



the grace of God will be with you and will strengthen you.



The first apparition of Fatima, May 13th, 1917

At Ephesus

BENEDICTINES OF MARY, QUEEN OF APOSTLES

Dear Family, Friends and Benefactors,

Springtime greetings from Gower in this beautiful month of May - the month of Mary, and the month of her first appearance at Fatima 100 years ago! To commemorate this momentous anniversary, our community will have a procession on the 13th of each month, carrying Our Lady's statue on a litter while praying the Rosary and singing her praises, rain or shine. And we will be praying especially for all of you, asking the Blessed Mother to tuck you all under her mantle, bringing your intentions to the Heart of her Son. In this newsletter, we are delighted to feature the Church's two newest saints: Jacinta and Francisco Marto, appropriately and officially enrolled in the canon of the saints on May 13th. We also are happy to share with you another original painting of the first apparition, especially since there are so few artistic renderings. In fact, we will make prints available for purchase via our website or the enclosed envelope if you would like one large enough to frame for your home. We hope that Our Lady blesses us all with a deeper devotion to her and to her holy rosary, to bring about peace in our souls and in the world.

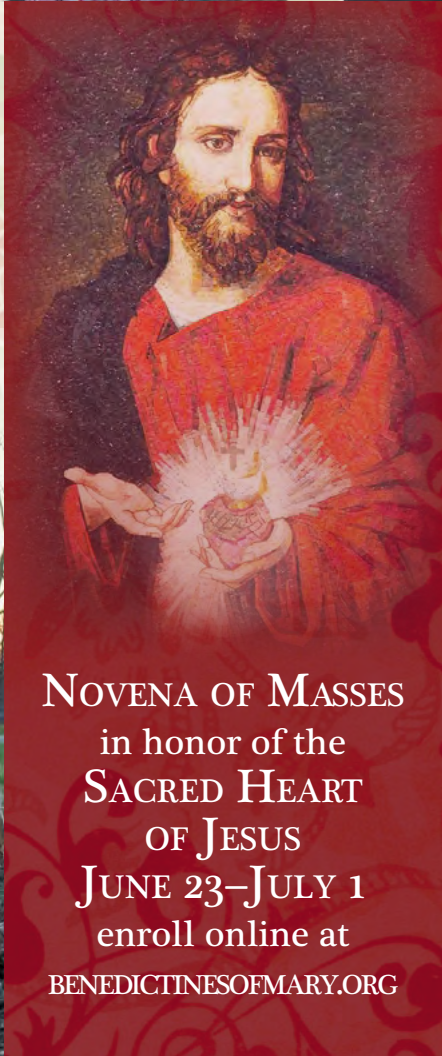
On the Solemnity of Saint Scholastica, we had the remarkable privilege of hosting His Eminence Raymond Cardinal Burke here at the Priory. It is the first time we have welcomed such a dignitary, though His Eminence has offered us his kind support throughout many years. It was a joy to finally greet him and have him celebrate a Pontifical Mass here at the Priory. It is a memory we shall long cherish with gratitude to God and the graciousness of His Eminence.

The Cardinal's visit was a perfect warm up to the spiritual contest of Lent, which our Holy Father Saint Benedict urges us to take up with much sobriety in repairing for our negligences of other times. The additional silence, penances and works of Lent made for an even more blessed Easter.

The garden is in full swing now and thriving. Many a Paschaltide recreation was spent outside, exulting in the gift of new life with which the good God clothes nature in light of His own Resurrection. On Easter also came the announcement that our novices Sister Marie Pascale and Sister Jacinta will profess first vows while seven new brides of Christ take the habit on August 20, the Feast of Saint Bernard. Please pray for these dear Sisters as they approach these significant steps in their monastic life.

Prints available!

\$10 each for an 8.5x11
\$1 each for 4x6
(with Fatima prayers
on reverse of 4x6)



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OF JESUS
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“In every difficulty
apply to St. Joseph
with confidence, and
you will never be
disappointed.”

-ST. MARY MACKILLOP



And now...the building update! Dear St. Joseph gave us three major “winks” to prove his blessing on our building project! Beginning on Ash Wednesday, we processed around the perimeter of the future church singing hymns to him (left) and ending in a semicircle in the future sanctuary (outside cover) for each Wednesday of Lent. On the Feast of St. Joseph, transferred to March 20 this year, the first trucks arrived to “break ground”, laying the electric lines (wink one!) On the last Wednesday of Lent, the project manager and supervisor made their first visit for a site overview (wink two!) Lastly, you may remember in our last newsletter, we asked you to help us raise \$333,000. Well, I peeked at the tally the day before Easter, and discovered that we received \$333,240 since that mailing! What are the chances? (wink three!!) Good Saint Joseph is definitely in charge of this project, and we give thanks to him for his continued fatherly solicitude, as well as a tremendous thanks to all of you as we go forward together, building a beautiful house for God’s glory! We still have a ways to go before the church is completely funded, but we now have enough to begin securely. And by the time you read this, we will have done just that!! We look forward to sending you the first pictures in our next issue. Till then, may God hold you,

In the Immaculate Heart of Mary,

Mother Cecilia OSB





If the whole Church is in the debt of the Virgin, since, through her, it was able to receive the Christ, surely after her, it also owed to Joseph special thanks and veneration... It is beyond doubt that Christ did not deny to Joseph in heaven that intimacy, respect, and high honour which He showed to him as to a father during His own human life, but rather completed and perfected it.

— *Saint Bernardine of Siena*



We are always so grateful to be included in Christopher Check's midwest lectures, this round on Our Lady of Guadalupe. Our former Monastic History teacher, Bro. Thomas Sullivan of Conception Abbey gave a fascinating study of the Good Samaritan windows of three French Cathedrals.

HOLY WEEK 2017

Palm Sunday procession



The final Lamentation of Jeremias at Tenebræ



Holy Saturday preparations



Incensing of the altar at the Easter Vigil



Paschaltide



Francisco

“What most impressed and entirely absorbed

was God in that immense light which penetrated the inmost depths of the three children. But God told only Francisco ‘how sad’ He was, as he said.”
—Pope St. John Paul II

Born June 11, 1908, Francisco was of a gentle, carefree and almost listless temperament. When his cousin Lucia began shepherding, he accompanied her simply out of his devotion to his younger sister, Jacinta. It was then that he received the visions of the angel in 1916 and that of Our Lady in 1917, though he could not hear either. Of this, his father simply said “God gives His grace to whom He wills!”

Taking the requirement to say the rosary in order to see Our Lady, and then her injunction that he must say “many rosaries,” Francisco often slipped away from shepherding and play to do so, and to pray in silence. A demon appeared to him during one of these times, but he prayed all the more and became a true “Apostle of the Rosary” to everyone he met.

Francisco developed an ardent devotion to “the Hidden Jesus,” spending hours in prayer the Blessed Sacrament, while Jacinta and Lucia attended school. Unlike his sister, it was the sad expression on Our Lady’s face and that of Our Lord’s from the first vision that haunted him even more than the vision of hell. Francisco’s father found him sobbing one night and asked why. He replied “God is so sad, on account of so many sins people commit all the time!” After a final apparition, Francisco fell prey to the 1919 Influenza Epidemic, dying two months before his eleventh birthday.

A Heart of Compassion:

WORDS OF FRANCISCO TO HIS COUSIN, LUCIA DOS SANTOS:

“I would like to console our Lord, and after that convert sinners so they won’t offend Him anymore...More than anything else, I want to console Our Lord.”

“We were on fire in that light which is God, and we didn’t burn up! What God is like! We can’t speak of it. Yes, of that we can never speak. But how awful that He is so sad! If only I could comfort Him!”

“Didn’t Our Lady say that we would have much to suffer, to make reparation to Our Lord and to her Immaculate Heart for all the sins by which they are offended? They are so sad! If we can console them with these sufferings, how happy we shall be!”

“Our Lady told us we would have much to suffer, but I don’t mind. I’ll suffer all that she wishes! What I want is to go to heaven!”

“I am thinking about about God, Who Is so sad because of so many sins! If only I could give Him joy!”

“It is not long now, and Our Lord will take me close to Him, and then I can look at Him forever!”

Manhuel and Olimpia Marto with the five surviving children.

Jacinta

“...one of God’s little giants,

who was wise beyond all learning. For who is not wise when instructed by heaven?”
—Ven. Fulton J. Sheen

Jacinta (“Hyacinth”) was the last of the nine children born to Olimpia Marto on March 9, 1910. She was a vivacious child who sought the company of their cousin Lucia as she began herding her family’s sheep. After the 1916-17 apparitions, Our Lady appeared to her in the parish church to teach her “to say the rosary properly” by visions of the fifteen Mysteries, and many other visions until her death on February 20, 1920.

The day they saw hell: Jacinta and Francisco on July 13, 1917, the day the secret of Fatima was also entrusted to them.

Lucia wrote that after July 13, 1917 “the vision of hell obsessed, her, and she would anxiously ask again and again, ‘what are those sins those people commit to go to hell?... It would not be hard for them to have been silent, or to have gone to Mass, would it? I am so sorry for poor sinners!...So many people falling into hell! So many people in hell!’” “Don’t they ever turn to ashes?” She wept especially for all who would die in “the war that was coming” (World War II) since “almost all of them are going to hell.” Her other “divine obsession” Lucia said was prayers for the Holy Father, having beheld the Pope in her visions. Sometimes she would stop her two playmates to pray for sinners, and the Holy Father, or say: “Have you been forgetting to tell Our Lord that you love Him for the graces He has granted us?” Even during her short lifetime, her prayer procured miraculous healings and conversions.

Jacinta fell ill at the same time as Francisco, but in their final Apparition, Our Lady gave Jacinta the opportunity to suffer more and still longer for sinners. Before dying from pleurisy in the hospital at Lisbon, Jacinta spoke to the nun who attended her, revealing other messages from Our Lady:

Wisdom Given to Little Ones:

WORDS FROM JACINTA TO MOTHER MARIA DA PURIFICAÇÃO GODINHO:

“Our Lady would have liked my sisters to become nuns very much. Mother does not want it, and Our Lady will take them soon to heaven.” (Her two sisters died soon afterwards.)

“The Mother of God wants a larger number of virgin souls to bind themselves to her by the vow of chastity. I would enter a convent with great joy, but my joy is greater because I am going to heaven. To be a religious, one has to be pure in soul and body... To be pure in body means to preserve chastity. To be pure in soul means to avoid sin, not to look at what would be sinful, not to steal, not to lie and always tell the truth even when it is hard. Whoever does not fulfill promises made to Our Lady will not be blessed in this life.”

“More souls go to hell for sins of the flesh than for any other reason.”

“Certain fashions will be introduced which will offend Our Divine Lord very much. Those who serve God ought not to follow these fashions. The Church has no fashions. Our Lord is always the same.” (Of women who came to the hospital in worldly and low-cut dress:)

“What is it all for? If they only knew what eternity is!”

“Many marriages are not good; they do not please Our Lord and are not of God.”

“Men are lost because they do not think of the Lord and do penance.

“If the government of a country leaves the Church in peace and gives liberty to our Holy Religion, it will be blessed by God.”

“Never criticize others, and avoid those who do.”

“Everyone must be quiet in church, they must not speak. If these poor people knew what was waiting for them!”

“Confession is the sacrament of mercy. That is why people should approach the confessional with confidence and joy. Without confession, there is no salvation.”

Our Lady foretold that Jacinta would die alone, but only after relieving her pain. Jacinta’s body miraculously grew after death, and was found incorrupt many years later.

Jacinta carried away amidst the crowd of witnesses of the Miracle of the Sun.

