



Marian Messenger

News from Our Lady of Fatima Shrine

FATHER JOHN'S JOURNAL Father John Hedges, Spiritual Director

As we enter a New Year – 2021 – we place ourselves under the divine protection of the Holy Family, † **Jesus Mary and Joseph** †

I have dedicated this year to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and the Most Chaste Heart of St. Joseph. Our sure “refuge” in these troubles times is the **Holy House** and the **Three Hearts** of the Holy Family. It is also a great consolation that we are surrounded by the Communion of Saints _ the **invisible cloud of witnesses** - the blessed in heaven, the Souls in Purgatory, and the holy Angels working with the Church Militant on earth.

With God all things are possible! Jesus tells us not to be afraid, but to have unbounded confidence in His mercy.

We enter the New Year at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima keeping in mind the words of our Blessed Mother: “**In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph!**”

When Archbishop Allen Vigneron elevated the blue Army Chapel to the dignity of the **Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima**, he designated two special days when the faithful, making a pilgrimage to the Shrine to confess their sins, receive Our Lord in Holy Communion, and pray for the Pope, would receive a plenary indulgence, the full pardon and remission of sin and punishment, similar to the full pardon received on Divine Mercy Sunday. This is a tremendous grace!

What are the two special days? The first one is February 20, the feast of Sts Jacinta and Francisco Marto, observed on the anniversary of St. Jacinta's death, February 20, 1920. St. Francisco died on April 4, 1919. This brother and sister each epitomized different charisms of the Fatima message: Francisco - Eucharistic reparation and devotion to Our Lady of the Rosary; and Jacinta – the conversion of sinners, praying for the Pope, and devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary marked by holy purity, chastity and modesty

Francisco and Jacinta died during the pandemic of the deadly Spanish flu which reached Fatima in 1918. Within two years it had infected five hundred million people, one-third of the world's population. At least twenty million people died between 1918-1920.

Lucia's parents and her sister Gloria and brother Manuel, helped those in need, heedless of the danger. They prepared meals for seriously ill villagers, and even fed their neighbor's children at their own home if their parents were too ill to feed them themselves. Manuel Marto strongly advised them against it while he kept his family strictly on the farm. Despite his protective measures to protect his family by isolation, all nine of his children were infected. Four of them, Jacinta, Francisco, Florinda and Teresa – died, whereas no one perished in the dos Santos family.

In the autumn of 1918, Francisco and Jacinta fell ill. Our Lady appeared to them and reiterated her promise to take them to heaven soon. Our Lady said she would take Francisco very shortly, and offered Jacinta the choice of going to

Heaven immediately, or remaining on earth a little longer to suffer for the conversion of sinners. Since the vision of hell in July, 1917

Jacinta was distressed over the fate of the damned. She physically suffered at the thought of the everlasting torment of so many people. Without hesitation, Jacinta chose to suffer on earth for the conversion of poor sinners.

Francisco spent the rest of his short life in the church with the **Hidden Jesus** in the Blessed Sacrament. He prayed one rosary after another for the people who asked for his prayers, and especially for the conversion of sinners. He was cheerful, and

offered all his suffering for poor sinners without complaining.

He received his first Holy Communion on his death bed in his family home in Aljustreal (not counting the Precious Blood proffered him in a chalice by St. Michael the Archangel). At 10 a.m. on April 4, 1919, after asking his family members to forgive him, he told his mother that he could see a very beautiful light in the doorway.

And then he died. He was ten years and ten months old and was buried the next day at the parish cemetery in Fatima.

St. Francisco teaches us how to love Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, and to be faithful to the holy Rosary Jacinta also had more apparitions concerning future events: the second world war and the great number of souls that would perish and go to hell; the sufferings of the future Popes in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries; and the moral degeneration of families through the desecration of marriage and the sins against holy purity. On February 10, 1920, she had two ribs removed without a full dose of anesthetic because of her weakened state. Though she suffered agony every time she had her dressing changed, she did not complain. She offered everything for the conversion of sinners.

She had two visions of the Holy Father, during the first of which she saw him in a large house kneeling by a small table, crying, his hands covering his face. Outside a crowd was shouting, insulting him, throwing stones. After the vision, Jacinta had a strong urge to pray more for the Pope. In the second vision, the Holy Father was in a world full of famine and suffering, praying with many others in a church before the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

In other visions, Our Lady told Jacinta that times were approaching where many couples would live together without the sacrament of matrimony, and most people would end up in hell because of the sin of impurity. She said that there were certain fashions that offended God and that priests ought to be chaste and obedient to the teachings of the Church.

Mary appeared to Jacinta for the last time on February 16, 1920 in order to console her. Four days later she died in the evening all alone, just a few days before her eleventh birthday On February 24 Jacinta's remains were transferred from a wooden coffin to a zinc one. Witnesses were astounded that her lips were pink and that her remains gave off a pleasant fragrance, alike to flowers. Her funeral took place on the same day. When her body was transferred to her crypt in the basilica in 1951, St. Jacinta was found to be incorrupt.

St. Jacinta teaches us how to love the Immaculate Heart of Mary, to love and pray for the Pope, to sacrifice for poor sinners, to warn against the sins of impurity and immodesty, and to witness to the holiness of marriage.

Make a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima on February 20, 2021, to honor Sts Jacinta and Francisco in order to imbibe their spirit of love for Jesus and Mary and the salvation of souls.

Confessions will be available before Holy Mass, and a Holy Hour with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament will follow.

Come and receive the full pardon on that day.

The second special day of pilgrimage is October 13, 2021 the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima. I will write more on that feast as the day draws closer.

Sts. Jacinta and Francisco Marto, pray for us!

Blessed and Holy New Year,

Father John



BISHOP GERARD BATTERSBY AT THE SHRINE
DEDICATION, OCTOBER 13, 2020

To view more photos of the dedication of Our
Lady of Fatima Shrine on October 13, 2020, visit
www.fatimashrinedetroit.org



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Leonard St. Pierre

Wishing all of you a Happy New Year! 2020 has been a year like no other to say the least. Let's join in prayer to Our Lady of Fatima asking our Blessed Mother for a healthy and happy 2021.

On Tuesday, October 13, 2020 the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, our chapel was designated a Shrine in the Archdiocese of Detroit by Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron. Bishop Gerard Battersby read the Formal Decree and celebrated the "first Mass" at the newly-designated Our Lady of Fatima Shrine. It was an amazing night and a great turning point for our little chapel. Visit our new website, www.fatimashrinedetroit.org to see more photos in addition to the ones in this newsletter.

We are now welcoming more pilgrims than ever before and trying our best to help them to learn, live and spread the Fatima message. We have been given a sacred trust and an important work by Our Lady of Fatima. Please support our mission to bring more souls to Jesus through Mary by using the donation envelope in this newsletter.

Join me in praying the following prayer throughout 2021. I plan to say this prayer as part of my "New Year's Resolution." Our Lady of Fatima gave the children this prayer, as well as the Fatima Prayer/Decade Prayer on June 13th, 1917. The prayer is meant to be recited when you are offering up suffering to God. "Oh Jesus, it is for the love of Thee, in reparation for the offenses committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary and for the conversation of poor sinners (that I do this)"

May Our Lady of Fatima continue to bless you and your families as we start this New Year!





Our Lady of Fatima Shrine

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HOLY MASS SCHEDULE

January

January 1st | No Mass

January 2nd | First Saturday 8:00AM Mass

February

February 5th | First Friday 7:00 PM Mass

February 6th | First Saturday 8:00 AM Mass

February 20th | Saturday 8:00AM Mass

Feast of Saint Jacinta and Saint Francisco

The faithful can receive a plenary indulgence for this feast day.

March

March 5th | First Friday 7:00 PM Mass

March 6th | First Saturday 8:00 AM Mass

7:00 PM on the 13th of each month

May – October

*Confessions are heard 1/2 hour before First Friday
and First Saturday Masses*

Our Lady of Fatima Shrine & St. Joseph Bookstore Hours

Before and after all Masses
Wednesdays 11:00 AM— 4:00PM
Saturdays 11:00 AM— 4:00 PM

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