

*Oblate Program at Belmont Abbey, NC*

*May, 2017*

## FATIMA: 100 YEARS

***"If the Church has accepted the message of Fatima, it is above all because that message contains a truth and a call whose basic content is the truth and call of the Gospel itself. "Repent, and believe in the Gospel" (Mk. 1:15). Pope St. John Paul II***



*100 years ago three shepherd children were blessed by a series of visitation by Mary, the Queen of the Most Holy Rosary. The Oblate Newsletter and website have, over the years, published numerous articles about the appearances and what they have meant to both the Church and the World. This month will be many more articles, both secular and religious, that will repeat the story and add additional speculations over the famous "secrets." We will not add anything more*

*except to emphasize what will not be in those articles: the need for conversion and reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.*

*Any formula may be used to consecrate oneself to the Mother of God, as long as it involves a total oblation of oneself. Two options follow with a wish that all Oblates will make or renew this Act on May 13, the 100th Anniversary of the first visit of Our Lady to Fatima:*

**Option 1:** O Virgin Mary, most powerful Mother of Mercy, Queen of Heaven and earth, in accordance with your wish made known at Fatima, I consecrate myself today to your Immaculate Heart. To you I entrust all that I have, all that I am. Reign over me, dearest Mother, that I may be yours in prosperity, in adversity, in joy and in sorrow, in health and in sickness, in life and in death.

Most compassionate Heart of Mary, Queen of Virgins, watch over my mind and heart and preserve me from the deluge of impurity which you lamented so sorrowfully at

Fatima. I want to be pure like you. I want to atone for the many crimes committed against Jesus and you. I want to call down upon this country and the whole world the peace of God in justice and charity.

Mindful of this consecration, I now promise to strive to imitate you by the practice of the Christian virtues without regard for human respect. I 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 my sacrifices in the spirit of penance and reparation. Amen. (*The Rosary Confraternity*)

**Option 2:** I, . . . , a faithless sinner, renew and ratify today in thy Heart, O Immaculate Mother, the vows of my Baptism; I renounce forever Satan, his pomps and works; and I give myself entirely to Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Wisdom, to carry my cross after Him all the days of my life, and to be more faithful to Him than I have ever been before.

Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, in the presence of all the heavenly court, I choose thee this day for my Mother and Mistress. I deliver and consecrate to thee, and to thy Immaculate Heart, as thy child and slave of love, my body and soul, my goods, both interior and exterior, and even the value of all my good actions, past, present and future; leaving to thee the entire and full right of disposing of me,

The next Oblate meeting will be May 21, 2015 at 2:30 PM in the Gallagher Room on the first floor of Stowe Hall.

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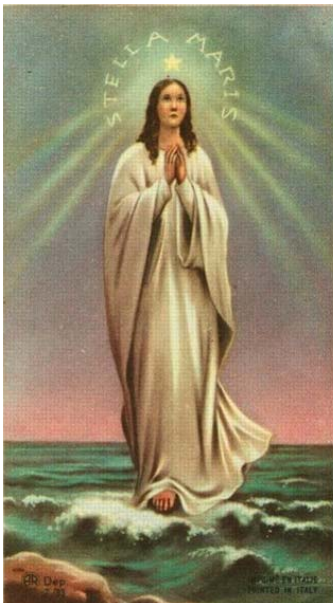
and all that belongs to me, without exception, according to thy good pleasure, for the greater glory of God, in time and in eternity. Amen. (St. Louis de Montfort)

### Short daily renewals of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

**Option 1:** Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, I renew my consecration to you and to your Immaculate Heart. Please accept me, my dear Mother, and use me as you wish to accomplish your designs upon the world. I am all yours, my Mother, my Queen, and all that I have is yours. (The Rosary Confraternity)

**Option 2:** My Jesus, I am all thine, and all that I have is thine, through Mary, thy most holy mother. (St. Louis de Montfort)

### MARY, STAR OF THE SEA



"And the Virgin's name was Mary." Let us speak a little about this name, which is said to mean "star of the sea," and which so well befits the Virgin Mother. Rightly is she likened to a star. As a star emits a ray without being dimmed, so the Virgin brought forth her Son without receiving any injury. The ray takes naught from the brightness of the star, nor the Son from His Mother's virginal integrity. This is the noble star risen out of Jacob, whose ray illumines the whole world, whose splendor shines in the heavens, penetrates the abyss, and, traversing the whole earth, gives warmth rather to souls than to bodies, cherishing virtues, withering vices. Mary is that bright and incomparable star, whom we need to see raised above this vast sea, shining by her merits, and giving us light by her example.

"All of you, who see yourselves amid the tides of the world, tossed by storms and tempests rather than walking on the land, do not turn your eyes away from this shining star, unless you want to be overwhelmed by the hurricane. If temptation storms, or you fall upon the rocks of tribulation, look to the star: Call upon Mary! If you are tossed by the waves of pride or ambition, detraction or envy, look to the star, call upon Mary. If anger or avarice or the desires of the flesh dash against the ship of your soul, turn your eyes to Mary. If troubled by the enormity of your crimes, ashamed of your guilty conscience, terrified by dread of the judgment, you begin to sink into the gulf of sadness or the abyss of despair, think of Mary. In dangers, in anguish, in doubt, think of Mary, call upon Mary. Let her name be even on your lips, ever in your heart; and the better to obtain the help of her prayers, imitate the example of her life: "Following her, thou strayest not; invoking her, thou despairest not; thinking of her, thou wanderest not; upheld by her, thou fallest not; shielded by her, thou fearest not; guided by her, thou growest not weary; favored by her, thou reachest the goal. And thus dost thou experience in thyself how good is that saying: 'And the Virgin's name was Mary.'"

St. Bernard of Clairvaux

### HAIL STAR OF THE SEA

Hail, thou Star of ocean,  
Portal of the sky !  
Ever Virgin Mother  
Of the Lord most high !

Oh ! by Gabriel's Ave,  
Uttered long ago,  
Eva's name reversing,  
Stablish peace below.

Break the captive's fetters ;  
Light on blindness pour ;  
All our ills expelling,  
Every bliss implore.

Show thyself a Mother ;  
Offer Him our sighs,  
Who for us Incarnate  
Did not thee despise.

Virgin of all virgins !  
To thy shelter take us :  
Gentlest of the gentle !  
Chaste and gentle make us.

Still, as on we journey,  
Help our weak endeavor ;  
Till with thee and Jesus  
We rejoice forever.

Through the highest heaven,  
To the Almighty Three,  
Father, Son, and Spirit,  
One same glory be. Amen.

## QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING

We only just touched on “God’s Plan and Judah’s Response” from *Trust* (Isaiah 30:8-26). You should reflect on the following questions:

1. Where do you see a critical conflict between our society’s norms and values and those identified in God’s word?
2. Have you ever felt insecure or unworthy in God’s presence? Did that prevent God from accepting you or using you for a greater purpose?
3. When have you experienced the collapse of some false sense of security? Where did you turn for help?
4. Isaiah’s words call Judah to a level of trust that may seem foolish, naïve, or impractical. When have you been encouraged to defy what seems logical and trust instead that God will show you a better way?
5. Psalm 27:14 indicates that waiting for the Lord requires courage. What does your experience teach you about this need for courage?
6. Sometimes it seems that God is slow to act or even deaf to people’s needs. How can waiting, rest, and quiet become important spiritual tools?

### **Reflections on the Psalms, C.S. Lewis**

#### *Chapter 10: Second Meanings*

1. *What is the benefit of reading Psalms with a second meaning?*
2. *Why is Virgil’s poem a striking accident?*
3. *Plato wrote of his teacher Socrates’s death by hemlock as similar to Christ’s death by the cross. Is this because Plato was lucky or wise? Please explain.*
4. *What happens when we examine things which take on the light of later knowledge?*
5. *What advantage does C.S. Lewis have over Plato’s picture of the Righteous One (Socrates drinking the Hemlock) when meditating on the passion?*

## ANTIPHONS FOR LENT AND EASTER

For those Oblates currently using the *Oblate Psalter*, antiphons for use during Lent and Easter are available in PDF format from the Oblate website:

[http://oblatesosbbelmont.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Seasonal-Antiphons\\_revLent\\_Easter.pdf](http://oblatesosbbelmont.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Seasonal-Antiphons_revLent_Easter.pdf)

A link has been placed on the home page. It can be printed locally. Download the file and then print the pages as you need them. They are arranged by week so print two pages at a time (two pages will fit on one 8.5x11 piece of paper) and trim them so you can place them in the *Psalter*.

### **OBLATE PSALTER**

We are currently sold out of the *Oblate Psalter*. We are preparing the texts for a second printing. If you would like a copy please email George Cobb at [gkcobb0929@gmail.com](mailto:gkcobb0929@gmail.com). The cost is \$15.00 a copy plus shipping if you want it mailed.



*Please remember to pray for the following deceased monks of the Abbey.*

### **MAY**

- 5 Fr. Edward Bissy (1969)
- 7 Fr. Ambrose Andelfinger (1889)
- 7 Fr. Adelard Bouvilliers (1950)
- 9 Br. Anthony Cahill (1985)
- 17 Fr. Leo Kuntz (1917)
- 18 Fr. Alphonse Buss (1951)
- 24 Fr. Hugh Hagerty (1979)
- 24 Fr. Matthew McSorley (2012)
- 26 Br. Andrew Huemer (1900)
- 27 Fr. Charles Kastner (1959)
- 30 Fr. Francis Meyer (1905)
- 31 Br. Joseph Maria Rabbani (1972)

### **ORDO**

*Indeed, Nothing Is to Be Preferred to the Work of God. (RB)*

### **MAY**

- 2 Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church, Memorial
- 3 Philip and James, Apostles (Feast)
- 7 Fourth Sunday of Easter (Week IV)
- 11 Odo, Maiolus, Odilo, Hugh and Peter the Venerable, Memorial
- 13 Our Lady of Fatima, (opt. Mem.)
- 14 Fifth Sunday of Easter (Week I)
- 15 Pachomius, Abbot, Memorial
- 21 Sixth Sunday of Easter (Week II)
- 25 Mary, Help of Christians, Titular and Patron. Solemnity
- 28 Ascension of the Lord (Week III)
- 31 Visitation of the Virgin Mary to

## APRIL 28: 300TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSING OF ST. LOUIS DE MONTFORT

On this past April 28, the universal Church celebrated the 300 year feast day of the passing St. Louis-Marie de Montfort, a 17th century saint who is revered for his intense devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

St. Louis-Marie is perhaps most famously known for his prayer of entrustment to Our Lady, “*Totus Tuus ego sum*,” which means, “I am all yours.” The late-Pope John Paul II took the phrase “*Totus Tuus*” as his episcopal motto.

Born in Montfort, Brittany, on January 31, 1673, St. Louis-Marie possessed a strong devotion to the Blessed Sacrament as a child, and was also intimately devoted to the Blessed Virgin, especially through the Rosary. He took the name Marie at his confirmation.

The saint manifested a love for the poor while he was at school and joined a society of young men who ministered to the poor and the sick on school holidays. When he was 19, he walked 130 miles to Paris to study theology, gave all he had to the poor that he met along the way and made a vow to live only on alms. After his ordination at 27, he served as a hospital chaplain until the management of the hospital resented his reorganization of the staff and sent him away.



St. Louis-Marie discovered his great gift for preaching at the age of 32, and committed himself to it for the rest of his life. He met with such great success that he often drew crowds of thousands to hear his sermons in which he encouraged frequent communion and devotion to Mary.

But he also met with opposition, especially from the Jansenists, a heretical movement within the Church that believed in absolute Predestination, in which only a chosen few are saved, and the rest damned. Much of France was influenced by Jansenism, including many bishops, who banished St. Louis-Marie

from preaching in their dioceses. He was even poisoned by Jansenists in La Rochelle, but survived, though he suffered ill health after.

While recuperating from the effects of the poisoning, he wrote the masterpiece of Marian piety, “*True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin*,” which he correctly prophesied would be hidden by the devil for a time. His seminal work was discovered 200 years after his death.

One year before he died, St. Louis-Marie founded two congregations: the Daughters of Divine Wisdom – which tended to the sick in hospitals and the education of poor girls, and the Company of Mary, missionaries devoted to preaching and to spreading devotion to Mary. Source: *Catholic News Agency*

*“In these latter times Mary must shine forth more than ever in mercy, power and grace; in mercy, to bring back and welcome lovingly the poor sinners and wanderers who are to be converted and return to the Catholic Church; in power, to combat the enemies of God who will rise up menacingly to seduce and crush by promises and threats all those who oppose them; finally, she must shine forth in grace to inspire and support the valiant soldiers and loyal servants of Jesus Christ who are fighting for his cause.” St. Louis de Montfort*