



IPVS NEWS

Issue No. 16
Winter 2014-2015

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

Dear Friends of Our Lady of Fatima,

The International Pilgrim Virgin Statue Foundation directors wish to inform our friends and supporters about some major changes that affect our mission of promoting devotion to Our Lady of Fatima and Her Peace Plan from Heaven. After much prayer and reflection, we believe we have reached the solution which we think is the will of Our Lady.

As is well known, we have been managing the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue (IPVS) for over 17 years through this foundation set up by Mr. John Haffert; the statue's owner since its creation in 1947. He established our Foundation to promote the Peace Plan from Heaven through the travels of the IPVS.

After Mr. Haffert's untimely death in 2001, his widow, Patricia Haffert, became the owner of the IPVS. She also became a board member of our Foundation working with us in our effort to promote the Fatima Message far and wide.

This arrangement has now changed. As Mrs. Haffert reaches her declining years, she has decided to transfer ownership of the IPVS to another organization which she expects will permanently enshrine it with the coming triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. We had thought we would continue to be the managers of the statue. However, the new owner has made other plans that make it impossible to fulfill our commitments regarding the statue or arrange a seamless transition.

All of these unexpected developments have been very hard for us to digest and work out. We know that many faithful

supporters of our mission were hoping to host an IPVS tour in the coming year. In fact, we were already making plans for 2017, the 100th year anniversary of Fatima.

One thing we do know is that we cannot stop now. In order to carry on with the mission of our Foundation, we have decided we must continue teaching the Fatima Peace Plan from Heaven during these times of crisis. We can do this by having recourse to an exciting new alternative which will be the commissioning of a new international pilgrim statue. Similar copies of the IPVS have been made, and are circulating on pilgrimages from the Fatima Shrine. Thus, we have already commissioned the best sculptor in Fatima, Portugal to make our new statue that will be finished, blessed by the Bishop of Fatima, Portugal, and ready for pilgrimages before the year's end. As desired by Mr. Haffert, the IPVS Foundation will then continue to spread the Peace Plan from Heaven as given to us by Sister Lucia.

The new IPVS will be called the "Satellite International Pilgrim Virgin Statue." Why "Satellite?" Because it will contain chips of the original IPVS statue that came off over the years. Mr. Haffert graciously allowed the previous custodian to keep them as relics of the miraculous statue. Our current statue will be accompanied by one of these relics, and, hopefully, relics of Blessed Jacinta and Francisco Marto.

In this way, the IPVS Foundation will strive to be the most successful apostolate spreading the Fatima Message. With the abundant blessings from Our Lady, we



have totally depended on Her for support. In our human nature there are times we have to remind Our Lady that funds are really low. However, we ask Our Lady to indicate where She wants Her Image to go and we will get Her there. She has never let us down. We are here 24/7 helping people by listening, sometimes for hours, to their problems and even talking and praying for some who are contemplating suicide. We always point to Our Lady as the solution!

Our Foundation is the only Fatima apostolate that distributes scapulars at our own expense. We have actually made and distributed over a million and a half brown scapulars and almost four million booklets on Fatima, as FREE gifts from Our Lady to Her children. It is our intention to keep doing this and more.

Our Foundation is not a membership organization. In their talks, our custodians



Our Lady's Visitation In Various Traditions

encourage the people to join the Rosary prayer groups, First Saturday devotion groups, Eucharistic Adoration groups, etc., in their own parishes or where they are available. Many venues we visit already have one or another local Fatima apostolate, which we encourage people to join. In our little booklet "Our Lady of Fatima... Our Mother Comes To Us," the reader can sign a pledge to Our Lady. However, it is a pledge ONLY between that individual and Our Lady. No names are recorded—but only packaged up and sent to Fatima, Portugal to be buried at the Apparition site.

As we go forward with our new plan, we promise to continue to pray for you and all the others, nationally and internationally, who support our work. We ask for your prayers to Our Lady to guide our Foundation which is dedicated to Her and we are just Her workers waiting to serve Her.

We take this situation very seriously, especially in consideration of all you have done and sacrificed to support our foundation. We feel an obligation to continue the same program and we feel the mission remains unaltered and Our Lady will bless this new endeavor as she has done in the past.

That is why we will forge ahead. We continue to accept requests for a tour of the new Satellite IPVS, continuing with the same format and materials as before. As always, we will work with any sponsoring association, organization, religious congregation, prayer group, or individual person who takes upon themselves the project of hosting a tour. We require that they have permission from their local bishop and assure us that the sponsoring group is in good standing in their diocese. The statue's visit enhances and benefits the work being done by the sponsoring entity.

Please keep us in your prayers. May Our Lady reward you for all you have done and continue doing to help our Foundation continue its most important mission.



Matachines dance welcoming the statue

The Matachina dance is explained by oral tradition amongst most Indian Tribes as "The Dance of the Moors and Christians" and is the first masked dance introduced by the Spaniards. The Moors were driven out of Spain in 1492 and the missionaries introduced the dance to show the superiority of the Christians. The introduction of the Dance of the Moors and Christians gave rise to a further range of masked dances, one of them recounting the Spanish victory over the Indians and their eventual conversion to Christianity. The Matachines dance for a deeper religious purpose, since most of them join to venerate either Mother Mary or simply to worship Christ or God the Holy Trinity.



In the Bible when the Hebrew people were oppressed in Egypt, the dance of Miriam celebrated the movement from slavery towards a promised land flowing with milk and honey (Exodus 15:20-21). "Dancing is a way of appropriating and claiming freedom and thanking God for it. People who have been oppressed in one way or another claim their dignity and liberty as children of God in the energy of dance." Like Miriam, the Vietnamese claim God's gifts in the joy of dance.



OUR LADY OF FATIMA In Various Cultures and Traditions with the IPVS Visitation

The travels of Our Lady of Fatima all over the world indeed inspires faithful devotees of many different tradition and cultures.

Recently, we have compiled amazing video clips of the IPVS visitation to dioceses and parishes. You may view this in the Photo/Video Gallery on our website, www.pilgrimvirginstatue.com

We can see devotees of all generations, candlelight procession, Traditional Latin, Lebanese Maronites, Orthodox Catholics, Reverence of the Vietnamese, traditional Korean, Byzantine rites, Haitian Spirituality, Mariachis serenading and Matachines dancing.



Haiti has a largely Catholic population who lead an intense religious life in the presence of invisible spirit beings. In the native language of Creole, God is called "Bondye" (derived from the French bon Dieu, or "good God"). They also have a strong devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary as Mother, "Mama Marie". One of their favorite prayers is the Hail Mary.



Mariachis serenading Our Lady

Mariachi is a form of folk music from Mexico. Mariachi began as a regional folk style called "Son Jalisciense" in the center west of Mexico originally played only with string instruments and musicians dressed in the white pants and shirts of peasant farmers. From the 19th to 20th century, migrations from rural areas into cities such as Guadalajara and Mexico City, along with the Mexican government's cultural promotion gradually re-labeled it as Son style, with its alternative name of "mariachi" becoming used for the "urban" form.





You ask, we answer!

While many Fatima devotees know the salient aspects of Our Lady's message and the various events surrounding the apparitions, certain details or nuances could yet be overlooked. We dare offer here several points for study and reflection in the hope they will help one better appreciate the meaning of the Fatima message:

1. A seventh apparition

Our Lady appeared six times at Fatima from May, 1917 to October, 1917. However, during the first apparition Our Lady mentioned that she will return to Cova da Iria, the site of the apparition, a seventh time. In her own words Our Lady said, "I have come here to ask you to come here for six months in succession on the thirteenth day of each month at this same hour. Later I will tell you who I am and what I want. Afterward, I will return here a seventh time."

Although Fatima specialists differ in their opinions with regard to its interpretation, nothing against Faith prevents a Catholic to hope and confide that this promise would be fulfilled in the near future. Certainly it is a glorious and most singular event a faithful Catholic could eagerly look forward to especially in our confusing and chaotic times. Perhaps, the seventh apparition would usher in the time of peace that St. Louis Grignion de Montfort described as the Reign of Mary and which Our Lady prophesied as the triumph of Her Immaculate Heart.

2. The Rosary and Purgatory

Also on the above occasion, Our Lady revealed to the three children that Francisco must say many Rosaries before he will go to Heaven and that a certain Amelia will be in Purgatory until the end of the world.

Here, Our Lady reiterates the salutary practice of praying the most Holy Rosary as a means to save one's soul and offers it as a guarantee to Francisco's safe passage to Heaven -certainly an invaluable counsel from the Queen of Heaven and Earth. She likewise points out the very reality of

the existence of Purgatory and even cites a striking example of a poor yet already saved soul who will endure its purifying fires till the end of the world. According to the research done by Father Sebastião Martins dos Reis, Amelia died under circumstances involving dishonor in matters of chastity. Shocking as this fact may have been to Father Thomas McGlynn, O.P. during his own interview, Sister Lucia recalled that more tragic were those souls who suffered the fires of hell forever because of a single mortal sin!

3. The difference between the Angel's and Our Lady's apparitions

The children's physical, emotional and psychological experience with the Angel of Portugal and Our Lady were different. In her memoirs, Sister Lucia writes, "I do not know why, but the fact is that the apparitions of Our Lady had a very different effect on us. There was the same intimate gladness, the same peace and happiness. But instead of physical weariness, we felt a certain expansive liveliness, a sense of glee instead of that annihilation in the Divine Presence, a certain communicative enthusiasm instead of that difficulty in speaking..."

One stark contrast between the angel and Our Lady is their different natures. The former is pure spirit while the latter is flesh and spirit; body and soul. The angel's superior nature drained much energy from the children which left them in a state of annihilation.

Since the children are of the same nature as Our Lady, one could surmise that this may explain why the children were more at ease with Our Lady. The human nature they shared with Our Lady found a pleasing and lively consonance with her. One could feel assurance and confidence in Lucia's observation and experience that, indeed, Our Lady was assumed into Heaven in both body and soul – a dogma of the Faith.

4. The importance of prayer, penance, sacrifices and mortification for the conversion of sinners.

While it is true that the above is the constant and recurring theme of Our Lady's Fatima

message, it behooves Catholics to understand how and why it is so; especially in modern minds where the notion of mortification and penance is watered down or simply brushed aside as archaic or medieval.

The gravity of the moral crisis pervasive in the world requires continued prayers, penances and sacrifices which prompted the three children especially little Francisco and Jacinta to practice them to an extreme and heroic degree. At the height of their innocence, the two younger children understood their necessity and offered themselves admirably as expiatory victims. But Our Lady's appeal for prayer and penance made to the children also applies to the rest of mankind. According to Father Fredrick William Faber, D.D. in his book, *Growth in Holiness*, much is to be gained by us lesser mortals in the practice of mortification for it tames the body and brings the unruly passions under the control of grace and our superior will. It increases the range of our spiritual vision and makes our conscience more sensitive to the discernment of the subtleties that separate not only those between venial and mortal sins but also those between what is faulty and imperfect.

Suffering easily becomes power in the things of God. For isn't it true that Our Lord redeemed mankind through His bloody sacrifice and immense suffering on Calvary? Leading mortified lives encourages us to persevere in prayer, gives us strength in resisting temptations, makes us unworldly and frees our heart from earthly vanities and attachments.

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:

layapostle@aol.com



Insights On The Church And Modern Society *Interview With Cardinal Burke*

Q. It has been about four months since Pope Francis became the 266th Roman Pontiff. From the vantage point of your office in Rome, have you observed any tangible changes in tone or day-to-day operation in the Vatican? What is the role of the group of eight Cardinals formed by Pope Francis?

A. Certainly Pope Francis, as is the case with every Pope, has his distinctive style which is not the same as Pope Benedict's. Everyone is adjusting to that. It is a style that has very much appealed to the faithful in terms of the number of pilgrims coming to Rome and their positive and overwhelming response to the new Holy Father. He has a way of communicating with people that is direct and which demonstrates his fatherly concern for them as individuals. When people see the fatherly and spiritual care that he gives to others, they understand that he also has the same care for them.

With regard to changes, the Holy Father has indicated that he wants to study a reform of the Roman curia and that would necessarily mean also a reform in his way of relating to the particular churches throughout the world. He is studying all of that at the present moment. Those of us who hold offices in the Roman curia have been confirmed provisionally until he has finished this study. As Pope Francis has himself said, he was not part of the Roman curia and is just now coming to know the operation of the curia, and that takes time. He has only been in office for four months, so we are waiting to see.

The group of eight Cardinals Pope Francis named [to advise him on the reform of the Roman curia] is the result of a suggestion made during the general congregation before the conclave and is actually a suggestion that was discussed some years ago. The norms for the functioning of the body have not yet been published and so I cannot say exactly what will be the scope of the considerations presented to the group or precisely how it will operate. I imagine that that type of document will be forthcoming and then we will know more about it. What seems clear is that the Holy Father wants to have a group of close and highly qualified advisors to consult with in carrying out his responsibilities.

Q. On May 13 Pope Francis consecrated his papacy to Our Lady of Fatima. What is the significance of this action?

A. I think it is deeply significant. First, it is an expression of profound devotion to Our Blessed Mother which clearly marks the life of Pope Francis. From the very beginning of his pontificate, he has repeatedly invoked the intercession of Our Blessed Mother whenever he offers holy Mass. He always reverences the image of the Blessed Mother in the sanctuary, not only by incensing her or praying before her — he will always reach up and touch the image in an act of special affection and devotion.

With regard to Our Lady of Fatima, we know well the prophecies that were given to the three seers at Fatima which have all now been published and what they indicate with regard to the attacks of Satan upon the Roman Pontiff. I am sure that Pope Francis has this clearly in mind and is invoking the intercession of Our Lady for her protection even as she protected Saint John Paul II from an assassin's bullet. It was on Our Lady of Fatima's feast day that the dreadful attempt occurred, and John Paul was fully convinced that she interceded to save his life. I believe that Pope Francis is imploring that same intercession and protection from her at this time.

Q. Things seem to be declining at an accelerating rate in our country. For example, it is shocking how quickly things happened in Minnesota. A year ago it seemed almost certain that a November ballot referendum would constitutionally define marriage as the union of one man and one woman. Despite a heroic effort by Archbishop John Nienstedt and many other Church leaders, it failed. Just four months later a law was enacted making Minnesota the 12th state to legalize so-called same-sex marriage. How did we get to this point? Aside from prayer and fasting, what can the faithful do?

A. First of all, I would underline the need for much prayer and fasting. The alarming rapidity of the realization of the homosexual agenda ought to awaken all of us and frighten us with regard to the future of our nation. This is a work of deceit, a lie about the most fundamental aspect of our human nature, our human sexuality, which after life itself defines us. There is only one place these types of lies come from, namely Satan. It is a diabolical situation which is aimed at destroying individuals, families, and eventually our nation. How did we get to this point? The fact that these kinds of "arrangements" are made legal is a manifestation of a culture of death,

of an anti-life and anti-family culture which has existed in our nation now for some time. We as Catholics have not properly combated it because we have not been taught our Catholic Faith, especially in the depth needed to address these grave evils of our time. This is a failure of catechesis both of children and young people that has been going on for fifty years. It is being addressed, but it needs much more radical attention. I can say this because I was the bishop of two different dioceses.

After fifty years of this, we have many adult voters who support politicians with immoral positions because they do not know their Catholic Faith and its teaching with regard to same-sex attraction and the inherent disorder of sexual relations between two persons of the same sex. Therefore, they are not able to defend the Catholic Faith in this matter.

What has also contributed greatly to the situation is an exaltation of the virtue of tolerance which is falsely seen as the virtue which governs all other virtues. In other words, we should tolerate other people in their immoral actions to the extent that we seem also to accept the moral wrong. Tolerance is a virtue, but it is certainly not the principal virtue; the principal virtue is charity. Charity means speaking the truth, especially the truth about human life and human sexuality. While we love the individual, we desire only the best for one who suffers from an inclination to engage in sexual relations with a person of the same sex. We must abhor the actions themselves because they are contrary to nature itself as God has created us.

The virtue of charity leads us to be kind and understanding to the individual, but also to be firm and steadfast in opposing the evil itself. This confusion is widespread. I have encountered it many times myself as a priest and bishop. It is something we simply need to address. There is far too much silence — people do not want to talk about it because the topic is not "politically correct." But we cannot be silent any longer or we will find ourselves in a situation that will be very difficult to reverse.

<http://thewandererpress.com/most-viewed/interview-with-cardinal-burke-insights-on-the-church-and-modern-society/>



THE MESSAGE OF FATIMA IN OUR LADY'S OWN WORDS

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

The Vision of Hell

Just after Our Lady taught the children to say frequently "O Jesus, it is for love of You, for the conversion of sinners, and in reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary," Our Lady showed the children a vision of Hell as a sea of fire.

She then said: "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. The war (World War I) is going to end. But if people do not cease offending God, a worse one will break out during the pontificate of Pius XI.

"When you will see a night illumined by an unknown light, know that this is the great sign given by God that He is about to punish the world for its crimes by means of war, famine and persecutions of the Church and of the Holy Father.

"To prevent this, I shall come to ask for the consecration of Russia to My Immaculate Heart and the Communion of reparation on the First Saturdays. If my requests are heard, Russia will be converted and there will be peace; if not, she will spread her errors throughout the world, causing wars and persecutions of the Church. The good will be martyred. The Holy Father will have much to suffer. Several nations will be annihilated

"Finally My Immaculate Heart will triumph. The Holy Father will consecrate Russia to me and she will be converted, and an era of peace will be granted to the world."

Our Lady told them to keep this a secret for the time. Then She said: "When you pray the Rosary, say after each mystery: O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of Hell. Lead all souls to Heaven, especially those most in need."

How can devotion to the Immaculate Heart save many souls?

This devotion, in fulfillment of the three basic requests of Our Lady, (and the fourth of the First Saturday devotion) will make ourselves holy and our prayers effective.

How do we practice this devotion?

We begin with an act of consecration. This can be implemented by enrollment in the Brown Scapular which Our Lady held from the sky in Her final appearance at Fatima. Lucia said "this is because She wants everyone to wear it. It is the sign of consecration to Her Immaculate Heart."

By doing as Our Lady asks, (by being souls consecrated to the Immaculate Heart and especially those who make the total consecration to Mary)[8] so many more souls may be converted and the annihilation of nations could be averted.

Why did Our Lady tell them to keep this secret?

Lucia herself said it was because at the time (in 1917) at least two parts of this message would not have been understood. This could have prevented approval of the Fatima message (which was given in 1927).

When revealed in 1942, errors from an atheist Russia had already spread throughout the world. Three years later the use of atomic bombs showed the possibility of the other almost unbelievable prophecy: "Several entire nations will be annihilated."

When did the "unknown light" appear?

The night of Jan. 24/25, 1938. It seemed that all Europe was ablaze. Millions who witnessed it thought the world was on fire. Hitler invaded Austria and the Second World War followed.

What did Our Lady require "to prevent this."

In addition to Her basic requests She asked for the consecration of Russia and the devotion of Communions of Reparation on five consecutive First Saturdays. She said She would "come back" to explain, which She did on Dec. 10, 1927 and again on June 13, 1929. In the last apparition, She said it was time for the consecration of Russia to Her Immaculate Heart. Both messages were in ample time to have prevented the Second World War.

What is the meaning of "finally" My Immaculate Heart will triumph?

In Portuguese Our Lady said "por fim," which could also be understood to mean "in the end" or "at the end." This could mean when Her requests are "finally" heard, or it could mean after the annihilation of nations if Her requests are not heard. To soften this Our Lady encouraged us with two great promises: The conversion of Russia and an era of peace for mankind.



Dear Sons and Daughters of Mary,

In the Catholic Church, over the centuries, many feast days were established to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary. Today, most of these feast days are forgotten. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we just say to the Blessed Virgin Mary on her feast day "HAPPY FEAST DAY, OUR LADY, ON THE FEAST OF _____!"

- January 15 Mary, the Mother of God
- January 23 The Espousals of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- February 2 Presentation of the Lord and the Purification
- Our Lady of Good Success
- February 11 Our Lady of Lourdes

- March 25 The Annunciation
- of Mary Friday after Palm Sunday - The Seven Dolors

- April 26 Our Lady of Good Counsel
- Saturday within the Octave of the Ascension - Queen of the Apostles

- May 13 Our Lady of Fatima
- May 24 Our Lady Help of Christians
- May 31 Mediatrix of All Grace
- Queen of All Saints
- Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament
- Visitation of Our Lady

- June 9 Mother of Grace
- June 27 Our Lady of Perpetual Help
- Day after the Feast of the Sacred Heart - The Immaculate Heart of Mary

- July 16 Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
- July 17 The Humility of the Blessed Virgin
- July 23 Our Lady, Mother of Divine Grace
- Saturday before the fourth Sunday of July - Mother of Mercy

- August 15 The Assumption
- August 22 Queenship of Mary
- August 21 Our Lady of Knock
- August 26 Our Lady of Chestochowa
- Saturday after the Feast of Saint Augustine - Our Lady of Consolation

- September 8 The Birth of Mary
- September 12 The Most Holy Name of Mary
- September 15 Our Lady of Sorrows
- September 19 Our Lady of La Sallette
- September 24 Our Lady of Ransom

- October 7 Our Lady of the Rosary
- October 9 Our Lady of good Help
- October 11 The Divine Maternity
- October 13 Our Lady of Akita, Our Lady of Fatima
- October 16 Mother of Purity

- November 21 Presentation of Mary
- November 27 Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal
- Saturday before the Third Sunday in November- Mother of Divine Providence

- December 8 The Immaculate Conception
- December 10 The Translation of the Holy House of Loreto
- December 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe
- December 18 The Expectation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Sunday within the Octave of the Epiphany - Holy Family

Did you know?

Amongst the first hymns sung by pilgrims in Fatima were these verses, written by the donor of the Shrine Statue, Mr. Gilberto Fernandes dos Santos, which well mirror the importance – inclusive theological – that the Message of Fatima carries: the mysteries of Christ which the Virgin invites us to contemplate through the prayer of the Rosary are light for men to walk by.

“From Her hands hung
Spheres of light.
Thus was the rosary
Of the Mother of Jesus”.

Stanza 5 of a hymn of May 13, 1922 (Critical Documentation of Fatima, IV-1, pp46-48)

Stay Informed.
Be Inspired.

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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:

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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

TOUR CALENDAR

2015

February	East Chicago, IN
March	Sacramento, CA
April	Open
May	Camden, NJ
June	Open
August	Pennsylvania
September	California
October	Open
November	Open