



Our Lady of Fatima “Family” Rosary Calendar Newsletter

Vol. 32, No. 1

Jan-Apr 2023

Prayer Intentions

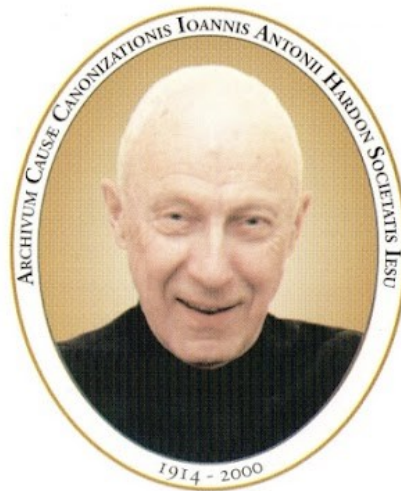
January	February	March	April
*Pray for the Pope and the end of abortion in the world. *Pray to Our Blessed Mother to guide us to heaven.	*Pray for the Pope and the restoration of the Church. *Pray to have a Holy Lent (Ash Wednesday is February 22).	*Pray that the Pope and bishops follow Jesus Christ. *Pray to St. Joseph to help us have a contrite heart.	*Pray for the Pope and to be thankful for the Resurrection. *Meditate during Holy Week (April 2-8) on Christ’s Passion.

The Making of An American Saint

As we begin another year, OLOF Rosary Calendar Newsletter is introducing a new column—Making of An American Saint. In each issue, we will explore the lives of individual men and women from the United States whose cause for canonization is presently underway. Our initial article will examine the life of the Servant of God Fr. John Anthony Hardon, SJ.

He was born on June 18, 1914 in Midland, Pennsylvania and received First Holy Communion at the age of 6. Immediately after he received this sacrament, he asked God, “Make me a priest”. When he was ordained 26 years later, his “first sentiment was to thank Our Lord for hearing [his] prayers”.

Excelling in academics, he graduated in 1936 with the Bachelor of Arts Degree (Latin, philosophy, and theology) from John Carroll University, University Heights, Ohio. He obtained a Master’s degree in philosophy at Loyola University in Chicago in 1941. On June 18, 1947, on his 33rd birthday, he was ordained to the priesthood. He was then sent to Rome to the Pontifical Gregorian University for special doctoral studies in theology



Servant of God
Father John Hardon, S.J.

and received his Doctorate in Sacred Theology in 1951. He pronounced his final vows in the Society of Jesus on February 2, 1953, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord.

Known as a teacher, a confessor, spiritual director, and writer, he taught at numerous academic institutions and wrote dozens of books. He is best known for his *The Catholic Catechism* (1975), written at the request of His Holiness, Pope Saint Paul VI. He also served as a

consultant in the preparation of *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Fr. Hardon also became the Vice President of the Institute on Religious Life. Father was a strong advocate for Homeschooling (he preferred to call it home education) because home education is the heart of the Church and “at the heart of the Church is the family”. A year before his death, Fr. Hardon blessed the ground of the future site of Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

Throughout his life, Fr. Hardon was recognized for his heroic efforts to teach and to preach the truth “in and out of season.” He passed into eternity on December 30, 2000 at the Columbiere Jesuit House in Clarkston, Michigan. Presently, efforts are in progress for the creation of a permanent archive and study center on the life and work of Fr. Hardon at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse, Wisconsin. The cause for his beatification and canonization is underway.

For more information on the life of Fr. Hardon, please visit www.hardonsj.org.

“Increase Our Faith”

In the Gospel of Luke, the Apostles asked Jesus, “Lord: Increase our faith. And the Lord said: If you had faith as a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this sycamore tree (some Bible translations say ‘mulberry tree or ‘sycamine tree’), ‘Be rooted up, and be planted in the sea’ and it would obey you.” (Luke 17:5-6). As the pages of the calendar flip to a New Year, we are offered many opportunities to grow in Faith and Virtue through the Sacrifice of the Mass offered daily, the Sacrament of Penance, a treasure chest of Sacramentals, Prayers and Devotions of the Catholic Church.

Understanding the Eucharist

The heart and summit of the Catholic faith is the REAL PRESENCE of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the most Holy Sacrament of the altar. As Catholics, can we answer the question when asked: "What is the Eucharist?"

The Holy Eucharist is the sacrament of transformation. What really happened on the night when Christ was betrayed? The Roman Canon (Eucharistic Prayer I), which is the heart of the "Eucharist" of the Church states: "The day before He was to suffer, He took bread into His holy and venerable hands, and with eyes raised to heaven, to You, His almighty Father, giving thanks, He said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to His disciples, saying: Take this, all of you, and eat of it, for this is My Body, which will be given up for you". The liturgy of the Eucharist continues when at the end of supper He said: "Take this, all of you, and drink from it, for this is the chalice of My blood, the blood of the new and eternal covenant,

which will be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in memory of Me."

What is happening in these words? It is "transubstantiation" whereby the bread becomes the Body of Christ. This Bread now nourishes and prepares us for the



resurrection. It is important to pay close attention to what the Lord really said. He does not say only: "This is My body," but "This is My body, which is given up for you." It becomes a gift because it is given. We may observe the same thing in the words over the chalice. Christ does not say simply, "This is My blood," but, "This is My blood, which is shed for you." Because it is shed, it is also a gift.

We know what followed the last supper. Jesus was cruelly beaten and put to death. He does not offer violence against violence, but puts an end to violence by transforming it into love. The act of killing, of death, is changed into an act of love; violence is defeated by love. This transformation of death into life is the Resurrection. This means that there is no farewell here to material existence; rather, in this way material existence achieves its goal: Christ continues to live. The mortal body is transformed into the resurrected body: it is "the Spirit which gives life."

The Lord, therefore, gives Himself as spirit that gives life so that we become one bread with Him and then one body with Him. This unity with Christ is the purpose of the Eucharist.

Let us pray that the Lord will help us to celebrate and to live the Eucharist."

(Source: Presentation to Bishops in 2002 by Cardinal Ratzinger who became Pope Benedict XVI in 2005)

How did the Stations of the Cross begin



Tradition holds that after Christ's death and resurrection, the Blessed Mother retraced Jesus' last day every day. Over the centuries following Christ's Resurrection, this practice transformed into what we know as the Stations of the Cross today.

According to St. Louis Marie De Montfort (1676-1716), "The

Way of the Cross is a devotion enriched with indulgences and at the same time most pleasing to Our Lady. What great treasures we find in it for our soul; what blessing we can draw from this devotion; graces of repentance and conversion for sinful souls, graces and relief and deliverance for the suffering souls in Purgatory! What joy we give to the angels by this devout exercise; what consolation to Jesus and to our Blessed Mother!"

Every time that you perform this pious devotion, you renew in your heart the feelings of the Mother of Sorrows....If you were to repeat at each station these

simple words: 'O most loving Jesus, I offer Thee the acts of adoration, of praise and supplication which thy Holy Mother offered Thee at this Station,' you would draw abundant fruit from this exercise. Mary herself will be your heavenly mistress to adore and thank Jesus in you and with you...[Because she is] united with you, this devotion will yield its wonderful effect in your soul."

As faithful Catholics, we are blessed to be able to follow in the footsteps of Christ with the stations. By praying the Way of the Cross, an indulgence can be gained for the souls in Purgatory.

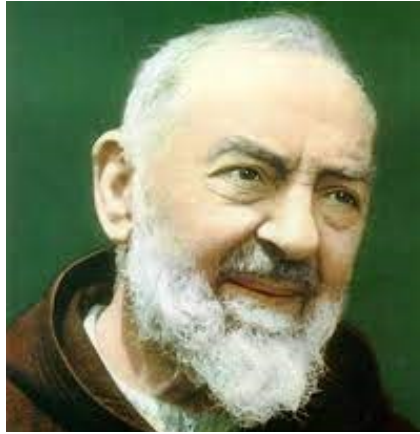
Padre Pio

7th in the series of 10 articles on “Saints who had a Marian Devotion”

Padre Pio's profound spirituality was founded on his deep and abiding devotion to the Blessed Mother. Padre Pio's mother, Giuseppa, by word and by example, taught her children to love the Virgin Mary and to pray the Rosary daily.

The day before 15-year-old Francesco Forgione (ordained Padre Pio) left for Morcone to become a Capuchin novitiate, he had a vision of Jesus and the Virgin Mary. They assured him that they were with him and would remain with him as he embarked on a new life. Jesus laid his hand on young Francesco's head blessing him. He entered the Capuchin novitiate on January 6, 1903 and on January 22 was vested in the habit and given the name Brother Pio. At the top of the stairs in the novitiate, there was a painting of Our Lady of Sorrows with words inscribed in Latin, “Remember to say a Hail Mary as you go by.” Brother Pio would always genuflect and say a prayer to the Virgin each time he passed.

He was ordained to the priesthood on August 10, 1910 and thereafter was called Padre Pio. He was sent to the monastery of Our Lady of Grace in San Giovanni Rotondo in 1916. He spent countless



hours in prayer, gazing at the beautiful image of Our Lady. For many years he lived in a cell with the inscription “Mary is the foundation of my hope” on the door. Mary was indeed, the foundation of Padre Pio's hope.

Padre Pio venerated Mary according to her many titles such as Our Lady of Loreto, Our Lady of Lourdes, Our Lady of Fatima, Our Lady Liberatrix, Our Lady of Grace, Our Lady of Sorrows, Our Lady of Pompeii, Our Lady of the Assumption and more.

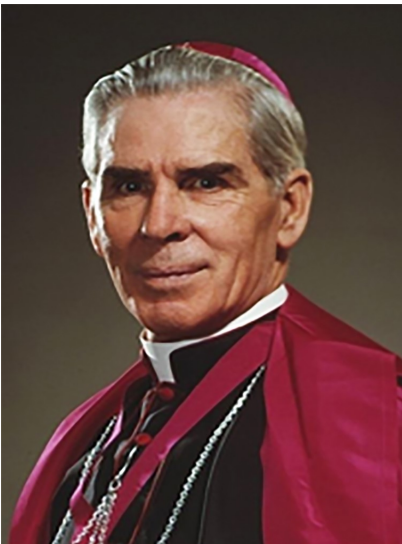
Several days prior to the feasts of Our Lady, Padre Pio would fast. He encouraged people to approach the Virgin Mary with faith in her maternal and loving heart.

He preferred the Rosary above all other prayers and insisted that his spiritual children carry a Rosary with them at all times and pray it every day.

Padre Pio defined the Rosary as, “The synthesis of our faith, the expression of our charity, and the foundation of our hope.” He referred to the Rosary as a “crown of graces.” On one occasion when Padre Pio had forgotten his Rosary, he said to Padre Onorato, “Please, go to my cell and get my weapon.” Padre Onorato did not understand and so he asked Padre Pio what he meant. “Please go and get my Rosary,” he answered. He called the Rosary a weapon against the evil in the world. He said “The Rosary is the prayer of those who triumph over everything and everyone. It was Our Lady who taught us this prayer, just as it was Jesus who taught us the Our Father.”

Pope St. John Paul II, on June 18, 2002, the day after Padre Pio's canonization, said, “May the Blessed Virgin Mary, whom Padre Pio called by the beautiful name of Our Lady of Grace, help us to follow in the footprints of this Religious who is so beloved by the people.” Let us listen to Padre Pio and pray the Rosary every day.

Venerable Bishop Sheen Helps Us to Understanding the Eucharist



The following was taken from the book *365 Days of Inspiration, The Wisdom of Fulton Sheen*.

“Why did Our Blessed Lord use bread and wine as the elements of this Memorial? First of all, because no two substances in nature better symbolize unity than bread and wine. As bread is made from a multiplicity of grains of wheat, and wine is made from a multiplicity of grapes, so the many who believe are one in Christ. Second, no two substances in nature have to suffer more to

become what they are than bread and wine. Wheat has to pass through the rigors of winter, be ground beneath the Calvary of a mill, and then subjected to purging fire before it can become bread. Grapes in their turn must be subjected to the Gethsemane of a wine press and have their life crushed from them to become wine. Thus, do they symbolize the Passion and Sufferings of Christ, and the Condition of Salvation, for Our Lord said unless we die to ourselves we cannot live in Him.”

Institution of the Eucharist-reflection by Servant of God Sister Lucia of Fatima



Sister Lucia of Fatima's reflections on the Rosary are presented in the book *The Rosary with Sister Lucia*. She states, "In the fifth decade of the Luminous Mystery of the Rosary, we commemorate the Institution of the Eucharist. Jesus Christ manifested His intent to stay with us in the Eucharist to be our spiritual food, our strength and our life under the consecrated species of bread and wine, saying to the priests of the new covenant: 'Do this in remembrance of Me' (Luke 22:19), that is, offer to the Father My Sacrifice that He may renew at the altar for the salvation of the world".

By the act of blessing and breaking of the bread and "saying, 'Take, eat: This is My Body'" (Matthew 26:26-28) becomes the true Mass. That is, the sacrifice of atonement was consummated on Calvary.

The Cross, where He gave His life for us, is the greatest proof of His love. He willed to give us the living memorial of this manifestation of His Love instituting the Eucharist during the Last Supper with the Apostles.

Jesus received His body from Mary which becomes the victim sacrificed for the salvation of men. He received His blood from Mary, the blood that circulates in the veins of Christ and flows from His Divine Heart. They are the same body and the same blood, received

from Mary, which under the species of consecrated bread and wine, are given in our daily food to strengthen in us the life of grace. This daily food enables us to continue, as members of the Mystical Body of Christ, His redemptive work for the salvation of each and every one as long as we give ourselves to Christ and cooperate with Him.

It is the name of Christ, present in the Eucharist and made one with us by Holy Communion, in which we unite our humble prayers to those of Mary for Her to direct them to the Father by Jesus Christ, His Son. That is why, many times, we beg Her saying: "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death."

Members Corner

Mission News:

- Fr. Andrew Gowa (Africa) expresses his gratitude to the Rosary Calendar members for the statues, religious articles, and box of Rosaries.
- Fr. Moses Juhudi (Tanzania) has asked the *Rosary Calendar* members to provide scapulars for his mission.
- We thank Teresa Shaffer (TX), and Phil and Mary Ott (OH) for their generous financial donations to assist with the printing and mailing of the *Rosary Calendar*.

New Members: Kathryn McCurry (MO), Brendon & Jena Duffy (MO).

Deceased Members: Zulema Briseno (TX) d. January 2023; Sharon Randle (MO) d. September 7, 2022.

Rosary Calendar Spiritual Directors and Advisors

Spiritual Directors:

Fr. Matthew Kibuka (NY)
Fr. Pat Labassano (Philippines)
Fr. Boniface Kasita (MO)

Spiritual Advisors:

Fr. Andrew Ing (CA)
Msgr. John Williams (NC/VA)
Fr. A. M. Benzinger (India)

Founder, first Spiritual Director:

Fr. James Keenan (NC)

Deceased advisors and directors:

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. Poopillil (India)
Fr. R. Jungulu (Africa)
Fr. Javan Saxon (NC)
Fr. Thomas Choo (HI)

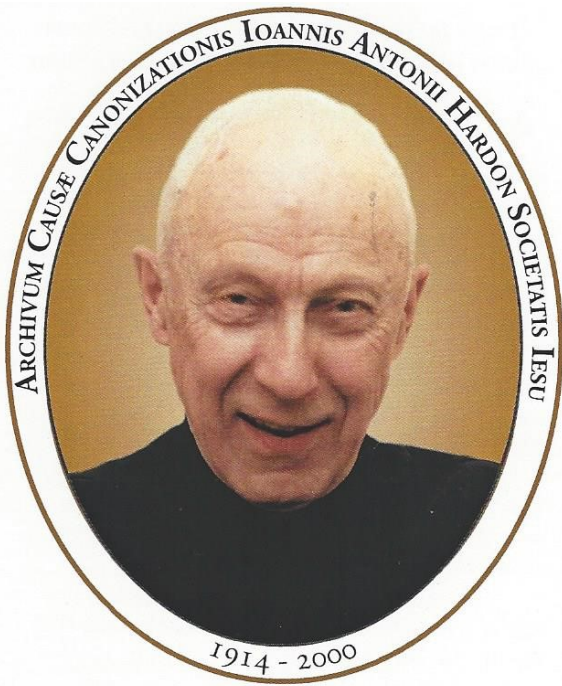
**The Dominican Nuns of
the Perpetual Rosary,
Fatima, Portugal**



Contact Information

Our Lady of Fatima "Family" Rosary Calendar, 14844 Highway 5, Marceline, MO 64658

Phone: (660)734-5494. E-mail: olof@cvalley.net. Website: OLOFRC.org



Servant of God
Father John Hardon, S.J.

**Prayer for the Beatification and Canonization of
Father John Anthony Hardon of the Society of Jesus**

Almighty God, You gave Your servant, Father John Anthony Hardon of the Society of Jesus, the grace of consecration as a religious dedicated to the apostolate and the grace of consecration as an ordained priest, after the Heart of Your Divine Son, our Good Shepherd.

Through Father Hardon, You provided for Your Flock an extraordinary teacher of the faith.

You entrusted Father Hardon into the loving care of the Blessed Virgin Mary whose counsel, "Do whatever he tells you" (Jn 2:5) he faithfully followed and whose intercession he unceasingly invoked.

If it be Your holy will, please grant the request I now make, calling upon the help of Father Hardon, so that his heroic sanctity may be recognized in the whole Church.

I ask this through Your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, Who with You and the Holy Spirit is one God forever and ever. Amen.

All favors granted should be reported in writing to:

The Father John A. Hardon, S.J. Archive and Guild
902 W. Stephen Foster Avenue, Bardstown, KY 40004 2402
502 348 9438 • 800 842 2871
www.HardonSJ.org