



Rejoice!

Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Newsletter

Spring 2017

“Do not be afraid to go out on the streets and into public places like the first apostles who preached Christ and the good news of salvation in the squares of cities, towns and villages.

This is not time to be ashamed of the Gospel.

It is the time to be proud of the Gospel.

It is time to preach it from the rooftops.”

Pope John Paul, II; August 15, 1993

“Do not be afraid!”

The Angel of Peace, Fatima, as he greeted the children (1916)

Dear Friends and Families,

For some time now, the Sisters and I have been concerned about the incessant attacks on the sanctity of marriage and the family. These attacks are real, not imaginary, and we cannot ignore them. The attacks are becoming more and more intrusive, and are being delivered in various and subtle ways through entertainment, magazines, television, music, books, politicians ... too many and too numerous to list. We must become ever more acutely aware of the ways being used to undermine marriage and the family structure because these methods are indeed affecting our children, our families and society.

Are we fearful to proclaim our love for Jesus in the public aspect of our lives? To embrace the foot of the Cross? To preach from the rooftops, as exhorted by Pope John Paul II? The message of Fatima, 100 years later, is just as relevant as it was at the time of the apparitions. Our Lady's message is to pray for the conversion of sinners, make reparation for the sacrileges by which He is already so much offended, and as Lucia exhorts us, to defend and protect the family.

Our Lady loves us, she dotes on us, as every mother does. But a loving mother must also correct and teach her children. Our Lady of Fatima taught us the need for penance, reparation, praying the rosary for the conversion of sinners and fulfilling Jesus' requests for the First Saturdays. Our Heavenly Mother has asked this of each of us in our everyday lives. Perhaps to soften our hearts, Our Lady has chosen children to remind the world of God's love for His Family and to call the world to conversion.

The Angel of Peace, in his last apparition at Fatima, came holding a chalice in his hands with a host above it. Without a word, the Angel knelt with his forehead touching the ground, leaving the host and the chalice suspended in the air. The Angel prayed, three times, *“Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore you profoundly, 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*

continued on next page



Letter from Mother, continued from front page

Sacred Heart and through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg the conversion of poor sinners." Imitating the Angel, with their foreheads pressed to the ground, the children joined the Angel in reciting the prayer three times. The Angel stood up and gave Lucia the Eucharistic Host. Then he gave the Chalice with the Most Precious Blood to Jacinta and Francisco, as he said, "Take and drink the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, horribly outraged by ungrateful men. Make reparation for their crimes and console your God." Once again, he prostrated on the ground before the raised chalice and Host, and repeated again the prayer three times, and then he disappeared.

Jesus gave us the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass to perpetuate Calvary, enabling us to participate in His work of redemption. Father Frederick Miller writes in his book, *The Message of Our Lady of Fatima*, "The Church, the Mystical Body of Christ, following Mary as model and guide, unites her self-sacrifice to Christ's and becomes His co-worker in the world." Standing beside Our Lady, we are collaborators in her Son's redemption of the world. In our participation at Holy Mass, Our Lady draws us to be with her at the foot of the cross and there we join our prayers and sacrifices with her Son's sacrifice, for the salvation of the world.

The Angel of Peace came approximately one year before Our Lady presented herself to the children. The children, forever changed, prayed the prayers taught to them by the Angel and prayed the Most Holy Rosary daily to make reparation. They looked for ways to make sacrifices to console God.

Our own lives should be such. Do we pray and work for the sacredness of marriage and the family? Are we afraid of the truth and teachings of the Catholic Church? Do we pray the rosary every day as Our Lady has requested? Do we look to the Blesseds and the Saints for inspiration? The three children of Fatima were brave little souls and suffered much from their families, the people around them, and the ruling authorities of their time, but they willingly and lovingly laid down their lives for God and the truth of the Catholic Church.

This Lent, during the Centennial year of Fatima, let us heed Our Lady of Fatima's exhortation to do penance and make reparation. We need to place ourselves under Our Lady's mantle to receive her strength and grace as we pray for marriage and the family. My Lenten reflection for you this year is to ponder in your own hearts what God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is telling you in these three simple words, "Be not afraid".

May your Lenten journey be filled with penance, reparation and consoling Jesus at the foot of the cross with our Blessed Mother. May you be filled with joy as you give public praise to the Triune God. May you "be not afraid" as you defend marriage and the family. May your response to our Blessed Mother's request be extraordinary! May Mary's Immaculate Heart triumph!

Shout it from the rooftops!

In Mary's Immaculate Heart,

Mother Mary Magdalene, IHM

Mother Mary Magdalene O'Halloran, IHM
General Superior

The World Apostolate of Fatima is made up of individual members that live around the world and follow the principles of the apostolate.

To become a member of the World Apostolate of Fatima, please make the following pledge.

I PLEDGE MYSELF TO OUR LADY AND WANT TO JOIN THE WORLD APOSTOLATE OF FATIMA

Dear Queen and Mother, who promised at Fatima to convert Russia and bring peace to all mankind, in reparation for my sins and the sins of the whole world, I solemnly promise to Your Immaculate Heart:

To offer up every day the sacrifices demanded by my daily duty.

To pray at least five decades of the Rosary daily while meditating on the Mysteries.

To wear the Scapular of Mount Carmel as profession of this promise and as an act of consecration to you.

To accomplish the devotion of the Five First Saturdays of the month, including the fifteen-minute meditation on the mysteries of the Rosary.

I will renew this promise often, especially in moments of temptation.

Note: This pledge is not a vow and does not bind under sin. Nevertheless, it is a promise – your word to your Heavenly Mother.

BENEFITS

You know you are fulfilling Our Lady's conditions to obtain the conversion and the peace of Christ for the world.

You obtain numerous indulgences through the Rosary and the Scapular. You become eligible for the spiritual graces of Our Lady of Mount Carmel – graces in this life, at the hour of death and after death.

Your name is sent to Fatima and deposited at the site of the apparition. You share in the prayers of millions of members.

You become a spiritual child of Saint Pio.

You participate in the New Evangelization taught by Saint John Paul II.

Martyrs of the Spanish Civil War

The Spanish Civil War, ending just a lifetime ago – a mere 80 years - is one of the most tightly kept secrets of history and one of the most confusing times of Spanish history. Avoiding all of the politics of the situation, we can still look at the effects of the upheaval on the Catholic Church in Spain in the first half of the 20th century. The following paragraphs are excerpts from an article written in 1990 and published in the April issue of the magazine *30 Days*, under the title “Only Yesterday, Spanish Martyrs: Massacred in *Odium Fidei*.”

In a speech in Barcelona on August 8, 1936, Andreu Nin, head of the Workers’ Party of Marxist Unification, declared: “There were many problems in Spain ... among them, the problem of the Church. We have resolved that problem completely, by going to its root: we have suppressed all the priests, all the church and all religious worship.” These words were written when the bloody Spanish civil war was already underway and the victims among the religious already numbered in the thousands.

Many of them were true martyrs. They suffered death in *odium fidei* and in *odium Ecclesiae* (in hatred of the faith and in hatred of the Church), accepting torture and death out of love for God and fidelity to the Church, pardoning the murderers and executioners and praying for them in imitation of Christ on the cross. They were the victims of one of the fiercest religious persecutions in history... In Spain the fury was unleashed on July 18, 1936 and ended on April 1, 1939: 20 months during which 7,000 religious and priests perished, and thousands of laypeople were assassinated simply because of their active Catholicism.

Background

In 1931, Article 26 of the new Constitution was approved. It was openly hostile to the ecclesiastical organization ... a conflict was inevitable. The

article established that all religious denominations would be regulated by a special law. The principles which inspired this law were set forth. The law called for the dissolution of all religious orders, their activity portrayed as a danger for the state. But even before the Constitution took effect, in May 1931, more than 100 churches and convents in Madrid and other capitals were burned, pillaged and destroyed without any intervention by the forces of public order.

A fundamental error was the cause of the future bloodshed. The Republicans did not comprehend that the majority of the Spaniards were Catholic and desired to remain so since in Catholicism Spain had found its historic identity and national unity. The Church had existed in Spain even before the State, and certainly long before the democratic state. The Church had given this identity to the nation not only by means of the Catholic faith but above all through shared culture and language. This common heritage was preserved, enriched and transmitted



“Execution” of the Sacred Heart by Republican firing squad (Photo credit: Church Militant.com, “Spanish Civil War Martyrs Beatified”, April 25, 2016)

by the bishops, priests and monks by means of parishes and monasteries. For many centuries in Spain the idea of the nation coincided with Catholicism.

Beginning the Persecution

The Pope, the bishops and the priests were objects of the most sinister calumnies and obscenities and no one tried to rein in the verbal excesses that, creating a climate ever more hostile to the Church, were preparing the coming persecution and blood-bath.

Church properties, as well as religious articles, vestments, and statues were confiscated. Publicly displayed statues and images were desecrated.

The situation worsened markedly in 1934 when, in October, the Socialists unleashed a cruel revolution. Thirty-four priests were massacred and an enormous historical and artistic patrimony was destroyed. But it was in February of 1936, with the formation of the Popular Front, which was joined by extremists and radicals, that Spain fell into chaos and the cruel persecution of the Catholics became systematic.

The next three years were the most tragic, with the media declaring, "The Church must be eradicated from our soil." The marching orders to the revolutionary committees were: "Since we are dealing with priests, neither mercy nor prisoners: all must be killed"; "By now you know that we have orders to kill all who wear the soutane"; "For priests there is no possibility of salvation. All must be killed"; "We have told you that they must all be killed and those regarded as the best and the most holy must be killed first."

All-out war on the Catholic Church continued until April of 1939, when General Franco gained power in Spain; even then, however, conflicts did not end completely, but the years of relentless martyrdom came to an end. Sources tell us that the number of martyrs totaled almost 7,000: 4,184 diocesan priests; twelve bishops, one apostolic administrator and about thirty seminarians; 2,365 Brothers and 238 Sisters. Of these martyrs, 1,000 have already been beatified or canonized and 2,000 are in process.

For more information see: CatholicCulture.org, "The Martyrs of the Spanish Civil War and the Repercussions on the Missionary World," by Fr. Marcon Rincon, OFM, and Rev. Jorge Lopez Teulon, March, 2008.

"Let's be saints together!"

(Favorite Quip of Sister M. Giovanni, IHM)

On October 28, 2007, Pope Benedict XVI beatified 498 Spanish martyrs, three of which were Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary: Sisters Maria Camen, Maria Rosa and Maria Magdalena Fradera.

Carmen, Rosa and Magdalena Fradera were born in Riudarenes, Gerona, Spain. Young and docile to the Lord's call, one after another entered the Congregation of the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Their simple life of faith, charity and dedication to the Church through Christian education, left the various schools of the Institute a fond memory and example of their virtues.

During the Spanish Civil War, they were forced to return to their paternal home. In the early morning hours of September 27, 1936, they were arrested. Having been informed of their impending arrest, they unlawfully donned their religious habits. As they were being taken from their parents, filled with the Holy Spirit, they told their family, "Do not cry, we are happy to be martyrs." Not for one moment did they hesitate. In a forest about 12 miles from Riudarnes they were tortured and put to death.

Sister Maria Carmen was 41 years old, Sister Maria Rosa was 36 years old and Sister Maria Magdalena was 34 years old. Their feast day is November 6. Their remains rest in the Motherhouse in Olot next to the venerable Founder of the Congregation, Father Joaquin Masmitja.



The Family: The Battlefield in a Great Spiritual War

Throughout the years of teaching elementary, middle and high school aged children and teens, I have grown in my awe and appreciation of the family, especially the parent-child relationship. I remember one time when there was a threat of a tornado, and we saw the sky grow eerie-dark through the classroom windows. A high school football player told me very sincerely, "Sister, if Jesus takes us all in this storm, that's okay, I'm ready... but I would really like to see my mom first!" A nine-year-old boy told me that what he wanted more than anything else in the world was to spend a day with his dad, "Just him and me. That would be great!"

I have been amazed at the power parents have to make their child feel confident, safe and loved. I have been saddened to see the hurt when a child feels any level of rejection by a parent. When parents fight or show disrespect towards each other, the child bears this burden throughout the school day, whereas when parents show mutual love and respect, the child has a demeanor of freedom and happiness.

Family relationships – husband/wife, parent/child, and the family as a whole – reflect the love God has for His children and mirrors the eternal exchange of love that is the Trinity. These relationships are beautiful and powerful. It is no wonder then that the enemy seeks to destroy the family. The family is an icon of the love of the Trinity. While the devil cannot attack God directly, he can attack His image in the family. An attack on the family is an attack on God Himself.

How do we see the enemy at work against the family? You have probably experienced your own spiritual battles first-hand. These spiritual battles are felt any time family relationships are threatened. On a global and national level we see movements that seek to undermine and cheapen love, marriage, and family life.

More personally we feel these threats enter our homes through various means, perhaps most powerfully and frequently through media and technology. It is much more difficult to keep the world's dangers out of our home than ever before. Pope Francis writes about technology's effect on family life, saying that it "can keep people apart rather than together, as when at dinnertime everyone is surfing on a mobile phone, or when one spouse falls asleep waiting for the other who spends hours playing with an electronic device" (Amoris Laetitia, #278).

In a letter to Carlo Cardinal Caffarra, entrusted by St. John Paul II to establish the Institute for the studies on Marriage and the Family in Rome, Sr. Lucia of Fatima wrote:

"The final battle between the Lord and the reign of satan will be about marriage and the family... Don't be afraid, because anyone who works for the sanctity of marriage and the family will always be fought and opposed in every way, because this is the decisive issue... However, our Lady has already crushed his head."

Who better to have recourse in our troubled relationships than Our Lady! Her God-given role has always been to bring Love, Jesus, to us. Consecrate your family to her. Allow her to guide, protect and mother you. Remember, when speaking of the great wars and battles of the future, she said at Fatima, "in the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph!"

In Photos

“As the whole of Christ’s life was a continual teaching, so must the whole life of each Sister bear witness to Him.”
(IHM Constitutions, Article 64)



Distinguished teachers, Sister John Marie, IHM and Sister Mary Clare, IHM. Sister John Marie was awarded the St. Katharine Drexel Award of 2017 chosen from among all of the diocesan teachers who teach in Katharine Drexel Schools throughout the Diocese of Wichita. Sister Mary Clare was awarded the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Distinguished Teacher Award from among all of the diocesan school teachers. She also received the Distinguished Teacher Award for the Diocese of Wichita awarded by the Kansas Association of Independent and Religious Schools (KAIRS). Not only their teaching, but their very lives brings Christ to the classroom. Sister John Marie teaches at St. Margaret Mary, Wichita, and Sister Mary Clare teaches at St. Peter, Schulte.



Please continue to pray for strong, dedicated, persevering and holy young women for our Community! Ashley Winters, Sister Maria Kolbe, and Heidi Jirak are our newest members (pictured above). Our novice and postulant class now totals six along with Novices... Sister Mary Jane Frances, Sister Cora Marie, and Sister Mary Theresa.

The Power (and the Promises) of the Rosary

15 Promises of the Blessed Virgin Mary given to Blessed Alan de la Roche

“Only by praying together with their children can a father and mother penetrate the innermost depths of their children’s hearts and leave an impression that the future events in their lives will not be able to efface.”

(Saint John Paul II,

The Role of the Christian Family in the Modern World)

1. To all those who shall recite my Rosary devoutly, I promise my special protection and very great graces.
2. Those who shall persevere in the recitation of my Rosary shall receive some signal grace.
3. The Rosary shall be a very powerful armor against hell; it will destroy vice, deliver from sin, and dispel heresy.
4. The Rosary will make virtue and good works flourish, and will obtain for souls the most abundant divine mercies; it will substitute in hearts love of God for love of the world, and will lift them to the desire of heavenly and eternal things. How many souls shall sanctify themselves by this means!
5. Those who entrust themselves to me through the Rosary, shall not perish.
6. Those who shall recite my Rosary devoutly, meditation on its mysteries, shall not be overwhelmed by misfortune. The sinner shall be converted; the just shall grow in grace and become worthy of eternal life.
7. Those truly devoted to my Rosary shall not die without the Sacraments of the Church.
8. Those who recite my Rosary shall find during their life and at their death the light of God, the fullness of His graces, and shall share in the merits of the blessed.
9. I shall deliver very promptly from purgatory the souls devoted to my Rosary.
10. The true children of my Rosary shall enjoy great glory in heaven.
11. What you ask through my Rosary, you shall obtain.
12. Those who propagate my Rosary shall be aided by me in all their necessities.
13. I have obtained from my Son that all members of the Rosary Confraternity shall have for their brethren the saints of heaven during their life and at the hour of death.
14. Those who recite my Rosary faithfully are all my beloved children, the brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ.
15. Devotion to my Rosary is a great sign of predestination.

Remember the Church

ALMSGIVING: A FAMILY AFFAIR

BY BRONWEN LEWIS

Have you ever heard the phrase, “the simplicity of giving from your abundance”? Each of us has been blessed in our lives, but far too often we don’t take the time to acknowledge that it is God who is the one who has so abundantly blessed us. I would like to share with you a story on this subject ... a story I’ve just heard about Lucia Dos Santos. How her parents taught her and her siblings to share ... with great emotion, from the heart, and in a “simple way from their abundance.”

Maria Rosa taught her children that when a poor person asks for alms that the almsgiving should come from the youngest child. In that way, the almsgiving is a sweeter gift ... from the innocence of a child, keeping the dignity of the poor person intact. Maria Rosa’s children learned to give at a very young age, and did so joyfully. It was a family rule that the oldest child would decide what to give, but the youngest child would be the one who placed the gift in the hands of the recipient. The oldest would say, “please pray for me”, as the gift was given. Maria Rosa would always say, “whatever we give to the poor people was never needed.”

This story reflects the very young life of Sister Lucia Dos Santos, now almost universally known among Catholics as “Lucia, the oldest of the three Fatima children.”

The Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Wichita are devotees of Fatima. They have a replica of the Fatima shrine on their Motherhouse property in Colwich. Not a day goes by in which they do not pray the Fatima prayers, standing with Mary in her protection of marriage and families, and praying for the conversion of sinners and the sanctification of priests. And, of course, they pray the rosary daily, and teach the children in our Catholic schools all of these blessed things.

In a way, a hundred years later after the Fatima apparitions, the Sisters remind me of the Dos Santos family. They live simply, they give to others simply, they trust in God to provide for them ... and they are happy, so very, very happy. Abundance is a word to them that describes each and every day of their lives.

The purpose of my article is to remind you to always keep the Sisters in your charitable giving and estate plans ... remembering them, and what they do, with your continual generosity.

There are so many ways to do so ... and the processes and paperwork for doing so are generally quite simple. So, let me ask you ... when you create, revisit or modify your estate plans (the charitable giving you do through your Last Will and Testament or Trust), would you consider adding the Sisters as one of your beneficiaries? Or, perhaps you might consider adding the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Wichita as one of the beneficiaries of your insurance policy or IRA?

Finally, please remember the Sisters with annual gifts, large and small, because these annual gifts provide the means for them to do what they do ... to teach our children, to pray for the conversion of sinners and the sanctification of priests, and to strengthen and protect our families and Catholic values. Please remember “the simplicity of giving from your abundance.”



Thank you.

SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY OF WICHITA

3550 N 167TH STREET W
COLWICH, KS 67030

NONPROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 544
WICHITA, KS

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Please contact us with your
address changes: (316) 722-9316 or
rejoice@sistersihmofwichita.org

See our website:
www.sistersihmofwichita.org

*Thank you
so very much!*



May the angels lead them into paradise.



Memorials have been established for

*Duane Dater
Maxine Heimerman
Alice Rose Mertens
Catherine Simon*

Gifts have been given in memory of

*Richard and Florence Clupny
Michael Sann, II
Melissa Peltzer
Dr. William Peltzer
Hazel Ridpath*