



1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION NEWSLETTER

September 2016

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MARY AND THE MOSLEMS

By: *Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen*
www.catholicculture.org

Editor's Note by John Boland:

Today over one billion persons — about one-sixth of the world's population — are followers of Islam, a religious movement, which began in the early seventh century. While found living virtually everywhere in the world, Muslims are concentrated in a belt of countries on both sides of the equator, stretching from Morocco to the Philippine Islands. These countries — notes historian Geoffrey Parrinder in *World Religions: From Ancient History to the Present* — "occupy territory of great historical and strategic significances, as they lie across the most important lines of trade and communications between the Old World and the New."

To Westerners, the beliefs and ways of the Moslems are mystifying and complicated — better to ignore than try to understand. Yet, more and more, what is happening in the Moslem world directly involves Western interests and concerns. Some examples: the late Ayatollah Khomeini and the U.S. hostages in Iran; the international furor over author Salman Rushdie's boring, but insulting Satanic Verses book, which forced Rushdie into hiding and a million-dollar Moslem assassination contract offer on his head; the Iraqi (97% Moslem population to 3% Christian) invasion of Kuwait (92% Moslem to 6% Christian); the Gulf War against Moslem Iraq involving the largest mobilization of U.S. military forces since WWII; and the megabillion-dollar B.C.C.I. banking scandal — entangling money-laundering for terrorists and drug kingpins — operating from (Moslem population 97%) Pakistan.

Certainly devout followers of the Moslem religious movement — the word Islam means, "surrender . . . commitment . . . submission" — can in no way be held responsible for the financial (B.C.C.I.) scandals or expansionist ambitions (Hussein's invasion of Kuwait) of such corrupt political and banking generals. No more so than the Catholic Church can be condemned over priests who give public scandal to teaching heresy; or the Bible dismissed because corrupt TV evangelists are found pocketing their congregations' alms.

At the same time, however, it must be remembered that Christian Europe was once nearly destroyed by Moslem invasions and — today — with the migration to Europe and the U.S. of vast numbers of Moslems, their influence on Western society is an important reality. The question: "Can Islam and Christianity find common ground to co-exist in the coming decades" is important and current; yet hardly new.

In 1952, the late Bishop Fulton Sheen devoted a chapter in his book *The World's First Love* (Garden City Books, Garden City, N.Y.) — entitled "Mary and the Moslems" — to this significant query. Following are Bishop Sheen's observations; more significant now perhaps than when written 49 years ago.

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OVERVIEW FOR THE MONTH

www.catholicculture.org

The month of September is dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows, whose memorial the Church celebrates on September 15. September falls during the liturgical season known as Ordinary Time, which is represented by the liturgical color green.

During September, as in all of Ordinary Time (formerly known as Time After Pentecost), the Liturgy does not focus on one particular mystery of Christ, but views the

mystery of Christ in all its aspects. We follow the life of Christ through the Gospels, and focus on the teachings and parables of Jesus and what it means for us to be a follower of Christ. During Ordinary Time we can concentrate more on the saints and imitate their holiness as Christ's followers. ☐

FEASTS FOR SEPTEMBER

The feasts on the General Roman Calendar celebrated during the month of September are:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 3 Gregory the Great, Memorial | 19 Januarius, Opt. Mem. |
| 4 Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday | 20 Andrew Kim Taegon, Paul Chong Hasang and Companions, Memorial |
| 8 Birth of Mary, Feast | 21 Matthew, Feast |
| 9 Peter Claver (USA), Memorial | 23 Pio of Pietrelcina, Memorial |
| 11 Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday | 25 Twenty-Six Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday |
| 12 Most Holy Name of Mary, Opt. Mem. | 26 Cosmas and Damian, Opt. Mem. |
| 13 John Chrysostom, Memorial | 27 Vincent de Paul, Memorial |
| 14 Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Feast | 28 Wenceslaus; Lawrence Ruiz and Companions; St. Simón de Rojas O.S.S. (Spain), Opt. Mem. |
| 15 Our Lady of Sorrows, Memorial | 29 Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Feast |
| 16 Cornelius and Cyprian, Memorial | 30 Jerome, Memorial ☐ |
| 17 Robert Bellarmine, Opt. Mem. | |
| 18 Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday | |

OUR CENACLE CORNER

*Seeking a deeper relationship with God
through meditation of passages from Holy Scriptures*

SERVING GOD

EXODUS 14:31

ISAIAH 53:11

2 PETER 2:16

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

THE BIRTH OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 08, 2016

www.catholicnewsagency.com

The Catholic Church celebrates today the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary on its traditional fixed date of September 8, nine months after the December 8 celebration of her Immaculate Conception as the child of Saints Joachim and Anne.

The circumstances of the Virgin Mary's infancy and early life are not directly recorded in the Bible, but other documents and traditions describing the circumstances of her birth are cited by some of the earliest Christian writers from the first centuries of the Church.

These accounts, although not considered authoritative in the same manner as the Bible, outline some of the Church's traditional beliefs about the birth of Mary.

The "Protoevangelium of James," which was probably put into its final written form in the early second century, describes Mary's father Joachim as a wealthy member of one of the Twelve Tribes of Israel. Joachim was deeply grieved, along with his wife Anne, by their childlessness. "He called to mind Abraham," the early Christian writing says, "that in the last day God gave him a son Isaac."

Joachim and Anne began to devote themselves extensively and rigorously to prayer and fasting, initially wondering whether their inability to conceive a child might signify God's displeasure with them.

As it turned out, however, the couple were to be blessed even more abundantly than Abraham and Sarah, as an angel revealed to Anne when he appeared to her and prophesied that all generations would honor their future child: "The Lord has heard your prayer, and you shall

conceive, and shall bring forth, and your seed shall be spoken of in all the world."

After Mary's birth, according to the Protoevangelium of James, Anne "made a sanctuary" in the infant girl's room, and "allowed nothing common or unclean" on account of the special holiness of the child. The same writing records that when she was one year old, her father "made a great feast, and invited the priests, and the scribes, and the elders, and all the people of Israel."

"And Joachim brought the child to the priests," the account continues, "and they blessed her, saying: 'O God of our fathers, bless this child, and give her an everlasting name to be named in all generations' . . . And he brought her to the chief priests, and they blessed her, saying: 'O God most high, look upon this child, and bless her with the utmost blessing, which shall be forever.'"

The protoevangelium goes on to describe how Mary's parents, along with the temple priests, subsequently decided that she would be offered to God as a consecrated Virgin for the rest of her life, and enter a chaste marriage with the carpenter Joseph.

Saint Augustine described the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary as an event of cosmic and historic significance, and an appropriate prelude to the birth of Jesus Christ. "She is the flower of the field from whom

bloomed the precious lily of the valley," he said.

The fourth-century bishop, whose theology profoundly shaped the Western Church's understanding of sin and human nature, affirmed that "through her birth, the nature inherited from our first parents is changed." □



"The Birth of the Virgin Mary" by the Workshop of Michael Pacher (Austrian, d. 1498) located in a castle in Rychnov at Knez, Czechoslovakia.

WHAT IS THE ORIGIN OF THE FEAST OF THE MOST HOLY NAME OF MARY, SEPTEMBER 12TH?

www.catholicstraightanswers.com

The feast of the Most Holy Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary originated in Spain and was approved in 1513. In 1683, Pope Innocent XI extended the celebration of the feast day to the universal Church, to be celebrated on September 12th, four days after the Feast of the Birth of the Blessed Mother. With the revisions of the Roman Missal in 1970 following the Vatican Council II, the feast day was removed from the universal calendar, although the Votive Mass remained. However, Pope John Paul II in the third edition of the Roman Missal, issued in 2003, reinstated the feast day, technically as an "optional memorial."

The name Mary is rooted in various ancient languages: in Hebrew Myriam; in Aramaic Maryam; in the Greek Old Testament, Mariam; and in Greek and Latin New Testament, Maria.

Modern philological studies of ancient Egyptian suggest that Mary means "lady, beautiful one, or well-beloved." Some scholars of Ugaritic texts (ancient Syrian) suggest the name mrym derives from the verb rwn, thereby rendering the meaning of "high, lofty, exalted, or august." These root meanings fit well with the message of the Archangel Gabriel: "Hail, Mary, full of grace [or Rejoice, O highly favored daughter]! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women" (Luke 1:28).

Of course, the name "Mary," being the name of the Blessed Mother, deserves special respect and devotion, and is thereby celebrated in four ways: First, Mary is a name of honor, since the faithful praise Mary as the Mother of our Divine Savior; she is rightfully called "Mother of God," for Jesus true God, second person of the Holy Trinity entered this world becoming also true man through Mary who had conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit. Second, Mary is a most holy name, because the very mention of her name reminds us she is full of grace, has found favor with God, and is blessed among all women. Third, Mary is a maternal name, because she is our Mother, whom our Lord gave to us as He was dying on the cross (cf. John 19:26-27). Finally, Mary is a name of the mother who responds to all of our needs, protects us from evil, and prays "for us sinners now and at the hour of our death."

The holy name of Mary has been revered in many ways. St. Louis de Montfort (d. 1716) said, "The whole world is

filled with her glory, and this is especially true of Christian peoples, who have chosen her as guardian and protectress of kingdoms, provinces, dioceses, and towns. Many cathedrals are consecrated to God in her name. There is no church without an altar dedicated to her, no country or region without at least one of her miraculous images where all kinds of afflictions are cured and all sorts of benefits received. Many are the confraternities and associations honoring her as patron; many are the orders under her name and protection; many are the members of sodalities and religious of all congregations who voice her praises and make known her compassion. There is not a child who does not praise her by lisping a 'Hail Mary.' There is scarcely a sinner, however hardened, who does not possess some spark of confidence in her. The very devils in hell, while fearing her, show her respect."

Finally, the feast date of September 12th also has special significance. In 1683, the Moslem Turks, under the leadership of Sultan Mohammed IV, once again began their aggression against Christian Europe. Just a few years earlier, they had been stopped at Poland. A huge army of Muslim Turks, estimated at around 300,000, marched through Hungary (parts of which had been under their control for 150 years) towards Austria. They ravaged Hungary, and were partly successful

because of a Calvinist named Thokoly who incited rebellion against the Catholic rulers; for his traitorous dealings, Mohammed IV named Thokoly "King of Hungary and Croatia," but with the understanding that he was simply a vassal to his Moslem overlord.

The Moslem aggression continued on to Austria. Emperor Leopold fled from Vienna. By July, 1683, the Grand Vizier Kara Mustapha laid siege to Vienna, defended by an army of only 15,000 Christians. The papal nuncio as well as Emperor Leopold begged King Jan Sobieski, who had defeated the Moslem Turks at the Polish borders and had earned the title "Unvanquished Northern Lion," to come to their aid. Sobieski did not hesitate.

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GOD TOUCHED ME

IN MEMORIAM – ANN SILVA

You came near when I called you.

Lamentation 3:57

By Evelyn Pua

I just finished reading a Facebook post of my daughter-in-law, Frances. It was the tail end of her conversation with Jacob, my 6-year old grandson, regarding what we will look like in heaven. He asked: will we have the same skin color? She answered: "Hmmm. I'm not sure. I don't think we can find out until we get there." Jacob responded: "Not even Google?" Then, my phone rang.

It was Rosario Brown on the other end. She started with a "Hi, how are you" type of conversation and my voice was still very perky since I just finished laughing at the FB post. She said, "Evie, remember, I sent you a text that Ann was hospitalized? Me: Yes, how is she doing now? I wanted to call her but did not want to disturb her. That's when she said, "Ann died." A long pause ensued. Those are words you never want to hear, words you want to block out, acting like you never heard them! They clanged so loudly in my head, jarring my peaceful world.... they couldn't be true! I could hear God say, "TRUST ME." Funny how the call came in right after I was reading my grandson's question about heaven.

Then, Rosario started to talk and sob. I still could not believe it. She said Ann's children were still in shock and did not want to talk about their mother's death. Later, we found out that Ann was hospitalized because she was in so much pain due to her cellulitis. She also had leukemia, and the doctor found "something else", but she passed away due to cardiac arrest. The doctors said, she was in so much pain that her heart gave up. She died when she was 79 years old (Born: May 13, 1937 in Loving, New Mexico; Died: August 13, 2016.). She is survived by two children, a daughter, Nancy, and a son, Michael; and several grandchildren. Sadness set in because of the fond memories we have of Ann. Yet, acceptance of the WILL OF GOD reigns among the devotees.

Ann Silva was one of the few people who joined our initial 2000 Hail Mary devotion here in Las Vegas in 2005. She and Rosario were both invited by Vi who met

them at the Rosary Makers group of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church. We all remember her as the friendly, pretty and well poised Hispanic lady. She always attended our devotions and celebrations when she was in town and when she felt fine. She was always in full attention during prayers, kneeling without any help when it was her turn to lead. She had always been like this even during the past few months when she had to walk with the aid of a cane.

Oftentimes, she has told everyone that she is very happy that we have this prayer group because she feels at peace every time we have our prayers. She said she feels that God is with us.

In the past two or three years, she was hospitalized more often than not due to excruciating pain. The doctors could not pinpoint what was causing the pain. After a series of procedures, she was finally diagnosed with cellulitis and leukemia and she needed to use a walking cane. Yet, on those days when she was out of the hospital, she did her best to still attend all our prayer devotions. She even attended the Sto. Nino celebration at St. Francis this past January and was wearing a long red dress. [See photo insert.] With the aid of her cane, she danced joyfully to the Sto. Nino music and joined in the group dancing.

In June, 2014, we went to St. Therese Mission riding in one van, to attend Sunday mass and Vi's birthday celebration. As we were entering the campus of the church, Ann gleefully stated that she felt like she was in her ancestors' grounds. She told us she has American Indian blood. We were all

shown around the columbarium building and the cemetery grounds. Again, Ann quipped, " I would love to be buried here outside because I can see the fields and admire the view. On second thought, it is hot outside so I will just choose the niche inside the air conditioned building." We thought it was so hilarious but she was serious. She finally decided to buy a niche



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SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RECOMMENDED

QUESTIONING GOD

By Greg Laurie
www.harvest.org

John the Baptist, who was in prison, heard about all the things the Messiah was doing. So he sent his disciples to ask Jesus, "Are you the Messiah we've been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?" —Matthew 11:2-3

How would you feel if someone you loved and trusted began to question you? You might feel offended. What do they know, after all?

When John sent word to Jesus from prison and asked, "Are you the Messiah we've been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?" (Matthew 11: 3), Jesus didn't rebuke him. He didn't say, "How dare John doubt Me? My own cousin! He should have known better" or "John? Come on, give Me a break! You know he's a little strange, right? The animal skins . . . and who eats locusts? That's My cousin! Maybe it was something in his diet."

It was a good opportunity to throw someone under the bus. But Jesus didn't do that. Instead, he brought John back to Scripture: "Go back to John and tell him what you have heard and seen — the blind see, the lame walk, those with leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to the poor" (verses 4-5). Then He said, "God blesses those who do not fall away because of me" (verse 6).

Here is what Jesus was saying: "Listen, you just let John know this: Even if you don't understand My method, even if you don't grasp My ways or My timing, I am asking you to trust Me. When you are unable to see why I am doing what I am doing, or why I am not doing what you think I ought to be doing, hang in there. Follow Me. Don't be offended because of this."

Our Lord understood this was an attack of the enemy. He understood what loneliness and solitude could do.

God never rebukes anyone who comes to Him with sincere questions or honest doubts. ☐

Pray for peace before my throne and ask to extend mercy and forgiveness for everyone. The love that I have for my creation is the strength that is behind the mercy that I extend to contrite hearts.

My mercy ends when justice begins after forgiveness.

Jesus of Nazareth
08202016

Tomorrow
Never comes.
-- just today.

Just today
Forgive me
past ill will.

Ev'ry day
I want to
Feel your love.

*Written to God
by Joyce Ulmer, a devotee*

SPIRITUAL ARMY NEWS DISPATCH

FEAST OF GOD THE FATHER -- THE CELEBRATION AND CONSECRATION

The Feast of the Father of All Mankind culminated on 1st Sunday of August, the 7th of the said month, at the Monastery of Angels in Los Angeles, at St. Bridget Catholic Church in Las Vegas, and at the Chapel of the Eternal Father [Altar of the Black Nazarene] in Cajunlao, Lapu Lapu City, Philippines.

The celebration was also a day of the final consecration to the Father of all Mankind, offering a white scapular representing the purity of our hearts when we face our Creator. It's our promise to keep His commandments; and ourselves as offering to the Highest God in heaven.

In Los Angeles, the feast was attended by devotees from different parishes of Los Angeles totaling approximately 250 in number. In Las

Vegas, the celebration was attended by The Spiritual Army of God the Father devotees, another God the Father group and some parishioners of St. Bridget Church. The mass was celebrated by Fr. Vincent Hughes and Rev. Fr. Dave Casaleggio, in Los Angeles and Las Vegas, respectively. The celebration's highlights were the procession of the Eternal Father icon, personal petition through flower offering and the 8th day Consecration Prayers to God our Father.

In the Philippines, the Feast of God the Father was attended by Cajunlao parishioners and devotees of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Divine Mercy Ministries. The Mass celebrated at the Chapel of the Eternal Father [Altar of the Black Nazarene] was officiated by Fr. Martin Okafor Ilozue,

CSSp, Congregation of the Holy Spirit. He was assisted by Brother Alfred Liwagon. There were at least 120 people who attended the Mass. Procession of the image of God the Father followed, and after which a sumptuous feast awaited the attendees.

The descendants of Serapio and Crescencia Berdin had been spearheading the celebration and consecration for five consecutive years now.

This celebration gives us the opportunity to allow our own faith to be strengthened and transformed, drawing us closer to God, and helping us to know Him better and worship Him more perfectly. It also assists us in inviting others to experience that joy. The power of our feast day celebration is to fortify our work of evangelizing to the world. □



IN LOS ANGELES



IN LAS VEGAS



IN THE PHILIPPINES

TSAGTF SELECTS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS FOR 2016-2017

The Spiritual Army of God the Father (TSAGTF), has granted financial assistance to a college student and a seminarian. Another seminarian is a candidate for a grant and his documents are being reviewed for qualification purposes.

Patrick Salmasan is in his junior year at Jose Rizal University in Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines and is taking up Computer Science. This is the third semester that financial assistance has been accorded him. Frater (Brother) Ronald Panizares Roco, Jr. is a seminarian at St. Augustine Major Seminary in Tagaytay City under the Apostolic Vicariate of Calapan, Philippines. This is the first year that financial assistance has been awarded to him. Presently, documents of another seminarian in Manila is being reviewed. His name is purposely withheld until the review is completed and the scholarship is awarded.

One of the objectives of TSAGTF is to encourage students to pursue their goals and highest dreams by succeeding in school and becoming responsible citizens. Each semester, the ministry reviews and awards scholarships to existing and new scholars to assist them in the payment of their college matriculation fees, subject to availability of funds. TSAGTF ministry is proud to honor the above mentioned students with these well-deserved scholarships that will help impact their college goals and success. □

UPCOMING EVENTS

TOY DRIVE FOR THE LOS ANGELES CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

PLEASE DROP OFF
YOUR NEW UNWRAPPED TOYS
EVERY 1ST AND 3RD SATURDAYS AT
THE CONVENT OF
THE SISTER DISCIPLES OF
THE DIVINE MASTER

CHANGES IN SEPTEMBER 2016 DEVOTIONAL SCHEDULE FOR LOS ANGELES

1ST FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9
1ST SATURDAY – SEPTEMBER 10
1ST SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 11

PILGRIMAGE TO HOLY LAND & JORDAN

DECEMBER 5-15, 2016
DAILY ACTIVITIES AND OTHER
INFORMATION ARE AVAILABLE AT
WWW.SPIRITUALARMYOFGOD.ORG

THANK YOU

... a small and simple phrase that comes from a grateful heart!

Psalm 106:2

THE 2000 HAIL MARY DEVOTION

The Spiritual Army of God the Father acknowledges with thanks our generous September sponsors of the 2000 Hail Mary Devotion. We are grateful that we have merited their partnership and support in providing a venue of spirituality and fellowship for the devotees of The Spiritual Army of God the Father.

Las Vegas, Nevada
Billy & Nicet Santos

Los Angeles, California
Denise Gier | Regina Lim
Alice Ng | Carolina Pineda
Elena Rosales | Glecly Rosario]

FOR PRAYERS HEARD AND PETITIONS GRANTED

HOW DO WE RESPOND WHEN OUR CRY FOR MERCY RECEIVES ITS LOVING ANSWER FROM OUR MASTER?

WE NEED TO PRAISE AND THANK JESUS FOR HIS HEALING POWER, MERCY, AND GRACE.

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU FELL FACE DOWN AND PRAISED JESUS?

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU PRAISED AND THANKED THE LORD

FOR ALL THAT HE HAS DONE FOR YOU

WITH A GENUINE HEART AND A PROSTRATE POSTURE?

Raina & I became parents to this handsome boy!



We have prayed for you for so long! Oh how our faith was tested through this journey but God was always listening, never leaving us and had a plan. This boy is my miracle, my strength in seeing how amazing and strong my wife is, and the proof of the power of prayer from all our family and friends. We are truly blessed.

- Carlos Gonzalez

Dear Father God,

Thank you for sending me angels on earth! Mere words cannot express or capture how truly thankful I am for my wonderful prayer warriors in the Spiritual Army of My GOD. Going through my family crisis seems almost unbearable until I go to church and the chapel and receive a smile or nod, hear the words I am praying for you and your son, feel a gentle squeeze as one passes by; a genuine concern. It is then that I feel I am not all alone facing this sad, challenging mountain that is in front of me. It is such a comfort knowing that one of my friends and prayer warriors is near.

There is nothing that I see or have that does not come from you Father God and so I thank you very much for my special friends and beg you to hug and take care of these precious treasures too!

- Vicki

Dear God,

Thank you for the families you have given me: birth, prayer and work. The birth family is so full of humor, and earnest expression through conversation and action. The prayer family gives more than I do, and so they challenge me to give more, and they also challenge me to enter the wider world than that of my immediate family. My work families have taught me much, and, again, given me much: a livelihood. May I increase the return I provide to each. Thank you for your love, and making your presence known to me. Amen.

- Joyce Ulmer

*Thank You Father for Your Providence!
Thank you for Your presence in the hearts of your devotees!*

By LH

The 1st Sunday of August is a very special day for The Spiritual Army of God the Father. A couple of months before in Los Angeles, an organizing committee was called to plan and execute activities for the Feast Day of the Father of All Mankind. Assignments were given and volunteers were requested.

At about ten o'clock that morning, devotees – their families and friends arrive at the Monastery of the Angels – their cars, SUVs, vans loaded to the roof – with foldable tents, chairs, tables (their own and lent by friends), boxes/containers of table linens, decorations, wipes, paper towels, disposable wire Chafer Stand Kits, sternos, thorn-cleaned yellow roses, paper goods, plastic kitchen wares, knives, cases of bottled water -- everything and anything you may need to party. Then the music people came – with a portable organ and sound system, booklets of prayers and hymns.

Fathers got together to assemble about four tents to keep the food, the servers, devotees and guests protected from the blazing heat of the sun. The ladies went about their chore of setting up the tables, decorating the tents, tying garbage bags in and around the eating area, setting up the chafer stand kits and sternos, and filling the aluminum trays with water ready for the catered food. Two

Thank you so much for your support – The Spiritual Army of God the Father Ministry. Our finance officer confirmed that you transferred the money in the amount of Php 20,897.50 at Metrobank, Tagaytay City Branch (Cavite PH 4210). Your support is really of great help for me especially for this semester.

*In prayers and in gratitude,
Frt. Ronald P. Roco, Jr. | Saint Augustine Major
Seminary, Tagaytay City, Philippines*

older ladies (one of them using a cane to keep her steady) didn't mind going back and forth filling the tubs with as however many bottled water, sodas and ice she can carry each time.

Inside the chapel, the Icon of the Eternal Father was being set up, flower pots and music were readied for the flower offering, procession and the Mass. Cheerful volunteers were there to usher devotees to available seats and distribute yellow roses. Children were distributing prayer booklets, hymns and God the Father Consecration cards as devotees waited for their turns to make their petition and flower offering.

Outside, parking space was getting scarce as edible donations were getting plentiful – creating opportune situations for the evil one's minions to ruin however big or little they can!

The Chapel was packed to the sides and back by the time the Mass began. Hymns played and/or sang seem to touch each heart consecrated to God the Father on that 8th day of Consecration. The atmosphere was that of atonement and rejoicing – making God the Father known, loved and honored by all men!

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MARY AND THE MOSLEMS

Moslemism is the only great post-Christian religion of the world. Because it had its origin in the seventh century under Mohammed, it was possible to unite, within it, some elements of Christianity and of Judaism, along with particular customs of Arabia. Moslemism takes the doctrine of the unity of God, His majesty and His creative power, and uses it, in part, as a basis for the reproduction of Christ, the Son of God. Misunderstanding the notion of the Trinity, Mohammed made Christ a prophet announcing Him just as to Christians, Isaiah and John the Baptist are prophets announcing Christ.

The Christian European West barely escaped destruction at the hands of the Moslems. At one point they were stopped near Tours and at another point, later on in time, outside the gates of Vienna. The Church throughout northern Africa was practically destroyed by Moslem power, and at the present hour, the Moslems are beginning to rise again.

If Moslemism is a heresy, as Hiliaire Belloc believes it to be, it is the only heresy that has never declined. Others have had a moment of vigor, then gone into doctrinal decay at the death of the leader, and finally evaporated in a vague social movement. Moslemism, on the contrary, has only had its first phase. There was never a time in which it declined, either in numbers, or in the devotion of its followers.

The missionary effort of the Church toward this group has been at least on the surface, a failure, for the Moslems are so far almost unconvertible. The reason is that for a follower of Mohammed to become a Christian is much like a Christian becoming a Jew. The Moslems believe that they have the final and definitive revelation of God to the world and that Christ was only a prophet announcing Mohammed, the last of God's real prophets.

At the present time, the hatred of the Moslem countries against the West is becoming hatred against Christianity itself. Although the statesmen have not yet taken it into account, there is still grave danger that the temporal power of Islam may return and, with it, the menace that it may shake off a West which has ceased to be by Christian, and affirm itself as a great anti-Christian world power. Moslem writers say, "When the locust swarms darken countries, they bear on their wings these Arabic words: 'We are God's host, each of us has ninety-nine eggs, and if we had a hundred, we should lay waste the world, with all that is in it.'"

The problem is, how shall we prevent the hatching of the hundredth egg? It is our firm belief that the fears some entertain concerning the Moslems are not to be realized, but the Moslemism, instead, will eventually be converted to Christianity — and in a way that even some of our missionaries never suspect. It is our belief that

this will happen not through the direct teachings of Christianity, but through a summoning of the Moslems to a veneration of the Mother of God. This is the line of argument:

MARY

The Koran, which is the Bible of the Moslems, has many passages concerning the Blessed Virgin. First of all, the Koran believes in her Immaculate Conception, and also, in her Virgin Birth. The third chapter of the Koran places the history of Mary's family in a genealogy, which goes back through Abraham, Noah, and Adam. When one compares the Koran's description of the birth of Mary with the apocryphal Gospel of the birth of Mary, one is tempted to believe that Mohammed very much depended upon the latter. Both books describe the old age and the definite sterility of the mother of Mary. When, however, she conceives, the mother of Mary is made to say in the Koran; "O Lord, I vow and consecrate to you what is already within me. Accept it from me."

When Mary is born, the mother says: "And I consecrate her with all of her posterity under thy protection, O Lord, against Satan!"

The Koran passes over Joseph in the life of Mary, but the Moslem tradition know his name and has some familiarity with him. In this tradition, Joseph is made to speak to Mary, who is a virgin. As he inquired how she conceived Jesus without a father, Mary answered: "Do you not know that God, when He created the wheat had no need of seed, and that God by His power made the trees grow without the help of rain? All that God had to do was to say, 'So be it, and it was done.'"

The Koran has also verses on the Annunciation, Visitation, and Nativity. Angels are pictured as accompanying the Blessed Mother and saying: "Oh, Mary, God has chosen you and purified you, and elected you above all the women of the earth." In the nineteenth chapter of the Koran there are 41 verses on Jesus and Mary. There is such a strong defense of the virginity of Mary here that the Koran, in the fourth book, attributed the condemnation of the Jews to their monstrous calumny against the Virgin Mary.

FATIMA

Mary, then, is for the Moslems the true Sayyida, or Lady. The only possible serious rival to her in their creed would be Fatima, the daughter of Mohammed himself. But after the death of Fatima, Mohammed wrote: "Thou shalt be the most blessed of all the women in Paradise, after Mary." In a variant of the text, Fatima is made to say, "I surpass all the women, except Mary."

This brings us to our second point: namely, why the Blessed Mother, in the 20th century should have revealed herself in the significant little village of Fatima, so that to all future generations she would be known as "Our Lady of Fatima." Since nothing ever happens out of

Heaven except with a finesse of all details, I believe that the Blessed Virgin chose to be known as "Our Lady of Fatima" as a pledge and a sign of hope to the Moslem people, and as an assurance that they, who show her so much respect, will one day accept her divine Son too.

Evidence to support these views is found in the historical fact that the Moslems occupied Portugal for centuries. At the time when they were finally driven out, the last Moslem chief had a beautiful daughter by the name of Fatima. A Catholic boy fell in love with her, and for him she not only stayed behind when the Moslems left, but even embraced the Faith. The young husband was so much in love with her that he changed the name of the town where he lived to Fatima. Thus, the very place where our Lady appeared in 1917 bears a historical connection to Fatima, the daughter of Mohammed.

The final evidence of the relationship of Fatima to the Moslems is the enthusiastic reception, which the Moslems in Africa and India and elsewhere gave to the Pilgrim statue of Our Lady of Fatima, as mentioned earlier. Moslems attended the church services in honor of Our Lady, they allowed religious processions and even prayers before their mosques; and in Mozambique the Moslems who were unconverted, began to be Christian as soon as the statue of Our Lady of Fatima was erected.

MISSIONARIES

Missionaries in the future will, more and more, see that their apostolate among the Moslems will be successful in the measure that they preach Our Lady of Fatima. Mary is the advent of Christ, bringing Christ to the people before Christ Himself is born. In an apologetic endeavor, it is always best to start with that which people already accept. Because the Moslems have a devotion to Mary, our missionaries should be satisfied merely to expand and to develop that devotion, with the full realization that Our Blessed Lady will carry the Moslems the rest of the way to her divine Son. She is forever a "traitor," in the sense that she will not accept any devotion for herself, but will always bring anyone who is devoted to her to her divine Son. As those who lose devotion to her lose belief in the divinity of Christ, so those who intensify devotion to her gradually acquire that belief.

Many of our great missionaries in Africa have already broken down the bitter hatred and prejudices of the Moslems against the Christians through their acts of charity, their schools and hospitals. It now remains to use another approach, namely, that of taking the 41st chapter of the Koran and showing them that it was taken out of the Gospel of Luke, that Mary could not be, even in their own eyes, the most blessed of all the women of Heaven if she had not also borne One who was the Savior of the world. If Judith and Esther of the Old Testament were pre-figures of Mary, then it may well be that Fatima herself was a post-figure of Mary! The Moslems should be prepared to acknowledge that, if

Fatima must give way in honor to the Blessed Mother, it is because she is different from all the other mothers of the world and that without Christ she would be nothing. ☐

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THE MOST HOLY NAME OF MARY

In August, Sobieski began his campaign. As he and his troops passed the Shrine to Our Lady of Czestochowa, they begged the Blessed Mother's blessing and intercession. At the beginning of September, they crossed the Danube and met with the German armies. On September 11, Sobieski was outside of Vienna with an army of about 76,000 men. The hussars lured the Moslem Turks into thinking they were on retreat, and then with reinforcements attacked. The Moslem Turks retreated, but were followed by Sobieski's calvary. The vanquished Moslem Turks fled Austria (but only after slaughtering hundreds of hostages). Vienna and Christian Europe were saved. The Moslem standard proclaiming "Death to the Infidel" was taken by Sobieski and delivered to the Pope.

Worshiping at a Holy Mass of Thanksgiving, Sobieski fell prostrate and with outstretched arms declared it was God's cause and praised Him for the victory saying, "Veni, vidi, Deus vicit." meaning "I came, I saw, God conquered," which he also wrote in a letter to Pope Innocent XI. On September 12th, Sobieski triumphantly entered Vienna. Pope Innocent XI thereupon declared September 12th as a date to honor Mary, whose maternal intercession had saved Christendom just as it had over 100 years earlier at the Battle of Lepanto. As for Kara Mustapha, Mohammed IV had him strangled for being defeated by the Christians. Pause for a moment: Only the ignorant would not see the connection between September 11, 1683 and the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

As we celebrate this feast day, let us remember the opening prayer for the Mass: "Lord, our God, when your Son was dying on the altar of the cross, He gave us as our mother the one He had chosen to be His own mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary; grant that we who call upon the holy name of Mary, our mother, with confidence in her protection may receive strength and comfort in all our needs." May our Blessed Mother continue to protect us, especially those Christians suffering under Islamic persecution this very day. ☐

IN MEMORIAM: ANN SILVA

inside the building. This is where her cremated remains will be finally put to rest once everything is in order. This is where her cremated remains will be finally put to rest once everything is in order. On our way home, she was happily chatting and telling us her life story, while most of us were nodding away to slumber land. This was our first experience with Ann up close and personal.

In May 2015, Ann was chosen to crown the Blessed Virgin Mary with the gold crown together with Vi Carlos who did the floral crowning (see Newsletter for June 2015).

At the surprise party the group gave me in May, 2016, Ann was there and she was very happy, thanking me profusely for keeping the prayer devotions going.

These past few months, she stopped going to daily mass and just went to Sunday masses because it was getting harder for her to drive, yet she never missed our prayer devotions. She was always happy and very appreciative on those occasions when I saw her.

In July, she went to Northern California to attend her son's wedding and she was very happy that all her sisters were there. While there, she called me to get the address where to send her monthly payment for the columbarium niche she bought. She told me that she forgot to bring the payment information and that she did not want to miss a payment. That was the last time I communicated with her.

Ann will be lovingly remembered and sadly missed. But God has other plans for her and it will always be for the best. She will always be remembered for her positive and joyful attitude in spite of her crippling illness.

Her daughter said that even if Ann is now gone, they can still feel that she continues to pray for them.

As I open my Word Among Us missal, tucked in one of the pages is the Thank You card I was supposed to give Ann after my surprise birthday party. Now, I understand why I kept forgetting to hand it to her. It serves as a constant reminder to pray for the eternal repose of her soul. ☐

THANK YOU FATHER FOR YOUR PROVIDENCE

At the reception at the Monastery's courtyard, devotees, friends, relatives, benefactors and guests of The Spiritual Army of God the Father enjoyed a sumptuous feast, camaraderie and even an opportunity to help a devotee in dire need of help for rent money. At the same time, volunteers' patience and understanding were put to the test at their varied encounters with guests who came to the feast with an attitude of "entitlement"! These volunteers recalled and lived lessons learned at Cenacles held at 1st Saturday devotions.

As the food trays emptied, clean-up and pack up by the same faithful devotees followed. Tents have to be taken down; tables and chairs folded. Kitchen utensils, paper goods, party supplies, oversupply of bottled water and sodas, flower pots, prayer booklets and hymns – were gathered in boxes and containers. Portable organ and sound system were packed up. Now their cars, SUVs, vans were even more loaded – as each one of them had to take a bag or two of trash to be disposed at home! The dumpster at the Monastery is accessible to the cloistered nuns alone!

As I feel the warmth in my heart recalling what took place on this special day, I came across:

Saint Paul's Prayer for the Ephesians
(Ephesians 3:16)

...¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶ I pray that out of the riches of His glory, He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and grounded in love, . . .

What happened on the Feast Day of God the Father, takes place at each and every project, celebration, mission, retreat, and pilgrimage of The Spiritual Army of God the Father – wherever and whenever it takes place! And each time, I hear Brother Victor's voice echoing his "worry not" line, hearing him pray for all of us as in Saint Paul's prayer for the Ephesians -- offering the members of the Army and its meager resources and trusting that God will make it more than sufficient, making it plentiful – touching each of us, prompting us to open our hearts and our hands so that we may do His work and minister to those in need! ☐

DEVOTION SCHEDULE



THE SPIRITUAL ARMY OF GOD THE FATHER

cordially invites you to the following devotions:

IN LOS ANGELES:

1st Saturday Devotion

The Convent of the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master | 501 N. Beaudry Avenue | (213) 250-7962
Holy Mass starts at 8:30 A.M. | 1st Saturday Devotional Prayers follow.

Devotion to God the Father

Every 1st Sunday of the Month | The Monastery of the Angels | 1977 Carmen Avenue on Gower | (323) 466-2186
12:30 P.M. - Rosary to the Father | 1:15 P.M. - Holy Mass
2:00 P.M. - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

2000 Hail Mary Devotion – September 17, 2016

at the Convent of the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master | starting at 8:30 a.m.

Please call Victor at (213) 385-7798 if you wish to become a Sponsor of the 2000 Hail Mary Devotion.

IN CHINO HILLS:

Sacred Heart Devotional Group for Departed Souls

Every 1st Friday of the Month | 16657 Tourmaline Street | Chino Hills, CA 91709
Devotional Prayers start at 8:30 P.M.

IN LAS VEGAS:

Sacred Heart and Precious Blood of Jesus Devotion for Departed Souls

Every 1st Friday of the Month
at The Cenacle House in The Enclave 8455 W. Sahara Avenue #172 | Las Vegas, NV 89117
Devotional Prayers start at 2:30 P.M.

1st Saturday Devotion

at Saint Frances de Sales Parish | 1111 Michael Way | Las Vegas, NV 89108 at 8:00 AM
Devotional Prayers follow.

and

at The Cenacle House in The Enclave | 8455 West Sahara Avenue #172, | Las Vegas, NV 89117 at 1:00 PM
Cenacle will be at 10:00 AM before the devotional prayers.

Please call Evelyn at (702)274-4315 for entry to The Enclave or for more information.

Devotion to God the Father

Every 1st Sunday of the month from 2:00 to 3:30 P.M.
at The Cenacle House in The Enclave | 8455 West Sahara Avenue #172, | Las Vegas, NV 89117

2000 Hail Mary Devotion – September 10, 2016

*Please call (702) 255-9616 or (702) 274-4315 for
dates and venues for the coming months or for more information or if you wish to Sponsor the Devotion.*

Mother of Perpetual Help Novena & Rosary Prayers

Every Wednesday after the 7:30 A.M. Mass
St. Francis de Sales Parish | 1111 Michael Way | Las Vegas, NV 89108

IN THE PHILIPPINES

2000 Hail Mary Devotion - Metro Manila Area

Letty Rollan has organized the 2000 Hail Mary Devotion in various areas of Metro Manila through the members of the "Mother Butler." Please call her U.S. Vonage phone (510) 779-6652, text her at Manila #916-384-9300, and/or call her Manila landline 939-4677. Mention Mila Lumba's name to be recognized.