

ACDP PERSPECTIVES

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Important Dates:

April 22, ACDP Mtg
1:30 p.m.

Providence Hall

Derby Day: 5/6/17
Holy Family -3:30 p.m.

ACDP Retreat
June 2,3,4, 2017

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From the Director: Donna Esposito, ACDP

"On entering the tomb they saw a young man sitting on the right side; clothed in a white robe, and they were utterly amazed. He said to them, "Do not be amazed! You seek Jesus of Nazareth the crucified. He has been raised; he is not here."

Take a moment to picture the scene. How shocked these three women must have been! I know how I would have felt. Think about it. They witnessed the Passion!



This Lent was unlike any other one for me. I purposely chose this time for my knee surgery because I really wanted this lent to be different from those in the past. I treasured having the time to reflect quietly and prayerfully each day on what Jesus did for me, how He suffered to save me from my sins, and the many ways I have experienced His unconditional love.

As I coped with post-operative pain and therapy, I could not help but reflect that this is only a thimble of pain compared to what Jesus experienced throughout His passion and death. The contemplation of his suffering put my pain into perspective and filled my heart and soul with gratitude and love more than ever. It reminded me of the song "What Wondrous Love Is This".

So now "All is well!" Jesus Christ has risen and triumphed over death so that I, too, may one day experience the glory of God's presence. The other good news is I have a new knee free of pain! Alleluia! Strife is o'er!

May you and your family experience the blessings and true joy of Easter!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

As always you are in my thoughts and prayers.

In Providence, Donna

From Our Mentor: Sr. Rose Ann Menke, CDP

During this glorious season of Easter, the following prayer touches my heart and challenges me to pursue justice and peace for all creatures and for our mother earth.

Jesus, you tarried in the snug tomb for three days.
 You rolled away the stone to open a new age to the world.
 Your kingdom has come through your glorification.
 Help us to conceive beyond your individual resurrection
 To a new potential for all creatures
 And for our mother earth.
 Bathe our planet in the rays of the Sun of Righteousness.
 Engender a new paradise on earth
 Rooted in justice and peace
 Because Jesus Christ is present eternally. Amen.

(Where Joy and Sorrow Meet, A Way of the Cross by Ayo, Flanigan, Ross and Ford p. 174) The prayer also highlights Father Moye's encouragement at Easter "to rise by grace with Jesus Christ through a new life, a new heart and new fervor." (Dir. p 162)

News from Solomons, MD, by Anne Etzel, ACDP

Our weather has been a bit erratic lately. Very cold and windy one day and 60 degrees and sunny the next, but our greetings to all of you are always warm and cozy.

We concluded listening to the discussing Msgr. Bill Cleves retreat remarks of last year. The insights he offered gave us much to ponder. We have now embarked on a study of the book "Spirituality" by Richard Rohr, OFM. Sr. Peggy recommended this book to us and it has produced some lively discussions at our potluck lunch meetings.

We gratefully look forward to the reception of four new members to the Associate Community. At this time our expectation is that they will make their commitments sometime in June this year. Please pray for Joanne, Amy, Joe and Jan as they prepare for this day. And as always please pray for peace in the world and in our country.



Mary, Mother of God and Queen of Heaven (Part 3) Donna Esposito, ACDP

Here we are in the year two thousand seventeen. On May 13th it will be one hundred years since our Lady began appearing to the three children in Fatima. That is why I chose to review this story so that we come to understand the requests of the Lady from heaven. Simply “make of everything you can a sacrifice and offer it to God as an act of reparation for the sins by which He is offended...”so that we can bring down peace upon nations and change the world”.

In the December issue of our newsletter I wrote about the difficulties the children had to endure because of people’s unbelief that the apparitions took place. The message from Our Lady was very clear pray, do penance, sacrifice and make the first Saturdays of every month.

On August 10th, 1917 the shepherds’ parents received an order from the authorities to appear before the Administration of Vila Nova de Ourem with the children however only Lucia went because the trip was very long for her two cousins to take and their father thought they were too small to walk the distance and too young to go to court.

Lucia was mounted on a donkey, tired from so much sacrifice and many sleepless nights. All the way there in the silence of her heart, the little one offered to God and Our Lady this sacrifice and repeated the act of offering that Our Lady had taught her: ‘O Jesus, it is for the love of You, for the conversion of sinners, and reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary”.

At the Administration office she was questioned by the administrator in the presence of her father, uncle and other unknown persons. He used all ways to get her to reveal the Secret that the Lady had given her. His promises did not entice her nor did his threats frighten her. He tried to intimidate her into promising not to return to the Cova da Iria, but Lucia would not make that promise. Lucia probably insulted him with the innocence of her crystal clear gaze, a gaze that reflected a soul completely immersed in God, and one that told the administrator she would return to the Cova da Iria. The administrator assured her that he would find out even if it was necessary to take her life. When Lucia returned home with her father and uncle she jumped off the donkey and ran to her cousins. She embraced them and told them that they did not kill her and she managed to guard the secret.



Con't on page 4.

Mary, Mother of God Con't, Donna Esposito, ACDP

On the morning of August 13th there was a large turnout of people at the house of the children, who were bombarded by numerous questions and pulled from all sides. Another unsuccessful attempt was made to compel the children to tell about the Secret. The administrator had told the parents to take the children to the parish priest to be interrogated in his presence. While there Lucia told the administrator: I do not lie and say only what I saw and heard from the Lady. If people want to go to the Cova, it's because they want to; I did not call anybody there. It is true that the Lady told me a secret. As the answers were always the same, the administrator made a perceptive statement: These are supernatural things! Let's go!

All the while he had told the shepherds not to return to the site of the apparitions, but now he wanted to take them himself to the site in his car. The children were suspicious and didn't want to accept his offer but he insisted and helped them into the car. As he was driving along the children noticed he was not going in the right direction and had made a simple mistake but he abducted the children and brought them to Ourem. Meanwhile there were fifteen to eighteen thousand people gathered at the Cova praying and lamented the absence of the seers who were not at the site. At the regular time of the apparition they were graced by manifestations of the presence of the Lady, who, not finding her confidants there, desired that the crowd at least leave comforted.

When they reached Ourem the children were put in prison. They were locked in a room and given something to eat and slept on the floor. In the morning they were intensely tested between interrogations and death threats, offers of rich gifts, and the experience of real prison in the company of men who were not very friendly. Through all this experience the children maintained their ground and did not tell the Secret. After many interrogations the administrator returned them home on August fifteenth, the Solemnity of the Assumption of Our Lady into Heaven. Everyone in the village was happy to see the children back home.

On Sunday, August 19th, Lucia and Francisco took the sheep to graze. At one point, Lucia noticed something supernatural was happening and recognized that it was Our Lady approaching. She asked Francisco to get Jacinta who was visiting with her godmother. He was not happy but ran to get her. When Jacinta arrived Our Lady appeared in the holm oak tree, preceded by the customary lightning. Our Lady told the children she wanted them to continue going to the Cova da Iria on the 13th and continue to pray the Rosary daily. She said in the last month she would perform a miracle so that all may believe. Lucia asked what the Lady wanted done with the money people left at the Cova. She replied, "Have two litters made. One for you and Jacinta to carry along with two girls dressed in white and the other litter for Francisco and three other boys to carry for the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, and what's left over will help toward the construction of a chapel that is to be built here." Lucia asked for some sick people to be cured. Our Lady responded, "Yes, I will cure some of them during the year." Then looking very sad, Our Lady said: "Pray, pray very much and make sacrifices for sinners; for many souls go to hell, because there are none to sacrifice themselves and to pray for them." Then, as usual, she began to rise toward the east.



On September 13th around noon the shepherds came out of their homes and headed for the Cova da Iria. They did so with great difficulty because huge crowds of people were everywhere wanting to see them up close. Lucia said it was like what Jesus went through as he walked through Galilee and Judea.

Con't on page 6

St. Thomas More Prayer: Submitted by Judy Kitchen, ACDP

Grant me, O Lord
good digestion, and also something to digest.

Grant me a healthy body,
and the necessary good humor to maintain it.

Grant me a simple soul that knows
to treasure all that is good and that doesn't
frighten easily at the sight of evil,
but rather finds the means to
put things back in their place.

Give me a soul that knows not boredom,
grumblings, sighs and laments,
nor excess of stress, because of
that obstructing thing called "I".

Grant me, O Lord, a sense of good humor.
Allow me the grace to be able to take a joke
to discover in life a bit of joy, and
to be able to share it with others, Amen.

St. Thomas More

Mary, Mother of God Con't from Page 4, Donna Esposito, ACDP

They finally arrived in the Cova near the holm oak and began praying the Rosary with the people. Shortly afterwards they saw the flash of light and then Our Lady appeared. She said, 'Continue to pray the Rosary in order to obtain the end of the war. In October Our Lord will come; as well as Our Lady of Sorrows and Our Lady of Mount Carmel. St. Joseph will appear with the child Jesus to bless the world. God is pleased with your sacrifices. He does not want you to sleep with the rope on, but only to wear it during the daytime.' Then Our Lady began to rise as usual and disappeared.

Arriving in Fatima on September 13th was the Rev. Manuel Nunes Formigao to investigate the shepherds and the Fatima events. He was present at the apparition but saw nothing unusual except a slight decrease in sunlight, which could mean little to nothing. He did not speak to the children on that day. On September 27th he was back Aljustrel and proceeded with the first interrogation. Lucia was able to breathe easier with the visit of the holy priest who questioned her and her cousins and gave them practical advice for life. Lucia said: he interrogated me seriously and thoroughly. 'My child, you must love Our Lord very much in return for so many favors and graces that He is granting you.' These words made such an impression on her that she constantly said, "My God, I love you, in thanksgiving for the graces which you have granted me."

The 13th of October was approaching, the day of the last apparition and the promised miracle. The media spread the news throughout the country without intending to draw people to the site, at a time when communications were very slow. The newspaper men who were arriving from near and wide were the means that Heaven used to gather a greater number of people. There came the simply curious, believers and unbelievers. Lucia described the last apparition:

Having arrived at the Cova, near the holm oak, I was moved by an interior impulse. I asked the people to shut their umbrellas and say the Rosary. A little later, we saw the flash of light and Our Lady appeared. Lucia asked Our Lady what do you want of me? Our Lady replied; "I want a chapel to be built here in my honor. 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." Lucia asked Our Lady; "I have many things to ask you: the cure of some sick persons, the conversion of sinners." She answered: "Some yes, but not others. They must amend their sins. Do not offend the Lord our God anymore, because He is already so much offended." 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. This is when I cried out, "look at the sun."

After Our Lady disappeared into the immense expanse of the firmament, we saw beside the sun, St. Joseph and the Child Jesus and Our Lady robed in white with a blue mantle. St. Joseph and the Child Jesus appeared to bless the world, they traced the Sign of the Cross with their hands. A little later this apparition faded. I saw Our Lord and Our Lady; it seemed to me it was Our Lady of Sorrows. 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.

Con't on page 7

Mary, Mother of God Con't from Page 6, Donna Esposito, ACDP

While the children gazed at these latter visions, the miracle of the sun occurred, the promised sign to confirm the truthfulness of the apparitions. The shepherds did not see the miracle. It was not intended for them, but for the crowd, so that all might believe.

FINAL COMMENTS:

There is so much more of this story to tell but at least the review will refresh the story of the apparitions that took place at Fatima and the profound faith of the children. Sister Lucia dos Dantos lived in the Carmelite convent of St. Teresa in Coimbra, Portugal until her death in February, 2005 at the age of 97. The funeral Mass took place in the Basilica at the Cova. It was a cold, rainy day but during the sign of peace the rain stopped, the sun came out and there appeared a rainbow over the Cova da Iria. My friend, Jim, was a personal friend of Sister Lucia's. He was present at the funeral and told me first hand of this experience.

The first phase of her sainthood cause is completed. Her cause still requires the recognition of two miracles—one for beatification and another for canonization—attributed to her intercession.

Pope Francis is scheduled to visit Fatima May 12-13, 2017, and many people hope he will use this occasion to canonize Sister Lucia's cousins, Jacinta and Francisco, who were beatified by St. John Paul II in 2000. I am looking forward to my pilgrimage to Fatima lead by my friend Jim this July. It will be my second visit since 1985 with my dear mother.

SUMMARY:

Fatima is the proclamation of the love of God towards us, a love that goes to the point of mercy. This is a call to remind us not only of God's mercy to us but also for us to be instruments of God's mercy upon the world. If you would like to read the biography of Sister Maria Lucia and her firsthand account of the apparitions of Fatima refer to the following book:

“A PATHWAY UNDER THE GAZE OF MARY” World Apostolate of Fatima, USA



Our Journey with "La Amistad" By: Cathy Brunner, ACDP

Over the past few years I have shared with Donna Esposito about the volunteer work that my husband, Mark and I are involved with in Cincinnati. She encouraged me to share about this important ministry and what it has meant to us. *(Original name has been changed for this article)*

Mark and I were involved in a lay Catholic Community from 1976 to 1990 in Cincinnati, Ohio. The community started with a group of high school students and grew into a vibrant community animated by a priest, and a team of pastoral associates. One of the many outreach ministries in the community was "The Friends." This organization was started and organized by Linda R. who was an active member in the community. The ministry was to provide safe and affordable housing for Hispanic immigrants from Central America. The housing was focused in a small neighborhood in Cincinnati. Linda spent many years serving the needs of the people who came to our country to find a better life without war and strife. A few years back, Linda decided to step back and let others take over "The Friends." That's where Mark and I and Dave E. come in to the picture!

We are very involved in our small but mighty parish. Knowing that Linda wanted to step back and feeling a pull or "call" to help out, we contacted Linda and started to learn about the ministry. At the time we took over, I believe there were two large multiple unit houses that were owned by "The Friends." Mark's experience in housing in the inner city as a urban consultant and project manager came in handy with the houses, that now needed renovating. We asked our friend Dave to join us in this ministry. Our goal was to eventually purchase more homes to be renovated and used for Hispanic immigrants and their families. We are still in process of rehabbing some of the properties that we now have. We were able to purchase three more homes, of which two are completed and filled with lovely families. We are almost finished with the latest one purchased and hope to have the new tenants in by June 1. We currently have five houses, one of which is a duplex with 3 bedrooms.

The best part of this ministry is meeting some wonderful people who come here to find work, live in freedom and want a better life for their children. Some of the tenants are involved in our parish, 2 of the four children are servers and 3 of them sing in the children's choir. Our lives have been enriched by knowing them and helping them to have a good experience in our country. Many immigrants today live in a quiet and sometimes not so quiet fear of being ripped from their families because they may not have the proper documents. One woman I know was forced to leave her one year old infant back in Central America with her mother and flee to escape persecution and was shot in the back while traveling. She eventually survived and has moved on to a safer place. There are many stories like this one, stories of why people come here to escape poverty, persecution and despair. I personally feel we need to welcome those who need our help and also work to change our policies to a just and fair solution to people who are here illegally. When we cloth the naked, feed the hungry, visit those in prison we are following the call of Jesus who always sided with the lonely, downtrodden and outcast.

Our most recent project was to start a loan pool, where people can donate money to the organization and receive 3% interest on their loan. So far, we have raised close to \$75,000 which is used to help us renovate the current properties that are owned. Members from our parish and others have been very generous and we are grateful for their belief in the work that continues with "The Friends". God has blest us abundantly in this ministry!

For information on donating to the Loan Pool, contact me directly at mcbrunner10521@gmail.com

"I am a Mexican" By: Cathy Brunner, ACDP

In the summer of 2002, I did an internship with the Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, New Mexico. We spent five nights and four days living with the people in Juarez, Mexico who lived on top of a garbage dump. It was one of the most humbling and enriching experience of my life. While there I was reminded of a poem I had read once, but I can't remember the name, I just know it started like "I am a Remembering that poem led me to write the following poem. (Note: Maquiela is a factory where people earn very little money).

I AM A MEXICAN

BY: Cathy Brunner, ACDP - SUMMER 2002

I am a Mexican, I live across the border
Where a fence and guards separate you and me.
I am a Mexican, I work in the maquiela,
at best I earn a meager wage and have no money to give or save.

I am a Mexican, I live across the border,
I make the clothes you wear and build the cars you drive.
I sweat and toil to feed my family,
You can buy and throw your food away.

I am a Mexican and my house can barely stand.
Your house is strong and large with lots of room to spare.
I live on a garbage dump, my children have no place to play.
You live on a large green lot with water and flowers to spray.

I am a Mexican, I live across the border.
Our schools are few and far between,
Your schools have the things they need,
Ours are small and barely succeed.

I am a Mexican, I live across the border,
I get my water from a truck that comes just once a week,
Yours comes from a faucet with water pure and clean.
You can have foods you like any time of the day or night,
While ours are beans and just plain rice.

I am a Mexican, I live across the Border,
And in some ways we are the same.
You love your children, family and friends,
We too, love the same as you.

I am a Mexican, I live across the border,
Our river is low and dry, while yours is flowing high.
Some use and abuse for their own selfish greed,
while we just want to work and meet our daily needs.

I am a Mexican, I live across the border.
We have to find a way to touch beyond the wall
that separates our lives from yours.
For in God's world we are the same,
Brothers and Sisters in God's Holy Name.

