

Sister Lucia's Long Journey in Spreading the First Saturday Devotion (by Barb Ernster)

On Feb. 15, 1926, the Child Jesus appeared to Sister Lucia in the courtyard of her convent in Pontevedra. After a brief conversation, He asked her, "And have you been spreading around the world what the heavenly Mother asked of you?"

This was the impetus for her to begin the long and difficult road to getting the Church to approve the First Saturday Communions of Reparation to the Immaculate Heart, which Our Lady had requested on Dec. 10, 1925.

Lucia explained to Jesus that her Superior, Provincial Mother Monfalin, was unsure how to move forward. It seemed impossible. But Jesus simply assured her that He would take care of it, and He did.

By 1927, the devotion began to spread thanks to Mother Monfalin's belief in its authenticity. She took every opportunity to do what she could, including having a small prayer card printed with the elements of the devotion. Lucia also made every attempt, especially through her own mother and friends, and her spiritual director, Father Aparicio. Lucia soon learned from him that the devotion was being embraced in the Communities in Lisbon. Likewise, her mother spread the devotion among relatives, friends and neighbors in Fatima, and her Confirmation sponsor, Mrs. Maria Filomen Morais de Miranda, began to make it known. Lucia's enthusiasm for the devotion was evident in her letters. She wrote that she was never as happy as when the First Saturday arrives.

These simple efforts sparked the flames for the devotion to grow. Yet it would be a much harder challenge to get the Church to officially approve it. Resigned to her limitations in this regard, Sister Lucia surrendered constantly to the will of God, lamenting often: "I can do nothing more than pray and suffer."

She often revealed what she felt the Lord was communicating to her, such as in this letter to the Bishop José Alves Correia de Silva, bishop of Leira, on October 1928.

If I am not mistaken, the good Lord in His infinite mercy is complaining that He can no longer accept the offenses that are committed against the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Mary. He says this is the sin for which a great number of souls are falling into hell, and promises to save them in the measure that the following devotion is practiced in order to make reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Our Blessed Mother.

In 1928, the apparitions of Fatima were still being studied and not yet fully approved. Bishop José was not ready for the devotion of the First Saturdays. Lucia then sought help from Father Aparicio, who had sent information to the bishop. In several letters, she expressed her great desire for this devotion:

The greatest joy I feel is seeing the Immaculate Heart of our most tender Mother known, loved and consoled, by means of this devotion. (Dec. 1928)Your Reverence has

no idea of the extent of my happiness in thinking of the consolation that this devotion is going to give to the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary as well as the thought of the huge amount of souls that are going to be saved through this lovable devotion. (March 1929)

On June 13, 1929, Sister Lucia received the vision of the Holy Trinity in the chapel of the convent in Tuy, Spain, in which Our Lady said the time had come to request the consecration of Russia to her Immaculate Heart. It set off an even greater urgency in her to spread the devotion of the First Saturdays, as she saw the two requests intertwined. Despite the delays, she told Father Aparicio that God had made her aware that "His grace was setting hearts afire with the love and desire to make reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary."

In 1934, she finally heard back from Bishop de Silva, wherein he promised to begin promoting the "Devotion of Reparation to the Immaculate Heart" in the coming year. She continued to work through her spiritual director and other priests, not only to advance the mission of the First Saturdays, but also the consecration of Russia. Father Aparicio was as diligent in writing to Bishop de Silva for official approval.

It was not until 1939 that things started to move forward, and by then, the rumblings of war were being heard. Sometime that year, Lucia had received another communication from the Lord, which she detailed as follows:

Ask, insist again on the publication of Reparatory Communion in honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary on the First Saturdays. The moment is coming when the rigors of my justice are going to punish the crimes of various nations. Some will be annihilated. In the end, the rigors of my justice will fall most severely on those who wish to destroy my Kingdom in souls.

She wrote several times to Father Aparicio about the urgency of the matter:

Whether there is going to be peace or war in the world depends on the practice of this devotion along with the Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This is why I am so anxious for its propagation; and above all, because it is the Will of Our Dear Lord and Our Dearly Beloved Heavenly Mother. (March 1939)

Bishop de Silva finally gave official approval to the devotion in September 1939, after the war had broken out. Lucia continued her efforts to get the devotion spread worldwide throughout the Church. She poured out her heart to the Bishop of Gurza in a letter May 27, 1943, expressing the real need for this devotion:

I long for the coming of the Office in honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, throughout the whole world. When I put this request in the letter to the Holy Father, I put it as a simple desire of my poor heart, and that's the truth. But, in fact, it isn't only mine. Someone up there entrusted it to me. It belongs to the Most Holy Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

*They love and desire these devotions, because by them, they attract souls to themselves. All their desires are summed up in this: **To save souls, many souls, each and every soul** (emphasis Lucia's).*

A few days ago, He said to me, "I really want the spread of the cult and devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary; for it is the magnet that will attract souls to Me; the spotlight that will throw the rays of my light and love on the earth, the eternal spring that will flood the earth with the living water of my Mercy.

In 2020...we are asking everyone to commit to completing five consecutive First Saturdays in reparation for the blasphemies against the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and to adopt the practice monthly as a sign of your love for Our Mother and the salvation of many souls.

The Holy Death of St. Jacinta and the 1918 Flu

(by Donal Anthony Foley)

St. Jacinta Marto endured a prolonged and painful illness that led to her death on the night of Feb. 20, 1920, in the Estefania Hospital in Lisbon. Only a night nurse, Aurora Gomes, was present in the ward that evening, but when questioned, she could not recall any details of the young seer's death, nor anything about the child herself. As Our Lady foretold, Jacinta died alone, far from her relatives and friends, due to complications arising from the Spanish Flu pandemic, which swept around the world between Jan. 1918 and Dec. 1920.

The Spanish Flu was a particularly virulent influenza pandemic that infected an estimated 500 million people worldwide, leading to between 50 and 100 million deaths. At the time, the world population was less than two billion, so this pandemic affected a significant percentage of mankind, and is regarded as one of the most deadly epidemics ever to have affected humanity, possibly comparable with the Black Death that ravaged Europe in the 14th century. The fact that it happened just as World War I was entering its final stages only made it more deadly, as crowded conditions and large scale troop movements facilitated the spread of the virus.

An unusual characteristic of this pandemic was that, unlike most flu outbreaks that target young children and the elderly, the Spanish Flu particularly affected healthy young adults, causing many deaths. Scientists discovered the reason for this recently; older people who had suffered through the Russian Flu pandemic of 1889-1890 had developed some immunities to the Spanish Flu.

This was the case in Fatima as well. Except for Ti Marto, the father of Francisco and Jacinta, the whole Marto family was struck down by the flu in the autumn of 1918. Around this time, Our Lady appeared to Francisco and Jacinta and said that she would take Francisco to heaven shortly, but asked Jacinta if she would stay longer to suffer for sinners. Francisco died on April 4, 1919 at the age of 11; Jacinta was just shy of age 10 when she passed. The

flu also claimed the lives of their older siblings, Florinda and Teresa. One wonders how the Marto parents handled such grief.

The symptoms of the Spanish Flu included fever and chills, muscle aches, runny nose and a cough. In some people, more serious conditions developed, including bronchopneumonia, a bacterial infection that can cause rapid heartbeat, difficulty breathing, pleurisy, congestion and other complications. This was the case with Jacinta, whose sufferings grew as her illness progressed.

Jacinta related to Lucia, who was not seriously affected by the flu, that the Blessed Virgin had told her she would go to two hospitals, but would not be cured. Rather, she would suffer more for the conversion of sinners and in reparation for sins.

After Francisco's death, Jacinta became very sad at his absence. Added to this, her bodily pains, including severe headaches, grew worse. With the onset of bronchopneumonia, a purulent abscess formed in her lungs causing her acute pain, but she bore this increased torment with great fortitude.

Her little body was reduced to skin and bone as she wasted away, and this was her condition when she was admitted to Estefania Hospital in January 1920.

First, she stayed in an orphanage run by a sister, Mother Godinho, who was greatly impressed by Jacinta's wisdom far beyond her years. Jacinta spoke of the sins of the flesh, which cause the most souls to go to hell, and of the moral dangers of coming fashions. She also said, "If men knew what eternity is they would do everything to change their lives." Despite her suffering, it was a great delight for her to be staying in a house that had a chapel with the Blessed Sacrament and to be able to receive Holy Communion daily.

It was only a short respite, however, as in February she was moved to the Lisbon hospital under the care of Dr. Castro Freire, one of the most famous children's specialists in the capital. He diagnosed her condition as purulent pleurisy and osteitis (inflammation) of the seventh and eighth left ribs. She also had tuberculosis by this time.

On February 10, she endured an operation to remove her two diseased ribs, an operation that, because of her weakened condition, could only be carried out with a local anesthetic. The operation was a success, but left a large wound in her side that required daily dressing, an agonizing procedure for the young girl.

On the night of her death, she said she was feeling worse and the parish priest arrived about 8 p.m. to hear her confession. Despite her protests that she would soon die, he did not give her Holy Communion as Viaticum, thinking she would be fine until morning. She died just two-and-a-half hours later. When Mother Godinho came to help clean her body in the hospital mortuary, she reported positively that there were stains of dried blood on Jacinta's face.

In dying as she did, Jacinta gives us a wonderful example of conformity with God's will, in accepting just

the sort of death that He willed for her. One can rejoice with St. John Paul II, who stated at Francisco and Jacinta's rite of beatification at Fatima in 2000, "the Church wishes to put on the candelabrum these two candles which God lit to illumine humanity in its dark and anxious hours."

Pint with a Priest on Tuesday, February 4 at 6 p.m.
The Peak Restaurant in Winter Park. Topic: TBD.

First Friday High School Breakfast

February 7 at 9 a.m. at Java Lava in Granby. Hang out for an hour, and Fr. Peter will buy you breakfast.

St. Anne Church Bible Study

As the new year begins, we would like to invite everyone to join the St Anne *Lectio Divina* group. We meet every other Wednesday in Grand Lake at a parishioner's home, breaking open the Word for the next Sunday's gospel. Sometimes we have special programs to increase our faith and knowledge and we look forward to welcoming new participants. We hope you join us. If you are already on Flocknote, just tap on the St. Anne *Lectio Divina* group and you will receive notices of the next session and where it will be. We meet from 6:30 – 8 p.m. If you need help getting on Flocknote, give Deacon Jim Moat or Fr. Peter a call.

Works of Mercy at St. Anne

St. Anne food collection is helping the community. Trinity of the Pines pantry and the Mountain Family Center pantry are grateful for our food and money donations. Don't forget to pick up the latest list in the back of the church and drop your foodstuffs in the box. Donations are picked up the last week of the month and taken to the pantry sites. Thank you for your generosity.

Wisdom of the Dialogue of St. Catherine of Siena

Summary of Chapter 49. God the Father says, "I send troubles in the world so that they may know that their goal is not this life, and that these things are imperfect and passing. I am their goal, and I want them to want Me, and I this spirit they should accept such things." Some people understand this and turn back to God (they "get out of the river and get back on the Bridge—Jesus). The goal is to have affection and desire for God!

However, some people, even though they know the world is passing, get swept away back into the world. They are influenced by various things: selfish sensuality; demonic tactics such as discouragement, fear, complacency, and comfort. "All this happens to them because the root of selfishness has never been dug out of them."

Perseverance is essential if one wants to advance. However, "they accept My mercy and hope not as they ought, but foolishly and with great

presumption...and...they put their trust in My mercy even while they are continually abusing it." "So if these souls do not go forward in virtue, rising from imperfection of fear to love, then they will necessarily go backward."

PRC Banquet, Sunday, February 16

- Young Life ~ Crooked Creek Camp (Fraser), 5 p.m.
- Free Admission. Pre-registration required
- Registration: 970-887-317, or: office@prcgrand.org
- Fr. Michael will be at the banquet to support the PRC and say goodbye to Grand and Jackson Counties

Calendar of Events

- Feb 3 (M). Traditional Latin Mass, OLS, 10 a.m.
- Feb 16 (Sun). PRC Banquet at Young Life Camp
- Feb 26. Ash Wednesday.

Mass Collections, January 25 – 26

St. Anne	\$ 682
St. Bernard	1441
Our Lady of the Snow	1176
St. Peter	500
St. Ignatius	<u>902</u>
Total	\$ 4701

Vocations Prayer Calendar

Please pray for our seminarians every day.

- Sat**—Christian Mast & Carlos Valasquez
- Sun**—Christopher Mellen & Miguel Mendoza
- Mon**—Zachary Michalczyk & Javier Moretton
- Tue**—Paulo Mori & Samuel Munson
- Wed**—Antonio Pasquinucci & Anthony Phan
- Thu**—Michael Pitio & Daniel Ramirez
- Fri**—Men and women applying for formation

Mass Intentions and Schedule for StA, StB, and OLS

KEY: StA = St. Anne; StB = St. Bernard;
OLS = Our Lady of the Snow

- Sat, Feb 1, StA, 5 p.m., Joseph DePonte
- Sat, Feb 1, StB, 4 p.m., James and Tracy Murphy
- Sat, Feb 1, StB, 5:30 p.m., People in our region/visitors
- Sun, Feb 2, StB, 7 a.m., Frank and Kathryn Dieveney
- Sun, Feb 2, OLS, 9:30 a.m., Gardner Foundation

Weekday Masses

- Mon, Feb 3, StA, 8:30 a.m., Special Intention
- Mon, Feb 3, OLS, 10 a.m., Traditional Latin Mass**
- Tue, Feb 4, OLS, 7:30 a.m., Jordan and Victoria Goray
- Wed, Feb 5, StB, 8:30 a.m., Special Intention
- Thu, Feb 6, OLS, 8:30 a.m., Christopher/Jill Longshore**
- Fri, Feb 7, OLS, 8:30 a.m., Sherri Peterson**

Mass Intentions and Schedule for StP and StI

KEY: StP = St. Peter; StI = St. Ignatius (Walden)

- Sun, Feb 2, StP, 10 a.m., Larry and Phyllis Kemp
- Sun, Feb 2, StI, 1 p.m., People in our region/visitors