

Our Lady's Courier

**WORLD
APOSTOLATE OF FATIMA, USA
ERIE DIOCESAN DIVISION**

*A Public Association of the Faithful
for the Universal Church*

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"I invoke upon you ... all Erie Diocesan Blue Army members ... joy and peace ... and my Apostolic Blessing." Pope John Paul II

"I bless your work and your Apostolate." Pope Benedict XVI

2019 _____ May, June, July, August

Mary, the Blessed Mother - First Amongst Jesus' Disciples

One of the most striking images etched in my mind, during the three years I lived at St. Mark's Seminary, while attending Gannon University, was the life-size portrait of the Last Supper, super imposed on a huge stained glass window, in the Sanctuary of the St. Mark's Seminary Chapel.

In that window, plain as the sun's rays shining through it on a sunny day, was, and still is, the portrait of the Last Supper, with Jesus and the disciples gathered in the upper room. The upper room where the Last Supper took place. But there's also something very different that I had never seen appear before in any stained glass image of the Last Supper or painting of the Last Supper.

It was something new to me. And if you saw the image, you would easily be able to identify the addition. Kneeling at the table of the Last Supper is, none other than, a life size image of the Blessed Mother Mary.

I have to admit, I always knew about Jesus and the disciples at the Last Supper. But, the thought back then never crossed my mind that Mary was at the Last Supper, and Mary was in the Upper Room. At first, I thought, I wonder who the liberal artist is that put her there? The Seminary and the Chapel were both built back in the 1950's by Archbishop John Mark Gannon. Was he the one who had Mary put there, or was it the artist who put her there, maybe even a female artist? I wondered to myself, was Mary really there at the Last Supper?

Well, after doing some research, I learned the Gospels do not mention whether Mary was at the Last Supper or not, for sure. So I wondered, what is the subliminal message being conveyed here with Mary's presence at the Last Supper? After reflecting back on the meaning of Mary's presence in the stained glass portrait, it dawned upon me, more than likely, whoever had Mary placed in the portrait wanted all of us to know, for future generations, that Mary was a true disciple of Jesus Christ. The artist, or for that matter, perhaps Archbishop John Mark Gannon, did not want us to ever forget that.

Now let me tell you, that's not such a far-fetched, speculative conclusion. Matter of fact, I honestly believe that is why she is there. We know, Mary in every sense of the word was a true disciple of her Son, Jesus Christ. How do we know? We know because the term "disciple" refers to a dedicated follower. In the ancient biblical world a disciple was one who actively imitated both the life and the teachings of the Master. In other words, a fully formed disciple was a living copy of the Master. Here's the genius of the artistic presence of Mary, the



Blessed Mother, being placed in a life-size Last Supper scene, impressed upon stained glass, as the main window of the sanctuary, behind the altar of the Seminary Chapel.

Mary, who gave birth to the Gospel "The Word of God", and who gave birth also to the "Eucharist", the Body and Blood of Christ, is the one who connects us as God's children, and as her children, to the Table of the Lord, the Last Supper, where we are all fed as disciples of Christ. Makes sense doesn't it?

Now in case you have your doubts, while Mary is never mentioned at the Last Supper in the Gospels, she is mentioned in the Acts of the

Apostles chapter 1:13-15 as being in the upper room with the disciples, at Pentecost. Acts of the Apostles is believed to have been written by St. Luke, the same Gospel writer who reveals more about Mary as the Blessed Mother than any other Gospel writer.

With Mary, specifically mentioned as being in the upper room for Pentecost with the disciples, we can be assured of two very important truths of our faith. First, Mary received the fullness of the Holy Spirit, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit, along with the Fruits of the Holy Spirit, at Pentecost, and, this is a big AND, she was indeed, in every sense of the word, a true disciple of Christ. Matter of fact, if you go back to the Annunciation event, when the Archangel Gabriel visits her, the Archangel reveals to Mary, by her "Yes" to the Power of the Holy Spirit, already at work in her life and in her womb, that she would become the first disciple of all (Luke 1:26-38).

And so, the primacy of Mary's discipleship, even before Jesus called the other Twelve disciples, rests with the fact that, she was the first to follow her Son. Her Son was a human copy of her, with the addition of a divine nature given by God the Holy Spirit. She would become her Son's most dedicated follower. She would actively imitate both His life, and His teachings, as her Master. Mary was the first fully formed disciple, and having received the fullness of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost with the others, became an evangelist, empowered with the task of evangelizing others about her Son.

You see, as the first among disciples, Mary was the human tabernacle for her Son to dwell in, and at the same time, a human temple for the Holy Spirit to dwell in. The descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost empowered Mary's mission as a disciple. The tongues of fire, and the mighty wind that appeared in the Upper Room, infused her heart and her mind, along with the other disciples hearts and minds, with the charisms and gifts

HOME ENTHRONEMENT PROGRAM

Welcome the Hearts of Jesus and Mary into your Home today ...



As we journey through Lent and wait for Easter ... resurrect your family with Christ through Enthroning your Home to the Sacred Heart of Jesus with consecration to Mary. Christ chose to be born and grow up in the bosom of the Holy Family of Joseph and Mary. The Church is nothing other than "the family of God." From the beginning, the core of the Church was often constituted by those who had become believers "together with all [their] household" (cf. Acts 18:8) (CCC, 1655).

There is nothing more special than your family. Protect your family from all the evil forces working against it by having the Enthronement ceremony done in your home. Your home is where Christ dwells and provides such comfort and peace and a place of prayer. The Christian home is the place where children receive the first proclamation of the faith. For this reason the family home is rightly called "the domestic church," a community of grace and prayer, a school of human virtues and of Christian charity (CCC 1666).

The Home Enthronement comes with the assurance of twelve promises given to us from Christ.

- 1) "I will give them all the graces necessary in their state of life.
- 2) I will establish peace in their homes.
- 3) I will comfort them in all their afflictions.
- 4) I will be their secure refuge during life, and above all, in death.
- 5) I will bestow abundant blessings upon all their undertakings.
- 6) Sinners will find in my Heart the source and infinite ocean of mercy.
- 7) Lukewarm souls shall become fervent.
- 8) Fervent souls shall quickly mount to high perfection.
- 9) I will bless every place in which an image of my Heart is exposed and honored.
- 10) I will give to priests the gift of touching the most hardened hearts.
- 11) Those who shall promote this devotion shall have their names written in my Heart.
- 12) I promise you in the excessive mercy of my Heart that my all-powerful love will grant to all those who receive Holy Communion on the First Fridays in nine consecutive months the grace of final perseverance; they shall not die in my disgrace, nor without receiving their sacraments. My divine Heart shall be their safe refuge in this last moment."

There have been beautiful miracles attributed to Enthronements that I have been blessed to witness. Conversions, peace, love, unity, the list goes on but is given in accordance to the Holy Will. With Jesus and Mary by your side your family has all the protection it needs. Share this precious gift with them and call to schedule your Home Enthronement today - **903-495-2020**, Mrs. Kristen Stravinsky.

Congratulations to the following families on getting their homes Enthroned: **Mr. and Mrs. John Fatter Family Enthronement** celebrated by



Mr. and Mrs. John Fatter Family Home Enthronement celebrated by Fr. Mike Polinek Sunday, February 26, 2019

Fr. Mike Polinek on February 26, 2019; **DiBacco Family Enthronement** celebrated by Fr. David Renne on December 30, 2018; and the **Dvoranchik Family Enthronement** celebrated by Fr. Mike Polinek on March 24, 2019.

May God bless these families and these priests.

DiBacco Family Enthronement celebrated by Fr. David Renne on December 30, 2018



Dvoranchik Family Enthronement celebrated by Fr. Mike Polinek on March 24, 2019.

Mary, the Blessed Mother continued from front

required for the vital mission of evangelizing the world ... with the eternal command: "Go make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" ... teaching them all Jesus had commanded them, with the knowledge that Jesus would be with them, until the end of time. (Matthew 28: 19-20)

Mary was the only disciple who was with her Son at every major milestone of His life. She was at His conception, His birth. His presentation in the temple. His first miracle at the Wedding in Cana, and His crucifixion, and His death.

You can see all the connections from the Annunciation to the Last Supper, to Pentecost, and beyond, all of which point to Mary's role as a full-fledged disciple, and the living out of the call to discipleship. Mary was included, not excluded as a disciple. And, if we know with certainty that she was present in the Upper Room at Pentecost, I believe it's a safe bet to say, Pentecost was not the first time she entered that Upper Room in Jerusalem. I believe it was a place very familiar to her, not just on the one occasion, but most likely on two, including the Last Supper.

So the stained glass window at St. Mark's Seminary Chapel is somewhat of an exclamation point that connects the two Upper Room Scenes together, the Last Supper and Pentecost while silently, but very boldly, proclaiming in artistic work that Mary's discipleship is unquestionable. Mary was possessed with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit literally penetrated every aspect of her being, her mind, her body, her spirit. She was filled with the Holy Spirit, in every way, and guided

by the Holy Spirit, in every way. As an example for all of us, Mary is the model discerner. She is also the model perceiver. Mary is God's chosen vessel who helps us discern the presence of the Holy Spirit in our Lives, and also helps us perceive the presence of the Holy Spirit in our Lives, at one and the same time.

Mary's trust and obedience are pre-requisites, we learn from her, of what it means to be a true disciple of Christ. We also learn her most famous line in the Scriptures, which every disciple must be willing to proclaim with her: "Do whatever He tells you". Adding to Mary's trust and obedience, we can say that spoken phrase proved her fidelity, that is, her faithfulness to her Son, as one of His disciples.

Let us never forget, Mary took on a great deal of risk, and sacrifice, and suffering, for the greater good of humanity. Mary becomes the ideal disciple, because: "She hears the Word of God, and obeys it." (Luke 11:28). As a disciple, she is an important role model for Christians, in a world which favors personal gains more than the common good, and where humility is considered more of a handicap than a virtue.

The life-sized stained glass window depicting Mary, the Blessed Mother, as a disciple, in the sanctuary of St. Mark's Seminary Chapel, remains for me, and for thousands of others, nothing less than a life-size image that truly continues to amaze all who have had the privilege of gazing upon it, even to this present day, how and why Mary is indeed, the first amongst her Son's disciples.

FATHER JERRY S. PRISCARO,

*Spiritual Director / Chaplain Roman Catholic Diocese of Erie
World Apostolate of Fatima*

Sacrifice in the Eyes of a Child

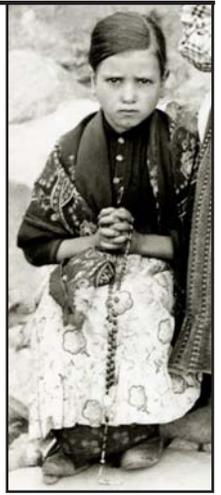
As I write this now, we are in the beginning of Lent and lent is always thought to be the time of offering sacrifices for the love of Jesus. Jesus became incarnate, one of us, to sacrifice Himself on the Cross for the redemption of our souls.

Our Blessed Mother appeared at Fatima to Saint Jacinta, Saint Francisco her brother and their cousin Lucia, who was the oldest at 10 years old. Her request in the 1st apparition on May 13th, 1917 to these three children was: "Are you willing to offer yourselves to God and bear all the sufferings He wills to send you, as an act of reparation for the sins by which He is offended, and of supplication for the conversion of sinners."

When the children were watching the sheep at pasture Jacinta thought about the things the Lady had said and told Lucia and Francisco that from then on they were going to have to say the whole Rosary instead of their short way of saying one Our Father and one Hail Mary for each decade and asked about how they were going to make sacrifices. Francisco came up with the idea of giving up their lunch to the sheep during this conversation. Concerned with the conversion of sinners, Jacinta suggested that they give their lunch to two poor children from a small hamlet near them who were passing by. Later that afternoon she became hungry. Her brother climbed a tree to pick some holm-oak acorns – which were still green – but edible. Jacinta remembered they could eat the ones off an oak tree instead which were bitter for the conversion of sinners. They made this sacrifice often, giving their lunch to poor children. On these days their only nourishment "consisted of pine nuts, and little berries about the size of an olive which grow on the roots of yellow bell-flowers, as well as blackberries, mushrooms, and some other things we found on the roots of pine trees...". On another occasion, they changed locations to pasture the sheep and there was no water and it was an extremely hot day. Lucia went to a nearby farm house and a lady gave her water in a pitcher. When the water was offered to Jacinta, she would not take it. She told Lucia that she would rather offer this sacrifice for the conversion of sinners – the water was poured into the hollow of a rock for the sheep and Jacinta suffered with a terrible headache. The third apparition on the 13th of July left a deep impression on Jacinta after the Blessed Mother showed them hell. The author of "Week 1 – Lent with Jacinta posted March 8th, 2019 on the Blue Army website wrote: 'Just seeing hell caused Jacinta to become a victim soul for God. She saw the consequences of unrepented sins. It does not matter if a society reclassifies these things as personal "rights" or "free choice" or "socially acceptable" or "legal" – in hell, they are sins that have greatly offended God. 'Jacinta could hardly believe what her cousin Lucia told her. That souls never get out of hell, not even after many, many years. Those souls are eternal and they never end and never get out of hell. Jacinta's response was: "Poor sinners! We have to pray and make many sacrifices for them!"

It was at this apparition that our Lady said: "Sacrifice yourselves for sinners, and say many times, especially whenever you make some sacrifice: **O Jesus, it is for love of You, the conversion of sinners, and in**

reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary. "Let us not forget also what the Angel of Portugal (who was St. Michael) said the year before the five apparitions: "Make of everything you can a sacrifice, and offer it to God as an act of reparation for the sins by which He is offended, and in supplication for the conversion of sinners."



Saint Jacinta Marto

HOW ABOUT YOU AND ME?

In our daily lives adults and young people have daily duties and sufferings to offer up. The daily routine of getting up, fixing the bed, making a meal, taking care of the children and/or your spouse. House keeping, doing laundry, yard work, etc.; all these things are expected of us to do and they are things the Angel was speaking of. Those of us who are working, volunteering, associating with family and friends and with those not so friendly have so many opportunities to offer our grief and sufferings to save souls.

Sickness and suffering in the hospital or at home can be made a sacrifice and save souls. Jacinta suffered in the hospital at Ourem and improved a little. Our Lady appeared to her and asked if she was willing to suffer more and remain here on earth a while longer to save more souls; Jacinta agreed to do that. She then went to a hospital in Lisbon and suffered even more until death.

How many are in nursing homes and hospitals suffering? I remember reading somewhere that St. John Paul II said that so many souls are saved by those suffering in nursing homes. Do not waste your crosses, your hurts, your anguish, everything that does not go your way, but offer them: **For the love of Jesus, the conversion of sinners, and for sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.**

John Kostrubanic, President, WAF, Erie

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS



Our Holy Father, **Pope Francis**; our Bishop **Lawrence Persico**; our Spiritual Director **Father Jerry Priscaro**, our assistant Spiritual Director **Father Marc Solomon**; all Bishops, priests and religious. Please keep the officers, co-ordinators, Chapter and cell leaders, helpers who do the labeling, tabbing, all the volunteers assisting at the devotions in your prayers; the WAF could not function without their help.

Pray for **Mrs. Agnes Priscaro**, mother of Father Jerry Priscaro and **Mrs. Anne Scherer**, both in nursing homes. Pray for the sick, **Mr. John Campbell**, father of priests Joseph & James Campbell and **Mrs. Mary Terrill**, mother of our Home Enthronement Director, Kristin Stravinsky.

✠ Pray for the repose of the soul of member **William P. "Bill" Lyons** who passed away April 7. Bill helped organize our label program years ago and promoted the "Total Consecration" of Louis De Montfort. Eternal rest and memory.

Your financial support is greatly appreciated and vital to the operation of our Apostolate.

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR PRINTED MATTER FOR 2019 SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER/NOVEMBER/DECEMBER ISSUE BY AUGUST 1, 2019

DONATIONS FOR 2019 January thru April

\$ 5.00	Antionette Kilhoffer	\$20.00	Joyce Hutt	\$25.00	Alan Wolfe	\$40.00	Mrs. Joan Berger	<i>May God Bless All Of You for Your Generous Support!</i>
\$10.00	Theresa Zamoski		Virginia Beck		Maria McSteen	\$50.00	Jim Anders,	
	(In Memory of Mother, Angeline Fachinne)		(1) Anonymous	\$33.00	Anonymous		K of C Council 5430	

(Please consider remembering us in your will to aid in the spread of this message)

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If you would like to receive "Our Lady's Courier" please fill out the enclosed form including your name and mailing address, and send it to our address. Your donations help pay our printing and mailing costs and helps spread the message of Fatima. Thank you and God Bless.

Yes, I wish to receive "Our Lady's Courier", but cannot donate at this time

I prefer to keep my donation anonymous

No thank you, I do not wish to receive "Our Lady's Courier"

Please send me _____ pledges to sign and have flown to

Fatima to be placed at the base of Our Lady's Statue at the site of the apparitions

Yes, I wish to receive "Our Lady's Courier", and have enclosed a donation of _____ to help support this Apostolate

Make checks payable to:
The World Apostolate of Fatima,
Erie Division

**Donations should be sent to:
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PRAY THE ROSARY DAILY, WEAR THE BROWN SCAPULAR, OFFER YOUR DAILY DUTIES

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For Donation Information

(See Page 3)



CURRENT RESIDENT OR

Date Expired →

THE 42ND ANNUAL ROSARY MARCH SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2018 - 3:00 PM Clearfield County Fair Grounds, Clearfield, PA

The Clearfield Chapter of the World Apostolate of Fatima (The Blue Army) extends a warm invitation to all to attend the Rosary March in Clearfield, PA (just off Route 322). The March begins inside the Expo I Building with the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, immediately followed by outdoor Eucharistic Procession and recitation of the most Holy Rosary while carrying banners and the Erie Diocesan Pilgrim Virgin Statue. As in past years, the March will be held rain or shine.



Fr. Ronan Murphy hails from Dublin, Ireland and is a priest of the Camden Diocese, ordained on the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, May 13th in the Jubilee Year 2000. Father has served as Parochial Vicar in St. Mary's Parish, Gloucester City, St. Peter's in Merchantville and St. Teresa's Church in Runnemede. He

also served at All Saints, Perth City in Australia for three years and has given missions and conferences in many countries. He has returned to the United States and is presently chaplain to a Carmelite Monastery in New York and gives Retreats for the Marian Movement of Priests.

We hope to see you all there.

An Invitation from Our Spiritual Director

July 18 thru 26 is the 100th Anniversary of the St. Ann's Novena at St. Ann's Church in Erie. A special commemorative booklet is being planned and special celebrations will be planned for those dates. Erie World Apostolate of Fatima members are encouraged to attend. Also, members are asked to submit in 50 words or less "*Memories of the St. Ann Novena in years past, and / or a specific prayer or prayers answered through the intercession of St. Ann from personal experience.*" We will be including those memories in the Commemorative Keepsake Booklet as testimonies to the power of the St. Ann Novena when it comes to answering prayer and even working some miracles. **Fr. Kevin MacDonald CSSR of the Redemptorist Fathers** will be the main preacher for the nine day novena in honor of St. Ann.

A special dinner and mass is also being planned to celebrate the Feast of St. Ann this year.

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL RETREAT AUGUST 17, 2019

Those of you who have been attending the retreats know that we have had them in the month of November, but it seems that we are always fighting the weather. Last year was one of the worst. We wished to hold it on the 1st Saturday of the month, but our priests are very busy on the 1st Saturday. **We have decided to have the Retreat this year at a more convenient time Saturday, August 17, 2019 in Erie at St. Ann Church.** Please mark your calendar. Cost is \$13.00 a person or \$20.00 per family. Call 814-790-2002 for information / reservations.

Registration will begin at 10:00 with coffee or soft drinks and donuts. During this same hour there will be a business meeting for anyone wishing to attend.

One talk will start at 11:00, lunch at noon. Another talk at 1:00, the third at 2:00, the Rosary and confessions at 3:15 and Mass at 4:00 PM; there could be minor changes to this itinerary - please check times listed on any posters or bulletins. Hopefully, we will be able to have posters out in the Churches with more information closer to the event. **Our Spiritual Director, Father Jerry Priscaro will be speaking.**