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# World Apostolate of Fatima

ST. PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS ARCHDIOCESEAN DIVISION  
A Canonically Approved Apostolate of the Catholic Church



## THE LAST VISION OF FATIMA

BY FR. JOHN A. GALLAS, SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

**T**he last vision of Fatima is an event that is not well known. It occurred in 1929 in the Spanish town of Tuy as Sister Lucia was praying alone in her convent chapel. She received a supernatural vision of the Holy Trinity, which was a very interesting and important occurrence.

Most noteworthy is what Mary asked of the Pope: "The moment has come in which God asks the Holy Father, in union with all the bishops of the world, to make the consecration of Russia to my Immaculate Heart..."

The consecration was fulfilled by Pope John Paul II almost three years after the attempt on his life, on the Solemnity of the Annunciation, March 25, 1984. Particularly noteworthy was the series of events that followed this consecration. Mary had specifically identified the threat of Communism. After this consecration, Communism fell in Russia.

As Professor Américo Pablo López-Ortiz wrote in our previous newsletter, this took place through an especially noteworthy series of events which occurred on days dedicated to Our Lady. On August 22, 1991, the Feast of the Queenship of Mary, the Communist party was thwarted in an attempt to overthrow Gorbachev. On the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, 1991, it was announced that the community of independent states would replace the USSR. On Christmas Day, 1991, the presidents of Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus announced the formal dissolution of the USSR. On January 1, 1992, Russia emerged as an independent state open to religious freedom and public worship. Without the use of the sword, Communism in Russia had collapsed.

Since the USSR is no longer in existence, does that mean that the goal of Fatima is fulfilled? By no means! Mary warned the children that Russia's errors would spread throughout the world. What are the errors that underlie Communism? Materialism, atheism, individualism, putting self before others; all of these are spiritual sicknesses we can see in various incarnations, not only abroad and in our land, but even within our own hearts.

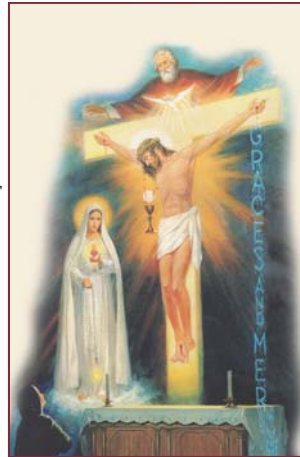
If this last vision can truly be said to be a synthesis of the entire message of Fatima, then our response should be to totally consecrate ourselves to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Might we think of Russia as an image of the sinner infected by the disease of sin and needing to be given over entirely to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, who models and leads us to Jesus, her Son?

The fact that Mary chose shepherd children of simple faith is striking. Shepherds were the first to receive the message that Christ was born. Jesus spoke of His relationship with the Church as the "Good Shepherd." Shepherds face personal temptations toward cowardice and laziness, as well as an acute awareness of actual physical dangers (e.g., the attack of wolves). The children understood that God has a flock that is in great danger—unless it is tended, it will go astray. Despite their youth and lay state, they were to participate in the Church's role of shepherding sinners by virtue of the grace of their Baptism, and by uniting themselves to the Cross of Jesus Christ through prayer and penance.

Our response should also be to unite our lives to the Cross of Christ in prayer and penance. It's a simple yet very difficult thing, but has great power and can bear real fruit for the salvation of sinners. We can offer sacrifices as acts of reparation for the sins by

which God is offended and for the conversion of sinners. The shepherd children found simple ways to do this, realizing the great value of offering up little sacrifices in union with the Cross of Christ.

Mary is asking us to offer our prayers and acts of reparation to win graces for the ongoing conversion of the world. As we see the way the world is going with all its rampant corruption, sin, and discouragement, we must recall that only one thing is required: to willingly accept what comes to us while keeping our eyes fixed on Christ and on the Holy Eucharist. As we offer our trials in union with the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, we will participate in the triumph of Mary's Immaculate Heart over this world.





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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**T**o begin this President's Message, I would like to reflect briefly on the first initiative I undertook in my new role, an activity I felt crucial to the future success of all that the WAF Board attempts to accomplish. And that was to gather the members of the Board as a group in a retreat-like atmosphere to receive spiritual nourishment and spend time in prayerful silence to listen to God's word and beg for the strength to joyfully cooperate in doing all that His Mother and her Son ask of us.

The WAF Board met at the Cana Chapel in the Cathedral of St. Paul in late February for a Morning of Recollection to focus on the following theme: "How to be humble instruments in the hands of Our Lady so as to most efficaciously learn, live, and spread the Message of Fatima." Our Spiritual Director, Fr. John Gallas, offered Holy Mass to begin the morning, and Fr. John Paul Erickson, Director of the Archdiocesan Office of Worship, gave two conferences on the retreat theme. A significant portion of our time was spent in silent meditation.

Of the spiritually enriching considerations put before us, what personally struck me as foundational for our Board is to answer basic questions that we all must ask ourselves in the very depths of our heart: Is my reason for being part of the WAF all about the salvation of souls, even at the cost of suffering and the cross? Or am I partially motivated by less wholesome desires or mixed motives? Am I striving always to say 'yes' to our Lord and to follow the instruction Mary gave at the Wedding Feast at Cana: "Do whatever He tells you"?

The only way success can come to any of our efforts, no matter how noble our intentions, is to recognize we are broken, frail, and desperately in need of Jesus. Our sole chance for success is to cling always to Our Lord and Our Lady. Jesus desires to work through simple, humble, little souls and we must recognize that in ourselves. Was not God's chosen instrument to begin His salvific work a simple Jewish maiden, the Blessed Virgin Mary, who unconditionally offered her *fiat*?

A favorite wile of the enemy is to entice us to think the work we do in the WAF is our work. If ever we succumb to that temptation, most assuredly pride has entered in, and we can be sure of only one thing: that we will fail. Always, we must strive to recognize that any good we may accomplish is Jesus working through us. It is only through leading a sacramental and prayerful life, imbued with a spirit of such virtues as humility, compassion, faith, and obedience, that we can succeed in our mission to "learn, live, and spread" the Message of Fatima.

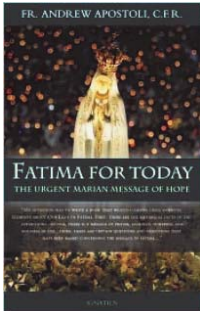
In our last newsletter, I said I would provide greater clarity with regard to what my goals and focus areas will be in service to this wonderful Apostolate during the coming months. The essence of Our Lady's Message of Fatima is a simple one, one that reverberates throughout Holy Scripture: the need for prayer, penance, and reparation. Toward that end, I hope to provide leadership which results in a significant increase in the number of parishes in the Archdiocese that offer Five First Saturdays devotion and Vigils of Reparation. I also hope to substantially increase the number of Fatima Prayer Cells, an initiative that the National WAF has established as a priority. The Introduction to the WAF booklet entitled *Fatima Prayer Cell Program* explains, "It may be said that the Prayer Cell began in 1916 with the appearance of the Angel of Peace to the three shepherd children ... the Prayer Cell grows, multiplies, and spreads the holiness of Fatima within the Church, and fills people with the prayerful spirit of Our Lady's Message."

I would like to close by expressing my conviction that the WAF Board is comprised of dedicated men and women with whom I consider it a great privilege to work. To a person, each is committed toward striving to work through and in our Lady and her Son to fulfill the mission entrusted to us and to hasten the Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Please keep us in your prayers.

In the Hearts of Jesus and Mary,  
Don Fier

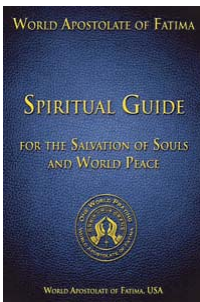
**THE PLAN FROM HEAVEN: SAVE SOULS AND BRING PEACE TO THE WORLD**

The St. Paul/Minneapolis Archdiocesan Division of the World Apostolate of Fatima is offering three of the most effective tools available at discounted prices for a strong foundation to “learn, live, and spread” the Message of Fatima.



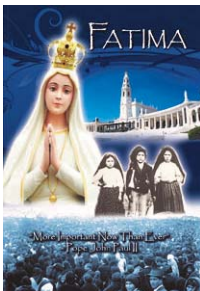
“LEARN” THE MESSAGE OF FATIMA with  
“Fatima for Today”

Our Lady’s call to prayer, penance, and reparation for the salvation of souls and peace for the world is as relevant now as when she first delivered the message to the three shepherd children in 1917. Father Andrew Apostoli, a renowned Fatima expert, gives the most up-to-date explanation of the events that took place in Fatima and responds to questions about controversies surrounding them.



“LIVE” the MESSAGE OF FATIMA with  
“Spiritual Guide  
for the Salvation of Souls and World Peace”

This book is the most comprehensive resource available to help us live the Message of Fatima. Some of the titles included are: How to Pray the Rosary (with meditations), Lucia Speaks, First Saturday Devotion, Fatima Prayer Cell Program, Vigil of Reparation, and more.



“SPREAD” THE MESSAGE OF FATIMA with  
the “Fatima” documentary DVD

This groundbreaking film will help you understand the cause of the current state of the world and how our free will determines our future. Leading experts in theology, history, and science thoroughly examine all aspects of the Message of Fatima in this compelling DVD. It is an excellent way to introduce others to the Message of Fatima.

**Our special bundled price for all three items is \$40.00 (includes shipping)**

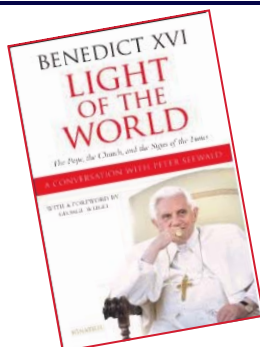
**Individual prices (includes shipping) are as follows:**

**WAF Spiritual Guide . . . . . : \$ 9.95**

**Fatima for Today . . . . . : \$ 19.95**

**Fatima DVD . . . . . : \$ 19.95**

**To place an order, please contact Mark Hugo, 952-452-4205, or e-mail [crosstown7@hotmail.com](mailto:crosstown7@hotmail.com)**



The World Apostolate of Fatima will set up literature displays/sales at Archdiocesan or parish events. We have a wide variety of books, videos, sacramental items, DVDs, and children’s literature from our National office, Ignatius Press, and Our Sunday Visitor, sold for a suggested donation. Please contact Claude Medina at 651-457-6609, or Mark Hugo at 952-452-4205.

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# ANNUAL MAY DAY FAMILY ROSARY PROCESSION SUNDAY~MAY 8TH~2011

*Bring your Children, Family and Friends  
to this Special Mother's Day Event.*

From the State Capitol we process in prayer  
with Our Blessed Mother as she  
leads us to the Cathedral of St. Paul  
for a Holy Hour with her Son  
Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.



GATHERING TIME:  
1:30 PM ~ MINNESOTA STATE CAPITOL

FOR MORE INFORMATION

[WWW.FAMILYROSARYPROCESSION.ORG](http://WWW.FAMILYROSARYPROCESSION.ORG)

*A FREE WILL OFFERING WILL BE TAKEN*



## MARIAN CONGRESS INSPIRES ZEAL FOR PRAYER AND PENANCE

BY BARB ERNSTER

**M**ore than 300 participants at the March 5 Marian Congress were inspired to new zeal for prayer and penance, thanks to three dynamic talks by Fr. John Gallas, our Spiritual Director; Fr. Rick Heilman, Diocese of Madison; and Fr. Frederick Miller, Mount St. Mary's Seminary. They joined Bishop Lee Piché to celebrate the opening Mass, following Five First Saturdays devotion.



Fr. Gallas gave the first talk, speaking on the Fatima apparitions which led up to the 1929 supernatural vision of the Holy Trinity by Sr. Lucia in Tuy, Spain, when God requested the consecration of Russia to Mary's Immaculate Heart. His presentation highlighted the theme of the Congress, "Treasures of Fatima: Graces and Mercy." For a more detailed account of his talk, refer to his article on page 1.

### Power under God's Grace

Using military imagery throughout his talk, Fr. Heilman gave a "sitrap," a situation report on the state of our world, and called people to a reconnaissance mission to save souls, moving under the power of God in the state of grace.

"Many of our families and neighbors have crossed over into the dry bones,

dead in their sins, destined for eternal damnation unless some form of search and rescue is launched," he said. "In our weakened worldly state, the advances of the enemy are downplayed and even condoned. This has become the indictment of all of who have lived in the last century. Instead of fighting for greater morality and higher principles, many have retreated into personal security and pleasure seeking, with the deserter's dictum: 'it's none of my business.'"

God has given this time over to His grace and mercy, he said, and is sending out a clarion call to raise an army willing to fight for souls. He asked the audience to join in a 40-day Spiritual Boot Camp (of which over 200 did), which started March 12 and goes through Holy Thursday that teaches the fundamentals of a quality interior life and what it means to be commissioned an officer in the Church Militant. To join the boot camp, e-mail Fr. Heilman at [rheilman@yahoo.com](mailto:rheilman@yahoo.com).

### Mary, Catechist at Fatima

Father Miller gave the afternoon keynote address, explaining how Mary taught the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the children as a mother and catechist would. He explained that the way Jesus established the Church 2,000 years ago was this: that grace and mercy would come to the people through the preaching of the Gospel. He said that when the Blessed Mother came to Fatima, she came to invigorate the Church's proclamation of the Gospel. The main truths she taught are as follows:

"Tell everybody in the whole world that they have to believe in Jesus Christ and that His Church is His body. In order to have a friendship with Jesus Christ, you have to turn away from mortal sin. Because there are so many people who are living at odds against God, those who believe need to make reparation so that unbelievers may hear the Gospel and believe it and convert from sin. That's absolutely the message of Fatima."

The Congress concluded with a concert by Randy and Laurie Albright, (below) who captivated the audience with beautiful songs to Mary, and who also sang the Chaplet of Divine Mercy earlier in the program. Their music is available at [www.ikahnrecords.com](http://www.ikahnrecords.com).

The Board of Trustees would like to thank all who gave of their time, talent, and treasure to make this Congress a great success.



Audio CD copies of the Congress talks are available for purchase at \$5 each, plus \$1 for postage.

To order copies for yourself or for others, contact Don Fier at 651-450-6941, or by e-mail at [donfier@comcast.net](mailto:donfier@comcast.net).

### NEW INTERNATIONAL WEBSITE

Professor Américo López-Ortiz has launched a new website (Spanish and English) for his office as International President and for the Latin American and Caribbean Delegation. Please visit it at:

[www.apostoladomundialdefatima.org](http://www.apostoladomundialdefatima.org)

This is the first time in the history of the WAF that the International President has had a personal website to promote the Message of Fatima from an international perspective. It contains many documents and articles related to the Fatima message, written in both English and Spanish.

**UPCOMING EVENTS****FAMILY ROSARY PROCESSION**

May 8, 2011

Procession from State Capitol to  
Cathedral of St. Paul

Gather at Capitol at 1:30 P.M.

Connie Schneider: 651-776-0363

(See flyer on page 4)

**VIGILS OF REPARATION****CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES**

May 6-7, 2011

Church of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

2035 West 15th Street

Hastings, MN 55033

Mary Bloomstrand: 651-437-3591

June 3-4, 2011

Church of St. Augustine

302 5th Avenue North

South St. Paul, MN 55075

Claude Medina: 651-457-6609

July 1-2, 2011

Church of St. Joseph

1154 Seminole Avenue

West St. Paul, MN 55118

Ellie Sunday: 651-457-3285

August 5-6, 2011

Church of St. Charles

409 3rd Street North

Bayport, MN 55003

Denise: 651-439-4511

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

- For the souls of our deceased members: Dick Miller, James Buchmann, Sylvia Roushar, and Douglas Benoit
  - For the safety of Claude & Marge Medina's grandson (recently deployed to Turkistan) and for all those serving in our armed forces
  - For a great resurgence in Fatima Prayer Cell participation, both in our division and nationally, and for an increase in the number of parishes offering Vigils of Reparation and Five First Saturdays devotion
  - In thanksgiving for our successful Marian Congress
  - For John, Grant, and others seeking employment in this difficult economy
- If you have a prayer intention that you wish to have included, please call Mary Fier at 651-450-6941.

***PILGRIMAGE to PORTUGAL***  
***OUR LADY OF FATIMA***  
***Plus Santiago de Compostela***  
***July 7- July 15, 2011***  
***Spiritual Director: Fr. Randal Kasel***

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- Four days in Fatima
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**Estimated cost: \$3,500-\$3,700**

**(Airfare subject to change)**

**LOCAL TEENS EXPERIENCE GRACE-FILLED  
PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA**

*BY MIKE DAHLSTROM AND CLAIRE KIRSCH*

*FATIMA YOUTH GROUP, ST. AUGUSTINE'S PARISH*

“**F**atima is the center for all Christian hopes.” This quote from Pope John XXIII exemplifies one of the many noteworthy messages that were spread during the inaugural World Apostolate of Fatima Conference which occurred March 23-30, 2011 in Fatima, Portugal. Striving to prepare attendees for evangelization of the message of Our Lady of Fatima, the conference presented an array of renowned speakers, field trips, and material handouts to provide a plethora of information for all guests. Nine of these guests, including two chaperones, represented the Fatima Youth Group of Saint Augustine's Parish in South St. Paul, Minnesota. We pilgrims,

along with a gracious supporting cast of donors, devotedly fundraised for nearly seven years to support this trip. It was the ninth time in their 25 years of existence that the Fatima Youth Group has sponsored a group of its members to embark on this once-in-a-lifetime religious journey.

Upon reflecting on the events of the week, there are a multitude of noteworthy experiences to discuss and share, but a couple stood out for the group. First of all, on Monday night, March 28, the Fatima Youth Group teens walked together to the plaza of the Cova da Iria (Valley of Peace). At this location is a

(see “Fatima Pilgrimage” on page 7)

## FATIMA PILGRIMAGE

(continued from page 6)

stone path which starts at the top of the hill and stretches approximately 100 yards to the entrance of the Fatima Shrine known as the Capelinha, where the majority of Our Lady's apparitions occurred. We came to walk the path on



**Professor Américo and Fatima Pilgrims**

our knees, like pilgrims often do, as a means of penance. It had already rained that night, and the stones were wet as we removed our socks and shoes and set out, some moving swiftly, others at a moderate pace. Our first steps were wet but not unduly uncomfortable; however, as we continued on, our knees became increasingly raw. The experience was one of some pain, but we recalled how the Rosary meditations, especially the Sorrowful Mysteries, united our discomfort with Christ's passion. Each painful step served as a reminder of Christ's infinitely more painful walk on the Via Dolorosa toward the Cross. Moreover, the little pieces of gravel that bit into our skin brought to mind Christ's flayed back at the scourging. Cool raindrops began to moisten the ground again, providing a little relief from the hard stones. Finally, one by one, we reached the end of the path and reassembled in a row before the Capelinha. Still on our knees, and after a time of silent prayer, we sang "Hail Holy Queen Enthroned Above." Following a pause in the quiet dark as we said our final thanksgiving, we returned to the hotel, sore but happy.

Equally important, on Saturday, March 26, we visited Aljustrel, Valinhos, and Loca do Anjo. In Aljustrel, we at-

tended Mass at St. Anthony on Sao Antonio, the parish church where Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta were baptized. Arriving a half hour before Mass started, we were able to explore the small white church with arched stone columns flanking the nave, the original baptismal font, and stone water fonts carved in the shape of seashells. On a pedestal at the front of the church was the wooden statue of Our Lady that is said to have smiled at Lucia. Two of our group, as they did all week, served Mass with about ten priests concelebrating, and it was impressive to realize that the three children had received Holy Communion from the same altar as our group did.

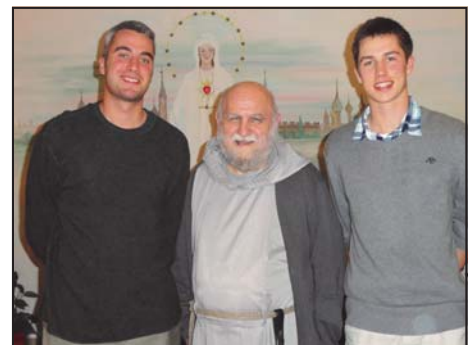
After Mass, we visited the side chapel in which Francisco used to spend hours adoring the "Hidden Jesus" in the Eucharist. We were especially inspired by stories of his devotion. It was explained that Francisco would often curl up beneath one of the pews to hide and console Jesus in private, thus avoiding any disturbance or distraction from outside parties.

Additionally, while visiting the sites of Valinhos and Loca do Anjo, we experienced what could perhaps be described as a type of divine intervention. It was a rain-soaked morning and it did not appear that the overcast sky would clear up in the immediate future. We did our best to huddle under a myriad of umbrellas as we listened to the tour guides speak about the Angel of Portugal's appearance at the Loca do Anjo. The weather was less than ideal for this outside tour, and those who were not fortunate enough to remember an umbrella were certainly cold and drenched. About midway through his presentation, Father Apostoli asked the group to reverently participate in a prayer to stop the rain and help make this portion of the tour more comfortable for all in attendance. In a unified chorus, the group repeated Father's requests and asked the Blessed Mother to assist in stopping the rain. To everyone's

amazement, after hours of consistent rain and drizzle, the rain ceased within minutes of saying the prayer! It gave many of us goose bumps to have our prayer answered, and shortly thereafter, the sun began peeking through the once dark and overcast sky.

Finally, our lives are full of little segments of time, most briefly experienced, and then even more easily forgotten. Some, however, are treasured long after their happening, and these few important moments help to define who we are. The Fatima Youth Group's 2011 trip to Fatima lies in the last category, for what we experienced there was truly life-changing. As group member Claire Kirsch described, "We walked through the streets of Fatima and could almost hear the laughter of the three children, skipping across the cobblestones on their way to the fields. We knelt in the Basilica and prayed before the Holy Eucharist, and felt the awe of adoration that the Angel's Prayer embodied. For those of us who went to Fatima, our Blessed Lady's message will never be a dry 'to do' list of irksome chores that we follow under compulsion, but rather the loving commands of a mother speaking softly to her children. The daily Rosary is her sword and ours, the first Saturday devotions are the silent explosions of grace that will lead to the conversion of sinners, and our world, to Heaven."

[Editor's Note: For information on how to join St. Augustine's Fatima Youth Group or to start a similar group in your parish, contact Mary Hover at 651-457-2751 or by e-mail at [mhover6@gmail.com](mailto:mhover6@gmail.com).]



**Mike Dahlstrom, Fr. Apostoli, and Matt Fossand**

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## NEWSLETTER RENEWAL COUPON

We are very grateful to all of you who mail in clip-out renewal coupons and make donations to support the mission of the World Apostolate of Fatima: to learn, to live, and to spread the Message of Fatima, and to provide resources and tools to parishes and families of our Archdiocese to help in that effort. Please take special note of when you last renewed your subscription. If you haven't renewed since 2008, please do so before September to avoid having your name removed from our mailing list. If you have any questions, please contact Barb Ernster (e-mail: [barbernster@comcast.net](mailto:barbernster@comcast.net); phone: 763-502-0792).

Mail to: World Apostolate of Fatima (c/o Barb Ernster)  
5225 Lincoln Street NE, Fridley, MN 55421

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