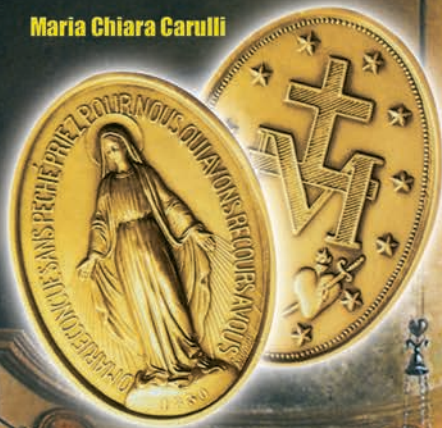


Maria Chiara Carulli



a month with the Miraculous Medal



SHALOM



Collection: **THE MOTHER OF GOD**

Maria Chiara Carulli



a month with the
Miraculous Medal



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Preface and testimony

It is a grace, a gift, and a privilege to stop every day alongside Mary, in prayer!

Mary knows us, she knows how to read our hearts, nothing about us escapes her and she knows how to give an answer to everything, she knows how to find a solution to everything, at all times she is ready to give us the help that we need.

So as to ensure that we might never forget this, she gave us the extraordinary gift of her Medal, which we call Miraculous, because through it, Mary wanted to fulfil and she continuously fulfils many miracles.

There are many medals depicting Our Lady, but this is the only one that is hers, this is the only one that she herself designed and not us!

It is she who asked us to have it struck in this way, to distribute it as much as possible and to mediate on it, yes, because the Miraculous Medal is like a “book” that teaches us and reminds us of the fundamental truths of our faith.

For this reason this book is an invitation to reflect for a month with the Medal on our hearts, with the Medal in our hands, repeating our moved thanksgiving for such a great gift to Mary every day.

Maria Chiara Carulli

part one



Our Lady's
messenger



“Now you are my only Mother”

first day

In the small village of Fain le Moutier, in the diocese of Dijon, in France, on the second of the month of May 1806, Catherine was born to Pierre Labouré and Louise Madeleine Gontard. She was also then given the name Zoe, perhaps because she was born on the feast-day of that saint. The ninth of eleven children, she received a profoundly Christian education, but she never attended any school and only later on did learnt to write, without ever having a true mastery of her own written language.

During her childhood, as throughout her life, there was never anything extraordinary about her, but one particular episode seems to be a precursor of her special love for Mary and the duty that the Virgin then entrusted her with.

At the age of nine years she lost the mother who managed to instil a great sense of love for Our Lady in her. One day, when the little girl seemed to be particularly taken by nostalgia for her mother, she was seen by a housemaid going into the house and, as though inspired, taking a chair, standing up on it and, holding out her trembling hands, she took the statue of Our Lady positioned on the small



altar of the house. Embracing it, she lovingly said: “Now you are my only mother”.

At the age of twelve, given that her older sister had left to enter the Sisters of Charity, she took care of the house, with the help of a housemaid for the more difficult work. She combined innocence with penance, fasting on Fridays and Saturdays. And when she went to church, she didn’t go and sit on the benches, she knelt down on the floor. Her love for Jesus Eucharist was also intense and therefore she wasn’t happy to simply participate in the Mass every Sunday, but she would often also go there during weekdays, despite the fact that she had work to do and despite the distance, given that in her village, Mass was not always celebrated and therefore she had to go to a nearby town.

Commitment: Let us trust in the Virgin Mary, let us put everything that we are and that we have in our hearts into her hands and let us ask her to bring us to live her Son Jesus more and more.

Hail Mary

**Oh Mary conceived without sin,
pray for us who have recourse to thee.**

***and for those who do not have recourse to thee,
in particular, the enemies of the holy Church
and for those who are recommended to you.**

**(Saint Maximilian Kolbe added this second part of the prayer)*





“I am aiming higher”

second day

And so the years passed. When Zoe saw that by now her family could do without her, after having refused several marriage proposals saying that she “was aiming higher”, she finally unveiled her secret to her father. She wanted to consecrate herself forever to God. But her father opposed this and to distract her from her intention, he sent her to Paris, to stay with her brother who was managing an inn. Zoe obeyed him, suffering a lot in her new environment and longing for a life of prayer and of donation to God and to her neighbour more and more. And so Our Lady availed of a dream in which Saint Vincent played a special role, to make her clearly hear her voice. Having left Paris, Zoe went to Chatillon, to the Daughters of Charity and there she came to a perfect understanding of that dream that she referred to her sister only after many years.

She dreamt that she was alone in the church of her village when she saw an elderly priest coming out of the sacristy, with grey hair and wearing sacred paraments and carrying a chalice in his hands. His face irradiated goodness and his eyes seemed like fire. Passing near her he looked at her intensely, continuing to do so also during the Mass. At the end he made a gesture to her to approach

