

Pope Benedict XVI visits Fatima, lauds Pilgrim Virgin program

Ninety three years after the first apparition at Fatima, Portugal, another pope sets foot on the spot where the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to three young shepherds. The Holy Father Benedict XVI visited once again and emphasized that the prophetic mission of Mary's apparitions there has not ended and has special relevance for a world still caught in a "cycle of death and terror."

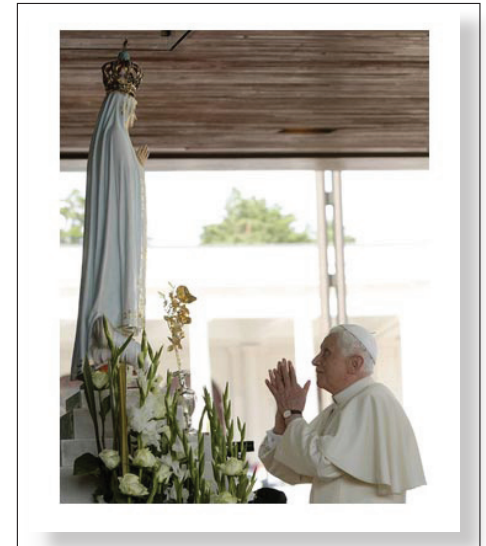
The pope said the message of Fatima was especially relevant at a time of waning belief in the divine and of continuing strife among peoples.

"We would be mistaken to think that Fatima's prophetic mission is complete," the pope said. Fatima's message and mission are not over, because the need for penance and conversion in the world continues. He gave thanks that the spiritual movement set in motion by the events at Fatima has spread all over the globe, and he looked ahead to 2017, when the

world will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the apparitions. "The Lord told us that the church will always be suffering in various ways, up to the end of the world. The important point is that the message, the answer of Fatima, is not substantially addressed to particular devotions, but is the fundamental response: permanent conversion, penance, prayer, and the three cardinal virtues: faith, hope and charity," he said.

He ended his homily at the shrine with the note of hastening the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary through our effort. "In Sacred Scripture we often find that God seeks righteous men and women in order to save the city of man and he does the same here, in Fatima, when Our Lady asks: 'Do you want to offer yourselves to God, to endure all the sufferings which he will send you, in an act of reparation for the sins by which he is offended and of supplication for the conversion of sinners?' (*Memoirs of Sister Lúcia*, I, 162).

At a time when the human family was ready to sacrifice all that was most sacred



on the altar of the petty and selfish interests of nations, races, ideologies, groups and individuals, our Blessed Mother came from heaven, offering to implant in the hearts of all those who trust in her the Love of God burning in her own heart. At that time it was only to three children, yet the example of their lives spread and multiplied, especially as a result of the travels of the Pilgrim Virgin, in countless groups throughout the world dedicated to the cause of fraternal solidarity. May the seven years which separate us from the centenary of the apparitions hasten the fulfilment of the prophecy of the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, to the glory of the Most Holy Trinity." ■

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-Pope Benedict XVI
May 13, 2010



MIRACLES OF THE ROSARY

1213 – Victory of Muret

When the Christians were at battle against the heretical Albigensians, St. Dominic taught them to pray the Rosary. The Christian army prayed before the battle of Muret. The triumph at Muret set the stage for a long history of military victories through the Rosary that would follow in the years to come. The first chapel dedicated to the Rosary was later built in Muret.

1591 – The Battle of Lepanto.

Before a large scale attack by the Ottoman Turks on an army of Christians in 1591, where the Christians were outnumbered three to one, the Rosary was prayed by all of the Christian soldiers and the Turks were miraculously defeated in the battle. To this day, this victory has been attributed to the praying of the Rosary.

1627 – La Rochelle, France

When King Louis XIII went to war against Huguenots, he asked his subjects to pray the Rosary with the victory of France as their intention. The citizens weren't the only ones praying. More than fifteen thousand rosaries were handed out among the soldiers who prayed aloud together at set times every day. King Louis' army was victorious and this battle is recorded as one of the miraculous and triumphant military victories through the Rosary.

1716 – Peterwardein, Hungary

Even after their defeat in Vienna, the Turks continued to provoke Europe. Once again, the people prayed the Rosary because military victories through the Rosary were proven and they knew how powerful it was. At this time the Pope ordered that the universal Church celebrate the feast of the Holy Rosary in thanksgiving for the victories won due to the power of Mary through Her Rosary.

1815 – The Battle of New Orleans, America

The Triumph at New Orleans is the first of the military victories through the Rosary to take place in America. During the Revolutionary War, Andrew Jackson led a small army to victory despite being greatly outnumbered. What did he have to thank for this victory? The Rosary. During the battle many of the soldiers' families gathered and prayed the Rosary. They were confident the power of the Rosary would bring victory despite the overwhelming odds and their faith was rewarded.

1945 - Hiroshima

There was a home eight blocks from where the A-Bomb went off in Hiroshima, Japan. This home had a church attached to it which was completely destroyed, but the home survived, and so did the eight German

Jesuit missionaries who prayed the rosary in that house faithfully every day.

1948-1955 - Russians Pullout of Austria

After World War II, the Allies turned over Catholic Austria to communist Russia. For three years the Austrian people endured this tyranny. Then, a Franciscan priest, Father Petrus, remembered how the Christians, although greatly outnumbered had defeated the Turks at the Battle of Lepanto through the Rosary, and he launched a Rosary crusade. Through it 70,000 people, one tenth of the Austrian population, pledged to say the Rosary daily for the Soviets to leave their country. Austria was valuable to the Russians because of its strategic location, rich mineral deposits and oil reserves. Yet, on May 13, 1955, the anniversary of the first apparition of Our Lady at Fatima, the Russians signed the agreement to leave Austria, and they did so without one person being killed and without one shot being fired. It was the only time that the militant atheistic forces of Marxism have ever peacefully left a country in which they held power. Military strategists and historians are baffled as to why the Russians pulled out. But we are not—it was the power of the Rosary.

1960 - Soviet Russia

At the request of the Bishop of Fatima, an All Night Vigil before the Blessed Sacrament was being held at Fatima with over a million pilgrims. Over 300 bishops had written to the Bishop of Fatima saying that they would participate in the Vigil in their own dioceses, and Pope John XXIII participated from the Vatican;

The next day, October 13, 1960, an accident exploded a new Soviet missile, killing many top scientists and setting back the Soviet nuclear arms program by at least 20 years, according to numerous reports. These vehicles were designed to launch nuclear warheads over great distances, leaving no part of the world safe from the threat of nuclear destruction.

1962 - The Country that Saved Itself – Brazil

In 1962 there was a looming threat of communist takeover in Brazil. A woman there named Dona Amelia Bastos was known to have formed a Rosary rally among the Brazilian women there to do their part in opposing the looming threat. Their goal was simply to pray the Rosary in large groups asking the Virgin Mary for help in opposing the Communist takeover which the President of Brazil was leaning toward at the time. In Belo Horizonte 20,000 women reciting the rosary aloud broke up a Communist rally. In Sao Paulo, 600,000 women praying the rosary in one of

the most moving demonstrations in Brazilian history caused the President of Brazil to flee the country and not a single death.

1984 - Soviet Russia

May 13th, after another major rosary crusade, an explosion at the Soviet's Severomorsk Naval Base destroys two-thirds of all the missiles stockpiled for the Soviet's Northern Fleet. The blast also destroys workshops needed to maintain the missiles as well as hundreds of scientists and technicians. Western military experts called it the worst naval disaster the Soviet Navy has suffered since WWII.

1986 - Philippines

It began in February, 1986, as the virtual 20-year dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos came to an abrupt and unexpected end through a series of strange events. Corazon Aquino, widow and reluctant political replacement of slain opposition leader Ninoy Aquino, had won the presidential election called for by Marcos himself, by an overwhelming margin. Marcos had called for the election in order to crush the building opposition. However, through ballot box stuffing and other illegal activities, plus a total control of the media, Marcos flagrantly had himself declared the winner. The rigged election results were blatant and obvious to the people.

Within days, millions took to the streets of Makati and Manila, spurred to action when a dissatisfied segment of the military launched an unexpected coup attempt. ... Marcos responded by sending tanks down the streets of the city. He was determined to maintain his grip on the country, even if it meant massacre of the swelling crowds. As a full convoy of tanks and other armament manned by hard-core militant soldiers came against millions of civilians, many of whom were virtually lying down in the streets in front of the tanks; Marcos gave the order to fire on the people.

As told by Cardinal Sin of the Philippines: What I am telling you now was told to me by many of these same soldiers who were ready to fire on the people.

"The tanks were trying to penetrate the crowd, and the people were praying and showing their rosaries. That is, when the Marines who were riding on top of the tanks, the so-called Loyalists (to Marcos), they saw up in the clouds the form of the cross. The many sisters had tried to stop them, but the soldiers told me they had already decided to obey instruction and push through. It is now just a question of ten minutes or so.

"Then, a beautiful lady appeared to them. I don't know if she appeared in the sky or was standing down on the ground. So beautiful she was, and her eyes were spar-

ling. And the beautiful lady spoke to them like this: **'Dear soldiers stop! Do not proceed! Do not harm my children!'** And when they heard that, the soldiers put down everything. They came down from the tanks and they joined the people praying the rosary. That was the end of the Loyalists."

When Cardinal Sin was asked if he believed it was Our Lady that the people and the soldiers saw, he replied: "Yes, my heart was telling me this was Mary. And, since they obeyed this woman who appeared to them and did not follow orders and fire on the people, then Marcos had nobody anymore. So, he had to flee. That was the end of him."

Soviet Russia – 1988

As thousands prayed all night long, on May 12, 1988, during the vigil of the 71st anniversary of the First Apparition at Fatima, an explosion wrecked the only factory that made the rocket motors for the Soviets' deadly SS 24 long-range missiles, which carry ten nuclear bombs each.

Are we now headed for another chastisement in the form of another great war, or perhaps a more direct punishment from God? Certainly there are reasons to believe this could be so.

Today, besides the Iraq war, there are over 30 conflicts taking place throughout the world. Is it not time that we place more confidence in the promise of Heaven's Queen? And respond more intensely to Her requests and "Pray the Rosary"?

Our Lady said **"War is a punishment for sin. Say the Rosary. You must say the Rosary."** And, we **"must stop offending God."** She said **"If you do as I tell you, there will be peace."** Our Lady's request was very clear and simple..

Sister Lucia of Fatima stated:

"Let people say the rosary every day. Our Lady stated that repeatedly in all Her apparitions, as if to fortify us against these times of diabolical disorientation, so that we would not allow ourselves to be deceived by false doctrines. Unfortunately, the great majorities of people are ignorant in religious matters and allow themselves to be led in any direction. Hence, the great responsibility of one who has the task of leading them....A diabolical disorientation is invading the world deceiving souls! It must be resisted." ---Pray the rosary to end the war in Iraq!

THE BEST AND MOST EFFECTIVE OF PRAYERS

In Mary, God has given us the most zealous guardian of Christian unity. There are, of course, more ways than one to win Her protection by prayer, but as for us, we think that the best and most effective way to Her favour lies in the Rosary.

...When such faith is exercised by vocally repeating the Our Father and Hail Mary of the Rosary prayers, or better still in the contemplation of the mysteries, it is evident how close we are brought to Mary. For every time we devoutly say the Rosary in supplication before Her, we are once more brought face to face with the marvel of our salvation; we watch the mysteries of our Redemption as though they were unfolding before our eyes; and as one follows another, Mary stands revealed at once as God's Mother and our Mother.

...Meditation on the mysteries of the Rosary, often repeated in the spirit of faith, cannot help but please Her and move Her, the fondest of mothers, to show mercy to Her children.

For that reason we say that the Rosary is by far the best prayer by which to plead before Her the cause of our separated brethren. To grant a favourable hearing belongs properly to Her office of spiritual Mother. For Mary has not brought forth - nor could She - those who are of Christ except in the one same Faith and in the one same love; for "Can Christ be divided?"

By Pope Leo XIII (Encyclical *Adiutricem*, September 9, 1895)



From Our Guestbook

"Dear Mother, I am still in awe of having been in your presence. I do believe you were crying with me when I asked you to help my husband with his problem. I am so honored to have made this connection with you and I promise to pray the rosary daily for you and for others to come to know you."

-Judy

"Your website is so beautiful! I am speechless and the music is so beautiful, I'm tearful. I wish I could see you, dear Blessed Mother, but I know you are with us."

-Therese, Pittsburgh, PA

"The visit of Our Lady in our Diocese has brought a lot of signal graces. We committed ourselves here to make Her message known and spread the Devotion to Her Immaculate Heart."

-Sr. Maria Faustina, DCJ
Carmelite Sister of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in San Antonio, TX

"She is Our Mother and She takes good care of us especially in times of need. She never abandons us."

-Pierre, Port-au-prince, Haiti

Virtues, Benefits and Merits of the Holy Rosary

Each Mystery of the Rosary, meditated with piety:

1. elevates us to a perfect spiritual knowledge of Jesus Christ;
2. purifies our souls of sin;
3. makes us victorious against all our enemies;
4. makes the practice of virtue easy;
5. fills us with the love of Jesus Christ;
6. enriches us with graces and merits;
7. enables us to pay all our debts to God and to men;
8. finally, enables us to obtain all kinds of graces from God.

(The Secret of the Rosary. Saint Louis-Marie Grignon de Montfort, no. 81)

"Mama Mary, thank you for your visit in Michigan. I enjoyed following you everywhere you go. A lot of people who went to see you were touched. Thanks for all the blessings, for your presence, guidance and for the petitions you've answered. Thank you for sending us your custodians. They enlightened the minds of a lot of people. The experience of your visit was unexplainable..."

-Angel, Dearborn, Michigan

"We are so delighted to have the Blessed Mother's Image in Ireland. She is indeed lovely!"

-Nora, Kinsale, Ireland

IN BRIEF

Franciscan Friar Promotes The Brown Scapular

Father Eugene, OFM leads the Franciscan friars and its parishioners in their monastery chapel in enrolling the people into the scapular of the Confraternity of Mt. Carmel. He said the crowd numbers were beyond their expectations. At least ten thousand scapulars were given freely to every one and their loved ones during our recent trip to the diocese of Cork in Ireland. ■

A Fatima Experience with the Portuguese in America

It was the thirteenth day of March, the day of the visit of the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima. The year was not 1917 but 2010. It was not in Fatima, Portugal but in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. The parish church is dedicated to Saint Anthony of Padua, the same patron for the little village in Fatima. It was in the United States but the parishioners are mostly Portuguese. It was a cold and rainy day, but that did not stop the Portuguese from coming in to see the beautiful statue that represents their “favorite” Madonna, Our Lady of Fatima! One can only imagine what happened on the thirteenth day of October 1917.

To mingle and join them in prayer in such a given circumstance for the first time is such an experience of awe and fascination! It was inspiring to see and pray with the Portuguese people who migrated to Rhode Island, some of them even from the little village of Fatima. These are the people who, as young children, witnessed the Miracles in Fatima; whose parents and grandparents lived with the little shepherds who saw the Blessed Mother Mary and witnessed the day the sun danced.

There is a mixed kind of tradition and devotion when these people raise their rosaries beads while praying their Hail Marys, raising their candles in between the decades while singing AVE, AVE, MARIA! Waving their white handkerchieves in the air as if as a sign of surrender to Mary. Bishop Fulton Sheen saw the same when he said “the White Square of Fatima shall overpower the Red Square of Moscow”. This reminds us that the white handkerchief is a sign of “war” against evil. That is, in response to Our Lady’s request “to stop offending God because He is already too much offended”. ■

Houston Procession

Mr. Carl Malburg leads the faithful in procession around the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in downtown Houston, TX, together with the Vietnamese Community. Fr. Thu, the co-rector of the Cathedral said at least 3,500 people participated in the event which culminated with the Celebration of the Holy Eucharist followed by Marian Devotions with songs and hymns for Our Lady. City officials had to close the roads up to six blocks surrounding the church to make way for the Blessed Mother. ■



TEARS, A MIRACULOUS WARNING

On July 21, 1972, the newspaper Folha de São Paulo published a photograph from New Orleans showing a statue of Our Lady of Fatima shedding tears. The report sparked keen interest in the Brazilian public and I think many readers will welcome more information on the topic.

The best source of information on the matter is found in an article with a typical American title: "The Tears of Our Lady Wet my Finger" by Fr. Elmo Romagosa. It was published on July 20 in the Clarion Herald, a New Orleans weekly, distributed in eleven Louisiana parishes or counties.

The background to this event is universally known. In 1917, Lucy, Jacinta and Francisco had visions of Our Lady at Fatima. The authenticity of these visions was confirmed by the miracle of the sun, witnessed by a whole multitude even as the Virgin spoke to the three children.

In general terms, Our Lady charged the little shepherds to tell the world that she was deeply upset by the wickedness and corruption of men. She warned that if men did not amend their lives, a terrible chastisement would come that would annihilate many nations. Russia would spread its errors throughout



Are Her Tears a sign?

the world. The Holy Father would have much to suffer.

The punishment could only be avoided if men converted, Russia and the world were consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and men did the communion of reparation on the first Saturday of each month.

In view of the above, a question naturally comes to mind: Were Our Lady's requests heeded?

In 1942, Pius XII consecrated the world to the

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'Statue's tears wet my finger'

By FATHER ELMO ROMAGOSA
(Clarion executive editor)

Last Monday evening a voice over the phone said: "Father, you told me to let you know if the Pilgrim Virgin statue would weep. Well, it is weeping now." The time was 9:15 p.m. The date was July 17 and the voice was that of Father Joseph Breault, M.A.P., custodian of the Fatima Pilgrim Virgin statue which was venerated in a number of churches in this area between July 6 and 16.

I hastily got my camera and lights, phoned Clarion Herald editor Hal Ledet, to come with his camera equipment as well and rushed to see for myself whether the statue was really weeping.

It was 9:10 p.m. when Father Breault first noticed moisture welling up in the statue's eyes. I joined him about 9:30 p.m. and saw for myself that some liquid had gathered in the eyes.

Hal Ledet and I shot photos in black and white and in color. We were hardly finished when the eyes seemed suddenly to begin drying out. Father Breault invited me to touch the still-wet eyes with my finger and upon so doing a droplet of the fluid clung to the tip of my little finger. It was clearly visible to all and Hal shot photos of it in color.

Within a few minutes, the eyes were totally dry. Hal and I chatted with Father Breault, who said this was the 13th time he had witnessed this phenomenon.

IT WAS ABOUT 10 p.m. when Hal and I bade Father Breault good night. My farewell word was that should the statue weep again, please phone me right away.

The following morning, the phone rang about 6:15 with word that the statue had been weeping since four o'clock. And, could I come out to take some more photos? I apologized saying I could not make it because I was scheduled to offer the 6:30 a.m. Mass.

At 7 a.m. the phone rang again stating that the statue was still weeping. Once more I gathered my camera and lights, and upon my arrival at 7:30 a.m., I saw an abundance of fluid in the statue's eyes and a large drop of liquid at the tip of the statue's nose.

As I proceeded to shoot the pictures, I clearly saw movement of the fluid as it oozed forth under the lower eyelid.

It was then I recalled moments of earlier skepticism which arose when Father Breault carried the Pilgrim

Virgin statue to the Clarion for photographs to be made for use in last week's paper. While the photos were being made, Father Breault happened to mention that he had seen the statue weep 12 times. This created more than a stir of wonderment in all of us who were present.

THE UNBELIEVER IN ME said that maybe this was all a hoax. Maybe the statue weeps because of a hidden supply of water in the crown sitting on the statue's head. So I removed the crown and saw that it was held in place by a metal pin inserted into an opening in the top of the statue's head.

Father Breault said the statue was one of two in existence carved out of cedar wood at Fatima under the guidance of Sister Lucy, the only visionary still alive of the three who saw the Virgin in Fatima in 1917. The other statue, Father Breault said, is now on secret pilgrimage behind the Iron Curtain.

Tuesday morning (July 18), I again thought of the possibility of some mechanical arrangement whereby water could be introduced into the area of the eyes through the opening at the top of the head. So I removed the crown and ascertained that it was dry throughout. Next I inserted into the opening a piece of wire around which I had wrapped soft tissue paper, thinking that if someone had contrived a way to run water to the eyes through this opening, I would discover it by the tissue absorbing the water. But when I removed the tissue-wrapped wire, it was as dry as a chip though liquid was still visible in the eyes.

Father Breault consented to one final skeptical test! Using an eye-dropper I proceeded to put water into the opening at the top of the head, reasoning that if there were any channel between this and the eyes this would certainly expose it. But before eye-dropping the water, I noticed and observed to all present that the statue's eyes had completely dried out! They were totally devoid of fluid when I eye-dropped the water into the opening.

Nothing happened. The eyes remained perfectly dry. In fact they were drier than at any of the three times I had seen and photographed the statue at close range.

WE THEN KNELT and prayed a decade of the Rosary in honor of Our Lady of Fatima. We asked God to help us to understand the meaning of what we had witnessed.

After about ten minutes had gone by, the water did not disappear from the opening, and above all, the eyes remained completely dry. Father Breault

Immaculate Heart of Mary. Sister Lucy said the consecration lacked some characteristics Our Lady had requested. I do not intend to analyze this complex subject here. I simply mention, in passing, that whether Our Lady's request for the consecration of Russia was heeded is open to debate.

As for Our Lady's second request for an amendment of life, it has so obviously been neglected that no further comment is necessary. Our Lady stated that obedience to her requests was a condition to avoid the apocalyptic punishments that she predicted. Therefore, it is logical that God's vengeful and purifying wrath should fall upon mankind before it converts and the Reign of Mary is established.

Of the three Fatima children, only Lucy survived beyond her childhood. She was a Carmelite nun in Coimbra. Under her supervision, a sculptor carved two statues that reproduced as closely as possible the facial expression of the Most Holy Virgin as she appeared at Fatima. Both of them were called "pilgrim statues" and have been taken around the world by priests and laity. One was in New Orleans, where it shed tears.

Father Romagosa, author of the abovementioned report, was told of the statue's tears by Fr. Joseph Breault, M. P., the statue's custodian. However, he was reluctant to admit the miracle and thus asked Father Breault to call him if any further weeping occurred.

Father Breault noticed moisture in the eyes of the Pilgrim Virgin statue on July 17 and immediately called

Father Romagosa, who reached the statue at 9:30 p.m., bringing along photographers and reporters. In fact, they all noticed the moisture in the eyes of the statue, which was soon photographed. Father Romagosa then touched his finger on the moist surface and collected a drop, which was also photographed. According to Father Breault, this was the thirteenth weeping he had witnessed.

At 6:15 a.m. the next morning, Father Breault called Father Romagosa saying that the statue had been crying since 4 a.m. Father Romagosa arrived shortly afterwards. In his words: "I saw much liquid in the statue's eyes, and a large drop hanging from the tip of her nose." This drop, so graciously hanging, was captured in the famous photograph that came out in the press.

Father Romagosa adds that he saw "a tear move as it slowly formed on the lower eyelid."

However, he wanted to eliminate all doubt. He noticed that the statue had a crown fixed on its head by a small metal connecting rod and thought:

Can it be that water was poured into the hole where the crown is fixed on the statue, and this water drains into the eyes?

Once the weeping ceased, Father Romagosa removed the crown from the statue: the metallic connecting rod was entirely dry. He then inserted into the hole a wire wrapped in a special paper which would absorb any liquid that might be there. The paper remained absolutely dry.

Still not satisfied with his efforts, he poured some water into the hole. Yet the eyes remained absolutely dry. Father Romagosa then turned the statue upside down. The water he had poured into the hole drained normally. He was finally convinced that no water could come through the hole in the statue's head into her eyes, and there simply was no other hole.

Father Romagosa knelt. At last, he believed.

These mysterious tears show Our Lady of Fatima crying over the modern world, as Our Lord once cried over Jerusalem. Tears of most tender affection, tears of deep pain for the punishment that will come.

It will come to men of this present century, if they do not reject immorality and corruption. It will come if they do not fight especially against the self-destruction of the Church, the cursed smoke of Satan that according to Paul VI has penetrated even into the sacred places.

Reader, there is still time, therefore, to stop the punishment! But, some will say, these thoughts are not those for a pleasant Sunday afternoon. I answer: Is it not better to read this article now under the tender manifestation of our Mother's prophetic sadness than to live through the days of tragic bitterness that will come if we do not amend?

If they come, I am convinced a special mercy will be shown to those who, in their personal lives, have taken the miraculous warning of Mary seriously. ■

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Fatima, 13 July 1917 during the third apparition of the Blessed Virgin, Our Lady said to Lucia: *“I want you to come here on the thirteenth of next month and to continue to pray the rosary every day in honor of Our Lady of the Rosary, in order to obtain peace for the world and the end of war, for She alone can be of avail.”*

2010 Tour Calendar

January - San Antonio, TX

February - Brazil and PA

March - Rhode Island

April & May- Texas

June - Ireland

August - Los Angeles, CA

September - Lexington, KY

October - Guam

November - Cincinnati, OH

December - Open