

St. Joseph Marian Center

The Albany Diocesan Division of
THE BLUE ARMY OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA

Fall 2006



*“Holy Family of
Nazareth, Pray for Us”*

The Necessity of the Family Rosary: Our Mother’s Roadmap to Heaven

It was November, 1980, and John Paul II was addressing a small group of Catholics in Fulda, a city in Hessen, Germany. The group was questioning the pontiff about the “third Secret” of the Fatima apparitions, and the predicted catastrophe expected to rock the world and wreak destruction.

“Here is the remedy against all evil!” stated the Pontiff, holding up his Rosary emphatically. “Pray, pray and ask for nothing else. Put everything in the hands of the Mother of God!”

Why the Rosary? There are a lot of logical reasons--it’s Christo-centric, it’s based solidly in the Gospels, but maybe one reason suffices. *Because Our Lady said so.* She didn’t ask for Divine Mercy chaplets, or particular novenas, all of which are extremely valuable as intercessory prayers. *She asked for the Rosary.*

In fact, technically, She didn’t ask. She beseeched us, with all of the influence and emotional power that a Mother can wield with Her children. Again and again, in Church-approved apparitions, and in those that remain unauthorized, such as Medjugorje, Her message remains constant and determined: Pray the Rosary Every Day. Not just once a week, not just on Holy Days, but every single day.

It shouldn’t be that hard to do. Take a look at what you find time to accomplish every day. You eat. You sleep. Most Americans do some form of work every day, even on Sundays. We watch TV. We listen to the radio. Ever notice how fast 20 minutes

goes by in front of the tube? I mention 20 minutes, because that’s about how long it takes to say five decades of the Rosary, one complete mystery. Nothing fancy, just announcing the mystery and saying one Our Father, 10 Hail Marys and ending with the Glory Be. Twenty minutes. There is hardly a family in this country that does not spend 20 minutes a day in the car. Trapped. Belted in. With no escape. Great time to say the Rosary!

Of course, saying it in the evening, venerating a statue of the Blessed Mother, or a picture of the Sacred and Immaculate Hearts, is always preferable. But for those of us in the daily trenches, we need to work with what we’ve got.

The Rosary was given by Our Lady to St. Dominic in Toulouse, France, as the antidote to the heresy and sin that was sweeping the nation. Sound familiar? And here’s the best part--it worked. Again and again, throughout the history of Christendom, the Rosary was the weapon of choice every time the gates of hail tried to prevail. It has never been known to fail.

The Rosary, then, is not the superstitious pastime of old women, nor is it the province of Marian zealots alone. It is the chief prayerful weapon of all Catholics, truly a universal path to heaven. As any loving Mother would do, Mary is handing us a surefire map for our journey home.

So say the Rosary every day. It’s good for you. It’s good for the nation and for the world. It’s good for your family, your spouse and your children. But most of all, say it because your Mother told you to. And Mothers always know best.

Thanks to Our Donors

We extend a sincere thank you to everyone who has donated to our newsletter and for the many kind notes about its inspirational articles. With the rising costs of printing and mailing, this newsletter can only continue with reader support. Your contributions make this publication possible!

A special thanks to an anonymous donor from Ballston Spa, who faithfully sends a generous contribution in response to each issue of our newsletter. We would like to show our appreciation by sending you a complimentary copy of “**Mary, the 21st Century Woman**,” written by Mildred Breitenbach, co-founder of the St. Joseph Marian Center. Please contact Ed Breitenbach with your name and address.

All donations of \$20 or more receive a complimentary copy of this wonderfully inspiring book, which is currently in its second printing. “**Mary, the 21st Century Woman**” may be purchased by sending \$5, plus \$1.60 for shipping and handling, to Ed Breitenbach, P.O. Box 472, Altamont, NY 12009.

Remember the *Real* Reason for the Season

Congratulations to Our Lady of Grace Gift Shop as it marks its first anniversary since opening its doors for business! Located at Carpenter Plaza, 2568 Western Avenue in Guilderland, the gift shop is the perfect destination for your Christmas shopping, carrying Catholic bibles, books, rosaries, statues and many more spiritual and gift items. So remember the real reason for the season and give a gift that will inspire and strengthen the faith of your loved ones.

Add Us to Your Will

When you are writing or updating your will, please remember the St. Joseph Marian Center and its mission to spread the Gospel of Christ and the messages of Our Lady of Fatima. A bequest made to this non-profit organization is a “lasting treasure.”

We will continue to publish and mail newsletters periodically. Please visit our website at stjosephmariancenter.org for full information about our ministry and previous newsletter issues.

Our Mission

St. Joseph Marian Center represents the Albany Diocesan Division of The Blue Army, the worldwide apostolate of the faithful, responding to the requests of Our Lady of Fatima. The Mother of Jesus appeared to three shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal in 1917 and asked for prayers, penance and reparation for sins, giving us the means to change the world and to turn the hearts of men and women back to God, particularly through daily recitation of the rosary, Eucharistic adoration and a generous acceptance of the duties of our state in life.

St. Joseph Marian Center promotes the lessons of Fatima and the spread of devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary through home enthronements, family consecrations and visitations of the Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima to homes, schools and parishes.

Contact Us

For information, to make a donation, or to request a visit from the Pilgrim Virgin Statue, please contact us:

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The Blue Army Albany Diocesan Division

Rev. Walter F. Baniak, Spiritual Director
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Joseph Bonville, Home Visitation of the
Pilgrim Virgin statue. 518.785.4483.

Newsletter

Doreen M. Truesdell, Editor.

Modesty: The Forgotten Virtue

by Sr. Maria Lucia de Jesus

“The sacred text (Genesis) shows us that God covered the bodies (of Adam and Eve) that had stripped themselves through sin, of the garment of grace. For this reason, we must all clothe ourselves decently, modestly and with dignity. Those who appear indecently dressed are an incentive to sin and are responsible for their own sins, but also for those that others may commit because of them. Reflect that fashion, if indecent...is a trick of the devil, a clever trap in which the devil catches souls, in the same way as hunters catch game...

“God did not give us clothing as an adornment in order to feed our human vanity and frivolity. No. He gave it to us as a protection against sin, as a sign of penance for sin committed, and as a punishment for it, as well as to remind us of the laws of God, which we are all to obey...the modest clothing with which we must cover ourselves is a distinguishing mark setting us apart in the stream of immortality and enabling us to be, for the world, true witnesses of Christ.” ~ Excerpts taken from the book, *The Call*, by Sr. Maria Lucia de Jesus

A Shared Obligation...

“The parish priest, and especially the preacher, should, according to the words of the Apostle Paul (2 Tim. iv, 2), insist that feminine garb be based on modesty...Let them likewise admonish parents to cause their daughters to cease wearing indecorous dress... Parents should see to it that their offspring are solidly instructed, from earliest childhood, in love for the virtues of modesty and chastity...that all family members...should find reason and incentive to love and preserve modesty.

“Maidens and women dressed immodestly are to be debarred from Holy Communion and from acting as sponsors at the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation; if the offense be extreme, they may even be forbidden to enter the church.

Letter of the Congregation of the Council
Rome, January 12, 1930

by Our Blessed Lady

“The sins which bring most souls to hell are the sins of the flesh. ***Certain fashions are going to be introduced which will offend Our Lord very much...*** the Church has no fashions; Our Lord is always the same...”

*The words of the Blessed Mother at Fatima
to Blessed Jacinta Marto*

...and Furthermore...

Saint (Padre) Pio wouldn't tolerate low-necked dresses or short, tight skirts, and he forbade his spiritual daughters to wear transparent stockings. He stubbornly dismissed them from his confessional, even before they set foot inside...On some mornings he drove away one after another, until he ended up hearing very few confessions. His brothers decided to fasten a sign on the church door: “By Padre Pio's explicit wish, women must enter the confessional wearing skirts AT LEAST 8 INCHES BELOW THE KNEE. IT IS FORBIDDEN TO BORROW LONGER DRESSES IN CHURCH AND TO WEAR THEM TO CONFESSION.”

The Church Speaks

“The good of our soul is more important than that of our body; and we have to prefer the spiritual welfare of our neighbor to our bodily comforts. If a certain kind of dress constitutes a grave and proximate occasion of sin, and endangers the salvation of your soul and others, it is your duty to give it up. O Christian mothers, if you knew what a future of anxieties and perils, of ill-guarded shame you prepare for your sons and daughters, imprudently getting them accustomed to live scantily dressed and making them lose the sense of modesty, you would be ashamed of yourselves and you would dread the harm you are making of yourselves, the harm which you are causing these children, whom Heaven has entrusted to you to be brought up as Christians.”

Pope Pius XII to
Catholic Young Women's Groups of Italy



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Visit our new website at www.stjosephmariancenter.org

Words of Wisdom & Truth

A Message from Fr. Walter F. Baniak, Spiritual Director, St. Joseph Marian Center

Spell it “MERRY” CHRISTMAS, if you wish--but mean it as “MARY” in the sense of “MARIAN,” in the depth of your mind, heart and soul. Without Mary there would have been a very different coming of Jesus, or maybe no Christ Child and no Christmas at all!

Imagine the calendars without Christmas, or life on earth without Jesus, without Holy Mass, without even Santa Claus! Mary was chosen to bring forth the Son of God as the greatest Gift to all of humanity, making all human life partake of the Sacredness of the Christ Child by His entering into our humanity--yours and mine--pending our generous response.



O, Holy Night

Joy to the world, indeed, for Her Divine Motherhood. But how much the world needs Mary’s guidance and maternal guarding of God’s greatest Gift of Himself to us! Lust, instead of true love of life, is decimating our Catholic Church attendance, the Catholic clergy, Catholic marriage, Catholic families--Catholic children! Mary’s appearance to the three children at Fatima revealed Heaven’s warning that the adult faith will not survive without a revival of the children’s faith. The Sacredness of the Fatima message requires our response and a return of Mary fully into our “MERRY MARIAN” CHRISTMAS greeting to all!