

What is the Eucharistic Crusade?

*Spirit and Practices of the
Children's Eucharistic Crusade*

Summer 2014



WHAT IS THE EUCCHARISTIC CRUSADE?

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Firstly, Do You Know What a
CRUSADE is? Read On...



MORE than 8 centuries ago, the Moslems, that is, people who hated the Christians and waged war upon them, and took the tomb of Our Lord. And on top of that, they massacred all those who went to see and pray at Our Lord's tomb.

“This Will Have To Stop!” said the pope of that time to all the Christians. Who will come and fight the Moslems and capture Christ’s tomb from them?

It was then that thousands and thousands of Christians replied: “I will! I will!” In order to recognize their fellow fighters, the crusaders wore on their chests and on their backs a large red cross made of cloth. That’s why they were called the

CRUSADERS .



THEY left Europe on foot for the Holy Land... many died on the way, but finally their army recaptured the tomb of Our Lord, thus allowing the pilgrims to come to Jerusalem to kiss the tomb from which Jesus rose on Easter morning, and to pray in the beautiful Church built over it. But, you may say, there is no connection between the Moslems and the Eucharistic Crusade!

Yes there is! Since the beginning of this century more than ever before, Our Lord has many enemies. The Church is under attack and souls are being lost by the thousands. The popes Saint Pius X and Benedict XV said: **“This will have to stop!”**

To whom did they appeal? To the priests, to the grown-ups?

No! They called for the help of the children! Why? Because Our Lord specially loves children, they are pure and generous and they carry in them the grace they received at Baptism.

The pope asked them: “Who will help me to fight the devil so as to capture from him the souls he has stolen from Jesus?” How many children do you think replied to his appeal? More than 3 million!!



And these children, in order to recognize their fellow crusaders all wore the beautiful badge: The Host on the Cross, and that’s why we call them the **“Eucharistic Crusaders”** and their army is called the

EUCCHARISTIC CRUSADE.



HAVE not the children also a role to play in the combat for the return of the tradition?

Of course! And a large number have perfectly understood this and have placed themselves under the banner of the Eucharistic Crusade. Each

morning, as soon as they are awake, the Crusaders get onto their knees and make their morning offering.

THE OFFERING



HE offering of the day to the Sacred Heart is the starting point of the whole formation of the Crusader. It is the Offering that fulfills the vast program contained in the following formula: *"All the life of a Christian united with all the life of Christ, and placed at the service of all the life of the Church"*.

Consequently, the offering transforms work, recreation, small sufferings, and success into as many prayers expressing to Jesus that we want to live for Him since He died for us.

* Cf. The Eucharistic Crusade calls children from 5 to 15 years.

God wills us this day to do as He pleases; thus because a Crusader has made his offering in the morning, God will give His Grace to an old sinner in the verge of death (for example). It is necessary to make the Crusader understand that he can make something very great and very useful and very great out of his own life, when it has been offered to Jesus.

ACT OF OFFERING: "Divine Heart of Jesus, through the most pure heart of Mary, I offer Thee all my prayers, thoughts, words, actions, joys, and sufferings of this day in reparation for all my sins and for all the intentions of Thy Divine Heart in the Holy Mass. I offer them in particular for. . . (the intention of the month)."

OR:

"O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer thee all my prayers, works, joys and sufferings of this day, for all the intentions of the Sacred Heart, in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world and in reparation for my sins. I offer them particularly for. . . (The intention of the month).

For the Younger Ones: Jesus! All my day for Thee.

Actually, every month in the monthly bulletin "**Hostia**", the Superior General of the Society of Saint Pius X will give the intention of the month: that is the end for which the children are going to work generously during the month.

In the evening, the Crusader will count his victories for the day: sacrifices, good examples, communions...all is marked on a sheet of paper which, together with those of all the Crusaders throughout the world, constitutes the "**TREASURE**" of the Eucharistic Crusade. The treasure will be offered during a Mass said every month by the Superior General.



The Mass is the banner of the Eucharistic Crusade. Since the children's Crusade is above all Eucharistic, **Communion** is the weapon *par excellence* of the Crusader.

WEAPONS OF THE CRUSADER

“PRAYER ✠ COMMUNION ✠ SACRIFICE ✠ APOSTOLATE”

that's the motto of the Crusader!

PRAYER



HE morning offering made with fervor and renewed several times a day, it transforms all our day into prayer; always praying without always saying prayers, thanks to the offering. It is the fulfillment of Our Lord's request: *Pray always, do not cease praying ever*" (St. Lc. XVII, 1).

Look at Jesus of Nazareth: He saved souls all the time, even while He worked and rested, just as later when He died upon the Cross.

Why? Because from the moment He came into this world, He said to His Father:

"Father, I offer myself to thee."

And that is the most beautiful prayer of the Crusader!

COMMUNION



COMMUNION is the armor of the Crusader; it is Communion that will protect him from the attacks of the enemy, the devil.

Yes, you must go to communion often; as often as you can despite the present circumstances. It is by their frequent contact with Our Lord that he will find the necessary strength for his struggle. Also, you must above all prepare yourself well. Have a great desire to receive Jesus so that you may unite yourself intimately with Him and offer Him your sacrifices.



When a Crusader cannot go to Communion, he tries to visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, or he finds a quiet spot to pray to Jesus; to tell Him how much he desires to receive Him: this is what we call a spiritual Communion.

SACRIFICE



LOPE Benedict XV used to say: "Prayer is good, sacrifice is better..." The Crusader not only says he loves Jesus, but he loves Him by his actions; by his sacrifices. Sacrifice is necessary to prepare communion and make it fruitful. At home, the Crusader obeys immediately...to make a sacrifice. While playing, he lets others have a turn and doesn't argue...to make a sacrifice, to do something that costs, that costs a little... for Him that we love: Jesus.

APOSTOLATE



LThe Eucharistic Crusader is an apostle: he works in every way to love Our Lord and to make Him known. He also wants his friends to be Crusaders. To help and encourage himself to pray, make sacrifices, and to Communicate, the Crusader marks it all on his Treasure Sheet. The treasure of a Crusader is like an arsenal, an ammunition depot where one finds everything necessary to fight against the devil.

Every month, the Crusader will be told where and against whom he is to fight: That's what we call the intention of the month. It is given by the Superior General of the Society of Saint Pius X. Thus the Crusaders are true apostles because they pray and make sacrifices for the important needs of the Church.

* "Often in my thanksgiving after communion when I need to obtain a great favor, I offer to God the prayers, sacrifices and communions received from my little Crusaders throughout the world, and such is the power of these children before God, that some time later I find that my request has been granted"

~ Pius XI to the Bishop of Mans.

HOW DO I JOIN THE CRUSADE?



LN times gone by, those who left for the Holy Land to free the tomb of Our Lord promised to obey their chief, even if it cost them their lives. What did they receive in exchange? The grace to go straight to paradise if they were killed during the fight. What is more beautiful than HAVE not the children also a role to play in the that?

He who wants to enter into the Eucharistic Crusade also makes promises. He starts off as a Page. If he is generous, after a while he is accepted as a Crusader. It is as a Crusader that he will pray, go to Communion, and make sacrifices so as to be a true apostle... until he is found worthy to be admitted as a Knight.

HERE ARE THE PROMISES:

FIRST DEGREE: (7-9 years old) The Page promises:

1. To make the offering of himself, as well as his morning offering everyday.
2. To say his evening prayers and fill in his Treasure Chart every evening.
Actually, every month in the monthly bulletin "Hostia", the Superior General of the Society of Saint Pius X will give the intention of the month: that is the end for which the children are going to work generously during the month.

SECOND DEGREE: (9-12 years old) The Crusader promises

In addition to the promises of the page:

1. To say every day at least two decades of the Rosary.
2. To receive Holy Communion every Sunday (if possible).
3. To make at least one sacrifice every day.
4. To fight against his dominant fault.
5. To go to Confession at least once a month.

In the evening, the Crusader will count his victories for the day: sacrifices, good examples, communions...all is marked on a sheet of paper which, together with those of all the Crusaders throughout the world, constitutes the "TREASURE" of the Eucharistic Crusade. The treasure will be offered during a Mass said every month by the Superior General.

THIRD DEGREE: (12-15 years old) The Knight/ handmaiden promises

In addition to the promises of the Crusader:

1. To say his Rosary every day.
2. To make a spiritual Communion every day — The Mass is the banner of the Eucharistic Crusade. Since the children's Crusade is above all Eucharistic, Communion is the weapon par excellence of the Crusader — or to make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament whenever it is possible.
3. To do fifteen minutes of meditation every day.
4. To go to Confession every two weeks.

The engagements are solemnly made in front of a Chaplain, according to a special ceremonial. Each child who will make these engagements will be given a badge of the Crusade (which he must wear conspicuously) as well as a certificate. The Eucharistic Crusade is therefore an elite Organization whose members are voluntarily engaged.

* Age is given as a guide only.