



WORLD APOSTOLATE OF FATIMA

ST. PAUL/MINNEAPOLIS DIOCESAN DIVISION
A Canonically Approved Apostolate of the Catholic Church

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61ST ANNUAL ROSARY PROCESSION

by Fr. Robert Altier, Spiritual Director

On Sunday, May 6, 2008, the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis will hold its sixty-first annual Rosary Procession. This is an event that is well worth the support of every Catholic, but it is especially so for those who believe in the messages of Fatima where our Lady was so emphatic about praying the Rosary. Many people wonder why we have processions. The history of processions is very ancient; in fact, Psalm 68 speaks about a procession of the Israelites as they went up to the Sanctuary of the Lord. In this context David asks God's blessings and asks the Lord to show His might. These points help us to understand that a procession such as this is done to glorify the Lord and to seek His blessings for His people.

Processions are part of the popular piety in the Church. In other words, they are not liturgical actions in themselves, but they do flow from the Mass and lead us back to the Mass. Our Lord's love for us and our love for Him, which is celebrated in a particular manner at Mass, overflows in our hearts so that we want everyone to know the love God has for them. In this way, a procession is a public witness to our Faith, reminding us that faith is not just something personal—it is communal. Beyond this, the idea that a procession begins away from the Church building and moves toward the House of the Lord also serves as a clear reminder that we are on a journey; our faith never stays in the same place. As we process into the House of God, we are given a foreshadowing of what we

are called to in life and in death: to journey through this life and enter into Heaven to be with the Lord forever.

Our Rosary procession demonstrates the idea of walking through this world, leaving the world behind and entering into God's house most poignantly. We begin at the State Capitol, process over the freeway, and continue up the hill to the Cathedral where we enter God's House and adore our Lord gloriously exposed in the Blessed Sacrament. With all of this said, one might be wondering why we process while praying the Rosary.

First of all, the mysteries of the Rosary walk us through life. While we meditate upon the mysteries of our Lord and our Lady, we can apply them to our own lives: from birth and the joys of youth, through the work of our lives, through the hardships in life and the cold reality of death until we come to the glory of Heaven. The Rosary at this procession is prayed especially for families so that they will be strengthened in love and in unity. Sr. Lucia has told us that anything can be obtained through the praying of the Rosary. If your family is doing well, you can thank God and continue to build up your family by praying the Rosary. If your family is experiencing problems or if your children have strayed from the Faith, then the praying of the Rosary and entrusting your family to our Lord and our Lady will obtain the grace to bring about healing.

Beyond this, like everything we do, such processions are intended to give glory to God. At the same time, our presence at such a public event can help to encourage others in their Faith. Enthusiasm can be contagious and your public witness to your Faith may touch someone else whose faith is not so strong. A Rosary Procession also helps us to experience both the public and the private aspects of prayer in the Rosary and before the Blessed Sacrament. Perhaps most importantly for our world, the May Day procession is a positive, peaceful, but strong statement that God exists, Faith matters, and prayer is the only way we are going to solve the problems which plague our world today. So, bring your family, armed with the weapon of peace, the Rosary, and join us at the State Capitol to give public witness to your Faith, to honor our Lady, and to worship and adore our Lord.



MARIAN CONGRESS TALKS INSPIRE AUDIENCE TO EMBRACE SUFFERING WITH LOVE



Nearly 200 people gathered at Guardian Angels Church for the 22ND Annual Marian Congress on March 1, 2008. **Fr. Donald DeGroot**, pastor of St. Peter's Church in Forest Lake, gave three dynamic talks on Mary as the perfect model for ho-

liness and the interior life. Father DeGroot presented the inner spiritual qualities in the life of Mary that allowed her to say yes to God's providence, how the Fatima children embraced these qualities in their lives, and how we can embrace these qualities in order for God's providence to be fulfilled in our lives.

Everything that happened in Mary's life was because of the theological virtues of faith, hope and love, Fr. DeGroot began. Through these, she was able to be a complete self-gift to God, obedient to His will, embrace redemptive suffering and freely cooperate in God's plan of salvation. Leading the audience through the re-

quests made by the Angel of Peace at Fatima, Father DeGroot showed how the three shepherd children allowed these same virtues and inner spiritual qualities to flourish in them, preparing them for the interchanges with the Queen of Heaven, and their total yes to God through Mary's requests—daily prayer, offering of self, personal sacrifice and suffering with patience.

"God draws our hearts to Him through Mary. Do we come to God as firm believers, convicted with great hope and trust in God that everything that happens in our lives, God is with us? This is where we are tested and purified," said Father DeGroot.

Father DeGroot went on to focus on passionate love in his second talk and how to apply it to our lives. Passionate love in today's culture has a sexual connotation. But to Aristotle, it meant a completely different thing, explained Father DeGroot. The word in Latin, *passio*, means something suffered. So as Christians, passion means suffering in love. Martyrdom is an example of passionate love.

"When we think of the Passion of Christ, we think of suffering. Mary suffered, the Fatima children suffered, and we are also called to passionate love through suffering," he said.

Married couples give consent to passionate love during the exchange of vows when they are called to love and honor each other, to accept children and all the sacrifices that come with that, to accept sickness, health, prosperity or poverty, to suffer with, and, ultimately, to lay down their lives for each other, so that each might be fulfilled by the other through the love of God that is within them.

“Jesus didn’t enter into this (relationship with the Church) saying, ‘What can I get out of this?’ Rather, Jesus said, ‘Here I am. I lay down my life for you,’” noted Father DeGrood. “That is how a married couple becomes a sign and symbol of Christ and His Church.”

So many marriages end in divorce today because there is not passionate love or willingness toward redemptive suffering and God is not the center of the relationship, he continued. Love never fails as long as it’s passionate love.

In his third talk, Father DeGrood developed the meaning of redemptive suffering and how we resist suffering, and therefore, what God wants to bring about in our lives.

Reading from the Gospel of John, when Jesus thrice asks Peter if he loves Him, and predicts that Peter will be led “where he does not want to go,” referring to his death by crucifixion, Jesus ends by telling Peter, “Follow Me.”

“Will you follow Me into the suffering that I have in mind for your life? Will you allow Me to so invigorate your heart with love that you will do whatever I will, even to the point of giving up your life? Peter was crucified because he followed Jesus,” Father DeGrood explained. “What changed in his life was how he dealt with the resistance to suffering. He chose the cross. Every one of us has to take that one step at a time and be prepared for the resistance and the temptations that come with it.”

Anytime we experience physical, spiritual, or emotional suffering, they are opportunities for redemptive suffering. Resistance comes every time we feed into our culture, which tells us to make life easier and better. The more we feed into our passions, the more hungry we get, the less satisfied we are, and the harder it is for God to penetrate through that, said Father DeGrood.

Discouragement, anger, frustration, impatience, sadness, fear, anxiety, situational depression, self pity are all signs of resistance, not choosing to stand beside Christ like Mary did because it hurts too much. We resist because we don’t want to go down that road, Father DeGrood continued. When we resign ourselves to the circumstances in our lives and ask only one thing—His will, we grow in the sense of abandonment and we experience the signs that come with it, namely a deep inner peace.

“The three shepherd children had that. They loved so much that they wanted to suffer more. That’s the invitation for all of us—to sacrifice as an act of love for the sake of others,” said Father DeGrood. “Then we will experience the inner joy, trust, love, patience, peace.”

Father DeGrood inspired many people to imitate the life of Mary, and follow more deeply the requests she made at Fatima, for the sake of God’s providence in our lives and in the world. You can order all three talks on CD through Twin Hearts Media, 763-757-4282, or on-line at www.twinheartsmedia.org, or by calling Claude Medina at 651-457-6609.

Barb Ernster

A very special thank you to Claude Medina for organizing the Marian Congress, to all the volunteers who helped out, and to Father DeGrood for giving the talks.

Found at Marian Congress

A bible was left behind at the Marian Congress. If it belongs to you, please call Claude Medina at 651-457-6609 with a description, and he will be happy to return it.

ANNUAL MAY DAY FAMILY
ROSARY PROCESSION
SUNDAY ~ MAY 4TH ~ 2008



The Rosary

“A TREASURE TO BE REDISCOVERED”

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Hope for the families
of the

*“Teach them to pray the rosary,
the family rosary
so all will be well with them...”*

Our Lady to Mother Teresa

ST PAUL

Gathering at State Capitol 1:30
Procession to the Cathedral 2:00

MINNEAPOLIS

Gathering at Dunwoody Institute 1:30
Procession to the Basilica 2:00
Multi-lingual Rosary

Children are invited to bring a rose!

Bring a hankie or tissue to greet Our Lady
FREE WILL OFFERING WILL BE TAKEN
WWW.FAMILYROSARYPROCESSION.ORG

THE TRIUMPH OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

by Fr. Randal Kasel

In the second part of the secret given to the seers, Blesseds Jacinta, Francisco, and Sr. Lucia, Our Lady of Fatima said: *“You have seen hell where the souls of poor sinners go. To save them, God wishes to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart.”* Our Lady of Fatima has given us a direct communication about God’s will for us. Our Lord desires people from all over the world to practice devotion to the Immaculate Heart of His Mother. In the same second part of the secret we learn why our Lord has this desire:

If what I say to you is done, many souls will be saved and there will be peace. The war is going to end: but if people do not cease offending God, a worse one will break out during the Pontificate of Pius XI. When you see a night illumined by an unknown light, know that this is the great sign given you by God that he is about to punish the world for its crimes, by means of war, famine, and persecutions of the Church and of the Holy Father. To prevent this, I shall come to ask for the consecration of Russia to my Immaculate Heart, and the Communion of reparation on the First Saturdays. If my requests are heeded, Russia will be converted, and there will be peace; if not, she will spread her errors throughout the world, causing wars and persecutions of the Church. The good will be martyred; the Holy Father will have much to suffer; various nations will be annihilated. *In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph.* The Holy Father will consecrate Russia to me, and she shall be converted, and a period of peace will be granted to the world.

“In the end my Immaculate Heart will triumph.” These words from Our Lady are not only prophetic but also a directive for us. Our Lady of Fatima wants us to share in the triumph God has destined for His Mother. If we are to share in her triumph, what are we to do? St. Louis de Montfort gives us the clear directive: consecrate ourselves to our Blessed Mother and live the consecration daily. Consecration to our Lady, St. Louis de Montfort

teaches us, is the perfect means to our Lord. St. Louis wrote in his now famous spiritual work, *True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary*:

As all perfection consists in our being conformed, united, and consecrated to Jesus, it naturally follows that the most perfect of all devotions is that which conforms, unites, and consecrates us most completely to Jesus. Now of all God’s creatures, Mary is the most conformed to Jesus. It therefore follows that, of all devotions, devotion to her makes for the most effective consecration and conformity to Him. The more one is consecrated to Mary, the more one is consecrated to Jesus. That is why perfect consecration to Jesus is but a perfect and complete consecration of oneself to the Blessed Virgin, which is the devotion I teach; or, in other words, it is the perfect renewal of the vows and promises of holy Baptism. This devotion consists in giving oneself entirely to Mary in order to belong entirely to Jesus through her. It requires us to give: (1) Our body with its senses and members; (2) Our soul with its faculties; (3) Our present material possessions and all we shall acquire in the future; (4) Our interior and spiritual possessions, that is, our merits, virtues and good actions of the past, the present, and the future.

Clearly, the consecration St. Louis speaks of is a complete gift to Mary of one’s self in order to be a complete gift to Jesus. This complete gift of self to Mary, and through her, to Jesus, becomes a means by which Jesus enters the world in a powerful and lasting way.

What better devotion to the Immaculate Heart can we find than to completely entrust ourselves to Mary, who will unfailingly and perfectly offer us to Jesus? What better way to cooperate with Our Lord’s will to spread devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary? What better way to bring peace to our world?

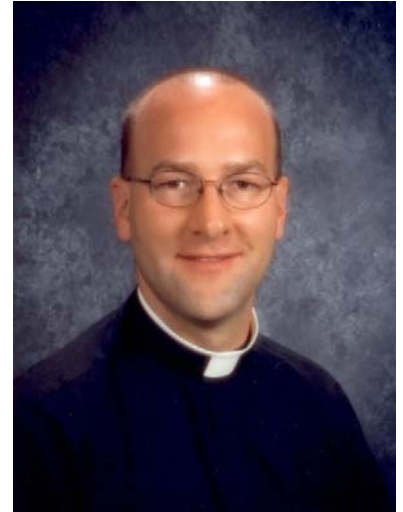
Some may question the profound, God-given role Mary has in the salvation of souls.

We need look no further than the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* to affirm the truth:

This motherhood of Mary in the order of grace continues uninterruptedly from the consent which she loyally gave at the Annunciation and which she sustained without wavering beneath the Cross, until the eternal fulfillment of all the elect. Taken up to heaven she did not lay aside this saving office but by her manifold intercession continues to bring us the gifts of eternal salvation.... Therefore the Blessed Virgin is invoked in the Church under the titles of Advocate, Helper, Benefactress, and Mediatrix (CCC, 969).

We are living in the times of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Let us heed Our Lord's command to establish and practice true devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Our Lady by consecrating ourselves and our families to her and spreading this devotion far and wide.

If you have not done so, I recommend that you consecrate yourself to Mary according to the method taught by St. Louis de Montfort. St. Maximilian Kolbe also developed a method that is efficacious. Whatever method you choose, keep in mind that Jesus desires to give us peace and to turn the human family away from the path of self-destruction. It will happen only when we go to Him through devotion to His Mother. Then we will know the Triumph that Mary has promised. God bless you!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Urgent Need for Mission Rosaries

Again this year, we are asking our members to make and donate mission rosaries for the October, 2008, Worldwide Children's Holy Hour at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. We need 4,000 rosaries this year. The correct order for the color of each decade is: (1) **green** for Africa; (2) **red** for the Americas; (3) **white** for Europe; (4) **blue** for Oceania; and (5) **yellow** for Asia. We would like to collect them by July 1, 2008.

If you or your rosary-making group can help, or for any questions, please call Mary at 651-450-6941. God bless you for your generosity.

Notice to All Prayer Cell Leaders/Members

We have ordered and will receive the new prayer cell booklets by the time you read this notice. The cost for each booklet is \$2.00, which includes postage. If you order a quantity of booklets, the cost will be less due to reduced postage. Please call Marge or Claude Medina at 651-457-6609 if you would like to place an order or have questions. You can also order by mail from Marge and Claude at the following address:

311 W. Butler Ave.
West St. Paul, MN 55118

Thank you for your patience in waiting for these new booklets. New First Saturday booklets are also available for \$2.00 each.



**PRAY THE ROSARY DAILY,
WEAR THE BROWN SCAPULAR,
OFFER YOUR DAILY DUTY**

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE AT:

WWW.FATIMAONLINE.ORG

All Night Vigil Schedule

May 2-3	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church 2035 West 15th Street Hastings, MN 55033	Contact Person: Mary Bloomstrand 651-437-3591
June 6-7	St. Augustine Church 302 5th Ave. North South St. Paul, MN 55075	Contact Person: Ann 651-450-2008
July 4-5	St. Joseph Church 1154 Seminole Ave. West St. Paul, MN 55118	Contact Person: Ellie Sunday 651-457-3285
Aug. 1-2	St. Charles Church 409 N. Third Street Bayport, MN 55003	Contact Person: Brenda 651-439-4511

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Time Change for All-Night Vigil

Please note the following change to the regular schedule for the All-Night Vigil on June 6-7, 2008, at St. Augustine Church in South St. Paul: The evening will begin with a Tridentine Mass at 7:30 P.M. Immediately following the Mass, confessions will be heard and we will pray the rosary.

Prayer Petitions

- For the following deceased members: Al Hartman, Edna Lunny, Evan Rysavy, and Sr. Eugenia Smith
 - For a cure from cancer for Tom and Cynthia
- If you have prayer petitions that you wish to have included in the newsletter, please call **Mary Fier** at 651-450-6941.

Do you wish to continue to receive the World Apostolate of Fatima newsletter in the mail throughout the year? If so, please fill out the coupon and send it to Marian Deilke.

**Mail to: Marian Deilke / World Apostolate of Fatima
8445 Goodview Avenue South
Cottage Grove, MN 55016**

- Please renew my subscription for 1 year @ \$5/subscription
- I am unable to contribute, but would like to receive the newsletter
- I would like to make a tax-deductible contribution of \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

I am happy to report to you that our local Board of Trustees is working hard and making great strides in the reorganizing of our Apostolate. We are in the preliminary stages of developing a new website and new materials, such as brochures and booklets, that will help you and others promote the message of Our Lady of Fatima in a fresh and contemporary way.

These new materials will center around a new campaign with the theme titled after the words of the Angel of Peace: "Console your God." This new program will be presented to our parishes and schools. It is our hope that the entire world will begin to embrace these words of Our Lady of Fatima's messenger: "Console your God, *horribly outraged by ungrateful men! Make reparation for their crimes and console your God.*"

Please pray for the success of this program and all of those who are working to develop it.

Rosary Procession: Please do all you can in your parishes to generate interest in the upcoming May Day Family Rosary Procession, a 61-year-old tradition, which the World Apostolate of Fatima now co-sponsors.

I know many of us are weary from our daily sufferings, but Pope Benedict XVI sent a ray of hope our way when he commented: "Although anxieties and sufferings have not been lacking, and there are still reasons for apprehension about the future of humanity, what the 'Lady in white' promised to the little shepherds is consoling: 'In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph.'"

Let us continue to work and pray for one another that **soon**, the Immaculate Heart of our Blessed Mother will triumph, and it will be a triumph of love for all families of the world. A New Springtime, as Pope John Paul II said, must be right around the corner.

In the Hearts of Jesus and Mary,
Connie

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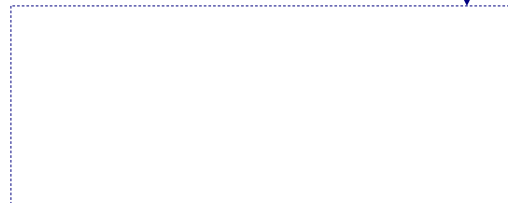
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