



Benedictine Daughters of Divine Will



“Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them;
for it is to such as these that the Kingdom of Heaven belongs.” *Luke 18:16-17*



Our Lady's Newsletter



Lent and the 100th Anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima's first apparition. We had those two ideas in mind for our March newsletter, but couldn't figure out the "angle." Then after some pondering, researching, brainstorming, and staring at the blank page on the computer screen, the Lord must have felt that we suffered enough and finally whispered: "With God, there are no *angles*, just the plain, simple truth."

We're living in a time when the truth has become politically incorrect. Those who try to defend and uphold it are often labeled judgmental and pharisaical. One must sugarcoat or compromise the truth in order to be considered loving and merciful. But if Jesus Himself said "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life" (John 14:6) and we know that God *is* Love, the two cannot be enemies. In fact, they are perfectly united. As Christians, we should have no problem then...right? Not always. So what still gets in our way?

Well, three things come to mind. For one, we don't always know nor want to hear the truth, especially when it's opposed to our own human will.

But the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that the

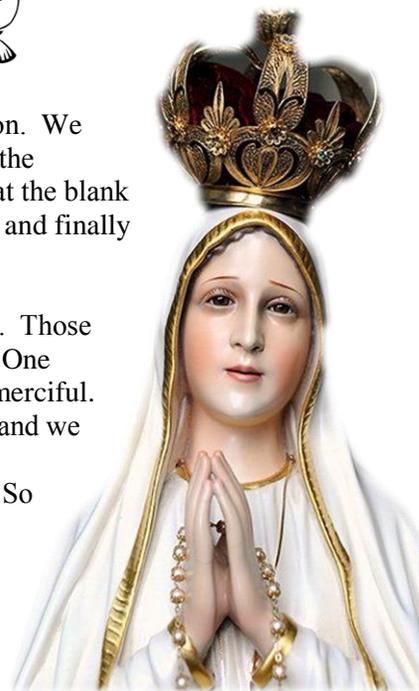
"education of the conscience is a lifelong task" and we, therefore, have a responsibility to seek out the truths of our faith (CCC #1784). Secondly, as creatures born with that pesky original sin, we can sometimes speak the truth in a not-so-charitable manner with condemnation in our hearts. And third, our pride and human respect often keep us from proclaiming the whole truth for fear of what others may think of us. So what do we do?

***"The sheer truth,
naked and simple, is
the most powerful
magnet to draw hearts
and to dispose them to
face any sacrifice"***

(Our Lord to the Servant of God,
Luisa Piccarreta)

We have a perfect model to look to for wisdom and guidance: The Mother of the Divine Word who "felt a double maternity...maternity toward God, in order to defend His just rights, and maternity toward the creatures, to bring them to safety".* Our Lady has had a lot to say the past couple of centuries in trying to fulfill Her maternal mission, appearing all over the world with urgent messages for Her children...messages filled with both the hard truth, important requests, and tender, motherly love.

We've chosen just a few to focus on from three separate, though similar, Church-approved Marian apparitions in recent history – Fatima (of course), La Salette, and Akita. So we hand this newsletter over to the Blessed Mother. What better way can we prepare ourselves for Fatima's 100th anniversary than by pondering Our Lady's words in our hearts? And who would be better suited to guide us through the end of Lent than our sorrowful Mother Herself? (* taken from *The Virgin Mary in the Kingdom of the Divine Will*, Day 8, Servant of God, Luisa Piccarreta)



Our Lady of Fatima: Apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Fatima, Portugal (1917) to three shepherd children - Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta

A common thread...

"Continue to say the Rosary every day in honor of Our Lady of the Rosary with the intention of obtaining the end of the war. The intercession of the Blessed Virgin alone can obtain this grace for them." (July 13th)

Our Lady repeated this request in each of Her six apparitions in Fatima. Do we pray the Rosary every day from the heart, meditating on the mysteries? Do we pray it with our families when possible?



The not-so secret treasures

"Jesus will use you to make Me better known and more loved. He wishes to establish throughout the world the devotion to My Immaculate Heart. I promise salvation to those who embrace it and their souls will be loved by God as flowers placed by Myself to adorn His throne." (June 13th)

(After showing the children a frightening vision of hell): *"You have seen hell where the souls of poor sinners go. To save them, Our Lord wishes to establish throughout the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart. If people will do what I tell you, many souls will be saved and there will be peace in the world..."* (July 13th)

"In the end, My Immaculate Heart will triumph..." (July 13th)

(referring to October 13th): *"St. Joseph will come with the Baby Jesus to give peace to the world. Our Lord will also come to bless the people. Besides, Our Lady of the Rosary and Our Lady of Sorrows will come."* (August 19th)

There has been a lot of controversy regarding the third secret of Fatima, but Our Lady has already revealed so many treasures, aids, and weapons for the salvation of souls. Do we take advantage of these not-so secret treasures and foster devotions to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, St. Joseph, the Child Jesus, the Holy Family, Our Lady of the Rosary and Our Lady of Sorrows? Do we have at least some of these images in our household?

The gift of suffering

"Do you wish to offer yourselves to God to endure all the suffering that He may choose to send you, as an act of reparation for the sins by which He is offended, and to ask for the conversion of sinners?" (Upon an affirmative response from the children): *"Then you will have much to suffer, but the grace of God will assist you and always bear you up."* (May 13th)

"You are suffering very much, but do not be discouraged. I will never leave you. My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and the way that will lead you to God." (June 13th)

"Sacrifice yourself for sinners and say many times, especially when you make sacrifices 'O Jesus, it is for Your love, for the conversion of sinners, and in reparation for sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary'." (July 13th)

"Pray, pray a great deal and make sacrifices for sinners, for many souls go to hell because they have no one to sacrifice and pray for them." (August 19th)

We've all chosen certain sacrifices this Lent. Do we thank and praise God for the additional sacrifices and sufferings that He chooses to send us - trials, annoyances, inconveniences, injustices, humiliations - or do we complain? Are we focused more on what's best for God and our neighbor or on what's best for ourselves?



Her parting words

“People must amend their lives and ask pardon for their sins. They must not offend our Lord any more, for He is already too much offended!” (October 13th)

When is the last time we’ve been to Confession? Do we go at least once a month? Are there certain sins that we’re attached to and unwilling to give up? Do we avoid the near occasion of sin and sincerely resolve to overcome our habitual sins?

Our Lady of La Salette:

Apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary in La Salette, France (September 19, 1846) to two children – Maximin Giraud and Mélanie Calvat

Keeping the commandments

“I gave you six days to work, I kept the seventh for Myself and no one wishes to grant Me that one day. This is what weighs down the arm of My Son so much. Those who drive carts cannot swear without adding My Son’s name. These are the two things which weigh down the arm of My Son so much.”

“Only a few old women go to Mass. In the summer, the rest work all day Sunday and in the winter, when they do not know what to do, they only go to Mass to make fun of religion.”

How do we spend our Sundays? Do we use the Lord’s name in vain? Do we kindly ask others to refrain from doing so or keep silent for fear of a negative reaction? Do we watch tv shows and movies that contain blasphemies and other content offensive to Our Lord?



“When I was up close to the Beautiful Lady, in front of Her to Her right, she began to speak and from Her beautiful eyes tears also started to flow.”

~ Mélanie Calvat

A stern warning

“If My people will not submit, I shall be forced to let go of the hand of My Son. It is so strong, so heavy, that I can no longer withhold it. How long a time do I suffer for you! If I do not wish My Son to abandon you, I am compelled to pray to Him without ceasing. And the rest of you think little of this! However much you pray, however much you do, you will never recompense the pains I have taken for you all.”

Are we unwilling to submit to certain commandments, teachings, and rules that the Lord has given us through Sacred Scripture and the infallible Magisterium of the Catholic Church? Have we shown enough gratitude for all that Jesus and Our Lady have suffered for each and every one of us and for Their great mercy? Or do we take advantage of Their love and mercy, using it as an excuse to continue to live in mortal sin?

Our Lady of Akita:

Apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Akita, Japan (1973) to Sister Agnes Sasgawa

“If you love the Lord, listen to what I have to say to you...Many men in this world afflict the Lord. I desire souls to console Him to soften the anger of the Heavenly Father. I wish, with My Son, for souls who will repair by their suffering and their poverty for the sinners and ingrates. In order that the world might know His anger, the Heavenly Father is preparing to inflict a great chastisement on all mankind. With My Son I have intervened so many times to appease the wrath of the Father. I have prevented the coming of calamities by offering Him the sufferings of the Son on the Cross, His Precious Blood, and beloved souls who console Him forming a cohort of victim souls. Prayer, penance and courageous sacrifices can soften the Father's anger...offer in reparation (whatever God may send) for sins. Let each one endeavor, according to capacity and position, to offer herself entirely to the Lord.” (August 3rd)

“...The only arms which will remain for you will be the Rosary and the Sign left by My Son. Each day recite the prayers of the Rosary. With the Rosary, pray for the Pope, the bishops and priests...The work of the devil will infiltrate even into the Church...the Church will be full of those who accept compromises...The thought of the loss of so many souls is the cause of My sadness. If sins increase in number and gravity, there will be no longer pardon for them...Pray very much the prayers of the Rosary. I alone am able still to save you from the calamities which approach. Those who place their confidence in Me will be saved.” (October 13th)



Do we faithfully read the Hours of the Passion*, asking Our Lord to come and pray, suffer, and repair in us? In this way, we can console the Heart of Jesus and disarm Divine Justice together with Our Blessed Mother.

(* *The 24 Hours of the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ* written by the Servant of God, Luisa Piccarreta)

Tomb of the Servant of God, Luisa Piccarreta, Church of Santa Maria Greca in Corato, Italy



in which Our Lady chose to appear with Her warnings). But this is also an era of great hope, the era in which Our Lord has chosen to reveal the knowledges of living in His Most Holy and Divine Will *on earth as it is in Heaven*. Knowledges made known to us through the sixty-four years of hard sufferings and sacrifices of His little secretary...to whom we owe a great debt of gratitude. So thank you, Luisa, for your FIAT!

[Jesus to Luisa]: *“Your mission of making known the Eternal Will is braided with Mine and with that of My dear Mother. And since it has to serve for the good of all, it was necessary to centralize the Eternal Sun of My*

A year of hope

March 4th marked another 2017 landmark: the 70th anniversary of the death of the Little Daughter of Divine Will, Luisa Piccarreta. To celebrate, we headed down to Corato for the weekend festivities organized by the official Luisa Piccarreta Association. They prepared a program that would've made Luisa very happy; one grounded in the Eucharist and prayer meditations taken directly from the Divine Will writings.

We must thank and praise God every day for allowing us to live in these times. Yes, they are extremely sad times (arguably worse than the periods

*Will into one creature...Do you not feel how, in My Will, you embrace all, from the first to the last creature who is to exist upon earth; and for all, you would want to satisfy, love, please this Supreme Will, binding It to all, removing all obstacles that prevent Its dominion in the creatures - making It known to all; and even with sufferings, you expose yourself to satisfy for all, this Supreme Will, which so much loves to be known and to reign in the midst of creatures?...To you, Firstborn Daughter of My Divine Will, it is given to make known the qualities, the value, the good It contains...**The mission of My Will is the greatest that can exist:** there is no good which does not descend from It; there is no glory which does not come from It. Everything is centered in It... Everything I told you for this mission was necessary - not for you, but for the honor, the glory, the knowledge and the sanctity of My Will and of Its dominion in the creatures. And since My Will is one, one was to be the creature to whom I had to entrust It, and through whom It would make Its rays blaze, to do good to all."*

(Luisa Piccarreta, Book of Heaven, Vol. 17, 5/1/1925)



One cannot learn to live in the fullness of God's Most Holy and Divine Will without reading Luisa's writings regularly. The drops that we place in our newsletters are nothing compared to the immense seas of joy, love, knowledge, and peace that await every soul on the pages of the *Book of Heaven*, *The Virgin Mary in the Kingdom of the Divine Will*, and the *Hours of the Passion*. How much we desire to communicate the greatness of this gift God has given, to impart at least some of the spiritual treasures that have transformed our own souls...but we always fall short. Divine Will talks, retreats, catechesis, etc. are all wonderful. We encourage them and draw much fruit from them ourselves. But nothing can replace the personal act of reading Our Lord's words directly. That's how the Holy Spirit will speak most powerfully to our hearts and grant us the grace to absorb and live what we have read.

So if you've already read all of the Divine Will writings, start over. If you've never read a word and don't even know who Luisa is, no worries! Contact us at daughtersofdivinewill@gmail.com and we'll get you started.



A quick stop at Fr. Bucci's on the way back from Corato to soak in some of his wisdom on the Divine Will. As the only living priest who personally knew Luisa, we could have listened to his stories all day long!



Six years of gratitude



By the grace of God, the Benedictine Daughters of Divine Will will be celebrating six years as a Public Association of the Faithful in the Diocese of San Marino-Montefeltro on April 12th. Reflecting on all that Our Lord and Our Lady have done and continue to do with our little community, only one word can truly describe how we feel: grateful. Grateful to our Father in Heaven for having chosen such unworthy children to be the spouses of His Divine Son and to adore Him in the Most Blessed Sacrament. Grateful for the indescribable gift to know, love, and dedicate our lives to God's Most Holy and Divine Will. And grateful to you - all of our family, friends, and benefactors - who have sustained us

with your time, encouragement, prayers, and financial support these past several years. We often struggle with finding the right words to describe what you mean to us, but hopefully these sentiments from Luisa's writings will help get our point across:

"I [Luisa] was doing the Hours of the Passion and...I was pouring myself into the Holy Will of God, offering them for the good of all; but my will...very often would say: 'My Jesus, in a special way for help, relief and liberation of this soul...' And my sweet Jesus, reprimanding me, told me: 'My daughter, everything that one does in my Will is like Sun that diffuses to all...distinctions do not exist in My Will...It runs, diffuses, and wants to give Itself to all - whoever wants, can take of it...Ah! You would like to act like the Sun if it wanted to concentrate its light and its heat in one point more strongly, to be able to warm it and illuminate it so much as to convert that point into the Sun itself, while it continues its course over all things.' And I: 'Yes, yes, it's exactly this - it is the weight of gratitude that pushes me to this.' Jesus smiled in hearing me and continued: 'If this is the case, then go ahead and do it'."

(Luisa Piccarreta, Book of Heaven, Vol. 14, 3/10/1922)



Sr. Maureen & Sr. Francesca with Msgr. Vincent Keane, Benedictine Oblate of Divine Will

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www.benedictinesofdivinewill.org

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Though we pray for our benefactors daily, all of our prayers throughout Holy Week and the Octave of Easter will be offered specifically for each and every one of you who have so generously supported us in any way, shape, or form.

*With much love and many blessings for a happy and holy Easter Season
 from all of the Benedictine Daughters of Divine Will!!!*