

# IPVS NEWS

4th Issue

The Official Newsletter of the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima

## A TRIBUTE TO THE HAITIANS



In our recent trip to Haiti last September 2009, we have met a lot of Haitians before the Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima on their knees praying to God, asking the Blessed Virgin Mary for intercession; some of whom became our friends and prayer partners. We often hear them say “God’s will be done, like Mary’s Fiat”. When asked if they are willing to accept the suffering God wishes for them, they said YES without fear. They already know how it is to suffer. You would always hear their favorite chant the entire day “AVE MARIA, with GOD nothing is impossible” over and over again!

The message of Our Lady given at Fatima was not only for the children, but for the entire world. It is indeed a message for all of us, even for Haitians. They know that for a fact. I personally asked them if they are still willing to say “YES” to God even if it means suffering and sorrow. They said in chorus and in a loud voice, in French, “Wi”. Our Lady knew what was about to happen four months in the future. She was right there with them. She

was right there during those moments with all the help they needed. She is Haiti’s national patron saint as the Mother of Perpetual Help. They know exactly how it is to suffer. Yet they know who their spiritual Mother is. They know where to run in times of need. To Our Mother.

I talked to one of my Haitian friends the day after the devastating earthquake, and she was still very optimistic. She said there are a lot of people we know have suffered but in spite of it all, something good is coming out of this. Now, there will be more saints in Heaven praying for us. It seems Our Lady prepared them for what was about to happen. For some, God seemed to have ended their suffering by taking them. For others, it was just the beginning. For the rest of us, a lesson.

Haiti is facing another seemingly insurmountable situation. Countless have died including the people close to our hearts particularly the Archbishop of Port-Au-Prince, Msgr. Joseph Miot. We extend our condolences and prayers. For those who suffered and died, may their souls rest in Peace! 🕯



Archbishop Miot is seen here crowning the International Pilgrim Statue inside Port-au-Prince cathedral. He died in his office during the earthquake when the cathedral collapsed.

## ANSWERS BY SISTER LUCIA TO PRACTICAL QUESTIONS

(From *Sign of Her Heart* by John Mathias Haffert)

How will we get people to “say the Rosary and say it properly”, using the mysteries to light the

way to a life of Divine Love? How will we get people consecrated to Mary that she may afford them the special protection she promises? Where will we find a host of victim souls who will offer every act through the Immaculate Heart of Mary to establish the Reign of the Sacred Heart?

These practical questions were the subject of a four hour interview with Sister Lucia in 1946 and her answer is unbelievably simple. It is a “promise” which anyone from the age of reason can make:

*Dear Queen and Mother, who promised at Fatima to convert Russia and bring peace to all mankind, in reparation to your Immaculate Heart for my sins and the sins of the whole world, I solemnly promise: 1) To offer up every day the sacrifices demanded by my daily duty; 2) To say part of the Rosary daily while meditating on the Mysteries; 3) To wear the Scapular of Mt. Carmel as profession of this promise and as an act of consecration to you. I shall renew this promise often, especially in moments of temptation.*

The first means of implementing this promise is the Morning Offering. This is a positive, DAILY response to the first request in the very first apparition: “Will you

*be willing to accept the sufferings God will send you?” The following version is now used daily by millions of Fatima members:*

*O My God, in union with the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Here kiss your Brown Scapular as a sign of your consecration). I offer Thee the Precious Blood of Jesus from all the altars throughout the world, joining with it the offering of my every thought, word and action of this day.*

*O My Jesus, I desire today to gain every indulgence and merit I can and I offer them, together with myself to Mary Immaculate... that She may best apply them to the interests of Thy most Sacred Heart. Precious Blood of Jesus, Save us! Immaculate Heart of Mary, Pray for us! Sacred Heart of Jesus, Have mercy on us!*

The ultimate challenge of Fatima is that we LIVE this offering so that we may become “Eucharistic” souls...even like St. Anthony Mary Claret whose devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary was so great that he finally had the Blessed Sacrament miraculously preserved in his breast from one Communion to another. For this the Church offers two special, practical sacramentals: **The Rosary and the Scapular.**

In a previous International Seminar at Fatima (1969: Fatima in the Light of Vatican II) it was shown that these two devotions were primary among those referred to by the Council in paragraph 67 of Lumen Gentium as explained by Pope Paul VI:

**“You will make known our will and our exhortations which we base upon the dogmatic constitution of the Ecumenical Council Vatican II, which is in complete conformity with our thought and indeed upon which our thought is based:**

**‘That one ever hold in great esteem the practices and exercises of the devotion to the Most Blessed Virgin which have been recommended for centuries by the Magisterium of the Church’ (#67). And among them we judge well to recall especially the Marian Rosary and the religious use of the Scapular of Mount Carmel...a form of piety which is adapted by its simplicity to the spirit indeed of everyone, and is most largely widespread among the faithful for an increase of spiritual fruit.’ ”**

Is there any need to apologize for devotions so firmly based in Catholic tradition and theology? These practices recalled to us at Fatima already existed in the Church for centuries and are among the most encouraged and fruitful devotions in Christian history.

*“I have given you this admirable Heart of my dearest Mother which is but one with Mine to be truly your heart also in order that the children may have but one heart with their Mother and the members have no other Heart but that of their Head so that you may adore, love, and serve God with a Heart worthy of His infinite greatness.”*

*-Words of Our Lord heard by St. John Eudes*



## REPARATION, by Carl Malburg

During Lent we are told to offer prayers and sacrifices of Reparation for our sins. And at Fatima, Our Lady also asked us to offer prayers and sacrifices of Reparation:

July 13: *"If what I tell you to do is done, many souls will be saved..."*  
*"Make sacrifices for sinners..."*

August 17: *"Pray, pray very much and make sacrifices for sinners, because so many souls go to Hell because there is no one to pray and make sacrifices for them."*

Our Lady, at Fatima, enlightens us about the theme of Reparation. Two points stand out especially. (1) Lent is not the only time to offer reparation for sin. It is our duty as Christians to be offering some Reparation all year around. (2) The result, the gift, the reward God gives us for our acts of Reparation. Our Lady said by our prayers and sacrifices, *"sinners will be converted."* *"Many souls will be saved."* *"...and there will be peace."*

Our Lady said: *"War is a punishment for sin."* All suffering is caused by sin, and as we observe society in 2010, it seems we are seeing more sin in the world than ever; and likewise, so much suffering everywhere today. The only way to reduce the suffering is to reduce the sinning. Therefore, the world needs "Reparation" which will obtain the conversion of sinners. But, must we offer Repara-

tion for other people's sins? Yes, because we are the lucky ones, the "chosen ones", who have been given more understanding of God's love and His plan for our salvation.

Which Prayer? – What Sacrifice? During Lent each of us chooses certain prayer and penance practices according to our abilities. All year around, Our Lady tells us to pray the rosary every day, and offer our "daily duty."

Rosary – The Church has given us many, many prayers; all of them are good and "guaranteed to work." From the long list of approved prayers, Our Mother Mary recommends the Rosary during this age of science and technology. At the dawn of this age, She appeared six times at Fatima, and every time, six times over, repeated "Pray the Rosary every day." She said "This prayer will bring peace." How we long for peace. Do we want it enough to give fifteen minutes a day? Maybe during 2010, we should offer two rosaries a day!

Daily Duty -- "Make everything you do a sacrifice." "Will you bear with submission all the sufferings God sends you in Reparation for the sins that offend Him and for the conversion of sinners?" That is, willing acceptance of our crosses each day.

Most of us say a prayer each day called the "Morning Offering." But let us review how well we live it out. Jesus tells us in the Gospel we must "take up our crosses and follow Him." Our Lady of Fatima

is only asking for the same thing. But She reminds us of the reward for doing this: "Many sinners will be converted, and there will be peace." Consider this: All of us have some crosses. We cannot escape them. But, we do have these two choices: First, we can carry our crosses willingly, with Jesus, and gain God's mercy and much grace for the world. Or, second, we can suffer with our crosses and waste it. No other choice!!

Archbishop Fulton Sheen said *"The greatest tragedy of all time, wasted suffering."* Our crosses are much easier to bear when we are aware of the Value of the Cross.

*Let's review:* Offerings of Reparation will obtain the conversion of sinners. Sin is so widespread today. More Reparation is needed. Our Lady's assignment is not that difficult. How strong is your desire for peace? Maybe we could do more than the minimum of one rosary a day and our cheerful acceptance of our crosses. How about a Holy Hour of Reparation? An extra Mass once a week? First Friday devotions and First Saturdays? The monthly all night vigil? Fasting? There are many other ways to make Reparation.

Sometimes it is hard for us to believe that our prayers and sacrifices really do interfere with the "bad guys" out there and do obtain conversions. But when we speak to children, we tell them that when people are bad, it makes God sad. But, if we will pray for them, they won't be so bad!! The children have no trouble believing this. ★

## MIRACLE OF THE DOVES

(by Father Oliveira)

(NOTE: This article concerns the Our Lady of Fatima Statue that is enshrined in the Cova da Iria where Our Lady appeared in 1917.)

It all began in a town called Bombarral, a short time after the statue had left Fatima.

As part of the ceremony in that particular town, while the streets filled with people singing hymns to Our Lady of Fatima and pressing to be near the statue someone freed four white doves.

After flying off into the air, three of the doves...instead of flying from the great crowd to some roof-top, made several evolutions over the statue and then suddenly, to the amazement of all who saw them, plummeted downwards, and alighted at Our Lady's feet!

This was the beginning. During the days that followed, midst ever-changing crowds, moving from one town to another night and day for almost two whole weeks, the doves did not leave the statue. They remained there at the very base of the statue, as though vying one with the other actually to stand on Our Lady's feet.

Yet bands played, people shouted, the bier on which the statue was mounted moved and swayed, rockets exploded at night and cascaded fire, while giant searchlights burned at them. They were constantly buffeted by flowers tossed to the statue from the surging crowds.

But, they did not fly, they blinked, shook off flowers that hit them, occasionally stretched their wings to keep balance. But, they remained there at her feet during the entire two-week journey.

They refused food or drink.

Cordons of militia and police were holding back the crowds of many thousands of people who had gone far out of the city to meet this famous representation of the Virgin, coming for their greatest Marian centennial.

All during the night of December 5<sup>th</sup> in the Church of Our Lady of Fatima of Lisbon, the doves remained standing at the feet of the statue. The newspapers had been filled with the story of their perseverance, their utter fearlessness,



the strangeness of their position. Many must have wondered what would happen now that they had actually accompanied the statue into the church that had been prepared for its reception, refusing to be brushed off or frightened away. From midnight, Masses were constantly recited at the altar near the statue. The church was crowded to the doors with Lisbonites keeping vigil.

During the Solemn Mass when the bell sounded, there was a sudden fluttering of wings. To the amazement of all, two of the doves suddenly flew, after two weeks of refusing food or drink and of remaining at the feet of the statue,

one sped straight to the Gospel side of the altar, and the other to the Epistle Side! There, as the bishop straightened to raise the Consecrated Host, they alighted and folded their wings, one on each side, as though in adoration!

As the Mass progressed, the two doves remained there to the bewilderment of the celebrants and servers and the stupefied congregation. But, this was still not the climax. The third dove had not left the statue. Suddenly, at the moment of communion, the third dove flew up and perched on top of the statue's golden crown. As the celebrant turned and held up Our Lord, saying "Ecce Agnus Dei" ("Behold the Lamb of God"), it spread its white wings and held them open.

Here in Portugal, where we have witnessed this extraordinary event and where we have so come to appreciate the blessings of peace which we attribute solely to our newly awakened national devotion to Mary, this miracle of the doves has not only strengthened our confidence, but has renewed our purpose.

I hope that it may strengthen the confidence of the people of America, to whom so much of battered Europe now looks for leadership, and renew the desire and purpose of all American Catholics to strive for the worldwide fulfillment of Our Lady of Fatima's simple conditions of peace.

May these doves, which have flown in Lisbon, fly into American hearts, and from there be sent forth as carriers to bear the peace message of Our Lady of Fatima to the world under the protection of the American Eagle.

The miracle of the doves has occurred a number of times, namely: St. John Lateran Basilica, Rome; San Giovanni Rotondo—Padre Pio; Nicaragua; Lourdes, France.



## INBOX



Mrs. Dolores Marks

In August, 2009, the Carmelite Sisters invited the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue to visit the San Antonio diocese. Once permission was received I was asked to coordinate a schedule for the 21-day tour. The plan was for Our Lady of Fatima to visit 21 parishes during this time. At first it seemed to be an easy task, but as the weeks went by, I was worried that we would not fill these dates as easily as I had hoped.

On January 3rd, the date of the first visit, the media came to take photos for the newspaper, the local newscasts and news web sites. The word was out.....

Our Lady of Fatima Statue was in San Antonio!! Suddenly, I could have easily filled 21 more days. The photos that appeared in print, on television and on the web showed Our Lady of Fatima at different parishes, led in procession by the Knights of Columbus.

She was welcomed with music and singing and thousands lined up to see her. The Rosary, the Litany and Divine Mercy were prayed over and over at every parish. People of all ages waited patiently for their turn to get close to her. Our Lady of Fatima was calling her children and we answered. She was beautiful!! At every parish she visited she was encircled with fresh flowers of all colors and fragrances. Many shed tears of joy and faith which was apparent in the people who looked into her eyes.

I will never forget the elderly woman who let go of her walker to kneel down before her and the mother who, after 18 years, still thanked God for the birth of her daughter who was handicapped. I saw another mother who had to hold the hand of her young son to help him make the sign of the cross because he was too weak to do it himself. I was filled with emotion and at that moment I knew that the Queen of Heaven, Our Lady of Fatima, Our Mother, was touching and blessing all those who stood or knelt before her. Faith had come alive!! She was answering prayers and fulfilling intercessions and Her message to us was always the same; conversion, prayer and penance.

For me, the opportunity to see the statue almost everyday during these 21 days was more than I ever expected. The stories and testimonies I heard will forever stay in my mind and especially in my heart. I met very special people along the way; people that I can now call friends. I saw many of them follow Our Lady day by day. They allowed me to share in their faith experience, and I am a better person for having met them.

I thank the Carmelite Sisters, D.C.J., for allowing me to be part of Our Lady of Fatima tour in San Antonio. Also, very special thanks to the Custodians for bringing Our Lady of Fatima to us. I feel profoundly blessed to have shared in an experience I will never forget.

Dolores Marks  
San Antonio, Texas

## A SIMPLE SOUL IN GOD'S SILENCE

What a beauty in the eyes of God  
is a simple soul suffering in silence.  
A silence which only God can hear,  
a silence where love speaks most.

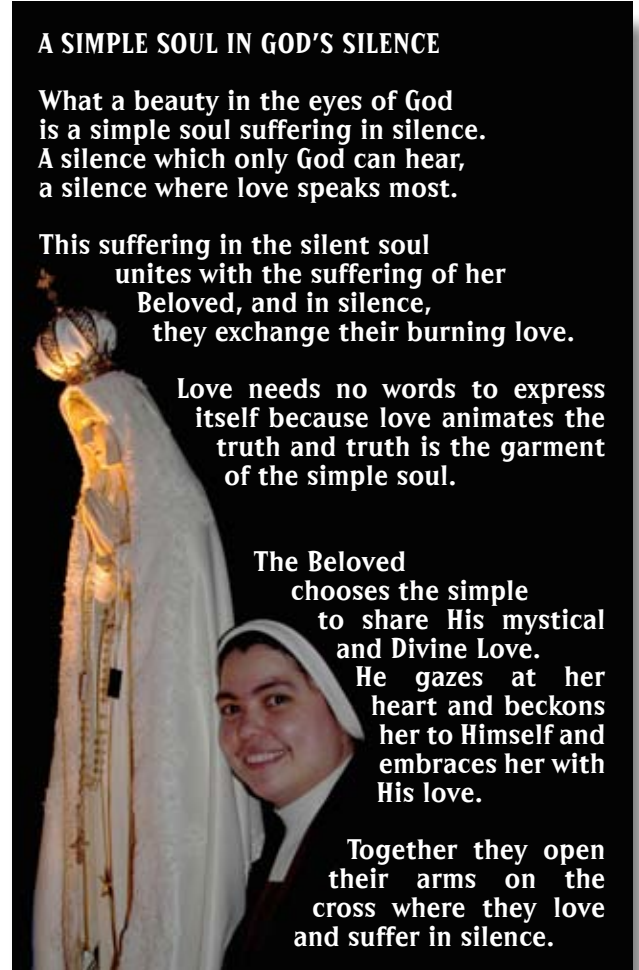
This suffering in the silent soul  
unites with the suffering of her  
Beloved, and in silence,  
they exchange their burning love.

Love needs no words to express  
itself because love animates the  
truth and truth is the garment  
of the simple soul.

The Beloved  
chooses the simple  
to share His mystical  
and Divine Love.

He gazes at her  
heart and beckons  
her to Himself and  
embraces her with  
His love.

Together they open  
their arms on the  
cross where they love  
and suffer in silence.



This poem is written by Sr. Mary Katherine, DCJ (photo above with Our Lady) shortly after the phenomenal tour of Our Lady of Fatima statue in the diocese of San Antonio, Texas. She is an active Carmelite nun belonging to the Carmelites of the Divine Heart of Jesus.

Sr. Mary Katherine first saw the International Pilgrim Statue when she was in San Diego, California. She was then re-assigned to San Antonio, Texas where she arranged for the visit in the diocese with Mother Faustina's help and guidance as her superior, together with Mrs. Dolores Marks. The pilgrimage of the beautiful statue in San Antonio proved to be a big success in many ways.

## A THOUSAND SOULS A NIGHT !

Thousands of devout persons around the world make all night vigils from the evening of the First Friday to the morning of the First Saturday.

Inspiring many of them is the belief that for each person who makes the vigil *a thousand souls, who would otherwise be lost, will be saved.*

The belief was reported more than forty-four years ago in a book about the vigil movement titled *Night of love*. It was based on a true story told by St. Aphonius Liguori, a doctor of the Church.

### Too Much?

A nun, with whom the Saint was well acquainted, felt inspired one day to make a novena *to save a thousand souls*. But about half way through she thought that was too much to ask. As she was about to say the next novena

prayer, she cut the number down. And at that moment, according to Saint Alphonius, Our Lady spoke to her and said:

*“Already because of this novena a thousand souls who otherwise would have been lost have received the grace of final contrition.”*

The author of *Night of Love* said: “If a thousand souls could be saved by a novena, how much more should we have this intention and hope for a vigil which responds to the appeal of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary on the First Friday and First Saturday...not only with the short time They ask, *but with an entire night!*”

### Pastor Convinced

In 1970 at St. John’s Church in New York, the Rev. Armand Dasseville, O.F.M.Cap, inspired by the sacrifice and fervor during a

vigil exclaimed:

*“I am convinced that for every person who made this vigil tonight, a thousand souls were saved.”*

### Praise of Cardinal

Vigils have been continuing at St. John’s ever since. At that time, Cardinal O’Connor told the vigilers: *“Your prayers are helping not only the city of New York, but you are helping to save the entire world.”*

Similar vigils are held in towns and cities all around the globe. Find out where the nearest vigil is being held on the next First Friday and First Saturday and think of saving *a thousand souls!*

### NIGHT OF LOVE

by John H. Haffert,  
with Imprimatur of the  
Bishop of Trenton

## A NIGHT VIGIL CHANGED MY LIFE

(A True Story of a 17-Year Old)

Life has not always been good to me. I have to face the reality that I belong to a broken family. As a consequence my sister became rebellious. My peer group was my only recourse and I wasn’t aware it was leading me to something bad.

### Forceful Invitation

At the peak of my desolation and despair, I was visited by an old friend who forcefully invited me to attend a celebration in the church.

It was the First Friday of the month of February 1994. Together we went to the Manila Cathedral, a big Catholic church in Manila.

A large crowd of young boys and girls filled the church to my surprise. I asked my friend what are we to do? “We are on a Reparation vigil!” he said.

### A Vigil All Night

“Reparation Vigil?” was my incredulous reply. Then my friend calmly told me to just stay all night and to see what might come next.

Half-way during the vigil. I felt a tug in my heart. The prayers and reflections of the young people before the Blessed Sacrament moved me to go to confession and later to fervently join the Holy Mass. Afterwards, tremendous peace, joy and serenity, which were so elusive in my seventeen years, seem to flow through my whole being.

The vigil ended on the morning of First Saturday. An announcement was made that another vigil on the First Friday/First Saturday of the following month will be held. My friend did not need to invite me. What happened that night

was enough to spiritually convince me to come again, which I have faithfully done since then.

In the vigil I realized that there is hope; hope that God is giving me a chance to turn away from my sins and to make up for them.

### Believe in Miracles!

Attending the Communion of Reparation vigils every month has changed my life as it has changed the lives of other young people like me. Yes, I believe that miracles can be obtained through constant prayers, and by offering one’s pains and sacrifices.

Maybe one of God’s greatest miracles on me will be that day when, as a priest, I could officiate in one of the vigil Masses. Ave Maria! ♥

## THE 5 FIRST SATURDAYS AS EXPLAINED BY OUR LADY AS PART OF THE FATIMA MESSAGE

***“I promise to assist them at the hour of death, with all the graces necessary for the salvation of their souls.”***

**Blessed Virgin Mary to Sr. Lucia – December 10, 1925:**

“You have seen hell where the souls of poor sinners go. To save them... God wishes to establish in the world the devotion to My Immaculate Heart.”  
(Through the 5 First Saturdays.)

“See, My daughter, My Heart covered with thorns that ungrateful men are pressing into it at every moment by their blasphemies and acts of ingratitude.”

“At least you see that I be consoled and tell all those who for 5 months on the First Saturday go to confession, receive Holy Communion, pray a rosary and keep Me company for 15 minutes mediating on the Mysteries of the Rosary in a spirit of reparation that...”



***“I promise to assist them at the hour of death, with all the graces necessary for the salvation of their soul.”***

## FIVE OFFENSES AND BLASPHEMIES

**Then on May 30, 1930, Jesus explained to Sr. Lucia why 5 First Saturday’s and not 9 or 7 in Honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary:**

“My daughter the motive is simple. There are 5 kinds of Offenses and Blasphemies uttered against the Immaculate Heart of Mary:

1. Blasphemies against.....Her Immaculate Conception.
2. Blasphemies against.....Her Virginity.
3. Blasphemies against.....Her Divine Maternity and at the same time refusal to recognize Her as Mother of Men.
4. Blasphemies.....Those who openly seek to foster in the hearts of children, indifference or contempt and even hatred for this Immaculate Mother.
5. The offenses of.....Those who directly insult Her in Her Sacred Statues.

(From: Sr. Lucia’s Memoirs)

**Jesus to Sr. Lucia**

**“Ask, ask again insistently for the Promulgation of the Communion of Reparation in Honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary on the First Saturdays. The time is coming when the rigor of MY justice will punish the crimes of diverse nations. SOME OF THEM WILL BE ANNIHILATED. At last, the severity of My justice will fall severely on those who want to destroy My reign in souls.”**

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#### THE VALUE OF THE MASS

*The Holy Mass* is the highest form of worship. It is the sacrifice of Calvary renewed. One Mass gives God more praise and thanksgiving, makes more atonement for sin and pleads more eloquently than does the combined and eternal worship of all the souls in heaven, on earth and in Purgatory. In the holy Mass, it is Jesus Christ, God, as well as Man, who is our Intercessor, our Priest and our Victim. Being God - as well as man - his prayer, merits and His offerings are infinite in value.