



IPVS NEWS

Issue No. 26
WINTER 2020

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

FATIMA AND THE EUCHARIST

By Rev. James L. P. Miara

His Excellency, Joao Pereira Venancio who was the Second Bishop of the Diocese of Leiria-Fatima from 1958 until 1968, when asked to summarize the Message of Fatima, said: ***"Fatima is reparation, reparation, reparation and especially Eucharistic Reparation."*** Fatima is very Eucharistic. This is made evident when one visits that Sanctuary in Portugal. All is centered on the Eucharist. There is a Chapel of Perpetual Adoration where our Eucharistic Lord has been exposed in the monstrance and adored since 1960, the year Pope St. John XXIII opened the third part of the Secret of Fatima. There are several Religious Houses around the Shrine whose apostolate is adoration of the Real Presence in their chapels. During the summer months a procession of the Most Blessed Sacrament takes place in the precincts of the Shrine each Sunday afternoon as well as on each Thursday following the evening Candlelight Rosary. Mention must also be made of the hundreds of thousands of Holy Masses which have been offered at the Capelinha (Little Chapel of the Apparitions) since 1921, sometimes beginning as early as 4:30 a.m. and continuing all day, seven days a week, as well as in the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima which overlooks the Cova da Ira. Yes, Fatima is very Eucharistic. As the late Fatima Priest Fr. Robert J. Fox repeated, every authentic Marian Apparition leads to Jesus in the Eucharist.

Fatima begins with the Eucharist.

In 1916 the Angel of Peace of Portugal, whom many believe was St. Michael the Archangel,

visited the three little shepherd children Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta to prepare them for the visit of Our Lady one year later. He told them to pray and to make reparation for sin. During his third and final apparition in the Fall, he came holding a chalice and above it a Host from which a few drops of blood flowed into the chalice. Leaving the Host and chalice suspended in mid-air, he prostrated himself with his forehead to the ground and repeated three times a prayer which has become known as the ***"Angel's Prayer:" "O Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore You profoundly and I offer You the Most Precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges and indifference by which He is offended. And by the infinite merits of His Most Sacred Heart and through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg the conversion of poor sinners."***

Lucia recounts in her memoirs that after the angel had done this he rose, took the chalice and the Host, giving the Host to Lucia and the contents of the chalice to Jacinta and Francisco saying at the same time: ***"Take and drink the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, horribly outraged by ungrateful men. Repair their crimes and console your God."*** This was the First Holy Communion of the Fatima children, received in the usual way of kneeling and on the tongue. Also to be noted is that Holy Communion was distributed under both species as is done in the Eastern Rite Liturgies of the Catholic Church, highlighting the fact that the Church breathes with the two

lungs of the East and the West, as Pope St. John Paul II was wont to say. Lucia then reports that the three made their thanksgiving after Holy Communion by prostrating with the Angel and again repeating the ***"Angel's Prayer"*** three more times before he departed. That is the beginning of Fatima.

Fatima ends with the Eucharist with the so-called Last Vision of Fatima which Sr. Lucia saw in the Dorothean Convent Chapel in Tuy, Spain. This Eucharistic Vision or Vision of the Most Holy Trinity is a summary of the Fatima Message and shows how all the basics of the Holy Catholic Faith are connected to the Eucharist. In her memoirs Sr. Lucia described the vision: "Suddenly the whole chapel was illuminated by a supernatural light, and a cross of light appeared above the altar, reaching to the ceiling. In a bright light at the upper part of the cross could be seen the face of a man and his body to the waist (Father) on his breast there was a dove also of light (Holy Spirit) and, nailed to the cross, was the body of another man (Son). Somewhat above the waist, I could see a chalice and a large host suspended in the air, on to which drops of blood were falling from the face of Jesus Crucified and from the wound in His side. These drops ran down on to the



host and fell into the chalice. Our Lady was beneath the right arm of the cross (...it was Our Lady of Fatima with her Immaculate Heart...in her left hand...with a crown of thorns and flames...) Under the left arm of the cross, large letters, as of crystal-clear water which ran down over the altar, formed these words: ***Graces and Mercy***. I understood that it was the Mystery of the Most Holy Trinity which was shown to me.

Our Lady then said to me: ***"The moment has come when God asks the Holy Father, in union with all the bishops of the world, to make the Consecration of Russia to my Heart, promising to save it by this means."***

Some of the happenings at Fatima between these two great events are directly connected with the Eucharist.

Our Lady's apparitions at Fatima began on May 13th which is the Feast of Our Lady

of the Most Blessed Sacrament, and at each of her six apparitions She appeared dressed as a First Communicant in a white dress and veil. In the first apparition Our Lady asked the three seers: ***"Will you offer yourselves to God, and bear all the sufferings He sends you in atonement for all the sins that offend Him and for the conversion of sinners?"*** Lucia replied: ***"Oh, we will, we will!"*** Our Lady warned them: ***"Then you will have a great deal to suffer, but the grace of God will be with you and will strengthen you."*** Lucia relates that as Our Lady pronounced these words, she opened her hands, and the three children were bathed in a heavenly light that appeared to come directly from her hands. The light's reality cut into their hearts and souls, and they knew that this light was God. Sr. Lucia wrote in her memoirs: ***"We could see ourselves embraced in it. By an interior impulse of grace, we fell to our knees, repeating in our hearts: 'Oh, Most Holy Trinity, I adore You. My God, my God, I love You in the Most Blessed Sacrament.'"***

During the July apparition Our Lady told the three little shepherds that she would come to ask for the First Saturday Communion of Reparation

which she did on December 10, 1925 while Sr. Lucia was living at the Dorothean convent in Pontevedra, Spain, and thus was born the Five First Saturday Devotion, the heart of this devotion being offering one's Holy Communion on that day in reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The last eucharistic element of the actual six apparitions of Our Lady occurred on October 13 when Our Lady asked that a chapel be built in her honor in the Cova da Ira at the exact spot she appeared. A chapel is used primarily to offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and to have a dignified place in which to reserve the Blessed Sacrament for adoration.

After the Fatima events of 1917, the children were changed. They loved to hear Holy Mass and desired to receive Jesus in Holy Communion. Francisco knew from the first apparition of Our Lady that his time on earth was going to be short and so he no longer went to school but would spend a good part of his day in the parish church adoring the "Hidden Jesus" in the tabernacle. Francisco would go right up to the altar, rest his arms on the mensa and just gaze at the tabernacle

where he knew the good Lord was so lonely. Francisco devoutly received Holy Communion for the last time on his deathbed, going into ecstasy when Jesus was placed on his tongue.

Jacinta was not as fortunate as her brother. She begged to receive Holy Communion when she was dying but the priest delayed his visit thinking she would survive the night. Jacinta's only consolation was living under the same roof with the Eucharistic Jesus when she spent some time at that orphanage in Ourem. She spent hours in the chapel. Jacinta received some messages from Our Lady and would report them to Mother Godinho, the superior of the orphanage. Many times, Jacinta would say to her: "How disrespectful people are to Our Lord when they are in church. Our Lady is displeased if people do not show proper respect to the Blessed Sacrament." Without doubt, St. Jacinta and St. Francisco can be counted among the great Eucharistic Saints.

It was revealed at Fatima that in the end the Immaculate Heart of Mary will triumph. Many believe that triumph will be a eucharistic one. Mary triumphs when souls are sanctified, when souls are led not only to her Immaculate

Heart but through her to the supreme sacrifice perpetuated in the Holy Eucharist where her Son abides. Continuing his summary of the Fatima message, Bishop Venancio concluded: "Fatima is devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary leading us to her Son Jesus Christ, in reparation for sins and for the conversion of all poor sinners, especially through Eucharistic Reparation."

As devotees of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima let us make reparation to the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Altar by following the examples of the three little shepherd children and console our Lord for all of the blasphemies, sacrileges and indifferences committed against Him by ungrateful men. In his second apparition to the children, the Guardian Angel of Portugal told them to make everything they do a sacrifice and to offer it in supplication for poor sinners. We can repair for these offences by making visits to the Blessed Sacrament, praying Eucharistic Holy Hours and All night Vigils, making Spiritual Communion, and by attending Holy Mass devoutly and reverently as often as we can.

REQUEST OF BLESSED MOTHER FOR THE HOUR OF GRACE

December 8th



Each year, we celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8th. The period

from 12:00 Noon to 1:00 pm is known as the Hour of Grace." The Blessed Virgin promised

that whatever a person asked Her for during this "Hour of Grace" (even in impossible cases) would be granted to them, if it was in accordance with the will of the eternal Father.

Do not answer the telephone, or answer any doors or do anything, but totally concentrate on your union with God during this Special Hour of Grace.

1. Day and time of Hour of Grace December 8th Feast of the Immaculate Conception... to be started at 12 Noon and will continue until 1 p.m. (one full hour of prayer.)

3. Begin the Hour of Grace by praying three times the 51st Psalm with outstretched arms.
4. The rest of the Hour of Grace may be spent in silent communication with God, meditating upon the Passion of Jesus saying the Holy Rosary, praising God in your own way or by using favorite prayers, singing hymns, meditating upon other Psalms, etc.

2. During this hour the person making the "Hour of Grace" either at home or in Church must put away all distractions.

PSALMS 51

The Miserere: Prayer of Repentance. A psalm of David when Nathan the prophet came to him after his sin with Bathsheba.

1. Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy loving kindness: according unto the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.
2. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sins.
3. For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.
4. Against Thee. Thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Thy sight: that Thou mightiest be justified when Thou speakest, and be clear when Thou judgest.
5. Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.
6. Behold, Thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part Thou shalt make me to know wisdom.
7. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
8. Make me to hear joy and gladness, that the bones which Thou hast broken may rejoice.
9. Turn away Thy Face from my Sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.
10. Create in me a clean heart. O God: and renew a right spirit within me.
11. Cast me not away from Thy Presence and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
12. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation: and uphold me with Thy free Spirit.
13. Then will I teach transgressors Thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto Thee.
14. Deliver me from blood guilt, O God, thou God of my salvation; and my tongue shall sing aloud of Thy justice.
15. O Lord open Thou my lips: and my mouth shall proclaim Thy praise.
16. For Thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it; Thou delightest not in burnt offering.
17. My sacrifice, O God, is a contrite spirit, a heart contrite and humbled. O God, Thou wilt not despise.
18. Be bountiful, O Lord, to Sion in Thy kindness by rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem.
19. Then shalt Thou be pleased with sacrifices of Righteousness, with burnt offerings and holocausts: then shall they offer bullocks upon Thine altar.

FIRST AND ONLY APPROVED US MARIAN APPARITION

By Rev. James L. P. Miara

June 22, 2016
CHAMPION, WISCONSIN

While on a 5 day business/pleasure trip to the Green Bay, Wisconsin area, we visited the *Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help* located in Champion, Wisconsin, which was declared by the 12th Bishop of the Diocese of Green Bay, on 8th day of December (the feast day of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary,) in 2010, as the **FIRST and ONLY** church **APPROVED** apparition of Our Blessed Mother in the United States of America to the Belgian immigrant Adele Brise.

His Excellency, the Most Reverend David L. Ricken, D.D., J.C.L., declared the following: *"It remains to me...the lowliest of the servants of Mary, to declare with moral certainty and in accord with the norms of the Church: "that the events, apparitions and locutions given to Adele Brise in October of 1859 do exhibit the substance of supernatural character, and I do hereby approve these apparitions as worthy of belief (although not obligatory) by the Christian faithful."*

Source: *Shrine Of Our Lady of Good Help—a History*, page 8, Green Bay, WI, 2014.

October 1859 APPARITIONS TO ADELE BRISE

"It was in early October 1859, that Adele is said to have seen our Blessed Mother the first time...she was going to grist mill about four miles from here (Robinsonville) ...She followed an Indian trail that passed where the Chapel now stands...she saw a lady, all in white, standing

between two trees...The vision slowly disappeared leaving a white cloud after it...She told her parents of what had happened, and they wondered what it could be – **maybe a poor soul who needed prayers?**"

"The following Sunday... on her way to Bay Settlement... accompanied by her sister Isabel and a neighbor woman...when they came near the trees, the same lady in white was at the place where Adele had seen her before. Adele was again frightened and said almost in a tone of reproach, 'O there is that lady again'...It (the lady in white) had disappeared as the first time." "After Mass, Adele went to Confession and told her confessor how she had been frightened at the sight of a lady in white." "He bade her not to fear... but to ask who it was and what it desired of her...She started home with her two companions, and a man who was clearing land for the Holy Cross Fathers at Bay Settlement accompanied them."



"As they approached the hallowed spot, Adele could see the beautiful lady, clothed in dazzling white, with a yellow sash around

her waist. Her dress fell to her feet in graceful folds. She had a crown of stars around her head, and her long golden wavy hair fell loosely over her shoulders... Adele fell to her knees."

"In God's name, who are you, and what do you want of me? asked Adele as she had been instructed."

"I am the Queen of Heaven who prays for the conversion of sinners, and I wish you to do the same. You received Holy Communion this morning and that is well. But you must do more. Make a General Confession and offer Communion for the conversion of sinners. If they do not convert and do penance, my Son will be obliged to punish them." She also said:

"Gather the children in this wild country and teach them what they should know for salvation...Teach them...their Catechism, how to sign themselves with the sign of the Cross, and how to approach the sacraments; that is what I wish you to do. Go and fear nothing, I will help you."

Source: *Shrine Of Our Lady of Good Help—a History*, pgs. 1921, Green Bay, WI, 2014.

October 8, 1871 THE PESHTIGO FIRE

What happened on October 8, however, the twelfth anniversary of the Champion apparition, **was the worst natural disaster in the history of the United States.**

Approximately two thousand square miles of northern Wisconsin and Michigan were destroyed by several raging infernos. That is twice the area of the state of Rhode Island. One town, Peshtigo, lost about half of its two thousand inhabitants. Estimates of the number of casualties in the affected areas range from 1400 to 2500.

A wall of fire, a mile high and five miles wide, leveled forests and towns as it raced along, sucking in the fueling oxygen from an incoming cold front, and causing what is called a "firestorm" with hurricane force

winds of 90-100 miles per hour.

Survivors describe people dying even in the Peshtigo River who were stuck in the burning marsh too close to shore. Others died of hypothermia from the frigid waters. Eyewitness accounts of the fire are shuddering to read. By evening, the settlers in the village of Robinsonville, not too far away, could see the fire in the east and it was heading their way, rapidly. There was no outrunning it, no escape.

October 8, 1871 THE MIRACLE AT ROBINSONVILLE

Terrified, they ran to the shrine where they prayed with Sister Adele to the Queen of Heaven for a miracle. All during the night they processed around the grounds with Sister Adele carrying a statue of Mary. The air grew hotter and hotter as they prayed and prayed into the ghastly-lit night. Suddenly, the sky grew less brilliant and a cooler wind rushed in from the west. With the rising of the sun it began to rain and the rain became a downpour. They were all saved. The fire was extinguished from heaven. Every year there is a procession at the shrine in commemoration of this event.

Source: <http://catholicism.org/first-approved-marian-apparition-in-the-us-champion-wisconsin.html>

From the Book Source

"What was it the 'Queen of Heaven' said?" "If they do not amend their lives and convert themselves, my Son will be obliged to punish them." [pg. 30]

"The area burned was not less than fifty (50) miles in length and twenty (20) miles wide." "Nothing could be done to stop its forward march, and the Chapel of Our Lady of Good Help lay in its path." "Adele and her companions were faced with a momentous decision...They were determined not to abandon Mary's Shrine, and their faith in

Mary's protection never faltered. The children, the Sisters, and the farmers with their families, drove their livestock before them and raced in the direction of Mary's sanctuary...They were now encircled by a raging inferno with no means of escape...Looking back, they saw their buildings literally swallowed by a fiery monster...Filled with confidence, they entered the Chapel, reverently raised the statue of Mary, and kneeling bore it in procession around their beloved sanctuary."

"But the convent, school, Chapel, and the five acres of land consecrated to the Virgin Mary shone like an emerald isle in a sea of ashes...the fire had reached the Chapel fence...**the fire had not entered the Chapel grounds.**"

Source: *Shrine Of Our Lady of Good Help—a History*, pgs. 31-32, Green Bay, WI, 2014.

October 8, 1871 THE GREAT CHICAGO FIRE



Meanwhile, two hundred miles south, that very same day, another fire was raging in Chicago. History calls it the Great Chicago Fire. It destroyed four square miles of the city and took over two hundred and fifty lives, leaving ninety thousand people homeless. The holy Dutch Jesuit, Father Arnold Damen, was pastor of Holy Name Church on the city's north side. At the time of the fire, the converter of thousands was preaching a mission in Brooklyn, NY. When a call came from his assistant informing him of the conflagration and that the parish and church was in the projected

path, he was hearing confessions. Having been given a note in the confessional, he took a break and went before the altar, to beg Our Lord to spare his parish. As he was praying the winds shifted, sending the inferno in another direction. The church, and the homes of every one of his parishioners were spared.

Source: <http://catholicism.org/first-approved-marian-apparition-in-the-us-champion-wisconsin.html>

ANOTHER SOURCE

The fire burned wildly throughout the following day, finally coming under control on October 10, when rain gave a needed boost to firefighting efforts. The Great Chicago Fire left an estimated 300 people dead and 100,000 others homeless. More than 17,000 structures were destroyed and damages were estimated at \$200 million.

Source: <http://www.history.com/topics/great-chicago-fire>

October 13, 1917 MIRACLE AT FATIMA

On October 13, 1917, approximately seventy thousand people, from all over Portugal, gathered in Fatima. For many weeks, the news of the apparition of the "Lady" and the miracle she promised to do had spread and among the crowd were people from every walk of life and profession: upper class citizens, engineers, doctors, notaries and, of course, journalists and photographers.

Heavy rain fell. The three young visionaries — Francisco, Jacinta and Lucia — arrived with their family members, and they began to pray the Rosary. At noon, with the rain still falling, Lucia gave the order to close the umbrellas and the crowd obeyed. Moments later, things brightened and those present noticed a white cloud moving around the group.

Lucia asked: "Who are you and what do you want from me?" This time the heavenly Lady said she was the Lady of the Rosary and she wanted a chapel

built in her honor in that place. She told Lucia to remember to pray the rosary and announced that she would heal some of the sick present. The Lady ended by calling for conversion.

After saying this, she opened her hands, which reflected the sun. Lucia cried, "Look at the sun!" The thick clouds had split open and the sun began to spin, change color, and dance in the sky as it gradually got closer to the earth. This was the miracle given that all would believe.

The Bishop of Leiria, in his pastoral letter on the Our Lady of Fatima apparitions wrote: "The solar phenomenon of October 13, 1917, was reported and described in the newspapers. It was most wonderful and left an indelible impression on those who were present. This phenomenon, that no astronomical observatory has recorded, and was not natural, was seen by people of all classes and social classes, believers and unbelievers, journalists of the leading Portuguese newspapers, and even individuals from several kilometers away from the place where they were; which **dispels any explanation of collective illusion.**"

Source <http://aletea.org/2015/10/13/the-day-the-sun-spun-the-miracle-of-fatima-98-years-ago-today/#sthash.kDCqPTj8.dpuf>

August 6, 1945 THE MIRACLE AT HIROSHIMA



The Hiroshima attack killed around 80,000 people instantly and may have caused about 130,000 deaths, mostly civilians. The attack on the port city of Nagasaki killed about 40,000

instantly and destroyed a third of the city.

Four Jesuits were nearby the hypocenter of the attack on Hiroshima, but they survived the catastrophe, and the radiation that killed thousands in the months following had no effect on them.

The Jesuits priests Hugo Lassalle, Hubert Schiffer, Wilhelm Kleinsorge, and Hubert Cieslik were at the rectory of the church of Our Lady of the Assumption, one of the few buildings that resisted the bomb blast. Father Cieslik wrote in his diary that they only sustained minor injuries from the broken windows – but nothing resulting from the atomic energy that was unleashed.

The doctors who took care of them afterwards warned that the radiation they received would produce serious lesions, as well as illness and premature death. The diagnosis never materialized. No disorders ever developed, and in 1976 Father Schiffer attended the Eucharistic Congress in Philadelphia and told his story. He confirmed that the other Jesuits were still alive and without any ailments. They were examined by dozens of doctors some 200 times over the course of the following years, without any trace of the radiation being found in their bodies.

The four religious never doubted that they had been blessed with protection by God and the Blessed Virgin Mary. "We were living the message of Fatima and we prayed the Rosary every day," they explained.

Source: <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/the-miracle-of-hiroshima-jesuits-survived-the-atomic-bomb-thanks-to-the-rosary-69261/>

OBSERVATIONS:

On the hill of Tepeyac, She reveals Herself as the "The Mother of the True God," and leaves an imprinted representation of Herself on a tilma that exists to this day in Mexico City for all following generations to see.

On the Grotto in Lourdes, She reveals Herself as "The Immaculate Conception," and leaves a spring of healing waters to physically and spiritually heal the faithful for generations to come.

At the Cova da Iria at Fatima, She reveals Herself as "The Lady of the Rosary," and leaves us Her Plan for Peace...the Holy Rosary.

ADDITIONS:

At La Salette (France) Our Lady gave an injunction to the children to make known her message to "My people." If "My people" would not submit, there would follow dire chastisements. Her people did not submit and the chastisements came.



At Lourdes, (France) Our Lady's words in the beginning were the exact antithesis of the promises of the false prophets of the world: "I do not promise you happiness in this world," she said to Bernadette, "but in the other." "...Our Lady looked away from Bernadette out into the crowd.

Her face was sad and sorrowful. Looking at Bernadette again, she said plaintively, "Pray for sinners." www.ewtn.com/library/MARY/LOURBERN.HTM

At Fatima, (Portugal) the Angel of Portugal told the children: "Make of everything you can a sacrifice and offer it to God as an act of reparation for the sins by which He is offended, and in supplication, for the conversion of sinners."

At Fatima, Our Lady stressed the importance of praying the Rosary in each of Her apparitions, asking the children to pray the

Rosary every day for peace. She added: "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." "Do not offend the Lord, Our God, any more, for He is already too much offended!" "My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and the way that will lead you to God."

At Robinsonville (now Champion, WI - USA) Our Lady ordered, "Teach them... their Catechism, how to sign themselves with the sign of the Cross, and how to approach the sacraments; that is what I wish you to do. Go and fear nothing, I will help you." "Make a General Confession and offer Communion for the conversion of sinners. If they do not convert and do penance, my Son will be obliged to punish them."

MEMORIZE THIS

Accordingly, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, for the honor of the Holy and undivided Trinity, for the glory and adornment of the Virgin Mother of God, for the exaltation of the Catholic Faith, and for the furtherance of the Catholic religion, by the authority of Jesus Christ our Lord, of the Blessed Apostles Peter and Paul, and by our own:

"We declare, pronounce, and define that the doctrine which holds that the most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instance of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin, is a doctrine revealed by God and therefore to be believed firmly and constantly by all the faithful."

-Pope Pius IX – December 8, 1854

Source: <http://www.papalencyclicals.net/Pius09/p9ineff.htm>

PROTECTED BY THE ROSARY

The following inspiring episode from World War II, written by Sr. Mary Sheila.

It was a busy day in March. As a teacher-principal in the 1950's, I had to make sure that each day provided the time for the two separate roles. On that March 4th, an incident between a teacher and a parent had kept me out of my class for almost an hour that morning, so for the rest of the day, I was desperately trying to make up class time. Hence, the knock on my door at 2:00 p.m. was not welcome.

With relief, I found it was only a salesman who needed my signature and even produced his pen. As he did so, his Rosary had caught onto the pen's clip and came out as well. I signed as I said indifferently, "So, you are a Catholic?" "Oh no," he said, "but a lot of us owe our lives to Our Lady, and I promised Her I would always keep my rosary with me and say it every day."

Twenty minutes later, I was still at the door listening, fascinated, to the account of one of the wonderful experiences a group of airmen had had with Our Lady. My visitor hesitated to start, for he had noticed my "non welcome" opening of the door. But eager now to hear his story, I assured him that the class was doing an exercise, and I begged him to proceed. He continued:

It was May, 1940, and we had joined the Air Force in late September. At Halifax, we were given an intensive training course, because they needed us overseas, and to us young lads, the whole program was exciting.

We were grouped into squadrons, each of which consisted of six to ten planes, and each was trained to maneuver as a unit. Therefore, about thirty to fifty men made up a squadron, along with the squadron leader, due to arrive in two days on a 9:00 p.m. air force flight. Being an officer, he would, we thought, do at once to the officers' quarters.



We watched the plane, glimpsed him from the distance, and resigned ourselves to waiting until the next day to "size him up." A couple of hours later, this squadron leader, Stan Fulton, in full uniform, entered our bunk house.

"Well men, we're going to spend some dangerous hours together, but let's hope we all meet back here when it's over. Ah, there's a free bunk and I am tired! I'll meet each of you tomorrow."

With that, he threw his bag on an upper bunk. Our squadron leader, an officer, sleeping here with us! We liked him at once and our liking and our admiration grew each day.

That first night he knelt on the floor and prayed his Rosary in silence. Astounded, we were struck dumb. When he finished, he looked at us with his friendly smile and said, "I hope you guys don't mind a fellow saying some prayers because where we're going, we're going to need them"

The next day our maneuver practice, under his command, assured us that Fulton was not

just our military leader, but our friend. He was one of us; he never tried to intimidate us with his rank.

That night, he repeated his prayer session. Although our group had trained together for six months at least, I had never seen anyone kneel in prayer, and had no idea that any of the group was Catholic; but the third night, three of our companions joined Fulton in saying the Rosary. The rest of us did not understand but we kept a respectful silence.

A few nights later—we were quick learners—we all answered the Hail Mary's and Our Fathers. Fulton looked pleased, and thus we ended each day in prayer.

On June 1, 1940, we were to leave Halifax to begin a series of night raids from England over Germany. The evening before, Fulton gave each of us a Rosary.

We shall be in some tight situations, but then, if you agree, we'll say the Rosary. If you will promise to keep the Rosary with you always throughout your life and say it, I can promise you that Our Lady will bring you all back

safe to Canada."

We answered, "Sure thing." Little did we dream we would be in action for four years, many times in dreadful danger with fire all around us. At such times, Fulton's voice would ring through each plane, "Hail Mary..." How reverently and sincerely did we respond! How many hundreds of Rosaries we must have said.

After two years, it was noted that ours was the only squadron that had not lost a plane nor a single life. We said nothing, but we knew.

Finally, the terrible war was over. During those years, we lost all sense of excitement and adventure. All that concerned us was survival! We did survive too. All returned to Canada in 1945, fully convinced that Our Lady had taken care of us.

So I never forget to keep my Rosary with me and say it every day although I am not a Catholic. When I change my trousers, the first thing I transfer, even before my wallet, is my rosary.

PILGRIM VIRGIN IMAGE NUMBER 6 VISITS ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

With the permission and support of our Archbishop Timothy Cardinal Dolan, image number 6 of the Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima visited the vast Archdiocese of New York on a one month pilgrimage from 23 October until 22 November 2019. The Tour was initiated and carried out solely by Father James Miara who has been the Spiritual Director of the New York Archdiocesan Division of the World Apostolate of Fatima for the past 12 years. From the busy parishes of Manhattan, to the vibrant parishes of suburbia, to the small, quiet parishes of the country and everything in between, the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima visited 39 parish churches, 2 Nursing Homes, a convent of Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity and their 'Gift of Love' home for women, a monastery of Cloistered Dominican Nuns of Perpetual Adoration, and a Shrine dedicated to St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, the Mother of Immigrants.

In each place, Our Lady was honored with special Masses, numerous recitations of the Holy Rosary and candlelight processions, and the place where She was venerated was always beautifully decorated. Approximately 8,000 people were enrolled for the first time in the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel as a sign of consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary as a means to reach peace for the world and eternal salvation, and much literature on the Message of Fatima was distributed to the pilgrims at the various churches so they could be informed and do what Our Lady asked for. Thousands of petition slips placed before the Pilgrim Virgin Statue were sent to the Sanctuary to be placed at the exact spot where Our Lady appeared to the three little shepherds 102 years ago.

This pilgrimage heeded the urging of Fr. Carlos Canecinhas, the Rector of the Sanctuary of Fatima, that there should be

a particular focus on the two pillars of the message of Fatima, namely the prayer of the Rosary and adoration of the Most Holy Trinity before the Blessed Sacrament in imitation of the Angel of Peace and reparation for the conversion of sinners with the receiving of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Wherever the Pilgrim Virgin Statue visited there usually was a period of Eucharistic Adoration and in one case throughout the night, and pastors reported that their extended times for confession found many more than usual taking advantage of receiving this Sacrament of mercy.

Parishes are still reporting their joy over the visit of Our Lady and are basking in the radiant glow of its fruits. About eight Communities of Contemplative Religious women were praying for the spiritual success of this pilgrimage and the organizer invoked the intercession of Padre Manuel Nunes Formigao from

the inception of this endeavor as well as St. Jacinta, St. Francisco, the Servant of God Sr. Lucia, and the Guardian Angel of Portugal. Devotion to Our Lady of Fatima among the priests, Religious and people of the Archdiocese of New York is alive and well!



Fr. James Miara

THE POWER OF THE ROSARY

A number of years ago with the approval of our then Bishop Andrew G. Grutka, we began the First Friday/First Saturday All Night Vigils in our diocese praying to Save a Thousand Souls, which continues today. The only catch, I was not prepared to be singled out and told "You do it." Other than knowing it would be a very prayerful night, I had no clue how to fill eleven hours of prayer, let alone finding guest speakers, arranging for confessions, refreshments, etc. Having six young children and being secretary for my husband's business, my immediate thought was there is no way I can do this. Having devotion to Our Lady of Fatima, I prayed and prayed and prayed. Four months later, with

our All Night Vigil booklet approved by our Bishop, we held our first All Night Vigil. With over a 100 people in attendance, the eleven hours of prayer went very quickly. No one complained of being tired.

A couple years later I made a Novena to St. Theresa the Little Flower asking her to send me a "Rust colored Rose," which I have never seen before, if Our Lord and Our Lady were pleased with the All Night Vigils. On the fifth



day of the Novena, which was also the First Friday of the month, I received a note card from my youngest son's teacher. On the top was a "Rust colored Rose" which, to me, was not very pretty and I was very disappointed.

That very same day the All Night Vigil would take place. Earlier in the month I was approached to help another diocese to help them with their first All Night Vigil. I agreed and

made arrangements for others to take my place here in my own diocese.

The feeling of disappointment with the "Rust Rose" I received in answer to my Novena to St. Theresa resonated in my mind as we traveled to the All Night Vigil destination. With Our Lady of Fatima statue now on the carrier on the shoulders of four men ready to be processed into the church, one of the men called and handed me a rosary case which he had just brought from Fatima and later blessed by the Holy Father. He said "This is for you." I was in awe opening the white case with a picture of Our Lady of Fatima and the three children on the top and a very pretty white rose on the bottom; inside

Our Lady of Fatima
Pray for us!

Issue No. 26
WINTER 2020

IPVS NEWS

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

Our Lady of Fatima Pray for us!

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

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 everyone, we thank you most kindly for your sacrifices and ask Our lord and Our Lady to bless you immensely.

(All donations are tax deductible.)

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
e-mail: 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.

International Pilgrim Virgin
Statue Foundations, Inc.
P.O. Box 3506
Munster, IN 46321

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. Postage
PAID
Hammond, IN 46320
Permit No. 57

...The Power of the Rosary Continued

a "Rust colored rosary—made of roses." A very big "Thank you" to St. Theresa.

Several months later our diocesan photographer for many years, Mr. Paul "Maggie" Magurany, asked if our diocesan statue could be brought to his home for further pictures. While the statue was in his home, his cross the street neighbor saw the statue through his picture window and wanted more information. On the Sunday evening I was to pick up the statue from Paul's home, the neighbor came by and asked if she could pray in front of the statue. At that time, I was visiting with Paul and his friends in their downstairs family room. I still cannot explain it, but I heard "Give Annie the rosary." I said to myself "No, that's my rosary from St. Theresa." Again, I heard "Give Annie the rosary" and almost

fell off the chair. I ran upstairs to find Annie leaving and asked her to wait. I told her "This rosary is for you." She cried! She asked me why I called her "Annie." I had no reason. Her Mother and Father, and husband were the only ones that called her "Annie."

Annie and her husband began attending the All Night Vigils. She told me then that she and her husband had not been to church for over 15 years. They both went to confession, never miss Mass, any pray the rosary every day.

Although St. Theresa fulfilled her promise "*I will spend my heaven doing good on earth. I will let fall a shower of roses,*" I am very blessed to have been a recipient of this "Rust colored rosary made of roses" and then to have been Our Lady's Messenger to pass it on to save two souls.

The Life and Work of a Fatima Apostle

John Haffert

Check this
out!

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

www.johnhaffert.com