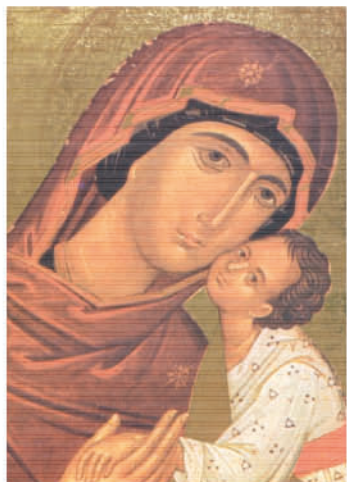


Friends of FATIMA

N.º 103

Dear Friends of Fatima,

A very blessed, joyous and peaceful Christmas is our wish for you and all your loved ones!



2022 saw the pilgrims return to Fatima with grateful hearts and Rosary in hand. Many thousands arrived for May 13. This was the first pilgrimage without COVID restrictions. The joy of the pilgrims could be felt all the way to our monastery. Who could count the *Ave's* that rose to Heaven from the Cova in those days? Our Lady must have been greatly consoled to receive Her children again and to dispense so many graces 'stored up' through the years of pandemic! As the months passed the pilgrims continued to come. Everyone is united in prayer

for peace especially in Eastern Europe at this moment.

This very special intention for peace, as well as all of your intentions both material and spiritual will be remembered in our ***Solemn Christmas Novena of Masses and Prayers from 16 – 24 December***. This novena is offered in thanksgiving for your generous support in so many ways through this year. May the Holy Family of Bethlehem bless your family and bring healing and reconciliation wherever it may be needed. *Charity and Mercy* shall be our watchwords for 2023!

With our prayers and heartfelt gratitude always,

Mother Prioress OP and Sisters



Golden Jubilee of Religious Profession

Sr. Maria of the Eucharist, OP

On August 15, Solemnity of the Assumption of Our Lady into Heaven, our Sr. Maria of the Eucharist celebrated her Golden Jubilee of Religious Profession. Sister's family came from Italy and many friends joined us here in our chapel. Fr. Filipe Rodrigues, OP Vicar of our monastery was the main celebrant, while Fr. Miguel Patinha, OP Prior and Fr. Pedro Polona, imc Superior of the Consolata missionaries concelebrated.

This Jubilee celebration assumed an added joy since it was the first time since the years of Covid 19 that we could come together to celebrate publicly.

Such an occasion is filled with grace: an occasion of profound thanksgiving by the Sister Jubilarian herself; by our community and by all the Church. From the moment the Call is heard to leave all for Christ, to the momentous event of entrance day, through the years of formation in the Dominican monastic way of life and all the ensuing years of silent, loving fidelity Jesus is beside us.

As Sr. Maria renewed her vows, those present felt touched by the graces of 50 years culminating in this public act of repeating her *Fiat* until death.



Our way of life in the Church and in the Dominican Order is hidden, yet totally apostolic. Since entering our monastery in 1971 from Sicily, Sister Maria has been deeply dedicated to our charism of the Perpetual Rosary. In fact, Sister was introduced to the Perpetual Rosary by her beloved mother who had been a member of the association in Italy. As a small child Sr. Maria used to accompany her mother at the Rosary Hour of Guard. Now Sister accompanies the whole world in her Rosary Hour of Guard each day.

May this Jubilee of grace be an invitation to other young women to listen to the call of Christ...

"Lord whatever you will. Even if you send me to the ends of the earth – or Fatima! – I will follow You!"

You may wish to visit our newly revised website at www.fatimadominicans.com

Sr. Lucia of Fátima: Cause of Beatification

On October 13, 2022 the rector of the Shrine of Fatima, announced at the close of the international Mass, that the final *positio* or report on the life and virtues of Sr. Lucia had been presented in Rome to the Sacred Congregation of the Saints. There, a committee of nine theologians will examine these documents and decide on the heroic virtues of Sr. Lucia. If the decision is affirmative, Sr. Lucia will receive the title Venerable, which is one step closer to Beatification.

Of herself she once wrote: “I need no more than this: obedience and abandonment to God who works within me. I am truly no more than a poor and



miserable instrument which He desires to use, and in a little while, like a painter who casts his now useless brush into the fire so that it may be reduced to ashes, the Divine Artist will Himself reduce His now useless instru-

ment to the ashes of the tomb, until the great day of the eternal Alleluias. And I ardently desire that day, for the tomb does not annihilate everything, and the happiness of eternal and infinite love begins – now!” (Memoirs p. 136)

“Let us entrust our intentions and needs to her intercession with the same confidence with which the pilgrims of 100 years ago presented their requests to her so that she can convey them to Our Lady.”

A Special Thank You to St. Joseph

With the price of water rising every year, our community decided to try to drill for water on our property. The engineer who assessed the land identified a very likely place just in front of the little shrine of St. Joseph that overlooks one of the fields. To begin, Fr. José Carlos, OP blessed the workers, the equipment and the site. In this region wells are very deep. Once the pump was installed we saw the first clear water come forth. St. Joseph's Well has already filled the large deposit for the first time. **Thank You St. Joseph** and please intercede for all who so kindly contributed in any way to this necessary work.



Five First Saturdays ... Isn't it just another devotion?

This is what Sr. Lucia's Superior and Confessor asked themselves when first hearing of the request of Our Lady in 1925. Three years later Fr. Formigão learned of it from Sr. Lucia and shared it with Bishop Dom José, who would only authorize the private practice of it.

Years later, on 13 September 1939, the Bishop finally approved the practice of this devotion publicly in his diocese. Fourteen critical years had passed since Our Lady made her request.

The Immaculate Heart of Mary is at the centre of the story of Fatima. In June 1917 Our Lady told Lucia that "God wishes to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart." In the following Apparition of July, after the children were shown a terrifying vision of hell, Our Lady said: "You have seen hell, where the souls of poor sin-



ners go. *To save them* God wishes to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart. If what I say is done many souls will be saved and there will be peace... but if people do not cease offending God, a worse one [war] will break out... *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..."

We see above that the motive for devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary first of all is *to save poor sinners* from hell – eternal suffering and chaos. Afterwards, in the Communion of Reparation to her Immaculate Heart it is *to prevent* further war and the great punishment from God for the crimes of

the people.

Years later Sr. Lucia wrote: “Since we did not heed this appeal of the Message, we see that it has been fulfilled, Russia has invaded the world with her errors. And if we have not yet seen the complete fulfilment of the final part of this prophecy, we are going towards it little by little with great strides. If we do not reject the path of sin, hatred, revenge, injustice, violations of the rights of the human person, immorality and violence, etc. And let us not say that it is God who is punishing us in this way; on the contrary it is people themselves who are preparing their own punishment. In his kindness God warns us and calls us to the right path, while respecting the freedom he has given us; hence people are responsible”.

In his recently published book: *A Devoção dos Cinco Primeiros Sábados*, Fr. Ricardo Figueiredo writes: “With the devotion of the first Saturdays, the Message of Fatima does not confine itself to the contemplation of an historical moment, but remains today as a challenge of conversion and of intimacy with God and Mary. That is, to understand this devotion as an integral proposal of the Christian life: to be Christian has to be syn-

onymous with wanting to be holy.”

It’s clear then that the Five First Saturdays devotion is not ‘just another devotion’. It’s a Heaven designed Plan of Reparation and peace for the world. It is a sure means of re-evangelization. This plan was made for the times in which we are living when the need for reparation is both deep and urgent.

In Fatima, the Most Holy Virgin literally holds out Her Heart to us as a refuge and a sure way to God! With our *fiat* enfolded in Her *Fiat*, we can live this devotion and obtain its promises for ourselves and others.

(There are various websites with more information on this devotion but here we offer one that you may wish to look at: www.communal-firstsaturdays.org)

Of what does this devotion consist?

On the First Saturday:

Make confession (Sacrament of Reconciliation)

Receive Holy Communion,

Pray five decades of the Rosary,

Keep Our Lady company for fifteen minutes while meditating on the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary.

All with the intention of making reparation to Her Immaculate Heart.



Dear Rosarians, Blessed and Joyful Christmas!

Thank you for your faithfulness to your monthly Rosary Hour of Guard. Some have written to say that they continue even after many years and there are new members who joined this year via our website: www.fatimadominicans.com. Welcome once again!

Dear Rosarians, our present life is a continual preparation for eternal life with God, Our Lady, St. Joseph and all the saints and angels in Heaven. Along the way we find our faith being tested in various ways. These “tests” are a means of renew-

ing our faith and re-committing our life to Christ. Our faith is renewed also through prayer. Every time we pray the Rosary we are renewed in our faith, hope and love. Sr. Lucia of Fatima once told Cardinal Ratzinger that she realized more and more that: “The purpose of all the Apparitions was to help people to grow more and more in Faith, Hope and Love – everything else was intended for this.” Another means of deepening our faith is to pray the Creed slowly, pondering each article of our faith: for example, I believe in one God, the Father the Almighty...ask yourself: Do I believe this truth?...Yes...then may it transform my life! Do this with each article of the Creed. Our

“Let the Creed be like a mirror for you. Look at yourself in it to see whether you really believe all that you claim to believe. And rejoice everyday in your faith.” St. Augustine

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)

faith, even if as small as a mustard seed, can move mountains, as the Lord has said.

Dear Rosarians, we are living in very difficult and some say “chaotic” times. God has chosen us for this moment. With His grace and our personal renewal of faith day by day, we will be strengthened and in turn we can help strengthen others. The disorder in the world is the consequence of the absence of God in people’s lives, through ignorance or indifference or even the rejection of God. Without our Father in Heaven the order of the human family and the individual is disturbed. He, the Creator, keeps the order of His creation.

Pope Francis has often spoken of the Church as a ‘field hospital’ where wounded souls can come for treatment and healing. As Christ Himself showed us on many occasions the sin is to be rejected but not the sinner. The healthy do not need a doc-

My God I believe, I adore, I
hope and I love You.
I beg pardon for those who do
not believe, do not adore, do not
hope and do not love You.

Prayer of the Angel of Peace

tor but the sick do! The wounds of humanity need healing: the wounds of love betrayed or withdrawn; of trust

broken. Christ is the Head of the Church, that ‘field hospital’ and by His wounds we are all healed.

We close this greeting and reflection with an invitation for new members to join the Perpetual Rosary Association. It’s a beautiful way to show your love for Our Blessed Mother and to help the cause of peace in your home and in the world. We encourage everyone to join and make this perpetual circle of prayer ever stronger and more fervent.

Our Lady of the Rosary and St. Dominic, pray for us all in the New Year!

*With our loving
prayers and gratitude,
your Devoted
Rosary Sisters*



*Dominican Nuns of the Perpetual Rosary
Monastery Pius XII
Rua do Rosário, 137
2495-444 Fátima - Portugal*

O Mary, Mother of God and our Mother,

in this time of trial we turn to you. As our Mother, you love us and know us: no concern of our hearts is hidden from you. Mother of mercy, how often

we have experienced your watchful care and your peaceful presence! You never cease to guide us to Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Yet we have strayed from that path of peace. We have forgotten the lesson learned from the tragedies of the last century, the sacrifice of the millions who fell in two world wars. We have disregarded the commitments we made as a community of nations. We have betrayed peoples' dreams of peace and the hopes of the young. We grew sick with greed, we thought only of our own nations and their interests, we grew indifferent and caught up in our selfish needs and concerns. We chose to ignore God, to be satisfied with our illusions, to grow arrogant and aggressive, to suppress innocent lives and to stockpile weapons. We stopped being our neighbour's keepers and stewards of our common home. We have ravaged the garden of the earth with war and by our sins



we have broken the heart of our heavenly Father, who desires us to be brothers and sisters. We grew indifferent to everyone and everything except our-

selves. Now with shame we cry out:
Forgive us, Lord!

Holy Mother, amid the misery of our sinfulness, amid our struggles and weaknesses, amid the mystery of iniquity that is evil and war, you remind us that God never abandons us, but continues to look upon us with love, ever ready to forgive us and raise us up to new life. He has given you to us and made your Immaculate Heart a refuge for the Church and for all humanity. By God's gracious will, you are ever with us; even in the most troubled moments of our history, you are there to guide us with tender love.

We now turn to you and knock at the door of your heart. We are your beloved children. In every age you make yourself known to us, calling us to conversion. At this dark hour, help us and grant us your comfort. Say to us once more: "Am I not here, I who am your Mother?" You are able to untie the knots of our hearts and of our

times. In you we place our trust. We are confident that, especially in moments of trial, you will not be deaf to our supplication and will come to our aid.

That is what you did at Cana in Galilee, when you interceded with Jesus and he worked the first of his signs. To preserve the joy of the wedding feast, you said to him: "They have no wine" (Jn 2:3). Now, O Mother, repeat those words and that prayer, for in our own day we have run out of the wine of hope, joy has fled, fraternity has faded. We have forgotten our humanity and squandered the gift of peace. We opened our hearts to violence and destructive-

ness. How greatly we need your maternal help! Therefore, O Mother, hear our prayer. Star of the Sea, do not let us be shipwrecked in the tempest of war. Ark of the New Covenant, inspire projects and paths of reconciliation. Queen of Heaven, restore God's peace to the world. Eliminate hatred and the thirst for revenge, and teach us forgiveness. Free us from war, protect our world from the menace of nuclear weapons. Queen of the Rosary, make us realize our need to pray and to love. Queen of the Human Family,

show people the path of fraternity. Queen of Peace, obtain peace for our world. O Mother, may your sorrowful plea stir our hardened hearts. May the tears you shed for us make this valley parched by our hatred blossom anew. Amid the thunder of weapons, may your prayer turn our thoughts to peace. May your maternal touch soothe those who suffer and flee from the rain of bombs. May your motherly embrace comfort those forced to leave their homes and their native land. May your Sorrowful Heart move us to compassion and inspire us to open our doors and to care for our brothers and sisters who are injured and cast aside.



Holy Mother of God, as you stood beneath the cross, Jesus, seeing the disciple at your side, said: "Behold your son" (Jn 19:26). In this way he entrusted each of us to you. To the disciple, and to each of us, he said: "Behold, your Mother" (v. 27). Mother Mary, we now desire to welcome you into our lives and our history. At this hour, a weary and distraught humanity stands with you beneath the cross, needing to entrust itself to you and, through you, to consecrate itself to Christ. The people of Ukraine and Russia, who venerate you with great

love, now turn to you, even as your heart beats with compassion for them and for all those peoples decimated by war, hunger, injustice and poverty.

Therefore, Mother of God and our Mother, to your Immaculate Heart we solemnly entrust and consecrate ourselves, the Church and all humanity, especially Russia and Ukraine. Accept this act that we carry out with confidence and love. Grant that war may end and peace spread throughout the world. The “Fiat” that arose from your heart opened the doors of history to the Prince of Peace.

We trust that, through your Heart, peace will dawn once more. To you

we consecrate the future of the whole human family, the needs and expectations of every people, the anxieties and hopes of the world.

Through your intercession, may God’s mercy be poured out on the earth and the gentle rhythm of peace return to mark our days. Our Lady of the “Fiat”, on whom the Holy Spirit descended, *restore among us the harmony that comes from God.* May you, our “living fountain of hope”, water the dryness of our hearts. In your womb Jesus took flesh; help us to foster the growth of communion. You once trod the streets of our world; lead us now on the paths of peace. Amen.

Reflection on the Act of Consecration

On March 25, 2022, Pope Francis prayed this Act of Consecration in Rome, entrusting and consecrating the whole of humanity, the Church and in a special way Ukraine and Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. At the same hour, in Fatima, the Pope’s legate was offering this prayer of entrustment at the feet of Our Lady’s image in the Chapel of Apparitions. Throughout the prayer the Pope addresses Mary as our Mother fourteen times and also uses ten other titles in imploring Her help at this moment in history.

The word peace occurs also fourteen times and we are reminded of the words of St. Jacinta to Lucia: “Tell everyone to pray to the Immaculate Heart of Mary for peace because God has entrusted this to Her.” The Saint said: *Tell everyone!*

“My Immaculate Heart will triumph”. What does this mean? 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.... To be “devoted” to the Immaculate Heart of Mary means therefore to embrace this attitude of heart, which makes the *fiat*—“your will be done”—the defining centre of one’s whole life.” (Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI)

World Youth Day - 2023

<https://www.lisboa2023.org/en/>

After a long delay due to Covid 19, the youth of Portugal are preparing to celebrate the 37th World Youth Day (WYD) in Lisbon next year. From August 1 – 6 our capital city will host youth from all over the world in a week of catechesis, liturgical celebrations and cultural and social events.

“Since its first edition in Rome in 1986,

World Youth Day has proven to be a laboratory of faith, a place of birth for vocations to marriage and consecrated life, and an instrument for the evangelization and transformation of the Church. It aims to provide all participants with a universal Church experience, fostering a personal encounter with Jesus Christ. It is a new stimulus to the faith, hope and charity of the entire host country community. With young people as its protagonists, World Youth Day also seeks to promote peace, unity and fraternity among peoples and nations around the world.”

The theme guiding the preparation and celebration of this youth week is: “Arise in haste” based on St. Luke’s Gospel: “Mary went in haste to her cousin Elizabeth...” (Lk 1:39).

Pope Francis wrote to the youth: “...My message for you, dear young people, the great message entrusted to the Church, is Jesus! Yes, Jesus himself, in his in-



“The Mother of the Lord is a model for young people on the move, who refuse to stand in front of a mirror to contemplate themselves or to get caught up in the ‘net’. Mary’s focus is always directed outwards.”

Pope Francis

finite love for each of us, his salvation and the new life he has bestowed upon us. Mary is our model; she shows us how to welcome this immense gift into our lives, to share it with others, and thus to bring Christ, his compassionate love

and his generous service to our deeply wounded humanity...Now is the time to arise! Like Mary, let

us “arise and go in haste”. Let us carry Jesus within our hearts, and bring him to all those whom we meet! In this beautiful season of your lives, press ahead and do not postpone all the good that the Holy Spirit can accomplish in you! With affection, I bless your dreams and every step of your journey.”

« Where does Jesus send us? There are no borders, no limits: he sends us everywhere. The Gospel is for everyone, not just for some »

Pope Francis to youth in *Christus Vivit*, 177

Last summer, the religious communities of Fatima were invited to spend a day in prayer for the youth who will participate in the next WYD and for its spiritual success. The WYD logo was passed to each community and remained for 24 hours in a spiritual relay of prayer. We invite you to pray with us for the young people: for their safety and their growth in holiness.



Vocation Invitation

"I have loved you with an everlasting love..." Jer.31:3
Come, follow Me...



Find out about us:

**Dominican Nuns
of the**

Perpetual Rosary

Rua do Rosario, 137

2495-444 Fatima,

Portugal

www.

fatimadominicans.com



"Here am I Lord, I come to do Your will." Ps.40

In Fatima the Message of Our Lady and the charism of the Dominican way of life are profoundly united.

*Dear young friends, we invite you to pray and to listen:
If today you hear His voice open wide your hearts to Christ!*

CHRISTMAS 2022

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