



# WORLD APOSTOLATE OF FATIMA

ST. PAUL/MINNEAPOLIS DIOCESAN DIVISION  
A Canonically Approved Apostolate of the Catholic Church

Vol. 26, No. 1

January 2008

## BEHOLD YOUR MOTHER

**“Behold your Mother”**—These words, spoken by our Lord from the Cross, might not seem overly important, but a closer look at them reveals many things. First of all, we need to put the words into context. These words form one part of a two part statement: Woman, behold your son; son, behold your Mother. These words are the fourth in a series of seven, which form what is called a chiasm or a chiasmic structure. A chiasm is normally made up of an odd number of elements arranged in a way for a speaker to remember the points he wants to make. In these structures, the first and the last points are somewhat similar as are the second and the second to the last, etc. This way the points build upon one another, moving toward the one that stands alone, i.e., that does not have a pair. The single point is the most important point that the orator wants to make. Once that point is made, he can continue on using the previous points to remind him of the points he still wants to make.

Why am I telling you all of this? Because in St. John’s Gospel there is a chiasmic structure consisting of seven Old Testament prophecies that are being fulfilled as the events of our Lord’s crucifixion unfold. The fourth point in this structure, or the most important, is the one we are considering. Each of the other six statements makes it clear that there is a fulfillment of a prophecy; however, this one does not. St. John takes for granted that his readers will recognize this one as a prophetic fulfillment.

In order to understand this fulfillment we have to look at the next point. In St. John’s Gospel there are two people whose names are never mentioned: our Lady and St. John. In this passage our Lady is referred to as mother

and as woman; St. John is referred to as the disciple Jesus loved. St. John did this to get our attention. Our Lady is referred to as “woman” not out of disrespect, but to show that she is the woman of Genesis 3:15 (I do not have room to demonstrate this step by step). On the cross, this first promise of a Redeemer is fulfilled with the serpent nipping at the heel of the woman’s Son, but the woman crushing his vile head.

The next aspect is the Beloved Disciple. St. John uses this term for himself with the intention that each of us can substitute our own name, because each of us is a disciple whom the Lord loves. In this case, the Beloved Disciple, physically St. John, spiritually each of us, is entrusted with the care of our Mother. St. John took her into his home from that moment forward. Each of us is to do the same spiritually. If we are willing to do this, it will change our lives. Our Lady will not only lead us to her Son, but she will teach us, help us, form us, be a mother to us, etc. If she is in the home of our hearts, we need to keep our hearts pure, focused on Jesus, holy, in a word, fitting for such an honored guest.

This passage has another aspect to it that most people would not at first consider. It demonstrates that our Lord had no siblings. We hear all about the brothers and sisters of the Lord as an attempt to prove that Mary was not perpetually a virgin. Some of the Saints have tried to suggest that St. Joseph was a widower and these brothers and sisters were his children from a previous marriage. In the Hebrew mindset, any close relative is considered a brother or sister. By law, when the father died, the first-born son took over his duties and re-

sponsibilities toward the mother. If the eldest son died, the second son took over. If Jesus had siblings, he would not have entrusted his mother to St. John, who was related, but not a sibling. Jesus fulfilled the law perfectly, so He would not have transgressed the law at the most important moment of His Messianic work.

There is much more that could be said, but there is not room. What is most important is to recognize that these words “Behold your Mother” are addressed to you, the beloved disciple of our Lord. Please, follow the example and obedience of St. John and take her into your home, your heart, from this moment forward.

*Fr. Robert Altier, Spiritual Director*



## TWO NEW APOSTOLATE BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED



**Barb Ernster** is an independent consultant and owner of BE Writing & Communications. She has nearly twenty years of experience in writing and public relations, working with corporate, small business and non-profit organizations in agency and consulting capacities.

Barb is also a freelance Catholic journalist, contributing regularly to the National Catholic Register, The Catholic Servant and Family Foundations, and published in Marian Helper, Catholic World Report and Columbia.

She was inspired to run for the WAF Board after several years of assisting Connie Schneider in various capacities, writing about the children’s program, and the influence of Fatima in her own life. Her vision is to help develop goals that will serve the organization’s mission, implement new communication strategies around those goals, and expand on the tremendous work the organization has accomplished thus far.

Barb and her husband, Tom, have three children (ages 6, 11 and 12). They attend St. Charles Borromeo Church in St. Anthony and reside in Fridley.

**Todd Ziesmer** has more than twenty years of business development experience—thirteen years in corporate sales and marketing positions and eight years in fundraising with Legatus, Relevant Radio (1330 AM), and St. Agnes Church and Schools. He is honored to serve on the Board of Trustees for the World Apostolate of Fatima and hopes that his professional background will be helpful as the Board continues to look for ways to spread the important message of Fatima.



Our Lady has led Todd to a deeper relationship with our Lord through an active devotional life (daily Mass and rosary, weekly adoration, the brown scapular, etc.) and he is committed to helping more people discover God’s plan for humanity through the message and miracle of Fatima—which sadly so few Catholics even know about.

Todd and his wife, Marie, have lived in Orono for twenty years and they have four children, ages ranging from 12 to 19. He and his family attend Holy Family Catholic Church in St. Louis Park.

## 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL COMMUNION BREAKFAST AND ELECTIONS

The annual WAF Communion Breakfast was held on November 17, 2007, at St. Augustine's Church in South St. Paul. Connie Schneider, President of the local Archdiocesan Division, welcomed all delegates and members in attendance. She gave a short presentation on the Children of the Eucharist program, including a discussion on how the U.S. bishops have approved the program and the importance of reaching parents through the children's participation in the program. A short video, filmed in Kansas City, Missouri, was shown of Bishop Finn's invitation to the Worldwide Children's Holy Hour held on October 5, 2007, in Washington, DC. A video with short clips from the Children of the Eucharist program held in October at the Cathedral of St. Paul was shown and Claude Medina displayed our large monstrance that was prominent in the video. Archbishop Nienstedt will be asked to preside at the program in October, 2008, which will be held at the Cathedral of St. Paul.

The three-year term for three members of the Board of Trustees (Paul Taylor, Maurice Prater, and Marge Medina) recently expired and elections were held to fill those positions. Gayle McMullen, Vice Presi-

dent and Chairman of the Nomination Committee, introduced four candidates running for the three open seats: Barb Ernster of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in St. Anthony, Todd Ziesmer of Holy Family Parish in St. Louis Park, Marge Medina of St. Augustine Parish in South St. Paul, and Emilio Ayala of St. Bonaventure Parish in Bloomington. The election results are as follows: Marge Medina was reelected and Barb Ernster and Todd Ziesmer were newly elected. Congratulations to Marge, Barb, and Todd and thanks to Paul and Maurice for their years of service.

A Board of Trustees meeting was held at St. Augustine's Church on December 10, 2007, at which elections were held to fill positions for all officers whose terms expired at the end of 2007. Current office-holders were reelected for another term with one exception—the position of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, previously held by Paul Taylor, was eliminated. Officers for 2008 are as follows:

President	Connie Schneider
Vice President	Gayle McMullen
Treasurer	Marian Deilke
Secretary	Marge Medina



***On Saturday, March 1, 2008, please join us for the 22<sup>ND</sup> Annual Marian Congress at Guardian Angels Church in Oakdale. Fr. Donald DeGrood will be presenting three inspiring talks on the theme of “The Immaculate Heart of Mary as Model of Our Interior Life.”***

***Wouldn't this be a perfect way to reenergize your Lenten penitential practices as Easter draws near?***

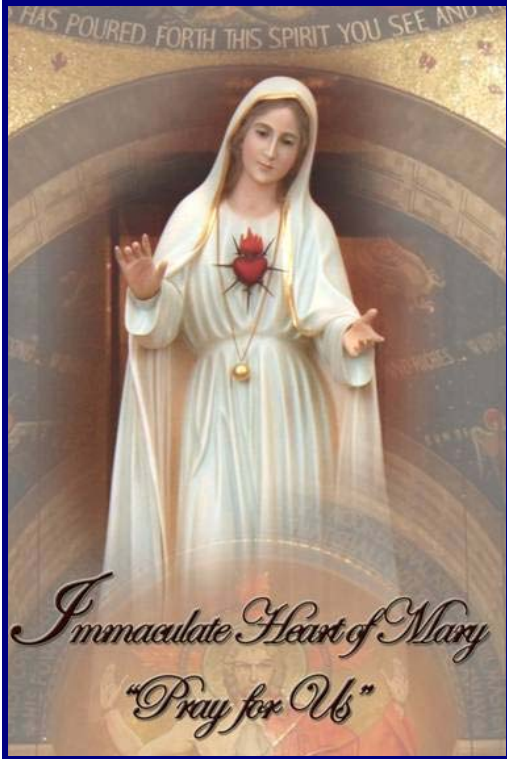
***IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY, MODEL OF THE INTERIOR LIFE, PRAY FOR US!***

***— REFER TO PAGES 4 & 5 FOR REGISTRATION MATERIAL —***

*The World Apostolate of Fatima Presents:*

# The 22nd Annual Marian Congress

*Featuring: Fr. Donald DeGrood*



**Guardian Angels Church**

8260 4th Street North

Oakdale, MN 55128

**Saturday, March 1, 2008**

**8:00am – 3:00pm**

## **THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY AS MODEL OF OUR INTERIOR LIFE**

### Three Inspiring Talks (followed by Q & A)

In God's beautiful plan of providence, He has given us the perfect mother as a model for our interior life. Our Blessed Mother Mary not only models "true holiness" for us, but she wants to serve as our advocate and guide on our road to

holiness. This year's Marian Congress will highlight critical spiritual qualities in the life of Mary, and offer concrete and practical ways to allow these same spiritual qualities to flourish in our interior life, particularly through the devotions she requested at Fatima and through consecration to her Immaculate Heart.

**REGISTRATION:** ♦ Fill out the coupon below and mail it to Marian Deilke along with your check. ♦ For questions or more information, contact Claude Medina at (651) 457-6609.

## **22nd Annual Marian Congress**

### Please send check to:

Marian Congress / Marian Deilke  
8445 Goodview Avenue South  
Cottage Grove, MN 55016

Mail registrations must be  
postmarked by February 23, 2008

Pre-registration Fee: \$25.00  
Registration at Door: \$30.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_



**Fr. Donald DeGroot** grew up on his family farm amidst the rolling hills overlooking Cannon Lake just west of Faribault—this was the seedbed of his vocation to the priesthood. Working beside his parents and four brothers, he learned about the importance of hard work, prayer and reflection, cooperation, and trust in the providence of God as it unfolded before his eyes.

After beginning his formal education in a one-room country schoolhouse, Father then moved on to Catholic High School in Faribault and upon graduation attended St. John Vianney College and graduated from the College of St. Thomas in 1987 with a B.A. in Philosophy. Unsure whether he was called to the priesthood, he returned to the family farm for one year.

After “searching the world over to find my true love,” Father DeGroot found it in the depth of his very own heart. He had discerned God’s vocational call for him to the holy priesthood and entered the St. Paul Seminary. On May 31, 1997, he was ordained a priest at the Cathedral of St. Paul and served as Associate Pastor at All Saints Church in Lakeville for three years.

From 2000-2004, Father was assigned to St. John Vianney Seminary as a Spiritual Director and Formation Director to help men discern God’s vocational call in the depths of their own hearts. He presently serves as the Pastor of St. Peter Catholic Church in Forest Lake, Minnesota.

### TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

- 7:40am Rosary
- 8:00am Mass at Guardian Angels Church  
An announcement from pulpit after Mass, directing everyone to registration and breakfast
- 8:45am Coffee and donuts
- 9:45am Morning Praise
- 10:00am Introductory statements by President and introduction of Fr. Donald DeGroot
- 10:15am First talk
- 11:00am Break/Rosary/Angelus
- 11:45am Lunch
- 12:45am Second talk
- 1:30pm Break
- 1:40pm Third talk
- 2:30pm Q&A and final announcements
- 3:00pm Conference ends

**Directions to Guardian Angels Church:** Guardian Angels Church is located on the north side of I-94 just one mile east of the I 494/694 interchange, about 7 miles east of downtown St. Paul.

**From the East:** Take I 94 west to Exit #250 (County Road 13 / Radio Drive / Inwood Ave.). At the end of the exit (at light) cross over Inwood Ave. to enter Oakdale Village Shopping Area. Guardian Angels Parish entrance is on the west side of Best Buy.

**From the West:** Take I 94 east to Exit #250 (County Road 13 / Radio Drive / Inwood Ave.). Turn north (left) to 3rd Street. Turn west (left) to enter Oakdale Village Shopping Area. Guardian Angels Parish entrance is on the west side of Best Buy.

**Directions for Registration:** Please complete the registration form on the facing side of this flyer and mail it to Marian Deilke at the address indicated. Additional registrations may be sent on a separate sheet of paper, but please do not use file cards, note cards, or post-it notes. The fee for pre-registration is \$25.00, or \$30.00 for at-the-door registration. **NO MAIL-IN REGISTRATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED THAT ARE POST-MARKED AFTER THE DEADLINE OF FEBRUARY 23, 2008.** Please make checks payable to THE WORLD APOSTOLATE OF FATIMA. The registration fee includes lunch which will be available for pick-up at the Congress. Please, NO phone reservations—only mail-in reservations will be accepted. Go to our website for more information: [www.fatimaonline.org](http://www.fatimaonline.org). **Thank you for your cooperation.**

## WAF MISSION STATEMENT

The World Apostolate of Fatima is a public association of the faithful under the Pontifical Council of the Laity whose mission is to urgently live and actively educate the world about the message of Fatima and its continued relevance in today's world.

*For the salvation of souls and peace in our world Our Lady of Fatima is imploring all the faithful to do the following:*

- † **Offer our daily duty as prayer and penance for conversion and reparation for sins**
- † **Daily recitation of the Rosary**
- † **Genuine devotion to the Eucharist**
- † **Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary**
- † **Wear the Brown Scapular as a sign of your consecration**
- † **Communion of the Five First Saturdays in reparation to her Immaculate Heart**

## NEW MISSION STATEMENT GUIDES PLANNING PROCESS

With a new Mission Statement to guide our organization, the Board of Trustees is now embarking on a planning process to develop the strategies that will help accomplish its goals and vision. One of the primary goals of the board this year is to simplify and focus on those programs and activities that are most effective in bringing the message of Fatima to the world and have the greatest impact on the organization's long-term direction.

Throughout the month of January, the Planning Committee will review all of the WAF events and programs, promotional literature, communication and outreach activities, and develop an action plan for review by the full Board of Trustees in February. The planning commit-

tee will also look at those areas that are critical to the health of the organization, including its finances, outreach to parishes, families and individuals, and communications through the newsletter, website and e-mail database.

Inspired by Pope John Paul II, who said, if you want to evangelize you must have a contemporary heart, we pray for the success of the planning committee through the guidance of our Blessed Mother.

*"The question confronting the Church today is not any longer whether the man in the street can grasp a religious message, but how to employ the communications media so as to let him have the full impact of the Gospel message."*

*Pope John Paul II*

## NEWSLETTER PLANS

When you receive this newsletter in the mail, you will also be able to view it on our website at [www.fatimaonline.org](http://www.fatimaonline.org). Please take a moment to check it out as well as all 2007 issues, which are also posted.

More exciting changes will be forthcoming in future months. The Planning Committee is looking at revamping the newsletter format as part of the planning process and also at placing more emphasis on publishing spiritual articles

to continually educate readers about the relevance of the Fatima Message in today's world. The Board of Trustees continues to consider ways of reducing printing and postage costs of the newsletter—each edition is currently mailed to over 3,000 members at a significant cost.

In the meantime, please continue sending in those coupons and stay tuned for further news in the April edition of the World Apostolate of Fatima Newsletter.

### All Night Vigil Schedule

Feb. 1-2	St. Agnes Church (in chapel) 530 Lafond Ave. St. Paul, MN	Contact Person: Martha Praska 651-293-1710
Mar. 7-8	St. Jerome Church 380 Roselawn Ave. E. Maplewood, MN 55117	Contact Person: Cynthia Schlunder 651-772-2221
Apr. 4-5	St. Michael's Church 611 South Third Street Stillwater, MN 55082	Contact Person: Deb Mayer 651-439-4460
May 2-3	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church 2035 West 15th Street Hastings, MN 55033	Contact Person: Mary Bloomstrand 651-437-3591

### St. Paul/Minneapolis Division of the World Apostolate of Fatima

Spiritual Director	Fr. Robert Altier
President	Connie Schneider
Vice President	Gayle McMullen
Treasurer	Marian Deilke
Secretary	Marge Medina

#### Board & Committee Members

Fatima Holy Hours	Paul Taylor Mike Smeby
All Night Vigils	Claude Medina
Newsletter	Don Fier
Children's Programs	Connie Schneider
Fatima's Children of the Eucharist	Ann Meehl Mary Hover
Planning Committee	Barb Ernster
Chairpersons	Todd Ziesmer
Web Site	Bill Rysavy

### Prayer Petitions

- For deceased members Peggy Ryan, Beatrice Flahaven, Nellie De Los Reyes, Deacon Robert May, Sister Mariam Thissen, and Clara Gerner
  - For a cure from cancer for Evan Rysavy
  - For Matthew to seek God's intervention in making a career decision
  - For the conversion of my husband
  - For my return to good health and for continued healing within my family
- If you have prayer petitions that you wish to have included in the newsletter, please call **Mary Fier** at 651-450-6941.

**Do you wish to continue to receive the World Apostolate of Fatima newsletter in the mail throughout the year? If so, please fill out the coupon and send it to Marian Deilke.**

**Mail to: Marian Deilke / World Apostolate of Fatima  
8445 Goodview Avenue South  
Cottage Grove, MN 55016**

- Please renew my subscription for 1 year @ \$5/subscription
- I am unable to contribute, but would like to receive the newsletter
- I would like to make a tax-deductible contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

Once more the ***Children and Youth Worldwide Eucharistic Holy Hour*** was a great success. On First Friday, October 5, 2007, children throughout the world gathered before the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Most Reverend Bishop Robert W. Finn, DD, of the Diocese of Kansas City ~ St. Joseph, Missouri, led the Holy Hour ***live*** from the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. School children from three of the Basilica's neighboring dioceses (Washington, DC, Virginia, and Maryland) filled the Basilica to capacity, as EWTN once again broadcast the event to over forty different nations.

Here at home in our own Cathedral in St. Paul, Father Patrick Byrne, the Rome-based Secretary General of the Holy Childhood Association, united over 3,000 of our local school children in prayer. Father Byrne has confirmed

that he will travel from Rome to lead the ***Sixth Annual Children and Youth Eucharistic Holy Hour*** in the Basilica in Washington, DC, on October 3, 2008.

Please let us work together the First Friday of each October to gather our world's children before the Most Blessed Sacrament to pray for their own families and all the families of the world.

Mention this program to your pastor and/or the principal of your parish school if you have one. The program is easy, free, and more powerful than a nuclear exchange. You can simply suggest to others that they download the information from the ***Children of the Eucharist*** website: [www.childrenoftheeucharist.org](http://www.childrenoftheeucharist.org).

In the Hearts of Jesus and Mary,  
Connie

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South St. Paul, MN 55075

Address Correction Requested



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