

St. Joseph Marian Center

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

Summer Issue 2006



*"Holy Family of
Nazareth, Pray for Us"*

St. Joseph Marian Center Launches New Internet Website

John Paul II, when Vicar of the Church, called upon the faithful to "put out into the deep," and cast their nets far and wide. The St. Joseph Marian Center, in response to this call, is casting deeply into the "net," the Internet, that is.

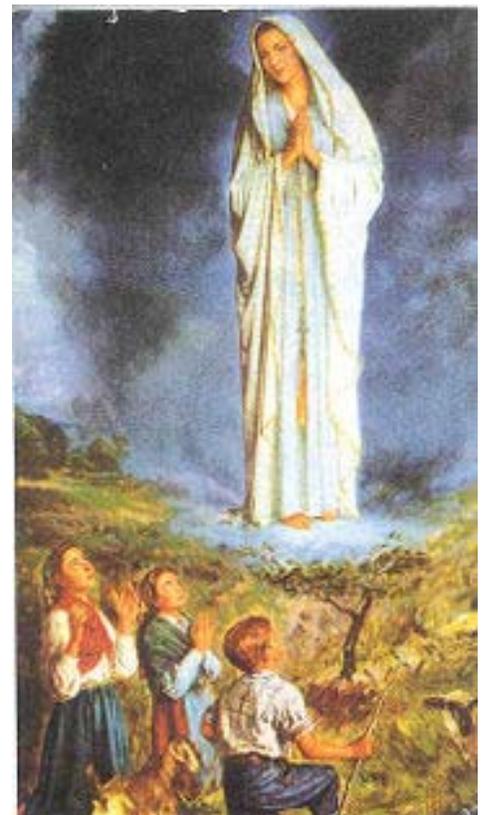
Thanks to the assistance of Thom Breitenbach, a new, informational website has been established at www.stjosephmariancenter.org. The website includes details about our mission and ministry, a listing of services and programs, and full-color issues of our quarterly newsletter.

In addition, the website includes information and links to The Blue Army of Fatima, USA, and a history of the Fatima apparitions and Mary's messages to the world. The website, launched in June, is a work in progress, so be sure to keep checking back for new additions.

Every minute of every day and night the Internet causes billions of images to appear on millions of computer monitors around the planet. As John Paul II noted in 2002, *"From this galaxy of sight and sound will the face of Christ emerge and the voice of Christ be heard? For the Church the world of cyberspace is a summons to the great adventure of using its potential to proclaim the gospel message...I dare to summon the whole Church bravely to cross this new threshold."*

While the Internet can be a great tool for religious education and to bolster the faith of Catholics, it does not teach values.

Both John Paul II and Benedict XVI have made it clear that we must use the media to win the hearts and souls of people, while realizing that technology can never replace personal contact and human witness in the life of the Church.



Catholic Women's Ministry is Launched

Magnificat, Gentle Woman of Praise, Albany New York Chapter, announces it will host its first breakfast on Nov. 11, at 9 a.m., at Phelan's Banquet House, Route 9 in Clifton Park. This woman-to-woman ministry offers the opportunity to share and enjoy each other's company in an atmosphere of God's love while providing time for praise and worship. For more information, please contact Anne Kirtoglou at 235-8132.

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 complimentary copy of "**Mary, the 21st Century Woman**," written by Mildred Breitenbach, co-founder of the St. Joseph Marian Center.

Prayer to Mary, Mother of Life Within

O Mary, Mother of Life Within,
All life we entrust to you;
The life of every expectant mother
and the child in her womb;
The life of every human body,
the life of every human soul;
The life of every newborn child
and the life of all grown old.
You held the Lord to your own heart
and drew Him so close in.
So draw us now in all our needs,
O Mother of the Life Within.

Reprinted from The Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima, USA.

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

All articles written by Doreen M.
Truesdell, Editor.



Come, Your Mother is Calling

NATIONAL ROSARY RALLY
Sunday, July 16, 2006
Auriesville Shrine
11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

89th Anniversary of
the Fatima Apparitions

MAIN CELEBRANT &
GUEST SPEAKER

Rev. Jeffrey M. L'Arche, MS
Director, LaSalette Shrine

Sponsored by:
St. Joseph Marian Center
The Blue Army of
Our Lady of Fatima,
Albany Diocesan Division

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

NATIONAL ROSARY RALLY in Honor of
the 89th Anniversary of Our Lady's Appearances at Fatima
Sunday, July 16, 2006 at Auriesville Shrine

Program

11:00 a.m. - Prayer hour for priests and vocations
at the indoor Martyr's Chapel

1:15 p.m. - Consecration of America and ROSARY PROCESSION,
starting at the Martyr's Chapel.

3:00 p.m. - Guest Speaker, Rev. Jeffrey M. L'Arche
at the Coliseum

4:00 p.m. - HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS & BENEDICTION
Main Celebrant: Rev. L'Arche
Priests are invited to concelebrate.

The shrine also has Sunday Masses at 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & Noon.

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

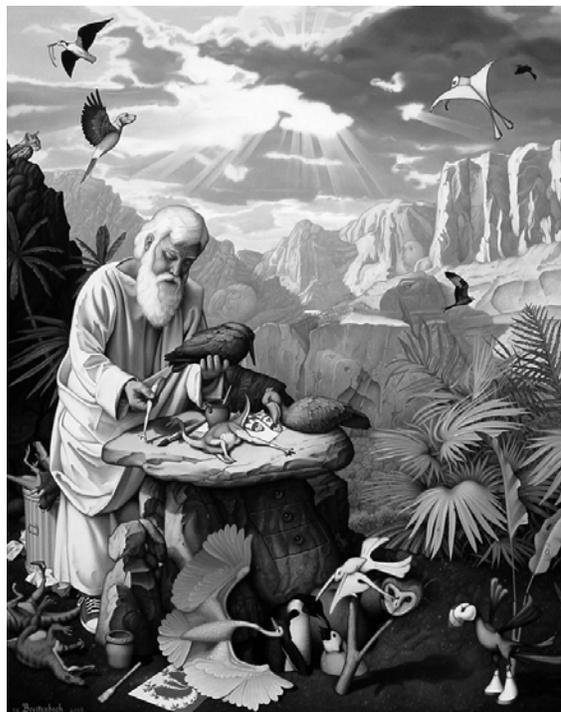
Phone & Fax: 518-861-6979

“The Artist in His Studio” by Thom Breitenbach

Artist Thom Breitenbach, son of St. Joseph Marian Center founders Mildred and Ed Breitenbach, has created a new work of art titled “The Artist in His Studio: Designing Birds” (see image at right). Reproductions of this colorful painting, depicting evolution as God’s creative process, are available for purchase through SJMC. Posters are \$26 each, with all proceeds supporting the mission and ministry of SJMC.

“For me, this painting is a comfort piece. I like the idea of God as artist, taking great care with His Creation, and having such love for it,” said Thom. “The theory of evolution fails to explain the incredible and irreducible complexity of life. New scientific ideas in quantum physics, string theory, and intelligent design point to a creative and thoughtful consciousness. I have absolutely no doubt that there is a “Great Artist” behind it all!”

To order, contact SJMC by phone, or visit our new website at www.stjosephmariancenter.org, where you can view a full color image and place an order by clicking on “Gift Shop.”



The Artist in His Studio: Designing Birds

Married on a Crucifix by Fr. Michael Mullen, LC

Imagine a world without divorce. Imagine families without separation. Imagine no children or hearts torn apart. People in at least one town in this world do not have to imagine. In the town of Siroki-Brijeg in Herzegovina not one of the 13,000 inhabitants can recall a single divorce or broken family. What is their secret? One look at their marriage rite says it all. When the bride and bridegroom go to the church to be married they carry a crucifix with them. The priest blesses the crucifix and exclaims, “You have found your cross! It is a cross to love, to carry with you, a cross that is not to be thrown off but rather treasured.”

When they interchange the marital vows, the bride puts her right hand on this crucifix and the groom puts his right hand over hers. Both are united to the cross. The priest covers their heads with his stole while they pronounce their promises to love each other in good times and bad.

Then they both kiss the cross *first*, not each other. Symbolically, this shows that if one abandons the other, they abandon Christ on the cross. After-

wards, the newlyweds cross the threshold of their new home to enthrone the same crucifix in a place of honor. It becomes the reference point of their lives and the focus of family prayer. In times of difficulty and misunderstandings, as all human relationships experience, the couple do not turn immediately to the lawyer or psychologist, they turn to the cross. They kneel, they cry, they open up their hearts and implore the Lord’s help, begging for the strength to pardon and love unconditionally.

Children are taught to reverently kiss the crucifix daily and to thank Him for the day before going to bed. These children dream of enthroning one day a crucifix of their own. The family is indissolubly united to the cross of Christ. Is this simply a morbid outlook on marital and family life? Or is it a piece of wisdom that few in our modern world can understand? Until our world does, it will continue to imagine and long for the unbroken hearth.

Information taken from *Marian Observer*, Feb. 2002



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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

What are you doing for (Our Lord Jesus) Christ's sake? Presently we are answering this question with our monthly newsletter of the Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima, Albany Diocesan Division. It is our diocesan effort to promote knowledge of, amazement, and response to Our Lady of Fatima's message and to her warning of the fate of our spiritually indifferent world. Mary has chosen three children--Jacinta, Francisco and Lucia--as heralds for the awakening of all older generations and as the means of saving the world from self-destruction by the reconversion to the sacredness of Christ, who is still sacred in the innocence of these three children.

Considering how drastic the world's moral situation is at this point, are the Fatima children a kind of last resource for a return to the respect for life and holiness? Is the Fatima message to be considered as a final warning?

On the Albany diocesan level, we find need for much to be done. In comparison to the Marian Blue Army devotion and activity in other dioceses, we must feel very guilty in our sincere but limited efforts. I, personally, most highly acknowledge Mildred and Ed Breitenbach, in offering the Fatima Center at their home in Altamont as the Blue Army Marian devotion center for the Albany diocese.

In 1978, Ed and Mildred obtained the statue of Our Blessed Mother, which through Robert Froelich came directly from the Bishop of Fatima in Portugal. At the base of the statue is a relic with pieces of the Holm oak tree from Our Lady's apparitions. Our Bishop approved the St. Joseph Marian Center as officially representing diocesan devotion. Since that time, Ed and Mildred have accepted invitations to speak and explain the Center and its programs. With Mildred's passing in 2004, Ed has been continuing and hopes to expand devotion to Our Lady of Fatima.

But so few respond to this wonderful ministry! So few ask for visitations in their homes, parishes and schools by this blessed statue! So few respond to the call of our annual Rosary Rally, set this year for Sunday, July 16 at Auriesville! Are all parishes conducting their own Marian devotions, that a Center for greater devotion is not needed? We know the answer is no.

We need Marian intercession and prayer as never before for the respect of life in this age of destruction. Our lives are made sacred by Jesus through Mary and her chosen Jacinta, Francisco and Lucia.

Diocese of Albany--be aroused by Mary, Our Lady of Fatima, lest it be too late!