



CRUSADERS of MARY

NEWSLETTER

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The Life of Christians

“What hope can we have of salvation if Thou dost abandon us, O Mary, who art the life of Christians?” - St. Germanus

'The life of Christians', the beautiful accolade St. Germanus offers Our Lady, can be glimpsed in its many wondrous and sundry parts in the great story of Fatima.

The life of Christians is separated from the life of non-Christians by the three Christian virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity. Men of good will can attain a level of personal victory over the lures of the world through the Four Cardinal Virtues, but Faith, Hope and Charity set the Christian apart: a life of Faith in Christ, a life endured through Hope in Christ, and a life sanctified by Love of Christ.

All three of these virtues were at play during the great Fatima events of 1917.

It was almost as if Our Lady were relying on the seeds of Faith, Hope and Charity to draw the great throngs of eyewitnesses to the Cova da Iria all through the six months of that summer and autumn.

There never has been throughout all of recorded time a tale more capable of gripping the human heart than that of a young Woman giving birth to a boy Child in a cave of sheep and cattle. But the story of Fatima comes close. The three children drawn into Heaven's plan in the pasture of Fatima were shepherds — illiterate, pious, and not the least bit interested in the

ways of the world. It was amidst the simplicity and purity of their lives that Our Lady deigned to make Herself a temporary home during the summer months of 1917, and it was Her own simplicity and purity that echoed in the hearts of all who heard of Her presence among them — a presence that built in Fatima the pilgrim momentum culminating in a crowd of 70,000 faithful, and not so faithful, that October.

Faith that the Lady in the Cova really was from God, that in fact She was none other than the Mother of God, electrified the entire population of Portugal. It was the Hope that God would, in fact, do exactly what He said He would do, perform a great miracle, that added to the

numbers each month leading to the climax of the fantastic story. It was to the love of Her in the hearts of the Portuguese people that Our Lady entrusted Her presence, and Her message.

The life of these Christians, for six full months, was a life of suspended disbelief. They simply suspended their natural inclination to disbelieve that the Mother of God was appearing to three illiterate children in the hope that Her being among them would strengthen

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*Our Lady of Fatima
appeared to three
shepherd children
in 1917*

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Father Gruner receives many questions every day from both Catholics and non-Catholics on topics like Fatima, Catholicism, and our Apostolate, to mention a few. Below we respond to questions asked about the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima.

The apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal were a warning to us of the dangers we face in this time. These dangers are spoken of in the book of the Apocalypse of the Bible, and as such are not new, but now we know they directly affect us and our children. Our Lady said at Fatima that Russia would be the instrument of chastisement for the world if we did not change our ways, (e.g., humanism, communism), and that more souls go to hell because of sins of the flesh (impurity, living in sin, homosexuality, etc.) than for any other reason.

On May 13, 1917, Our Lady of Fatima said to Lucy, Francisco and Jacinta, "Recite the Rosary every day in order to obtain peace for the world and the end of the war". Our Lady gave St. Dominic the Rosary, and gave 15 promises for those who faithfully recite this prayer each day.

The 15 Promises of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Christians who recite the Rosary daily are:

1. Whoever shall faithfully serve Me by the recitation of the Rosary, shall receive signal graces.
2. I promise My special protection and the greatest graces to all who shall recite the Rosary.
3. The Rosary shall be a powerful armor against hell, it will destroy vice, decrease sin, and defeat heresies.
4. It will cause virtue and good works to flourish; it will obtain for souls the abundant mercy of God; it will withdraw the hearts of men from the love of the world and its vanities, and will lift them to the desire of eternal things. Oh, that souls would sanctify themselves by this means.
5. The soul which recommends itself to Me by the recitation of the Rosary, shall not perish.
6. Whoever shall recite the Rosary devoutly, applying



Father Gruner appeals to us all to pray the Rosary every day.

himself to the consideration of its sacred mysteries shall never be conquered by misfortune. God will not chastise him in His justice, he shall not perish by an unprovided death; if he be just he shall remain in the grace of God, and become worthy of eternal life.

7. Whoever shall have a true devotion for the Rosary shall not die without the Sacraments of the Church.
8. Those who are faithful in reciting the Rosary shall have during their life and at their death the light of God and the plenitude of His graces; at the moment of death they shall participate in the merits of the saints in paradise.
9. I shall deliver from Purgatory those who have been devoted to the Rosary.
10. The faithful children of the Rosary shall merit a high degree of glory in Heaven.
11. You shall obtain all you ask of Me by the recitation of the Rosary.
12. All those who propagate the Holy Rosary shall be aided by Me in their necessities.
13. I have obtained from My Divine Son that all the advocates of the Rosary shall have for intercessors the entire celestial court during their life and at the hour of death.
14. All who recite the Rosary are My sons, and brothers of My only son Jesus Christ.
15. Devotion to My Rosary is a great sign of predestination.

Our Lady also asked that Russia be consecrated to Her Immaculate Heart, promising to convert that nation by that act and also promising a period of peace to the world. There are 10 million people

in Moscow. The catechism tells us that our purpose on earth is to know God, love Him and serve Him on earth and be happy with Him in Heaven. These millions of people are denied the one true apostolic Church and the graces of the Sacraments. They do not know God so well on earth and are not taught His Commandments.

Secular Humanism is the child of communism. Today the world is infected with this grave error. The antidote is the Consecration of Russia by the Pope and all the bishops. We can pray for that act. ■

BLOOD DRENCHED ALTARS - A Catholic Commentary on the History of Mexico

by Most Reverend Francis C. Kelley.

This book is pivotal to understanding Mexico! Shows how Catholic Spain during 300 years - 1521-1821 - formed Mexico and made her prosperous and happy, but how the great Masonic Revolution (1821-1928) has made her poor and miserable. Shows that Mexico is still basically Catholic (97%) but is ruled by an anti-Catholic government. Full of insights and crucial to understanding Mexico.

Blood Drenched Altars normally sells for \$20.00 but we are offering it to our valued members for only \$15.00.

THE LIFE OF CHRISTIANS

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their bond with God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Ghost. Their willingness to suspend disbelief was pure charity extended toward the Mother of God, almost in an at-least-let-us-give-Her-the-benefit-of-the-doubt attitude.

What hope they had of salvation was edified and enlivened by the fantastical proposition that She, to whom the Incarnation was made known by the message of an Angel, was in a pasture only two miles away, waiting for them to arrive to make known another Heavenly message—this one for them.

By 1917, the beautiful story of the apparitions of the Immaculate Conception to Bernadette Soubirous in Lourdes in 1858 was in the memory of most Catholics. That those apparitions took place in a cave where pig herders were sometimes known to corral their swine, only helped to encourage the peasants of Portugal in believing that once again Heaven was condescending to come to earth in an unlikely spot and for unimaginable reasons.

The treading of shod and unshod peasant feet to the Cova da Iria echoes of the clatter of sabots on the cobblestones of Lourdes 59 years earlier. In both cases, the faith of the peasant class, made unshakeable by the signs accompanying Our Lady's presence, dressed the stage for the performance Heaven had waiting in the wings. The great Miracle of the Sun was a confirmation of and a seal of the great promises made by Our Lady at Fatima, but as well, it was a reward for the faith and trust and loving willingness to sustain belief for six

World Peace Prayer

O Most Sacred Heart of Jesus You explained why the grace of the Conversion of Russia and world



peace will not be given to the world until the Pope and Bishops have fulfilled Your command to solemnly and publicly consecrate Russia.

Help us to remember that You told us, "I want My whole Church to recognize that Consecration as a triumph of the Immaculate Heart

of Mary."

Help us to understand that this grace of world peace is truly unwarranted by ourselves and that You will grant it only through the merits of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Help us to do all that we possibly can to make this truth understood, loved and obeyed.

Our Father ...

Hail Mary ...

Glory be to the Father ...

months in a world made cynical by war and anti-Christian bias.

Indeed the life of Christians was on display in Portugal in 1917. For as Bishop Clement Kelley said in *Blood Drenched Altars*, since the Resurrection is true, it is folly to consider there can be any other cause of wonderment worthy of man's pursuit than to be in the company of Christ the Redeemer and His Mother. ■

We'd Like to Hear From YOU!

You are such an important part of our Crusade and we really look forward to reading your letters and passing your ideas, comments and suggestions on. If you have any news, stories, comments, or a letter that you think might be of interest to other members, please send them in.

Please also send in any suggestions you have on what you would like to see in our Newsletter. We are looking forward to hearing from you. ■

CRUSADERS of MARY

Letters to the Editor

The Fatima Center
17000 State Route 30
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Dear Father Gruner and Staff,

You are certainly a godsend for us today as well as in past years, and we are eternally thankful for this, as you herald the most vital Message of Fatima. May it spread like wild flowers throughout the world!

Now I'm especially interested in "The Spiritual Exercises" of St. Ignatius Loyola. Long have I wished for such a book. Saving one's soul is no small thing, and for me this is a dream that may come true!

Thank you for the Video on the mission of Our Lady's Apostolate, which I will share with my family and friends.

May the Lord bless you and your work much! Amidst all the doom and gloom in the world, yours is the shining light of blessedness for us, sorely needed by many, bringing blessed hope!

May God Bless your work a hundred-fold, nay, a thousand-fold all for the Glory of God! Christ's Peace!
Sincerely in Our Savior,

Bernice S., CA

Dear Father Gruner:

I am so happy that you took time out of your busy schedule to write to me. I received your invitation in the mail to your Rally in Toronto and can't wait to attend. It will be so wonderful to finally see you in person. As I am quite shy and may not get the opportunity to tell you in person, I just want to let you know how very happy I am that you are spreading the Message of FATIMA because as you see I am Portuguese and attend the church of Our Lady of Fatima here all my life and visited Fatima 2 years ago on a pilgrimage our church had. So you see, I have lived all my life learning and talking about the Message of Fatima.

God Bless you Father and your Apostolate. I pray that you and Our Lady will triumph in the spreading of the Message of Fatima. GOD BLESS YOU.

Liz, via email

Dear Father Gruner,

Thank you so much for all of your updates on what's going on in the world, especially with the Catholic faith.

You are a very strong and brave person because of all of the opposition being thrown at you, you continue to travel and spread the Catholic faith throughout the world.

Father, I truly believe that the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II will soon consecrate Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and you will be at his side in the ceremony. May God bless you Father.

Emily S., NY

Dear Father Gruner,

Thanks for all your efforts in heralding our Heavenly Mother's Fatima Message. I dare say, if not for your relentless efforts, the word would be shuffled under the rug and Our Lady's word would be trivialized to insignificance. Of course, we know that a Heavenly message is destined to be heard even if heeding is late in the season! So, thanks Father for your work and again, I want you to know that I am in your corner and will support your efforts! Thanks for your prayers, blessings, Masses, and your work. May God Bless you again and again!

On Christmas eve, I went to Mass at a local church with relics of the Little Flower, St. Therese of Lisieux, present. I so much felt her Heavenly presence. The crowds were large, a very promising notice that things of Heaven, and from Heaven, still loom large on the minds of us mere mortals.

Father, may you be blessed abundantly as I know you are. Thanks Father again from the bottom of my heart for your Heavenly work! In Jesus' Holy Name,

Thomas O., CA

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