



Central New York Marian Center, Inc.

Promoting The Gospel Through The Marian Messages **February 2021**

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Currently we are blest to be celebrating our 28th year!

The Monthly Message of Our Blessed Mother from Medjugorje: January 25, 2021

“Dear children! I am calling you at this time to prayer, fasting and renunciation, that you may be stronger in faith. This is a time of awakening and of giving birth. As nature, which gives itself, you also, little children, ponder how much you have received. Be joyful bearers of peace and love that it may be good for you on earth. Yearn for Heaven; and in Heaven there is no sorrow or hatred. That is why, little children, decide anew for conversion and let holiness begin to reign in your life. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

See a rose Pray a Rosary!



BISHOP LUCIA NOVENA PRAYER FOR AN END TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC www.syrdio.org:

O Mary, full of grace, Patroness of this nation and Mother of the Church, in this time of illness and worldwide need we seek your intercession for the human family before your Son’s throne of grace and mercy. We ask for strength in adversity, health in weakness, and comfort in sorrow. Help us, O Blessed Mother, to be filled with confidence and trust in the tender compassion of our God. Let us not be afraid, like our own Saint Marianne Cope, who entrusted her life and ministry among the outcasts of society into the care of our Divine Physician. Continue to watch over all who are sick as well as those who care for them and give wisdom to all who are seeking a cure. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

HEAVEN CALLS—IS YOUR RINGER ON ?

Blessing and prayers to all our friends, supporters and newsletter subscribers of the Central NY Marian Center.

Do our hearts ring out with joy as we celebrate the Holy Family? Between the events which marked **Christmas** and the beginning of **Christ's** public life the Church has seen fit to recall the example of the Holy Family for the emulation of the Christian family. That we may become holy too?

The month of February is dedicated to the **Holy Family**. This year the first 16 days of February fall during the liturgical season known as **Ordinary Time** which is represented by the liturgical color **green**. Green, the symbol of hope, is the color of the sprouting seed and arouses in the faithful the hope of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven, especially the hope of a glorious resurrection. The remaining days of February are the beginning of **Lent**. The liturgical color changes to **purple** a symbol of penance, mortification and the sorrow of a contrite heart.

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord February 2, 2021

Today the Church celebrates the feast of the Presentation of the Lord which occurs forty days after the birth of **Jesus** and is also known as **Candlemas** day. The Presentation or **Our Lord** bridges the two seasons, Christmas and Easter! In addition, the faithful may receive in February two of the four major public sacramental that the Church confers during the liturgical year: blessed candles and the blessing of throats.

St. Agatha, virgin and martyr February 5, 2021

It is impossible to write a historically reliable account of St. Agatha's life. The "Acts" of her martyrdom are legendary, dating from the sixth century.

According to these sources Agatha was a Sicilian virgin of noble extraction. Quintianus, governor of Sicily, became deeply enamored of her; but she rejected his advances. As a result she was charged with being a Christian and brought before his tribunal. To the question concerning her origin she replied: "I am noble-born, of a distinguished family, as all my relatives will attest." When asked why she lived the servile life of a Christian, she answered: "I am a handmaid

of Christ, and that is why I bear the outward appearance of a slave; yet this is the highest nobility, to be a slave to Christ." The governor threatened her with the most dreadful tortures if she did not renounce Christ. Agatha countered: "If you threaten me with wild beasts, know that at the Name of Christ they



grow tame; if you use fire, from heaven angels will drop healing dew on me."

After being tortured, "Agatha went to prison radiant with joy and with head held high as though invited to a festive banquet. And she commended her agony to the Lord in prayer." The next day, as she again stood before the judge, she declared: "If you do not cause my body to be torn to pieces by the hangmen, my soul cannot enter the Lord's paradise with the martyrs. She was then stretched on the rack, burned with red-hot irons, and despoiled of her breasts. During these tortures she prayed: "For love of chastity I am made to hang from a rack. Help me, O Lord my God, as they knife my breasts. Agatha rebuked the governor for his barbarity: "Godless, cruel, infamous tyrant, are you not ashamed to despoil a woman of that by which your own mother nursed you?"

Returning to prison, she prayed: "You have seen, O Lord, my struggle, how I fought in the place of combat; but because I would not obey the commands of rulers, my breasts were lacerated." In the night there appeared to her a venerable old man, the apostle Peter, with healing remedies. Agatha, ever delicately modest, hesitated to show him her wounds. "I am the apostle of Christ; distrust me not, my daughter." To which she replied: "I have never used earthly medicines on my body. I cling to the Lord Jesus Christ, who renews all things by His word." She was miraculously healed by St. Peter: "Father of my Lord Jesus Christ, I give you praise because by Your apostle You have restored my breasts." Throughout the night a light illumined the dungeon. When the guards fled in terror, her fellow prisoners urged her to escape but she refused: "Having received help from the Lord, I will persevere in confessing Him who healed me and comforted me."

Four days later she was again led before the judge. He, of course, was amazed over her cure. Nevertheless, he insisted that she worship the gods; which prompted another confession of faith in Christ. Then by order of the governor, Agatha was rolled over pieces of sharp glass and burning coals. At that moment the whole city was rocked by a violent earthquake. Two walls collapsed, burying two of the governor's friends in the debris. Fearing a popular uprising, he ordered Agatha, half dead, to be returned to prison. Here she offered her dying prayer:

"Blessed Agatha stood in the midst of the prison and with outstretched arms prayed to the Lord: O Lord Jesus Christ, good Master, I give You thanks that You granted me victory over the executioners' tortures. Grant now that I may happily dwell in Your never-ending glory." Thereupon she died.

Her grave is venerated at Catania in Sicily. *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch

Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes February 11, 2021

On December 8, 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed the dogma of the Immaculate Conception in the apostolic constitution *Ineffabilis Deus*. A little more than three years later, on February 11, 1858, a young lady appeared to **Bernadette Soubirous**. This began a series of visions. During the apparition on March 25, the lady identified herself with the words: "**I am the Immaculate Conception.**"

The pilgrimage of Lourdes is founded on the apparitions of the **Blessed Virgin** to a poor, fourteen-year-old girl, **Bernadette Soubirous**. The first apparition occurred February 11, 1858. There were eighteen in all; the last took place July 16, of the same year. Bernadette often fell into an ecstasy. The mysterious vision she saw in the hollow of the rock Massabielle was that of a young and beautiful lady. "Lovelier than I have ever seen" said the child. But the girl was the only one who saw the vision, although sometimes many stood there with her. Now and then the apparition spoke to the seer who also was the only one who heard the voice. Thus, she one day told her to drink of a mysterious fountain, in the grotto itself, the existence of which was unknown, and of which there was no sign, but which immediately gushed forth. On another occasion the apparition bade Bernadette go and tell the priests she wished a chapel to be built on the spot and processions to be made to the grotto. At first the clergy were incredulous. It was only four years later, in 1862, that the bishop of the diocese declared the faithful "justified in believing the reality of the apparition". **A basilica was built upon the rock of Massabielle by M. Peyramale, the parish priest.** In 1873 the great "national" French pilgrimages were inaugurated. Three years later the basilica was consecrated and the statue solemnly crowned. In 1883 the

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foundation stone of another church was laid, as the first was no longer large enough. It was built at the foot of the basilica and was consecrated in 1901 and called the **Church of the Rosary**. **Pope Leo XIII** authorized a special office and a Mass, in commemoration of the apparition, and in 1907 **Pius X** extended the observance of this feast to the entire Church; it is now observed on February 11.

Through that humble girl, **Mary** revitalized and continues to revitalize the faith of millions of people. People began to flock to Lourdes from other parts of France and from all over the world. In 1862 Church authorities confirmed the authenticity of the apparitions and authorized the significance of **Our Lady of Lourdes** for the diocese. The **Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes became worldwide in 1907.**

Lourdes has become a place of pilgrimage and healing, but even more of faith. Church authorities have recognized over 60 miraculous cures, although there have probably been many more. To people of faith this is not surprising. It is a continuation of **Jesus' healing miracles** now performed at the intercession of His mother. Some would say that the greater miracles are hidden. There still may be people who doubt the apparitions of Lourdes. Perhaps the best that can be said to them are the words that introduce the film **The Song of Bernadette**: "For those who believe in God, no explanation is necessary. For those who do not



believe, no explanation is possible.”

Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers, located in Syracuse, are currently leading virtual pilgrimages. (www.lourdesvolunteers.org)

Bernadette was born on January 7th 1844, into a loving and devoted family. As a young 14 year old girl, **Bernadette Soubirous had 18 visions of the Blessed Lady** in a grotto in the outskirts of Lourdes. She died in 1879 at the Convent at Nevers. She received Beatification in 1925 and Canonization in 1933 under **Pope Pius XI**, not so much for the content of her visions, but rather for her simplicity and holiness of her life. 30 years after her death, **St. Bernadette's** body was exhumed and found to be intact. Since 1925, the body of **St. Bernadette** is preserved in a shrine in the chapel of the Convent of St. Gildard of Nevers.

Ash Wednesday Lent February 17, 2021

The liturgical season of forty days which begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with the celebration of the **Paschal Mystery (Easter Triduum)**. Lent is the primary penitential season in the Church's liturgical year, reflecting the forty days Jesus spent in the desert in fasting and prayer (**CC 540,1095, 1438**).

The season of Lent is the time the church gives us to re-examine our lives in the light of the word and the call of **Jesus: "Be converted and believe in the Gospel"** and in the light of **Our Lady's** messages of prayer, penance and sacrifice given to us for many years.

Lent (**the word "Lent" comes from the Old English "lencten", Meaning "springtime"**) lasts from Ash Wednesday to the Vespers of Holy Saturday - forty days and six Sundays. **The Latin name for Lent, Quadragesima, means forty and refers to the forty days Christ spent in the desert** which is the origin of the Season. The last two weeks of Lent are known as **"Passiontide," made up of Passion Week and Holy Week. The last three days of Holy Week - Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday - are known as the "Sacred Triduum."**

The liturgical use of ashes originates in the Old Testament times. Ashes symbolized mourning, mortality, penance and fasting. The practice includes the wearing of ashes

on the head. As the priest applies the ashes to a person's forehead, he speaks the words: **"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."** Ashes also symbolize grief, in this case, grief that we have sinned and caused division from **God**.

The ashes are made from the blessed palms used in the **Palm Sunday** celebration of the previous year. The ashes are christened with Holy Water and are scented by exposure to incense. While the ashes symbolize penance and contrition, they are also a reminder that **God** is gracious and merciful to those who call on Him with repentant hearts. His Divine mercy is of utmost importance during the season of Lent, and the Church calls on us to seek that mercy during the entire Lenten season with reflection, prayer and penance.

Feast of the Chair of St. Peter February 22, 2021

This feast brings to mind the mission of teacher and pastor conferred by **Christ** on **Peter**, and continued in an unbroken line down to the present **Pope**. We celebrate the unity of the Church, founded upon the Apostle, and renew our assent to the Magisterium of the Roman Pontiff, extended both to truths which are solemnly defined **ex cathedra**, and to all the acts of the ordinary **Magisterium**.

"We shall find in the Gospel that **Jesus** to himself the inviolable promise which makes him the foundation of the Church. **Christ**, willing to begin the mystery of unity in His Church, among all His disciples chose twelve; among the twelve He chose one. The first, Simon, who is called Peter. Here, in a second separation, **St. Peter** is set at the head, and called for that reason by the name of Peter, 'which **Jesus Christ,**' says **St. Mark**, 'had given him,' in order to prepare, as you will see, the work which He was proposing to raise all His building on that stone.

Jesus Christ, who is the true Stone, strong of Himself, to Simon, who is only the stone by the strength which **Jesus Christ** imparts to him. It is to him that **Christ** speaks, and in speaking acts on him, and stamps upon him His own immovableness. And I, He says, say to you, you are Peter; and, He adds, upon this rock I will build my Church, and, He concludes, the gates of hell shall

not prevail against it. To prepare him for that honor **Jesus Christ**, who knows that faith in Himself is the foundation of His Church, inspires Peter with a faith worthy to be the foundation of that admirable building. **You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.** By that bold preaching of the faith he draws strength."

"St. Joseph, the littlest of men in his own eyes, evolved through God's grace, into the biggest of men in God's eyes." Part 1 of 9

St. Joseph: A Man Within Whom God Came and Dwelled

Contemplating that St. Joseph may have been freed from the stain of Original Sin in the womb and assumed bodily into Heaven sometime after his death is both stimulating and inspiring. As with Mary, perhaps in the future, the Church will define these mysteries as truth. However, so many extraordinary aspects of St. Joseph's life already qualify him as the greatest saint in the history of the Church that theologians are still rapt in contemplating and exploring his life. In fact, an entirely new field of study, known as Josephology," has emerged over the last two centuries. The Josephologists meet at international conventions to discuss and examine the many mysteries and facts surrounding the life of St. Joseph. Exhaustive studies and scholarly papers are often presented at these conferences, as these devotees of St. Joseph continue to reveal to the Church how St. Joseph so greatly served God.

Indeed, St. Joseph's many titles, favors, and duties are based on his extraordinary response to the grace and will of God.

(Acknowledgment to **QUEEN OF PEACE, PITTSBURGH CENTER FOR PEACE, HOLY SPIRIT EDITION, 1ST PRINTING,**



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Bud O'Brien, Chairman of the Board



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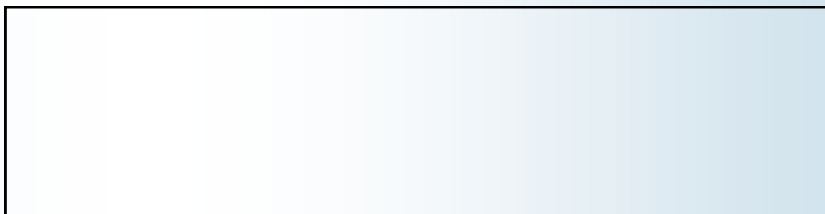
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CNY Marian Center is Pleased to Present

Inside: The beginning of a series on St. Joseph: *The Virtues of St. Joseph.* The Marian Center was granted permission to print this article by Queen of Peace Publications (<http://www.saintandrew.com/>) from a 1998 Holy Spirit Edition.

There are no group meetings at the Marian Center currently due to Covid. **Please join us in TelePrayer. Dial 516-597-9459**
9:45AM Monday, Divine Mercy Cenacle; 7:30PM Intercessory Rosary; 3PM M-F Divine Mercy Chaplet; 4PM Tu, St. Michael Chaplet, 4PM W, St. Joseph Chaplet and 4PM F, Seven Sorrows Rosary; 10:10AM SAT Pray the Rosary.

Individuals may come to pray but must follow posted CDC guidelines. You are welcome to visit our Chapel and pray before the reliquaries. The larger reliquary contains a **second-class Relic of St. Joseph**, ex pallio, a piece of his mantle. Rosaries and free items are also available at the Center. A key is available from the Doctor's office upstairs during their office hours.

On Sunday, March 21st, the 12:15PM Mass at St. Daniel's will be offered for our volunteers and supporters.

We invite you to pray daily for the Marian Center with the following prayer: *Holy Mary, "chosen to be the Mother of God and your mother"; * Jesus gave you to us at the Cross. We pray for your intercession that the mission given by God to the Central New York Marian Center will be fulfilled. May we, your children, give our Fiat for His Will to be done. Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, pray for us. Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us. Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us. Queen of Peace, Queen of Divine Mercy, ** pray for us. Amen. *spoken by Our Lady in her February 2, 2020 message **From 12/31/19 homily of Archbishop Luigi Pezzuti*

**For more information: www.cnymariancenter.com; Call 315-452-4698; Email: mariancenter.cny@gmail.com
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