



Our Lady of Fatima “Family” Rosary Calendar Newsletter

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Apr-Jun 2019

April	May	June
Month of the Holy Eucharist	Month of Mary	Month of the Sacred Heart
-Pray for Pope Francis and his concerns for doctors, especially in war zones. -Pray for an increase in Eucharistic adoration.	-Pray for Pope Francis’ intentions for the Church in Africa. -Pray for Catholics to pray the Rosary daily.	-Pray for Pope Francis and priests to commit their lives to humility and chastity in their service to God. -Pray for hope through the Sacred Heart

Continue to Prepare for a Holy Easter

“What do the scars of Christ teach us? They teach us that life is a struggle: that our condition of a final resurrection is exactly the same as His; that unless there is a cross in our lives, there will never be an empty tomb; that unless there is a Good Friday, there will never be an Easter Sunday; that unless there is a crown of thorns, there will never be a halo of light; and that unless we suffer with Him, we shall not rise with Him.” *From Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen*

Easter Season and What Easter Means

Easter is the most important and oldest celebration of the Christian Church, at which time we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the northern spring equinox.

Even though rising from the dead seemed impossible, the first witnesses were unwavering in their testimony that the same Jesus who had been brutally crucified and buried was, through the power of God, alive again. Jesus of Nazareth’s resurrection from the dead was proclaimed by early Christians. The Gospels, in describing the resurrection, specified that the event took place when Pontius Pilate was the Roman governor of the region, and names distinct individuals such as Peter, John and Thomas, who encountered Jesus after He rose from the dead. Practically all of the first heralds of the resurrection went to their deaths defending the truth of their message.

So, what does the resurrection mean? It means that Jesus did not rise from the dead to deal out



vengeance; He came to show the importance of love as He had preached during His public ministry. In contrast to vengeance, the risen Jesus appeared to His disciples, showed them His wounds and said: shalom (peace).

The Teacher who had urged His followers to turn the other cheek and to meet violence with forgiveness exemplified His own teaching in the most vivid way possible. What He showed, thereby, was that the Divine manner has to do with a love which swallows up hate, with a forgiveness which triumphs over aggression. It also means that God

has not given up on His creation. According to the well-known account in the book of Genesis, God made the whole array of finite things—sun, moon, planets, stars, animals, plants, things that creep and crawl on the earth—and found it all good, even very good. All that God has made reflects some aspect of His goodness. As the Old Testament lays out the story, human sin made a wreck of God’s creation, turning the garden into a desert. But the faithful God kept sending rescue operation after rescue operation: Noah’s Ark, the prophets, the Law and the Temple, the people Israel itself. Finally, He sent His only Son, the perfect icon or incarnation of His love. In raising that Son from the dead, God definitively saved and ratified His creation, very much including the material dimension of it (which is why it matters that Jesus was raised bodily from death). Over and again, we have said no to what God has made, but God constantly says yes. Inspired by this Divine yes, we always have a reason to hope.

Blessed Mothers 3rd of 12 Approved Public Apparitions

Our Lady of Laus, Refuge of Sinners

Apparitions of **Our Lady of Laus** or Refuge of Sinners took place between 1664 and 1718 in Saint-Étienne-le-Laus, France, to 17-year-old shepherdess Benoite Rencurel. At the first apparition in May 1664 at the Vallon des Fours (Valley of Kilns), Our Lady was holding a beautiful child by the hand.

At a subsequent apparition, the Blessed Mother taught Benoite the Litany of Loreto. Our Lady then instructed her to teach it to the girls of Saint-Étienne and to sing it with them in church.

Over time, Benoite was being formed and prepared for a Divine mission: for the conversion of sinners through prayer, sacrifice, and exhortation. God granted Benoite the charism of reading hearts. Consequently, she often corrected souls and urged them to purify themselves of their sins.

Benoite eventually asked the Blessed Mother if she was the Mother of God. Our Lady responded: "I am Mary, the Mother of Jesus. You will not see Me here any more, nor for some time." Then on September 29, 1664, the Blessed Virgin appeared to her again and



replied: "From now on, you will see Me only in the chapel that is in Laus", a place the young girl had never been. At this very small chapel, the Queen of Heaven was waiting for her. This was the site Mary had chosen to have a large church built along with a building for a few resident priests. Our Lady said, "The church will be built in honor of my dear Son and myself. Here many sinners will be

converted. I will appear to you often here."

Throughout the winter of 1664-1665, in spite of the 2.5 miles (4 km) that separated the village of Saint-Étienne from the Laus chapel, Benoite walked there every day. There, she often saw the Virgin. Our Lady told her, "Pray continually for sinners." In 1665, the Blessed Virgin asked her to devote herself to her mission of converting sinners, sacrificing and encouraging others.

As news of the continuing apparitions spread, the number of visitors to Laus continually increased. Graces and blessings poured down upon souls; people came by the hundreds and then thousands to pray in the chapel. Cures of all kinds abounded and many sinners were converted.

These apparitions were approved by the Holy See on May 5, 2008.

Prayer

Our Lady of Laus, Refuge of sinners, look down with kindness and compassion upon the physical and moral miseries of our age! Have mercy on your children. Help us to unconditionally love your Divine Son!

Reasons for Hope

The editors of this newsletter were privileged to spend a day in early March at the Institute on Religious Life Midwest Regional Meeting at the Franciscan House of Prayer in Independence, MO and then two weeks later to be at St. Joseph Cathedral in St. Joseph, MO venerating the incorrupt heart of St. Jean Vianney (Cure of Ars) (Shown at right).

The speakers at the Institute on Religious Life spoke about the formation of apostles for today. The speakers demonstrated the progress in relationship with the union of God in prayer and the impact on growing Christianity.

It was impressive to witness a chapel with more than half of the pews being filled with sisters in habit and priests in cassocks. The



same scenario was evident at St. Joseph Cathedral where, priests, nuns, high school students and hundreds of people (families), spent hours venerating St. Jean Vianney's incorrupt heart.

It is impossible to explain the impact of the graces received through the privilege of being in the presence of the relic of St. Jean Vianney, such a humble and devout saint. Contemplating his dedication and the hours that he spent every day in the confessional makes us realize and reinforces our need to utilize the sacraments, especially confession.

The heart is a symbol of love, courage and commitment, and serves as the most evident sign of life. His heart is a sign of great holiness that holds a message of hope for us.

The pilgrimage of his heart will continue through May 2019. The schedule can be found at: www.kofc.org/en/events/vianney.html#/

May, the Month of Our Blessed Mother

The month of May designated to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, has been considered a special month throughout history tracing back to the 17th century. Herbert Thurston (*Thurston, Herbert. "Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary." The Catholic Encyclopedia. Vol. 15. New York: Robert Appleton Company, 1912. 1 May 2013*) identifies the seventeenth century as the earliest instance of consecrating the month of May to the Blessed Virgin by special observances. This custom became especially widespread during the nineteenth century and remains in practice until today.

Many parishes erect a special May altar with a statue or picture of Mary as a reminder of Mary's month. It is also a long standing tradition to crown the statue of Mary during May – a custom known as May Crowning. Her crown is usually made of flowers that represent Her beauty and virtue. These flowers and devotions



should stimulate us to live our lives in the virtuous imitation of our Blessed Mother.

Our homes can also be places honoring Our Lady. We can use the

Churches practices for devotion as models to set up an area in our home or yard for Marian devotion. This home environment enables us to have a special, yet convenient, place that is in our immediate environment affording us the opportunity to easily spend time praying.

The home prayer environment can be a simple statue or picture of our Blessed Mother. It would be more complete to also include pictures and/or statues of the Sacred Heart and St. Joseph. However one wishes to develop an adoration area in the home, the beauty and virtue of Mary summons us to make it appealing.

Let us recall that Mary is the Mother of God, but she is also everyone's mother. She cares for all people in the world. As she requested at Fatima, pray the rosary daily. (*Primary source of information is from Marge Fenelon, National Catholic Register*).

Hope in a Hopeless World



The evils committed by people in our society today are overwhelming. Some examples are abortion, suicide, euthanasia, pornography, immoral behavior and fashions, homosexuality and the list can go on. Pope Pius XI stated during his pontificate: "the contemporary world is so morally depraved that at any moment it could be plunged into a deeper spiritual misery than that reigning in the world when Our Blessed Redeemer was born".

However, there is great hope in the world today and it lies in the Sacred Heart of Jesus. God does not abandon His creatures. He continuously assists and supports them with sufficient grace to help them to choose the right path. He is infinitely merciful and does not want the death of this sinful generation but wants it to "be converted...and live" (Ezech.18:23). The Sacred Heart of Jesus pours out His grace and invites all people to abandon their evil ways and return to the fold of the Good Shepherd.

His Sacred Heart is truly a symbol of love.

Cyclone Kaja Devastates Tami Nadu in South India

Cyclone Kaja hit the Tami Nadu area of South India in November 2018. It destroyed many homes and severely affected the agricultural areas. Families are trying to rebuild their homes and reestablish their source of income. The old man and his handicapped son (pictured below), both fishermen, also lost their home from the cyclone. Fr. A. Maria Benziger, their pastor and an active member of Our Lady of Fatima Family Rosary Calendar, is asking for financial assistance so these fishermen can rebuild their home, the cost of which is US\$5,000. Donations may be sent via Father Benziger's brother, Rev. Albin Roby, St. Adalbert-St. Roch Parish, 602 Port Richmond Ave., Staten Island, NY 10302.



Home before cyclone

Home after cyclone

Holy Priests, the Apostles of Hope in the Service of God

The social media is filled with daily news concerning abusive priests. This obsession with scandal in the Catholic Church by the main stream media leaves many Catholic's to question their faith.

In 2012, there were well over 400,000 catholic priests in the world. These priests are devoted to the service of God and some of them have been martyred over the years for their extraordinary service to God. We must pray for all priests to live their vocation. They need our prayers as much as we need theirs.

There are many priest's who became saints because of their dedication to serve God. It would be impossible to list them all, but think of St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Anthony of Padua, St. Damian of Molokai, St. Jean Vianney, St. John Paul II and many more. These holy men are just a few who made an amazing impact on bringing souls to God.

The Our Lady of Fatima Family Rosary Calendar is privileged to have many dedicated priests from various countries of the world as members. They assist us in evangelizing the need to pray the Rosary, especially for the work of the Holy Father and for the end of abortion. These priests are listed below.

Australia: Fr. Thomas Areekushy
Fr. Andrew Grace

Canada: Fr. Aloysius Lou

India: Fr. Matthew Kizhakemury
Fr. A. Maria Benzinger

Phillippines: Fr. Rene Tacastaca

Tanzania: Fr. James Joseph Jungulu
Fr. Damian Seusi
Fr. Moses Juhudi
Fr. Andrew Gawa

Uganda: Fr. Salvin Masereka

United States:

California: Fr. Andrew P. Ng

Hawaii: Fr. Paterno Labasano

Fr. Thomas Choo

Fr. Wilbert Laroga

Fr. Jon Cabaco

Kansas: Fr. Meinrad Miller

Kentucky: Fr. Charles Zmudzinski

Minnosota: Fr. Daniel Walz

Missouri: Fr. Richard Frank

Fr. Boniface Kasita

North Carolina: Msgr John Williams

Fr. Javan Saxon

Fr. Robert Staley

Fr. Ed Burch

New York: Fr. Matthias Kibuka

* Fr. James McCurry

§ In addition to these living priests, one Bishop and 15 priests have passed away since the Rosary Calendar was initiated by Fr. James Keenan in the early 1980's.

MEMBERS CORNER

New Member: Anne Tschanz from the "Institute on Religious Life" (IRL) in Illinois. She is a member of this group which was established in 1974 by Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J., Servant of God. The Institute was approved by the Sacred Congregation for Religious in Rome. Its purpose is to encourage, support and assist authentic consecrated life as set forth by Vatican II and its implementation by the Holy See. IRL membership is comprised of bishops, priests, religious and laymen and laywomen.

You are encouraged to visit their website (religiouslife.com) to locate religious groups throughout the USA. They are one of the major sources of Hope of our Church in America. The IRL is poised to play a significant, even decisive role in shaping the future.

The 2019 Institute on Religious Life National Meeting will be held at The University of Saint Mary of the Lake at Mundelein Seminary, Mundelein, IL on April 26-28. This years theme is: Forming Apostles for Today.

Our Rosary Calendar Spiritual Directors and Advisors

Spiritual Directors:

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

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 Priests who provided Spiritual Guidance

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)
Fr. Greg Tigga (India)
Fr. J. Pooppillil (India)
Fr. R. Jungulu (Africa)

*Founder of the Rosary Calendar

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