

# **The Power of the HAIL MARY**

*By Fr. Thomas Cahil, M.J.*

I want to share with you a story that demonstrates the power of the Hail Mary. In early June 1992, Andy Sullivan, M.J., Mike Diemer, M.J., and I, three American members of Miles Jesu were en route by car to Ukraine where the Miles Jesu Assembly of European communities was to take place.

Our first stop was Brno, in the former Czechoslovakia, where we were to meet up with our Miles Jesu brothers of that community. Andy had taken the directions to their apartment over the phone and had scribbled a few lines, which was to serve as our map.

By the time we arrived at the outskirts of Brno it was 1:23 AM. The three of us were cross-eyed from fatigue and Andy's little map was making no sense to any of us. We had no idea which way to go. We couldn't even telephone because our brothers didn't have a telephone of their own. We couldn't just go up to someone on the street at that hour, and besides, if there was someone how could we communicate to them, not knowing the Czech language? We were stuck.

In cases like this there are usually three things a person could do: 1. Get angry; 2. Panic, or 3.

Pray. After doing the first two possibilities, we finally prayed. As soon as we finished reciting three "Hail Mary's" we thought to go back down the road to a gas station. Sure enough when we got to the station it was closed. "What now?"

Moments later a car pulled up with a young lady and her brother. "Great! People!" We got out of the car wondering how we were going to communicate. What chance would there be in a city of five hundred thousand that the only people awake at that hour could speak English?

As a matter of fact, the young people we met did not speak English, but the girl did speak Italian and fortunately so could Mike and I. We showed her the address of where we wanted to go. She looked surprised, but assured us that she knew where the place was. Then she began giving us instructions: "up the hill, around the curve, through the tunnel, past the factories, by the station, over the tracks..." The blank expression on our faces moved her to offer to show us the way herself.

Twenty minutes later, thinking to ourselves that never in 85 years would we have been able to find the place on our own, we pulled up to a 24 story apartment building surrounded by 27 other apartment buildings, all the same size, design, and color. We had made it through the maze of turns, hills, and buildings barely keeping our speeding guides in sight. The girl got out of the car came back to us, and to our astonishment, asked us if we wanted her to unlock the lobby door of the apartment complex for us.

As it turned out, the girl and her brother lived in the exact same building as our Miles Jesu brothers. Amazing! Imagine the odds! Of all the people in a town of 500,000 that we could have asked directions, our guides lived in the same building. Thanks be to God and Mary!

*If you would like more information about this wonderful order, please contact:*

Miles Jesu  
PO Box 256528  
Chicago, IL 60625-6528  
(312) 769-3285