

IPVS NEWS

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



Historic Visit to the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa

During our recent trip to the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa last February 2011, I have seen such deep love and devotion to Our Blessed Mother blend into their rich culture and tradition. I told them what I saw in them and promised to tell the world of their immense love for Mary, the Mother of God; so I am telling you now. Do I really need to tell you about it! Absolutely! We need people who still respect and listen

to the Mother of God.

This is one of the main reasons of the IPVS visit. To experience the maternal love of Mary. To listen to what She has been telling us, and more importantly, to respond to it.

When the Blessed Mother appeared to Francisco, Jacinta, and Lucia in Fatima, Portugal from May 13, 1917, to Oct. 13, 1917, she told

them to tell the people to pray and do sacrifices for the conversion of sinners and pray the Holy Rosary for peace in the whole world. These were also the primary intentions for the visit of the Blessed Mother to the Diocese. In addition, it is their prayer that through the intercession of Mother Mary, they would soon have a new bishop to shepherd and guide the Diocese to the path of holiness toward her Son, Jesus.

Diocese of Chalan Kanoa is in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) which is a group of 14 islands consisting mainly of Saipan, Rota, and Tinian in the North Pacific Ocean along the Mariana Trench, the deepest location on earth. Here is where you can find these devoted priests on this picture which was taken for their special clergy meeting for the visit of Our Lady. There may only be 9 priests present here, but that is already 90 per cent of the dedicated clergy in the diocese! The two gentlemen with a neck-tie in the front row are your IPVS custodians, Mr. Carl Malburg and Patrick Sabat.



MARY WE CROWN THEE WITH BLOSSOMS TODAY... QUEEN OF THE ANGELS, QUEEN OF THE MAY

We look at the Blessed Mother - this is the cry that comes from the lips of the elderly. Mary must help us bear all the loneliness and misery that comes with advanced age; She must walk with us through the dark gates of death into a better world.

We look at the Blessed Mother - She is the hope of the fathers and mothers among us. With the mother who guides and educates we dare to let our children go out onto the stormy ocean of public and social life. We know they need a mother, a model, and a sure refuge.



Blessed Mother, if you go into the battle of life with us and our children, we will dare to take up the struggle again and again. While on earth, you showed us how to master life, so we trust that we and our children will be blessed with victory over sin and the darkness of evil.

We look at the Blessed Mother - our youth, our young men and women admit their need. With the protection and guidance of Mary's Immaculate Heart, it will be possible to enter adult life with an undefiled heart and a pure, strong ability to love faithfully.

We look at the Blessed Mother - the children call out in their happy children's voices. With Her care and wise education we can grow in body and soul. Our journey of faith too will benefit if we look time and again at the Holy Family's faith.

We look at the Blessed Mother -

our priests and pastors proclaim solemnly to everyone: Mary is the great missionary; She must and can work miracles of transformation in our lives. She can and will provide a home for our restless hearts.

Mary, you are a Queen! The most Blessed Trinity has confidently placed the welfare of the church into your powerful and gentle motherly hands, just as that same Church is entrusted to each of us at our Confirmation. You will lead the pilgrim people of God home to His infinite loving Heart. Giving you the Crown is a symbolic way to entrust to you once more the full responsibility for this task.

Yes, Mary, this is what it means when we give you a Crown! The Crown symbolizes all the dignity and beauty that God Himself has bestowed upon you! The Crown also symbolizes your right to act as a queen and leader, as a mother and

educator in and for the kingdom of God on earth.

We wish to crown you because of our personal helplessness in facing the deep distress of our times. We struggle to find God and we search his inscrutable ways. We struggle with the distress of faith and the lack of it. Please fold your hands in prayer on our behalf! Tell your Divine Son as you once did in Cana of Galilee: "Lord, they have no wine!" Ask the Lord again and again to work miracles of peace, unity and prosperity for the poor and suffering.

Take our flowers for your Crown. Let them represent our wish to weave you a wreath of joy and thanksgiving for the coming era. Let us work with you, our sister in faith, to make this new millennium a Christ-centered age in which our people will do what He tells us! Be our Queen! Teach us what immense

dignity there is in our Christian calling. Grant peace and joy to our hearts, grant peace and joy to our families.

Lead our nation to follow paths of justice and assist each of us to be worthy to wear the crown of our calling that the Lord has prepared for us at the end of our journey.

The day will come when God will call us to leave our hearth and home for the eternal kingdom. Mary, we ask you to remain here to strengthen the faith of our children and their children, and to help them find their way home to the Heart of God.

When we worry about our eternal salvation and the salvation of our family, friends and relatives, we will remember the Lord's promises fulfilled in Mary!

When we are distressed by the realization that our family and friends are in great danger, we will remember the Lord's promises fulfilled by Mary!

When our children become teenagers and the destructive influence of the environment tears down the walls which our love and faithful-

ness erected in their hearts, we will remember the Lord's promises fulfilled in Mary!

When evil powers battle for our hearts and the hearts of our dear ones, we will remember the Lord's promises fulfilled in Mary!

When our own laziness and the bad example of others or of worldly surroundings keep us away from reconciliation and communion, we will remember the Lord's promises fulfilled in Mary!

When death reaches out its cold hands to touch our hearts, when we suffer the agony of the dying, we will remember the Lord's promises fulfilled in Mary!

And, Mary, when at last we may come home, when we face our good and mighty God to give an account of all our words and actions, we will remember Our Lord's promises fulfilled in you! We will rest secure in your motherly heart and proclaim with joy the greatness of the Lord as you have done.

Mary you are the joy of those in heaven, the help of those on earth, the consolation of those still bur-

dened by their sins. Accept our May blossoms; accept each flower as a symbol of praise and thanksgiving! Thank you for your cooperation in the plan that changed the destiny of the world. Teach us, Mary; teach us, that we, too, may make the place where we are a little paradise for God. Mary, Mother and Queen, accept our crown!

(Based on the lament of St. Bernard of Clairvaux)

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NOTE: St. Bernard of Clairvaux, proclaimed a Doctor of the church in 1830 by Pope Pius VIII, composed one of the most beautiful prayers ever created -

Memorare

REMEMBER, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of Virgins, my Mother; to thee do I come; before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.



Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, Saipan- The Apostolic Administrator, Rev. Ryan Jimenez enrolls hospital staff with the Brown Scapular with the collaboration of the Secretary of Health, Mr. Joseph Kevin Villagomez.



World Day of the Sick 2011 observed at the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas both by the Church leaders and government officials with the historic visit of Our Lady of Fatima in the islands.



Mister Secretary crowns Our Lady! Mr. Joseph Kevin Villagomez of the Department of Public Health in the CNMI welcomes IPVS at the main entrance of the Commonwealth Health Center in Saipan.

BUT, HER IMMACULATE HEART WILL TRIUMPH

Today, even the most apathetic can sense that something is wrong with something, for, with apologies for the cliché, things are definitely not what they used to be. Everybody is disinterested in everybody else. So many human beings have fallen so far from their adherence to God that they have descended to the viewpoint that they might as well have all the fun they can right now, acquire all the worldly possessions within or without their limit, because in the immediate offing stands catastrophe. A confused defeatism has taken over every waking hour and dreams are filled with nightmares. Globus hystericus has set in and it invades even our homes and our work.

If you turn on your radio early in the morning to get the time of day, or the weather report, you are at once enmeshed in world affairs which denote calamity, fear, vain efforts to straighten things out; you hear about crime, narcotics, racketeers, murders, divorce, black markets, investigations into everything from “fixings” to unions; you are told about nuclear crisis, inflation, taxes, disease and all of the symptoms, until when you leave the house for work, you are just barely able to crawl out of the front door. And, once outside, you are not much better off for you are now in the midst of a vortex of cars and the smell of oil, speedster’s trying to beat lights, people angry at each other for not hurrying enough, for going too fast, for being at large at all.

If you’re driving instead of walking, there is a bigger crash when it comes. If you live in the city, you

work like mad in the middle of grating sounds of traffic, noise and confusion of speed and you wonder if you are going to be alive enough to live. If you are in a suburban area, or the country, you have the same problems minus some of the noise. If you are rash enough to listen to your radio, or watch your



televised news, before you turn in at night, you hear about bigger and better bombs, you learn that a great percentage of enemy bombers could get through in the event of an attack, you hear the taxes are going higher soon, and this isn’t the ideal sedative for a good night’s rest. Remember when we had nothing to think about but tomorrow’s dinner date and what to wear, or going to a ball game?

We are living as if in an unfamiliar setting. The sea is surging all around us and we don’t know how to swim very well. All kinds of things are rushing past us at which we grab, but they are not strong enough to hold us up; we hear a voice somewhere in the wind and the roar of the waters saying: “Grab onto this strong log. Look! It is right in front of you. You will be safe.” Do we do that? No, we look around again at the trivia floating by, and we sink deeper.

Great numbers of people are wrapped in some kind of spiritual paralysis. The turpitude of the world smothers others, and they grasp at every idea, every materialistic possession, every diversion, and refuse even yet to turn to God and grasp His strong hand. Pray and do penance. We do everything else.

It seems as if overnight the radio, the press, and public figures are beginning to notice that something is rotten with the morals of mankind, even in our own country. You can’t legislate morality, and they are finding it out. We have been steadily slipping away from the principles upon which is based the constitution of this nation. We have come into a disregard of morality, of law, of respect for authority, and that is not a good indication. Materialism has resulted in a kind of paganism, comfort has dulled the spiritual, man’s loyalty to God lessened and therefore man’s regard for man has become, in general, almost obsolete. In this set-up, the intellect is weakened and man becomes a prey to the illogical; reasoning loses its clarity, and the important things

are not important anymore to any great degree, and then people wonder why inimical isms creep in, and where have we been all this time?

If it weren't so tragic, it would border on the ridiculous, to know that we have God's own formula for salvation and peace in the Ten Commandments, and yet we are boiling in a confusion and bewilderment as to how to get out of our present catastrophic predicament. We could put the psychiatrists out of business overnight, if we all really took those ten rules seriously. The world will have to come back to God's Commandments no matter how many years of detours it will take?

How many times do we as mothers and fathers continuously reach out and pray for our children and we never stop. We want to see our children happy and living in peace with each other and, most importantly, we pray for their souls. We sacrifice and shed many tears for our children because we love them. It has been said "If you took all the love of all the mothers throughout the world, it still would not equal the love our Blessed Mother has for each one of us." How much more does our Blessed Mother shed tears for us waiting for us to return to her Son?

We are living in very crucial times. Are we not entering into the fulfillment of the promises given to us in 1917 at Fatima, Portugal? We will see Our Lady's triumph when each one of us consecrates ourselves to Her Immaculate Heart. We must unite in our total consecration to bring to fulfillment the triumph.

All is not yet lost. We have a tremendous responsibility as Catho-

lics. The salvation of the world depends on all true Christians. In the midst of this moral decadence, a quiet thing is even now taking place. Like all other big things of the soul, it is silent and sure. There are great numbers of people praying and suffering and doing penance. Reparation is going on, night and day; people are enduring, amending and making sacrifices. Perpetual Adoration, All Night Vigils, Rosary Marches, First Friday and First Saturday Devotions, and Prayer Cells, are increasing. This quiet campaign must grow and grow to offset the evil that is rampant and flourishing now in such tragic degree.

When we look around us at the world drowned in sin, submerged in such an obliviousness of what they should be doing, and are not doing, it looks hopeless. Alone, it would be. But, with Our Lady, and the Sacred Heart, all things are possible, and She told us that if we do what She asks in the way of amending our lives, of saying the Rosary, of doing penance by enduring the hard things in our lives and living according to God's Will, the peace for which we long for, will be achieved. We have to work, soul for soul, and we can never give up. In all of the danger, the confusion, the bewilderment of the world, we are not confused, nor bewildered. We see as a beacon light, our Faith, and it is the strong assurance that we are not alone; that God is still the Creator and Our Father, that Mary is watching over us no matter what the world does to us, and "IN THE END MY IMMACULATE HEART WILL TRIUMPH—AN ERA OF PEACE WILL BE GRANTED TO MANKIND."

**BEFORE HER DEATH,
BLESSED JACINTA MARTO
REVEALED SOME LITTLE
KNOWN STATEMENTS
MADE BY OUR LADY OF
FATIMA**

"More souls go to Hell because of sins of the flesh than for any other reason."

"Certain fashions will be introduced that will offend Our Lord very much."

"Many marriages are not good; they do not please Our Lord and are not of God."

"Priests must be pure, very pure. They should not busy themselves with anything except what concerns the Church and souls. The disobedience of priest to their superiors and to the Holy Father is very displeasing to Our Lord."

"The Blessed Mother can no longer restrain the hand of Her Divine Son from striking the world with just punishment for its many crimes."

"If the government of a country leaves the Church in peace and gives liberty to our Holy Religion, it will be blessed by God."

"Tell everybody that God gives graces through the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Tell them to ask graces from Her, and that the Heart of Jesus wishes to be venerated together with the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Ask them to plead for peace from the Immaculate Heart of Mary, for the Lord has confided the peace of the world to Her."

GUARDIANS DEDICATE LIFE TO PROTECT OUR LADY

BY LAURA KILGUS
Rhode Island Catholic

A guardian is a protector, entrusted with caring for the best interest of someone or something that has value. There are two men who travel throughout the world with the responsibility of protecting a 3 1/2 foot tall mahogany statue.

Carl Malburg and Patrick Sabat are custodians of the world-famous International Pilgrim Virgin statue of Our Lady of Fatima. Recently they brought the statue to Rhode Island and have played a part in bringing along the message of Fatima. For the past 64 years, Malburg said, there has been a full-time guardian that has never left the side of Our Lady of Fatima. "Years ago it was priests, but probably in the last 30 years it has been lay people," said Malburg, a native of Munster, IN.

The bond between the guardian and the statue is reminiscent of the relationship between Mary and Jesus' disciple, John. On the cross, Jesus said to John, "Behold your mother." In a way, he offered the same gift and responsibility to the guardians by asking them to protect the same mother and that is not a task they take lightly.

The statue is carefully carried from place to place, parish to parish, and handled by the custodians wearing white gloves for preservation. A sign placed in front of her reads, "Do not touch her, She will touch you." Malburg, who has been watching over the statue for 17 years, explained that Sister Lucia, one of the three shepherd children who reported apparitions of the Virgin Mary in Fatima, Portugal, described how she looked when she appeared to them, in 1917.

"They said not only did she wear a golden ball around her neck, but also a very sparkling shining star," Malburg said. "The sculptor of the statue had personal contact with Sister Lucia at the time. When this one was made it was made different than any other at the time."

Philippines native, Patrick Sabat was teaching philosophy at a state university in the Philippines when another opportunity was offered to him. He has been a custodian of the statue for six years. "She called me, how could I refuse," he said. "I gave up my teaching career because it's really an important message." Sabat explained that as custodians, their travel with the statue has been very extensive. "We are always on the move," he said. "When we fly we buy her a seat in the plane. We have been to Taiwan, Australia, India, Ireland, and we were in Haiti last September." Sabat explained that the message of Fatima that the statue brings does not only come during the Lenten season, or May Flower Events, but is a year-round request to pray the rosary for peace and repentance for sins. "It's not about the statue. It's about the Message," he said. "This is a beautiful statue, as Sister Lucia remarked, but nothing compares to what our mother looked like."

"This is such an important apostolate... We're glad we had the chance to have you in the Diocese of Providence."

- Most. Rev. Thomas J. Tobin, Bishop of Providence, in conversation with the custodians at the last day of IPVS visit in Rhode Island last year.

New Technology Used by Mary

Our parish pastoral council recently bought one of the latest digital cameras for the visit of the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima. I was assigned to be the photographer of this historic event.

During the evening service, I was taking a photo of the statue of Our Lady when I got a warning message from my "hi-tech" camera which has the face detection and it is also equipped with a sensor that tells you if somebody blinked in that instant when you press the shutter button. So, I had this message from the camera LCD screen, "BLINKING DETECTED". I did not pay attention to it at first since it is a new camera and the huge crowd in the church would not let me concentrate. But it appeared about three times so I stopped and put the camera down and simply looked at Our Lady's eyes. It looked so real and alive! I spent the rest of the evening on my knees praying.

I went back in the morning when there were less people, but the statue's eyes did it again with my camera. I checked the camera, but there was nothing wrong with it except when I took a photo of the Virgin Mary's statue. It thinks the eyes were blinking! How could a statue made up of solid mahogany wood, with glass eyes, blink? It cannot be my camera; it does what it is supposed to do. But, it could be Mary.

Evelyn Ytebus, Saipan

INBOX



Dear Carl & Rose Marie,

I would like to share with you my life testimony about my husband's miraculous gift of healing that our Blessed Mother granted to him.

On March 6, 2007 my husband was diagnosed with end stage Renal Failure. He was in a code blue twice in ICU, and once on a life support in the paramedic ambulance. The remedial measure to prolong his life was dialysis or a kidney transplant. All the preliminary clearances were done to my husband for a kidney transplant and dialysis treatment, moving him to live his life. Since then, I started my devotion to Our Blessed Mother of Fatima. I felt eager to have a statue of Our Lady that I then purchased at the gift shop from the Carmelite Monastery in Munster, IN.

On June 9, 2010 I was called by my husband's Nephrologists and he told me that after having three years dialysis he released my husband from dialysis and there is no more need for a kidney transplant. The doctor told me if I have any more questions to be asked; only GOD can answer me.

Our life is a gift from God. His only Son Jesus desires us to love and have confidence in his Mother. In thanksgiving, I offer him every day the gift of myself, my prayers, works, and the joy to spread devotion to our Blessed Mother of Fatima

I will spread devotion to Our Lady of Fatima together with your Newsletter to Australia, Canada and Philippines. Thank you for your great works and leadership

Myrna M. Guillermo
Lansing, IL

"Pray the Rosary every day to obtain peace for the world...! I have come to ask the faithful to amend their lives and ask pardon for their sins. They must cease offending God, who is already too much offended."

PILGRIM VIRGIN OF FATIMA ST.

Dear friends of Our Lady,

Please continue praying. Things are very difficult here in Sanogasta, Argentina. But, Our Lady can open doors in the last moment or whenever She wants. Many people remember Her all the time, and there is, in the midst of all these sad things, something very nice has happened.

Each neighborhood of this small town had to propose a name for the 400-year-old street that connects the main street with the old colonial chapel where the Catholic faith here was established. We proposed different names connected to the local history of the Spanish noblemen who founded the chapel and many other things. Here, there is an ongoing leftist campaign against the Catholic Spanish influence, so the politicians rejected the names we submitted.

So as to bring us to silence, they thought of a name that we would adore, a name that will be an enormous, unmerited honour and grace, notwithstanding the fact that political maneuver played a bigger role than devotion in the members of the City Council of Chilecito who thought of it. Nevertheless, it is recognition of the unique, historical significance of the Visit of the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima in December 2000. The name of the street is now called: "Imagin Peregrina de la Virgen de Fatima" (Pilgrim Image of the Virgin of Fatima) It is the street nearest to our house, so, of course, we will adopt it for our address, as you can imagine.

This street is significant because it is the street you must take to go to the church, the main point of this small town, so everybody passes by. It is very traditional because the big processions of Our Lady of the Candlelight and of St. Sebastian start and end there. Thus it has a high symbolic value. Please continue to pray for us.

Yours in the Immaculate Heart,

Luis Mesquita

**INTERNATIONAL PILGRIM VIRGIN STATUE FOUNDATION, INC.
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Telephone No. (219) 836-8779

Email: layapostle@aol.com

www.pilgrimvirginstatue.com

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



"When both eyes meet"

*At the airport - A Tinian toddler gets
captivated by Our Lady as she clutches
her picture on her chest. A picture
speaks a thousand words..need we say
more?*

2011 TOUR CALENDAR

January -St. Louis, MO
February - Saipan, CNMI
March -Rhode Island
May -Gary, Indiana
June -Los Angeles
July -Pennsylvania
August -Buffalo, NY
September - California
- pending
October - Baltimore, MD
November - Illinois
- pending
December - New York
- pending