



**For the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord  
February 2, 2018**

## **What about the Child?**

(Compiled by Michael T. Sullivan, MD, 2017)

Let us reflect on the words of *Pope St. JP II* on this special feast:

### **Pope John Paul II, Feast of the Epiphany, January 6, 1997**

“...At this moment I like to think of you beside the Magi as you adore the King of peace, the Savior of the world, and see the hand of the Child Jesus guided by that of his holy Mother in the act of blessing each one of you. It is the Lamb of God, the Shepherd of Shepherds, who is asking you to extend

and spread his charity in the wondrous Body of the Church and in every part of the world.... Do not be afraid! Christ is with us every day, until the end of the world.” (JP II, Homily, Feast of the Epiphany, Jan 6, 1997)

And now let us propose an answer to the question:  
**“What about the Child—the *Child Jesus*?”**

**“Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky?  
This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven  
will return in the same way as you have seen Him going into heaven...”**  
(Acts 1:11)

**“...Behold, He is coming amid the clouds,  
and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him.  
All the peoples of the earth will lament Him....”**  
(Rev 1:7)

## **The Marian Movement of Priests**

Italian priest and doctor of sacred theology, **Fr. Stefano Gobbi**, was born in Dongo, Italy, in 1930. He was pressed upon by **Our Lady** in 1972 at Fatima to begin the *Marian movement of Priests*, and between July, 1973 and December 31, 1997, he conducted hundreds of cenacles throughout the world, attended by Cardinals, Bishops, priests and laity; and he released 604 messages to the world received by inner locutions from Our Lady. His book of Our Lady’s messages, *To The Priests, Our Lady’s Beloved Sons*, carries the *Imprimatur*, and he is reported to have met and said Mass with Pope John Paul II on a yearly basis. **Our Lady** spoke on many occasions, especially on several Christmas Eve’s, about her motherhood, the 1<sup>st</sup> Advent the Child Jesus, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent & the glorious return of her Son for His Eucharistic Reign in the new era. She begins speaking about that night over 2000 years ago when He was born:

**To summarize our Dec. 11, 2016 messages  
from Our Lady to Fr. Gobbi:**

Looking toward this new tomorrow, we remember that the Father chose to send His Son, the Christ Child, through the womb of Our Lady at the First Advent, after which He was crucified and died for all of humanity; and that it is through her He will come in glory to bring in the Second Advent (an intermediate coming) and reign through an Era of Peace, 1000 years (Rev 20:6), in a *spiritual Eucharistic reign* where *all* will come to understand His Real Presence through an enhanced communion with her Son. This intermediate return is *not* the Final Coming in His Glorified Body as the Just Judge which will come at the end of the world.

**Fr. Gobbi** writes that during this time the Eucharist will “*explode*” as the Divine power will be made manifest to the whole world, and humanity will live a time of humility, simplicity, dependency and innocence, as God’s Divine Mercy is unveiled in an outpouring of the Holy Spirit as the world has never seen.

**But what about the Child?**

**Mystics of the Church**

Some may be surprised to know that in fact many Saints and holy persons over the centuries have reported *seeing the Child Jesus* in visions, and what is even more consoling are the beautiful messages our Lord and the Blessed Virgin Mary chose to convey during these heavenly appearances. In addition, a good number of Saints have actually *held* the Infant Jesus in their arms during their visions- a heavenly grace which quite understandably brought them an almost *inconceivable joy*.

*Christmas* is certainly a very special and holy time for Christians throughout the whole world, but it seems to me that far too often we pay our respects and attention to the *Child Jesus* for that short season, only to forget about Him for the remainder of the year, to wheel Him back into the sacristy storage room until the following December.

Three of the most well-known saints, **St. Anthony of Padua** in the 13<sup>th</sup> century and **St. Therese of Lisieux** in the 19<sup>th</sup> century *St. Padre Pio* in the 20<sup>th</sup> century have shared very special relationships with the *Child Jesus*. So let us now explore some of these other *not so well known* special relationships with the *Child Jesus*. And there are many not so well known:

**St. Catherine of Bologna** (1413-1463, Italian mystic) On *Christmas eve* while praying in her cell, Our Lady appeared to her holding the *Child Jesus* in her arms. Referring to herself in the 3<sup>rd</sup> person, St. Catherine wrote:

“**This kind Mother came to her and gave her Son to her....Trembling with respect, but even more overcome with joy, she took the liberty of caressing Him of pressing Him against her heart and bringing His face to her lips...Then He disappeared, leaving her filled with joy.**”

**St. Catherine of Siena** (1347-1380), was privileged one Christmas Day during Mass to see the Infant Jesus emerge from the Host. Moreover, there are accounts of others, such as **St. Philip Neri** (1515-1595) who, after the Consecration, saw the Sacred Host transform itself into the Child Jesus. **St. Lawrence of Brindisi** (d. 1619) also, just after the Consecration, saw the Savior Himself visibly in the Sacred Host in the form of a Little Child who caressed Lawrence and smiled on him lovingly.

**St. Teresa of Avila**, (1515-1582) always travelled with her statue of the Infant Jesus when she was establishing new convents. This devotion had been established when one day in her convent, a beautiful *young boy* appeared to her and asked,

**“Who are you.”**

So she answered, **“I am Teresa of Jesus, and who are you?”**

The Child answered and then disappeared, **“I am Jesus of Teresa.”**

**St. Rose of Lima, Peru** (1586-1617)

At the very early age of five, Rose expressed a desire to learn to read and write, but there was no one to teach her, so she prayed:

**“Since no one has time to teach me things, I am going to ask Jesus to do it. He can do anything...O Jesus, help me to know and to love You and teach me to read and write.”**

And the *Child Jesus* did exactly that. She later proved it to her very surprised mother when she read from a *book about St. Catherine of Siena*.

## **Infant Jesus of Prague**

In 1638 it was Fr. P. Cyril, a Carmelite monk, who returned to Prague, Czechoslovakia, after it had been devastated by the invasion of the Saxons and Swedes. It was in the ruins of the Our Lady of Victory Church that he found the damaged statue with *no hands*. While praying in front of a statue of the *Child Jesus*, suddenly Fr. Cyril heard the Child speak to him:

***"Have mercy on me and I will have mercy on you.***

***Give me hands and I will give you peace.***

***The more you honor me, the more I will bless you."***

For over four centuries now that promise has inspired devotion and love the *Child Jesus* and countless miracles have occurred through His intercession. That original statue has been restored and is preserved in the Church of Our Lady of Victory in Prague.

## **Our Lady of Good Success**

**Quito, Ecuador 1641** - *Our Lady of Good Success*

*Approved by the Bishop Salvador de Ribera, February 2, 1611*

*Approval reaffirmed, Archbishop Carlos Maria, July 32, 1941*

First-born child to a family in the province of Viscaya, Spain in 1563, Mariana Francisca received her first mystical apparitions of Our Lady at age 9 on the day of her First Communion. At age 13 she left for *Ecuador* with her aunt to found a branch of the Order of the Immaculate Conception in Quito, Ecuador. In 1582, while *Mother Mariana de Jesus Torres* (Francisca) was praying before the Blessed Sacrament, for the first time she was given to see the heresy, blasphemy, and impurity that would inundate the world as punishment in the **20th century**.

The most important prophecies of Our Lady of Good Success, however, spoke of the *worldwide crises in the Church and society that would begin in the 19th century and extend throughout the 20th century*. During that time, Our Lady warned that there would be an almost total corruption of customs, and Satan would rule almost completely by means of the Masonic sects. In the Catholic Church the Sacraments would be profaned and abused, and the light of Faith would be almost completely extinguished in souls. Truly religious souls would be reduced to a small number and many vocations would perish. Great impurity would reign and people would be without any care for spiritual matters.

### **Vision of the Child Jesus on the Pichincha Mountain**

(outside of Quito Ecuador)

Then **Our Lady of Good Success** carrying her Divine Infant in her right arm appeared to Mother Mariana and said:

*“Lift your eyes now and look at the Pichincha Mountain, where you will see this Divine Infant Whom I carry in my arms crucified. I deliver Him to the Cross so that He might always give good successes to this Republic.”*

**The Archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael carried the Divine Child to Pichincha Mountain**, which overlooks the city of Quito, and is surrounded only by thorn bushes bearing a delicate flower. Here the Child Jesus took the *form of a boy of about 12 to 15 years of age*, His expression sweetly majestic. He prostrated Himself on the ground with *His arms extended as on a cross* and prayed to His Eternal Father to look with favor on Ecuador.

A celestial light enveloped the whole mountain, and the *Christ Child* rose and stood before a cross with the inscription INRI at its head. *On its left arm hung a crown of sharp thorns; on its right, a white stole.*

*The three Archangels reappeared, with St. Gabriel carrying a white Host.* St. Michael bore a long white tunic speckled with stars and St. Raphael carried a mantle of a magnificent rose color unknown on this earth. **The Child Jesus vested Himself in the white tunic and stole, and over them draped the magnificent mantle. Then He approached the cross, took the crown of thorns and placed it on His Head.** He extended His arms and remained crucified, but without any nails appearing either on His hands or feet. Down His cheeks streamed large tears, which were gathered up by the Archangels St. Michael and St. Raphael and dispersed throughout the new nation.

He then ordered *St. Gabriel to place the Host behind His head, where it became a kind of halo. Three resplendent beams of light streamed from it.* Thus was the **Child Jesus crucified** on the grand Pichincha Mountain.

## **Blessed Charles de Foucauld** (1858-1916)

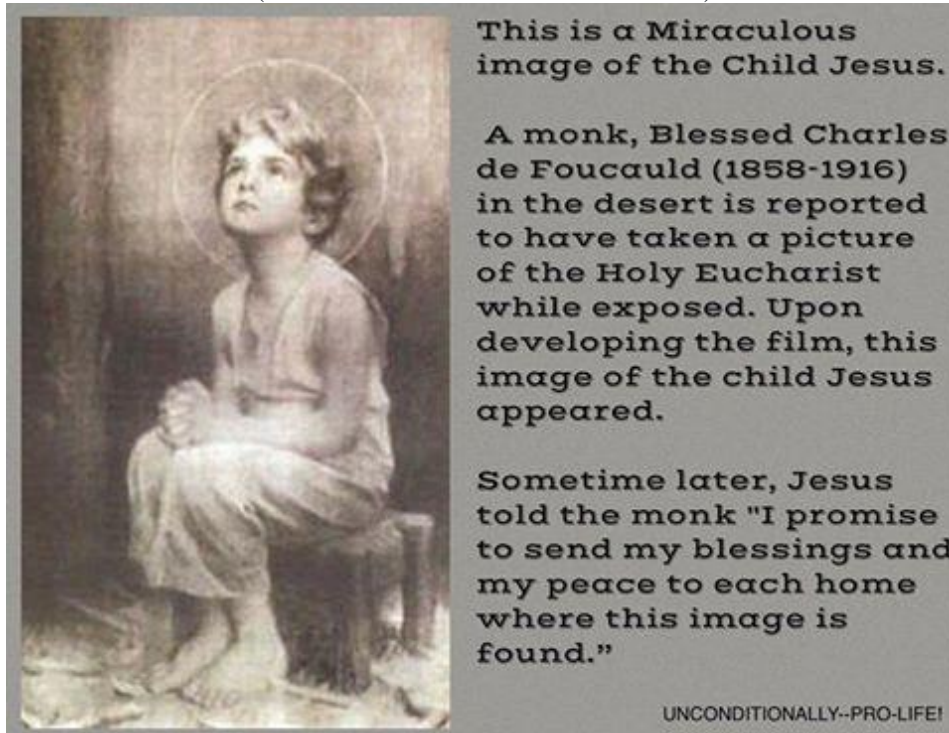
(Beatified November 2005 by Pope Benedict XVI)

This is a Miraculous Image of the Child Jesus. An aristocratic playboy, soldier, Trappist monk, hermit and evangelist to the Muslims in

Northern Africa for many years, and a martyr, Blessed Charles de Foucauld (1858-1916) in the desert is reported to have taken a picture of the *Holy Eucharist* while exposed. Upon developing the film, this image of the *Child Jesus* appeared. Sometime later, **Jesus** told the monk:

**" I promise to send my Blessings and my Peace  
to each home where this image is found."**

(Jesus to Blessed Charles de Foucauld)



## **Fatima, Portugal, 1917**

The *Child Jesus* also played a central role in the apparitions and revelations in Fatima, Portugal, that began in 1917. In 1968 as a Carmelite in Coimbra, Portugal, Sister Lucia gave this testimony of the "*Miracle of the Sun*" which took place on October 13, 1917. "Beside the sun we saw St. Joseph with the *Child Jesus* and Our Lady robed in white with a blue mantle. St. Joseph and the *Child Jesus* seemed to bless the world, for they made the sign of the cross with their hands....This



apparition disappeared and I saw Our Lady again, this time as Our Lady of Mount Carmel (holding the Child Jesus)."

But Divine Providence had *not* yet finished the work begun in Fatima. The Child was to return again. 8 years later on December 10, 1925, while Sister Lucia was a Dorothean Sister in Pontevedra, Spain, the Holy Virgin Mary appeared to Lucia with the ***Child Jesus*** by her side. He was elevated on a cloud of light. Our Lady rested one hand on Lucia's shoulder while in the other hand she held a heart surrounded with sharp thorns. At the same time the ***Child Jesus*** spoke:

***"Have pity on the Heart of your Most Holy Mother.  
It is covered with thorns  
with which ungrateful men pierce it at every moment  
and there is no one  
to remove them with an act of reparation."***

Only a few months later, on February 15, 1926, the ***Child Jesus*** again appeared to Lucia and seemed to be prodding her. Lucia recounted that the Child turned to her and said, ***"And have you spread throughout the world what our Heavenly Mother requested of you?"*** Lucia then told Him of the difficulties pointed out by her Spiritual Director. She was assured that with the grace of God all would be accomplished.

### **St. Faustina Kowalska** (1905-1938)

Finally, St. Faustina, a peasant Polish nun and mystic, learned that we do not walk the way of spiritual childhood by our own strength. Jesus Himself is living in us and through us, if we let Him. In fact, Jesus comes to make our hearts His dwelling place at every Holy Eucharist. In a sense, the Christ Child is born anew in our hearts at every Eucharist. ***Many times, the Child Jesus revealed to St. Faustina His Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist.***

She writes of a Mass celebrated by her spiritual director, Fr. Joseph Andrasz, SJ:

***"... I saw the Infant Jesus who, with hands outstretched toward us, was sitting in the chalice being used at Holy Mass. After gazing at me penetratingly, He spoke these words: 'As you see Me in this chalice, so I dwell in your heart'" (Diary, 1346).***

The little Jesus is instructing St. Faustina that, through His Eucharistic Presence, He dwells in her heart as the source of her strength. Even as the Infant Jesus strengthened her in the Eucharist, His abiding presence also filled her heart with great joy. Her desire grew for Him alone as the greatest treasure of all. She writes of February 2, 1936,

**"... when Mass began, a strange silence and joy filled my heart. Just then, I saw Our Lady with the Infant Jesus....The most holy Mother said to me,**

***'Take my Dearest Treasure,'***

**and she handed me the Infant Jesus. When I took the Infant Jesus in my arms, the Mother of God and Saint Joseph disappeared. I was left alone with the Infant Jesus" (Diary, 608).**

Thus, the little Jesus became everything to St. Faustina as she attended Mass and then received Him in Holy Communion.

May we, too, grow to appreciate the Christ Child as our dearest treasure at Holy Mass this Christmas and throughout the rest of the year, He is truly Emmanuel, God-with-us — the gift beyond all telling.

## **Our Lady of All Nations**

**Amsterdam, the Netherlands** (1945-59)

Mary, the Mother of Jesus, allegedly appeared as *Our Lady of All Nations* to visionary *Ida Pearlman* during the years of 1945-1959. On May 31, 2002, Bishop Jozef Punt of the Diocese of Haarlem/Amsterdam in the Netherlands, stated, "...In light and virtue of all these recommendations, testimonies, and developments, and in pondering all this in prayer and theological reflection, I have come to the conclusion that the apparitions of the Lady of All Nations in Amsterdam consist of a *supernatural* origin...."

In her 9th message (March 29, 1946) to Ida Pearlman, *Our Lady said*:

Ida wrote: Once again I see the Lady standing before me. She has a **Child** on her arm...and is radiating light on all sides....The Lady looks at me and says, "*Come, follow me.*"...Then the Lady turns to me and says, "*Him*"; and she point at the Child and says, "*I want to bring (Him) into that world again*"...As I look that Child changes into a cross...it falls to the ground before me and breaks into pieces...Then I hear the Lady call, "*Bring Him back into the world!*"...Then suddenly I see Her sitting on a kind of armchair...with the **Child** again on her lap; the Lady says, "*First, back to Him; only then will there be true peace.*"

## **Padre Pio** (St. Pio of Pietrelcina. 1887-1968) **and the Child Jesus** *Italian priest, mystic, stigmatist*

On December 24, **1922**, Lucia Iandanza, one of the residents of San Giovanni Rotondo, was to witness a Christmas Eve like none before. She arrived at the church early in order to attend Padre Pio's midnight Mass and on that particular night, the church was so cold that the Capuchins brought a stove into the sacristy hoping to take the chill off.

Lucia along with three other women, sat beside the stove to warm themselves.

Lucia's three companions soon fell asleep but Lucia remained awake and was praying the Rosary. When **Padre Pio** came down the stairs that led to the sacristy, Lucia saw that *he was holding a baby in his arms*. It was not the little statue that was used each year at the Christmas Mass. *It was a real baby, very much alive*. It was the real *Infant Jesus*. A halo of light encircled the Infant and Padre Pio's face was shining with a beautiful radiance.

## **Mother Angelica and the Child Jesus**

In 1995, **Mother Angelica** was traveling to South America with a few nuns to try to get support for a Spanish version of EWTN. One of their stops was at the Sanctuary of the Divine Infant Jesus in *Bogotá, Colombia*, and after Mass they went to pray in a small side chapel with the infant Jesus image.

Suddenly, while she was silently standing and praying, the image came alive! The smiling *Child Jesus* said to her:

**“Build me a temple, and I will help those who help you.”**

The two nuns with her heard and saw nothing, but Mother Angelica fell into a state of deep religious ecstasy. When she finally came out of it, she burst into tears, and later said her “heart was beating 100 miles per hour.”

Once she arrived back home to her convent in Alabama, she shared this story with her fellow nuns and they immediately started looking for land to build a shrine. Soon, they discovered a piece of land just north of the convent that used to be a soy bean farm. As soon as she set foot on it,

Mother Angelica knew it was the right place, later saying she “felt the presence of God very strongly.”

Without any money from EWTN, entirely as a project of their convent Our Lady of the Angels Monastery, the building commenced and the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament opened just in time for the year 2000 jubilee!

But that wasn't the end of her mystical visions. In Alabama, the *Child Jesus* continued to appear to her regularly, even in the hallways of her convent, and they would have short conversations here and there.

*The Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC 1325) states that "the Eucharist is the efficacious sign and the sublime cause of that *communion* in the Divine Life and that unity of the People of God by which the Church is kept in being." *Webster's New World Dictionary* defines "communion" as the act of intimately sharing one's thoughts and emotions with another.

For most human beings, **the Eucharist** is a *communion* experienced through the "*eyes of faith*" and *not* through the other senses. However, there are many accounts in the Lives of the Saints, most notably St. Padre Pio in modern times, when God has lifted the veil which hides Himself in this Blessed Sacrament and has offered an "enhanced" *communion* in His Divine Life. Padre Pio would on occasion go into ecstasy for over an hour during the Consecration of the Mass. He obviously was experiencing a “enhanced communion” with Our Lord—something more than what most of us experience.

If God in the past has chosen to "enhance" His *communion* with a few of his faithful in the Holy Eucharist, could He not also, if He so chose, do

the same with any or all in the state of grace in the whole world? Is that not what the spiritual Eucharistic Reign means? And furthermore, could this also not be just as likely in the form of the Child Jesus (*as He has previously done*) as well as it could be the Sacred Heart of Jesus?

We read in the *Gospel of St. Matthew*:

**“...And immediately after the tribulation of those days,  
the sun shall be darkened and the moon shall not give her light,  
and the stars shall fall from heaven,  
and the powers of heaven shall be moved:  
And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven:  
and then shall all tribes of the earth mourn:  
and they shall see the Son of man  
coming in the clouds of heaven with much power and majesty....”**

(Mt 34: 29-30)

Let me share with you what *may* be the *final piece* of the Divine Plan. On *Dec. 22, 1996*, here at the *Center of her Immaculate Heart*, right here in the Emmitsburg area, **Our Lady of Emmitsburg** said:

*“...I invite you and I ask you for your devotion to the Infant Jesus and to pray to God the Father for the Infant Jesus’ virtues: the virtue of humility, the virtue of wisdom, the virtue of charity, the virtue of obedience, and the virtue of simplicity in the most profound way...For it is my Son, the Child Jesus, Who will come again through the heavens; and the world will see that it is the Savior, the Child. For the Child will save the world....”* (Our Lady of Emmitsburg, Dec. 22, 1996)

Approx. 16 of us observed the apparition and ecstasy. I transcribed it and believe it to be true! In March, 2018, I’ll be 68; and it is my opinion that there are many here today who will live to see this prophecy fulfilled!

**Thank you for praying and discerning!**

**References:**

**TO THE PRIESTS, OUR LADY'S BELOVED SONS**

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