



1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2023

In this Issue

THE MIRACLES AND THE POWER
OF THE ROSARY IN OUR FIGHT
AGAINST EVIL 1

FEASTS FOR OCTOBER
OUR CENACLE CORNER 2

GOD TOUCHED ME 3

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT
RECOMMENDED | UPCOMING
EVENTS 7

★★★★★★

THE EDITORS OF THE SPIRITUAL ARMY OF
GOD THE FATHER'S 1ST SATURDAY
NEWSLETTER ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR
MAINTAINING THE CONSISTENT QUALITY
AND ACCURACY OF THE SPIRITUAL ARMY OF
GOD THE FATHER'S 1ST SATURDAY
NEWSLETTER AND AS SUCH RESERVE THE
RIGHT TO REJECT OR EDIT THE CONTENT OF
ALL SUBMISSIONS FOR PUBLICATION.
EDITING MAY INCLUDE, BUT IS NOT
LIMITED TO, CHANGES TO GRAMMAR,
SYNTAX AND STYLES, REMOVAL OF
OFFENSIVE CONTENT AND REMOVAL OF
PERSONAL NON-PUBLIC INFORMATION.
SUBMISSION OF YOUR ARTICLE SIGNIFIES
YOUR AGREEMENT TO THE TERMS
AFOREMENTIONED.

★★★★★★

THE MIRACLES AND THE POWER OF THE ROSARY IN OUR FIGHT AGAINST EVIL

© 2015 JANET MOORE. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

WHAT DO NUCLEAR WARFARE, SATANIC PRIESTS, AND SERIAL KILLERS
HAVE IN COMMON?

WHAT ABOUT CORRUPT AND EVIL GOVERNMENTS USURPING THE RIGHTS
OF ITS PEOPLE, AND HORRIFIC, UNJUST WARS WROUGHT UPON
CHRISTIANS BY RADICAL MUSLIM FORCES?

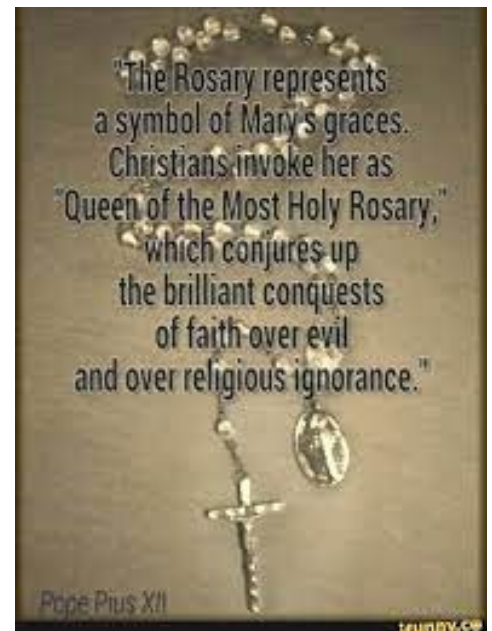
EACH OF THESE IS A VERY REAL
THREAT IN OUR LIVES TODAY;
AND YET, EACH OF THESE EVILS
HAS SEEN ITS DESTRUCTIVE
POWER RENDERED USELESS IN
THE FACE OF THOSE PRAYING
THE ROSARY!

IN OUR FIGHT AGAINST EVIL, IT
IS EASY TO GET OVERWHELMED
AND DISCOURAGED WHEN THE
DARKNESS SEEMS TO BE
GETTING ONLY DEEPER AND ITS
POWERS MORE FORCEFUL. THAT
IS WHY IT'S SO IMPORTANT TO
RECALL THE MIGHTY POWER OF
OUR GOD AND PRAYER; AND
REALIZE AGAIN, OR FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE IMMENSE POWER WE HAVE
WITHIN OUR GRASP!

IN THIS ARTICLE I WILL SHARE A VERY SMALL SAMPLING OF THE
INCREDIBLE MIRACLES OF THE ROSARY. THESE MIRACLES DEMONSTRATE
THE POWER OF THE ROSARY IN THE INSTANCES MENTIONED ABOVE.

PROTECTION IN THE MIDST OF NUCLEAR WARFARE:

WHEN THE ATOMIC BOMB WAS DROPPED ON HIROSHIMA, JAPAN IN 1945,
IT BROUGHT ABOUT UTTER DESTRUCTION, EXCEPT FOR ONE HOME, WHICH



CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

FEASTS FOR OCTOBER

THE FEASTS ON THE GENERAL ROMAN CALENDAR CELEBRATED DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER ARE:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, SUNDAY | 18 LUKE, EVANGELIST, FEAST |
| 2 HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS, MEMORIAL | 19 JOHN DE BREBEUF, ISAAC JOGUES AND COMPANIONS (USA), MEMORIAL |
| 4 FRANCIS OF ASSISI, MEMORIAL | 20 PAUL OF THE CROSS, OPT. MEM. |
| 5 BL. FRANCIS XAVIER SEELOS; ST. FAUSTINA KOWALSKA, OPT. MEM. | 22 TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, SUNDAY |
| 6 BRUNO; BL. MARIE ROSE DUROCHER (USA AND CAN), OPT. MEM. | 23 JOHN OF CAPISTRANO, OPT. MEM. |
| 7 OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY, MEMORIAL | 24 ANTHONY MARY CLARET, OPT. MEM. |
| 8 TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, SUNDAY | 28 SIMON & JUDE, APOSTLES, FEAST |
| 11 ST. JOHN XXIII, OPT. MEM. | 29 THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, SUNDAY |
| 14 CALLISTUS I, OPT. MEM. | |
| 15 TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, SUNDAY | |
| 16 HEDWIG; MARGARET MARY ALACOQUE, OPT. MEM. | |
| 17 IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH, MEMORIAL | |

THE COMMEMORATIONS OF ST. THÉRÈSE (OCTOBER 1),
ST. TERESA OF JESUS (OCTOBER 15), AND ST. JOHN
PAUL II (OCTOBER 22), FALL ON A SUNDAY SO THEY ARE
SUPERSEDED BY THE SUNDAY LITURGY. □

OUR CENACLE CORNER

SEEKING A DEEPER RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD
THROUGH MEDITATION OF PASSAGES FROM HOLY SCRIPTURES

What If a Situation Is Bound to Fail

GOD TOUCHED ME

Publish his glorious deeds among the nations.

Tell everyone about the amazing things he does. — 1 Chronicles 16:24

*“Come and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord. And to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us about his ways and that we may walk in his paths.”
For from Zion will go forth the law, even the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
Micah 4:2*

PILGRIMAGE TO CANADIAN SHRINES SHRINE OF ST. ANNE DE BEAUPRE

*By Joyce Ulmer and Evelyn Pua
January 27, 2023*

EVELYN: ONE MORNING, I RECEIVED A CALL FROM VICTOR, “MOTHER MARY WANTS US TO SEE THE ORIGINAL PORTRAIT OF GOD THE FATHER!” I THOUGHT, “TO CANADA? I HAVE BEEN THERE MANY TIMES.” I WAS NOT OVERLY EXCITED TO GO. THEN, I REMEMBERED THAT WHEN WE WERE SENT TO ITALY ON A PILGRIMAGE, I HAD THE SAME THOUGHTS – THAT I HAVE BEEN THERE THREE TIMES. MY FRIEND, ALICE, TOLD ME BEFORE THAT EVERY TIME WE GO ON A PILGRIMAGE, EVEN IF IT IS THE EXACT SAME SHRINE, A DIFFERENT INSIGHT AND EXPERIENCE GETS REVEALED TO US BY GOD.

A FEW DAYS LATER, I CAME ACROSS AN ARTICLE BY ALBERT HAASE, OFM, A SYNOPSIS STATING, “JUST BECAUSE WE TRAVEL TO ANOTHER PLACE DOES NOT MEAN WE ARE GOING ON PILGRIMAGE. INDEED, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TOURISTS AND PILGRIMS. TOURISTS’ TRIP IS ENHANCED WITH LEISURELY VISITS TO DIFFERENT SITES. IN SHORT, IT IS SIGHTSEEING, CURIOSITY, ADVENTURE, RELAXATION, A VACATION. PILGRIMS, ON THE OTHER HAND, THOUGH THEY MAY LOOK LIKE TOURISTS, GO TO AN INTERIOR JOURNEY TO A DEEPER

PLACE. IN SHORT, IT IS PRIMARILY TO “SOUL-SEE” – TO SELF EXPLORE, REFLECT AND OPEN THEMSELVES MORE DEEPLY TO THE TRANSFORMING PROCESS OF THE SPIRIT. IT IS A SPIRITUAL DESIRE, A CALLING. OF COURSE, WE CAN SOUL-SEE AT HOME, BUT THESE SHRINES ARE THIN PLACES THAT HAVE THE POWER TO OPEN US TO GOD’S GRACE IN UNIQUE AND UNFORESEEABLE WAYS.”

THAT DID IT. I DECIDED TO JOIN THE PILGRIMAGE!



JOYCE: ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2022, AT THE SHRINE OF ST. ANNE DE BEAUPRE, WHICH MEANS, ST. ANNE OF THE BEAUTIFUL MEADOWS, I WAS ASKED TO WRITE ABOUT THIS DAY. IT WAS AFTER MASS AND WE ALREADY HAD AN OUTDOOR TOUR OF THE GROUNDS, THE VESTIBULE AND MAIN

SANCTUARY OF THE CHURCH.

ACCORDING TO OUR BASILICA GUIDE, EACH PIECE IN THE BASILICA WAS PUT IN FOR A REASON, IN ACCORD WITH OUR CATHOLIC FAITH. INSIDE THE CHURCH, GOING UP THE CENTER AISLE, THE FLOOR TILES FORMED MOSAICS SHOWING A VIRTUE AND ITS OPPOSITE. FOR EXAMPLE, A MONKEY WAS SHOWN, SYMBOLIZING GREEDINESS. THE OPPOSITE IS

DILIGENCE. A PEACOCK DEPICTED PRIDE. THE OPPOSITE IS HUMILITY. A GOAT LOOKING INTO A MIRROR, IT'S OPPOSITE WAS CHASTITY. IN THE FLOOR TILES WAS A SYMBOL OF CANADA (A BEAVER), AND THE SYMBOL OF THE U.S., AN EAGLE.

NINE VIRGINS WERE DEPICTED IN FRESCO –TELLING US TO “BE READY.” THE TREE OF LIFE WAS SHOWN, WITH AN APPLE, SYMBOLIZING SIN. ON THE FLOOR’S MOSAIC TILE WAS HEAVEN DEPICTED AS A BUILDING WITH SEVEN ROADS (SYMBOLIZING THE SEVEN VIRTUES) LEADING TO IT.

THERE WERE VARIOUS DEPICTIONS OF MARY HOLDING A BOOK OR A SCROLL WITH WRITINGS; OF ST. ANNE HOLDING JESUS, HER GRANDSON; OF MARY AT ST. ANNE’S KNEE, A DEPICTION OF “THE EDUCATION OF MARY,” OF ST. ANNE AS A TEACHER AND OF ST. JOAQUIN OWNING A WINERY.

WINDOWS OF THE ST. ANNE DE BEAUPRE BASILICA CONTAIN THE SYMBOLS OF THE 4 GOSPELS AUTHORS. LUKE: A SCROLL OF PAPER; MARK: A LION; JOHN: AN EAGLE; MATTHEW: AN ANGEL. THE WINDOWS TO THE RIGHT OF THE ALTAR AREA DEPICTED LAZARUS AND ST. MARY MAGDALENE.

A LARGE PAPIER MÂCHÉ STATUE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, WAS MADE IN 1845, AND IT SURVIVED THE CHURCH FIRE. STATUES OF ST. ANNE HOLDING HER DAUGHTER MARY ON HER RIGHT ARM ARE FASHIONED AFTER THE IMAGE OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP, WITH MARY HOLDING JESUS ON HER RIGHT ARM. THE ARTIST MARIA SIMS RECEIVES CREDIT FOR INITIATING THIS. A STATUE OF ST. SHARBEL WHO HAS A SPECIAL DEVOTION TO GOD THE FATHER IS ALSO IN THIS BASILICA.

THE ACTUAL MIRACULOUS STATUE OF ST. ANNE ABOUT TWO FEET HIGH IS ENCASED IN GLASS. A LARGE HOPPER WITH A SLIT ON TOP LIKE FOR RAFFLE TICKETS IS BESIDE IT, LABELED “PETITIONS” AND THERE WE DROPPED OUR WRITTEN PETITIONS, INCLUDING MY FRIEND CHERYL’S NOTE TO ST. ANNE.



DOWNSTAIRS IS A PROVISIONAL CHAPEL BUILT AFTER THE FIRE IN 1922 AND IT IS STILL USED FOR SMALLER SERVICES. ON THE LEFT, IN FRONT OF THE ALTAR, IS THE RELIC OF ST. ANNE WHICH IS A FOUR-INCH PORTION OF THE BONE OF HER FOREARM, A GIFT FROM POPE LEO XIII ON JULY 26, 1892.

MANY HEALINGS AND MIRACLES HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH THIS SHRINE AND THE FIRST ONE IS ABOUT A CRIPPLED, ARTHRITIC CARPENTER NAMED LOUIS GUIMONT WHO CAME FROM THE HILLS TO HELP BUILD THE CHURCH. THE PEOPLE WHO KNEW LOUIS BEFORE THE CHURCH WAS BUILT SAID THAT HE WAS HEALED BY THIS WORK. HE WENT ON TO HAVE STRENGTH AND TO EVANGELIZE TO THE IROQUOIS...AND WITH HIS COMPANIONS WAS MARTYRED BY THE IROQUOIS.

OTHER HEALINGS, GRACES AND BLESSINGS HAVE FOLLOWED, WITH PILGRIMS RETURNING TO LEAVE THEIR CRUTCHES AND NOTES OF GRATITUDE. ON THE FEAST OF ST. ANNE, PEOPLE FLOCK TO THE SHRINE BRINGING WITH THEM THEIR PETITIONS, AS THEY JOIN THE PROCESSION.

ALL THE OTHER SHRINES AND SITES WE VISITED, SUCH AS ST. JOSEPH’S ORATORY, THE MAISON DE MERE DE YOVILLE WHERE THE ORIGINAL PAINTING OF GOD THE FATHER IS, THE



SHRINES IN WISCONSIN: SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF GOOD HELP, HOLY HILL BASILICA AND SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE HAVE ENHANCED OUR DEVOTION TO GOD THE FATHER AS WELL AS TO OUR BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, OUR GREAT INTERCESSOR.

JOYCE & EVELYN: SPIRITUAL LESSONS THAT HAVE BEEN REVEALED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT THROUGH THE LITURGICAL READINGS, PRIESTS’ HOMILY, AND THROUGH OUR EXPERIENCE WITH RELATIONSHIPS AMONG OUR CO-PILGRIMS CAN BE SUMMARIZED

OBEDIENCE, PATIENCE, AND HUMILITY.

RETURNING HOME, I (EVELYN) PRAYED THE LITANY OF HUMILITY TO TEACH ME AND REMIND ME OF THE DIFFERENT SITUATIONS WE CAN PRACTICE HUMILITY. FOR WITH HUMILITY, OBEDIENCE AND PATIENCE FOLLOWS. □

THE MIRACLES AND POWER . . .

WAS WITHIN A KILOMETER OF GROUND ZERO. THE EIGHT JESUIT PRIESTS WHO LIVED THERE SUFFERED NO ILL EFFECTS FROM THE RADIATION THAT KILLED SO MANY, AND WERE THUS, EXAMINED AND INTERVIEWED MULTIPLE TIMES. FR. SCHIFFER, A SURVIVOR, REMARKED OVER 200 TIMES, "WE BELIEVE THAT WE SURVIVED BECAUSE WE WERE LIVING THE MESSAGE OF FATIMA. WE LIVED AND PRAYED THE ROSARY DAILY IN THAT HOME."

CONVERSION OF A SATANIC PRIEST:

BARTOLO LONGO, BORN IN NAPLES IN 1841, DRIFTED SO FAR AWAY FROM GOD AND HIS RELIGIOUS UPBRINGING THAT HE EVENTUALLY BECAME A SATANIC PRIEST. WHEN SATANIC FORCES WERE TORMENTING HIM, HIS FAMILY, WHO HAD NEVER STOPPED PRAYING FOR HIM, CONVINCED HIM TO MAKE A GOOD CONFESSION. HE DID AND WAS HELPED BY A PRIEST WHO ENCOURAGED HIM TO BECOME DEVOTED TO THE ROSARY. IN 1870, HE BECAME A THIRD ORDER DOMINICAN AND CHOSE TO LIVE A LIFE OF PENANCE IN REPARATION FOR ALL THE SINS HE COMMITTED AS A SATANIC PRIEST. ONE DAY, NEARING SUCCUMBING TO DESPAIR FOR ALL THE SINS HE HAD COMMITTED, HE WAS INSPIRED TO REMEMBER MARY'S PROMISE TO HELP ALL THOSE WHO ENCOURAGED OTHERS TO PRAY THE ROSARY. SO BEGAN A MISSION TO PROMOTE THE ROSARY AND TO RESTORE THE RUINED CHAPEL OF POMPEII. MANY CONVERSIONS AND MIRACULOUS CURES TOOK PLACE AS PEOPLE BECAME DEVOTED TO THE ROSARY AND PLEDGED TO BUILD A NEW SHRINE IN HONOR OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY. IN 1980, POPE JOHN PAUL II BEATIFIED BARTOLO LONGO CALLING HIM "THE MAN OF THE MADONNA" AND THE "APOSTLE OF THE ROSARY."

PROTECTION FROM SERIAL KILLERS:

TED BUNDY WAS ONE OF THE WORST SERIAL KILLERS IN HISTORY. ON THE NIGHT OF JANUARY 15, 1978, AT 3:00 AM, BUNDY MURDERED TWO GIRLS IN THE CHI OMEGA SORORITY HOUSE AT FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY — HE ENTERED A THIRD ROOM, BUT FLED WHEN HE SAW A GIRL CLUTCHING A ROSARY IN HER HANDS. LATER THE GIRL EXPLAINED THAT SHE HAD PROMISED HER GRANDMOTHER TO PRAY THE ROSARY EVERY NIGHT WHEN SHE WENT TO BED, EVEN IF SHE FELL ASLEEP WHILE PRAYING. YEARS LATER, WHEN BUNDY WAS AWAITING HIS EXECUTION, HE ASKED FOR A PRIEST. THE

PRIEST, FR. ESPER, ASKED HIM WHAT HAPPENED THAT NIGHT. BUNDY SAID HE INTENDED TO MURDER THE GIRL, BUT "SOME MYSTERIOUS POWER PREVENTED HIM."

THE FALL OF CORRUPT, EVIL GOVERNMENTS:

IN THE PHILIPPINES, THE CORRUPT MARCOS REGIME WAS DEFEATED ENTIRELY THROUGH PEACEFUL MEANS IN 1986. WHILE THEIR LEADERS WERE LIVING IN LUXURY, THE PHILIPPINE PEOPLE WERE STARVING AND SOUGHT TO ELECT A NEW LEADER, BENIGNO AQUINO. AFTER THE MARCOS GOVERNMENT ASSASSINATED HIM, ONE MILLION PEOPLE SIGNED A PETITION FOR HIS WIDOW, CORAZON AQUINO, TO RUN IN HIS PLACE. A FALSE, CORRUPT AND VIOLENT ELECTION DECLARED MARCOS THE WINNER AS HE TOOK CONTROL OF THE MEDIA AND SENT OUT THOUSANDS OF TANKS TO QUELL THE UNREST. CARDINAL SIN, OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MANILA, CALLED ON ALL PEOPLE TO PEACEFULLY PROTEST THE INJUSTICE. THOUSANDS WENT AMONG THE SOLDIERS AND THE TANKS PRAYING THE ROSARY AND SINGING HYMNS, WHILE HOLY MASS AND VIGILS TOOK PLACE IN CHURCHES. THE PRAYERFUL PROTESTS LASTED NOT QUITE A WEEK WHEN ALL THE ARMED SOLDIERS LEFT THEIR TANKS AND PEACEFULLY JOINED THE PROTESTERS.

IN 1962-64, THE PRESIDENT OF BRAZIL, JOAO GOULART, BEGAN TO EMBRACE COMMUNISM AND BEGAN INSTALLING COMMUNISTS INTO HIGH POSITIONS OF GOVERNMENT. IN RESPONSE, CARDINAL DE BARROS CAMARA ENCOURAGED PEOPLE TO FOLLOW OUR LADY OF FATIMA'S MESSAGES AND TO PRAY THE ROSARY TO KEEP THEIR COUNTRY FREE FROM COMMUNISM. PRESIDENT GOULART REACTED BY MOCKING THE ROSARY, SAYING THAT GOVERNMENTAL CONTROL, NOT THE ROSARY, WOULD SAVE THE COUNTRY.

A WOMAN NAMED AMELIA BASTOS BEGAN TO RECRUIT MANY PEOPLE TO PRAY THE ROSARY, FORMING A GROUP CALLED CAMPAIGN OF WOMEN FOR DEMOCRACY (CAMDE). IN BELO HORIZONTE, 20,000 ROSARY-PRAYING WOMEN BROKE UP A PRO-COMMUNIST RALLY. AGAIN, ALL THE WHILE PRAYING, "MOTHER OF GOD, PRESERVE US FROM THE FATE AND SUFFERING OF THE MARTYRED WOMEN OF CUBA, POLAND, HUNGARY, AND OTHER ENSLAVED NATIONS," 600,000 WOMEN MARCHED AND PRAYED THE ROSARY FOR PEACE IN SAO PAULO. THEY CALLED THEIR PROTEST THE "MARCH OF THE FAMILY WITH GOD TOWARD FREEDOM," WHICH WAS DESCRIBED BY WITNESSES AS, "ONE OF THE MOST

MOVING DEMONSTRATIONS IN BRAZILIAN HISTORY." MANY MORE ROSARY RALLIES WERE HELD THROUGHOUT BRAZIL DESPITE THREATS AGAINST THE WOMEN. WITHOUT A SHOT BEING FIRED, ON APRIL 1, 1964, PRESIDENT GOULART FLED THE COUNTRY ALONG WITH MUCH OF HIS GOVERNMENT.

INEXPLICABLY TO MILITARY STRATEGISTS AND HISTORIANS, ATHEISTIC RUSSIAN COMMUNISTS LEFT AUSTRIA, A STRATEGIC STRONGHOLD, WITHOUT A SHOT BEING FIRED ON MAY 13, 1955 (THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST APPARITION OF FATIMA). THIS FOLLOWED A ROSARY CRUSADE OF 70,000 AUSTRIANS PRAYING THE ROSARY DAILY FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM FROM COMMUNIST RULE.

MIRACULOUS VICTORIES IN THE WARS WROUGHT AGAINST CHRISTIANS BY RADICAL MUSLIM FORCES

AFTER CENTURIES OF ATTACKS BY MUSLIM INVADERS, THE MUSLIM FORCES GATHERED FOR ONE TREMENDOUS NAVAL BATTLE, DETERMINED TO CONQUER CHRISTIAN EUROPE. THE CATHOLIC SHIPS AND SAILORS WERE VASTLY OUTNUMBERED, AND CHRISTIAN EUROPE SEEMED AT THE POINT OF EXTINCTION AND ALL HOPE SEEMED LOST, WHEN ST. POPE PIUS V CALLED UPON ALL OF EUROPE TO PRAY THE ROSARY. MIRACULOUSLY, DURING THE BATTLE OF LEPANTO, ON OCTOBER 7, 1571, THE MUSLIM TURKS WERE SO DEVASTATINGLY DEFEATED THAT THEY NO LONGER POSED A THREAT. THE CHURCH CELEBRATES THIS TREMENDOUS VICTORY BY HONORING OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY ON OCTOBER 7TH EVERY YEAR.

THERE ARE COUNTLESS OTHER MIRACLES THAT COULD BE ENUMERATED IF WE HAD THE SPACE AND TIME, BUT LET THESE FEW CHALLENGE US TO PRAY WITH RENEWED CONFIDENCE AND VIGOR IN OUR FAMILIES. □



"I am your Mother Mary. Pray, for all these changes will happen soon. No one will be able to change the words that God has given you. Repent, repent, repent. Be with me, my children, for I will guide you to my Son Jesus and the glory of Eternal Father. Water, earth movement, fire that you have not seen will occur.

Mary, Your Lady of Help"
09192023

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RECOMMENDED

WHAT IF A SITUATION IS BOUND TO FAIL

BY VICTOR ARANETA

IF PETER WOULD HAVE IMAGINED THE WORST THING HE COULD EVER SAY, IT WOULD BE, "WHAT IF I DID NOT DENY JESUS?"

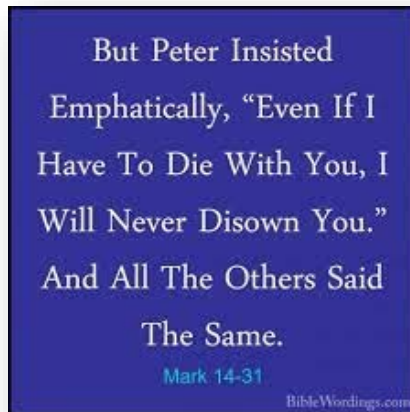
HAVING BEEN THE ONE DISCIPLE BLESSED WITH THE SPIRIT'S INSIGHT INTO THE DIVINITY OF JESUS AS THE CHRIST OR PROMISED MESSIAH, THE "WHAT IF" SITUATION OF NOT DENYING JESUS WAS A SIGNIFICANT FALL.

TODAY'S SUCCESS OR PROFESSION OF FAITH IS NOT A GUARANTEE OF CONTINUED FAITHFULNESS IN EXTREMELY TRYING CIRCUMSTANCES. IT IS HARD TO SEE PETER'S DENIAL UNFOLD IN THE PAGES OF MARK'S GOSPEL AND SO IT MAY EVEN BE MORE TROUBLING TO IMAGINE YOURSELF MAKING A SIMILAR DENIAL IN YOUR OWN LIFE.

PERHAPS YOU HAVE NOT BLATANTLY DENIED JESUS JUST LIKE THE WORDS OF PETER, BUT YOU DENIED JESUS IN SOME OTHER WAYS. SUCH AS WHEN YOU PUT YOUR FAITH IN A "WHAT IF" SITUATION, OR STATING IF YOU WIN THIS MUCH MONEY, HALF OF IT YOU WILL GIVE TO CHARITY. THE RAMBLING OF SO MANY "WHAT IF" SITUATIONS THAT DENY REALITY OF YOUR FAITH AND JESUS, PUTS YOURSELF AS THE CENTRAL FIGURE. THERE ARE SO MANY WAYS OF DENYING THE REALITY OF YOUR FAITH IN THE LORD THAT DO NOT INVOLVE SAYING "I DON'T KNOW YOU." THOSE "WHAT IF" SITUATIONS PUT A STUMBLING BLOCK ON THE REALITY OF YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

THE BEST SITUATION IS YOU CAN TAKE HOPE AS YOUR INSTRUMENT TO BLOCK ANY SITUATION THAT WILL FORCE YOU TO ENTER INTO A SITUATION OF OBLIVION IN A "WHAT IF" CLUTCH OF THE ENEMY. JESUS LOVED PETER AND INCLUDED HIM IN HIS BELOVED COMMUNITY OF DISCIPLES, KNOWING FULL WELL THAT PETER WOULD DENY HIM. EVEN AFTER PETER'S FAILURE. JESUS WELCOMED HIM BACK WITH OPEN ARMS AND THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT BESTOWED ON HIM. THIS ACCEPTANCE OF PETER BY JESUS WAS WITH NO RESERVATION AND NO "WHAT IF" CONDITION!

PRAYER: JESUS, I THANK YOU FOR YOUR MERCY AND UNCONDITIONAL AFFIRMATION THAT OVERCOME MY FAILURES, DENIALS AND DOUBT EMANATING FROM MY CONDITIONAL FAITH OF LOVE FOR YOU, AMEN. □



Upcoming Events

1ST SUNDAY DEVOTION

OCTOBER 1, 2023

IN LAS VEGAS:

ST. SHARBEL CATHOLIC CHURCH
MASS AT 9:30 AM FOLLOWED BY
DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS AT THE CHAPEL

IN LOS ANGELES:

THE MONASTERY OF THE ANGELS
MASS & BENEDICTION AT 11:00 AM

1ST FRIDAY DEVOTION

OCTOBER 6, 2023

IN LAS VEGAS:

THE CENACLE HOUSE
AT 2:30 PM

IN LOS ANGELES: VIA ZOOM

AT 8:30 PM

VIA ZOOM

1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION

OCTOBER 7, 2023

IN LOS ANGELES:

THE MONASTERY OF THE ANGELS
DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS AT 8:30 AM
MASS AT 10:00 AM
CENACLE AT 11:15 AM

OCTOBER 14, 2023

IN LAS VEGAS: THE CENACLE HOUSE

AT 1:00 PM

2000 HAIL MARY DEVOTION

OCTOBER 21, 2023

IN LAS VEGAS: THE CENACLE HOUSE
AT 8:00 AM

IN LOS ANGELES: VIA ZOOM

MASS AT 9:15 AM