



IPVS NEWS

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

THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE HOLY TRINITY TO MARY

by Charles M. Urban, Sr.

The Holy Trinity and Mary

In the Name of the Father: The Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth... **And of the Son:** And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord, **And of the Holy Spirit:** who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary. **Amen!** [I believe!]

During the month of January in 2006, having been privileged and honored to assist Mr. Carl Malburg, the then caretaker of the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, during a 21 day TOUR through the Orlando Diocese, we were assigned to spend a few days at Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Ocala, Florida,

No sooner than we met Fr. O'Doherty, one could immediately sense that there was something divinely special about this prematurely white haired priest with a strong Irish brogue. His homilies transported the soul to a higher plane of understanding of Catholic teaching so "badly" needed today. For me he was a delightful story teller able to connect our Catholic theology with most common tenets of our faith, not only with logic, knowledge, and truth, but also a bit of much needed and welcomed humor.

After that Sunday's Mass, in the lobby, a parishioner was offering cassette tapes of Fr. O'Doherty's previous week's homilies in addition to many other cassettes containing other selective titles including one on Mary, Mother of Jesus. I was so impressed by his gifted ability to enlighten an otherwise complicated kernel of theological truth into simple to understand reality, that I just could not pass up purchasing several Marian cassette tapes. Below is an excerpt from one of Fr. O'Doherty's Marian cassette tapes...

Who is this Mary?

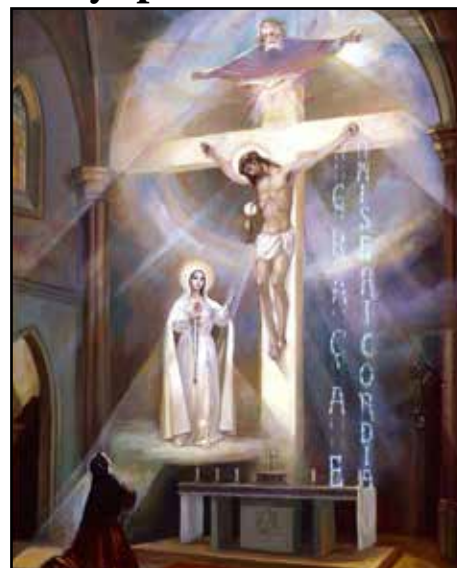
"Mary is the mother of Jesus our Redeemer. So she is also the mother of the church which Jesus founded. She is a child of God the Father, just as we are. She is the spouse of God the Holy Spirit, and she is the mother of God the Son...in time. She is a child of God the Father, Spouse of God the Holy Spirit and Mother of God the Son."

Source: Fr. Patrick J. O'Doherty, Queen of Peace, Ocala, FL.

"God willed to take on a human nature like our own through a virgin, while conserving the virginity of His Mother, and showing precisely He is the Word of God...The Word of God (Jesus) willed that His generation in order of the flesh and in time be elevated with a close resemblance as possible to His Heavenly generation... Christ is the mediator between God and humanity; Mary is the Mediatrix between Christ and us. Our LORD between God and man...It was through her that He became the bridge between the Divine and the human If we take her away, then either God does not become man, or He that is born of her is a man and not God. Without her we no longer have Our LORD." [pp. 76-77]

SOURCE: Sheen Fulton J., "The World's First Love: Mary Mother of God," Ignatius 2016, San Francisc

July 13, 1917 Mary speaks



"You have seen hell where the souls of poor sinners go. To save them, God wishes to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart. If what I say to you is done, many souls will be saved and there will be peace."

So, we are all too quick to exclude Mary as an instrument of salvation and deny Her

the respect, honor, and eternal gratitude for being the implement by which God chose and predestined, since the moment of creation, to introduce His divine Plan of Salvation through Mary birthing the God-Man.

What are we say to Our Lord when we stand before Him on that dreadful day, the Day of Judgment? How will we justify our indifference to Her requests to repent and do penance, since Her requests only echo His? It is an impossibility to claim our belief in Him and disregard His own Mother, or the Father who planned all this before time existed, or the Holy Spirit through which the Savior came into the world and will continue to remain in it until the end of time.

As Bishop Sheen had so eloquently stated, *"The key to understanding Mary is this: We do not start with Mary. We start with Christ, the Son of the Living God! The less we think of Him, the less we think of her; the more we think of Him, the more we think of her; the more we adore His Divinity, the more we venerate her Motherhood; the less we adore His Divinity, the less reason we have for respecting her. We could even resent hearing her name, if we had become so perverse as not to believe in Christ the Son of God. Never will it be found that anyone who really loves Our Lord as a Divine Savior dislikes Mary. Those who dislike any devotion to Mary are those who deny His Divinity or find fault with Our Lord because of what He says about hell, divorce, and judgment...It is on account of Our Divine Lord that Mary receives special attention and not account of herself...It is because Our Lord is so different from other sons that we set His Mother apart from all mothers. "We did not choose Mary, He did." [pp. 67-8]*

SOURCE: Sheen Fulton J., "The World's First Love: Mary Mother of God," Ignatius 2016, San Francisco

December 10, 1925

By 1925 Lucia, who was now 18, had become a postulant with the Sisters of St. Dorothy at Pontevedra in Spain, and on **Thursday 10 December**, the Blessed Virgin, **accompanied by the Child Jesus** on a little cloud, appeared to her in her

cell. Lucia recounted that Mary rested her hand on her shoulder, while showing her a heart encircled by thorns in her other hand.

The Child Jesus spoke first: *"Have pity on the Heart of your Most Holy Mother. It is covered with the thorns with which ungrateful men pierce it at every moment, and there is no one to remove them with an act of reparation."*



Then Mary said: *"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 say 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."*

May 29-30, 1930

The Child Jesus again appeared to Lucia in **February 1926** to encourage her to

propagate this devotion, and additionally on the night of **29-30 May 1930**; as she was praying before the Blessed Sacrament, she received an interior locution explaining why it was necessary to have a communion of reparation on five Saturdays.

She explained later that she had been given to understand that this related to the **five main types of blasphemies and offences committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary: 1-that is against the Immaculate Conception; 2 -against Mary's Virginity; 3 - against her Divine Maternity and her spiritual motherhood of mankind; 4 - for the offences of those who encourage in the hearts of children indifference, contempt and even hatred of her, and finally 5 - as reparation for those who outrage her in her holy images.** SOURCE: www.theotokos.org.uk/pages/approved/words/wordfati.html

Understanding Blasphemies & Offenses 1 – Against Her Immaculate Conception

Without being canonized, Fulton J. Sheen is not declared a saint of the Church by the Magisterium. However, there are many undeclared saints who have logically and clearly instructed the faithful of Mary's role in Salvation History. In this present age Bishop Sheen explains it in a way that removes any doubt from one who searches with an open heart and gives voice to one who seeks to trumpet this Immaculate mystery.



He writes: *“...the Blessed Mother in the womb of her mother, St. Anne, and in virtue of the anticipated merits of Redemption of her Son, was preserved free from the stain of Original Sin...The Immaculate Conception, therefore, in no way implies that she needed no redemption, in the sense that it was applied to her at the moment of her conception (in the womb of her mother, St. Anne) and to us in another and diminishes fashion only after our (own) birth...We receive the fruits of redemption in our soul at Baptism...She had this privilege, not for her sake, but for His sake. That is why those who do not believe in the Divinity of Christ can see no reason for the special privilege accorded to Mary.”* [pp. 21-22] SOURCE: Sheen Fulton J., *“The World's First Love: Mary Mother of God,”* Ignatius 2016, San Francisco

2 – Against Her Perpetual Virginity

“The Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall be with child; and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel.” [With us is God] **Is 7:14 NAB**

Mary said to the angel, *“How can this be since I do not know man?”* The angel answered her: *“The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; hence the holy offspring to be born will be called Son of God.”* **Lk 1:34-35 NAB**

“Mary remained a virgin in conceiving her son, a virgin giving birth to him, a virgin in carrying him, a virgin in nursing him at her breast, always a virgin” (St. Augustine, Sermon 186, PL 38, 999): *“...with her whole being she is ‘the handmaid of the Lord.’”* **Lk 1:38 NAB**

Even Martin Luther wrote:

Along with virtually all important Protestant Founders (e.g., Calvin, Zwingli, Cranmer), Luther accepted the traditional belief in the perpetual virginity of Mary (Jesus had no blood brothers), and her status as the Theotokos (Mother of God): *“Christ, ..was the only Son of Mary, and the Virgin Mary bore no children besides Him... ‘brothers’ really means ‘cousins’ here, for Holy Writ and the Jews always call cousins brothers.”* (Sermons on John, chapters 1-4.1537-39).

“He, Christ, our Savior, was the real and natural fruit of Mary's virginal womb... This was without the cooperation of a man, and she remained a virgin after that.” (Ibid.) *“God says... ‘Mary's Son is My only Son.’*

Thus Mary is the Mother of God.” (Ibid.) SOURCE: <http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/view.cfm?id=788>

John Wesley in 1749 wrote

“I believe that He [Jesus] was made man, joining the human nature with the divine in one person; being conceived by the singular operation of the Holy Ghost, and born of the blessed Virgin Mary, who, as well after as before she brought Him forth, continued a pure and unspotted virgin.” (Letter to a Roman Catholic)

Huldrych Zwingli wrote

“I firmly believe that Mary, according to the words of the gospel as a pure Virgin brought forth for us the Son of God and in childbirth and after childbirth forever remained a pure, intact Virgin.” (Zwingli Opera, Corpus Reformatorum, Berlin, 1905, v. 1, p. 424)

Source: <https://aleteia.org/2013/10/10/a-protestant-defense-of-marys-perpetual-virginity/>

3 – Against Her Divine Maternity

“But God not only thought of her in eternity; He also had her in mind at the beginning of time. In the beginning of history, when the human race fell through the solicitation of a woman, God spoke to the Devil and said, ‘I will establish a feud between thee and the woman, between thy offspring and hers; she is to crush thy head, while thou dost lie in wait at her heels.’” (Gen 3:15) *God was saying that, if it was by a woman that man fell, it would be through a woman that God would be revenged. Whoever His Mother would be, she would certainly be blessed among women, and because God Himself, He would see to it that all generations would call Her blessed.”*

“His mother was not like ours, whom we accepted as something historically fixed, which could not change. He was born of a Mother whom He chose before He was born. It is the only instance in history where both the Son willed the Mother and the Mother willed the Son. And this is what the Creed means when it says ‘born of the Virgin Mary.’ She was called by God as Aaron was, and Our Lord was born not just of her flesh but also by her consent.” [pp. 18-19]

SOURCE: Sheen Fulton J., *“The World's First Love: Mary Mother of God,”* Ignatius 2016, San Francisco

3a – Her Motherhood of Mankind

“...not only did she beget a Son, but the Son also begot her. This is the connection between Bethlehem and Calvary. She gave Him Sonship, but He also gave her Motherhood. At the crib she became His Mother; at the cross she was called the ‘Woman.’ No son in the world but Christ could ever make His Mother the mother of all men, because the flesh is possessive and exclusive. Making her the Woman or the Universal Mother was like a new creative word. He made Her twice: once for Himself, and once for us in His Mystical Body. (the Church) She made Him as the new Adam: He now installs her as the new Eve, the mother of mankind.” (of all the living) [pg. 242]

SOURCE: Sheen Fulton J., *“The World's First Love: Mary Mother of God,”* Ignatius 2016, San Francisco

4 – Those who Hate Her

We are made in His image and likeness. *“Then God said: ‘Let us make man in our image after our likeness...’God created man in his image, in the divine image he created him; male and female he created them”* **Gn 1:26-27 NAB**

Our parents give us our mortal bodies, but it is God who gives us our eternal soul. God told Jeremiah, *“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you.”* **Jer 1:5 NAB** *“For you formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb...”* **Ps 139:13 NAB.**

5 – Against Her Holy Images

It is abrogation of our responsibilities as parents, as a child's first teachers, to NOT instruct our offspring in the ways of the Lord. If we want our children to heed and respect God, ourselves, and others, we must teach them well when they are young in God's correct way of life. For it may NOT be God or His Mother they will eventually hate and distrust, or deface and destroy; for they know not the Lord; but most likely it will be the dislike, distrust and possible destruction of their own parents and in turn, their society.

Glory Be

Glory be to the Father (the **Creator**) and to the Son (the **Redeemer**) and to the Holy Spirit (the **Sanctifier**) as it was in the **beginning, is now, and will be forever world without end. Amen!** (I believe!)

“WHOSOEVER DIES WEARING THIS SCAPULAR WILL NEVER SEE THE FLAMES OF HELL”

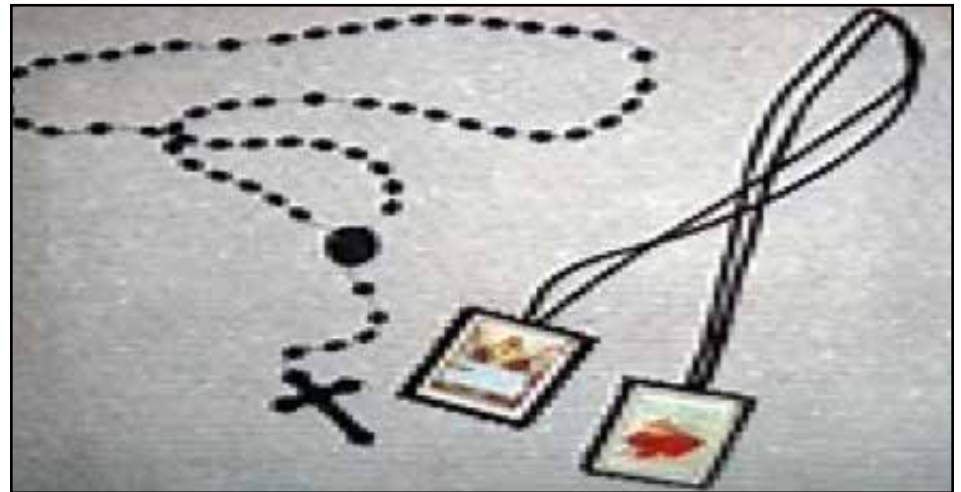
On July 16, 1251, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to St. Simon Stock, Superior General of the Carmelite Order. In her hand was a cloth Brown Scapular. She told him: “Receive the Brown Scapular. It is a pledge of salvation, a safeguard in danger. Whoever dies wearing this scapular will never see the flames of hell.”

Sixty-five years later, She revealed her Sabbatine or Saturday Privilege to Pope John XXII before he became Pope, that on the first Saturday after their deaths She will free from Purgatory all of Her scapular children who have fulfilled certain conditions: “I, the Mother of Graces, shall descend on the Saturday after their deaths, and as many as I find in purgatory I shall free.” These conditions are: 1) The faithful wearing of the scapular; 2) to observe

chastity according to one’s state in life; and 3) to recite the Little Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary daily or pray a five decade Rosary.

The Rosary and the scapular are inseparable! Wear your scapular always, even when taking a shower or bathing. If it gets wet, it does dry quickly. If it breaks, tie it or sew it together or purchase a new one.

Only a Priest or a Deacon can enroll you in the Brown Scapular. This also enrolls you in the Confraternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel which is affiliated to the Carmelite Order and thus you share in all of the daily Masses, prayers, and good works of the members of the Carmelite Order and some two hundred million other Confraternity members throughout the world. Enrollment by a priest or Deacon



also means that your subsequent Brown Scapulars do not have to be blessed—you forever carry the blessing with you, and you just put it on.

SR. BRIEGE MCKENNA & THE POWER OF THE EUCHARIST

By Fr. Thaddeus Doyle

Sr. Briega McKenna was born in Ireland and at the age of fifteen entered the Sisters of St. Clare. Following her final vows and after suffering for more than three years with rheumatoid arthritis, she was transferred to her community in Tampa, FL with the hope that the Florida sunshine would relieve her suffering. At the age of twenty-four, she was miraculously and instantaneously healed during the celebration of the Eucharist and sometime later received, in prayer, the gift of healing for which she has become so widely known. In 1974, again during prayer, she was given a deep spiritual insight into the call to priesthood. Since then, bishops and priests in many parts of the world have invited her to speak and minister at their retreats and conferences.

Sister Briega McKenna’s healing ministry is totally centered on the Eucharist. During a special retreat for sisters several years ago, she shared a remarkable story of how Jesus led her to this Eucharistic centering.

She said, “I had a big problem. After my own dramatic healing and then receiving the gift of healing others, I was worried because so many people were coming to me.

Many Healings

“In less than one year, so many healings were taking place that the people wanted to make a saint out of me, even asking for relics...cloth from an old habit, my hair trimmings, etc.

I was astounded and disturbed by it... and then there was the way that some people wanted to touch me, as if they would be healed or graced by doing so.

“I loved the people, but I did not like what was happening. There was a danger that, instead of directing people to the Lord or to the Mass, they had come just to see me.

“I certainly knew that, of myself, I had absolutely no power, and that it was Jesus Who was doing the healing; that I was only His chosen instrument. However,

even to be chosen by Him was itself an extraordinary gift. Pride could step in, and one could begin to believe that one is better than other people.

“In a certain way, I felt that I was becoming a celebrity, and I knew that it was neither true, nor good for my soul.

“I went on a pilgrimage to Lourdes, and begged Our Lady for help. I asked Her to please keep me in the heart of the Church, and to show me how to integrate this healing ministry into the life of the Church.

“I remember sitting in front of the Blessed Sacrament in Exposition one day, just praying to Our Lady. Then, I went down to the Grotto.

“A pilgrimage was taking place of mentally handicapped children, and as I watched them being assisted from Mass, I remember thinking and knowing that Mary will show me the way.

Come to El Paso

Sr. Briega came back to America, and three weeks later she got a phone call from Fr. Rick Thomas. He had a special ministry across the border in Mexico. He said to her, “I would love to have you come and visit the poor at the garbage dump and pray with them. You can help with the healings. Their need is so great.”

She explained that given her existing commitments, she had only an evening and a morning available, and he responded, “That’s fine. God doesn’t need a long time. On your way back from California, stop off and stay overnight.”

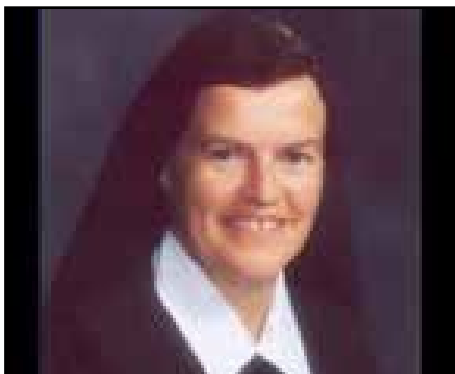
Sr. Briega arrived in El Paso to be met by this very colorful charismatic priest, a man who witnessed to the faith in everything he did. On the one hand, he was normally wearing a Texan hat and Texan boots. On the other hand, “Alleluia” was his favorite word, which he regularly repeated with gusto.

When Sr. Briega arrived, he started jumping up and down with delight, and introduced her to his dog and his donkey. Sr. Briega did not know what to expect next!

The Unforgettable Dump

That evening, they drove directly out to the dump, and he told her, “They do not have a clue as to who you are, and it does not matter. When the time comes, I will just get you to say a prayer with them, and God will do the rest.”

When they arrived at the dump, Sr. Briega witnessed scenes she will never forget. On the Texan border with Mexico,





there is the Rio Grande, the river which Mexicans try to cross to get into the U.S. They are driven back by border police. These are poor Mexicans, who squat and live at the garbage dump, and their children are born there.

As Fr. Rick showed Sr. Briege around, she was horrified by the sheer squalor. She had given retreats in South America, but she had never seen anything like this.

When Fr. Rick told her that he was going to celebrate Mass there for them the next morning, she was somewhat taken aback, wondering how Mass could be celebrated with any dignity in such an environment. What would the people know or understand? The children were running around wild like little animals. She was horrified at thinking that, in that place with those people; they will not be able to comprehend what happens during Mass.

Anyway, the next morning, she, a small group of young Mexican Americans, and Fr. Rick set out for the dump. He brought a little table and all the Mass requirements. When they arrived, already up to 1000 people were there, and more were coming!

Sr. Briege remembered standing there looking over this crowd of poor miserable people. Clearly visible in the distance, not even fifteen minutes away, were beautiful homes and a big Mexican Seminary.

But these people had no church, and indeed, they had nothing. Fr. Rick had taken it upon himself to go out there and to begin evangelizing and ministering to them. He was trying to break down the hatred through speaking of God's love, and then seeking to get them into groups to do various works toward that end.

The Mass

The Mass started, and although Sr. Briege has been a daily communicant since she was 12 years old, she said that

that Mass had changed her life? Before the Mass began, she watched an old woman coming in, carrying a bundle on her shoulder. At first, Sr. Briege thought that it was some form of a gift for Fr. Rick. But, when the old woman opened up the cloth, in it there was a little child, completely burned from head to foot, filthy dirty, and screaming!

The woman looked at Fr. Rick, and with great compassion, she said, "Please bless him. I found him smoldering when I was coming across the mountain." She had picked him up, put him into this cloth, and carried him to Fr. Rick. The child was practically skinless!

Fr. Rick looked at the little boy, got Sr. Briege to join with him in a prayer, and then suggested that he be placed under the table on which the Mass was to be celebrated.

Sr. Briege related that once the Mass had begun, she felt and saw the presence of Jesus. When Fr. Rick said, "Let us say the Gloria," praises to God came forth from the tops of their voices.

She had come from across the border from comfort. She had everything that she needed, but they had nothing, and yet they praised God loudly and whole heartedly. She heard the Lord speaking to her, saying, "If my people do not praise Me, the stones will cry out!"

Here were the poorest of the poor and they were radiant with praise to God.

When the consecration came, she had her head down. Then she looked up and saw that Fr. Rick had one of those large hosts. For a moment, everybody was prostrate on the ground. It was then that she had the most beautiful image of Jesus with His two hands out. He was smiling, and within herself, she heard the words of the Gospel, "Come to Me all you who are weary, and I will refresh you."

Just as she was seeing that, the people lifted up their faces and started shouting,

"Viva Cristo Rei"... Long live Christ the king!

At that moment, she truly knew that Jesus was in the Host...that it is not just a piece of bread, but truly Jesus, Himself. For these people, in the midst of their poverty, they had the King of Kings. They clapped, cheered, and cried, "Viva Christo Rei"... long live Christ the king!

She found herself weeping as she saw the great faith of these people, and she asked herself, "Is my faith as strong as theirs, that I may always realize that a Consecrated Host is really Jesus?!"

The Little Children

Mass ended and the burned little boy, who had been placed under the Mass table, had long since stopped crying. Sr. Briege went to look for him, and she was overwhelmed when she saw him. He had crawled out from under the table, was totally healed, and was playing in the sand!

She went over to the old woman, and said to her, "What happened to him?" With hindsight, she realized that it was a stupid question. The old woman looked at Sr. Briege, and said, "What do you mean what happened? Didn't Jesus come?"

As Fr. Rick put his hands over the bread



and wine and called upon the Holy Spirit, as the bread and wine were changed, the little boy was changed. He was given new skin!

Not only that, before the Mass, Sr. Briege saw a mother bringing in a Down syndrome baby. The mother was a young girl, and she had this beautiful little baby in her arms, but it had all the appearances of having Down Syndrome. She and Fr. Rick prayed over the child.

At the end of the Mass, the child's mother came running up to her saying, "Look at my baby!" Her baby was now

perfect.

More Healings

There were many more healings. Sr. Briege had spent eight hours with the people, and she did not remember which ones she prayed with, but it was certainly not all of those who were healed. It was as if God had put on a *display of miracles*. Fr. Rick usually did not pray with the people. All he did was celebrate the Mass.

Power of the Eucharist

Sr. Briege spent eight hours on the mountain dump, and she went back to El Paso so overwhelmed that she could not sleep. Finally, at three a.m., she heard Jesus tell her, "Get up and pray."

She knelt at the side of the bed, and the Lord said, "You asked MY Mother to help you, and to show and teach you, She brought you here. People come and seek signs and wonders. They go looking for healers and for something to help them, and they will go to anybody!"

Yet, I am on the altars of the world and in the tabernacles of the world, and they pass Me by. I brought you here because I have a mission for you. I want you to go to the world and speak on the *power of the Eucharist*. As you begin to lead people to the Eucharist, I will show you what I can do...and, He is doing just that!

This occurred in 1972. Since that time, Sr. Briege has been traveling all over the world to speak about the *power of the Eucharist*.

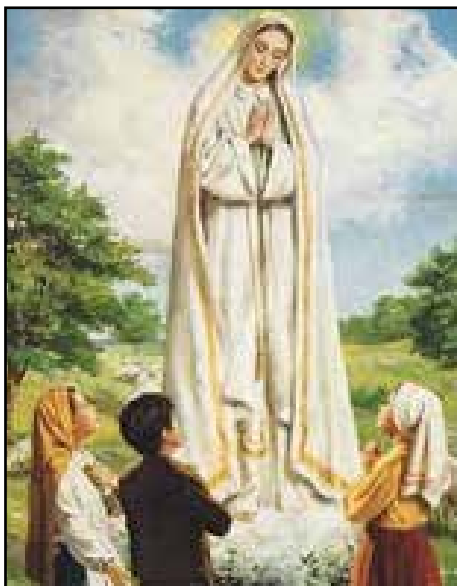
In Ireland, as in many parts of the world, they have a history of men and women who knew that the Mass was worth living and dying for.

Beg the Holy Spirit to help you to understand the Eucharist. Beg Jesus to give you a Eucharistic Heart, a real love for the Eucharist, like the two disciples who said to Him, "Where do you live?" and He responded, "Come."

Come to Him in Mass and Adoration. Tell Him your needs, confide in Him, love Him, and then feel His consolation and healing. This is what He wants of us now.

Sr. Briege understands that she is only an instrument through which the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus comes to us, but He tells us that we can approach Him directly by loving Him in the Eucharist. He wants to console and heal us, but first, He wants us to believe in Him, and then to come to Him. Do it. ++++

OUR LADY OF FATIMA...OUR MOTHER COMES TO US IN SASKATCHEWAN, CANADA.....



On a recent trip to Saskatchewan, Canada this past May, the Pilgrim Statue visited 18 schools. The children, from Kindergarten to 8th grade were very interested in hearing the Fatima message, especially when they heard the Fatima children were in many of their same age group. After our talk, geared to each of the different age groups, it was very amazing to hear the children's questions about Our Lady and the three children. The enthusiasm and the questions continued until the time was late for departure. Then, carrying the Statue in procession, the students gave Our Lady a farewell, as each child received a Fatima booklet and a brown scapular.

As we visited small parishes out on the prairie farm country, we were moving 30 to

100 miles each day. One day a lady came and joined the services and heard our talk. She stayed and prayed in silence for some time. As we moved from town to town, we saw the same lady coming in to pray with Mary, staying as long as she could. On one of these visits, we engaged in a conversation. She told me each day she learned something new. It made her want to travel as far as necessary to visit Our Lady and see what more she would learn.

In quiet prayer, meditating on the greatness of God, he teaches us. When praying our rosaries, we must make an effort to "study" the mysteries, reviewing everything we know about each one of them. Our Lady will give us more and more new thoughts about Our Lord and His plan for our salvation. Nine year old

Saint Fransico of Fatima would often go off by himself and just sit quietly. He would say: "I like to think about God." We can ask him to help us.

In our modern world we say there is no peace. It is because there is no quiet. Our electronic gadgets have us connected to our friends, and the world, 24/7. So it takes a discipline, a determination, to bring some quiet time into our lives. But, the benefits will be immeasurable.

I sometimes ask students: "Do you like to pray? Is it fun?" "No, not so much." But we must pray. So, when we pray, ask God for this: "Help me to like to pray." That would be good for all of us. And, let us ask that we could like to go into a quiet zone and "think about God."

GREGORIAN MASSES FOR OUR DEPARTED LOVED ONES



In the fourth book of his *Dialogues*, St. Gregory relates how one of the monks of his monastery, named Justus, did not keep his vow of poverty very well. When Justus died, St. Gregory feared that the good monk might have to spend a long time in Purgatory because of his failures with regard to poverty. He therefore ordered that the Holy Sacrifice be offered up for Justus for thirty consecutive days without a break. On the thirtieth day, Justus appeared to a brother monk telling him that he was now freed from his sufferings because of the thirty Masses St. Gregory had caused to be said for him.

These 30 Masses are called Gregorian Masses because Saint Gregory contributed to the spread of this pious practice.

Saint Gregory, as we read of his life, was also instructed by God Himself in the efficacy of these 30 Mass and he recommended the practice on various occasions.

The Sacred Congregation of indulgences has declared, "*The offering of thirty Gregorian Masses has a special efficacy for obtaining the Divine Goodness and Mercy the deliverance of a suffering soul is pious and reasonable belief of the Faithful.*" It is evident, therefore, that the Church, like a kind mother, encourages

Gregorian Masses for the souls of her departed children

Pope Benedict XIII lauded this pious practice of having thirty Masses said for each departed soul. The Franciscans, Dominicans, Salesians of Don Bosco, Capuchins and others carry on this practice.

Following St. Gregory's example, Catholic people throughout the ages have continued the pious custom of having thirty Masses said for their departed relatives and friends.

Gregorian Masses may be offered only for the dead. They can be offered only for one particular person. The Masses must be said on thirty consecutive days. #

A CRY FOR MASSES

This letter was shared with us from the 101 Foundation in New Jersey:

Dear 101 Foundation,

Please find enclosed a check for \$230.00 for 30 Gregorian Masses to be offered for a priest in Purgatory:

Yesterday I received a letter from a Mr. David Shilling in Blairsville, PA telling me that he phoned a priest friend of his. The priest answered and said in a weak voice "David, Help Me." Then the phone went dead. David called again (immediately) and the care giver for the priest answered the phone. David explained, but the caregiver replied "That is impossible. Father has been dead for two days."

God bless you in every way.

In the Holy Spirit,
Tom Anderson

"It is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead that they may be loosed from sins."

- 2 Machabees 12:46

Gregorian Masses consist of 30 holy Masses said in succession and without interruption for the deliverance of an individual soul from Purgatory to heaven.

FROM OUR READERS...

I WANTED to share with you how the visit of Our Lady of Fatima deeply touched me and my parishioners.

I was so excited about the visitation of the statue of Our Lady of Fatima and welcomed such an honorable guest from above. I prayed to God to give to me a sign from Heaven that he is happy with this event. He answered my prayers abundantly. A few days before the visit of the statue I reestablished a connection with my good friend, a priest from Ukraine. On the day of the visitation when my parishioners were praying the rosary, out of the blue I decided to chat with him via Skype. It was such a great experience, not only to hear his voice, but also to see him. He told me how people suffer because of the war and political situation in his country during the past few months. I told him we would pray for peace in Ukraine. I decided to go to the church with my phone and asked him to be quiet because the parishioners were praying. He asked me to particularly pray for our priests. I went into the church and one of the parishioners had began the Luminous Mysteries. He was on the fifth decade which is the Institution of the Eucharist and then, I don't know why, but I put him on speaker and I asked him to lead us in the prayer. So he said the first part of the Hail Mary in Ukrainian. Our people could hear his voice and our congregation answered the second part of the Hail Mary in English. It was a great sense of joy and solidarity with people in Ukraine and the United States all praying for peace. When we finished the prayer I realized that one of the main themes of the Blessed Mother when she appeared in 1917 was a request to pray for peace and particularly for Russia.

My friend, Father Wladyslaw, and his family suffered greatly because of his beliefs. His younger brother was killed by KGB in a very mysterious way and they never received any answer as to what the motive of this horrible tragedy was. He received his first

Holy Communion underground, but through great and strong faith of his parents, not only he, but also his older brother Celestyn, joined the only Catholic Seminary in the former Soviet Union in Ryga, Latvia and became priests in 1989 when communism was already shaking and this evil empire was approaching its end.

I am so thankful to Carl and Victor, the members of the team, that brought the statue to our parish and gave a wonderful talk about the message from Fatima. Our parishioners were praying all the time in silence and we could feel the gentle presence of our heavenly Mother. In Christ,
Fr. Sylvester Kwiatkowski
Pastor, St. Patrick Parish
Grass Valley, California

Thank you for sending my order out as fast as you did. I got the book *Our Lady of Fatima, Our Mother Comes to Us* at my church, and I want to spread Our Lady's message as someone here in this area has done. I've read the book and I try my best to please Our Lady in every way I can, and so far it has helped me very much. Thanks again for your help in getting Mary's love and compassion to those who might need Her help to be non-sinners and in the loving arms of Our Blessed Lady. May God bless you for the wonderful work and the wonderful message you are getting to the world.

Love in Christ.- Don

My wife and I would like to help make our Blessed Mother's Fatima message known more widely here in the Philippines. We would like to initially order 50 booklets of "Our Lady of Fatima, Our Mother Comes To Us" to our residence. Here is our address.

Art - Quezon City, Philippines

A month ago we ordered and received the 1,000 Brown Scapulars. We were very pleased with their quality and now enclose our check for 8,000 more Brown Scapulars. Thank you for your dedication and in helping to make it possible for us to send this sacramental to the foreign missions God bless all of you.

Marie

I ask prayers for my son to lose weight. Also ask prayers for TJ with cancer and return to the church and sacraments, together with my other children to return to the church and the sacraments. Please join me in praying that Our Lord and His Blessed Mother will guide me to rise above the lies, disappointments and confusions that beset me, from those wanting to succeed in their own desires. Thank you and God bless you.

Mary Anne

Please, I ask your prayers to help me. I am from the Philippines and am Chinese, in my late 50's, live in California and homeless. In the Philippines I was a dentist. I would like to practice my vocation here in the United States. I have been cleaning houses and caring for elderly sick people. I pray and ask Our Lady every day to help me or take me to Heaven. Please pray for me.

No Name

O Mary, conceived without sin, Pray for us who have recourse to Thee.

EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

Many of these sins are mortal and the Eucharist is forbidden until a good confession is made to a priest. If in doubt whether a sin is mortal or venial, consult a good catechism or priest very loyal to the Holy Father and Rome's teachings. A mortal sin involves a serious matter, there is sufficient reflection and it is committed with full consent of the will.

- Did I deny or doubt God's existence? Did I refuse to believe God's revelation?
 Did I believe in horoscopes, fortune telling, dreams, good luck charms or reincarnation?
 Did I deny that I was a Catholic? Did I leave the Catholic faith?
 Did I despair of or presume on God's mercy?
 Did I neglect prayer for a long time? Did I fail to pray daily?
 Did I blaspheme God or take God's name in vain, curse or break an oath or vow?
 Did I miss Mass on Sunday or Holyday of Obligation through my own fault?
 Am I always reverent in the presence of the most Blessed Sacrament?
 Was I inattentive at Mass? Did I come to Mass late? How late? Did I leave Mass early?
 Did I do unnecessary physical work on Sunday?
 Did I disobey or disrespect my parents or legitimate superiors?
 Did I neglect my duties to my husband, wife, children, or parents?
 Did I fail to actively take an interest in the religious education and formation of my children?
 Have I failed to educate myself on the true teachings of the Church?
 Did I give a full day's work in return for my full day's pay?
 Did I give scandal by what I said or did, especially to the young? Was I the cause of anyone leaving the faith?
 Did I give a fair wage to my employee?
 Was I impatient, angry, envious, unkind, proud, jealous, revengeful, hateful toward others, lazy?
 Did I give bad example, abuse drugs, drink alcohol to excess, fight or quarrel?
 Did I physically injure or kill anyone? Have or advise for an abortion? Regarding abortion, check with your priest to see if you were automatically excommunicated and this has to be lifted first.
 Did I participate in or approve of the grave evil known as "mercy killing"? Did I attempt suicide?
 Did I willfully entertain impure thoughts and desires? Did I dress immodestly?
 Did I use impure or suggestive words? Tell impure stories? Or listen to them?
 Did I deliberately look at impure TV, plays, pictures or movies? Or deliberately read impure material?
 Did I perform impure acts by myself or with others? Which ones?
 Note: in the area of deliberate sexual sins, all are mortal if there is sufficient reflection and full consent of the will.
 Did I marry or advise another to marry outside the Church?
 Did I abuse my marriage rights? Was I unfaithful to my marriage vows?
 Have kept company with someone else's spouse?
 Did I practice artificial birth control or was I or my spouse sterilized?
 Did I steal, cheat, help or encourage others to steal, or keep stolen goods? Have I made restitution for stolen goods?
 Did I fulfill my contracts; give or accept bribes; pay my bills; rashly gamble or speculate; deprive my family of necessities of life?
 Did I tell lies? Deliberately to deceive; or injure others by lies? Did I commit perjury? Was I uncharitable in word or deed, gossip or reveal others faults and sins? Fail to keep secrets I should have?
 Did I eat meat on the Fridays of Lent or Ash Wednesday?
 Did I fast as required on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday?
 Did I fail to receive Holy Communion during the Easter time? Fail to confess at least once a year?
 Did I go to Holy Communion in the state of mortal sin? Without fasting (water and medicine permitted) for one hour or more from food and drink?
 Did I make a bad confession?
 Did I fail to contribute to the support of the Church?

FIVE STEPS for a GOOD CONFESSION

1. Examine your conscience.
2. Be sincerely sorry for your sins.
3. Confess your sins.
4. Resolve to amend your life.
5. After your confession do the penance the priest assigns.

Act of Contrition

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins, not only because I dread the loss of heaven and the pains of hell, but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, Who art so good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Thy grace, to confess my sins, to do penance and to amend my life. Amen. (Please Memorize.)

† TO MAKE A GOOD CONFESSION †

PRAYER BEFORE CONFESSION:

O Holy Spirit, source of all light, come to my assistance and enable me to make a good confession. Enlighten me, and help me to know my sins as one day I shall be forced to recognize them before Christ's judgment seat. Bring to my mind the evil which I have done and the good which I have neglected. Grant me, moreover, heartfelt sorrow for my sins, and the grace of a sincere confession, so that I may be forgiven and admitted into Thy everlasting friendship. Mary, my Mother help me to make a good confession.

We begin....."Bless me Father, for I have sinned. I confess to Almighty God, and to you, Father. It is (how long) since my last confession. Since then I have ..(tell your sins).

When you have finished telling your sins, you should say:

"For these and all the sins of my past life, I am truly sorry."

Listen to what the Priest says; answer all questions. Pay attention to the Penance he gives you. While the Priest recites the words of absolution, say the Act of Contrition. **Make this Confession as though it were your last.**

ACT OF THANKSGIVING

O my God, from the bottom of my heart, I thank Thee for having thus forgiven me. Mary, my Mother, and all ye holy angels and Saintse, join with me in giving thanks to God for his boundless mercy in thus washing away my sins.

Praise, honor and glory, be given to Thy Holy Name, O Lord, who has showed Thy mercy to so wretched, so ungrateful a sinner as myself. I have deserved infinite punishment but in Thy goodness and mercy Thou inspirest me with a confident hope of salvation. Truly, thou art the God of al consolation, the true comfort of sinners, who from the shades of eternal death guideth them to the possession of peace and joy...may all the world know Thy goodness, may all feel Thy mercy, that all may praise Thee, O God, as Thou deserves.

PRAYER TO THE SACRED HEART

O most holy Heart of Jesus, source of all blessings, I adore Thee and love Thee, and with a lively sorrow for my sins, I offer this poor heart of mine to Thee. Make it humble, patient, and pure and conformed to Thy will in all things. Grant, good Jesus that I will live in Thee and for Thee. Protect me in dangers, console me in my afflictions, grant me health of body, and assistance in my material needs, Thy blessing in all my undertakings and grace of a holy death.

Our Lady of Fatima
Pray for us!

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IPVS NEWS

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

Our Lady of Fatima Pray for us!

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Memoirs of Sister Lucia

HER OWN WORDS

This outstanding book is all about Our Lady of Fatima as told by Sister Lucia, the oldest of the three children that Our Lady appeared to in 1917. Sister Lucia died in 2005 at the age of 97. It examines in depth the relevance of Our Lady's prophecies, of which most have come to pass. At the request of the Most Reverend Jose Correia da Silva, the then Bishop of Fatima, for a complete record of the six apparitions at Fatima in 1917, Sister Lucia responded with a simply handwritten, easy to read, account of Our Lady's visits. Mr. John M. Haffert, the founder of our International Pilgrim Virgin Statue Foundation, who had the privilege of meeting with Sister Lucia on several occasions, translated Sister Lucia's original Portuguese hand written text to publish this book. You will be reminded again of the many prophesy's given at Fatima which have been fulfilled; and those yet to take place: annihilation of nations; the great prophecy of the Triumph of Her Immaculate Heart; and an era of peace for the world.

During the 100th Year Anniversary we had exhausted our entire supply of this beautiful book "***Her Own Words.***" We have just received from our publisher a new supply. The book is \$10.00 plus \$4.00 postage. You may call, email or write us at the address at the left of this Newsletter. You may also read this book on line on our website:

www.johnhaffert.org

