

May 1, 2020

Dear Friend of Our Lady:

May 13th is just around the corner. It is the first of the two processions we host each May 13th and October 13th, when we remember, honor and shower Our Lady with Memorares for the conversion of sinners ... Memorares prayed by the Sisters along with those of our many friends and supporters over the years. If you have not yet been part of this wonderful "prayer chain", the Sisters and I would like to invite you to pray Memorares with us and for us.

We started this tradition when we constructed our Fatima shrine in 2012, and Our Lady responded by arranging everything perfectly for our House of Formation to be built in 2015. Under Mary's always present guidance, our Motherhouse will become a reality when we outgrow our House of Formation and need the additional living space.

At the heart of this request is prayer...entrusting everything to our Lady...after all, is She not our Mother?

I am reminded of the Fatima Children...Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta. According to Lucia's memoirs, the innocent children, at the time 10, 9 and 7 years of age, had the following conversation with Our Lady:

Lucia implored, "I would like you to take us to heaven." The Lady from Heaven responded, "I will take Jacinta and Francisco soon. Francisco will need to pray many rosaries. You are to remain here for some time longer. Jesus wants to use you to make me known and loved. He wants to establish in the world a devotion to my Immaculate Heart. To those who accept this, I promise them the salvation of their souls and they will be loved by God like flowers placed by me to adorn His throne." Lucia, saddened by this response asked, "Am I to stay here alone?" The Lady from Heaven assured Lucia, "No, my daughter. Are you suffering a great deal? Do not lose heart. I will never forsake you. My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and the way that will lead you to God." Mary also instructed the 3 young children to pray the Rosary decade prayer so familiar to all of us, "Oh my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, lead all souls to heaven especially those in most need of thy mercy."

Soon thereafter, as Our Lady had promised in Her earlier visit to the children, Francisco succumbed to the Spanish Influenza in 1919 at the age of 11, and Jacinta was spared in order to pray more prayers for the conversion of sinners. Our Lady then appeared to Jacinta again, who was now also suffering from the Spanish Influenza. Jacinta confided to Lucia what Our Lady had told her:

She told me that I am going to Lisbon to another hospital; that I will not see you again, nor my parents either, and after suffering a great deal, I shall die alone. But she said I must not be afraid since she herself is coming to take me to heaven."

Indeed, Lucia died alone in the hospital in Lisbon in 1920 at the age of 9, suffering greatly in the process, but praying fervently the entire time for the conversion of sinners.

It was the Spanish Influenza that ended the young lives of Francisco and Jacinta, yet all the while in their suffering they offered many prayers for the conversion of sinners. It is my hope that, like the young children of Fatima, you will respond to Mary's call and help us to shower Our Lady with your Memorares, uniting your prayers with ours and those of so many of our friends for the conversion of sinners.

May we all continue to shower our Mother, Mary, with Rosaries, Memorares and First Saturday devotions to create a garland of our prayers from our hearts to the heavens. Our hearts ardently wait for the day when Holy Mass can resume and the faithful can fully embrace Communion and reception of the Eucharist in mind, body, and spirit.

May the Immaculate Heart of Mary Triumph now and forever!

In Mary's Heart,

Mother Mary Magdalene O'Halloran, IHM
General Superior

The Sisters and I will be most happy to receive your Memorare cards and present them to Our Lady on May 13th and again on October 13th, the anniversaries of the First and Last Apparition of The Immaculate Heart of Mary...Our Lady of Fatima! You can easily download the Memorare Card on this website or email: rejoice@sistersihmofwichita.org