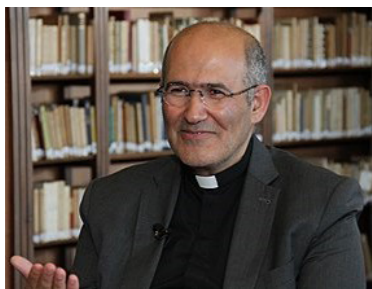


A Joyful and Prayerful Welcome



Our Community joyfully unites with all Dominicans in welcoming José Cardinal Tolentino Mendonça to the Order of Preachers. On November 14, 2020 the Cardinal, who is a native of Portugal and presently the Vatican Archivist and Librarian, will enter the Order through the Dominican Priestly Fraternity. On that day he will receive the Dominican habit. The Cardinal follows in the footsteps of our special patron Ven. Pope Pius XII who, as a Cardinal, also entered the Dominican Order. A prolific author, poet and former Professor at the Catholic University of Lisbon, His Eminence offered this brief prayer at the start of the pandemic.

Deliver us, Lord, from this virus, but also from all the others that are hidden within it.
Deliver us from the virus of widespread panic which, instead of creating wisdom, pushes us helplessly into the labyrinth of anguish.
Deliver us from the virus of discouragement which robs us of the strength of soul that best helps us to cope with the difficult times.
Deliver us from the virus of pessimism, which prevents us from seeing that if we cannot open the door, we still have the possibility of opening windows.
Deliver us from the virus of interior isolation which cuts us off from others, as the world

continues to be a living community.
Deliver us from the virus of individualism that builds walls but blows up all the bridges around us.
Deliver us from the virus of immense doses of empty conversations, since this smothers the truth of words that come forth from silence.
Deliver us from the virus of helplessness, as one of the most urgent things we must learn is the power of our vulnerability.
Deliver us, Lord, from the virus of nights without end, since You cannot forget that it was You Yourself, who appointed us as sentinels of the Dawn.



8th Centenary of the Death of St. Dominic 1221 - 6 August - 2021

The Order of Preachers is preparing to commemorate the 8th centenary of the death of our holy Founder St Dominic de Guzmán. In this brief space we quote Pope emeritus Benedict XVI, who spoke of St. Dominic at his General Audience on 3 Feb 2010.

“When Dominic died in 1221 in Bologna, the city that declared him its Patron, his work already had widespread success. The Order of Preachers, with the Holy See’s support, had spread to many countries in Europe for the benefit of the whole Church.

Dominic was canonized in 1234 and it is he himself who, with his holiness, points out to us two indispensable means for making apostolic action effective. In the very first place is Marian devotion which he fostered tenderly and left as a precious legacy to his spiritual sons who, in the history of the Church, have had the



Holy Father St. Dominic, pray for us!
Laudare Benedicere Praedicare

great merit of disseminating the prayer of the Holy Rosary, so dear to the Christian people and so rich in Gospel values: a true school of faith and piety. In the second place, Dominic, who cared for several women’s monasteries in France and in Rome, believed unquestioningly in the value of prayers of intercession for the success of the apostolic work. Only in Heaven will we understand how much the prayer of cloistered religious effectively accompanies apostolic action! To each and every one of them I address my grateful and affectionate thoughts. Dear brothers and sisters, may the life of Dominic de Guzmán spur us all to be fervent in prayer, courageous in living out our faith and deeply in love with Jesus Christ. Through his intercession, let us ask God always to enrich the Church with authentic preachers of the Gospel.”



Friends of Fátima

Nº 101



Dear
Friends
of Fatima,

We hear in the Gospel from JESUS’ own lips: “Do not be afraid”. In the Sacred Scriptures many times God spoke the same words, through the Prophets for His people, to give them new hope in time of great need. These same words are for our times also. At Fatima we see in the lives of the saintly Shepherds Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta how God carried them through every trial. Dear Friends of Our Lady, God will do the same for you today and always. Know that he who has JESUS has everything! May Our Lady’s gaze be upon you. She

looks at us as our Mother with tenderness, mercy and love. That is how She gazed on Her Son JESUS at all the moments of His life. We are united with you all, imploring many graces through Our Lady to renew and enrich you on your journey each day in this time of trial for the world. We pray that you may experience the joy and peace of JESUS through MARY. In loving gratitude for all of your generosity to our community, a Christmas Novena of Masses and prayers will be offered from December 16 – 24 for all of your intentions and for peace in the world. Please unite with us in these days of fervent prayer.

“Let us make our way to Bethlehem and look earnestly upon this Word, which has been made flesh, the immense God who has been made a little Child” (Gueric of Igny)

May God bless you and Our Lady of Hope, obtain new hope for all! We wish you

*A Most Blessed and Joyful Christmas and
a Holy and Healthy New Year 2021!
Mother Prioress, OP and Sisters*

“Prayer and quiet service: these are our victorious weapons...”

On March 27, 2020, Holy Father Francis, in the evening of the day, as the rain poured down upon him, led the Church and the whole world in prayer. In that moment, when nearly all Catholic churches were closed, the Vicar of Christ, alone in the open, empty space of St. Peter’s Square, prayed for us and blessed the entire world. He spoke of darkness all round, as if evening had fallen on our world. But through his words and gestures he led us to Christ, the True Light, Who dispels all fear and darkness. Below is the Pope’s Message slightly edited for space.



“When evening had come” (Mk 4:35). The Gospel passage we have just heard begins like this. For weeks now it has been evening. Thick darkness has gathered over our squares, our streets and our cities; it has taken over our lives, filling everything with a deafening silence and

a distressing void, that stops everything as it passes by; we feel it in the air, we notice in people’s gestures, their glances give them away. We find ourselves afraid and lost. Like the disciples in the

Gospel we were caught off guard by an unexpected, turbulent storm. We have realized that we are on the same boat, all of us fragile and disoriented, but at the same time important and needed, all of us called to row together, each of us in need of comforting the other. On this boat... are all of us. Just like those disciples, who spoke anxiously with one voice, saying “We are perishing” (v. 38), so we too have realized that we cannot go on thinking of ourselves, but only together can we do this. It is easy to recognize ourselves in this story. What is harder to understand is Jesus’ attitude. While his disciples are quite naturally alarmed and desperate, he is in the stern, in the part of the boat that sinks first.

A Brief Chronicle of 2020 from our Rosary Cloister

And what does he do? In spite of the tempest, he sleeps on soundly, trusting in the Father; this is the only time in the Gospels we see Jesus sleeping. When he wakes up, after calming the wind and the waters, he turns to the disciples in a reproaching voice: “Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?” (v. 40).

Let us try to understand. In what does the lack of the disciples’ faith consist, as contrasted with Jesus’ trust? They had not stopped believing in him; in fact, they called on him. But we see how they call on him: “Teacher, do you not care if we perish?” (v. 38). *Do you not care*: they think that Jesus is not interested in them, does not care about them...he, more than anyone, cares about us....

The storm exposes our vulnerability... all those attempts that anesthetize us with ways of thinking and acting that supposedly “save” us, but instead prove incapable of putting us in touch with our roots and keeping alive the memory of those who have gone before us. We deprive ourselves of the antibodies we need to confront adversity...

“Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?” Lord, your word this evening strikes us...all of us. In this world, that you love more than we do, we have gone ahead at breakneck speed... Greedy for profit, we let ourselves get caught up in things, and lured away by haste. We did not stop at your reproach to us, we were not shaken awake by wars or injustice across the world, nor did we listen to the cry of the poor or of our ailing planet. We carried on regardless, thinking we would stay healthy in a world that was sick. Now that we are in a stormy sea, we implore you: “Wake up, Lord!”

“Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?” Lord, you are calling to us, calling us to faith. Which is not so much believing that you exist, but coming to you and trusting in you... You are calling on us to seize this time of trial as a *time of choosing*. It is not the time of your judgement, but of our judgement: a time to choose what matters and what passes away, a time to separate what is necessary from what is not. It is a time to get our lives back on track with regard to you, Lord, and to others... How many people every day are exercising

patience and offering hope, taking care to sow not panic but a shared responsibility. How many fathers, mothers, grandparents and teachers are showing our children, in small everyday gestures, how to face up to and navigate a crisis by adjusting their routines, lifting their gaze and fostering prayer. How many are praying, offering and interceding for the good of all. Prayer and quiet service: these are our victorious weapons.

“Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?” Faith begins when we realise we are in need of salvation... we need the Lord, like ancient navigators needed the stars. Let us invite Jesus into the boats of our lives. Let us hand over our fears to him so that he can conquer them...this is God’s strength: turning to the good everything that happens to us, even the bad things. He brings serenity into our storms, because with God life never dies. ... We have an anchor: by his cross we have been saved. We have a rudder: by his cross we have been redeemed. We have a hope: by his cross we have been healed and embraced so that nothing and no one can separate us from his redeeming love. ..The Lord asks us from his cross to rediscover the life that awaits



us, to look towards those who look to us, to strengthen, recognize and foster the grace that lives within us. Let us not quench the wavering flame (cf. *Is 42:3*) that never falters, and let us allow hope to be rekindled...
 “Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?” Dear brothers and sisters, from this place that tells of Peter’s rock-solid faith, I would like this evening to entrust all of you to the Lord, through the intercession of Mary, Health of the People and Star of the stormy Sea. From this colonnade that embraces Rome and the whole world, may God’s blessing come down upon you as a consoling embrace. Lord, may you bless the world, give health to our bodies and comfort our hearts. You ask us not to be afraid. Yet our faith is weak and we are fearful. But you, Lord, will not leave us at the mercy of the storm. Tell us again: “Do not be afraid” (*Mt 28:5*). And we, together with Peter, “cast all our anxieties onto you, for you care about us” (cf. *1 Pt 5:7*).

For most of this year 2020, all of us, the world over, have experienced an unprecedented moment in our lives as a consequence of the pandemic of the corona virus. We want to assure you that we have been thinking of you and praying for you continually throughout this time. We send our heartfelt and prayerful condolences to all who may have lost loved ones during this pandemic. We pray for all families facing unemployment and all the hardships and anxiety that this brings. We implore great St Joseph to come to your help and direct others to help you also.

Some have written to ask if our Community is well and what are the effects of the pandemic here. We are very grateful for your concern. We take precautions as everyone else and trust in God. We have had no visitors since the first months of this year just before the various governments began to restrict travel and implement other measures to safeguard the people



Sunrise over the Monastery in winter
In this moment of trial take time to reflect on the beauty of God’s creation

For our community this most unusual year began ahead of the virus. It was a week before Christmas 2019, when a hurricane like storm struck our region. The winds were such, that they forced some equipment from the football field behind the monastery to fall on our enclosure wall. Most of the wall collapsed leaving a very large open space between us and the football field. Fortunately, due to the corona virus no soccer matches could be scheduled!

At the end of February the last group of pilgrims came to see us. Already there were hints of restrictions being put in place. Then March came...the first notice from our Bishop’s office arrived on the 13th letting us know that all public Masses were suspended. Thus began the silence of the Sacred Liturgy, which lasted until the end of May. In those days there was a great silence all around. Our door bell almost never rang; the street in front was silent of passing cars and the absence of pilgrims in Fatima left a great silence and stillness. Many hotels closed and their employees were suddenly left without work, yet another ‘silence’. But the deepest silence was the silence of the Sacred Liturgy. This silence was heartrending to all the faithful. At the time when we most needed our Churches open for Mass and prayer they were almost all locked. Pope Francis had suggested that chapels remain open for private prayer. Therefore, our chapel remained open during the day throughout this period. In this great silence of the Sacred Liturgy, we prayed that God would speak to the hearts of all His children, especially those most in need.. (We are aware that this great silence continues

for many of our Catholic sisters and brothers.) Just before Easter our local newspaper, *Noticias de Fátima*, contacted us and asked us to share our experience of enclosure – voluntary enclosure of love – with those who now found themselves involuntarily ‘enclosed’ in their homes. After May the sounds of life began to be heard again. It was a slow process but ever so joyful to hear the children’s voices in the neighborhood, the everyday movement of cars passing by and tractors plowing the fields to plant again. At the Shrine here, small but

growing numbers of pilgrims came cautiously each 13th from May until October. In that month the Shrine limited the number of pilgrims to 6,000. It was beautiful to once again hear the pilgrims singing the *Ave* from the Sanctuary!

All people of prayer and some who don’t pray are reflecting and asking: Through this universal suffering is there some call from God in this? Let us recall the words of Pope Francis on

March 27: “ Lord, you are calling to us, calling us to faith... You are calling on us to seize this time of trial as a *time of choosing*... a time to choose what matters and what passes away, a time to separate what is necessary from what is not. It is a time to get our lives back on track with regard to you, Lord, and to others...” Indeed, this present trial is a call to the whole world to be humble, to turn to God and to pause and see the needs of our neighbour. Will we allow ourselves to hear God’s call? Or do we find ourselves wishing it were all over so our lives can ‘get back to normal’. Little by little, many are realizing that we can’t go back. We long for a change – for the better – for ourselves and for the world.

Scripture tells us that Jesus wept over Jerusalem: “As He drew near and came in sight of the city He shed tears over it and said: ‘If you in your turn had only understood on this day the message of peace! But alas, it is hidden from your eyes!’” (*Lk 19:41-42*) Our Lord then describes the destruction of that holy city and concludes with these words: ‘...and all because you did not recognize your opportunity when God offered it!’ (*Lk 19:44*) A Christian learns to recognize God’s grace and mercy in every circumstance of life. A Christian believes that through the Cross new life will come. Our task is to live this moment, to recognize in it the opportunity to receive the love, the mercy and the hope of Christ – His Message of Peace - and to bring this to others. Our mission, which began at Baptism, remains the same: to live and to propose the Good News of the Gospel to all. With all of you we continue along this journey, believing and trusting that

Christmas Novena Prayer to the Holy Child Jesus

O Child Jesus I have recourse to Thee; by Thy holy Mother, I implore Thy assistance in this necessity (here mention your request), for I firmly believe that Thy divinity can assist me. I confidently hope to obtain Thy holy grace. I love Thee with my whole heart and my whole soul. I am heartily sorry for my sins, and I entreat of Thee, O good Jesus, to give me strength to overcome my evil passions. I make the resolution of never again offending Thee, and I resolve to suffer everything rather than displease Thee. Henceforth I wish to serve Thee faithfully. For the love of Thee, O divine Child, I will love my neighbor as myself. O Jesus, omnipotent Child, I again implore Thy assistance on this occasion (mention it). Grant that I may possess Thee eternally, with Mary and Joseph, and adore Thee with the angels and saints in heaven. Amen. ~~ Infant Jesus, poor and simple, grant our petitions! Infant Jesus, humble and obedient, grant our petitions! Infant Jesus, silent and recollected, grant our petitions! Infant Jesus, inflamed with love for us, grant our petitions! Holy Mother of the Infant Jesus, pray for us! Blessed St. Joseph, pray for us! All you saints, devoted to the Holy Infancy of Jesus, pray for us!

God is with us!



Dear Rosarians,
Blessed Christmas greetings!

Once again we reach the end of the year and we thank you very much for your fidelity to your Rosary Hour of Guard. Some have written to say that they continue even after thirty or forty or more years. What joy it is to know this! Historically, the Perpetual Rosary – Our Lady’s Guard of Honor – was founded precisely during the plague in Italy nearly four centuries ago. The faithful, who were unable to assist at Holy Mass and worship together, needed personal prayer even more to sustain their faith and their hope and to enkindle the love in their hearts. In other words, to help keep the fires of devotion burning until the Sacraments would be restored to them. The Dominican priest Fr. Timothy de Ricci began what would be the Perpetual Rosary. Hour by hour and day by day the prayer of the Rosary rose to Heaven. Today, the Perpetual Rosary continues and you, dear Rosarians, are helping to keep those fires burning!

During that time of plague, it became clear that with so much death and disease the moral condition of people’s lives suffered a serious decline. The prayer of the Rosary, which places us in spiritual communion with Jesus and Mary, strengthened the moral immunity of the people against the vices of the times, while imploring Heaven to end the plague. The moralizing power of the Rosary is experienced but not often spoken of. It is a precious means to conversion. “The Rosary has a strong moralizing power in the life of a Christian. It points out with precision and reminds one with lively insistence of the supernatural Christian end of man and his responsibility in being able to obtain it or lose it according to the way he lives. That end, whose fulfillment appears in the glorious mysteries, presides in all the mysteries beginning from the



"Are you suffering very much? Do not lose heart. My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and the way that will lead you to God."

I want you to continue to pray the Rosary every day for peace."



"In the end My Immaculate Heart will triumph."

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 _____

(If you are already a member of the Perpetual Rosary Association, you do not need to enroll again. Offerings to help with the cost of printing and mailing are gratefully received)

Dominican Nuns of the Perpetual Rosary
Monastery Pius XII
Rua do Rosario, 137
2495-444 Fatima - Portugal

"The Blessed Virgin watches over us without ceasing. We must then unceasingly offer to her the tribute of our thankfulness. Night and day the Blessed Mother of God is extending over us the mantle of her protection; She guards us from the many dangers that threaten us. Let us then offer to her our homage through the Perpetual Rosary Guard of Honor."

*With our loving prayers and gratitude always,
Your devoted Sisters in Fatima*



Fr. Damien-Marie Saintourens, OP

Incarnation itself, in which the Son of God comes from Heaven to open anew its gates to man. The moralization of man is the essential purpose of the Rosary, as it is also that of the work of the Redemption. ... The propagation of the Rosary never fails to result in the betterment of public, family, and individual morals. For that reason the Popes in their efforts to re-christianize souls, apply the moral lessons of the Rosary to the social necessities of the times." (Fatima: The Rosary and the Heart of Mary. Fr. Marceliano Llaneras, OP) The Rosary is indeed a moral compass, an anchor of hope and a deep well of consolation in times of sickness and great trials. This past year we remembered very specially the first centenary of the death St. Jacinta Marto and Fr. Damien-Marie Saintourens, OP Founder of the Sisters of the Perpetual Rosary. Little Jacinta became a great child Saint. Fr. Damien Marie spent his long life preaching and propagating the Perpetual Rosary. His desire was to be first of all a man of prayer. These few words from his writings assure us today of Our Lady's continuing protection.

This prayer may be said daily or serve as a Novena (especially on the 5th - 13th of each month) in honor of the Apparitions of Our Lady who appeared on the 13th day of the month, to be concluded with Mass and Holy Communion where possible.

O God of infinite goodness and mercy fill our hearts with a great confidence in your most holy Mother, whom we invoke under the title of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima and grant us by Her most powerful intercession all the graces, spiritual and temporal, which we need. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Let us Pray

- Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, bring all men to the feet of your Divine Child.
- Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, obtain peace for the World.
- Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, obtain for us pardon of our manifold sins and offenses
- Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, give us back our ancient fervour.
- Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, bring back to the right road our erring brothers.
- Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, help those who are dear to us.
- Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, obtain for us all we lovingly ask of You.
- Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, help us to resist temptation.
- Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, deliver us from all dangers.
- Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, help all those who invoke Your aid.
- Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, console the sorrowful who trust in You.
- Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, cure the sick who confide in You.
- Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, direct those who govern us.
- Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, make our Catholics more fervent.
- Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, sanctify our Clergy.
- Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, pray for our dear country.

Prayer to Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima

