



# The Open Door

Open wide the door to Christ! - St. John Paul the Great

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## A reminder of the love of the Blessed Mother

*Her love, in turn, drew me to her Son*

by Sr. Mary Ann Foggin, SGL

**I was about** seven years old when I first saw the 1943 version of the movie *The Song of Bernadette*. That was the moment I fell in love with the Blessed Mother. While the special effects were nothing to brag about—this was a black-and-white film made in the 1940s—they were enough for me to believe that the most beautiful Blessed Mother can sometimes come, floating in a “bubble,” to speak to young girls. I believed that with all my heart. While walking home

from the bus stop, I would glance above the shrubs that lined our neighbor's front yard, looking for the “bubble” that would alert me to her presence.

And so it was that my relationship with Mary began. Not exactly on firm theological footing, but I imagine the Blessed Mother was pleased with the pure desire of my young heart.

Right around this same time, my grandmother bought me a statue of the Blessed Mother for my First

Holy Communion. It was a lovely painted statue about a foot tall with a gold crown studded with blue jewels. I was in awe. My attention shifted from looking for Mary to appear to me in a bubble to speaking to her all the time in my bedroom where she had a place of honor on my dresser.

**For many years** in my young adult life, that statue was the only hard evidence that I was born and raised Catholic. Having never been taught the concept of being

“We exist to joyfully worship God and carry out the mission of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.” - Mission Statement of Christ the King

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*In my own life, the Lord Jesus has brought together what the snake had tried to divide: my relationship with the Mother of God and my charismatic life.*



Fr. Ed Fride is Pastor of Christ the King.

Artwork: Detail of *The Annunciation* by Hans Memling (circa 1433-1494). From the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Photograph of a work in the public domain from Wikimedia Commons, commons.wikimedia.org.

## Mary

by Fr. Ed Fride

**Toward the end** of my senior year in high school, I was growing in my brand-new relationship with the Lord Jesus and still in the process of becoming Catholic. But the question of the role of the Mother of God in the Church and in my life hadn't even come up, since the rinky-dink little catechism that was used for my instruction—all 110 pages of it—didn't really get into it. In fact, it wasn't until six months after becoming Catholic when I entered the seminary that it began to be an issue.

One of my classmates, who had a deep devotion to the Mother of God, began to interrogate me about my charismatic background, since he saw it as essentially a Protestant incursion into the Church, not an uncommon attitude at the time. The confirmation of this for him was when he asked me about my relationship with Mary. I essentially said that I didn't have one; I preferred one with Jesus Himself. That didn't exactly go well.

As I got to know more guys, it seemed like a lot of guys had some kind of devotion to Mary, but they had very little of a relationship with Jesus Himself. It seemed to me as if Mary was almost a substitute for Jesus in their devotional lives. (At least, in my judgmental, un-



catechized, immature, 18-year-old perspective.) We had some knock-down, drag-out battles among the "charismatic versus Marian" seminarians. In exasperation, one day in the chapel I simply prayed, "Lord Jesus, give me whatever kind of relationship you want me to have with Your Mother!" I figured that would end it.

**Then I started** taking a theology class from a professor who had recently gotten his degree in mystical theology, and he introduced us to the great mystics Sts. Teresa of Jesus and John of the Cross. They were hugely impactful, since I was continuing to have some amazing experiences in prayer and their writings provided excellent guidance. That they knew Jesus was unquestionably the case; that they also had profound devotional relationships with the Mother of God was also unquestionably

the case. So I decided to shelve my ego and learn from these great Doctors of the Church.

**My love for the Lady** understandably began to grow at that point. In fact, within a few months I felt called to a more concrete expression of that relationship and became a Third Order Carmelite, dedicated to a deeper relationship with the Mother of God.

It was also an exciting Marian time for the whole Church, with the increased emphasis on Mary at the Second Vatican Council, especially the final chapter of *Lumen Gentium* and Pope St. Paul VI's exhortation *Marialis Cultus*. The whole Church was waking up to the value of a deeper relationship with she who was declared "Mother of the Church."

In my own life, the Lord Jesus has brought together what the snake had tried to divide: my relationship with the Mother of God and my charismatic life. When I pray my three daily Rosaries, I pray in tongues while I pray them, uniting in prayer with the Holy Spirit and she who is the spouse of the Holy Spirit.

The Lady rocks! May her intercession draw all of us into an ever-deeper union with her Son, which is always the focus of her ministry.

## A reminder of the love of the Blessed Mother

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in *relationship* with Jesus, I had a very narrow view of His Kingship. He suffered and died and gave His life for me. I could never do anything like that in return. I imagined that the Lord was keeping track of my failures and sins and that the balance sheet of my life would be nothing more than a tally of all my mistakes.

That type of thinking, coupled with every young person's desire for independence, worked to draw me into the pull of the world and the culture. It didn't take long for me to be Catholic in name only, foregoing the Sacraments, pursuing the "good life." And still, the statue of Mary sat on my dresser. I looked at her every day. My relationship with her never changed. We spoke. I knew she loved me. I loved her.

### Why was this possible?

Undoubtedly, it was a grace. Perhaps because my mother loved the Blessed Mother and gifted me with Mary's name; perhaps because God knew I needed something heavenly that could save me from hell. But it was also because my childhood faith in the Blessed Mother was founded on a truth that I didn't understand until well into adulthood. Mary loves us with an unconditional love. She doesn't sit in judgement of us. She watches over us and pours grace out on us. Her love is warm and sweet and strong. And so it was by the seemingly thin thread of the Blessed Mother that I encountered Christ



in a way that changed my life. It began with a book on Medjugorje that awakened something in my heart that had long been dormant. Reading that book was the beginning of my re-conversion.

Like every good mother, the Blessed Mother never let go of my hand, most especially when I was in danger. (I'm speaking here of the spiritual variety.) I was aware of her in my life at all times. Looking back now, I find this most extraordinary because I know if that hadn't been the case, I may not have been receptive to the way the Lord was desiring to work in my heart.

**As I began my reconversion,** the first door that opened to me was a Rosary group. I joined it—probably one of the youngest members by about 30 years! I don't believe that was accident or coincidence. I came back to the Lord through the gentle and loving hands of His mother.

The next year, following my heart, I was back in the Church. I had friends who

knew the Lord and spoke truth to me about who He was. They called me on and prayed for me. I felt fully alive and overwhelmingly grateful.

I wanted to do something to mark this new chapter in my life. That was when I made my first Consecration to the Blessed Mother on the Feast of the Annunciation. I knew it was her love that drew me to her Son. I wanted to love her Son the way that she did.

It wasn't long before the Lord fully captured my heart. His invitation to become His spouse was a welcome one. I couldn't wait! The invitation to join the Servants of God's Love was offered to me on the Feast of the Assumption, August 15, 1998.

I moved in, with my statue of Mary, the very next month. That statue has been with me for almost 55 years. It is a reminder, always, of the love of the Blessed Mother for me and of me for her.

*Remember O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known, that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help or sought thy intercession was left unaided.*

*Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of Virgins, my mother. To thee do I come; before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me.*

*By the seemingly thin thread of the Blessed Mother, I encountered Christ in a way that changed my life.*



Sr. Mary Ann Foggin has been a member of the Servants of God's Love for over 20 years. She currently serves as campus minister at St. Catherine of Siena Academy in Wixom.

Cover image and detail on page 3: Photo by Sr. Kelly MacDonald, SGL. Used with permission.



*I couldn't be with  
my dad and  
younger sister,  
so I asked  
Our Lady to  
visit and mother  
them in their  
time of need.*

Artwork: *The Virgin in Prayer*  
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## Help in time of need

*Who was the woman visiting my dying father?*

by Dede Fuller

**My dad had just recovered** from triple bypass heart surgery and a heart valve replacement. He was doing well and we were all looking forward to many more years of healthy life for him.

Then he was unexpectedly diagnosed with Stage IV pancreatic cancer. The diagnosis was devastating to all of us, especially my younger sister with whom he lived in North Carolina. She had drifted away from the faith years earlier, never having been fully catechized, after my father and stepmother divorced. In addition to going through a very stressful time at work, her husband had just been deployed to Iraq, leaving her temporarily as a single mom. She was now faced with being the primary caregiver for our dad.

I flew down to North Carolina as often as I could to try to help out, but my own family and work responsibilities limited my travels. During one of my first visits, I tried to present my Lutheran father with a relic of Fr. Solanus Casey that a friend had given me. He declined the relic, saying respectfully, "Thank you, but give it to someone who can appreciate its worth." I kept it and asked for his saintly intercession daily as my father tried to embrace this devas-



*When he tried  
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tating diagnosis. I also turned more intently to praying the Rosary, particularly the sorrowful mysteries. I asked Our Lady to visit both my dad and my sister and to mother them in their time of need.

**A few days later** my sister called to tell me that my dad was admitted to the hospital. She thought he might be hallucinating because "he keeps talking about a lady who is coming to see him but the nurses say no one has been to see him."

The next day, I got word that my dad's condition was deteriorating rapidly and flew down as fast as I could. By the time I got to see him in his hospital bed, he could barely speak.

However, he managed to communicate to me that a woman had been visiting him. When he tried to describe her, all he could say was that she was "beautiful ... beautiful." I asked if he knew her; he said no, but he indicated that he knew her name. He struggled to sit up in the bed and said "M, M, M," repeatedly until he was nearly spent from the effort. I encouraged him to rest and asked if that was her first or last name. He said, "Both," but could say no more. He appeared saddened that he could not say the name, discouraged at the effort. I asked if the woman was helping him, and he smiled and said, "Yes!" I told him if she was helping him, then it was fine and she could come to visit. He rested then and fell asleep smiling.

**After we returned** to the hospice house where we were staying, my sister and I tried to figure out who might be visiting Dad. We agreed that it wasn't like him to describe a woman as "beautiful." For Dad, women were either "good-looking" or "not good-looking," but never "beautiful," except for our mother. I shared with my sister that our father had mentioned the name "M."

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# Growing into a relationship with Mary

*In recent years, Dave Mayoros has experienced some changes in his relationship with the Blessed Mother. We asked him to share with us about it.*

## What was your relationship with the Blessed Mother growing up?

I attended a Catholic elementary school through 8th grade, so I was definitely aware of Mary. My mom had a fairly consistent devotion to Our Lady, but my dad did not, and my dad was always a more natural mentor for me.

## As you grew in your relationship with the Lord as an adult, what, if any, part did she play?

I really came into my own adult relationship with the Lord at the latter end of my freshman year at the University of Michigan. When I returned in Fall 1981, I was ready to dive into the Christian group that I had become involved with, University Christian Outreach (UCO). However, I would say that in a certain way, I grew a bit more suspicious of Mary.

UCO is an ecumenical group, so don't get me wrong here. I was still Catholic, even increasingly so on many levels. I was a bit suspicious of Mary, though. I had seen and heard of some situations that seemed too focused on Mary, with Jesus somewhere in the shadows, and this just didn't seem right. So I kept Mary at arm's length, focusing instead on developing a prayer life focused on Jesus and His redeeming work in my life.



## How did your suspicions about Mary begin to soften?

There were many things, but three have accounted for the most recent developments.

First, I was encouraged to read *33 Days to Morning Glory* by Fr. Michael Gaitley. In it, Fr. Michael presents as examples four saints who all had a very strong devotion to Mary: Pope St. John Paul II, St. Louis de Montfort, St. Teresa of Calcutta, and St. Maximilian Kolbe. Three of these have always been "Hero Saints" to me. I was impressed with their relationships with Mary and how she helped them draw closer to the Lord and gave them strength in times of need. After completing the 33 days to Morning Glory retreat, a group of us from Christ the King consecrated our lives to the Blessed Virgin on August 15, 2016.

Second, in August 2017, I attended the *Mercy & Mary Retreat* at Christ the King. The retreat came at a good time of year for my wife and me, so we attended the retreat together, which made it memorable in itself. We both

really enjoyed the retreat and had a bit of time to discuss it with each other.

Finally, right after the retreat, I read a little book all the retreatants had been given called *Marian Missionaries of Divine Mercy*. In it, Fr. Michael lays out the identity, spirituality, and mission of Marian Missionaries of Divine Mercy, all of which were very appealing to me.

About a month after the retreat, Jill Diroff sent an email to all those who attended asking if anyone felt inspired to start a Michigan branch of the Marian Missionaries of Divine Mercy (MMDM). I jumped at the chance. On May 4 of this year, about 25 people will be completing the two-year formation process and will be ready to apply officially to become full MMDM members. I am one of those 25 happy people. [See Jill's article on page 8 for more information.]

## What else may have contributed to your changing relationship with Mary?

Last summer, I received an

*As I read about Pope St. John Paul II, St. Louis de Montfort, St. Teresa of Calcutta, and St. Maximilian Kolbe, I was impressed with their relationships with Mary and how she helped them draw closer to the Lord and gave them strength in times of need.*

Painting of St. Louis de Montfort and photographs of Pope St. John Paul II, St. Teresa of Calcutta, and St. Maximilian Kolbe are all in the public domain and were obtained from Wikimedia Commons, commons.wikimedia.org.

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## Help in time of need

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Dede Fuller and her husband Michael are the parents of five handsome sons and one beautiful daughter. She's worked for 31 years as a nurse in the U-M Neonatal ICU. She writes, "I learned at a very young age when my own mother died unexpectedly in an auto accident that our Lady will comfort and guide us and the path will always lead to Jesus' Sacred Heart."

Suddenly, in the low-lit room where we were talking, I saw a light appear on my sister's face as if she were holding a candle. She looked at me and, with a gasp of recognition, said, "It was the Blessed Mother!" All of a sudden, my eyes were opened, and I responded, "Oh good, I asked her to come." My sister was amazed. "But Dad isn't Catholic!" she exclaimed. I reminded her that Our Lady is the Mother of the World and that she will come to all who invite her and seek her protection and intercession.

The next morning my sister visited my dad before work,

*She looked at me and, with a gasp of recognition, said, "It was the Blessed Mother!"*

and he was able to tell her not to worry about her husband who was in the red zone in the Iraq war, saying, "It is taken care of." Later that morning, Dad died peacefully in the arms of his daughters. I'm convinced that Our Lady, in response to Blessed Solanus' prayers and the promises of the Rosary, came to visit my dad and my sister in their time of need.

My sister has since had a profound sense of peace that cannot be explained by anything other than divine intervention. Her husband returned home from the war just a few days after we buried our father, and her life seems more peaceful now with fewer work responsibilities and more family time. I am hopeful that our Blessed Mother will continue to shelter her and through the Holy Spirit (and a better witness to the Faith on my part) reveal all the promises of Christ to her and all of God's children.

## Growing into a relationship with Mary

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Dave Mayoros has been a member of Christ the King since the 1980s. After retiring last year from teaching in the public schools, he now teaches at Spiritus Sanctus Academy on Joy Road. He and his wife Maggie have two adult sons.

invitation to commit to praying a daily Rosary for 54 days for the nation. I quickly side-stepped this invitation because I already spend a fair chunk of time in daily prayer, and I thought that I didn't have time to either replace part of my prayer time with a Rosary or add it on, given my fairly busy schedule.

About 10–12 days later, as I was taking my personal prayer time, a thought hit me: "Lord, is there any other weapon that I can use in my fight against sin and Satan?" I sensed the Lord giving me a glance—or perhaps I should say, "the" glance—that said to

my heart, "We have already discussed this." I knew exactly what the Lord meant. The weapon I was asking about was the Rosary, and the Lord wanted me to commit to praying the Rosary daily for the foreseeable future.

Since that time, I have "coincidentally" come across and read three books on the Rosary—*The Secret of the Rosary* by St. Louis de Montfort and *Champions of the Rosary* and *10 Wonders of the Rosary*, both by Fr. Donald Calloway—each of which makes a strong case for the Rosary being a very

strong weapon in our battle against the evil one.

**What would you say to any man who might think that a relationship with the Blessed Mother is something more for women?**

My thoughts on this are quite simple. You really can't argue with Pope St. John Paul II, St. Maximilian Kolbe, or, for that matter, St. Dominic, who received the Rosary in 1208. Well, I guess you could, but you are being quite foolish if you try!



# “I want to introduce you to Mary”

*My first response was, “Mary who?”*

by Debbie Herbeck

**Growing up in a Jewish home,** I knew very little about Jesus and nothing about His mother. Even after I became a Messianic Jewish Christian in college, I didn't have any negative feelings about Mary. She just wasn't on my radar at all, other than seeing her occasionally in the Scriptures.

Then when I was in my 20s, a Catholic young man named Peter expressed interest in dating me. He was very clear from the start, though, that he wanted to marry a Catholic. I, in turn, was very clear that I was not willing to become Catholic just to get married. I was willing, though, to investigate the claims of the Catholic Church—without his help—and see if I could come to a place of personal conviction about Catholicism. He agreed.

At the time, my tennis doubles partner was Fr. Frank McGrath. I knew, of course, that he was a Catholic priest, but I related to him as a friend, so he was the logical one for me to go to with my questions. We started meeting to discuss Catholicism.

One day in prayer, I sensed the Lord saying, “I want to introduce you to Mary.” My response was, “Mary who?” I thought that maybe I was supposed to evangelize someone named Mary! He made it clear that He meant His mother.

I was still pondering that when I went to meet with Fr. Frank later that day. He said, “Before we

start, I want to share with you something the Lord said to me. I think He wants to introduce you to His mother Mary.” I took that as a confirmation!

## **To get to know**

**Mary,** I went to the Scriptures. As I studied her there, I felt like we had much in common. Like me, she was a young Jewish girl facing rejection in order to do God's will. As I read about Mary going to Elizabeth in her time of need, I sensed Mary saying that she wanted to be with me in my time of need.

Mary became a companion, a friend, a mother. She made the Church a home for me, as only good Jewish mothers can do. Having Mary as the “feminine force” filled out the family of God.

Over the years, my understanding of her role has expanded as my own roles in life have grown.

- The consolation that I received from Mary as my mother helped me to let go of pain and bitterness in my relationship with my mom and to just love her.
- When my kids were teens, I could look at her losing Jesus in the Temple and try to learn with her to trust God and let go.



*The Lord really wants us to know His Mother.*

- When my parents died within five years of each other, I was comforted by Mary who knew what it was like to have a sword of grief pierce her heart.
- As I mentor and serve as a spiritual mother to young women, I can point to Mary as a model of how to say yes to God and what it means to love.
- Now that I have grandkids, she shows me how to be present to them and what it means to create a legacy of love.

**The Lord really wants us to know** His mother. It's a real relationship, and like any relationship, it takes work. She is a real person, not a statue or a devotion, and she wants to be in our lives.

Mary has been a profound source of grace for me. She has taught me how to love better and to do the Father's will.



**Debbie Herbeck and her husband Peter are parents of four young adult children and seven grandchildren. Debbie is the founder and executive director of Pine Hills Girls Camp and Be Love Revolution, ministries for young women.**

Artwork: *The Virgin Mary* (from *The Annunciation*) by Vladimir Borovikovskiy (1757-1825). Icon from the royal gates of the central iconostasis of the Kazan Cathedral in St. Petersburg, Russia. Photograph of a work in the public domain from Wikimedia Commons, commons.wikimedia.org.

*The spirituality of the Marian Missionaries of Divine Mercy centers around a personal encounter with Jesus Christ ... fostered by a close relationship with the Blessed Mother, especially through Marian Consecration, and an ever-growing understanding of the Message of Divine Mercy...*



Jill Diroff and her husband, Tom, have been married for 33 years and have been members of Christ the King since 2004. They have been active in promoting Marian devotion within the parish.

## Responding to God's call to holiness

by Jill Diroff

**Although God calls each** of us to be holy, our individual responses to that call will be as unique as we are. Personally, I am responding to that call as a Marian Missionary of Divine Mercy. I was asked to describe what a Marian Missionary of Divine Mercy is.

To be honest, I was surprised at how difficult it was to give a succinct definition of what it means to be a Marian Missionary of Divine Mercy. Why was that? I have been a Marian Missionary since October 2016, and I know the handbook pretty well, so what was the problem?

After much prayer and reflection, I sensed the Lord saying that I was approaching the topic all wrong. I was trying to define the Marian Missionaries of Divine Mercy like an object that could be easily described in finite, concrete terms. I felt like the Lord showed me that this was not true.

The truth is that the Marian Missionaries of Divine Mercy are a living response to a movement of the Holy Spirit within the Church. We are an Ecclesial Movement that creates a spirituality that helps lay people live out their faith in the world.

**The spirituality** of the Marian Missionaries of Divine Mercy centers around a personal encounter with Jesus Christ. This encounter is fostered by a close relationship

with the Blessed Mother, especially through Marian Consecration, and an ever-growing understanding of the Message of Divine Mercy, which is then lived out in daily life.

Since the dawn of the Third Millennium, the Spirit has been calling the Church to become the face of God's



Mercy, and She has been responding. From Pope St. John Paul II's establishment of Divine Mercy Sunday as a feast for the entire Church to Pope Francis' call for an Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, the Church has been declaring that **now** is the time for Mercy. In addition, there has been a renewed sense of mission and a growing sense of urgency to go out and bring that Mercy to a world which needs it so very badly. One way the Church has been responding to this call is through the Marian Missionaries of Divine Mercy.

In August 2017, about 700 people from all over Michigan, the surrounding states, and Canada attended a *Mercy and Mary Retreat* at Christ the King, led by a group of Marian Missionaries and their Formation Director, Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC. As a result of the interest

generated by the retreat, a Michigan Chapter of the MMDM was established. Since the first meeting in October 2017, about 25 people have been going through the two-year formation process and are set to "graduate" in early May. Having spent time in study and prayer, they will be prepared to discern if they wish to apply formally to become a Marian Missionary of Divine Mercy.

Last September at the *Made for Happiness Diocesan Assembly*, Bishop Earl Boyea asked everyone in the Lansing Diocese to join him in a year of prayer dedicated to forming missionary disciples. Perhaps the Marian Missionaries of Divine Mercy will be an answer to that prayer for you.

**If you would like to explore** the spirituality of the MMDM, I encourage you to visit their website, [marianmissionaries.org](http://marianmissionaries.org), and request a copy of their handbook, which summarizes what it means to be a Marian Missionary of Divine Mercy. You can also contact me, Jill Diroff, by email at [33MorningGlory@gmail.com](mailto:33MorningGlory@gmail.com).

The world has never needed Mercy more! The question is: How will **you** answer God's call to bring His Mercy to those who are lonely, sad, and suffering?



# Living the message of Our Lady of Fatima

*The call to prayer and penance is as timely now as it was 100 years ago*

by Susan Randolph

**I was blessed** to visit Fatima four years ago and was so impressed at how the three children—Lucia, Francesco, and Jacinta—were completely obedient to every request of our Blessed Mother. They wholeheartedly lived out the message of Our Lady of Fatima and gave the rest of their lives praying for the conversion of sinners and for the continued spreading of Our Lady's message. Jacinta and Francesco willingly died very painful deaths at a young age for the conversion of sinners, not wanting anyone to go to hell. Lucia became a cloistered nun and spent her life in prayer and the spreading of the message.

Our Blessed Mother made clear to the children that her message was not just for them. She wanted everyone to follow their

example and obediently live the message in the context of their own vocations in life. She is our Mother! Was I going to tell her “no”?

**Since my visit** to Fatima, I have tried to live the message. I can testify that I have grown in my love, devotion, and gratitude to our Blessed Mother and in my desire to spread her message.

I had previously consecrated myself to Mary and re-consecrated myself to her annually for many years. However, I never fully felt a lasting, consistent connection with her due to my long-standing problem of independence and self-sufficiency. I would often just forget to depend on her.



Christ the King's statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary depicts her as Our Lady of Fatima. In 1917, she appeared to three shepherd children, sharing a message of prayer and repentance for the world.

Since committing myself to living the message of Fatima, my independence is giving way to a dependence on her. That, in turn, is giving way to deeper devotion and gratitude to her. She will **never** let us

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## What is the message of Our Lady of Fatima?

Our Blessed Mother appeared to the three children six times from May to October 1917. Some of the things she said were specifically for the children; others were for the pope and bishops. Here is a summary of her message for the world:

1. Pray the Rosary daily for peace in the world and the conversion of sinners.
2. Consecrate yourself to Mary's Immaculate Heart.
3. Strive to live a good Christian life, doing the duties of your station in life out of love and dedicating everything to God.

4. Make sacrifices for the conversion of sinners and accept sufferings patiently in reparation for sins against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

In December 1925, Our Lady appeared to Lucia to reveal the “Five First Saturdays of Reparation” for sins against her Immaculate Heart. She asked that, on the first Saturday of five consecutive months, people in a spirit of reparation for sins against her Immaculate Heart would:

- Go to Confession. (Confession can be within

eight days before or after, as long as Holy Communion is received in a state of Grace.)

- Receive Holy Communion.
- Pray five decades of the Rosary.
- Keep her company for 15 minutes, meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary.

In response to this request, Christ the King has a Holy Hour in the Worship Space following the 9am Mass on the first Saturday of each month. The Holy Hour includes the Rosary, Adoration, and Benediction. All are welcome.

*The Church today  
is in a time of  
great crisis.  
The message  
of Fatima is  
especially urgent  
for our time.*



Susan Randolph and her husband, Dcn. Larry, are founding members of Christ the King. They have three adult children and 23 grandchildren.

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## Living the message of Our Lady of Fatima

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down! Unlike other human mothers, she is the **perfect** Mother.

**Pope St. John Paul II** and Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI both strongly urged the faithful to be obedient to the requests made by our Mother at Fatima. For example, Pope St. John Paul in his homily at Fatima on the first anniversary of the attempt on his life said:

...while the message of Our Lady of Fátima is a motherly one, it is also strong and decisive. ... It invites to repentance. It gives a warning. It calls to prayer. It recommends the Rosary.

The message is addressed to every human being. The love of the Saviour's Mother reaches every place touched by the work of salvation.<sup>1</sup>

Twenty-eight years later on his apostolic visit to Fatima, Pope Benedict echoed his predecessor's message, saying:

We would be mistaken to think that Fatima's prophetic mission is complete. ... In

sacred Scripture we often find that God seeks righteous men and women in order to save the city of man and he does the same here, in Fatima, when Our Lady asks: "Do you want to offer yourselves to God, to endure all the sufferings which he will send you, in an act of reparation for the sins by which he is offended and of supplication for the conversion of sinners?" (*Memoirs of Sister Lúcia*, I, 162).<sup>2</sup>

Our Blessed Mother at Fatima earnestly pleaded with the children and now with us:

"Pray, pray very much, and make sacrifices for sinners; for many souls go to hell, because there are none to sacrifice themselves and to pray for them."<sup>3</sup>

**The Church today** is in a time of great crisis. The message of Fatima is especially urgent for our time. If the faithful had responded as our Mother requested, would we be in this crisis?

Many in the Church feel angry and frustrated by the current crisis. Anger can be a motivator. We are not helpless! We have been given the power and authority as children of God to pray, calling down powerful graces for conversion through the intercession of the Mother of God and our Mother!

Perhaps this statement of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI best sums up his pastoral advice regarding Fatima: "Learn the message of Fatima! Live the message of Fatima! Spread the message of Fatima!"<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Pope St. John Paul II, Homily, Mass of Our Lady of Fátima, Fátima, Portugal, May 13, 1982. Retrieved online April 9, 2019, [www.ewtn.com/library/PAPALDOC/JP820513.HTM](http://www.ewtn.com/library/PAPALDOC/JP820513.HTM).

<sup>2</sup> Pope Benedict XVI, Homily, Mass at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fátima, Fátima, Portugal, May 13, 2010. Retrieved online April 9, 2019, [www.ewtn.com/library/PAPALDOC/b16port11.htm](http://www.ewtn.com/library/PAPALDOC/b16port11.htm).

<sup>3</sup> Sister Maria Lucia of Jesus and of the Immaculate Heart, *Fatima in Lucia's Own Words: Sister Lucia's Memoirs*, 16th ed., ed. Louis Kondor, tr. Dominican Nuns of Perpetual Rosary (Fatima, Portugal: Secretariado dos Pastorinhos, 2007), 180.

<sup>4</sup> Pope Benedict XVI as quoted on the website "Fatima Tour for Peace: The Message." Retrieved online April 17, 2019, [www.fatimatourforpeace.com/the-message/](http://www.fatimatourforpeace.com/the-message/).

*The holy Rosary introduces us into the very heart of faith.  
With our thoughts fixed on it, we greet repeatedly, joyfully,  
the holy Mother of God; declare blessed the Son, the sweet fruit of  
her womb; and invoke her motherly protection in life and in death.*

Pope St. John Paul II

### Schedule of Major Events

- 4/28: Divine Mercy Sunday, Crowning of Mary
- 5/4, 6/1: First Saturday Holy Hour
- 5/5, 11am: First Communion Mass
- 5/7: Baccalaureate Mass & Dinner
- 5/9: Confirmation Mass with Bishop Boyea
- 5/10, 24: Upper Room
- 5/12: Mother's Day
- 5/17: Adult Choir Spring Concert
- 5/18: Diaconal ordinations, Lansing
- 5/26: Mass of Thanksgiving & celebration for Dcn. Pete Hansen
- 5/27: Memorial Day, Parish Offices closed

For more information about these and other events, check the bulletin or go to [www.ctkcc.net](http://www.ctkcc.net).

## MAJOR EVENTS—MAY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	May 1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	June 1

## Save the Dates!

### Pentecost Vigil Mass

Saturday evening, June 8  
Make plans now to join us for this awesome celebration of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, both 2,000 years ago and today!



### Vacation Bible School

Monday-Friday mornings, June 24-28  
Registration is now open! For children entering 1st through 5th grades. Registration deadline: June 1. For details and to register, go to [www.ctkcc.net/vbs](http://www.ctkcc.net/vbs).



### God's Plan for Growing Up:

**Mother-Daughter Tea,** Saturday afternoon, July 13  
**Father-Son Event,** Sunday afternoon, July 14  
These popular events return for parents and their children on the threshold of adulthood. Contact John and Julia Hoving for details.



Check future bulletins for more details about these and other great events!

Artwork on back cover: *Our Lady of Vladimir* (12th century), the holy protectress of Russia, now in the Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow. Photograph of a work in the public domain from Wikimedia Commons, [commons.wikimedia.org](https://commons.wikimedia.org).





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### Coming in future issues...

- Ministry
- Arts and the Church
- Discipleship

Look for this and more in future issues of

## The Open Door

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Never be afraid of loving the  
Blessed Virgin too much.  
You can never love her more  
than Jesus did.

St. Maximilian Kolbe