

OCTOBER 17, ST. MARGARET MARY ALACOQUE, VIRGIN

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Margaret Mary Alacoque was born at Verosvres in the diocese of Autun in 1647. When only three years old she already had the greatest fear of the smallest sin. Indeed, the very word "sin" frightened her exceedingly. And before she was quite four years of age, without anyone suggesting them to her, she clearly pronounced the words, "O my God, I consecrate my purity to Thee, for my whole life: I vow to Thee perpetual chastity." Even as a mere tot she loved Jesus and Mary above all things; and as soon as she had learned to say the rosary, she recited it every day. Some time after she had made her First Holy Communion, God sent her a grievous sickness that lasted four years. Then Margaret had recourse to Our Lady. She promised that if that dear Mother would cure her she would become a Sister. Scarcely had she uttered the words when she was cured. After some hesitation she entered the Order of the Visitation of Paray-le-Monial at the age of twenty-three. The Sacred Heart of Jesus manifested itself to her several times; through her He willed to make this devotion known to the world. She died October 7, 1690.

She was canonized by Pope Benedict XV on Ascension Thursday, May 13, 1920. Pius XI extended her feast to the whole Church on June 28, 1929.

INTROIT Canticles 2: 3

Sub umbra illius, quem desideráveram, sedi: et fructus ejus dulcis gútturi meo. (Ps. 83: 2-3) Quam dilécta tabernácula tua, Dómine virtútum! concupiscit, et déficit ánima mea in átria Dómini. Glória Patri et Filio et Spirítui Sancto, sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Sub umbra illius, quem desideráveram, sedi: et fructus ejus dulcis gútturi meo.

COLLECT

Dómine Jesu Christe, qui investigábiles divítias Cordis tui beátæ Margarítæ Mariæ Virgini mirabiliter revelásti: da nobis ejus méritis et imitatióne; ut, te in ómnibus et super ómnia diligétes, jugem in eódem Corde tuo mansiónem habére mereámur: Qui vivis et regnas, cum Deo Patre in unitáte Spirítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

EPISTLE Ephesians 3: 8-9, 14-19

Fratres: Mihi ómnium sanctórum mínimo data est grátia hæc, in géntibus evangelizáre investigábiles divítias Christi, et illumináre omnes, quæ sit dispensátio sacraménti absconditi a sæculis in Deo, qui ómnia creávit. Hujus rei grátia flecto genua mea ad Patrem Dómini nostri Jesu Christi, ex quo omnis patérnitas in cælis et in terra nominátur, ut det vobis secúndum divítias glóriæ suæ, virtúte corroborári per Spirítum ejus in interiorem hóminem: Christum habitáre per fidem in córdibus vestris: in caritate radicáti et fundáti, ut póssitis comprehendere cum ómnibus sanctis, quæ sit latitúdo et longitúdo et sublimitas et profúndum: scire étiam supereminéntem sciéntiæ caritátem Christi, ut impleámini in omnem plenitúdinem Dei.

GRADUAL Canticles 8: 7

Aquæ multæ non potuérunt exstinguere caritátem, nec flúmina óbruent illam. (Ps. 72: 26) Defécit caro mea et cor meum: Deus cordis mei, et pars mea Deus in ætérnum.

LESSER ALLELUIA Canticles 7: 10

Allelúja, allelúja. Ego dilécto meo, et ad me convérsio ejus. Allelúja.

GOSPEL Matthew 11: 25-30

In illo témpore: Respóndens Jesus, dixit: Confíteor tibi, Pater, Dómine cæli et terræ, quia abscondisti hæc a sapiéntibus et prudéntibus, et revelásti ea párvulis. Ita, Pater: quóniam sic fuit plácitum ante te. Omnia mihi trádicta sunt a Patre meo. Et nemo novit Filium nisi Pater: neque Patrem quis novit nisi Filius, et cui volúerit Filius reveláre. Veníte ad me, omnes, qui laborátis et oneráti estis, et ego reficiam vos. Tóllite jugum meum super vos, et discite a me, quia mitis sum et húmilis corde: et inveniétis réquiem animábus vestris. Jugum enim meum suave est et onus meum leve.

OFFERTORY Zechariah 9: 17

Quid bonum ejus est et quid pulchrum ejus, nisi fruméntum electórum et vinum gérmians vírgines?

SECRET

Accépta tibi sint, Dómine, plebis tuæ múnera: et concéde; ut ignis ille divínus nos inflámmet, quo de Corde Filii tui emisso beáta Margaríta María veheménter æstuávit. Per eúndem Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Filium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spirítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

COMMUNION Canticles 6: 2

Ego dilécto meo, et diléctus meus mihi, qui páscitur inter lília.

POSTCOMMUNION

Córpore et Sanguinis tui, Dómine Jesu, sumptis mystériis: concéde nobis, quæsumus, beáta Margaríta María Virgine intercedénte; ut, supérbis sæculi vanitátibus exútis, mansuetúdinem et humilitátem Cordis tui índuere mereámur: Qui vivis et regnas, cum Deo Patre in unitáte Spirítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

Under the shadow of Him Whom I had desired, did I sit: and His fruit was sweet to my taste. (Ps. 83: 2-3) How lovely are thy tabernacles, O Lord of Hosts! My soul longeth and fainteth for the courts of the Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Under the shadow of Him Whom I had desired, did I sit: and His fruit was sweet to my taste.

Lord Jesus Christ, Who didst reveal the unsearchable riches of Thy Heart to blessed Margaret, the virgin, grant us, by her merits and our imitation of her that, loving Thee in all things and above all things, we may deserve to have our continual abode in that same Heart of Thine. Who lives and reigns with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Brethren: To me, the least of all the Saints, is given the grace to preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ: and to enlighten all men, that they may see what is the dispensation of the mystery which hath been hidden from eternity in God, Who created all things: For this cause I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of Whom all paternity in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened by His Spirit with might unto the inward man, that Christ may dwell by faith in your hearts: that being rooted and grounded in charity, you may be able to comprehend with all the Saints, what is the breadth and length, and height and depth: to know also the charity of Christ which surpasseth all knowledge. That you may be filled unto all the fullness of God.

Many waters have not been able to quench charity: neither shall floods drown it. (Ps.72: 26) My flesh hath fainted, and my heart: O God, the God of my heart, and my portion forever.

Alleluia, alleluia. I unto my Beloved: and His turning is toward me. Alleluia.

At that time, Jesus answered, and said, I praise Thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because Thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them to little ones. Yea, Father; for so it hath seemed good in Thy sight. All things are delivered to Me by My Father; and no one knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither doth any one know the Father, but the Son, and He to Whom it shall please the Son to reveal Him. Come to Me, all you that labor, and are burdened; and I will refresh you. Take up My yoke upon you, and learn of Me, because I am meek, and humble of heart; and you shall find rest to your souls: for My yoke is sweet, and my burden light.

What is His good, and what is His beautiful thing: but the corn of the elect, and the wine springing forth virgins?

May the offerings of Thy people be accepted by Thee, O Lord, and grant that we be enkindled with that divine fire sent forth from the Heart of Thy Son, with which blessed Margaret was so ardently inflamed. Through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

I unto my Beloved, and my Beloved unto me: He that feedeth among the lilies.

Having received the mysteries of Thy body and blood, we beseech Thee, O Lord Jesus, grant us by the intercession of blessed Margaret, the virgin, that, putting off the proud vanities of the world, we may have the grace to put on the meekness and humility of Thy Heart. Who lives and reigns with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.