

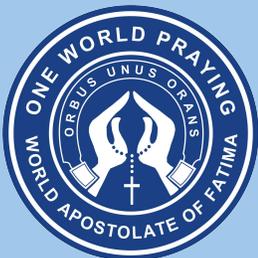
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# World Apostolate of Fatima

ST. PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS ARCHDIOCESAN DIVISION  
A Canonically Approved Apostolate of the Catholic Church



## THE URGENCY OF THE FATIMA MESSAGE

BY FR. JOHN A. GALLAS, SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

**I**t is a well-known principle of the spiritual life that no one remains at a fixed distance from God. We are always growing closer or moving farther from Him. Thankfully, there are many people in this world who are holy, and ever drawing nearer to God. We need these good models to imitate. If everyone lived their faith in Christ, perhaps Mary's visit to Fatima would not have happened.

But it did happen, and therefore we must pay close attention to what Our Lady said. Her message is so simple: "Pray and do penance for poor sinners." This means not to complain but accept your troubles with patience. Your sufferings and your prayers have great value.

This message of Our Lady can be described with many words. One of those words is urgent. The message of Fatima is an urgent message. Matters that are urgent require immediate attention and action.

Why is this message urgent? The answer is this: There is a great mass of souls who are not drawing near to God, but hurtling away from Him at breakneck speed. In most societies, sin is not only tolerated, but celebrated and rewarded. And sin leads to death just as sure as evening leads to darkness. We can help them, but not forever. Those who die in mortal sin are eternally beyond help, because they have entered hell where "to extreme heat they will pass from snowy waters" (Job 24:19). We can help them while we are alive and while they are alive, and so we have got to use this time well.

**In most societies, sin is not only tolerated, but celebrated and rewarded. And sin leads to death just as sure as evening leads to darkness.**

We can help them first of all by not joining them. When we speak of praying for sinners, or when we pray for those "most in need of mercy" we should first of all have ourselves in mind. And we should not look down on anyone because of their weakness, because were it not for the grace of God, each person would be capable of the very worst things.

But if we are in the state of grace, and we are still on this earth, we can do something

that the Holy Angels and the Blessed in Heaven cannot: We can merit through our prayers and sufferings. Life is transmitted to sinners through the loving acceptance of the cross.

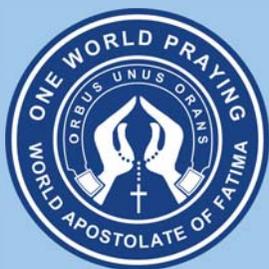
If we love Jesus, we should be concerned for our salvation and that of our neighbor, but still it is easy to focus on my family and friends and to forget about the neighbor whom I cannot see, or to forget about my

**Mary spoke to the three shepherd children ... about those furthest from God and, in some cases, about those who are repugnant to us.**

enemies. Mary spoke to the three shepherd children but her message was not about them. It was about those farthest from God and, in some cases, about those who are repugnant to us. It was about sinners around the world, those who persecute us, who assault religious liberty and human rights, who promote abortion, who corrupt society. No matter what a person has done or is doing, if they are running toward a deadly precipice, we should not only try to help them, but do so earnestly and persistently.

And we must do this in a spirit of blind faith, if that is God's will. God will show you all the good He has done through you, but not until Heaven. If confessionals were not closed by the "Seal of Confession," we would hear endless stories of the conversion of sinners. If we could observe people's lives as the angels do, or if we could read the human heart as Jesus does, we would always be encouraged as we would witness the direct and immediate consequence of prayers and penance upon this or that person in need. But God asks us to live in faith for now. That must be enough for us. Some day we will be amazed.

The following words of Bishop Jose Alves Correia da Silva, bishop of Fatima at the time of the Fatima apparitions, summarize well our urgent response to Mary's requests: "It remains for us, beloved brethren in Our Lord, to warn you that, if, for us, it is a great reason for joy and consolation, this grace that the Most Holy Virgin has granted us, greater is the obligation on us to correspond with Her goodness."



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## **“DO NOT BE AFRAID; I AM WITH YOU”**

BY BARB ERNSTER AND DON FIER

**O**ne of the most common greetings by angels, prophets, and even the Lord Himself is: “Do not be afraid.” It is with great frequency that these comforting and reassuring words appear when we open the pages of Scripture. In light of Fr. Gallas’ reflection on the urgency of the Fatima Message (see page 1), “Do not be afraid” are words well worth prayerfully considering and meditating on.

“Do not be afraid” was the greeting of the Angel of the Lord to Zechariah who “was troubled by what he saw” and fearful when being informed that his wife Elizabeth would give birth to a son in her old age (Luke 1:12-13). The Archangel Gabriel said to Mary “Do not be afraid” at the Annunciation when she was troubled by his words (Luke 1:30). Likewise, the shepherds were “filled with great fear” when the Angel of the Lord appeared to them at the birth of the Messiah; the angel replied, “Do not be afraid” (Luke 2:9-10). And the women at the tomb were comforted by the Angel of the Lord who had descended from Heaven with the words: “Do not be afraid ... I know that you seek Jesus Who was crucified” (Matt. 28:5).

Our Lady of Fatima spoke tenderly to the three shepherd children when she appeared to them on May 13, 1917, with the words: “Do not be afraid, I will do you no harm.” And about a year earlier in the spring of 1916, the Angel of Peace greeted the startled children with the words: “Do not be afraid.”

**...there are at least 365 invitations [in Scripture] by our Heavenly Father, Jesus, the prophets, and the angels to “Be Not Afraid.”**

Jesus, too, calmed the disciples who thought He was a ghost approaching them on the stormy waters on the Sea of Galilee: “It is I; do not be afraid” (Matt. 14:27). When Jesus teaches about being courageous under persecution, He says three times in Matthew 10:26-33: “Do not be afraid of them”; “Do not be afraid

of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul”; and “Do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.”

It is said that there are at least 365 invitations by our Heavenly Father, Jesus, the prophets, and the angels to “Be not afraid,” one for each day of the year. Clearly, the Lord really wants us to get this all-important message.

**“When you seek Me with all your heart, you will find Me with you, says the Lord, and I will change your lot” (Jer. 29:14).**

“Be Not Afraid” was a hallmark exhortation of Pope John Paul II—how often he used those encouraging words during his reign as Vicar of Christ! They were his words of greeting when he first appeared as Pope on the steps of St. Peter’s Square, carrying in front of him a big crucifix. At Pope John Paul II’s beatification Mass, Pope Benedict XVI recalled that the new Blessed used the following words at his first solemn Mass as our new Holy Father: “Do not be afraid! Open, open wide the doors to Christ!”

Fear is not of God. Adam and Eve were not afraid in the paradise God had created for them until “they knew that they were naked” (Gen. 3:7). Once sin entered the world, the protective armor of innocence was forfeited by mankind and we became prone to fear and anxiety: fear of the future, fear of death, fear for our children, fear of our current economy, fear of the state of the world.

Fear is now a natural response that is part of our makeup; it cannot be eliminated completely until we are restored in God’s Heavenly Kingdom. Still, God is with us in this fear and calls us to rest in Him and to allow Him to go before us. He has the answers to all of the problems of life—impossible as they may seem—and leads us to them.

“Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name: you are

(see “Be Not Afraid” on pg. 3)

## ARCHDIOCESAN ROSARY PROCESSION

**O**ur Lady must have been pleased on the first Sunday of May at the outpouring of devotion by so many people. An estimated 2,800 people attended the 65th annual Archdiocesan Rosary Procession and nearly filled the Cathedral of St. Paul to capacity.

Numerous faith-filled individuals and families processed down John Ireland Boulevard from the State Capitol to the Cathedral of Saint Paul while reciting the Rosary and singing hymns to honor Our Lady. Auxiliary Bishop Lee Piché presided over this beautiful public profession of our faith, and served as celebrant and homilist at the prayer and Benediction service at the Cathedral.

A special intention for this year's Rosary Procession was for an outpouring of



courage and grace to defend the sanctity of marriage, religious freedom, and the sanctity of life. Special guest appearances were made at the State Capitol prior to the procession by Fr. James Kelleher, SOLT, of the Eucharistic Family Rosary Crusade and by Mr. Jason Adkins, executive director of the Minnesota Catholic Conference.

Don't forget to mark your calendar for the Candlelight Rosary Procession on Friday, October 5, 2012. Please keep in your prayers that there will be an even larger turnout as we beg for God's grace as the November election approaches.

## BE NOT AFRAID

*(continued from pg. 2)*

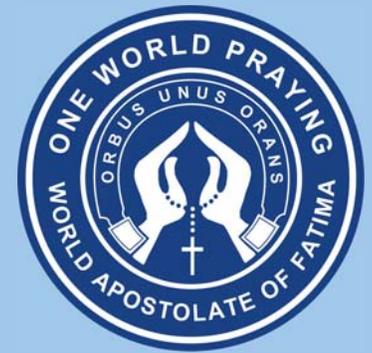
Mine. When you pass through deep waters, I will be with you; in the rivers, you shall not drown. When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned ... because you are precious in My eyes and glorious, and because I love you" (Isa. 43:1-2).

God has indeed called us by name and we do belong to Him. He calls us to put our trust in Him during our darkest hours. Can you trust this God of love enough to face head on any fears that are threatening your well-being and replace them with faith in the Lord? The words of the prophet Jeremiah are a constant reminder from God that He has only what is best for us in store for our lives. Let's keep this constantly in mind when

we are fearful and anxious about the world:

"For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare, not for woe! Plans to give you a future full of hope. When you call Me, when you go to pray to Me, I will listen to you. When you look for Me, you will find Me. Yes, when you seek Me with all your heart, you will find Me with you, says the LORD, and I will change your lot" (Jer. 29:11-14).

Let us take the words "Do not be afraid" to heart in these times of uncertainty, trustfully invoke our Lady of Fatima, and faithfully seek to "live, learn, and spread" her Message of Peace.



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## PUBLIC ASSOCIATION OF THE FAITHFUL IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

BY FR. JAMES P. MCCONVILLE

### EDITOR'S NOTE

On October 7, 2010, the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, by Decree of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, the World Apostolate of Fatima was granted permanent status as a Public International Association of the Faithful. In effect, this means that members of the Apostolate were granted the ability to act in the name of the Church when fulfilling the purpose of the World Apostolate of Fatima. Fr. James McConville graciously agreed to contribute a newsletter article to explain the significance of this status in aiding members to effectively “learn, live, and spread” the message of Our Lady of Fatima.

The World Apostolate of Fatima has had active “Prayer Cells” in parishes of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis since the late 1970s. The organization received its juridic personality on September 6, 1995, and its Constitution gained formal approval on November 28, 1998. Over the past few months, under the guidance of Fr. McConville, the Board of Trustees has carefully reviewed its Constitution and determined it would be prudent to make updates to improve its overall organization and clarity as well as to incorporate proper references to the 1983 Code of Canon Law. The updated Constitution will be brought before the voting delegates of the World Apostolate of Fatima for approval this fall at the 2012 Communion Breakfast.



Fr. James McConville

**T**he Second Vatican Council reminded the Christian faithful that they are all called to a life of holiness “according to their own gifts and duties and without hesitation” (*Lumen gentium*, n. 40). The pursuit of holiness occurs within the larger context of the Church’s apostolic life. Jesus commissioned the Apostles: “Go out and teach all the nations” (cf. Mark 16:15). Each member of the faithful, then, is able to grow in sanctity as he or she participates in the Church’s mission. What is more, the Christian faithful are free to associate with others in order to carry out the

**The Christian faithful are all called to a life of holiness “according to their own gifts and duties and without hesitation.”**

Church’s apostolic mission. The right for the faithful to associate is contained in canon 215 of the 1983 *Code of Canon Law*: “The Christian faithful are at liberty freely to found and direct associations for purposes of charity or piety or for the promotion of the Christian vocation in the world and to hold meetings for the common pursuit of these purposes.”

One way the faithful may associate themselves within the Church is in public associations. Public associations of the faithful allow the faithful to gather together for a common apostolic purpose under the tutelage of higher ecclesiastical authority (for example, the diocesan bishop or the Holy See). Being formed into a public association provides the members with stability and, because they act under the guidance of the competent ecclesiastical authority, allows them to act in the name of the Church. Since the World Apostolate of Fatima is a public association, it is helpful to understand the canonical effects for the Apostolate and its members.

Public associations exist for several reasons: to foster a more perfect life, to promote public worship or Christian

doctrine, to exercise other works of the apostolate. Like a corporation in secular law, a public association is considered a “person” at canon law and must be understood apart from the people who belong to it, take care of it, or benefit from it. This means that the association itself enjoys certain rights and carries with it certain obligations. One benefit of forming a public association is that, by its nature, it is permanent. That is, a public association is able to exist long after its founding members have passed away. The temporal goods (money, property, etc.) of public associations are under the supervision of higher ecclesiastical authority. This provides greater transparency in the association’s financial dealings insofar as the association must provide an annual report to the ecclesiastical authority. Indeed, accountability to competent ecclesiastical authority is fundamental to the nature of public associations.

Canon law tells us that all the members of the Church “are always obliged to maintain communion with the Church” (canon 209 §1). Full communion in the Catholic Church requires that the baptized are joined with Jesus Christ through the Church’s visible structures, namely, the creed, the sacraments, and ecclesiastical governance. This final element of full communion—connection to ecclesiastical governance—is exercised by the members by adherence to Church

**Full communion in the Catholic Church requires that the baptized are joined with Jesus Christ through the Church’s visible structures...**

doctrine and discipline. It is exercised by the competent authority’s vigilance over the association’s activities. For example, the diocesan bishop has the task of ensuring that public associations subject to him preserve the integrity of faith and morals and prevent abuses of Church discipline.

(see “Public Association” on page 5)

## PLANS BEGIN FOR 2013 NATIONAL PILGRIM VIRGIN STATUE VISIT

**O**ur Division has started planning for the National Pilgrim Virgin Statue visit to the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis during the month of April, 2013. The Marian Congress will be held on the first Saturday of April, to coincide with the month that the statue will be here.

The first step in the planning process is to obtain permission from Archbishop Nienstedt to host the statue. A letter is being drafted and submitted by Father John Gallas, our Spiritual Director. The planning committee has also taken the first steps in outlining a plan of action going forward. This includes dividing the Archdiocese into four regional sections and assigning each area to regional coordinators, preferably a couple with devotion to Our Lady, who will be responsible for assisting the planning committee in contacting and scheduling 5 to 7 parishes in their area to host the statue and assist with the organization of parish coordinators.

The Board is prayerfully seeking these regional and parish coordinators, and also an overall program director who will oversee the entire program. We invite all members to join us in prayer for the program's success and to prayerfully consider whether God and Our Lady may be calling you to be part of this effort. We will be in contact with all of those people who signed up to participate at our Marian Congress, but must first await permission from Archbishop Nienstedt to move forward.

The National Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima of the USA is one of 25 statues made by order of Bishop of Fatima, Most Rev. Joao Venancio, based upon a request by the South

Vietnamese people who begged him for their own statue after a visit of the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue. These statues were patterned after the two International statues that were made in 1947 under the guidance of Sister Lucia to accurately portray how Our Lady looked when she appeared to the three children in Fatima in 1917.

The statues were blessed by Pope Paul VI in Fatima during the 50th anniversary of Our Lady's apparitions on May 13, 1967. The first was given to a Vietnamese delegation that had come to Fatima to receive their country's statue. The National Pilgrim Virgin Statue of the USA was personally presented to Bishop John J. Carberry, later Cardinal Carberry of St. Louis, on November 12, 1967, at St. Joseph Cathedral in Columbus, Ohio. It travels throughout the United States and its territories, spreading the Message of Fatima and bringing the graces of Fatima to the American people. It is considered one of the most beautiful statues of Our Lady in America.

We were blessed to have the National Pilgrim Virgin Statue of the USA at our Marian Congress in 2012, and we hope she will grace our presence again at our 2013 Congress. Prior to that, the most recent Pilgrim Virgin

Statue visit to our Archdiocese was the International statue which was here from June 30-July 20, 2002.

More details on the program will be presented in the September newsletter. Please join us in prayer that this Archdiocese will welcome Our Lady to our parishes, schools, seminaries, convents, and wherever she is called to be.



National Pilgrim Virgin Statue

## PUBLIC ASSOCIATION

(continued from pg. 4)

Also, the diocesan bishop offers direction to the public associations subject to him so that needless duplication of activities among associations can be avoided and diocesan and/or parochial resources are not squandered.

In order for a group of people to receive the status of a public association of the faithful, it must be erected as such by the ecclesiastical authority. Before the authority issues a decree erecting the public association, though, he must approve the statutes which detail how the association functions. The statutes address such matters as membership, purpose, government, and manner of acting (canon 304). When drafting statutes,

associations need to be specific. Typically, if the statutes do not specify the association's wishes in a particular matter, it is for the ecclesiastical authority to decide what to do.

The Christian faithful are called to contribute in the apostolic mission of the Church. Members of the Christian faithful are able to form public associations in order to collectively carry out this call. In order for these associations to retain the authenticity of the Catholic faith and retain orderly operation among themselves, they are subject to the vigilance of ecclesiastical authority. Once the ecclesiastical authority erects a public association, it is free to carry out its mission in

the name of the Church, in conjunction with the other apostolic activities in which the Church is involved. Thus, the interplay between the association's freedom to pursue its goals and the association's dependence upon ecclesiastical authority demonstrates how the Church truly functions like the human body: different and distinct parts working together in a unified manner.

*Rev. James McConville earned a licentiate in canon law from the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. He currently serves as an ecclesiastical judge and Adjutant Judicial Vicar for the Office of the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### CANDLELIGHT ROSARY PROCESSION

October 5, 2012

Procession from State Capitol to  
Cathedral of St. Paul

Gather at Capitol at 6:30 P.M.

Mary Clare Wareham: 952-432-8597

### VIGILS OF REPARATION

#### CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES

August 3-4, 2012

Church of St. Paul

749 Main Street

Zumbrota, MN 55992

Joan Callahan: 507-732-5324

**Special Note:** Vigil at St. Charles  
Church in Bayport has been canceled.

September, 2012

No Vigil of Reparation scheduled due  
to first Friday and Saturday not being  
on the same weekend.

October 5-6, 2012

No Vigil of Reparation scheduled due  
to Candlelight Rosary Procession.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- For all living and deceased members of the World Apostolate of Fatima
- For all Board members and officers, that they will respond to God's grace in their service to the WAF
- For a great outpouring of support and that many volunteers will step forward as plans are made to have the National Pilgrim Virgin statue visit our Archdiocese in April of 2013
- For a greater awareness of the dignity of the human person who is made in the image and likeness of God
- That marriage may be recognized throughout the world as the union of one man and one woman in a life-long, exclusive relationship of love, open to the conception of children
- That officials elected in the 2012 election will govern with wisdom and understanding, always striving to do God's holy will
- For a great resurgence in Fatima Prayer Cell participation

If you have a prayer intention that you wish to have included, please call Mary at 651-450-6941.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In this President's Message, I'd like to offer some brief reflections on the Board's second annual Morning of Recollection. On a beautiful Saturday morning in May, members of the WAF Board gathered at the St. Agnes Convent in St. Paul in a retreat-like atmosphere to spend time in prayerful silence and to receive spiritual nourishment by attentively listening to and meditating on conferences on the spiritual life. We were blessed to be joined by a holy and faith-filled group of sisters who teach at St. Agnes from the Sisters of Charity of Our Lady Mother of the Church.

Using Jean-Baptiste Chautard's spiritual classic *The Soul of the Apostolate* as the centerpiece of our reflections, the theme of the morning was: "Prayer is the soul of every apostolic work and is absolutely critical for apostolic success." Of special note regarding our choice of Chautard's book is the endorsement of Pope St. Pius X: "I warmly recommend this book to you, as I value it very highly, and have myself made it my bedside book."

Our Spiritual Director Fr. John Gallas offered Holy Mass to begin the morning. In his homily, Father encouraged us to bear in mind that as members of the World Apostolate of Fatima we are not only the sons and daughters of Our Lord and His Mother, but we are also their co-workers and are called to be active in the apostolate. But before we can be effective co-workers, we must be living an intensely spiritual life. We must not fall prey to the trap of living our lives only "as we feel at the moment." No, each of us is called to live a prudent, self-giving life, a life for God and for others.

Fr. Gallas offered three principles that should guide our spiritual lives: (1) my life is not about myself—like Jesus we are called to serve, not to be served; (2) in our present-day secularized society, it is virtually impossible to live the spiritual life and "fit in"—we must be willing to accept not fitting in; and (3) there is a direct link between the acceptance of our crosses and bearing "spiritual children."

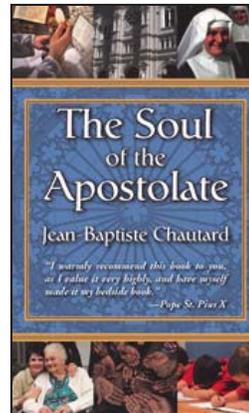
Fr. Randal Kasel, the pastor of St. Paul's in Zumbrota and St. Michael's in Pine Island and a long-time friend to the World Apostolate of Fatima, then gave two inspiring conferences on *The Soul of the Apostolate*. He encouraged all present to meditatively read the book and internalize its message, pointing out that there is great significance even in its title. The *soul* is the life-giving principle—it is what animates the body. The *apostolate*, in contrast, refers to the labor that we take on. It is important not only to understand, but to take to heart the truth that it is the soul that must come first. We must first

develop an intimacy with the One Who made our soul—it is only then that we do His work and are effective in the apostolate. God must be at the very heart of our work, "for apart from Me, you can do nothing" (Jn. 15:5).

It is a spiritual maxim that it is always more difficult to acquire virtue than to engage in manual or intellectual labor. Our labor will prove fruitless if it is not grounded in virtue with God at its center. And it is only through a deep prayer life, a life of contemplative prayer, that virtue can be acquired. Chautard tells us that it is "by contemplation the soul is fed; by the apostolate, it gives itself away." He also tells us that "the apostle without an interior life, and, therefore without humility, will be at the mercy of his passions."

I encourage all WAF members to pick up a copy of *The Soul of the Apostolate* and prayerfully read it. It is only through following the principles it contains that the WAF Board, along with many members of our Archdiocesan Division, can be successful in the project being planned for April of 2013 (see page 5 for more details about plans to invite the National Pilgrim Virgin Statue to visit the Archdiocese for a full month). It is the hope and prayer of each member of the WAF Board that there will be an outpouring of support for this most excellent project—that many will feel a tug in their hearts and step forward to volunteer their help.

In the Hearts of Jesus and Mary,  
Don Fier



# LIVING THE FATIMA MESSAGE

BY FR. JOHN A. HARDON, S.J.

*[Editor's Note: The following article is the first segment of a longer 1992 article written by the Servant of God Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J., whose cause for sainthood was initiated in 2005. It is being reprinted with the permission of the World Apostolate of Fatima, USA. The remainder of Fr. Hardon's article will follow in a future issue (or issues) of the WAF newsletter.]*

**I**f we were to synthesize the Fatima Message, it could be expressed in one sentence of the Blessed Virgin's: "Do whatever He (my Son) tells you" and you will be happy, already in this life and perfectly happy in the eternal life to come. The Fatima Message is both a promise and a condition. Our Lady understands how the human heart is made to be happy. She also understands that our happiness is conditional.

What is the core of the Fatima Message? The heart of the Fatima Message is a divine imperative. Sin leads to unhappiness. Stop sinning, repent of your sins and you will enjoy God's blessings in time and eternity.

The revelations of Fatima are especially grounded on revelations that we find in the New Testament. If there is one theme that runs through the New Testament, it is the covenant or contract between Jesus Christ and those who believe in His name.

By actual count there are over one hundred and fifty promises in the New Testament, mainly in the four Gospels. A few of them follow: If you eat My flesh and drink My blood, you shall have life within you and I will raise you up on the last day. Be converted and become as little children and you shall enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Be merciful and you shall obtain mercy.

## Our Covenant with God

The New Testament would not be a covenant, would not be a contract, unless it was bilateral. We must respond to God's conditions to enjoy His promise

of peace in this life and everlasting joy in the life to come. We must want to repent—we must want to pray—we must want to forgive—we must want to be humble—we must want to be chaste—we must want to believe—we must want to trust—we must want to love even unto death those who may not only not love us, but oppose us, persecute us, indeed, even hate us. We must use our free will—that's why we have a free will—to choose to surrender what we want in order to do what God wants. That in one single declarative sentence is the New Testament—the new covenant—the new contract.

What is the core of the Fatima Message? Love God with your whole heart and you will be happy. Refuse to obey God and you will be unhappy. Sin leads to unhappiness. Doing God's will is a precondition for peace until death and everlasting joy in Heaven with God.

## Why Is It So Difficult

Why is it so difficult to live the Fatima Message today? Why should the Blessed Virgin have given us the Fatima Message in our century? Why has our century had more death casualties in wars fought than in all the wars of human history up to 1900? Why has the Church had more martyrs since 1900 than in all the nineteen centuries since the first martyrdom of the founder of Christianity on Calvary? Why, in this age of world upheaval, is the Church going through the most severe crisis in all her centuries of history? Why is it so important in our day to be told by Mary—Do what my Son tells you and you will be happy?

The underlying reason is that modern man has reached a point in history that I

do not hesitate to call self-idolatry. The ancient Egyptians and Babylonians with their idol worship, with their golden calves, had nothing on us. Even once-Christian countries are becoming rapidly paganized. After thirty years of teaching non-Christian religions, I can assure you the essence of paganism is idolatry. The modern world is practicing the most insidious form of idolatry, the worship of self.

In the name of choice, over 60 million unborn children are murdered every year throughout the world. This global genocide is protected by what used to be called civil law. A better word would be uncivilized anarchy. In the name of liberty, the whole moral order is being subverted. It is as if the Ten Commandments were now outdated. The heart of a new morality has become the opposition of a created will to the divine will of God.

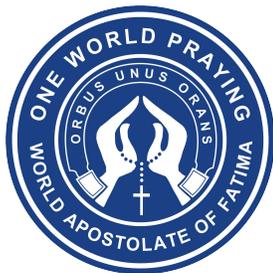
Why is it so hard, in our present day, to live up to the demands of Jesus Christ and the directives of Our Lady to do everything which her Son tells us to do? The reason is painfully obvious. The followers of Christ and the lovers of Mary are under superhuman pressure. I call it demonic pressure to conform to the Christless infidelity of our times. It is this Christless infidelity that is at the root of modern immorality. It is the abandonment of faith in Jesus Christ, the living God, especially in living up to the demands of Jesus, in mastering our passions and not conforming to the sins of the flesh, which in our age have been elevated to a mystical morality. Those who in their pride refuse to submit their minds in humble faith to Jesus Christ always end up losing by their power of will to control the passions of their bodies. Pride is a parent of lust. We find ourselves under constant demonic pressure to conform to the selfishness and unbelief and lechery of our age.

**It is so difficult to live the Fatima message today ... because modern man has reached a point in history that I do not hesitate to call self-idolatry.**

**The Fatima message ... could be expressed in one sentence of the Blessed Virgin's: "Do whatever He (my Son) tells you."**

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