



Our Lady of Fatima “Family” Rosary Calendar Newsletter

Vol. 30, No. 2

Apr-Jun 2021

April	May	June
Holy Spirit	Blessed Virgin Mary	Sacred and Immaculate Hearts
*Pray for Pope Francis. *Pray that the Resurrection of Jesus Christ will be our hope for eternal life.	*Pray for Pope Francis. *Pray to spend this month full of the Easter joy in anticipation of the coming of the Holy Spirit, our Advocate.	*Pray for Pope Francis. *Humbly pray to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary to guide us to constantly search for the truth.

The Resurrection of the Lord is Our Hope

Saint Augustine’s stated in his sermon “Resurrectio Domini, spes nostra” that the resurrection of the Lord is our hope. The great Bishop explained to the faithful that Jesus rose again so that we, though destined to die, should not despair because the risen Christ gives us hope for eternal life.

Today, with the “culture of death” attitude, many pose the question: what is there after death? Pope Benedict responded to this question on Easter 2009 stating “that death does not have the last word, because life will be victorious at the end.” History proves that Jesus Christ, crucified and buried, rose with His glorified body. Jesus is risen so that we too, believing in Him, may have eternal life. At Easter, a new Spring of hope fills the world. From that day forward, our resurrection has begun because Easter does not simply signal



a moment in history, but a new beginning. Jesus is risen not because His memory remains alive in the hearts of His disciples, but because He Himself lives in us, and in Him we can already savor the joy of eternal life.

The Resurrection, then, is not a theory, but a historical reality revealed by Jesus Christ. It is a singular and unrepeatable event that Jesus was taken down from the cross,

buried on Good Friday and then victoriously rose from the tomb. As one proof of His Resurrection, the risen Jesus appeared to the Apostles in the Upper Room (the site of the Last Supper) and then to many other disciples in Galilee.

The proclamation of the Lord’s Resurrection brings a bright light to our world so engrossed in the belief that life is meaningless except for material gain. On Easter morning, everything is renewed, Christ lives triumphant!

The Resurrection of Christ is our hope! Let us call in prayer upon Mary, Star of Hope, asking her to guide humanity towards the safe haven of salvation which is the heart of Christ. To Him, our victorious King, to Him who is crucified and risen, we sing out with joy our Alleluia!

Hope after the Resurrection—The Catholic Church

The Catholic Church begins with Jesus Christ and His teachings and is the true Church. The proof is:

- **Authority:** Jesus gave specific instructions regarding dealing with members of the Church who were in sin.
- **History:** The Roman Catholic Church is the oldest and original Christian Church.
- **The Catholic Church Gave Us the Bible:** The first official list of books, “infallibly inspired”, now called the Bible contains the

original 73 books.

- **The Sacraments are Biblical:**
Confession—The Apostles were given the power to ‘forgive sins’ (John 20:23).

Baptism—Peter taught that baptism saves us (1 Peter 3:21).

Anointing of the sick—shown in James 5:14-15.

Holy Orders—Laying on of hands (Acts 8:17 and 2 Timothy 1:6).

Matrimony—Marriage of a man and a woman (1 Corinthians 7:25-40).

Holy Eucharist—Jesus stated

numerous times that the disciples should participate in the breaking of bread (Eucharist) (1 Corinthians 11:27-29).

Confirmation—Sacrament to receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:14-17).

- **Tradition:** The “Word of the Lord” is “spoken,” not just written (Jeremiah 25:3), Paul told us to hold to our traditions (2 Thessalonians 2:15).

These truths are our hope!

Our Powerful Spiritual Weapon: The Holy Rosary

“The rosary is a spiritual weapon, a heavenly sword, fashioned by the hands of a Divine Craftsman...It is a weapon unlike any other. It has the power to slay dragons, convert sinners, and conquer hearts. The blade of this sword was forged in the fire of the living Work of God, shaped by the hammer of Divine inspiration, and entrusted to the Queen of Heaven and her chosen servants. She revealed it to the world through the zealous preacher St. Dominic Guzman to be its founder.” (*Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, Champions of the Rosary*).

St. Dominic, a Spanish priest and eloquent preacher, traveled into France preaching against the Albigensian heresy (belief that only spiritual realities were good and everything material was evil), but his efforts gained few conversions and even fewer followers. He asked God for help in 1208 to provide what he needed in order to overcome the Albigensian heresy. God answered by sending the Virgin Mary to St.



Dominic telling him to preach her Psalter (the Marian Psalter, written in the 13th century, is a collection of 150 short psalms honoring Mary). The Queen of Heaven instructed him to divide the 150 Hail Mary's of the Marian Psalter into 15 groups of 10 Hail Mary's each, with each decade attached to a particular mystery. Each decade would be divided by Our Fathers.

Mary revealed to St. Dominic which mysteries should be preached to correspond to the Psalter prayers. These mysteries focused on the incarnation, death, and triumphant resurrection of Jesus Christ. (In the 21st century, Pope St. John Paul II

added the mysteries of light that focused on the public life of Jesus). This method of preaching of the Marian Psalter proved extremely effective in overcoming the Albigensian heresy, just as Our Lady promised.

The word rosary (*rosarium*) was used historically to describe a rose garden or a grouping of roses in a wreath or a bouquet. It was during the life time of St. Dominic that the word rosary became associated with the Marian Psalter.

Over the centuries up to the present time, the rosary has been prayed as a weapon for victories in battles, overcoming plagues, and for many personal requests for help. The sword of the rosary has been a very effective in winning spiritual battles. Let us be Prayer Warriors using this powerful weapon to fight evil.

(Editors note: The book by Fr. Calloway is an excellent resource to have in a personal library. Citation: Donald H. Calloway. 2016. Champions of the Rosary. Marian Press. Stockbridge, MA). On line source: www.shopmercy.org

Eternal Life

It is urgent to discover grounds for hope. We live in a world that is full of fear, consequently there is a general lack of trust, especially trust in God. It is our mission to affirm Christ's victory over death and eternal life in the next world.

St. Thomas, a premier Church Doctor addresses eternity as God centered:

“In eternal life, man is united to God. God Himself is our reward and the end of all our labors...Union with God consists in seeing God perfectly. Union with God consists in knowing God perfectly, for the better One is known, the more perfectly One is loved. Union with God consists in praising God perfectly.”

He continues his discussion of eternal life as the achievement of perfection because God is the goal:

“Eternal life is the perfect fulfillment of desires, since each of the blessed will have more than he desired or hoped for. The reason is



that in this life no man can fulfill his desires, nor can any creature satisfy a man's craving, for God alone satisfies and infinitely surpasses man's desire, which for that reason is never at rest except in God. And since in heaven the saints will possess God perfectly, it is evident that their desires will be satisfied and that their glory will surpass their expectations.”

St. Thomas concludes how our fulfillment will be attained:

“Thus, if we desire good, there will be supreme and most perfect delight, in that its object will be God, the sovereign good. Likewise, if we desire honors, all honor will be there. If we desire knowledge, there

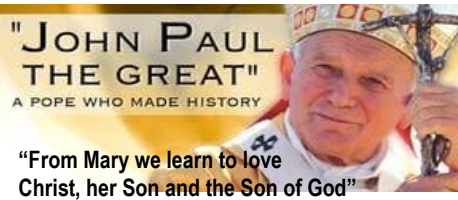
will be most perfect knowledge, because we shall know all the natures of things and all truth—and whatever we wish, we shall know. We shall possess whatever we desire to possess, together with eternal life itself. Eternal life consists in perfect security. In this world there is no perfect security, since the more someone has and the higher his position, the more he has to fear and the more he wants. But in eternal life, there is neither sorrow, nor toil, nor fear. Eternal life consists in the pleasant companionship of all the blessed, a companionship that is replete with delight, since each one will possess all good things together with the blessed. They will all love one another as themselves, and therefore will rejoice in the happiness of others' good as their own. Consequently the joy and gladness of one will be as great as the joy of all.” (Sources: Saint Thomas Aquinas; Pope Benedict's Easter message in 2009)

“Totus Tuus” (Totally Yours)

There have been many saints who had a great devotion to the Blessed Mother. Ten of them have been selected for presentation for the next ten issues of *Our Lady of Fatima “Family” Rosary Calendar Newsletter*. The first Saint to be featured is Pope St. John Paul II.

His devotion to Holy Mary is linked to his homeland, Poland, a country that had a very strong devotion to Our Blessed Mother. He describes his growth in Marian devotion in his books, *Crossing the Threshold of Hope* and *Rise, Let Us Be On Our Way*.

Pope St. John Paul II credits St. Louis de Montfort for coming to understand that true devotion to the Mother of God is Christocentric and that it is profoundly rooted in the Mystery of the Blessed Trinity, and the mysteries of the incarnation and redemption. It was from St. Louis de Montfort that the pope developed his motto “Totus Tuus” (Totally



Yours). He was the first pope to portray the Blessed Virgin Mary with an “M” in his papal coat of arms.

Upon being seriously wounded by an assassin on May 13, 1981, the pope repeatedly uttered, “Mary, my Mother! Mary, my Mother!” One year later (May 13, 1982), the pope made a pilgrimage to Fatima to publicly thank Our Lady for miraculously saving his life.

Pope St. John Paul II always visited a shrine of Our Lady wherever he went. Carl Bernstein and Marco Politi in their 1996 book *His Holiness* stated: “The legendary traditions bound up with each Marian sanctuary were sources of

pride and inspiration for the pontiff...for John Paul II, religious legends were faith turned into poetry.”

In 2002, Pope John Paul II declared a Year of the Rosary and gave to the world the Christ-centered Luminous Mysteries. Both of these events were indeed great for the advancement of Marian devotion.

This saintly pope had the Blessed Mother as his unique source of inspiration. According to Rev. Johann G. Roten, Director of the International Marian Research Institute in Dayton, Ohio, the former pope drew his strength from Mary. His life and person were fashioned by our Lady and was plainly visible on his papal coat of arms. His motto, “Totus Tuus” profoundly demonstrates his Marian consecration. ***She (Mary) was the star of this Pope, and he was the Pope for Mary.***

Why First Saturday Devotions are Necessary

The Five First Saturdays devotion is one of the principal points of the Fatima message given by Our Lady on July 13, 1917. The emphasis of the message is the urgent need to offer reparation for the many injuries that the Immaculate Heart of Mary suffers because of our sins.

On December 10, 1925, a message was given to Sr. Lucia by the Blessed Mother. The essence of the message was for reparation by

- going to confession (eight days before or after the first Saturday),
- receiving holy communion,
- praying five decades of the Rosary,
- keeping her company for 15 minutes by meditating on the mysteries (not all mysteries need to be meditated on) of the Rosary.

The reason for the five Saturdays is that the five first Saturdays correspond to the five kinds of offenses and blasphemies committed

against the Immaculate Heart of Mary. They are:

- 1) Blasphemies against the Immaculate Conception,
- 2) blasphemies against her virginity,
- 3) blasphemies against her divine maternity, at the same time the refusal to accept her as the Mother of all men,
- 4) instilling indifference, scorn and even hatred towards this Immaculate Mother in the hearts of children,
- 5) direct insults against Her sacred images.

This devotion is so necessary in today because of the culture of unabated vices that plague society that cut deeply into the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Some of the vices are abortion, blasphemy, drug abuse, divorce, pornography, religious indifference and the homosexual agenda.

This first Saturday devotion is really a life-long devotion, not merely five first Saturdays (*Blue Army statement*). The first five Saturday devotion stimulates the spirit of reparation; it instills a tender love for the holy sacraments of confession and the Holy Eucharist. It nurtures a holy affection for the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Rosary. Above all, it is an excellent means to maintain one in the state of grace while immersed in the daily spiritual battles in a world that deemphasizes God.

Fervent reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on the first Saturday of each month will bring tremendous graces and mercies to our desperate world. This reparation will help convert sinners and aid in ending punishments that are falling so heavily upon us for the unprecedented crimes of the world today!

St. Joseph

This special Year of St. Joseph (December 8, 2020 through December 8, 2021) provides an opportunity for us to focus our reflections on his humility, courageous faith, and guardianship of Mary and Jesus. His role in salvation history is tremendous and it is important that we observe this year, declared by Pope Francis, with reverence.

There has been a universal reintroduction of St. Joseph throughout the Church. His name is joined with Mary's in the Eucharistic prayers which demonstrates his



fundamental role in the Holy Family. This Year of St. Joseph affords us time to reflect on the role St. Joseph has in the life of our Church and should have on us. We should all strive to imitate his example and virtues on a daily basis.

Prayer to St. Joseph (over 1900 years old)

Oh, St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the Throne of God, I place in you all my interests and desires. Oh, St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession and obtain for me from your Divine Son all spiritual blessings through Jesus Christ, Our Lord; so that, having engaged here below your Heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of fathers. Oh, St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you and Jesus asleep in your arms. I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine Head for me, and ask Him to return the Kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, patron of departing souls, pray for us. Amen.

Dates to Remember

Easter Triduum—April 1-4; Divine Mercy Sunday—April 11; St. Joseph, the Worker—May 1; Ascension of the Lord—May 13; Pentecost Sunday—May 23; Trinity Sunday—May 30; Visitation—May 31; Corpus Christi—June 3; Sacred Heart of Jesus—June 11; Immaculate Heart of Mary—June 12; Nativity of John the Baptist—June 24; Sts. Peter and Paul—June 29.

MEMBERS CORNER

New Members: Susan Bratcher (MO), Charlee Malott (HI), Carol Ulrich (NC).

Recently Deceased Members: Pray for the souls of Tom & Sharon Cooney (NE), Hugo Ulrich (NC), Florence Puna (HI), John Gallager (TN), Chuck Glaser (TN), and Ross Frederick (HI).

Sincere thank you: Milagros and Dan McGivern and Edward Correa for their generous donations which helps with our worldwide mailing of the *Our Lady of Fatima Rosary Calendar*, Newsletter and rosaries.

Mission news: Boxes of Rosaries were sent to Tanzania: Fr. Moses Juhudi, Fr. Andrew Gowa, and Fr. James Jungulu.



Fr. Moses Juhudi with retreat participants



Fr. James Jungulu with Kasita Junior Seminarians from Morogoro Tanzania

Our Rosary Calendar Spiritual Directors and Advisors

Spiritual Directors:

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 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 Viera (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. Poopillil (India)
Fr. R. Jungulu (Africa)
Fr. Thomas Choo (HI)
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