

CORONACLE

T - H A W K E D I T I O N

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SURPRISE, SURPRISE...

By Fr Leo

I know, I know, we are in Lent and I don't want to make it harder for you. But let me tell you why I chose this picture. Within the gold foil wrapping of a **Ferrero Rocher** candy is a multi-layered confection that seems like some kind of magic straight out of Willy Wonka's chocolate factory: a single roasted hazelnut, encased in a wafer shell filled with hazelnut chocolate, which is itself topped with chocolate studded with chopped hazelnuts.

These magical chocolates, however, were inspired, not by Roald Dahl's children's book, but by the Virgin Mary herself. When the Italian chocolatier Michele Ferrero introduced the treats in 1982, it is believed that he named them "Rocher" after the craggy rock grotto, called the Rocher de Massabielle, that marks the place where the Blessed Mother appeared to St. Bernadette in Lourdes, France.

The chocolates' hazelnut-pocked surface bears more than a passing resemblance to the rock formation at Lourdes, a place that had a special meaning for Ferrero. A devout Catholic, Ferrero was known for his strong devotion to Our Lady. At the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of his company, he said: "The success of Ferrero we owe to Our Lady of Lourdes; without her we can do little." As the third largest chocolate producer in the world, Ferrero had a lot to be thankful for. The Ferrero Rocher candies, along with *Nutella*, *Kindertreats* and *Tic Tacs*, brought in over \$10 billion in 2016. Ferrero was said to have made an annual pilgrimage to Lourdes, taking his top manager. He also organized a visit to the shrine for his employees, and had a statue of the Virgin Mary placed in each of his company's 14 production facilities around the world.

Maybe these little candies could inspire our spirit of penance during Holy Week. If we follow Mary we will be strong enough to forget about ourselves and be transformed into a gift for others. The muscle of our personality grows when we challenge ourselves with cheerful acts of service. The Cross is always a surprise, but a hidden one...

LESSONS FROM HISTORY

By Marty McFly



Hi, let me introduce myself. I'm Marty McFly. I was born in Hill Valley, California. I set fire to the living room rug when I was 8 years old. But you probably know me because of the DMC DeLorean... Actually, I want to use it in these days to travel through time and interview historical characters, and ask them how they would approach a shutdown. I just came back from Island of Despair where I met Robinson Crusoe. He was fine with the interview, but he didn't allow pictures...

Good morning, Mr. Crusoe?

-Call me Rob, please...

Sure, hey Rob, I know it may sound crazy, but I'm coming from the 21st century and my friends would like to know how to survive in quarantine, any advice?

-Well it depends on where they are staying, is it an island, a jungle, a mountain?

Actually, they are at home...

-Hmmm, interesting. That's more challenging, maybe the first thing would be to take control of the situation. Instead of letting things happen, they should *decide*. "This is what I want to do." The currency for someone who is stranded is time. You don't realize it at the beginning, but you are billionaire in time. So it's like the lottery, it can make you better or destroy you depending on how you use it, do you get the picture?

Yeah, it makes sense. Believe me, I'm quite familiar with time management... So, let me ask you, Rob, how did you take control?

Listen kid, there's no playbook for that, but I guess you have to start with material things and move to more spiritual ones, you see...

Sorry bro, in English?

Dude, you start shaving, taking care of your island and from there you move towards reshaping your character. When you're confined is when you get to know and see yourself as you really are. You cannot hide from yourself, at least not forever. It's a little bit like the process of peeling an onion, there are different layers: your reactions, your moods, your choices, your habits, your character... and then boom! You see yourself like in the doctor's room! You see what you love, your strengths and weaknesses, yourself as you really are.

Woow! Thanks dude, that helps. Hey I gotta go back before dinner, but I appreciate your time and insights. Say hi to Friday when you see him and take care, Rob!



Submit your article to
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