



Saint John Vianney on Our Blessed Mother

by Susan Vennari

The Father takes pleasure in looking upon the Heart of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, as the masterpiece of His hands; for we always like our own work; especially when it is well done. The Son takes pleasure in the Heart of His Mother, the source from which He drew the Blood that has ransomed us; the Holy Ghost as His temple. The prophets published the glory of Mary before Her birth; they compared Her to the sun. Indeed, the apparition of the Holy Virgin may well be compared to a beautiful gleam of sun on a foggy day.

Before Her coming, the anger of God was hanging over our heads like a sword ready to strike us. As soon as the Holy Virgin appeared upon the earth, His anger was appeased. She did not know that She was to be the Mother of God, and when She was a little child She used to say, "When shall I then see that beautiful creature who is to be the Mother of God?" The Holy Virgin has brought us forth twice, in the Incarnation and at the foot of the Cross; She is then doubly our Mother.

The Heart of this good Mother is all love and mercy; She desires only to see us happy. We have only to turn to Her to be heard. The Son has His justice, the Mother has nothing but Her love. God has loved us so much as to die for us; but in the heart of Our Lord there is justice, which is an attribute of God; in that of the Most Holy Virgin there is nothing but mercy. Her Son being ready to punish a sinner, Mary interposes, checks the sword, implores pardon for the poor criminal. "Mother," Our Lord says to Her, "I can

refuse You nothing. If hell could repent, You would obtain its pardon."

The Most Holy Virgin places Herself between Her Son and us. The greater sinners we are, the more tenderness and compassion does She feel for us. The child



The Most Holy Virgin places Herself between Her Son and us. The greater sinners we are, the more tenderness and compassion does She feel for us.

that has cost its mother most tears is the dearest to her heart. Does not a mother always run to the help of the weakest and the most exposed to danger? Is not a physician in the hospital most attentive to those who are most seriously ill? The Heart of Mary is so tender towards us, that those of all the mothers in the world put together are like a piece of ice in comparison to Hers. See how good the Holy Virgin is! Her great servant St. Bernard used often to say to Her, "I salute Thee, Mary." One day this good Mother answered him, "I salute Thee, My son Bernard."

The *Ave Maria* is a prayer that is never wearisome. The devotion to the Holy Virgin is de-

continued on page 2

In this issue ...

St. John Vianney on Our Blessed Mother.....	1
News from the Apostolate.....	2
The Reproduction of the Life of Christ in the Soul	4
The Faithful: Always Devoted to the Rosary.....	4

licious, sweet, nourishing. When we talk on earthly subjects or politics, we grow weary; but when we talk of the Holy Virgin, it is always new. All the saints have a great devotion to Our Lady; no grace comes from Heaven without passing through Her hands. We cannot go into a house without speaking to the porter; well, the Holy Virgin is the portress of Heaven.

When we have to offer anything to a great personage, we get it presented by the person he likes best, in order that the homage may be agreeable to him. So our prayers have quite a different sort of merit when they are pre-

sented by the Blessed Virgin, because She is the only creature who has never offended God. The Blessed Virgin alone has fulfilled the First Commandment -- to adore God only, and love Him perfectly. She fulfilled it completely.

All that the Son asks of the Father is granted Him. All that the Mother asks of the Son is in like manner granted to Her. When we have handled something fragrant, our hands perfume whatever they touch: let our prayers pass through the hands of the Holy Virgin; She will perfume them. I think that at the end of the world the Blessed Virgin will be very tranquil; but while the world lasts, we drag Her in all directions ... The Holy Virgin is like a mother who has a great many children -- She is continually occupied in going from one to the other. †



Grace-Filled Rosary Procession in Brazil

By Susan Vennari

The graces from the Brazil conference held two years ago this August continue to flow, cascading like a happy downhill stream.

When a priest from northeastern Brazil wrote in April, requesting sacramentals and prayer cards for a Fatima campaign he planned to launch on May 13, the Fatima Center responded rapidly. It seemed that the anniversary of the first apparition of Our Lady at Fatima was an auspicious moment to begin such a campaign.

Working with the Fatima Center office in Brazil, we were able to send several thousand prayer cards, booklets, rosaries and scapulars. We also sent five larger framed pictures of Our Lady of Fatima.

Here is a partly abridged e-mail one of our representatives received recently.

Dear [Friend],

Greetings, brother! Lamentably our city was without internet and it was for this reason that I could not write you. All the materials arrived in time, the beautiful framed pictures, all the pam-

phlets, booklets, Rosaries and Scapulars, both green and brown. We are distributing them in five teams with each team responsible for approximately 53 families, who will be receiving the visits of our dear Mother.

On May 13th we made the deliveries of the materials to the teams. Everything was so beautiful. We took photos, but the person who took them still has not given them to me. The camera belongs to someone else in the community, and for that reason, it has taken so long, but I guarantee you that when the photos are ready, I'll send them to you by email.

The Rector of the local cathedral lent us a beautiful statue of Our Lady of Fatima, 1.6 meters [about five feet] tall, almost life size. We made a pallet, all lit up, with white flowers (in order to carry the statue in procession). We processed down the streets of the city, and once we arrived at our little mother church, St. Benedict, we celebrated Mass. I offered the intention (of the Mass) for all that take part in this great Crusade of the Rosary of Fatima.

I owe the Fatima Crusade a series of Gregorian Masses for 30 days, out of gratitude to you all, for what you have done for our parish.

On May 24th I went out in procession, with the same statue, through the streets of the city, riding on top of a fire truck. It was really a beautiful sight—Our Mother atop that triumphant truck! Everyone saluted, made the sign of the Cross, got down on their knees. Others stopped playing soccer. Everyone wanted to salute the beautiful statue that was passing by, enroute along the beautiful sea coast. It rained hard. I lost my shoe ... but it was worth the trouble.

On the same day we celebrated the Mass of the Ascension of Our Lord Jesus Christ, which fell on my birthday. It was a marvelous day.

The priest let us know that he is responsible for a large section of his diocese, and he sent the names of several other priests with



Images of Our Lady the Fatima Center sent to Brazil

whom he had shared materials, and who wanted to develop devotion to Our Lady of Fatima in their own parishes.

I hope you enjoyed this letter as much as we did. We will share the photos from these festive holy days when we receive them.

In the meantime, may we point out that this priest's gratitude "to you all" includes **all** our supporters, who by their prayers and sacrifices, and contributions, enable this missionary outreach. The prayers of these thirty Masses will include you and your intentions.

Secondly, the framed pictures of Our Lady will travel from one home to the next, as "pilgrim" pictures. Therefore, the number of souls who will be visited and who will benefit is much greater than we can imagine in our surfeited culture. As little children renew the hopes of their elders, so does the ardor of the grateful (and less affluent) revitalize the faith of the affluent.

As a last note, **see how one priest influenced other priests by his example and devotion.** Not only did he awaken the interest of his fellow priests, but also of his bishop, obtaining the Cathedral's statue for the grand procession.

Picture, if you will, the procession with Our Lady riding the fire engine through the streets of the city. — Those of us from small towns may have seen a Santa Claus touring local streets just before Christmas. Maybe he even has some "elves" passing out candy canes to eager children! But what more in graces does Our Holy Mother pass out to those who come to greet Her as the procession passes! Now the bishop (as well as the people) obtains the benefit of those graces. Now an honorable precedent is set. All will look forward to the next such event with greater joy and love. Perhaps the priests will find delight in a holy rivalry to bring honor to Our Lady of Fatima and to Her Immaculate Heart.

All these benefits accrue to you. On behalf of Our Lady, we also say "thank you", "be encouraged." Your support is like the drops of water that trickle to the stream, from which others downstream may find a cooling drink. †

The Reproduction of the Life of Christ in the Soul

By Blessed Abbot Columba Marmion

Christianity is a mystery of death and of life, but the object of this death is to safeguard the divine life in us. Christ “by dying, destroyed our death; and by rising again, restored our life”. The essential work of Christianity, as well as the final end, to which of its nature it tends, is a work of life. Christianity is the reproduction of the life of Christ in the soul.

Now, as I have said, Christ’s life on earth can be summed up in this double aspect: “He was delivered up for our sins, and rose again for our justification”. The Christian dies to all that is sin, the better to live the life of God. Penance then serves primarily as the means ‘of arriving at this aim’.

That is what St. Paul so clearly expressed: “Always bearing about in our body the mortification of Jesus, that the life also of Jesus may be made manifest to our bodies.” It must be our aim — there is no other — that the life of Christ which has its principle in grace and its perfection in love, may shine forth in us: that is the end; there is no other. To attain this end, mortification is necessary. St. Paul says: “They that are Christ’s — and we be-



Abbot Marmion

long to Christ by our baptism — have crucified their flesh with the vices and concupiscences”. And again he says still more explicitly: “If you live according to the flesh, you shall die; but if by the Spirit you mortify the deeds of the flesh, you shall live,” live the divine life. †

Page 4

The Faithful: Always Devoted to the Rosary

By a Dominican Priest

With the faithful, the Rosary has ever maintained its place. The faithful have ever clung with traditional reverence and love to that devotion which, coming from Heaven, alone presents to the mind and to the heart the sum of the Christian life. Who does not remember in early days old-fashioned beads treasured amidst faithful families as memorials of times of danger and of persecution?



A venerable priest who died in the odor of sanctity at end of the 19th Century in Rome declared that the Faith had been preserved in Ireland, solely by the devotion of its faithful people to the Rosary. During the dark days of persecution, when there was not a Catholic school in the three British Isles; when it was a felony to teach even the Catholic Catechism, and death for the priest to say Mass, the Irish mothers, taking their Crucifix and beads, told their little ones the story of Jesus and Mary, and thus kept the Faith of our fathers green in the hearts of their children.

The venerable Cure d’Ars declared emphatically that in his century it was the Rosary that restored religion in France; and we know by the testimony of Saints, and of Our Blessed Lady Herself, it was the preaching of the Rosary which at two terrible epochs reanimated and saved the faith of Southern Europe. †

We’d like to hear from YOU! Write or call:

The Editor,

Apostles of the Rosary

IN U.S.A. – 17000 State Route 30, Constable, NY 12926

IN CANADA – 452 Kraft Rd., Fort Erie, ON L2A 4M7

Call us toll-free at: 1-800-263-8160

or fax us at: (905) 871-8680

Visit Our Lady’s Web Site at: www.fatima.org

or e-mail us at: info@fatima.org