



The Marian Observer

Praise be Jesus Christ

Now and Forever

May 2020

Our Lady of LaSalette warned people to respect the Lord's Day and the Lord's Name

In 1846, the village of LaSalette-Pallavaux in France consisted of eight or nine scattered hamlets. The population was about 800, principally small farmers with their families.

On the evening of September 19, 1846, Maximum Geraud and Melanie Calvat returned from the mountain where they had been minding cattle and reported seeing "a beautiful lady" on Mt. Sous-Les-Baisses, weeping bitterly. They described her as sitting with her elbows resting on her knees and her face buried in her hands. She was clothed in a white robe studded with pearls, with a gold-colored apron, white shoes and roses about her feet, and a high headdress. Around her neck, she wore a crucifix suspended from a small chain.



According to their account, she continued to weep even as she spoke to them, first in French and then in their own dialect. After giving a "secret" to each child, she walked up the hill and vanished.

(Cont'd on page 2)

The Blessed Virgin Mary to the world from Medjugorje, March 25, 2020:

"Dear Children: I am with you all these years to lead you to the way of salvation. Return to my Son; return to prayer and fasting. Little children, permit for God to speak to your heart, because Satan is reigning and wants to destroy your lives and the earth on which you walk. Be courageous and decide for holiness. You will see conversion in your hearts and families; prayer will be heard; God will hear your cries and give you peace. I am with you and am blessing you all with my motherly blessing. Thank you for having responded to my call."

LaSalette *from page 1*

After five years of investigation, the Bishop of Grenoble, Philibert de Bruillard, announced in 1851 that the apparition was likely to be a true revelation and authorized commencement of prayers and devotions to Our Lady of LaSalette. This determination was later confirmed by his successor, Bishop Ginoulhiac. On August 21, 1879, Pope Leo XIII granted a canonical coronation to the image now located within the Basilica of Our Lady of LaSalette in France.

MESSAGE

According to the children's account, the Virgin warned people to respect the **"repose of the seventh day and to respect the name of God."** She sorrowfully threatened punishment, particularly a scarcity of potatoes, which would rot. The warning came prior to the winter of 1846-47, which was — especially in France and Ireland—a period of great famine in the months that followed the apparition.

The Blessed Mother said, *"I gave you six days to work. I kept the seventh day to myself and no one wishes to grant it to me. This is what weighs down the arm of my Son so much. Those who drive carts cannot speak without putting the Name of my Son in the middle!"*

SECRETS

No mention of secrets is made in the children's first accounts, presumably out of fear that they would be compelled to disclose them. The children later reported that the secrets which neither made known to each other, were sent by them in 1851 to Pope Pius IX. It is assumed that that these secrets were of a personal nature .

FATE OF THE CHILDREN

Maximim, after an unhappy and wandering life, returned to Corps (Isere) his native village, and died March 1875, before turning 40. Melanie died as a Catholic nun in Italy on December 15, 1904.

THE MESSAGE OF THE VISIONARIES focuses on the conversion of all humanity to Christ.

St. John Vianney and St. John Bosco were all influenced by LaSalette. The spirit of LaSalette is said to be one of prayer, conversion, and commitment.

THE MISSIONARIES OF OUR LADY OF LASALETTE were founded in 1852 by Bishop Philbert de Bruillard, Bishop of Grenoble, France, and presently serve in some 25 countries. Besides the Sanctuary of Our Lady of LaSalette in France, there is a shrine of Our Lady of LaSalette in Attleboro, Massachusetts.

**FEAST DAY OF
OUR LADY OF
LASALETTE****September 19**

"One day, Our Lady of LaSalette will lead the world."

— St. Jean Vianney,
Holy Curé of Ars



Five Truths most Americans know deep down, but are afraid to say...

By Tim Wildmon, President,
American Family Association

God matters.

Although not an evangelical Christian, even Thomas Jefferson, one of our nation's Founding Fathers, said, "*The God who gave us life gave us liberty.*" As the writer of the Declaration of Independence, Jefferson acknowledged that God is the bedrock of our national way of life. Since "all men are created equal," he said, "*then and only then can the American people be said to be endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights.*" The culture war is really a war against God. Without a republic based on the ideas of our founders, it will eventually cease to exist.

Absolute truth matters.

In his farewell address, George Washington outlined the dual pillars upon which the nation's political system would rest: "Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports." Today the hero of the Revolutionary War and our first president would have been open to charges of bigotry, close-mindedness — and even conspiring — to establish a theocracy!

In the wake of acts of violence, everyone is talking about what is right and what is wrong, but without a source of absolute truth, it is all just personal opinion. John Adams, our second president, said that "*we have no government armed with the power capable to contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion...Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people.*"

Strong marriages and families matter.

It might seem unnecessary to say it, but no society can survive without vibrant marriages and resilient families; yet these bedrock institutions have been under siege for decades. According to a Pew Research report, less than half of American children under the age of 18 are living in a home with two married parents in their first marriage. (In 1960, 73% of children did.) Do we need to reference

the laundry list of maladies afflicting America as the result of broken marriages and shattered families?

The Bible matters.

The ideas of our Founding Fathers were the driving force for greatness, and those ideas cannot be overthrown without devastating consequences. If we are talking about foundations, we really need to go further back than the Declaration of Independence or the Constitution.

We need to return to the true foundation of America — the BIBLE. We need to return to what Scripture calls the "ancient paths" of obedience to God. The Lord spoke to His people through the prophet Jeremiah when He said, "*Stand by My ways and see and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is, and walk in it. You will find rest for your souls.*"

The church matters.

The solutions to our problems are not going to happen with Washington, D.C. We must remain politically engaged, but does anyone believe the dysfunction in our nation's capital will result in the restoration of America? The solution to our problems is "revival" or conversion and that means that the true Christian community in our nation must study God's Word, pray, bear witness to the truth through the preaching of the Gospel, and be ready to give a defense for the hope that lies within us.

The Apostle Paul wrote that the church is the "pillar and support of the truth." We must remain salt and light in these dark times. That is the call of God on the lives of each of us who call upon the name of Jesus Christ. Yes, God is in control, but for His own mysterious purposes and glory, He calls believers individually and corporately to be among the instruments of His Will.



Cont'd on page 4

Prayer involves more than mental activity...

By Fr. Kevin Cusick

In the Decalogue – a series of films by Krzysztof Kieslowski on the Ten Commandments – there is a stirring moment when the body of a child is brought up from the bottom of a lake after drowning – having fallen through thin ice.

All of the people standing on shore to watch the recovery effort, fall spontaneously to their knees to pray for the deceased as the first of several bodies are brought to the surface. This physical and communal response to the need for prayer and supplication survives among a people wedded firmly to their faith.

The enlistment of the body through actions and postures in our prayers acknowledges the good of all that God has created, to include the body made in His image and likeness. Prayer is not mental activity only.

Some people view prayer today as a simply psychological activity, others as an effort of concentration to reach a mental void. Still others reduce prayer to ritual words and postures. Many Christians unconsciously regard prayer as an occupation that is incompatible with all the other things they have to do. They don't "have time."

Prayer is not postures alone or simply words alone, but a summoning of the entire human person in communion with God. Demonstrating an attitude of prayer with body as well as with the intellect and will answers a deep need of the human person.

To love the Lord with heart, mind, soul, strength in prayer is aided by the actions and postures of prayer.

The perennial popularity of the **Rosary** is a testament to the need for prayer which involves the senses – hearing by vocal prayer, sight and touch in the use of beads, and thought by meditation on the mysteries of Our Lord's life.

In the prayer of the Mass, the wisdom of the Church answers the need of the human person to pray with his entire personhood. As we enter church, we remind ourselves of our Baptism by making the Sign of the Cross with holy water.



We acknowledge the Real Presence of Christ by genuflecting. As we begin Mass, we make the Sign of the Cross and at the end of the Mass when the priest gives the final blessing.

Kneeling is prescribed during the Consecration. A sign of Adoration, commonly a bow of the head or the knee is prescribed for receiving Communion.

It is true that for many, especially young people, the lack of observance of these liturgical norms is caused by ignorance or lack of good example by adults.

Our life of prayer is enriched by the participation of ALL the the aspects of our humanity: mind, heart, soul, and strength. We have been commanded by Our Lord to love Him with all of these. If our prayer is to be an expression of that love, we should not shrink from making the public testimony of prayer in action.



Five Truths (cont'd from page 3)

SAY WITH ME:

GOD MATTERS; ABSOLUTE TRUTH MATTERS; STRONG MARRIAGES AND FAMILIES MATTER; THE BIBLE MATTERS; THE CHURCH MATTERS.

Although the forces of hell are bent on turning these truths on their heads, let us pledge that as long as we remain faithful supporters of these matters, we will stand unmoved by the undertow of the evil that threatens America.

Stand with Christian organizations such as the American Family Association, who affirm God's truth through the American Family Radio Network, AFA Journal magazine, ONENEWSNOW and ONEMILLIONMOMS.

(From letter from Tim Wildmon, President, American Family Association, P. O. Drawer 2440, Tupelo MS 38803, 662-844-5036, www.AFA.net.)

How to get more out of the Mass

By Michael Dubruiel

Catholics believe that, on the night before Jesus died, He gave His apostles an incredible gift – a way that He would continue to be present in His church, through His Body and Blood, in the Eucharist.

Every time we gather to celebrate Mass, we partake of that very same event. Are we getting as much as we can from our participation in the Eucharist – or ARE WE...

- * *Bored, waiting to be entertained?*
- * *Sitting in judgment of those around us?*
- * *Daydreaming about what we'll do later in the day?*

To get more out of the Word of God that we hear proclaimed at every Mass:

P - Prepare
R - Read
A - Attend
Y - Yield

PREPARE by studying Scripture and coming to a better understanding of how Catholics approach and interpret the Bible. The less familiar we are with the Scripture proclaimed at the Eucharistic celebration, the more likely we are to be distracted, rather than fed by what we hear.



READ the Mass readings beforehand. This is something that every lector, deacon, and priest does in preparation for proclaiming the Word. It is something that we, who listen to the proclamation, could do as well – even if it is just before the start of the liturgy.

ATTEND to what is being proclaimed to us. Listen intently, incline your ear toward the spoken Word... Pay attention when certain passages seem to jump out at you. Why does this phrase seem especially meaningful? Ask yourself what God is asking you to do in response to what you heard.

YIELD to what God is asking of you and respond with a “yes.” Every celebration of the Eucharist is a renewing of the covenant between God and us. God waits for our response.

Our response:

Offering our sacrifice with Christ will be unique to each of us. To get more out of the Mass, we must participate in it fully. A great banquet awaits us if we are willing to make the sacrifice.

(Condensed from “How to get more out of the Mass,” Our Sunday Visitor)

***“Are we getting as much as we can
 from our participation in the Eucharist—
 or ARE WE...
 bored...sitting in judgment...daydreaming...?”***

On the lighter side...

Children's Letters to God

Dear Jesus: I want to thank you for going up there on the Cross for us every Good Friday. You must be real happy when the weekend is over. *Anita, 11*

Dear God, Jesus, Mary and whoever is there: I have always wondered. Do people in far off places like Syria and Arabia have Christmas? If they do not, what do they think they are doing when they eat turkey and stuffing and sing carols? *Troy, 7*

Dear God: I used to think you were just like my mom. But I know better now. You are more like a spirit. My mom is not a spirit but she has other good qualities. I think maybe she cooks better than you do. *Andrea*

Dear God: My grandma died a year ago. My mom says she is with you. Could you give her this letter: Grandma, I'm doing good in school and met a boy I'm going to marry. All my love, *Cindy, 8*

Dear God: They could have more bible storys on TV. I recommend the King Solomon story, Moses, Jesus and the lady who turned into salt. The flood might make it difficult. It would be hard to show and the kids might not watch. Plus there would not be enouf (sic) parts for people. Just animals. *Roberto, 9*

Dear God: My mom and father are divorced. For 3 years. Nobodies perfect. But why did you pick us. I wish we were all with each other. Maybe you could have them get along on weekends. Please. *Stephen, 11*



(From "What Children Write to God," by David Heller. Printed in Catholic Digest, Nov 1987)

Medjugorje
News



Massimiliano Menichetti reports from Vatican City...

Pope Francis has decided to authorize pilgrimages to Medjugorje, which can now be officially recognized by dioceses and parishes and will no longer take place only in a private capacity (which so far has been the case).

The announcement was made during Mass at the parish shrine by the Apostolic Nuncio Luigi Pezzuto, in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Archbishop Henryk Hoser, the Holy See's special Apostolic Visitor.

The "ad interim" director of the Holy See Press Office, Alessandro Gisotti, responding to journalists' questions about the announcement, specified that the papal authorization must be accompanied by *"care – to prevent these pilgrimages from being interpreted as an authentication of known events, which still requires examination by the Church. Therefore, care must be taken to avoid creating confusion or ambiguity from the doctrinal point of view regarding such pilgrimages. This also concerns pastors of every order and level who intend to go to Medjugorje and celebrate or concelebrate there in a solemn way."*

"Considering the considerable flow of people who go to Medjugorje and the abundant fruits of grace that have sprung from it," continued Alessandro Gisotti, "this authorization is part of the particular pastoral attention that the Holy Father intended to give to that reality, aimed at encouraging and promoting the fruits of the good.

"The Apostolic Visitor," concluded the ad interim director, "will have, in this way, greater ease in establishing relations with the priests in charge of organizing pilgrimages to Medjugorje... offering them information...to be able to fruitfully conduct such pilgrimages..."

(Reported in Medjugorje Magazine, spring 2019)

May Procession at Miraculous Medal Shrine may be postponed



On November 11, 1920, the long-dreamed-of rock grotto on the grounds of the Miraculous Medal Shrine in Perryville, Missouri, was blessed and dedicated. The statue of Our Lady had arrived August 5 and the grotto was being built by priests and students at St. Mary's of the Barrens Seminary.

May 3, 2020 was planned to celebrate the Association of the Miraculous Medal's procession at the 100-year old grotto. The procession was to begin at 1 p.m. (CT) as hundreds of people would take part in the Rosary Walk in prayer and song from the Shrine Church to the grotto to honor Our Blessed Mother and crown her with flowers.

You can visit the shrine in the future (**PLEASE CALL AHEAD TO BE SURE IT IS OPEN**). The newly painted Shrine church is open year-round from dawn to dusk. Mass is offered Monday-Saturday at 8 a.m. and on Sunday 11 a.m. (CT). Free guided tours (individual or group) are available of the historic church completed in 1837 and chapel. Additional outdoor sights include Bishop Rosati's log cabin, the Vincentian cemetery and the restored rock grotto.

The church and shrine are located eighty miles south of St. Louis, Missouri, off Interstate 55. Groups are always welcome. Plan a day trip with family, friends, or fellow parishioners. **Call 1-800-264-6279 for more information.**

The Marian Observer

The Marian Observer is the official newsletter of the Marian Peace Center of Detroit. The Observer is published monthly and the subscription cost is \$20/year.

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Mission Statement:

"The Marian Peace Center of Detroit is a non-profit organization that exists to spread the messages of the Blessed Virgin Mary as revealed in Medjugorje and other apparition sites. We are dedicated to helping people live and spread peace by giving themselves to Jesus through Our Lady's call for prayer, fasting, conversion, penance, and faith."

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We respectfully recognize and accept that the final authority regarding apparitions and locutions rests with the Holy See in Rome, to whose judgment we humbly submit.

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The Marian Observer
Vol, 28, No. 5

May 2020



Eucharistic and Marian News and Events

Put on your calendar... **Upcoming Events**

Please continue to watch for upcoming events in future newsletters.



Note from Marian Peace Center

After 29 years of serving the Church and our readers, we may have to close our doors. We are unable to continue without our main source of income (programs, pilgrimages, spiritual events...)

We apologize to our faithful subscribers – we just do not have the funds to continue printing and mailing the Marian Observer.

We hope to send it on-line to those who send us an e-mail address: MarianPeaceCenter@gmail.com

You can also send us friends and family e-mail addresses but please check with them first.

Thank you. Please keep us in your prayers!