



# INTERNATIONAL FATIMA ROSARY CRUSADE

## Newsletter

HELPING OUR LADY REACH OUT TO  
MILLIONS OF FAITHFUL SOULS

Volume 8 - Issue 24 - March, 2005



### *An Examination of the State of Our Soul*

It is so easy, in our world, to grow cold and discouraged in the practice of our faith, and in our relationship with God. It is necessary in our busy lives to often stop and look closely at our lives. We should ask ourselves important questions about the state

of our souls toward God, ourselves and our neighbors. How is your heart disposed with regard to the commandments of God? Do you find them good, sweet and agreeable? Ah! my child, he whose taste is in good order, and whose stomach is sound, loves good meat, and rejects bad.

How is your heart affected with regard to spiritual exercises? Do you love them? Do you esteem them? Do they make you uneasy? Are you not disgusted with them? To which of them do you find yourself more or less inclined? To hear the word of God, to read it, to discourse of it, to meditate, to aspire to God, to go to confession, to receive spiritual counsel, to prepare yourself for Communion, to communicate, to restrain your affections: in all this, what is there to which you feel repugnance? If you find any thing to which your heart has less inclination, examine the cause for which reason this dislike arises, and apply the remedy.

How stands your heart toward God Himself? Does it delight in the remembrance of God? Does this remembrance leave an agreeable sweetness behind it? Does your heart feel an inclination to love God, and a particular satisfaction in relishing this love? Does not your heart love to reflect on the immensity of God, on His goodness, on His sweetness? If the remembrance of God comes to you amidst the occupations and vanities of the world, do you not willingly receive it? Does it not seize upon your heart? Does it not seem to you that your heart turns toward that side, and, as it were, runs to meet her God?

When the husband of an affectionate wife returns home from a distant country, as soon as she is sensible of his approach, although she is ever so much engaged in business, or forcibly detained from him by some urgent occupation, yet her heart is not withheld from him, but leaps over all thoughts to think on her husband, who has returned. It is the same with souls that love God well; let

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### ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

of our souls toward God, ourselves and our neighbors. St. Francis de Sales in his writings has provided us with the following questions to ask ourselves.

These questions should be asked in regard to our primary concern, the state of our soul in relation to God.

How does your heart stand with respect to mortal sin? Are you firmly resolved never to commit a mortal sin, on any account whatever? Has this resolution continued from the time of your protestation till the present moment? In this resolution consists the foundation of your



# Mary is the Hope of All Those in Despair

October 13, 1917, at noon solar time, the Cova da Iria, Fatima, Portugal. “Look at the sun!” Lucy had cried. When she uttered these words she was facing the holm-oak tree on which the Mother of God had just appeared, the fifth time since May 13. Around and behind her at that moment were 70,000 people drawn here (many of them) out of their devotion to the Mother of God — yes, but especially today because they had been promised, as of three months ago, a great miracle for this October day.

The sun at that moment was at its zenith, so that for the people to look at it they had to turn away from the holm-oak tree and toward the edge of the Cova, where the offices of the Shrine of Fatima are joined to the Carmel of Fatima today.

To everyone’s surprise, the cloud cover instantly dispersed and they could look directly at the sun now transformed into a silver mother-of-pearl disc. What followed contradicts all of the laws of nature.

The sun-disc began to rotate and throw off color, colors not seen since God set a rainbow in the sky to assure troubled Noah that man would never again be chastised with flood waters. It ceased spinning.

For a second it hung still in the sky; then it trembled, detached itself from its setting and, before the terrified eyes below, began a zigzag plunge to the earth. Still throwing off vibrant colors, it increased in size and in heat as it moved downward. It did not fall — it plunged with deliberation, the zigzag motion clearly indicating it was being controlled from beyond nature.

The 70,000, among them cynics and atheists who had come to mock, were traumatized. They dove to the earth, looked for shelter, cried aloud that it was the end of the world, shouted out their confession unabashedly, convinced that it would be their last. It was the end of the world! All the petty concerns of mankind, all the causes of despair that had set man against man, man against nature, and man against himself, were reduced to meaninglessness by this confrontation between man and supra-nature. The most frequently cried prayer was to the Holy Mother of God. “Mother of God ... ! Mother of God ... !” they cried.

When it seemed they would be scorched into the earth

and left as nothing but shadows on the soil, in a prelude of what would happen to the victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August of 1945, the sun stopped its plunge. Just as in the law of physics which states that all moving bodies — before they can return along the trajectory which

has been their path — must come to a full stop, so too the sun stopped its dizzying threat to trembling mankind. For a second, time stopped. The pendulum of the sun came close overhead, then once again, being firmly controlled by an unseen Hand, it began to ascend to its rightful place in the sky. The 70,000 ceased to tremble, discovering, as they drew themselves up from the earth where on their knees they had cried out for rescue, that their clothes were dry, and as fragrant as if they had been laundered with a fabric softener not yet invented.

Of all the Communion of Saints watching this unparalleled display of Heaven’s love for mankind, the words of Saint John of Damascene places the human senses in perspective:

“Mary,” the saint said, “is the hope of all those in despair.”

We have seen, on TV, groups of thousands of rain-soaked refugees clogging the roads out of Kosovo.

The mothers among them would have been striving tirelessly to ensure the babes in their arms were dry and safe. The security and safety of mankind is today gradually, stealthily being reduced. It appears that not until we are helpless babes in the arms of Mary, will the bishops of the Church be compelled to place their complete trust in the Mother of God and respond to Her requests for the Collegial Consecration of Russia to Her Immaculate Heart. Then will mankind be garmented in the colors of the rainbow and God’s promise will reign fulfilled. †





## Numbers Soar as Volunteers Help Spread Devotion to Our Lady



**F**rom June to December 2004, we were very busy spreading devotion to Our Lady of Fatima. The following distribution numbers illustrate the extent to which your generous service is bringing devotion to the Blessed Virgin to the world.

Our Lady told us at Fatima, every time She appeared, to pray the Rosary every day. Our Lady's volunteers have distributed 59,988 Rosaries in the past six months. Let us continue to be zealous. As Sister Lucy said, "The Most Holy Virgin, in these last times in which we live, has given a new efficacy to the recitation of the Rosary to such an extent that there is no problem, no matter how difficult it is, whether temporal or above all spiritual, in the personal life of each one of us, of our families, of the families of the world, or of the religious communities, or even of the life of peoples and nations, that cannot be solved by the Rosary. There is no problem, I tell you, no matter how difficult it is, that we cannot resolve by the prayer of the Holy Rosary."

Also important is the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Our Lady gave it to Saint Simon Stock as a "sure sign of salvation, a protection in danger, and a pledge

of peace. She told St. Dominic that one day She would save the world through the Rosary and the Scapular. Our Lady's volunteers distributed 44,902 Brown Scapulars these past six months.

We recently received a letter testifying to the power of the Green Scapular. One man wrote that his brother-in-law was not a Catholic, although he was favorably disposed toward the Church. For forty-nine years, he promised his Catholic wife that he would convert "someday." Finally, the moment of truth came for him to back up his words. On his deathbed, he was asked if he wanted to see a priest. He adamantly said no. He was too weak even to see his brother-in-law, who could only pass along a Green Scapular.

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### **AN EXAMINATION OF THE STATE OF OUR SOUL** *Continued from page 1*

them be ever so busy, when the remembrance of God comes near them, they lose almost the thought of all things else, so rejoiced are they that this dear remembrance is returned.

How is your heart affected toward Jesus Christ, God and man? Do you place your happiness in Him? As bees find pleasure in their honey, and wasps in corrupted things, so good souls seek their happiness in thinking on Jesus Christ, and feel a tender affection toward Him, but the wicked please themselves about vanities.

How is your heart affected toward the Blessed Virgin, the saints, and your good angel? Do you love them? Have you a special confidence in their patronage? Are you pleased with their pictures, their lives and their praises?

As to your tongue, how do you speak of God? Do you find pleasure in speaking well of Him, according to your condition and ability? Do you love to sing His praises?

As to works, consider whether you take the exterior glory of God to heart, and are emulous of doing something for His honor.

Can you discover that you have forsaken any affection, or renounced any thing for the sake of God? For it is a good sign of love, to deprive ourselves of any thing in favor of him whom we love. What, then, have you hitherto forsaken for the love of God?

Ask yourself these questions with regard to yourself:

How do you love yourself? Do you not love yourself too much for this world? If so, you will desire to live here always, and be very solicitous to establish yourself on this earth, but if you love yourself for Heaven, you will desire, or at least be willing, to depart hence at whatever hour it shall please Our Lord.

Do you observe due order in the love of yourself? For the inordinate love of ourselves is the only thing that will cause our ruin. Now, a well-ordered love requires that we should love the soul more than the body, that we should be more solicitous to acquire virtue than anything else, that we should set a higher estimation on the favor of Heaven than on the honor of this low and perishable world. A well-ordered heart will often say within itself, *What will the angels say if I think upon such a thing?* rather than, *What will men say?*

What kind of love have you for your own heart? Are you not willing to serve it in its infirmities? Alas! You ought to assist it, and procure assistance for it, whenever passions torment it, and for this purpose neglect every other consideration.

What do you esteem yourself before God? It is no great humility for a drop of water to hold itself as nothing in comparison to the sea, nor for a spark of fire to hold itself nothing in respect to the sun; but humility consists in not esteeming ourselves above others, and in not desiring to

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# INTERNATIONAL FATIMA ROSARY CRUSADE

## Mail



Dear Father Gruner,

We are very saddened and disappointed that you are being persecuted relentlessly by our very own Roman Catholic clergy. Truly you are a courageous and strong priest, to have withstood so much during the past years ... a sure sign that God is with you.

It was about twenty-five years ago in Moose Jaw, Sask. that I first heard you speak of Our Lady of Fatima and the Brown Scapular. My family and I were so impressed with you and your

message. The Holy Spirit, through you, gave us the strength to carry on in the Truth ... in spite of all of the difficulties.

Thank you with all our hearts for the brave position you have maintained throughout all these years for God and His Holy Mother. We offer you our prayers and support for all the good that you do. Continue to stand your ground, Father ... All in Heaven and many on earth are with you.

May God and His Blessed Mother keep you holy and steadfast in the adversity you are facing.

Sincerely in Christ,

G.D. & M.D., AB

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### AN EXAMINATION OF THE STATE OF OUR SOUL Continued from page 2

be so esteemed by others. How are you disposed in this respect?

As to your tongue, do you not sometimes boast of yourself in one way or another? Do you not flatter yourself in speaking of yourself?

As regards the state of your soul toward your neighbor:

The love of husband and wife ought to be sweet and tranquil, constant and persevering; and this principally because the will of God requires it. I say the same of the love of our children, our near relations and our friends, every one according to his rank.

But, to speak in general, how is your heart affected toward your neighbor? Do you love him from your heart, and for the love of God? To discern this well, you must represent to yourself troublesome and disagreeable persons, for it is among them that we exercise the love of God toward our neighbor, and much more among those who injure us, either by their actions or words. Examine well whether your heart be well disposed toward them, or whether you do not find a greater repugnance to love them.

Are you not apt to speak ill of your neighbor, and especially of such as do not love you? Do you refrain from doing evil to your neighbor, either directly or indirectly? †

### To reach us:

Call or write us at

International Fatima Rosary Crusade Newsletter,

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

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

Or call us toll-free at: 1-800-263-8160

or fax us at: 1-905-871-3646

Visit Our Lady on the World Wide Web at: [www.fatima.org](http://www.fatima.org)

or E-mail us at: [info@fatima.org](mailto:info@fatima.org)

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### APOSTOLATE NEWS Continued from page 3

Before he died, the non-Catholic embraced the Faith and died a beautiful death.

Volunteers distributed 32,310 Green Scapulars from June-December 2004.

Our Lady has also attached great graces to the miraculous medal. In Buffalo, New York, a masonic lodge and several abortion mills were closed shortly after Green Scapulars and miraculous medals were implanted in them. 24,239 miraculous medals were distributed within those same six months.

In 1922 a well was ordered to be dug in Fatima, so that pilgrims would have a source to drink from on their pilgrimages. Against all odds, from rocky ground, a miraculous and seemingly inexhaustible source of water was found. There have been many miraculous cures associated with it. We have distributed 10,903 vials of Fatima water these past six months.

In May, the chapel built on the site where Our Lady appeared at Fatima was desecrated with the worship of false gods. A Hindu prayer ceremony was held at the altar of the Little Chapel of the Apparitions. *The Fatima Crusader* has led the way in reporting the desecration and mobilizing a very Catholic opposition. This work in the service of Our Lady in Fatima has been greatly helped by the spread of 59,596 *Fatima Crusaders* these past six months.

Through your help and prayers 505,582 prayer cards and leaflets have been distributed, to the edification of many.

Also, the Apostolate has been busy aiding victims of the tsunami, through the orphanage the Apostolate runs in Hyderabad, India. There is not yet much to report, except that they are being kept very busy. †

