



Our Lady of Fatima “Family” Rosary Calendar Newsletter

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Apr-Jun 2018

Monthly Devotion

April	May	June
Month of the Blessed Sacrament	Month of Mary	Month of the Sacred Heart
Please pray for the Holy Father and for the end of abortion		
Pray to God to help us seek and know the truth		

Finding Hope Through the Resurrection

“Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in His great mercy has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (Peter 1:3). In an Easter homily, Pope Emeritus Benedict stated, “the resurrection of Christ is our hope! This the Church proclaims every Easter with joy. She announces the hope that is now firm and invincible because God has raised Jesus Christ from the dead. She communicates the hope that she carries in her heart and wishes to share with all people in every place. She invokes the hope that can call



forth the courage to do good. The Church calls on Mary, Star of Hope,

asking her to guide humanity towards the safe haven of salvation which is the heart of Christ, the Paschal Victim, the Lamb who has ‘redeemed the world’, the Innocent one who has ‘reconciled us sinners with the Father’”.

In his 2012 Easter homily, the Pope Emeritus said “‘Christ my hope’ means that all my yearnings for goodness find in Him a real possibility of fulfilment: with Him I can hope for a life that is good, full and eternal, for God Himself has drawn near to us, even sharing our humanity”. **Hope** gives us reason to sing out with joy our *Alleluia*!

Confusion and Truth in Our Faith

Wrong is wrong, even if everyone is doing it. Right is right, even if no one is doing it (Attributed to St. Augustine).

The Catholic Church is criticized for claiming that she has a handle on essential truths. James V. Schall, S.J., Professor emeritus, Georgetown University, stated that “people are comfortable with doubt...doubt leaves a lot of leeway”. This leeway opens the door for relativism, giving people the “freedom” to choose what is right or wrong and to disregard the basic truths of faith. Academic institutions and government agencies claim that “truth” varies from time to time and place to place according to current needs. At best, this philosophical idea contradicts the teaching of faith, giving rise to vast confusion. This attitude leads people to allow civil law to be supreme over any natural or divine law. As Tracey Rowland points out in her book (*Culture and the Thomist Tradition: after Vatican II*), “to conform oneself to the culture” is a form of religious and intellectual suicide.

We need only to return to the Gospels to understand truth. We are made holy by “obedience to the truth” (1 Peter 1:22). This obedience is not always easy



because Satan, the “father of lies” (John 8:44), is constantly tempting us to exchange “the truth about God for a lie” (Romans 1:25). Because of our own self interests, we give ourselves over to relativism and skepticism; and thus search for an illusory freedom apart from truth itself.

The fundamentals of the Church’s teaching on morality are extremely well articulated in Pope John Paul II’s encyclical on “*The Splendor of Truth*”... “Truth enlightens man’s intelligence and shapes his freedom, leading him to know and love the Lord”.

In spite of Satan’s efforts, we do yearn for the absolute truth and the desire to attain full knowledge of it. “This is eloquently proved by man’s tireless search for knowledge in all fields” (St. Pope John Paul II). We must remember that Christ is “the way, and the truth, and the life” (John 14:6).

Even with the confusion today in the Church dealing with morality,

the Church remains deeply conscious of her “duty in every age of examining the signs of the times and interpreting them in the light of the Gospel, so that she can offer, in a manner appropriate to each generation, replies to the continual human questionings on the meaning of this life and the life to come and on how they are related” (St. Pope John Paul II).

St. John Paul II emphasized in 1993, and his point applies to us in 2018, that we are faced with the spread of numerous doubts and issues of confusion. Thus, we become detached from the essential and constitutive relationship to truth.

Aldous Huxley, an English writer, novelist, and philosopher, predicted in 1932 that falsification would be the decisive element of modernity. Today, in fact, truth is regarded as a subjective concept. Therefore, there are no general standards, a statement echoed by Cardinal Ratzinger in 2005 just prior to his election as Pope.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI stated “we must have the courage to say: Yes, man must seek the truth”. When brought before Pilate, Jesus professes that He Himself is the Truth and the Witness to the truth.

Shroud of Turin

Passion Sunday through Easter is a very holy period in our Catholic Church. This period in our Church’s calendar gave us a great opportunity to reflect on this scientifically proven truth of the existence of Jesus Christ. *The Holy Winding Sheet*, a documentary about the Shroud aired on EWTN during Holy Week on March 28.

Humility Is Truth



St. Bernard of Clairvaux defines humility as "a virtue by which a man knows himself as he truly is." Humility is not a popular idea today. Nevertheless, **humility is truth**, that is, humility helps us to conform to the intention of God. Humility is not a way of diminishment, but a road to freedom and a channel to receive grace. This act requires doing God's Will.

We can't root out desires, but we can control them and use discretion between desire and action. The aim of obedience is finding God's will. The outcome of a life of humility is the restoration of God's likeness, the elimination of inner conflict and acceptance of one's lowliness (that is, knowing that everything you have is a gift).

2017, Undeclared Year of Fatima

"The 100th anniversary of the Fatima apparitions was marked with devotions in parishes throughout the world as well as in schools, chaplaincies and shrines" (Fr. Raymond J. de Souza, editor in-chief, Convivium Magazine).

The highlight of the Fatima centennial was the apostolic visit of Pope Francis to Fatima for the feast on May 13, when he canonized the child visionaries Jacinta and Francisco Marto, the youngest non-martyr saints in Church history. The centennial was marked by devotions — the Rosary, First Saturdays and processions — along with lectures about the history and significance of Fatima in the life of the Church. A wave of consecrations to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, requested by the Blessed Mother at Fatima, swept over the entire world. Parishes and dioceses by the thousands made the consecration. Several countries were consecrated by their bishops.

The *National Catholic Register* named 2107 as the "Undeclared Year of Fatima". The *Register* gave four reasons for this decision: 1) Fatima has become a daily part of the lives of Catholics; 2) the Fatima apparitions were a sign of the divine presence in history during a century when history seemed particularly burdensome; 3) St. Pope John Paul II clearly saw that Mary saved his life on May 13, 1981; and 4) Fatima is a powerful reminder that miracles do happen, including the "Miracle of the Sun," October 13, 1917. The "Year of Fatima" confirms the centrality of Fatima for the life of the Church: our means of understanding the mysteries of salvation.



Second Miracle Approved for Pope Paul VI



On February 6, 2018, the Congregation for the Causes of Saints approved the second miracle, by a unanimous vote, needed for the canonization of Pope Blessed Paul VI, allowing his canonization to take place. Italian Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Vatican's Secretary of State, said that the sainthood rite will take place in late October at the close of a meeting of the Synod of Bishops, an institution Pope Paul VI founded.

The miracle attributed to the cause of Paul VI is the healing of an unborn child in the fifth month of pregnancy. A few days after the beatification of Paul VI (October 19, 2014), the pregnant mother prayed for his intercession at the Shrine of Holy Mary of Grace (Brescia, Italy). The baby girl was born in good health and remains in good health today.

The healing was ruled as medically inexplicable by the medical council of the congregation last year, while the congregation's consulting theologians agreed that the healing occurred through the late Pope's intercession.

MEMBERS CORNER

- ◆ Thank you Kathleen Strelko (NE), Caroline Blakeley (HI) and Tina Exzabe (HI) for Rosaries. We sent large boxes of the rosaries and religious items to Fr. Andrew Gowa in Tanzania and Fr. Damien Seusi (Tanzania). We also thank Mary Ann Buberniak (NC), Lydia Thomas (NC), Jean Zirbes (AZ), Sharon Cooney (NE), and Kathleen Gaston (NC) for their generous donations.
- ◆ The writers and editors of Our Lady of Fatima attended the ordination of Bishop Shawn McKnight as the new bishop of the Diocese of Jefferson City, MO. Please pray for him.
- ◆ Pray for deceased members: Celic Hendricks (FL), Anna Schults (FL), Joan Toney and the sick: Mildred Gardner.

Visit our website *OLOFRC.org* for the Fatima Story, Fatima Prayers, information about the Rosary Calendar and the Newsletter. Back issues of the Newsletter can also be viewed on this website.

Have a Blessed Easter Sunday and Easter Season

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
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OLOFRC's Mission

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

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