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The Boy who Fasted Faithfully

*Our Lady who has the power to bring the dead back to life
can easily make the deaf and the dumb hear and speak*

On this a great miracle was performed for a good woman by the Virgin Mary, who when she so wishes does many many fine and wondrous miracles, and when it is needful, comes to the aid of those who call to her or serve her.

That woman had a son whom she loved more than anything else, but he could not hear nor could he speak at all, and so the poor woman had spent all she had to find a cure.

When she saw that there was no benefit in medicine or anything else, she started to pray to the Virgin, our heavenly Lady, for She never disappoints or fails the distressed, and without fail she fasted on the eves of Her feast days.

Her deaf-mute son asked her in sign language why she fasted so much, and she signed back that she did it for the Blessed Virgin. He began to fast with her, and to ask the Virgin for her favour

both in his thought and by signs, with great piety. But then a grave illness came upon him and his parents thought he was dead, but Holy Mary was not content for his life to end in this way.

For as he lay on his bed, he promptly sat up, and spoke aloud, and said "Welcome, my Lady", and then, as if in reply, Of course, my Lady, I will do it without fail."

And again he said, "I will gladly come." When his mother saw this, she said these words: "My son, who are you talking to? He replied, "I cannot deny it, I am talking to Holy Mary, who brought me back to life,

and who said, 'God be with you', and I replied that she was welcome, and then she said that I should not delay but should make my full confession, to which I replied that I would gladly repent of my sins,

And again she said to me that if I wished to continue to serve her she would soon have me taken to Heaven, and I replied straightway that I would very gladly go with her.

As soon as he had said all this, he rose up from his bed in full health and was neither deaf nor dumb, and immediately took food and drink. When the people saw this, they at once gave thanks to the Virgin – and we too should praise her, if it so pleases her.