

Re: Renew Your Pledge to Our Lady

J.M.J.

Advent 2012

Dear Friend of Our Lady,

You just never know the impact of your work for Our Lady.

I received a phone call recently from a woman who had not received mail from the Fatima Center for many years. She had heard rumors periodically about Father and The Fatima Center and assumed that she was no longer receiving mail because Our Lady's Apostolate had ceased to exist.

The woman lives in New York City, and her apartment and contents were damaged by water from Hurricane Sandy. While cleaning up the mess caused by the storm, she came across an older issue of *The Fatima Crusader*.

The woman called the number in the magazine and asked to speak with me. She said she took a chance and called to see if the apostolate was still in existence and if I still worked here.

She recalled meeting me in Penn Station while I was distributing flyers in the N.Y. City area. The only time I can recall passing out literature in New York City was in late October, early November of 2001 after the Twin Towers disaster.

We (some of Our Lady's Apostolate workers) were passing out flyers inviting people to come to the conference the Fatima Center was hosting - "Rally Against Terror".

Providentially the woman's name sounded familiar to me. We spoke for a bit pertaining to what is happening in the U.S. and the world.

Understanding there is a correlation between what is happening in the world - the ever increasing moral decline, the growing assault against the Catholic Church, the number of military wars and the threat of a third world war, hurricanes and other natural disasters, etc. - and the degree with which

Our Lady's requests made at Fatima have been obeyed, She asked about the status of things pertaining to Our Lady's Message.

She was given a brief update during our phone conversation and was not aware of the important developments of the last few years. This served as a reminder and proof that the Fatima Center is the only Fatima Apostolate speaking about the full Fatima Message and giving updates as they occur.

During our conversation I looked at the file we have for her to see why she had not been receiving mail from us. Her file was marked "do not mail" because a piece of mail we had sent to her had been returned to us as a wrong address or no such person at that address.

I asked her for her current address believing that the reason the mail we sent to her came back was because she had moved. But that was not the case. She stated she has been at the same address since the 1960's.

We re-initiated mail contact with her and sent her more information on the developments over the past few years by sending her some recent issues of *The Fatima Crusader*.

I share this story for a few reasons:

- as noted at the beginning of this letter – you just never know the impact of your work for Our Lady;
- the designs of Providence in leading this supporter back to Our Lady's Apostolate – i.e. finding an older issue of *The Fatima Crusader* amid storm damage;
- to make you aware that if you suddenly stop hearing from us, please call, it may be due to post office, or some other error.

Time to Renew Our Pledge to Our Lady

As we are about to begin a New Year, many are motivated to try and make it a "good" year by making New Year's resolutions to change something or some things in our lives. What that means, a "good" year, and the types of New Year's resolutions to be made, varies from person to person.

As Catholics, a "good" year should mean first and foremost, amending our lives and striving toward our eternal salvation.

And the New Year's resolutions to achieve it should be to grow in the practice of virtue by prayer and sacrifice, seeking sanctity.

But to those of us to whom it has been given to be Catholic AND to know, believe in, and understand Our Lady's Fatima Message, the expectation of Heaven is higher for such a gift and therefore, there should be some extra New Year's resolutions so as not to lose this gift and possibly our soul.

You recall that amending our lives was part of the Message of Our Lady of Fatima when She warned of the number of souls that are not saved.

She also asked that we offer sacrifices for sinners, including offering up the sacrifices required by our daily duties. She asked that we pray the Rosary daily while meditating on the mysteries. She also reminded us to wear the Brown Scapular of Mount Carmel.

Of the four requests mentioned, amending our lives is the most difficult. But offering up the sacrifices of our daily duty, praying the Rosary daily and wearing the Brown Scapular are, by the grace of God, simple. Our Lady's requests are related in that doing one or more of Her requests helps us to accomplish doing all of them.

For example wearing the Brown Scapular makes it easier to Pray the Rosary. Praying the Rosary is a form of sacrifice. It helps us to offer more sacrifices especially making those things we already have to do anyway, i.e. our daily duties, a sacrifice instead of an act with no real value unless made a sacrificial offering to God.

Wearing the Brown Scapular, praying the Rosary, offering the sacrifice of our daily duty all help us to amend our lives and if done with the right intention and disposition, gives us the **desire** to amend our lives.

To help accomplish or sustain us in accomplishing all of the above, it is time to renew our pledge to Our Lady. By renewing our pledge to Her, it helps strengthen our resolve to do more of what She asked, and helps keep us from backsliding in our spiritual life.

Enclosed is [The Peace Pledge prayer card](#).

I encourage you to renew your commitment to our Heavenly Mother and Queen. She wants only what is best for each of us and desires to use us as Her instruments in the salvation of souls by:

- prayer,
- reaching out to others with Her Fatima Message, and
- by setting the example for others through living a life that is truly Catholic.

And once you have renewed your pledge to Her, ask Her for the grace to reach out and gain for Her many other souls to pledge themselves to Her and Her work.

Gaining even one soul for Our Lady is a major victory for God and major defeat for satan who is wreaking so much evil in the world and whose sole goal is to pull souls away from God, especially those souls most difficult, that is, those souls who belong to Mary.

Let us renew our pledge together and pray for one another's fidelity to our Lord and our Lady, and our subsequent eternal salvation.

And let us ask that we may meet one another in Heaven when God takes us from this life.

For more copies of the [Peace Pledge Prayer Card](#), call us at 1-800-845-3047.

May you, your family and loved ones have a Blessed and Holy New Year.

In the Sacred and Immaculate Hearts,

Joanna Swords