

## Society of Saint Pius X

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### SAINT MARY'S NEWSLETTER



**JANUARY 2017**

My Dear Faithful,

**L**et me wish you a Happy and Holy New Year 2017. I wish it to be full of spiritual graces as well as material ones. A Happy New Year can be so only if we make it holy by working for our sanctification. The time that God gives to us has only one aim: to spend it in such a way that we may perform acts of charity which will prepare and increase our future glory in Heaven. Then, happiness will be at its height when, with all the elect, we shall be able to see God as He really is for eternity.

Meanwhile, we must work on our sanctification; we must live in the state of grace. To be holy is simply to possess and develop sanctifying grace into our souls. This grace is of course received for the first time on the day of our baptism and given back by the sacrament of penance if we have had the woe to lose it. As for any work, this work of sanctification demands proper means. Before anything else we must resolve to take those means most calculated for us to achieve our goal and bear fruit. Again, if God gives us extra time in which to live, it is not in order to slacken ourselves and lose concentration on the ultimate goal of our lives. Every day must be focused on God. Every day we must care for our souls and ask ourselves: what else can I do in order to increase my small capital of graces earned hitherto?

The means for our sanctification need not to be invented by ourselves. We simply need to conform to our duty of state, in which God has placed us, by the practice of all of the Christian virtues. Heaven often speaks to men in order to express God's Will to men of a certain period. Obviously, because of the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima, this year ought to get

us closer and more attentive to her message. The Fatima message is still topical as the situation over the past century since it was received has not improved, on the contrary, the perils in the world have increased.



Thus, Our Lady is telling us what God's Holy Will for us is, today in 2017. Our Lady told the shepherd children that God wants to establish the devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. One excellent means of doing this is by saying fervently and more slowly our daily rosary. We don't have the support which our ancestors had of living in a time of Christian civilisation, but we still need models to set an example to us. What better models could we look for than those of Our Lord Himself and Our Lady? The mediation on their lives, when reciting the rosary, must teach the essence of Catholic life with the hope and expectation of obtaining the reward at the end.

Let us acquire or increase this devotion with a great spirit of faith in the words of Our Lady. Her Immaculate Heart shall triumph but it has to do so in our lives first. This demands that we endeavour to avoid sin by distancing ourselves from the spirit of the world, which is so against the one whom we must cherish, Our Lord Jesus Christ, our God, our Saviour and our King. Let us say our rosary and offer up many sacrifices so that we may hasten the full triumph of Our Lady for the greater honour of God.

Father Vianney Vandendaele +

## Apparitions of Our Lady in 1917: 6th apparition

Location: Cova da Iria

Date: 13th October 1917

People present: 50,000 to 70,000

"- What do you want of me?

- I want to tell you that a chapel is to be built here in my honour. I am the Lady of the Rosary. Continue always to pray the Rosary every day. The war is going to end, and the soldiers will soon return to their homes.

- I have many things to ask you: the cure of some sick persons, the conversion of sinners, and other things...

- Some yes, but not others. They must amend their lives and ask forgiveness for their sins."

Looking very sad, Our Lady said:

"- Do not offend the Lord our God any more, because He is already so much offended! {If the people amend, the war will be over, and if they do not amend their ways, the world will come to an end.}

[- Is there anything more you want of me?

- No, I do not want anything more of you.]"

Then, opening her hands, she made them reflect on the sun, and as she ascended, the reflection of her own light continued to be projected on the sun itself.

[...]



After Our Lady had disappeared into the immense distance of the firmament, we beheld St. Joseph with the Child Jesus and Our Lady robed in white with a blue mantle, beside the sun. St. Joseph and the Child Jesus appeared to bless the world, for they traced the Sign of the

Cross with their hands. When, a little later, this apparition disappeared, I saw Our Lord and Our Lady; it seemed to me that it was Our Lady of Dolours. Our Lord appeared to bless the world in the same manner as St. Joseph had done. This apparition also vanished, and I saw Our Lady once more, this time resembling Our Lady of Carmel.

*Fatima in Lucia's own words, Fátima, p. 182-183 (IV Memoir); the section in square brackets comes from the parish priest's questioning of 16 October 1917 in Documentação Crítica de Fátima. I, p. 24; and the section in curly brackets is taken from Dr. Formigão's interrogation in Documentação Crítica de Fátima. I, p. 142.*

## The Incredulity of St. Thomas

**"Because thou hast seen Me, Thomas, thou hast believed; blessed are they that have not seen and have believed."**

In one line, Our Lord shows understanding of our fallen human nature, then admonishes us to believe unceasingly in His Divinity, made manifest through the Incarnation.

The life of St. Thomas the Apostle serves as a consolation to many who seek the grace of Faith, or who have doubts in unseen mysteries — doubts spurred on by society's reliance on the tangible and explainable. After all, doubting in the divinity and omnipotence of Our Lord happened even to St. Thomas, one of the twelve chosen by Our Lord, who saw Him with his own eyes, witnessed the lame walk, the blind see, and the multiplication of loaves.

We are encouraged — indeed, commanded — to use the incredulity of St. Thomas, and apply it to our own tendencies of disbelief in the supernatural. Those who seek Faith more fully can see this doubt of St. Thomas as a path that has already been laid for us, a grace given to St. Thomas by Our Lord for the

benefit of both him and others to follow. But with this grace that was bestowed in so kind a gesture, there carries a forceful warning to us, spoken of by St. Paul in his epistle to the Hebrews: "...without faith it is impossible to please God. For he that cometh to God, must believe that he is, and is a rewarder to them that seek him."

Additionally, belief is not a "pick and choose" collection of stories. One must strive to understand fully each article which has been revealed. St. Thomas Aquinas in the Summa makes this abundantly and severely clear: "...who disbelieves [even] one article of faith does not have faith, either formed or unformed."

The account of St. Thomas the Apostle doubting in the resurrection of Our Lord shows that our doubts — like temptations to sin — are not improper in themselves, but are an opportunity to grow in faith and increase our sanctification. A religious commonly told those who said they desired an increase in Faith but didn't know how to gain it:

"The answer is simple: pray more."



## Notices

### Recent Death

Of your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of:

- ♦ **Mrs. Maureen Firth** from Bingley who passed away on 13th December 2016 and was honoured with the ecclesiastical funeral on Wednesday 29th December 2016.
- ♦ **Miss Grace Penna** from Willerby, formerly parishioner at Preston, who passed away on 14th December 2016 and will be honoured with ecclesiastical funeral on Thursday 5th January 2017.

May they rest in peace.



### Holy Feasts

#### Epiphany

Friday 6th January

- ♦ **Manchester: 12.30pm;**
- ♦ **Preston: 7pm.**

#### Candlemass

Thursday 2nd February

Unfortunately, there is a misprinting in the latest District Newsletter. **Mass** (preceded with the blessing of the candles and procession) **will take place at Preston only, at 11am**, and not at Manchester.

### Sunday Mass Schedule and Locations

#### PRESTON: Our Lady of Victories' Church

East Cliff, off Winckley Square - PR1 3NA

Every Sunday: 9.30am

#### MANCHESTER: Saint Pius X's Chapel

16 Deerpark Road, off Alexandra Road South - M16 8FR

Every Sunday: 12.30pm

#### LIVERPOOL: Saint Peter and Paul's Church

35 Upper Parliament Street - L8 7LA

2nd & 4th Sunday of the month: 5pm

#### RHOS-ON-SEA: Saint David's Chapel

Conwy Road (A547), Mochdre - LL28 5AA (North Wales)

1st Sunday of the month: 5pm

#### BINGLEY: The Little House

Market Street - BD16 2HP

3rd Sunday of the month: 5pm

### Ordinary Weekday Masses at Preston

(This schedule is subject to change; please check beforehand on the **outside notice board** or <http://fsspx.uk> — **Mass Times**)

**Monday: variable**

**Tuesday: —**

**Wednesday: —**

**Thursday: —**

**1st Friday: 7pm**

**1st Saturday: Holy Hour at 10.30am & Mass at 12.15pm**