

# CONSECRATION OF FOCUS TO JESUS THROUGH MARY

## PETITIONING ESPECIALLY THE GRACES OFFERED AT FATIMA AND GUADALUPE

On June 13, 2017, FOCUS will consecrate the apostolate to Jesus through Mary, petitioning especially the graces offered at Fatima and Guadalupe. In this infosheet, we will explore why we are doing this and what we can do to impact our lives and the lives of countless others.



*Pope St. John Paul II before a statue of Our Lady of Fatima adorned with a rosary, with her Immaculate Heart exposed*

### WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM FATIMA

In 1917, the world found itself confronted by the horrors of World War I. The Armenian Genocide was well underway, the Ottoman Empire was crumbling, and Russia was on a political and social cliff edge which would result later that year in a communist government installed by revolt. Pope Benedict XV began a novena to the Queen of Peace on May 5, and eight days later, on May 13, our Lady appeared to three young children in the obscure village of Fatima, Portugal. She offered them a sure way to pull humanity back from this precipice - if only they would heed her message. The response was incomplete, so while some blessings followed, so did some curses.

Fatima was and remains to this day a message of hope. Our Lady changed those children's lives forever, in the hope that through them, she and her Son might change the lives of many and indeed the course of history. Pope St. John Paul II, while recovering from the attempted assassination on May 13, 1981, said, "Fatima is more important now than in 1917!"<sup>i</sup> Pope Benedict XVI cautioned us on May 13, 1981, that "We would be mistaken to think that Fatima's prophetic mission is complete."<sup>iii</sup>

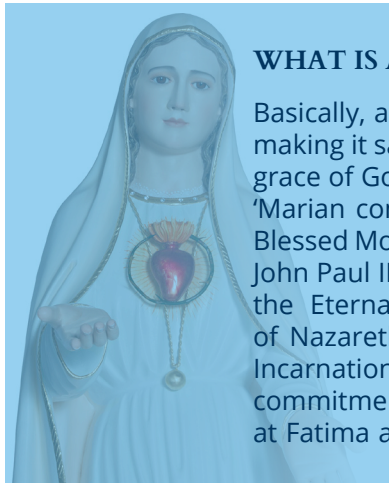
The Fatima call to prayer and penance resounds ever so loudly today and its urgency cannot be mistaken, as our Lady pleads with us to "Pray, pray very much, and make sacrifices for sinners; for many souls go to hell, because there are none to sacrifice themselves and to pray for them"<sup>iv</sup>. It began with the Angel of Peace telling the children in 1916 that "The Hearts of Jesus and Mary have designs of mercy on you", and then on

June 13, 1929, "in what's often called 'the last apparition of Fatima,' Sister Lucia received a vision that included the words *grace* and *mercy*."<sup>v</sup> This prefigured Jesus' renewed promise to the world through St. Faustina a few years later that "... I am giving mankind the last hope of salvation, that is recourse to My mercy."<sup>vi</sup>



*"Tell everybody that God grants us graces through the Immaculate Heart of Mary; that people are to ask her for them; and that the Heart of Jesus wants the Immaculate Heart of Mary to be venerated at His side."*

— St. Jacinta to Sr. Lucia, c. 1920



### WHAT IS A "MARIAN CONSECRATION"?

Basically, a consecration is setting something aside for God, making it sacred. Original sin left us quite broken, but by the grace of God, we can be made new and set aside for Him. A 'Marian consecration' is where we entrust ourselves to our Blessed Mother to help make us His - recognizing, as Pope St. John Paul II did, that "before anyone else it was God himself, the Eternal Father, who entrusted himself to the Virgin of Nazareth, giving her his own Son in the mystery of the Incarnation."<sup>vii</sup> FOCUS will be entrusted to our Lady through the commitment of its staff and missionaries heeding her message at Fatima and calling for the blessings shown at Guadalupe.

While the call to prayer and penance will certainly help avoid the eternal loss of one's soul, our Lady and our Lord offered us so much more through Fatima – the offer was of infinite joy and love in sharing the life of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, as Pope Benedict XVI taught us: "... [T]he Teacher [Mary] introduced the little seers to a deep knowledge of the Love of the Blessed Trinity and led them to savor God himself as the most beautiful reality of human existence. This experience of grace made them fall in love with God in Jesus."<sup>vii</sup>

The life of the Blessed Trinity can only fill our hearts if we first prepare them through a purgation of prayer, accepting of suffering, penance, and sacrifice for souls. The Act of Consecration on June 13, 2017, is like the wedding ceremony, which, while grace-filled, cannot on its own ensure the flourishing of the marriage (or even its mere survival!) over time. Prayer, suffering, penance and sacrifice must enter our *day-to-day* lives, and particularly the two requests that were repeatedly emphasized: pray the rosary daily and cultivate a devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary (especially through the Five First Saturdays devotion). The triumph of the



"Pray! Pray very much! The Hearts of Jesus and Mary have designs of mercy on you..."

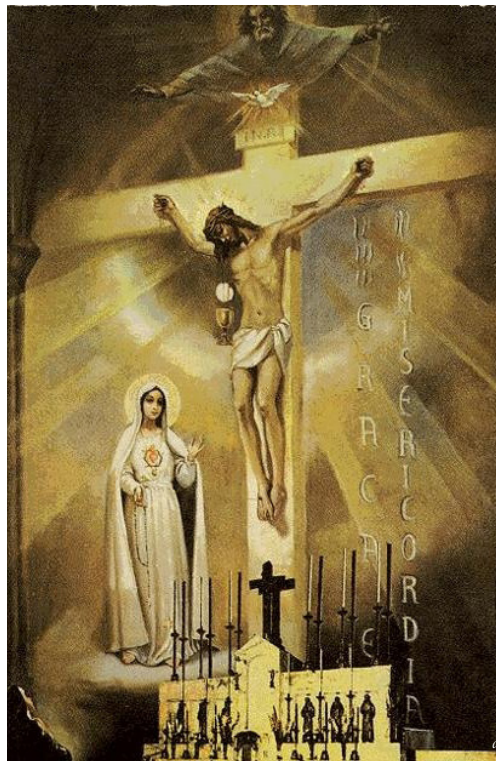
— Angel of Peace to St. Francisco, St. Jacinta, and Sr. Lucia, 1916

Immaculate Heart of Mary will lead us into the merciful Sacred Heart of Jesus.

While Jacinta was sick, she said to Lucia:<sup>viii</sup>

"It will not be long now before I go to Heaven. You will remain here to make known that God wishes to establish in the world devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. When you are to say this, don't go and hide. Tell everybody that God grants us graces through the Immaculate Heart of Mary; that people are to ask her for them; and that the Heart of Jesus wants the Immaculate Heart of Mary to be venerated at His side. ..."

If we reject the father of lies and trust in the Father of Mercy, we will be led into the joy of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, as, to borrow the words of Pope Francis, "Mercy gives rise to joy, because our hearts are opened to the hope of a new life."<sup>ix</sup>



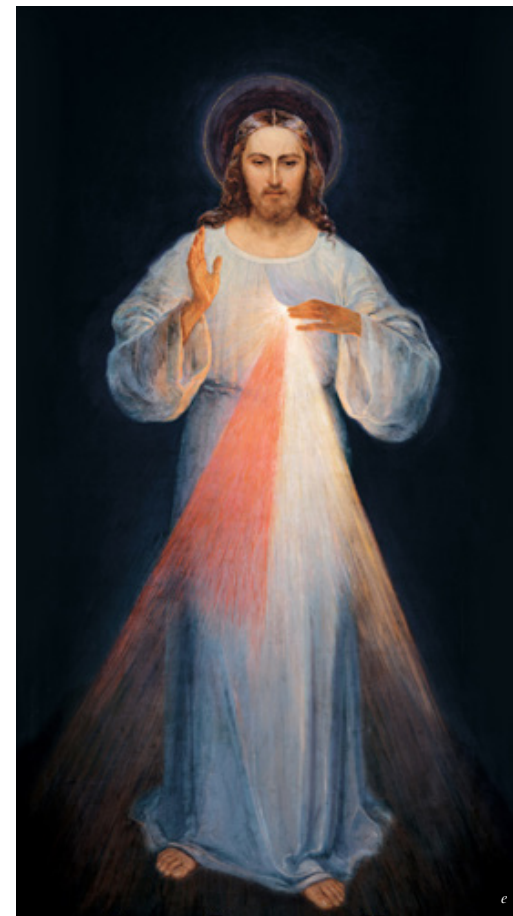
"... Beneath the cross on the left appeared large letters, as though made of crystal-clear water, that flowed from the hand of the Crucified down upon the altar and formed the following words, Grace and Mercy."

— Image of apparition to Sr. Lucia, June 13, 1929

## GUADALUPE AND SPIRITUAL MULTIPLICATION

FOCUS is a missionary apostolate and by the grace of God it has been fruitful – but we can be even *more* fruitful in our imitation of the method modelled by the Master by more deeply petitioning our Lady for assistance. A few hundred years ago, Mary gave us an incredible example in Guadalupe of just how fruitful she can ensure peer-to-peer evangelization is.

There, she ensured the conversion of nearly 10 million individuals in 10 years, reclaiming them from a brutal culture, of which it is said that "Nowhere else in human history has Satan so formalized and institutionalized his worship with so many of his own actual



"By means of this Image I shall be granting many graces to souls; so let every soul have access to it."

— Jesus to St. Faustina about the 1931 Divine Mercy image (Diary, 570)



titles and symbols.”<sup>xi</sup> Our Lady did this through peer-to-peer evangelization, starting with St. Juan Diego, who was an ordinary person in the eyes of the world: “... the Guadalupan event allowed the evangelization of the New World to spread through personal exchanges between the Indians, especially within the family, working as a powerful complement to the work of the Spanish missionaries. As one missionary at the time recalled:

“In the beginning, [the Indians] started going [to receive baptism] 200 at a time, then 300 at a time, always growing and multiplying, until they reached thousands; some from two days journey, others from three, others from four, and some from farther away. This caused great admiration in those who saw it. Grown people brought their children to be baptized, and the young baptized brought their parents; the husband brought his wife, and the wife, her husband.”<sup>xii</sup>

Our Lady used St. Juan Diego to begin a chain of peer-to-peer evangelization amongst the Aztecs, and in so doing, she set an example of what can be achieved with her help. Is there reason to doubt the yearning of the “Mother and Evangelizer of America”<sup>xiii</sup> to perform that miracle again, to grant us the grace to more deeply undertake spiritual multiplication by imitating the method modeled by the Master, to bless our actions to win, build and send? We would do well to invoke Our Lady of Guadalupe when praying for our spiritual multiplication efforts.



## PERSONAL PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL MULTIPLICATION

*O Lady of Guadalupe,  
intercede for me, that, despite my imperfections,  
my efforts will help multiply souls,  
igniting a joyful and burning love  
for Jesus Christ, His Church, and my neighbor*

### WHAT OUR LADY ASKED OF US AT FATIMA<sup>x</sup>

1. *Strive to live good Christian lives.* We must obey God's commandments and fulfill the duties of our state in life.
2. *Pray daily, especially the rosary.* In all of her apparitions, the request made most frequently by our Lady was to pray the rosary every day.
3. *Observe the Five First Saturdays.* To hasten the triumph of Our Lady's Immaculate Heart, our Lord asked that we observe five first Saturdays more than once. On December 10, 1925, our Lady said to Sr. Lucia:

“Look, my daughter, at my Heart, surrounded with thorns with which ungrateful men pierce me at every moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude. You at least try to console me and say that I promise to assist at the hour of death, with the graces necessary for salvation, all those who, on the first Saturday of five consecutive months, shall confess [their sins], receive Holy Communion, recite five decades of the Rosary, and keep me company for fifteen minutes while meditating on the fifteen [now 20] mysteries of the Rosary, with the intention of making reparation to me.”

4. *Make sacrifices for the conversion of sinners and accept suffering patiently in reparation for our sins and those of others.*



## AN EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW

In 2002, Pope St. John Paul II canonized St. Juan Diego, a humble and lowly peasant. St. Juan Diego tried to resist our Lady's efforts to have him act as her emissary, considering himself unworthy and suggesting she send "one who is known, respected, honored" instead.<sup>xiv</sup> On May 13, 2017, Pope Francis canonized Sts. Francisco and Jacinta, the youngest non-martyred persons to be canonized in the 2,000-year history of the Catholic Church.

In our time, our Lord has given us the strongest example of children attaining sanctity by trusting in simplicity Him and His Mother. This example simply incarnates His words from 2,000 years ago: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."<sup>xv</sup>

Take away from all this the invitation to pray, accept suffering, offer penance and sacrifice for souls in our day-to-day lives. Pray the rosary every day and cultivate a devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary especially

through the Five First Saturdays devotion. However, be sure to talk with your spiritual director about how best to live this message in your unique spiritual life, as "Sometimes in living the spiritual life, people who do not have a spiritual director can make decisions that a prudent and experienced guide would have cautioned against".<sup>xvi</sup> Be sure to call on Our Lady of Guadalupe to intercede for you in your efforts to spiritually multiply. And when you have done your part, trust totally in God, for only He can make your efforts fruitful.<sup>xvii</sup>

<https://focus.org/marian-consecration>



### REFERENCES

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- <sup>ii</sup> Fr. Andrew Apostoli, C.F.R., "Fatima for Today: The Urgent Marian Message of Hope" (Ignatius Press, 2010), p.217
- <sup>iii</sup> Pope Benedict XVI, "Homily at Fatima" (May 13, 2010)
- <sup>iv</sup> Fr. Louis Kondor (Ed), "Fatima in Lucia's Own Words: Sister Lucia's Memoirs" (20th ed., 2016), p.180
- <sup>v</sup> Joseph Pronechen, "Fatima and Divine Mercy Are Eternally Linked" (National Catholic Register) April 23, 2017, at <http://m.ncregister.com/daily-news/fatima-and-divine-mercy-are-eternally-linked#.WRCl9y1vb1>
- <sup>vi</sup> "Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska: Divine Mercy in My Soul" (Marian Press, 2005) para. 998
- <sup>vii</sup> Pope Benedict XVI, "Homily at Fatima" (May 13, 2010)
- <sup>viii</sup> Fr. Louis Kondor (Ed), "Fatima in Lucia's Own Words: Sister Lucia's Memoirs" (20th ed., 2016), p.132
- <sup>ix</sup> Pope Francis, "Misericordia et misera" (Apostolic Letter, November 20, 2016), para. 3
- <sup>x</sup> Largely paraphrased from Fr. Andrew Apostoli, C.F.R., "Fatima for Today: The Urgent Marian Message of Hope" (Ignatius Press, 2010), pp.230-231
- <sup>xi</sup> Warren H. Carroll, "Our Lady of Guadalupe and the Conquest of Darkness" (Christendom Press, 1983), p.9
- <sup>xii</sup> Carl Anderson & Msgr Eduardo Chávez, "Our Lady of Guadalupe: Mother of the Civilization of Love" (2009, Doubleday), p.82
- <sup>xiii</sup> Saint John Paul II, "Ecclesia in America" (Apostolic Exhortation, given at Mexico City, January 22, 1999), para. 11
- <sup>xiv</sup> *The Nican Mopohua*, [54], reproduced in Carl Anderson & Msgr Eduardo Chávez, "Our Lady of Guadalupe: Mother of the Civilization of Love" (2009, Doubleday), p.171f.
- <sup>xv</sup> *Matthew* 18:3
- <sup>xvi</sup> Fr. Andrew Apostoli, C.F.R., "Fatima for Today: The Urgent Marian Message of Hope" (Ignatius Press, 2010), p.114
- <sup>xvii</sup> Cf. *1 Corinthians* 3:6-7

### PHOTOGRAPHS

- <sup>a</sup> <http://www.vismaya-maitreya.pl/fgdghrthrt.jpg>
- <sup>b</sup> [http://www.mariancatechist.com/formation/sacred\\_heart/home Enthronement.html](http://www.mariancatechist.com/formation/sacred_heart/home Enthronement.html)
- <sup>c</sup> [http://www.ncregister.com/images/editorial/rsz\\_angel-of-portugal-main\\_ewtn.jpg](http://www.ncregister.com/images/editorial/rsz_angel-of-portugal-main_ewtn.jpg)
- <sup>d</sup> <https://www.returntofatima.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Last-Vision-of-Fatima.jpg>
- <sup>e</sup> <https://archives.marianweb.net/images/divinemercyart/assets/images/gallery/image/IVL.jpg>
- <sup>f</sup> Image painted by Susie Maurer, FOCUS missionary