Saint Michael before dawn. They then returned first to the Cenacle, and afterwards to preach that same morning in Solomon's Porch.

Gamaliel's testimony

From there they were again led before the sanhedrites. Gamaliel then arrived to defend them, and told the chiefs gathered there: *“Consider well what you are to do. I say to you, do not meddle with these twelve men, but set them free; because if the work they are raising up is from men, it will disappear of its own accord; but if it is from God you cannot destroy it, and besides you will be opposing God.”*

Then the sanhedrites ordered the Apostles to be scourged, and let them go free.

Chapter VI

The Divine Mary, Mother, Shepherdess and Doctress of the Church

Thanks to the counsels, guidance and prayers of the Divine Mary, the Apostles obtained great conversions by their preaching. The Most Holy Virgin Mary zealously cared for the Church entrusted to Her by Her Divine Son, and protected it from its enemies. The Divine Mary was the most perfect model of Christian charity; and all of them, seeing Her exalted virtues, practised with great perfection the teachings they had received from Jesus.

It was this that drew many Jews to be converted to the Christian Faith. Many levitical priests included were converted on seeing in the Gospel the purity of the Law of Moses, brought to perfection by Jesus and, on the contrary, seeing in the chiefs of the apostate judaic religion more baseness every day.

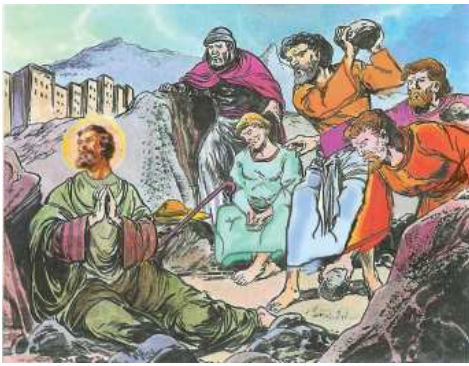
Chapter VII

Martyrdom of the disciple Stephen

Stephen had been a good pupil in the famous school of Gamaliel, the sanhedrite, who later became one of Jesus' disciples. There Stephen was a companion and friend of Saul of Tarsus, and the two faithfully kept the Law of Moses.

Stephen had been a follower of John the Baptist, and through him had come to Jesus. As Jesus' disciple and a man of virtue, he worked great miracles among the people and spoke with the wisdom of





the Holy Ghost.

Saul, who had come to Jerusalem at the news of Jesus' Death and the Coming of the Holy Ghost, was already informed that his cherished master Gamaliel and his friend Stephen had become Jesus' followers.

Stephen persecuted by lies

One day when Stephen was teaching in a public square of Jerusalem, Saul and other fanatical jews came and disputed with Stephen, who outclassed them in wisdom, so that they thought of putting him into prison. However, it was pontiffs Caiphias and Annas who by lies stirred up many to harass Stephen.

One day, while Stephen was teaching a crowd, he was arrested by the guards of high priest Caiphias and brought before him and other jews. Certain false witnesses then accused Stephen. Saul, present there, really believed the false accusations.

Stephen defends the Faith

Stephen demonstrated that Christ was the promised Messiah, and said: *“God Most High no longer dwells in the temple of Jerusalem. God now dwells in the small Temple of those who follow His Son Jesus Christ.”*

Stephen, fixing his eyes on Heaven, said: *“Lo, I see Heaven wide open, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God the Father.”* All of them, full of rage and roaring out, hurled themselves upon him.

Stephen's martyrdom

Then many of them violently took Stephen outside the city and hurled stones at him, while Saul kept the garments of those stoning him, since as a doctor of the Law he represented the sanhedrin.

And Stephen prayed out loud: *“Lord, do not hold this sin against them”*, praying especially for Saul's conversion. Having said this, he died.

Until his conversion to the Faith of Christ, Saul was a fearful persecutor of the Christians.



Chapter VIII

Fresh persecution of the Church

Though Saul had a noble and generous character, he thought it a shameful thing to follow a crucified Man, when the Jews had received the Law from God Himself. By his mistaken fanaticism and false zeal for God, he was used by the sanhedrites in their perverse plans against Christ's Church.

Saul as the sanhedrin's instrument

Saul himself, with the gift he possessed for speaking and convincing, before Pontius Pilate defended the persecution of Christians for disturbing public order and for breaking Jewish traditions.

With powers received from Caiaphas and Annas, Saul violently dragged Christians from their homes and imprisoned them; or took them to the dungeons of the synagogues, where they were tortured cruelly and pressured to deny Jesus. Many died martyrs, confessing their Faith.

Persecution strengthens Christ's Church

The Church felt strengthened by the valiant testimony given by many of her children, and conversions increased. While the Apostles gave the Sacraments, and especially celebrated Holy Mass, so that the faithful might receive Holy Communion, all of them, united to the Mother of God, prayed for Heaven's assistance and succoured the needy. Many faithful left Jerusalem, and foreigners returned to their lands, thus spreading Christianity to other regions. Pope Peter as well made many visits and journeys to preach the Faith.

Chapter IX

First Council of the Church

The astute sanhedrites who persecuted the Church ferociously, did not act when crowds of pilgrims arrived at Jerusalem, especially in times of religious



feasts, as the Christians' fortitude and virtues won over yet more people.

The Apostles' Creed

Taking advantage of one of these pauses, Pope Peter called the First Council of the Church, from the 5th to the 15th of May in the year 35. The most

important act of this Council was the Creed written by the twelve Apostles, and signed as absolute truth by Pope Peter.



Chapter X

Mission assigned to each Apostle

Pope Peter assigned to each of the Apostles their corresponding mission. He himself stayed in Jerusalem guiding the Church. John's mission was to take care of the Most Holy Virgin Mary. James the Less remained in Jerusalem as Bishop of that diocese. The other Apostles were sent out to evangelize beyond Israel. The evangelization of Spain was assigned to James the Greater.

In practice, they also went on many journeys to spread the Faith according to the inspirations and opportunities they had.

Book II
From the conversion of Saul
until the transfer of the
Church's See to Antioch of Syria

Chapter I

Conversion of Saul, afterwards named Paul

Together with others, Saul left Jerusalem hurriedly with powers from the sanhedrin to persecute Jesus Christ's followers in Damascus. He did this because he wanted to avoid the sanhedrites, who were asking him to act against Jesus' Mother, which did not seem correct to him.



Saul's conversion

When Saul and his men were nearing Damascus, they were surprised by a great thunderclap and surrounded by heavenly splendour. This caused them such terror that they were all thrown to the ground.

Saul, lying prone on the ground, heard a voice that said to him: "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?" Saul asked: "Who are you, Lord?" Then Jesus showed Himself to him with majesty and glory, and answered: "I am Jesus the Nazarene whom you persecute." Saul, with repentance for his sins and trembling, asked: "Lord, what do you want me to do?" Jesus replied that Saul should place himself at the service of the Church, and enter Damascus where

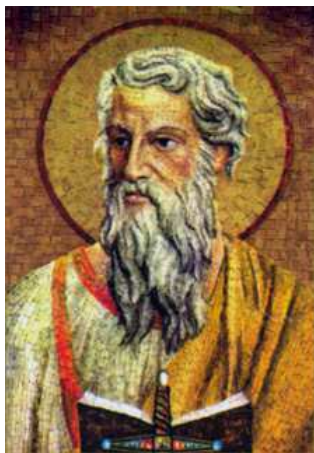


he would be told what to do. He then disappeared.

When Saul rose from the ground, he saw nothing. His companions helped him to mount his horse and guided him to Damascus, where he remained blind for three days, without eating or drinking, and in profound prayer.

Bishop Ananias heals and baptizes Saul

The missionary in Damascus was Bishop Ananias, one of Jesus' disciples. After the three days, Ananias sought out Saul and laid his hands upon his eyes, restoring his eyesight. Then he administered the Sacrament of Baptism to him and gave him the name Paul.



Paul retires to the desert

Paul stayed on in Damascus at Ananias's side listening to his teachings and strengthening himself with the Sacraments. Later he retired to the desert, to Mount Sinai, where he stayed for three years in prayer and penance, preparing himself for his future apostolate.

The conversion of Paul was a grace given by Christ thanks to the prayers of His Divine Mother, and as well to the prayers of Paul's friend Saint Stephen at martyrdom.

Chapter II

Pentecost at Cornelius' home

In Caesarea Maritima at that time lived the Centurion Cornelius, a Gentile, who had previously lived in Capharnaum, where Jesus had healed his paralytic servant and baptized Cornelius together with everyone else at his home. Cornelius had prayed much for the evangelization of the Gentiles.

Cornelius' prayers were heard

As Cornelius knew that the Pope was in Joppe on an apostolic journey, he sent two of his servants and a soldier there in search of Peter. And at his home he gathered the local gentile Christians to await with fervour the arrival of the Pope.



When Peter was about to enter the house, Cornelius went out to receive him, and revered him by kissing his feet, in obedience to his papal authority.

The true Church is for all

Then Peter told the Christians gathered there: *"The Lord Jesus has shown me that He came to save both those of the Jewish people as well as those of the Gentile people."* And Pope Peter said as well: *"In God there is no acceptance of persons; rather, in any nation, whoever fears Him and acts uprightly, merits His favour."*

Pentecost on the Gentiles

Peter was still speaking when the Holy Ghost came down, appearing as tongues of fire upon the heads of all those present there listening to Peter, and with other prodigious signs. The disciples who had come with Peter,



were astonished to see the Holy Ghost come down as well upon the Gentile Christians, and heard them telling of the greatness of God in several languages.

Then Peter ordered the official evangelization of the Gentiles, and left Cornelius, then a widow, in Caesarea Maritime, as Priest and Bishop.



Chapter III

The Virgin Mary leaves for Ephesus

It was God's Will that the Divine Mary with Apostle John and Her sisters Mary Cleophas and Mary Salome set out for Ephesus. There John, by his preaching and miracles, drew many to the Faith of Christ; and then sent them to the Divine Mary, who enlightened them further in the Faith.

The Divine Mary founded a Carmelite convent of Nuns in Ephesus.

Chapter IV

Paul arrives at the Jerusalem Cenacle

After spending three years in the desert, Paul returned to Damascus, where he preached in the squares and other places, acknowledging his error of having previously persecuted the Christians. At this the jews of Damascus took great aversion to him and began to look for some way of killing him.

Paul goes to the Jerusalem Cenacle

Paul then went to Jerusalem, and arrived at the Cenacle. But he was rejected, as they were not sure whether he had persevered in the Faith. For Paul it was a necessary humiliation, because of his past faults now pardoned.

It was the disciple Barnabus – already a Bishop, who had been a friend of Paul in Gamaliel's school – who took him to the Cenacle. Paul felt great joy on seeing Pope Peter for the first time, and fell at his feet shedding abundant tears.

Paul is ordained Priest and consecrated Bishop

Peter received him with utmost joy, and ordained Paul a Priest and consecrated him a Bishop in the presence of many faithful.

From then on Bishop Paul went about the whole city of Jerusalem preaching the Gospel Faith to jews and non jews by order of Peter, causing a great stir in the city.



Paul leaves Jerusalem

But given the grave danger to his life, Peter ordered him to preach outside Jerusalem, far from the members of the sanhedrin, since they, seeing that Paul had become a Christian, had schemed together intending to kill him.

Paul then first went to Tarsus, where he converted his family, and then to Antioch of Syria to strengthen the growing community there by his preaching. From there he constantly travelled to Judea in his apostolate.

Chapter V

Apostle Saint James the Greater



James the Greater, who had received Spain as his mission, arrived in October of the year 35 at the port of Hispalis – today Seville – where he began to preach the Gospel. From there he went on to Cordoba, and Granada where he was persecuted by the Jews, and suffered greatly.

The Most Holy Virgin appears to James



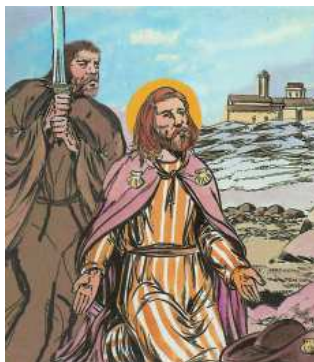
On many occasions he received the visit of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, as he did in Granada, and especially in Zaragoza, when She came accompanied by many Angels bringing an image of Hers made by Luke, upon a section of the Column of Jesus' Scourging, to encourage Saint James in his mission and comfort him in his needs. She asked him to build a Church in Her honour on the banks of the Ebro, and promised him that the Faith in Spain would last forever, a promise fulfilled today in El Palmar de Troya.

James returns to Israel

After having raised the Church requested by Most Holy Mary and having organized certain dioceses with Priests and Bishops to attend the faithful, James toured the Iberian Peninsula – Spain and Portugal – for the last time, and returned to Israel. He arrived in Jerusalem at the start of the year 41.

James is condemned to death

After his return from Spain, James preached with fervour in Jerusalem, and many were converted, which aroused the hatred of the sanhedrites. So he was arrested by soldiers and brought before Herod Agrippa I, who without trial condemned him to be beheaded.



On the way to martyrdom, he heals a paralytic

On the way they presented to him a paralytic, whom the Apostle healed. Josias, one of his executioners, was then converted. James embraced him and invited him to be his companion in martyrdom, and Josias generously accepted, and died there too for Christ.

Martyrdom and burial of James

At the moment of his martyrdom, James saw the Most Holy Virgin Mary, and commended himself to Her purest hands. Then they killed him. It was the 25th of March in the year 41.

Following Saint James the Greater's death, some of his disciples took his mortal remains and, with permission from Pope Peter, transferred them to Spain by ship. Saint James the Greater was buried in Galicia in the place he had chosen, known as Santiago de Compostela. In this way it was shown that the Faith of Christ had reached what was then believed to be the ends of the earth.



Chapter VI

Pope Peter is imprisoned and miraculously set free

One day when Peter was preaching on Jesus in a public place of Jerusalem, he was seized, bound with chains and imprisoned under the vigilance of several soldiers.

At night, while he slept in the dungeon, Archangel Saint Michael appeared and, touching Peter on one hand, awoke him and said: "*Arise quickly*", and the chains which bound the Apostle instantly fell off.



The Archangel said to him: "*Gird up your tunic and put on your sandals, wrap your cloak about you and follow me.*"

The heavenly splendour of the Archangel left the guards unable to see or hear. Once the two were in the street, Archangel Saint Michael disappeared. Peter, then, astonished at all that had happened, went to the Cenacle, and all there were amazed.

And wicked king Herod Agrippa commanded all the guards in charge of Peter to be killed.

Chapter VII

Transfer of the See of the Church to Antioch of Syria



Peter, inspired by God, left Jerusalem and established the See of the Church in Antioch of Syria. On the way he visited some Christian communities.

Paul is named Apostle

Following the death of James the Greater, Pope Peter, by divine command, named Paul an Apostle, so as to complete the number of the Twelve Apostles, and he also named him Vice-Vicar and Second Column of the Church. That is, Paul was Peter's Vicar.

Paul received the mission from God to dedicate himself to the preaching of the Gospel especially to the Gentiles, or non Jews.

Book III

Transfer of the Church's See to Rome, the Dormition and Glorious Assumption of Mary Most Holy into Heaven, and the martyrdom of the Apostles



Chapter I

See of the Church transferred to Rome

When the See of the Church had been in Antioch of Syria for one year, Our Lord Jesus Christ appeared to Pope Peter and ordered him to transfer the See of the Church to Rome. On his journey, he carried out a great apostolate, and visited the Most Holy Virgin Mary in Ephesus.

In Rome there were many Jewish communities, so that it was right that the true Faith reach them as well. Rome was the centre of the ancient world, and that helped Christianity to reach the whole Roman Empire. Besides, Rome was the centre of paganism, and the divine plan was that Rome yield to God's Grace.

By Peter's apostolate in Rome, the number of Christian faithful increased considerably.

Chapter II

Apostolic journeys of Pope Peter and of Apostle Paul



From Rome, Peter made many apostolic journeys to different nations of Asia, Europe and Africa, preaching everywhere. Pope Peter also carried out a great apostolate in Spain. Later he returned to Rome, but was forced to leave the city with many other Christians. After a long journey, he went to Jerusalem where the Most Holy Virgin Mary again resided. After his return to Rome, he made fresh apostolic journeys around Europe. Pope Peter was a travelling Pope, who preached with apostolic fervour in very many places, with great fruits of conversions.

Apostle Paul too made countless apostolic journeys, preaching the Gospel in different countries of Asia, Europe and Africa. Because of his great apostolate he was highly persecuted, imprisoned and taken to Rome by ship, until later he was set free. Afterwards he also preached in Spain.

In the Palmarian Holy Bible there are many letters by the Apostles with important teachings.

Chapter III

Second Council of Jerusalem

In the year 44, by counsel of the Most Holy Virgin, Pope Peter opened the



Second Council of Jerusalem. It was She who had called the twelve Apostles and other Bishops to the Council. Important matters for the Church were clarified there: Baptism is the only way to enter the Church of Christ; the Holy Sacrifice of Mass is the only Sacrifice that pleases God

and saves and sanctifies man, and the Flesh and Blood of Christ are the true foods for eternal life; Sunday is the Day of the Lord.

Chapter IV

Dormition of the Most Holy Virgin Mary

Before the mystery of Her Gentle Dormition and Assumption into Heaven took place, the Most Holy Virgin Mary, then seventy-four years of age, assembled all the Apostles in the Jerusalem Cenacle. She directed Pope Peter to celebrate Holy Mass. Afterwards, She bade farewell to all, who wept with deep feeling.



Angels sing the glories of Mary

While they were praying, Jesus appeared surrounded by Angels and Saints. Most Holy Mary, kneeling before Her Divine Son, rested Her Head upon His Lap and, full of divine love, passed into Gentle Dormition. All could hear the Angels singing the glories of Mary.

A little later Mary's Body, emitting heavenly radiance and fragrance, was placed by twelve Angels on Her own bed, mysteriously embellished by them.

Mary's sleeping Body is placed in the Sepulchre

Mary's sleeping Body was conveyed near to the Garden of Olives and placed in the grotto of Her Sepulchre, since all believed that She had died.

When the Apostles and disciples returned to the Jerusalem Cenacle, Apostle Thomas left, unable to understand how Most Holy Mary could have died, and did not return until after the Divine Mary's Assumption.

Chapter V

Assumption of the Most Holy Virgin Mary into Heaven in Body and Soul

On the 15th of August in that year 57, advised by an Angel, all assembled before the Divine Mary's sepulchre: Apostle Peter and the other Apostles, except for Thomas, as well the other Friars, the Nuns and many faithful from





Jerusalem. At 6 am, Mary Most Holy awoke from Her Gentle Dormition, and miraculously left the sepulchre full of glory, to the astonishment of all.



The Most Holy Trinity crowns the Divine Mary

Before rising up into Heaven, She embraced all at once every one of Her children gathered there, and gave them to understand that She had not died. After bidding them farewell, while blessing them, Mary Most Holy rose up to Heaven.

Then the Most Blessed Trinity, surrounded by Angels and Saints, appeared to receive the Divine Mary, and crowned Her as Queen of Heaven and Earth.



Apostle Thomas asks forgiveness

After the Assumption of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, Apostle Thomas returned to the Cenacle, prayed, and asked forgiveness from Peter for having left.

The Divine Mary appeared to Thomas and lovingly reproached him. The Apostle, kneeling and with abundant tears, said: *“My Lady and my Mother!”* She then blessed him, embraced him, and disappeared.

Chapter VI

Martyrdom of Apostles Peter and Paul



Nero was one of the Roman emperors. He was very cruel and base. By

his order Rome was set on fire, and he told the people that the Christians were to blame. In this way the first persecution of the Church by the Roman emperors began.

Peter and Paul are imprisoned

There were many martyrs at that time, and thanks to the blood shed by them, the Christian faithful continually increased in number. During this persecution, Pope Peter and Apostle Paul courageously preached in Rome



and all Italy, and many were converted. Christians had to hide in underground passages, or catacombs, which Roman families used to excavate as cemeteries; and there, hidden, the Priests celebrated Holy Masses and gave them the Sacraments.

Apostle Paul was arrested by the Roman authorities and taken to prison in Rome. Months later Pope Peter too was arrested and taken to the same prison; but having succeeded in freeing himself, he fled from Rome.

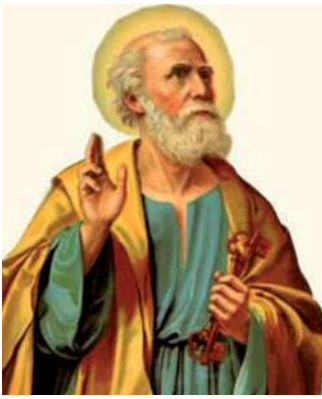
Peter on his way to martyrdom

On the outskirts of the city, Our Lord Jesus Christ appeared to him bearing a heavy cross, crowned with thorns and shedding abundant Blood.

Peter, kneeling, asked Jesus: “*Where are You going, Lord?*” Jesus told him: “*I am going to Rome to be crucified anew.*” At these words, Peter understood that the time for his own martyrdom had arrived. He asked forgiveness, and Jesus forgave him and embraced him.

Peter then went to the Roman Coliseum, where many Christians were being martyred, and in a powerful voice encouraged the martyrs and blessed them. As the martyrdoms were being attended by Nero and his officers, Peter reprimanded them for their impieties and crimes.





Martyrdom of Saint Peter and Saint Paul

When Peter had finished speaking, however, he was seized by the Roman soldiers and taken back to prison, where Apostle Paul lay together with many other Christians.

On the 29th of June in the year 67, Pope Peter was taken out of prison, led away to the Vatican Hill, and there crucified head downwards. That same day Apostle Paul was removed from prison, taken outside the city walls, and beheaded.

Chapter VII

Martyrdom of the other Apostles

Apostle James the Less was seized, and taken before the sanhedrites assembled in the temple on the 1st of May in the year 62 in Jerusalem. As he gave firm testimony to Jesus he was taken up to the pinnacle of the temple and cast down from there; then he was stoned; and finally killed by blows to



the head with a pole.

Apostles Simon and Thaddeus died martyrs on the 28th of October in the year 65, in Persia: Simon was sawn apart and Thaddeus beheaded with an axe.

Apostle Matthew was run through with a sword on the 21st of September in the year 68 in Ethiopia, when he had just finished celebrating Holy Mass.

Apostle Thomas died pierced by a lance on the 21st of December in the year 72 in India.

Apostle Bartholomew was tied to a tree and flayed alive on the 24th of August in the year 73 in Armenia.

Apostle Andrew died crucified on an x-shaped cross on the 30th of November in the year 75, in the town of Patras, Greece.



Apostle Matthias died crucified on the 24th of February in the year 80 in Saudi Arabia.

Apostle Philip was crucified and then stoned to death while still alive on the cross, on the 1st of May in the year 81, in Hierapolis, Turkey.

Chapter VIII

Apostle John the Evangelist



Apostle John, after the Assumption of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, carried out a great apostolate in Asia Minor and other places. In the year 93, when in Ephesus, he was brought before the Roman proconsul, who ordered him to offer sacrifice to the idols. As he refused to do so, the Roman emperor, Domitian, ordered the Apostle to be led to Rome.

John emerges unscathed from martyrdom

There John had to suffer imprisonment, torture and mockery; and as he gave no worship to idols, on the 6th of May that same year 93, before the Latin Gate, he was lowered into a cauldron of boiling oil, from which he miraculously emerged unharmed.

John is banished to the island of Patmos

Stunned at this prodigy, the emperor then banished him to the island of Patmos. There the Apostle carried out a great apostolate, and many Jews and Gentiles were converted to the Faith of Christ.

During his banishment he wrote the Apocalypse, which means ‘revelation’, that is, a book which recounts the hidden or unknown truths which God showed him in vision.

John is rapt up to Mary’s Planet

On the 27th of December in the year 100, Trajan being emperor, Apostle John, from the island of Patmos, was mysteriously rapt up to Mary’s Planet, where he lives until he returns to Earth a

few years before Jesus’ Second Coming; and will die a martyr in Antichrist’s terrible persecution.

Episodes taken from The Apocalypse of the Apostle John the Evangelist

Prologue

Apostle John the Evangelist, banished to the Greek island of Patmos when already agèd, had visions in which he saw the truths God wanted to reveal to him about future times, and John wrote them down in the Apocalypse.

“I, Apostle John, on this island of Patmos, was rapt up in heavenly vision



one Sunday, and I heard a great cry, telling me: 'What you see, write down in a book for Holy Church to know'."

Chapter I

Apocalyptic times

The principal purpose of the Apocalypse is to announce happenings during the Apocalyptic Era of Christ's Church, which is the time in which we now live. This Era began in the year 1917 and will end at the Glorious Second Coming of Christ.



The Palmarian Church

The Apocalypse speaks of Rome's great apostasy and then of Pope Saint Gregory XVII the Very Great, chosen directly by God; of the punishments for that tremendous apostasy, as too of a great Apparition of the Most Holy Virgin – namely the great miracle of Palmar de Troya – for the whole of mankind; and many will be converted.

Battles of the Church against Antichrist

Later on it says that the Church's See will be transferred to Jerusalem. Then it sees the great struggles of God's Holy Church against Antichrist, the devil, who will persecute the good with fearful hatred; yet only as far as God allows, for after God has purified the entire world, Jesus will come to Earth for the second time.



Chapter II

Glorious Second Coming of Christ



This Glorious Second Coming will be to judge the living and the dead; and to separate the good – who will go to Heaven – from the bad – who will go with the devils to Hell. Thus will be the end of this time of trial we are now living through – with its temptations, sicknesses, deaths, and so forth – Adam’s and Eve’s chastisement for their original sin.

Messianic Kingdom

All those who live after Jesus’ Second Coming will be good, for they will no longer receive original sin in their souls, and therefore will

have no trial to undergo. All will dwell in Mary’s Heart. This Era is called the Messianic Kingdom, when Jesus will reign directly on this same earth, but then very much more beautiful.

Chapter III

Nuptials of the Lamb



Then John the Evangelist saw the Nuptials of the Lamb, which will be at the end of the Messianic Kingdom. At the Nuptials of the Lamb all the good will dwell directly in Christ’s Heart, and therefore in all the Most Blessed Trinity. At the Nuptials of the Lamb, Christ will deliver up to the Father everything that belongs to God’s Kingdom.

Chapter IV

Epilogue

“I heard the voice of Most Holy Joseph, who told me: ‘Write: Blessed are those who renounce the things of this world!’ Of them Christ says: ‘Let them rest forever from their labours,



since their good deeds accompany them'."

"And Pope Peter told me: 'Write: Blessed are those invited to the Nuptials of the Lamb and to partake of His heavenly banquet.' I cast myself at the ancient's feet, but he told me: 'Adore Jesus, our Lord and God, for it was He who gave us knowledge of the Truth, so that we might give testimony to Him'."

"And I heard the voice of God the Father who told me: 'Write down now what I shall tell you: I am the Beginning and the End of all. To whoever thirsts I will give to drink freely from the fount of the water of life. Whoever overcomes shall possess eternal Blessedness; I will be his gracious God and he will be My dearest child. For cowards, unbelievers, murderers, unchaste, superstitious, idolaters and liars, however, unless they first repent, is reserved the eternal fire of Hell'."

"Then I heard the voice of Christ who told me: 'I, Jesus, your God and Lord, send you, Apostle John, to give testimony to the things you have seen and heard'."

"And I heard the voice of the Holy Ghost as well, who told me: 'Blessed be whoever keeps the words of this book. See, the Supreme Judge will soon come to reward each according to his good deeds, and to chastise each according to his bad deeds'."

"And finally, I heard Christ's voice another time telling me: 'I, Jesus, tell



you: Surely I will come quickly.' To this I replied: 'Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!' The peace of God the Father, the Grace of God the Son and the love of God the Holy Ghost be with you all. Amen. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia."





Adored be the Holy Face of Our Lord Jesus Christ!
HOLY APOSTOLIC SEE
EL PALMAR DE TROYA
PATRIARCHATE OF EL PALMAR DE TROYA
ORDER OF CARMELITES OF THE HOLY FACE

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If anyone dare to deny that this Sacred History or Palmarian Holy Bible, Children's Grade, is truth revealed by God, let him be anathema.

With Our Apostolic Blessing,
Petrus III P.P. Póntifex Máximus



Petrus III P.P.

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