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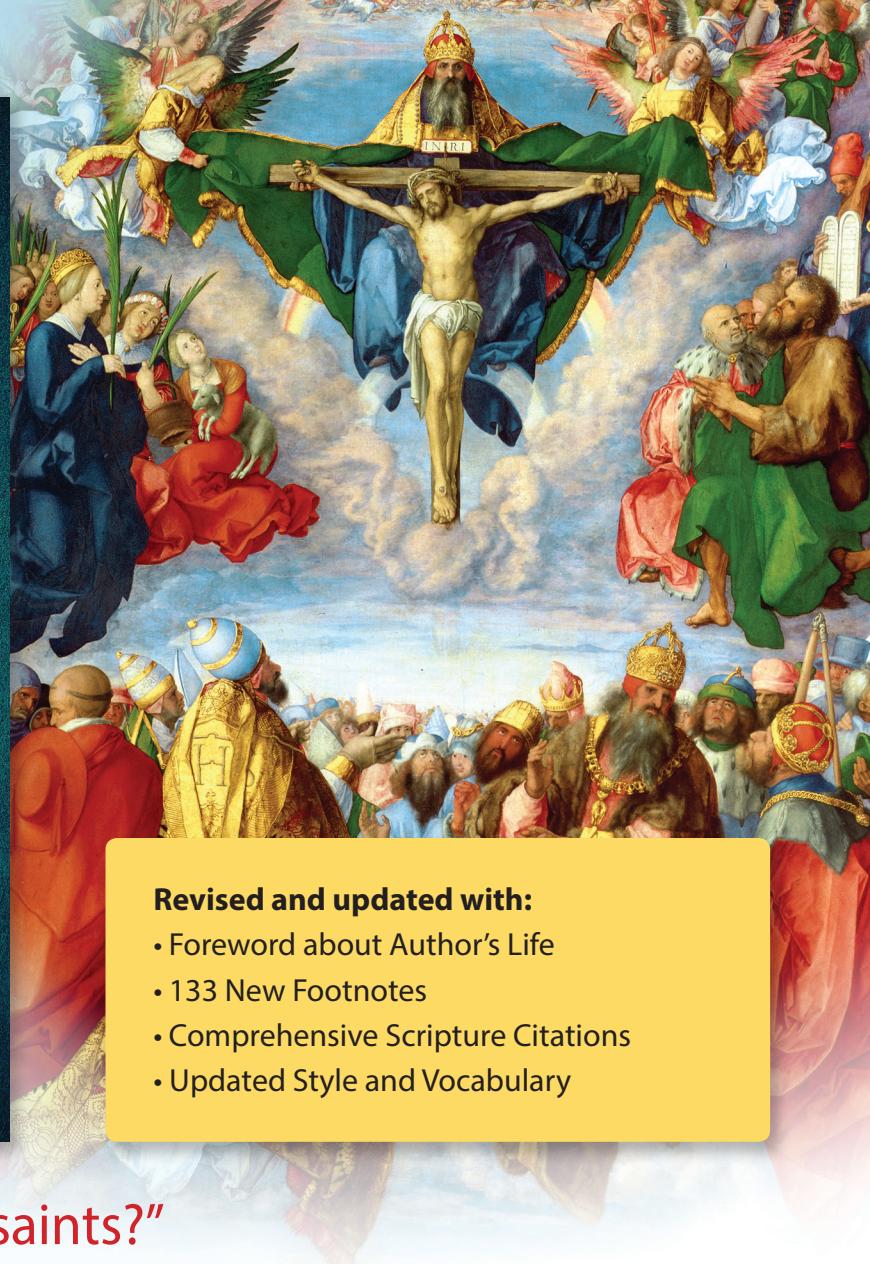
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# *Splendor* *of the SAINTS*

HOW THEY DAZZLE THE WORLD  
AND SHAPE HISTORY

FR. ALOYSIUS ROCHE



#### Revised and updated with:

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- 133 New Footnotes
- Comprehensive Scripture Citations
- Updated Style and Vocabulary

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Fr. Aloysius Roche (1886-1968) answers that question with wit and wonder in this refreshing, rollicking account of outstanding saintly achievements across the centuries. These stories will inspire you to follow the saints' example as you discover how they:

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- practiced heroic selflessness, detachment, self-denial, and generosity
- displayed startling energy and stamina in fulfilling their missions
- transformed society through ways of thinking far ahead of their time
- left their imprint on the world's geography, languages, and cultures.

This new, definitive edition of Fr. Roche's modern classic features a new Foreword about the author's life by Paul Thigpen. It also features 133 new bibliographic and explanatory footnotes; comprehensive Scripture citations; and an updated style and vocabulary to make it accessible to the contemporary reader.

We must never be “reconciled to our own mediocrity,” Fr. Roche insists. Let the high heroism portrayed in *Splendor of the Saints* stir you “to scale the heights and to get your head among the stars.”

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# Marian Consecration FOR CHILDREN



Carrie Gress, PhD

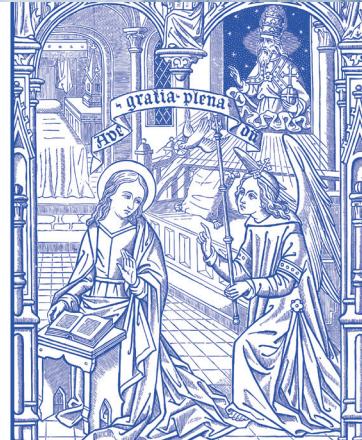
## MARY IS GOD'S MASTERSPIECE

**M**any artists have a work they are most proud of called a "masterpiece." They work very hard to create it after spending years trying to perfect their skills. Most don't even attempt such a project until they feel their skills are up to the task of making their best piece. God is like an artist when he creates. And the most perfect being that he created, over all the angels and saints, is Our Lady.

Yes, God made all of creation and he "found it very good" (Gen 1:31). But if all creation was good, Mary is better. Some say that God created Mary to make her available to us. Others say that God couldn't have been more different. Instead of introducing sin into the world through her disobedience like Eve—saying "no" to God—Mary brought obedience to the world through her "yes" that she gave to the angel Gabriel. Mary was also created by God without sin, which is what the words *Immaculate Conception* mean. She was created in the womb of Saint Anne without any sin on her soul. She was and remains "full of grace."

Mary was a simple Jewish girl with few recorded words in the Bible. She wasn't a queen and her family didn't have a lot of money. Even though some might see these as weaknesses, God was able to show his great strength and might through her humble life.

In the Gospel of Luke, we learn of the meeting between Mary and the angel Gabriel. The beautiful angel greets her, "Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee." Do these words sound familiar to you? They should, because they're the beginning of the *Hail Mary* prayer. The word *hail* is a



## THE CHILDREN'S GUIDE TO MARIAN CONSECRATION

### Prayers for the Day

#### EARLIEST KNOWN PRAYER TO MARY

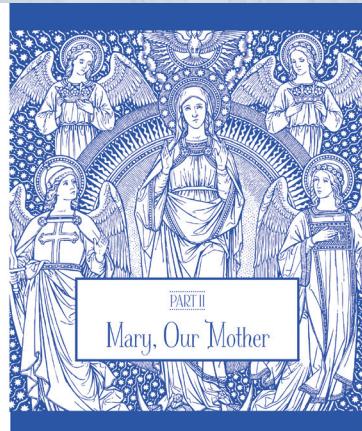
Beneath your compassion,  
we take refuge, O Mother of God;  
do not despise our petitions in time of trouble;  
but rescue us from dangers.

Amen.

#### HAIL MARY

Hail Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with thee.  
Blessed are those among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners now,  
and at the hour of our death.  
Amen.



## All children need their mother!

CARRIE GRESS, PhD

At the turn of the 18th century, the French priest, St. Louis de Montfort, became a warrior for his queen. Few preached on the role of the Mother of God better and with more passion than him. St. Louis spread far and wide the practice of Marian consecration, a means by which we give our entire selves to Jesus through the hands of his mother.

In this enchanting book, Dr. Carrie Gress, author of *The Marian Option*, provides a fun and thrilling way for children to participate in this centuries-old practice. In just a matter of weeks, they will come to know Mary as they never have before. They will allow her to take their hand and lead them to Christ.

Gress weaves in tales of saints, kings, queens, knights, and princesses as a way to teach children about virtue, courage, and their spiritual mother who loves them. In addition, she draws valuable spiritual lessons from contemporary stories such as *The Chronicles of Narnia*, *The Lord of the Rings*, *Star Wars*, *Winnie the Pooh*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, and many other fables and fairy tales that have brought children's imaginations to life for decades.

*Continued on back...*



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Divided into 34 days, *Marian Consecration for Children* includes a short meditation for each day and accompanying discussion questions. Each day concludes with prayers and a "Did You Know?" feature that delivers fun and interesting facts. Children will discover:

- Why ladybugs are named for Mary.
- The origin of nativity scenes.
- Why the moon is a common symbol for Mary.
- The story of St. Helena's search for the True Cross.
- The history of the Miraculous Medal and the Brown Scapular.
- The miraculous account of the priests who saved Mary's veil from a fire in Notre Dame.
- How St. Louis de Montfort's book *True Devotion to Mary* was almost lost forever.
- Various stories of Mary saving soldiers in military conflicts.
- ...And more!

Discover the beauty and wonder that has enriched Marian spirituality for several centuries as you allow this holy mother to lead young hearts and minds to her Son!

#### **About the Author**

Carrie Gress has a PhD from the Catholic University of America and is a faculty member at Pontifex University. Her work has appeared at Aleteia, Catholic Vote, Catholic World Report, The National Catholic Register, New Advent, Real Clear Religion, Reddit, Zenit, EWTN Radio, Relevant Radio, BBC and CBC television. She has lived and worked professionally in Washington, DC and Rome, Italy, and her work has been translated into seven languages. Dr. Gress is the author of *Nudging Conversions: A Practical Guide to Bringing Those You Love Back to the Church*, *Ultimate Makeover: The Transforming Power of Motherhood*, and co-author with George Weigel of *City of Saints: A Pilgrim's Guide to John Paul II's Krakow*. A mother of four, she and her family live in Virginia.

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## HEROES & HERETICS

*of the Reformation*

PHILLIP CAMPBELL

Discover the key players  
who shook the Church  
and the world

PHILLIP CAMPBELL

Not since the birth of Christ has an event shaken the foundations of the Western world like the Reformation. Now, 500 years after Luther nailed his ninety-five theses to the door at Wittenberg—the sound of which served as the thunder presaging the storm to come—Phillip Campbell, author of *The Story of Civilization*, casts fresh eyes on that tumultuous time and its most influential characters.

It was a tumultuous time, filled with heroes, heretics, and some who were a little bit of both. It was a time of destruction and rebuilding. Some sincerely sought reform while others sought merely to profit by it, and some—perhaps too few—used the events of the time to become saints.

In these pages meet as you've never met before:

- Martin Luther: the tortured Augustinian monk whose act at Wittenberg called forth the storm
- Thomas Müntzer: the radical who, inspired by the new way of thinking and his own apocalyptic views, sought to use the sword to usher in the reign of God; he would feel the sting of Luther's words and the bite of the executioner's blade.
- The queens: Mary and Elizabeth Tudor, who were at different times bastardized and delegitimized by their father Henry VIII, but who each reigned during this period of upheaval. One is known to history by a derogatory epithet, while the other, "bloodier" still, has an epoch named in her honor.
- The popes: Paul III and Pius V, each of whom sought to save what could be saved of Christendom, one through the calling of the Council of Trent, which codified an authentic Catholic Reform, and the other through the calling of a new crusade to fend off the ever-threatening Turks.
- St. Peter Canisius: who lived a life of sanctity as he tried to reconcile those who had drifted away back to the Church.

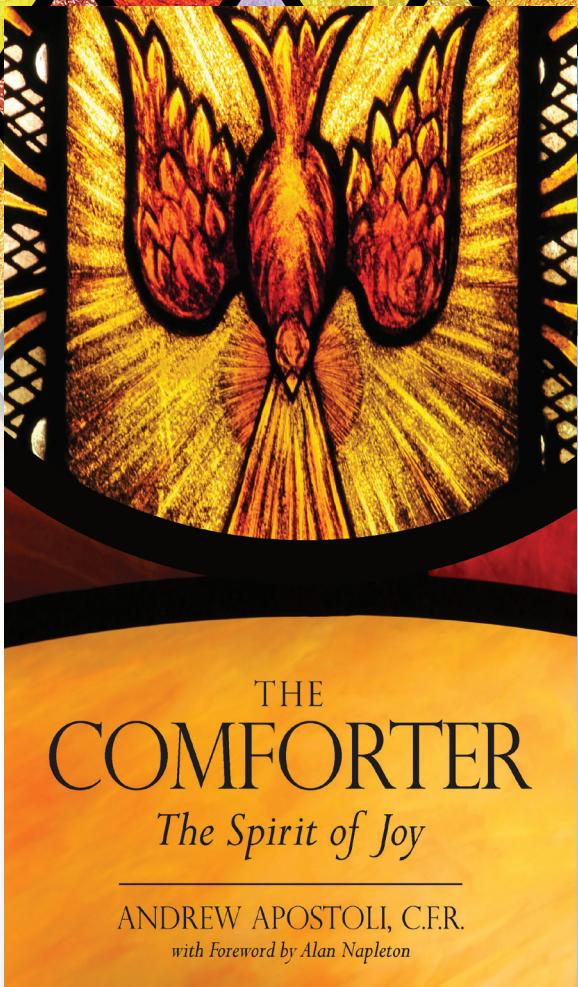
Through the lives of those above and others, dramatically unfolded in Campbell's stirring narrative, learn how the heroes and heretics of the tumultuous sixteenth century shook the world, for better or for worse.

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## The only way to become a saint is with the Paraclete at your side

ANDREW APOSTOLI, C.F.R.  
FOREWORD BY ALAN NAPLETON

Through this life, ridden with discouragement and struggles, we need a comforter to strengthen and support us. In *The Comforter: The Spirit of Joy*, Father Andrew Apostoli demonstrates how the Holy Spirit leads us to a deeper relationship with God and the perfect joy which this brings.

Through the lives of the apostles and saints, Father Andrew shows the presence of the Comforter in every step of our spiritual growth. The Holy Spirit is always there, bestowing or withholding consolations to as to cultivate our faith and love for God. By his wisdom, he leads us through the three stages of spiritual development, from the beginning to the perfection of our holiness: the purgative stage, the illuminative stage, and the unitive stage. The reflection questions that follow each chapter encourage us to examine the state of our spiritual lives and challenge us to increase our efforts in pursuit of the source of true Christian joy, the Cross.

Guided by Father Andrew's kindly and experienced teaching, discover how the Holy Spirit's consolation draws us more deeply into a relationship with God and leads us through the three stages of spiritual development. Discern the difference between spiritual and earthly joy. Be inspired by the lives of the apostles as Father Andrew leads the reader, step by step, through the "dark night" along their path to sanctity. Learn how the Holy Spirit can make pain easy to bear and suffering a joy to endure.

Only by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit will we uncover the paradox of the Cross, where suffering produces joy and death gives way to life. Yet, with his help, we can embrace any suffering and surmount any obstacle that comes between us and Christ. Father Andrew's insightful commentary on the Holy Spirit's role in our spiritual lives compels us to a deeper appreciation and love for him.

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JEAN M. HEIMANN



# FATIMA

THE APPARITION THAT  
CHANGED THE WORLD



Uncover the  
Secrets of Fatima

JEAN M. HEIMANN

Fatima. Few place-names in the Christian world conjure up such powerful images and associations than this humble town in Portugal. For it was there that Our Lady appeared to three shepherd children beginning in 1917—where even non-believers attest the miracles there as the “day the sun danced.”

The Virgin’s message, as it always is, was penance. But she also predicted the rise and fall of communism, the Second World War, and the attempted assassination of Pope St. John Paul II. Yet amid these tragedies, she promised refuge in her Immaculate Heart to all who approach her—a promise extended, and urgently needed, today.

This beautiful volume—filled with more than 50 full-color images—is a treasure for long-time devotees of Our Lady of Fatima, as well as a gripping history for those who seek to learn more about the dramatic events related to the apparition that have unfolded over the course of the last century.

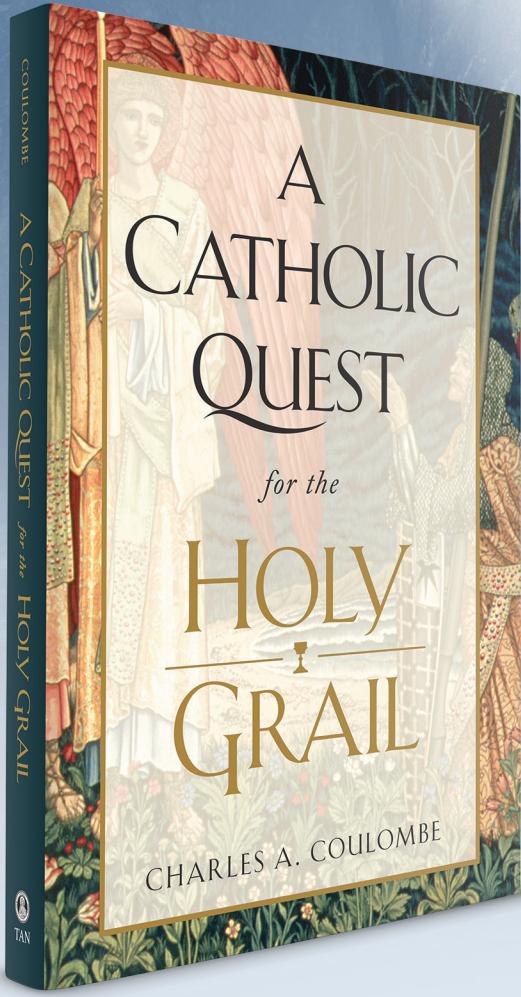
In *Fatima*, noted Catholic author and Blue Army member Jean M. Heimann traces the events of the apparitions at Cova da Iria and guides the reader through the hundred tumultuous years since the Mother of God appeared to three little children in a small town in Portugal.

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**"Few writers are better equipped to ask and answer the questions that this quest poses."**

—Joseph Pearce, renowned Catholic biographer and essayist

CHARLES A. COULOMBE

The Holy Grail: it conjures images of a rich and fantastic world full of magnificent adventures and perilous quests by gallant knights. It whispers of strange mysteries and fabled conspiracies staged by Templars, Cathars, Nazis, and innumerable secret societies. Was it the Cup used by Christ at the Last Supper, or something else? Is there any truth to the wonders and marvels bards and poets associated with it?

After years of being co-opted by pop culture and New Agers, what significance can this fairy tale still hold for Catholics? Ah, but this is no fairy tale! As *A Catholic Quest for the Holy Grail* shows, not only does the Grail exist, its whereabouts are known today!

Charles Coulombe examines the fabled vessel's literary and historical connections, but he offers far more than a stuffy history of a dusty old cup. Rather, he shows how the Holy Grail is the key to an entire genre of glorious relics and miraculous phenomena that extend from the time of Christ to the present day. *A Catholic Quest for the Holy Grail* uncovers the Grail's intrinsic connections to Catholic Monarchy and Chivalry, to the Precious Blood of Christ, the Sacred and Immaculate Hearts devotions, and to the Kingship of Christ and Queenship of Mary, as well as its ties to the Passion of Our Lord and the Blessed Sacrament.

Indeed, the Holy Grail is not a myth, but a living reality, a key to a new understanding of the world in which we all live. As far in time and space as the Crucifixion at Golgotha and Medieval deeds of knightly valor, and as close as the next Mass you attend, the Holy Grail is there, a real myth. The Grail is proof that when J.R.R. Tolkien asks: "Do we walk in legends or on the green earth in the daylight?" it can truly be answered: "A man may do both ... The green earth, say you? That is a mighty matter of legend, though you tread it under the light of day!"

In these pages, discover the reality of the legend of the Holy Grail!

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# — LITTLEST — SUFFERING SOULS

Children  
Whose Short  
Lives Point  
Us to Christ

AUSTIN RUSE  
with Foreword by Raymond Cardinal Burke



Be inspired by  
faithful heroism  
of the littlest souls

AUSTIN RUSE

It is said that children learn what they live. But children also teach the adults in their lives lessons on subjects such as unconditional love, self-sacrifice, self-forgetfulness, patience and more. The ordinary way an adult learns these things from his or her children is by caring for them.

Every parent knows that. But some extraordinary children seem sent by God to teach us about the "big questions" such as life, death, suffering, and the existence of God. The children in this book, all of whom suffered terribly during their short lives, bore witness to God's love and an understanding of the meaning of suffering and "what to do with it" that belied their years. And their teaching was not limited to their immediate family: Everyone with whom they came into contact, from doctors and nurses, to major political figures and popes to family friends and other children, was profoundly affected by the encounter.

This book will make you cry, yes, but the tears will be mixed with something akin to joy at the beauty of the short lives of Brendan, Margaret, and Audrey, and awe at the grace and dignity with which they bore their crosses, lived and enjoyed this life, and ultimately left it to be with the God they all loved. In this time in which there is so much despair and sadness, and in this world in which we are so frequently reminded that it can truly be a "vale of tears," let the *Littlest Suffering Souls* remind you that this present life is not all there is; let the *Littlest Suffering Souls* point you to heaven and to Christ.

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