



A glorious wedding cake donated by Anna Araque of Regina Coeli cakes.

Priory of Our Lady of Ephesus
Gower, Missouri



AUTUMN 2017

At Ephesus

BENEDICTINES OF MARY, QUEEN OF APOSTLES

Dear Family, Friends and Benefactors,

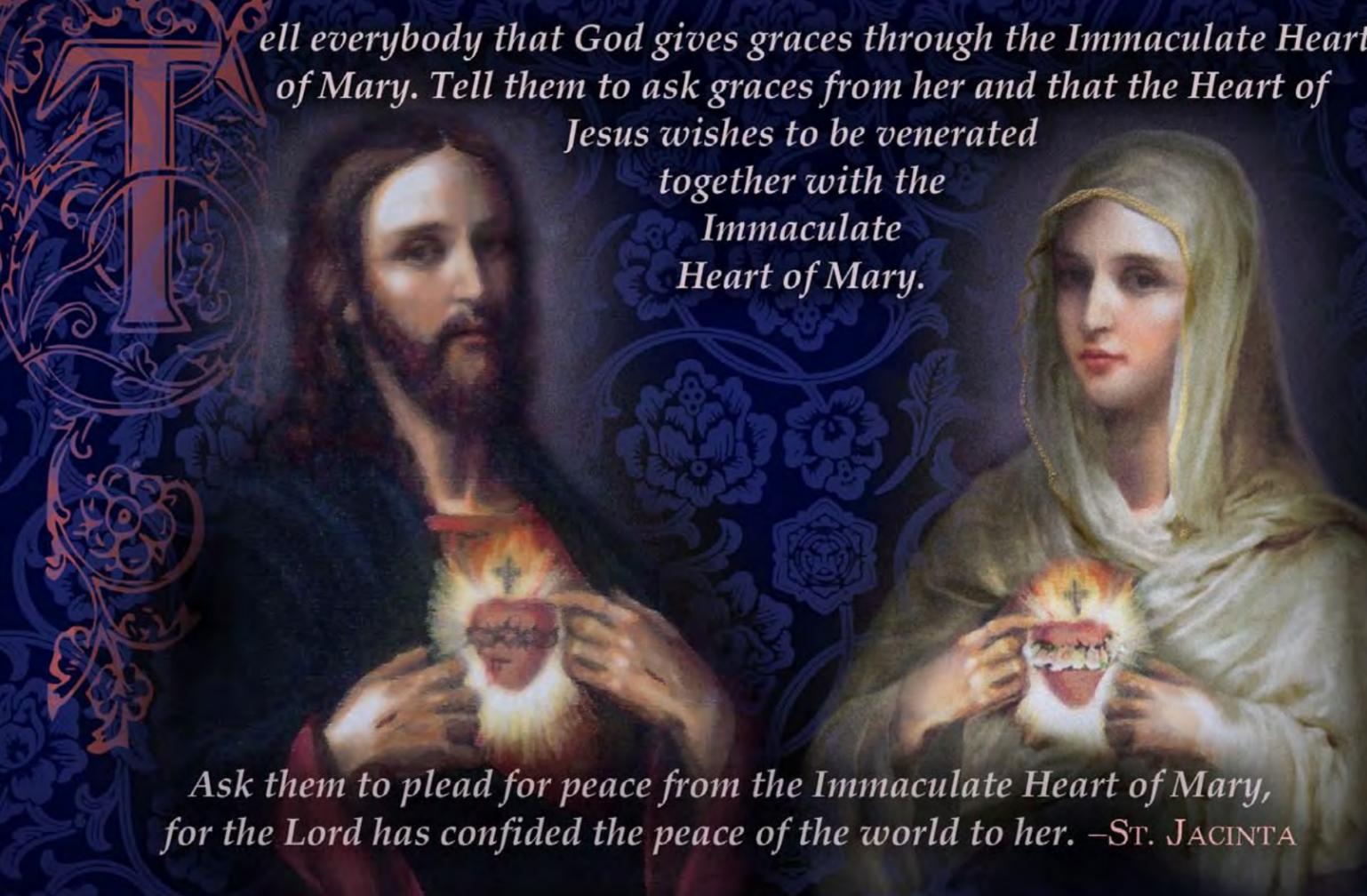
“Let the mercies of the Lord give glory to Him: and His wonderful works to the children of men. And let them sacrifice the sacrifice of praise: and declare His works with joy” (Psalm 106.) We may indeed declare His works with joy as we look upon our still-glowing new novices and first professed since our ceremony last month! It was indeed a blessing to see so many young women offering their lives to the Lord in such a spirit of generosity and joy. We were also blessed and honored by the presence of our Ordinary, Bishop James Johnston, in his first time officiating at one of our ceremonies. May it be the first of many!

The newly-ordained Fr. Alex Stewart FSSP graciously offered a first Mass and blessings in our oratory after his ordination in England, and was back a month later to MC the glorious Mass and ceremonies on the 20th of August. Just before that, Dr. Peter Kwasniewski came to give insightful talks on Our Lady in the Liturgy. And we are thankful for the presence of Fr. Bachmann of Clear Creek Abbey, who celebrated the ceremony Mass and gave a ten day chant course with the new Novices.



Our beautiful brides of Christ and professurae, just before their ceremony on the Feast of Saint Bernard, August 20th. From top left to right: Sister Heidi (now Sister Lucia) Sister Margaret (now Sister Gabrielle Marie) Sister Berdine (now Sister Helena) Sister Brooke (now Sister Marie Madeleine) Sister Kathleen (now Sister Francesca) Sister Caroline (now Sister Maria Battista) with Sister Marie Pascale of the Immolated Jesus, and Sister Jacinta of the Immaculate Heart of Mary who made their first vows and received the black veil of the professed.

Please pray for their perseverance and fidelity to Christ Who has called them!



Tell everybody that God gives graces through the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Tell them to ask graces from her and that the Heart of Jesus wishes to be venerated together with the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Ask them to plead for peace from the Immaculate Heart of Mary, for the Lord has confided the peace of the world to her. —ST. JACINTA

August 20, 2017

THE FEAST OF SAINT BERNARD



Right: Sr. Marie Pascale shows Mother her chart of profession. Below: Sr. Marie Pascale and Sr. Jacinta chant the *Suscipe*.



Left: Sr. Francesca smiles as she waits her turn for her haircutting while a newly-shorn Sr. Gabrielle Marie retires to replace her wedding gown with the tunic.



Sr. Lucia's and Sr. Marie Madeleine's reaction to hearing their new religious names



At the end of profession, the white veil is replaced by a black one.



Family members from Europe and all across America were able to join us!



Enjoying memories of the day, thanks to photographer Michael Lehr! More photos at benedictinesofmary.org

WHO IS SHE THAT COMETH FORTH AS THE MORNING RISING, FAIR AS THE MOON, BRIGHT AS THE SUN...

The eclipse over the Priory on the Eve of the Immaculate Heart and remembering the Centenary of the Miracle of the Sun

(Continued from page 1)

We are also indebted to our kind host once again, Fr. Evan Harkins, pastor of Saint James, as well as the wonderful volunteers who provided and served the meal for 400 following the ceremony!

Sr. Sophia of the Eucharist and Sr. Margaret Mary of the Hidden Life of the Sacred Heart look forward to their own upcoming ceremony on the Feast of the Holy Rosary, October 7th at 10:00am. They will be making their Solemn Profession at St. James in Saint Joseph - perhaps for the last time - as our own church should be ready for the next round of ceremonies in 2018! In the meantime, our community continues to grow, as we prepare to welcome three more candidates in the next weeks. We will be happy to introduce all the newest members in our next Christmas card!

The day after the August 20th ceremony, the solar eclipse passed over the Priory. The very center of the total eclipse was only about one mile from us. This "little miracle" of the sun, as well as the feast of the Immaculate Heart which was to follow the next day, reminded the Sisters to take the statue of Our Lady of Fatima outside during the prodigy. While clouds covered the sun at the moment of the full eclipse, we spiritually clung to Our Lady all the more as the dark blue clouds descended and a gold glow surrounded the Priory. We continue to fly to her in all our difficulties, anticipating the beauty of the life to come by faith in her intercession.

As we continue to commemorate the Centenary of Fatima, climaxing with 100th anniversary of the foretold sign, the Miracle of the Sun, we hope and pray that the devotion which Our Lady came to Fatima to establish, the devotion to her Immaculate Heart, will be extended to more and more souls throughout the world.

And last but certainly not least, we continue to rely on your help and St. Joseph's to sustain our building project, the monastery church, so that we may be all the more able to share our lives of prayer with all who seek spiritual refuge. We are reminded of St. Joseph's apparition with the Christ Child during the Miracle of the Sun, the vision little Francisco anticipated so much, and the only one of the three successive visions that all three visionaries could see. As St. Joseph, head of the Holy Family, blessed the crowds with the Christ Child, we pray that he will likewise bless our not-so-little monastic family, of which you are all a part. We consider you all as our larger extended family, supporting us as St. Joseph did, and trust that you will continue to assist in his great work.

May the Lord bless you all abundantly, and with the blessing of St. Joseph, may we persevere in bringing about the triumph of the Immaculate Heart in our souls, and in the world. Until next time!

Sisters gathered around our statue of Our Lady of Fatima as Sr. Wilhelmina indicated the place of the shrouded sun when the eclipse began at 1:07. As the clouds darkened in the shadow of the moon, the sun cast a beautiful gold glow to make a ring around the Priory.



In the Immaculate Heart,

Mother Cecilia OSB

While we had not the same crowds as at Fatima, our eclipse visitors (young and old) prayed a rosary together with the Sisters at our Lourdes grotto.



"LOOK AT THE SUN!"

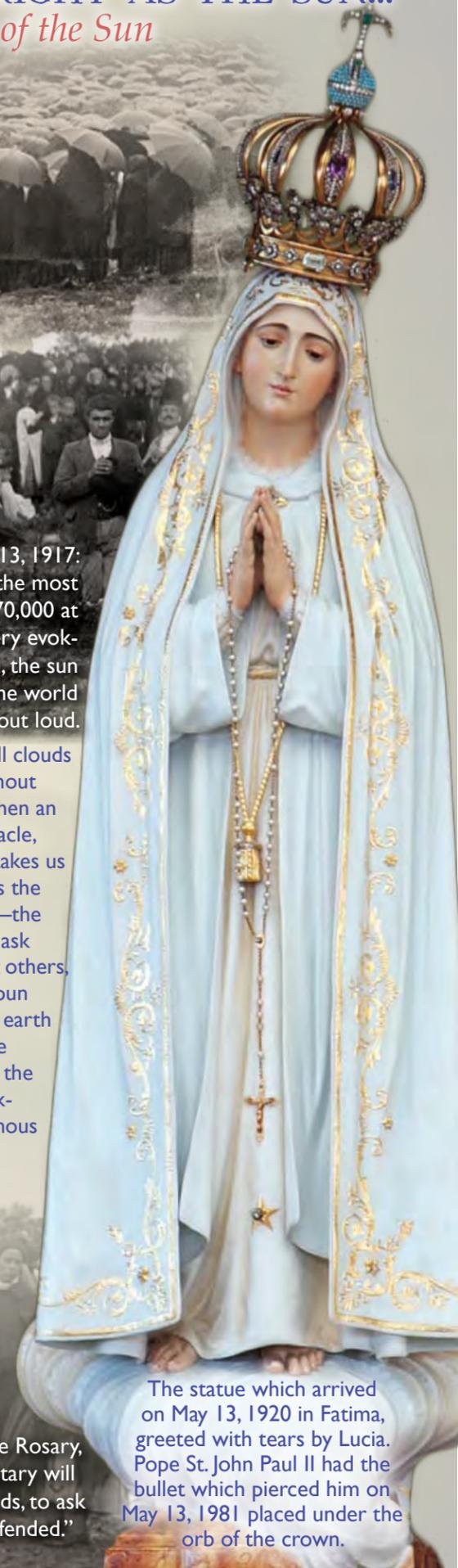
October 13, 1917: with the exact place and time foretold, the most spectacular miracle ever worked by Our Blessed Mother was seen by a crowd of 70,000 at the Cova da Iria, Fatima, as well as witnesses as far as forty kilometers away. In imagery evoking God's promise after the flood as well as the punishment of Sodom and Gomorrah, the sun turned "all the colors of the rainbow," then descending so that the crowds thought the world would end. Many began making acts of contrition and even confessing their sins out loud.

"One could see the immense crowd turning toward the sun, which appears free from all clouds and at its zenith. The sun resembles a dull, silver plate and it is possible to look at it without the least effort. It does not burn, nor blind. It seems as if an eclipse is taking place. But then an immense clamor erupts, and one can hear the spectators who are closer, shouting: "Miracle, miracle! A marvel! A marvel!" Before the dazzled eyes of the people—whose emotion takes us back to biblical times and who are fearfully pallid, their gaze fixated upon the blue sky as the sun pulsates [with] never-before-seen tremulous movements, defying all laws of gravity—the sun danced, according to the typical expression of the peasants... People then begin to ask each other if and what they had seen. Most people admit seeing the sun tremble, dance; others, however, declare having seen the smiling face of the Blessed Virgin, swear that the sun spun on itself like a Catherine wheel, that it lowered itself almost to the point of burning the earth with its rays... It remains to be seen what competent people will say about the macabre dancing of the sun in Fatima today that caused Hosannas to explode from the hearts of the faithful and left a deep impression on them—not leaving indifferent, either, the free thinkers and others not moved by any particular religious impulse, who went to the now-famous heath." —Avelino de Almeida, in the atheistic newspaper *O Seculo*

In yet another miracle, having been soaked by the rain in which soldiers further north were drowning, the Cova crowds found themselves totally dry after the fifteen minute solar prodigy. The heat necessary to do so in such a short time should have killed all who witnessed the event.

"I want to tell you to have a little chapel built here in my honor, as I am the Lady of the Rosary, and to continue saying the rosary every day. The war will come to an end and the military will return home... Some [will be cured or converted] others no. They need to make amends, to ask forgiveness for their sins. Do not offend Our Lord any more, Who is already much offended."

The statue which arrived on May 13, 1920 in Fatima, greeted with tears by Lucia. Pope St. John Paul II had the bullet which pierced him on May 13, 1981 placed under the orb of the crown.





St. Joseph on a sawhorse "altar" in the newly-poured basement.



Sisters sometimes wonder what it would have been like to live alongside dinosaurs before the flood!



A final stone consultation is held with the architect, stone masons, construction managers and supervisors.

Glorious St. Joseph, foster-father and protector of Jesus Christ! To you do we raise our hearts and hands to implore your powerful intercession. Please obtain for us from the kind Heart of Jesus the help and graces necessary for our spiritual and temporal welfare. We ask particularly for the grace of a happy death, and the special favor we now implore, the means to pay the construction costs each month on

our church, without the necessity of a loan. Guardian of the Word Incarnate, we feel animated with confidence that your prayers on our behalf will be graciously heard before the throne of God.

V. O glorious Saint Joseph, through the love you bear to Jesus Christ, and for the glory of His name,
R. Hear our prayers and obtain our petitions.

(Our monthly novena to Saint Joseph ending each First Wednesday)



The arm of the concrete pump truck reaches where the concrete trucks can't!



The first steel goes up on September 5th.



For those who may wish to donate stocks, or from IRA accounts, or to remember us in your will, our federal tax ID number is: 20-4450092.



The south wall is rising quickly.



The morning of September 8th



The last shot before this newsletter goes to print!