

Behold Thy Mother

A Publication of the Missionary Sisters of the Holy Ghost

Spring/Summer 2017

Volume 19 Issue 56



*100th Anniversary of Fatima
1917-2017
Issue #2*

Veni Sancte Spiritus per Mariam!

Dear Readers,

We promised you, at the beginning of this year, that we would continue to take you through different aspects of the message of Our Lady of Fatima, since we celebrate, during 2017, 100 years since she first came to Fatima, Portugal. She pleaded with mankind to heed her past warnings, to begin **now** to amend their lives, dress modestly, make reparation, study their faith and pray the family Rosary each and every day.

She appeared during the reign of His Holiness, Pope Benedict XV and continued giving messages to the eldest seer, Sr. Lucia into the reign of His Holiness, Pope Pius XI, but it was not until the reign of His Holiness, Pope Pius XII, that all doubt was removed from these apparitions, and in 1950, He spoke those famous words that launched the Crusade of Fatima, **"The time for doubting Fatima is over, now is the time for action."** He was so sure of the message of Fatima, that He said to the Master General of the Dominicans, **"Tell your religious that the Pope's thinking is contained in the Message of Fatima."**

While the message was young, Pope Benedict XV urgently asked all of the Christian people to beg the Virgin Mary to obtain the peace of the world, and to solemnly entrust the task to Her alone. As time went on, Pope Pius XI wished to read all the results of the Canonical Process of Fatima, so that He would be personally acquainted with Our Lady's apparitions. He then granted a partial indulgence to those who individually visited the Shrine and prayed for the intentions of the Holy Father, and a plenary indulgence, once a month, to those who went there in a group. After all of this, still there were those who doubted the authenticity and contents of this message, so it took Pope Pius XII to tell the world to cease doubting Fatima.

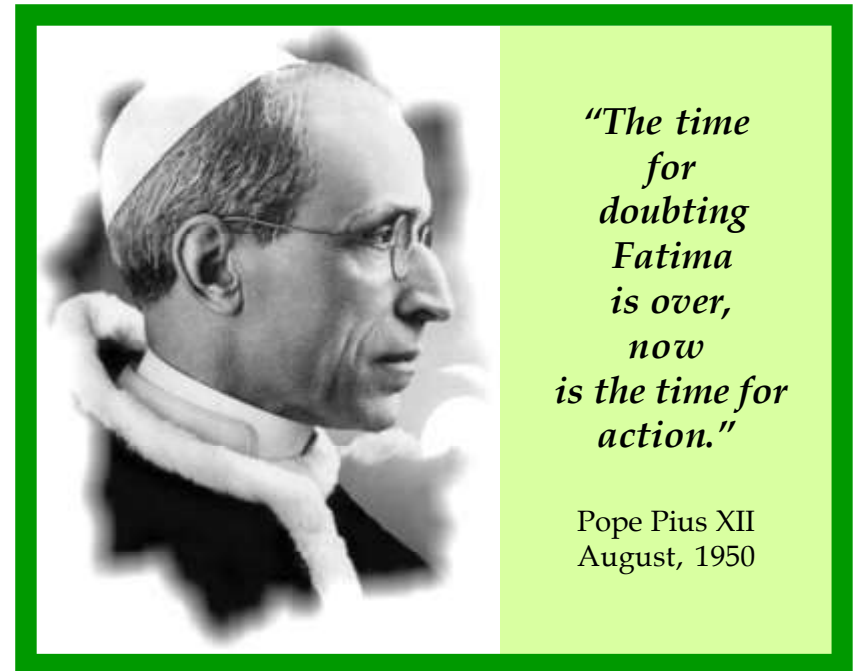
In this issue, we hope to share with you a glimpse into what Pope Pius XII did in order to make sure this message was known and lived. Due to His intense promotion of Our Lady's Peace Plan from Heaven, which was comprised, in part, of the Holy Rosary, Modesty and Consecration to Mary's Immaculate Heart, He is known, to this day, as **"the Pope of Fatima," "the Pope of Peace!"**

My prayers and the prayers of our Sisters are with you. We thank you for your prayers and for your support.

In the Hearts of Jesus and Mary,

Reverend Mother Maie de Montfort, c.m.s.s.

Behold Thy Mother is published three times a year. Subscription rates are \$16.00 per year within the United States. Foreign rates, \$22.00 per year.



Intentions for:

Morning Offering

(In the spirit of Holy Slavery)

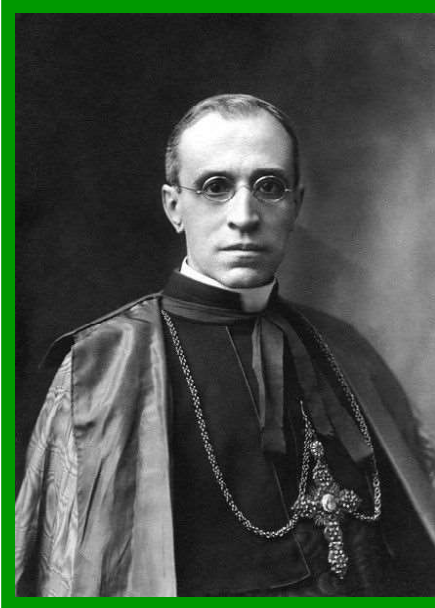
O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, in reparation for my sins, I offer Thee all my prayers, works, joys and sufferings of this day and of my entire life, for all the intentions of Thy Most Sacred Heart, in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass validly and licitly offered this day throughout the world, the infinite graces and merits thereof to be dispensed in accord with Thy Divine Will for the salvation of souls, the conversion of sinners, and the special intention recommended for this month:

May: That all the members of the Church Militant may grow in fervor in the practice of their holy faith.

June: The universal reign of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, our King, through the spread of devotion to Mary, our Queen.

July: The preservation of the purity and modesty of our youth during the summer months.

August: The conversion of sinners, and reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.



Heaven's Plan

*Fr. Eugenio
Pacelli
becomes,
His
Excellency,
Bishop
Eugenio
Pacelli*

May 13, 1917

Everything in our life is a part of the wonderful and stupendous plan of Almighty God. Each person we meet, God had a purpose for allowing our paths to cross. Only in eternity will we fully understand why things happened the way they did in each and every day of our life.

Such is also the way God works with those He has great plans for in life.

Eugenio Maria Giuseppe Giovanni Pacelli, was such a one that God, from all eternity, planned to be the herold of His Mother's great message at Fatima, Portugal, in 1917.

Eugenio was born into a family which, for most of the nineteenth century, was in service to the Holy See.

On Easter Sunday, April 2, 1899, he was ordained a priest, and said his first Mass the following day, at the altar of "*Salus Populi Romano*". The title "*Salus Populi Romano*", (Protectress and Health of the Roman People) is a Roman Catholic title associated with the venerated image of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Rome. She is enshrined within the Borghese Chapel of the Basilica of Saint Mary Major.

This priest was to go on in God's plan, to become a



**Eugenio
Pacelli at the
age of six,
and
Fr. Eugenio
Pacelli, on
the day of his
priestly
ordination,
April 2, 1899**



bishop, a cardinal, and the Holy Father, Himself, creating the means He needed, to become Mary's messenger, and proclaim to the world, ***"The time for doubting Fatima is over, now is the time for action!"***

On the very day God chose for His Mother to appear, for the first time, to the three shepherd children, Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta, May 13, 1917, He also planned, for His beloved son, Eugenio, to be raised to the Sacred Bishopric!

His Holiness, Pope Benedict XV, consecrated Fr. Pacelli as bishop in a special ceremony in the Sistine Chapel, and at the same time, elevated him to the rank of archbishop.

From 1939, when he ascended the Throne of

Peter, becoming the 262nd pope of the Roman Catholic Church, taking the name of Pius XII, until His death in 1958, He worked tirelessly for Holy Mother Church, and for His Heavenly Mother Mary, even creating a feast for Mary's Immaculate Heart in 1945, and issuing an ex cathedra proclamation defining the dogma of her Assumption in 1950.

This great man of God, was not only to become one of the greatest Holy Fathers in the History of the Catholic Church, but He was to be the instrument Heaven used, to bring Catholics to their senses, regarding the great message of Fatima!

Today, Pope Pius XII is known as, "the Pope of Fatima", and the "Pope of Peace".



*The Pope
who
gave
Fatima
to
the
World!*



**Excerpts from:
Fr. John A Hardon, S. J.
Review for Religious**

Fatima owes its present popularity in the Church very largely to the interest and encouragement of Pope Pius XII. Although the bishops of Portugal had authorized the cultus of Our Lady of Fatima in 1930, and Pius XI made an implicit reference to the "extraordinary benefits with which the Blessed Virgin recently favored" Portugal, it was Pius XII among the Popes who first explicitly referred to Fatima in a formal papal document. Pleading for more

vocations to the missions, he wrote in 1940, "Let the faithful, when reciting the Rosary so strongly recommended by Our Lady of Fatima, not omit to address an invocation to the Blessed Virgin in favor of missionary vocations" (Osservatore, June 29, 1940). This was so significant that the Portuguese Hierarchy in 1942 were able to say, "We are happy to see the Supreme Authority of the Vicar of Jesus Christ evoke thus the testimony of Fatima, and proclaim *Urbi et*

*The Holy Father
associated himself
with the closing
celebrations of the
Jubilee of Fatima,
by consecrating
the world
to the
Immaculate Heart
of Mary!*



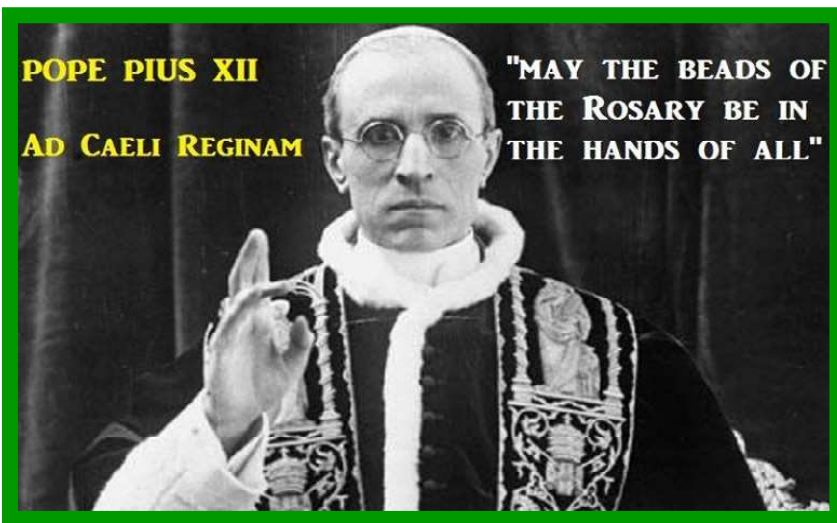
orbi the name of Our Lady of Fatima in an Apostolic Letter addressed to the Portuguese Bishops, but published for the whole world." (Da Cruz, Fatima, 1949, 99).

On October 31, 1942, the Holy Father associated himself with the closing celebrations of the Jubilee of Fatima, by consecrating the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, as Our Lady of Fatima had requested. And in the same year he extended the Office and Mass of the Immaculate Heart to the Universal Church appointing the 22nd of August as the feast day.

He then sent, for the second time, an official

delegate to Fatima, to represent, as he said, "Our own person at the shrine of the Virgin of Fatima, to act in Our own name, and to preside with Our authority" (A.A.S., 43, 781). Cardinal Tedeschini, archpriest of St. Peter's Basilica, was the papal legate who assisted at the Fatima celebration on October 13, 1951, when more than a million pilgrims came to the Portuguese shrine.

In his own radio message to the pilgrims, the Holy Father emphasized one practical aspect of the message of Fatima which deserves to be better known: the Family Rosary. "The



POPE PIUS XII
AD CAELI REGINAM

"MAY THE BEADS OF
THE ROSARY BE IN
THE HANDS OF ALL"

Virgin Mother's insistence on the recitation of the family Rosary,"he said, "was meant to teach us that the secret of peace in family life lies in imitating the virtues of the Holy Family."(A.A.S., 43, 801).

He continued, *"There is no surer means of calling down God's blessing upon the family than the daily recitation of the Rosary."*

Again, in his encyclical, *Ad Caeli Reginam*, he promoted what Our Lady of Fatima asked for, the daily Rosary, when he said, *"May the beads of the Rosary be in the hands of all."*

Yes, Our Lady of Fatima asked us to pray the Rosary every day for world peace, and His Holiness, Pope Pius

XII, tells us the power of that Rosary when he said, *"We esteem the Rosary to be the most suitable and efficacious means to obtain the help of God. The flowers of the Rosary never perish."*

What powerful words coming from the heart of the Holy Father, giving us, his spiritual children, the incentive to do as Our Lady requested, and pray the Rosary daily. His words and example brought the Fatima message alive.

In her later years, Sister Lucia, the eldest seer of Fatima, stated, *"There is no problem, I tell you, no matter how difficult it is, that we cannot solve by the prayer of the Holy Rosary."*



"Fatima owes its present popularity in the Church very largely to the interest and encouragement of Pope Pius XII."



*Cardinal Pacelli,
the Future
Pope of Fatima,
a
Tireless
Voice
for
Our Lady
and Her
Most Holy Rosary*

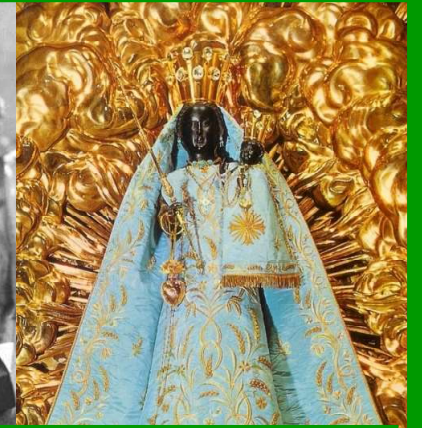
Excerpts from:
Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J.
Review for Religious

Our Lady of Fatima asked for the daily recitation of her Rosary, and Cardinal Pacelli never missed an opportunity to not only speak of the Mother of God, but especially to spread devotion to her most Holy Rosary.

After eighteen years in the priesthood, Pacelli was appointed by Benedict XV to the nunciature of Munich, and entrusted with the delicate mission of mediating a peaceful settlement in the war between Germany and the allies. At the same time he was chosen Titular Archbishop of Sardes, and consecrated by Pope Benedict himself.

In route to his new post,

Archbishop Pacelli stopped at the shrine of the "Mother of Graces" in Einsiedeln, in the Swiss canton of Schwyz. Originated by St. Meinrad in the ninth century, Einsiedeln has attracted pilgrims from all parts of Europe, numbering upwards of 200,000 annually. The miraculous state of the Blessed Virgin originally set up by St. Meinrad is the object of their devotion. Significantly, the 13th of October, the anniversary of the final apparition at Fatima, the day she revealed herself as, "*The Lady of the Rosary*", is one of the chief pilgrimage days at Einsiedeln. Archbishop Pacelli wished to begin his episcopate, like the priest-



Significantly, the 13th of October, the anniversary of the final apparition at Fatima, the day she revealed herself as, "*The Lady of the Rosary*", is one of the chief pilgrimage days at Einsiedeln.

hood under the patronage of Mary.

Rated as one of Italy's outstanding orators, as priest, bishop and cardinal, Pacelli was much in demand, particularly for panegyrics and memorial addresses. His devotion to the Rosary and love for Our Lady, made Mary the frequent topic of his sermons. In fact, the Mother of God filled a prominent role in his sermon theme, and was often the main subject of his talks.

One of his most famous sermons as cardinal is still remembered, a sermon in the Church of S. Luigi dei Francesi on "Our Lady of a Happy Death." The Rosary

was his constant companion. During his four weeks visit in the United States in 1936, he covered something like 8,000 miles, mostly by plane. Later a stewardess declared that she had never seen a passenger who used his typewriter so continually as Cardinal Pacelli. He interrupted his work periodically only to say his beads.

Biographers of the future Pope Pius XII, record that his devotion to the Blessed Virgin can be traced to the earliest days of his boyhood. He and his brother Francesco attended ginnasio classes in a private school on the Via de'Ginnasi, near the Jesuit Church of the Gesu in Rome.

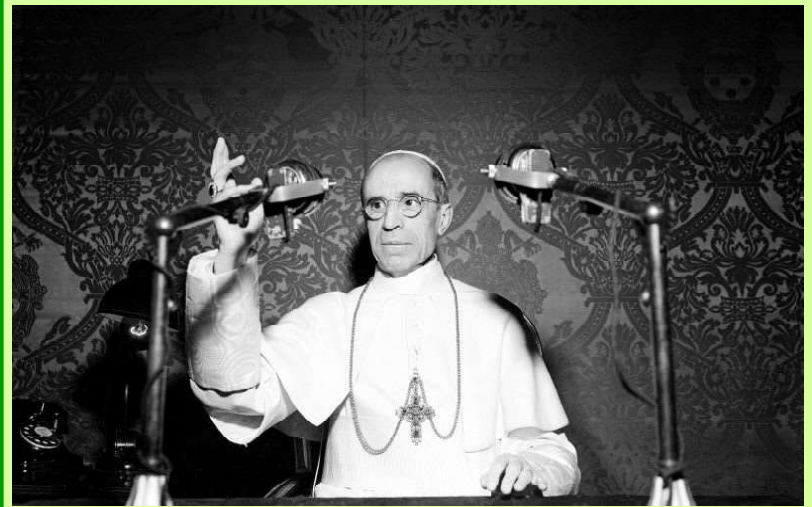


A stewardess declared that she had never seen a passenger who used his typewriter so continually as Cardinal Pacelli. He interrupted His work periodically only to say his beads.

Next to the tomb of St. Ignatius, on the Gospel side, is the chapel of Madonna della Strada, built around the picture of Our Lady to which St. Ignatius was specially devoted.

Before and after school hours, young Pacelli used to go into the Gesu and pour out his heart in prayer before the miraculous image. Sometimes he stayed so long that he was late in coming home. But his mother never worried about him. "I suppose he is with the Madonna della Strada again," she would say. Once she asked him what he was doing in the chapel all the time. "I pray and tell Mary everything," he answered simply."

With this beautiful trust and love for his Heavenly Mother, no wonder then, when she said at Fatima, "*I am the Lady of the Rosary*" and "*Pray the Rosary every day for world peace*", that he took this to heart and continued, to the end of his life, singing the praises of the most Holy Rosary, and the importance that this powerful prayer played in the lives of each and every Catholic. This comes out clearly in his outstanding encyclical, "*Ingruentium Malorum*", on the *Recitation of the Rosary*, which he wrote one year after he declared that the time for doubting Fatima was over!



Quotes from some of the great sermons of His Holiness, Pope Pius XII, The Pope of Fatima on The Most Holy Rosary

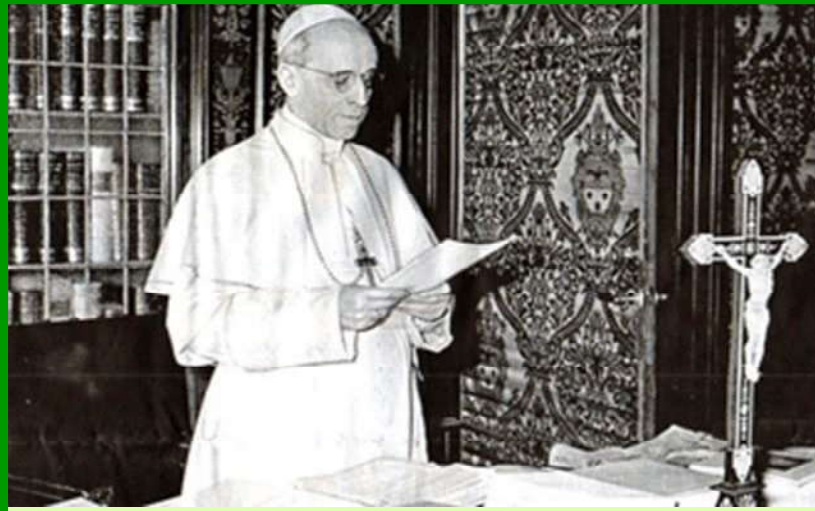


"May the beads of the Rosary be in the hands of all."

"We esteem the Rosary to be the most suitable and efficacious means to obtain the help of God. The flowers of the Rosary never perish."

"We put great confidence in the Holy Rosary for the healing of evils which afflict our times."

"There is no surer means of calling down God's blessing upon the family than the daily recitation of the Rosary."



Ingruentium Malorum
Encyclical Letter of His Holiness, Pope Pius XII
on Reciting the Rosary

To our venerable brethren,
Patriarchs, Primates,
Archbishops, Bishops, and
other ordinaries having peace
and communion with the
Apostolic See.

Venerable Brethren,
Greetings and Apostolic
Benediction.

Ever since We were raised,
by the design of Divine
Providence, to the supreme
Chair of Peter, We have
never ceased, in the face of
approaching evils, to entrust
to the most powerful protec-
tion of the Mother of God the
destiny of the human family,

and, to this end, as you
know, We have from time to
time written letters of exhor-
tation.

You know, Venerable
Brethren, with what zeal
and with what spontaneous
and unanimous approval the
Christian people everywhere
have answered Our invita-
tion. It has been magnifi-
cently testified many times
by the great demonstration
of faith and love towards the
august Queen of Heaven,
and above all, by that mani-
festation of universal joy
which, last year, Our eyes
had the pleasure to behold,
when, in St. Peter's Square,

surrounded by an immense
multitude of the faithful, We
solemnly proclaimed the
Assumption into Heaven of
the Virgin Mary, body and
soul.

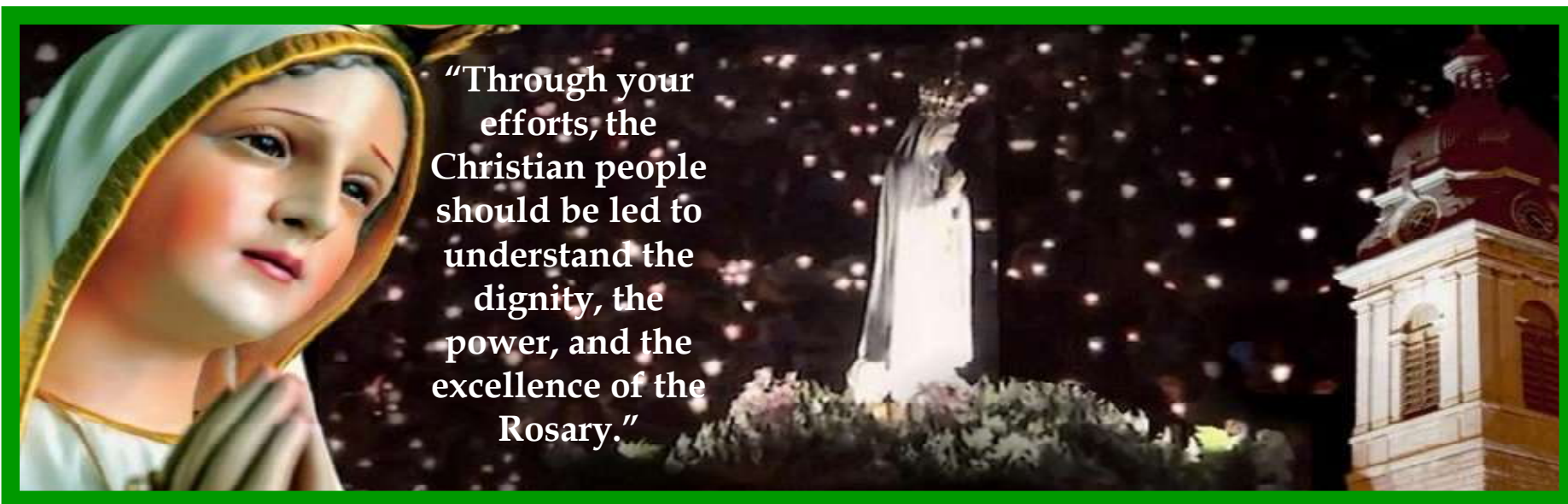
The recollection of these
things comes back pleas-
antly to Us and encourages
Us to trust firmly in Divine
Mercy. However, at present,
We do not lack reasons for
profound sorrow which
torment and sadden Our
paternal heart.

You know well, Venerable
Brethren, the calamitous
conditions of our times.
Fraternal harmony among
nations, shattered for so
long a time, has not yet been
re-established everywhere.
On the contrary, here and
there, we see souls upset by
hatred and rivalry, while
threats of new bloody
conflicts still hover over the
peoples. To this, one must
add the violent storm of
persecution, which in many
parts of the world, has been
unleashed against the
Church, depriving it of its
liberty, saddening it very
cruelly with calumnies and
miseries of all kinds, and
making the blood of martyrs
flow again and again.

To what and to how

many snares are the souls of
so many of Our sons submit-
ted in those areas to make
them reject the Faith of their
fathers, and to make them
break, most wretchedly, the
bond of union which links
them to this Apostolic See!
Nor can We pass over in
silence a new crime to
which, with utmost sorrow,
We want earnestly to draw
not only your attention, but
the attention of the clergy, of
parents, and even of public
authorities. We refer to the
iniquitous campaign that the
impious lead everywhere to
harm the shining souls of
children. Not even the age of
innocence has been spared,
for, alas, there are not lack-
ing those who boldly dare to
snatch from the mystical
garden of the Church even
the most beautiful flowers,
which constitute the hope of
religion and society. Consid-
ering this, one cannot be
surprised if peoples groan
under the weight of the
Divine punishment, and live
under the fear of even
greater calamities.

However, consideration of
a situation so pregnant with
dangers must not depress
your souls, Venerable Breth-
ren. Instead, mindful of that



"Through your efforts, the Christian people should be led to understand the dignity, the power, and the excellence of the Rosary."

Divine teaching: "Ask and it shall be given to you; seek and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you" (Luke 11, 9), fly with greater confidence to the Mother of God. There, the Christian people have always sought chief refuge in the hour of danger, because "she has been constituted the cause of salvation for the whole human race" (St. Irenaeus).

Therefore, we look forward with joyful expectation and revived hope to the coming month of October, during which the faithful are accustomed to flock in larger numbers to the churches to raise their supplications to

Mary by means of the Holy Rosary.

O Venerable Brethren, We desire that, this year, this prayer should be offered with such greater fervor of heart as is demanded by the increased urgency of the need. We well know the Rosary's powerful efficacy to obtain the maternal aid of the Virgin. By no means is there only one way to pray to obtain this aid. However, We consider the Holy Rosary the most convenient and most fruitful means, as is clearly suggested by the very origin of this practice, heavenly rather than human, and by its nature. What prayers are better adapted and more

beautiful than the Lord's prayer and the angelic salutation, which are the flowers with which this mystical crown is formed? With meditation of the Sacred Mysteries added to the vocal prayers, there emerges another very great advantage, so that all, even the most simple and least educated, have in this a prompt and easy way to nourish and preserve their own faith.

And truly, from the frequent meditation on the Mysteries, the soul little by little and imperceptibly draws and absorbs the virtues they contain, and is wondrously enkindled with

a longing for things immortal, and becomes strongly and easily impelled to follow the path which Christ Himself and His Mother have followed. The recitation of identical formulas repeated so many times, rather than rendering the prayer sterile and boring, has on the contrary the admirable quality of infusing confidence in him who prays and brings to bear a gentle compulsion on the motherly Heart of Mary.

Let it be your particular care, O Venerable Brethren, that the faithful, on the occasion of the coming month of October, should use this most fruitful form of prayer with the utmost possible zeal,

and that it become always more esteemed and more diligently recited.

Through your efforts, the Christian people should be led to understand the dignity, the power, and the excellence of the Rosary.

But it is above all in the bosom of the family that We desire the custom of the Holy Rosary to be everywhere adopted, religiously preserved, and ever more intensely practiced. In vain is a remedy sought for the wavering fate of civil life, if the family, the principle and foundation of the human community, is not fashioned after the pattern of the Gospel.

To undertake such a difficult duty, We affirm that the custom of the family recitation of the Holy Rosary is a most efficacious means. What a sweet sight - most pleasing to God - when, at eventide, the Christian home resounds with the frequent repetition of praises in honor of the august Queen of Heaven! Then the Rosary, recited in common, assembles before the image of the Virgin, in an admirable union of hearts, the parents and their children, who

come back from their daily work. It unites them piously with those absent and those dead. It links all more tightly in a sweet bond of love, with the most Holy Virgin, who, like a loving mother, in the circle of her children, will be there bestowing upon them an abundance of the gifts of concord and family peace.

Then the home of the Christian family, like that of Nazareth, will become an earthly abode of sanctity, and, so to speak, a sacred temple, where the Holy Rosary will not only be the particular prayer which every day rises to heaven in an odor of sweetness, but will also form the most efficacious school of Christian discipline and Christian virtue. This meditation on the Divine Mysteries of the Redemption will teach the adults to live, admiring daily the shining examples of Jesus and Mary, and to draw from these examples comfort in adversity, striving towards those heavenly treasures "where neither thief draws near, nor moth destroys" (Luke 12, 33). This meditation will bring to the knowledge of the little ones the main truths of the Christian Faith, making love

for the Redeemer blossom almost spontaneously in their innocent hearts, while, seeing, their parents kneeling before the majesty of God, they will learn from their very early years how great before the throne of God is the value of prayers said in common.

We do not hesitate to affirm again publicly that We put great confidence in the Holy Rosary for the healing of evils which afflict our times. Not with force, not with arms, not with human power, but with Divine help obtained through the means of this prayer, strong like David with his sling, the Church undaunted shall be able to confront the infernal enemy, repeating to him the words of the young shepherd: "Thou comest to me with a sword, and a spear, and with a shield; but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of Hosts, the God of armies . . . and all this assembly shall know that the Lord saveth not with sword and spear, for this is his battle, and he will deliver you into our hands" (I Kings 17, 45-47)

For this reason, We earnestly desire, Venerable Brethren, that all the faithful,

following your example and your exhortation should respond solicitously to Our paternal exhortation, uniting their hearts and their voices with the same ardor of charity. If the evils and the assaults of the wicked increase, so likewise must the piety of all good people increase and become ever more vigorous. Let them strive to obtain from our most loving Mother, especially through this form of prayer, that better times may quickly return for the Church and society.

May the very powerful Mother of God, moved by the prayers of so many of her sons, obtain from her only Son - let us all beseech her - that those who have miserably wandered from the path of truth and virtue may, with new fervor, find it again; that hatred and rivalry, which are the sources of discord and every kind of mishap, may be put aside, and that a true, just, and genuine peace may shine again upon individuals, families, peoples, and nations. And, finally, may she obtain that, after the rights of the Church have been secured in accord with justice,



“But it is above all in the bosom of the family that We desire the custom of the Holy Rosary to be everywhere adopted, religiously preserved, and ever more intensely practiced.”

its beneficent influence may penetrate without obstacle the hearts of men, the social classes, and the avenues of public life so as to join people among themselves in brotherhood and lead them to that prosperity which regulates, preserves, and coordinates the rights and duties of all without harming anyone and which daily makes for greater and greater mutual

friendship and collaboration.

Venerable Brethren and beloved sons, while you entwine new flowers of supplication by reciting your Rosary, do not forget those who languish miserably in prison camps, jails, and concentration camps. There are among them, as you know, also Bishops dismissed from their Sees solely for having heroically defended the sacred rights of God and the Church. There are sons, fathers and mothers, wrested from their homes and compelled to lead unhappy lives far away in unknown lands and strange climates.

Just as We love them with a special charity and embrace them with the love of a father, so must you, with a brotherly love which the Christian religion nourishes and enkindles, join with Us before the altar of the Virgin Mother of God and recommend them to her motherly heart. She doubtlessly will, with exquisite sweetness, revive in their hearts the hope of eternal reward and, We firmly believe, will not fail to hasten the end of so much sorrow.

We do not doubt that you, O Venerable Brethren, with



His Holiness, Pope Pius XII warmly acknowledging a crowd, that came to St. Peter's Square, holding a statue of Our Lady of Fatima.

“I am the Lady of the Rosary!”

His Holiness, Pope Pius XII and the Bishop of Fatima standing with the statue of Our Lady of Fatima blessed by the Holy Father.



your usual burning zeal, will bring to the knowledge of your clergy and people these Our paternal exhortations in a way which will appear most appropriate to you.

Feeling certain that Our sons throughout the world will respond willingly and generously to this Our invitation, We impart, from the fullness of Our heart and as an evidence of Our favor and an augury of heavenly graces, to each and every one of you, to the flock entrusted to each of you and particularly to those who, especially during the month of October, will devoutly recite the holy Rosary according to Our intentions, Our Apostolic Blessing.

Given in Rome, at St. Peter's, the 15th day of September, the Feast of the Seven Sorrows of the Virgin Mary, in the Year 1951, the 13th of Our pontificate.

Pope Pius XII



*The Pope of Fatima,
Pius XII,
Puts
His Seal
on
Our Lady of Fatima's
Request
for
Modesty*

Excerpts from:
Official Handbook of the
Purity Crusade
of Mary Immaculate

Our Lady of Fatima lamented that *"Certain fashions will be introduced that will offend Our Lord very much..."*

After declaring that the time for doubting Fatima was over, in August of 1950, Pope Pius XII wasted no time to approve and promote and what Our Lady asked for, by writing His Encyclical on the Rosary, *Ingruentium Malorum*, in 1951. He then signed His approval, and gave His Apostolic Blessing, to a cause that would launch a worldwide crusade to fulfill Our Lady of Fatima's request for modesty.

On July 14, 1954, His Holiness imparted His Apos-

tolic Blessing to the Purity Crusade of Mary Immaculate, and on May 11, 1955, He extended it, *"to the members, to their Directors and Moderators, to their families and loved ones, and to all who further their laudable movement for modesty in dress and behavior."*

The Marylike Crusade was initiated by Reverend Bernard A. Kunkle, pastor of St. Cecilia's Parish in Bartelso, Illinois, on the feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, 1944.

This crusade was founded to promote chastity and modesty through the imitation of Mary, our Queen and "Mother Most Chaste," as the

perfect model of these virtues.

Pope Pius XII saw in this movement, a great means to spread the message of modesty that Our Lady of Fatima came to give to the world.

His Holiness said, *"Mainly through sins of impurity do the forces of darkness subjugate souls."* This was the same message that was given by Our Lady of Fatima, in similar words, "The sins that lead most souls to hell are the sins of the flesh."

What Our Lady warned about came true. Immodesty became rampant.

Fr. Kunkle said, "Following a general breakdown of modesty, impurity has become the ruling passion of the world. It is like a spiritual cancer slowly eating away the spiritual life of souls. It has brought the world to a brink of another Sodom and Gomorrha, this time on a worldwide scale.

To this, His Holiness, Pope Pius XII stated, *"We are facing the threat of the greatest catastrophe since the deluge."*

Many bishops and theologians fought the standards of modesty that were laid out by His Holiness, Pope

Pius XI in 1930, and solidified by His Holiness, Pope Pius XII. They wrote their own version of the modesty standards in the 1950's which were condemned by Pope Pius XII.

Pope Pius XI said, *"We recall that a dress cannot be called decent which is cut deeper than two fingers' breadth under the pit of the throat, which does not cover the arms at least to the elbows, and scarcely reaches a bit beyond the knees. Futhermore, dresses of transparent material are improper."*

To the request to modify and change these standards, Pope Pius XII replied on September 14, 1956, *"Theologians... do not carry on their work through divine right, but through delegations of the Church, and hence remain subject to the vigilance and authority of the legitimate Teaching Authority... So the decisive factor in knowing the truth is not the opinio theologorum; (opinion of theologians) but the 'sensus Ecclesiae'(the mind of the Church). To reverse the matter would be making*

Theologians practically the 'magistri Magisterii; (Supreme Teaching Authority) which is obviously an error.'

And again on November 8, 1957, His Holiness very clearly stated that the 1930 standards could not be changed when He stated, *"Times and customs may change, but God's laws never change or become outmoded. Neither does concupiscence change. There always exists an absolute norm to be preserved, no matter how broad and changeable the relative morals of styles may be."*

Pope Pius XII made it very clear, that the standards of modesty drawn up by bishops and theologians of the 1950's, *did not have the Church's stamp of approval*, and Catholic women could not, in conscience, follow them.

In order to promote the message of modesty that Our Lady of Fatima came to deliver in 1917, His Holiness spoke out time and time



"How many young girls there are who do not see any wrongdoing in following certain shameless styles like so many sheep. They certainly would blush if they could guess the impression they make and the feelings they evoke in those who see them. Do they not see the harm resulting from excess in certain gymnastic exercises and sports not suitable for virtuous girls? What sins are committed or provoked by conversations which are too free, by immodest shows, by dangerous reading. How lax have consciences become, how pagan morals!"

~ POPE PIUS XII

again, begging parents and teachers to live and promote the modesty standards.

In a very strong warning He said, *"The good of our soul is more important than that of our body; and we have to prefer the spiritual welfare of our neighbor to our bodily comforts. If a certain kind of dress constitutes a grave and proximate occasion of sin, and endangers the salvation of your soul and others, it is your duty to give it up!"*



*Quotes of
His Holiness, Pope Pius XII,
The Pope of Fatima,
on
Modesty in Dress*

"Christian mothers, if only you knew the future of distress and peril, of shame ill-restrained, that you prepare for your sons and daughters in imprudently accustoming them to live hardly clothed and in making them lose the sense of modesty, you should be ashamed of yourselves and of the harm done the little ones whom heaven entrusted to your care, to be reared in Christian dignity and culture."

"Let parents keep their daughters away from public gymnastic games and contests: but if their daughters are compelled to attend such exhibitions, let them see that they are fully and modestly dressed. Let them never permit their daughters to don immodest garb."

*The Pope
of Fatima,
Pius XII,
Promotes
Our Lady
of
Fatima's
Request
for
Consecration
to Her
Immaculate Heart*

Taken from:
Consecration to Mary:
Its Benefits and Its
Obligations
by
Pope Pius XII
September 5, 1954

The Lord Jesus gave Peter
the Keys to the Kingdom...
He gave His Mother Mary
the Keys to His Heart.
~Pius XII

Venerable brethren, dear sons and daughters of Belgium:

Since last December 8, when We solemnly proclaimed the opening of the Marian Year, you have enthusiastically responded to Our invitation and multiplied the proofs of your filial love for Mary. We are also profoundly happy to make Ourselves present among you today at this great mani-

festation of devotion to the Mother of God.

The miraculous statues that on this day have passed over the plateau of Koekelberg in triumphant procession are an eloquent testimony that Belgium is a Marian land. Most of them have received your homage for many centuries, while others have appeared recently as a renewed sign of the living presence of Mary among you. But whether old

or new, unhesitatingly you bring to them all your trust, you lay before them your difficulties, your sufferings and your hopes. Bound intimately to the life of your people, these statues shared with you many difficulties and agonies, and have been present at the magnificent expansion and astounding accomplishments of Catholicism in your country. Each day, you pour forth your prayers at their feet, gain the courage to carry on a patient struggle against all forms of evil, and receive the good of body and soul and those thousands of kindnesses which a Mother never ceases to shower on her children.

Thus you have a good reason to come in pilgrimage from all corners of Belgium to a site that you consider the high place of your faith and in national homage to gather there your most famous statues, representatives of the other countless images scattered everywhere in your churches, your chapels, along the roads, in your

homes. The different titles by which you invoke Mary illustrate the infinite richness and unlimited goodness of the Creature without stain, the Immaculate Virgin and Mother of God, whom the world will never end praising and whose goodness it will never exhaust.

TWO ASPECTS

As proof of your gratitude, you wish to make an act of consecration to this glorious sovereign. Weigh well, dear sons and daughters, the full importance of this act and the obligations it involves. By putting under Mary's mantle your personal, family, and national activities, you ask her protection and her aid in all your undertakings. But you also promise her to avoid anything that could displease her and to conform your whole life to her direction and her desires. The love of a Mother can make the most severe demands on her children, when their good is at stake. She will not

tolerate the family's honor to be harmed by their conduct. Indeed she longs for them to perform brilliant deeds that she may rejoice with them over their success and merits.

Mary expects you, heirs of a long tradition of fidelity in the service of Christ, to carry on at the present time the age-old struggle that divides good and evil.

FIRM FAITH TO COMBAT MATERIALISM

First of all, she asks you to remain firm in faith. Even if you do not have to suffer open persecution, as is the sad lot of so many in other countries, you must defend yourselves against a materialism which little by little is invading society, its institutions and its activities. With many, this materialism reveals itself in the search for a comfortable life, fully secure for the morrow, but a life closed to supernatural realities, to all appeal to devotion, and incapable of grasping the needs – at

times the crying needs – of other social classes or other peoples. It is so easy to forget that temporal well-being is not the principal end of human life and that there are other riches, infinitely more precious and lasting, those of divine charity, which make man forgetful of self in order to give himself to God and His work. The Blessed Virgin's role is to let men glimpse a reflection of heaven among all the cares that chain them to this earth and to remind them untiringly that the sufferings of this world are not worthy to be compared with the glory that God is preparing for His children (cf. Rom. 8, 18).

CONSECRATION SANCTIFIES HOMES

The consecration to Mary will sanctify your homes. Who better than the Blessed Virgin can preserve the intimacy and fervor of family affections and elevate them by communicating to them the purity of that completely

faithful love of which God has made her the custodian? Who inspires mothers with the courage and patience necessary to take care of the countless needs of their family, to train their children in piety, to defend them against the snares which a paganized world constantly lays under their feet? It is in the bosom of the family, through constant daily contact that the image of the parents is impressed on the children, that the experience of a Christian life is transmitted. It is there that a vigilant and tender presence is needed; one might say that there is the place of choice where the Mother of Jesus continues the work that was hers par excellence, the motherly care of the Son of God, which is now prolonged in the members of His Church. May Mary reign in your homes, not only because you have placed her image or statue there, but also because you often pray to her together, come to her for her advice and practice her virtues.

FOSTERS VOCATIONS

It is not to be wondered at if, in hearts specially devoted to her, the Queen of Virgins awakens the desire to imitate the perfection of her love for Christ and men. Following the counsels of the divine Master, young men and women leave their homes and endeavor by a life of prayer, renunciation and charity, to call down on souls the graces of salvation, and also to show them the way by word and example. We especially remember, not without emotion, the magnificent missionary efforts of Belgium, and all the religious Congregations which, at the price of heavy sacrifices, proclaim the message of Christ in Africa and in many other parts of the world. Maintain this glorious tradition which bears witness to the vitality of your Catholicism and does honor to the Church and Her divine Head!

INSPIRES THE LAY APOSTOLATE
The Blessed Virgin also

inspires the lay apostolate, in its diverse forms, in particular those of Marian associations and Catholic Action groups. For souls desirous of living out the teaching of Jesus more sincerely and more fully, for those who burn to make it known to others, in particular to their fellow workers, for him who wishes to restore the order of justice and charity in social institutions and to bring to the temporal order of society a reflection of the perfect harmony that unites the children of God, the Virgin Mary obtains the grace of the apostolate. She puts on their lips words that conquer without hurting and she animates them with an ingenious zeal and a humble, patient, devoted affection, without which the apostle runs the risk of growing tired very quickly. Nourished by a deeper understanding and a more lively affection for their Sovereign and Patroness, the Marian associations will redouble their supernatural

ardor in their prayers, mortifications and conquering boldness, which is fitting to those who care little for their own personal advantages, and have only in mind an ever greater fidelity in fulfilling their obligations to Mary.

LEADS TO CHRIST

You have wished to conclude this Marian day by assisting at Holy Mass and receiving Holy Communion. You could not confirm more effectively the promises made to the Blessed Virgin. Mary has no other desire than to lead men to Christ, and to introduce them to the heart of the central mystery of Christianity, that of the Redemption. She continues to give to the Church the Son she brought into the world in Palestine. If she loves to see her children assembled for a stirring manifestation of faith and love, it is to lead them together to the mystic Bread, symbol of unity, of peace and of the eternal joy of heaven.



*"The
Consecration
Our Lady
of Fatima
asked for,
was Total
Consecration
according
to the
method of
St. Louis
Marie de
Montfort!"*

Sr. Lucia

May Jesus, through Mary, continue to reign over your nation, your homes and in the depths of your souls. May He raise among you an ever greater and more ardent group of apostles, priests, religious and lay persons. May He maintain in your country the Christian spirit in all its generosity and an ever more fervent devotion toward the Blessed Virgin. May you in all truth be able to repeat to her enthusiastically the words of the beautiful hymn: "Among us, be thou Queen!"

As pledge of the maternal protection of the Blessed Virgin from whom We implore on you the most abundant favors, We give you with all Our heart, Our Apostolic Blessing.