



IPVS NEWS

Issue No. 14
WINTER 2013-14

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

IPVS REPRESENTED DURING THE MARIAN DAY IN ROME



Delegates from the Philippines



Patrick Sabat represents the IPVS in Rome

On the occasion of the anniversary of the final apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Fatima (October 13, 1917), the faithful belonging to diverse associations of Marian spirituality gathered for a Marian Day. The Holy Father called for it, we responded. For this event, the original Statue of Our Lady of Fatima was brought to Rome.

It was an honored mission to represent the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue Foundation to take part in this historic celebration at the Vatican Square. I have set foot in Italy for the first time and with reverent awe, I was tremendously struck at the sight of St. Peter's Basilica during the great encounter of the statue of Our Lady of Fatima and the Pope while I waved the IPVS banner with the pilgrims.

With more than a hundred and fifty thousand pilgrims from all over the world, we sang and prayed the rosary in solemn procession before the Mass. The Pope then led the prayer, the Act of Consecration

to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. I joined the delegates of the Confraternity of Mary, Mediatrix of All Grace, from the Philippines and California, headed by Rev. Fr. Melvin Castro.

We are very grateful to Her Excellency, Mercy Tuazon, Philippine Ambassador to the Vatican in providing us a special pass to get a seat on the main atrium of St. Peter's Square for the celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Pope Francis.

Our presence here signifies our strong commitment to the message of Our Lady of Fatima and our solidarity with the Holy Father. This is part of the conclusion of the Year of Faith. It united hundreds of movements and institutions connoted with Marian devotions among such group as the IPVS Foundation. The purpose of such event was, in the words of the organizing committee, "to express how the Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, is the icon of faith for every believer and

that in her trusting obedience to the will of the Father She was able to work genuine wonders".

The next day, I flew to Fatima, Portugal where the statue returned in its place in the *capelinha*. This was a providential occasion where I was able to personally meet with the Bishop of Fatima, Most Rev. Antonio Marto, shook his hands and joined a handful of other pilgrims during the nightly candle light procession in the Cova da Iria. There are no words to describe the peace and tranquility I have experienced in these holy places together with God's holy people.

Rest assured, I have brought all your petitions there with me. All of you who have supported this ministry and praying for us, too. You have sent me there and I am very grateful. May we all be united in the love of the Blessed Mother as we promote devotions to Her Immaculate Heart.

-patrick sabat



“Strange Things Happen on the Night of Christmas”

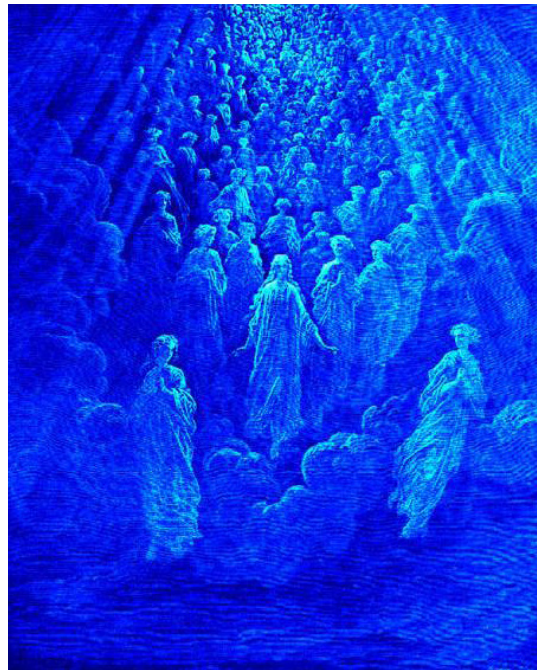
Monsignor Charles M. Mangan

Father Segundo Llorente (1906-1989) was a Spanish Jesuit priest who was assigned to the missions in Alaska. For forty years he labored strenuously to bring the Holy Gospel to the natives of that place.

Father Llorente wrote a reflection entitled “Strange Things Happen on the Night of Christmas,” that discussed the importance of revering the Most Holy Eucharist. This insightful piece, which was published in the February 1998 newsletter of the Catholic Society of Evangelists, is relevant for our Third Christian Millennium.

A priest told me what happened to him once in his first parish. After the Midnight Mass on Christmas Day he personally locked the church. With the keys in his pocket he went to his room and had a good sleep. At 7:30 in the morning he got up and went back to the church intending to have one hour of prayer all to himself. He opened the side door leading to the sacristy, turned on a light, and then turned on the lights for the church. As he opened the sacristy door and walked into the church, he literally froze. Strange people clad in the poorest of clothes occupied most of the pews and all were in total silence. No one so much as wiggled and nobody cared to look at him. A small group was standing by the Nativity Scene contemplating the manger in total silence.

The priest recovered quickly and in a loud voice asked them how they got in. Nobody answered. He walked closer to them and asked again. “Who let you in?” A woman answered totally unconcerned: “Strange things happen on the night of Christmas.” And back to total silence the priest went to check the main door and found it locked just as he had left it. He



was now determined to get the facts and turned his face to the pews; but they were empty. The people had vanished. He kept this puzzle to himself for some time. Unable to hold it in any longer, he told me just what I have told you. Could I help with any plausible explanation? Let me hurry to say that the priest in question is a model of sanity and is as well educated academically as most of the priests I know, if not better.

My explanation was and still is as follows. Those were dead people who were doing their purgatory, or part of it, in the church. It is safe to assume that we atone for our sins where we committed them. Those people were immersed in total silence. Why? Consider the irreverence committed before the Blessed Sacrament; how many people act out in church: chatting, giggling, and looking around. After Mass some people gather in small groups around the pews and turn the church into a market place with no regard for Christ’s Real Presence in the tabernacle. Why did they vanish? They did not vanish. They simply became invisible; but they remained tied to their pews unable to utter one single word to atone for their disrespectful chatter while living.

The Blessed Sacrament is no laughing matter. There is a price tag to all we do or say. In the end it is God Who gets the last laugh--so to speak. Those people had to give the Blessed Sacrament the adoration and respect that Christ deserves. For how long? Only God can answer that. Why did the priest see them? So he could pray for them and for all other Poor Souls detained in other churches. Why other priests do not see these people? Well, perhaps they already know in theory that souls can be detained in churches as well as anywhere else, so they do not need a miracle.

Why were they clad in such poor clothes? To atone for their vanity while living. People often use clothes not so much to cover their nakedness but as a status symbol to impress others. But God is not impressed by, say, mink coats. Also people walk into church with hardly any clothes. In the summer months it is not unusual for people--mostly women--to go to receive Holy Communion in the most indecent clothing. The pastor may or may not put up with it; but God will have His day in court about this. Rags could be an appropriate punishment for these excesses.

Although the Church does not command that we need to believe the account as related by Father Llorente, it is, nonetheless, a salutary reminder of the reverence to be paid the Most Holy Eucharist.

We realize that we can never adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament as we ought. But we must try! He deserves our humble efforts and will reward us for our attempts.

“O Sacrament most holy! O Sacrament divine! All praise and all thanksgiving be every moment Thine!”

[Note: some believe it is Christmas when most souls are released from purgatory]



INTERNATIONAL PILGRIM VIRGIN STATUE FOUNDATION
OUR LADY OF FATIMA



TRAVELS of 2013



Photo from MHR Parish, SFO

The year 2013 had been blessed with so many *bon voyages* with Our Lady. We started our 75,000 mile journey of the year in January to visit the beautiful Napa Valley in Santa Rosa Diocese, all the way up to the border of Oregon in Crescent City passing through the Avenue of the Giants. It was an astounding display of redwood trees in the entire 500 mile redwood belt on Highway 101. On top of that was the giant sacrifices of pilgrims willing to offer up anything Our Lady requests of them. February is a month of fervent prayer as we culminated at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Sacramento in conjunction with the Diocese's effort in promoting the New Evangelization. March was for Miami, West Palm Beach and Venice Dioceses in sunny Florida before we headed up the mountains and ridges of Colorado for the Denver Archdiocese. Patterson, New Jersey spent the month of May offering flowers to Our Lady as we visit several parishes there before heading to the Midwest in the Archdioceses of Milwaukee and Chicago.

During the summer season, we took the IPVS statue "Down Under" in almost every major cities in Australia where we covered about 30 thousand miles of combined air and land travel in Australian tour alone. Starting from the Chicago area, we flew in

to Los Angeles, CA for a connecting flight to Melbourne, Victoria. The Archdiocese of Melbourne gave us an overwhelming welcome from the very first day at the airport until we drove off through the outback to the Diocese of Wagga Wagga, then to the Archdiocese of Sydney.

It was a pleasant ride and meeting those people on our journey and seeing some packs of kangaroos along the fields when we got lost more than once while looking for the main highways. From Sydney, we flew in to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption in the Archdiocese of Adelaide at the cathedral. After just 3 days, we headed to Western Australia to the Diocese of Bunbury, then in the Archdiocese of Perth officially ending on the Feast of the Queenship of Mary. Thousands of people have responded to the requests of Our Blessed Mother. May God bless them and keep them close to the Heart of Our Dear Mother!

Also, we joined Pope Francis during the Marian Day in Rome last October in the Act of Entrustment to Our Lady of Fatima.

While in transit during this trip to Rome, I had the privilege of meeting with the generous and hospitable sisters of the Family of Mary in Amsterdam, Netherlands. I arrived

there in the middle of the night but they provided transportation and accomodation. They gladly welcomed me into the chapel of Our Lady of All Nations, where they joined me in thanksgiving prayer.

It was also providential for me to visit the Shrine of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary in Fatima, Portugal after the Marian Day in Rome. It has now been 10 years since I first got involved with the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue. While we bring the statue to all places, with it comes the teaching aspect of preaching the gospel call to prayer, penance and conversion - the urgent message of hope and the peace plan from heaven by Our Lady of Fatima.

This pilgrimage is a humble gesture of thanksgiving for all the wonderful things God has done for us and for all the graces obtained through the Immaculate Heart of Mary. God has been very generous to me and to the Apostolate of spreading the devotion to the Blessed Mother. It was my prayer during the Year of Faith, a year with Mary, with Her faithful devotees - we may offer sacrifices in the true spirit of penance and Eucharistic reparation, for the sins of the world to end all wars and violence and so that it may hasten the triumph of Her Immaculate Heart.



You ask, we answer!

What does IPVS stands for?

IPVS is an acronym which stands for the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue. This is the Pilgrim Virgin Committee that manages the travels of the statue and spreads the message of Our Lady of Fatima all over the world.

What about this statue?

The International Pilgrim Statue is the first depiction of “the lady dressed in white” rendered and perfected by Jose Thedim according to Lucia’s description (one of the children who saw Mary). In fact, this is the first commissioned statue sent on purpose with the mission and therefore “endowed” with the rich history of its non-stop travels for 66 years around the globe in more than a hundred countries.

The statue is the appearance of the “Lady of the message”. It is a reminder of an event with WHO, WHAT, WHERE and for WHOM.

The image signifies there is work to be done, a message that needs a specific response. It simply is not a kind of a trophy of achievement but a recognition of something that there still needs to be accomplished.

Why is the IPVS statue historic?

The physical presence of the statue is the moral presence of Our Lady who, by God’s will intervened in history. This representation of Mary is indeed a piece of history. An artifact, if you will. It is a historical artwork, blessed by the Bishop of Fatima and Pope Pius XII. Many miracles have happened surrounding its visit. It is a gesture of the Church while calling to the whole world to end all wars and violence after the World War II.

What are the blessings you hope it brings to our parish / diocese?

The blessings that come with the whole program of the visitation of the IPVS Statue of Our Lady of Fatima will hopefully prepare us (as a person and as a parish/ diocese) to receive the graces we need through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and that we may better cooperate with that special grace. Also, that we may respond to the calls of Our Lady. This is indeed a great spiritual blessing in itself. Of course, each member of our communities have their own personal intentions and need, so we pray, too, that their prayers may be answered.

“When we invoke God’s blessing, we implore His divine benevolence, trusting that He will respond to our needs.”

-Catechism of the Catholic Church

Is this Peace Plan only for Catholics?

Peace in the world is not only the affairs of the Catholics but all people of good will. It hopes to inspire the hearts of all men, even to the non-Christians, so that they may open their minds to the truth that the only way to peace is the way of God, as told and delivered to us by Our Lady of Fatima. True peace can only come from God.

To put the statue’s place in history, we can understand that even non-catholics need to respond to its deep roots of the Evangelical calls to prayer, penance and conversion for peace in the world. It is for this reason that we call it the Peace Plan from Heaven.

Historically, the statue’s mission came at a time when the world needed it (1947-after WWII).

Obviously, the world needs it even more today because of its relevance and urgency. The world continues to offend the Lord even more with their sins and blasphemies. The world is still at war with evil. Or have we allowed selfishness and pride and all kind of sins to reign in our family and country, allowing abortion and keeping silent about our God-given right to life?

Why is the message of Fatima so important?

The message of Fatima to bring about peace by means of prayer, penance and conversion is so important in our troubled and violent world. This is a simple way to regain peace and defeat the evils of our time (selfishness, pride and greed, among others) which are so prevalent in our modern society that abandons God and prayer. The world continues to offend the Lord today even more with their sins and blasphemies. Our Lady of Fatima warns us not to allow all kind of sins to reign in our family and country particularly the sins of abortion and keeping silent about our God-given right to life. It is for this reason that even Pope Francis recently appeals for peace to the whole world and asked Our Lady of Fatima to help us.

We welcome your questions about the Message of Our Lady of Fatima, the Apparitions, travels of the IPVS statue and anything related to Fatima or visit to your diocese.

Feel free and do not hesitate to ask us and send an email to these addresses:

layapostle@aol.com
pilgrimfatima@yahoo.com



Meaning of Entrustment to Mary

Just recently the Church celebrated the Consecration of the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on Sunday, October 13, 2013, an event organized as part of the Year of Faith on the anniversary of the final apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Fatima (October 13, 1917) and initiated by Pope Francis. It was an event organized by the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization. To venerate Mary is to be renewed in faith and to see Jesus anew, to allow the light of faith to penetrate our personal doubt and indifference. Mary is the star of the New Evangelization and it only makes sense that we look upon this star that is so full of grace to illumine the way out of darkness.

It is an act of entrusting the needs, concerns, and evils of the world to the prayers of the Virgin Mary, because of her unique closeness to Jesus. It is a way of saying to our Mother Mary that we need her help, we need her prayers, we feel our prayers alone are insufficient. It can be seen then as an act of humility, a way of saying to another person whom we trust, will you help me? Mary is here to help us, let us with the beloved disciple John behold her as Mother. What good Mother would ignore the pleading of her children?

Lastly, an act of consecration is always aimed at Christ, who is consubstantial with the Father and the Holy Spirit. It is an act that leads to reconciliation with the Father because it seeks union by the Holy Spirit with the Heart of Jesus, our peace and reconciliation. It is ultimately bound up in the great commandment to love God and neighbor and makes no sense apart from this aim. The act of consecration is made through Mary because in her person she embodies the path of union with the divine love of God that all must follow. She shows us in a special way how to find Jesus and to bring him deep into the recesses of the world.

Excerpt from an article by
Bishop Edward J. Burns

<http://akseac.com/2013/10/14/mary-our-life-our-sweetness-and-our-hope/>

ACT OF ENTRUSTMENT TO MARY

by Pope Francis: October 13, 2013

Blessed Virgin Mary of Fatima, with renewed gratitude for Your maternal presence we unite our voice with that of all the generations who call You blessed.

We celebrate in You the great works of God, Who never tires to incline with mercy on humanity, afflicted by evil and wounded by sin, to heal it and save it.

Accept with the compassion of a Mother the act of entrustment which today we make with confidence, before this Your image to us so dear.

We are certain that each one of us is precious to Your eyes and that nothing which dwells in our hearts is unknown to You.

Let us reach Your sweet gaze and receive the consoling caress of Your smile.

Guard our life in Your arms: bless and strengthen every good desire; revive and foster faith; sustain and illumine hope; create and enliven charity; guide all of us in the path of holiness.

Teach us Your same preferential love for the small and the poor, for the excluded and the suffering, for sinners and the lost: gather all under Your protection and give all of us to Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus.



CNS photo/Paul Haring

Pope Francis touches the original statue of Our Lady of Fatima at the start of a Mass in honor of Mary in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Oct. 13. The pope entrusted the world to Mary at the end of the Mass.

Pope Francis Appeals for Peace

“Humanity needs to see these gestures of peace and to hear words of hope and peace! I ask all the local churches, in addition to fasting, that they gather to pray for this intention: Peace in the world.”

“Let us ask Mary to help us to respond to violence, to conflict and to war, with the power of dialogue, reconciliation and love. She is our mother: may She help us find peace; all of us are Her children! Help us, Mary, to overcome this most difficult moment and to dedicate ourselves each day to building in every situation an authentic culture of encounter and peace. Mary, Queen of Peace, pray for us!”



THE MESSAGE OF FATIMA IN OUR LADY'S OWN WORDS

(From John Haffert's last book "To Shake the World")

THE FIRST APPARITION OF OUR LADY

May 13, 1917

"We were so close," Lucia wrote, "just a few feet from Her. We were bathed in the light that surrounded Her or, rather, radiated from Her. Then She spoke to us."

"Do not be afraid. I will not harm you."

"Where are you from?"

"I am from Heaven."

"What do you want of me?"

"I have come to ask you to come here for six months in succession on the 13th day at this same hour. Later on I will tell you who I am and what I want. Afterwards, I will return here yet a seventh time"

"Shall I go to Heaven?"

"Yes, you will."

"And Jacinta?"

"She will go also."

"And Francisco?"

"He will go there too, but he must say many Rosaries."

"Is Maria da Neves in Heaven?"

"Yes, she is."

"And Amelia?"

"She will be in Purgatory until the end of the world. Are you willing to offer yourselves up to God and to bear all the sufferings He wills to send you, as an act of reparation for the sins by which He is offended, and for the conversion of sinners?"

"Yes, we are willing."

"Then you will have much to suffer, but the Grace of God will be your comfort."

Sister Lucia reports that as Our Lady said those last words She opened Her hands. A brilliant light streamed from Her. In that light they saw themselves in God "Who was the Light" and moved by an interior impulse which was communicated to them, they fell to their knees saying: *"O Most Holy Trinity I adore You! My God, my God, I love You in the most Blessed Sacrament!"*

Before ascending back into Heaven, Our Lady finally said: *"Pray the Rosary every day in order to obtain peace for the world and the end of the war."*

Questions

The children were so close to Our Lady. Did She seem real to them or was She like a spirit, all made of light?

She seemed so real to them that they did not at first think

She was from Heaven. Lucia said, despite the great light, they thought She was a person from somewhere around the country whom they had never seen before.

Our Lady is body and soul in Heaven. She Herself was really present before the children.

How old was Amelia when she died? Why would she be in Purgatory until the end of time?

She was about 19. It seems that her family had thought she went quickly to Heaven and did not continue to pray for her. In Her mercy, Our Lady let it be known that this soul very much needed prayers. Let us not forget our own loved ones.

Why would Francisco have to say many Rosaries? This statement of Our Lady would seem to imply that Francisco was not as holy as Lucia and Jacinta, since they were not told they had to say "many" Rosaries.

Actually Francisco was the "contemplative" of the three children. He did not hear Our Lady speak and therefore concentrated on what he saw. What impressed him most in all the course of the apparitions was that Light shining from Our Lady. He said later: "What I loved most of all was to see Our Lord in that light from Our Lady which penetrated our hearts. I love God so much! But He is very sad because of so many sins! We must never commit sins again."

The Light

As the light from Our Lady so much impressed Francisco, it ought also to impress us.

This light prefigures the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary when She will cause the Light of God to shine upon the world, causing us to be "lost in God" and aware of Our Lord's true presence in the Eucharist.

From the time of this first apparition of Our Lady of Fatima, Francisco was impelled to offer many Rosaries in reparation to Our Lord, offended by so many careless Communion and neglected in so many tabernacles.

In conclusion, Our Lady tells us in this first apparition: 1) She wants us to offer up to God whatever He chooses to send us, in reparation for our sins and the sins of others; 2) She is our real, loving Mother who can be present wherever She wills, and is always listening when we pray; 3) Purgatory is real; 4) The Grace of God will be with us and comfort us in fulfilling Her requests; 5) If we say "yes", as did the children, Her Immaculate Heart will flood us with Divine light, and make us aware of the true presence of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima

Fatima Pilgrimage † May 22 - 29, 2014



Go on Pilgrimage to Fatima with the world-famous International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima.

ITINERARY

MAY 22, 2014: Our Pilgrimage begins as we depart from Philadelphia (PHL) Airport on our overnight flight to Lisbon, Portugal. (flight from other cities available)

MAY 23, 2014: Upon arrival into Lisbon we'll be met by our Tour Escort who will be our guide during our visit to Portugal. While in Lisbon, we will visit the birthplace of St. Anthony where our Chaplain will lead us in prayer. Next, we'll take a guided tour of this beautiful port city followed by our transfer to Fatima. Before arriving in Fatima we will visit Santarem, one of the oldest cities in the world, to visit the Church of St. Stephen and it's Eucharistic miracle. Overnight FATIMA

MAY 24, 2014: Today we'll visit the shrine of Our Lady of Fatima and the Capelinha where our Blessed Mother appeared to the three seers. Our chaplain will celebrate Mass for us in the Basilica. We'll walk together the Way of the Cross which takes us through Aljustrel, Valinhos, and the Loca Do Cabeco. Tonight we'll head to the shrine for the candlelight Rosary Procession. Overnight FATIMA

MAY 25, 2014: Mass at the Capelinha followed by a visit to the church of St Anthony where the three Fatima children were baptized. Next, we'll visit the walled city of Obidos with beautiful quaint streets. Tonight we'll participate in the candlelight Rosary Procession. Overnight FATIMA

MAY 26, 2014: Today we'll visit Coimbra and the Carmelite convent where Sr. Lucia lived for most of her adult life. While here our chaplain will celebrate Mass for us along with the Sister's in the Convent. While in Coimbra we will also venerate the relics of Queen St. Elizabeth. Following dinner we'll all head to the shrine for the candlelight Rosary Procession. Overnight FATIMA

MAY 27, 2014: Morning Mass at the Shrine. The remainder of the day is at your leisure to visit Fatima as you wish. Following dinner we will head to the shrine for the nightly candlelight Rosary Procession. Overnight FATIMA

MAY 28, 2014: Our visits today will include the Atlantic coast, the beaches, and, the markets of Nazare including the Miracle of Our Lady of Nazare. We will also visit the Medieval town of Batalha with its mighty church and the Abbey of Alcobaca. Tonight we will gather for our farewell dinner followed by our visit to the shrine for our farewell candlelight Rosary Procession. Overnight FATIMA

MAY 29, 2014: With a renewed sense of pilgrimage, and an invigorated love of Our Lady of Fatima, we board our plane for the flight home.

Join us for a unique opportunity to go on a pilgrimage to Fatima in the company of the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima and her custodians. You will learn firsthand about the inspiring history of the statue as well as many graces she has inspired in faithful throughout the world since departing Fatima in 1947. This is a truly unique way to visit Fatima and to share in the message of Our Lady of Fatima.

TRAVEL PACKAGE INCLUDES:

† Roundtrip Airfare from Philadelphia (PHL) Airport (incl. airport taxes, subject to change) † Hotel in Fatima
† Breakfast & Dinner daily † Tour Escort & daily sight seeing † Entrance fees as per itinerary
† Pilgrimage Chaplain with Daily Mass and Rosary † Luxury motor coach in Portugal

To confirm a reservation, fill out and send in the form on back with a \$400 deposit per person.

COST PER PERSON: \$2595 twin occupancy † **\$295** single supplement

For further information contact CANTERBURY TOURS at:

800-653-0017 - canterbury.tours@live.com

CANTERBURY PILGRIMAGES & TOURS, INC. P.O. Box 403 Goffstown, NH 03045 - P.O. Box 91811, Pasadena, CA 91109

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INTERNATIONAL PILGRIM VIRGIN STATUE FOUNDATION, INC.
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Please consider a gift to the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue Foundation, Inc. in your Will and Estate Planning toward the travels of Our Lady's Image.

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 every one, we thank you most kindly for your sacrifices and ask Our Lord and Our Lady to bless you immensely.

(All donations are tax deductible.)

To find out how you may host the Pilgrim Virgin Statue please contact:

International Pilgrim Virgin Statue Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 3506
Munster, IN 46321
Telephone No. (219) 836-8779
Email: layapostle@aol.com
www.pilgrimvirginstatue.com

For correspondence or to make a donation toward the international pilgrimages of Our Lady's Image, please use the above address.

*We give you
MANY THANKS!*



Check this out! A website dedicated to a great man and the founder of the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue Foundation.

www.johnhaffert.org

IPVS TOUR CALENDAR

	2014
January	San Francisco, CA
February	Dallas, TX
March	San Diego, CA
April	Washington, DC
May	Duluth, MN Fatima, Portugal
June	Metuchen, NJ
August	Gaylord, MI
September	Los Angeles
October	Florida
November	Open

More information on our website:
www.pilgrimvirginstatue.com