Miracles Still Happen!

Devotion to the Infant of Prague in the 21st Century

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by Johan Cyprich

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A statue of the Infant Jesus was given to the Discalced Carmelites by Princess Polyxena von Lobkowicz in 1628. When she presented the gift, she proclaimed “Venerable Fathers, I bring you my dearest possession. Honour this image and you shall never want.”

In 1631, the Carmelite monastery was looted and the statue was thrown in a trash pile behind the monastery’s altar. The statue was discovered 7 years later, with its hands broken off, by Fr. Cyrillus who placed it in public for veneration. One day, while praying before the Infant statue, the fr. Heard a voice that said “Have pity on me, and I will have pity on you. Give me my hands, and I will give you peace. The more you honor me, the more I will bless you.” The statue has remained in Prague since then.

Many Catholics have reported miracles and blessing from devotions to the Infant of Prague. Statues can be found in many churches throughout the world with many novenas prayed to the Infant Jesus.

This book is an introduction to the Infant of Prague and presents several types of prayers that you can use, with of course the commonly used 9 day novena for urgent prayer requests. May you grow in faith with these devotions and fully trust in Jesus.
Johan Cyprich is a cradle Catholic who starting taking religion seriously at 14 years of age, was confirmed into Catholicism at 18, converted to Protestantism a few years later, then returned to the Catholic Church about 3 years after that. Today, after 2 decades he has remained in the Catholic Church and has developed a strong interest both in apologetics and helping the souls in Purgatory.

His time in the Protestant community was not wasted. It transformed him into a real, truth seeking Christian from a lukewarm, superstitious Catholic. Seeking the truth is what led him back to the Catholic Church.

One of the first things that he took an interest in back in the Church was Purgatory. This was the result of a seed planted years earlier when he read the timeless classic, “Read Me or Rue It”.

Johan took an interest in the Infant of Prague from attending Slovak churches throughout his youth and later as a convert. While Prague is a part of the Czech Republic and not Slovakia, many Slovaks have a devotion to the Infant.
And there shall come forth a rod out of the root of Jesse, and a flower shall rise up out of his root. [2] And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him: the spirit of wisdom, and of understanding, the spirit of counsel, and of fortitude, the spirit of knowledge, and of godliness.

Isaiah 11:1-2 (Douay-Rheims)
History of the Infant of Prague

Throughout the history of the Catholic Church, many devotions to Jesus have risen. One of the most popular and dear to people’s hearts is the devotion to the Infant of Prague. The Child Jesus was venerated from the earliest times in the Church and can be found in odd sources such as the apocryphal gospels of James and Thomas (note: these writings are not considered to be divinely inspired). The Church Fathers, St. Augustine and St. Jerome had these devotions in the 4th Century. There are many other saints who were devoted to the Child Jesus, among them were St. Bernard of Clairvaux, St. Francis of Assisi, and St. Anthony of Padua. The devotion did not become widespread until St. Teresa of Avila had visions of the Child Jesus.

The current and most popular devotion to the child Jesus began with the Carmelites in the city of Prague in Bohemia (the Czech Republic today). The statue was a wedding gift to Princess Polyxenia of Lobkowitz from her mother, which she had purchased from Spain. When war brought poverty to the Carmelite Monastery in 1628, Polyxenia gave her highly prized statue to the Carmelites with the words, “I give you what I prize most highly in this world; honour and respect the Child Jesus and you shall never be in want”.

The statue was placed in monastery’s oratory and the Carmelites prospered as long as they were devoted to the Child Jesus. Unfortunately, war came to their country and the Carmelites were forced to flee their monastery, leaving behind their statue. The occupying forces did not see the value upon finding the statue and through it in the garbage.

As with all wars, they eventually end and peace returned to Bohemia. The Carmelites also returned and a devotee of the Infant of Prague, Father Cyril, looked for the statue and found it in the garbage. He placed it once again in the monastery’s oratory.

One day while praying before the statue, Fr. Cyril heard Jesus say, “Have mercy on me and I will have mercy on you. Return my hands to me and I shall give you peace. The more you honour me, the more I shall bless you”. Surprised by this, the good priest examined the statue and found that both hands were broken off. He restored the statues hands and Jesus kept the promise He made: peace and prosperity came to the Carmelites.
2 Who Is Jesus?

Now when Jesus came into the parts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Who do men say that the Son of man is? And they said, Some say John the Baptist; some, Elijah; and others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But who say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Matthew 16:13-16

Something that I’ve noticed far too often is that many Catholics do not know who Jesus is. If you ask the average person this question, they would tell you that He is the Son of God, or that He is the Messiah or our Saviour. This is said without understanding what this really means or who He truly is.

Jesus is God.

This is something I learned years after becoming confirmed as an adult Catholic and after going through the RCIA. A priest once told me that when he speaks to Catholics, he takes the approach that he is speaking to pagans and not knowledgeable Christians. This is because many people have forgotten what they have learned in their youth. “Use or lose it”, as the saying goes. If you don’t keep up with your knowledge, you will forget it, assuming that you had it in the first place.

The way I learned the divinity of Christ was rather unique. When I moved to Richmond, BC from Edmonton, Alberta, I started listening to a great deal of Christian radio, or Protestant radio to be more accurate. I never listened to Christian radio in Edmonton because Canada does not allow religious broadcasts from a single organization. Since Richmond is so close to the US border, I was able to pick up the Christian radio broadcasts from Washington state.

In one program that I listened to, the evangelist frequently said that Jesus is God. After hearing him say this many times, I began to wonder what he meant by it. “How can Jesus be God” I thought, “he is the Son of God, not God the Father.” I asked my Protestant friends, and they confirmed that Jesus, is indeed, God. What a surprise that was to me! With the zeal of a new convert, I ran around telling Catholics that Jesus is God, but all of them told me that I was mistaken. I discovered that many Catholics don’t know their faith very well.

Jesus is God.

Jesus is God.

Jesus is God!

I can’t state this truth enough. If Jesus is not God, there is no church or Christianity. This is what separates us from all other religions. This is why we’re right and they’re wrong. Priests need to tell this to their parishioners ... don’t assume they already know this. Parishioners, tell this to your family and friends, don’t assume anything either. Jesus is God!
Pray with great confidence, with confidence based upon the goodness and infinite generosity of God and upon the promises of Jesus Christ. God is a spring of living water which flows unceasingly into the hearts of those who pray.

St. Louis de Montfort
This novena can be said for nine consecutive days or hours.

O Jesus, Who said, “Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened to you,” through the intercession of Mary, Your most holy Mother, I knock, I seek, I ask that my prayer be answered.

*(Make your prayer requests.)*

O Jesus, Who said, “All that you ask of the Father in My Name He will grant you,” through the intercession of Mary, Your most holy Mother, I humbly and urgently ask Your Father in Your Name that my prayer be granted.

*(Make your prayer requests.)*

O Jesus, Who said, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My word shall not pass,” through the intercession of Mary, Your most holy Mother, I feel confident that my prayer will be granted.

*(Make your prayer requests.)*
The original prayer of St. Cyril to Infant of Prague.

Jesus, unto Thee I flee,
Through Thy mother praying Thee
in my need to succor me.

Truly, I believe of Thee
God Thou art with strength to shield me;
Full of trust, I hope of Thee
Thou Thy grace wilt give to me.

All my heart I give to Thee,
Therefore, do my sins repent me;
From them breaking, I beseech Thee,
Jesus, from their bonds to free me.

Firm my purpose is to mend me;
Never more will I offend Thee.

Wholly unto Thee I give me,
Patiently to suffer for Thee,
Thee to serve eternally.
And my neighbor like to me
I will love for love of Thee.

Little Jesus, I beseech Thee,
In my need to succor me,
That with Joseph and Mary
And the Angels, I may Thee
Once enjoy eternally. Amen.
He who labors as he prays lifts his heart to God with his hands.

St. Benedict of Nursia
O Divine Child Jesus, only-begotten Son of the Father, You are the true light that enlightens everyone coming into this world. It is through You that I am, it is through You that all things have been made, and without You nothing would be. It is therefore just that I devote myself to You without reserve.

In gratitude for all the love with which You love me, I devote to you all the love my heart is capable of. I ardently desire to love you still more, to offer You a heart less unworthy of You. Accept this ardent desire, O amiable Child-God, and kindly bless it.

You have suffered for us and have borne Your infirmities, in order that we might one day deserve to be associated with Your eternal happiness. I want to unite my sufferings to Yours, so that You may give them merit and they may be sanctified. As You have been weeping for me, because of my sins, help me by Your grace to weep for them myself.

I also devote to You all my joys. I only have the ambition and the will to seek those pleasing to your service, by the practice of the virtues taught in the mysteries of Your Divine Childhood. I beg You to help me by Your grace to acquire the gentleness, the humility, the childlike simplicity, the filial confidence and the perfect obedience, of which you give me such a splendid example.

May I progress in holiness and one day possess the rewards promised in heaven to those who practice the lessons of your Holy Childhood.
A Morning Offering to the Holy Child

O Dear sweet Infant Jesus, I offer You my will, that You strengthen it, my mind that You inspire it; my memory that You fill it; my wishes and desires, that You cleanse them, I sacrifice to You; my intentions that You guide them, all my inner and outer activities, that You make them sacred. All I am and all I have is Yours. Your love for me is my hope and trust. Hear me and grant that I may never leave you.

Amen.

O Infant Jesus, I form the belief that I shall be granted forgiveness of sins and place it into the hands of Your most Holy Mother Mary; I commend myself to all and every Holy Mass that is celebrated this day and all over the globe, and I offer all this on behalf of the poor souls of Purgatory.
Evening Prayer to the Infant of Prague

This is recited every evening in the Sanctuary of Arenzano.

O Holy Infant Jesus, who shed Your blessings on whoever invokes Your name, look kindly on us who kneel humbly before Your holy Image, and hear our prayers. We commend to Your mercy the many poor and needy people who trust in Your Divine Heart.

Lay Your all powerful hand upon them and help them in their needs. Lay Your hand upon the sick, to cure them and sanctify their suffering; upon those in distress, to console them; upon sinners, to draw them into the light of your divine grace; upon all those who, stricken with grief and suffering, turn trustingly to You for loving help.

Lay Your hand also upon all of us and give us Your blessing. O little King, grant the treasures of Your divine mercy to all the world, and keep us now and always in the grace of your love!
A Prayer for Healing to Christ’s Infinite Mercy

O most Dear and sweet Child Jesus, behold me a poor suffering person who, sustained by a lively faith, invokes Your divine aid to cure my infirmity. I put all my trust in You. I know that You can do all things and that You are most merciful, indeed You are Yourself Infinite Mercy.

O great Little Child, for the sake of Your divine virtue and the immense love You bear for all the suffering, the oppressed and the needy, hear me; bless me, console me.

Amen.

Glory Be (3x).
9 Prayer to Heal Yourself

O most Dear and Sweet Infant Jesus, behold me a poor suffering person who, sustained by a lively faith, invokes Your divine aid to cure my infirmity. I put all my trust in You. I know that You can do all things and that You are most merciful, indeed You are Yourself Infinite Mercy. O great Little Infant, for the sake of Your divine virtue and the immense love You bear for all the suffering, the oppressed and the needy, hear me, bless me, help me, console me. Amen.

Glory Be (3 times).
We must pray without tiring, for the salvation of mankind does not depend upon material success . . . but on Jesus alone.

St. Frances Xavier Cabrini
Litany of the Infant Jesus

Lord, (have mercy on us)
Christ, (have mercy on us)
Lord, (have mercy on us)
Christ, (hear us)
Christ, (graciously hear us).

God, the Father of heaven, (have mercy on us)
God, the Son, Redeemer of the world, (have mercy on us)
God, the Holy Spirit, (have mercy on us)
O miraculous Child Jesus, (have mercy on us)
O Divine Infant Jesus, true God and true man, (have mercy on us)
O Divine Infant Jesus, Lord of heaven and earth, (have mercy on us)
O Divine Infant Jesus, whose love knows no bounds, (have mercy on us)
O Divine Infant Jesus, who came on earth to show us the Way, (have mercy on us)
O Divine Infant Jesus, true Light of the world, (have mercy on us)
O Divine Infant Jesus, Font of eternal life, (have mercy on us)
O Divine Infant Jesus, patient and loving, (have mercy on us)
O Divine Infant Jesus, source of peace and consolation, (have mercy on us)
O Divine Infant Jesus, hope of all men, (have mercy on us)
O Divine Infant Jesus, burning furnace of love, (have mercy on us)
O Divine Infant Jesus, lover of justice and truth, (have mercy on us)
O Divine Infant Jesus, dispenser of all graces, (have mercy on us)
O Divine Infant Jesus, Teacher of all virtues, (have mercy on us)
O Divine Infant Jesus, King of all hearts, (have mercy on us)
O Divine Infant Jesus, Divine Wonder-worker, (have mercy on us)

Be merciful, (spare us, O Lord)
Be merciful, (graciously hear us, O Lord)

From all sins, (O Jesus, deliver us)
From a sudden death, (O Jesus, deliver us)  
From lightning and storms, (O Jesus, deliver us)  
From floods and plagues, (O Jesus, deliver us)  
From loss of faith in You, (O Jesus, deliver us)  
From everlasting hell-fire, (O Jesus, deliver us)  
Through Your birth, (O Jesus, deliver us)  
Through Your baptism, (O Jesus, deliver us)  
Through Your holy life, (O Jesus, deliver us)  
Through Your passion, (O Jesus, deliver us)  
Through Your death, (O Jesus, deliver us)  
Through Your resurrection, (O Jesus, deliver us)  
Through Your ascension, (O Jesus, deliver us)  
Through Your infinite love, (O Jesus, deliver us)  

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, (spare us, O Lord).  
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, (graciously hear us, O Lord).  
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, (have mercy on us).  

Jesus, (hear us).  
Jesus, (graciously hear us).  

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory Be.
Rosary of the Infant Jesus

Jesus revealed this rosary to the Venerable Margaret of the Sacred Heart (a Discalced Carmelite nun) in the 17th Century. He asked her to make it known throughout the world and those who would recite it while meditating on the mysteries of the Divine Infancy would receive special graces.

The rosary is prayed in the following way,

And the Word was made flesh (3 times), Our Father
And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.
Hail Mary (12 times)
Glory Be

The three Our Fathers are to honour the Holy Family (Jesus, Mary, Joseph) and the twelve Hail Mary’s are to honour the memory of Jesus childhood.
Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.

Matthew 28:19-20 (NAB)
Next Steps

After reading this book, you may be wondering where to go from here? You need to put into practise what you read here, and also grow in faith and knowledge. There are many things that you can do, but the important thing is to do something and not just sit around waiting. Be pro-active and be a good example of faith.

The Mass

The central prayer of the Catholic Church is the Mass. Devotion to the Infant of Prague without the Mass is meaningless. We come together as Christians to worship Jesus in the Mass. You can bring your devotions to church and also pray them before the Blessed Sacrament.

The Bible

If you aren’t reading the Bible on a regular basis, you need to ask yourself why? In the past, most people were illiterate and before Gutenberg’s printing press, the Bible wasn’t available for the common man due its high cost of printing. Today, we have widespread literacy and printing is so inexpensive that many organizations give away complete Bibles. In other words, there is no good reason why you shouldn’t be reading it every day.

The Bible should be read before any other spiritual book you read. Its that important. This book will bring you closer to God and show you how to be a Christian. If you can’t remember the last time you read the Bible, pick up one right now and read just one chapter in the New Testament (preferably one of the Gospels). Read a little each day. A single chapter can be read in a few minutes. You probably spend more time than this watching TV, so give God a few minutes each day to listen to what He has to say.

Other Spiritual Books

Over the past two thousand years, there have been many saints and great spiritual leaders in the Church. Fortunately, many of them wrote down their teachings or had devoted followers write for them. We can learn from their wisdom and also from their mistakes. Spend some time reading books written by saints and other servants of the Lord.

Infant Jesus of Prague Web Site

There are many devotions and information on the Infant of Prague. While this book gives you a good start, its just an introduction. My site, www.infantofjesusofprague.net, is constantly adding new content which you might find useful. Take a look and feel free to suggest improvements or recommend new devotions.