

SEEKING SOULS WILLING TO SACRIFICE

INTERVIEW BY BARB ERNSTER

Bill Sockey, the custodian of the National Pilgrim Virgin Statue (NPVS) program for the World Apostolate of Fatima USA, believes that since the start of the traveling statue program two years ago it has already had an impact in the hearts of people. Of the more than 50,000 people who have come to see her in parishes across the country, more than half of them have signed commitments to offer their daily sufferings in reparation for sins and to pray the daily Rosary for the salvation of souls.

He is convinced it is a means by which the message of Fatima can be spread throughout the nation and begin to change hearts, and he plans to address the Marian Congress in March with a strong appeal for souls who are willing to make sacrifices.

“The most important request of Our Lady was that we take seriously the need to make reparation to God for sins. If we will do this, many souls will be saved, and we will have peace for our nation,” he said.

The Angel of Peace said: “Above all, accept and bear with submission the suffering which the Lord will send you” and “Make of everything you can a sacrifice and offer it to God as an act of reparation for the sins by which He is offended, and

in supplication for the conversion of sinners.” Mr. Sockey, recalling these words, said this is a mission that all of us can do.

America, in particular, must atone for the sin of abortion, he said, but also for the immorality in our media, on television and the Internet, for pornography, and sins that violate the teachings of the Church, including contraception. Sockey also weighed in on the state of our politics and the upcoming election.

“The reason we have bad leaders is because of sin. But if enough people are willing to make enough reparation, God will move the most hardened hearts with grace to soften and turn against evil. He will touch the hearts of our leaders so that they begin to make decisions based on His will, and for the voting public so that they begin to stand up for the truth,” he said. “As more and more American Catholics are willing to offer all their sufferings to God, the amount of reparation increases and it begins to balance the

sin, so that God’s grace becomes active in the hearts of the sinners and they begin to repent of what they are doing wrong.”

Sockey travels constantly with “Our Lady,” teaching the message of Fatima in parish after parish. He spends a month in each diocese where she is hosted, and the program is growing. The World Apostolate of Fatima board of directors is currently discerning when to host the Pilgrim Virgin statue in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, possibly as

early as May of 2012.

Sister Lucia said, “... these journeys of Our Lady’s statue are yet another facet of the apostolate of the Message which she came to earth to bring, and which is travelling all

over the world in search of people to bring them to God.” (*Calls from the Message of Fatima*) Please pray about the pending decision to host Our Lady’s statue here in St. Paul and Minneapolis.



NPVS Custodian Bill Sockey

ROLE OF MEN

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women—lined up in two columns on the steps leading to the church doors. They wore blue sashes and blue-ribboned medals of Our Lady and stood at attention while Bill’s casket was carried in and all his loved ones passed into the church.

This was completely unexpected and unbelievably comforting to me. I’ll always recall Marie Middlecamp’s words to me: “To think that beautiful man prayed with us and honored Mary!” Now, Bill had only attended twice and was not an official member, but these holy women embraced him as one of their own and showed such great respect! This touched me deeply.

Now, thirty years later, I look at the men of Fatima at our local level—young, intelligent, talented, successful men—but, most of all, good and holy men, who serve on our Board of Directors, past and present. And while it is true that most of the people praying in Fatima Prayer Cells in our Archdiocese are women, including many widows, there are more men than in the past.

Consider our annual Communion Breakfast, an event that is attended by delegates from Fatima Prayer Cells throughout the Archdiocese. At the most recent breakfast in November, of more than fifty attendees only ten were men.

Still, this number is a noteworthy increase from past years. And the number of men who are beginning to pray in Fatima Prayer Cells is rising! In recent months, four young men have joined Prayer Cells—two of the four are leaders of their cells and are encouraging others to join in prayer to honor Our Lady.

Mother Mary must be so pleased to see people worshipping her Son through her intercession. She must be smiling as she welcomes the holy men who are heeding the Fatima message of prayer and penance in ever-increasing numbers.

Thanks be to God. Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us!