



MARY'S ROSE

NEWSLETTER

Pauline Fathers & Rosary Bouquet



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My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, may all the Blessings of our Risen Lord be upon you.

As Australia grapples with terrible drought and the dire social and economic consequences that it brings, I think is a good time to reflect on "spiritual drought". When a soul is immersed in serious sin, it is like our parched land, barren, desolate and dead. When a soul experiences drought it can seem to overwhelm a person, leading them to despair and hopelessness just as in a physical drought.

But when a parched soul is bathed in the waters of God's Grace through His Mercy and Forgiveness, then it becomes alive and productive again and the soul is full of joy. Our Lord has given us the means of breaking spiritual drought – The Sacrament of Penance. Confession is so easy; it just requires a little humility. If only breaking the physical drought was so easy!

This year will be a big year for 'Marian Valley'. We have plans to build a new Monastery for the monks to live in. Our present accommodation can only comfortably house two monks. The new Monastery will have accommodation for five monks and have a visitor's bedroom. One of the rooms will be a 'disabled' room, which will be good to accommodate an elderly or sick monk (we will all be old one day).

This new Monastery will be a sign of the permanence and commitment of the Pauline Fathers to 'Marian Valley'. It will give us privacy, and facilitate the living out of our Religious vocation. A larger community at 'Marian Valley' will now be possible. I ask for your faith-filled support and prayers for this project for the greater glory of God and His Blessed Mother. May God Bless you all! - Fr Columba, Prior

Private Revelations and the Church

The revelations of Our Lord that were given to Blessed Faustina are in the class of "Private Revelations". A Private Revelation is a special message given to an individual for their own benefit and sometimes for the benefit of others. There seems to be some confusion these days about the exact nature of Private Revelations, and how they are judged to be authentic, and what should be the response of the faithful to them. I hope to look at these points over the next year. I will start by having a look at the importance of Public Revelation.

Public Revelation is that which has been revealed by God to all people for their salvation. Public Revelation can be found written in the pages of Holy Scripture and Tradition. It is the Church's task to interpret Holy Scripture and to make God's saving message known to all. That which is contained in the Bible and interpreted by the Church, must be believed, for it is God's official Revelation to mankind. This Public Revelation contains all that we need to know for our salvation. God has given us the complete "book of instructions" to attain our end in Heaven. There will be no more Public Revelation. The Public Revelation of God to His people ended with the death of the last Apostle.

It is the Church's task to guard, teach, and explain this Public Revelation or as it is more commonly termed the Deposit of Faith. When the Official Church (usually a local Bishop but sometimes a Bishops' Conference or the Holy See) judges a Private Revelation to be worthy of belief it means among other things that the Private Revelation has been examined and found not to contradict the

teaching of the Church which is contained in the Deposit of Faith. For example, if Joe Bloggs claims that Our Lord appeared to him and said that Catholics don't have to obey their Bishops or don't have to go to Church on Sunday, the Official Church (and the faithful do this to some extent as well) will compare Joe Bloggs 'message' to the Church's teaching; if it contradicts it, as in this case, it is clearly a false revelation. God has told us one thing through His Church so He cannot and would not contradict Himself in a Private Revelation. Truth Himself speaks truly or there's nothing true. (St. Thomas Aquinas).

The Church's attitude to Public and Private Revelations are best explained, I think, by His Holiness Pope John Paul II in his homily at Fatima, May 13, 1982 which is applied to the Fatima messages which are Private Revelations.

"The Church has always taught and continues to proclaim that God's revelation was brought to completion in Jesus Christ, who is the fullness of the revelation, and that 'no new public revelation is to be expected before the glorious manifestation of Our Lord' (Dei Verbum 4). The Church evaluates and judges private revelations by the criterion and conformity with that single revelation.

If the church has accepted the message of Fatima, it is above all because the message contains a truth and a call whose basic content is the truth and the call of the Gospel itself."

So why does God give Private Revelations like those to Bl. Faustina? Do we need them? I will try to answer these questions in the next Newsletter. - Fr. Columba Macbeth-Green

Mary Mother of Priests

When Our Lord looked down from the cross and said to Mary: "Woman, behold your son" and then to St John, who was representing us all ; "Son behold your Mother" Mary became the Mother of us all, she became the Mother of the Church.

Priests have a very special role to play in the Church. A priest shares in the priesthood of Christ, the High Priest. Priests are charged with the honour and grave responsibility of making Christ present to His people, to His Church. Mary is the Mother of Christ, the High Priest, and so she is the mother of all priests.

Unfortunately today, in these troubled times of ours, there is little understanding and appreciation of the ministerial priesthood. Put quite simply, a Priest is called to be an Icon of Christ, a good shepherd for the faithful, he is called to love with the love of Christ. In the Sacraments he even acts in the very person of Christ. St. Francis of Assisi said that if an Angel and a Priest appeared before him he would bow to the Priest first because his is the greater dignity.

Sometimes we can take priests for granted. Sometimes we can even ask ourselves - do we really need them. Our Fathers in the Faith certainly did - should we be any different?

In the early days of Sydney, when it was a place for convicts, there was no priest and no sacraments. Then a Fr. O'Flynn, who was one of the convicts, arrived and ministered to the people. Soon after, he was deported and again there was no Priest. But before he went, he left the Blessed Sacrament in the care of Mr. William Davis who kept it in his cottage for worship where the faithful prayed for another Priest. When Fr. McEnroe arrived, Mr. Davis presented him with the Blessed Sacrament he was keeping and it was perfectly intact and fresh after more than 2 years in Sydney. This was a miracle to strengthen the people in their faith regarding the importance of priesthood and in their prayers for a Priest. What would Mr. Davis think of us and some of our modern attitudes to the priesthood?

Well what makes a Priest so special? - At his Ordination He is configured or made like Christ in a special way.

Christ, the Eternal High Priest, offered himself as a victim to God the Father for the sins of humanity - The Ordained Priest has the awesome privilege and responsibility of offering that same Holy Sacrifice, in the person of Christ, and in so doing applies the graces and merits won on Calvary to all the faithful here and now.

But to be a true image of Christ, a priest too must also be a victim as well as the one who offers the sacrifice. A large part of a Priest's victimhood is his life of total service to the Church, well at least it should be. Being on call 24 hours a day, putting up with insults and ridicule and even torture and death, in some places, just for being a Priest. This is all part of the victimhood that a Priest is supposed to live and unite with Christ's victimhood. But of course this is not always easy, in fact it is impossible for a man to do on his own - he needs divine help, he needs his heavenly Mother's help.

Mary as the mother of Priests can actually sympathise with the priest because she is also well acquainted with sacrifice and victimhood.

One very significant thing that Pope John Paul II said was that "Mary offered Him (Jesus) and she offered Herself to the Father".

Mary never implored Jesus to forget about being the Messiah

and to come home and look after her, as was the natural right of a mother to expect from her Son. No, she, as a mother, offered the Father her only Son for us all.

Standing by the cross of Jesus, Mary shares in the gift which the Son makes of Himself: she offers Jesus, gives Him over, and begets Him to the end for our sake. The "yes" spoken on the day of the Annunciation reaches full maturity on the day of the cross...(EV,JP11)



Mary's offering of Herself to the Father.

Mary's offering of herself stems from her "yes" at the Annunciation and at the Cross. Mary's offering of Herself to God's Holy Will cannot be separated from her offering of Her only Son, but it is different. In Mary's offering of her Son she is offering a Divine person, when she offers herself she is offering a human person. When Mary offered herself she agreed to share the pain and suffering of her Son.

...In her, the many and intense sufferings were amassed in such an interconnected way that they were not only a proof of her unshakable faith but also a contribution to the Redemption of all... It was on Calvary that Mary's suffering, beside the suffering of Jesus, reached an intensity which can hardly be imagined from a human point of view but which was mysteriously and supernaturally fruitful for the redemption of the world. (JP11 Salvifici Dolores.)

Mary, then, has the greatest understanding of any human being about the priesthood and its importance. Mother Teresa of Calcutta said that: *Mary is the closest one to priests. No one could have been a better priest than our Lady. She without difficulty, can say, This is My Body, because it was really her body that she gave to Jesus. And yet Mary remained only the handmaid of the Lord, so that you and I can always turn to her as our mother. She is one of our own so that we can be always be one with her.*

That is why Mary was left behind after the Ascension: to strengthen the priesthood of the Apostles, to be a mother to them.

But the Devil too is well aware of the dignity of the priesthood. He makes priest's the special targets of his attacks. He knows that if he can get the priests he can get the people. You can look around and see the attacks the devil is launching on the Priesthood today. Many priests become indifferent, they stop seeking to be holy, they become materialistic, they lose the faith etc.

Priest's now more than ever need the help of Mary, and she is there ready to help but she also wants you to help, she wants you to pray for priests, to pray for holy priests, to pray for mercy for priests. In Apparitions and Messages from Our Lady she has shown motherly concern for her priests and asked that we all pray for them. Our Lady told Bl. Jacinta, a visionary at Fatima - *Priests must be pure, very pure. They should not busy themselves with anything except what concerns the Church and souls. The disobedience of priests to their superiors and to the Holy Father is very displeasing to Our Lord. She told her to pray for them.*

- Fr Columba Macbeth-Green OSPPE

Chronicles of Marian Valley by Fr. Gabriel Taylor, OSPPE

Since we last greeted each other there have been many joyous celebrations at Marian Valley including, during October, the blessing of a new chapel in honour of St. Gerard Majella.

Over 500 pilgrims greeted the occasion of Our Lady's Birthday in September, 2006. Celebrant for the Solemn Sung Mass was Fr. Anthony Robbie. Fr. Robbie is the National Spiritual Director of the World Apostolate of Fatima. Led by Fr. Columba in the afternoon there was a Solemn Eucharistic Procession with Devotions at the Grotto of Our Lady of Fatima.

In honour of St. Andrew Kim Taegon and the Korean Martyrs about 450 pilgrims were at Marian Valley on 17th September, with the Chaplain of the Korean Community Fr. Joseph Kim celebrating the Holy Eucharist in Korean. The Korean Choir led the singing with wonderful harmonies. A delicious lunch of Korean food was provided for all the pilgrims. In the afternoon, people prayed at the Chapel of the Korean Martyrs and families enjoyed games and time together.

Gathered around the Chapel of St. Padre Pio about 750 pilgrims came for Italian Mass on 25 September in honour of St. Pio. Celebrant was the Italian Chaplain Fr. Mauro Conte C.S. After the Eucharist all were welcomed to a lunch of Italian food after which Fr. Mauro led the pilgrims in praying the Stations of the Cross.

On Saturday 21 October we celebrated the pilgrimage in honour of St Gerard Majella with the blessing of the statue and newly-completed Chapel. Celebrant for Italian Mass was Msr. Giustino D'Addezio visiting from Italy, where his ministry is in the hometown of St. Gerard. Following Mass, all went in procession with the new statue to the Chapel of St. Gerard. In the procession Fr. Columba carried the relic of St. Gerard. After the blessing of the Chapel and installation of the Statue, pilgrims were able to venerate the relic and pray at the Chapel. All then joined in a barbecue lunch provided by the Italian community.

In September and October members of the Catholic Psychiatric Pastoral Care team came for day retreats, in September being accompanied by their Chaplain Fr. Jim Smith. In early September we also welcomed a group of Police Chaplains for a few days retreat, with a day retreat later in the month for 21 students from Gregory Terrace College led by their R.E. Coordinator Miss Annie Connolly.

In October about 40 pilgrims from the Catholic Ukranian Rite community came with their Chaplain Fr. Jarko Pasok. They sang in procession to the Grotto of Our Lady of Fatima where the Divine Liturgy was celebrated according to the Ukranian Rite. In the afternoon at the Main Chapel, Fr. Jarko led the pilgrims in the singing of the Akathist which is a series of hymns dedicated to Our Lady.

For the weekend beginning Friday 24th November over 20 pilgrims from the Parish of the Army Ordinariate of South East Queensland came for a weekend retreat with their army Chaplains Fr. Glynn Murphy and Deacon Gary Stone.

In September, October and November three parish groups visited. With their Parish Priest Fr. Peter Slack came pilgrims from Casino; of the "Over 50's Club" from Regina Coeli Parish

Coorparoo and surrounding Parishes a bus in October; with most people from Zillmere Parish a bus arrived unexpectedly for half an hour on a day out in November.

During the evening of Sunday 31 December 2006 we celebrated with about 80 pilgrims the Holy Eucharist at 7pm in thanksgiving for all God's blessings during 2006. At 10 p.m. there was a Eucharistic candlelight procession to the Grotto of Our Lady of Fatima, with all the lights very beautifully illuminating the various Chapels and Stations of the Cross. After prayers all returned, with candles burning in the still night, to the Black Madonna Chapel. After midnight, we began the New Year, 1 January 2007, with Mass for the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God. Fr. Columba extended thanks for the deeply appreciated support of so many for Marian Valley.



Eucharist Procession for Healing on our Lourdes Day

With the completion of the 11am Holy Eucharist on New Year's Day, Fr. Columba helped with cooking the Barbecue lunch for all present, which is traditionally provided by the Monastery. Not one burnt sausage! Fr. Columba will be presented with a complimentary pair of tongs in preparation for next year!

On a warm day with a refreshing breeze about 400 pilgrims came on Saturday 10th February for celebrations in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes. Many people sought reconciliation. Fr. Columba was celebrant at the Holy Eucharist and after lunch a talk was given by Dr. David Baartz, Director of Gynaecology at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital. The procession to the grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes was led by children beautifully dressed by our volunteers. After prayers for the sick and the needs of all pilgrims, the procession returned to the church and each pilgrim was blessed with the Blessed Sacrament. The day concluded with the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

"Patience is something you admire in the driver behind you but not in the one ahead."



Consider the postage stamp: its usefulness consists in the ability to stick to one thing till it gets there. (Josh Billings)

Bored At Mass?

Yes, well so am I, quite often, and when young people tell me this (or more often their parents, explaining why the young are not there) I tell them that I know exactly what they mean. I have been to more boring Masses in my relatively short lifetime than they probably ever will, but there's a little more to the story than that. Why do they say they're bored? The faithful attended Mass for centuries in a language they did not speak and yet, without being able to observe the ritual actions of the priest, hordes of people did not beat the priests over the head with accusations that they were not Bing Crosby, and until they were, we're going to take our business elsewhere thank you very much.

What was the difference? Well, I don't think I would be too bold if I were to say that those former generations actually knew what the Mass is and ours do not. This is why they expect strange light and sound shows to keep their attention. Naturally there is a problem of our infotainment culture which lives surgically attached to a remote control. We switch channels during the commercial breaks lest we suffer the excruciating agony of a moment's boredom and we flood into cinemas and video-shops in a frantic pursuit of diversion from the mundane lives we lead. Sometimes I wonder that there were not more psychotic axe-murderers and criminal fiends in the days before electricity when surely boredom must have been much more of a problem than today. And yet people lived without such problems. Why? Because they had imagination and used their brains instead of their bottoms (armchairs) to entertain themselves. Sociologists have noted the decline of sports in recent years, the decline of people's ability to play musical instruments and the decline in literacy and all these are attributed to a tendency to sit in a chair and be entertained by electronically provided images, music, and information via our stereos, TV's and the internet.

So they expect entertainment and somebody told them they have a right to expect it at Mass. This is not to say that Holy Mother Church can't put on a great show when she wishes. Who else could provide ceremonies of such an edifying and magnificent nature as we have? Where else are musical resources like ours to be found? Everything from the solemn meditative tones of Gregorian Chant to the glorious soaring Masses of Palestrina and Haydn? Sadly one usually has to creep off to a secular concert hall to appreciate the musical heritage of Christianity these days, but even at its most basic, when all the high liturgies, the grand processions, the glorious benedictions are put aside, is there not a latent dignity in the Mass, well said, which is more than capable of satisfying our soul's quest for God?

This is the only real aim of our ceremonies- union with God and adoration of our Creator. Anything else will cheapen and coarsen those things which are His and which are sacred. If the young are bored it is because they do not know what Mass is.

They do not understand that it is the sacrifice of Calvary renewed. They do not appreciate that the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ is called down upon the altar by a priest and then distributed among the faithful. They have not been told that it matters not what language the Mass is said in, nor where it is said nor whether they can see it for there to be full, active participation in the liturgy. This means that if we attend Holy Mass in China so that we cannot understand a word, or if we are blind so that we see nothing, or if we are deaf so that we hear nothing, we can still participate 100% in the liturgy, because the only thing that matters is that we are united in heart and mind with the sacrifice of Christ on Calvary. Nothing else matters. All else are incidentals so that the music, statues, art and yes, the personality of the priest, are elements that may or may not assist in constructing an atmosphere of prayer, but the supernatural reality of the Mass goes on in spite of them. Where this is not understood people end up saying that they go to this Mass or that Mass because of the music, shape of the building or some other reason, and frequently claim they are there because "it makes me feel good" or "I get something out of it". This is religion as therapy. It is not an act of worship, it's little more than a medical service.

Let us seek the answer to the crisis of Mass attendance, not in ever increasing gimmicks, which cheapen the sacred liturgy and always fail to achieve their purpose. No matter how entertaining we try to be to today's youth, Hollywood and the music industry will always be able to do it better. We shouldn't be trying to compete with them. We are doing something completely different. We are in the business of adoring the True God and saving souls and nobody else is doing that.

Fr Anthony Robbie, PP.



Some of 'Marian Valley's' Volunteers who give of their time and energy to make 'Marian Valley' a place where people can meet God, in Jesus, through Mary. Please pray for them and the work they do.