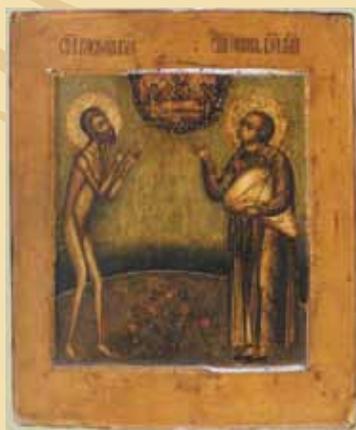




Holy Spirit Warriors are Foolish in Christ

Many years ago while studying the mystical treasures of the faith I was led to a group of people who captivated my attention. These holy souls, some who are saints and others who have passed from this world totally unknown were considered Holy Fools. Holy Fools were odd types, souls who suffered greatly from a multitude of ailments, spiritual and physical. Often enough they were seen as a burden by the majority of the societies they inhabited and yet they persevered in their holy walks with the Lord. Addicted, forlorn, tattered, depressed,



lame, blind, deaf, oppressed, rejected, love sick, angry, war-torn, diseased, forgotten, souls seeking the compassion and strength of Jesus Christ the healer. Many Holy Fools took upon themselves the life of a seeming madman, perhaps even pretending to be crazy, that they might encounter Christ in a way that was alone to them, by madness they could evoke

rejection and thus find in the rejection a form of penance. The souls clung to a single expression from Sacred Scripture, "To become a fool in all things for the sake of Christ," this simple yet majestic passage seared the hearts of the Holy Fools and thus they set upon journeys, pilgrimages, and walks to find Christ in the midst of their struggles.

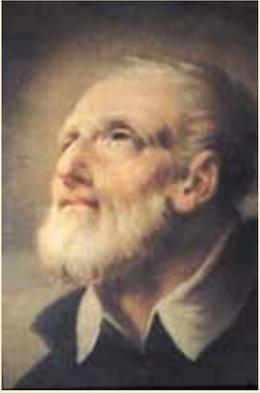
I first read of the Holy Fools through the works of one of my favorite Catholic women, Katherine De Hueck Dougherty the foundress of Madonna House in Canada. Katherine wrote a series of books which introduced me to the spirituality of the Christian East. I was addicted to her writing and her words echoed the life of the Early Church, she spoke of the early Fathers of the desert and the great Syrian and Greek theologians of ancient times. These works and others set me upon a journey of my own exploring as much as I could of the days and people of early Christendom. In one of Katherine's

works she mentioned the Holy Fools of Russia before and during the times of the great persecutions in Russia. I found further proof of them in reading about St. Seraphim of Sarov, the great hermit and spiritual father of thousands of Eastern Christians. Studying the basic information from these sources I was able to find a plethora of saints who could be labeled Holy Fools for the Lord.

One of my favorite Holy Fools was St. Xenia of Russia, born in the time of Peter the Great of Russia she was a lady of the royal household and when her husband was near death he refused to repent of his sinful past and thus incurred upon himself the (Sin of the Holy Ghost) refusing the graces of the sacraments and holding fast to his non-repentance died in this state. St. Xenia filled with remorse for her husband donned his clothing and left the royal household to fast and pray for his soul. She made her home among the graves of the iron workers of Smolensk in St. Petersburg and there lived the life of a penitent constantly visiting the little chapel on the grounds of the cemetery. This little chapel contains within it one of the great miracle working icons in Russia. Our Lady of Smolensk is known for weeping oil and healing many souls who pray before her image. This new home for St. Xenia became a flower garden of grace for it is here she tended to the visiting pilgrims counseling them in the midst of their hardships, clothing the poor who visited and even carrying brick up the scaffolds at night for the workers who were building the grand cathedral of St. Petersburg. It is not known how St. Xenia survived the harshest of winters living amidst the graves, this is one of the great mysteries of her life. It is reputed that she still appears in this holy place and assures the pilgrims of her constant prayers.



Holy Fools maybe found in all the centuries of the Church West and East. St. Phillip Neri was considered by some to be



a Holy Fool for Christ. It is known that as a layman he would pray in the catacombs with a simple candle before the ancient Icons that can be found on the walls. St. Phillip would often act half mad to try to convince the populace that he was not holy but merely a fool, once he set up a chair in the back of one of the Basilicas in Rome and had his hair cut. St. Philip who is called the apostle of Rome like St. Xenia spent entire days with the poorest of the poor in the slums of the city ministering to their various needs, with no fear for himself he would bandage a diseased foot and visit a home ridden with vermin.

Holy Fools came from every walk in life, the poor, the rich, the sick, but the common denominator for them all was the simple desire for the mercy of God. Each Holy Fool in their own way were led in the Holy Spirit to live vicariously for Christ, each in his or her particular calling, each casting off the riches and sweet things of this world for the poverty of

Christ and his infinite mercy. These holy souls give us courage and strength to resist the evils of this world, and live not for ourselves but for Christ and His kingdom. These Holy Fools become a trigger for our own evaluation of self, or we truly living out the Gospel imperative in our lives or are we compromising to the culture of death and selfishness that dominate the world today.

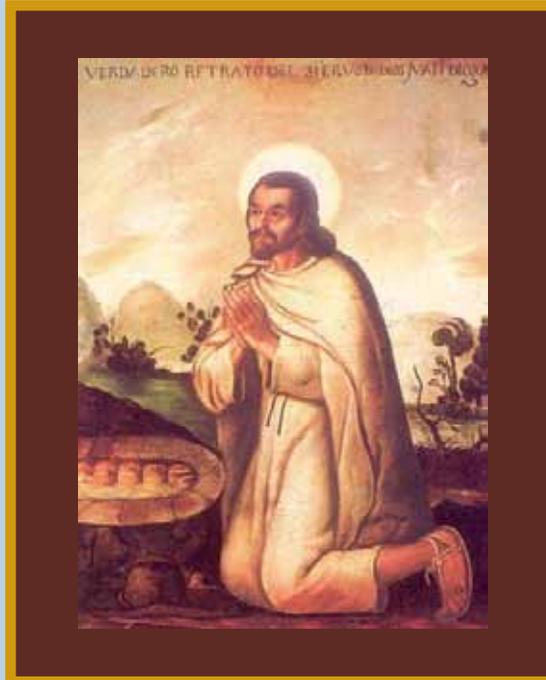
Other Holy Fools you may be interested in are St. Benedict Joseph Labre, St. John the Almsgiver, St. Mary of Egypt, Blessed Miriam the Little Arab. The last picture is worth a thousand words and shows two holy fools in Russia on pilgrimage seeking the mercy and strength of God. This picture comes as courtesy from the volume, "Everyday Saints and Other Stories" written by Archimandrite Tikhon Shevkunov.



SERVANT LEADERS MOBILIZE

Fully alive in the Spirit we explode the culture of darkness by our actions in the light of Christ.

Armed with the charity of truth in humble transparency to the Holy Spirit in our Magnificat we emulate the Blessed Mother and the saints taking prayerful, peaceful action to combat evil directly in our homes and communities so it cannot hide... We stand ready to confront falsehoods and lies fearlessly to speak under the banner of Jesus Christ in the public square. We are organized, kind and direct to speak loud and clear so others may hear the good news. We pray The Holy Spirit sends us holy boldness to help win His battle for souls against the culture of darkness. GOD'S TIMING is the key to this grace. Emulating the saints



Juan Diego by Miguel Cabrera

of old we strive for personal holiness to stay in the Spirit to attend daily read scripture, stay in the sacraments of at least confession and the Eucharist so we hear clearly. Prayer and fasting are normal life for us who seek God's perfect words in His perfect timing transparent to His will. **Matthew 10:16** - *Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.* **1 Samuel 2:9** *He will guard the feet of his faithful servants, but the wicked will be silenced in the place of darkness. "It is not by strength that one prevails".* Others are waiting in need to hear your witness of faith

SAINT LOUIS BERTRAND

January 1st, 1526 –
October 9th, 1581

Feast Day October 9th



A Dominican “Order of Preacher’s, born in Valencia, Spain he was related to St. Vincent Ferrer. From Childhood he discerned a call to become a friar. Against his parents’ wishes he entered the Dominican order in 1544. He exemplified the ideals of Dominican life to be appointed Master of Novices. Living an ascetic life like the early church fathers he acquired the grace and holy zeal for proclaiming the Gospel. In 1562 he was sent to Columbia where he was given the miraculous gift of tongues to communicate with the indigenous Indians in their own language. He stood against the Spanish conquerors many times to defend these indigenous peoples. History relates he was gentle and kind endearing himself to all he came in contact with to convert an amazing 16,000 people and their families in present day Panama & Tubara S.A. these converts were entered into church ledgers by the saints own handwriting. They were adequately instructed in church teaching before receiving baptism miraculously by this holy priest who did not even speak their language. A confident, powerful prayer warrior too; icons depict him holding in one hand a chalice with serpents climbing out of it and holding in the other hand a crucifix with a pistol at its base. These two miraculous scene’s: One illustrating a local Mass consecration that chased serpents or “poison” from the chalice during Mass. A jealous local shaman had substituted poison for wine in the chalice. The other scene depicted is one of a crazed gunman attacking Father Louis who was calmly disarmed when Fr. Louis’s fearlessly addressed him with the sign of the cross.. The barrel of the gun was transformed into a cross. Just a couple of the many miracles performed with the power of God almighty. The same power available to faithful priest’s, religious, clergy and lay people today.

“Miracles are usual in the lives of God’s faithful. They are only unusual during times when there is a lack of faith.”
Quote Author unknown.

Mothers ARE Modern Day Saints

Thank God for holy Mom’s out there sacrificing everything to emulate the Blessed Mother and the saints. The Institute of The Holy Spirit has especially got your back with website resources for you and your family while keeping YOU and families in our daily Mass intentions and prayers for continued strength and good health. We KNOW you are the backbone and sinew of our society. Your saintly action in obedience to the call holds families together amidst great difficulty these days... THANK YOU!!!

St. Gianna – Another good example and saintly lay saint was one of 13 children born into a good Itlaian family worked in the St. Vincent de Paul Society while in college. Becoming a surgeon she graduated from University of Pavia, Italy in 1949 then started a clinic in 1950 to serve mothers, babies, the elderly and the poor. Very athletic she was a avid skier. She briefly discerned a religious call but married in 1955 Pietro Molla to have three children while continuing her medical career treating it as her mission from God. While pregnant with her fourth child she was diagnosed with a large ovarian cyst that threatened her life. Her doctor recommended an abortion to save her life but she refused. She died a week later but her daughter lived to become a pro-life physician practicing medicine today.



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Please visit our website for all the latest schedule information for Father Crotty
www.instituteoftheholyspirit.com Fall 2013

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Email: instituteoftheholyspirit@yahoo.com

“We are healed and set free for the work of salvation through the Holy Spirit.” –Father Chris Crotty

Fulfilling this mission of the Holy Spirit only happens with your prayers, financial support and “feet on the ground” assistance to Fr. Crotty and volunteers on the mission trail. Thank you!

CALENDAR

- Wednesday, September 4, 2013
Healing Day
Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help
404 Chapel Drive
New Franken, WI 54229
920-866-2571
www.shrineofourladyofgoodhelp.com
- Saturday, September 14, 2013
Conference – Tinley Park – Chicago, IL
Contact: Sara Zervos - saraindy111@aol.com
- September 24 – 26, 2013
St. Basil the Great
1200 Tuolumne
Vallejo, CA 9459
707-644-5451
Contact: Deacon Errol Kissinger
elk3@sbcglobal.net
- Monday, September 30, 2013 - 7:00pm
St. Thomas Aquinas Church
2725 Elm St.
Napa, CA
707-255-2949
- Wednesday, October 2, 2013 - 7:00pm
Our Lady of Perpetual Help
901 Washington St.
Calistoga, CA
707-942-6894
Contact – Karen Verzosa
- Friday, October 4, 2013 - 6:30pm
St. Eugene
2323 Montgomery Dr
Santa Rosa, CA 95405
(707) 542-6984
Contact: Diane Lisciandro
707-528-2512
- Monday, October 7, 2013 - 7:00pm
St. Francis Solano
Catholic Church
469 Third St.
Sonoma, CA 95476
707-996-6259
- Tuesday, October 8, 2013 - 7:00pm
St. Helena Catholic Church
1340 Tainter,
St. Helena, CA 94574
707-963-1228

On the *mission trail* in
Louisville, KY and Stubenville, OH!



Pictures with Fr. Crotty
Please visit
www.instituteoftheholyspirit.com
for latest schedule information.