

St. Joseph Marian Center

&

ALBANY DIOCESAN DIVISION OF
THE BLUE ARMY OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA

SPRING 2005



In the second apparition of Our Lady to the children at Fatima (June 13, 1917) she revealed: "Jesus wishes to establish devotion to my Immaculate Heart in the world. I promise salvation to those who embrace it."

This does not mark the beginning of this devotion, for among many others, St. John Eudes, who lived in the 17th century, wrote extensively of devotion to the Heart of Mary. Yet, Our Lady's promise of the grace of salvation to those who embrace it, has given a special impetus to the spread of this devotion in the present century. Nor must we imagine that devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary depends on the authenticity of private revelation. It rests on a solid theological foundation. As the renowned theologian and scholar of Fatima, the late Dr. Joaquin Maria Alonso, C.M.F., director of "Ephemerides Mariologicae" (Madrid) has stated:

"The 'Heart of Mary'—as well as the 'Heart of Jesus'—symbolizes, in agreement with the best theology of our times, the expressed aspect of the person considered, showing her love by the 'natural' symbol of the Heart."

Pierced on Every Side

On December 10, 1925, eight years after the apparitions at Fatima, while St. Lucia was in her room at the convent of the Sisters of St. Dorothy, Our Lady appeared to her accompanied with the Child Jesus. The Blessed Mother had in her hand a heart surrounded by thorns that pierced it on every side. The Child Jesus spoke first:

"Have pity on the heart of your most holy Mother. It is covered with thorns with which ungrateful men pierce it at every moment, and there is no one to remove them with an act of reparation."

Our Lady then spoke to Sr. Lucia:

"My daughter, look at my heart surrounded with thorns with which ungrateful men pierce it at every moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude. You, at least, try to console me, and announce that I promise to assist at the hour of death, with all the graces necessary for salvation, all those who, on the first Saturday of five consecutive months, go to Confession and receive Holy Communion, recite five decades of the Rosary, and keep me company for a quarter of an hour while meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary, with the intention of making reparation to me."

If one would ask why Our Lady asked for Communions of reparation on five first Saturdays—instead of some other number, Our Lord answered that question when He spoke to Sr. Lucia on May 29, 1930. He explained that it was because of five kinds of offenses and blasphemies against the Immaculate Heart of Mary, namely, blasphemies against her perpetual virginity, against the divine and spiritual maternity of Mary, blasphemies involving the rejection and dishonoring of her images, and the neglect of implanting in the hearts of children a knowledge and love of this Immaculate Mother.

To Jesus Through Mary

Lest there should be any misconception about the place of devotion to Mary in Catholic piety, while we honor in a special way the Immaculate Heart of the Mother of Jesus, i.e. the person of Mary in her eminent sanctity and glorification by God, we do this because it is the wish of her Son, who knows well that true devotion to His Mother leads souls to Him. As Pope Pius XII wrote in his encyclical celebrating the centenary of the apparitions at Lourdes:

"Everything in Mary leads us toward her Son, our only Savior, by whose foreseen merits

she was preserved immaculate and full of grace; everything in Mary lifts up our hearts to the praise of the Holy Trinity.”

The Church sees Mary, then, not as the goal, but as the guide, who always leads souls who honor her with true devotion — to her Son, especially to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. This is expressed by Pope John Paul II in his encyclical *Redemptoris Mater* on the Marian Year:

“The piety of the Christian people has always very rightly sensed a profound link between devotion to the Blessed Virgin and worship of the Eucharist: this is a fact that can be seen in the liturgy of both the East and the West, in the traditions of the religious families, in modern movements of spirituality — including those for youth, and in the pastoral practice of the Marian Shrines. Mary guides the faithful to the Eucharist.”

The Hearts of Jesus and Mary Inseparable

Because of Mary’s fullness of grace, enlightening her mind to understand the divine plan as no other human person understood it, and bringing total surrender of her will to the will of God, there was an unceasing “yes” in the Heart of Mary to the will of the Father, occasioning an unceasing flow of grace from the Holy Spirit, who fashioned her Heart more and more into the likeness of her Son.

Throughout her entire life the Heart of Mary breathed a silent “yes” to every expression of the divine will. While the Annunciation by the Angel Gabriel affords us one of the few glimpses of the Heart of Mary, long before that moment and even after it — it was every the same: “Be it done unto me according to your word.” (Luke 1:38)

Like her Divine Son, Mary triumphed over sin and Satan by her total surrender to the Father. Satan is rebellion personified, and insofar as he can induce others to rebel against God he gains a certain dominion over them. Whereas, insofar as we heed Mary’s warning and surrender to God’s will, and bring others to do so, we

undermine the influence of Satan in the world, and contribute to peace.

Because of the boundless love between Our Lord and His Mother, what offends the Heart of the Son, offends the Heart of the Mother. For this reason our Divine Savior wishes that we offer reparation to the Heart of His Mother along with that to His own Sacred Heart.

Jacinta’s Legacy

Little Jacinta, the youngest of the three children who received Our Lady’s message at Fatima, was not the least in the understanding of that message and the living of it. She received special communications from the Mother of God in the last days of her life relative to devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Shortly before going to the hospital where she would die apart from her family, she spoke to Lucia revealing a clear understanding of some important aspects of that devotion:

“Tell everybody that God grants us graces through the immaculate Heart of Mary; that people are to ask her for them; and that the Heart of Jesus wants the Immaculate Heart of Mary to be venerated at His side. Tell them also to pray to the Immaculate Heart of Mary for peace, since God has entrusted it to her. If I could only put into the hearts of all, the fire that is burning within my own heart, and that makes me love the Hearts of Jesus and Mary so very much.”

There’s a reason

For every pain that we must bear,

For every burden, every care,

There’s a reason.

For every grief that bows the head,

For every teardrop that is shed,

There’s a reason.

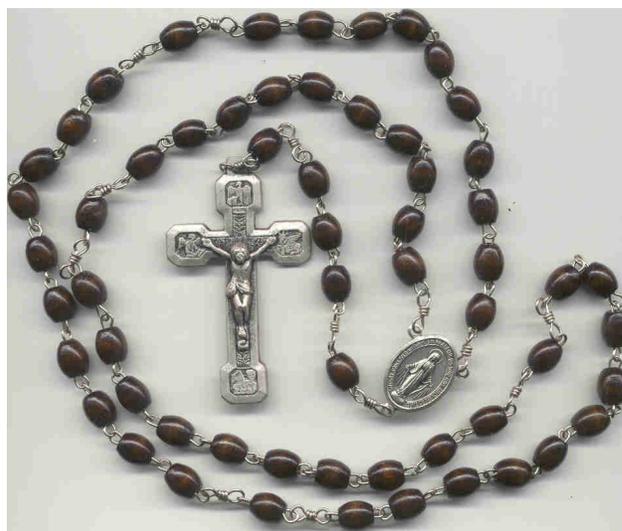
For every hurt, every plight,

For every lonely, pain-racked night,

*There's a reason.
But if we trust God as we should,
All must work out for our good,
He...knows the reason!
May Christ give to you
At this time and for always
His Peace in your soul,
His Presence in your heart,
His Power in your life.*

**“THE REASON BEHIND THE NAME” ...
WHY: “THE SAINT JOSEPH
MARIAN CENTER”?**

The answer is related to the August and September Fatima apparitions to the Fatima children. This issue of our newsletter focuses on the ultimate purposes of Our Lady's Fatima appearances and message. It is the FAMILY Mary comes to reawaken to prayer, sacrifice, and holiness. Children do necessarily mean family. The 70,000 rain-soaked people come to see the promised miracle on October 13, 1917, involved thousands of families whom Mary sought to reach through Lucia, Jacinta, and Francisco. At the September appearance, Mary promised that Jesus and Joseph would appear to bless the world. In October, the Holy Family was seen by the three children while the sun gyrated before the gathered people. Jesus and Joseph specifically blessed the crowds with the sign of the Cross. Fatima thus spells the reawakening of the world family around the Holy Family with Mary its Mother. The world and its families do need Fatima today more than in 1917!



In the August visit, Mary again sadly said: “Pray, pray very much, and make sacrifices for sinners; for many souls go to hell, because there are none to sacrifice and to pray for them.” In this issue our amazingly inspired editor touches on the importance of prayer, especially the Rosary, so often urged by Mary, its unique power in the very tiring repetition of so many “Hail Mary’s”. Each Hail “Mary” does honor Mary, we know. The whole Rosary recited does keep us united with Mary in mind and heart. It is an awareness of her staying united with us as we marvel with her what great things God has wrought in her. Also, repeatedly we are presenting our requests to her through each repetition, as at Fatima Lucia was forever asking for favors. But yet another and hard to believe reason for each “Hail Mary” is the fact that until we ask, Mary must wait for that asking as our permission for her intercession. Even Our Lord will not force His Graces upon us until we really want Him to by our asking. Every “Hail Mary” is empowering Mary to help us. Eager as she, Our Mother, is to help, she must await our asking. After 50 Hail Mary’s perhaps, we might end up sincerely and humbly deserving to be taken seriously in what we seek. If we are worthy to be heard, what awesome power is our every prayer!

O Holy Family of Fatima, help our families to become holy!!

—Rev. Walter Baniak



HERE IS THE STORY of the Saint Joseph Marian Center's Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima—why it was carved, and why it is so special to us:

On a November day in 1946, Monsignor Harold V. Colgan, pastor of St. Mary's Parish in Plainfield, New Jersey, was rushed to the hospital with a heart attack. The consensus of opinion among his doctors was that with rest, he might survive another six months. As he lay in his hospital room on December 8, 1946 he spent the day in prayer and told the Mother of God that if she would intercede with her son to postpone his death, he would spend the rest of his life promoting devotion to her. His prayer was answered and one week later he walked out of the hospital totally cured, to the amazement of the doctors.

Then one day in 1947, Monsignor Colgan, who was devoted to our Lady's appearance at Fatima in 1917 to Lucia, Jacuita, and Francisco, decided to make this the focus of the Marian devotion upon which he would expend his life's energy. He preached the message of Fatima in his parish. One day he said, "From now on I want you to wear something Blue and we are going to become the Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima, in opposition to the Red Army of Russia." When the Bishop of Fatima heard about what he had done, he commissioned a statue of Mary, just as she appeared to the children at Fatima. It was carved from cedar wood, stands about four feet tall, and contains several fragments from the tree upon which our Lady stood during the apparitions in 1917. It was a gift to Monsi-

gnor Colgan from the Bishop of Fatima, and was blessed by him.

When Monsignor Colgan died in 1972 he left the statue to Robert Froehlich, a close personal friend, and founder of the House of Loretto Marian Center in Cohoes, New York, and the statue was brought to America. When Robert Froehlich died in 1978, his parents gave the statue to Mildred and Ed Breitenbach, who were on the board of directors for the House of Loretto Marian Center. They founded the Saint Joseph Marian Center in order to continue to spread the message of Fatima. The Blue Army, in Washington, New Jersey, was informed of the Saint Joseph Marian Center's intentions. Thru Bishop Howard Hubbard and the Blue Army, the Saint Joseph Marian Center became the Blue Army's representative for the Diocese of Albany.

The Saint Joseph Marian Center borrowed the film, "Our Lady of Fatima", from the Blue Army and a projector from our parish CCD, and started to give presentations about Fatima at Catholic schools, churches, rosary societies, nursing homes, and Knights of Columbus meetings. In the first three years they gave over 65 presentations with Mary's statue. In the early years they were invited by most of these groups, but over the years this has stopped.

Since 1978, the pilgrim statue has been carried in processions at Rosary Rallies in Auriesville at the Shrine of the American Martyrs, at May 1st devotions at LaSalette Shrine and at the Saint Joseph Marian Center in Altamont, at Rosary Rallies at the South Mall in Albany, and at

Columbus Day parades. The statue was present in the Cathedral when Bishop Howard Hubbard



consecrated our diocese to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on March 25, 1984.

When the Pope declared 1987 the Marian Year, and with the approval of Bishop Hubbard his pastors, the Saint Joseph Marian Center took the pilgrim statue of Mary to every parish in the Diocese, two or three a day, and held Rosary Rallies through their towns and villages. It took six weeks! The statue was displayed in a “Mary Mobile”, a pickup truck with protective plastic glass partitions, like the “Pope Mobile”.

The Saint Joseph Marian Center has visited many families for their Home Enthronement thru Jesus and Mary. They have been told by many who touched the relic below Mary, with their rosary or religious medal, that they have had healings. We do not publicize them.

FOR THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE

a visit to your home, prayer group, or church, with the Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, please call the Saint Joseph Marian Center at 518 861-6979. If you would like a one week visit of a smaller statue of Our Lady of Fatima, please call our Home Visitation Chairman, Mr. Joseph Bonville at 518 785-4483. He has been doing a magnificent job of escorting two of these beautiful statues to homes, shut-ins and prayer groups. He also provides videos on Fatima for viewing. We thank him for doing such a great service for Our Lady and her children, young and old.



Grateful thanks to all the workers that help us with the mailing of the newsletters, and also to those who support us financially. Your support helps us to have a positive impact for Mary by promoting the Fatima message.

THOUSANDS OF ANGELS AT HOLY MASS

According to St. John Chrysostom, thousands of angels surround the alter while Mass is being celebrated. He testifies that he often saw these heavenly ministers, bowed in reverent silence, their eyes fixed on the most adorable Sacrament. Our behavior should be similar to theirs. Let us always remember that it is during the Mass that we have at hand the very best time in which to ask of God the graces we need. St. Thomas Aquinas says that during the Mass our Guardian Angel presents our prayers to Jesus, and that is then that He hears them and grants graces.



The Mass is the greatest wonder in the world. There is nothing on Earth equal to it, and there is nothing in Heaven greater than it. The next greatest wonder is the indifference of Catholics regarding Holy Mass. How is it that so many Catholics do not go to Mass? The Great Sacrifice of Calvary is offered near to their homes, almost at their very doors, and they are too slothful to assist at it. The sacrifice of Calvary! Yes, for the Mass is really and truly the very same as the slothful to assist at it. The Sacrifice of Calvary! Yes, for the Mass is really and truly the very same as the Death of Jesus on the Cross. Why don't mothers, why don't Catechists, why don't teachers instill into the minds and hearts of those in their charge the wonders of the wonders of the Mass?



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FATIMA CONTINUED AT BEAURAING—Shrine of the “Golden” Heart of Mary. It is so obvious that Jesus, the Son of God, deigned to come to us through the Immaculate Virgin Mary. Can there be a better way for us in turn to go to Jesus than through the same “gateway” Jesus chose? Our problem is to find the correct door. Since Mary’s Fatima appearance it seems so many appearances in so many places have multiplied the number of “doors” of her arrival that the problem arises which is the real door through her to Jesus. Are they all the same “door” despite the seeming differences?

A reason for so many appearances is often given that her message is so urgent—terribly urgent—that she would fill the whole world while it is still too late. Our Lady is definitely one and the same. Her messages cannot be contradictory. This newsletter dares take on that needed task of verifying that it is the same Immaculate Mary and the same urgent message conveyed in all her appearances.

In 1932 Mary appeared at Beauraing, Belgium—just 15 years after Fatima. Interesting similarities occurred. Like in Portugal, Marxist and anti-Catholic Labor leadership was rampant. Mary’s appeal was to children directly, similarities indeed. Prayerfully, may this newsletter serve our Blessed Mother’s desire to be heard.

—*Rev. Walter Baniak*

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