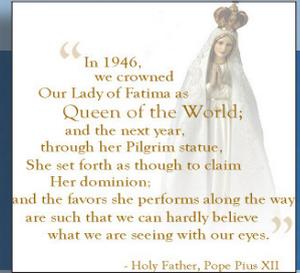


THE FATIMA TIMES

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



The International Pilgrim Virgin Foundation is pleased to announce the release of the first issue of the newsletter of the travels of the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima. This aims to bring the message of Our Lady throughout the world. It will include feature stories of miracles and articles from places the statue has visited.

Almost everyone reading this newsletter will already know about Fatima and the message of peace given there in 1917 by Our Blessed Mother. Most of you also know of the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima as it has traveled throughout the world for over 60 years on a mission to help everyone learn about the Peace Plan from Heaven.

“GOD WISHES TO ESTABLISH IN THE WORLD DEVOTION TO MY IMMACULATE HEART”

by John Haffert

How will we get people to “say the Rosary and say it properly”, using the mysteries to light the way to a life of Divine Love? How will we get people consecrated to Mary, that she may afford them the special protection she promises? Where will we find a host of victim souls who will offer every act through the Immaculate Heart of Mary to establish the Reign of the Sacred Heart?

These practical questions were the subject of a four hour in-terview with Sister Lucy in 1946 and her answer is unbelievably simple. It is a “promise” which anyone from the age of reason can make:

Dear Queen and Mother, who promised at Fatima to convert Russia and bring peace to all mankind, in reparation to you Immaculate Heart for my sins and the sins of the whole world, I solemnly promise: 1) To offer up every day the sacrifices demanded by my daily

duty; 2) To say part of the Rosary daily while meditating on the Mysteries; 3) To wear the Scapular of Mt. Carmel as profession of this promise and as an Act of Consecration to you. I shall renew this promise often, especially in moments of temptation.

The first means of implementing this promise is the Morning Offering. This is a positive, DAILY response to the first request in the very first apparition: “Will you be willing to accept the sufferings God will send you?” The following version is now used daily by millions of people throughout the world, although any similar form would do:

O My God, in union with the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Here kiss your brown Scapular as a sign of your consecration). I offer Thee the Precious Blood of Jesus from all the altars throughout the world, joining with it the

offering of my very thought, word and action of this day.

O My Jesus, I desire today to gain

WHAT CAN WE DO?

As we travel from place to place in America, we meet many people who feel that Western society is sinking deeper and deeper into materialism and immorality.

These problems overwhelm us whenever we think about them. But, Our Lady of Fatima saw it coming, in fact, warned us 90 years ago, and gave us the means to overcome them and promised God’s grace on our efforts.

Pope John Paul II said Fatima’s message is more needed in this new century. He also said it is the great message of hope for the modern world.

At Fatima, Our Lady warned what would go wrong if we fail to do the things She was asking for. You recall She said there would be wars famines, persecution.

She said errors would spread from atheist Russia throughout the world. We are suffering the effects of these errors. The basis of Russia’s errors, the foundation, was the idea that a society could live together without God. We find in America today that God’s laws and the idea that we need God’s help keep fading further and further into the background. If our society has adapted this error, the antidote is our Rosaries, our penances, our daily duty.

But sometimes when we read or hear the news of the day, it seems nearly hopeless with so much hatred, evil, and injustice of every sort. This then, should be over motivation to offer a Eucharistic Holy Hour, or an extra Mass, or an extra Rosary, or some time given to corporal works of mercy. Our Lady promised “sinners will be converted.

The elections this year could be

What Can We Do? from page 1

a turning point. It is inter-esting to note that we have more Eucharistic Chapels than ever be-fore. In preparation for the elec-tions we should spend more time in these chapels to obtain God's mercy and blessings.

Finally, a word to all of you who have heavy crosses, all who are sick, shut-in, forced to work too many hours, and cannot come to prayer groups, or get to chapels. You are most powerful and most influential, when crosses are united willingly to Christ's sufferings. Bishop Sheen said "The greatest tragedy is wasted pain, wasted sacrifice, wasted suffering." Christ made possible your salvation and mine by his suffering and death on the cross. It may not be easy at times, but we can unite our sufferings with His.



It doesn't make it easier, but it does make it meaningful. In this way, we can continue the salvation of souls as well as bring many graces

gives back; whatever we offer up to the Lord, the Lord blesses us a hundredfold.

In our travels across the world with the International Pilgrim Statue, the Petition box is always overflowing with prayerful requests. We are always asked to pray for so many family members in prison, on drugs, broken marriages, etc. Please remember to offer your headache, sufferings or heartache in union with the suffering of Christ on the Cross.

In the very first apparition Our Lady said: "Do you wish to offer up to God all the sufferings He desires to send you in reparation for the sins by which He is offended, and in supplication for the -sion of sinners."

upon the world and world peace. Remember, whatever we give up to Our Lord, the Lord

"Go then, for you will have much to suffer, but the grace of God will comfort you."

OLDEST STATUE BEARER IN PROCESSION

by Carl Malburg

In November, 1996, I took the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima to Hong Kong. An Australian priest, Fr. Ginavan, known by Kevin Morley (my sponsor in Australia), arranged a 10 day visit around Hong Kong. One of the stops was at the Trappist Monastery up on a mountainside. Three of us went there and when we took the Statue out of the Van, we put it on the carrier and walked to the gate. There, we were met by the monks and when we asked them to carry the statue, the marvelous, simple humility of the Chinese culture came out. None of the twenty or so monks would take this honor. Then the monks asked one (probably the Prior), and then another, until we had three monks, but I still had one handle. Then I saw this very spry, bright elderly monk, I thought would be the oldest, and I motioned for him to be one of the carriers. Naturally, out of obedience to the request of a guest, he could not say

no. That old monk was Father Nicholas Kao.

The four monks carried the statue through the garden and into the chapel while singing to Mary. Later, over a cup of tea, they showed us the photos of his 100th birthday party!!! (Note: It would have been 99th by our count. Chinese celebrate 2nd birthday on the day you start the second year).

Fr. Kao died in his sleep on December 11, 2007 at 110 years old. He had a deep devotion to Our Lady of Fatima. As a Chinese Trappist monk, he was moved from one location to another, including Taiwan, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand, where he built a Fatima shrine at each place. On the grounds of the monastery in Hong Kong, there is also a beautiful gazebo style shrine to Our Lady of Fatima; the 7th and last one Fr. Kao built. However, most of them have been destroyed by infidels; communist, Muslims, etc.

Fr. Kao was born in mainland China in 1897 and was ordained in 1933. He left in 1949 after the Communist Party took con-

trol of the country. He is believed to be the oldest Chinese priest in the world. He prayed fifteen rosaries a day for world peace.

Fr. Kao, pray for us!



God Wishes, from page 1



to gain every indulgence and merit I can and I offer them, together with myself, to Mary Immaculate that she may best apply apply them to the interest of Thy Most Sacred Heart. Precious Blood of Jesus, Save us! Immaculate Heart of Mary, Pray for us! Sacred Heart of Jesus, Have mercy on us!

The ultimate challenge of Fatima is that we LIVE this offering so that we may become "Eucharistic" souls...even like Saint Anthony Mary Claret whose devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary was so great that he finally had the Blessed Sacrament miraculously preserved in his breast from one Communion to another. And for this the Church offers two special, practical sacramentals: The Rosary and the Scapular.

In a International Seminar at Fatima (1969: Fatima in the Light of Vatican II) it was shown that these two devotions were primary among those referred to by the Council in para. 67 of Lumen Gentium as explained by Pope Paul VI:

"You will make known our will and our exhortations which we base upon the dogmatic constitution of the Ecumenical Council Vatican II, which is in complete conformity with our thought and indeed upon which our thought is based:

"That one ever hold in great esteem the practices and exercises of the devotion to the most blessed Virgin which have been recom-

mended for centuries by the Magisterium of the Church (#67). And among them we judge well to recall especially the Marian Rosary and the religious use of the Scapular of Mount Carmel...a form of piety which is adapted by its simplicity to the spirit indeed of every-one, and is most largely widespread among the faithful for an increase of spiritual fruit."

Is there any need to apologize for devotions so firmly based in Catholic tradition and theology? These practices recalled to us at Fatima already existed in the Church for centuries and are among the most encouraged and fruitful devotions in Christian history.

The Rosary Put to Use

The first and most important of these devotions is the rosary. Immediately after saying that God wished to establish devotion to Her Immaculate Heart in the world, Our Lady asked that the Rosary be said every day, properly, with attention to the mysteries.

This old devotion is our positive, decisive action against all difficulties. Used effectively, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, it achieves a glowing, vibrant, world-changing devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, especially when used in conjunction with other practices which Our Lady indicated to us at Fatima (the daily offering, the scapular, the first Saturdays).

The ultimate challenge of Fatima is that we LIVE this offering so that we may become "Eucharistic" souls...

What need is there for arguments? Or for an apology?

When a man invents a machine he does not have to apologize for its appearance or the materials of which it is made. He merely has to show that it works.

In the United States and some other countries many groups have inaugurated a practice of using the Rosary as a Preparation for the Eucharistic Liturgy. The purpose behind it is to make the devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary immediately effective by causing the congregation to join with the Immaculate Heart of Mary for the offering of the Eucharistic Liturgy.

One American Bishop commented: "I had never thought of the Rosary in this light...what a wonderful preparation for Mass!...We meditate upon the life, death, and resurrection of Our Savior, and this is what the Mass is..." The bishop added: "If we are looking for a preparation to understand the Mass as a real exemplification of the Paschal Mystery of the life and death and resurrection of Our Divine Saviour, there are few prayers that are designed to prepare us for this great Mystery like the Rosary."

Pastors reported that at first few people Preparing for Mass participated in the Rosary before Mass but the number increased constantly. Soon they noticed a radical change in attendance at Mass. There was a great increase in Holy Communion and even an increase at the Offertory! One pastor began to prepare for the Sunday Mass with the meditations of the Rosary and then included one meditation at the Gospel from each Mystery of the Rosary at the weekday Masses. The faithful began to come early to Mass for the Rosary preparation.

The Joyful Mysteries are directed primarily towards an appreciation of the "Presence of Christ" in our midst. The Sorrowful Mysteries are directed towards presence on Calvary; and the Glorious Mysteries as a preparation for the intimacy of Our Lord in Holy Communion. And those using the Rosary are asked to appreciate: "If this were the only Mass I might ever attend, it could be the peak of all my experiences on this earth and I would turn to Mary to prepare myself for it."

But when they turn to Our Lady, full of grace and Spouse of the Holy Spirit, it somehow becomes immediately evident that one can actually be present at the foot of the Cross during the Mass. And it is easy during the Sorrowful mysteries to ask Our Lady with each of the Hail Mary's to lend us Her Immaculate Heart with which to participate in the renewal of His Passion about to take place.

God Wishes, page 9

History of the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue

The history of the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue begins in 1946. At that time, after the youth of Portugal attended a Congress in Fatima, they took the Statue from display in the Cova on pilgrimage to Lisbon. As they walked the route they stopped at the towns and people gathered to pray. In Lisbon when they entered the cathedral, the miracle of doves occurred. Many other phenomena also occurred inspiring devotion and inspiring the fervor among the people.

The statue was returned to its place in the Cova de Iria but many people wished for a visit in their own communities. The Bishop asked Sr. Lucia in a letter about sending the statue on tour. Sr. Lucia responded with a letter suggesting that the new statue, just then being made, by the famous sculptor Jose Thedim be used as a pilgrim statue. The Bishop agreed and, on May 13, 1947, this new statue was blessed and named the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima.

Almost before it began its journey, so many places wanted her visit that it was realized a second statue should also be blessed. This second statue, made also by Jose Thedim, was completed and blessed by the Bishop of Fatima on October 13, 1947 (Exactly 30 years to the day after the great miracle of the sun which was to draw the world's attention to Mary's message.) His Excellency remarked that this would be the Western statue and that the two statues would travel about until finally they could enter Russia.

of Our Lady of Fatima

The Bishop of Fatima entrusted the Western statue to Mr. John Haffert, who later became the cofounder of the Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima in America. It entered the United States, through Canada at Buffalo, New York, on December 8, 1947. (December 8th being our patronal Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception.) At Buffalo 200,000 people lined the streets and welcomed Our Lady on that occasion. To fulfill the mandate of the Bishop to travel, teach and inspire, Mr. Haffert assigned the first custodian, Fr. McGrath of Canada. The statue has always had a full time custodian and has never stopped traveling in its entire 54 years. Succeeding Fr. McGrath, was Fr. Breault, and others have continued to the present time.

The miracles, favors, and signal graces were so numerous from the very beginning that even the Holy Father, Pope Pius XII, reflected on them in his famous radio address to the pilgrims at Fatima, May 13, 1951. He recalled having crowned the Fatima statue in 1946: "In 1946 we crowned Our Lady of Fatima as Queen of the world, and the next year, through her pilgrim image, She set forth as though to claim Her dominion, and the miracles She performs along the way are such that we can scarcely believe our eyes at what we are seeing."

Physical cures attributed to the presence of the Statue have been documented many times. The changes in expression and coloration, and even the pose of the statue have been reported innumerable times. But, the important miracles are the spiritual cures and gifts Our Lady bestows. The sudden conversion of a stubborn heretic is a good example. Another important miracle is the enlightenment of someone who has resisted the idea of statues or the idea of praying to saints. The spiritual miracles are infinitely more valuable than the things we can see, touch, or measure. ■

3 Year TOUR SCHEDULE

2006

January - Orlando, Florida
 February - San Angelo, Texas
 April - Boston, Massachusetts
 May - Toledo, Ohio
 June - Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
 July - 13 & 14 Barto, Pennsylvania -
 National Centre For Padre Pio
 August - Australia
 September - Cincinnati, Ohio
 October - South Carolina
 November & December - Guam

2007

January - Philippines - Manila
 February - State of Kentucky
 March - Vancouver, Washington -
 Portland, Oregon
 April - Santa Fe, New Mexico
 May - Boise, Idaho
 June - Diocese of Clonfert, Ireland
 July - 12 & 13 Barto, Pennsylvania -
 National Centre For Padre Pio
 August - Lithuania
 September - 21-23 - Assumption
 Church, Ashkum, IL.
 October - World Tour
 November - Fresno, California

2008

January - San Diego, California
 May - Newark, New Jersey
 June - Open
 July - Pending
 August - Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 September - California
 October - Omaha, Nebraska
 November - Baton Rouge, Louisiana
 December - Overseas

THE PEACE PLAN FROM HEAVEN

The Peace Plan from Heaven is a call for prayer and penance offered in reparation for sin. Our Lady said at Fatima, "war is a punishment for sin."

She asks for Communions of Reparation on the First Saturday of the month and that each day:

- We offer up each act as a sacrifice for sin.
- That we pray the Rosary.
- That we be consecrated to Her Immaculate Heart and wear the Brown Scapular as a sign of this consecration.

"Pray, pray a great deal and make sacrifices for sinners, for many souls go to hell because they have no one to pray and make sacrifices for them."

Readers' Corner

Dear Mother Mary, please guide me to the consecrated priesthood. Help me to be committed to this vocation and let it be a pleasing choice for our Lord. Guide me to a community of priests and hopefully the Marians of the Immaculate Conception. Help me to live in LOVE and to live daily the Will of God and to be patient as God has infinitely been patient with me. Amen.

-Alexander Chungp, Ontario, Canada

I have COPD, emphsema, heart thats scared on 3 sides; doctors predicted one more year! Year ended June, 06! My heart is pumping 25% better than a year ago (docs dont know why) there is no wheezing in my chest when a breath deeply (doc dont know why). I do! The Blessed mother is helping me to live longer! Have prayed rosarys daily since 06. I gratefully thank our dear Lady for any and all her help! The doctors gave me one year left because of my terminal condition. My request was to live one more year in order to pray more rosarys for the poor souls in Purgatory. This you have granted. Thank you, and for each day that now follows.

—Kowboy J. Martin, Florida

The pilgrim statue of Our Lady of Fatima came to the Blessed Sacrament church in Seminole, Florida during the year of 2000 or 2001 - can't remember exactly. A picture that I took of the statue being carried to the sanctuary shows a white-dove like shape leading the statue. It was a man waving his handkerchief as the statue passed by and it took the form of a white dove. Would like to send the picture to you. Please let me know as to where to send it.

—Ruth K. Schuller

Blessed Sacrament Church-Seminole, Florida

My precious mother mary I thank you for helping me change my life and guiding me along the way. I am currently having some health issues and I dont know where else to turn. Your precious son our lord Jesus Christ said he is the solution to all our problems. I have so much faith and I just



ask that you will have mercy on me restore my health to normal and allow me to live a healthy life. I will forever be grateful and will thank you until the end of my days. I pray for those less fortunate than me and for all the souls in purgatory that they may soon make it to the kingdom of heaven. I leave my life in the hands of my heavenly father, my precious mother Mary, and your son Jesus Christ and I ask that the you may fill my heart with your peace and love. I ask this in Jesus Christ's name. Amen

—Christina, San Jose, Ca

This a message of thanksgiving 2007 has been a rough year I lost a good job in the beginning of the year I almost lost my wife and the mother of my children to a sever illness she coded in the ER. Through it all my faith never wavered I now have a good job my wife has fully recovered I have avoided Financial disaster, all this was not my doing but that of our blessed mother and our Lord Jesus Christ. All I ask for as we approach the birth of our lord is that our Blessed Mother and our lord continue to guide me and hold my family in your hands, I will continue to say the Roasery every day.

—Sal, West Bloomfield

On May 18th, Carl and Dave, Guardians, brought The Fatima Pilgrim statue to St. John 's Cathedral, our parish. Like all of you, describing the experience of being in Her compny is impossible. He Presence was so very, very real, and her heart was shining in her eyes. I couldn't get enough of her. All I could do was pour out my love and believe and hope she heard and received. I noticed how sad she looked, and expected a tear at

any moment. Yet, she smiled, as well. How does one explain such things? Thank you, her dear Guardians, Carl and Dave, for bringing her to us. My heart went away with her when she left, joining millions of others, for sure.

—June St. James-Pfouts—Dui tat

Encomendo a minha alma e as almas de toda a humanidade a Jesus Cristo através das mãos de Maria Santíssima. Virgem Santa Mãe de Deus; Imaculada Conceição, guaidai a todos sob seu Manto de Proteção e nos conduzi com segurança a Jesus Cristo, Seu Único Filho e Nosso Único Salvador. Assim espero. Assim Seja. Amém.

—Luciano São Paulo, Brasil

Please help me in my studies in school and especially in our daily activities and guide us everywhere we go. Guide us always.

—Lea, Palawan, Philippines

Dear Jesus and Mary, help me to receive the Holy Spirit , to strenghten my faith day by day, I entrust my children and my family under thy protection. Amen.

—Pauline Tomarchio, Australia

REFLECTIONS OF A PILGRIM by Larry Maginot

The pilgrimage of Our Lady to the Island of Guam in November and December of 2006 will surely stand out as one of my most memorable experiences with the Pilgrim Virgin Statue. The image of Our Lady covered the island archdiocese in a way very few tours of the Pilgrim Image are even capable. Despite its stature among the Islands of the Marianas as an archdiocese, only twenty-four parishes serve the faithful within its boundaries. In a very celebrated and publicized way, Our Lady visited not only each parish, but also the seminary, schools, nursing homes, a juvenile correctional facility, the penitentiary, and the governor's complex. To all of these places Our Lady was accompanied by a police escorted motorcade to dignify Her true nobility. Greeting Our Lady at each parish were standing-room only crowds. Often people had to remain outside straining to listen to the ceremonies on speakers hastily set up to accommodate the overflow. More than once, I heard pastors comment that the visit brought the largest crowd in their memory of the parish.

It is hard to imagine how a tour of the Pilgrim Virgin Statue could impact a single diocese more thoroughly than had happened in Guam. Tens of Thousands of our thirty-page booklet, *Our Lady of Fatima...Our Mother Comes to Us*, were passed out, and the Island was almost literally clothed with the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. I remember taking walks

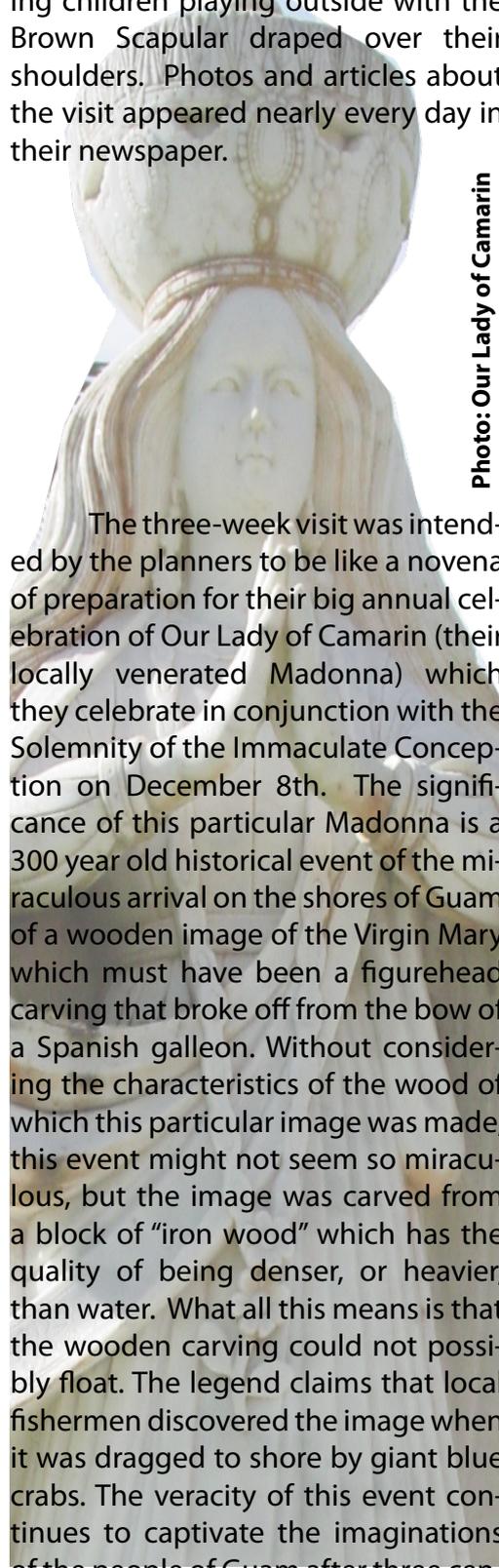
through the neighborhoods near the parishes where we were and seeing children playing outside with the Brown Scapular draped over their shoulders. Photos and articles about the visit appeared nearly every day in their newspaper.

The three-week visit was intended by the planners to be like a novena of preparation for their big annual celebration of Our Lady of Camarin (their locally venerated Madonna) which they celebrate in conjunction with the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on December 8th. The significance of this particular Madonna is a 300 year old historical event of the miraculous arrival on the shores of Guam of a wooden image of the Virgin Mary which must have been a figurehead carving that broke off from the bow of a Spanish galleon. Without considering the characteristics of the wood of which this particular image was made, this event might not seem so miraculous, but the image was carved from a block of "iron wood" which has the quality of being denser, or heavier, than water. What all this means is that the wooden carving could not possibly float. The legend claims that local fishermen discovered the image when it was dragged to shore by giant blue crabs. The veracity of this event continues to captivate the imaginations of the people of Guam after three centuries, and the cherished carving is kept in a highly venerated position in their Cathedral.

The population of Guam is over 90% Catholic, among which is found a

tenderly affectionate love for Our Blessed Mother. Our Lady wanted to confirm them in their devotion by again arriving on their shores in an image of a much more recent historical event to remind them that their devotion to Her is more relevant today than ever. The moral challenges for the people of Guam have increased dramatically in recent years as the advances of technology have figuratively shrunk the ocean's vastness that once insulated the island. The world, for good and evil, has also reached the shores of Guam, and the people there, now more than ever, must rely on their devotion to Our Lady to help them preserve their bonds to faith and family. But there is also good reason to believe that Our Lady is calling the Church in Guam to a great missionary effort. Their recently opened seminary is attracting priestly candidates from around the globe who will no doubt be better prepared to spread the faith in the Far East. Guam has also become a popular vacation spot for the people of Japan, many of whom I am sure encounter a Catholic culture for the first time while they are there. Just as Guam has proved to have been a militarily strategic location, so we can expect it to be spiritually strategic for fulfilling the "great commission" of our Divine Lord. Let us pray that the memory of Our Lady's visit will continue to resonate in the hearts of all those she has touched so deeply there in Guam that her promised coming reign of peace will continue to gain an ever greater hold in the world.

Photo: Our Lady of Camarin



MY SWEET MEMORIES OF OUR LADY'S VISIT TO KERALA (INDIA)

by Thomas Chacko

I have been recollecting the days gone. It was on 29th November, 2003 the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima had been given a very warm welcome at the International Airport of Cochin (Nedumpasserry Airport), overwhelmed with a lot of joy and veneration after a long period of 54 years (The same IPVS was brought to Kerala in 1949). The older generation of Kerala State (India) still remember those days when the IPVS was brought to Kerala in 1949.

I was really very glad enough to share with you that I was the first person to be selected by Heaven to be the responsible person (although I was not worthy enough to be selected) in Kerala concerning the pilgrimage which lasted for 78 days (2.5 months). Anyhow Mr. K.V. Mathews was the other person before me, who was selected to convey this to me. He could not take very important assignment, because he was very busy in Botswana with his business. But Mr. Mathews brought the IPVS to Botswana and he had previous experience. How I became the General Convener for this great assignment I can tell you now. Mr. K.V. Mathews and myself were members of the International Internet Prayer

Group (IIPG). One day I got an email from Mr. K.V. Mathews, whether I can take the responsibility for the IPVS pilgrimage in Kerala. I said O.K but I told him I have to discuss this in my prayer group. The members very happy to approve this and we started our work (That time due to my prolapsed disc I did not have any regular job. So I had enough time. Regarding the financial aspect I asked Mr. K.V. Mathews how this pilgrimage will work out. Mr. Mathews told me "Our Lady will provide".



Then we met the Bishops of Kerala and except a few, every body gave the "green signal". We formed a Central Committee with 25 members and I was the General Convener for this great event. We did not have any money and as Mr. Mathews foretold towards the end of the pilgrimage 78 days we had enough money and this money was distributed for charity works to all those Dioceses who participated.

Many miracles were reported from different parts of the State Kera-

la. Rev. Fr. John Pinackat founder of a congregation was blind when IPVS was brought here. During Her visit in Adimaly town he regained his sight and he was able to see Our Lady's beautiful Statue.

Mr. P.I. George one of the Central Committee members, who was a diabetic patient with high sugar got healed totally.

Fr. Bosco in Trivandrum who was suffering from cancer got healed during her visit, when the Statue was brought to his Church.

Many unbelievers got converted and made confession. IPVS was taken to 250 stations through out Kerala in 78 days and this itself is a miracle

About myself, I didn't have a regular job. Soon after her visit (visit ended on 16th Feb. 2004) from June 2004 I became the Principal of a college and still am continuing in the same job.

Unbelievable...

IPVS was visited by more than 4.5 Millions of people. Afterwards many more improved their devotion to Holy Rosary and to Our Lady.

IPVS KERALA (INDIA) VISIT
November 2003 - February, 2004

SPEAKING OF MARY

by Rev. Fr. Melvin Castro

Pueblo Amante de Maria, that is how we have described ourselves to be, a people in love with Mary.

If there is something so characteristic of Catholicism, it is our deep love and devotion towards the Blessed Virgin Mary. And for Filipinos, the love for Her has so permeated our being that Marian devotion has been very apparent in the EDSA Revolution of 1986 (The statue of Our Lady of Fatima was not only present but was raised by the Minister of Defense during the people power in the main thoroughfare in Manila). Holy sacrifice of the Mass are being celebrated always with a Hymn for Mary. And any Marian Shrine in the country will most certainly be frequented by the people.

Yet, on the other hand, Marian devotion may be so extensive but may not be necessarily deep and authentic even. Let me quote St. Louis-Marie Grignon de Montfort: Jesus, our Savior, true God and true man must be the ultimate end of all our other devotions; otherwise they would be false and misleading...If then we are establishing sound devotion to Our Blessed Mother, it is only in order to establish devotion to Our Lord more perfectly, by providing a smooth but certain way of reaching Jesus Christ (True Devotion to Mary, nos. 61-62).

With this article dedicated to Our Lady, my only

dream is for all of us—devotees of Our Lady—will grow together in our love for Her; that our devotion be rooted deeper in Sacred Scripture, anchored firmly on the Magisterium, consistent with the Church's Liturgy, and lived truly in our lives.

With the maiden issue of this International newsletter for the travels of Our Lady of Fatima, let us come to know Mary...

The Catechism of the Catholic Church places Mary in the context of the Credo, in that part that says: Et incarnatus est de Spiritu Sancto ex Maria Virgine, conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and Born of the Virgin Mary.

Hence, Mary is placed, as God has placed Her to be, in relation to Christ, Her Son. In fact all the Marian privileges—Immaculate Conception, Perpetual Virginity, Assumption—are rooted in Her being the Mother of Christ. We rightfully speak of the inseparable union of Christ and Mary. That Mary Herself was redeemed by Christ but whose redemption was applied, retroactively, at the moment of Her conception. Sounds too technical? To put it more simply, Our Blessed Mother would not have been so blessed if She were not chosen to be the Mother of Christ. And Her being the Mother of the Redeemer made Her the first to be redeemed by Christ.

Who is Mary? Sacred Scripture describes her very briefly: a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary (Luke 1, 27). The anterior verse adds that this young woman is from Nazareth.

Tradition tells us something more about the parents of Our Lady. We

get the oldest story from a document called the Gospel of James (an apocryphal Gospel—which means not accepted to be part of the Bible—written around 150 AD). The legend told in this document says that after years of childlessness, an angel appeared to tell Anne and Joachim that they would have a child. Anne promised to dedicate this child to God (much the same way that Samuel was dedicated by his mother Hannah -- Anne -- in 1 Kings).

In the meantime, let us not forget to turn to Our Lady especially during this time of yet another turmoil in our world. To Her Immaculate Heart, let us constantly entrust and consecrate ourselves and our country. Ave Maria! Ad Jesum per Mariam.

Our Lady of Fatima, Pray for us!

Editor's Note:

Fr. Melvin is a devotee of Our Lady. He has consecrated his priesthood to Mary and dedicated himself to the propagation of Marian devotion in the Philippines. He is the Philippine Coordinator and has traveled with the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima in and out of the country in several occasions.

He is the president and founder of the Confraternity of Mary, Mediatrix of All-Grace and the Executive Secretary of Episcopal Commission on Family and Life of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.

God Wishes, from page 3

Other Application

While the Rosary is particularly valuable for an increase of union with the Immaculate Heart of Mary in preparation for the Eucharistic Liturgy, it is also extremely useful for all virtues, especially purity.

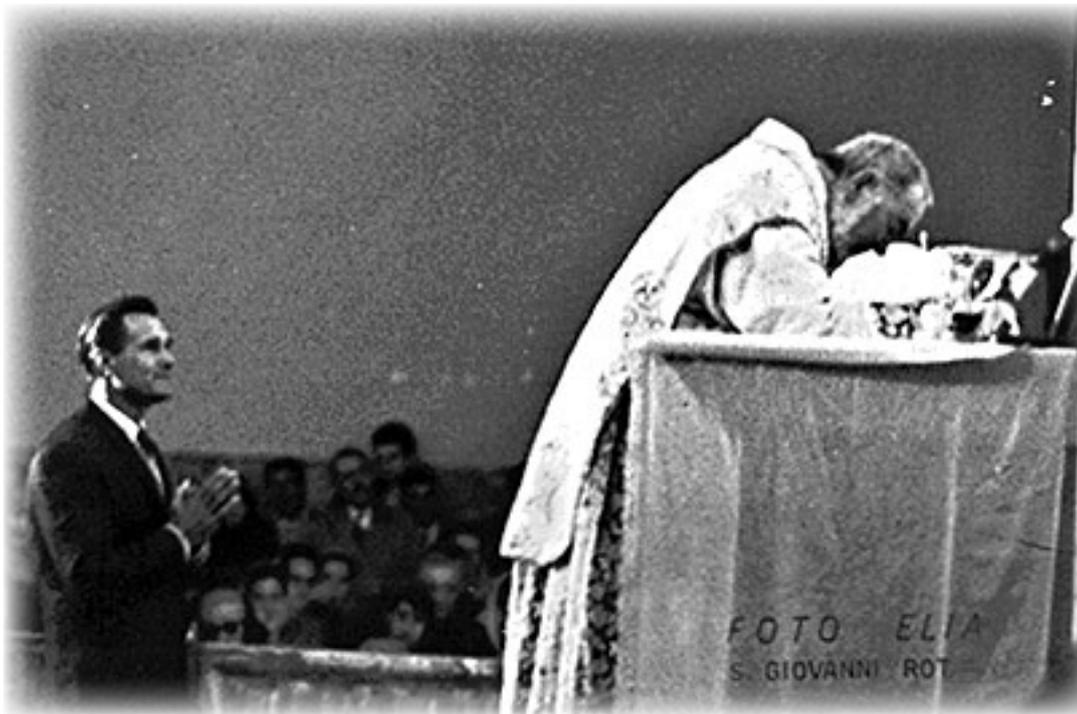
Pope John XXIII began by saying five decades of the Rosary daily, offering the first for the virtue of purity. But in later years he said the entire fifteen decades every day even up until the time of his death. And one of his very rare encyclicals, written on the Rosary, is given over principally to application of the mysteries to spiritual progress.

Five First Saturdays

To show us the importance of the Rosary Meditations and the use of the Rosary as an instrument of devotion to Her Immaculate Heart, Our Lady promised in the course of

Her apparitions at Fatima to return in a future vision to ask for the devotion of the Five First Saturdays.

This was done in two apparitions at Pontevedra. Our Lady promised to assist us at the hour of death if we would exercise this devotion for five consecutive First Saturdays.



Our Lord Himself appeared in one of these visions and said: "Have pity on the Heart of your most Holy Mother. It

"If this were the only Mass I might ever attend, it could be the peak of all my experiences on this earth and I would turn to Mary to prepare myself for it."

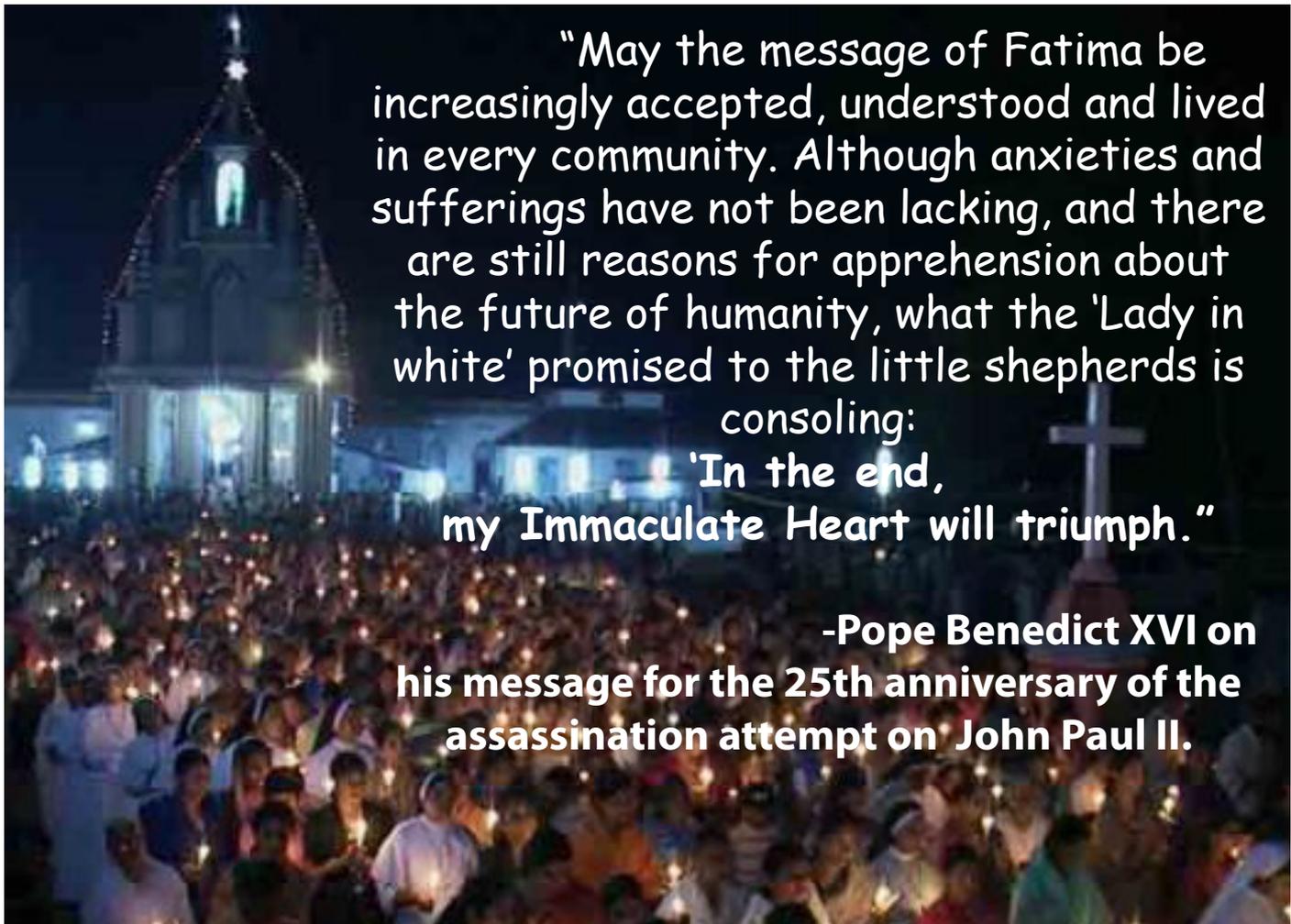
is covered with the thorns with which ungrateful men pierce it at every moment and there is no one to remove them with an act of reparation." And Our Lady said: "But my daughter, look at my Heart surrounded with the thorns with which ungrateful men pierce it at every moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude. You at least try to console me."

And then Our Lady asked that we spend fifteen minutes on each First Saturday in contemplation of one or more mysteries of the Rosary. In addition, She asked for the recitation of the Rosary, Confession, and Holy Communion, all in the spirit of reparation to Her Immaculate Heart.

In explaining this devotion of the Five First Saturdays, Lucia said that it was important because it causes us to renew

our intention once a month. We examine our conscience and go to Confession and, aided by

the devotion of the Rosary, we receive Our Lord in Holy Communion in the spirit of reparation. But also we spend fifteen minutes in practice, as it were, of "Rosary meditation." And even fifteen minutes so spent once a month can help us greatly to apply this great devotion towards unity of our hearts with the Immaculate Heart of Mary for union with the Sacred Heart of Jesus.



"May the message of Fatima be increasingly accepted, understood and lived in every community. Although anxieties and sufferings have not been lacking, and there are still reasons for apprehension about the future of humanity, what the 'Lady in white' promised to the little shepherds is consoling:

'In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph.'"

-Pope Benedict XVI on his message for the 25th anniversary of the assassination attempt on John Paul II.



To find out how you can host the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue, please contact:
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We love to hear from you. We invite everyone to share your personal stories and experiences with the visit of the Image of Our Lady in your Diocese or Church.

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