Some news has just come in about the pilgrimage to Walsingham, England. Many centuries ago the image of Our Lady was taken from its shrine in that town, placed upright in an open cart, and carried off to London and burned. This was the manner in which traitors were treated, and to the leaders in charge of this sacrilege, Mary was a traitor.

When the Catholics became free again, they set about to make reparation for this offence shown to the Mother of God. On the first Saturday in July in five cathedrals and nine parish churches, fourteen groups of men gathered for Mass and Holy Communion in the early morning. This was the first stage on their pilgrimage to Walsingham, 210 miles away.

Each of the fourteen groups carried with them a pine cross that took two men to carry. The crosses weighed a hundred pounds. These crosses were carried through the towns and cities in the four quarters of England. The men carried beads in their hands and recited the Rosary aloud as they walked. They went bare-headed and suffered from the heat of the sun. Pain did not stop them.

Our Lady of Fatima appealed for prayer and sacrifices, especially the sacrifices involved in doing one’s duty well. This Walsingham pilgrimage was undertaken to carry out the will of Our Lady. Watching these men carry their cross brought many to resolve to carry their own crosses for Our Lady and her intentions; namely, for sinners, for peace and for reparation. One newspaper editorial said, "Wherever the pilgrims have gone they have shaken ordinary folk out of their customary carelessness."

Many sacrifices were made by the pilgrims on their journey. The men slept in open fields and on the stone floors of churches, all in homage to Our Lady. In the groups were businessmen, students, doctors, clerks, priests; some were in their fifties, some were in their teens.

There was real heroism. One priest stumbled along with the cross and his feet were a mass of blisters and running sores; he never complained. A docker carried on with a heel raw skinned. A little boy led a blind man.

When the fourteen crosses reached Walsingham, the Archbishop stood in the midst of the crowd and all consecrated themselves, their families and their enterprises to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Part of that consecration was a promise to offer the sacrifices and inconveniences of one’s life for sinners and for peace.

Our Lady of Fatima asks you to consecrate yourself to her Immaculate Heart and to do penance. Are you willing to hear her request?

PAYEFS: (deceased) mother of Father Geo Holderith, CSC; Mrs. Geo Schock, wife of S.B. mayor. (Ill) mother of Victor De Fiori (Sor), serious; cousin (and his wife) of Ed Goo (Morr), both have polio; Nancy Murray-Aaron, friend of Dick Marshall (Di); Nancy Murray-Aaron, friend of Dick Marshall (Di); brother of Ken Thoren (Morr). Four Special Ints.