

May/June 2024

CRUSADE[®]

MAGAZINE



TRADITION
FAMILY AND
PROPERTY[®]



Fatima:

AN OVERVIEW TO
UNDERSTAND THE MESSAGE



FORGOTTEN TRUTHS

Let Faith Reign Once More

The Sacred Heart of Jesus, speaking to the world through Sister Josefa Menéndez, coadjutrix sister of the Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, on June 19, 1923, said:

“The world is full of hate, races are in perpetual conflict with one another, and so are nations and even individuals, and all this is due to the decay of faith. Only let faith reign once more over the world and peace and charity will return to it.

“Faith in no way impedes civilization and progress. The more it is rooted in individuals and peoples, the more wisdom and learning increase, for God is infinite in wisdom and knowledge. But whenever faith is completely lacking, peace, civilization and true progress likewise vanish . . . for God is not in war . . . and in their place come enmities, clash of opinions, class wars and, within man himself, rebel-



lion of passions against duty. All that is noble in humanity is exchanged for revolt, insubordination and warfare.

“Let yourselves be convinced by faith and you will be great. Let yourselves be ruled by faith, and you will be free. Live by faith, and you will escape eternal death.” ■

Sister Josefa Menéndez, *The Way of Divine Love* (Baronius Press, 2021), 404. (Taken from the messages given in 1920–1923 in the convent of Feuillants in Poitiers, France.)



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Just go to www.ANF.org/leave-a-legacy or call Connie at (888) 661-0272.



Why I Decided to Make a Lasting Gift to America Needs Fatima

I’ve known America Needs Fatima for more than fifteen years. It’s an amazing group of men and women, totally committed to spreading Our Lady’s message. We all need the rosary. This country needs Our Lady of Fatima’s message. We need to find balance and order from the chaos that surrounds us every day. My husband Patrick and I pray the rosary every day. We’ve personally experienced the power and the calm which comes over us.

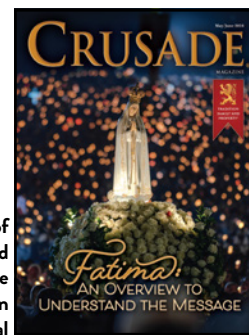
In 2019, Patrick and I went to Fatima in Portugal and attended Mass near the tree where Our Lady appeared to Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco. I’m a planner, so after my dad passed away, I wanted to make sure we had all our affairs in order. I know it’s difficult to think about these things, but it’s also a reality.

It was time to update my will and consider which organizations to include, and I didn’t hesitate. I included a bequest to America Needs Fatima so they can continue their work even after I’m gone. I just told ANF about this bequest recently and they were so grateful. We need America Needs Fatima! We need them to spread the rosary and Blessed Mother’s message. Considering the chaos we are in, our country needs Our Lady of Fatima and her Son Jesus more than ever before! I hope you’ll consider a gift in your will like I did. It’s very easy and it will make a lasting difference!

Erica W., Marstons Mills, Massachusetts

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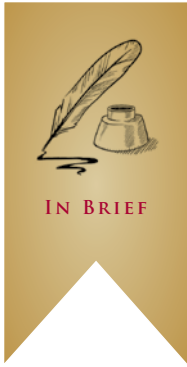
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THE AMERICAN TFP

The American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property (TFP) is an organization of lay Catholic Americans concerned about the moral crisis shaking the remnants of Christian civilization. Its earliest origins date back to January 1971, when the first TFP members started to group around the publication *Crusade for a Christian Civilization*. It is a civic, cultural and nonpartisan organization which, inspired by the traditional teachings of the Supreme Magisterium of the Roman Catholic Church, works in a legal and peaceful manner in the realm of ideas to defend

and promote the principles of private ownership, family and perennial Christian values with their twofold function: individual and social. The TFP's words and efforts have always been faithfully at the service of Christian civilization. The first TFP was founded in Brazil by the famous intellectual and Catholic leader Prof. Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira in 1960. His work inspired the formation of other autonomous TFP sister organizations across the globe, thus constituting the world's largest anticommunist and antisocialist network of Catholic inspiration.



Maryland Stops Physician-Assisted Suicide Legislation

The state of Maryland has prevented the advancement of physician-assisted suicide legislation following opposition from pro-life and disability rights advocates. The proposed law, dubbed “medi-

cal aid-in-dying,” aimed to allow doctors to prescribe drugs for those with terminal illnesses, enabling them to end their lives. Maryland Senate President Bill Ferguson confirmed on March 1, 2024, that the bill lacked sufficient support in the Senate for a vote during this session. Despite sponsorship from eight Democrats and one Republican, resistance from various groups, notably black Americans and religious organizations, has been significant. Opponents argue that legalizing assisted suicide undermines efforts to provide comprehensive palliative care and pain management. The Maryland Catholic Conference and others have vehemently opposed the bill, underscoring the commitment to uphold compassion and dignity, especially for the most vulnerable, in end-of-life decisions.

Irish Voters Reject Proposals to Redefine Family, Undermine Motherhood

In a significant setback for the Irish government, citizens overwhelmingly rejected proposed amendments to the constitution concerning marriage and motherhood. Prime Minister Leo Varadkar acknowledged the “comprehensive” defeat, with 67.7% voting against widening the family definition and 73.9% opposing the removal of a provision regarding women’s economic roles. The referendums coincided with International Women’s Day and were announced on the eve of Mother’s Day. Critics, including the Catholic Church, argued that the amendments undermine traditional family values. Despite widespread political support, the results underscored a disconnect between the government’s agenda and public

sentiment. Maria Steen, a vocal opponent, hailed the outcome as a victory for common sense, emphasizing gratitude for the role of women and mothers. The rejection highlights ongoing societal debates over constitutional amendments and reflects concerns about government priorities and societal values.

Nigeria’s Contrast: High Mass Attendance Amidst Rising Christian Persecution

A study by Georgetown University’s Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate reveals that Nigeria boasts one of the world’s highest Mass attendance rates, with 94% of self-identified Nigerian Catholics attending weekly or daily Mass. However, amidst this religious devotion, Nigeria also ranks as one of the worst countries for Christians to live in, according to Christian Concern and Open Doors, organizations that track Christian persecution worldwide. Disturbingly, 90% of the over 5,600 Christians killed for their faith in the past year were in Nigeria, marking an 80% increase over the last five years. Recent attacks, including the killing of 140 Nigerians on Christmas Eve 2023, highlight the ongoing violence faced by Christians. Kidnappings of priests and attacks on schools and villages continue to plague the country. Despite these challenges, Christians in Nigeria remain steadfast.

China Struggles with Consequences of One-Child Policy Reversal

China’s shift from the one-child policy to encouraging larger families brings challenges as the consequences of the decades-long policy linger. Initially implemented in 1980 to control population growth, the one-child policy led to forced abortions, sterilizations and a decline in the value placed on having children. The policy’s consequences resulted in a severe gender imbalance, with almost thirty-five million more men than women, affecting marriage dynamics and causing long-term behavioral issues among the only-child generation. The Chinese government is implementing various interventions as China grapples with a top-heavy popu-

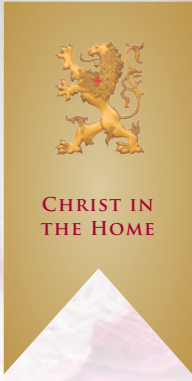
lation pyramid, an aging workforce and challenges in fostering a new attitude toward family planning.

Washington State Senate Passes New Law on Breaking the Seal of Confession

A bill filed in the state of Washington and sponsored by Democrat Senator Noel Frame proposes making Catholic priests mandatory reporters of child abuse, even if the information is obtained during the sacrament of Confession. The bill would require priests to break the Seal of Confession, an ex-communicable offense, if a child is at “imminent risk” of abuse or neglect. The Washington State Catholic Conference acknowledges that the bill could require breaking the Seal of Confession but supports the legislation. The proposed law is seen as a compromise between religious liberty rights and the rights of abuse survivors. Various parties, including the Catholic Accountability Project, are raising concerns about the law. The bill has passed the state senate and is pending in the Washington House of Representatives.

Macron Vows to Push Abortion into EU Rights Charter

French President Emmanuel Macron commemorated the enshrinement of abortion into the French constitution in a ceremony marked by emotion on March 8, 2024. Despite criticism, Macron hailed the move as a victory for freedom and women’s rights, vowing to extend the fight for abortion access across Europe. The ceremony, attended by politicians and celebrities, emphasized the significance of the decision, with the constitution officially sealed using a historic manual press. Macron’s declaration of war on the pro-life movement signals a new phase in the abortion debate in Europe, with plans to advocate for abortion rights at the European Union level. Opposition to these efforts is already mobilizing as groups like One of Us prepare to challenge Macron’s agenda. The move has sparked debates over the protection of unborn children and the influence of Western ideologies on global policies regarding reproductive rights. ■



A Parental Heart

BY FR. FERREOL GIRARDEY



It sometimes happens that good and virtuous parents have unruly and wayward children, who are a source not only of annoyance to them but also of grief and sorrow. They are at a loss to account for this, for they know that they are not sparing of good example, of kind admonitions or even of severe corrections. Nevertheless, all their efforts to bring up their children in virtue and piety are ineffective.

The principal reason such parents are unsuccessful in bringing up children is because they lack the necessary prudence and tact. Some parents are too lenient altogether, others are too severe and others go from one excess to another. Excessive leniency, on the one hand, by failing to place sufficient restraint on the children's passions, naturally tends to make the children despise authority and have their own way in everything.

On the other hand, excessive severity begets hypocrites. Children restrained only by a servile fear of punishment will seek and find means of deceiving their parents while appearing to be good and virtuous. As soon as they have outgrown this fear of their parents or have escaped from their control, they will show themselves in their true colors: insubordinate and slaves of the basest passions.

Prudence requires that kindness and firmness be so combined in the bringing up of children that the children be induced to practice virtue through a loving, childlike fear. Kindness should never be separated from firmness, and firmness should always be mingled with kindness. Kindness without firmness is culpable weakness, while firm-

ness without kindness degenerates into harmful harshness and severity.

Parents should always be kind in their manner, even when they have to correct, reprove and punish their children. They must show them they have a parental heart and not the hard-heartedness of severe masters. But they must never let their kindness lead them to fail in the necessary firmness. Whenever there is a question of something that will endanger a child's health, life or eternal salvation, they must be as firm as a rock; they must be inexorable, but in all kindness and without harshness.

Prudence requires that kindness and firmness be so combined in the bringing up of children that the children be induced to practice virtue through a loving, childlike fear.

They must give all the necessary commands and prohibitions but avoid useless ones. When they have commanded or forbidden something, and the children have disobeyed, they must not fail to add sanction to their orders by inflicting reasonable punishment. They should punish them, however, without passion. To command and threaten punishment in case of disobedience and not to inflict punishment

when disobeyed is a sign of weakness and will lead the children to despise both parents and their authority.

Having order in the house is a great help in bringing up children. There should be a place for everything, a time for everything and everyone should have a task or duty assigned to him and be held responsible for its proper performance. Where disorder reigns in a household, the spirit of obedience is lacking, and it is no wonder the children become unmanageable.

Prudence is necessary for both establishing and maintaining order. It is prudence which teaches how to govern, how to direct the affairs of the family and how to discover and use the most appropriate means for attaining an object. Prudence dictates what to allow, what to forbid and how to treat the children according to their age, dispositions and the circumstances in which they are placed. Prudence directs when and how to admonish and reprove, when and how to punish and when and how to reward. Prudence enables one to make a good choice of amusements and companions for the children.

Hence, it behooves parents to repeat the prayer of Solomon often to obtain the prudence so indispensable for them in the proper upbringing of children: "Give us, O Lord, an understanding heart to judge . . . and discern between good and evil" (1 Kings 3:9). ■

Taken from: Ferreol Girardey, *Popular Instructions to Parents on the Bringing Up of Children* (New York, Cincinnati: Benziger Brothers, 1897), 113-118.



What Is the Solution to Today's Dramatic Rise in Anxiety?

BY GARY ISBELL

Anxiety levels have increased drastically in recent times. Recent surveys indicate that twenty-seven percent of respondents displayed anxiety disorder symptoms, up from eight percent reported in 2019. The youth are especially affected by this disorder.

Sufferers experience nervousness, an impending sense of danger or panic, rapid heart rates, quickened breathing, perspiration and lack of focus. Reports for the eighteen to twenty-four-year-old category reveal that as many as half experience anxiety or depression. Unfortunately, not everyone can effectively address these issues.

Different Kinds of Anxiety

The rise of anxiety is not limited to a single cause. Many sources of anxiety afflict the nation. These include:

Extinction anxiety: The ecological debate questions humanity's ability to survive in the near future. The daily reference to climate change or crisis creates the impression that the world might soon be ending. Emotional individuals and impressionable young people without any anchor in the notion of Divine Providence or even scientific data believe the rhetoric and respond with anxiety.

Covid anxiety: The fear surrounding global pan-

demics is understandable, but implementing panicked policies made anxiety levels worse. This was not the best approach. Lockdowns, school closures, double masking, face shields, sanitizing groceries, social distancing, canceled events, closed churches and mandatory vaccinations have contributed significantly to increased anxiety. Even today, after the lifting of these restrictions, some people still mask and take measures that reflect this anxiety.

The Church provides a visible community to assist the person on this arduous journey.

Status anxiety: Some people race to excel in their fields or social lives and feel inadequate and overwhelmed when they face rejection or failure. This sense of failure is hard-hitting for younger generations accustomed to receiving participation awards and constant validation without effort. This anxiety is made worse by social media, where people compete with one another to appear the happiest online. One result is the appearance of pampered youth, referred to as snowflakes.

Speaking anxiety: Some people sense the need to be careful about how they express themselves in public. The rise of identity politics gives rise to manners of addressing others and the use of preferred pronouns. The wrong words can cause people to be labeled as oppressors, bigots or hateful individuals. The fear of offending sensibilities fosters a culture of microaggressions, trigger warnings, safe spaces and cancellation.

Anxiety over technology: The increasing overdependence on technology leads to looking to this means as an end. People have started seeking solace and answers in virtual spaces like online meeting platforms, social media, streaming services and video games. They express the fear of missing

Simply thinking about the complexity of anxiety and the various forms it takes can make one anxious.



Those seeking larger-than-life experiences through technology often develop addictive tendencies and a fear of missing out.



Those with anxieties can turn to a personal God who understands them and desires their good.

out (FOMO) when they are offline. Consequently, these activities reinforce addictive behaviors, which in turn increase isolation and anxiety.

Spiritual anxiety: The present materialistic culture fulfills many bodily needs. However, the spiritual side of humanity—the most important one—is left lacking. The soul seeks substitutes for true religion in drugs, superstitions, sects and the occult. Since these things never satisfy, anxiety and despair enter the soul.

Three Missing Ingredients

All these anxieties have three things in common: a lack of certainty, a suppression of sociability and the absence of God. Rather than rely upon medication or trendy psychological treatments, people should focus on the natural remedy to these deficiencies: the practice of the Faith.

The Catholic Faith addresses the lack of certainty by proposing to the believer a rational framework that explains the meaning and purpose of life. It offers the goals of sanctification and eternal life. Church teaching and morals provide the means that orient a person to a final end.

The Church provides a visible community to assist the person on this arduous journey. So much of life inside the Church occurs in a community and family-like setting, such as the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, popular devotions or parish activities. Individuals can have recourse to so many people to ease anxieties and build confidence.

Finally, people can appeal to a higher supernatural reality. Those with anxieties can turn to a personal God who understands them and desires their good. God allows the faithful to participate in His supernatural life by granting grace, which makes souls capable of actions beyond human nature. There is the Blessed Mother who will look after her children with solicitude and affection. The intercession of the angels and saints is assured to those who call upon their aid.

Turning Toward Real Solutions

The drastic shift in perspective and values among the general population, and especially the younger generations, led to the present situation of widespread anxiety. This shift hollowed out people's lives and left them alone to face a cruel world.

Our Lady of Fatima appeared in Portugal in 1917 and addressed these issues that were already present at that time. She proposed solutions that included prayer, amendment of life and penance. She warned of the breakdown of society and order should these requests go unheeded. It is time to confide in her, and as a good mother, she will put all anxious souls at ease. ■



People suffering from anxiety can find peace by appealing to a higher supernatural reality. For over 2,000 years, the Catholic Church has provided methods for doing this effectively.



COMMENTARY

The Conflict Over Cursive

BY EDWIN BENSON



In too many schools, teaching handwriting—especially cursive—is extinct.

Over the last half-century, America's public, private, religious and charter schools became obsessed with "critical thinking." As that obsession grew, mechanical processes were discarded. Emphasizing grammar, the doctrine taught, inhibited children from expressing their thoughts. Teaching historical facts repressed students' creative opinions about past events. Memorizing mathematical formulas hindered students' ability to solve problems independently. Phonics obstructed verbal creativity and restricted linguistic, ethnic and regional diversity. Handwriting was only one more casualty of these waves of critical enthusiasm.

As these theories gained popularity, all students' learning abilities spiraled ever lower.



Few formative exercises require the discipline, practice and focus needed to perfect one's cursive writing.

According to a recent article in *The Wall Street Journal* titled "Cursive Is Coming Back, Now That Kids Can't Read Grandma's Letters," one of these

skills, cursive handwriting, is returning. "About half the states now have a law or state standard requiring cursive instruction, many of them passed in recent years."

"Research shows that those who take notes by hand outperform those who type notes on a laptop. . ."

Once Important, Now Discarded

For those millions who were never taught to use the cursive alphabet, a brief description of this art of beautiful writing may be in order.

Merriam-Webster defines cursive as a form of writing in which the letters flow "with the strokes of successive characters joined and the angles rounded." It is usually contrasted with "block printing," in which each character is separated, and the lines are more often straight.

In the past, block printing predominated in the primary grades, given that young children still need to develop the fine motor skills to produce cursive writing. Then, sometime in second or third grade, teachers began to train their students to use cursive. The key was practice. Students might use a whole line on a sheet of paper to copy lowercase letters like those that the teacher made on the chalkboard. Originality was undesirable; the goal was to replicate the model.

This training aspect was appalling to the "modern" educators in the mold of John Dewey. It opposed the "dem-

ocratic" ideals Dr. Dewey thought education should embody. Handwriting instruction was mechanical, rote, repetitive and—to the modernist frame of thought—soul destroying. At best, it was a necessary evil.

Computers and Keyboards

Teachers responded in the way that most people react to unfortunate necessities by spending as little time as possible on them. So, over decades, schools gradually abandoned the ability to write beautifully.

Many argued that the computer keyboard would be the death knell of cursive. After all, if the world communicates by connecting one machine to another, then handwriting is unnecessary. It is a superfluous, outmoded skill important only to the eccentric and nostalgic. Penmanship was sacrificed for the necessities defined by Common Core and STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) curricula.

However, education itself is in a freefall. The modernists want to blame the condition on "structural racism" and the necessity of closing schools caused by the Covid pandemic.

Covid and Structural Racism

So-called structural racism is only an attempt to cover up the fact that many liberal "solutions" haven't achieved their lofty goals. Unable to admit that their progressive impulses are horribly mistaken, the left clings to the idea that the real culprit is some lingering sense of oppression that cannot be defined or eliminated.

On the other hand, closing the schools for up to two years was au-

thetically disastrous. The “distance education” experiment failed miserably, proving that computers could never replace teachers. It also revealed leftist messages—previously communicated in the relative privacy of the classroom—to concerned parents.

In Covid’s wake, new scrutiny was given to many basic ideas behind liberal education. Some previously discarded practices are being reconsidered. Among them is handwriting instruction.

The Rebirth of Cursive Handwriting

During the depth of the Covid experience, a little-known organization called the American Handwriting Analysis Foundation released a white paper titled *Why Handwriting Remains Essential in 2021 and the Future*. It is worth close examination since it spells out many reasons why teaching handwriting is—and will remain—important. The balance of this article will give readers a taste of

In addition to being an effective means of communication, cursive handwriting is also an art form.

those arguments.

The first set of reasons connects handwriting to other academic goals. For instance, “research shows that those who take notes by hand outperform those who type notes on a laptop or Apple iPad or tap them into a smartphone.” Forming letters on paper engages the mind far more than tapping them out on a device, thereby facilitating the learning process.

This idea is especially true for young children. A 2019 report by the George Lucas Educational Foundation posits that there is “a strong connection between the hand and the natural circuitry of the brain—as students learn to better write the critical features of letters, they also learn to recognize them more fluently.”

Important and Lasting Benefits

The advantages of the pen over the key-

board continue into high school and college. One easily understandable benefit is that a blank notebook presents far fewer distractions than a computer. Therefore, the mind remains more focused on the material at hand. There is far less temptation to covertly open another “window” to surf the Internet or send text messages to friends.

Ironically, those who have mastered cursive handwriting are also better equipped to use electronic devices. In a 2014 article in the *Early Childhood Education Journal*, researchers Nancy C. Stevenson and Carol Just of Thomas Jefferson University determined that the “stages of motor learning for handwriting and keyboarding are similar, yet occur at different times.”

Stevenson’s and Just’s research indicates that the facility for handwriting begins at age five and continues past age seven. Keyboarding skills, however, are best learned between ages ten and twelve. Students who developed the skills and muscle memory needed to produce legible handwriting are better equipped to learn to use keyboards proficiently. Such skills will assist those students throughout their academic and professional careers.

There is one more advantage to students, more challenging to quantify, but essential nonetheless. In addition to being an effective means of communication, cursive handwriting is also an art form. As young children practice making the letters and hone the fine motor skills mentioned above, they gain a sense of achievement. They do not need to wait until the teacher tells them they are improving; the evidence is right before them. They can see the improvement. They can feel the increased flexibility of their arms and hands as they build the muscles that control their pens. Before long, they can add their own artistic flair to their handwriting. They participate in acts of creating beauty.

Teaching the Teachers

Given all the advantages, the craft of handwriting should resume its former role in America’s schools. Unfortunately, the teachers are ill-equipped to teach penmanship because their schools never taught them those skills as students.



A 2019 report by the George Lucas Educational Foundation posits that there is “a strong connection between the hand and the natural circuitry of the brain.”

Except in very traditional schools, handwriting has been out of vogue since the late sixties. Only the very oldest teachers in today’s schools were trained in those skills. This fact necessitates a professional development program for teachers before students can benefit. Such programs are expensive and time-consuming.

Not only are many of the teachers unable to write in cursive, but also much of their professional training prejudices them against it. Those attitudes further hinder the process. They are so invested in the ideology of John Dewey and his disciples that they stand in the way of teaching children necessary skills—penmanship, among many others. Thus, bringing teachers on board the cursive train mandated by state laws will take some time.

However, there are many resources to assist parents in filling these gaps in the meantime. Many books on penmanship are available. Some are new; others are reprints of manuals from the late nineteenth century. Both parents and children have much to gain by developing this essential skill. ■

Note: To access citations for this article, please refer to the following American TFP webpage: <https://www.tfp.org/even-if-schools-deny-it-children-and-adults-need-to-learn-to-write-in-cursive/>.



Fatima:

AN OVERVIEW TO UNDERSTAND THE MESSAGE

BY PLINIO CORRÊA DE OLIVEIRA



To understand the set of communications and visions with which Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta were favored, we must first review Catholic doctrine on the communion of saints.

The prayers and merits of one person can benefit another. Thus, the prayers, sacrifices and offering of their lives by the three children, especially after spiritually benefiting from the apparitions of the Queen of All Saints, could also benefit a large number of souls and even entire nations. Our Lady came to ask the three seers for prayers and sacrifice. To Jacinta and Francisco, she also asked that they offer their lives as expiatory victims for the sins of men. She asked Lucia to stay in this world to fulfill a mission we will speak about below.

Another premise to understand the events of Fatima is the universal mediation of Mary Most Holy. By God's free and sovereign choice, she acts as supreme and necessary Mediatrix between the offended Redeemer and sinful humanity. As Mediatrix, she is always heeded and thus commands the

course of events. This Royal Mediatrix will be glorified with the victory of her maternal Heart, which is the most refined expression of God's own victory.

Speaking to the little shepherds, Our Lady addressed the whole world, urging all men to prayer, penance and the amendment of life. She especially addressed the Pope and the sacred hierarchy, asking them to consecrate Russia to her Immaculate Heart.

The Mother of God made these requests given the religious situation of the world in 1917. Our Lady called that situation highly calamitous. Impiety and impurity had so dominated the earth that a real hecatomb, the First World War, broke out to punish men. That conflict soon ended, and sinners would have the opportunity to heed the Fatima appeal by amending their lives. Humanity would then know peace. If the message were unheeded, an even more terrible war would come. And if the world remained deaf to this warning from the voice of its Queen, a supreme and worldwide hecatomb of ideological nature, with serious religious perse-

cutions, would afflict all men. It would bring great trials to the Roman Pontiff: "Russia will spread its errors throughout the world, promoting wars and persecution of the Church . . . The Holy Father will have much to suffer."

These last calamities would break the stiff neck of contemporary humanity, and a conversion of souls will take place on a large scale. This conversion will be specifically a victory of the Most Pure Heart of the Mother of God: "Finally, my Immaculate Heart will triumph. . ." It will be the reign of Mary upon men.

To more effectively incite humanity to accept the message, Our Lady had her three confidants see souls condemned to hell. It was a tragic scene that they admirably described in a way sufficient to bring hardened sinners back to virtue. That gloomy sight shows well how wrong it is to affirm that meditation on the eternal torments is not suitable for contemporary men.

By God's free and sovereign choice, [Our Lady] acts as supreme and necessary Mediatrix between the offended Redeemer and sinful humanity.

To prove the truth of the apparitions and, therefore, the message's authenticity, the Virgin arranged three circumstances surrounding the events:

- a) The influx of large numbers of spectators while she spoke to the seers. Even though the latter were the immediate recipients of the message, the bystanders could tell by their common psychological sense that the three children were neither lying nor deceived. They perceived the seers were in contact with Our Lady and heard and spoke to a being invisible to others.
- b) The prodigy of the sun's movements and changing colors. This miracle was noticed in an area so far beyond the place of the apparitions that a phenomenon of collective suggestion cannot explain it. (Incidentally, this would be extremely difficult to accomplish with the 50–70,000 people present at the Cova da Iria.)
- c) Confirming the prophecy, World War I ended shortly after the Fatima apparitions. Also confirmed was the prophecy that another world war would break out if humanity did not convert. The extraordinary

Northern Lights [*aurora borealis*] that illuminated the skies of Europe before the second conflagration were observed from several countries and known to the whole world. The Lady had warned the seers that this would be the sign of imminent punishment. And soon afterward, the punishment indeed came.

The prediction of the supreme punishment, which is the spread of communism, began to come true shortly after the apparitions.

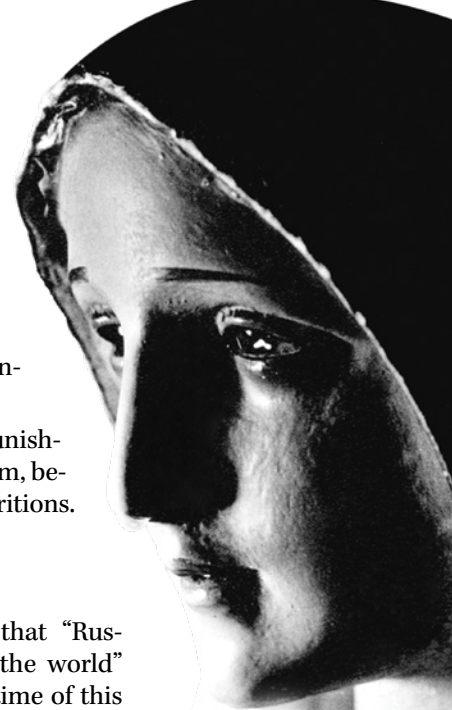
The Miracle of the Sun: Only the Beginning

The Blessed Virgin's announcement that "Russia will spread its errors throughout the world" was more or less unintelligible at the time of this prophecy on July 13, 1917. Indeed, tsarism had just been overthrown and replaced by the still bourgeois regime of Kerensky. Thus, no one could know what those Russian errors would be. It was not the spread of the Greek-schismatic religion, which was mummified and deprived of any force of expansion. The rise of Marxists to power in unfortunate Russia in November 1917 was already an eloquent beginning of the prophecy's confirmation.

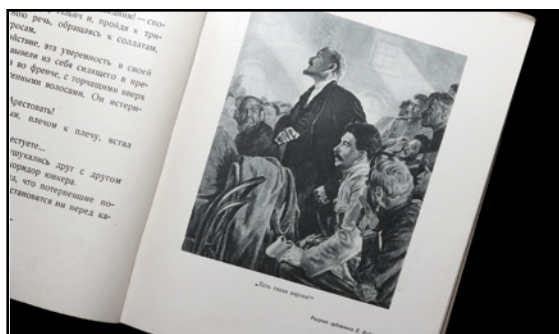
Then, the Russian Communist Party began to spread its errors worldwide, further accentuating the coincidence between the Virgin's announcement and the course of events. Communist expansion became even more marked after World War II because many nations, subjugated by fraud and force, fell under Soviet domination. The USSR thus became a worldwide danger. Even to this day, communist aggression is like a sword of Damocles suspended over the West. Thus, the threat posed by Our Lady, which might seem confused and unlikely in 1917, became a real danger that still shakes the whole earth.

Faced with these statements of apocalyptic grandeur, we must make an observation. Today's world is increasingly divided into two families of souls.

One family sees present history as the product of a bundle of errors and iniquities, which began



The miraculous Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima wept real human tears in New Orleans in 1973, just prior to the ruling of *Roe v. Wade*.



This image of Stalin and the Russian Revolution was printed in a Soviet children's book in the early 1900s.

in the religious and cultural sphere with Humanism, the Renaissance and the Protestant Pseudo-Reformation. Such errors were aggravated by the Enlightenment and rationalism and culminated in the political sphere with the French Revolution.

From the political terrain, the errors spread to the social and economic fields in the nineteenth century with utopian socialism and so-called scientific socialism. With the coming of communism in Russia, this accumulation of errors began at first an incipient, but later massive transposition into the concrete order of facts. The result was the Moloch communist empire, spanning from Germany to Vietnam, with indisputable unity (the division of communism into a "Russian" and "Chinese" line is a mere propaganda bluff).

At the same time, especially since the First World War, Western morality declined at breakneck speed, preparing its surrender to communism, which is the most audacious doctrinal and institutional expression of amorality.

The historical framework just outlined is set out in the article "The Crusade of the Twentieth Century," published in the first issue of the magazine *Catolicismo*. [Also published in the Nov-Dec 2022 issue of *Crusade Magazine*. - Editor] It is given a broader development in the essay *Revolution and Counter-Revolution*. Finally, this perspective is expressed with great elevation and clarity in the historical document in which two hundred Conciliar Fathers of the Second Vatican Council, at the initiative of Bishop Antonio de Castro Mayer and Archbishop Geraldo de Proença Sigaud, called for a new condemnation of Marxism. For the countless souls in all states, nations and living conditions who share this conviction, the message of Fatima is most consistent with Catholic doctrine and the reality of events.

There is also a second family of souls, which makes little or no links between modern problems and immorality and ungodliness (considered a guilty deviation of the intellect). They believe that all problems are exclusively caused by involuntary misunderstandings, which can be resolved by scientific knowledge and common sense. Incidentally, such misconceptions result from economic shortcomings. They are caused by hunger and will thus disappear when it is eliminated. Until this happens, these problems will linger. The crisis of humanity will be solved with the aid of science and technology.

There is more. Since amid the dangers and catastrophes in which we find ourselves, the notion of guilt and punishment is not the tonic note among this family of souls, the notion of a universal punishment becomes incomprehensible. Especially since, for them, communism is not intrinsically evil, so they can compromise with it to avoid uncomfortable persecutions.

Why the Fatima Chastisement and Triumph Await Us

Of course, for the sake of brevity, the description of these two families of souls briefly summarizes the panorama. There are many intermediary positions between the two poles, and thus we cannot portray them all here. The Fatima message becomes either understandable or incomprehensible to the extent that these intermediate currents approach one pole or the other. Thus, Fatima is a true watershed dividing contemporary mentalities.

In any case, the requests, warnings and prophecies (all with the character of private revelations) at the Cova da Iria were made and are largely being confirmed. To the skeptics, we say: "*Qui vivra verra...*" [He who lives will see].

Will the events foretold at Fatima and not yet accomplished take place? All contemporary humanity is asking this question. In principle, there can be no doubt. That some prophecies have already been fulfilled with remarkable precision proves their supernatural character. Once proven, there can be no doubt that the heavenly message will be fulfilled in its entirety.

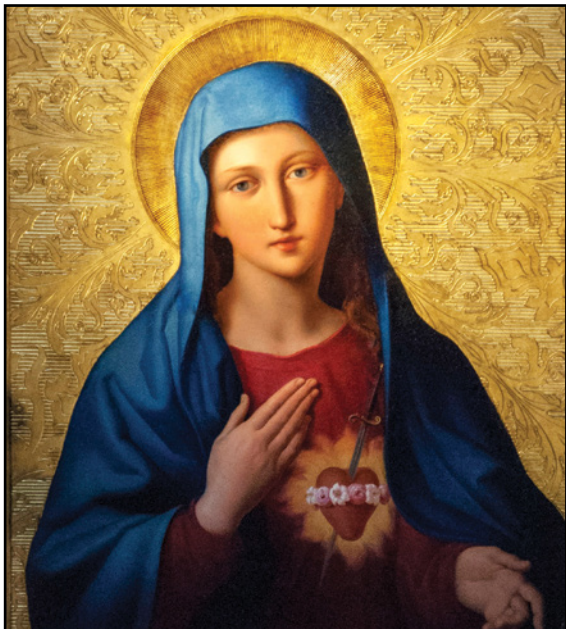
Someone might object that the prophecies of July 13, 1917, are conditional. They would take place if the Pope and the bishops in union with him did not consecrate Russia and the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Pius XII made a consecration of the world (in 1942) and later another of Russia (1952). Therefore, the punishments foreseen by the Lady of the Rosary will not occur.

*The consecration requested by
Our Lady alone could not
avert the punishment while
humanity remains ever more
attached to impiety and sin.*

Two answers can be given to this objection.

First, in a 1943 letter of Sister Lucy to the titular Bishop of Gurza, she said that Our Lord told her that the consecration of the world made by Pius XII, although pleasing to God, did not fulfill all the conditions made by the Mother of God. Thus, it is debatable that the consecration will have the effect of forestalling the predicted calamities. These words communicated by Our Lord to Sister Lucy are highly credible. Since her mission is to confirm the message of Fatima, it would be normal for her to receive messages from heaven to guide the world regarding the in-

terpretation of Fatima and its relationship with unfolding events. Thus, Jesus and His Mother must also give this faithful woman religious, so loved by the Sacred Hearts, all the assistance to carry out her mission without falling into error or misleading humanity.



At Fatima, Our Lady promised that, "My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and the path that will lead you to God."

Secondly, at the Cova da Iria, Our Lady formulated two conditions, both of which are indispensable to avoid the threatened punishments.

One of these conditions was the consecration. Even if it were done as the Blessed Virgin requested, there remains the second condition: the spread of the practice of the Communion of Reparation on the first five Saturdays. To this day, this devotion has not spread in the Catholic world as desired by the Mother of God.

Another condition implicit in the message is also indispensable. Our Lady asked the world to overcome the thousand forms of impiety and impurity that have dominated it. Everything indicates that this has not happened and that, on the contrary, this problem is reaching a kind of paroxysm. Thus, a change of course is becoming increasingly unlikely. As we move toward this paroxysm, we are more likely moving towards effective punishment.

Here, we make an observation. The message of Fatima would be absurd if we failed to see things in this way. In 1917, Our Lady affirmed that the sins of the world had reached such a height that they cried out for God's punishment. Since then, these sins have only grown, and the world has obstinately and definitively refused to heed her message. It would be absurd to affirm that

the punishment will not come. It would be as if Nineveh had not done penance yet expected the threats of the Prophet to go unfulfilled.

Indeed, the consecration requested by Our Lady alone could not avert the punishment while humanity remains ever more attached to impiety and sin. Without abandoning sin, the consecration would be incomplete and stripped of real content.

Since the immense spiritual transformation requested at the Cova da Iria has not taken place, we are increasingly moving toward the abyss. As we move forward, that transformation becomes ever more unlikely.

As we end these reflections, we should dwell on the ultimate perspectives of the Fatima message. Beyond the sadness and extremely likely punishments toward which we are moving, we have before us the sacral flashes of the dawn of the Reign of Mary: "Finally, my Immaculate Heart will triumph." This grandiose prospect of the universal victory of the regal and maternal Heart of the Blessed Virgin is a soothing, attractive and especially majestic and exciting promise.

What can we do to avoid punishment to the tenuous degree it is avoidable? How can we obtain the conversion of men to the weak measure in which, in the common economy of grace, it is still obtainable before the punishment? How might we hasten as much as possible the blessed dawn of the Reign of Mary and obtain aid during the hecatombs that so seriously threaten us? Our Lady herself provides the answer: Increase fervor in devotion to her, pray and do penance.

Hope of a Hopeless World

She encouraged us to pray by appearing with the characteristics associated with the invocations of Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, Mother of Sorrows and Our Lady of Carmel. She thus indicated her pleasure in being known, loved and venerated under those titles.

Moreover, the Virgin of Fatima insisted in an extraordinary way on devotion to her Immaculate Heart. She referred to her Heart seven times in her messages (and Our Lord, nine).

Thus, the already abundantly proven theological value of devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary finds in Fatima a precious and impressive confirmation. On the other hand, the insistence of the Blessed Virgin demonstrates the extreme timeliness of this devotion.

Therefore, whoever takes the revelations of Fatima seriously must place the increase of devotion to the Immaculate Heart as one of the top priorities to update one's life of piety. And this is our ardent recommendation to our readers. ■

The Origin of the Five First Saturdays Devotion

On July 13, 1917, Our Lady appeared at Fatima to the three seers Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco, and revealed a three-part secret to them. The first part was a vision of Hell, which was so terrible that Lucia later declared that if it were not for Our Lady's presence, they would have died of fright.

After the vision was over, Our Lady spoke thus: "You saw Hell, where the souls of poor sinners go. To save them God wishes to establish devotion to my Immaculate Heart in the world. If they do what I shall tell you, many souls will be saved, and there will be peace.

"The war [World War I] is going to end, but if they do not stop offending God, another even worse war will begin in the reign of Pius XI [World War II]. Behold, a night illuminated by an unknown light will be the sign that God shall give you that He is going to punish the world for its crimes by means of war, hunger, and persecutions of the Church and the Holy Father.

"To prevent it (the war) I will come to ask the consecration of Russia to my Immaculate Heart, and the Communion of reparation on the first Saturdays. If they listen to my requests, Russia will convert and there will be peace; if not, it will spread its errors throughout the world, promoting wars and persecutions of the Church. The good will be martyred; the Holy Father will have much to suffer; and several nations will be annihilated. Finally, my Immaculate Heart will Triumph."

The Promise

On December 10, 1925, Our Lady promised Sister Lucia she would "...assist at the hour of death, with the graces necessary for salvation, all those who on the first Saturdays of five consecutive months confess, receive Holy Communion, pray a Rosary, and keep me company for a quarter of an hour mediating on the fifteen mysteries with the intention of offering me reparation."

How to do the Five First Saturdays

There are four requirements to faithfully fulfill the five first Saturdays.

1. Go to confession.
2. Receive Holy Communion.
3. Say five decades of the Holy Rosary.
4. Meditate for fifteen minutes on the mysteries of the Holy Rosary.
(*separate from saying the rosary*)

During the apparition of February 15, 1926, Sister Lucia presented Our Lord the problem some people had of confessing on Saturdays. She asked Our Lord if the confession would be valid if done within a period of eight days before or eight days after the first Saturday. Our Lord answered: "Yes, it can even be within many more days, provided they are in the state of grace when they receive Me, and have the intention of offering reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary."



AMERICA NEEDS FATIMA[®]

MAY/JUNE 2024

PROGRESS REPORT

From the Desk of Robert Ritchie

Dear Soldier of Our Lady,

The heart is a symbol of love for one another. That is why faithful Catholics have always viewed the Sacred Heart of Jesus as a chief sign of Christ's love for us. As Pope Pius XII said, "His Heart, more than all the other members of His body, is the natural sign and symbol of His boundless love for the human race."

That's why it's more important than ever for us to show Jesus our love by preserving June as the month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. However, this month continues to be hijacked by those who want to mock our Faith with Pride Masses that promote the ever-increasing influence of the LGBTQ ideology.

Turning toward God with love and reparation is the remedy to counteract the immoral events happening in our world today, especially in the month of June. Public, prayerful reparation will soothe His sorrowful Heart for the blasphemous attacks on God and Our Lady.

I know that you feel deeply that June belongs to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, not homosexual pride. That's why I'm asking you to pledge to lead a rosary rally for a special campaign in June that takes a stand against sinful displays of homosexual pride and reclaims June for its true purpose, the honoring of Our Lord's Sacred Heart.

Sign up to host a rosary rally on any Saturday in June at 12 noon your local time. It's easy to do: just gather your friends, family and community members in a public place to pray the rosary. It's easy to sign up: Just send an email to Protest@TFP.org.

Together, we can honor Our Lord by showing our devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.



Sincerely,
In Jesus and Mary,

Robert E. Ritchie,
Executive Director



TAKEN FROM ANF'S PUBLICATION, *BATTLELINES*



Opposing Drag Queen Story Hour for Children

Despite freezing temperatures, a dedicated group of ANF supporters held a rosary rally of reparation at Cool Creek Park in Carmel, Indiana, against a Drag Queen Story Hour event.

The group was dismayed at the number of people bringing children for the LGBTQ-themed event, but it made them even more resolved to speak out against the perverse program.

Rally Captain Ken said that although attendees of the event were against them praying the rosary, it was important to them to make sure their voices were heard and pray for the children who were being exposed to this sinful event.

“We said three rosaries as folks arrived for the event. We felt that it was an incredible hour of praying and asking Mary for help,” he said.

Drag Queen Story Hour events targeting innocent children are held in towns and cities across America. Maybe even in your own community! If the good don't take a stand against normalizing the scandalous trans- and homosexual agenda, who will?

Prayer Warriors Protest Satanic Paranormal Cirque in Texas

Two groups of ANF friends and supporters held rosary rallies of reparation against the traveling Paranormal Cirque Satanic Circus that stopped at two Texas towns. This sinful and vulgar show opens its doors to children as young as thirteen.

In Cypress, Texas, a group held rallies on Saturday and Sunday. For their second rally, they moved their location closer to the circus tent and had a very favorable response in support of their protest from passersby, who were visibly enthused and sympathetic.

During the rally, they held a “Honk against Satan” sign and received hundreds of honks in support. One participant shared that a man stopped to praise the group: “He approached and said that he had seen the tent of the Satanic circus earlier in the day, and it made him angry, but he had to move on. When he saw us, however, he said that he had to stop and thank us because he was so happy to see someone actually doing something against the event.”

In McAllen, Texas, the group held its rally all three nights the circus was in town. Despite rain and cold temperatures, they were determined to hold the rallies. Rally Captain Margie was pleased with the support for the rally and said she heard attendance for the circus was very low.





“We had lots of positive reactions from the public, vehicles were slowing down to read our posters. We received many honks and thumbs up from passersby. An elderly gentleman who passed by said, ‘God bless you for doing this!’ We all left feeling good and honored to do this. We thank ANF and TFP, who persevere to support these rallies and return order to our nation,” she said.



Protesting Aztec Dancing at Catholic Church

An Aztec dancing event being held at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Hyde Park, Utah, prompted ANF friends and supporters to hold a rosary rally of reparation.

Rally Captain Cesar and his group braved the snow and frigid weather to make reparation against this event being held inside a church. They are planning to be ready to host another rosary rally of reparation if this event returns to their town.

Cesar said, “I would like to thank the entire ANF staff for all the help you provided me during efforts to organize this rosary rally of reparation and protest against Aztec dancing at our church. God bless you all.”

God will bless and reward Cesar and his faithful prayer warriors for being ready at a moment’s notice to take a stand against anti-Catholic events being promoted by his local church.

Sacrilegious Candles Mock Our Lord and Our Lady

Several ANF friends held a rosary rally of reparation against a gift shop in Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin, that sells sacrilegious candles. The candles depict the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, but replace the Holy Faces with pop stars and celebrities.

Rally Captains Rex and Evan organized the event. Although they faced much opposition, they were not asked to stop the rally and proceeded to publicly protest this assault on the sacred images.

Evan said, “We see this as a mockery of Jesus and Mary. Jesus and Mary are not a joke. We hold them very close to our hearts.”

Rex added, “It’s an attack on Our Lord and Savior and Our Holy Mother and directly against the Catholic Church. It hurts us immensely.”

Imagine the sorrow Our Lady suffers to see her Son so callously mocked! Thanks to these faithful rally captains, prayerful reparation was made, and her tears were lessened. Yet, more and more abuse of the Catholic Faith is brought to America Needs Fatima’s attention. Help us defend the Faith! ■



Please help *America Needs Fatima* by joining a rosary rally of reparation close to your home. Just text **PROTEST** to **87837** or contact Jose Ferraz toll-free at **(844) 830-3570** to find one near you.



Our Readers and Viewers Write

Appreciation for ANF Apostolate

"I had Our Lady's statue at my home last year and since then my husband R--- has been saying the rosary with me every day for the last year since November 18 when the statue was at my home. It was such a blessing. The TFP is such a blessing. I want to thank you for what you Christian soldiers do for the Lord and for fighting for the traditions of our Church. Keep up the good fight!"

M.W.



"Robert, thank you for the Fatima rosary. I gave it to a sister! I also received (and thank you for) the 2024 Fatima calendar, the photo and rose to go on The Little Flower's tomb, etc. God bless you for always thinking about me! I will continue to pray diligently for each of you and for your Fatima apostolate on my knees before Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I will not stop praying for your vital missionary work."

J. N., Vista, California

"I appreciate your wonderful America Needs Fatima program. May it continue to be successful, God willing. Many blessings to you and all who help you in this endeavor."

N. D. P., San Juan, Puerto Rico

"I received all your letters, Mr. Ritchie, from America Needs Fatima! I am responding to the one requesting help for the coming October rosary rallies. I pray the rosary daily—three each day! I

also pray the Saint Michael the Archangel prayer each day. I did get the photo of our Blessed Mother that you asked about. I will continue to pray for ANF daily. I ask Our Lady for help to come your way for the wonderful work you do to bring love and devotion to her. I love her very dearly. Little by little, and through daily prayer, we will win the fight against Satanism. May God bless you and your workers!"

M.A., Burlington, Wisconsin

Fatima Devotional Items

"Your picture of Our Lady of Fatima is one that should be hung and revered in every home in America. Her gaze could melt the stoniest of hearts. She pierces mine every time I meet her eyes. If hearts are willing, there is conversion waiting in her eyes."

Anonymous

"A friend lent me this booklet 'Francisco.' I was so moved; it changed my life. Please send me a copy for a friend!"

B. S., Church Point, Louisiana

"Thank you for the enlightening Fatima book I received, also for the beautiful red rosary. I will continue using both each day. God bless you every day for your work and dedication."

G.S., Stafford, Texas

"Received rosary, thank you, and it's now in the hands of my wife who is in the late stages of Alzheimer's, unable to walk or talk. She does, however, cradle and hold this rosary you gave us. A miracle of sorts, no? Please continue to pray for us, America Needs Fatima folks."

J.H., Zieglerville, Pennsylvania

"Godspeed gentlemen. For going where many dare not bother to go to begin with. For what is no man's land for some is Eden for you. Amen."

YouTube Viewer

"We did a public rosary in front of a library that was having a gay day for children. They had a blow horn and spit on us. So happy we were able to be persecuted for Christ!!!!"

YouTube Viewer



"God bless. May your perseverance be a light to all the young people of America."

YouTube Viewer

"TFP has earned my heartfelt respect. I mean, come on, who brings bagpipes to these types of situations?"

YouTube Viewer

"Awesome guys in red sashes! Amen brothers! Stand up tall!"

YouTube Viewer

"God Bless TFP! They are doing an amazing job and I hope and pray that all these issues are resolved, even if it doesn't happen on Earth, I know that in Heaven there won't be any issues like this."

YouTube Viewer

"So frightening! Those youths must be possessed. I pray for you every day for your courage, faithfulness and gratefulness to Jesus. You are fighting on our behalf. May God bless you all abundantly and protect you always."

YouTube Viewer



CUSTODIAN'S

CORNER

Did Our Lady Block a TV Signal?

BY REX TEODOSIO

Some 2,000 to 3,000 American homes are visited yearly thanks to America Needs Fatima's devoted Fatima Custodians and their monthly supporters called Our Lady's Companions.

These programs consist of a video about the Fatima apparitions and the prophecies. The custodian explains why the statue is so special and the relevance of Our Lady's requests. Participants pray a rosary together and spend some personal time with the Pilgrim Statue.

However simple they may be, these events are frequently filled with blessings. The Pilgrim Virgin statues have touched so many people. In some cases, inexplicable phenomena have happened.

"Do you think Our Lady is blocking the signal?"

It was a routine home visit that was wrapping up with people praying before the statue. The program was set to end at 8 p.m.

Rather than pray, the lady of the house asked the custodian if she might turn on the television to watch the end of a singing competition show called *American Idol*. The custodian said he could not stop her but pointed out that the Pilgrim Statue would only be there for another fifteen minutes. Would the time not be better spent praying a little more? She insisted that the show lasted only fifteen more minutes. The competition was a "nail-biter," and she just had to see the results.

Thus, she turned on the television, and nothing appeared except static. She flipped the channel. Still, nothing. She turned the cable box off and on with no results. A TV in another room only showed static.

For the next fifteen minutes, she tried to figure out what had gone wrong. Her husband, the cable company and the teenagers could not figure out why none of the TVs in the house worked. The husband commented, "They were working fine before the statue arrived."

The lady approached the custodian with trepidation, saying, "Do you think Our Lady is blocking the signal?" The custodian had never heard of

such a thing, so he just shrugged and shook his head in confusion.

As the visit ended, the custodian put away the free pictures of Our Lady and other items. As he prepared to cover Our Lady, the lady's question about blocking the signal came to mind. He thought, "Is it possible that the TV signal will return once the cover goes on the statue?"

Much to his surprise, when he pulled the cover down on her, the TV signal audibly clicked on. The show had just finished, and the credits were rolling. The four teenagers on the couch watching this drama unfold jumped off the sofa, shouting, "No way! Mom! Come in here! The signal came back as soon as the man put the cover on the statue."

They were tempted to test it, and asked, "Take it off again. Let's see what happens." The custodian saw that whatever point Our Lady had to make was already made. Taking it off might make it look like a circus trick. So, he didn't.

The lady looked pale. She apologized profusely to the custodian and the Pilgrim Statue. Several years later, the custodian met the same lady, and she proudly declared she no longer watches the show.

Claiming Her Dominion

On May 13, 1951, Pope Pius XII said, "In 1946, I crowned Our Lady of Fatima as Queen of the World and the following year, through the Pilgrim Virgin, She set forth as though to claim Her dominion, and the favors She performs along the way are such that we can hardly believe what we are seeing with our eyes."

Her favors through the visits made by the Fatima Custodians have been great. Souls come back to the Faith. Sinners return to the sacraments. Indifferent souls become pious. Pious souls become fervent. These are markers of the wonders Our Lady of Fatima performs "as she claims her dominion." ■





Protests Work! SatanCon Canceled for 2024

BY JOHN HORVAT II

When The Satanic Temple (TST) announced it would hold “history’s largest conference of Satanists” in Boston on April 28–30, 2023, many thought it useless to protest. The high-profile event that attracted 800 participants enjoyed the support of the major media and the liberal establishment.

Yet, many Catholics disagreed with the call for inaction. They felt the need to protest and manifest their disgust and rejection of this satanic festival billed as “a weekend of blasphemy.” They disagreed with the premise that protests only call attention to these highly publicized events. Indeed, the lack of protest only calls attention to the absence of fervent souls.

Fortunately, Catholics showed up in force to protest the 2023 conference. The massive protest had its effect. The Satanic Temple announced on its Instagram page on December 31, 2023, that the group would not be holding a SatanCon in 2024.

The Efficacy of Protest

The macabre group claimed “the ongoing battle against theocracy” has absorbed its energy and resources. Thus, its organizing committee reported that “after thoughtful deliberation, we’ve made the decision to postpone our next SatanCon event to 2025.”

Massive protests have complicated the holding of these Satanic gatherings. Organizers face not only protesting Catholics and increased security obligations but also reluctant hotels that fear the negative publicity.

While the announcement highlights the cancellation of SatanCon 2024, it also admits facing opposition else-

where. Implicit in the confession is that SatanCon cannot be held because there is so much opposition in the “ongoing battle against theocracy” nationwide.

Wherever TST initiatives like After School Satan Clubs have surfaced, protests meet them that take time and resources to combat.

Thus, both the local protests against TST programs and the national effort have proven extremely effective. Protests, both big and small, work. Let no one say the contrary. The canceled SatanCon 2024 is proof.

Reasons to Protest

There are many reasons why SatanCon events need to be protested. They have included atrocities such as a workshop on teaching people how to turn abortion into a Satanic ritual, a Satanic “market-

place,” “unbaptism ceremonies” and a Satanic “wedding chapel.”

Their open mockery of the Church and Her sacraments is part of the Satanists’ effort to mainstream their agenda into society and the public square.

The Massive 2023 Protest and the Need for Vigilance

Opposing this blasphemous program last April was a multitude of faithful Catholics from all over the country. They converged upon Boston to hold peaceful, powerful and prayerful rosary rallies of reparation daily. The protests were a way to put into practice baptismal vows to reject Satan and all his works.

The rallies were organized by the American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property (TFP) and its America Needs Fatima campaign. TFP Student Action live-streamed the rallies over its powerful channel. In addition, the TFP band with drums, brass, fifes and bagpipes played Marian and patriotic hymns, while the prayer warriors sang along.

Local Catholics have held a monthly rally at the hotel site to continue the protests throughout the year.

While SatanCon 2024 has been canceled, the group affirmed it does plan to hold an event in 2025. At the same time, those monitoring the situation must be on guard since TST’s Instagram post might not be accurate. Satan is known as the father of lies (John 8:44). ■



In 2023, hundreds of Catholics protested in front of the Boston hotel that hosted SatanCon, the “history’s largest conference of Satanists.”

Catholics Offer Reparation at Blasphemous Funeral

BY JOSEPH GENSENS

Catholics were outraged by the shocking February 15, 2024, video of a funeral service for a flagrant transgender activist at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. The American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property (TFP) responded with petitions and three rosaries of reparation in front of the cathedral on February 24–26. Its young activists made their voices heard on the busy Fifth Avenue.

A funeral video on Facebook showed a large crowd of nearly 1,400 LGBTQ-friendly activists cheering as Father Edward Dougherty officiated at the funeral service of the atheist activist “Cecilia” Gentili, who was a biological man.

Some of the behavior at the funeral included transgenders hugging and kissing in the sanctuary. One speaker referred to Gentili as the “Mother of all whores” to the applause of all present. In a truly unspeakable blasphemy, some changed the hymn “Ave Maria” to “Ave Cecilia,” a reference to the individual who had died. At the end, Fr. Dougherty referred to the person as a woman, saying: “Let us take leave of our sister Cecilia.”¹

Acts of Public Reparation

Reaction from the American Catholic world was swift. Tens of thousands of people signed petitions on the various TFP websites.

In light of such horrific behavior, which defiled the House of God and the honor of God and His Blessed Mother, the American TFP and its America Needs Fatima campaign organized three rosary rallies in reparation. A public outrage called for public acts of reparation.

The first rally was held on Saturday, February 24, at noon in front of St. Patrick's Cathedral on Fifth Avenue. About 150 people attended the rally.

Many people gave thumbs up to the rally participants as they passed by. It was clear that the locals knew why the rosary rally was being held. A Carmelite priest from Middletown, New York, gave everyone a blessing at the end. A similar rally occurred on Sunday, the next day, at noon.



On Monday, February 26, TFP Student Action volunteers traveled up from their headquarters in Spring Grove, Pennsylvania, to hold another rosary rally of reparation. Nearly 100 people were present for the rosary rally at the steps of St. Patrick's Cathedral.

“It was amazing to see the amount of people who made the Sign of the Cross or joined in praying the Hail Mary as they walked by,” said Thomas Shibler, who was holding a banner with a message of reparation for the sacrilege. Young TFP members led the crowd in the rosary, interspersed with chants of “Reparation! Reparation! Reparation!” Finishing the rally, the TFP bagpipers played “God Bless America” while the crowd sang along.

“We pray that God accepts these acts of reparation,” commented John Ritchie, TFP Student Action director. “God and Our Lady are much offended by the crisis in the world and the Church today.”

Tens of thousands witnessed this act of reparation on Fifth Avenue. Catholics cannot remain silent in the face of such acts. ■

Catholics offer reparation in the bitter cold of New York City on February 24-26, protesting the funeral service of an atheist transgendered male activist at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

1. Maiké Hickson, “Cardinal Dolan praises priest who presided at ‘trans’ funeral in New York cathedral,” LifeSiteNews, February 19, 2024, <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/exclusive-cardinal-dolan-praises-priest-who-presided-at-trans-funeral-in-new-york-cathedral/>.



The Virgin of Guadalupe is surrounded by brilliant roses offered by supporters of America Needs Fatima in homage to their Queen and Mother.



(Continued from back cover)

each vessel. They removed all the thorns from the stems, picked off any imperfect petals and cut the base of each stem at a precise angle so that the roses would last as long as possible.

The extraordinary attention and care of Dona Ara's arrangements demonstrated the quality of her and her family's devotion to "La Virgen." The entire preparation was meticulously scheduled so that by the time the roses were presented to Our Lady, the buds opened, representing our opening up to Our Lady, the Mystical Rose.

Once all 121 arrangements were ready, Dona Ara's team of family and friends staged them in front of the Shrine with in sight of Our Lady's image. As the thousands of multi-colored roses arrived, pilgrims from all over Mexico and the world gathered around to admire them.

After taking photos to record the tribute, Dona Ara's little army of florists carried each of the approximately 35-40 pound rose arrangements the last hundred yards into the Basilica. Back and forth, the men bore the roses efficiently, never complaining nor showing any discomfort. With the help of the Shrine personnel, they arranged the roses along the tall walls on each side of the miraculous *tilma*.

The skillful and meticulous arrangement of over 100 dozen long-stem fresh roses was executed with military precision by a local floral artist, Dona Ara, and twenty members of her dedicated extended family over the course of three grueling days.

After the presentation of the roses, we lit fifty candles in supplication for the continued battle against the culture of death and in reparation for the sin of abortion.

Throughout the day, we entrusted the intentions of all ANF supporters into the maternal heart of our Blessed Mother. We arranged Masses and prayed rosaries for these same intentions.

First-Time Impressions

This year, we met up with a group of other American pilgrims at the Shrine. Hearing their first impressions of Our Lady of Guadalupe and the rose delivery was wonderful.



THERESA FROM CALIFORNIA:

"The miraculous tilma was larger than I thought. I know Our Lady sees us all the time, but at the Shrine, I felt like she was looking directly at me in the eye. I felt her presence in a more tangible way because we can see her face the way she wants us to see it.

"She is calling all of her children, faithful or not. Their souls recognize her call, even if the person is not so devout, and she can help all of us and work spiritual and even physical miracles."





FELIPE FROM MADRID, SPAIN:

“Our Lady of Guadalupe introduced a unique piety at this Shrine. In other places she appeared, there is more formality, more of her Queenship, perhaps more of her role as Mother of God, as patroness and protector of the Church. But here in Mexico City, she exercises more of her role as MOTHER, personal and individual, always ready to help in any situation and at any moment.

“We felt it was this motherly concern and love with which she received the many thousands of petitions laden with the cares, worries, concerns, sorrows, supplications and needs of America Needs Fatima members, supporters and friends.”



MEGAN AND JEFF, A YOUNG COUPLE FROM KANSAS:

Megan: “I think it was so beautiful to see all the people who stopped to take photos and ad-

mire the roses from American devotees. It really showed how much people in America love Our Lady and wanted to present beautiful flowers to her. We know that Our Lady’s appearance here in 1531 helped change the whole mindset of the Indians in regard to human sacrifice. Surely, Our Lady can impact America today to help stop the sacrifice of the unborn.”

Jeff: “The presentation of the roses, the devotion from ANF supporters, the florist and the workers all amazed me. There is no place in America where people handcraft such a beautiful gift to give Our Lady. Although Dona Ara and her team were hired to do a job, the amount of time and care they spent putting all the bouquets together showed their own love for Our Lady. The love they showed in their work was the way they reciprocated Our Lady’s love for them.”



Thank You

With hearts full of gratitude, we thank you for making us, in a sense, the ambassadors of your personal intentions and prayers to Our Lady of Guadalupe. Being part of your exchange of love with your Heavenly Mother enriched each of us and highlighted once again how much we are a part of one family under the mantle and loving care of *La Virgen de Guadalupe*. Without your help, support and prayers, none of this would have been possible. ■



Your “ambassadors” to Our Lady of Guadalupe, Anne and Lora (third and fourth from the left, respectively) stand below the *tilma* with a local florist, Dona Ara, and her team.



A Tribute FIT FOR A Queen

BY ANNE DRAKE AND LORA LUCAS-BAILIE

On February 24, 2024, America Needs Fatima (ANF) volunteers and friends delivered 14,520 roses (including 2,400 red roses for Saint Valentine's Day) to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City.

The thousands of roses represented the love and devotion of the thousands of ANF members and supporters, a fitting tribute to Our Mother Beyond Compare. Like little children who bring small but symbolic items to their mothers, the roses represented our childlike devotion. Unlike the roses we presented that will wither after some time, the permanence of Our Lady's image on the miraculous *tilma* expresses Our Lady's undying affection for her children.

Preparing a Tribute Fit for a Queen

For the last four years, ANF has organized this massive tribute to Our Lady. After ANF donors signed up online to present the roses, we ordered them from long-time local florist Dona Ara. Just as thousands of donations and prayer intentions came from all around the United States, Dona Ara sourced 14,520 roses from all around Mexico. That is no small feat, not just because of the sheer number of roses, but because she had to obtain them one week after Saint Valentine's Day!

Over a period of three days, Dona Ara and her team of about twenty relatives painstakingly inspected each rose and arranged approximately ten dozen roses in

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Local florists in Mexico City, Mexico, arrange 14,520 roses to present before the miraculous image of Our Lady of Guadalupe.