



Our Lady of Fatima “Family” Rosary Calendar and Newsletter

Vol. 26, No. 1

Jan-Mar 2017

January	February	March
Holy Father’s Intentions		
That all Christians may be faithful to the Lord’s teaching ... to restore ecclesial communion and by collaborating to meet the challenges facing humanity.	That all those who are afflicted, especially the poor, refugees, and marginalized, may find welcome and comfort in our communities.	That persecuted Christians may be supported by the prayers and material help of the whole Church.
Starting in 2017, the Pope will present only one prepared prayer intention per month, rather than the two presented before this year. He plans, however, to add a second prayer intention each month related to current events or urgent needs, like disaster relief. The Apostleship of Prayer (www.apostleshipofprayer.org/reflectionsmonthly/) will publish these urgent prayer intentions on their website as soon as they receive them from the Vatican.		

Prayers Needed for all Government Leaders

As November 8, 2016 approached for the election of the President of the United States of America and many other government officials, we were urged to pray. However, our prayers are needed now to help guide these newly elected decision makers.

This need for prayer can be best stated by citing the speech presented by St. Teresa of Calcutta at the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, DC on February 3, 1994. Although more than two decades have passed, her message is even more applicable today for government leaders around the world. In her speech, St. Teresa stated “Jesus gave His life to love us and He tells us that we also have to give whatever it takes to do good to one another”. Our leaders must consider first and foremost the good of the people. This is especially true when it involves life

issues which are tied to all aspects of our being.

Peace in the world is a perpetual concern. We can preach about peace, but as St. Teresa of Calcutta said “I feel that the greatest destroyer of peace today is abortion.” She continues, “Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love, but to use any violence to get what they want. This is why the greatest destroyer of love and peace is abortion.”

Certainly, governing a nation is extremely complex, but basic to governance is respect for life. In an address given by Pope Benedict XVI on July 17, 2008, he stated: “The concerns for nonviolence, sustainable development, justice and peace, and care for our environment are of vital importance for humanity. They cannot, however, be understood apart from a profound reflection upon the



St. Teresa of Calcutta

innate dignity of every human life from conception to natural death: a dignity conferred by God Himself and thus inviolable.”

Thus, we must pray for government officials to rule and make sound judgments in all aspects of their duties beginning with the respect for life and the dignity of all humans.

Right to Life March in Washington D. C.—January 27, 2017

This years March for Life will be held on January 27. The theme is: ***The Power of One.***

One of the high priority goals in the Right to Life movement is getting the Hyde Amendment upheld. It has failed to be upheld the last several years with a bipartisan congress. This amendment (named for Congressman Henry Hyde of



Illinois and originally passed in 1976) prohibits the use of taxpayer funds for abortion for Medicaid recipients, which resulted in the reduction in the number of abortions by a staggering 20-35 percent every year.

The latest Democratic Party platform called for the Amendment to be abolished.



Pope Francis to Visit Fatima in 2017

Pope Francis will travel to the Fatima Shrine in 2017 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Our Lady’s apparitions. On December 15, 2016, The Associated Press released the announcement made by the Portuguese president's office that the Pontiff will be in the Fatima on May 12 and 13, 2017. The Pope said he planned to visit Fatima to mark the anniversary, but no further details of the visit were made public.

Fatima Centennial-Tour of Statue in USA for Peace

Making a pilgrimage to visit the world-famous International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Fatima was a great experience for the editors family. Cecilia Schmitt (Web site editor) travelled to make a holy hour in front of the statue at Green Bay, WI; Anna (Schmitt) Blaney (former editor) along with her husband Paul and daughter Maria made their holy hour with Our Lady's Statue in Madison, WI; and Don and Mary Ann Schmitt (editors) travelled to Chillicothe, MO to visit the statue and also made a holy hour. We could feel the graces as we knelt before the blessed statue (blessed on October 13, 1947 by the bishop of Leiria, Portugal). It was a strong reminder that **"The message of Fatima is a critical one that must be spread"**.

The Pilgrim Statue, pictured here (photograph taken by Mary Ann Schmitt at St. Columban Church, Chillicothe, MO), is on a two-year journey across America, honoring the 100th Anniversary of the apparitions at Fatima. The statue started its tour on **March 20, 2016 and will conclude on December 20, 2017**. The statue traveled east of the Mississippi River in 2016 and will travel west of the Mississippi River in 2017. Check the web site www.fatimatourforpeace.com/the-tour/ for dates in the western United States in 2017.



Ash Wednesday—March 1, 2017

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent in the Western Christian calendar and occurs on March 1 this year. It occurs 46 days before Easter (40 days not counting Sundays). Ash Wednesday is named after the practice of placing ashes on the foreheads of the faithful as a reminder of human mortality and as a sign of mourning and repentance to God.

We take this sign of mourning and repentance for granted as if it existed from the beginning of Christianity. When did the custom begin? It seems to have become a custom many centuries ago in ancient cultures including ancient Egypt, Arabia and Greece. The next evidence of the practice of using



Pope Urban II

ashes appeared in the liturgy in the 8th century. Then, in 1091, Pope Urban II bound the whole Church to placing ashes on foreheads. At the same time, it was established that the ash had to come from the palm tree

leaves dedicated on Palm Sunday of the previous year.

Fasting has long been a tradition for lent. However, this practice was established by Pope Urban in 1095 at the Council of Clermont. He handed down the decree that no layman shall eat meat after the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday until Easter and that no cleric shall eat meat from Quinquagesima Sunday (eliminated by the reforms of the second Vatican Council but was the Sunday before Ash Wednesday) until Easter. Now, fasting is required only on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday for people from age 18 to and including the age of 59.

May God grant you a holy lent and a blessed Easter.

MEMBERS CORNER

Wishing you a Blessed Christmas & New Year

- ◆ You can view the "Our Lady of Fatima Family Newsletter" on the website **OLOFRC.org**.
- ◆ **New Member:** Mrs. Wally Mayer Cech of El Paso, TX, named "Volunteer of the Year" for Texas in 2010 and commissioned "Yellow Rose of Texas" by the Governor, is working to get replicas of the 9/11 20 foot cross placed in cities across the United States. She has placed several small crosses (approximately two feet tall) throughout El Paso, TX. Mrs. Cech stated "God in His mercy choose America to bring this cross to every home".
- ◆ **New Members from Missouri:** Donna Ewigman (3rd Sunday at 8:00 PM, Mandy Scharf (17th), and Janet Webb (1st Thursday).
- ◆ **New Member from Uganda:** Fr. Salvin Masereka.
- ◆ We thank Mandy Scharf for her generous support to help mail rosaries to foreign missions.

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:

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)

*Founder of the Rosary Calendar

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, to go to confession, receive Holy Communion, recite the Rosary, and meditate for 15 minutes with Our Lady on the mysteries of the Rosary.**

Contact Information

Our Lady of Fatima "Family" Rosary Calendar, 14844 Highway 5, Marceline, MO 64658
E-mail: OLOF@cvalley.net Website: OLOFRC.org