

# COR AD COR

## Opus Mariæ Mediatrix

**VOL. 5 – No. 4 – 13 April, 2000**

Dear Friend of Our Lady,

One of the apostolates, in which we engage, is a weekly radio program called, "Cor Ad Cor", (Heart to Heart). We are told that it reaches some hundreds of thousands of people in the New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey area. Yours truly is the host and each week the program consists of the following segments: current affairs in Church and State, aspects of the traditional liturgy and two musical selections from the great treasury of sacred music, either of Gregorian Chant, or of polyphony. This program has assisted many in deepening their knowledge of the Catholic Church and her holy traditions. (By the way, your generous contributions have made this effort at evangelization possible, each show costing two hundred dollars. Please keep that in mind as you continue your generous assistance to our great apostolate.)

Just to give you a clearer idea, this week's show dealt almost entirely with the effort by a fanatical group called "Catholics for A Free Choice", to have the Vatican ousted from permanent observer status at the United Nations. This organization secured the commitment of some four hundred NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations) to help oust the Vatican from the United Nations. However, much to their credit, the Catholic Family and Human Rights Institute (866 United Nations Plaza, Suite 4038, NY, NY 10017 Ph: (212) 754-5948), under the direction of Austin Ruse, has come to the rescue. On March 15 of this year, they announced that some 1,015 groups from forty-six countries have banded together in support of the Catholic Church's presence in the United Nations. Even before these groups banded together in support of the Vatican, the likelihood of its being ousted from the UN is next to nil.

One of the reasons for this nefarious campaign to oust the Vatican from the UN is the unswerving opposition of the Apostolic See to abortion. As Tom Minnery,

Vice-President of "Focus on the Family" has stated, "Abortion is what this is all about. Pro-abortion forces are pressuring the UN to strip the Holy See of its UN status, simply because the Holy See is the number one defender of an unborn child's human rights."

The Holy See, which has maintained diplomatic liaison with various countries for some sixteen hundred years, is in the forefront in the defense of the value of human life. As a sovereign state, the Vatican also has diplomatic relations with some one hundred and seventy countries and makes every effort to keep pro-life issues front and center.

To turn to another newsworthy item, by the time this newsletter reaches you, I will have traveled to Belleville, Illinois to conduct two retreats; one for women and the other for men. This will mark the second time I have traveled to that diocese with its permission to conduct retreats in the context of the traditional Latin liturgy.

It is hard to believe that within a few weeks the sacred ceremonies of Holy Week will unfold before our eyes. Try to make every effort to attend them in your area, so as to enter into the spirit of the liturgy. The major functions of that week are the following: on Holy Thursday the morning Mass for the blessing of the Sacred Chrism, the Oil of the Sick and the Oil of Catechumens. In the evening of the same day, the Sacrifice of the Last Supper, during which we thank our Lord for the institution of the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar and the Sacrament of Holy Orders. As has been said on occasion, where would we be without the Priesthood? What a sad and cold world this indeed would be without the benefit of priestly ministry! As our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, stated in his Apostolic Letter to Priests for Holy Thursday of the year 2000: "It is to them (the Apostles) that Jesus hands on the action which he has just performed - - - hanging bread into His Body and wine into His Blood - - - he ac-

tion in which he appears as Priest and Victim." Further on he states, "Wherever the Eucharist is celebrated, the bloody Sacrifice of Calvary will be made present in an unbloody manner; there Christ, Himself, the Redeemer of the world, will be present. It is the will of Christ that, henceforth, his action should also become sacramentally the action of the Church through the hands of priests. In saying, "Do this," he refers not only to the action, but also to the one who is called to act; in other words, He institutes the ministerial priesthood, which thus becomes one of the essential elements of the Church." On the day after Maundy Thursday, we commemorate, in the Mass of the Presanctified, the Passion and Death of Our Lord Jesus Christ upon the Cross. Finally, on Holy Saturday, with the Vigil consisting of the blessing of the new fire, the chanting of the Exultet, the Prophecies, the blessing of Baptismal Water and the Litany of Saints, we prepare to celebrate with joy, ideally at midnight, the first Mass of Easter. Please be assured that you and yours will be remembered in every ceremony of the Sacred Triduum of Holy Week. And may your Easter be filled with heavenly joy.

In the Hearts of Jesus and Mary,

W i l - F l e y  
F r . l i a m A s h -  
*L. William Ashley*

