



The International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima has traveled the **world** many times over. Millions of the faithful have come to see her and countless miracles have been recorded from their visits.

Not only is the statue a magnificent work of art, it's the first statue where Sister Lucia, one of the three Fatima children who saw Our Lady from May through October in 1917, said "of all the images of the Blessed Mother, this is the one I like best." The statue was sculpted in 1946 from one solid block of Mahogany wood based upon the description Sister Lucia provided the artist on how Our Lady looked when she appeared to the children. But more than its physical beauty, people report on the heavenly favors they receive when praying before Our Lady.

In 2016, during the last week of July, our volunteers at The World Apostolate of Fatima, Detroit Archdiocesan Division, were blessed to be able to coordinate and implement the tour of the miraculous International Pilgrim Virgin Statue at 12 parishes in Metro Detroit. Thousands upon thousands of the faithful lined up to make their personal visit. This was a once in a lifetime experience for me to see their joy and hear their moving stories about favors received by people praying before her.

As the statue traveled through the archdiocese, thousands lined up at each parish to spend time with Our Lady and ask for her heavenly intercession. A parishioner at Our Lady of Good Counsel, said "I was here when St. Maria Goretti's body was displayed. But this is different, this is amazing!"

A pilgrim, who traveled from Grand Rapids to see the statue, said "It seems like the eyes are looking right at you. With our world going crazy right now it's good to remind ourselves of the message of Fatima."

Many who have a great love for Our Lady had a chance to get up close and personal with the statue and were rewarded by their devotion. One couple told me, "Our condo wasn't selling for years and we were desperate. We visited the

Pilgrim Statue and begged for her help. The next day our condo received a full cash offer!"

Another woman said "Look at my photographs from the tour." Holding back tears, she added, "You can clearly see a tear falling from Our Lady's eye onto her cheek."

A middle-aged man, shared "My wife and mother-in-law have been fighting bitterly for months. I begged them to come see the statue. Now they are reconciled and getting along fine!"

A grandmother came up to me and said, "I visited the statue 16 years ago because my grandson had a brain aneurysm and wasn't expected to live, so I took him to see Our Lady and begged her to heal him." She then introduced me to a strong, and handsome 16 year-old teenager standing next to her, it was her grandson. "Look at him now! He's, our miracle!"

A young woman in her early 20's clearly overwhelmed, exclaimed "So many blessings, I can't believe it; I keep smelling the strong aroma of roses after visiting Our Lady!"

I'm grateful for Our Lady's tour in our Archdiocese and want to thank the small group of amazing volunteers from The Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima who worked tirelessly to make this a reality. Please know that I am asking Our Lady daily to bless you and grant you peace.

I am praying that Our Lady may bless you and your families when you visit her on May 1, 2022, at Our Lady of Fatima Shrine.

Leonard St. Pierre