



# IPVS NEWS

Issue No. 15  
SUMMER 2014

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

## International Pilgrim Virgin Statue visits Fatima Shrine



Fr. Carl Gismondi delivering the homily at the apparition site during Mass.

Fatima, Portugal - Basilica of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary

### On Pilgrimage with Our Lady

The International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima traveled to Fatima Portugal once again, to where it all began - at the very spot where the Blessed Mother appeared at the Cova da Iria to the three children in 1917. The Pilgrim Virgin Statue was accompanied on May 22 to 29, 2014, by a group of pilgrims from across the United States. The truly meaningful pilgrimage and retreat had as the chaplain Rev. Fr. Carl Gismondi, FSSP who celebrated Holy Mass daily and led the group in prayers and spiritual meditations. Mr. Thomas McKenna, Director of

the IPVS Foundation who organized the program and Mr. Patrick Sabat, custodian of the statue, shared many stories and experiences of their years of traveling the world over with the Pilgrim Virgin

A highlight of the trip was Holy Mass celebrated by Fr. Gismondi at the Capelinha in the presence of the two historic statues: the Shrine Statue (1920) which is always present and the Pilgrim Statue (1947) which has traveled the world for over 60 years. The group was also blessed to have the privilege of accompanying the statue and assisting Holy Mass in the chapel of the Carmelite con-

vent in Coimbra where Sister Lucia spent almost 60 years of her life as a cloistered nun and where she died.

The trip was organized by the IPVS Foundation in collaboration with Canterbury Tours as preparation for the upcoming Centennial Celebration of Our Lady's apparitions that will be commemorated in 2017.

The pilgrims rendezvoused in Charlotte, North Carolina to take the inaugural flight of US Airways direct to Lisbon. Upon arrival at the airport in Lisbon the passengers were surprised when the airplane



Pilgrimage participants carrying the Blessed Mother in the candle light procession.



Fr. Carl Gismondi elevates the chalice during Mass. Thomas McKenna as the server.



Our group of pilgrims at the site where the Angel appeared to the shepherd children in the Fall of 1916 when they were taught the prayers and given the Eucharist.



US Airways cabin crew with the IPVS pilgrimage directors (from left to right) Patrick Sabat, Thomas McKenna and Fr. Carl Gismondi on their return flight to the US.

received a warm welcome by a line of Portuguese fire engines that sprayed the plane with a shower from their truck mounted fire hoses celebrating the arrival.

Upon arrival in Lisbon the group visited the birthplace of St. Anthony and Santarem to visit the church of St. Stephen and venerate the Eucharistic miracle that occurred there, all while on the way to Fatima. In Fatima over the days the group visited the Basilica where the three children are buried, the site where the angel appeared, the church where the children were baptized and received their First Holy Communion, the villages and homes of the seers among other places. Each night they were blessed to participate in the international rosary at the site of the apparitions and march in the candle light procession with the statue of Our Blessed Mother. Several men of the group had the special honor to vest in the traditional garb and carry the litter holding Our Lady. Other places visited included the miracle of Our Lady in the city of Nazare, the medieval town of Batalha and the magnificent church and the Abbey of Alcobaca. At all of the sites prayers were prayed for reparation and that Our Lady's prophecies will be fulfilled.

The return flight to the US proved to be a very moving and inspiring experience for the pilgrims and passengers as they had the opportunity witness firsthand how Our Lady's statue touches hearts. Upon boarding the plane and seeing the statue in a seat next to the custodian, the flight crew became overwhelmed with enthusiasm. They all wanted to see the statue and learn about the history. One crew member said that in her 42 years as a flight attendant she has never had such an important opportunity as this. Throughout the entire flight the custodians and pilgrims were busy sharing pictures and the story of the statue while many passengers and flight crew approached to have their pictures taken with Our Lady. One pilot even came back from the cockpit before takeoff to snap a photo of the memorable event. The custodians were very touched by the service and accommodations provided by the entire crew of the US Airways flight.

With a renewed sense of pilgrimage, and an invigorated love of Our Lady of Fatima, the pilgrims understood that this week long retreat pilgrimage would influence their lives forever.



## You ask, we answer!

### An Important Interview with Sister Lucia

On October 11, 1992, a Cardinal from India, accompanied by a priest from Brazil with a Portuguese layman interpreter, asked Sister Lucia about the consecration of Russia, the 1960 secret, the memoirs, and other important matters.

This interview is noteworthy not only because of the importance of the questions but because all four present confirmed the accuracy of the transcript, a complete copy of which may be obtained from Carlos Evaristo, P.O. Box 133, 2496 Fatima.

Sister Lucia made at least 18 unequivocally clear statements:

1) The collegial consecration made on March 25, 1984, in St. Peter's Square in Rome, was accepted by God and Our Lady.

2) If some bishops did not participate one cannot say they committed a sin or a fault. What is of importance is the fact that the MAJORITY of Bishops participated.

3) The Bishops were asked to make this consecration in union with the Pope each in his own diocese because it was intended to be a consecration made by the People of God.

4) "Russia" did not have to be mentioned by name. The well known intention of the Pope and the Bishops was sufficient.

5) No further consecration of Russia is needed, but "each bishop can consecrate his own diocese to the Immaculate Heart of Mary". (Note: Renewal of such a consecration is mandated in the Encyclical Ad Coeli Reginam to take place annually on the Feast of the Queenship of Mary, August 22).

6) The conversion of Russia has taken place, Sister Lucia explained:

7) Our Lady never said Russia would be converted to Catholicism. "The fact is that in Russia the Communist, atheist prevented the people from carrying out their faith. People now have an individual choice.

8) The 1960 Secret was intended "only for the Pope and the immediate church hierarchy."

9) Our Lady never said that the secret should be made public.

10) Pope John Paul II revealed the Third Secret in 2000.

11) While repeatedly trying to evade the question Sister Lucia seemed to admit that Our Lady continues to appear to her.

12) At Fatima Our Lady never mentioned Garabandal.

13) Sister Lucia did type letters to her niece and other letters which some have said were forgeries. She answers all her own mail. Her mail is not intercepted or censored in any way. (She was obviously refuting the false allegation that she was in any way "silenced".

14) Asked which books on Fatima were best, Sister Lucia said the "Memoirs" are the most authentic. She could not speak for the translations but she said "the Portuguese is accurate". (Note: Mr. John Haffert, who knows Portuguese has accurately followed the original handwritten pages of Sr. Lucia in publishing "Her Own Words to the Nuclear Age".

15) Sister Lucia's formal education went only as far as the fourth grade. It was suggested that therefore she must have

been enlightened by the Holy Spirit when writing. She answered, "Yes, I believe so."

16) Asked about a priest who had been insisting that the collegial consecration had not been made and that the Pope should reveal the 1960 secret Sister Lucia said that he should "humble himself that the consecration was made" and that if he changed "his apostolate could become a great means of spreading the message of Fatima."

17) Hell is a reality. We should continue to speak of hell as Jesus did. People condemn themselves to hell.

18) Asked what advice she would like to give today, Sister Lucia said, "Pray, pray, pray, and follow the Holy Father."

\*Appendix of the book "Her Own Words to the Nuclear Age". An accurate English translation of "Memoirs" of Sister Lucia with commentary by John Haffert. This book is published and still available from [www.101Foundation.com](http://www.101Foundation.com)

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

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

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It was one of our busiest days with the visitation of the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima in Dallas, Texas when something strange happened. We were scheduled to visit Immaculate Conception parish. Prior to my arrival, I was informed that a florist would meet up with me in front of the church, that is by the sanctuary. I decided to arrive earlier than usual at the church to check with this florist to discuss the table arrangements for Our Lady's statue.

Upon entering the church, from the vestibule, I immediately saw the florist already standing and waiting at the sanctuary. He raised his left hand to wave in gesture at me while holding what appeared to me like a candlestick on his right hand and a big "flower vase". So, I waved back at him and indicated my desire to visit the restroom nearby. He was wearing elaborate flowery clothing. I thought to myself, "Indeed, that must be the florist!" His appearance is now engraved in my mind. Average built, dark complexion, long curly hair and the clothes! They were beautiful! I composed myself to meet this great-looking guy.

## The Apparition of St. Michael, the Archangel

Upon entering the main body of the church, I felt something strange. I cannot describe the feeling of awe. It was very quiet and so peaceful. I felt goosebumps I never had before in my entire life. The florist was gone from where I just saw him a couple of minutes ago. He must be in the sacristy on the side, I thought. But there was no sacristy there. This was my first visit to this church and inspected every corner of it looking for him. It was a small church in the suburbs of Dallas. Maybe it could seat about two hundred people. There was no other way out of this church. I said "hello" maybe two or three times in every direction with nobody in sight. I stood still facing the sanctuary again, then I walked towards the direction I came, still searching for him when, Lo and behold, he was standing just the way I saw him earlier, but in a framed-painting. I just saw this guy in the sanctuary between the altar and the table for the statue of Our Lady. (See picture below) Now he is in one of the portraits hung on a wall (see picture above). I could not believe what I saw with my own eyes. In this portrait he has a halo around his head and the wings of an angel. The thing he was holding was not a candlestick but a sword. The vase was

not a vase but a shield! Clearly this was Saint Michael the Archangel! I am sure of what I saw. I am sure that this was the same "person" I saw. There is no doubt in my mind that this was St. Michael. But the question is, Why would he choose to appear to me? I began my quest to read more about this glorious "spirit". (See Related Article on next page)

Of the many titles given to him, what is sensible at this point to me is "Servant in the House of the Divine King". He appeared and waved at me as if affirming his honored title. I carry the image of the Woman in the House of Her Child. St. Michael makes sure no harm comes our way because we all know that the ancient dragon lies in wait for the Woman who shall crush its head.

As I was finishing writing about this story in the back of a church in New Jersey, a gentleman approached me because he said I looked familiar. He said his name is Geoffrey Albano, visiting friends in New Jersey, but he is from Grand Prairie, Texas, and he wondered if I was in his parish last February. I asked what parish and he replied, "St. Michael the Archangel". I said, "No, but we visited Immaculate Conception". Then he corrected me saying that is part of the parish of St. Michael the Archangel! I never knew that. Now I have my answers, and a great way to continue my journey with the Blessed Mother, knowing that "God will give his angels charge of me, to keep me in all my ways. On their hands they will bear me up, lest I dash my foot against a stone" (Ps 91:11-12). This is very important to me, literally and figuratively in this battle, as I travel all over the world carrying the precious statue of Our Lady under the watch of "He who is like Unto God".



This is the photo of the actual sanctuary where St. Michael appeared standing guard whom I thought was the florist, waved at me.

-patrick sabat



## St. Michael defends us in our battle

That the blessed Archangel Michael has often appeared to men, is attested both by the authority of sacred Scripture, and by the ancient tradition of the Saints. Hence, the memory of these apparitions is commemorated in diverse places.

The very name of Michael urges us to honour this glorious Spirit; it is a cry of enthusiasm and fidelity, for it signifies: "Who is like unto God?" Satan trembles at hearing this name, for it reminds him of the noble protest wherewith the bright Archangel answered the call of the rebel angels. Michael proved his strength and prowess when he fought the great battle in heaven. On that account, he was made the Guardian and Protector of God's people; of the Jews first, and afterwards, of the Christian Church, for the Synagogue forfeited all her honours. Michael now watches over Jesus' Spouse, our mother; he supports her in her trials, and she wins no triumph in which he has not had some hand.

But, we are not to suppose, that the holy Archangel is so engaged in looking after the general interests of Christ's kingdom on earth, that he cannot attend to the prayers of each individual member of the Church. God has given him a compassionate love for men; and there is not a single soul that escapes his notice.

He assists at every death-bed, for his special office is to receive the souls of the elect, on their quitting the flesh. He, with loving solicitude and princely bearing. In other parts of Christendom, this devotion took root only by degrees; and it was by the holy Archangel's appearing to men, that the Faithful were prompted to have recourse to him. These apparitions were local, and for reasons which to us might seem of secondary importance: but God, Who, from little causes, produces great effects, made use of them whereby to excite Christians to have confidence in their heavenly protector.

"Behold, I am going to send an angel before you to guard you along the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared. Be on your guard before him and obey his voice; do not be rebellious toward him, for he will not pardon your transgression, since My name is in him."

He wields the sword in defence of the Spouse of Christ; he wars with the dragon, who is ever lying in wait for the Woman and her Child (Apoc. xii. 13); but, at the same time, he is attentive to each one of us; for, after having confessed our sins to Almighty God, and to the Blessed Mary ever a Virgin, we acknowledge them likewise to Blessed Michael the Archangel, and beseech him to pray for us to the Lord our God.

Given that some of the Our Lady of Fátima messages have been linked by the Holy See to the "end times", some Catholic authors have concluded that the angel with the flaming sword referred to within the Fatima messages is Saint Michael who defeats Satan. Author Timothy Robertson takes the position that the Consecration of Russia by popes Pius XII and John Paul II was a step in the eventual defeat of Satan by Michael.

The angels of whatever choir share in common with God a spiritual nature, unmixed with matter. The goodness of their being, filled with the divine justice according to the degree of glory granted to each, radiates that holiness unmediated, though proportioned to the capacity of human beings to experience it. Not without reason Scripture shows how easily an angel appearing to men can be confused with God Himself (Rev 19:10, 22:9). When our Lady appears, however, although her glory is greater than that of the highest seraphim her human nature cloaks that glory in the familiar, just as did Our Lord's human nature, even after the Resurrection. Although the angels, too, can appear in more mundane fashion, it must have suited the divine purposes to reveal to the children something

of the holiness of God. Lucia tells us of the lingering effect it had on them. His words sank so deeply into our minds that we never forgot them, and ever after we used to spend long periods on our knees repeating them, sometimes until we fell down exhausted.

The Prayer to Saint Michael specifically asks for Catholics to be "defended in the day of battle", referring to the battle against evil in which Saint Michael defeats Satan. This prayer was added to the Leonine Prayers by Pope Leo XIII in 1888.

While the Prayer to Saint Michael, below, is well known in the Catholic tradition, there are other prayers to Saint Michael such as the one on the bottom:

*"Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle; be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray: and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen."*

*"O glorious prince St. Michael, chief and commander of the heavenly hosts, guardian of souls, vanquisher of rebel spirits, servant in the house of the Divine King and our admirable conductor, you who shine with excellence and superhuman virtue deliver us from all evil, who turn to you with confidence and enable us by your gracious protection to serve God more and more faithfully every day. Amen."*

FOR REFERENCE:

[http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/john\\_paul\\_ii/audiences/alpha/data/aud19860806en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/audiences/alpha/data/aud19860806en.html)

<https://www.ewtn.com/fatima/apparitions/angel1.htm>

Catechism of the Catholic Church David Bordwell, the Vatican, Continuum International Publishing, 2002 ISBN 0-86012-324-3, page 78, §§(334–335)

Timothy Robertson "Fatima, Russia and Pope John Paul II" ISBN page 118

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint\\_Michael\\_\(Roman\\_Catholic\)#cite\\_note-37](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Michael_(Roman_Catholic)#cite_note-37)

<http://catholicarboroffaithandmorals.com/Apparition%20St.%20Michael.html>



## THE MESSAGE OF FATIMA IN OUR LADY'S OWN WORDS

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

### THE SECOND APPARITION OF OUR LADY

June 13, 1917

Just as in May, on June 13, 1917, there was a great light and in the next moment Our Lady was on the little tree (about six feet above the ground). At once Lucia asked: "What do you want of me?"

"I want you to come here on the 13th of next month, to pray the Rosary every day, and to learn to read. Later, I will tell you what I want." Lucia then asked for the cure of a sick person. "If he is converted, he will be cured within the year."

"I would like to ask you if you will take us to Heaven."

"Yes. I will take Francisco and Jacinta soon. But you are to stay here some time longer. Jesus wishes to use you to make me known and loved. He wants to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart."

"Am I to stay here alone?" Lucia asked sadly.

"No, my daughter. Do you suffer much? Do not be discouraged. I will never forsake you. My Immaculate Heart will be your consolation and the way that will lead you to God." As Our Lady spoke these last words She opened Her hands and in an immense light that emanated from Her Heart, Lucia said: "We saw ourselves as though immersed in God. Jacinta and Francisco seemed to be in the light which rose towards Heaven, and I in that part of the light poured out on the earth.

"In front of the palm of Our Lady's right hand was a heart encircled with thorns which pierced it. We understood that this was the Immaculate Heart of Mary, outraged by the sins of humanity, seeking reparation."

#### Questions

Why the apparition of the Immaculate Heart of Mary pierced with thorns?

All six apparitions of Our Lady are like chapters of a book. Each one reveals a little more. Here Lucia is told she is to convey a special message to the world. Although Francisco and Jacinta will soon go to Heaven, she is to remain because Jesus wishes to use her "to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart."

How important is this message?

The Vatican document of June 26, 2000, in which the last secret of Fatima was revealed, affirmed that the very heart of the Fatima message was "to establish in the world devotion to My Immaculate Heart."

### THE THIRD APPARITION OF OUR LADY

JULY 13, 1917

After the flash of light Our Lady was present again and Lucia again asked: "What do you want of me?"

"I want you to come here on the 13th of next month, 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 the war because only She can help you."

"I would like to ask you to tell us who you are, and to work a miracle so that everyone will believe that you are appearing to us."

"Continue to come here every month. In October I will tell you who I am, and what I want, and I will perform a miracle for all to see and to believe."

Lucia then made requests for favors people had given her. Our Lady said it was necessary for such people to pray the Rosary in order to obtain these graces during the year. She then concluded: "Sacrifice yourselves for sinners. Say many times, especially whenever you make some sacrifice: "O My Jesus! It is for love of You, for the conversion of sinners, and in reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary."

#### Questions

Why did Our Lady say that She is the only one who can help us?

Jacinta answered this question with the statement: "God has entrusted the peace of the world to Her." Our Lady is not taking the place of God. She is doing the work God has assigned to Her. She is holding back the sword of fire wielded by God's Angel of Justice.

What is the principal message of this vision?

We are shown the power of the Rosary to bring peace to the world, and the need to make sacrifices of all we do, offering them for love of Jesus, for the conversion of sinners, and in reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Why reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary?

What offends the Heart of Jesus offends the Heart of His Mother. Our Lady said that most souls go to Hell because of sins of impurity, and She offers Her Immaculate Heart as a refuge for sinners. We repair the wounds of Her pierced Heart when we seek refuge there from Satan and the world.

## The Theology of Apparitions

The appearances of God, the angels and the saints to human beings on the earth fall into two general categories, apparitions and mysticism.

A mystic is a person who having persevered in the Christian spiritual life, usually a notable length of time, receives by God's free choice the infused supernatural grace of contemplative prayer. Through this grace they are granted a deeper knowledge and experience of God, beyond that which the ordinary ways of prayer and Christian life can give. This grace is usually granted after they have been faithful in avoiding sin, conquered themselves through mortification, and meditated faithfully on Christ and the truths of the faith taught by the Church. Passing through a profound trial known as the Dark Night of the Senses they enter upon the Illuminative Way, in which they make very notable progress in sanctity, as well as receive divine communications, whether of interior words (locutions) or interior (intellectual) or exterior visions. They may also experience ecstasies, levitations, the stigmata, and other signs of their growing intimacy with God and the supernatural. If they persevere on this path they will pass through another Dark Night, of the Spirit, in which their purification is completed. Entering upon the Unitive Way, their union with God is secured by a Mystical Marriage, prefiguring their union with God at death and the consummation of the union of Christ and His Bride at the end of time.

An apparition, however, is a charismatic gift granted by God for some greater purpose of His than the benefit of the one receiving it. It says nothing necessary about the sanctity of the recipient(s); although God usually chooses simple and good Christians, often children, who will readily accept and do His Will. Generally, it can be understood as an external vision, created by some means of God, to represent the holy person depicted. It would not necessarily have to be the person him or herself. Only Christ and Our Lady (possibly St. Joseph, according to St. Francis de Sales and others who hold that he was taken to heaven body and soul), could actually appear in their bodies. All others, and even they, could appear by some representation accessible to the human senses. In such a way God appeared by means of angels to Abraham and to Moses. According to St. Thomas Aquinas, this manner is the ordinary cause of mysticism and apparitions.

In the case of Fátima it is clear that something more than an intellectual vision took place, an external apparition accompanied by indications of the actual presence of Our Lady. This latter cannot be conclusively determined. However, it reasonably follows from the descriptions of the events and especially from the sense of Her Presence continued to be felt there to this day.



As a fruit of the events, and of the fidelity of the three children to the message of Fátima, Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta grew in holiness and became mystics in the proper sense. It is for their heroic virtue in the pursuit of God that the two youngest are being raised to the honor of the altar, not for being the recipients of an apparition. This fact, more even than the miracle of the Sun, authenticates the message of Fátima.

### **There will be no further Revelation**

"The Christian economy, therefore, since it is the new and definitive Covenant, will never pass away; and no new public revelation is to be expected before the glorious manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ."<sup>28</sup> Yet even if Revelation is already complete, it has not been made completely explicit; it remains for Christian faith gradually to grasp its full significance over the course of the centuries. (94)

Throughout the ages, there have been so-called "private" revelations, some of which have been recognized by the authority of the Church. They do not belong, however, to the deposit of faith. It is not their role to improve or complete Christ's definitive Revelation, but to help live more fully by it in a certain period of history. Guided by the magisterium of the Church, the *sensus fidelium* knows how to discern and welcome in these revelations whatever constitutes an authentic call of Christ or his saints to the Church. (84, 93) Excerpts from the Catechism of the Catholic Church and <https://www.ewtn.com/fatima/apparitions/theology.htm>

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Special thanks to Mr. Armando Jose Neves Mendes, the owner of Solar Da Marta Hotel in Fatima for being a very generous host to the visit of the Int'l Pilgrim Statue in May 2014.

## IPVS TOUR CALENDAR

### 2014

August	Gaylord, MI
September	Los Angeles
October	Florida
November	Hawaii

### 2015

January	Open
February	So. Carolina - Pending
March	Sacramento, CA - Pending
April	Iowa - Pending
May	New Jersey - Pending
June	Open
August	San Diego - Pending
September	Open
October	Texas - Pending
November	Open

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