



## Blessed Virgin Mary, Immaculate Queen of Peace Sodality

Saint Augustine Catholic Church



### *The Apparition of the Miraculous Medal* (France, 1830)

In the year 1830 St. Catherine Laboure was a novice in the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul. One night at about 11:30 pm Catherine was awakened by an angelic child (purported to be her guardian angel) who told her Mother Mary was awaiting her in the chapel. Catherine followed the angel. The chapel was ablaze with lights as on Christmas Eve.

At the foot of the altar, Catherine heard the sound of silk. It was our Blessed Mother. Mary sat down in a chair. Catherine knelt beside her. Her hands were in Mary's lap. At first the conversation was one-sided but then Catherine began to ask many questions. They conversed for at least two wondrous hours. Mary told Catherine about the sorrows coming upon France and that the world would be overcome by miseries, but that Graces would be she upon all who asked for them. Our Lady told Catherine not to be afraid for God was protecting her and would grant her many Graces. Catherine was to ask the people to grow in holiness and to be in service to the poor. (Mary also told Catherine that she had a rather difficult mission for her. She was to persevere. Mary left without telling her what the mission was.)

Four months later at 5:30 pm Our Lady appeared again. This time all the nuns were meditating in the chapel. In her hand she had a golden globe. Her eyes were facing heavenward as if to offer it to God. Her arms were outstretched. On each finger she had three rings resplendent with precious stones. Dazzling rays of light came from some of the rings. Mary told Catherine that the ball represented the world especially France's people. And the brightly lit rings represented graces asked for by people. The other dim rings represented graces not asked for.

Mary's foot was on the serpent's head representing the crushing of Satan. Twelve stars were on her head. Then things happened very fast. The globe disappeared from Mary's hands and an oval appeared around her. Written in golden letters around the oval was "O Mary conceived without sin pray for us who have recourse to thee."

Then the medal turned around. Catherine saw the letter "M" mounted by a cross and two hearts under this. One heart rested on a crown of thorns (Sacred Heart of Jesus). The other was pierced by a sword (The Immaculate Heart of Mary) around this were twelve stars representing the apostles and the church.

Mary asked Catherine that a medal be struck just like it. All who wore the medal devoutly around their necks are to wear it with confidence. They will receive abundant graces and favors.

This is the miraculous medal worn today by millions. Many miracles and graces (graces we need only ask for) have been associated with it.

It was sometime before a medal was struck and distributed (especially to the poor).

St. Bernadette was wearing this medal when Our Lady appeared to her at Lourdes.

In this apparition Mary asks that we grow in spirituality by:

- Going to the foot of the altar
- Not being afraid
- Having confidence
- Wearing the medal around our necks.

*"O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee."*