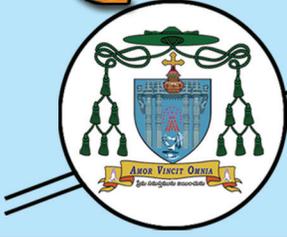


Fatima Vani



News Letter
Diocese of Warangal



Volume: XXXXIII

May 2017

No. 5

FATIMA 2017

Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the
Apparitions of Our Lady



పరంగల్ పీఠం

ఫాతిమా దర్శన శతాబ్ది మహోత్సవాలు - మే 3-13, 2017

ఆవే... ఆవే... ఆవే మరియ



WAY OF THE CROSS AT MAHABUBABAD



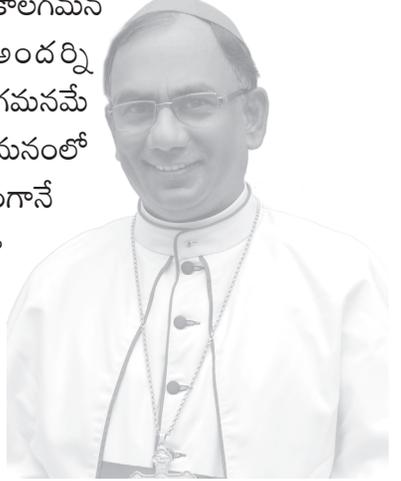
Maundy Thursday: Celebration of Lord Supper with Foot Washing, Good Friday of the Lord's Passion & Easter Vigil at Fatima Cathedral

వందవసంతాల ఫాతిమా దర్శనాలు

క్రీస్తు కేంద్రీకృత సందేశాలు

“నా నిష్కళంక హృదయం జయిస్తుంది”. ఫాతిమా మరియు

శత వత్సరాలు పూర్తి - ఒక శతాబ్దికాల సంపూర్తి ! నమ్మశక్యంకాని కాలగమన నూరేండ్ల ఇవి నిన్ను, మొన్ను, నేడులుగా అన్నిటిని, అందర్ని దాటేసుకుపోయిందా శతకం. నడకే దాని ఉశ్వాస నిశ్వాసాలు. గమనమే దాని ఊపిరి. ఈకాల రాకపోకడలు యాదృచ్ఛికమేనా లేక కాలగమనంలో చోటు చేసికొనే ఘటనలు, సంఘటనలు దైవలీలలకు అనుగుణంగానే జరుగుతున్నామా? భూత-వర్తమాన-భవిష్యత్తుకాలాలు ఓ మాలగా అల్లబడి ఒక లక్ష్యం, ఒక గమ్యంతో నడుస్తున్నాయా అని ఆలోచించి చూడాలి. ఈ నేపథ్యంలో వంద వర్షాల ఫాతిమా దర్శనాలు - సందేశాలు నేటికీ సంగతమేనా? అని ప్రశ్నించుకోవాలి!



ఆ దర్శనాలు అద్భుతం - సందేశాలు మహద్భుతం. ఆ అద్భుత దర్శనాల సందేశాన్ని లోతుగా పరిశీలిస్తే. అవి అన్నీ కూడ “క్రీస్తు కేంద్రీకృత వర్తమానం” అని నిస్సంకోచంగా చెప్పగలను. అవి కాకమ్మకబుర్లో, పిట్టకథలో కావు. హేతువాదాన్ని లెక్క చేయకుండా మానసికమైన రాగరసరంజిత భావనలు కానేకావు. ఫాతిమా ముఖ్య సందేశం “కఠోలిక విశ్వాసం భక్తి ప్రపత్తులలోని కేంద్రీయ సత్యాలను ప్రకాశిస్తుంది” ఉదా:- త్రిత్వం, పూజాబలి, తపస్సు, పశ్చాత్తాపం, జపమాల ప్రార్థన, పాపుల పరివర్తనకై బలియర్పణ, త్యాగాలు, నిష్కళంక హృదయాంకితం, పాపుల శరణమైన మరియు, బిడ్డలపట్ల మాతృహృదయ ప్రేమానురాగాలు, వెరసి క్రీస్తునందు, క్రీస్తుతో, క్రీస్తు ద్వారానే రక్షణ ప్రాప్తి!

అది మొదటి ప్రపంచ సంగ్రామం. సప్తశిరస్సుల, దశకొమ్ముల సర్పసైతాను (దర్శ 12:3) ప్రతీకార జ్వాలతో, చరిత్రలో కనివిని ఎరుగని రీతిలో, తనబదులు మనుష్యులు సాటి మనుషులనే వినాశం చేసికొనే రీతిలో, ప్రపంచదేశాలన్ని ఆ యుద్ధంలో పాల్గొనేలా చేయుటలో విజయం సాధించింది. 1914లో ప్రారంభమైన ఆ యుద్ధం ఆగిపోయే సూచనలు లేకపోగా, ఆపేనాధుడే లేన్నట్లుగా సాగిపోయింది. క్రైస్తవమతాన్ని నాశనం చేయడమే గాక, మార్కిజం మొదలుపెట్టిన “మతం మత్తుమందు” సిద్ధాంతాన్ని దాటుతూ ‘దైవం మిథ్య’నాస్తికతే తథ్యం’ అన్నట్లుగా పిశాచి విప్రవీగుతున్న 1917వ సంవత్సరంలో “బిడ్డల రక్తకన్నీరు” జూచి తల్లడిల్లిపోయిన మరియు పరలోక మహిమానందంలో ఉన్నా, తరలివచ్చింది తనయుల రక్షింపభువికి! క్రైస్తవదేశాల్లో సైతం క్రీస్తు నేర్పిన ప్రేమ, దయ, క్షమ, శత్రు ప్రేమలను మట్టిపాలుజేసి, శత్రు సంహారానికి, వెరసి తమ వినాశానికే పూనుకొన్నారు. ప్రపంచమంతా భీతిల్లే తరుణంలో వినయ మరియు వీరనారీయై సర్పసైతానుని ఎదుర్కొన శ్రీకారం చుట్టింది, సమరశంఖం ఊదించి పోర్చుగల్లు ఫాతిమాలో.

ప్రార్థన, పశ్చాత్తాపం, పరిహారం అను ముప్పేట సందేశంతో సైతానుసాధనమైన నాస్తిక కమ్యూనిష్టు రష్యా శక్తులనోడించు ఔషధమిచ్చింది. మానవాళిని ప్రత్యేకంగా నాస్తిక రష్యాను మరియు నిష్కళంక హృదయానికి అంకితమివ్వకోరింది. తాను ప్రవచించినట్లే యుద్ధం 1918లో ఆగిపోయింది. కాని 2వ ప్రపంచయుద్ధం సమాంతరంగా తొంగిచూస్తూనే ఉంది. ఫాతిమా సందేశాన్ని నిండుగా ఆచరిస్తే 2వ ప్రపంచయుద్ధం జరిగేదికాదు. దాని తర్వాత వచ్చిన 60 ఏళ్ళ చలియుద్ధం (Cold War) కూడా జరిగేది కాదు. క్రమక్రమంగా కథోలిక ప్రపంచం ఫాతిమా సందేశాన్ని ఆచరించటం మొదలిడింది. సర్పసైతాను ఫాతిమా మూడవ రహస్యాన్ని రెండవ జాన్పౌలు పాపుగార్ని పట్టపగలు కథోలిక గుండెకాయ అయిన భక్తపేతురు బృహద్దేవాలయ ప్రాంగణంలో పిస్తోలుతో కాల్చి పండుగ చేసుకొంది. కాని ఫాతిమా భక్తుడు, దైవ సేవకులకే సేవకుడైన, ఆ పాపుగారు మరణాన్ని గెల్చి నాస్తిక కమ్యూనిష్టు కంచుగోడలను కూలగొట్టి ప్రపంచాన్ని దేవుని ముందు ఏకం చేసాడా ధీరవీరుడు!

ఈ వంద వసంతాల చరిత్రలో సైతానును ఓడించే ఎన్నో గొప్ప మార్పులు జరిగాయి. చాల వరకు మనకు ఫాతిమా ఆధ్యాత్మిక సందేశమే తెలుసు, ఆర్థిక, సామాజిక, రాజకీయ, మానవీయ రంగాలను గొప్పగా ప్రభావితం చేసింది ఫాతిమా. అంతేకాక గత వందేళ్ళలో పిశాచి ఎక్కడ పడగవిప్పిందో అక్కడ మరియు దర్శనమిచ్చి సంరక్షించింది. క్రైస్తవులనే గాక క్రైస్తవేతరులను కోకొల్లలుగా ఆకర్షిస్తూ “యేసు చెప్పినట్లు చేయండి” (యోహా 2:5) అను సందేశంతో ఆదరిస్తుంది. భారతదేశంలో కూడా అనేకచోట్ల, తెలంగాణ, ఆంధ్ర రాష్ట్రాల్లో కూడా అనేక మరియు పుణ్య క్షేత్రాలు వెలిసాయి. కాకతీయులేలిన కంచుగడ్డ ఓరుగల్లు ఆ ఫాతిమా మాతకు అంకితమై 65 ఏండ్లుగా విలసిల్లుతుంది. ఇది ఒక తిరునాళ్ళ క్షేత్రంగా విరగబూసి, “పుణ్యక్షేత్రంగా” ముప్పుదంతల, అరువదంతల నూరంతల ఫలాలను అందించబోతుందనడం అతిశయోక్తి కాదు, కాబోదు!

తన అపారకృపతో ఏదేనువనంలో ఆదాం ఏవలలలో నడయాడి, ఆ తదుపరి కాలంలో మండుచున్న పొదలో దర్శనమిచ్చి (నిర్గమ 3:1-10) అనేక తావుల్లో, రకరకాలరీతల్లో దర్శనమిచ్చిన యావే ప్రభువు (హెబ్రీ 1:1) తన కుమారుని నరావతారంతో మానవుడుగా మనమధ్య జీవించి, మరణించి, ఉత్తానమై అనేకమార్లు దర్శనమిచ్చిన క్రీస్తు, తనతల్లి - మానవుల మాతయైన మరియు దర్శనాల ద్వారా మానవాళిని సైతాను సంకెళ్ళనుండి సంరక్షిస్తున్నారు. ప్రపంచాన్ని 2వ జాన్పౌలు జగద్గురువులు 1984లో మరియు నిష్కళంక హృదయానికి అంకితం చేసారు. ఈ సంవత్సరం మే 13న ఓరుగల్లు పీఠాన్ని ఆ నిష్కళంక హృదయానికి అంకితం చేయబోతున్నాం. దానికి ముందుగా మే 3 నుండి జరుగు నవదిన కార్యక్రమాలన్నిటిలో పాల్గొని, జపమాలమాత మెడలో మనందరం ఒక విశ్వాస పూమాలగా ఆమెను అలరించుదాం, ఆశీసులు పొందుదాం శుభం!

మీ జ్ఞాన తండ్రి
+మహా పూజ్య ఉడుమల బాల

ఓరుగల్లు పీఠాన్ని మరియమాత నిష్కళంక హృదయానికి అంకితం చేసే ప్రార్థన

మరియమాత నిష్కళంక హృదయమా నీకు వందనం. ఫాతిమా కన్య మరియ నీకు స్తోత్రము. దేవమాత, శ్రీసభ మాత, మా మాతృమాత, మా మాతృమూర్తి, పరలోక భూలోకానికి రాజ్ణి, పాపుల శరణమా ఈ రోజు ఆనందముతో ఉప్పొంగిపోయే హృదయాలతో మా ఓరుగల్లు పీఠాన్ని నీ నిష్కళంక హృదయానికి అంకితం చేస్తున్నాం. మా ఆధ్యాత్మిక సంక్షేమం కోసం నిరు విరామముగా పనిచేస్తున్న మా పీఠాధిపతి ఉడుమల బాల గారిని, గురువులను, మరవాసులను, నీకు అంకితమిస్తున్నాం. ప్రేమమూర్తి, మాత వీళ్ళందరిని నీ హృదయంలో దాచివుంచు. నీ కుమారుడు యేసు లాగా రూపుదిద్దుకోవడానికి నీ సహాయం అందించు. ఆ విధంగా క్రైస్తవులకు, క్రైస్తవేతరులకు త్రికరణ శుద్ధిగా సాక్షులుగా నిలుస్తూ నీ కుమారుని సేవించేలా దీవింపు. ఈ సందర్భంలో వయోవృద్ధులను కూడా మీకు అంకితం చేస్తున్నాం. వృద్ధాప్యంలో వారికి అండగా నిలుపు. శారీరక బలహీనతలో వారికి బలము నీవే, వారి అనారోగ్యానికి దివ్య ఔషధం నీవే. జరాభారాన్ని (వృద్ధాప్య భరువు) క్రైస్తవ దృక్పథంతో భరించేలా తోడ్పడు. అలా దైవ ప్రేమలో ప్రభద్ధమానవుతూ రాబోవు తరానికి మాతృకగా నిలుపు. నీ కుమారుడు యేసు చివరి పిలుపు కోసం నిరీక్షిస్తూ ఈ లోక యాత్ర ముగిసిన తరువాత ఆయన నుండి బహుమతిని అందుకోడానికి వయోవృద్ధులను సిద్ధపరచు. ప్రతిరోజు వారు శిలువను మోస్తూ నీ కుమారుని రూపుదిద్దుకోడానికి వారికి నీ సహాయం అందించు.

ఈ సందర్భంలో వివాహ జీవితాన్ని సాగిస్తున్న దంపతులను నీకు అంకితం చేస్తున్నాం వారి వైవాహిక జీవితంలో ఎదుర్కొంటున్న విషమ సమస్యలు ఏమిటో నీకు తెలుసు. పవిత్ర మాత దంపతులు దైవోపదేశాలకు విదేయించడానికి దేవుడిచ్చే సంతానాన్ని అపురూపకానుకలుగా అంగీకరించి తీసుకోవడానికి, క్రైస్తవ జీవనంలో పరిపక్వతను సాధించడానికి, క్రైస్తవ విద్య అందించడానికి, దైవాజ్ఞల ప్రకారం జీవించడానికి దంపతులకు నీ భూరి సహాయం అందించు. అనారోగ్యంతో బ్రతుకీడుస్తున్న మా సహోదరి సహోదరులను కూడా నీకు అంకితం చేస్తున్నాం. వాళ్ళ సారకబాధకాలు నీకు తెలియనవి కావు. క్రైస్తవ ఆనందం, ఆశాభావంతో వాళ్ళ హృదయాలను నింపి భాదను తగ్గించు. ప్రేమగలిగిన తల్లి దేవుని చిత్తమైతే వేరు తారగ కోలుకొని సంపూర్ణ ఆరోగ్యాన్ని అనుభవిస్తారు గాక. నేటి యువతరాన్ని నీ చేతుల్లో పెడుతున్నాం ఎగసిపడే వాళ్ళ ఉత్సాహం, కోరికలు, కళలు, మీకు తెలుసు. వీటితో పాటు యువత ఈనాడు ఎదుర్కొంటున్న సమస్యలు కూడా నీకు తెలుసు. మాదకద్రవ్యాలు, ఆశ్చీల సాహిత్యం, కామాన్ని ప్రేరేపించే చిత్రాలు, వివాహేతర సంబంధాలు నేటి యువతను కుంగదీసి బానిసలుగా మారుస్తున్నాయి. కావున మాత వీరిపైన నీ కొంగు కప్పి సంరక్షించు. దేవుని ఆహ్వానాన్ని అందుకొనే ఊదారత్వం యువతకు ప్రసాదించు. దేశానికి, శ్రీసభకు నిండు గౌరవాన్ని చేకూర్చే బాధ్యతగల పౌరులుగా మా యువతను తీర్చిదిద్దు.

మా చిన్నారులను నీకు అంకితం ఇస్తున్నాం. బాప్తిజ సంస్కారం ఆచరించిన నాడు మా బాలలు అందుకొన్న పవిత్రత వరాన్ని పదిలంగా కాపాడుకొనేల దీవింపు. నీ కుమారుడు క్రీస్తు బోధించిన సువార్త విలువల మేరకు మా చిన్నారులను పెంచి పెద్ద చేసే బలాన్ని, విజ్ఞానాన్ని మాకు ప్రసాదించు. చివరగా మాత నీ కుమారుని తమ విమోచకునిగా అంగీకరింపని వాళ్ళు మా గురుపీఠంలో వేలాదిమంది వున్నారు. దేవుని ప్రణాళికను వీరందరికి భయలుపరచు. ఆ విధంగా తండ్రి దేవుని కుటుంబంలో వీరు కూడా సభ్యులవుతారు గాక. అలాగే, ఒకే మందకు చెందుతారు గాక. ప్రేమ స్వరూపిని మాత ఈ రోజు మేము చేస్తున్న ఈ ప్రార్థనను ఆలకించు. బలమైన నీ ప్రార్థన మూలంగా క్రీస్తు మా హృదయాలను పరిపాలింపనిమ్ము. సత్యం, జీవం, పవిత్రత, న్యాయం, ప్రేమ, శాంతి మొదలైన మౌలిక విలువలతో కూడిన నీ కుమారుని రాజ్యానికి మము సాక్షులుగా నిలుపు. నీ చేతుల్లో ఎత్తిపెట్టిన క్రీస్తు యేసు లోకానికి అంతటికి వెలుగు. ఆయన వెలుగులో మమ్ము ముంచి మాకు జ్ఞానోదయం కలిగించు. వంద వసంతాల క్రితం ఫాతిమా పూరిలో నీవిచ్చిన దర్శనాలను పుణ్య వేడుకగా జరుపుకొంటున్నాము. ఈ పుణ్య వేడుకలను దేవునికి మహిమ చేకూర్చేలా నిర్వహించడానికి మాకు నీ సహాయం అందించు తల్లి ఆమెన్.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

I. OUR LADY OF FATIMA : HISTORY AND MYSTERY

May 13 is the anniversary of the apparition of Our Lady to three shepherd children in the small village of Fatima in Portugal in 1917. She appeared six times to Lucia, 9, and her cousins Francisco, 8, and his sister Jacinta, 6, between May 13, 1917 and October 13, 1917.



The story of Fatima begins in 1916, when, against the backdrop of the First World War which had introduced Europe to the most horrific and powerful forms of warfare yet seen, and a year before the Communist revolution would plunge Russia and later Eastern Europe into six decades of oppression under militant atheistic governments, a resplendent figure appeared to the three children who were in the field tending the family sheep. “I am the Angel of Peace,” said the figure, who appeared to them two more times that year exhorting them to accept the sufferings that the Lord allowed them to undergo as an act of reparation for the sins which offend Him, and to pray constantly for the conversion of sinners.

Then, on the 13th day of the month of Our Lady, May 1917, an apparition of ‘a woman all in white, more brilliant than the sun’ presented itself to the three children saying “Please don’t be afraid of me, I’m not going to harm you.” Lucia asked her where she came from and she responded, “I come from Heaven.” The woman wore a white mantle edged with gold and held a rosary in her hand. The woman asked them to pray and devote themselves to the Holy Trinity and to “say the Rosary every day, to bring peace to the world and an end to the war.”

She also revealed that the children would suffer, especially from the unbelief of their friends and families, and that the two younger children, Francisco and Jacinta would be taken to Heaven very soon but Lucia would live longer in order to spread her message and devotion to the Immaculate Heart.

In the last apparition the woman revealed her name in response to Lucia’s question: “I am the Lady of the Rosary.”

That same day, 70,000 people had turned out to witness the apparition, following a promise by the woman that she would show the people that the apparitions were true. They saw the sun make three circles and move around the sky in an incredible zigzag

movement in a manner which left no doubt in their minds about the veracity of the apparitions. By 1930 the Bishop had approved of the apparitions and they have been approved by the Church as authentic.

The messages Our Lady imparted during the apparitions to the children concerned the violent trials that would afflict the world by means of war, starvation, and the persecution of the Church and the Holy Father in the twentieth century if the world did not make reparation for sins. She exhorted the Church to pray and offer sacrifices to God in order that peace may come upon the world, and that the trials may be averted.

Our Lady of Fatima revealed three prophetic “secrets,” the first two of which were revealed earlier and refer to the vision of hell and the souls languishing there, the request for an ardent devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the prediction of the Second World War, and finally the prediction of the immense damage that Russia would do to humanity by abandoning the Christian faith and embracing Communist totalitarianism. The third “secret” was not revealed until the year 2000, and referred to the persecutions that humanity would undergo in the last century: “The good will be martyred; the Holy Father will have much to suffer; various nations will be annihilated”. The suffering of the popes of the 20th century has been interpreted to include the assassination attempt on Pope John Paul II in 1981, which took place on May 13, the 64th anniversary of the apparitions. The Holy Father attributed his escape from certain death to the intervention of Our Lady: “... it was a mother's hand that guided the bullet's path and in his throes the Pope halted at the threshold of death.”

What is the central meaning of the message of Fatima? Nothing different from what the Church has always taught: it is, as Cardinal Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict the XVI, has put it, “the exhortation to prayer as the path of “salvation for souls” and, likewise, the summons to penance and conversion.”

Perhaps the most well known utterance of the apparition of Our Lady at Fatima was her confident declaration that “My Immaculate Heart will triumph”. Cardinal Ratzinger has interpreted this utterance as follows : “The Heart open to God, purified by contemplation of God, is stronger than guns and weapons of every kind. The fiat of Mary, the word of her heart, has changed the history of the world, because it brought the Saviour into the world - because, thanks to her Yes, God could become man in our world and remains so for all time. The Evil One has power in this world, as we see and experience continually; he has power because our freedom continually lets itself be led away from God. But since God himself took a human heart and has thus steered human freedom towards what is good, the freedom to choose evil no longer has the last word.

II. THE MEANING OF FATIMA: 100 YEARS LATER

The year 2017 marks the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady to the three shepherd children at Fatima, Portugal, where the Blessed Mother appeared once each month from May 13 until Oct. 13, 1917.

The message of Fatima highlights many central truths and devotions of the Catholic faith: the Trinity, the Eucharist, penance, the Rosary and sacrifices for the conversion of sinners. There is special emphasis on the Immaculate Heart of Mary, which is a refuge of maternal love for us all and a sure path that leads us to God. In the end, Mary's Immaculate Heart will triumph because Mary is full of God's grace and is all pure. She has the heart of a mother who cares for her children and wishes them to be saved by her divine Son, Jesus.

Although 2017 marks the centenary year, the Fatima apparitions began with the three apparitions of the Angel of Peace (also called the Angel of Portugal) in 1916 and extended beyond 1917 with subsequent apparitions given to Sister Lucia dos Santos in Pontevedra, Spain (1925-1927) and Tuy, Spain (1929).

Fatima is one of the most significant of all Marian apparitions. Along with Guadalupe (Dec. 12) and Lourdes (Feb. 11), it is one of three Marian apparitions honored with a feast day. In 2002, Pope St. John Paul II added the May 13 feast of Our Lady of Fatima to the general Roman calendar. May 13 was the day of the first Fatima apparition of 1917, and May 13, 1981, was the day when St. John Paul II survived an attempt on his life in St. Peter's Square. John Paul II credited his survival to the intervention of Our Lady of Fatima. The assassin's bullet that narrowly missed killing the pope now is inserted in a crown of Our Lady housed at the Fatima shrine. Fatima is also linked with the collapse of Russian communism more than 25 years ago.

It is estimated that some 4-5 million people visit Fatima each year, and more are expected for the centennial year, including a visit by Pope Francis, who plans to travel to Portugal to celebrate the 100-year anniversary. Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us.

III. THE 6 APPARITIONS OF 1917

There were six Marian apparitions to the shepherd children from May 13 to Oct. 13, 1917. All of these apparitions took place on the 13th of the month except for the August apparition.

May 13, 1917 : The children were tending their sheep near the Cova da Iria in Fatima, a few miles from their home. A beautiful young woman dressed in white appeared to them over the holm oak. The Lady said she was from heaven and wanted the children to

return to the same place at the same hour on the 13th of each month for six months. She asked the children to pray the Rosary every day.

Angelic Apparitions of 1916 : The six apparitions of Our Lady to the children at Fatima were preceded by three apparitions of the Angel of Peace in 1916 at or near their home in the hamlet of Aljustrel. The Angel of Peace prepared the children for the Marian apparitions that would follow. He taught them several prayers, and, in his final apparition in autumn 1916, he gave the children holy Communion.

June 13, 1917 : Our Lady again asked the children to pray the Rosary every day, and she asked Lucia to learn to read and write. She revealed that Jacinta and Francisco would die soon, but Lucia would live longer. She then revealed that God wished to establish in the world devotion to her Immaculate Heart, and her heart would be a refuge and a way to lead people to God.

July 13, 1917 : The Lady disclosed a three-part secret to the children.

Aug. 13, 1917 : The children missed their scheduled meeting with the Lady at the Cova da Iria on Aug. 13 because they were detained by the anti-clerical civil authorities. The children resisted efforts to have them deny the apparitions. They were put in prison and released on Aug. 15, the feast of the Assumption. The Lady then appeared to the children a few days later, on Aug. 19 at Valinhos near their home in Aljustrel. The Lady asked the children to continue to come to the Cova da Iria on the 13th of each month and to pray the Rosary every day. She told them that she would perform a miracle the last month (October).

Sept. 13, 1917 : The Lady asked the children to continue to pray the Rosary for the end of the war. She told them that Jesus as well as St. Joseph would appear in October.

Oct. 13, 1917 : The most dramatic of the apparitions. Some 55,000 people gathered on a rainy day near Cova da Iria in Fatima and witnessed the “miracle of the sun.” Some 20,000 other people witnessed the miracle from as far away as 25 miles. The sun started spinning and grew larger. It looked like it was going to fall on the earth. People fell to their knees in fear. The people then noticed that their clothes were completely dry even though they had been standing in the rain for some time. Even unbelievers and skeptics witnessed the phenomenon. The secular newspaper, *O Século*, had a front page story on “How the sun danced at midday in Fatima.”

While the people were looking at the miracle of the sun, the three children saw a sequence of apparitions. St. Joseph was seen with the Christ Child, and they appeared to bless the world. The Blessed Mother was seen robed in white with a blue mantle; then she appeared

as Our Lady of Sorrows and then as Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. The Lady revealed her identity to the children as “Our Lady of the Rosary.” She asked them to pray the Rosary every day and to have a chapel built at Cova da Iria, the site of the apparitions.

IV. 100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FATIMA APPARITIONS

TIMELINE

- **March 22, 1907** : Birth of Lucia dos Santos.

- **June 11, 1908** : Birth of Francisco Marto.

- **March 11, 1910** : Birth of Jacinta Marto.

- **Spring, 1916** : First apparition of the angel to Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta; he teaches them the Pardon Prayer.

- **Summer, 1916** : Second apparition of the angel; he appeals to the children to pray, saying the Hearts of Jesus and Mary have “designs” on the children, and identifies himself as the “Angel of Portugal.”



- **Fall, 1916** : Third apparition of the angel; he brings them Communion and teaches them the Angel’s Prayer (see page 28).

- **May 13, 1917** : First apparition of Our Lady of Fatima. Children asked to return to site of apparitions on the 13th of each month for six months at the same hour. Our Lady asks the children if they will offer all they have to suffer for poor sinners; the children say they will, to which Our Lady responds that they will have much to suffer, “but the grace of God will be with you and will strengthen you.” Our Lady further says, “Say the Rosary every day, to bring peace to the world and an end to the war.”

- **June 13, 1917** : Second apparition of Our Lady of Fatima. Request for the children to return on the 13th of each month. Giving of Fatima Prayer to be included in the Rosary. Lucia told that Francisco and Jacinta would be taken to Heaven soon, but Lucia would remain in the world to help establish devotion to Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart.

- **July 13, 1917** : Third apparition of Our Lady of Fatima. Our Lady gives the children a secret in three parts. Our Lady promises a miracle in October so that all may see and believe. “Make sacrifices for sinners, and say often, especially while making a sacrifice: O Jesus, this is for love of Thee, for the conversion of sinners, and in reparation for offences committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.”

- **Aug. 13, 1917** : The local mayor kidnaps the child visionaries. They are held for several days, threatened with being boiled in oil if they will not tell the secret entrusted to them.

- **Aug. 15, 1917** : Children released on the Solemnity of the Assumption.
- **Aug. 19, 1917** : Fourth apparition of Our Lady of Fatima. Our Lady repeats her previous requests for the children to come to the apparition site at the same time each month, and says, “Pray, pray very much. Make sacrifices for sinners. Many souls go to hell, because no one is willing to help them with sacrifice.”
- **Sept. 13, 1917** : Fifth apparition of Our Lady of Fatima. Our Lady tells the children, “Continue the Rosary, my children. Say it every day that the war may end. In October our Lord will come, as well as Our Lady of Sorrows and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. Saint Joseph will appear with the Child Jesus to bless the world.” She also asks them to ease their physical mortifications.
- **Oct. 13, 1917** : Sixth apparition of Our Lady of Fatima. She tells the children “I am the Lady of the Rosary.... People must amend their lives and ask pardon for their sins. They must not offend our Lord anymore, for He is already too much offended!” Though it was raining on the day of the apparition and had been doing so for more than a day before the miracle, when Lucia cries out, “Look at the sun!” the assembled crowd of around 70,000 people see the sun spinning, changing colors, and “dancing.” At one point, the sun seems to fall toward the earth, leading many to think it is the end of the world. When the miracle ceases, the ground, which had been soaked minutes earlier, is inexplicably dry. Numerous newspapers carry reports from journalists on the scene. For miles around, there are eyewitnesses to the miracle.
- **Oct. 24-25, 1917** : October Revolution in Russia. Bolsheviks take power.
- **Nov. 11, 1918** : End of World War I.
- **April 4, 1919** : Death of Francisco.
- **Feb. 20, 1920** : Death of Jacinta.
- **Dec. 10, 1925** : Apparition of Our Lady and the Christ Child to Lucia in Pontevedra, Spain. The Christ Child describes how Mary’s Heart is wounded by blasphemies and outrages against it. The Blessed Virgin requests the Five First Saturdays devotion.
- **Feb. 15, 1926** : Our Lord appears to Sr. Lucia as the Christ Child to reiterate Mary’s request for the Five First Saturdays.
- **Dec. 17, 1927** : Sister Lucia given permission by our Lord to write down the first two parts of the secret.
- **June 13, 1929** : Sister Lucia is given a vision of the Blessed Trinity and Our Lady. Our Lady asks for the consecration of Russia by the Holy Father in union with the bishops of the world.

• **May 29-30, 1930** : Our Eucharistic Lord reveals to Sr. Lucia at Tuy, Spain, five kinds of blasphemies against the Blessed

Mother's Immaculate Heart :

First : blasphemies against the Immaculate Conception

Second : against her Virginity

Third : against the Divine Maternity, refusing, at the same time, to receive her as the Mother of mankind

Fourth : those who seek publicly to implant, in the hearts of children, indifference, disrespect, and even hate for this Immaculate Mother

Fifth : those who revile her directly in her sacred images

Our Lord told Lucia : Here, dear daughter, is the motive that led the Immaculate Heart of Mary to petition Me to ask for this small act of reparation. And, out of regard for her, to move My mercy to pardon those souls who have had the misfortune to offend her. As for you, seek endlessly, with your prayers and sacrifices, to move Me to mercy in regard to these poor souls.

• **Aug. 29, 1931**: In Rianjo, Spain, our Lord communicated to Sr. Lucia His dissatisfaction with the failure of the popes and Catholic bishops to obey His command to consecrate Russia. Sister Lucia also recorded our Lord later saying: “They did not wish to heed My request. Like the King of France, they will repent and do it, but it will be late. Russia will have already spread her errors throughout the world, provoking wars, and persecutions against the Church; the Holy Father will have much to suffer.” Our Lord is referring to His Sacred Heart apparitions. On June 17, 1689, the Sacred Heart of Jesus manifested to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque. As relayed by St. Margaret Mary, Jesus commanded the king of France to consecrate France to the Sacred Heart. For 100 years, the kings of France did not obey. On June 17, 1789, King Louis XVI of France was stripped of his legislative authority in the course of the upheaval that came to be known as the French Revolution. This same 100 years was the time of the so-called “Enlightenment,” when humanity sought to privilege reason over revelation. For more on the consequences of the late consecration of Russia, see “Has Our Lady’s call for the consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart been answered?”

• **Jan. 25-26, 1938** : Strange light in the sky across Europe, identified by Sr. Lucia as the signal for a coming war that Our Lady had spoken of in the second part of the secret.

- **March 12-13, 1938** : Hitler announces Germany's annexation of Austria.
- **Aug. 12, 1938** : German military mobilizes.
- **Oct. 15, 1938** : Germans take Sudetenland (much of Czechoslovakia).
- **March 2, 1939** : Pius XII elected.
- **Feb. 10, 1939** : Pius XI dies.
- **Sept. 1, 1939** : German invasion of Poland.
- **Oct. 31, 1942** : Pius XII consecrates the world to the Immaculate Heart.
- **Dec. 8, 1942** : Pius XII repeats the consecration of the world to the Immaculate Heart. Neither consecration involves the bishops of the world, so neither is the fulfilment of Our Lady's request.
- **Spring, 1943** : Jesus appears to Sr. Lucia and expresses His joy at Pius XII's consecration.
- **Jan. 3, 1944** : Sister Lucia writes down the third secret of Fatima on orders from her diocesan bishop, the bishop of Leiria, Portugal.
- **July 7, 1952** : Pius XII consecrates the Russian people to the Immaculate Heart, though again, without the participation of the bishops of the world.
- **April 4, 1957** : The envelope containing the third secret is placed in the Secret Archives of the Holy Office.
- **Aug. 17, 1959** : Saint John XXIII is brought the third secret of Fatima. Within the next few days, he reads the third secret and decides not to reveal it.
- **March 27, 1965** : Pope Paul VI reads the third secret of Fatima and also decides not to release it.
- **May 13, 1981** : On the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima and the anniversary of the first apparition of Our Lady at Fatima, St. John Paul II was shot in St. Peter's Square. During his convalescence, he sends for the third secret of Fatima and the Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska. He sees in his shooting both the fulfillment of the shooting of the "bishop in white" (the Pope) in the third secret and Our Lady of Fatima's maternal intercession to save him from death.
- **May 12-13, 1982** : Saint John Paul II goes on pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal, where he is stabbed by a Spanish cleric in a second assassination

attempt. He is not seriously injured. He leaves one of the bullets that had been fired at him the year before to be made a part of the crown of the statue of Our Lady of Fatima.

- **March 25, 1984** : Saint John Paul II, in union with the bishops of the world, performs the consecration of the world to the Immaculate Heart.

- **March 26, 1984** : Father Luis Kondor, vice-postulator for the causes of canonization for Francisco and Jacinta Marto, tells St. John Paul II that before he'd left Portugal for Rome to be present at the consecration, Sr. Lucia had said to him that the Holy Father will now do all that is in his power.

- **Aug. 29, 1989** : Sister Lucia writes a letter to Sr. Mary of Bethlehem, saying of the 1984 consecration, "Afterward people asked me if it was made in the way our Lady wanted, and I replied, 'Yes.' From that time, it is made!"

- **Nov. 9, 1989** : The fall of the Berlin Wall.

- **Dec. 25-26, 1991** : The USSR is dissolved.

- **Nov. 21, 1999** : Sister Lucia writes a letter saying, "[The consecration] was later made by the present pontiff, John Paul II, on March 25, 1984, this after he wrote to all the bishops of the world"

- **May 13, 2000** : Beatification of Francisco and Jacinta by St. John Paul II during the Great Jubilee of the Incarnation, less than a month after the canonization of St. Faustina Kowalska, the Secretary and Apostle of Divine Mercy, as the first saint of the third millennium. Sister Lucia was present for the beatification liturgy.

- **June 26, 2000** : The Vatican publishes the third part of the secret of Fatima.

- **Feb. 13, 2005** : Death of Sr. Lucia.

- **April 2, 2005** : Death of St. John Paul II on a First Saturday and the Vigil of Divine Mercy Sunday.

- **May 13, 2013** : Cardinal Jose Polycarp, patriarch of Lisbon, Portugal, consecrates the pontificate of Pope Francis to Our Lady of Fatima at the personal request of the Holy Father.



- **Oct. 13, 2013** : Pope Francis has the original statue of Our Lady of Fatima with the assassin's bullet in the crown brought to St. Peter's Square and consecrates the world to the Immaculate Heart.

V. PLENARY INDULGENCE FOR THE FATIMA CENTENNIAL

Under the mandate of Pope Francis, the Church's centennial celebration of the apparitions of Fatima features a special plenary indulgence (the complete remission of all temporal punishment due to sin) from Nov. 27, 2016 to Nov. 26, 2017.

The plenary indulgence of the jubilee is granted :

a) to the faithful who visit the Shrine of Fatima in pilgrimage and devoutly participate in a celebration or prayer in honor of the Virgin Mary, pray the Our Father, recite the symbol of faith (Creed), and invoke Our Lady of Fatima;



b) to the pious faithful who visit with devotion an image of Our Lady of Fatima solemnly displayed for public veneration in any church, oratory or adequate place, during the days of the anniversary of the apparitions (the 13th of each month, from May to October 2017), and devotedly participate there in any celebration or prayer in honor of the Virgin Mary, pray the Our Father, recite the symbol of faith (Creed) and invoke Our Lady of Fatima;

c) to the faithful who, due to their age, disease, or other serious reason, are impeded from moving, if, repentant of all their sins and having the firm intention of performing, as soon as possible, the three conditions mentioned below, in front of a small image of Our Lady of Fatima, spiritually unite in the days of the apparitions to the jubilee celebrations, offering with trust to God, all-merciful through Mary, their prayers and pains, or the sacrifices of their own lives.

A plenary indulgence can be gained once a day. In order to obtain it, the faithful must, in addition to being in the state of grace:

- have the interior disposition of complete detachment from sin, even venial sin;
- have sacramentally confessed their sins;
- receive the Holy Eucharist (it is certainly better to receive it while participating in Holy Mass, but for the indulgence only Holy Communion is required); and
- pray for the intentions of the Holy Father.

A statue of Our Lady of Fatima is carried through a crowd May 13, 2016, at the Marian shrine of Fatima in Central Portugal. Thousands attended the 99th anniversary of the first apparition of Mary to three shepherd children. CNS photo.

VI. POPE FRANCIS TO VISIT FATIMA IN MAY 2017

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The Vatican confirmed that Pope Francis will visit Portugal in 2017 to mark the 100th anniversary of the Marian apparitions of Fatima.

The pope, who accepted the invitation made by President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa and the bishops of Portugal, "will go on a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima from May 12-13," the Vatican announced Dec. 17.



The pilgrimage will mark the anniversary of the Marian apparitions, which first began on May 13, 1917, when three shepherd children reported seeing the Virgin Mary.

The apparitions continued once a month until Oct. 13, 1917, and later were declared worthy of belief by the Catholic Church.

Following the announcement, Father Carlos Cabecinhas, rector of the Fatima shrine told Agencia Ecclesia, the news agency of the Portuguese bishops' conference, that the visit was a "cause for joy" for the shrine.

"For the shrine of Fatima, it is a great joy to receive this confirmation of Pope Francis' visit," he said.

"We know that those days will be a pilgrimage marked by this festivity that, on the one hand is for the centennial of the apparitions and, on the other hand, marks the presence of the pope in our midst and a pope as beloved as Pope Francis," Father Cabecinhas said.

While the Vatican confirmed the dates of the visit, the pope had already said that he intended to go.

"Certainly, as things presently stand, I will go to Portugal, and only to Fatima," he told journalists during his return flight to Rome from Azerbaijan Oct. 2.

Pope Francis will be the fourth pontiff to visit the Marian shrine, following the footsteps of Blessed Paul VI, Saint John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI, who each paid homage different years to Mary on the anniversary of the first apparition May 13.

VII. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Isn't Fatima just private revelation? Why should we pay attention to private revelation?

We must all be aware with what caution Holy Mother Church looks upon private revelations, particularly when through them some action is requested of Church authorities that would affect the Church's liturgical life or devotional practices. This was certainly the case with the revelations granted to the now "Saint" Faustina. The great theologian and Doctor of the Church St. Thomas Aquinas, mindful in this matter of the Apostle Paul's warning in his First Letter to the Thessalonians (5:19-21), writes: "Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good," do not treat private revelations lightly. He places them in the category of the prophetic ministry in the Church as he considers verse 18 from chapter 29 of the Book of Proverbs. That passage is usually translated: "Where [there is] no vision, the people perish." But the great theologian and Doctor of the Church St. Thomas prefers the translation that reads: "Where there is no prophecy, the people cast off restraint" (Summa Theologiae, 2a2ae, Q.174, article 6).

Saint Thomas writes, "That is why at every period men were instructed by God about what they were to do, according as was expedient for the salvation of the elect," not to proclaim new doctrines (for that would be incompatible with the concept of prophecy), but to offer a deeper understanding of particular revealed truths, or to give guidance to leaders in the Church as to actions they should take in given times and circumstances for the good government of the faithful. For "... divine grace which inspires prophets is, for man, a still more effective means of help," St. Thomas continues. "Light from prophecy extends also to the directing of human acts. In this sense prophecy is needed for the ruling of a people, and especially as regards the worship of God. For in this nature is insufficient, and grace indispensable" (Summa Theologiae, 2a2ae, Q.172, article 1 ad 3 and 4).

Saint Peter is quite emphatic about the source of prophecy, saying "... for no prophecy ever came through human will; but rather human beings moved by the Holy Spirit spoke under the influence of God" (2 Pet 1:21).

The great Jesuit theologian Fr. Karl Rahner was asked by the father general of his religious order to explain the rationale of private revelations, such as those regarding the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, of which the Society of Jesus was the principal proponent. Father Rahner pointed out that, "A private revelation as a mission to the Church signifies not so much an Indicative [a declaration] communicating something new ... but an Imperative [a command] which, within the concept of a particular situation of the Church,

points out a particular course of action from the many possible, according to the universal and public revelation, as the most urgently needing to be realized. ... An imperative of this kind is possible because, while in the knowledge [the entire body] of the faith many things at the same time can be true and good, in the action [exercise] of the faith not everything that is true and good can be actuated at the same time, to the same degree and with the same intensity. Hence, the private revelation as a mission to the Church ... answers the question as to what is most urgently to be done here and now in accordance with the general principles of the faith” (Theological Investigations, Vol. III, pp. 338, 339), and, St. Thomas would add, “according as [is] expedient for the salvation of the elect” (cf. above). ...

2. What is the Secret of Fatima?

The secret is made up of three distinct parts. The first two refer especially to the vision of hell, devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the Second World War, and finally the vast damage Russia would do to humanity by forsaking the Christian faith and embracing totalitarianism. Sister Lucia writes:

the first part is the vision of hell.

Our Lady showed us a great sea of fire which seemed to be under the earth. Plunged in this fire were demons and souls in human form, like transparent burning embers, all blackened or burnished bronze, floating about in the conflagration, now raised into the air by the flames that issued from within themselves together with great clouds of smoke, now falling back on every side like sparks in a huge fire, without weight or equilibrium, and amid shrieks and groans of pain and despair, which horrified us and made us tremble with fear. The demons could be distinguished by their terrifying and repulsive likeness to frightful and unknown animals, all black and transparent. This vision lasted but an instant. How can we ever be grateful enough to our kind heavenly Mother, who had already prepared us by promising, in the first Apparition, to take us to Heaven. Otherwise, I think we Would have died of fear and terror.

We then looked up at our lady, who said to us so kindly and so sadly:

You have seen hell where the souls of poor sinners go. To save them, God wishes to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart. If what I say to you is done, many souls will be saved and there will be peace. The war is going to end: but if people do not cease offending God, a worse one will break out during the Pontificate of Pius XI. When you see a night illumined by an unknown light, know that this is the great sign given you by God that he is about to punish the world for its crimes, by means of war, famine, and persecutions of the Church and of the Holy Father. To prevent this, I shall

come to ask for the consecration of Russia to my Immaculate Heart, and the Communion of reparation on the First Saturdays. If my requests are heeded, Russia will be converted, and there will be peace; if not, she will spread her errors throughout the world, causing wars and persecutions of the Church. The good will be martyred; the Holy Father will have much to suffer; various nations will be annihilated. In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph. The Holy Father will consecrate Russia to me, and she shall be converted, and a period of peace will be granted to the world.

And Here Is The Third Part Of The Secret :

The third part of the secret revealed at the Cova da Iria-Fatima, on 13 July 1917.

I write in obedience to you, my God, who command me to do so through his Excellency the Bishop of Leiria and through your Most Holy Mother and mine.

After the two parts which I have already explained, at the left of Our Lady and a little above, we saw an Angel with a flaming sword in his left hand; flashing, it gave out flames that looked as though they would set the world on fire; but they died out in contact with the splendour that Our Lady radiated towards him from her right hand: pointing to the earth with his right hand, the Angel cried out in a loud voice: 'Penance, Penance, Penance!'. And we saw in an immense light that is God: 'something similar to how people appear in a mirror when they pass in front of it' a Bishop dressed in White 'we had the impression that it was the Holy Father'. Other Bishops, Priests, men and women Religious going up a steep mountain, at the top of which there was a big Cross of rough-hewn trunks as of a cork-tree with the bark; before reaching there the Holy Father passed through a big city half in ruins and half trembling with halting step, afflicted with pain and sorrow, he prayed for the souls of the corpses he met on his way; having reached the top of the mountain, on his knees at the foot of the big Cross he was killed by a group of soldiers who fired bullets and arrows at him, and in the same way there died one after another the other Bishops, Priests, men and women Religious, and various lay people of different ranks and positions. Beneath the two arms of the Cross there were two Angels each with a crystal aspersorium in his hand, in which they gathered up the blood of the Martyrs and with it sprinkled the souls that were making their way to God.

3. When did Our Lady come to request the consecration of Russia?

Sister Lucia describes the June 13, 1929 apparition that occurred in the convent chapel of the Dorothean Sisters in Tuy, Spain, as follows:

The whole chapel was illuminated by a supernatural light and a Cross of light appeared above the altar, reaching the ceiling. In a bright light at the upper part of the Cross could

be seen the face of a man and His body to the waist (the Father). On His breast was a dove, also of light (the Holy Spirit), and nailed to the Cross was the body of another man (the Son). Somewhat above the waist, I could see a chalice and a large Host suspended in the air onto which drops of blood were falling from the face of Jesus crucified and from the wound in His side. These drops ran down onto the Host and fell into the chalice. Our Lady was beneath the right arm of the Cross. It was Our Lady of Fatima with her Heart within a crown of thorns and flames. Under the left arm of the Cross, large letters, as if of crystal clear water, which ran down over the altar, formed the words “Grace and Mercy.” I understood that it was the Mystery of the Most Holy Trinity which was shown to me.

[Our Lady said:] The moment has come in which God asks the Holy Father, in union with all the Bishops of the world, to make the consecration of Russia to my Immaculate Heart, promising to save it by this means. There are so many souls whom the Justice of God condemns for sins committed against me, that I have come to ask for reparation: sacrifice yourself for this intention and pray

VIII. TO DO, AS GIVEN BY OUR LADY OF FATIMA

1. Pray the Rosary daily for peace in the world.

Our Lady said to the three shepherd children at Fatima, Portugal, on July 13, 1917, “Continue to say the Rosary every day in honor of Our Lady of the Rosary, to obtain the peace of the world and the end of the war, because only she can obtain it.” She reiterated that call throughout her apparitions there, saying in May 1917, “Say the Rosary every day, to bring peace to the world and an end to the war [World War I],” and in September, “Continue the Rosary, my children. Say it every day that the war may end.”

2. Perform and spread devotions to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

3. Make reparation for blasphemies and outrages against Mary’s Immaculate Heart, especially by performing the Five First Saturdays devotion.

You have seen hell where the souls of poor sinners go. To save them, God wishes to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart. If what I say to you is done, many souls will be saved and there will be peace. The war is going to end: but if people do not cease offending God, a worse one will break out during the Pontificate of Pius XI. When you see a night illumined by an unknown light, know that this is the great sign given you by God that he is about to punish the world for its crimes, by means of war, famine, and persecutions of the Church and of the Holy Father. To prevent this, I shall come to ask for the consecration of Russia to my Immaculate Heart, and the Communion of reparation on the First Saturdays. If my requests are heeded, Russia will be converted,

and there will be peace; if not, she will spread her errors throughout the world, causing wars and persecutions of the Church. The good will be martyred; the Holy Father will have much to suffer; various nations will be annihilated. In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph. The Holy Father will consecrate Russia to me, and she shall be converted, and a period of peace will be granted to the world

The Blessed Mother to Sr. Lucia dos Santos on Dec. 10, 1925:

See, my daughter, my Heart encircled by thorns with which ungrateful men pierce it at every moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude. Do you, at least, strive to console me. Tell them that I promise to assist at the hour of death with the graces necessary for salvation all those who, in order to make reparation to me, on the First Saturday of five successive months, go to Confession, receive Holy Communion, say five decades of the Rosary, and keep me company for a quarter of an hour, meditating on the ... mysteries of the Rosary.

4. Pray, fast, and do penance for the conversion of poor sinners and to make reparation for the sins of the world.

5. Consecrate yourself to the Immaculate Heart.

Has Our Lady's call for the consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart been answered?

Yes, according to the Holy See and Sr. Lucia. In the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith's document "The Message of Fatima," released on June 26, 2000, we read:

Sister Lucia personally confirmed that this solemn and universal act of consecration corresponded to what Our Lady wished ("Sim, està feita, tal como Nossa Senhora a pediu, desde o dia 25 de Março de 1984": "Yes it has been done just as Our Lady asked, on 25 March 1984": Letter of 8 November 1989).

Hence any further discussion or request is without basis.

Are you sick of turning on the news and seeing nothing but violence and mayhem? Well, there's something we can do to bring about peace.

'War is your fault'

My fellow Marian Fr. Seraphim Michalenko sometimes tells a story that a priest ministering in Japan shared with him in Rome. This priest was at an international gathering of Christians from across the world, attended by foreign dignitaries. The ambassador from Japan approached the priest, verified that the priest served in Japan and was a Catholic priest, and then said, "War is your fault."

The priest was surprised and asked what the ambassador meant. The ambassador said,

“You Catholics, all of you — we do not have peace in the world. It is your fault.”

The priest said, “Ambassador, why do you blame us?”

The ambassador said, “I’ve read about this. The Lady came to you at Fatima, right? That’s what you believe? She told you what to do to secure peace in the world. Well, there’s no peace in the world, so obviously you Catholics haven’t done it.”

The priest had to acknowledge that the ambassador was correct, but still tried to protest, saying, “Isn’t peace everyone’s responsibility?”

The ambassador was vehement. “No, she came to you Catholics. Not to Buddhists. Not to Hindus. She came to you, and it is your responsibility.”

That ambassador had more faith than a lot of Catholics! But he’s right - Our Lady came and asked for specific things at Fatima. If we listened to her and did what she asked, there would be peace in the world. Among her requests:

- pray the Rosary every day for peace in the world;
- the consecration of Russia and each of us individually to Mary’s Immaculate Heart;
- do our daily duties out of love, dedicating everything to God; and
- make reparation for sins against the Immaculate Heart of Mary by observing the “Five First Saturdays of Reparation.”

What are the Five First Saturdays?

Our Lady explained those Five First Saturdays to Sr. Lucia dos Santos, one of the Fatima visionaries, on Dec. 10, 1925, in the following way:

See, my daughter, my Heart encircled by thorns with which ungrateful men pierce it at every moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude. Do you, at least, strive to console me. Tell them that I promise to assist at the hour of death with the graces necessary for salvation all those who, in order to make reparation to me, on the First Saturday of five successive months, go to Confession, receive Holy Communion, say five decades of the Rosary, and keep me company for a quarter of an hour, meditating on the ... mysteries of the Rosary.

Why five First Saturdays in particular? Jesus explained this to Sr. Lucia on May 29-30, 1930, saying:

Daughter, the motive is simple: There are five kinds of offenses and blasphemies spoken against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

First : blasphemies against the Immaculate Conception

Second : against her Virginity

Third : against the Divine Maternity, refusing, at the same time, to receive her as the Mother of mankind.

Fourth : those who seek publicly to implant, in the hearts of children, indifference, disrespect, and even hate for this Immaculate Mother

Fifth : those who revile her directly in her sacred images

Here, dear daughter, is the motive that led the Immaculate Heart of Mary to petition Me to ask for this small act of reparation. And, out of regard for her, to move My mercy to pardon those souls who have had the misfortune to offend her. As for you, seek endlessly, with your prayers and sacrifices, to move Me to mercy in regard to these poor souls.

Do they still matter?

Now, a lot of people have forgotten about the Five First Saturdays devotion, but it's still relevant today - wars are still going on! We still haven't seen the fulfillment of Our Lady's promise that "In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph. The Holy Father will consecrate Russia to me, and she will be converted, and a period of peace will be granted to the world." According to Sr. Lucia, St. John Paul II consecrated Russia to Mary's Immaculate Heart on March 25, 1984. The USSR fell shortly afterwards. And yet there's still not peace in the world. Why? Ask yourself: Have most of us been faithful to her requests, especially the First Saturdays of Reparation?

So I call on everyone who loves Mary to start making the Five First Saturdays a regular part of their prayer life. For anyone who visits the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, on the First Saturday of each month, it's easy! Pilgrims can go to Confession, pray the Rosary for Life, and attend Mass with the intention of making reparation to Our Lady - as she requested. To fulfill the requirement to meditate for 15 minutes on the Mysteries of the Rosary, you can prayerfully walk the Stations of the Cross on Eden Hill for at least 15 minutes, remaining aware of keeping Our Lady company in spirit throughout her Son's Passion and Death.

One and done?

If we've made the Five First Saturdays once, are we done for life? No! You can and should make the Five First Saturdays more than once. In fact, I highly recommend it as a great spiritual practice! Get a monthly tune-up with Confession, Mass, Communion, and immersing yourself in the Mysteries of the Rosary, all offered in reparation for the many serious offenses committed against Our Lady. Make the First Saturdays throughout your life for love of Our Lady and reap huge spiritual rewards.

Let's make reparation together to the Immaculate Heart by being faithful to the Five First Saturdays, and help Our Lady spread grace, peace, and healing throughout all the world.

Father Donald Calloway, MIC, is the spiritual director of the Marian Fathers' Thirteenth of the Month Club, a group of Marian Helpers committed to answering the call of Our Lady of Fatima. For membership information on the Thirteenth of the Month Club, email thirteenth@marian.org, visit the club webpage; or call 1-800-462-7426.

For more about Our Lady's apparitions at Fatima, Fr. Donald recommends *Fatima for Today* (Product Code: FATIM2) by Fr. Andrew Apostoli, CFR, as well as Fr. Donald's books *Champions of the Rosary: The History and Heroes of a Spiritual Weapon* and *Under the Mantle: Marian Thoughts from a 21st Century Priest*, all available through ShopMercy.org or by calling 1-800-462-7426.

First Saturdays

in reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary include the following elements, performed with the intention of reparation for blasphemies against the Immaculate Heart, for at least five consecutive months:

- Confession (shortly before or after the First Saturday — so long as the person receives Holy Communion in a state of grace);
- Holy Communion received on the First Saturday of each month;
- the Holy Rosary, five decades recited sometime during the day; and
- meditating for 15 minutes on the Mysteries of the Rosary (one or more).

With Ecclesiastical Approval

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How to Pray the Rosary

On the 5 decades (sets of 10 beads) of a rosary, we pray and meditate on the corresponding set of 5 Mysteries from the Joyful Mysteries, the Sorrowful Mysteries, the Glorious Mysteries, or the Luminous Mysteries.

1. Make the Sign of the Cross and say the "Apostles Creed."
2. Say the "Our Father."
3. Say three "Hail Marys."
4. Say the "Glory be to the Father."
5. Announce the First Mystery; then say the "Our Father."

6. Say ten "Hail Marys," while meditating on the Mystery.
7. Say the "Glory be to the Father." After each decade say the following prayer requested by the Blessed Virgin Mary at Fatima: "O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of Thy mercy."
8. Announce the Second Mystery: then say the "Our Father." Repeat 6 and 7 and continue with the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Mysteries in the same manner.
9. Say the 'Hail, Holy Queen' on the medal after the five decades are completed.

Daily Mystery Meditations

The Mysteries traditionally adhere to certain days of the week.

• **Monday** : Joyful; **Tuesday** : Sorrowful; **Wednesday** : Glorious; **Thursday** : Luminous; **Friday** : Sorrowful; **Saturday** : Joyful; **Sunday** : Glorious

IX. THE CONSECRATION OF RUSSIA

On June 13, 1929, when Sister Lucia was in residence at the Dorothean convent in Tuy, Spain, she had a remarkable vision of the Most Holy Trinity with Jesus on the cross and the Blessed Virgin at his side. After this vision, Our Lady spoke to Sister Lucia, telling her: "The moment has come in which God asks the Holy Father, in union with all the bishops of the world, to make the consecration of Russia to my Immaculate Heart, promising to save it by this means."

For a variety of reasons, the consecration of Russia as requested by Our Lady did not occur until March 25, 1984. Pope Pius XII consecrated the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on Oct. 31, 1942, following the requests of Sister Lucia, the bishops of Portugal and Blessed Alexandrina da Costa (1904-1955). On July 7, 1952, he also consecrated the Russian people to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

These consecrations, however, were not done in communion with all the bishops of the world. After the assassination attempt of 1981, Pope St. John Paul II decided to carry out the consecration as Our Lady of Fatima had requested. On Dec. 8, 1983, he sent out letters inviting all Catholic and Orthodox bishops to join him in prayer for the act of consecration, which took place at St. Peter's Square on the feast of the Annunciation, March 25, 1984, before a statue of Our Lady of Fatima. In this act, St. John Paul II said: "In a special way we entrust and consecrate to you those individuals and nations which particularly need to be thus entrusted and consecrated."



Although some have argued that St. John Paul II did not consecrate Russia properly, Sister Lucia herself confirmed that the 1984 consecration corresponded to what Our Lady requested. In a letter of Nov. 8, 1989, she wrote: “Yes it has been done just as Our Lady asked, on 25 March, 1984.” She confirmed this again in 2001.

X. THE SECRETS OF FATIMA

During the apparition on July 13, 1917, Our Lady revealed to the shepherd children a three-part secret. There is concern by some that the third part of the secret has yet to be fully revealed, but Sister Lucia before her death testified that “no secret remains.”

The first secret : The first part of the secret shared by Our Lady was a vision of hell, after which she taught the children a prayer to be recited after each decade of the Rosary: “O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell. Lead all souls to heaven, especially those most in need of thy mercy.”

The second secret : The second part of the secret concerned the end of World War I and the warning of a worse war during the pontificate of Pope Pius XI if people did not cease offending God. (Pius XI was not elected until 1922). There was also the warning that if people did not convert, Russia would “spread her errors throughout the world, causing wars and persecution of the Church.” Moreover, “the good will be martyred; the Holy Father will have much to suffer; various nations will be annihilated.” The Lady, though, told the shepherd children: “In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph.”

The third secret

Sister Lucia : The third part of the secret was kept hidden by Sister Lucia until she was ordered by the bishop of Leiria, Spain, on Jan. 3, 1944, to write it down. This letter was placed in the secret archives of the Holy Office in 1957.

Pope St. John XXIII in 1959 and Blessed Pope Paul VI in 1965 read the letter but declined to publish it. After the May 13, 1981, attempt on his life, Pope St. John Paul II asked for the letter. He later authorized the disclosure of the secret in conjunction with the May 13, 2000, beatification ceremony for Francisco and Jacinta Marto.

The secret describes an angel with a flaming sword in his left hand crying out: “Penance, penance, penance.” Then a bishop dressed in white (thought to be the Holy Father) joins other bishops, priests and men and women religious in ascending a steep mountain with a big cross on top. On the way to the mountain, the Holy Father goes through a city half in ruins, and “he prays for the souls of the corpses” he sees. At the top of the mountain, he kneels before the cross and is killed by a group of soldiers who fire bullets and arrows at him. Other bishops, priests, men and women religious and laypeople are also

killed. Then two angels gather up the blood of these martyrs into a crystal aspersorium and sprinkle the souls on their way to God.

Some have claimed that the full third secret of Fatima has not been revealed. Sister Lucia, however, has confirmed the full text of the secret in two meetings with the secretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and the bishop of Leiria-Fatima. In the second meeting, Sister Lucia made it clear that “everything has been published; no secret remains.”

XI. THE POPES AND FATIMA

The bishop of Leiria, Portugal, gave official approval to apparitions of Fatima on Oct. 13, 1930, and since the pontificate of Pius XII (1939-1958), the Roman pontiffs have shown great devotion to Our Lady of Fatima.

Pope Pius XII

- Was ordained a bishop on May 13, 1917, the very day of the first Fatima apparition.
- Consecrated the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary in 1942 and stressed devotion to Mary’s Heart throughout his pontificate.
- Explained how devotion to the Immaculate Heart of the Mother of God is closely joined to devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in his 1956 encyclical *Haurietis Aquas*.

Blessed Pope Paul VI

- Renewed Pius XII’s 1942 consecration of the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on Nov. 21, 1964, and sent a golden rose to Fatima as a sign of his devotion.
- Became the first pope to visit the Fatima shrine on May 13, 1967, in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the apparitions. On that date, he also issued an apostolic exhortation, *Signum Magnum* (“The Great Sign”) urging all the members of the Church “to renew personally their consecration to the Immaculate Heart of the Mother of the Church.”

Pope St. John Paul II

- Credited Our Lady of Fatima with saving his life from the assassin’s bullet on May 13, 1981. A year later, he made a pilgrimage to Fatima in thanksgiving for Our Lady’s intervention.
- Carried out on March 25, 1984, Our Lady’s request in the Fatima apparitions to consecrate Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary in union with the bishops of the

world. It is widely believed that the collapse of Soviet communism five years later was linked to this consecration.

➤ Returned to Fatima on May 12-13, 1991, on the 10th anniversary of the assassination attempt. He returned again for the beatification of Francisco and Jacinta Marto on May 13, 2000, and the public disclosure of the third part of the secret of Fatima.

Pope Benedict XVI

➤ As Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, he published on June 26, 2000, a commentary on the third part of the secret of Fatima.

➤ Made a papal pilgrimage to Fatima in celebration of the 10th anniversary of the beatifications of Francisco and Jacinta.

➤ In 2008, reduced the five-year waiting period to start a canonization cause following the 2005 death of Lucia dos Santos.

Pope Francis

➤ Led a formal “act of entrustment” to Mary, the Blessed Virgin of Fatima, on Oct. 13, 2013, at the conclusion of a special Marian day.

➤ Has confirmed he plans to go to Fatima for the May 13, 2017, celebration of the 100th anniversary of the apparitions.

XII. OUR LADY OF FATIMA, 1917-2017 WHY 100 YEARS MATTERS ?

POPE ST. LEO XIII'S VISION

According to legend, exactly 33 years (span of our Lord's life) to the day prior to the great Miracle of the Sun in Fatima, that is, on October 13, 1884, Pope Leo XIII had a remarkable vision. When the aged Pontiff had finished celebrating Mass in his private Vatican Chapel, attended by a few Cardinals and members of the Vatican staff, he suddenly stopped at the foot of the altar. He stood there for about 10 minutes, as if in a trance, his face ashen white. Then, going immediately from the Chapel to his office, he composed the prayer to St. Michael, with instructions it be said after all Low Masses everywhere. When asked what had happened, he explained that, as he was about to leave the foot of the altar, he suddenly heard voices – two voices, one kind and gentle, the other guttural and harsh. They seemed to come from near the tabernacle. As he listened, he heard the following conversation:

The guttural voice, the voice of Satan in his pride, boasted to Our Lord: “I can destroy your Church.”

The gentle voice of Our Lord: “You can? Then go ahead and do so.”

Satan : “To do so, I need more time and more power.”

Our Lord : “How much time? How much power?”

Satan: “75 to 100 years, and a greater power over those who will give themselves over to my service.”

Our Lord : “You have the time, you will have the power. Do with them what you will.”

33 YEARS LATER

On Sunday May 13th, 1917, the children were pasturing their flock as usual at the Cova da Iria, which was about a mile from their homes. They were playing when suddenly a bright shaft of light pierced the air. The lady spoke to them and said: “Fear not! I will not harm you.” “Where are you from?” the children asked. “I am from heaven” the beautiful lady replied, gently raising her hand towards the distant horizon. “What do you want of me?”, Lucia asked. ” I came to ask you to come here for six consecutive months, on the thirteenth day, at this same hour. I will tell you later who I am and what I want.”

It was Mary’s final appearance, on Oct. 13, 1917 (exactly 33 years, to the day, after Pope Leo XIII’s vision), that became the most famous. An estimated 70,000 people were in attendance at the site, anticipating the Virgin’s final visit and with many fully expecting that she would work a great miracle. As everyone gazed upward, and saw that a silvery disc had emerged from behind clouds, they experienced what is known [as] a ‘sun miracle.’ Not everyone reported the same thing; some present claimed they saw the sun dance around the heavens; others said the sun zoomed toward Earth in a zigzag motion that caused them to fear that it might collide with our planet (or, more likely, burn it up). Some people reported seeing brilliant colors spin out of the sun in a psychedelic, pinwheel pattern. The whole event took about 10 minutes.

With these apparitions at Fatima, God asked for the Consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary by the Pope in union with all of the bishops of the world. Our Lady of Fatima said that if the Consecration of Russia was done, Russia would be converted and there would be peace. However, if the Pope and the bishops did not obey the request, Our Lady said that Russia would spread her errors throughout the world, causing wars and persecutions of the Church and of Holy Father, the martyrdom of the good and the annihilation of nations.

I find it interesting that Our Lady appeared in Fatima with these warnings exactly 100 years before the 500th anniversary of the Protestant revolt (1517-2017)

THE PRECEDENT OF 100 YEARS

At Rianjo, Spain in August 1931, Our Lord communicated to Sister Lucy His dissatisfaction with the Pope's and the Catholic bishops' failure to obey His command to consecrate Russia. He said:

Make it known to My ministers, given that they follow the example of the King of France in delaying the execution of My requests, they will follow him into misfortune. It is never too late to have recourse to Jesus and Mary.

In another text Lucy wrote that Our Lord complained to her:

They did not wish to heed My request! Like the King of France they will repent of it, and they will do it, but it will be late. Russia will have already spread its errors in the world, provoking wars and persecutions against the Church. The Holy Father will have much to suffer.

The reference by Jesus to the King of France's disobedience and punishment is as follows:

On June 17, 1689 the Sacred Heart of Jesus manifested to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque His command to the King of France that the King was to consecrate France to the Sacred Heart. For 100 years to the day the Kings of France delayed, and did not obey.

So on June 17, 1789 the King of France was stripped of his legislative authority by the upstart Third Estate, and four years later the soldiers of the French Revolution executed the King of France as if he were a criminal. In 1793 France sent its King, Louis XVI, to the guillotine. He and his predecessors had failed to obey Our Lord's request that France be consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and thus misfortune had befallen both the King and his country.

NOT JUST FRANCE

However, it would not be just France who would inherit this misfortune. It is more than interesting to note that the "Enlightenment Period," generally known to have occurred from the 1680s to the 1790s, followed very closely to the same 100 year period of the initial request for the consecration of France to the French Revolution (see timeline here).

Central to the Enlightenment agenda was the assault on, what they held as, "religious superstition" and its replacement by rational religion, which is most commonly referred to as Deism. Deism is a heresy which holds that God became no more than the supreme intelligence or craftsman who had set the machine that was the world to run according to its own natural and scientifically predictable laws. In other words, God created it and

then left it (It is believed that most of our founding fathers were Deists ... a heresy which became entrenched around the time of the birth of our nation).

As our Lady was appearing in Fatima, it is important to note that in 1917, the same year the Communist Revolution in Russia was unleashed, Pope Benedict XV penned an encyclical entitled, *Humani Generis Redemptionem*. It would prove to be prophetic. In it he addressed an issue that had to be “looked upon as a matter of the greatest and most momentous concern.”

Up until 1917, Western Civilization had begun to drift away from the light of Gospel. The Reformation, the French Revolution and, as mentioned, the Russian Revolution, were highly instrumental in ushering in the era of secularism. Pope Benedict XV could not escape the conclusion that the world was changing. He wrote the following in the same encyclical:

“If on the other hand we examine the state of public and private morals, the constitutions and laws of nations, we shall find that there is a general disregard and forgetfulness of the supernatural, a gradual falling away from the strict standard of Christian virtue, and that men are slipping back more and more into the shameful practices of paganism.”

MID-POINT REVOLUTION

With the return of paganism, comes an intolerance of Christianity. Indeed, the Church would produce more martyrs during the 20th century than in any other century. But as bad as things were in the world, the real test for the Church would come fifty years later during the Sexual Revolution of the 1960s. It is interesting to note that the eruption of this revolution occurred exactly 50 years later (the mid-point), when in 1967, “The Summer of Love” saw 100,000 people converged in the Haight-Ashbury neighborhood of San Francisco. In fact, this song by the Mamas and Papas, depicting the Summer of Love (San Francisco) was released on May 13, 1967, the 50th anniversary of our Lady’s first appearance at Fatima.

Although hippies also gathered in major cities across the U.S., Canada and Europe, San Francisco remained the center of the hippie movement. The city became even more of a melting pot of politics, music, drugs, creativity, and the total lack of sexual and social inhibition than it already was. As the hippie counterculture movement came further forward into public awareness, the activities centered therein became a defining moment of the 1960s, causing numerous ‘ordinary citizens’ to begin questioning everything and anything about them and their environment as a result.

Similar to that of the Reformation in 1517, scores of Catholics would leave the Church. Priestly and religious vocations would dry up. Mass attendance would sharply decline.

Catholic clergy and laity would no longer be on the same page in terms of belief and behavior. And as for many church-goers that would remain, their morals and lifestyle would prove to be comparable to non-Catholics.

CONTRACEPTION IS KEY

Running concurrently to the message of Fatima and the explosion of the sexual revolution at the 50 year mark, was the advent of contraception. Margaret Sanger opened the first birth control clinic in 1916, just as the angel first appeared to the children in Fatima. It was in the 1965 case of *Griswold v. Connecticut*, that the Supreme Court would strike down state laws prohibiting contraception.

In 1968, Pope Paul VI would intervene with the famous encyclical, *Humanae Vitae*, but in Confessionals around the world, priests were told to instruct penitents to allow their conscience to override the teachings of the Church. This had ramifications that would extend beyond contraception, in that Catholics would now find an open door to let their conscience override any of the teachings of the Church.

SMOKE OF SATAN

By 1972, Pope Paul VI recognized this explosion of evil in these times. In fact, on June 29, 1972 Pope Paul VI confirmed just that when he addressed his audience. He said, “It is as if from some mysterious crack, no, it is not mysterious, from some crack the smoke of Satan has entered the temple of God.”

The following year the infamous case of *Roe v. Wade* would legalize abortion in all states. In the very same year, on the anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun, on October 13, 1973, Our Lady of Akita, in an approved apparition in Japan, took this point further and gave us some idea how this “smoke” would take effect. She said, “The work of the devil will infiltrate even into the Church in such a way that one will see cardinals opposing cardinals, bishops against bishops...the Church will be full of those who accept compromises and the demon will press many priests and consecrated souls to leave the service of the Lord.”

This is exactly what happened. In the years following the Council of Vatican II, the Deists among the clergy had gained such a foothold that they felt they were given *carte blanche* to completely revamp the Church. And so, the demolition of anything that points to the supernatural began. This has brought great division among clergy and laity ... possibly not as much seen since the time of the Arian heresy of the 4th century.

Since the time of the French Revolution, Deists have called for this “revamping” or “updating” (*Aggiornamento*) ... out with old, and in with the new. And so, the more common name given to them today is to say they are “modernists.” The heresy of

Modernism holds that the Church must move with the cultural trends and changes of the times. Most modernists then hold that the Enlightenment (rejection of the supernatural) is a trend in which the Church must follow. However, I gave them another title I felt even more fitting ...

STEALTH ARIANS

Not too long ago, I wrote an article which posited that we are facing a monumental heresy in our times that equals or surpasses the greatest heresy of all times, which was Arianism. While Arianism openly denied the divinity of Christ, I called this modern heresy “Stealth Arianism.” St. John says, “Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth” (1 John 3:18). While not many today openly deny the divinity of Christ by their words, far too many deny His divinity by their actions.

“Over the past 50 years,” I wrote, “the Stealth Arians have done everything within their power to remove from our lived experience of Catholicism anything that would point to the divinity of Christ, and the supernatural quality of our faith. Everything has been stripped from our churches – sacred art, sacred architecture, sacred music, and the sacred elements of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass – and we are left in the barren desert of the banal. It is no wonder many Catholics think nothing of approaching the Most Holy Eucharist dressed in a t-shirt, shorts, and flip-flops, and grabbing the host like they’re reaching into a bag of chips. As Flannery O’Connor said, ‘If it’s a symbol, to hell with it.’ It’s more surprising that these individuals even bother to attend Mass at all.”

The latest grim Pew Research findings have been released, and Fr. Dwight Longenecker seems to double down on this idea in his recent article: “Why Are The Nones Leaving Religion.” You can read the whole thing over there, but this is the heart of the article ...

People are leaving religion in droves because it’s not religion anymore.

It’s become a charity with meetings on Sundays, and the problem is modernism. Modernism is the idea that the supernatural is out of date and unbelievable. The “de-mythologizers” tried to weed out all the miracles and supernatural elements from the gospels. For the last hundred years their influence has gained in seminaries and pulpits across the world.

Tales of the supernatural had to be removed. They didn’t fit with the modern world. Doctrines about devils and angels, heaven and hell had to be quietly excised from the faith because they were primitive and medieval and incredible to modern folk. Transubstantiation? A pious medieval philosophical explanation of what we all know is really symbolic. Supernatural revelation? No. Religion is all man made. Miracles? We know they don’t really happen.

Religious leaders—and I mean Catholics and Protestants alike—turned the Christian religion into an organization that does good works. Instead of the wondrous bread of heaven they were content to hand out Wonder Bread. Instead of the feeding of the five thousand they spoke about the “real miracle” being the fact that everyone shared their lunch.

All the religious talk stayed in place but it was re-interpreted. Father Wooly and Pastor Fuzzy proclaimed on Easter Day, “Alleluia! Christ is Risen!” but what they meant was “in some way the wonderful teachings of Jesus continued to be believed by his faithful followers. They said every Sunday that they believed in the Virgin Birth but what they meant was that “Mary was a very nice girl who was very courageous as she went through with her crisis pregnancy.” And so forth. And so on.

For Catholics? The necessity of the sacraments and a life of repentance and faith? Nah.

You only had to go to Mass if you really wanted to. Lay people who were married were just as able to be holy as priests and nuns. Confession? That’s only for people with low self esteem. Marriage? We can be flexible on that. It’s all about mercy after all.

Well, people aren’t dumb.

They concluded that if religion was really only about peace and justice and social work, then why did one have to get up early and go to church and sing dreary hymns and listen to a long, badly prepared homily by an uncomfortably over fed windbag? Why go to church anyway? If it was really only about social work, then why the early weekend pep talk with music? Why not sleep in?

The unfortunate reality is that the modern campaign of militant secular indoctrination (rejecting the supernatural) has been so severe that only a dwindling remnant remains who believes or trusts in God’s supernatural power. As a result, the spiritual hearts of many are reduced to the size of a thimble, only capable of receiving a few meager drops, if any, from the wellspring of God’s graces (Rev 22:1-2). In spiritual terms, this makes us puny and scrawny rather than strong and powerful mighty warriors ready to confront the powers of darkness in the heavenly realm. With so many modernized Christians ignoring the reality of grace, it is no wonder that evil is thriving in our day.

In speaking of the need for a New Evangelization, Pope Benedict XVI said, “the true problem of our times is the ‘Crisis of God,’ the absence of God, disguised by an empty religiosity” ... a kind of lukewarm, going through the motions of one’s faith, which ends up collapsing completely. The terrible consequence of this war on the supernatural is seen in the epidemic of spiritual sloth in our times — hearts deadened to the Divine Life of God.

XIII. CENTENNIAL STATUE OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA

To mark the 100th Anniversary of Our Lady's appearance in Fatima, Portugal, in 1917, Pope Francis has blessed 6 statues of Our Lady of Fatima, one for each continent, so that they would be sent into each of the 6 continents for public veneration and to stimulate devotion to Our Lady.

XIV. SISTER LUCIA CLOSER TO BEATIFICATION

13 January, 2017 - Rector of the Shrine of Fatima asked pilgrims to pray

The diocesan phase of the process for the canonization of Sister Lucia de Jesus (1907-2005), one of the three seers of Fatima, ended and it will now pass to the competency of the Holy See and the Pope.

The announcement was made today through a communication of the Diocese of Coimbra, published in the diocesan journal «Correio de Coimbra», the diocese where the religious sister died and where the process started, on the 30th of April 2008, by decision of the then bishop Albino Cleto.

The communication of the diocese informs that the solemn session for the closure of the Diocesan Inquiry of the Process for the Beatification and Canonization of the servant of God Lucia de Jesus will take place on the 13th of February, in the Carmel de Santa Teresa, in Coimbra.

“The Diocesan inquiry gathers all of Sister Lucia's writings, the testimonies of the (60) witnesses heard on the fame of holiness and heroic virtues” of the Servant of God.

After the Closing Session, all of the collected material will be handed to the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints, in Rome, which will give an adequate follow-up, according to the norms established by the Church.

The initial part of the cause for canonization of Sister Lucia began in 2008, three years after her death, after the now emeritus Pope Benedict XVI granted a dispensation regarding the waiting period stipulated by Canon Law (5 years)

XV. POPE TO CANONIZE FRANCISCO AND JACINTA MARTO IN FATIMA ON MAY 13

During the Ordinary Consistory Held Today in the Vatican, Was Confirmed That Two of the Three Little Shepherds of Fatima Will Be Declared Saints

It's official: the canonization of two of the little shepherds who witnessed the apparitions of Fatima will be on May 13, 2017, in the Portuguese sanctuary. Pope Francis made the announcement during the public consistory that took place today in the Vatican.

Thus, Francisco and Jacinta Marto will be the youngest, non-martyr canonized saints in the history of the Catholic Church.

The three visionaries of the apparitions of the Virgin Mary in Fatima were 10-year-old Lucía dos Santos, 9-year-old Francisco, and 7-year-old Jacinta. Lucía later became a Carmelite religious and died on February 13, 2005. The cause for her beatification has opened at the diocesan level.

Francis makes an apostolic visit to Fatima to commemorate the centenary of the Marian apparitions on May 12-13.

A Public Consistory is a meeting of the College of Cardinals, called by the Pope in the Vatican, to help him in the government of the Church. At this meeting, the Cardinals give their “placet” to the Holy Father for the Causes of Canonization. In this case, it is an Ordinary Consistory, that is, it convokes the cardinals who reside in Rome.

The Pope also announced that the following other blessed will be canonized, Oct. 15, 2017: Brazil’s proto-martyrs Father Andrea Soveral and Father Ambrogio Francesco Ferro, layman Mateus Moreira and 27 other companion martyrs; Cristobal, Antonio and Juan, the “Children Martyrs of Tlaxcala,” killed in Mexico out of hatred for the faith between 1527 and 1529; Faustino Miguez, Religious of the Order of Clerics Regular of the Mother of God of the Pious Schools will also be canonized, who, ordained priest, founded the Calasancius Institute of Daughters of the Divine Shepherdess, for the integral education of women; Angelo Acri (Luca Falcone) priest of the Order of the Friars Minor Capuchin.

XVI. MAY, THE MONTH OF MARY

The month of May is a special time for us Catholics to pay homage to our Blessed Mother Mary.

Note that I say we pay homage to her. Contrary to a distressing misconception found among Evangelicals and Protestants, we honor Mary. We do not worship her. She has a unique role in salvation history as the Mother of God, conceived without Sin, who by her own free will agreed to bring the “Word made flesh”, (John 1:14) our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ into the world. Mary is prefigured as the one who would crush the head of the serpent (a figure of Satan) in Genesis 3:15 through her Divine Son. Still she in no way overshadows Him, nor would she ever wish to!

We read when she gives her famous assent to becoming Jesus’ mother: “Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it done to me according to thy word” (Lk 1:38). A short time later she proclaims with joy in the Magnificat when visiting Elizabeth, her relative, that

“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior” (Lk.1:46-47). And, last but not least, what are her final words in scripture? “Do whatever he [Jesus] tells you” (John 2:5). (This is her request to the waiters at the Wedding Feast at Cana right before Jesus turns water into wine with just a thought). Mary’s Immaculate Conception enabled her to bear her Divine Son in a womb free from any taint of sin and enabled her to devote her life to Jesus in the most loving and devoted manner possible. Speaking of sorrows, Jesus, as He was dying on the Cross, gave us His mother to be our Mother as well when he entrusted her to St. John's care (Jn 19:26-27) Numerous theologians and Saints have confirmed this.

Mary was conceived and lived a life "full of Grace" (Lk. 1:28). And she wishes very much to share the graces given her by God on our behalf. St. Bernardine of Siena once said: "Every grace that is communicated to this world has a threefold course. For by excellent order, it is dispensed from God to Christ, from Christ to the Virgin [Mary], from the Virgin to us." Pope Pius XII was by no means alone when he once said “Whenever we speak of Mary or speak to her, let us not forget that she is really our Mother, for through her we received divine life. She gave us Jesus himself, the source of grace. Mary is a Mediatrix and Dispenser of Graces.”

Mary herself once told Blessed Alan that "when you say your Rosary, the angels rejoice, the Blessed Trinity delights in it, my Son finds joy in it too, and I myself am happier than you can possibly guess. After the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, there is nothing in the Church that I love as much as the Rosary."

Remember that Mary always seeks to be a bridge not a barrier to Her Divine Son our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Don't ever feel afraid to approach her in prayer for grace, strength and her intercession to Jesus for your personal intentions!

XVII. SAINT JOSEPH THE WORKER FEAST DAY - 1ST MAY

The 1st of May also coincides in many countries with the working holiday weekend to celebrate the ‘unofficial’ start of summertime, the ‘May Day’ Bank Holiday festivities in the UK as they are known. St Joseph is also patron saint of the universal Church of Christ on earth, the dying, marriages, fatherhood, families, house sales and finances. He is also an excellent example of humility and obedience to the calling of God in his life. However, it is St Joseph’s patronage of workers that is one of his most illustrious titles, warranting a special feast day in his honour.

St Joseph was himself a humble carpenter who knew what it was to work hard, often for meagre pay, in order to earn a living to support his wife and foster child. Though a hard worker, he knew poverty and when presenting gifts at Jesus’ presentation in the Temple,

it was the gift of the poor that St Joseph presented to God, ‘a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons’ (Lk 2:24). In these times of recession with unemployment rising high we ask for Joseph’s intercession and help from Heaven to help us in our work or indeed to find good, productive work which will improve the society in which we live and give us a spirit of peace and joy.

XVIII. BISHOP’S ENGAGEMENTS FOR MONTH OF MAY-2017

- 1 : St. Joseph's Feast, Koti Rampur, Karimnagar Parish
- 2 : CCBI Ex Co Meeting, Bengaluru
- 3 : Fatima Priests & Concecated Convention 9.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.
Warangal Diocesan Society General Body Meeting 2.00 - 4.30 p.m.
- 4 : Silver Jubilee of Lourdu Matha Church, Adavinallabelli, Narsampet Parish
- 5 : Silver Jubilee of Holy Family Church Cum Bro. Simon's Ordination to Diaconate
Bandampelly, Manugonda Parish
- 6 : Office
: Fatima Youth Convention, Fatimanagar
- 7 : Fatima Parish
: Village Elders, Catechists Convention
- 8 : Fatima Women’s Convention
- 9 : Golden Jubilee of Church of St. Peter the Chair, ThimmaraoPET Parish
- 10 : Office
: Fatima Children Convention
- 11 : Fatima Family Couples Convention
- 12 : Fatima Word of God & Healing Service with sick and specially Challenged
: 4.30 pm Fatima Procession, Eucharistic Adoration, Candle - lit Procession cum
Benediction by Bishop Peter Machado of Belgaum Diocese, CCBI Chaplin of
Fatima Apostalate
: 8.30 Cultural Programmes
- 13 : Solemnity of Centennial of Fatima Apparitions: Diocesan Feast
: 8.45 Solemn Eucharist : Bishop Bhagyaiah of Guntur and Bishop Jayarao of
Eluru Cum our Shepherd
- 14 to 19 : FABC Ongoing Formation to Bishops in Bangkok
- 20 : Mariapuram Village Feast, Narmetta Parish
- 21 : Perpetual Profession, CSSA at Infant Jesus Shrine, Karunapuram

- 22 : Office
- 23 : Episcopal Ordination of Our Bishop
- 26 : Meeting with Major Seminarians : St. Xavier's, Karunapuram
- 27 : Silver Jubilee of Christ the King Monastery & Solemn processions : Missionaries of the Poor

June - 2017

- 1 : Office
- 2 : Office
- 3 : Sons of Divine Providence: Blessing of Minor Seminary : Vangalapally, Karunapuram Parish
- 5 : Office
- 6 : Office
- 7 : CRI General Body Meeting
- 8 : Kurnool Diocese : Golden and Silver Jubilees

XIX. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Thanks to Priests who are on Transfer : I thank all priests who are on transfer for their dedicated ministries and valuable services. I wish them the blessing of the Risen Lord in their new assignments. The final list is : (Publish the list with changes made)

2. Centenal of Our Lady of Fatima our Patroness on 3 - 13 May, 2017

The diocese celebrates the Centenal, Solemnity of Our Lady of Fatima in a special way as "Thirunalla" on 3 - 13 of May, 2017.

3. General Body Meeting of Warangal Diocesan Society : All the Priests are hereby informed to attend the General Body Meeting of Warangal Diocesan Society on May 3, 2017 at 2.00 p.m. Pastoral Centre, Fatimanagar.

4. Hearty Welcome to the Religious to Four Mission - Centres / Parishes

The diocese of Warangal Praises God for Facilitating 4 Centres for new Missions with the help of Religious. they : 1) Pulkurthy - Ladella Mission by Missionaries of Francis De Sales (MSFS). 2) Jeevadhara Centre - Rampoor Parish by Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC). 3) Mulkanoor - Ratnagiri Mission by Capuchians. 4) Gudur - Samudrala Mission by Capuchians.

It's the Grace of God to open new missions with the great of hope Evangelization ad gentes. Let's not limit ourselves to our comfort Zones of established Parishers or Prestigious institutions. Iam very pleased with the consecrated who show interest in taking up new Missions. I extend a very cordial welcome and wish them Fruitful Ministry.

5. Bon Voyage : We wish Bon Voyage to REv. Fr. T. Pradeep and M. Raju as they leave the Diocese of Warangal to the Diocese of Jackson, MS for International Ministry. May they represent warangal with all its rich and faithful traditions & services in the Diocese of Jackson, Mississippi, USA.

XX. INFORMATIONS

1. "Rosary - Repentance - Reparation" Prarthana - Paschatapam - Parivarthana
To All Dear Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

Sub: Warangal Diocesan Celebration of Centennial of Fatima Apparitions with Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Fathima Cathedral and Your Participation and Collaboration Requested-

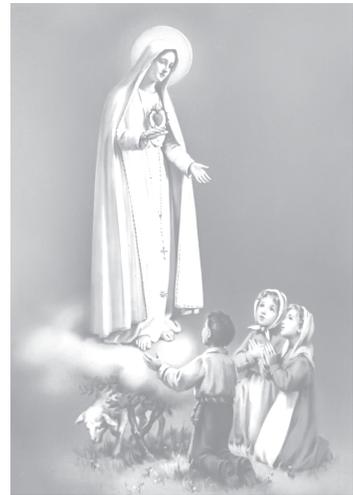
This year (May 2016- May17) is a gracious occasion for the whole world and especially for our Diocese, since Warangal is dedicated to the Patronage Our Lady of Fatima.

To celebrate the occasion meaningfully, various programs and conventions are being organized for the Spiritual and Ecclesial benefit of the Faithful and non-Christians alike to give powerful witness to Jesus Christ.

A detailed program will be published in April 2017 issue of Fatima Vani. Posters, and Brochures etc., will be sent to you soon. Meanwhile please take note of the following:

Different Diocesan Conventions would be held at Fatimanagar as below:

- 1. Priests and Consecrated Convention :** on May 3, 2017 (9.00 to 12.30 pm.)
- 2. Youth Convention :** Students who completed 10th class & above: on May 6, 2017(10 am to 5 pm).
- 3. Parish/ Village/ Elders / Catechists Convention :** Men, Women, Catechists- 5 people from each Catholic village : on May 7, 2017 (10 am to 5 pm).
- 4. Women's Convention: 10 members from each village :** on May 8, 2017 (10 am to 5 pm).
- 5. Children's Convention :** Children studying from 5th to 9th: on May 10, 2017 (10 am to 5 pm).
- 6. Couple's Convention Golden, Silver and other Couples :** On May 11, 2017 from 10 am to 4 pm.
- 7. Word of God and Healing Convention for Sick, Suffering and Handicapped (Christians & Non - Christians) :** On May 12, 2017 from 10 am to 2pm.



2. To the Attention of Heads of Institutions:

- Cooperate with Diocesan level Convenors of different committees, Deans and Parish Priests.
- Keep available Buses all 4-wheelers and Drivers on the above dates to transport pilgrims/ devotees / participants.
- If need be, diesel and driver remuneration can be claimed.
- Organize children youth and elders to participate in different competitions.

NB: RTA Permission/s will be obtained at diocesan level.

3. To the Attention of Deans:

To ensure full & active Participation of your Deanery:

- Discuss with parish priests and heads of the Institutions to plan and organize for the occasion.
- Cooperate with the convenors of different committees when they approach you.
- Obtain the list of participants for each convention and submit by 30th of the April 2017 to the Parish Priest of the Cathedral.
- Conduct periodical meetings in the deanery to update and resolve any issues and to encourage and involve as many as possible.
- Be responsible or select a Priest, a Religious, Lay Man, Lay Woman, & an Youth for each convention from your deanery to attend.
- Bring any non-cooperation or unsurmountable difficulty to Fr. S. Bala or to me.
- To meet any finances at Deanery / Parish / Village level only.

4. To the Attention Parish Priests :

- Cooperate with the Dean and Convenors of various committees to plan meticulously, organize creatively and execute the meaningfully.
- Take interest to encourage for the lively participation and dynamic celebration.
- Submit the list of participants at village and parish level to the respective deans on time.

Your active role and involvement is “sine qua non” and it will enable for the spiritually meaningful centennial celebrations. Your valuable suggestion/s and advice are most welcome.

+ Udumala Bala,
Bishop, Warangal Diocese

Rev. Fr. S. Balashowry
Parish Priest, Cathedral

2. DIOCESE OF WARANGAL

Transfers made on April 7, 2017 with effect on or before April 30, 2017

1. Rev. Fr. Tanugundla Jerome : Pastor, Yellapur Parish
2. Rev. Fr. Rachumalla Inna : Sabbatical Leave
3. Rev. Fr. Allam Inna : Sabbatical Leave
4. Rev. Fr. Gopu Suresh : Pastor, at Reddipuram
5. Rev. Fr. Tatikonda Joseph : H.M. & Correspondent, Bishop Thumma Bala School, Bachannapet.
6. Rev. Fr. Marapally Praveen : Pastor, Dharmasagar Parish
7. Rev. Fr. Gopu Thomas : Pastor, Kesamudram Parish and H.M. & Correspondent of St. John's High School, Kesamudram
8. Rev. Fr. Basani Kishore : Pastor, Theegarajapalli Parish and H.M. & Correspondent of Colombo Memorial School, Nekkonda
9. Rev. Fr. Nagotu Vindo : H.M. & Correspondent, St. Thomas High School, Jammikunta
10. Rev. Fr. Polumari Anil : Director, Youth Centre
11. Rev. Fr. Y. Kiran Kumar : Zonal & Diocesan Director, Divya Vani TV Channel
12. Rev. Fr. Gade Prashanth : Associate, St. Pius / St. Xavier Seminary
13. Rev. Fr. Golamari Joseph : Secretary to Bishop
14. Rev. Fr. Narisetti Sampath : Pastor, Ranipuram Parish
15. Rev. Fr. Salibindla Mahipal : Assistant, Veleru
16. Rev. Fr. Golamari Ranjith : Assistant, CJITS
17. Rev. Fr. Tirumalareddy Pradeep : International Ministry, USA
18. Rev. Fr. Macherla Raju : International Ministry, USA

Wishing you all A fruitful Ministry in the Vineyard of the Lord Jesus

DIVYAVANI TV TARIFF Programme Sponsorships

1. Holy Mass said in Our Chapel for Broadcast Purpose : Rs. 1000/-
2. Holy Rosary/Divine Mercy Chaplet : Rs. 500/-
3. Word of God/Aaradhana : Rs. 500/-

4. Subhakankshalu : Rs. 200/-

5. Ads :

1. Multi- media Promos of Shrines/Devotions/ :

a. Broadcasting (1 min. Ad Production Charge : Rs. 10,000/-)

b. 1st Prime Time (will appear about 10 times in a day) : Rs. 3,000/- per day

2nd Prime Time (will appear about 15 times in a day) : Rs. 2,000/- per day



2. Scrolling

a. will Scroll about 70 times in 1st Prime Time & 50 times in the 2nd Prime time in a day-as compliment for the remaining time : Rs.1000/-Per day

b. will Scroll about 40 times in 1st Prime Time & 80 times in the 2nd Prime time in a day- as compliment for the remaining time : Rs.500/- Per day

6. Holy Mass shoot for a particular day but in advance: Rs. 8000/- (including shooting, editing, broadcasting, DVD writing, You Tube Up loading etc.)

7. Festivals/Anniversaries/Jubilees/etc. (editing, broadcasting, DVD Writing, YouTube Uploading etc

a. 1 hour of Broadcasting : Rs. 20,000/-

b. 1 ½ hours of Broadcasting : Rs. 25,000/-

c. 2 hours of Broadcasting : Rs. 30,000/-

d. Facility for Still photography with HD Camera without any paraphernalia available for additional payment - simple editing, 100 Maxi size photos in a simple album and a CD with all captured photos : Rs. 5000/-

e. Live events like marriage mass etc. including video shooting with 2 HD Cameras on Divyavani Web TV : Rs. 25,000 (Max. of 4 hrs)

8. Live Coverage:

a. Minimum of 4 hours air time spread in a single day : Rs. 75,000/-

b. Between 4 and 8 hours of air time spread in a single day : Rs. 1,00,000/-

c. Between 8 and 12 hours of air time spread in a single day : Rs. 1,50,000/-

(if one needs to spread live coverage into two or three days, an additional cost of Rs. 35,000/- per day will be charged)

Prime Time:

1. First Prime Time : 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

2. Second Prime Time : 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

3. Non Prime Time : 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.

దివ్యవాణి సువార్తీకులు
DIVYAVANI MISSIONAIRES



మూడు ముఖ్యమైన భాద్యతలు

1. మీ విచారణలో

ఎ. కొత్త చందాదారులను చేర్పించుట

బి. ప్రస్తుత చందాదారుల నుండి విరాళములు సేకరించుట

సి. కుటుంబాలను సందర్శించి దివ్యవాణి గురించి ప్రచారం చేయుట

డి. విచారణలోని వివిధ గ్రూపులలో దివ్యవాణి గురించి తెలియపరచుట

ఉదా :- మరియుదళం, యువత, వినెంట్ ది పాల్ సోసైటీ, సత్యోపదేశ తరగతులు

ఇ. దివ్యవాణి టీవి ప్రసారాలు, తదితర సమాచారాలను అందించుట

ఎఫ్. దివ్యవాణి కార్యక్రమాలను ప్రసారం చేస్తున్న వివిధ, డిటిహెచ్ కేబుల్ నెట్వర్క్

వివరాలను అందరికి తెలియచేయుట

జి. విచారణగురువుతో కలిసి దివ్యవాణి కార్యక్రమాన్ని విస్తరించుట

హెచ్. మేత్రాసన కమ్యూనికేషన్ డైరెక్టర్కు, “వార్షిక దివ్యవాణి దినోత్సవ” నిర్వహణలో తోడ్పడుట.

2. వ్యక్తిగత ప్రార్థన ద్వారా

దివ్యవాణి ఛానల్ ద్వారా సువార్తా వ్యాప్తి, విశ్వాస వికాసం, కుటుంబాల నిర్మాణం కొరకు ప్రార్థించుట.

3. సోషల్ మీడియా ద్వారా

దివ్యవాణి టీవి కార్యక్రమాలను, ఫేస్బుక్, యూట్యూబ్, వాట్సాప్ మొదలగు సోషల్ మీడియా మాధ్యమాల ద్వారా ఇతరులతో పంచుకొనుట.

రండి! దివ్యవాణి టీవితో కలిసి నడుద్దాం

“ఇంటింటా సువార్తా సుగంధం” వెదజల్లుదాం

Rev. Fr. Y. Kiran Kumar,
Zonal & Diocesan Director,
Divya Vani TV Channel

వరంగల్లు దైవాంకితులకు, గృహస్థ కథోలికులకు ఆహ్వానం

కథోలిక ప్రజలకు శుభవార్త!

బైబులు - దైవ శాస్త్రాలలో పట్టభద్ర / డిప్లొమా చేరువుల సదావకాశం

భక్త యోహాను.గురు విద్యాలయం, రామాంతపూర్, హైదరాబాదు - 500 013.

తెలుగు కథోలిక పీఠాధిపతుల సమాఖ్య నిర్ణయం

తెలుగు కథోలిక పీఠాధిపతుల సమాఖ్య (టిసిజసి) తమ వార్షిక సమావేశంలో మార్చి 8, 2017 నాడు ఒక చారిత్రాత్మక నిర్ణయం తీసుకుందని తెలుపుటకు మేమెంతో సంతోషిస్తున్నాం. పునీత యోహాను ప్రాంతీయ గురువిద్యాలయంలో (హైదరాబాదు) దైవాంకితులు, గృహస్థ కథోలికులు రానున్న విద్యా సంవత్సరంలో దైవశాస్త్రాలను చదువుకొనుటకు అనుమతి లభించింది. ఈ నిర్ణయం ప్రకారం, రోము నగరంలో గల పౌంటిఫికల్ ఉర్బానియా విశ్వవిద్యాలయానికి అనుబంధమైన ఈ గురు విద్యాలయంలో దైవ శాస్త్రంలో పట్టభద్ర (B.Th), మరియు డిప్లొమా (D.Th) కోర్సులను రానున్న విద్యా సంవత్సరం 2017-18లో నిర్వహించుటకు సిద్ధపడుతుంది. ఈ శిక్షణలను ఇచ్చుటలోగల ముఖ్య లక్ష్యం ఏమిటంటే: ఈ శిక్షణ తరగతుల ద్వారా పవిత్ర బైబులు గ్రంథం - దైవ శాస్త్ర విషయ పరిజ్ఞానాన్ని అందించడమేగాక, దైవాంకితులు, గృహస్థులు తమ క్రైస్తవంను మరింత లోతుగా అర్థం చేసుకొని, ధర్మబుద్ధితో జీవించగలిగి, శ్రీసభ ముఖ్య ప్రవాహంలో పయనించగలుగుతారు.

ఇంతకు ముందుకంటే ఎక్కువగా, ఈ దైవ జ్ఞాన చదువుల ద్వారా గృహస్థ క్రైస్తవులు బలంగా సాక్ష్యమివ్వగలరు. కథోలిక కుటుంబికులు శ్రీసభ సువార్తా ప్రబోధంలోను, క్రైస్తవ విలువలను చాటుటలోనూ నిమగ్నమై దైవరాజ్యాన్ని మరీముఖ్యంగా తెలుగునాట వ్యాపింప చేయగలరన్న నమ్మకం టి.సి.జ.సి.కి కలిగింది. అంటే ప్రస్తుతం విశ్వాసులు ఆ విషయంలో వెనుకబడి ఉన్నారని కాదు. కాని దైవశాస్త్రంలో ప్రవేశముంటే వారి క్రైస్తవ జీవన సరళి మరింత పటిష్టంగా ఉంటుందని మా ఆభిప్రాయం. ఈ శిక్షణ కార్యక్రమాల ద్వారా వారి ఉత్సాహం, చతురతలను ఇనుమడించటమేగాక, నూతన శక్తితో, వినూతన ఆలోచనలతో సంపన్నతగల దృఢభావం, గట్టి నమ్మకం కలుగుతాయి. వారు తమ బప్తిస్మం వాగ్దానాల మేరకు జీవింపగలుగుతారు. శ్రీసభను సుసంపన్నం చేయగలరు.

ఈ మా నిర్ణయం సెలయేరులా చిన్నదైనా, భవిష్యత్తులో తెలుగు ఉభయ రాష్ట్రాల శ్రీ సంఘానికి వలయు బలమైన పునాదిని వేస్తుందని ఆశిస్తున్నాం. ప్రస్తుతం గురువిద్యాలయంనందు సుశిక్షణ అంకిత భావంగల ఆచార్యులు ఉన్నారు. కనుక, మా కలలు సాకారం అవుతాయని గట్టిగా నమ్ముచున్నాము. కావున మాన్యులు, సామాన్యులు, అభిమానులు, అభిలాషులు మరియు దైవాంకితులు, కుటుంబికులు ఈ సదావకాశాన్ని ఉపయోగించుకోగలరని తద్వారా పునీత యోహాను ప్రాంతీయ గురువిద్యాలయాన్ని దైవశాస్త్రాలకు కేంద్రంగాను, కాపరి సంబంధ జ్ఞాననిధిగాను చేయుటలో తోడ్పడగలరని ఆశిస్తున్నాం.

గమనిక : ఈ కోర్సుల ముఖ్య స్వరూప లక్షణాలను వివరించు "పుస్టిక" (Prospectus) త్వరలో మీకు చేరుతుంది.

దయచేసి ఈ పత్రములను పీఠమండల పత్రికల్లోను, కరపత్రాల్లోను ప్రచురించి విశ్వాసులను ప్రోద్బల పరచగలరు.

ఈ అవకాశమును సద్వినియోగపరచుకోగలరు.

ఇతర వివరాలకు 040-27201427 లేదా www.stjohnseminaryhyd.org ను సంప్రదించగలరు.

దైవాశీస్సులతో...

ఆశాభావంతో..

† మహా పూజ్య ఉడుమల బాల

ఓరుగల్లు పీఠకాపరి & గురువిద్యాలయాల టిసిజసి ప్రతినిధి

పూజ్య కె. మరియన్న

గురువిద్యాలయ సారథి

పూజ్య యం. జోస్ బాబు

పట్టభద్ర విద్యా విభాగ సారథి

Birthdays in May

Celebrate your birthday today. Celebrate being Happy every day.

Fr. Gangarpu Suresh	02-05-1984
Fr. Yeruva Papi Reddy	04-05-1968
Fr. Kasu Showreddy	05-05-1963
Fr. Gali Rayappa	06-05-1960
Fr. Narisetty Sampath	09-05-1987
Fr. Rachumalla Inna	10-05-1964
Fr. Gade Prakash	14-05-1969
Fr. Golamari Rayappa	25-05-1967



Forget the past; look forward to the future, for the best things are yet to come.

Priestly Ordination

Rev. Fr. B. Chinnappa	01-05-1990
Rev. Fr. M. Anand	02-05-1994
Rev. Fr. D. Joseph	03-05-1990
Rev. Fr. R. Thomas	03-05-1990
Rev. Fr. P. Raja	04-05-1990
Rev. Fr. Gade Prashanth	05-05-2014
Rev. Fr. Gade Chinnappa	07-05-2014
Rev. Fr. Y. Satish	08-05-2014
Rev. Fr. P. John Paul	09-05-1994
Rev. Fr. Y. Bala	12-05-1994
Rev. Fr. G. Sudhakar	16-05-1994



Day of Recollection for Clergy



Felicitation of Jubilarians



Final Profession of Sisters of Providence, Fatimanagar



Final Profession of Sisters CSA, Jangaon



Final Profession of DPMT, Karunapuram



Golden Jubilee of Village, Dacharam Parish

నాలుగు వసంతాలు వరంగల్ పీఠ ప్రధాన కాపరిగా అపూర్వ అజరామర ఆత్మీయ ప్రేషిత సేవలను
వరంగల్ పీఠంలో అన్ని రంగలలో అందించి ఐదవ వసంతంలోనికి అడుగిడుతున్న ఈ శుభతరుణంలో

వరంగల్ పీఠ ప్రధాన కాపరి మహా పూజ్యశ్రీ **డా॥ ఉడుమల బాల** గారికి
ఇవే మా హార్థిక వీరాదిపత్య ఐదవ హర్షికోత్సవ శుభాకాంక్షలు, శుభాభినందనలు మరియు శుభాషిష్కలు

