



Hail Mary

## **Introduction**

**One summer day is just like another, so when Anthony asked his friends to meet him at their usual place it's no wonder they came with bats and balls. Minutes later, they watched their new friend Spencer visiting from Europe as he came running out of breath towards them. They then listened as Anthony spoke of the Marian year and of the Holy Father's visit to America. "We should do something special for these two joyful events and forget about playing ball," he said. Everyone agreed except Spencer, who looking very stern at his friends said, "I don't believe in what you are doing anyway I came here to play ball," and waving his hand he ran down the street.**

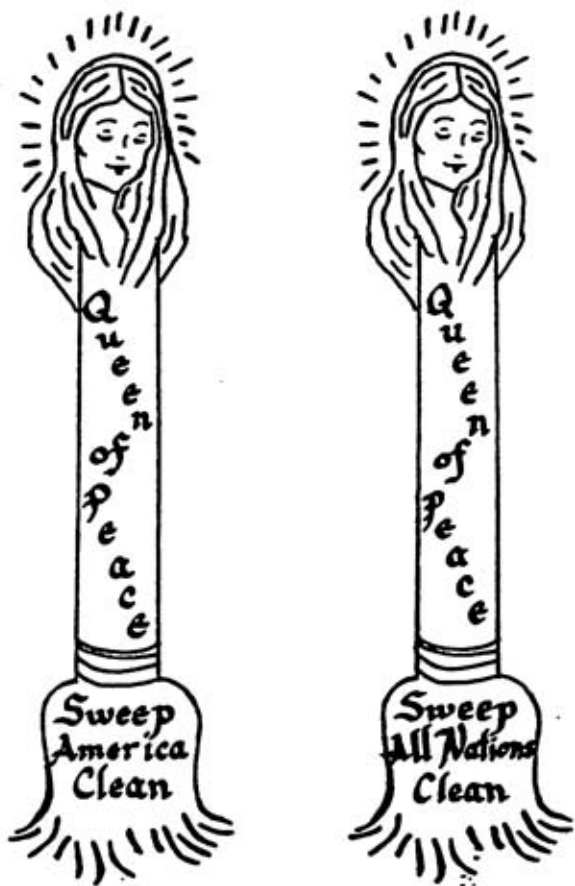
## Hail Mary

The boys and girls came up with a wonderful idea. They called on their elderly kind friend Frank to help them out. Frank, a carpenter, showed the boys how to carve pins out of wood. Then the girls painted them blue and white. Frank also liked to sing, so he taught the young people songs to praise God.

Baseball was never spoken of until one day standing in the doorway was Spencer, as usual, holding a baseball bat. "Alright, so here I am," he said. "It's hard finding ball players since everyone is on vacation or right here working." Everyone smiled at Spencer as Kathleen motioned for him to sit down and offered him some popcorn. However, it didn't take long for Spencer to get bored, so he started to observe what his friends were doing. Picking up one of the pins, Spencer looked at the picture of Mary and asked in a loud voice, "Why do you worship Mary and statues?" Frank hearing this put his chisel down and taking Spencer by the arm said, "We need to have a talk about this." "Tell me," Frank continued, "when you salute the flag of your country are you saluting the cloth it's made from or for what the cloth represents? Last year when thousands of people waved at the statue of Liberty, they surely weren't saluting the stone structure. We love the mother of Jesus and are happy that the Immaculate Conception is our National Patron." Frank explained how Mary is in the mystery of Christ, full of grace. She is blessed because she believed, and Jesus said of Mary, "Behold your Mother." So you see, Spencer, we worship only God but honor his mother." Spencer looked at his friends then glanced at Frank as if in deep thought.

## Welcome

When the Holy Father arrived at the airport, everyone cheered and waved. One of the girls presented the Holy Father a pin shaped as a broom which read, "Queen of Peace Sweep America Clean" and said, "Welcome to America." In the background Kathleen was heard saying, "If only Spencer were here. I wonder where he is?"



Marian Year  
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## Treasures Of The Heart

Later in the afternoon, Frank asked the boys and girls if it were possible how would they like to spend a day with the Holy Father. Everyone came up with a different idea. Ruth said, "After celebrating mass and reciting the rosary for peace, we could go on a picnic." "How about a canoe ride so the Pope could enjoy seeing our beautiful mountains and lakes?" said Richard. "Oh I know," said Christopher, "a walk in the forest would be fun to admire God's creatures." "How about going horse back riding?" said Juan. Looking now at Spencer, who seemed to be still in deep thought, Frank asked, "What would you do?" Without blinking an eye Spencer said, "Ask the Pope to play ball." Everyone laughed.



Treasures of the Heart

## ***Praise God***

The Holy Father was about to enter the plane for his departure when he saw Spencer running towards him. Spencer stopped in front of the Holy Father and gave him a pin, which he had made. Being European the inscription on the pin read, "Queen of Peace Sweep All Nations Clean." "I am very proud to be a part of the Marian Year along with all of my friends," said Spencer. The Holy Father gave Spencer a big embrace, then turning to all the young people said, "I pray that God will always watch and protect you for you are the world of tomorrow." The Holy Father then blessed the crowds and his departing words were, "I just met Jesus in America. Would you like to meet him too? Look to the mountains. Look to the valleys. Now look into the eyes of your brothers and sisters and praise God wherever Love and Charity prevails forever. God Bless America."

***The End***



**The Parishioners of St. Frances of Rome Parish, Cicero, Illinois, along with the entire world, wish Pope John Paul II, this coming October a Happy 9th anniversary. God Bless Him. May he always feel the touch of Mary's hand.**

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