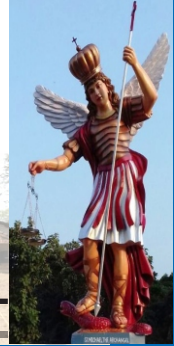




Mother of God

Mediatrix of All Grace

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The Batim Apparition: An Objective Study

-Dr. Christopher Dias,
www.thebatimmessage.com

(As published in Yr: 2000)

Eversince the Blessed Virgin Mother has been appearing in Batim, Goa,(India) there has been a steady increase of Marian devotees trudging their way up Mount Gancim every First Saturday in a Spirit of prayer, penance and reparation.

This devotion, nothing other than the Fatima devotion, adheres to the message of the Virgin, whose basic core is the call to conversion and penance, as in the Gospel. **"This call was pronounced at the beginning of the 20th Century and has thus been addressed to this century in particular. The Lady of the Message seems to read the signs of the times- the signs of our time- with special insight."** (address by John Paul II at Fatima, 13th May, 1982)

Is the Blessed Virgin Mary really appearing at Batim? What are we to make out of the messages received at Batim? These are relevant questions, facing the Church that needs some soul searching.

Reports of Other Apparitions:

In his book "Marian apparitions today, Why so many?", Fr. Edward O'Connor C.S.C., observes that 'Apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary and kindred phenomena are being reported more frequently today than ever before in the history of the church. Besides Medjugorje, which is world famous, in recent years, there have been reports from Italy (TreFontane, Sicily, San Damiano, Montechiari), Egypt (Zeitun), Spain (Garabandal Es-Corial), Rwanda (Kibeho), Japan (Akita),..." Batim may soon find its name among the lesser known ones. Cardinal Ratzinger, in the Ratzinger Report, pg 111, has declared that 'one of the signs of our times is that the announcements of Marian apparitions are multiplying all over the world.'

DISCERNING AN APPARITION:

To make one's own personal judgement about the Batim Apparition is not easy. There are no automatic formulas, no simple litmus tests we can use. Discernment is a work of prudence- not human prudence but the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. Fr. Rene Laurentin in 'The Church and Apparitions, Their Status and Function: Criteria and Reception', reports on a set of guidelines issued in 1978 by Cardinal Seper, the then Head of the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith for Bishops to use in investigating reports of apparitions and revelations. While intended for the use of official committees, this document gives indications that can be useful for everyone. Among the important guidelines listed in this document are: i) The establishment of the facts ii) Doctrinal truthfulness iii) Predictions and Prophecies iv) Subjective qualities of the visionary. v) Lasting spiritual fruits vi) Inner witness of the Spirit.

Let us examine these guidelines vis-a-vis the Apparition at Batim.

i) The establishment of the facts:

The story of Batim unfolds on September 24, 1994, when the visionary Iveta Gomes, a Canadian of Indian origin beholds the Apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Mount Gancim, Batim, Goa. There were a few relatives and friends present on that day with Iveta. Our Lady was believed to have told Iveta on that day that **'The people should come and pray on this Mount every first**

Saturday of the month.'



This was to be the beginning of a series of Apparitions and other extraordinary signs witnessed not only by the visionaries Iveta and Martinho, but also by a few people assembled there. Many of these experiences and testimonies are contained in the books - 'The Happenings of Batim,' by

Rosario F. Rodrigues and 'Was Mary there?' by Marc De Souza. Such phenomenon were also recorded at other apparition sites. But did the claimed supernatural event actually occur?

Confronted with such a reported apparition, the matter lies with the ArchBishop-Patriarch of Goa, to test the spirits, to exercise discernment; if the case calls for caution, it demands also a fundamental openness to the possibility of divine intervention. True, the substance of our faith is given in the doctrine of the Church and the Sacraments and Apparition do not add to these. But they can be helpful in motivating us to a greater appreciation of the Eucharist or reconciliation. " Can the Mother with the force of the love that she fosters in the Holy Spirit and with the desire for everyone's salvation, can the Mother remain silent when she sees the very basis of Her Children's salvation undermined? No, she cannot remain silent. Neither should you remain silent. **A simple way to console Our Lady is to make Acts of Reparation, to make the first Five Saturdays, and to offer our prayers and sacrifices for the conversion of sinners.**" (Pope John Paul II on Fatima).

Many have established the truth about Batim for themselves, either through physical cure or a spiritual healing or through a vision or sign. What is it to establish one's faith in the Apparition? Is the belief accorded to a prophetic revelation, as in the Batim case, an act of 'divine faith' - like the faith we have in Christ and His teachings, or is it of mere



human faith - such as we have in things that other people tell us? Theologians as different as John of St. Thomas, Suarez, and Karl Rahner agree that private revelations (and presumably apparitions) can be object of divine faith. The great Marian Bishop Robert Branberg (German) maintains that there is a frightening minimalism in this matter. **The general consensus would be as in the Fatima, Lourdes and Garabandal apparitions that an authentic apparition is ultimately a message from God addressed to human beings.** God surely does not let them occur without an accompanying grace; hence the recipient has a certain obligation to recognise and assent to her action. How solid is the faith of Iveta in the Apparition? "I see Her like a living person in flesh and blood standing before me" said Iveta once. "I've seen a lot of beautiful women in my saloon back in Canada - but not one of them compares with the beauty of Our Lady" added Iveta who once worked as a hair dresser.

If we can compare the faith of Iveta (to the said apparition) to that of the apostles who saw the risen Christ with their own eyes, then could the faith of the people who merely hear about the vision be compared to that of the disciples whom the apostles preaches?

Towing the line of Fr. Edward D. O'Connor, it would be pertinent to mention

that 'in both cases, the assent is a religious act because motivated, not by the evidence perceived, but by the 'testimony of God within'. What is the testimony of God within? In Mathew 16:17, 'Blessed are you Simon, son of Jonah, flesh and blood have not revealed that to you, but my Father who is in heaven'. God gave to Peter the grace to recognize Jesus as the Messiah and Son of God. He likewise opened the heart of Lydia to believe in the preaching of St. Paul (Acts 16:14). Thus, Fr. O'Connor concludes '**In the case of modern Apparitions, it is presumed that God gives the grace to believe in the Apparition both to the visionary and also to all those for whom the Apparition is meant. (maybe a handful of people; maybe a great multitude).**'

ii) Truthfulness

One of the most important criteria in judging the Batim apparitions is truthfulness or fidelity to Church doctrine. **The revelation given by God through his Son, Jesus Christ is the standard by which all subsequent revelations are to be measured. Anything that conflicts with the doctrine of Christ can be set aside as certainly not authentic.** The fact that a message is doctrinally sound is, of course, no guarantee that is supernatural; it may mean only that the visionary know her catechism. However when the messages are long or numerous, touching as many different subjects, especially when the visionary has had little education, it becomes less and less likely that an illusion can be sustained without error.

The doctrine or devotion followed at Batim, in compliance with Our Lady's request, is the Fatima devotion of the observance of the first Saturday, acts of reparations and offering of prayers and sacrifices for the conversion of sinners. These tenets of the Catholic faith are founded in the Gospel. The Angel's words at Fatima to the three children call to mind texts of Holy Scripture. First, he says, 'offer prayers and sacrifices constantly to the Most High', corresponding to St. Paul's instruction "pray without ceasing" (1 Thess 5:17). But above all, the Angel adds, 'accept and bear with submission the suffering which the Lord will send you'. This is simply the command of Christ himself; 'If any man will come after me, let him deny himself; and take up his cross, and follow me.' (Mt. 16:24)

Reparation, practised in this spirit, gains many graces for the conversion of sinners and peace in the world.

What is Reparation? This is a devotion least understood and therefore hardly practised. There is a great difference between sorrow for the sin we commit and making reparation for it. Bishop Fulton J. Sheen describes it clearly, "Many think that all they have to do when they do wrong individually or socially is merely to ask to be forgiven. They must also make reparation for the wrong. The equilibrium and the balance of justice have been disturbed, and that balance must be restored by penance." **And being co-redemptors in the**

Mystical Body of Christ having to "fill up those things that are wanting in the sufferings of Christ, for His body the Church" (Col 1:24), such reparation can be offered vicariously by the living members of the Church on behalf of sinners.



The faithful at Batim begin their sojourn up the hill by meditating on the stations of the Cross ([see image on right](#)). To participate in the Way of the Cross with Iveta, is essentially to participate in letter and spirit, the crucifixion of Christ. Iveta usually makes her way up to the hill in the middle of the gathering. Clad in a long skirt with a full sleeve blouse, her head bent in

reverence beneath a veil. She makes her way up slowly towards the grounds that to her are sacred and holy. In imitating Christ, we learn to participate in the sufferings of Christ by grafting our crosses and ordeals to that of Christ. It is in doing this in the reparative spirit of Iveta that one is purified and transformed. As the prayer group ascend the hill, it is not uncommon to see Iveta lying prostrate on the ground and to take part physically in the suffering that Jesus experienced during His passion and death on the cross. Sometimes, she would suffer His flagellation, sometimes the crowning with thorns, sometimes the carrying of the heavy wooden cross and usually even the crucifixion. Such a participation in the redemptive agony of Christ calls for a certain spirit of discernment and is incomprehensible to an earthly mind. Such occurrences are not uncommon in the history of the church - especially in the lives of saints and those wholly attuned to the will of God. Fr. Hefferman, Iveta's spiritual director offer's to explain: "What you see here are the effects of sin. It was awful the way the Lord suffered for our sins. We have to turn against this. We have to love the Lord as he loved us."

As the flock reaches atop the hill, the number swells to thousands. The fifteen decade Rosary begins. Iveta begins the Rosary. She kneels bare on the ground and very reverently, not distracted in the least, begins with a firm but soft voice pronouncing each and every word as though addressed to the person right in front of her. Why is the Rosary, the favorite prayer of Pope John Paul II, so efficacious? Fr. Gobbi, in his book 'To the Priests, Our Lady's beloved sons' quotes from Our Lady herself: **'Because it is a simple prayer, a humble one, and it forms you spiritually in littleness, in meekness, in simplicity of heart. By contemplating its mysteries, you are led to understand the plan**

of Jesus, as spelled out in all of his life, from the Incarnation to the consummation of His Glorious Passion, and thus you penetrate even more profoundly into the mystery of redemption.’ The manner of meditation and recitation of the Rosary by Iveta is certainly remarkable and is definitely a grace to seek.

Iveta usually has her visions around 3.00pm. The messages are poignant and usually short. "Repent my children for the time is short, Visit the Blessed Sacrament daily. Forgive your neighbour. I desire much prayer from you. The hour is at hand. Pray the Holy Rosary in your homes daily." Such is the concern of Our Mother for us !

iii) Predictions and Prophecies:

Scripture itself declares that, ‘even though a prophet speaks in the name of Yahweh, if his oracle is not fulfilled or verified, it is an oracle which Yahweh did not speak’ (Deu 18:22)

There are a number of prophecies about Batim. Some of them are yet to be fulfilled. Fr. Pedro Francisco Pereira who renovated and reopened the dilapidated church atop the Mount in 1973 is often quoted by many priests and parishioners who knew him. ‘One day Batim will be a great pilgrimage center’, he was testified to have said. Is this the beginning of the fulfillment of this prophecy? Our Lady has also promised Iveta that many masses would be celebrated on the sacred grounds at Batim - and that we have to pray for this (April 13, 1995). Hitherto, eversince the church was renovated, masses were said every first Thursday of the month. (Prior to this period, the Church was isolated and laid barren for over two hundred years due to the infamous plague that made the locality inhospitable.) So keen is the Mother of God to bring the Holy Eucharist to these Sacred grounds, that on 1st Jan’98, She says **"In union with the Merciful Heart of Jesus raise many Holy Sacrifices of the Holy Mass to bring forth many fruits upon this Holy Hill"**. Ever since this request of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we have been graced to have the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass every first Saturday after the high noon prayers. Yet another prophecy



The Well adjoining the church with miraculous healing water being blessed.

fulfilled! The water from the well adjoining the Church is revealed to Iveta to be miraculous, as after its re-excavation, it will be a source of spiritual and temporal grace. **‘The well, you ask, why has it not been dug? You have not prayed my children. Only prayer will open the minds and hearts of brothers and sisters.’** (Message of 15 April, 1995). **The prophecy of the ‘Chastisement’ sign will also be**

seen at **Mount Batim** (Message of 13 October, 1996). It is an ardent desire of the Mother of God that we 'consecrate Goa to Her Immaculate Heart' (Message of 13 October, 1996). And further... '**Pray, Pray-Pray that Goa will be consecrated to my Immaculate Heart. Let it not be like the error of Russia**', cautions Our Lady. It is believed that these prophecies will be fulfilled before the 'triumph of Her Immaculate Heart'. Batim is a potential reservoir for Conversion and Cures and if exploited in a Spirit of Prayer, Sacrifice and Reparation will certainly be a boon for the local Church. To Iveta has been entrusted a whole lot of prophecies and revelations. Many of these remain with her and Fr. Hefferman - who discerns the time and need for revealing these prophecies. St. Ignatius in his 'Spiritual Exercises' writes that 'the subject may unconsciously add human element to authentic supernatural revelation'. Before Iveta relays Our Lady's message, she always invokes the Holy Spirit and says a prayer of discernment.

iv) Subjective qualities of the Visionary:

To Iveta, I'm sure, this is a topic not to be written about. 'I'm just a bit of paper' she once told us, "Just tear me up and throw me out." But then isn't Humility the hallmark of any God's chosen instrument? Outside her visionary and mystical experience, Iveta is a total normal person with a good sense of humour. She is a person who can live without visions and does not need any extraordinary experiences in order to stay on a spiritual high. In short, she is able to return to the normal regime of faith. Like every Christian, Iveta has to make her way in to heaven by a life of Faith, humility and charity. She places a much higher value on receiving Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. To behold Iveta partaking in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is to behold an Angel performing her office at the very throne of God. It appears that the veil has been lifted between Iveta and Jesus in the Eucharist. Her adoration of the Eucharist is most profound. It goes without mention that Iveta, also a victim soul and gifted with a profound sense of reparation for Our Lord does feel the pain of that Adorable Heart which we sinners outrage, offend and blaspheme. In thus making a Eucharistic reparation, Iveta consoles and placates the arm of Divine Justice. In exercising the virtue of charity, Iveta brings Jesus through Mary to the suffering and poor in Spirit. She has travelled extensively in and out of Goa with a few friends of Batim taking with her 'a very frail cord': the Holy Rosary.



Ms Iveta Gomes, the visionary of Batim, leading in the 'Way of the Cross

In performing Our Lady's 'fiat', Iveta seeks our consecration to Our Lady, placing us under 'her mantle and seeking 'to renew our lives in a spirit of prayer and penance, the fervent participation in the celebration of the Eucharist and in the works of the Apostolate, the daily recitation of the Holy Rosary and an austere manner of life, in keeping with the Gospel'. The prayers conducted by Iveta have been an experience of a lifetime. Iveta is steadfast in her obedience to the Church. She never forces herself, keeping in mind that '**Christian obedience is based on faith in God, who has many ways to ensure that His plans are accomplished inspite of obstacles of whatever sort.**'

vi) Lasting spiritual fruits:



A very visible sign of an authentic apparition is a healthy devotion and rich, lasting fruits (e.g. the spirit of prayer, conversion, works of charity, etc). We are now commemorating the sixth year of the first Apparition. There has been a steady increase in the number of people who come to Batim every first Saturday. A good number of people come all the way from Bombay. There are special bus services from Panjim,

Mapuca, Margao and Calangute to the sacred grounds You see the young and old making their way up the mount and thus any pilgrimage to Batim itself involves penance. The testimonies of the devotees run into hundreds and are documented in the books mentioned above. Thus Our Lady, the Mediatrix of all Graces, helps to sanctify us - as she promises ! We also have a motorable road to the hillock. Masses are being offered now every first Saturday. What is to be noted is that the church normally waits a long time before issuing a pronouncement about a particular apparition. If everybody waited for the Church to make a pronouncement, there would be no fruits, and in fact no occasion for the church to make any judgement at all. If the people waited until the church pronounced on Lourdes or Fatima (It takes years), we would not have heard of either of them today. Moreover, the Church approval once declared only authenticates that which has been happening there for years.

vi) Inner witness of the spirit:

When a message is from the Lord, it has a way of touching us in such a way that we recognize His voice in it. This was the case with St. Peter, which is why Jesus said to him, 'flesh and blood have not revealed this to you, but my father who is in Heaven' (Mt.16:16). 'However goes on Fr. O'Connor, " it does not follow that a genuine apparition will be recognised by everyone who examines

it in good faith. It may be also that a given apparition is intended for the benefit of a limited group, not for everyone. The Holy Spirit gives different graces to different people. But it is very important that these different attractions not turn into hostile sects or cliques. When the devotees of different apparitions become hostile or close to each other, Satan is the winner and the church is the looser." Therefore it is important to know several Apparitions in the past and in the present in order to study the circumstances and similarity of the messages.

Conclusion:

"You have lost the love you had. Realise how far you have fallen. Repent and do the works you did at first." (Apoc.2:4-5) **Mary seems to be echoing this message today as her Apparitions seek to shake us out of our lethargy, rekindle our fervour and reprimand our faults.** If there is weighty reason to believe that the Mother of Jesus has appeared and spoken at Batim, we had better take her seriously.

It is surely not for any trivial matter that Jesus sends her to appeal to us. If we disregard her, are we not in danger of hearing repeat to us what he said to Jerusalem "You did not recognise the time of your visitation.?" (Lk 19:14), but if like Elizabeth, we appreciate what a great grace for the Mother of the lord to come to us, may be not expect that the sound of her voice will bring us to a new infilling of the Holy Spirit?



Cardinal Ivan Dias of Mumbai passes away

The Prefect emeritus of the Pontifical Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples and Archbishop emeritus of Mumbai, Cardinal Ivan Dias, passed away in Rome on the afternoon of Monday, 19 June after a long battle with illness. The Indian cardinal was 81 years old.

Upon learning the news, Pope Francis sent a telegram to the late Cardinal's brother, expressing his condolences and his gratitude for Cardinal Dias' "years of faithful service to the Apostolic See, especially his contribution to the spiritual and physical reconstruction of the suffering Church in Albania and the missionary zeal demonstrated in his work as Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples". The Pontiff added, "I likewise unite my prayers to those of the faithful of the Archdiocese of Mumbai, where the pastoral concern and broad apostolic vision that marked his service as Archbishop are fondly remembered. In union of prayer with all who mourn his passing in the sure hope of the Resurrection, I commend the soul of this wise and gentle pastor to the merciful love of God our heavenly Father and cordially impart my Apostolic Blessing as a pledge of consolation and peace in the Lord".

-Courtesy: L'Osservatore Romano - June 20, 2017

(Cardinal Ivan Dias had a great devotion to Our Lady and mention of his name is made in Iveta's Book - Editor)

The 15 promises of Mary to Christians who recite the Rosary - Given to St. Dominic and Blessed Alan

+ Whoever shall faithfully serve me by the recitation of the Rosary, shall receive signal graces.

+ I promise my special protection and the greatest graces to all those who shall recite the Rosary.

+ The Rosary shall be a powerful armor against hell, it will destroy vice, decrease sin, and defeat heresies.

+ It will cause virtue and good works to flourish; it will obtain for souls the abundant mercy of God; it will withdraw the hearts of men from the love of the world and its vanities, and will lift them to the desire of eternal things. Oh, that souls would sanctify themselves by this means.

+ The soul which recommends itself to me by the recitation of the Rosary, shall not perish.

+ Whoever shall recite the Rosary devoutly, applying himself to the consideration of its sacred mysteries shall never be conquered by misfortune. God will not chastise him in His justice, he shall not perish by an unprovided death; if he be just he shall remain in the grace of God, and become worthy of eternal life.

+ Whoever shall have a true devotion for the Rosary shall not die without the sacraments of the Church.

+ Those who are faithful to recite the Rosary shall have during their life and at their death the light of God and the plenitude of His graces; at the moment of death they shall participate in the merits of the saints in paradise.

+ I shall deliver from purgatory those who have been devoted to the Rosary.

+ The faithful children of the Rosary shall merit a high degree of glory in heaven.

+ You shall obtain all you ask of me by the recitation of the Rosary.

+ All those who propagate the holy Rosary shall be aided by me in their necessities.

+ I have obtained from my Divine Son that all the advocates of the Rosary shall have for intercessors the entire celestial court during their life and at the hour of death.

+ All who recite the Rosary are my sons, and brothers of my only son Jesus Christ.

+ Devotion of my Rosary is a great sign of predestination.

CARING FOR OUR SOUL

- By Fr. Ron Rolheiser

What does it profit you if you gain the whole world but suffer the loss of your own soul?

Jesus taught that and, I suspect, we generally don't grasp the full range of it meaning. We tend to take Jesus' words to mean this: What good is it if someone gains riches, fame, pleasure, and glory and then dies and goes to hell? What good is earthly glory or pleasure if we miss out on eternal life?

Well, Jesus' teaching does mean that, no question, but there are other lessons in this teaching that have important things to teach us about health and happiness already here in this life. How do we lose our souls? What does it mean "to lose your soul" already in this world? What is a soul and how can it be lost?



Since a soul is immaterial and spiritual it cannot be pictured. We have to use abstract terms to try to understand it. Philosophers, going right back to Aristotle, have tended to define the soul as a double principle inside every living being: For them, the soul is both the principle of life and energy inside us as well as the principle of integration. In essence, the soul is two things: It's the fire inside us giving us life and energy and it's the glue that holds us together. While that sounds abstract, it's anything but that because we have first-hand experience of what this means.

If you have ever been at the bedside of a dying person, you know exactly when the soul leaves the body. You know the precise moment, not because you see something float away from the body, but rather because one minute you see a person, whatever her struggle and agony, with energy, fire, tension in her body and a minute later that body is completely inert, devoid of all energy and life. Nothing animates it anymore. It becomes a corpse. As well, however aged or diseased that body might be, until the second of death it is still one integrated organism. But at the very second of death that body ceases to be one organism and becomes instead a series of chemicals which now begin to separate and go their own ways. Once the soul is gone, so too are gone all life and integration. The body no longer contains any energy and it's no longer glued together.

And since the soul is a double principle doing two things for us, there are two corresponding ways of losing our souls. We can have our vitality and energy go dead or we can become unglued and fall apart, petrification or dissipation, in either case we lose our souls.

If that is true, then this very much nuances the question of how we should care for our souls. What is healthy food for our souls? For instance, if I am watching television on a given night, what's good for my soul? A religious channel? A sports channel? A mindless sitcom? The nature channel? Some iconoclastic talk-show? What's healthy for my soul?

This is a legitimate question, but also a trick one. We lose our soul in opposite ways and thus care of the soul is a refined alchemy that has to know when to heat things up and when to cool things down: What's healthy for my soul on a given night depends a lot upon what I'm struggling with more on that night: Am I losing my soul because I'm losing vitality, energy, hope, and graciousness in my life? Am I growing bitter, rigid, sterile, becoming a person who's painful to be around? Or, conversely, am I full of life and energy but so full of it that I am falling apart, dissipating, losing my sense of self? Am I petrifying or dissipating? Both are a loss of soul. In the former situation, the soul needs more fire, something to rekindle its energy. In the latter case, the soul already has too much fire; it needs some cooling down and some glue.

This tension between the principle of energy and the principle of integration within the human soul is also one of the great archetypal tensions between liberals and conservatives. In terms of an oversimplification, but a useful one, it's true to say that liberals tend to protect and promote the energy-principle, the fire, while conservatives tend to protect and promote the integration-principle, the glue. Both are right, both are needed, and both need to respect the other's instinct because the soul is a double principle and both these principles need protection.

After we die we can go to heaven or hell. That's one way of speaking about losing or saving our souls. But Christian theology also teaches that heaven and hell start already now. Already here in this life, we can weaken or destroy the God-given life inside us by either petrification or dissipation. We can lose our souls by not having enough fire or we can lose them by not having enough glue.

Used with permission of the author, Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser. Currently, Father Rolheiser is serving as President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio Texas. He can be contacted through his website, www.ronrolheiser.com. Follow on Facebook www.facebook.com/ronrolheiser.

HONOURING OUR BLESSED MOTHER THIS SEPTEMBER

- By Dr. Christopher Dias

This September we will be completing 23 years since Our Lady's first apparition at Batim. Through these years there have been an increase in the number of devotees who come to Batim in response to the call of Mother Mary thus fulfilling her requests at Fatima: to pray the Rosary daily, to offer reparation to her Immaculate Heart for the sins of the mankind, to observe the First Saturday Devotions, and to obtain through her intercession the conversion of the World and World Peace.

The Message of Fatima has been put to the forefront with Pope Francis canonizing the two Fatima Children, Francisco and Jacinta Marto this Fatima Centenary year.



At Fatima and now at Batim, we see a Mother who comes to comfort, encourage and heal her children. She comes as an anxious Mother pleading us to repent. Finally, she offers her Immaculate Heart as refuge from the dangers that threaten, and as the place where we can best learn to do the Father's will.

Let us this 8th September honour Our Blessed Mother and Queen on her Birthday. We pray God through the Immaculate Heart of Mary to Bless abundantly each and every one of us.

“Blessed was the day and welcome was the hour whereon God's Virgin Mother was brought forth. For of that birth Isaiah spoke and said in prophecy that a noble tree would spring out of the root of Jesse, and that this tree a bloom would bear on which the Holy Spirit of God Himself would rest. Blessed was the day and welcome was the hour whereon God's



Virgin Mother was brought forth.” (King Alfonsus the Wise of Castile, 13th C.)

September is also the month of our Sorrowful Mother. The cause of our Joy was born to be our Mater Dolorosa, born to suffer with her Son for our redemption. This month we invite you to honour Our Lady of Sorrows. To all the faithful also who, during the month of September, perform their devotions in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary Sorrowing, is granted: **An indulgence of 500 days, once, on any day of the month; a plenary indulgence on the usual conditions, if they persevere daily in this devout practice throughout the entire month.**

“She walked in the blood stained tracks of Jesus. What sorrow, to tread, as it were, upon her heart. She must tread upon what she adores.” (Fr. Faber in “The Foot of the Cross”). Let us remember to praise and console this Sorrowful Heart for so many ungrateful children who do not love her, and also console the Heart of her Divine Son, Our Saviour, Who is deeply offended by the insults offered to Her.

“Jesus, Mary, I Love You, Save Souls”

(Partial Indulgence)

“Think, one act of love can determine eternal happiness for a soul. Therefore, be careful never to omit one ‘Jesus’, MARY, I LOVE YOU, SAVE SOULS:’ Lose no time- every act of love is a soul.”

Words of Our Lady: “ Only in paradise will you realize the value and the fruitfulness of saving souls. The act of love is especially meritorious as one of reparation.”

“One JESUS, MARY, I LOVE YOU, SAVE SOULS atones for thousands of blasphemies.”

“Put together all virtuous acts of today that you can perform, and put them beside a day uninterrupted in acts of love-and I will take the love-filled day in preference to anything else you have done or offered Me. “JESUS, MARY, I LOVE YOU, SAVE SOULS:- Herewith you offer Me everything.”

-Extracts from the book: “Jesus Appeals to the World”, Imprimatur: Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of N.Y.

THE FATIMA PRAYERS

PARDON PRAYER: My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love Thee! I beg pardon for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love Thee.

ANGEL'S PRAYER: O Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore Thee profoundly. I offer Thee the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges and indifference by which He is offended. By the infinite merits of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg the conversion of poor sinners.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Most Holy Trinity, I adore Thee! My God, my God, I love Thee in the Most Blessed Sacrament!

SACRIFICE PRAYER: O Jesus, it is for love of You, for the conversion of sinners, and in reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

DECADE PRAYER: O My Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell. Lead all souls to Heaven, especially those most in need of Thy mercy.



‘God wishes to establish devotion to my Immaculate Heart in the world. If what I say is done, many souls will be saved and there will be peace.’

How Do I Start the First Saturdays?

On July 13, 1917, Our Lady appeared for the third time to the three children of Fatima and showed them the vision of hell. In this vision Our Lady said that *‘God wishes to establish in the world devotion’* to Her Immaculate Heart and that She would come to *ask for the Communion of Reparation on the First Saturdays...*

What Do I Have to Do?

The devotion of First Saturdays, as requested by Our Lady of Fatima, carries with it the assurance of salvation. However, to derive profit from such a great promise of Our Lady, the devotion must be properly understood and duly performed. The requirements as stipulated by Our Lady are as follows:

(1) Confession, (2) Communion, (3) Five decades of the Rosary, (4) Meditation on one or more of the Rosary Mysteries for fifteen minutes, (5) To do all these things in the spirit of reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and (6) To observe all these practices on the First Saturday of five consecutive months.

The idea of the Five First Saturdays is obviously to make us persevere in the devotional acts for these Saturdays and overcome initial difficulties. Once this is done, Our Lady knows that the person would become devoted to Her Immaculate Heart and persist in practicing such devotion on all First Saturdays, working thereby for personal self-reform and for the salvation of others. Our Lady has assured us that She will obtain salvation for all those who observe the First Saturdays for five consecutive months in accordance with Her conditions.

For more details please email: ourladybatim@gmail.com

Dates to Remember - SEPTEMBER 2017

- 2nd: First Saturday - First Saturday Devotion at Batim, Goa
8th: The Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
14th: The Exaltation of the Holy Cross.
15th: Our Lady of Sorrows
21st: St Matthew, Apostle, Evangelist
27th: St Vincent de Paul
29th: Sts. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels

PRAYER PETITIONS AND TESTIMONIES

- + Your prayer petitions may be submitted online at: thebatimmessage.com
These prayer requests will be placed at the feet of Our Lady of Fatima in the the Church of Sts Simon & Jude and offered during the First Saturday Mass at Batim.
- + Your testimonies may be submitted online at:
ourladybatim5thdogma.com or emailed to: ourladybatim@gmail.com

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION IN HONOUR OF AND IN REPARATION TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

Church of St Simon and St Jude, Batim, Tiswadi, Goa Velha, Goa 403 108 India.

- 1.00 pm:** +Stations of the Cross
2.00 pm: +Holy Rosary, +Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament, +Divine Mercy Prayers, +Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, +Confessions.
3.30pm: +Holy Mass.

Services are held in Konkani and English

CONTACT DETAILS FOR TRANSPORT BY BUS:

Margao, Petrol pump closest to Main Post Office 11am,
Mob: 9420712310
Panaji: Caranzalem near Post Office at 1145 am, near Don Bosco at 12pm,
Tel: 08322456306
Mapusa: From St Joseph's Chapel, Near Police Station at 11.45 am, Mob: 9822167665
Calangute: From Calangute Church at 1130 am,
Mob: 9421241248

In conformity with the directives of Pope Urban VIII, we have no intention of anticipating the judgement of the Holy Apostolic See and of the Church on Apparitions, reported by us, but not yet recognized; indeed, we submit to, and accept; her final decision without reservation.

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This newsletter is available online. A printed copy of this newsletter is also available FREE (except where otherwise indicated) at the Prayer Services in Batim, Goa. An archive of previous issues is available on the website: www.thebatimmessage.com
Your prayerful support and donations - however small - is greatly appreciated!

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