



Our Lady of Fatima “Family” Rosary Calendar and Newsletter

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Jan—Mar 2015

Jan	Feb	Mar
Holy Father’s Intentions		
That those from diverse religious traditions and all people of good will may work together for peace.	That prisoners, especially the young, may be able to rebuild lives of dignity.	That those involved in scientific research may serve the well-being of the whole human person.
That...religious may rediscover the joy of following Christ and strive to serve the poor with zeal.	That married people who are separated may find welcome and support in the Christian community.	That the unique contribution of women to the life of the Church may be recognized always.

Reviving the Family Unit

The Feast of the Holy Family, celebrated on December 28, 2014, should remind us, using the words of Pope Benedict XVI, “that the family is the privileged setting where every person learns to live and receive love”. The family unit has greatly disintegrated over the past few decades. It is so important to pray and work toward the moral basis for marriage and strengthening the family unit. The family is the intermediate institution between individuals and society (Pope Benedict XVI). The Holy Family is the perfect model of family life lived in faith. A number of popes have addressed the issue of the



family being the indispensable foundation for society. It is through the family that the history of salvation moved from one generation to the next. Within this context, the Holy Family is the beginning of all families. A man and a woman united in marriage, together with their children, form a family.

The family is the *original cell of social life*. It is the natural society in which husband and wife are called to give themselves in love and in the gift of life (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 2207).

The family is so important that Pope Francis recently called an “Extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the Family”. This event will then be pursued in greater depth at its Ordinary General Assembly scheduled to take place in October 2015. There will be continued evaluations during the full year between the two synodal events.

Respecting the Elderly of the Family

The theme of the family obviously must reflect back on the elderly because it is through them living their vows to God that procreation occurs. Pope Francis, in a recent radio presentation, stressed the need to respect and take care of the elderly, saying “a society that didn’t do this has no future”.

The Pope said “it is unfortunate that we live in a time where the elderly are not valued and are put to one side because they are considered a nuisance.” However, the Pope continued, “old people are those who tell us the history of things, who carry forward the faith and give it to us to inherit. They are the treasure of our society.”

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states (2208)



Mother General Celine greets an elderly resident at a Sisters of the Poor facility

that “the family should live in such a way that its members learn to care and take responsibility for the young, the old, the sick, the handicapped, and the poor”.

In the socio-cultural context, we look to the reality of the family today in all its complexity. We turn our thoughts to parents,

grandparents, brothers and sisters, close and distant relatives and the bonds forged by marriage. Cultural changes in our times influence all aspects of these relationships. This is an area where our elderly can help the family and society recall how faith and a Christ-centered orientation can help the younger generation realize the impacts of individualism and self centeredness.

“We should love our elderly. They take active and responsible parts in family life...above all they carry out the important mission of being a witness to the past and a source of wisdom for the young and for the future” (*Familiaris Consortio* of Pope John Paul II).

The Importance of Frequent Confession

According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, the sacrament by which we are absolved of our sins is called by several names: the *sacrament of confession*, the *sacrament of reconciliation*, the *sacrament of conversion*, and the *sacrament of forgiveness*. "The whole power of the sacrament of Penance consists in restoring us to God's grace and joining us with him in an intimate friendship." Reconciliation with God is thus the purpose and effect of this sacrament. After making a good confession, the penitent typically feels a strong sense of peace.

Another very important aspect of receiving this sacrament is that it reconciles us with the Church. Number 1469 of the *Catechism* states that "this sacrament has also a revitalizing effect on the life of the Church which suffered from the sin of one of her members".

In this human life we are offered the choice between life and death, and it is only by the road of conversion that we can enter the Kingdom from which one is excluded by grave sin. In converting to Christ through penance and faith, the sinner passes from death to life and "does not come into judgment". By going to confession frequently, we enhance our relationship with God just as we remain strong friends with a human person when we visit and talk with them frequently.



Little Sisters of the Poor

Year of Consecrated Life

Pope Francis proclaimed the **Year of Consecrated Life** which started on the first Sunday of Advent, November 30, 2014, and will end on the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, February 2, 2016. The Pope's expectations for the yearlong observance are: "that consecrated men and women would be witnesses of communion, of joy and the Gospel, and go evermore to the peripheries to proclaim the Good News".

Many priests, sisters, and lay ministers from around the world are members of the *Our Lady of Fatima Rosary Calendar*. We thank our Father in heaven for them as well as the saints who consecrated their life's work to God. Briefly, in reflection, St. Luke (Luke 2:37) tells us that Anna, an elderly women who was widowed after only seven year of marriage never left the temple where she worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. All of this prayer and sacrifice was in anticipation of something greater—the coming of the Lord. To live like Anna, completely consecrated to God, has been the choice of Christians in every age, some of whom became saints. Let us pray for our consecrated religious and look to them to show us something greater—Christ the Lord! (Source: *Magnificat*, January 2015, V. 16, No. 11).

Members Corner

- ◆ We welcome Sharon Randle of Marceline, MO as a new member of the Rosary Calendar.
- ◆ Appreciation is extended to those members (Kathy Strelke and Sr. Roberts of the Legion of Mary [NE], Renee Morimoto [HI], and Cecilia Schmitt [WI]) who helped make and donate hundreds of rosaries which were sent to *Our Lady of Fatima Rosary Calendar* missionary priests in Tanzania and in India.
- ◆ God Bless the Little Sisters of the Poor for their work offering the neediest elderly of every race and religion a home where they are cared for as family and accompanied with dignity until God calls them to himself. The Little Sisters of the Poor in Gallup, NM and Pittsburg, PA are members of the *Our Lady of Fatima Rosary Calendar*.
- ◆ We thank the *Rosary Calendar* members who help us with our work to encourage the daily praying of the Rosary. In this issue of the Newsletter, we especially thank Paul DeFuria of West Virginia, for his continuous and generous support.
- ◆ Fr. Moses (Tanzania) wishes to say masses for the Rosary Calendar members. If you would like to financially assist him with his work, your donation can be sent directly to him at: Fr. Moses Juhudi, Isingiro Parish, P O Box 582, Kayanga, Kyerwa, Tanzania.

Our Rosary Calendar Spiritual Directors and Advisors

Spiritual Directors:

Fr. Thomas Choo (HI)
Fr. Matthew Kibuka (NY)
Fr. Javan Saxon (NC)
Fr. Pat Labassano
(Philippines)

Spiritual Advisors:

Fr. Andrew Ing (CA)
Msgr. John Williams (NC/
VA)
Fr. A. M. Benzinger (India)

The Dominican Nuns of the
Perpetual Rosary, Fatima,
Portugal

Deceased Spiritual Advisors:

Rt. Rev. George Lynch (NY)
Fr. James Keenan (NC)*
Fr. John Cain (TN)
Fr. John DeMarchi (Fatima)
Fr. Gerard Leicht (HI)
Fr. Joseph Robeck (HI)
Msgr. Benedict Vierra (HI)

Msgr. Roy Peters (HI)
Fr. Lawrence Speichinger (MO)
Fr. George Svoboda (Canada)
Fr. Edwin Duffy (HI)
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Our Purpose

To spread Our Lady of Fatima's message by praying: the Rosary daily, for our Holy Father, for the end of abortion, Our Holy Church, and family members. You are encouraged to: *for five months, on first Saturday's, go to confession, receive Holy Communion, recite the Rosary, and meditate for 15 minutes on the mysteries of the Rosary.*