



INTERNATIONAL FATIMA ROSARY CRUSADE NEWSLETTER

HELP OUR LADY REACH OUT TO MILLIONS OF FAITHFUL SOULS

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Moments with Mary

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

The image on this beautiful icon shows the Mother of God's face bent toward Her Son while Her tender, sad eyes appear to be looking at whomever looks to Her. The Christ Child, nestled securely in Her arms, appears startled by the approach of the archangels Gabriel and Michael and clasps tightly His Mother's hand. The vision of the

The sorrow in the face of the Mother, the scared appearance of the Christ Child and the instruments of the Passion display the reality of suffering. At the same time, the icon emphasizes the triumph of Jesus, depicted by the golden background and the way the angels carry the instruments of the Passion, like trophies of victory, not as threats of destruction.

It is clear why the image of Perpetual Help draws us to kneel before Them and pray. The focal point of the painting is the joining of Her hand with those of Jesus and the way She points out that Her Son is the Son of God who offers His life for our salvation. She leads us to Jesus.

Currently, the image of Our Mother of Perpetual Help or The Virgin of the Passion as it is sometimes referred to is on display in Rome while millions of replicas bring Her and Her Perpetual Help to Catholics everywhere. When it was painted, and by whom, we do not know.

It had been venerated on the isle of Crete and from there, it went to Rome. It stayed in Rome with a private family until Our Lady appeared to the daughter of the household and told her "Tell your mother that Holy Mary of Perpetual Help commands that Her picture be placed in a Church." She even selected the place "between My beloved church of St. Mary Major and that of My beloved

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Passion hovers over the Child and His Mother. Archangel Gabriel presents the cross and nails while the lance, pole with sponge, and vessel containing vinegar are held out in Archangel Michael's hands.

Father Gruner Responds:

When Father Gruner was asked about the Consecration of Russia, he responded with the following:

On June 13, 1929, Our Lady announced, "The moment has now come when God asks the Holy Father, in union with all the bishops of the world, to consecrate Russia to My Immaculate Heart, promising to save it by this means." This has never been done, and in fact, after the Holy Father consecrated the world on March 25, 1984, with only some of the bishops, he acknowledged that it was not done when he said, "Enlighten especially the peoples of which You Yourself are awaiting our consecration and confiding." This was printed the next day in *L'Osservatore Romano*, the Pope's newspaper.

In the Sept., 1985 issue of *Sol de Fatima*, the Blue Army's publication in Spain, Sister Lucy herself stated publicly that the 1984 consecration of the world did not fulfill Our Lady's request because, "There was no participation of all the bishops and there was no mention of Russia." When asked the specific question, "So the consecration was not done as requested by Our Lady?", Sister Lucy answered, "No. Many bishops attached no importance to this act."

It seems that around 1990, computer-generated and typewritten letters allegedly from Sister Lucy began to

appear, contradicting what she had been saying for 50 years about the Consecration. Lucy's sister Carolina said in 1990 that Sister Lucy doesn't know how to type. On October 22, 1990, in a written report, a highly regarded forensic expert indicated that Sister Lucy's signature was forged on a November 1989 computer-generated letter (*The Plot to Silence Our Lady - Chronology of a Cover Up*).

If you would like a copy of *The Plot to Silence Our Lady*, please just write in your request and we will mail it out to you as soon as possible.

I give you my priestly blessing and ask that you join me in praying for the Consecration of Russia. ■

— Father Nicholas Gruner

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

On bended knee I gaze upon the loveliness of Thy face and in spirit fly swiftly to Thy throne, there tenderly to let Thee know how much I love Thee so.

O Mother, gentle, sweet and kind hasten to fulfill Thy mission most sublime of leading me, of letting me love Thy Son with Thine own Immaculate Heart. Amen.



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Son, St. John of Lateran." And so on March 27, 1499, it was placed in the church of St. Matthew which is nestled between the two churches Our Lady named. It remained there to be venerated for the next three hundred years drawing many pilgrims from all parts of the Christian world.

From 1739 to 1798 the church and monastery were in the possession of the Irish Augustinians who held the image in great veneration until the war demolished the church, but fortunately not the icon. In 1819, the group

moved to the church of St. Mary, in Posterula where the image of Our Lady of Perpetual Help was put in a private chapel.

While at St. Mary's, Brother Augustine, the very last member of their order to be professed in old St. Matthew's, had a frequent visitor, a youth named Michael Marchi who later became a Redemptorist priest. Brother Augustine had often mentioned the Madonna in the monastery chapel to young Michael saying "Don't forget now — mind me well —

the picture in our chapel is the one that was venerated

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Special Offer to Pledge Club Members Only!

Let Our Lady be with Your Loved Ones on their Birthday
Beautiful full-color Birthday Cards featuring
Our Lady with the Christ Child.
Poetically written script wishes your loved
ones an abundance of spiritual good.
Regularly \$14.95 for 10 - Now ONLY \$11.95
for 10 (Includes Shipping & Handling)

Apostolate Happenings

One of our goals during the Holy Year is to distribute more than 20 MILLION pieces of literature promoting the Consecration of Russia. These include new petitions to the Holy Father, special Rosary pledges, Fatima information booklets, holy cards and much more. With God's help and your support, we hope to reach our goal to fulfill Our Lady's command for the consecration of Russia.

This year, Father Gruner will be directing a series of **monthly pilgrimages to Rome** and other sacred sites throughout Italy. Father will also be leading a pilgrimage to Fatima in May for the Beatification Ceremony of the child seers, Jacinta and Francisco Marto.

It is a great time to visit Rome because the American dollar is so strong. This could be the bargain of a lifetime. Call us as soon as possible to reserve your place.

In addition to Father's already busy schedule, many Rosary Rallies and Statue Visits are planned throughout the year. Father expects to visit the states of Florida, California, Illinois, Ohio and Texas to name just a few. He also intends to visit British Columbia and Toronto, in Canada.

A new Italian-language version of **Fatima Priest** has been produced and is waiting to be printed. We plan to put this version into the hands of 40,000 bishops and priests who only speak and read Italian.

Many of these are among our most influential and powerful Church leaders. It will cost about \$2.00 to print and mail *Il Sacerdote di Fatima* to a bishop or priest in the Vatican or Italy. In other words, a total of \$80,000.00 to send most priests and bishops in Italy in their own language.

Now in its 5th year, **The Immaculate Heart Orphanage in India** continues to help feed, clothe and educate destitute children while providing a spiritually-rich resource for the neighboring communities. This past year witnessed the construction of a new, modern orphanage facility which will help to reach out to even more children. There are 68 children in the orphanage and all attend

school. The children are kept busy outside of school and homework with light chores around the building, sweeping and dusting, and learning horticulture by planting and caring for both ornamental flowers and shrubs as well as vegetables. Because of the lack of rainfall, the gardens have to be watered by hand. The children carry buckets of water and share them among the plants. Their mischievous grins let us know that they are in good health, mentally and physically, and enjoying such pleasant surroundings, food to eat, and people to care for them.

A new order of nuns has come into the diocese and is now teaching in the school the children attend. The Bethlehemite Sisters teach as well as organizing and maintaining social assistance to the poor by visitation and homehelp. There are presently five Bethlehemite Sisters in the diocese, three of whom teach in the school and two who help at the orphanage and medical center.



Smiling faces of a group from the Apostolate-supported Immaculate Heart Orphanage in India greet the camera, while some of the 68 students work the soil for a vegetable garden. The orphanage is in its fifth year.

Our office in Rome is expanding and growing every day. We continue to distribute Fatima material at many special events as well as at the four major basilicas and various parishes throughout Rome. In the past few weeks we have distributed over 50,000 books, flyers, leaflets and other Fatima literature. One of the first results from this is that people have been calling and asking how they can help. One of these people was a priest who asked if he could help by leading local pilgrimages in Rome as well as Prayer Groups.

Our other international offices are flourishing and a new Spanish office in Kenmore, NY is soon to be opened.

If you would like any more information on these plans, please call or write us. ■

IFRC MAIL BOX



Dear Father Gruner

You're coming out a shining star! I only have 10 more pages to read in *Fatima Priest*. It's one of the best books I've ever read. Fatima always interests me and any one for Our Lady is so dear to me. You have to love our holy Mother to go through so much

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in old St. Matthews. It was indeed a miraculous picture."

In 1855, the Redemptorist Missionaries purchased the property which contained the ruins of the church and monastery of St. Matthew. They began construction of a church in honor of the Most Holy Redeemer and dedicated to St. Alphonsus Liguori, one of Mary's greatest lovers and defenders.

The Redemptorists petitioned Pope Pius IX to grant them the icon which they wished to be venerated in the new church. The Pope granted the request and said: "It is our will that this picture of the Blessed Virgin be returned to the church between St. Mary Major and St. John Lateran. He also commanded the Redemptorists to "make Her known" all over the world.

Letters to the Editor

working for Her cause. Thank you for being such a good priest and doing what priests are supposed to do ... May God bless all your endeavors and give you much support. I believe in you.

Sister R., New Jersey, USA.

Dear Father Gruner

Thank you so much for standing true in the faith, and spreading the truth. You saved my life! Please let me know how I can be of help in saving other lives! I will do as much as is in my power to support you and your Heavenly work!

Thomas D., Florida, USA.

Dear Father Gruner

Thank you very much for the Rosary, Scapular, the Message of Fatima, *Garment of Grace* and the *The Fatima Crusader* magazines. I was happy receiving it 4 days before my birthday and I am blessed or I feel blessed having or receiving the said package you sent ... Again, thank you very much and may God bless you, especially with regards to your health.

Mrs Vilma I., Toronto, Canada

The Redemptorists adopted it as the Marian image for their order and on April 26, 1866, a solemn procession carried the miraculous Madonna to Her chosen spot in the Church of St. Alphonsus Maria de Liguori. This greatly enhanced the spread of devotion throughout the world. Now countless shrines dot the entire globe where Her image under the title "Our Lady of Perpetual Help" is venerated and ceaseless the prayers that rise to Her throne of mercy and clemency.

The many miracles attested to by countless faithful through the centuries awaken an ever greater love and confidence in Her in the hearts of Her children. She labors ceaselessly till She brings all Her children home to God. ■

We Want To Hear From YOU!

We are grateful for your support of the International Fatima Rosary Crusade, and we pray that you can continue to make your urgently-needed monthly offering in support of Our Lady's Apostolate.

If you have stories, comments or ideas for future newsletters and would like to share them with other members, please feel free to write to us at one of the following addresses:

Attn: **International Fatima Rosary Crusade, Pledge Club News,**

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