



# IPVS NEWS

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International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima Foundation, Inc

## FATIMA'S CENTENARY

(by Charles M. Urban, Sr.)

Beginning on May 13th, through October 13th, 2017, we will celebrate the centennial anniversary since the Queen of Heaven appeared to the three visionaries, Jacinta, Francisco, and Lucia, at Fatima, Portugal.

Her plea to daily pray the Rosary has become all too obvious. She was preparing us not only for the end of WWI, for the coming of a worse war, WWII, but possibly even for a greater World War which She prophesied would result in the annihilation of several nations. Who would have ever conceived of a war that would destroy such a mass of humanity back in 1917? World War I was said to have been the 'war to end all wars.' That statement only lasted about 20 years until World War II began in 1939.

In 1916, a year before the apparitions of Our Lady, the **Angel of Peace** appeared to the children to prepare them for things to come, he said: *"The Hearts of Jesus and Mary have designs of mercy for you," "Offer unceasingly to the Most High prayer and sacrifices."*

### June 13, 1917

During the second apparition, Our Lady let the children know that *"Jesus wishes to establish throughout the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart."* Several times in the June and July apparitions, Our Lady spoke of this devotion, as we shall see; and soon there began to burn in their hearts (especially Jacinta's) a deep love for the Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

Lucia asked Our Lady if she would take them to heaven. Our Lady answered: *"Yes, I will take Jacinta and Francisco soon. You, however, are to stay here a longer time. Jesus wants to use you to make me known and loved. He wants to establish the devotion to my Immaculate Heart in the world. I promise salvation to those who embrace it, and their souls will be loved by God as flowers placed by me before His throne."*

When Lucia asked if she were going to be left alone, Our Lady responded: *"No, my daughter. Does this cause you to suffer a great deal? I will never leave*

*you; my Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and the way that will lead you to God."*

### July 13, 1917

*"Sacrifice yourselves for sinners; and say often when you make some sacrifice, 'My Jesus, it is for love of You, for the conversion of sinners, and in reparation for sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.'"*

After showing the children a vision of hell, Our Lady said to them: *"You have seen hell where the souls of poor sinners go. To save them, God wishes to establish throughout the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart. If people do as I shall ask many souls will be saved, and there will be peace.... But if people do not cease offending God... another and more terrible war will begin. When you see a night illumined by an unknown light, know that this is the great sign that God gives that the chastisement of the world for its many transgressions is at hand through war, famine, persecution of the Church and of the Holy Father."* Source: <http://www.rosary-center.org/fatimams.htm>

Our neglect to adhere and follow Her continued plea to daily pray the Rosary and offer our daily lives as 'penance' for our own spiritual health as well as for the conversion of sinners is today realized in the manner that world events have materialized. We have been brought to the realization of an unimaginable collapse of human moral values and a culture that only leads to religious persecution, economic and spiritual bankruptcy with so many diverse political views whose sole purpose is to drive the masses to the loss of faith and a denial of the existence of GOD which can only lead to ultimate insanity. To worry you with despair, destruction and death is NOT the purpose of this article but to offer a purpose for responding to Our Heavenly Mother's wishes and what this author considers to be Her true purpose.

Francisco and Jacinta Marto died in the international flu pandemic that began in 1918, became known as the



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Spanish Flu, and swept the world. Francisco Marto died at home on 4 April 1919, at the age of ten. Jacinta died at the age of nine in hospital on 20 February 1920. Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Our\\_Lady\\_of\\_F%C3%A1tima#Later\\_years\\_of\\_the\\_children](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Our_Lady_of_F%C3%A1tima#Later_years_of_the_children)

Shortly before Jacinta went to the hospital where she was to die, she said to Lucia: "In a short time now I am going to heaven. You are to stay here and say that God wishes to establish in the world the devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. . . . Tell everybody that **God grants graces through the Immaculate Heart of Mary**, and that they must ask them from her. **Tell them that the Heart of Jesus wishes that by His side should be venerated the Immaculate Heart of Mary**. Tell them to ask peace through the Immaculate Heart of Mary; God has placed it in her hands. Oh that I could put into the heart of everybody the flame that I feel burning within my breast and which makes me love so much the Heart of Jesus and the Heart of Mary."

Source: <http://www.rosary-center.org/fatimams.htm>

### Origin of the Hail Mary prayer

The scriptures introduce Mary as a virgin betrothed to Joseph, (a carpenter by trade) from the house of (King) David. Mary is greeted with these words by the angel Gabriel: *"The Lord is with you...Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God..."* "Behold, you will conceive in your womb a son, and you shall name him Jesus" [Lk1: 28-31] The angel reveals to Mary that, *"He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High."* [Lk1:32] As the conversation continues, Mary wonders how this is possible since she has had no relations with a man and the angel replies in [Lk 1:35], *"The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God."*

Do you see that it was the Angel Gabriel who not only announces the birth, but also the name of Jesus, and that Jesus would be called the **Son of God**? The angel Gabriel then advises Mary that her cousin Elizabeth, a

# FATIMA'S CENTENARY (Continued)

**barren** woman, was in her sixth month with child, and adds in verse 37, "...for **nothing is impossible for God.**" [Lk 1:37] In total innocence and submission, she responds: "**Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.**" Then, the angel departs from her. [Lk 1:38]



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Without further prompting, Mary sets out for Judah, enters the house of Zechariah, and Elizabeth greets Mary with these words, "**...Most blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?**" [Lk 1:42-44] You can read it for yourself that the first half of the Catholic Marian prayer, called **The Hail Mary**, is strictly taken from the Holy Scriptures barring the second half of the prayer which is an acknowledgment of her role as the mother of the Messiah, with an added petition to intervene to her SON on behalf of all sinners, "**now and at the hour of our death.**"

## The Hail Mary Prayer

Hail Mary (Lk 1:28); full of grace, (Lk 1:30) the Lord is with you (Lk 1:29) blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb (Lk 1:42) Jesus. (Lk 1:31) Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at

the hour of our death. Amen! (a petition)

## Praying the Holy Rosary

Most meditations on the Holy Rosary are derived from the Holy Bible. The Holy Rosary begins with an affirmation of our Faith (**Nicene Creed**), followed by the prayer Jesus taught us, (the **Our Father...**) continued with the (**Hail Mary...**) and ending each decade of the Holy Rosary by giving glory, praise, and honor to the **Holy Trinity** by reciting the (**Gloria be...**) and in these latter years, we are adding the **Fatima Prayer** the Angel of Peace taught Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta (**O my Jesus, forgive us our sins...**) because even to this day, She continues to plead us to pray the Holy Rosary daily and calls us to repentance by offering our daily prayers, works, joys, sorrows, and sufferings as penance for our own sins and the conversion of sinners.

Global events seem to be exponentially amassing or advancing towards a hellish period in human history. What was "good and wholesome" has become "bad and loathsome;" some people prefer animals as pets than babies to be nurtured; massive crowds attend weekend sporting events than those who attend weekend services; the desire for chaos overwhelms the desire for order; humility is looked upon as weakness; good old fashioned virtues have reverted to vices; the WE generation has capitulated to the ME generation; and so on. This leads me to conclude that **Hell**, at least, here on earth, is caused by the denial of God's existence whose consequence is the '**absence of reason.**'

**The Joyful Mysteries: Joyful because Jesus unites Heaven and Earth for all peoples.**

The Annunciation - Mk 1:1-38  
The Visitation - Mk 1:39-56  
The Nativity - Mt 1:18-25; Mk 2:1-14;  
The Presentation - Mk 2:21-33;  
Lk 2:22-38;  
The Finding of Jesus in the Temple - Lk 2:41-52

**The Luminous Mysteries: Luminous because Jesus shows us our possible destiny.**

The Baptism of the Lord - Mt 3:13-17;  
Mk 1:9-11; Lk 3:21-22;  
The Miracle(s) at Cana - Jn 2:1-12;



Jn 4:46-54;  
The Proclamation of the Kingdom - Mt 5:1-12;  
The Transfiguration - Mt 17:1-13;  
Mk 9:2-13;  
The Institution of the Eucharist - Mt 26:30; Mk 14:22-26; Lk 22:14-20;

**The Sorrowful Mysteries: Sorrowful because we will suffer as He did.**

The Agony in the Garden - Mt 26:36-46;  
Mk 14:32-42; Lk 22:39-46;  
The Scourging at the Pillar - Mt 27:15-26; Mk 15:6-15; Jn 19:1  
The Crowning of Thorns - Mt 27:27-31;  
Mk 15:16-20; Jn 19:2-3;  
The Carrying of the Cross - Mt 27:32-33;  
Mk 15:21-32; Lk 23:26-32;  
The Crucifixion and Death of the Lord - Mt 27:33-56; Mk 15:22-41; Lk 23:33-49;  
Jn 19:16b-37; Jn 19:39-42;

**The Glorious Mysteries: Because He has opened the Gates of Heaven for His creation.**

The Resurrection - Mt 28:1-10;  
Mk 16:1-8; Lk 24:1-9; Jn 20:1-30;  
The Ascension - Mk 16:19-20;  
Lk 24:50-53;  
The Descent of the Holy Spirit - Acts 2:1-12;  
The Assumption - Acts 13:35; Heb 11:5;  
2Kgs 2:11; Lk 9:30;

The Crowning of Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth - 1 Kgs 2:19-29.

Mary's intent is to lead us to a fuller and realistic understanding of our relationship with Her Son and to understand that while we may not experience the events in the same way and all at once as Jesus did, that as we go through life, no one is spared from experiencing similar events although often in smaller increments, whether they are believers or non believers, as Her divine Son experienced.

## The Secret of Praying the Rosary

Once we become acquainted with the angel Gabriel's annunciation to Mary and her followup visit to her cousin Elizabeth, we are led to begin meditating on the birth, life, and ministry of the Son of God. This portion of the Holy Rosary is what the Church refers to as, **The Paschal Mystery**, encompassing the life, suffering, death, and resurrection of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, leads the faithful to recall all the events in Jesus' life and **leads the Christian to eventually realize many similarities and possibilities in the Christian's own life.**

We all fall, but it is GOD who metes out His grace upon us that we may rise up.

In his book titled: *'Handbook to the Gospels'* (pp. 199-202) Rev. John Wijngaards describes the many miracles Jesus performed and among some are: *"changing water into wine, calming the storm, walking on water, multiplying the loaves of bread and fish, raising the dead, casting out demons, curing the man who was blind and mute just to name a few and he concludes by stating: 'Jesus' miracles...were not simply displays of his power...they explained his mission; they revealed his divinity; they proved him to be the Messiah; they prepared the way for his sacraments; they began the world's renewal.'"*

Don't we all wish we had a father like God, a Mother like Mary, and a brother like Jesus? We already do. That is what God has tried to convey to mankind since the beginning. You see what a dangerous world we live in today? Only a few days ago, it was announced that the atomic clock reads 2-1/2 minutes to midnight. (DOOMSDAY) Can you even begin to imagine the condition the world we live in would be in today

had not Mary given birth to Jesus and Jesus given birth to His church and the work carried on in the church by His Holy Spirit through all those who have faithfully served the LORD throughout these past 2,000 years???

Soon, very soon, we will experience a dramatic change in the way we live our lives. The time to decide whether we will follow God's Laws or fall by man's laws is upon us; that fatal time has already fallen upon the most defenseless of all human beings, the preborn. Our time is approaching quickly. That decision is a non-starter. Mankind was designed by the Creator in the first chapter of the Holy Bible as early as in verses 26-28 where GOD says: *"Let us make man in our image, after our own likeness... God created man in his image, in the divine image he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them saying be fertile and multiply."* The point is that WE do not know what exactly is the correct life we are meant to live and that is why mankind kept and keeps on missing the mark, we continue to sin. However, GOD has given us a way out of this demeaning existence if we would follow Jesus.

Jesus clearly said: *"I am the way, the truth, and the life."* So, what does the world offer us but a twisting of the truth of God's word, a mindset that often leads us to inner depression, a loss of true perspective of our purpose in this life, and an invitation to a lifestyle that leads nowhere. Jesus' life is the perfect model of God's Holy Will. We need only to accept, commit, and model our lives after Our Lord Jesus Christ, and in these latter times He sends His own Mother to appeal to every human being that is willing to respond to Her plea and reassuring all of us that, as is the tradition and custom in the Jewish culture, He will absolutely listen to Her intercessions on our behalf if we but respond to Her requests.

## A Solemn Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Most Holy Virgin Mary, tender Mother of men, to fulfill the desires of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the request of the Vicar of Your Son on earth, we

consecrate ourselves and our families to your Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart, O Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, and we recommend to You, all the people of our country and all the world.

Please accept our consecration, dearest Mother, and use us as You wish to accomplish Your designs in the world.

O Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, and Queen of the World, rule over us, together with the Sacred Heart of Jesus Christ, Our King. Save us from the spreading flood of modern paganism; kindle in our hearts and homes the love of purity, the practice of a virtuous life, an ardent zeal for souls, and a desire to pray the Rosary more faithfully.

We come with confidence to You, O Throne of Grace and Mother of Fair Love. In flame us with the same Divine Fire which has inflamed Your own Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart. Make our hearts and homes Your shrine, and through us, make the Heart of Jesus, together with your rule, triumph in every heart and home. Amen. --Venerable Pope Pius XII -- **Source:** [https://www.ewtn.com/devotionals/heart/Im\\_consecr.htm](https://www.ewtn.com/devotionals/heart/Im_consecr.htm)

# PORTUGAL PRESENTS EVIDENCE FOR SISTER LUCIA'S BEATIFICATION

As the 100th anniversary of the Fatima apparitions approaches, Portuguese Catholic Church officials announced that thousands of pages have been gathered to testify to the holiness of Sister Lucia dos Santos - one of the original three children who were witnesses to the famous Marian apparition.

**LISBON, Portugal (AP)** — Catholic Church officials in Portugal said Monday they have assembled more than 15,000 pages of testimony and documentation to support the proposed beatification of Sister Lucia, one of three shepherd children who said the Virgin Mary appeared to them in the town of Fatima 100 years ago.

The officials said the case for Sister Lucia's beatification — the first step toward canonization as a saint — will be sent to the Vatican's Congregation for the Causes of Saints, in line with church procedure.

The documentation was presented



at a church ceremony in the convent in Coimbra, 200 kilometers (120 miles) north of Lisbon, where Sister Lucia lived from 1948 until her death at age 97 in 2005.

Her cousins Francisco and Jacinta Marto, who also said they witnessed the apparitions, died at ages 9 and 11 of pneumonia. They were beatified in 2000.

The Catholic bishop of Coimbra, Virgilio Antunes, said the documentation on Sister Lucia took eight years to compile and includes information from 11,000 letters she wrote as well as some 61 witness statements.

If the Vatican congregation's experts agree a candidate for beatification lived a virtuous life, the case is forwarded to the pope, who signs a decree attesting to the candidate's virtues.

Pope Francis is to visit Fatima, a small farming town dominated by the Catholic shrine erected to honor

the apparitions, on May 12-13 for the pilgrimage marking their centenary. He will be the fourth pontiff to visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima.

## NOVENA PRAYER TO SISTER LUCIA FOR HER BEATIFICATION

*Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore You profoundly; and I thank You for the apparitions of the Most Holy Virgin in Fatima, that revealed to the world the riches of Her Immaculate Heart.*

*By the infinite merits of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and through the intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg You, if it should be for Your greater glory and the good of our souls, to glorify Sr. Lucia, one of the Shepherds of Fatima, by granting us the grace which we implore through Her intercession. Amen.*

*(Before her death, Jacinta revealed the following little-known statement made by Our Lady)*

# “CERTAIN FASHIONS WILL BE INTRODUCED THAT WILL OFFEND OUR LORD VERY MUCH”

## ROOT OF ABORTION



When a pro-life person thinks of an abortion, he generally thinks of a baby being murdered, a life snuffed out, a child's cry silenced, an image of an aborted fetus, or some other way of a life being destroyed by a doctor, one who is supposed to be the defender of life. Abortion is a horrible crime that we, as Catholics and Pro-Life people, know to be an abomination to God and His creation. But, how have we, as a society, brought ourselves down to such a low moral depravity? Did we just one day wake up and abortions were thought to be “okay”; or, was it a gradual change over years that we allowed this to happen, perhaps even through our own tolerance for the seeds of evil?

Today most abortions are obtained by pregnant teenagers and by unmarried women. However, there is an increasing number among married women as well. But, what causes a mother to think of abortion as a possible option? It is against all reason, and the Catholic Church teaches us that the soul gives us the ability to reason. If a person has lost such reason, then he is in a sense “dead” to his soul and his conscience, as well as, a lost soul in the eyes of God and lacking true faith. That person does not know God very well and is very much in need of our prayers. Once he reaches this state of moral depravation, it would be relatively easy for them to “reason” out or justify the act of abortion, and other

serious acts against God and humanity. He has pushed God out of his life. The lack of God's presence allows the world to destroy the foundation on which he has built his morals. What causes a person to become Godless without him even realizing it? Today, people are bombarded with immorality and immodesty in almost everything. It is in the movies, TV, advertisements, books, magazines, on the streets and in the schools and even in the churches. Almost everywhere you turn; there is something to tempt you. If that isn't enough, then there is the “Almighty Dollar”, as Heaven puts it, which men seek above all else.

Abortion came with the moral decline of society. It started with women and their dress. It slowly changed inch by inch. The sleeve of the dress went from the wrist, to the elbow, to the shoulder, and now in some cases there are no sleeves but bare shoulders. The skirt went from the ankles, to three inches below the knees, and now it is six inches above the knees, if not more in some cases. It primarily started in the 1920's, or the “roaring 20's” as they have been called; but, with the Depression it started to swing back towards a modest dress because people began to step back and think more sensibly. Women's dress was kept under check until the 1960's when the dam blew, figuratively speaking, and you had women wearing pants and miniskirts began to pop on the scene. The pants began to get tighter and tighter over the years. Now, they have reached the stage of hip huggers. Along with the hip huggers are the T-shirts that are sleeveless and many barely long enough to cover all the skin. Today, the midriff is entirely exposed with many types of navel piercing type jewelry. All of this immodesty destroyed our culture and its moral code. The soul is then deadened by all of the sins from immodesty and immoral lifestyles, which have no place for God in them. How many young women there are who do not see any wrong doing in following

certain styles like so many sheep. They certainly would blush if they could guess the impressions they make and the feeling they evoke in those who see them.



Once a society has blotted out God, then it is easy for its people to fall prey to the devil's plan. The devil orchestrated the fads, as it were, in order to subvert the moral conduct of our once Christian society and permeate it with so called fashions and “modern” dress. The Cultural Revolution in the 1960's and 1970's left the people confused about music, dress, etiquette, moral and cultural customs. “Anything went” and the “rock music” softened the people up and made them bold enough to embrace immoral and immodest practices and adapt them into society.

Immodesty crept into society while the people of the 20th century tolerated the dress, justifying such conduct with “Oh, the times have changed” or simply putting their heads in the sand like ostriches. Today, we do that more than ever by saying, “it's none of my business”. We justify certain movies saying “there's only one immoral scene” or “it's a really funny movie though” or some other excuse, but in the end all we are doing is tolerating evil. These movies only help to sow the seeds of evil. If we don't say

no to evil, the “scenes” will never stop but will only grow worse. We have seen how rapidly and drastically they have changed just within a single decade. The immodesty then leads to pornography and the corruption of the mind. Once we reach pornography our conscience is eroded away and with it our love for God and, as a result, promiscuity and the lack of respect for life follows.

Today this nation has been twisted by the lies and deceptions of the devil. He transformed a Christian nation into a nation without morals, where what is abnormal appears normal; and what is good and decent, to be politically and socially incorrect. It was a slow process that we, as a nation, allowed ourselves to be deceived into tolerating immodest dress, which eroded away our morals.

With the loss of moral conduct, it opened up the door to pornography and promiscuity which resulted in premarital pregnancies. Premarital pregnancies have led to abortion, the biggest crime against humanity. Just as seeds of faith are planted in individuals, so are the seeds of evil. Things that were thought to be just a small miniscule change, such as the fashions in the 1920's, were the seeds sown that destroyed our culture's morals and overall disrespect for the sacredness of marriage and life itself. We have abortion today because we tolerated evil practices and stuck our heads in the sand, or in some cases joined in the “fun”.

When will we wake up to the fact that abortion stems from the lack of morals which comes from immodesty and immorality? It is all interrelated. We cannot allow immorality and immodesty to continue to destroy our culture and feed the culture of death. Until modesty and chastity in society have been restored, abortion will never end. We can at least contribute to this goal by striving to promote modesty and chastity in our own lives as well as the lives of our friends and families and by not supporting movies or other things of immorality.

*Respect your body.  
The Temple of  
the Holy Spirit!  
Give glory to  
God dressing  
modestly "Certain  
fashions will be  
introduced that  
will offend Our*

*Lord very much"  
The following is  
an excerpt from  
"Our Lady's  
Peace Plan From  
Heaven"...*

At least 1.5 million surgical abortions are performed every year in the United States—one out of every four pregnancies. (Abortion is murder, and murder is one of the 'Four Sins Crying to Heaven for Vengeance.') Thus in one

year, twice as many Americans are killed through abortion as in all the wars of U.S. history. Every 11 days more children are aborted than American men were killed in the 11 year-long Vietnam War; every 10 weeks the number totals the number of American war dead in World War II. Every five hours and 15 minutes there are 900 abortions in the United States; each year abortion kills as many as the combined populations of Kansas City, Minneapolis and Miami. Surgical abortion is the most common operation performed in the United States today, three times as common as tonsillectomies. In addition, there are millions of silent abortions caused by the most commonly used (low dosage) birth control pill, the IUD, the morning-after pill, etc. In America the pregnancy rate is high, but the birthrate is very low.

As our culture sinks deeper in this abyss of immorality and sin, we must ask "What can anybody do about it." The answer was given at Fatima, when in 1917, Our Lady foresaw this coming. If Her warnings would have been heeded sooner, this would have been stopped.

Is there any hope? No matter how late the hour, so long as threatened disasters have not yet struck, there is still hope of averting them if enough people will amend their lives and do what God asks.

Offerings of Reparation will obtain from God the grace of "conversion of sinners." It is the reason and purpose of our Lenten discipline. Even now Our Lady's words of July 13, 1917 still hold true: If the things I tell you to do are done, many sinners will be converted and there will be peace."

## THE ROSARY MAKE IT COME ALIVE

(by John M. Haffert)



Blessed Jose Maria Escriva asked: "What is the first thing necessary for devotion to Mary?" The founder of Opus Dei answered his own question: "It is to realize that She is alive." Her body is not moldering in some grave awaiting resurrection. It has been assumed gloriously into Heaven. Her real, maternal heart is beating with love for us. She appears in our world. She calls us under Her mantle. She invites us to keep company with Her, meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary on the First Saturday of the month. She waits to share with us, in each Rosary, the mysteries of Her Heart...and to hear our requests.

### Two Simple Ways

There are two simple ways to make the Rosary meaningful, perhaps even "exciting," to the point that one would look forward eagerly to saying it.

The first is to know that Our Lady is listening. The second is to know what you want to ask of Her when you say: "Pray for us sinners." It is difficult to say which of the two is more important. They go together.

We are greatly helped in being aware of Our Lady's presence if we have a lovely picture or statue to remind us of Her living presence in Heaven. At the same time, we must be aware that Heaven is as close as love. We believe in the "communion" of saints.

The moment we take our Rosary into our hands, let us think of Our Lady of Lourdes appearing to St. Bernadette. Let us remember that at the moment the little saint began to say her Rosary, Our Lady began to count the beads with her.

Our Lady, who has asked us insistently to pray the Rosary, is waiting for this prayer from us. The moment we take our Rosary in hand, we give joy to Her maternal Immaculate Heart. She is at once present to us in a special way. But, it is not in the counting of beads that our hearts touch Her Heart. It is in the mysteries.

When Jesus was presented in the temple, at the same time that God manifested Him as Savior to the prophet Simeon, He also manifested the Heart of His Mother. The prophet exclaimed: "Your own heart a sword will pierce, that out of many hearts thoughts may be revealed." That prophecy comes alive in the Rosary.

Our Lady asked us to KEEP HER COMPANY once a month for just fifteen minutes to THINK about the mysteries, so that we might begin to say the Rosary meaningfully.

### Have an Intention!

The next key is to have an intention for each prayer. It is to ask (in the light of each mystery) for what is most needed at that moment in our lives. No one can know how powerful this is without actually having something specific for which to say "Pray for us sinners." And no one can really understand how great is Our Lady's gift of the Rosary without trying it.

It may not at first be easy to think of an intention for each prayer in the light of a particular mystery, but Our Lady is waiting and longing to help us? She invited us on the First Saturdays to keep Her company as we try.

In the beginning, or indeed whenever we find it difficult to think of intentions, we can always pray for the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, Wisdom, Understanding, Knowledge, Piety, Perseverance, Fear of the Lord, and Fortitude, and in the last three Aves, ask for Faith, Hope and Charity.

Everyone needs the gifts of the Holy Spirit. And we find all seven gifts, plus the theological virtues, in their perfection, in EVERY mystery of the Rosary.

### To Avoid Seven Sins, Pray for Us!

Another easy way is to think of the seven capital sins. We learned them by heart when we studied for our First

Communion: pride, covetousness, lust, anger, gluttony, envy, and sloth. And again, after praying to overcome each one in the light of the mystery, we can pray the last three Aves for Faith, Hope and Love. Just this simple method is enough to say the Rosary meaningfully the rest of our lives.

In a meeting with Sister Lucia in 1946, we began a four hour interview by saying: "Of course we know that the Rosary is the most important request of Our Lady of Fatima."

At once, Sister Lucia corrected this. She said that what is MOST important is the fulfillment of our daily duties. The Rosary is important because it is an aid both to the fulfillment and sanctification of our acts of each day.

Our Lady taught the children to pray the Rosary this way. She taught them to see their own lives in the mysteries and to ask for the graces they needed to sanctify their daily duties. They saw all this in the light from Her Heart.

If we wish to pray the Rosary effectively, we must put ourselves in that light, in the PRESENCE of our Mother, and with each prayer, ask for a specific grace which will help us to sanctify all that we say and do.

Everyone needs to overcome the seven capital sins. the opposite virtues, together with the three theological virtues, readily lend themselves to petitions in every prayer of all the mysteries.

# OUR LADY'S SMILE

## "Her Own Words"

(by John M. Haffert)

If asked what was the first supernatural manifestation at Fatima, most might recall the apparitions of the angels. But four years before there was a very important manifestation to Lucia at her first Communion.

On the eve of her first Communion, the priest to whom she had made her first confession was somehow enlightened as to her special vocation. "My child," he said to her, "your soul is the temple of the Holy Spirit. Always keep it pure so that He can continue His Divine Action in it." "And how can I do that?" Lucia asked.

As she tells us in her memoirs, the confessor told her to go and kneel before the statue of Our Lady. "Ask Her trustingly," he said, "to take care of your heart, to keep it always pure and to prepare it to receive Her beloved Son worthily tomorrow and to keep it for Him alone."

This was the advice given by the great Doctor of the Church, St. Alphonsus Ligouri. And it was the usual practice of saints like Therese of Lisieux, who begged Our Lady to prepare their heart before every Communion. St. Alphonsus also advised visits to Our Lady (by going to kneel in front of Her statue) after we visit Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

Some Catholics in Protestant countries often feel uneasy about this counsel. The very expression of St. Alphonsus seems to suggest identification of a statue of Our Lady with Our Lady Herself. Especially when under Protestant influence, it is understandable that some have difficulty accepting statues of Our Lady as sacramental's of Her "moral" presence.

In her childlike simplicity, Lucia (like most Catholics) understood that in the Eucharist we have Our Lord really present, while in a statue we have only an image of Our Lady before which we seek the effect of Her presence as we pray to Her. Thus, it was perfectly natural for Lucia to "visit Our Lady" by going to kneel before Her statue.

She knelt in front of the statue of Our Lady of the Rosary (because it was the statue before which her family kept fresh flowers). She repeated the prayer suggested by the confessor several times and the statue came alive and smiled at

her.

In her memoirs, Lucia mentions only the smile, but in the letter to her confessor of May 13, 1936, she said that:

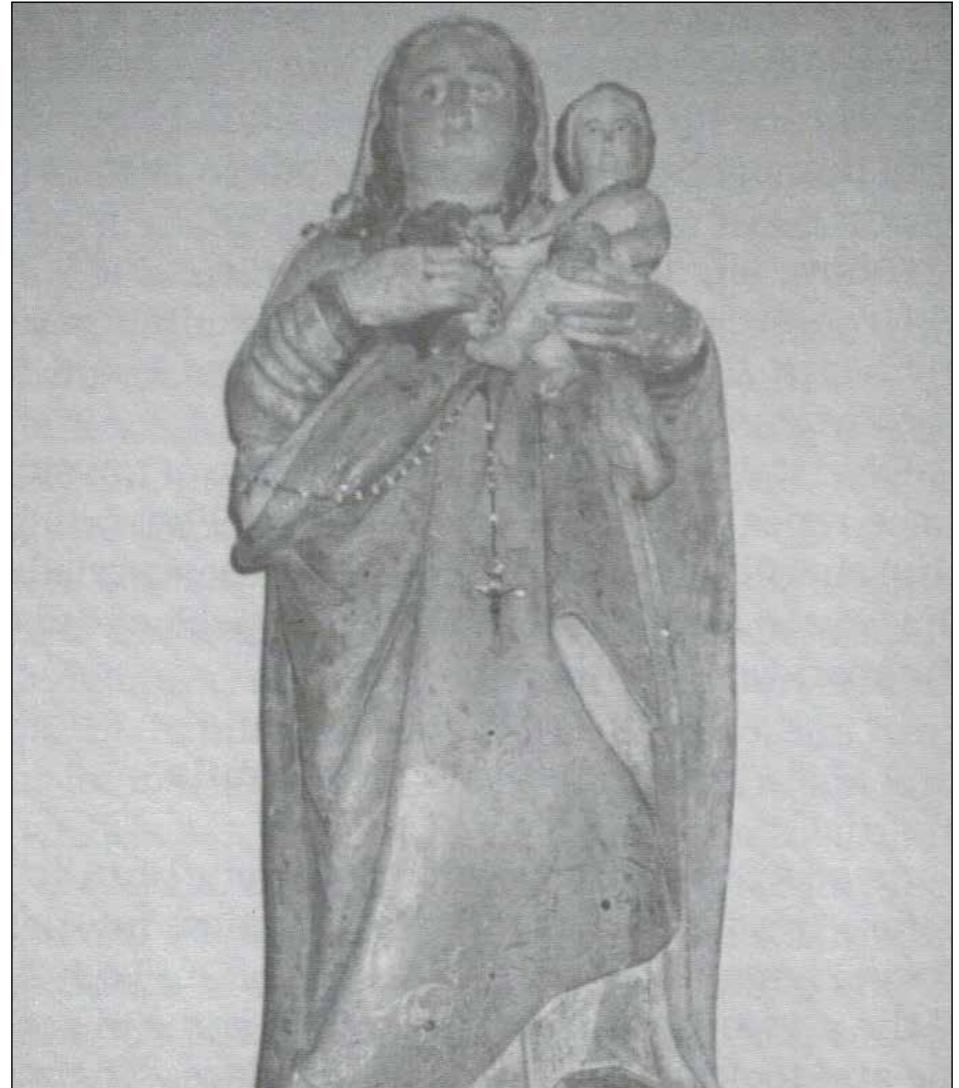
"The statue smiled...and with a kind gesture and look said, "Yes." Lucia was so filled with joy, she recalled: "I could hardly speak. At night I could sleep little or not at all. At last the time came. After asking my father's, mother's and older brother's pardon, off I went to the Church as happy as a queen. At the moment when Jesus came into my poor heart, I believe I felt the happiness of Paradise!"

And then, for the second time in her life, Lucia experienced a profound communication from Our Lady who said "in the depth of my heart and my inmost soul": "My child, the grace that has been granted to you today will always remain alive in your breast, bringing forth fruits of eternal life." And these words engraved themselves so indelibly on Lucia's mind that years later she said: "Still now I feel them to be a bond of union of my soul with God."

Our primary intention here is to call attention to the fact that the first manifestation of Fatima was through a statue. But we cannot help remarking here, as in absolutely every facet of Fatima, the Hearts of Jesus and Mary working together... Our Lady of the Eucharist bringing the awareness of Jesus truly present to those who truly seek Him. But consider in particular the fact that Lucia was sent to visit Our Lady (that is, to go before Her statue) and that the statue changed into the living person of Our Lady Herself.

Such a wonder occurred "at the dawn of life" to St. Therese (the "Little Flower") who seemed to be dying when the little statue at her bedside was transformed and Our Lady smiled at her. Today the "Statue of the Smile" stand watch over the saint's tomb in the Carmel in Lisieux where she became a "victim of love," radiating the joy of Our Lady's smile throughout her life and throughout the world after her death.

For Lucia it was the smile of the Mother of the Eucharist filled with joy as Her child Lucia prepared for and then received the embrace of Her Child Jesus. It is the joy of Our Lady of the Rosary who rejoices to share Jesus, bead by



**Closer view of the old statue which came alive and smiled at Lucia. It remains in the same place in the parish church to this day.**

bead, in His mysteries. It is Our Lady showing us that She does not come to ask for our fiats to cause pain but to be the cause of our joy.

And how did Our Lady say all this? The statue smiled on the little girl who was to be Her messenger.

On October 13, 1973, anniversary of the miracle of Fatima, another statue of Our Lady in Akita, Japan, came alive and repeated the message of Fatima. The wooden statue had shed human tears, and when our Lady appeared in place of the weeping image, She said the world has not made adequate response. She spoke sadly of the chastisement by which God's Justice must purge the world if men continue to refuse His Mercy and Grace. Our Lady said that

She had been able to hold back the chastisement so far in part because of the generosity of some souls—victim souls.

In between the smile of Our Lady's statue in the church in Fatima and of tears in Japan, other traveling statues of Our Lady of Fatima have manifested Her message to millions around the world in a veritable flood of miracles and wonders.

Over the years, many have seen a smile, received the perfume of roses, and a few saw tears. However, most felt a presence which caused them to shed tears and some to cry profusely without knowing why they were crying but felt joy in their heart.

# DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY – SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2017

Our Lord Grants Forgiveness of All Sins and Punishments For Even the Most Hardened Sinners  
on the Feast of Divine Mercy



During the Mass of canonization of St. Faustina on April 30, 2000, the year of the Great Jubilee, Pope John Paul II proclaimed: “It is important then that we accept the whole message that comes to us from the word of God on this Second Sunday of Easter, which from now on throughout the Church, will be called Divine Mercy Sunday.” This year the feast falls on **Sunday, April 23, 2017.**

In His revelations to St. Faustina, Our Lord makes it very clear what He is offering us in Holy Communion and how much it hurts Him when we treat His presence with indifference.

“My great delight is to unite Myself with souls...When I come to a human heart in Holy Communion, My hands are full of all kinds of graces which I want to give to the soul. But souls do not even pay any attention to Me; they leave Me to Myself and busy themselves with other things. Oh, how sad I am that souls do not recognize Love! They treat Me as a dead object” (Diary1385).

“It pains me very much when religious souls receive the Sacrament of Love merely out of habit, as if they did not distinguish this food. I find neither faith nor love in their hearts. I go to such souls with great reluctance. It would be better if they did not receive me” (1288).

## A Special Promise of Mercy

“The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion (on Mercy Sunday) will obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment” (699)

Our Lord’s promise of complete forgiveness is both a reminder and a call. It is a reminder that He is truly present and truly alive in the Eucharist, filled with love for us and waiting for us to turn to Him with trust. And it is a call for us all to be washed clean in His Love through confession and Holy Communion – no matter how terrible our sins – and begin our lives again. He is offering us a new start.

- 1) Celebrate the Feast on the First Sunday after Easter;
- 2) Sincerely repent of all our sins;

- 3) Place our complete trust in Jesus;
- 4) Go to Confession, preferably before that Sunday;
- 5) Receive Holy Communion on the day of the Feast;
- 6) Venerate\* the Image of The Divine Mercy;
- 7) Be merciful to others, through our actions, words and prayers on their behalf.

## Chaplet Of Divine Mercy

Begin with the Sign of the Cross, 1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary and The Apostles Creed.

On the Our Father Beads, say the following: ***Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.***

On the 10 Hail Mary beads, say the following:

***For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.***

(Repeat step 2 and 3 for all five decades.)

Conclude with (three times)

***Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.***

## Jesus said later to Sister Faustina:

*“Say unceasingly this chaplet that I have taught you. Anyone who says it will receive great Mercy at the hour of death. Priests will recommend it to sinners as the last hope. Even the most hardened sinner, if he recites this Chaplet even once, will receive grace from My Infinite Mercy. I want the whole world to know My Infinite Mercy. I want to give unimaginable graces to those who trust in My Mercy.*

*“...When they say this Chaplet in the presence of the dying, I will stand between My Father and the dying person not as the just judge, but as the Merciful Savior.*

Our Lady of Fatima

Pray for us!

Issue No. 21

SPRING

2017

# IPVS NEWS

International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima Foundation, Inc.

## Our Lady of Fatima Pray for us!

*International Pilgrim Virgin Statue Foundation, Inc. is an independent Non-profit 501(c)3 organization not affiliated with or part of any other Fatima apostolate or organization promoting the Apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima*

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*We acknowledge each and every donation received for the travels of the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue. Many donations are also received anonymously. To each and everyone, we thank you most kindly for your sacrifices and ask Our lord and Our Lady to bless you immensely.*

*(All donations are tax deductible.)*

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## 100<sup>TH</sup> YEAR ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR -- 2017

March/April.....Colorado

July.....St. Padre Pio Shrine

October.....Illinois -

May.....Indiana

August.....Open

November.....Tennessee-Pending

June.....Texas

September.....California

## POPE FRANCIS PLANNING TO VISIT FATIMA IN 2017

Pope Francis plans to travel to Fatima in 2017 to mark the 100th Anniversary of the Apparition. No travel dates to the Portuguese shrine have been set, but the country is already preparing for the celebration of the centenary of the apparitions. Two years ago, Pope Francis received the statue of Our Lady of Fatima in St. Peter's Square. He invited those present to meditate on the gaze of Mary.

"O Mary, let us feel your gaze as a Mother," he said. "Lead us to your Son, as we are not Christians 'for show', but who can 'get their hands dirty' to build with your Son, Jesus, his Kingdom of love, joy and peace."

"How important it is," the Pope said of Mary's gaze. "How many things can be said with a look! Affection, encouragement, compassion, love, but also reproach, envy, pride, even hatred."

"Often," he added, "the look says more than words, or says what words cannot or dare not say. Who looks at the Virgin Mary? She looks at all of us, each of us...She looks at us like a Mother, with tenderness, with mercy, with love. The same way she looked at the child Jesus, in every moment of his life... When we are tired, discouraged, overwhelmed by the problems, look to Mary."

