



# CRUSADERS of MARY

## PLEDGE CLUB NEWSLETTER

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### “Only She can help you.”

**T**hese five words uttered in the Cova da Iria in Fatima were given as the reason why, through the three seers, Lucy, Jacinta and Francisco, the world was being told to turn to Our Lady of the Rosary.

Indeed, these were uttered by Our Lady, referring to Herself in Her role as Our Lady of the Rosary. “Only She ...” meant “Only Our Lady of the Rosary ...”—which meant, of course, “pray the Rosary ...”, because only the Rosary can bring us into union with Heaven’s plan for peace for mankind.

It is oftentimes questioned why Heaven, if it wants the world to respond directly to its plans for mankind, does not speak to it in ways the whole world can understand. After all, peace for mankind does not mean peace only for Catholics.

Only Catholics understand that the events of Fatima, with their specific references to the Rosary, clearly confirm that at Fatima the hierarchy of the Catholic Church, and Catholics in general, were being recruited specifically to win peace for the whole of mankind, through means recognized worldwide as ‘Catholic’ means.

It might be said that the great Miracle of the Sun, seen by all—Catholics, non-Catholics, skeptics, and cynics alike—confirms that the Message of Fatima is for all the world. But just as the Message of Fatima can only be

understood in Catholic terms, so too, can it be obeyed only through Catholic means. The great Miracle of the Sun was the seal of God on the promises made by His Mother in the Cova da Iria to three peasant children. The Miracle unfolded in specific stages, the descriptive catch-phrases of which provide sound bites that are now permanently chiseled into the vocabulary of Catholics:



Our Lady of the Rosary

“One could look straight at it,” “Silver grey,” “Mother of pearl,” “Left its place in the sky,” “The dance of the sun,” “Throwing off colors,” “All the colors of the rainbow,” “Zigzagging to earth,” “Threatened to crush the 70,000 eyewitnesses,” “Stopped overhead,” “Returned to its place in the sky”, “All their rain-soaked clothes were dry.” The demonstration in the sky over Portugal that noon hour in October 1917 confirmed that Heaven had placed the future of mankind in the hands of God’s Holy Mother. Neither the peasant, the clergy, the hierarchy, the skeptic nor the cynic could deny that all of the dramatic visuals of the sun’s extraordinary movement that day pointed to Mary’s intervention as the rescuer of mankind from future calamity.

That the sun returned to the sky at Mary’s command was proven by the loving touch that accompanied the end of the phenomenon. The clothes of the 70,000, soaked through with the rain that had fallen for most of the night and morning, were not only dry, but fragrant, carrying in their weave and stitch the scent of the Mother who had lovingly attended to their every fiber.

No one could deny the phenomenon. In fact, the most likely scoffers were employed by Heaven to be the most credible witnesses to the spectacle. It was Alveredo de Almeida, writing for the Masonic daily *O’Seculo* who recorded for all time his own eyewitness account of the Great Miracle, an account no amount of intimidation could

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## St. Augustine of Canterbury

### Bishop, Confessor

### Feast Day May 28th

St. Augustine was sent by St. Gregory the Great to England to convert the people to Christianity. At Canterbury he erected a monastery, and there established his Episcopal See. He is said to have baptized thousands of Englishmen in one day. He died in the year 604.

O God, by the preaching and miracles of Blessed Augustine, Your Confessor and Bishop, You deigned to shed upon the English people the light of the true Faith; grant that, through his intercession, the hearts of those who err may return to the unity of Your truth, and that we may be of one mind in doing Your will. Through our Lord Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Ghost, for ever and ever.

*Amen.*



### Apostolate Happenings

#### News from the TV Department

We are especially excited by our line-up of guests on Our Lady's television program, *Fatima: The Moment Has Come*, which features many new faces and some old favorites as well. There will also be a whole series of new shows with video excerpts from our recent International Conference. Father Gruner will also be doing a special series on the Mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary. Imagine the graces this will draw down from Heaven due to the more widespread, more fervent praying of the Rosary. You won't want to miss a single program. Call us for an up-to-date TV listing.

#### Rosary Rallies & Statue Visits

Father's first Statue Visits of the Holy Year were held in India where devotion to Our Lady continues to be strong. Worshipers turn out by the tens of thousands to greet Father and the Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima. In 1967 in Fatima, Pope Paul VI blessed 14 Statues of Our Lady of Fatima and gave them to different custodians throughout the world to travel and spread devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Father Gruner is the custodian for the Canadian Pilgrim Virgin Statue. In addition to Father's already busy schedule, many Rosary Rallies and Statue Visits are planned throughout the year. Father plans to visit the states of Florida, California, Illinois, Ohio and Texas to name but a few. He also plans to visit British Columbia and Ontario in Canada.

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## Holy Year Pilgrimages

Father Nicholas Gruner will be directing a series of special pilgrimages to Rome and other sacred sites throughout Italy every month for the remainder of the Holy Year.

Pilgrims can choose between a 5-day Rome-only package or a longer 11-day trip visiting sites across Italy "in the footsteps of Padre Pio."

Full pilgrimage includes visits to Rome, Tolentino, Loreto, Lanciano, San Giovanni Rotondo, Pietrelcina and more. As always, the low price includes round-trip airfare (from New York or New Jersey), hotels, tours, taxes and all breakfasts and dinners with wine. All pilgrimages also include attendance at the public audience with the Holy Father (whenever available) and a certificate of Papal blessing.

Unlike many other pilgrimages being offered, the ones we have organized are not only extremely affordable, but they also provide the maximum comfort for our pilgrims. For example, our hotel in Rome is one of the most modern and comfortable in the city, fully air-conditioned and with private baths in every room.

Send or call for Free Information and Schedule.

Space is Extremely Limited so Please Act Quickly. Call Us at 1-800-263-8160.

# Comments from Father Gruner: "... The truths"

**Father Gruner: "Why do you say the Catholic Church is God's true Church when it doesn't say that in the Bible?"**

**Father Gruner replies:**

It seems from your question that you are taking the Protestant approach to Christianity. This approach takes private interpretation of the Bible alone as the sole rule of faith. We Catholics have two sources of authority: the Bible, as interpreted by the teaching authority of the Catholic Church; and Sacred Tradition of divine revelation, which has not been written down in the pages of Holy Scripture, but has been transmitted by word of mouth. (*The Catechism Explained*, by Spirago-Clarke, pg. 88, #B0590 in our catalog). Nowhere in the Bible does it say the Bible is the sole rule of faith.

The Bishops and Popes of the Catholic Church are the successors of the Apostles, and have inherited (among other things), their power to forgive sins and their authority to teach in the name of Christ. The fact is that the teaching and law of Christ is contained in Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition, and entrusted to the Holy Catholic Church to be authoritatively guarded and taught, in His Name.

This is what Jesus wants. We know Jesus wanted a Church because He said to St. Peter, "Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My Church ... and I will give to thee the keys of the kingdom of Heaven, whatsoever you bind upon earth, shall be bound in Heaven, and whatsoever thou loose on earth will be loosed in Heaven" (Matt. 16:18-19). So how could Peter bind and loose on earth, if he didn't have authority? (It would seem foolish for Our Lord to give authority to Peter, and then have it disappear at Peter's death.) Jesus also charged St. Peter to teach, when He said, "Feed My sheep" (John 21:17). St. Peter was the first Pope, and there is an unbroken line of his successors down to the present Pope.

About traditions, St. Paul says, "Hold the traditions which you have learned, whether by word, or by our epistle" (2 Thess. 2:14). St. Peter says "... No prophecy of Scripture is made by private interpretation" (2 Peter 1:20). Therefore, we need God-given authority to interpret the Scriptures, not human self-appointed "authority".

You have to look at the whole of Scripture, and not just concentrate on certain passages. The Bible says, "...there are certain things hard to be understood, which the unlearned and unstable wrest ... to their own destruction" (2 Peter 3:16). ■



**Father Nicholas Gruner in his chapel at the Fatima Center.**

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## **Fatima Center Expansion**

We had reached the "breaking point" as far as work space, storage and living quarters were concerned here at the Apostolate. Many thanks to Our Lady's friends who helped us put a down payment on the property next door to the Fatima Center; a 1,750 square foot house with a 3-car garage on 2.1 acres of land.

For the first time in years, we will have enough space to be able to meet the growing needs of the Apostolate, especially for the large number of new volunteers who wish to devote their lives and energy to Our Lady's Message. ■

compel him to deny later.

All that was left for the skeptics to do was question, "Why? Why Mary? Why was the future of mankind placed in Mary's hands? Why was the Fatima Message delivered through Mary?"

For the answer we need look no further than one of the earliest and one of the greatest Doctors of the Church, St. Augustine. The great Bishop of Hippo wrote of Her: "As Mary cooperated by Her charity in the spiritual birth of the faithful, so also God wills that She should cooperate by Her intercession in obtaining for them the life of grace in this world, and the life of glory in the next."

At Fatima, Mary came as the rescuer of mankind, appointed by God. The great Miracle of the Sun stamped Heaven's confirmation on the words, "Only She can help you." That Mary and Her role in Salvation history have been almost entirely ignored since Vatican II, starting with what could only be called a rude rejection of Her full status in the Council's schema on the Church (by the very Bishops who should have been extolling Her appointed role as Esther-to-her-people), is now solidly evidenced by Her complete absence in the misguided and foolhardy ecumania that has gripped the Church like an out-of-control fever. A Vatican-approved commission, which included Anglican and Orthodox representatives, even ruled out papal proclamation of the dogma of Mary's status as Mediatrix of All Graces because, as the Pope's own spokesman declared, it would be "inopportune to abandon the path marked out by Vatican II." And what "path" is that, exactly? Evidently, a path which leads away from Mary, and away from Fatima.


As Saint Augustine, in confessing the foolhardiness of his youth, became a part of Catholic conscience for a millennium-and-a-half of Church history, so too today's Bishops, with one clear admission of their betrayal of Mary in the last half of this critical century, could begin the process of restoring to Her rightful seat of authority the Woman of whom Heaven has said, "Only She can help you."■

### We'd Like to Hear From YOU!

Crusaders of Mary Pledge Club  
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](http://www.fatima.org) or E-mail us at:  
[info@fatima.org](mailto:info@fatima.org)

# CRUSADERS of MARY



## Letters to the Editor

Dear Father Gruner,

**Just a little note to say, hope you have a pleasant day! Father, we are having Forty-Hours; it started on Thursday and will end on Sunday at 4:00 p.m. with a procession. How very wonderful to be able to attend! I haven't been to Forty-Hours since the 1960's when I was working in NYC. How I wish all the churches would start this marvellous practice again. The world is in such chaos and until the Holy Father, in unison with all the Bishops, consecrates Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, we will have no peace.**

Frances K.

Dear Father Gruner,

**Keep up the good work for Our Lady and I was more than glad to hear you made 5 speeches, it is a blessing from all you have been going through. I think Our Lady is blessing you and making you strong so you can enlighten the world about Our Lady's wishes for us and give us the courage to go on as we have and draw a lot of new members to Her cause. I say a Rosary every day for you and Pope John Paul II and sometimes 2, they are a great blessing to you both and I know you need them.**

Marie K.

Dear Father Gruner,

**I wanted to share my poem of holding Mary's hand with the Rosary:**

Holding Hands  
by Gloria O

I reach for Faith, it's a joy to be in,  
as I thumb through my Rosary and let it begin.  
I reach for Hope, in a glorious way  
when I reach for my Rosary and pray just that way.  
I reach for Love, through sorrow for sins.  
Cause it's the hand of Mary, that shows me these things.  
Small beaded fingers, five decades in all.  
The Hand of Mary and She's there for us all.