



THE International FATIMA Rosary Crusade NEWSLETTER

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HELP OUR LADY REACH OUT TO MILLIONS OF FAITHFUL SOULS

A little dip in the earth called Valinhos

Valinhos, August 19, 1917.

The term for 'little' in Portuguese is 'linho' or 'linha', and so the little chapel built where Our Lady appeared throughout 1917 is called the Capelinha, and the little valley on the way to the Cabeço where She appeared on August 19 is called Valinhos.

It isn't much of a valley, rather it is more of a geological segue from the gradual slope upward of the red earth fields that stretch from Aljustrel all the way to the Cova da Iria. Pilgrims to Fatima are always struck by the nearness of the famous sites one to another.

The Cova is two miles north of the church of Fatima, but everything else — the Cabeço, Valinhos and Aljustrel — are all within easy walking distance from the others.

Today on the road leading up to the Stations of the Cross and the Cabeço is a memorial built by Polish Catholics to mark the spot where Our Lady appeared, not on the 13th of the month of August, the date made forever famous in Catholic literature by the Fatima apparitions, but rather on the 19th, because on the 13th the three child seers had been abducted by the masonic Mayor of Ourem and were in prison, unable to be present at the holm-oak tree in the Cova for the noon hour of the 13th. The apparition of the 19th was unexpected — that is, if one can imagine that three children who had such tremendous faith in Our Lady could doubt that She would

ever visit them again.

When Our Lady appeared to them in the 'little valley' it was to reassure them that while troublesome mayors of small towns might interfere with Heaven's plans in short term, by no means were they going to derail Heaven's agenda. The reassuring words of Our Lady at Valinhos repeated that She would return as promised on the 13th of September to the holm-oak in the Cova.

The actual monument one sees today in Valinhos is not on the exact spot where the apparition occurred. One has to go a few paces southwest of the statue to

locate the exact holy site where the wooden rail fence of the laneway yields to the pasture land alongside. But the discrepancy cannot detract from the charm of the 'little valley'. What is especially touching about this monument is the concrete canopy under which it stands. It is like a Gothic cathedral ceiling protecting Our Lady and approaching pilgrims from the blazing sun overhead. If one stops at Her



feet to look up at Her, one is not blinded by the sun that danced in the sky over Fatima on October 13, 1917.

The canopy — no doubt placed there for purely decorative purposes — serves to remind us of the protective force Our Lady exerts over mankind when it comes to Her for succor

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Miracle Blood Liquefies Before Hundreds

The dried blood of Saint Januarius, stored in a glass vial at the Cathedral in Naples, liquefies twice a year — on the saint's feast day on September 19, and on the first Saturday in May.

This past May 6, hundreds of the faithful gathered at the Cathedral to witness the miracle. They were not disappointed. Even *Reuters*, the secular news agency, reported on May 8: "The

substance some Neapolitans believe is the dried blood of their patron, St. Gennaro (Januarius), liquefied on cue on the weekend (May 6) in a twice-yearly event ... Italian scientists have confirmed that the substance inside the closed vial is blood but cannot explain why it liquefies so regularly."

After the miracle, the blood returns to its solid state, which is in the form of a powdery substance.

Saint Januarius, Bishop of Benevento, was martyred around the year 305 in the persecution of Diocletian. According to tradition, he and several companions were thrown to the lions during a public execution held at the city's amphitheater, but the lions did

not attack. So on September 19, St. Januarius and his companions were beheaded at Pozzuoli. The saint's relics were brought to the cathedral in Naples and became famous for miracles.

The liquefaction of the blood has taken place without fail for six hundred years, and has been carefully documented since 1659. Popular belief holds that if the blood fails to liquefy, it is a harbinger of looming disaster. The same *Reuters* report stated; "Disaster has struck on at least five occasions after the blood failed to liquefy, including in 1527 when tens of thousands of people died from the plague and in 1980 when 3,000 people died after an earthquake that devastated southern Italy."

This year, the miracle took place more quickly than usual. Before the reliquary was shown to the large crowd of faithful at the Cathedral, it was already liquid. Afterwards, a traditional procession led by the Archbishop of Naples, carrying the reliquary of the saint's blood, as well



St. Januarius

as a reliquary containing the saint's relics, was held through the streets of the city's old quarter.

Devotion to Saint Januarius, who is patron saint of Naples, dates back to the Fifth Century. ■

MARY, MOTHER OF DIVINE GRACE

by
REV. JOSEPH LE ROHELLEC, C.S.Sp.



Translated by
REV. STEPHEN RIGBY and REV. DENIS FAHEY, C.S.Sp.

IFRC Members' SPECIAL!

Mary, Mother of Divine Grace
— translated by Rev. Stephen Rigby and Rev. Fahey.

All Graces come to us by Mary's mediation. Mary is our Mother because She brings us forth into the supernatural life of grace. Also read about the acquisition and distribution of grace. As a valued member of the International Fatima Rosary Crusade, this book is offered to you for only \$5.25, a savings of almost 25%.

Prayer to ...

Our Lady of Grace

Our Lady of Grace, Virgin Most Pure
Refuge of Sinners, constant and sure
Behold thy child in this Valley of tears
Beseeching Thee to guide me
Through tempest, loneliness and pain
Until I behold high on a Hill
Calvary's triumph
Over death and despair
Lead me, Thou who art "Full of Grace"
Beyond Calvary's Hill
To my true rest in Thee.

Archbishop of New York

Cardinal O'Connor dies at age of 80

John Joseph O'Connor was born on January 15, 1920, in Philadelphia, Pa. He attended West Catholic School for Boys before entering St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Overbrook. After completing his philosophical and theological studies, he was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia on December 15, 1945.

For seven years he taught at St. James High School and earned Master's Degrees in advanced ethics at Villanova University, Pennsylvania, and in clinical psychology at the Catholic University of America, Washington. He later earned a doctorate in political science at Georgetown University, Washington.

Answering a call for more chaplains during the Korean conflict, in 1952 he entered the U.S. Navy and served on vessels in the Atlantic, Caribbean and Mediterranean, and onshore in Quantico, Barstow, Okinawa and Viet Nam. In 1958 he earned the Legion of Merit for developing a moral leadership program and was awarded the same honor again in 1965 for his service as a chaplain in Viet Nam. He was the author of *Because of You*, a training manual, *Principles and Problems of Naval Leadership*, and *The Naval Officer and the Human Person*, works based on his many years of experience as a chaplain and counselor. In 1972 he was appointed chief chaplain of the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, and in 1975 became the U.S. Navy's chief of chaplains. He retired from military service in 1979 with the rank of rear admiral.

On April 18, 1979, Pope John Paul II appointed him titular Bishop of Cursola and ordained him on May 27 in St. Peter's Basilica. While Auxiliary of the Military Ordinariate, he was able to put his background in ethics and military policy to good use as a member of the committee, headed by then-Archbishop Joseph L. Bernardin, that drafted the U.S. Bishops' 1983 pastoral letter *The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response*.

On May 6, 1983, he was appointed Bishop of Scranton, but his ministry there was destined to be short, for on January 26, 1984, he was named Archbishop of New York following the death, due to cancer, of Cardinal Terence Cooke. On May 25, 1985, the Holy Father created him a Cardinal, giving him the Title of Sts. John and Paul.

Never battle-shy, Cardinal O'Connor became a staunch spokesman for the right to life both in New York and on the national scene. From 1989 to 1992 he chaired the Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities and initiated a public information campaign to improve understanding of the Church's teaching on the right to life. He publicly challenged Catholic politicians who

would not oppose permissive U.S. abortion laws, while pledging at the same time to use the resources of the Archdiocese to help any woman considering abortion to carry her baby to term.

Cardinal O'Connor regularly celebrated daily and Sunday Mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral. In 1985 he confirmed 33 disabled young people at the cathedral, initiating what became an annual practice. Out of concern for AIDS patients he started several health-care programs for them in the Archdiocese and he hosted various rallies for young people ...

Since 1984 he headed the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, a papal agency for humanitarian aid based in New York, and worked zealously for peace in the Middle East, where he traveled several times and met various religious and political leaders. In 1989 he helped draft a U.S. Bishops' statement advocating a Palestinian homeland.

Cardinal O'Connor served as a President Delegate at the 1994 Synod of Bishops on consecrated life and actively promoted religious life in his own Archdiocese, where he encouraged the formation of three new communities: the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, the Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal and the Sisters of Life. The last community is devoted to the defense of life against abortion and euthanasia.

In the Roman Curia, the Cardinal served as a member of the Secretariat of State's Council of Cardinals and Bishops, the Congregations for Oriental Churches, Bishops and the Evangelization of Peoples, the Councils for the Family, the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People and Pastoral Assistance to Health-Care Workers, and the Supervisory Commission of Cardinals for the Institute for Religious Works.

In August 1999 he underwent surgery to remove a brain tumor. He later returned to celebrating Sunday Mass in the cathedral, but curtailed his public appearances. On February 10 of this year he had his last private audience with the Holy Father. Earlier this year he was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor bestowed in the United States.

Cardinal O'Connor once said that he would have been satisfied to be a parish priest or a teacher, adding: "What I would like my epitaph to say is simply that 'He was a good priest'."

He is survived by two sisters and a brother. ■

— Taken from the May 10, 2000, edition of *L'Osservatore Romano*

THE
International
FATIMA
Rosary Crusade
Readers' Mail



Dear Father

I am a 21 year old devout Nigerian Catholic male and a lover and child of Mother Mary. It is my desire to know more about Mother Mary, especially Her work in this period of time and also to assist in whatever way possible in that work for the salvation of souls.

Please kindly send me 10 copies of your widely read but persecuted magazine, *Fatima Crusader* on a regular basis. This I believe will help me to know exactly where and how I could be of assistance in this work of Hers.

Thanks and remain blessed in the Lord.

Ibe Maria Ugwoke, Discalced Carmelite Community, Nigeria

A LITTLE DIP IN THE EARTH CALLED VALINHOS
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and shelter. St. Ephrem, in a prayer written long before the great events of Fatima lit up the last months of the Great War, declared: "O most Holy Virgin, receive us under Thy protection, if Thou wilt see us saved; for we have no hope of salvation but through Thy means."

The 19th of August in the great Fatima calendar forever highlights that Our Lady will go to any lengths to find and reassure mankind of Her willingness to be its protector. One can scarcely walk the paths of Valinhos without thinking that surely, in such a dip of the earth as this, albeit one paved with stones, Our Lady sought out Jesus Himself as He struggled under His Cross toward Calvary.

The intersecting streets of Old Jerusalem echo throughout the azinhiera trees of Valinhos, where the Mother of the Crucified One went the extra mile to reassure us of Her unfailing presence in times of great danger. Of Her courage in old Jerusalem there was nothing that could be termed 'linha'. Her greatness, so often testified to by the Apostles and the Saints, attributes to Her the great qualities with which mankind has always been familiar.

We must reserve a special consciousness in our lives of the courage of the Virgin from Nazareth, who risked public censure to serve God and become the mother of His Son, who risked the highwaymen for which Judea was infamous to visit Her cousin Elizabeth, who risked the journey to Bethlehem when in the last days of pregnancy, who risked the scorn of the crowds to befriend Mary Magdalen, who risked the hatred of the mob to comfort Jesus on the Via Dolorosa, and who showed perfectly righteous disdain for the petty masonic Mayor of Ourem by sanctifying a little dip in the earth called Valinhos. ■

Dear Precious Servants of Our Lady,

Thank you, thank you for *The Fatima Crusaders*, holy cards and Miraculous Medals!

You have no idea the hunger for the truth here! I put information in a Catholic chapel in a large military hospital (now I believe the largest in the country) and into churches. I watch people carry away *The Fatima Crusader* as though it were a treasure, while they ignore the quantities of Protestant-like or modernist propaganda. Perhaps (I believe) it is the sweet face of the Queen of Heaven that attracts them, and the Pilgrim Virgin face is so kind, so loving, and yet we know She, in person, is infinitely more so.

Tomorrow I hope to deliver some *Fatima Crusaders* and medals at the Neuman Center of Old Dominion University here, where last autumn the directoress was so happy when I gave her the few *Crusaders* I had that showed the Mysteries of the Rosary, so she could better teach the students how to say the Rosary. I gave her a couple of little plastic Rosaries and the booklet about the scapular.

I ask Padre Pio to aid me as a delivery-person. Perhaps someday I shall relate, but his care for me in this regard has been on more than one occasion, miraculous. God bless you all. In the love of the Holy Family.

Ann R., Suffolk, VA

Dear Father Nicholas Gruner,

Thank you ever so very much and many blessings to you and your Fatima Center on sending me two different issues of *The Fatima Crusader*. I am still reading and re-reading them both. It really means a lot to me that you thought enough of me to send these two issues.

I finally was able to acquire only a small amount that I could send you at the present time but hopefully more to come in the not too distant future.

All my prayers go out to you and all at the Fatima Center.

You are truly a Heaven sent blessing in these uncertain times. Thank you all again. Yours in Mary and Jesus.

Cheryl T., NY

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