

Mary of Nazareth



Mediatrice of All Grace

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Today is the 1st of Jan 2017, the Solemnity of the Mother of God and the beginning of a New Year.

It is also the day that the website www.mediatrixofallgraces.com is being published or uploaded. We invoke Our Lord's blessing on this medium of propagating the messages that Our Blessed Mother, the Mother of God came to give us at Batim, Goa (India). May Our Blessed Mother pray for us that we may adhere to Her Message and may her Immaculate Mantle protect us. We also invoke St. Michael the Archangel's help in warding off any evil influence.

We pray for all our Blessed Mother's children:

“The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face shine upon you,
And be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you,

And give you peace.” (Numbers 6:22-27)

May the gift of Jesus whom Our Blessed mother came to give us this Christmas be with us always. May we like the shepherds be struck with awe and joy as we worship Him this Advent and may we go out and proclaim His message of Salvation.

At the Fatima Apparition of December 10, 1925, the Child Jesus appeared with Our Lady who was holding Her Immaculate Heart in Her Hand. The Child Jesus said: ***“Have compassion on the Heart of your Most Holy Mother, covered with thorns, with which ungrateful men pierce it at every moment, and there is no one to make an act of reparation to remove them.”*** Thus began the devotion of the 'first Saturday of five consecutive months.'

The idea of the Five First Saturdays is obviously to make us persevere in the devotional acts for these Saturdays and overcome initial difficulties. Once this is done, Our Lady knows that the person would become devoted to Her Immaculate Heart and persist in practicing such devotion on all First Saturdays, working thereby for personal self-reform and for the salvation of others. Our Lady has assured us that She will obtain salvation for all those who observe the First Saturdays for five consecutive months in accordance with Her conditions.

Mrs Iveta Fernandes, a Canadian of Goan origin, born on 25th Sep, 1956 has been receiving messages from Our Lord and Our Lady since 27th Jun 1993. Our Lady is believed to have first appeared to Iveta at Batim, Goa on 24 September 1994.

“.....Batim lies in the shadow of Fatima, it is the forerunner of the future in God’s salvific plan. Know and understand now, these are important moments.....”- Our Lady to Iveta Fernandes on 13th October 2016.

The messages received are no different from the Fatima Message of Penance, Prayer and Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary - which is a reiteration of the Gospel Message, with a fervent and humble plea beckoning us back to God and to offer prayers and reparation for sinners.

Undoubtedly many graces are released and the gift of salvation assured to those following Our Lady's requests. But perhaps the biggest flood gates of grace are reserved for the moment Our Lady is proclaimed Mediatrice of All Graces, Co Redemptrix and Advocate. We pray for this intention and its fulfilment. This is Our Beloved Mother’s ardent desire. All through Her Messages given to Iveta, Our Lady usually concludes with the title: ***“I Am The Mother of God, I Am The***

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THE ROLE OF DIVINE MERCY, FORGIVENESS AND TRUST IN OUR LIVES

By Francis S. Barreto

In the Old Testament we hear that God walked with Adam and Eve in the garden until they listened to Satan and disobeyed God. Adam and Eve realized they were naked and hid themselves from God. But God in his mercy and love made clothes for them out of animal skins so that they could cover their bodies. Cain killed his brother Abel and sin went on multiplying. Again God's mercy and love prevailed. God sent several Prophets to guide His people. People did not listen to them and many were even killed. God's mercy and love did not diminish and God sent His only Son to be sacrificed on the Cross. Yet men did not change. Sinfulness did not cease. God sent our Blessed Mother to Fatima, Lourdes, Garabandal, Medjugorje and countless other places with a message of conversion but people are still luke-warm and unrepentant. Mother Mary gave us tools to enable us to repent and come back to the Lord. The tools are the Rosary, Scapular and the devotion to the Five First Saturdays.

MERCY

From all accounts it is crystal clear that these are, what we call, 'end times'. God has personally visited Sr. Faustina (now a saint) with the message of His Divine Mercy. Our Lord said to St. Faustina "I am Love and Mercy itself. There is no misery that could be a match for My Mercy, neither will misery exhaust it because as it is being granted, - it increases" Our Lord wants us to know of His unfathomable Mercy and to be merciful to others, as He is merciful to us. Jesus said to St. Faustina "Proclaim that Mercy is the greatest attribute of God. All works of My hands are crowned with Mercy". He told St. Faustina that He is ready to grant graces to souls, but few are willing to accept them. He said "My heart overflows with great Mercy for souls, and especially for poor sinners. The greater the sinner, the greater the right he has to My Mercy".

FORGIVENESS

When one thinks of Divine Mercy and living the message, the need for trust in God and being merciful to others comes to mind. Forgiveness is at the heart of the Divine Mercy message. It is an act of Mercy towards others and oneself, and is often a condition for physical healing, but especially a condition for spiritual progress. Just as God forgives us our sins, we are to forgive others of their transgressions.

What good does it do to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy at 3 O'clock and then you do not forgive your neighbour at 4 O'clock? We are living in a time of great mercy, and yet cannot receive the outpouring of God's Mercy as long as we have

not forgiven those we have offended us. How can we love the God we cannot see, if we cannot love the brother or sister we can see? God is always there, ready to forgive. There are no limits to His Mercy. St. Faustina wrote "We resemble God most when we forgive our neighbours I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you". Our "enemies" are rarely those in foreign land: more commonly, they are family members and co-workers who irritate and frustrate us causing much anger. If we want to experience an outpouring of Christ's rays of Merciful Love, we must forgive those who have hurt us, and even ourselves, because this act opens the door to His Divine Mercy. It makes our stony hearts able to absorb the rays of the Son, i. e. the rays of Blood and Water coming from His pierced Heart.

TRUST

Trust is the foundation of those who desire to live the message of Divine Mercy. We are to be vessels of Mercy, and how much the vessel can hold and radiate out to others depends on trust. Trust requires a conversion of the heart and is the basis of Our Lord's message as written in Ezekiel 36:26 "A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will take out of your flesh, the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh". The Lord made it clear to St. Faustina that the more we trust in Him and try to live in His Will, and not ours, the more graces we will receive. He told her "Tell (all people), My daughter, that I am Love and Mercy itself. When a Soul approaches Me with trust, I fill it with such an abundance of graces that it cannot contain them within itself, but radiate them to other souls.

Let us therefore, in response to the call of our Saviour, make Divine Mercy, not just another devotion but a Way of Life. It is a message to be lived forgiving one another, trusting in the Lord's Mercy and ultimately saving Souls just like what St. Faustina did.

Our Holy Father has given us added incentives by declaring the just concluded Special Jubilee Year of Mercy. He expects each one of us to approach the confessional irrespective of how great our sin may be. He has even sent Missionaries of Mercy to every diocese with power to forgive even those sins usually reserved for the Holy See. He has instructed priests not to turn off potential believers by being boring, inaccessible or over intrusive. He has told the Missionaries of Mercy that they should take a "maternal" approach to sinners. "Remember, you are not dealing with sin but a repentant sinner, a sinner who wants to change but cannot. He asked them to "cover the sinner with a blanket of mercy, so that the penitent is no longer ashamed and can rediscover joy". How fortunate we are to belong to this age when God's Mercy is so much made known and available to us. Let us all return to the Father's loving embrace.

FATIMA: THE ANSWER TO SECULARISM

By Donal Foley - secretary of the World Apostolate of Fatima in England and Wales - Taken from Catholic Herald dated 7th October 2016

The Red Army left Austria without a fight after one in 10 people started praying the rosary. Imagine what happen if we did the same



This year we see the 100th anniversary of Our Lady's apparitions at Fatima, which took place between May and October 1917, and which culminated in the famous miracle of the sun on October 13, which was witnessed by at least 70,000 people.

At the same time, the atheistic communist revolution was unfolding in Russia, an upheaval which would lead to persecution and immense suffering for millions of believers, as depicted in the third part of the Fatima secret, which was publicly revealed in May 2000.

The events at Fatima also took place as World War I was entering its final phases, after the slaughter of millions, as the Blessed Virgin appeared for the first time on May 13, 1917 at the Cova da Iria, not far from the

village of Fatima, to three young shepherd children, Francisco and Jacinta Marto and Lucia dos Santos.

Fatima is important for all sorts of reasons, not least because of the strong link between the papacy and the apparitions, particularly in the case of Pius XII and St. John Paul II, but also for Benedict XVI and Pope Francis.

Fatima is important, too, because of the request by Our Lady for the consecration of Russia to her Immaculate Heart, which was accomplished by Pope John Paul II in 1984. This was followed by the politically unexpected collapse of Soviet communism and the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. That the outcome could have been very different is shown by the way protesters were treated at Tiananmen Square that same year, when hundreds lost their lives.

Our Lady came on the 13th of each month, with a message of peace, prayer and reparation, and the revelation that God wanted to establish devotion to her Immaculate Heart throughout the world in order to save souls at risk of being eternally lost. She particularly asked for the prayer of the rosary, indicating that it was the way to bring peace to the world, and called herself the

“Lady of the Rosary”.

She showed the children a momentary vision of hell, but only after promising them they would go to heaven. She also promised to come back to ask for the consecration of Russia, and for the devotion of the Five First Saturdays. She likewise spoke of the errors of Russia and how these would spread around the world if her requests were not heeded. At the time Portugal was ruled by an atheist government, but as the message of the Lady gradually reinvigorated the religious life of the people, the country was transformed.

The power of the rosary was shown in 1955, when the occupying Soviet army voluntarily left Austria. Fr. Petrus Pavlicek, a Franciscan, had organised a rosary crusade in the country from 1946 onwards, which eventually had 10 percent of the population praying five decades of the rosary daily for peace.

On May 13, 1955 (note the date) the Soviets announced that they were willing to withdraw from Austria and sign a peace treaty. This was the only time in the history of the Soviet Union that the Red Army voluntarily withdrew from an European country it had occupied. In contrast, the attempted uprisings in Hungary (1956) and Czechoslovakia (1968) were brutally put down by Soviet tanks.

In our own time, although the threat of communism has receded, the “errors of Russia” materialism, secularism and atheism have largely conquered the West, and we are living in an increasingly anti-religious society, in which the very existence of God is denied.

That is why the miracle of the sun predicted three months in advance by the three simple children is so important. In its significance and impact, it was the greatest miracle since the Resurrection. Writers such as Richard Dawkins have tried to explain it away as a hallucination. But their arguments don't work.

Eyewitnesses to the miracle reported that the sun danced in the sky, that the colour of the whole landscape changed successively, and that the sun seemed to come down towards them, so that many in the crowd thought it was the end of the world. It was also seen at a distance by various other people, thus effectively ruling out any notion of hallucination.

In fact, the miracle was also seen by sailors on a British ship off the coast of Portugal. I gave a presentation on Fatima at an English college and was told by one of the lecturers that her grandfather saw the miracle from his ship and wrote about it to his wife without, obviously, understanding what it meant or its significance. This letter has been preserved in the lecturer's family.

There were even reports of the miracle in the Portuguese secular press of the day. It had been seen by so many people that it just couldn't be ignored. And finally, what seems convincingly to show that the miracle wasn't an hallucination is that the people at the Cova felt the heat of the sun as it approached them, and their clothes and the ground which had been soaked by torrential rain were dry at the end of the miracle.

How, then, do we fight back against secularism and atheism? It seems that what is really needed for this country is a national rosary pledge campaign, like the one organised by Fr. Pavlicek in Austria.

Contd on Pg.10

WITHOUT MARY JESUS CANNOT BE UNDERSTOOD

Taken from Don Bosco's Madonna dated January 2016

One the morning of January 1, 2015, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, and the World Day of Peace, the Holy Father celebrated Mass in St. Peter's Basilica. The following is the edited English text of the Pope's homily which was delivered in Italian.

Today we are reminded of the words of blessing which Elizabeth spoke to the Virgin Mary: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me?" (Lk 1: 42-43).



In celebrating the Solemnity of Mary Most Holy, the Holy Mother of God, the Church reminds us that Mary, more than anyone else, received this blessing. In her the blessing finds fulfilment, for no other creature has ever seen God's face shine upon it as did Mary. She gave a human face to the eternal Word, so that all of us can contemplate him.

In addition to contemplating God's face, we can also praise him and glorify him, like the shepherds who came away from Bethlehem with a song of thanksgiving after seeing the Child and his young mother (cf. Lk 2:16). The two were together, just as they were together at Calvary, because Christ and his mother are inseparable: there is a very close relationship between them, as there is between every child and his or her mother. The flesh (caro) of Christ which, as Tertullian says, is the hinge (cardo) of our salvation was knit together in the womb of Mary (cf. Ps 139:13). This inseparability is also clear from the fact that Mary, chosen beforehand to be the Mother of the Redeemer, shared intimately in his entire mission, remaining at her Son's side of the end on Calvary.

Mary is so closely united to Jesus because she received from him the knowledge of the heart, the knowledge of faith, nourished by her experience as a mother and by her close relationship with her Son. The Blessed Virgin is the woman of faith who made room for God in her heart and in her plans; she is the believer capable of perceiving in the gift of her Son the coming of that "fullness of time" (Gal 4:4) in which God, by choosing the humble path of human existence, entered personally into the history of salvation. That is why Jesus cannot be understood without his Mother.

Likewise inseparable are Christ and the Church because the Church and Mary are always together and this is precisely the mystery of womanhood in the ecclesial community and the salvation accomplished by Jesus cannot be

understood without appreciating the motherhood of the Church. To separate Jesus from the Church would introduce an "absurd dichotomy", as Blessed Paul VI wrote (*Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 16). It is not possible "to love Christ but without the Church, to listen to Christ but not the Church, to belong to Christ but outside the Church" (ibid.). For the Church is herself God's great family, which brings Christ to us. Our faith is not an abstract doctrine or philosophy, but a vital and full relationship with a person: Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God who became man, was put to death, rose from the dead to save us, and is now living in our midst. Where can we encounter him? We encounter him in the Church, in our hierarchical, Holy Mother Church. It is the Church which says today: "Behold the Lamb of God"; it is the Church, which proclaims him; it is in the Church that Jesus continues to accomplish his acts of grace which are the sacraments.

Dear brothers and sisters! Jesus Christ is the blessing for every man and woman, and for all of humanity. The Church, in giving us Jesus, offers us the fullness of the Lord's blessing. This is precisely the mission of the people of God: to spend to all peoples God's blessing made flesh in Jesus Christ. And Mary, the first and most perfect disciple of Jesus, the first and most perfect believer, the model of the pilgrim Church, is the one who opens the way to the Church's motherhood and constantly sustains her maternal mission to all mankind. Mary's tactful maternal witness has accompanied the Church from the beginning. She, the Mother of God, is also the Mother of the Church, and thought the Church, the mother of all men and women, and of every people.

May this gentle and loving Mother obtain for us the Lord's blessing upon the entire human family. On this, the World Day of Peace, we especially implore her intercession that the Lord may grant peace in our day; peace in hearts, peace in families, peace among the nations. The message for the Day of Peace this year is "No Longer Slaves, but Brothers and Sisters". All of us are called to be free, all are called to be sons and daughters, and each, according to his or her own responsibilities, is called to combat modern forms of enslavement. From every people, culture and religion, let us join our forces. May he guide and sustain us, who, in order to make us all brothers and sisters, became our servant.

Let us look to Mary, let us contemplate the Holy Mother of God. I suggest that you all greet her together, just like those courageous people of Ephesus, who cried out before their pastors when they entered Church: "Holy Mother of God!" What a beautiful greeting for our Mother. There is a story I do not know if it is true that some among those people had clubs in their hands, perhaps to make the Bishops understand what would happen if they did not have the courage to proclaim Mary "Mother of God!" I invite all of you, without clubs, to stand up and to greet her three times with this greeting of the early Church: "Holy Mother of God!"

SHOW SOME MERCY

Taken from Catholic Herald dated 8th May 2015

Pope Francis doesn't like to embarrass his audiences. But last week he asked devout members of the Cursillo movement to raise their hands if they didn't know the Works of Mercy. When the vast majority of hands shot up, the Pope said: "Look at that! There's work to be done... This is your homework: learn them to put them into practice."

We won't embarrass readers by asking whether they, too, have some homework to do. Most, perhaps, know that the seven corporal works are feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick, visiting the imprisoned, giving drink to the thirsty and burying the dead; and that the seven spiritual works are converting sinners, instructing the ignorant, advising the doubtful, comforting the sorrowful, bearing wrongs patiently, forgiving injuries and praying for the living and dead.

What's the point of learning these 14 works by rote? The most compelling reason is that Jesus himself said we will be judged on our response to them (Matthew 25:34-46). As Francis put it in *Misericordiae Vultus*, the bull proclaiming a Year of Mercy: "We cannot escape the Lord's words to us, and they will serve as the criteria upon which we will be judged." The second reason is that if we don't know the Works of Mercy it is difficult to practice them consistently. That's why Francis urged those with their hands up to "learn them to put them into practice." The Pope is likely to repeat this appeal throughout the Year of Mercy, which begins on December 8. For as he explained in *Misericordiae Vultus*, he has a "burning desire that, during this Jubilee, the Christian people may reflect on the corporal and spiritual Works of Mercy".


Clearly, Francis sees the Works of Mercy as more than a merely personal endeavour; he believes they also have a strong communal dimension. Could the Church in England and Wales formally adopt the Works of Mercy as its programme for the Year of Mercy? After all, the works appeal to all Catholics, regardless of where they sit on the ecclesial spectrum. They are both traditional and radical. They promote both activism and contemplation. They could unite us in a common goal: relieving the unfathomable physical and spiritual suffering of those around us. It would be hard to think of a better national vision for the Church in this country.



It's not just the Church that would benefit. Britain as a whole would, too. Of course, some would regard it as naive to respond to 21st century problems with a programme created in the first. But the Works of Mercy address perennial human difficulties. Food banks show that we still need to feed the hungry. A stroll along our high streets reveals the homeless who need to be housed. Hospitals and prisons are full of those longing for just one visitor. Many, meanwhile, live in a state of spiritual anguish that could be alleviated by the spiritual Works of Mercy.


If we pursue the Works of Mercy it will transform our lives, our communities and our nation. We have nothing to lose and so much to gain.

COMMUNION OF REPARATION OF THE FIRST SATURDAYS:
CHURCH OF ST. SIMON AND ST. JUDE,
GANXIM BATIM ILHAS GOA



1.00 pm: Stations of the Cross
2.00 pm: Most Holy Rosary, Adoration, Divine Mercy, Consecration and Confessions,
3.30 pm: Holy Mass
N.B.: in Konkani and English
Buses from Mapusa, Margao, Panaji and Calangute

A simple way to console Our Lady is to make Acts of Reparation, to make the First Five Saturdays and to offer our prayers and sacrifices for the conversion of sinners
— St John Paul II.



**The Rosary is a school of Prayer.
The Rosary is a school of Faith**
-Pope Francis

Contd from Pg.6

Catholics nominally make up 10 percent of the population of this country, but only about 10 percent of those go to Mass regularly. But if that 10 percent started to pray the rosary regularly for the moral regeneration of our country, then we would start to see changes, since such prayer would call down graces of conversion that would lead to lapsed Catholics returning to the practice of their faith, and, in time, to the revitalisation of the Church in this country.

Next year's centenary is important since it offers the Church a chance to look again at the message of Fatima which is really a compendium of the Gospel for our times and realise that the Fatima message and the rosary are powerful weapons against modern secularism.

The best way to commemorate the centenary is to make an effort to understand and live out the Fatima message. This is particularly the case with saying the rosary daily, and participating in the Five First Saturdays devotion asked for by Our Lady. Another good way to mark the centenary would be to go on pilgrimage to Fatima. The most important thing is not to let the centenary go by without doing something to deepen one's knowledge of the Fatima message.

HOW SHALL WE CELEBRATE THE CENTENARY OF FATIMA?

By Francis S. Barreto

We have got a year of preparation for the Centenary of Fatima in 2017. Soon it will be hundred years since Our Lady of Fatima appeared to Lucia, Francisco & Jacinta at a time when the World War was on and communism was spreading like wild fire in the European Continent. In these troubled times Our Lady came with a message of peace, prayer, penance and sacrifice.

How are we to prepare for the Centenary during these years? I would say we have to learn and put in use every aspect of the Message of Fatima. The history, purpose and effects of the Apparitions need to be carefully studied. We will have to learn the spirituality of the Children of Fatima and emulate them in every way possible. We will learn the importance of the Rosary and the love of the Eucharist and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. We will learn the essential requirements of the Five First Saturdays Devotion so dear to Our Lady. We will learn how we can be faithful members of the World Apostolate of Fatima. We will come forward to be active members of the WAF so that we can help to spread the message and the First Saturdays in each and every parish of our diocese. We will have to consecrate ourselves voluntarily and completely to Mary Immaculate in order to belong to her entirely. We will have to wear the Brown Scapular as our breast plate, shield and as a sign of our consecration, praying the Rosary daily so that it becomes the source of our strength, inspiration and love. In our total Consecration to Mary, she takes all our thoughts, words and actions and makes them pleasing to her Son Jesus. By purifying them in her love, clothing them in her merits, and presenting them to His Eucharistic Heart, that He may see and love in us what He sees and loves in His Mother.

This is the joy of Consecration! St. Louis de Montfort states that an Act of Consecration is a secret of grace reserved for the Church in times of peril, when she is threatened by the powers of darkness. We will learn about the struggle of the shepherd children against all odds. Their dependence on Jesus & Our Lady for the courage and persuasiveness. We will try to imbibe their child-



like faith in Jesus & Mary. This will mark the real celebration during the Centenary.

We will also thank God for what he did through his intervention in history, on the hills of Cova da Iria. With a grateful heart we can say that the World Apostolate of Fatima was formed by an inclination of God. Through the motherly intervention of Mary, the Holy Spirit raised up Lucia, Francisco & Jacinta who have contributed immensely to the salvation of souls. The Church has acknowledged God's hand in this by approving our statutes and proclaiming Francisco & Jacinta as Blessed and Lucia as Servant of God.

This Message of Fatima is a gift which God has given us through the Mother of God and the Children of Fatima. The Centenary year 2017 is a Jubilee Year of Grace. It is a time of grace which we should all experience and help others to do so. For a worthy Centenary Celebration "Let us humbly learn and live the Message of Fatima."

Contd from Pg.2

Mediatrice of All Graces, Co-Redemptrix with The Redeemer JESUS My Divine Son, I Am your Mother, Amen.

Undoubtedly, Our Lady has been proclaimed " Mediatrice of All Graces, Co-Redemptrix and Advocate" in Heaven and is awaiting this proclamation here on earth.

In one of the concluding messages to Her Children on October 14th, 2016 Our Blessed Mother assures us of her constant presence: "***I Am Mary of Nazareth Who walks with you here on this Holy Mountain as I did in Nazareth***"

She concludes her Final Message with: "***I Am The Mother Of God, The Mediatrice Of All Grace, Co- Redemptrix and Advocate in Heaven, The Immaculate Conception, by Whose power I will crush satan. Amen.***"

May '***Mary of Nazareth, Mediatrice of all Graces***' after which our website and online magazine is named, bless our efforts and bring us to the abode of Jesus, Her Beloved Son and our Lord and Redeemer !

It is my hope that through this media - Our Lady's Message be spread and proclaimed throughout the World and that in observing Her Requests we may come to the Abode of Her Son Jesus !

- Dr. Christopher Dias

OUR SORROWFUL MOTHER

“Honour thy mother all the days of her life: for thou must be mindful what and how great perils she suffered for thee.” (Tob. 4:3-4).

Truly, this is a beautiful lesson for us all regarding our earthly mother, but it may be applied still more appropriately to Mary our Heavenly Mother, the Mother of Our Lord Jesus Christ. From the Cross our Saviour gave her to each one of us for our Mother when He said to the Beloved Disciple: “Behold thy Mother.” (Jn. 19:27). To us Jesus also says: “Honour thy Mother all the days of thy life and be mindful of how much she suffered for thee.” It was on account of the exceedingly great sorrows and sufferings which Mary endured for our salvation that she deserves our compassion and highest esteem.

The Church spares no pains to induce her children to venerate the sufferings of their Heavenly Mother. Seven of her sorrows have been chosen for our special veneration. These are the ones selected for the mysteries of the Rosary of the Seven Dolors. They are: 1. The prophecy of Simeon. 2. The flight into Egypt. 3. The loss of the Child Jesus in the Temple. 4. Mary meets Jesus on the way to Calvary. 5. Jesus dies on the Cross. 6. Mary receives the dead body of Jesus in her arms. 7. Jesus is placed in the tomb.

Because of these Seven Sorrows which pierced her maternal heart, the Mother of God is often represented either standing beneath the Cross, or as holding the lifeless body of Jesus on her lap, her heart transfixed by seven swords, as foretold in the prophecy of holy Simeon at the Presentation: “And thy own soul a sword shall pierce.” (Lk. 2:35).

Holy Church recalls to our mind only seven of Our Lady’s sorrows, but who could form an estimate of their real number! The sufferings of the Mother of God cannot be comprehended; they are inconceivable. Although her whole life was like that of her Divine Son, a continuous series of sufferings and tribulations, the greatest woes and trials came to her during the week of the bitter Passion and Death of Jesus, when the storm of hatred and fury burst forth with all violence against Him.

During Our Saviour’s Passion, every glance at her suffering Son forced the sword deeper into Mary’s soul. In her spirit as well as in her senses, she felt every blow that was inflicted upon her Divine Son, every insult that was offered to His sacred Person. Yet no complaint or cry escaped her blanched lips. With heroic fortitude she suppressed her violent grief and, wholly conformed to the Divine Will, generously offered the sacrifice of her Son for the sins of the world.

If our own mother suffers long and intensely, we show our love and esteem by sympathizing with her. In return our mother loves us all the more

tenderly. It is the same with Mary, our Heavenly Mother. She is greatly pleased if her children sympathize with her by thinking frequently of her sorrows.

The Mother of God once said to St. Bridget, “I gaze upon the children of men to see whether anyone feels compassion for me, and alas, I see but a few! If many forget me, at least you, my daughter, do not forget me. Consider how much I have suffered.”

Many Saints have cherished a special love for Mary as the Mother of Sorrows. St. Ignatius Loyola constantly wore an image of the sorrowful mother on his bosom and venerated her with tender devotion. St. Alphonsus Liguori made the sorrows of Mary the subject of his daily meditations and his deepest compassion. When he conducted a mission, he usually placed a picture of the Sorrowful Mother beside the pulpit, so that the faithful, by gazing upon it, might devoutly reflect on Mary’s sufferings and be encouraged to confide in her merciful intercession. During his sermons, he often invoked the Mother of Sorrows and exhorted sinners to turn to her to obtain the grace of sincere conversion.

The saintly Pope Pius IX too nourished a deep devotion to the bitter sufferings of our Saviour and those of His Sorrowful Mother and believed that the frequent remembrance of their sorrows and sufferings was an efficacious means of converting sinners, affording them a lasting incentive to contrition, penance and amendment. Therefore in 1847 he approved a new “Hail Mary” composed in honour of the Dolorous Mother, as follows: Hail Mary, full of sorrows, the Crucified is with thee; thou art pitiable amongst women, and pitiable is the Fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of the Crucified, implore for us, the crucifiers of thy Son, tears of contrition, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

- By Annabelle Mendonca

Dates to Remember - JANUARY 2017

- 1st - Solemnity Mary Mother of God
- 3rd - The Holy Name of Jesus
- 6th - First Friday
- 7th - **First Saturday - First Saturday Services - check website for timings**
- 8th - The Epiphany of the Lord
- 9th - The Baptism of the Lord
- 16th - St. Joseph Vaz
- 21st - St. Agnes
- 24th - St. Francis de Sales
- 25th - Conversion of St. Paul
- 26th - Ss. Timothy & Titus
- 28th - St. Thomas Aquinas

‘God wishes to establish devotion to my Immaculate Heart in the world. If what I say is done, many souls will be saved and there will be peace.’

HOW DO I START THE FIRST SATURDAYS?

On July 13, 1917, Our Lady appeared for the third time to the three children of Fatima and showed them the vision of hell. In this vision Our Lady said that *‘God wishes to establish in the world devotion’* to Her Immaculate Heart and that She would come to *ask for the Communion of Reparation on the First Saturdays...*



What Do I Have to Do?

The devotion of First Saturdays, as requested by Our Lady of Fatima, carries with it the assurance of salvation. However, to derive profit from such a great promise of Our Lady, the devotion must be properly understood and duly performed. The requirements as stipulated by Our Lady are as follows:

(1) Confession, (2) Communion, (3) Five decades of the Rosary, (4) Meditation on one or more of the Rosary Mysteries for fifteen minutes, (5) To do all these things in the spirit of reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and (6) To observe all these practices on the First Saturday of five consecutive months.

The idea of the Five First Saturdays is obviously to make us persevere in the devotional acts for these Saturdays and overcome initial difficulties. Once this is done, Our Lady knows that the person would become devoted to Her Immaculate Heart and persist in practicing such devotion on all First Saturdays, working thereby for personal self-reform and for the salvation of others. Our Lady has assured us that She will obtain salvation for all those who observe the First Saturdays for five consecutive months in accordance with Her conditions.

THE FATIMA PRAYERS

PARDON PRAYER: My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love Thee! I beg pardon for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love Thee.

ANGEL'S PRAYER: O Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore Thee profoundly. I offer Thee 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 by which He is offended. By the infinite merits of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg the conversion of poor sinners.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Most Holy Trinity, I adore Thee! My God, my God, I love Thee in the Most Blessed Sacrament!

SACRIFICE PRAYER: O Jesus, it is for love of You, for the conversion of sinners, and in reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

DECADE PRAYER: O My Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell. Lead all souls to Heaven, especially those most in need of Thy mercy.

For more details please email: celciodias86@gmail.com

“Jesus, Mary, I Love You, Save Souls”

(Partial Indulgence)

“Think, one act of love can determine eternal happiness for a soul. Therefore, be careful never to omit one **‘Jesus’, MARY, I LOVE YOU, SAVE SOULS:’** Lose no time- every act of love is a soul.”



Words of Our Lady: **“ Only in paradise will you realize the value and the fruitfulness of saving souls. The act of love is especially meritorious as one of reparation.”**

“One JESUS, MARY, I LOVE YOU, SAVE SOULS atones for thousands of blasphemies.”

“Put together all virtuous acts of today that you can perform, and put them beside a day uninterrupted in acts of love- and I will take the love-filled day in preference to anything else you have done or offered Me. **“JESUS, MARY, I LOVE YOU, SAVE SOULS:-** Herewith you offer Me everything.”

*-Extracts from the book: “Jesus Appeals to the World”,
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In conformity with the directives of Pope Urban VIII, we have no intention of anticipating the judgement of the Holy Apostolic See and of the Church on Apparitions, reported by us, but not yet recognized; indeed, we submit to, and accept; her final decision without reservation.

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