



Our Lady of Fatima Shrine

Marian Messenger



Our Holy Patrons-Saints Jacinta and Francisco Marto

Join me as I celebrate 3pm Mass on Sunday, February 20th, at Our Lady of Fatima Shrine in honor of the heavenly patrons of the Blue Army, Saints Jacinta, and Francisco Marto. What are the particular lessons that these Saints teach us as the first non-martyred children to be raised to the altars of the Church? First and foremost, Jacinta leads us to penance and mortification in reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Saint Jacinta was profoundly affected by the sorrowful countenance of Our Lady. Why? Because of our many sins as Mary's children. Especially the sins of immodesty and impurity. She fasted and performed corporal penances to console the Immaculate Heart of Mary, surrounding and pierced by the thorns of our sins. What afflicted our Lady afflicted Saint Jacinta, who spent hours in reparative prayer and penance.

Secondly, Jacinta teaches us to have a burning zeal for the conversion of sinners and the salvation of souls. The vision of Hell on July 13, 1917, changed Saint Jacinta's life forever. She was never the same after seeing Hell. For all eternity, the loss of so many souls. The thought filled her with sorrow and desolation. There was no sacrifice too great to offer for the conversion of sinners and to save souls from Hell. Jacinta offered even her painful death, far from her parents and family and alone in a Lisbon hospital, to convert poor sinners.

The third lesson Jacinta teaches us is to pray much for the Holy Father. When Saint Jacinta was ill and alone, she had two visions of the Holy Father. She saw him in a large house kneeling by a small table during the first vision, crying with his hands covering his face. Outside, a crowd was shouting, insulting him, and throwing stones. Saint Jacinta would say to Lucia, "O poor Holy Father!" How much we must pray for the Pope!" This vision moved her to pray more and more for the pope. In the second vision, Saint Jacinta saw the Holy Father in a world full of famine and suffering, praying with many others in a church before the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Lucia recalled that she saw her cousin after one of the visions. "One day, I went to Jacinta's house to spend a little time with her. I found her sitting on her bed, deep in thought. "Jacinta, what are you thinking about?" "About the war that is coming. So many people will die, and almost all of them are going to Hell! Many homes will be destroyed, and many priests will be killed. Don't be afraid! In heaven, I'll be praying hard for you, the Holy Father, for Portugal so that the war will not come here and for all the priests."

As a member of the Blue Army, we must imitate the virtues of Saint Jacinta. Her steadfast devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, her spirit of reparation for the sins that afflict our Most Holy Mother. Jacinta's love for poor sinners and her zeal for their eternal salvation. Her love for the Holy Father, together with the daily prayer for the pope and the Church.

Saint Francisco also teaches many of the same lessons as his little sister Jacinta. He offered all his suffering and death for the conversion of sinners without complaining. But there is one single lesson he teaches us above all else: An ardent and persevering devotion to the "hidden Jesus in the tabernacle."

Saint Francisco was a contemplative soul. He loved to get away from people and spend time before Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. He even skipped school to go to the Church to console Our Lord in the tabernacle.

If the vision of Hell focused the mind of Saint Jacinta, the Eucharistic experiences with the "Angel of Peace," especially the reparatory nature of these experiences, affected Saint Francisco. When the angel bade Francisco drink the Precious Blood from the Chalice, the words of the angel seared his mind and heart. "Take and drink the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, horribly outraged by ungrateful men. Repair their crimes and console your God."



Father John's Journal continuea...

Saint Francisco would receive his second "First Communion" on his death bed in his family home in Aljustrel on April 4, 1919. Saint Francisco spent most of his time in Eucharistic Adoration reparation in the months preceding his death. He chose to console Jesus so outraged in the Blessed Sacrament by the sacrilegious Communion received by many people. This young man teaches us the inestimable value of interior silence and contemplation before the Eucharistic Lord truly present in all the tabernacles of the world. He teaches us to make Eucharistic reparation and spend time each day in Adoration. Saint Francisco is the "Saint of the Holy Hour."

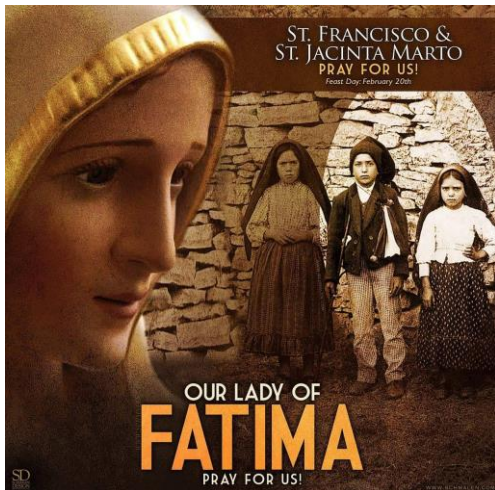
All Blue Army members are called to Eucharistic Adoration and Reparation. Bishop John Venancio of Fatima summarized the message of Fatima "Eucharistic reparation. Eucharistic reparation. Eucharistic reparation."

Time is short! Saints Jacinta and Francisco only had a short time to live after the "Miracle of the Sun." Francisco lived for 11 months, and Jacinta lived for 28 months. In those few precious months, they passed their time in prayer and penance to console Jesus and Mary and save souls from Hell.

Our mission in the Blue Army is to be men and women who are Eucharistic and Marian and "victims" for the salvation of souls.

Blessed Feast Day to all the Blue Army Members!

Father John



Francisco and Jacinta Marto are among the youngest saints of the Catholic Church. Francisco was nine and Jacinta seven when Our Lady of Fatima appeared to them in 1917. Francisco died two years later and Jacinta the following year. Despite their young age, they lived holy lives after seeing Our Lady. May we turn to them to help our children, grandchildren, and ourselves follow our Lady's instructions at Fatima and thus obtain heaven. Saints Francisco and Jacinta pray for us!

Join us for Mass

First Friday, February 4th at 7pm
First Saturday, February 5th at 8am

Feast of Saints Jacinta and Francisco Marto

Sunday, February 20th at 3pm
-Mass celebrated by Fr. John Hedges
-Confessions will be heard by Fr. David Pellican starting at 2:30pm until all are heard
-Blessing of the faithful by the relics of the Fatima Saints Jacinta and Francisco
-While this Mass does not fulfill your Sunday obligation, it offers many graces and a plenary indulgence

First Friday, March 4th at 7pm
First Saturday, March 5th at 8am

First Friday, April 1st at 7pm
First Saturday, April 2nd at 8am

Rosary and Confessions
30 minutes before First Friday and First Saturday Masses

Monthly Mass Schedule
First Friday at 7pm and First Saturday at 8am

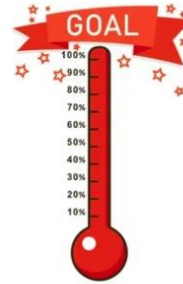
7pm Mass on the 13th of each month during May-October

St. Joseph Bookstore Hours

11:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays and before and after Masses.

The Chapel will be open for private prayer during these hours. Come and visit our Lord!

"Oh Jesus, it is for the love of Thee, in reparation for the offences committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary and for the conversion of poor sinners."



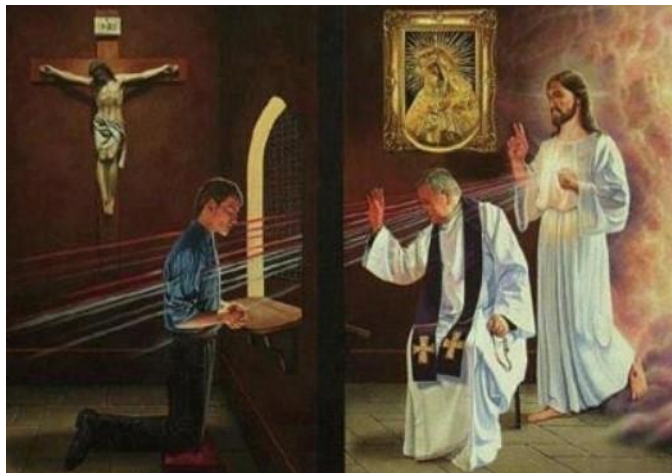
As we enter 2022, I thank St. Joseph and all of you for your financial and spiritual support as our ceiling fundraising campaign has exceeded our goal of \$60,000. To date, we have raised over \$75,000! We started the campaign on May 1, 2021, the feast of St. Joseph the Worker and on the First Saturday in May. We entrusted the fundraising to St Joseph's protection, guidance, and care....and he blessed us beyond all of our expectations! The additional funds raised will help us replace the chapel's antiquated sound system.

As many of you know, when the system is on, you may hear a radio playing, along with other issues, warrant the sound system's replacement. I am working with a contractor now and hope to begin work on the ceiling and sound system in the late spring/early summer. Please continue to pray to St. Joseph that the job will run smoothly and that the new updates to our Shrine will honor our Lady of Fatima and great glory to her son Jesus.

Please join us on February 20, 2022, at 3pm for Mass in honor of the Fatima Saints Jacinta and Francisco. Details on how to receive the plenary indulgence follow on the next page in this newsletter. I continue to keep you in my daily rosary. Please know that all of us at Our Lady of Fatima Shrine are non-paid volunteers, and we also need your prayers as we juggle work, family life, and our obligations at the Shrine and the bookstore. We are grateful to the chosen few who volunteer to keep the Shrine and bookstore open and available to all of us as we honor Our Lady of Fatima. If you are interested in donating any amount of time, please call me at (313) 320-7887, and I can help you discern how you may be able to assist us here at the Shrine. We are able to celebrate Mass intentions for you and your loved ones for a minimum \$10 donation. Please see the volunteers at the bookstore for your Mass intentions or mail them with your contribution to Our Lady of Fatima Shrine, 18637 Ray Street, Riverview, MI 48193. May Our Lady of Fatima and good St. Joseph continue to bless you!

Leonard St. Pierre

Those who visit the holy Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima on Sunday, February 20th for 3pm Mass can receive a plenary indulgence.





What is a plenary indulgence?

A plenary indulgence is a grace granted by the Catholic Church. The indulgence cleanses a person of all temporal punishment due to sin. It involves confessing one's sins before a priest, who offers absolution. But after the sins are forgiven, the side effects of the sins continue to punish the soul. Such residual effects are like the "punishment" that lingers after sin. Plenary indulgences get rid of such punishment.

How to Receive a plenary indulgence at Our Lady of Fatima Shrine on February 20th Feast Day of Saints Jacinta and Francisco Marto

- Confess your sins with true repentance and amendment of life (confessions can take place eight days before or after this Mass, we will have confessions beginning at 2:30pm until all confessions are heard.)
- Receive our Lord in Holy Communion in a spirit of reparation (Fr. John Hedges will celebrate 3pm Mass)
- Pray for the Holy Father



Our Lady of Fatima Shrine is funded solely by your donations. One hundred percent of our work to operate Our Lady of Fatima Shrine is done by an all-volunteer staff. We can't do this work without you! Please use the envelope in this newsletter to mail in your donation to keep our mission alive. Thank you for your support!

Pictures from January 2022 First Friday Mass

