

Timmins Diocesan Report for the Provincial convention

Madam President:

The Medal of Our Lady of Graces was first seen in a vision from Mary to Sister Catherine Laboure. It was November 27, 1830 when Mary gave Catherine a vision of herself inside an oval frame and standing upon a globe with dazzling rays of light from her outstretched hands. Around the frame were the words: "O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee". The frame rotated to show the back which had a circle of twelve stars and a letter M surmounted by a cross, the sacred Heart of Jesus crowned with thorns and the Immaculate Heart of Mary pierced with a sword. Mary asked that the images would be put on medallions. She promised that "All who wear it will receive great graces."

It took two years before the medals were made and those who wore them received many blessings. The people called them the Miraculous Medal and the use of the medals spread throughout the world.

I recently read the book "Mother Teresa of Calcutta A personal portrait" written by Fr. Leo Massburg. Mother Teresa depended on the Miraculous Medal to get her out of several dangerous situations. During a meeting with Nicaragua's leader Daniel Ortega in which he angrily gave a speech about the legitimacy of his war, Mother Teresa asked him how many children he had and produced a medal for each of his children, his wife and Ortega himself. She kissed each medal and put them into his hand. She offered her sisters to look after the poorest in the slums and was given permission.

Another time Mother Teresa was attending a picnic. Suddenly the area was surrounded by 100 armed soldiers. Mother Teresa gave a medal to each soldier, who had to sling their guns onto their backs in order to take the medals.

The medals also provided miracles in communist Russia when Mother Teresa's sisters were interrogated. They showed the men the medal and taught them how to pray. The investigators wrote their report and taped a medal to it. Two years later, Fr. Leo met one of the men who told him that he had just been baptized and attributed his conversion to the Medal.

Mother Teresa estimated that she gave out at least 40,000 of the medals. She was happy to have some little gift to give to each person she met as an expression of her love.

My mother gave me a Miraculous Medal which I attached to my rear view mirror in my car and I often touch it with a prayer for safety.

The members of Timmins Diocese had a busy year helping the homeless. Our Guest speaker at our convention was Kim Nadeau from the organization called Living Spaces in Timmins. They coordinate community resources that alleviate and prevent homelessness within the City of Timmins. They opened Timmins first homeless shelter in January this year.

Madam President, this ends my report