

# St. Joseph Marian Center

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

Spring Issue 2006

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

## Rejoice! Celebrating Easter Joy Every Sunday of the Year

**P**raised Be Jesus Christ, King of Endless Glory! May the Risen Lord bring us joy, hope and an abiding sense of our true and eternal home in heaven.

If only we could keep the excitement and joy of Easter all year, it would go a long way towards living the truly saintly lives we are called to lead. Living in the presence of the Risen Savior would remind us we are pilgrims in an imperfect world struggling towards a heavenly goal. By keeping our eyes on eternity we would be more fit to conduct our lives with dignity, as creatures made in the image of God. Instead of judging according to the views of a secular world, we would consider all of our decisions in the light of our eternal destination.

As always, the Catholic Church points the way to our goal. In Her wisdom, the Church universal declares that every Sunday is a celebration of Easter joy, that every Sunday is the Day of Resurrection. *“For Christians it has become the first of all days, the first of all feasts, the Lord’s Day,”* states the Catechism of the Catholic Church (2174). *“The Sunday celebration of the Lord’s Day and His Eucharist is at the heart of the Church’s life. Sunday is ...to be observed as the foremost holy day of obligation in the universal Church.”* (2177).

How do we keep Easter joy every Sunday of the year, often without the aid of a “special season”? As Catholics, we are called to live liturgical lives, according



to the rhythms of the Church’s calendar. “Ordinary” time is a misnomer; there is truly nothing ordinary about the beautiful cycle of seasons celebrated by the worldwide Church. But as with any worthwhile relationship, or decision of love, it requires effort and personal sacrifice. Again, the Church comes to our rescue, to educate and illuminate. In order to celebrate the resurrection joy of every Sunday, we must *sanctify* every Sunday. KEEP HOLY THE SABBATH, the third commandment instructs us. In other words, start

thinking and acting like it’s a day set apart, a day of holiness and joy that acts as a necessary respite from our workweary, hyperbusy lives. Stop shopping. Turn off the television. Do nothing but the most necessary of household chores in keeping with your station in life. Make the celebration of the Mass the central act of the day for you and your family. Fast for one hour beforehand; make a Eucharistic thanksgiving afterwards. Take time to think about the

gospel message. Have fun and spend the day loving others. As usual, God’s commandments are for our own good. He knows we need a day of leisure and relaxation, a day to count our blessings no matter how tough the week has been; a day to prepare ourselves spiritually and physically for the coming week.

So celebrate Easter every Sunday of the year and let it change your outlook on the other six days of the week.

*“Dying you destroyed our death; Rising you restored our life. Lord Jesus, Come in Glory!”*

## Nocturnal Adoration



Our Lady of Fatima called for First Saturday devotions to bring about repentance, conversion and peace. A wonderful way to honor Our Lady of Fatima is to adore Her Son in the Holy Eucharist. Every First Saturday, Nocturnal Adoration is held from 8 to 9 p.m. at Our Lady of Hope Chapel, located on Jeanne

Jugan Lane in Latham (just off Route 9, past St. Ambrose Church). All are welcome to attend.

## Thanks to 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! Please consider sending a donation today. All donations of \$20 or more receive a copy of “**Mary, the 21st Century Woman,**” written by Mildred Breitenbach, co-founder of the St. Joseph Marian Center.

## Becoming a Joyful Giver

We may believe that we are responsible for our own wealth and that the comforts we enjoy are the result of our own ingenuity and hard work. But God reminds us that all we have comes from His generosity and providence (Deut. 8). To become a joyful giver, here are three guidelines to keep in mind:

- ✓ remember God has blessed you and that all of your material possessions are His.
- ✓ remember the second commandment: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and strength,” including your wealth. By giving cheerfully, we are loving God in a tangible way.
- ✓ remember we are called to imitate Christ, who gave all He had, including His life. Joyful giving draws us closer to the mystery of the Holy Trinity and perfect love.

## 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.”

## 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:

### **St. Joseph Marian Center, Inc.**

Edward Breitenbach, President  
P.O. Box 472, Altamont, New York 12009  
Phone & Fax: 518.861.6979

### **The Blue Army Albany Diocesan Division**

Rev. Walter F. Baniak, Spiritual Director  
Edward Breitenbach, President  
Joseph Bonville, Home Visitation of the  
Pilgrim Virgin Statue. 518.785.4483.

### **Newsletter**

Doreen M. Truesdell, Editor/Writer

# A Year of Progress for Fatima Apostolate

*This year marks the 90th Anniversary of the Fatima Apparitions. Below is an excerpt from a letter by Michael LaCorte, Executive Director of the World Apostolate of Fatima (WAF) USA, detailing the accomplishments of WAF during the past year and the many ways the organization is successfully spreading the Fatima message.*

Dear Friend of Our Lady's Apostolate,

May God Bless you and your loved ones during this joyous 90th Anniversary of the Fatima Apparition! Your loyal spiritual and financial support has been vital to the tremendous success we have had during our first year as a Public Association of the Faithful. At the request and under the guidance of the Holy Father Pope John Paul II, we took the steps necessary to raise the status of the World Apostolate of Fatima to the highest level available to a lay organization. The decree was bestowed upon us by the Pontifical Council for



the Laity on February 4, 2006. We immediately recognized the tremendous responsibility we had to our church and to help people learn, live and spread Our Lady's message of hope in a world that is suffering from the ravages of spiritual decay. At a Mass in St. Peter's on May 13th, 2006, Pope Benedict XVI expressed the hope that the message of Fatima will be "INCREASINGLY ACCEPTED, UNDERSTOOD AND LIVED IN EVERY COMMUNITY."

Here are several highlights of what your contribution have made possible: Spiritual and Physical Improvements resulted in a rejuvenation of the National Blue Army Shrine of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Washington, NJ, dedicated to spreading Our Lady's Message. Thousands of

pilgrims visited the shrine this season where prayer, penance, sacrifice, and the Holy Eucharist are practiced daily along with devotion to our Lord and His Blessed Mother. ~ Worldwide Children's Eucharistic Holy Hour on October 6th, held at the National Basilica in Washington, DC, and also held at other locations in many nations. Millions of Children from all over the world joined together in Adoration as we sponsored the live broadcast of this historic event on EWTN. ~ One World Praying - "One Billion Prayers," a successful effort to send one billion prayers for life and prayers for peace to heaven. We sponsored a 7 1/2 hr. broadcast on EWTN so millions could relearn or be introduced to the message of Fatima, as we



offered Holy Mass and presented renowned speakers and prayers from the Shrine. Similar events were held throughout the world and people of many faiths joined with us in prayer. ~ Consecration of the United States on Veterans Day. We sponsored the consecration of the U.S. to our patroness, the Immaculate Conception and the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC.

Together, we have made a good start. With your help we can continue or even expand our work so many more millions will come to understand and live Our Lady's Message of Hope, Peace, and Salvation.

God Bless all you do for Our Lady.

# Rosary for Life

## Uniting Our Prayers with the Victims of Abortion

There is no greater scourge on our society today than the cultural acceptance and practice of abortion. There is no greater debt that we will one day be forced to pay by the perfect justice of God than the legalized destruction of millions of innocent souls never given the chance to fulfill their destinies. There is no greater refusal of God's omnipotence than the killing of the lives He has created in His wisdom, sacrificed on an altar of greed, pride and hatred. The most powerful weapon we have, the Rosary, is the most efficacious recourse to this tragedy. The following is a meditation on the five Sorrowful mysteries intended to unite our Rosary prayers with the innocent victims of abortion and bring about the end of this horrific chapter in human history.



### **First Sorrowful Mystery: The Agony in the Garden**

With this decade we contemplate Christ's sufferings in the Garden of Gethsemane and unite with Him the unspeakable agony that abortion has brought upon our families, our nation and the entire world. The burden of so many deaths, and so much killing, weighs heavily on all of humankind as we cry out to God for justice and mercy. As Christ did, we trust in God's Holy will and pray He will send heavenly assistance to strengthen us in our trials as we struggle to bring an end to all abortions. Our Father....Hail Mary....Glory Be....

### **Second Sorrowful Mystery: The Scourging at the Pillar**

With this decade we contemplate Christ's bitter flagellation and unite with Him the pain and death of all preborn babies who are victims of abortion. As Christ's blood flowed with every stroke of the whip, so the blood of these babies flows at the violent hands of their executioners. We pray that babies will be spared such merciless sufferings by the merit of Christ's own sufferings, and implore God to intercede for each one who is threatened. Our Father....Hail Mary....Glory Be....

### **Third Sorrowful Mystery: The Crowning With Thorns**

With this decade we contemplate the mocking and cruelty of those who crowned Our Lord with thorns and we unite with Him the sufferings of all those who fight for the right to life. Just as Our Lord submitted to the foul names, blasphemies, spitting and violence of the soldiers and the crowd, so do many of His followers today as they speak the truth and rightfully protest against abortion. How many pro-life advocates have felt the thorns of injustice as they suffer persecution and unfair treatment for their defense of the preborn, innocent babies who cannot speak for themselves! Our Father....Hail Mary....Glory Be....

### **Fourth Sorrowful Mystery: The Carrying of the Cross**

With this decade we contemplate the long and arduous journey of Our Lord to Calvary. We unite with Him the sufferings of all those who have participated in abortion and carry the burden of so terrible an offense. We pray that those who seek repentance will hear the life-giving words of Jesus, "Behold, I make all things new," and find consolation. We pray that others may have their eyes opened and be brought to the realization of their sins. We pray for all women who have had abortions, that they may be treated with love and led back to the arms of Our Savior. Our Father....Hail Mary....Glory Be....

### **Fifth Sorrowful Mystery: The Crucifixion and Death**

With this decade we contemplate Christ's death and unite with Him the death of so many millions of innocent souls who have been crucified by our secular culture. We mourn, as Mary and the apostles mourned, the light of their lives extinguished and the empty places left by their deaths. We mourn the childhoods that never were, the marriages and children they never had, the friends they would have been to us. We mourn that they never had the opportunity to glorify God on earth, in accordance with His holy plan, and we acknowledge that our world is the worse for their absence. Our Father....Hail Mary....Glory Be....



# Come, Your Mother is Calling

CAPITAL DISTRICT  
ROSARY RALLY  
Sunday, May 13, 2007  
“Mother’s Day with Mary”

at the  
SHRINE of LaSALETTE  
in Altamont, N.Y.  
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Join us as we celebrate the  
90th Anniversary of the  
Fatima Apparitions

MAIN CELEBRANT  
& SPEAKER  
Rev. Jeffrey M. L’Arche, MS  
Director, LaSalette Shrine

*Please help us to encourage  
attendance by photocopying this  
flyer and distributing it wherever  
possible. Thank you!*

CAPITAL DISTRICT ROSARY RALLY in Honor of  
the 90th Anniversary of Our Lady's Appearances at Fatima  
Sunday, May 13, 2007 at the Shrine of LaSalette

Program

1:00 p.m. - Consecration of America and ROSARY PROCESSION

3:00 p.m. - Speaker, Rev. Jeffrey M. L'Arche, MS

4:00 p.m. - HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS & BENEDICTION  
Celebrant: Rev. Jeffrey M. L'Arche

PILGRIM VIRGIN STATUE

The St. Joseph Marian Center's beautiful Pilgrim Virgin Statue of the Immaculate Heart of Our Lady of Fatima will be available for veneration. The statue contains a reliquary with fragments of the holm oak tree over which Our Lady appeared at Fatima.

GENERAL CHAIRMAN

Mr. Edward Breitenbach

St. Joseph Marian Center

P.O. Box 472, Altamont, NY 12009

Phone & Fax: 518-861-6979

The CAPITAL DISTRICT ROSARY RALLY is sponsored by the  
St. Joseph Marian Center  
The Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima, Albany Diocesan Division

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND AS WE HONOR OUR  
BLESSED MOTHER ON MOTHER'S DAY AND UNITE OUR  
PRAYERS FOR HER INTERCESSION.

# To Jesus, Through Mary by St. John Vianney, Cure of Ars



It would be impossible not to love Mary, if we reflected for a moment upon Her affection for us, and the benefits which She never ceases to lavish on us. ‘Alas,’ exclaims St. Bernard, the great servant of Mary, ‘How blind and miserable are we that we do not love so kind and good mother! The world without Mary’s prayers, would long ago

have ceased to be, and on account of our sins, have fallen back into chaos.’

The same saint tells us that all the graces which we obtain from heaven pass through Mary’s hands. Another Father of the church tells us: ‘Mary is like a good parent who is not content with caring for Her children in general, but watches over each one of them in particular.’

If God had treated us as we deserved after so many of our sins, we should long ago have been burning in

hell...If this misfortune has not happened to us, dear brethren, we may thank Mary for it; it is She to whom we really owe it. She throws Herself at the feet of Her divine Son, and says to him, ‘My Son, a little more time for this sinner; perhaps he will amend, perhaps he will act differently than he formerly did.’

What does She do to avert the wrath of the Father? She points out to Him all that His Son did and suffered, to repair the honor of which He has been deprived by sin. She hastens to remind Her Son of everything that She suffered during Her life for His sake. ‘My Son,’ She says to Him at every moment, ‘Just a few days longer, perhaps he will amend.’

Oh, how great is the affection of a Mother! And yet there are some who despise Her; others not only despise Her, they despise by their mockeries all those who have confidence in Her! Now, dear brethren, although they have shown only contempt for Her, She has, nevertheless, not forsaken them, for were this the case, these mockers would already be in hell.”

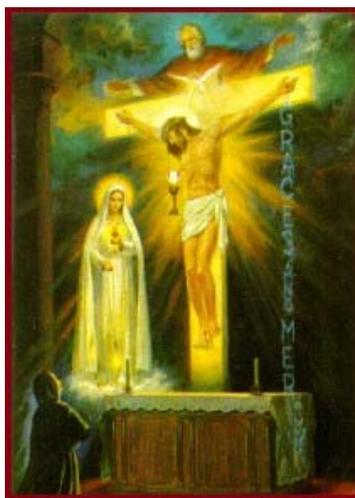
*Saint John Vianney, the Cure of Ars, (d. 1859) is the patron of parish priests worldwide.*

## Words of Wisdom & Truth by Fr. Walter Baniak (Cont’d from page 6)

Blue Army spirituality must consist in true Eucharistic prayer; in faithful attendance at Mass; the daily recitation of the Rosary; penance for one’s sins; and the fulfillment of the duties of our individual state of life.

How important to foster the variety of programs of the Blue Army, meant for groups of young people as well as individuals.

May we be ever mindful of the roles played by Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta in God’s plan for the



salvation of the world. May we bless God for them! Let us be ever mindful of Mary’s calling them to lead us in response to the message of Fatima, a call they answered so faithfully.

MARY, MOTHER OF  
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,  
and OUR LADY OF FATIMA  
intercede for us always,  
and especially this  
Easter Sunday and Season!



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P.O. Box 472, Altamont, New York 12009

Phone & Fax: 518.861.6979

President: Edward Breitenbach | Editor: Doreen M. Truesdell

Spiritual Director: Rev. Walter F. Baniak

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## Words of Wisdom & Truth

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

ALLELUIA! BLESSED, HAPPY EASTER!  
REJOICE FULLY IN THE RESURRECTION OF  
OUR SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST.

AGAIN, I SAY, REJOICE!

The Worldwide Apostolate, risen from the Blue Army  
of Our Lady of Fatima, calls us all to the  
FULLNESS OF EASTER JOY!

Originally, the “Blue” Army of Our Lady of Fatima stressed the color “blue” as Mary’s color, the color of the sky--a color emphasizing peace and joy in direct contrast to the bloody red of the Communist hate, war, pain and destruction of the era. The origin of the Blue Army dates to 1947 and to Father Harold Colgan’s severe heart illness. He prayed to Mary for a cure, promising to build a shrine in honor of Our Lady of Fatima. His complete cure led to the building of the shrine in Washington, New Jersey.

The original title of the Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima was eventually elevated to the Worldwide Apostolate of Fatima (WAF) to better describe the mission and scope of the organization.

Especially important to note about the miracle of Fatima is the fact that Our Lady appeared to three young children: Lucia and her relatives Francisco and Jacinta. They were chosen to form the beginning of the Blue Army. By choosing such young “soldiers” for Her army, Mary’s important message is thereby emphasized as needing to reach the world of ALL YOUTH for their proper spiritual formation before the evils of the world befall them.

How important for us and all our Catholic Church that the future conversion and blessings depend upon all youth becoming members of Our Lady’s Blue Army of Fatima, before they outgrow their time of innocence when faith formation opportunities are at their peak and their young hearts and minds are open to Our Lady’s message. From childhood does Mary’s Blue Army of Fatima emphasize the need for child religious education for their salvation, but also for the future of church morality, marital fidelity, world peace, and true joy of mind and body in faith and hope.

*(Cont’d on page 5, bottom)*