



CRUSADERS of MARY

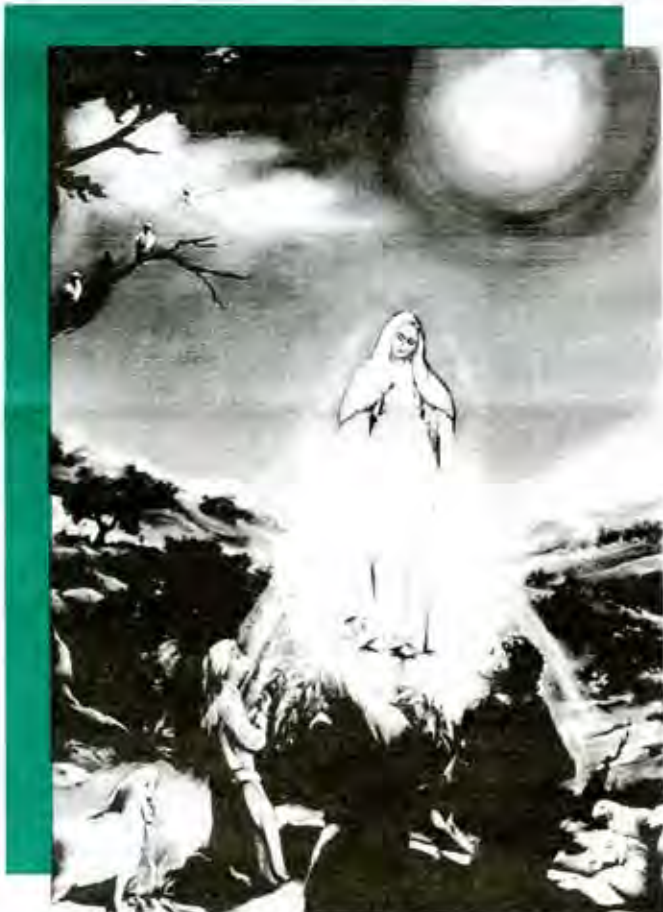
NEWSLETTER

Volume 2 - Issue 5 - July, 2000

Heavenly Phenomena in the Cova

"As a child cannot live without a nurse to suckle it, so no one can be saved without the protection of Mary." - St. Bonaventure:

Of the similarities that abound between the story of Bethlehem and the marvels that unfolded in the Cova Da Iria in Portugal in 1917, none is more striking than the act of mothering. In both cases a pastoral setting was chosen to frame the image imprinted on mankind's memory at God's command: the Virgin beloved of God mothering first His Son and then, 19 centuries later, mothering a humanity on the verge of turning away from Her Son.



No act of parenting can compare to the vital imprinting on the soul of man of the mother- with-child, an island of loving warmth surviving together in spite of the chill winds of the world.

It inspired the greatest artists of the Christian world, their depictions of mother and child, setting Christianity apart in a special way from other religions of the world. What other religion has as its very hearth and heart the Virgin Mother with a Child enveloped at her breast? It is the absence of this parenting of the souls of mankind that is so apparent in Hinduism, Buddhism and even Islam—where one might expect that, if not in imagery then at least in anecdote, the relationship between Ishmael and his mother might have been amplified for inspiration.

Only through Christ and His Mother does Heaven personally parent the immortal souls of its creation. To underscore, at Fatima, that it was this same Mother who had given birth to the Prince of Peace in the cave in Bethlehem who had now come to midwife Peace in the 20th Century, God performed a unique act of favor for the 70,000 witnesses gathered in the rain- soaked Cova da Iria, October 13th, 1917.

Throughout the night as thousands streamed from all over Portugal and parts of Spain toward the hamlet of Fatima, 60 miles north of Lisbon, the expectation of rain was on everyone's mind. The roads were clogged, the chanted prayers echoed over the fields, and overhead a lowering sky took note of this mass movement of humanity converging on a pasture 2 miles north of the church of Fatima.

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10 Point Plan Update

In Our 10 Point Plan to End Persecution and Defend the Catholic Faith Around the World, we promised and, with your help, we delivered:

† **“to besiege Heaven with 10 million Rosaries”** and in fact we know that already over 1 million have been said. Please remember to pray the Rosary for the help and protection of persecuted Christians and let us know how many you have said so we can add them to this impressive count.

† **“to assist Archbishop Arrulappa in providing safe shelter and medical assistance to destitute people in his archdiocese”.** In January 2000, Father Gruner attended opening ceremonies for the St. Joseph's Medical Center which will provide medical care for the children at the orphanage and many people from the surrounding villages. There are two Bethlehemite Sisters who are nurses on site every day and a Doctor who visits regularly. Your sacrifices and financial assistance have helped make this possible.

† **“we will re-double efforts to convince Bishops to Consecrate Russia”** In October 1999, we held our Fourth Annual Bishop's Conference for World Peace. Every Bishop in the world was invited and many responded favorably. Over 450 people attended and everyone felt it was a great success. We sent special petitions to all the Bishops so they could let the Holy Father know that they were willing to participate in a Solemn Ceremony to Consecrate Russia to Our Lady's Immaculate Heart. We also sent all the Bishop's our leaflet titled “Frequently Asked Questions About the Consecration of Russia”.

† **“a great and continuous Crusade of Holy Masses”.** We now have over 500 Priests saying Holy Mass for the Triumph of Our Lady and the intentions of Catholics.

† **“we will translate and distribute millions of copies of the Five First Saturdays.”** We have now printed 1,200,000 copies in English and 50,000 copies in Spanish. We plan to have this wonderful little booklet translated into more languages and keep working on the plan to distribute millions.

† **“alert the world - we will use Our Lady's Fatima network of magazines, T.V., radio, and the internet to bring the facts to Millions of souls”.** In the last year we have distributed over 2,000,000 Fatima Crusaders, have had over 200,000 visitors to our web site and been on TV and radio weekly across North America. We have also distributed over 3,000,000 information leaflets and petitions

† **“we will set up a “brown scapular” factory in India”** - we have begun construction on a new building in the compound which houses the orphanage, the school and the medical building. We have set aside space in this building where we can set up sewing machines, and we have already started to purchase them. We will hire people from the nearby village to make brown scapulars. This will enable us to produce millions of brown scapulars very inexpensively and we will also be helping the villagers by providing work. It will also be a good place for some of the older children to give some volunteer hours.

None of these things would have been possible without your constant prayers and financial support. Remember that every time we win a victory for Our Lady, it is your victory as well. ■



+ ST. JOSEPH'S + HEALTHCARE CENTRE NANDREKAL



Our new St. Joseph's Infirmary in India

Do you have a problem meditating when trying to complete the Five First Saturdays?

Here is an easy method of how one can do the meditation of fifteen minutes on the Mysteries of the Rosary. What you do is use a watch with a second hand, and wait until it reaches twelve. Then tranquilly and in a spirit of orderliness, while observing the passing of each minute, dedicate one minute to the meditation of each mystery (and complete fifteen mysteries), or three minutes to each mystery (and complete five mysteries) or five minutes per mystery (and complete three mysteries). Simply call to mind the details of the mystery in the space of the one, three or five minutes dedicated to each. Using a watch in this manner keeps the mind attentive and concentrated on the mental exercise, often a problem for people unfamiliar to meditation.

Starting with a preparatory prayer to the Holy Ghost, then meditating methodically for fifteen minutes, one's reflections may be clearer and more profound, and perhaps more pleasing to God, than many Rosaries said with distractions. One can also ask God for a grace associated with each Mystery, such as those suggested by St Louis de Montfort in *The Secret of the Rosary*. pp 111-116.

Another effective form of meditation on the mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary as given by Father Joaquin Alonso, consists of a meditative reading of those biblical texts that refer to them. Here are the references:

- † **First Mystery:** Lk 1:26-38 Other references: Is. 62:5-7; Mt.1:18; Is 7:10-15; Gen.18:1-14
- † **Second Mystery:** Lk.1:39-55 Other references: 2 Sam. 6:1-19; 1 Sam 2:1-10; Is. 1.1-10; Jn. 1:19-23

- † **Third Mystery:** Lk.2:4-14 Other references: Mic. 5:2-5; Psalm 84; Gal. 4:1-7; Phil. 2:6-11
- † **Fourth Mystery:** Lk.2:22-35. Other references: Lev. 12:3-8, Heb 9:6-14; Jn. 2:13-22;3:16-21
- † **Fifth Mystery:** Lk.2:41-52 Other references: Jn.12: 44-50; Eph. 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Psalm 26
- † **Sixth Mystery:** Mt. 26:36-46 Other references: Psalm 54:3-6; Lk 22:39-44; Jn 13:18-30; 8:46-59
- † **Seventh Mystery:** Lk.23:13-23. Other references: Is. 53:5;Mt. 26:66-68; 27:20-30; Jer 18:13-18;Is.50:5-10.
- † **Eighth Mystery:** Mt. 27:27-30 Other references: Mt.21:1-10; Col.1:15-20; Apoc.19:11-16
- † **Ninth Mystery:** Jn.19:16-17 Other references: Is. 53:7; Mt. 10:38; Lk, 9:57-62; Gal, 2:19-20
- † **Tenth Mystery:** Mt. 27:33-50, Other references: Jn.19:25-37; Zach.12:10; Psalm21:19; Heb.5:7-10; Acts. 2:22-36; Rom.6:1-11
- † **Eleventh Mystery:** Lk.24:36-48 Other references: Mk. 16:1-7; Mt.28:2-10; Jn.20:19-31
- † **Twelfth Mystery:** Lk.24:50-53 Other references: Mk.16:19 Acts.1:1-11; Jn 16:5-14 Heb.1:1-9
- † **Thirteenth Mystery:** Acts.2:1-8 Other references: Jn.3:1-5;14:23-31;1 Jn.5:4-10
- † **Fourteenth Mystery:** Apoc.12:1-6. Other references: Lk,1:46-49; Judith 13:22-25; 15:10
- † **Fifteenth Mystery:** Ester 5:1-3. Other references:

HEAVENLY PHENOMENA IN THE COVA *continued from page 1*

By daybreak the rain had begun. Not just the mist and drizzle so common to Portugal in October, but a solid and relentless downpour that turned the roadbeds to mud, made sodden the shoes of those who had shoes and weighed down the already heavy clothing of the peasants. By the time the noon hour of the expected apparition had approached, an ocean of umbrellas filled the saucer shaped dip in the earth called the Cove of Irene, the Cove of Peace.

Then, at 1:30 land time, noon solar time, just as predicted by the three child seers, the great apparition culminating the six months of Heavenly phenomena in the Cova began.

"Look at the sun," Lucy cried at the end of the personal exchange between herself and Our Lady. It was the cue that the miracle first predicted by this young child of ten

in July was about to start, right on time, on the very day that she had identified.

The Great Miracle of the Sun—when the sun danced in the sky, fell to earth, then after terrorizing the 70,000 upturned faces, returned in zig-zag motion to its place in the heavens, resuming its brilliance so that no eye could look at it, though for twelve dizzying, terrifying minutes it was as easy to view as a giant multi-colored pearl in the sky.

It was then, when the sun had been restored to its throne in the sky, that the touch of a Mother's hand was evident to all. The clothes of the onlookers, all 70,000 of them, sopping wet from hours of rain, were bone dry. Not only dry but soft. It was the seal of the identity of the one to whom God had granted power over the sun. A loving Mother has laundered and restored the clothing of

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CRUSADERS of MARY

Letters to the Editor



Dear Fr. Gruner;

Please accept my donation to the Fatima Center for the work you are doing. It has been sometime since you have received financial support from me. I have had to give some consideration to whether or not I was really with you or not in your work as the attacks were taking their toll on my belief in this work.

After much prayer I must say that you again have my support. I feel that a good work is being done and that you have been unjustly treated by the enemies of the Fatima message. I trust Our Lady will fulfill Her Fatima promise, once the consecration has been properly carried out. Then we will have world peace and the end to the terrible sin of abortion...

I hope that this letter will encourage you to continue to communicate with those who have become silent and seem to have deserted you by ceasing their financial support. Your work is a good work and I pray that the Peace that The Blessed Mother has promised will soon be on our world and that this offering will have honored Her in this work. Yours in Jesus and His Blessed Mother,

Dr. Paul, BC.

Dear Father,

Thank you so much for the recent issue of the Fatima Crusader. I read it word for word. It is very inspiring and informative. I pray most everyday for the success of your apostolate. I am sure the Blessed Virgin is guiding you in all your works.

Again, may the Lord bless you and keep you in good health spiritually and physically... Yours in Christ Jesus.

Mr. John., NY

Dear Father Gruner,

We would like to thank you for the *Fatima Crusader*, Issue 59. The article on "The Pains of Hell" is an important reminder that a soul may lose God forever. God's great mercy flows abundantly through Mary.

We thank you for being the only apostolate providing hope that Russia will finally be consecrated, although it will be late. In Jesus and Mary,

Mr. and Mrs. K., CA

Dear Father Nicholas,

Many, many thanks for that very special medal. I have it on a chain around my neck and will never take it off. I am so grateful you have blessed this special medal.. And for what I now have. The medal I was wearing, I was really worried that it was not blessed. Now I'm happy with yours because it is blessed and came from Father Nicholas. Sincerely,

Mrs. H., ON.

Prayer to St. Bonaventure

God, Who didst give blessed St. Bonaventure to be a minister of everlasting salvation unto Thy people, grant, we beseech Thee, that, as we have had him for our teacher on earth, we may deserve to have him as our intercessor in Heaven. Through Our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

HEAVENLY PHENOMENA IN THE COVA continued from page 3

a population equal to that of Jerusalem when She gave birth in a cave in Bethlehem to the Prince of Peace.

It was St. Bonaventure who said, "*As a child cannot live without a nurse to suckle it, so no one can be saved without the protection of Mary.*" In this oh-so sophisticated 20th Century after the birth of Christ, with mankind spiraling farther and farther away from its Creator on wings of its own invention, Heaven reminded errant humanity that it would not get very far without its Mother.

Our Lady of Fatima might just as well have subtitles to Her glorious titles: Our Lady of the Rains, Our Lady of Warmth. ■

To Reach us:

Crusaders of Mary

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

In CANADA – 452 Kraft Road,
Fort Erie, ON. L2A 4M7

Call us toll free at: 1-800-263-8160
or fax us at: (905) 871-3646

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

E-mail us at: info@fatima.org