

## Love is the answer

Both Our Lady and the Angel exhorted the children to offer prayer and sacrifices in reparation for the conversion of poor sinners, 'those most in need,' as the prayer taught by Our Lady says. There was urgency in this request. The Angel had said: "What are you doing? Pray, pray very much..." "Do not offend God any more for He is already so much offended," Our Lady sadly said as Her parting words in October. But it was in July 1917, that the Most Holy Virgin warned that Russia would spread her errors throughout the world. Sometime later, in clear terms, experts would explain this warning describing what the aim of militant, atheistic materialism was.



"In 1917 the roots of that great battle between the Kingdom and the anti-Kingdom were launched, between believers and non-believers, a battle that having history for the battle field, had God and men as targets. For that battle it was necessary to alert the Church and God wished to make use of the Most Holy Virgin for that prophetic alert." (Cardinal José Policarp Patriarch of Lisbon *Fatima, Peace and Russia* Conference given in Fatima 1992.)

"This modern revolution...exceeds in amplitude and violence anything yet experienced in the preceding persecutions launched against the Church...atheistic Communism, which aims at upsetting the social order and at undermining the very foundations of Christian civilization." Pope Pius XI 1937

"It was a case of imposing a total revolution, such that, it was fundamental to extract from man his natural base, which is God....It is necessary to understand this in its most radical sense, that no other precedent for revolution was ever known....more than a sociological revolution, communism was a new religion; it was a direct and explicitly religious revolution, that is, an atheistic and materialistic religion in which mere matter was the god." (Fr Luis Kon-dor, SVD "Quereis oferecer-vos a Deus?")

"... this systematic and pretentiously scientific atheism, does not limit itself to the mere negation of God, but proposes the radical alteration of the meaning of man, of society and of history conceived without God." (Cardinal José Policarp)

Fatima proclaims that this God-less religion was in need of conversion. "This would be effected by means of the consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. And the Message affirmed that if this would not be realized, Russia- while being dominated by atheistic, materialistic communism - would continue to be the "scourge of God". More than half a century passed before the Act of Consecration was fulfilled on March 25, 1984 as Our Lady requested, thus allowing the spread of this "scourge" across the world. In view of such a revolution against God,

the Creator and His beloved children, Our Lady and the Angel came to offer a plan. This included first of all **Prayer**, especially the daily Rosary for Peace; Penance and Sacrifice offered in loving **Reparation** for the conversion of sinners; and **Consecration** to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The call of Our Lady and the Angel in Fatima is clear: we must "grow up in Christ" (Eph 4:13-15): unite our will with the will of God in all things and in this way help to repair the disorder

caused by sin and the rejection of God. Our hope does not fail since we are assured by Our Lady: "My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and way that will lead you to God" and "In the end my Immaculate Heart will triumph and there will be peace." The great "scourge" described above demands a continual faith filled response because the marks and long term effects of that system, "which aims at upsetting the social order and at undermining the very foundations of Christian civilization" are evident the world over.

As a result, today, men and women, children and young people on the margins of human existence, suffer from a lack of fundamental knowledge of their identity and dignity due to their utter estrangement from the living God, Who is their Father. This calls for a new beginning, an urgent evangelization. The content – the Good News - of evangelization does not change. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. But for generations now, the children of God have suffered a grievous blow to their innermost being. Mankind is in need of being spiritually restored and healed. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI called for a "revolution of love" and Pope Francis followed with a call for a "revolution of tenderness". In Fatima we learn that God wishes to establish in the world devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, in other words, to Her most pure Love. Indeed at the centre of the 'revolution of love and tenderness' must be the Immaculate Heart of Mary our Mother. With Mary, each one can join this revolution of love wherever they are to be the gentle face of Christ in all their daily encounters. Through Mary we must give the world JESUS, the One Who heals every one of our ills.

We conclude with these words of the great Hungarian Prelate, Cardinal Joseph Mindszenty, who had suffered the torture of communism. When he visited Fatima October 13, 1972 he said to the pilgrims: "Let us all repent like the people of Nineveh, let us promote love, understanding and mutual help among all peoples. Let us heed the Message of the Virgin Mother of God. Do this and you shall live!"

## Love is the answer!

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## Friends of Fátima

N.º 100

From our hearts we send prayerful and loving Christmas greetings to all of our *Friends of Fatima*. We thank you most sincerely for your generous support of our Community. This year we received a special gift. Three of our Dominican Sisters joined us from Lisbon: Sr. Maria Domingos, Sr. Maria Teresa and Sr. Mary John. With their presence the joy in our community has multiplied and so have the prayers!

In this holy season when we celebrate the Birth of Christ we assure you of fervent remembrance in our Christmas novena of Masses and prayers December 16 – 24 and on Christmas day. We remember especially the sick and suffering, the persecuted and the dying and all who mourn the loss of a loved one in this past year. May the Holy Family bless your families and draw you all closer together at this Christmas and everyday of the New Year 2020.

*Mother Prioress, OP and Sisters*

## "A city set on a hill cannot be hidden"

For 65 years on the hilltop of Fatima, 'altar of the world', the Dominican Nuns of Monastery Pius XII have continued their life as 'hidden preachers of grace'. Some ask: How did you come to Fatima? We must begin by saying that every monastery is born of Divine Love – the Love that poured forth from the pierced side of Christ crucified. Cloistered contemplative Nuns are called to enter and to dwell in the pierced side of Christ. There we find His Sacred Eucharistic Wounded Heart overflowing with love and mercy for us and for all humanity. And deep within His Heart we seek, and we ponder and call upon the WORD so that as it goes "forth from the mouth of God it does not return empty but accomplishes what it was sent to do".

Our particular story began in 1949, when the former Dominican Provincial of Canada, Fr Pius Marie Gaudrault, OP appointed Vicar General in Portugal, was engaged in restoring this ancient Dominican Province. The government had expelled all religious from the country in 1910. While on a visit to Rome, Fr. Gaudrault went to the Dominican Monastery of the Perpetual Rosary located on the Gianicolo with a special mission. He invited Mother Mary Louis Bertand, OP to found a Perpetual Rosary Monastery in Fatima. Saint



Dominic had wished to have a contemplative community wherever the Friars Preachers were established, and Our Lady had bade him "Preach my Rosary". In Fatima She told the Little Shepherds, and all of us, in every Apparition "Pray the Rosary every day for peace" and in October announced, "I am the Lady of the Rosary". Dominican Friars from Batalha had preached the Rosary for centuries all over this region.

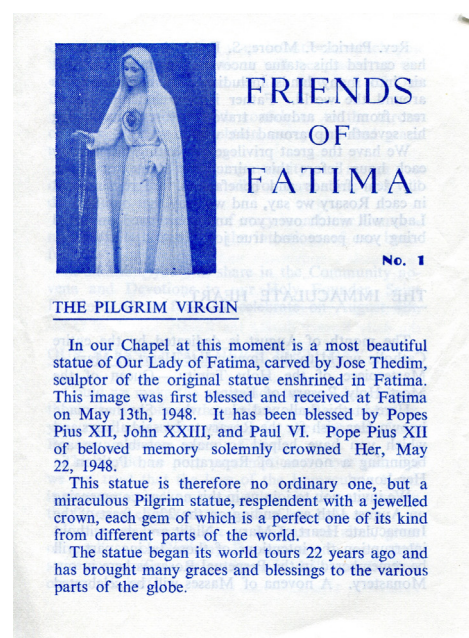
Two years later in October 1951, Mother Mary Louis Bertand, after much pondering and prayer, travelled to



Lisbon and on to Fatima to attend the closing ceremonies of the Holy Year as decreed by Pope Pius XII for the 13<sup>th</sup> of that month. While there, she met the

Dominican Fathers and the local Bishop Dom José da Silva, in view of authorizing the foundation of a Monastery close to the Convento of the Friars.

At intervals during 1952-1954, Mother Bertrand and one or two nuns travelled to Fatima to oversee the building works. Rising from the rocky ground according to plan, the monastery was built on sober lines suited to the cloistered monastic life, with a church to be duly consecrated to the **Immaculate Heart of Our Lady of the Rosary**. The Monastery itself was named “Pius XII”, with the gracious permission of His Holiness



Rosary, to love of God and neighbour, intercession and thanksgiving in silence and living out Pope Francis’ vision of the Gospel of Joy.

Pope Pius XII, who was known as the “Pope of Fatima”. For the inauguration day, 16 June 1954, he wrote as follows: “The foundation constitutes, one would say, the most beautiful reply to the desires which the Mother of God deigned to express to the little seers.” The Papal legate Cardinal Federico Tedeschini presided at the Opening Ceremonies. The ten founding nuns came from three monasteries: Rome, Camden, Glasgow, of whom only one survives today. Vocations have come from different nations and continents, forming an international community, dedicated to the solemn celebration of the Divine Liturgy and the Perpetual

## St. Jacinta Marto - Little Flower of Fatima 1920 - 2020

Jacinta was born in Aljustrel, a tiny hamlet of Fatima. Her parents were hard working country people modestly poor in worldly goods but rich in the Catholic faith. Her life spanned less than 10 years, yet by Divine predilection those years were enough to fill many books!

The history of Portugal is long and filled with the wealth of the Faith. Located on the western seashore of Europe it was natural that its people would be drawn to go beyond the seas in search of new horizons. And indeed the Portuguese navigators are well known around the world. On their ships, often named for Our Lord or Our Lady, missionaries travelled on board to minister to the crew and once in a new territory, to evangelize the natives of those lands. The new world of South and North America and all the way to the Orient beckoned them to their shores.

This spirit of evangelization, a spirit of going beyond the borders and of fearless putting out into the deep, seems inherent in the Portuguese soul. Perhaps we can say that for this reason, among others, Heaven chose Portugal – *Terra de Santa Maria*- for the Apparitions of Our Lady in 1917. In that year, at an epochal moment in human history and in the spirit of the Visitation, Mary came as *God’s own missionary*, to evangelize the world anew. How was this evangelization to be accomplished?

In Fatima, the Mother of God called us all to work for the eternal salvation of souls. Through Baptism every Catholic is called to share in this work, which is at the very heart of all missionary labours. A missionary is one who is filled with zeal for the eternal salvation of souls. Mary said to the children: “Many souls go to hell because there is no one to pray and sacrifice for them.”

In other words, I need you to be missionaries! St Jacinta, open to the Divine Light that penetrated her heart and soul, became a great missionary. One might ask: How can this be when Jacinta never left her own



Jacinta shortly before her death

country? Jacinta is called the “Little flower of Fatima” and we know that St. Therese, who never left her cloister was proclaimed Co- Patroness of the missions!

Later on, Sr. Lucia, seeking to explain Jacinta’s profound spirit of mortification and penance, wrote that “...God willed to bestow on her a special grace, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary; and it was because she had looked upon hell, and had seen the ruin of souls who fall therein.”

Jacinta, looking always to the Immaculate Heart of Mary corresponded to this grace and became a model member of the Mystical Body of Christ and of the Christian missionary vocation. Praying constantly for the Holy Father she showed her love for the suffering Vicar of Christ and the Church. St. Jacinta was utterly consumed with the desire to help save poor sinners: “*Poor sinners! We have to pray and make many sacrifices for them!*” From her bed of pain and sickness she reached out to the entire world of souls. In a word, Jacinta was a missionary to everyone whom she met and in her prayer and sacrifice to the whole world of souls in need. What was her motive? It was the Love that burned in her heart. She exclaimed: “*If only I could put into the hearts of all the love that is burning in my heart. I so love the Hearts of Jesus and Mary!*” The more she loved Them the greater was her zeal for the eternal salvation of poor sinners.

On 20 February 1920, St. Jacinta completed her mission in a Lisbon hospital for children on a bed of excruciating pain. With no family nearby, she heroically suffered her personal Passion in union with Christ, believing all the time, that it is through suffering with love, that God will surely grant His mercy and new life for those in need.

***Sweet Heart of Mary, be my salvation!  
St. Jacinta of Fatima, pray for the  
Holy Father and for all of us!***

### Dominican Order Elects New Master



*On July 13, 2019, the Order of Preachers elected the 87<sup>th</sup> successor of St. Dominic, Fr. Gerard Francisco Timoner, III, OP. The election took place at the General Chapter in Vietnam. It was the first Chapter held in Asia. The new Master is a native of Camarines Norte, Philippines and is the first Asian Master of the Order. In some of his first remarks Fr. Gerard said: “We are preachers [said St. Dominic]. It is not what we do. It is who we are. Mission is not what we do. It is who we are. And if that is clear, everything will just follow. ...We are preachers. That is our identity.” The mandate of the Master is nine years. Please unite with us in prayer for Fr. Gerard as he takes up his new responsibilities on his Dominican journey. Holy Father St. Dominic, pray for us!*

### Prayer for the Beatification of Ven. Pope Pius XII



O Jesus, eternal High Priest, Who didst deign to raise Thy faithful servant, Pius XII, to the supreme dignity of Thy Vicar on earth and to grant him the grace to be a fearless defender of the faith, a valiant champion of justice and peace, zealous in proclaiming the glory of Thy Most holy Mother, a shining example of charity and all virtues, deign now to grant us, in view of his merits, the graces we ask of Thee, so that, made certain of his efficacious intercession with Thee, we may one day see him raised to the honours of our altars. Amen.

### Prayer to Saint Joseph



O Glorious St. Joseph, thou who hast power to render possible, things that are for us impossible, come to our aid in our present trouble and distress. Take this important and difficult affair under thy particular protection that it may end happily. O dear St. Joseph, all our confidence is in thee. Let it not be said that we would invoke thee in vain and since thou art so powerful with Jesus and Mary, show that thy goodness equals thy power.



Dear Rosarians,

### Christmas Greetings of Peace and Joy!

Thank you for your faithfulness to the Rosary throughout 2019. Your contribution to peace in the world is so precious. Every Ave helps to build peace.

One day, Our Lord said to a Dominican Nun: "Make reparation to Me by means of the Rosary." "But Lord", said the Sister, "the Rosary is meant to honor Your Mother." Our Lord answered: "You will find My Heart in each Mystery of the Rosary."



Picture in OP Fathers House in Japan

Our Lord is saying that in every mystery you will find My Love! The Rosary is a prayer of love and the more we pray this prayer the more our hearts grow in love. Praying the Rosary we place ourselves in the Heart of Jesus and the Heart of Mary. We pray in Their Love and this gradually transforms our hearts to become more loving, more kind, more merciful, in a word, to see all things, all circumstances and all persons in the light of Their love. This indeed is what happened in the lives of the Little Shepherds of Fatima and can happen for us too.

St. Pope Paul VI wrote: "Love the Rosary, and apply yourselves to diffuse it as far as possible. The Second Vatican Council reminds us most opportunely that Mary continues to intercede with Her Son in favor of her children on earth. When She quite simply told Him: "They have no wine"

Christ responded most generously. How, then, would He not show the same generosity to her, saying: 'They have no peace'? Let us, therefore, pray to Our Lady that she may obtain for Christians today, a faith that is pure, strong and inviolable, patient and enduring in the face of darkness and trials, that is, a faith, which St. John called, our victory over the world!"

Here is an idea shared by one of our Friends of Fatima for the Family Rosary - at a distance Today, many family members live at various distances from one another. Perhaps even in separate countries or continents. For such a family is it possible to pray the family Rosary together? Yes, it is possible. Here is a suggestion: select a certain day of the month (one which may have some significance for the family) and a time that would suit as many as possible. At the beginning of the year make a calendar and send it to each member of the family with the dates and time already prepared for each month's Family Rosary. (The hour may have to be adjusted according to time zones.) One member of the

family can send a reminder each month to all the family members. If there are particular intentions or needs of the family - immediate and extended - these can be included so that the whole family is united in the prayer of the Holy Rosary for these needs. There are many benefits of this practice including deeper unity and peace in the family.

For the New Year 2020 perhaps we could pray our Rosary in a special way for peace and reconciliation in families. Division in families is a great sadness to God, Who is the Creator of those irreplaceable bonds of family. The greatest joy a family can experience is reconciliation wherever there may be discord or division. For every family in need may this joy be theirs!

*May Our Lady of Fatima open all hearts to the devout recitation of the Rosary to obtain from the Prince of Peace, born for us in the lowly stable of Bethlehem, that "Peace to men of good will" of which the angels sang.*

With our prayers and loving gratitude always,

*Mother Prioress, OP and Sisters*

### Perpetual Rosary Association

I promise to form a part of Our Lady's Guard of Honor by joining the Perpetual Rosary Association, and pledge myself to an Hour of Guard once a month:

Day of month (1st; 5th, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_ Hour chosen \_\_\_\_\_ am/pm

Christian and Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

*Dominican Nuns of the Perpetual Rosary*

*Monastery Pius XII*

*Rua do Rosário, 137*

*2495-444 Fátima - Portugal*