



A MESSAGE FROM FORMER STATE CHAPLAIN BISHOP EUGENE LAROCQUE

Dear Brother Knights of Ontario and your Families:

The Parish of St. Joseph, River Canard, is some six kilometers south-west of Windsor. It is the birth-place of my mother; it was my first parish as a Pastor (1968-70) and it received me upon my retirement in 2002. Originally a French agricultural parish, it is now a multi-cultural "banlieu", where new homes and new schools are burgeoning.

For almost a year I was able to celebrate Mass every Sunday at Villa Maria on the banks of the Detroit River beside the Ambassador Bridge, where my mother of 98 years old was a resident. In 2003 the Villa was closed. My mother moved to the Infirmary of the Holy Names Sisters. (She died on the Feast of Ste. Anne, July 26th)

The Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph gave the Fatima statues which stood on the grounds of the Villa to St. Joseph's Parish, River Canard. With the help of parishioners I was able to install them on the front lawn of the rectory with a rosary of roses (66 in all) in the form of a heart (the Immaculate Heart of Mary). It is my hope that this may become a shrine for parents with young children who might identify with the three children of Fatima.

They will find a short history of the message of Fatima, two acts of Consecration and the 20 mysteries of the Rosary on laminated sheets close to the benches which were recently donated.

I invite the Knights and their families to help promote this shrine for families!

*Bishop Eugene LaRocque+
Emeritus of Alexandria-Cornwall*



Blessing of Fatima Statues and 66 rose bushes in the form of a heart to form a rosary. May 13, 2004

ACT OF CONSECRATION PRAYER

(GIVEN AT FATIMA)

O Mary, Virgin and most powerful Mother of Mercy,
Queen of Heaven and Refuge of sinners,
We consecrate ourselves today, to thy Immaculate Heart.
We consecrate to thee our very being, and our whole life,
all that we have, all that we love, all that we are.
To thee we give our bodies, our hearts and souls,
To thee we give our homes, our families, and our country.

Mindful of our consecration,
We now promise to imitate thee
by the practice of Christian virtues
Without regard for human respect.
We resolve to receive Holy Communion
On the first Saturday of every month when possible,
And to offer daily five decades of the Rosary
With all our sacrifices in the spirit of penance and reparation. Amen

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us.
Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA

In the spring of 1916 three children were watching over their sheep and playing in the fields when they suddenly saw an angel in a very bright light. He told the children: Lucia Santos (7years old) and her two cousins, Francisco Marto (9years old) and his sister Jacinta (7 years old), that he was the Angel of Peace. The world was in the middle of the World War (1914-1918) and a few months from the Russian Revolution (Nov. 1917). He taught them this prayer:

"My God, I believe, I adore you. I hope in you and I love you. I ask your pardon for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love you."

On May 13, 1917, at the same place (Cova da Iria, Portugal), they saw a beautiful Lady dressed in white with a rosary in her hands, standing in a small cloud over a tree. Although she was frightened, Lucia asked her: "Where are you from?" She answered: "I come from heaven". Then Lucia said: "Why have you come?"

"I want you children to return here on the 13th day of each month for the next six months. I will then tell you who I am and what I want you to do," she said and then disappeared.

Jacinta told her mother and soon the whole village knew about the vision. On June 13th, at noon a crowd had gathered at the Cova when the Lady appeared and announced that Jacinta and Francisco would soon be in heaven (they died in the flu epidemic in 1918 and were beatified by Pope John Paul II on May 13, 2000) but that Lucia would stay to promote devotion to her Immaculate Heart, (She is a Carmelite nun in Fatima, 98 years old)

On October 13, 1917, more than 50,000 people crowded to Fatima, including many reporters. They brought many sick and crippled in the hope of a cure. The Cova was covered with mud from the rain. At noon, the Lady appeared to the children; the rain stopped and the people fell to their knees. The Lady said:

"I am the Lady of the Rosary. People must recite the rosary every day. They must ask God's forgiveness and not offend Him anymore." She also said: "I want a church built in this place to honour me."

Terror filled the crowd as the sun started to whirl and dance in the sky and then began to fall toward the earth. Newspapers reported this Miracle of the Sun. The clothes of the wet pilgrims had dried. Many of the sick were cured: the lame could walk; the blind could see.

A large basilica now stands in Fatima where the Virgin Mary appeared and thousands of pilgrims visit every year.

