



Our Lady of Fatima “Family” Rosary Calendar and Newsletter

Vol. 24, No. 4

Oct-Dec 2015

Oct	Nov	Dec
Holy Father’s Intentions		
That human trafficking, the modern form of slavery, may be eradicated.	That we may be open to personal encounter and dialogue with all, even those whose convictions differ from our own.	That all may experience the mercy of God, who never tires of forgiving.
That with a missionary spirit the Christian communities of Asia may announce the Gospel to those who are still awaiting it.	That pastors of the Church, with profound love for their flocks, may accompany them and enliven their hope.	That families, especially those who suffer, may find in the birth of Jesus a sign of certain hope.

What is Happening to the Family?

Divorce statistics show that slightly more than half of the marriages end in divorce. Among the many events that impact the family, divorce certainly ranks high on having a negative impact. Popes have been addressing the seriousness of the issues affecting the family and have made proposals, encyclicals and synods to assess the role of the family in society and what it takes for have a viable, strong family and its role in forming societal behavior.

Our Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph is the best model for us to emulate. Holiness is vital for a solid family. Pope Francis is a very strong advocate for the family and proposes that for a family to be holy, they must pray together, keep the faith, and experience joy together.

Prayer is crucial to help us recognize that we need God.

Pope Francis states that “We need His help, His strength, His blessing, His mercy, His forgiveness. And we need simplicity to pray as a family: simplicity is necessary!” He stresses prayer around the table and praying the Rosary together



as a family! All members of a family should pray for one another. Prayer makes the family strong.

The second component of the Popes message plea is faith. Francis states: “Christian families are missionary families. ...They are missionary in

everyday life, in their doing everyday things, as they bring to everything the salt and the leaven of faith!”

Finally, joy! The Pontiff asks “Is there joy in your family? True joy comes from a profound harmony between persons...of mutual support along life’s journey.” The basis of this feeling of deep joy is the presence of God in the family. The Pope says love involves patience and that patience is a virtue of God and He teaches us how to cultivate it in family life. If God’s love is lacking, the family loses its harmony, self-centredness prevails and joy fades. But, as emphasized by the Pope “the family which experiences the joy of faith communicates it naturally. That family is [then] the salt of the earth and the light of the world, it is the leaven of society as a whole.

Call to Holiness—A Family Affair, Canonization of Louis and Zelig Martin



Louis and Zelig Martin

Louis and Zelig Martin, parents of St. Therese of Lisieux, were canonized on October 18, 2015, the first married couple in the history of the Church to be named saints together. They were canonized because of their holiness. “God used them as a tremendous example of holy family life in the midst of our modern world”. (Patti

Defilippis, Religious Life, Vol. 39, No. 5, pp 3-6).

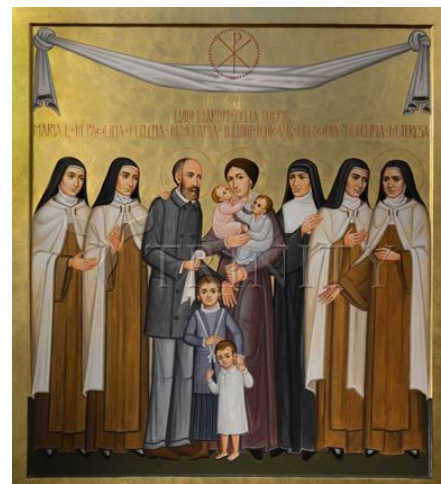
Louis and Zelig had nine children, four of whom died in infancy or early childhood and the five survivors became nuns.

These parents were united in purpose, pursuit of holiness, extraordinary charity and unwavering faith:

- ◆ They looked on their marriage as a vocation-the purpose of which was to reach heaven.
- ◆ Pursuit of holiness through which they were examples of holiness to their children.
- ◆ The Martin’s gave generously to the poor and gave of themselves.

- ◆ They demonstrated an unwavering devotion to their Catholic faith.

With Pope Francis’ emphasis on the family, let us pray to Sts. Louis and Zelig Martin to teach us the meaning of holiness in family life.



Icon of Louis and Zelig Martin family

Year of Mercy



The Holy Year of Mercy will be celebrated from December 8, 2015 (Feast of the Immaculate Conception) to November 20, 2016 (Feast of Christ the King).

Pope Francis emphasized that God is merciful, so we should likewise be merciful. The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy are actions we can perform that extend God’s

compassion and mercy to those in need. The Corporal Works of Mercy are kind acts by which we help our neighbors with their material and physical needs. The Spiritual Works of Mercy are acts of compassion, by which we help our neighbors with their emotional and spiritual needs.

Pope Francis announced he is widely expanding the traditional indulgences available to Catholics during the upcoming Jubilee Year of Mercy, opening them to anyone who performs just one of the traditional works of

mercy and to prisoners who pray at chapels available to them. The pontiff has also said that he will allow all priests around the world to absolve women who confess to having had abortions, an ability normally reserved only to bishops. In a striking move for church unity in expressing God's mercy, the pope has even granted priests of the schismatic and traditionalist Society of St. Pius X faculties to offer absolution of sins "validly and licitly" to those who approach them for confession.

Living Our Catholic Faith

- ◆ The outlook of faith is the outlook of the truth that may be obscured and trampled upon, but can never perish (Pope Benedict XVI).
- ◆ Growth in faith requires education (Pope Benedict XVI). [By this statement, the Pope emeritus challenges us to read and study].
- ◆ “I loved mama’s smile, her deep gaze seemed to say: ‘Eternity overwhelms me and attracts me. I’m going to go up in the blue sky to see God!’” (Poem by St. Therese of Lisieux). [This poem emphasizes that this world is not all there is—God is real and we will meet again.]
- ◆ With God’s grace we must free ourselves of what is negative, wasteful and violent and enter into dialogue with our global family...We need to see our human vocation to live with and for the family of creation as stewards and not owners. (Luis Antonia G. Tagle, Ecological conversion, L’Osservatore Romano, Oct. 2105, No. 42, p. 16)

Year for Consecrated Life

The Year for Consecrated Life, which began November 30, 2014, will close on the World Day of Consecrated Life, February 2, 2016. The consecrated were asked by Pope Francis to “gratefully remember” the conciliar decree on the renewal of consecrated life 'Perfectae caritatis...as an experience of God's mercy and love' (published 50 years ago), to

'embrace the future with hope' (because 'it was desired by Jesus Himself as an irremovable part of his Church'), and to live the present passionately (to evangelize their vocation and to awaken the world with prophetic witness).

May the consecrated be moved with faith which recognizes God dwelling in their lives and may they help heal a broken world. May they be guided by the Holy Spirit

and may religious communities be sacred places where the mystery of the human touches the divine mystery (Paraphrased from Pope Francis).



Members Corner

- ◆ New members—Chris Arnold (MO).
- ◆ Pray for all deceased members of the Rosary Calendar, especially Elizabeth Sukley (PA) (d. 4/4/15), Sr. Milla Derby (HI) (d. 9/26/15), and Sr. Epiphany (Canada) (d. 4/11/15).
- ◆ Rosaries and other religious items were sent to Fr. Gowa in Tanzania.
- ◆ We continue to get requests for rosaries. Donations of rosaries are appreciated.
- ◆ We thank Rene Morimoto (HI) and Cecilia Marie Schmitt (WI) for their donation of several hundred rosaries.

Our Rosary Calendar Spiritual Directors and Advisors

Spiritual Directors:	Spiritual Advisors:	Deceased Spiritual Advisors:	
Fr. Thomas Choo (HI) Fr. Matthew Kibuka (NY) Fr. Javan Saxon (NC) Fr. Pat Labassano (Philippines)	Fr. Andrew Ing (CA) Msgr. John Williams(NC/VA) Fr. A. M. Benzinger (India)	Fr. James Keenan (NC)* Rt. Rev. George Lynch (NY) 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) Fr. Charles Schmidt (NY) *Inspired the Rosary Calendar

The Dominican Nuns of the Perpetual Rosary, Fatima, Portugal

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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, for Our Holy Church, and for family members. You are encouraged to: *on 1st Saturday’s for five consecutive months, go to confession, receive Holy Communion, recite the Rosary, and meditate for 15 minutes on the mysteries of the Rosary.*