

MAY IS THE MONTH OF MARY

THE FISH NET

The official Newsletter of

SAINTE MARJA GORETTI CATHOLIC MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

March- April 2017



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ABOUT US

The Saint Maria Goretti Catholic Men's fellowship is a group where men explore the faith together, help each to grow spiritually, learn from each other, explore what it means to be a catholic man in today's world, and enable men to mature spiritually and live a fuller expression of the catholic faith in the context of other like-minded men. The group meets bi-weekly and sponsors events throughout the year where men share and grow spiritually. The Saint Maria Goretti Catholic Men's Fellowship group is affiliated with the National Fellowship of Catholic Men.

Fatima- 100 Years and The Message Still Resonates

On May 13, 2017, Catholics throughout the world will commemorate the Centennial of the Blessed Mother's first appearance to Francisco and Jacinta Marto and Lucia Santos at the Cova de Iria in Fatima, Portugal. Over the next six months she appeared to them there with the last apparition being on October 13, 1917. Our Lady left the same request during each visit; pray the rosary for peace. She told the children that if man prayed the rosary every day, the war, (WWI) would end; if not there would be more and horrible wars. It's, been one hundred years and it's obvious that man had not heeded our Blessed Mother's plea. Since then, we've experienced WWII, the Korean War, the Viet Nam War, the spread of communism by Russia through violent invasions, the Six Day War with Israel and Egypt, the Falkland War, the Iraq-Iran War, the 10 year Russian-Afghan War, Operation Urgent Fury in Grenada, the Operation in Panama, genocide in Rwanda and Operation Desert Storm in the twentieth century. Today we have wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Syria. We have Boko Haram using children as suicide bombers to terrorize the people of Nigeria, Chad, Niger, and Cameroon. We have Al Qaida terrorizing the people of Yemen. Over five million have died in the war in the Congo. We have hundreds murdered in the streets of the U.S. everyday. Today we're facing tensions with North Korea and Russia that many fear could lead to nuclear war. Yet, for one hundred years, the message; pray the rosary for peace still resonates and goes unheeded.

Some view Fatima as pure mythology, yet, over 100,000 people witnessed the miracle of the sun on October 13, 1917, and video of it still exist. Others view the rosary as a personal devotion and choose not to pray it, which it is and it is their right not to do so. Many will claim that modern society is so secularized, that only old people pray anymore and that prayer s like the rosary doesn't work. However, the facts remain that the rosary is a powerful prayer with documented miracles to prove it. One such miracle occurred on August 6, 1945 when 5 Jesuit priests prayed the rosary in the rectory one kilometer (0.6mile) away from the epicenter of the bomb that devastated Hiroshima, yet were not harmed nor had any radiation poisoning.

Regardless of the reason many don't pray the rosary, recent history and the perils of today are calling us to revive and promote the practice of praying a daily rosary for peace. As men of God, let us answer our Mother's call and lead our families in praying the rosary daily for peace. And let us commit to continuing to gather as men of God to pray the rosary for peace on the first Friday of each month. Our prayers can change the world. Peace!

Your Momma's Calling You

What man doesn't cherish his boyhood memories of playing football or baseball all day in the summer sun? Remember those days of close games that just when you're about to run the play that wins the football game or being at bat to bring in the winning run; you hear your momma call your name to come home. Even though you heard her call, you pretended that you didn't until that one friend usually on the other team yells out loud enough to be heard in the next city, "hey, your momma's calling you." Then you'd run home to do whatever Momma wanted you to do. There's not a man alive who hasn't had that experience. Now as men we have a momma who calls us and just like when we were boys we pretend not to hear. Unfortunately, today, we don't always have that friend to say "hey your momma's calling you." The big difference is the momma that's calling us is not calling us for herself; she's calling us to her Son, Jesus. Ever since Jesus; nailed to the cross nearing death saw his mother and said "*Woman, behold your son*" then he said to the disciple "*Behold your mother*" (Jn 19:26-27), Mary the mother of God became our mother. Throughout the ages our Blessed Mother has appeared numerous times calling us to prayer and repentance wanting to lead us to her son, Jesus. The Blessed Mother continually warned men through her chosen visionaries to turn away from sin, repent, pray the rosary for peace and to dedicate ourselves to her Immaculate Heart and the Sacred Heart of Jesus. And throughout the ages men have ignored her. While the church doesn't demand that we believe these apparitions, she deems them worthy of belief. If heeding the call of our Blessed Mary wasn't important the church would not have taken such pain staking measures to approve seventeen of the hundreds of apparitions and have many others awaiting decisions. From Mary's appearance to Juan Diego in Guadalupe, Mexico in 1531, to her appearance to Adele Brise in Champion, Wisconsin in 1859, to her appearance to the children in Kibeho, Rwanda in 1983, her message is the same; repent, pray, come to Jesus and be in communion with the Trinity. And still, men ignore her call. She has appeared several times to ask us to pray to avert calamities as did at Fatima, Portugal in 1917, foretelling the wars and sufferings of the twentieth century; and at Beauraing, Belgium in 1932 and at Banneux, Belgium in 1933 warning of the evils of WWII if men didn't pray. We know what happened from 1939-1945 with the murder of six million Jews in Europe. Yet, we ignored her call. We continued to ignore her call when she warned us in 1983 at Kibeho through five children about the genocide that occurred in Rwanda. We ignored her and hundreds of thousands were killed. Though mankind continues to ignore her message and blaspheme against her, she continues to watch over her children pleading with us come to her and to let her bring us closer to her Son and receive His love and mercy. Our Blessed Mother, out of love for us asks that we repent, pray the rosary for peace, and turn away from sin and our worldly ways and turn to her son. Hey, you're momma's calling; you might want to do what she says. *Mother Mary, I offer all my prayers, actions, and sacrifices in reparation for the blasphemies committed against you. Watch over me and lead me to your son, Jesus.*

MAY 13. OUR LADY OF FATIMA. MOTHERS ALWAYS WANT THEIR CHILDREN TO BE HAPPY.

MAY 11, 2016

MAY 13. OUR LADY OF FATIMA.

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA'S MESSAGE MOTHERS ALWAYS WANT THEIR CHILDREN TO BE HAPPY.

This evident fact stems from their TRUE LOVE towards them. So when their children go a bit astray from the right path, they do not hesitate to tenderly call their attention with an authentic maternal concern. This is, to my opinion, the reason behind all the apparitions of Our Mother Mary throughout these centuries: FOR LOVE OF US, OUR MOTHER MARY WISHES TO BRING US BACK TO THE FOLD OF HER SON, OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, SO THAT WE MAY OBTAIN THE GRACE OF SALVATION AND THUS, ETERNAL HAPPINESS, which is the best thing a man can long for and attain.

The message of Fatima is, which is essentially that of the Gospel, can be summarized into 4 points:

1. PERMANENT CONVERSION, knowing that "The greatest obstacle to man's journey towards God is sin, perseverance in sin, and, finally, denial of God (St. John Paul II, Homily in Fatima, May 13, 1982)."
2. Life of PRAYER, including that of the HOLY ROSARY;
3. REPARATION not only FOR OUR SINS BUT FOR THOSE OF OTHERS AS WELL through SACRIFICES, thereby living the communion of saints.
4. Through the CONSECRATION TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY, "She not only calls us to be converted: SHE CALLS US TO ACCEPT HER MOTHERLY HELP TO RETURN TO THE SOURCE OF REDEMPTION (ibidem)," her Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Dear friends, let us THANK Our Lady for her maternal love and solicitude for our wellbeing and let us TAKE HEED of Our Heavenly Mother's message, asking her help with filial love and devotion to put into practice what She asked from us.

Below you have the Consecratory prayer to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the highlights of her message in Fatima.

-Fr. Rolly Arjonillo, priest of Opus Dei, of the CATHOLICS STRIVING FOR HOLINESS FB page.

Congratulations to the winner of the March-April Newsletter contest, James Young who won the book; The Book of Confidence.

PRAYER CORNER

Fatima Prayers

O my God, I believe, I adore, I hope, and I love Thee. I ask pardon for those who do not believe, do not hope, and do not love Thee. Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I adore Thee profoundly. I offer Thee the Most Precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, Present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges, and indifferences whereby He is offended. And through the infinite merits of His Most Sacred Heart and the immaculate heart of Mary, I beg of Thee the conversion of poor sinners.

O my Jesus, I offer this for love of Thee, for the conversion of sinners, and in reparation for the sins committed against the immaculate heart of Mary.

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA'S MESSAGE TO THE WORLD

copied in its entirety from

<http://www.salvemariaregina.info/Message.html>

1. PUNISHMENT OF THE WORLD: Our Blessed Mother can no longer restrain the hand of her Divine Son from striking the world with a just punishment for its many crimes.
2. AMENDMENT OF LIFE: "*I have come to warn the faithful to amend their lives and ask pardon for their sins. They must not continue to offend Our Lord, Who is already too much offended.*"
3. FIVE WARNINGS: "*If my requests are not granted, Russia will spread her errors throughout the world, provoking wars and persecutions against the Church. Many good people will be martyred, there will come another great war, and various nations will be destroyed.*"
4. WAR: "*Wars are a punishment for the sins of mankind.*"
5. SINS OF THE FLESH: "*More souls go to Hell because of the sins of the flesh than for any other reason.*"
6. IMMODEST FASHIONS: "*Certain fashions are being introduced that offend Our Lord very much.*"
7. SINFUL MARRIAGES: "*Many marriages are not good; they do not please Our Lord and are not of God.*"
8. DAILY ROSARY: "*Say the Rosary every day to obtain peace for the world. And after each decade say the following prayer: 'O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of Hell, and lead all souls to Heaven, especially those who have most need of Thy mercy.'*"
9. PRAYER AND SACRIFICE: "*Pray, pray a great deal, and make sacrifices for sinners, for many souls go to Hell because they have no-one to make sacrifices and pray for them*"
10. DEVOTION TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY: "*God wishes to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart. If people do what I tell you, many souls will be saved and there will be peace.*"
11. FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION: "*I promise to help at the hour of death with the graces needed for salvation those who, on the first Saturday of five consecutive months, go to confession, receive Holy Communion, say five decades of the Rosary and keep me company for fifteen minutes while meditating on the mysteries, with the intention of making reparation to my Immaculate Heart.*"
12. WORLD PEACE: "*Tell everybody that God gives His graces through the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Tell them to ask graces from her, and that the Heart of Jesus wishes to be venerated together with the Immaculate Heart of Mary, for the Lord has confided the peace of the world to her... In the end my Immaculate Heart will triumph, Russia will be converted and there will be peace.*"

CATHOLIC MEN WEBSITES

<http://thosecatholicmen.com>

<http://realmenpraytherosary.org>

<http://catholicfamilymen.com/blog>

COMING EVENTS

May 3, 2017 - Meeting; 7:00pm - Center library

May 5, 2017 - Men's Rosary for Peace; after 6:00pm mass - Chapel

May 17, 2017 - Meeting; 7:00pm - Center library

May 31, 2017 - Meeting; 7:00pm - Center library

June 2, 2017 - Men's Rosary for Peace; 6:00pm - Chapel

June 14, 2017 - Meeting; 7:00pm - Center library

June 28, 2017 - Meeting; 7:00pm - Center library