



SAW OUR LADY
ONCE MORE, THIS TIME RESEMBLING
OUR LADY OF CARMEL.

-Lucia of Fatima

(OF THE VISION DURING THE MIRACLE OF THE SUN)

Priory of Our Lady
of Ephesus
Gower, Missouri

At Ephesus

BENEDICTINES OF MARY, QUEEN OF APOSTLES

Dear Family, Friends and Benefactors,

Our homemade nun dolls flank a gift from Harold Mueller:
a beautiful model of Mary's House at Ephesus.



Sr. Marie Pascale introduces Rosie and Sunny to the (non-poisonous) snake she pulled out of our birdhouse. The obvious bulge in its belly indicated the fate of the nestlings.

Warm greetings from warm Missouri, where we remain basking in the graces of the summer season as surely as our fields soak up the sun and rains in due season! One feast has followed another, Pentecost to Corpus Christi, to the Nativity of the Precursor, and the feast of the glorious Apostles Peter and Paul, to the Precious Blood and now Our Lady of Mt. Carmel!

Far from relegating her to our Carmelite Brothers and Sisters, we all bear a special devotion to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in the wearing of her brown scapular. Our Lady herself attached so much importance to its wearing, especially as in the final apparition of Fatima, she appeared with the brown scapular in her hands. Lucia attested to this, saying that Our Lady "looked just like the picture of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in the parish church" where she is pictured in the Carmelite habit with the Infant Christ, holding the brown scapular to the suffering souls in Purgatory. She said that Christ was at her side, blessing the crowd, and that she held the brown scapular because "She wants everyone to wear the Scapular." She said later that "The Scapular is the sign of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This is an indisputable fact. The most Holy Rosary and the Scapular are inseparable!" We look forward to this feast falling just three days after the Centenary apparition of July 13th, 1917, the critical apparition of Fatima. May we all turn to Our Lady, Queen of Mt. Carmel and Lady of the rosary because only she can save us, as she said, and promised to St. Dominic that through these sacramentals will save the world.

We continue to commend ourselves especially to Our Lady as August, the month of her Immaculate Heart approaches. Our postulants are eagerly counting down the days until their Investiture in the holy habit, along with the First Profession of Sr. Marie Pascale of the Immolated Jesus and Sr. Jacinta of the Immaculate Heart of Mary on August 20th (at 1:30 at St. James' Parish in St. Joseph, if any of you would like to attend!) By then our ranks will have swelled again, as our eight confirmed candidates arrive between now and October. And there are still 20 young women yet to come for discernment visits in the next few months!

So God continues to strengthen us now both by grace and in numbers with our formerly "little band" expanding exponentially. Our total number is now nearing forty, and twice the size we were when we moved into the new Priory!

We eagerly welcome these new students in the school of the Lord's service, and will also appreciate their assistance as our garden blooms or rather booms with the abundant fruits of our gardens. The harvest is great, and the laborers are increasing! It has been an excellent year thus far, and we are contemplating dubbing 2017 the "year of the strawberry."

The new candidates also necessitate a real reshuffling, not so hard in the house as much as the chapel. We hope and pray that we will make it through this coming year still able to fit visitors (especially aspirants!) in the back of the chapel. With construction whirring away, we come to you again "with hats in hand" that there be no delay due to lack of means.



Mother prepares to end recreation down in the sewing room, where habits and wedding gowns continue to be made ready for August.



Rogation Procession



While we are thankful for your gracious response to our winter newsletter, the response from our spring newsletter was a bit of a disappointment, as we heard from very few souls. We would not normally be affected too much, but there is an urgent need now to keep up with the construction of our church. We have funds enough to cover costs for several months, but then our account will be empty.

You all helped us to stay out of debt for our last building projects, and we come to you now, humbly asking if you can help us to do that again. Even if we do end up having to borrow some toward the end of the year, every dollar we receive now will decrease that amount. You can see from the pictures that we are still in the early stages, but how this early progress warms our hearts, and hopefully yours too!

Please consider making a gift toward our church in response to this special appeal. You will see in one year the tangible fruit of your sacrifice in so doing – a worthy dwelling for Our dear Lord in the Most Blessed Sacrament, and room for His loving brides to praise Him day and night, interceding

for so many intentions - especially those that you, our dear benefactors, send to us.

Please know also that all your intentions are specifically remembered on First Fridays of the month at Mass offered by our chaplain, Fr. Lawrence Carney. May God richly reward your generosity to our appeal.



Sr. Wilhelmina says: "Don't forget your rosary!"

In the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Mother Cecilia, OSB



An lovely quartet was performed on the feast of Pentecost.



We are again indebted to the Montag family for helping us gather up the bales of alfalfa grown in front of the Priory.



A marvelous strawberry harvest had us hulling at recreation. We have been blessed with bountiful crops thus far!



The visionaries outside the parish church on July 13, 1917.

Remembering Fatima: the July Apparition

“What do you want of me?” Lucia said. Our Lady replied: “I want you to come back here on the thirteenth of next month. Continue to say the Rosary every day in honor of Our Lady of the Rosary, to obtain the peace of the world and the end of the war, because only she can obtain it... You must come here every month, and in October I will tell you who I am and what I want. I will then perform a miracle so that all may believe.” Lucia began to place before the Lady the petitions for help that so many had entrusted to her. After answering her, Our Lady went on: “Make sacrifices for sinners, and say often, especially while making a sacrifice: O Jesus, this is for love of Thee, for the conversion of sinners, and in reparation for offences committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.”

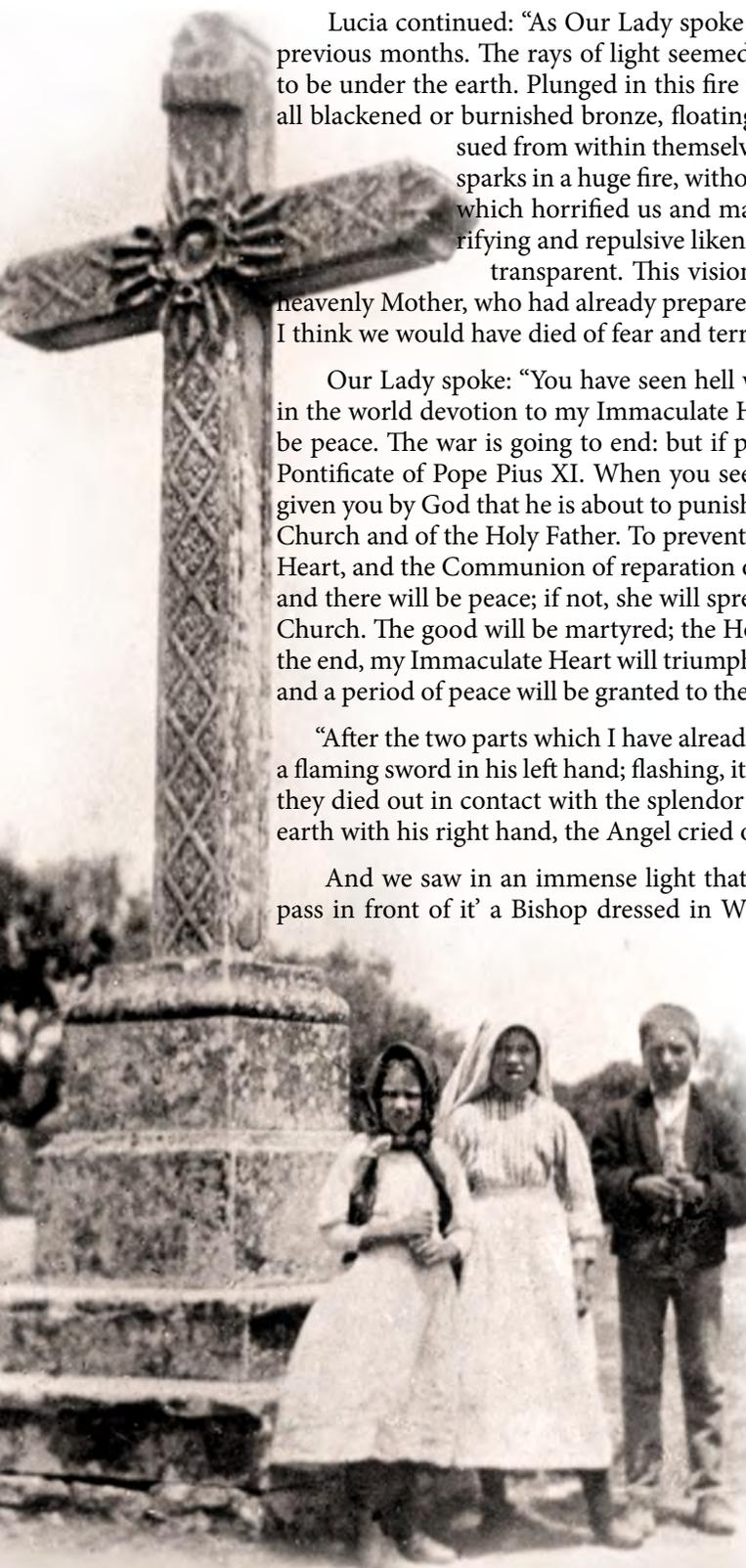
Lucia continued: “As Our Lady spoke these words she opened her hands once more, as she had during the two previous months. The rays of light seemed to penetrate the earth, and we saw as it were a sea of fire which seemed to be under the earth. Plunged in this fire were demons and souls in human form, like transparent burning embers, all blackened or burnished bronze, floating about in the conflagration, now raised into the air by the flames that issued from within themselves together with great clouds of smoke, now falling back on every side like sparks in a huge fire, without weight or equilibrium, and amid shrieks and groans of pain and despair, which horrified us and made us tremble with fear. The demons could be distinguished by their terrifying and repulsive likeness to frightful and unknown animals, all black and transparent. This vision lasted but an instant. How can we ever be grateful enough to our kind heavenly Mother, who had already prepared us by promising, in the first Apparition, to take us to heaven. Otherwise, I think we would have died of fear and terror.”

Our Lady spoke: “You have seen hell where the souls of poor sinners go. To save them, God wishes to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart. If what I say to you is done, many souls will be saved and there will be peace. The war is going to end: but if people do not cease offending God, a worse one will break out during the Pontificate of Pope Pius XI. When you see a night illumined by an unknown light, know that this is the great sign given you by God that he is about to punish the world for its crimes, by means of war, famine, and persecutions of the Church and of the Holy Father. To prevent this, I shall come to ask for the Consecration of Russia to my Immaculate Heart, and the Communion of reparation on the First Saturdays. If my requests are heeded, Russia will be converted, and there will be peace; if not, she will spread her errors throughout the world, causing wars and persecutions of the Church. The good will be martyred; the Holy Father will have much to suffer; various nations will be annihilated. In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph. The Holy Father will consecrate Russia to me, and she shall be converted, and a period of peace will be granted to the world. In Portugal, the dogma of the faith will always be preserved, etc. ...”

“After the two parts which I have already explained, at the left of Our Lady and a little above, we saw an Angel with a flaming sword in his left hand; flashing, it gave out flames that looked as though they would set the world on fire; but they died out in contact with the splendor that Our Lady radiated towards him from her right hand: pointing to the earth with his right hand, the Angel cried out in a loud voice: ‘Penance, Penance, Penance!’

And we saw in an immense light that is God: ‘something similar to how people appear in a mirror when they pass in front of it’ a Bishop dressed in White ‘we had the impression that it was the Holy Father’. Other Bishops, Priests, men and women Religious going up a steep mountain, at the top of which there was a big Cross of rough-hewn trunks as of a cork-tree with the bark; before reaching there the Holy Father passed through a big city half in ruins and half trembling with halting step, afflicted with pain and sorrow, he prayed for the souls of the corpses he met on his way; having reached the top of the mountain, on his knees at the foot of the big Cross he was killed by a group of soldiers who fired bullets and arrows at him, and in the same way there died one after another the other Bishops, Priests, men and women Religious, and various lay people of different ranks and positions. Beneath the two arms of the Cross there were two Angels each with a crystal aspersorium in his hand, in which they gathered up the blood of the Martyrs and with it sprinkled the souls that were making their way to God.”

“...Remember, you must not tell this to anyone except Francisco. When you pray the Rosary, say after each mystery: O my Jesus, forgive us, save us from the fire of hell. Lead all souls to heaven, especially those who are most in need.” “Is there anything more that you want of me?” Lucia asked. “No, I do not want anything more of you today.” Then as before, Our Lady began to ascend towards the east, until she finally disappeared in the immense darkness of the firmament.





FIRST MASSES

OF NEW PRIESTS



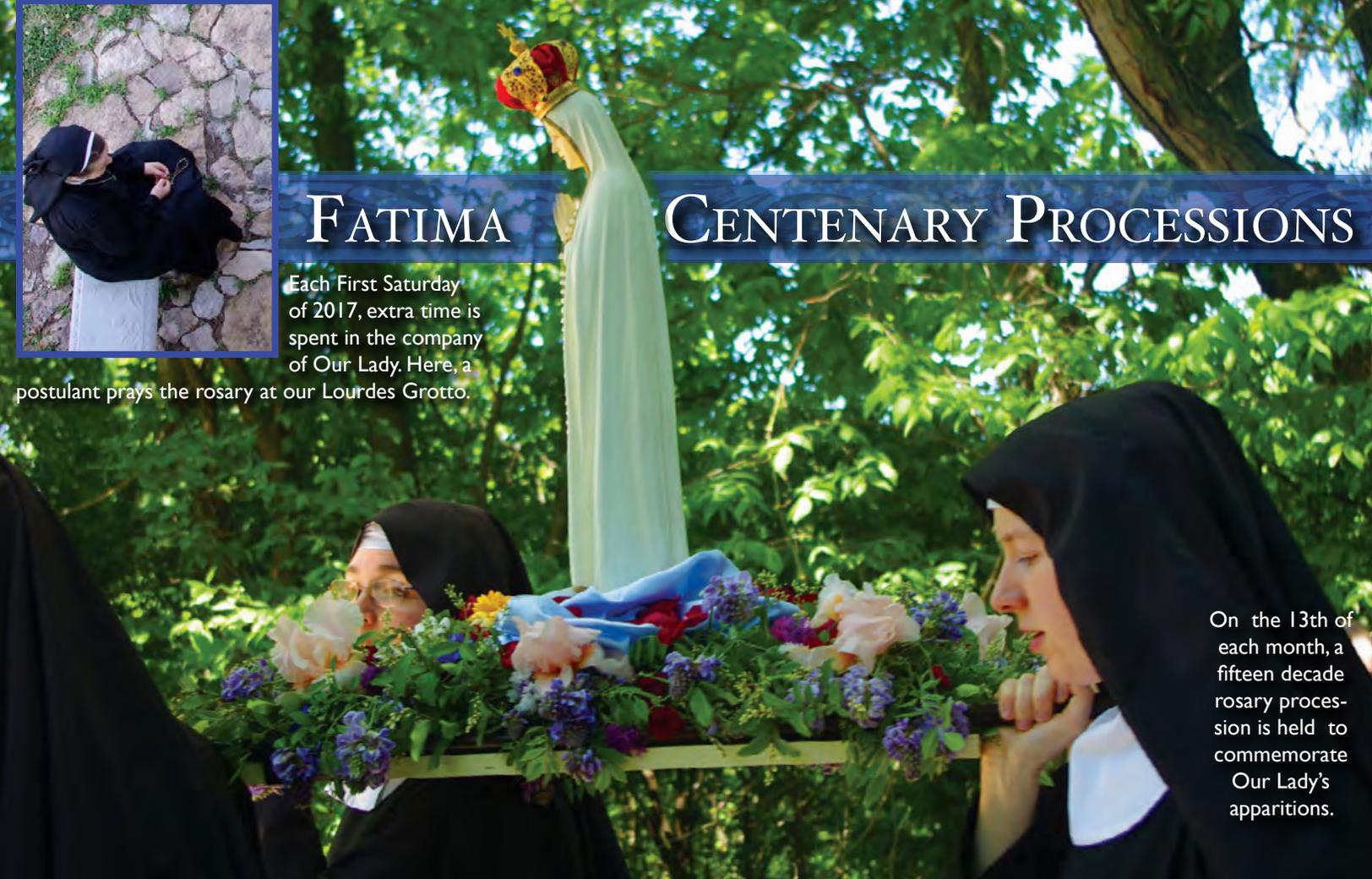
We are so grateful to Fr. Jonathan Heinricy and Fr. Joseph Favole of the Fraternity of St. Peter for offering first Masses for us!



FATIMA

CENTENARY PROCESSIONS

Each First Saturday of 2017, extra time is spent in the company of Our Lady. Here, a postulant prays the rosary at our Lourdes Grotto.



On the 13th of each month, a fifteen decade rosary procession is held to commemorate Our Lady's apparitions.



The ripened wheat in the morning sun of the feast itself.
Below left: Sisters prepare the way of the Lord before the procession.

THE FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI



SURROUNDED BY HIS BEAUTY





The prettiest hole that we ever did see!



Work on the inner courtyard



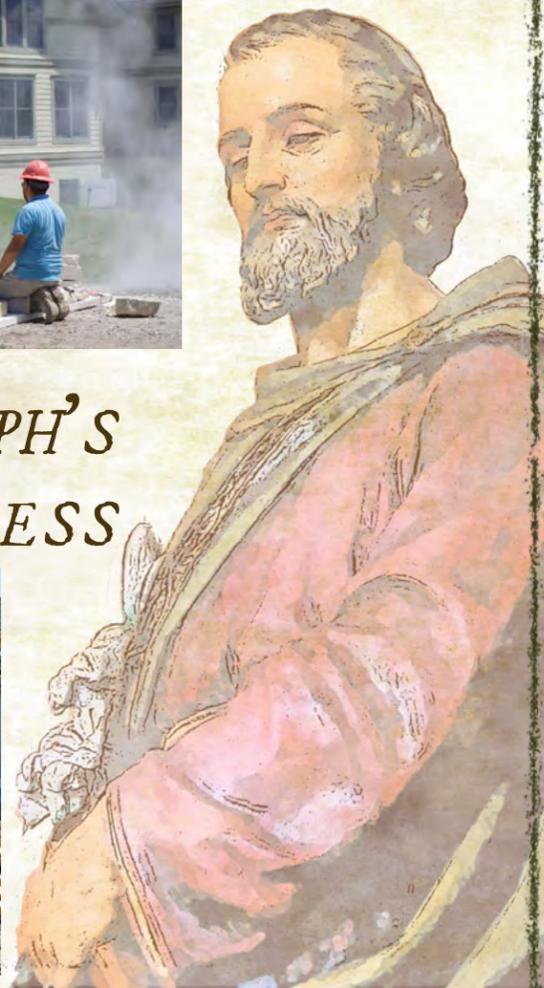
Architect Bill Heyer, Mother Cecilia and other supervisors examine the Historic Taylor barn in Kansas, built in 1879 with the same stone we hope to use on our church.



Framing the cloister walk



Our sisters are no match for this machinery!



ST. JOSEPH'S WORK IN PROGRESS



Pouring the footers



A mock-up of the stone walls



Mother checks in with the world's greatest owner rep, Paul Villotti.



Pouring the basement walls



Forming the walls for concrete



The Sisters gathered under the largest and most beautiful double rainbow any of us have seen!