

## In Persecution...Turn to MARY

In 1916, The Portuguese faithful seeing the persecution against Christ in the Blessed Sacrament and against them as members of His Mystical Body the Church turned as always to the one who was their Queen and Protector, the Most Holy Virgin Mary. Thus, a nationwide Rosary Crusade was begun. Thousands of men, women and children joined from all strata of society. Each made a solemn promise to fulfill the following conditions with *the intention of obtaining the temporal and spiritual resurgence of their nation*:

- 1.) pray the Rosary daily, preferably in the family
- 2.) once a week pray in common with other members of the Crusade
- 3.) receive Holy Communion ev-



ery Sunday or at least once a month *for the intentions of the Crusade*

4.) in the homes of the members there should be a statue or at least a picture of Our Lady of the Rosary

Heaven's response to this united prayer of the Rosary and frequent and fervent reception of Holy Communion

was not delayed. In that very year the Angel of Peace appeared and called for prayer, sacrifice and reparation for the sins against our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. The following year, Our Lady Herself came and confirmed them in the prayer of the Rosary by repeating in each apparition Her motherly request: "Pray the Rosary everyday for peace."

(Source: *Os Pastorinhos de Fátima Testemunhos e Profetas* by P. M. Fernando Sousa e Silva)

***Could a similar Rosary Crusade begin today among the faithful of every country for the temporal and spiritual resurgence of the nations, for the protection of families, the grace of vocations and the gift of peace from God through the Immaculate Heart of Mary? This is our prayer, united with yours!***

CHRISTMAS 2015

Printed in:  
TIPOGRAFIA DE FÁTIMA, LDA.

Dir. & Prop.: M. PRIORESS  
MONASTERY PIUS XII  
Rua do Rosário, 1 - 2495-444 Fátima - Portugal  
[www.fatima-dominicans.com](http://www.fatima-dominicans.com)

# Friends of FATIMA

N.º 96



*"...they went in haste..."*

In the Gospel of St. Luke we read that upon learning from the Angel Gabriel that Her elderly cousin Elizabeth was expecting a child, Mary *"...went with haste..."* to visit her. At that visit Elizabeth proclaims Mary's divine motherhood: *"Who am I that the Mother of my Lord should come to me..."* (Lk1:43) And Mary said: *"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour."* (Lk1:46) At the Birth of Christ the Angels announce to the shepherds, who were on the night watch, that the Saviour had been born. Again, St. Luke tells us: *"...they went in haste..."* (Lk2:16) to Bethlehem to see this thing that had happened. And they returned: *"glorifying and praising God for all they had seen and heard."* (Lk 2:20) In yet another place, we hear Peter and John proclaim to all in the synagogue these words: *"...we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard"* (Acts 4:20) of the wonders of the Lord!

The New Year will bring to all of us three wonders of the Lord. The celebration of

the 1st Centenary of the Apparitions of the Angel of Peace here in Fatima, the 8th Centenary of the founding of the Order of Preachers and finally, the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy. All of these are wonders of God and manifest His infinite Mercy, forming part of His Plan for the eternal salvation of souls - today. Let us go in haste to receive the Mercy of God and glorify Him by sharing it with others through the corporal and spiritual works of Mercy.



A Christmas Novena of Masses and prayers will be offered for the intentions of all the Friends of Fatima from December 16 - 24. With this eternal gift we wish to express our sincere gratitude to you for your spiritual and material kindness over this past year. May your Christmas be Blessed and Joyful and your New Year filled with God's Love and Peace!

*Mother Prioress and Sisters*

## Centenary of the Apparitions of the 'Angel of Peace' in Fatima 1916 - 2016



The Angel gives Holy Communion  
to the Children of Fatima  
(Cathedral of Karaganda, Kazakhstan)

From *Fatima in Lucia's Own Words* we read of the Angel's visits to the little Shepherds in 1916.

### First Apparition (Springtime)

"Do not be afraid. I am the Angel of Peace. Pray with me." Kneeling on the ground, he bowed down until his forehead touched the earth. Led by a supernatural impulse, we did the same, and repeated the words which we heard him say:

**"My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love You! I ask pardon of You for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love You!"**

Having repeated these words three times, he rose and said:

*"Pray thus. The Hearts of Jesus and Mary are attentive to the voice of your supplications."*

### Second Apparition (Summertime)

"What are you doing?" he asked. "Pray! Pray very much! The Hearts of Jesus and Mary have designs of mercy on you. Offer prayers and sacrifices constantly to the Most High."

"How are we to make sacrifices?" I asked.

*"Make of everything you can a sacrifice, and offer it to God as an act of reparation for the sins by which He is offended, and in supplication for the conversion of sinners. You will thus draw down peace upon your country. I am its Angel Guardian, the Angel of Portugal. Above all, accept and bear with submission, the suffering which the Lord will send you."*

### Third Apparition (Autumn)

We said our Rosary there and the prayer the Angel had taught us at the first Apparition



## The Rosary: A Special Place in the 8<sup>th</sup> Centenary

As we celebrate 800 years of the Order, among the many activities planned throughout the world, the Nuns will be united in the 'Pilgrim Rosary'. Every Dominican monastery in the world has been assigned two days on the centenary calendar year to pray and invite others - especially young people - to discover or rediscover the magnificent contemplative prayer of the Rosary. Each monastery will receive a Rosary blessed by the Master of the Order on November 7 in Santa Sabina. These rosaries were made by the Nuns. All of this means that each monastery will become, in a certain way, the centre of the world of the Rosary. During these two days, the sisters will organize in their chapels a time of prayer around the Rosary. And where it is possible they will invite the brothers and the

apostolic sisters or the lay people who live nearby. In a word, everyone is invited! When our saintly Founder, Fr. Damien-Marie Saintourens, OP was contemplating forming a branch of the Dominicans dedicated to the Perpetual Prayer of the Rosary 140 years ago, he wrote in his journal: "The Catholic Church is at present passing through a sorrowful period. If we listen to the sighs and groans of all the

great souls, we recognize an immense desire to draw down upon the world the mercy of God. On every side we constantly hear these words repeated: "Prayers, prayers, we have need of prayers, just as we need bread in order to live. The Sovereign Pontiff suffers, the bishops are anxious; the clergy, religious, all good Catholics are disturbed. God alone can console us, deliver us, save us. ...Now is the time when everyone understands the great need of prayer. The Sovereign Pontiff recommends, before all, the Rosary. Nothing is more opportune than to have communities to pray to the Holy Virgin night and day. This would be the great mission of the Dominican Sisters of the Perpetual Rosary, consecrating themselves day and night to prayer in order to touch the heart of God in favour of the Church and to obtain, through the intercession of the



Most Holy Virgin, pardon and mercy". (8 September 1875)

We rejoice that this Jubilee of the Order will include a universal and perpetual pilgrim Rosary among our monasteries. The Rosary, so blessed by Heaven and the Church, prayed in communion with all the Nuns will surely obtain graces in abundance for the Church, the Order and

the whole world in this Year!

*Is God calling you to be a Dominican?*



## Jubilee Blessings

On August 8th, feastday of our holy Father St. Dominic, we celebrated the golden Jubilee of our dear Sr. Mary Michael. A day of Jubilee joy and thanksgiving to God and Our Lady of the Rosary for her beautiful vocation as a Perpetual Rosary Nun. Sister has loved her Rosary Hour all down the years and she is one of the silent messengers that carries her family, friends and the whole world in her daily Rosary. She is a witness to the many graces that come through the hands of Our Lady of the Rosary to so many souls.

Leaving Derry (Northern Ireland) at a young age, Margaret McLaughlin, Peggy to her family and friends, arrived in Fatima. It was indeed a long journey in those days! This young “Irish Colleen” braved it all to seek the desire of her young heart. She entered our monastery on the beautiful feast of the Immaculate Conception fifty years ago. From the first days Margaret was always there with her big smile and helping hand to join in everything in our Community.

Receiving the holy habit of St. Dominic on the feast of St. Columba, patron of Derry, she was given the name Sr. Mary Michael of the Blessed Sacrament. How the years have flown! Her sweet ejaculation sums it all up: “All for you my dear Lord and Master.”

The Jubilee Mass was celebrated by our good friend Fr. Terence McLaughlin who was assigned to Corpo Santo, the Irish Dominicans in Lisbon. Concelebrat-



Archbishop Eamon Martin  
and Sr. Mary Michael, OP

ing with Fr. Terence were some of our Dominican Fathers from Fatima and our dear friend Fr. Rossi from the Consolata missionaries.

To crown this Golden Jubilee occasion, a few days later we welcomed Archbishop Eamon Martin, Primate of Ireland to our community for a wonderful visit, concluding with Evening Prayer. Sr. M. Michael was indeed very happy to greet the Archbishop who also comes from “Wee Derry on the banks of the Foyle”! We wish our dear Sister Mary Michael continued blessings and God’s choicest graces.

... the Angel appeared to us for the third time, holding a chalice in his hands, with a host above it from which some drops of blood were falling into the sacred vessel. Leaving the chalice and the host suspended in the air, the Angel prostrated on the ground and repeated this prayer three times:

***“Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore You profoundly, and I offer You the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges and indifference with which He Himself is offended. And, through the infinite merits of His most Sacred Heart, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg of You the conversion of poor sinners.”***

Then, rising, he once more took the chalice and the host in his hands. He gave the host to me, and to Jacinta and Francisco he gave the contents of the chalice to drink, saying as he did so: “Take and drink the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, horribly outraged by ungrateful men. Repair their crimes and console your God.” Once again, he prostrated on the ground and repeated with us three times more, the same prayer “*Most Holy Trinity...*”, and then disappeared.

The entire Message of the Angel contains an urgent call to prayer, sac-

rifice and reparation to the Most Holy Trinity and our Eucharistic Lord. What did the Angel mean when he spoke of the outrages, sacrileges and indifference by which Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist is offended?

A little history will help us understand. In 1910, eight centuries of the Portuguese monarchy were overthrown by the work of revolutionaries. These revolutionaries began a persecution of the Church which included the expulsion of all religious and vandalizing parish churches, opening Tabernacles and desecrating the Sacred Hosts. This occurred in various parts of the country. It was of such outrages and sacrileges committed against Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament that the Angel spoke to the little children of Fatima. The Angel called them to pray and to make of everything they could a sacrifice to repair for these crimes.

Sadly, such sacrileges are still being committed today. In April 1984, in a homily given by the Bishop of Fatima, we read: “*What troubles me most is that each year here in our very diocese in one or other church or chapel there are sacrilegious violations of our tabernacles...*”

More recently, in his book entitled *Corpus Christi: Holy Communion and the Renewal of the Church*, (2014) Bishop Athanasius Schneider (Kazakhstan) speaks of the present state of re-

ception of Holy Communion whereby particles of the Sacred Host may easily fall to the floor from the hands of communicants. Our Lord is Present in every particle of the Host. What becomes of these sacred particles on the floors of our churches? It is our Eucharistic Lord! Bishop Schneider also alerts us to the horrible outrage of the theft of the Sacred Hosts that is occurring in these very days.

The call of the Angel for reparation was both actual for its time and prophetic for the century to come! The 20th century right up until now has known great persecution of Christians and horrible outrages and sacrileges committed against our Lord in the Holy Eucharist and indifference to God with respect to keeping holy the Lord's day. How can we help this great cause of REPARATION to our God, Who is love and Who is already so much offended?

### ***Pray the prayers of the Angel***

- The two prayers taught by the Angel are acts of Reparation pleasing to God and Our Lady. The Angel taught the Little Shepherds to "Pray like this..." with reverence and love. They repeated the prayers many times each day as an act of loving reparation.

And like Bl. Francisco, go and 'stay a little while', near the Hidden Jesus in the Tabernacle in adoration and reparation to console our God for the sacrileges of so many. Pray

the words of Christ Himself: "*Father forgive them for they know not what they do.*"



### ***Receive Holy Communion with great reverence after due spiritual preparation***

- Receiving Holy Communion requires us to be in the state of grace. If having committed mortal sin, receiving of absolution in the Sacrament of Penance is necessary before receiving the Holy Eucharist. (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1415) Our Lord Jesus Christ makes Himself so small, so poor and so hidden in form in order to come to us in Holy Communion. And when He comes He draws us into Himself so as to make us one with Him. Meister Eckhart a 13th century Dominican, expresses this union thus: "*So closely is the soul united with God in Holy Communion that not even the cherubim and seraphim can distinguish between them. Where the soul is, there is God, and where God is, there is the soul. This union is unique in its intimacy, because the soul is more closely united to God than to the body which it inhabits. If you were to let fall a drop of wine into*

which has been paid for them be lost, nor thy precious blood be shed in vain, but devise yet further means for their salvation." Upon this the Son answered his

blessed Mother: "*Holy Mother, what can I do, or ought I to do, further for the human race? Have I not sent them patriarchs, prophets, apostles, martyrs, confessors, and doctors of the Church for their salvation? Have I not delivered myself up to death for their sakes? Ought I then to save the sinner equally with the just, the guilty with the innocent? This is neither in keeping with my justice, nor does it beseem my majesty, for although merciful to the contrite, yet am I just towards the hardened. But tell me, sweet Mother, how ought I to bring this about? What wouldst thou have of me? Ask, and thy request shall be granted.*" At this the Mother continued: "*Mine is not to teach thee, my Son, who knowest all things, being the sovereign wisdom of the Father, yet am I sure that if thou wilt thou canst find some remedy for this perishing people.*" Such prayers as these did the **Mother of mercy** pour forth for sinners, kneeling at the feet of her Son. At length, on the third day, raising her

up with great tenderness, the Son replied: *I know sweet Mother, that sinners are being lost for want of preachers, having*

***"...the preachers of the Gospel are the preachers of grace, and the preachers of grace are the preachers of the mercy of God."***

*Fr. Bruno, OP*

*none to break to them the bread of the holy Scriptures, or teach the truth, or open the books now sealed to them. Wherefore, yielding to thy entreaties, I will send*

*them new messengers, an Order of Preachers, who shall call the people and lead them to everlasting joys; only then shall we bar the gate to all slothful, accursed, and empty-handed souls.* After this he saw brethren clothed in the habit which we now wear, and the Son and the Mother sent them forth with their blessing, giving them power to preach the Kingdom of God." And afterwards, this Cistercian monk affirmed that this Order would come to pass and he referred to its members as '**messengers of the Mother of God**' owing to the one who had so mercifully interceded to Her Son for its founding.

Fr. Bruno Cadoré, Master of the Order wrote recently: "*Our Holy Father Dominic wanted to guide the Order under the patronage of Mary, Mother of Mercy... May Mary, Mother of Preachers intercede for his Order so that God the Father of Mercy may grant the sons and daughters of Dominic the grace of the Spirit,*



*so they can announce, through their lives and their words in the world of today and tomorrow, the coming of mercy."*



## *Friars Preachers*

### *Messengers of the Mother of God' Sent to Preach the Gospel*



St. Dominic blesses and sends out his first Brethren August 15, 1217

From November 7, 2015 until January 21, 2017 the Order of Preachers will celebrate, with various worldwide and local events and many moments of united prayer, the **8th Centenary of the confirmation of the Order**. On December 22, 1216 Pope Honorius III gave the approval to St. Dominic for the new Order. In the following year on August 15, 1217 feast of the Assumption of Our Lady, St. Dominic began to send out his first group of sixteen preachers two by two in imitation of Our Lord Who sent His disciples staff in hand and with the mandate to preach the Good News of salvation to the ends of the earth (Lk 10: 4; Mk 6.7; Mt 10:16). Eight hundred years have passed since that moment of grace

which marked the beginning of the mission of a new Order of Preachers in the Church. Yet, we must go back just a little further to learn who it was that obtained this grace for the Church. We read in the *Lives of the Brethren* accounts from two separate persons that corroborate the supernatural origins of the Order. Both took place before the Order was founded and both were related by holy monks. We recount here only one of these stories since they are nearly identical.

An aged and holy Cistercian monk of the Abbey of Bonnevaux, in the diocese of Vienne, recounted the following story to Brother Humbert, who was afterwards Master of the Order. The story as told later by Bl. Humbert goes as follows: One day the monk was passing a large crowd of people surrounding a man who had died and after three days had come back to life. When the monk sent someone to inquire if the man had seen anything in those three days, he replied that *"he had beheld our glorious Lady, the Virgin Mother of God, during three whole days and nights, upon bended knees and with clasped hands, tearfully beseeching her Son to have pity upon her in such terms as these: "My Son, I thank thee for having deigned to choose me for thy mother and queen of heaven, yet I grieve exceedingly that countless souls should be lost, for whom thou hast undergone so many sufferings of poverty, hardship, and contempt. Therefore I beseech thy clemency, let not the great price*

*a barrel of water, the union of water and wine would be very intimate, but far removed from the soul's identification with God in Holy Communion."* Bl. Francisco after receiving Communion from the hands of the Angel said: *"I felt that God was within me, but I did not know how!"*

- As we read in the Instruction *Redemptionis Sacramentum* (25 March 2004): "The Communion-plate for the Communion of the faithful should be retained, so as to avoid the danger of the sacred host or some fragment of it falling." (para. 93) In many places this practice has ceased to exist. It is to be encouraged that the use of the Communion-plate be restored in order to prevent, as far as possible, any accident occurring with the Sacred Body and Blood of Our Lord in the Eucharist.

#### ***Keep holy the Lord's Day***

What place has God in my life? With all the demands on my time has the Lord's Day simply become another day in the week? *"Work is important, but so too is rest. Shouldn't we learn to respect times of rest, especially Sundays?"* (Pope Francis) With so many shops open on Sundays the temptation may be great to take advantage of this. Yet, in honour of the Lord, try to avoid all shopping unless there is an actual and urgent necessity. The Lord's day is different, it is holy! Make of this day a God-centred family day. For

those who are obliged by profession to work on Sundays try to mark the day in some way as the Lord's Day. Be present for Holy Mass even when it demands a sacrifice...isn't that exactly what we find JESUS offering for us in the *Holy Sacrifice* of the Mass? Unite your sacrifices with the supreme Sacrifice in the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

With these and other personal acts of reparation all the faithful can respond to the call for *loving REPARATION*.

*The Angel said:*

*"What are you doing? Pray! Pray very much! The Hearts of Jesus and Mary have designs of mercy on you. Offer prayers and sacrifices constantly to the Most High."*

"My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love You! I ask pardon of You for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love You!"

"Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore You profoundly, and I offer You the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges and indifference with which He Himself is offended. And, through the infinite merits of His most Sacred Heart, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg of You the conversion of poor sinners."

## Extraordinary Jubilee of MERCY

8 December 2015 - 20 November 2016

*“Jesus Christ is the face of the Father’s mercy...Jesus of Nazareth, by his words, his actions, and his entire person reveals the mercy of God.”*

In the Magnificat, Mary proclaims God’s Mercy “from age to age for those who fear Him.” And She continues: “...He has come to the help of Israel His servant, mindful of His mercy...of His mercy to Abraham and to his descendents forever” (Lk1: 50, 54-55). Later on, at the wedding in Cana, prompted by mercy for the newly married couple, Mary intercedes to Jesus saying: “They have no wine.” And “At the foot of the cross, Mary, together with John, the disciple of love, witnessed the words of forgiveness spoken by Jesus. This supreme expression of mercy towards those who crucified him shows us the point to which the mercy of God can reach. Mary attests that the mercy of the Son of God knows no bounds and extends to everyone, without exception...”

Now, in God’s loving Providence, in His great Plan for His sons and daughters who walk together at this moment in the history of salva-

tion, Pope Francis has proclaimed an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy to be celebrated from 8 December 2015 - 20 November 2016. It will be “a special time for the Church; a time when the witness of believers might grow stronger and more effective.... The Church feels the urgent need to proclaim God’s mercy... From the heart of the Trinity, from the depths of the mystery of God, the great river of mercy wells up and overflows unceasingly. It is a spring that will never run dry, no matter how many people approach it. Every time someone is in need, he or she can approach it, because the mercy of God never ends. The profundity of the mystery surrounding it is as inexhaustible as the richness which springs up from it...Mercy will always be greater than any sin, and no one can place limits on the love of God who is ever ready to forgive...”



*“I will have the joy of opening the Holy Door on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. On that day, the Holy Door will become a Door of Mercy through which anyone who enters will experience the love of God who consoles, pardons and instills hope.”*

“It is my burning desire,” the Pope continues, “that during this Jubilee, the Christian people may reflect on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. It will be a way to re-awaken our conscience, too often grown dull in the face of poverty.

And let us enter more deeply into the heart of the Gospel where the poor have a special experience of God’s mercy. Jesus introduces us to these works of mercy in his preaching so that we can know whether or not we are living as his disciples. Let us rediscover these **corporal works of mercy**: to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, heal the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead. And let us not forget the **spiritual works of mercy**: to counsel the doubtful, instruct the ignorant, admonish sinners, comfort the afflicted, forgive offences, bear patiently those who do us ill, and pray for the living and the dead.

...We cannot escape the Lord’s words to us, and they will serve as the criteria upon which we will be judged: whether we have fed the hungry and given drink to the thirsty, welcomed the stranger and clothed the naked, or spent time with the sick and those in prison (cf. Mt 25:31-45). Moreover, we will be asked if we have helped others to escape the doubt that causes them to fall into despair and which is often a source of loneliness; if we have helped to overcome the ignorance in which millions of people live, especially children deprived of the necessary means to free them from the bonds of poverty; if we have been close to the lonely and afflicted; if we have forgiven those who have offended us and have rejected all forms of anger and hate that lead to violence; if we have had the kind of patience God shows, who is so patient with us; and if we have commended our brothers and sisters to the Lord in prayer. In each of these “little ones,” Christ him-

self is present. His flesh becomes visible in the flesh of the tortured, the crushed, the scourged, the malnourished, and the exiled ... to be acknowledged, touched, and cared for by us. Let us not forget the words of Saint John of the Cross: “as we prepare to leave this life, we will be judged on the basis of love.”

*(Misericordiae Vultus Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy 11 April 2015)*

Fatima, with its events and message, forms a large ‘piece’ in the mosaic of God’s Divine Plan of Mercy for our times. In July 1917, Our Lady said: “In order to save them [poor sinners from hell] God wishes to establish devotion to my Immaculate Heart.”

The little shepherds of Fatima saw the horror of hell and souls lost for all eternity. To help save souls, God, in His mercy, asks us to honour the Heart of Mary, that is, the maternal and most pure love of Mary. This means to open our hearts to Her love and to offer our hearts to Her to be formed in the love of Christ. Therefore, let us turn to the Immaculate Heart of Mary in this special year and address Her, as the Holy Father recommends: “... in the words of the *Salve Regina*, a prayer ever ancient and new, so that she may never tire of turning her merciful eyes towards us, and make us worthy to contemplate the face of mercy, her Son Jesus.”

*“Hail holy Queen,  
Mother of Mercy,  
hail our life, our sweetness  
and our hope...”*



## Dear Rosarians,

Blessed Christmas wishes and prayers of gratitude for your continued, loving fidelity to the Rosary Hour of Guard with Our Lady each month. Thank you also for encouraging others to join the Perpetual Rosary Association. New members are received every year either through correspondence, our internet site or among the pilgrims who come to visit.

This year, on the Sundays during October in our public chapel one of our Friars from the Priory next door came to lead the Rosary at 5pm before the afternoon Benediction. Various friends and neighbours of the monastery- families, couples, and single persons - came forward to lead a decade of the Rosary praying especially for the Synod on the Family taking place in those days. The Nuns in their choir joined too. The response by the people was very enthusiastic. When a family stands together before the community of believers and prays the Rosary something happens. By God's grace the bond of family unity is strengthened and gives witness to others of God's presence in their lives. The whole community rejoices together.

One of the mothers who participated in the family Rosary Sunday wrote: *"It was with holy joy and emotion that I went up to the Altar with my family to pray the First Mystery of the Holy Rosary. We were moved to tears as we sang: 'Here we come, Blessed Mother Mary to consecrate to Thee our love...' I pray that Our Lady will intercede for us to Jesus, and that all families may experience the happiness of living in a family where peace, love and joy reign. I thank the Sisters for this opportunity given to us, to participate in this Rosary celebration, united with the Holy Father in the Synod of Bishops for Families."* Irene Carreira

Yet, we know that many Catholic families suffer because one or more members are separated from the faith. Your prayer of the Rosary is a lifeline to these family members! As you pray, bring each member of the family for whom you are concerned into the mystery that you are pondering with Mary. Through Our Lady ask that the saving power of that mystery be released in the life of your loved one. *"Mary constantly sets before the faithful the 'mysteries'"*

*of Her Son, with the desire that the contemplation of those mysteries will release all their saving power."* (RVM 11) For all who are concerned for their children, recall too the words of St. Irenaeus, one of the great Fathers of the Church. Remembering his own childhood he wrote: "What we learn as children grows up with the soul and is united to it." In other words, faith, learned as a child cannot be forgotten.

Dear Rosarians, in this year of MERCY let us place our total confidence in MARY, Mother of Mercy and our mother who hears our prayers and takes them to Her Son, Who can refuse Her nothing. In this Year of Mercy may all of our rosaries become 'Rosaries of Mercy' for families and all who are in need of God's saving Mercy. The members of the Perpetual Rosary Association are as sentinels around the world keeping watch at every hour of day and night. You are like a burning candle in the window for those seeking to find their way in the darkness.

We remain united with you in loving prayer and gratitude to God.

Your devoted  
Rosary Sisters in Fatima

## The Rosary: The Prayer of the Heart of Mary



*"I will speak to your heart, O Mary..."* these words form the beginning of the first known prayer to the Immaculate Heart written by the Benedictine Eckbert of Schoenau (+1184). In the Rosary we speak to Mary's Heart and She in turn speaks to us from Her Heart of the memories of the mysteries of Christ that She pondered continually.

The act of remembering – of calling to mind another person whom we love reaches the heart. The heart is intimately involved. This is what we do as we pray the Holy Rosary. When Our Lady of Fatima told us to 'pray the Rosary everyday' She was saying: remember everyday...call to mind and to heart the Person of My Son, Jesus Christ Who was first conceived in the enclosure of My Immaculate Heart. This 'holy remembering' will bring peace and unity in your life and the lives of others, especially of your families. As the prophets foretold, the Saviour, the One Who is to come,

*He will be PEACE!*

Please visit [rosarium.op.org](http://rosarium.op.org) the Dominican International Rosary website

Don't you join?  
**NEW MEMBERS**

## 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 a member of the Perpetual Rosary Association already, 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 Rosário, 1  
2495 Fatima, Portugal**