



Rule of the Crusader

The Rule of the Crusader is a collection of chivalric precepts that highlight the ideal of how a Eucharistic Crusader is supposed to think and act.



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Rule of the Crusader
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Rule of the Crusader

These are the Ten ruling guidelines of the Crusader. On the pages following, you will see what each of these "Rules" mean.

1. The Crusader is an elite soldier of Our Lord Jesus Christ, who defends the banner of Our Lady.

2. The Crusader was made to praise, honour and serve God, and thus save his soul.

3. The Crusader must convert his heart to God, above all else.

4. The Crusader, by his prayers, by his Communion of reparation, by his sacrifices and his apostolate, undertakes with the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, to save his soul and the soul of his brethren.

5. The Crusader must have a great love for the Church, the Truth, the holy virtue of Purity, and his daily duties of state.

6. The Crusader maintains in his heart a genuine spirit of Prayer, of Poverty and of Penance.

7. The Crusader refuses the broad way and follows, rather, the Royal Way of the Cross.

8. The Crusader flees the spirit of the world and the occasions of sin.

9. The Crusader does not permit in his presence either blasphemy or impurity, cruelty or dirty-dealing; he respects and uses well God's creation.

10. The Crusader is meek in order to lead souls to God, strong in order to overcome himself, humble, generous and loyal. He is everywhere polite, pleasant, fervent and faithful.



Crusader Rule # 1

The Crusader is the elite soldier of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and he defends the banner of Our Lady.

‡ The Crusader is a soldier because, let us face it, it is quite a battle to pray and offer up sacrifices every day. It is a battle against self; it costs to give up nice things, to obey straight away, to be a saint **24** hours a day, and **7** days a week. A Crusader must have the soul of a **soldier**.

‡ A Soldier does not fight on his own. He does his part in a big battle; his little fight in one corner of the battle field contributes to the victory of the whole army. This is exactly what happens with the Crusaders. Whatever they do profits the conquest of souls. One Treasure Chart is added to many. If all the Crusaders stick together, the Victory is certain.

‡ The most interesting thing, however, is that even if there was only one Crusader – for instance you – it would still be worthwhile. Because, as *Crusader Rule #1* says, **the Crusader is the soldier of Our Lord Jesus Christ**. It is Jesus' battle against Satan that you are fighting; it is Jesus' conquest over the world, no less.

‡ We must now explain one little word, elite. The Crusader belongs to the elite, meaning that he or she belongs to the very few. Not everyone can pretend to have the soul of a Crusader. The Crusader does extra things for Jesus. When there is a special, delicate mission to perform, Jesus turns to His Crusaders, asking: **"Do you want to follow me?"** The elite soldier of Jesus Christ answers: **"Yes!"**

‡ A good way to recognise a faithful Crusader is to look at his banner: Our Lady's Banner. This is an image to say that the Crusader has a great, strong and unwavering devotion to Our Lady. He defends Her and offers all his prayers through Her.

Are you not convinced now that it is very important to be a Crusader?

Crusader Rule # 2

The Crusader was made to praise, honour and serve God and thus save his soul.

‡ This second article is just a reminder of what our catechism says. It applies not only to Crusaders, but actually to everybody. Man is God's creature, gifted with **intelligence** and **liberty**: by this very fact he is made to praise, honour and serve God and thus save his soul.

‡ Dogs, for example, or stones, do serve God also, but do not save or lose their souls because they do not have them. They don't praise or honour God either, since they have no **intelligence** or **liberty**. They just are what God wants them to be. By this God is glorified. God is much more glorified, however, by His free and intelligent creatures who serve Him knowingly and lovingly.

‡ People, alas! simply forget why they were made. It seems they would like to say: "*Man is made to enjoy himself as much as he can, and try not to think about what's coming in the next life.*" It is **foolishness**, of course, but see how people have taken it for their rule.

This is much opposed to the spirit of the saints, who have chosen to love nothing but Jesus. This is much opposed, therefore, to the spirit of a Crusader who wants to follow in the steps of the Saints.

‡ By this second article, the Crusader claims what his rule of life is going to be. He makes it clear that, contrary to most people, his choice is to serve God and save his soul. With such a determination, he is ready for fighting at the side of his Lord and Master Jesus Christ.

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Crusader Rule # 3

Above all else, the crusader must convert his heart to God.

‡ In the Book of Wisdom God says: **“My son, give me your heart.”** That is what God wants: our **hearts**.

‡ As a Crusader you might do many things for Our Lord. You might say decades of the Rosary, and even make a good number of sacrifices, and that is fantastic. But this is perhaps one half of the story: the rest of the time you might do your own thing, possibly giving displeasure to your parents and to God. The reason is that your heart is not given to God: you keep **half** of it for yourself.

‡ **“My son, give my your heart!”** How can we convert our hearts to God? -By pleasing Him always. This of course is not achieved in one day. It takes much time and prayers.

‡ The Crusaders should try to please Our Lord always. They should try to **mean** every word of the **Morning Offering**, giving to God not only the actions, joys and sufferings of the day, but also their love.

‡ The word **convert** suggests that your heart might be turned in the wrong direction: towards the nice things of the earth. These nice things are not always bad, and you may love them, provided that you don't love them more that the Good Lord. If that be the case you must turn your heart away from them. You must **convert** your heart to Jesus.

‡ This is why Crusaders need to pray to Our Lady. She will teach them to love God above all things.

Our Lady of Holy Hope, convert us!

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Crusader Rule # 4

The Crusader, by his prayers, his sacrifices and his apostolate, undertakes with the grace of Jesus Christ, to save his soul and the soul of his brethren.

✠ St. Alphonsus de Liguori used to say that **“If the soul is lost, then all is lost.”**

✠ It is Our Lord Himself, in the Gospel, Who said: **“What will profit a man if he gains the whole world but loses his soul?”**

✠ Now we might say that there are three types of people:

- 1) Those who do not care about saving their soul.
- 2) Those who work at saving their own soul.
- 3) Those who work at saving the souls of others.

✠ To the third group belong all the missionaries, priests, bishops, and of course the twelve Apostles chosen by our Lord: they have the mission to save other people's souls. So doing they save their own soul.

✠ Ordinary Catholics (those who are not priests) may also by their prayers and examples convert sinners or pagans. Still more: they may associate with the priests or bishops, and then have part in their mission to save souls.

✠ You, Crusaders, belong to the category we have just mentioned: you have been called to help in the mission work of the priests, of the bishops, of the Pope.

✠ You, Crusaders, are **official** apostles in the Church; not by preaching or baptizing of course; but, as the rule reads, **by your prayers and sacrifices**. You are members of the Apostolate of Prayer.

✠ Be conscious of your mission. The salvation of many souls **depend** on how generous you are now.

Our Lady Refuge of sinners, pray for us!

Crusader Rule #5

The Crusader must have a great love for the Church, the Truth, the holy virtue of Purity, and his daily duties of state.

✚ Here are rules which have made saints for centuries.

✚ The Church we speak of is not the stone building where you attend Mass. It is the family of those faithful united by both faith and grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

✚ You love your mother and father. You love your brothers and sisters. When one is sick, you all join in to relieve him of his suffering. If you succeed in exams, all rejoice. A true family is a gift of God.

✚ Our Lord died on the Cross and became the founder of Holy Mother the Church. A crusader cares very much for what happens to his spiritual family.



✚ He cares firstly for the Truth. Too many souls are out of the family roof because they live in lies and error.

✚ As he flees from the ugliness of untruth, he also shies away from the ugliness of shame and dishonour in shows and streets magazines.

✚ He cares for his duty of state. He accepts what position Christ gave him and knows that this is the way he will build up the Church which is Christ's Mystical Body.

Are you not convinced now that it is very important to be a Crusader?

Crusader Rule #6

The Crusader maintains in his heart a genuine spirit of prayer, of poverty and of Penance.

✠ Jesus said: **“Where thy treasure is there is thy heart also.”** In other words, what you **desire** is what you **love**. Do you desire money? You then love money. Do you desire to see God? Then love God. It is your heart, therefore, that matters. For that, the Crusader loves prayer. Prayer is to talk to God, to ask Him to help you, to ask Him to forgive you. A true Crusader desires to talk to Jesus in this manner all the time.

✠ Poverty is something nobody dreams about. Yet Our Lord wanted to be poor. Is there anyone around you who wants to make less money? The saints, however, have done exactly that. The poverty of a Crusader consists in being contented with less (not envying the rich); it consists also in taking care of things so that they be not wasted.



✠ Penance comes from the love we have for God, considering that He is constantly offended by repeated sins, including ours. A child who has grieved his mother has no taste for playing : he leaves his toys aside and consoles his mother. A true Crusader does the same with God. He gives up the things he likes until some compensation has been made for the offences.

Are you not convinced now that it is very important to be a Crusader?

Crusader Rule #7

The Crusader refuses the broad way and follows rather the Royal Way of the Cross.

✠ Jesus said : **"Broad is the way leads to perdition and how many are those who follow it,"** and he opposes it to the narrow and steep path that leads to heaven which so few follow.

✠ In our daily life, from the moment our mother gets us up from sleep until night prayers, we constantly have the choice to follow the easy way out, or to do what God wants for us, accept joyfully what we have to do here and now.

✠ Of course, we love playing, eating, singing, going out with our friends, and I hope you all do it with happiness. But we should also accept the **other things** God sends our way, not so pleasant, more difficult, like studying hard for exams, saying our morning or evening prayers and part of the Rosary, washing dishes and setting the table, brushing our teeth and cleaning up our room. These are little things which mean following the **"Royal Way of the Cross."**



✠ Keep in mind the words, hard but so true of our Leader, **"Be perfect as your Heavenly Father is perfect"**, and **"The kingdom of God suffers violence, and only the violent will obtain it."**

"O Lord, Grant us souls fired with the flames of the Holy Ghost!"

Crusader Rule #8

The Crusader flees from the spirit of the world and from the occasion of sin.

✠ Jesus said : **"I pray for them (the Apostles). I pray not for the world... And now I am not in the world, and these are in the world. I have given them Your word (of the Eternal Father), and the world had hated them; because they are not of the world, as I also am not of the world. I pray not that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from evil."** (John XVIII: 9-15).

✠ The "Spirit of the World" in the words of Our Lord clearly signifies the spirit of evil, of sin, and whatever leads to it. How can we translate it in daily life? It is the maxims of Television : **"be happy, enjoy yourself, don't be so stupid as to obey your parents, do what you want, let loose! Get out there, and be yourself!"** It is the spirit of selfishness, of pride, of vain glory, of **"I, me and myself."**

✠ Not such is the spirit of Our Lord, summed up in the eight beatitudes of the sermon on the Mount : **"Blessed are the poor in spirit..., blessed are the meek, blessed are those who hunger and thirst, blessed are the pure of heart..."** (Matthew V:1-12).

✠ The Wisdom books of the Old Testament teach us how much we need to flee away from the shadow of sin: **"He who loves peril will perish by it."** They repeat a common saying that **"he who loves fire will end up burning himself!"** Flee, therefore, from sin as from the poisonous snake. That delightful occasion of sin is only venom which brings the same sadness, remorse of conscience and spiritual death of soul produced by that very snake which deceived Adam and Eve.

O Lord, Grant that our Souls be set on fire with the flames of your Holy Spirit!

Crusader Rule #9

The Crusader does not permit in his presence either blasphemy, impurity, cruelty or vandalism; he respects and does not misuse God's creation.

✠ Sometimes, being a Crusader for Christ is not easy. We have to stand up to our enemies, and more often, to our **friends when they are misled** into doing bad things. Let us always remember for Whom we live and Who rules our lives.

✠ If we are Crusaders, then Our Lord has taken our hearts and made very strong fortresses out of them. He stands inside the towers and looks out at those who would go against Him. But when it comes to the fight, he will send us out there to battle. He has fought His battle, now He will help us fight ours. Let us do as Saint Paul says and "**fight the good fight!**"

✠ We are **Crusaders!** Let us never be ashamed of the holy Name of our Good Lord! We will always have the greatest respect and honour for His very Name. It will be like a sweet savour when we repeat it.

✠ We are **Crusaders!** Let us practice a right understanding for the use of the goods and creatures which God has given us. There is always a way for us that does not go too far towards abuse, nor too far towards laxity. We must be responsible. Thus, we are not cruel to animals, but we will remember they are animals and not men. As for men, we will love them as ourselves.

✠ We are **Crusaders!** We love, honour and respect our parents, and we care for our neighbour's property as if it belonged to Our Lord and Our Blessed Mother.

Are you not convinced now that it is very important to be a Crusader?

Crusader Rule #10

The Crusader is meek in order to lead souls to God, strong in order to overcome himself, humble, generous and loyal. He is everywhere polite, pleasant, fervent and faithful.

‡ **“Meek”** means easy to get along with, easy to direct, docile, humble, modest, or mild. If you are a meek person, then people find that they can **easily** speak to you and communicate their ideas to you. They find that you are willing to listen to them and if they need something from you, you are **willing** to help them as much as you can.

‡ The best way to lead souls to God is by **example**. People imitate other people, and **people will imitate YOU** even if you don't know it or don't realize it. If you have a habit of acting virtuously, people will imitate your good behaviour and you will gain merits without even knowing it.

‡ We ought to be **polite** to all people. We should speak to our elders with much respect, always calling them “Sir” or “Ma'am.” We should answer a priest by saying “Yes, Father.” It is not polite to answer “Yeah” but we should rather say, “Yes.” This kind of politeness shows people that we are good people and they will respect us. If they respect us, they will remember how we act.

‡ As followers of Christ, we must be **faithful**. This means we do our duties with diligence and love, not just to get them done and over with so we can do other things. We do them because we love God and we know He wants us to do those things. We are fervent when we do them to the best of our ability.

Let us be good Crusaders!

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A Crusader Promises...

Ever wonder just what makes a Page or Crusader or a Knight or a Handmaid?

What does a Page do?

The Page promises:

✠ To make the offering of himself, in addition to his morning offering every day.

✠ To say his evening prayers and fill in his Treasure Sheet every evening.

What are the obligations of a Crusader?

The Crusader promise in addition to the promises of the Page:

✠ To say every day at least two decades of the Rosary.

✠ To receive Holy Communion every Sunday (if possible).

✠ To make at least one sacrifice a day.

✠ To fight against his dominant fault.

✠ To go to confession at least once a month.

What are the obligations of a Knight or a Handmaid?

They promise, in addition to the promises of the Crusader:

✠ To say his Rosary every day.

✠ To make a Spiritual Communion every day or to make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament if possible.

✠ To do fifteen minutes of meditation every day.

✠ To go to confession every two weeks.

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