COR AD COR **Opus Mariæ Mediatricis**

VOL. 5 - No. 2 - 13 February, 2000

Dear Friend of Our Lady,

mailed, or telephoned regarding the item to give to St. Joseph in our spiritual lives, ops is to be observed on Fridays throughof news in a previous newsletter concern- the place he so richly deserves. To help out the year unless they are first class ing the consecration of the Church and the you, in that regard, I can not recommend feasts; abstinence and fast are to be doworld to the Immaculate Heart of Mary by enough the book entitled, True Devotion served on Ash Wednesday and on the Fri-Our Holy Father, the Pope and the bishops to St. Joseph and the Church, with the day of the Passion and Death of Our Lord on October 8, 2000. The most frequent subtitle, The Doctrinal Basis and Practice Jesus Christ." question being: "Where did you get the of Total Consecration through St. Joseph news from?" The only place where we and the Church, by the Dominican Theo- Canon 1252 states clearly, "All persons have seen mention made of this event is logian, Dominic de Domenico. It is availon the web site of the zenit news agency able from St. Gabriel Press, 3050 Gap are bound by the law of abstinence; all from Rome. For those of you who are Knob Road, New Hope, KY, 40052. You adults are bound by the law of fast up to computer literate (I am sure there are will be richly rewarded in the reading of the beginning of their sixtieth year. Nevmany), you can go to their site www.zenit. this book. Among other things, he has a ertheless, pastors and parents are to see to org. Once you enter the site, enter the ar- beautiful section on the likeness of the it that minors who are not bound by the chive for 1999, then click the calendar at Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, law of fast and abstinence are educated in November 28, 1999. The third item is en- to the Holy Trinity of Father, Son and an authentic sense of penance." titled "Fatima added to Papal Pilgrimages Holy Spirit. He enriches our understandin 2000". Among other things, you will ing of the relationship between the earthly begins this year on Sunday, February 20. notice the following paragraph:

Navarro-Valls (spokesman for the Vatican) highlighted the extraordinary tie that unites John Paul II to the Virgin at Fatima. On October 8, 2000 her statue will be taken to Rome. On the occasion of the Bishops' Jubilee, the Pope and his brother bishops will solemnly consecrate the Church and the world to Our Lady.

Lady of Fatima and anniversary of the ye shall all likewise perish." The Code of attempted assassination in 1981 on the Canon Law reminds us that: Pope's life in St. Peter's Square.

through Mary cannot but be heartened by ance in virtue of the Divine Law; in order these two events planned for the Great that all may be joined in a common obser-Jubilee of the year 2000.

the Great Protector of Holy Mother in a special way pray, exercise works of Ash-Church, i.e., St. Joseph. He was given the piety and charity, and deny themselves by title of Protector of the Universal Church fulfilling their responsibilities more faithby Pope Pius IX, who also will be beati- fully, and especially by observing fast and fied during the Holy Year of Jubilee. This abstinence according to the norm of the year, the Feast of St. Joseph is transferred following canons." (Canon 1249) to March 20, due to the fact that March 19, is the second Sunday of Lent. St. Jo- 1250 to 1253 outline the present penitenseph, as is well known, figured greatly in tial discipline of the Church. Canon 1250 the events at Fatima in 1917. Some be- states as follows: "All Fridays throughout lieve that the Apostolic Exhortation, Re- the year and the time of Lent are penitendemptoris Custos, of the present Holy Fa- tial days and times throughout the Univerther, is a response given to the promi- sal Church." In addition, Canon 1251 prenence of St. Joseph in the apparitions to scribes that. "Abstinence from eating 261 Cross Keys Rd. ≇ Berlin, New Jersey 08009

A number of you have written, e- Whatever the case may be, it behooves us prescriptions of the Conference of Bishtrinity and the Heavenly Trinity, between It is believed that St. Gregory the Great the created trinity and the Uncreated Trin- fixed this season in its present form. The ity. His emphasis on the role of St. Joseph three Sundays and weeks of this season in the economy of salvation is magnifi- are the time during which we should sericent. There is no way I can give you a suf- ously make our resolutions regarding ficient idea of the richness of this book. prayer, penance and almsgiving during the Please purchase a copy and see your spiri- Season of Lent. tual life grow by leaps and bounds.

cinta Marto on May 13, 2000, feast of Our sity of penance: "Unless ye do penance, and members.

"All members of the Christian faith-Devotees of consecration to Jesus ful in their own way are bound to do penee of the year 2000. vance of penance, penitential days are Soon, we will celebrate the Feast of prescribed in which the Christian faithful Wil-

The following canons from numbers

Sister Lucia, Francesco and Jacinta. meat, or another food according to the

Who is obliged to fast and abstain? who have completed their fourteenth year

The Holy Season of Septuagesima

May the Season of Lent in the Holy Believe it, or not, the Holy Season of Year of Jubilee be one of singular graces The news item also mentions the Lent is just around the corner, Ash and blessings for you and yours! You are pilgrimage of the Holy Father to Fatima Wednesday this year being March 8. Our all remembered in my monthly First Satwhere he will beatify Francesco and h- Lord reminds in the Gospel of the neces- urday Mass for all our benefactors, friends

In the Hearts of Jesus and Mary,



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Baculus Pastoralis

One may well ask why, among the many reported apparitions, the Church approves of some to the exclusion of others. Are there reasons that could appear to some people to be discriminatory? Briefly, what are the criteria, the objective norms used to determine which ones merit the sanction of the Church's approval or its reserved judgment, if not outright disapproval?

Let me begin by recalling the Church's general attitude towards the phenomenon think, this attitude is not one of favorable disposition, but rather of skepticism and of the most extreme reserve. Instinctively tude are easily understandable.

ception and fakery. The Church believes Spirit. He is present in the ministry of the sions) a startling likeness to the evangeliers can be exercised under the cover of the acterizes the mission of the Church sent supernatural at the expense of the believ- into the world to preach the Gospel to of "secrets" which sometimes accompany ers. Religious history is fraught with such every creature. He is also present in certain apparitions, such as La Salette and exploitations.

faithful will be carried away with the tide natural events emerge and, in particular, which the magisterium of the Church exerof vain credulity and superstition. Devo- Marian apparitions. tion is secondary to faith: private revelations will never have the same importance some way, gives the mandate to recognize, tion is the truthfulness of the seers. The as the Gospel Revelation. It is this latter interpret, and approve these apparitions by investigation always begins with a pro-Revelation that has been confided to the proposing them to the veneration and the found examination of their personality: Church, and that is the one the Church devotion of the faithful. Therefore, it is the psychic equilibrium, conditions of life, must protect and transmit. Its mission is Church's duty to perform this difficult task level of maturity, etc. One expert after the primarily in that intangible fidelity to the of discernment which permits us to e- other interrogates the witnesses who must Word she has received from the Lord. By clare, in reference to an apparition, "The not contradict themselves in the testimony. approving too hastily the message of appa- finger of God is there." The Church x- The fact that the Church-approved appariritions she fears she may be catering to a complishes this discernment through the tions were often witnessed by children or spontaneous craving for the supernatural to magisterium who, in virtue of the Apos- young adults does not lessen the rigor of the detriment of the faith which, in fact, is tolic succession, are endowed with the the scrutiny and a severity (in controlling more obscure and more demanding.

to interpretations and transpositions on the terium in which its authority is engaged. aesthetical level which, fostering forms of shock the critical intelligence of many be- cedures that often require long delays be- Church's magisterium arrives at its conclulievers, especially those engaged in dia- tween the information gathered within the sion. It is often preceded by the popular logue with unbelievers who, in turn, risk confines of the diocese and the investiga- movement, but it remains independent of finding in these manifestations new alibis tion made by the Roman Congregations. all outside pressure. to refuse to believe.

Jean Honoré, Archbishop of Tours

The Tide of Vain Credulity: **The Church's Role** in Apparitions **First Printed in** Fidelity Press, July-August, 1989

of apparitions and of the supernatural. prompt the Church to exert the greatest Contrary to what certain Christians may circumspection in the matter of the supernatural and revelations.

However, if the Church knows that Revelation was closed with the death of conscious of the incertitude of the human the last of the apostles, she also knows that the contents of the message relative to judgment in a field as complex as that of the history of salvation continues from one Christian attitudes such as invitation to the supernatural, the Church remains on century to the other, and that the Lord is prayer, penance and conversion of the the defensive. The reasons for such an atti- ever present among his people. He is pre- heart, brotherly love, hope, etc. In this matsent in the work of grace and holiness ac- ter, Lourdes, like Pontmain, presents (in First, there is the constant risk of de- complished in his Church through the Holy the simplicity of the words and expresthere is a devil and that his seductive pow- Word and of the Sacraments, which char- cal Beatitudes.

Again, it is to his Church that He, in power of grace. And thus, the recognition the declarations) that can be likened to a Finally, we must not disregard the fact of apparitions and the approval of pilgrim- regular court procedure. The great concern that the supernatural is always susceptible ages are decisions of the Church's magis- is to forestall the risk of manipulation by

> This function of the magisterium is car-We find that the same attention and strict-

These are some of the reasons that ness is observed here as in the canoniza- from what we have

tion processes. More than the various methods of procedures, I believe I must signal out the different criteria that are followed.

There is first of all, as I have said with regard to Lourdes, the conformity of the message with the Gospel Revelation and the dogmatic tradition of the Church. God's word is the foundation of our faith. The first condition, therefore, is that the message transmitted by the seers be in complete agreement with this Word. At Lourdes the Blessed Virgin's revelation that she is the Immaculate Conception was a determining factor in the Church's approval of Massabiele.

On the other hand, we must consider

A more difficult point is the revelation manifestations of His power and his sover- Fatima. Most often these secrets deal with Secondly, the Church fears that the eignty over the world from which super- predictions concerning the future, about cises an extreme prudence.

> Another important criterion of evaluathe adults.

Thus, it is only at the end of this long sentimental and naive piety, unfailingly ried out along very definite lines and pro- and patient study of the facts that the

Let us now draw a few conclusions

PRECES

Senatus apostolici Princeps, et præco Domini: Pastor prime fidelium, Custodi gregem creditum.

Per pascua virentia, Nos verbi fruge recrea: Refectas oves prævius Caulis infer cœlestibus.

Supernæ claves januæ Tibi, Petre, sunt traditæ: Tuisque patent legibus Terrena cum cœlestibus.

u petram veræ fidei, Tu basim ædificii Fundas, in qua Catholica Fixa surgit Ecclesia.

U mbra tua, dum graderis, Fit medicina languidis; Textrinis usa vestium Sprevit Tabitha feretrum.

Catena vinctum gemina, Virtus solvit angelica; Veste sumpta cum caligis, Patescunt fores carceris.

S it Patri laus ingenito, Sit decus Unigenito, Sit utriusque parili Majestas summa Flamini. Amen. Hymn in Honor of St. Peter, Prince of the Apostles

Composed by St. Peter Damian

Feast of the Chair of St. Peter, February 22 O prince of the apostolic senate! Herald of our Lord! First pastor of the faithful! Watch over the flock entrusted to thee.

ead us through verdant pastures, feeding us with the nourishment of the word; and lead us, thus fed, into the heavenly fold, whither thou hast already gone.

T o thee, Peter, have been delivered the keys of heaven's gate; and all things, both in heaven and on earth, acknowledge thy authority.

 $I = \frac{1}{2}$ is thou that choosest the city where is to be established the rock of the true faith, the foundation of the building, on which the Catholic Church stands immovable.

hy shadow, as thou passest by, heals the sick; and Tabitha, that made garments for the poor, was raised to life at thy bidding.

B ound with two chains, thou wast set free by an angel's power; he bids thee put on thy garments and thy sandals, and lo! The prison-door is opened.

T o the Father unbegotten, and to the onlybegotten Son, and to the coequal Spirit of them both, be praise and kingly highest power.

Amen.

PRAYER REQUESTS Please pray for the following intentions:

- Frank N.: Return of my children to the Church. Dorothy B.: Secure employment for nephew and sister
- Jean G.: Peace; return of mo rality; Holy Souls in Purgatory; Tridentine Mass here.
- Paulita D.: My husband's healing; our financial healing; that we will find a place to move into soon.
- Daniel F.: Health of Stella K.
- Donald R.: For a vocation to the priesthood for my
- son, Thomas. Donald R.: Repose of the soul of my dear wife,
- Linda. Katherine V.: Improved eyesight.
- Katherine V.: General health, return to Church for three nephews and families.
- Andrew P.: Return of the Latin Tridentine Holy Mass to every parish.
- Andrew P.: Grace to do God's Holy Will in all

- things. Jacquie R.: For older brother to return to the Faith. Jacquie R.: Conversion of all descendite Catholics. Ruth J.: Cancer healing for Ruth M. J.
- Ruth J.: Complete healing of Cancer for Ruth M. J.

Carmen M.: Return of Jim T. to the Catholic Faith. ✤ Mary Kozina (born January 24; 1928; died August 21; 1995.)

P. J. K.: Bill S. H.'s disease cure.

Agota B.: Healing for Elizabeth and Claire. Baptism for Hayley; Adam; Zdi & Lai. Return of Pasrich to Elizabeth. Laci & Carolyn's return to the Faith.

Don T.: For my belated vocation. For the vocations of more priests.

Jean K.: For healing of Sherry; Chris and for their daughter's return to the Faith.

Matteo D'A.: For the consecration of Russia. Gerard McH.: Pray for McH; especially Eric. Donald L. R.: Repose of souls of my wife; Linda R. For my three children.

- Dominick Z.: Please pray that Our Lord Jesus will heal my brother; Valentine Z., who suffers from mental illness.
- ✤ Marvin Murray, Deceased
- John C.: Return of family to Faith.

Rosalino I.: A good job for my daughter. Return to the Faith and the Poor Souls.

- Sandra W.: Family healing and conversion. Mary R.: I am in the process of bankruptcy.
- Manuel & Luba A.: Pray for seminarians W.
- Comteca; S. John; N. Callaghan. Michael & Bridget G.: That Kevin will seek and
- obtain the help he needs to get well. Daniel F.: Health of Mrs. Julia F.
- Jacquie R.: Russia's consecration to Our Blessed Mother's Immaculate Heart.
- Charles S .: For the efforts of the FSSP and of Bishop

For all of the intentions of our weekly St. Jude Novena, and all the other intentions private and public for which prayers have been requested.

To have your prayer request listed here, check the box on the return form on page 7.



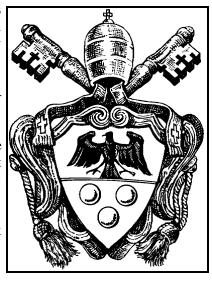
Acta Sanctæ Sedis

Pope Pius XI

Studiorum Ducem, On St. Thomas Aquinas, June 29, 1923

26. But inasmuch as St. Thomas has been duly proclaimed patron of all Catholic schools because he marvelously combined both forms of wisdom, the rational and the divinely inspired, because he has recourse to prayer and fasting to solve the most difficult problems, because he used the image of Christ crucified in place of all books, let him be a model also for seminarians, so that they may learn how to pursue their studies to the best advantage and with the greatest profit to themselves. Members of religious communities should look upon the life of St. Thomas as upon a mirror; he refused even the highest dignities offered to him in order to live in

the practice of the most perfect obedience and to die in the sanctity of his profession. Let all the Faithful of Christ take the Angelic Doctor as a model of devotion to the august Queen of Heaven, for it was his custom often to repeat the "Hail Mary" and to inscribe the sweet Name upon his pages, and let them ask the Doctor of the Eucharist himself to inspire them with love for the Divine Sacrament. Priests above all will be zealous in so doing, as is only proper. "For Thomas was accustomed, unless prevented by illness, to say Mass daily and heard another Mass said by his *socius* or some other friar which he very often served," declares the careful historian of his life. But could anyone find words to express the spiritual fervour with which he said Mass himself, the anxious care with which he made his preparation, the thanksgivings he offered to the divine Majesty after he had said it?



and fountain-head of all the miseries of our time, the teaching of Aquinas must be adhered to more religiously than ever. For Thomas refutes the theories propounded by Modernists in every sphere, in philosophy. by protecting, as We have reminded you, the force and power of the human mind and by demonstrating the existence of God by the most cogent arguments; in dogmatic theology, by distinguishing the supernatural from the natural order and explaining the reasons for belief and the dogmas themselves; in theology, by showing that the articles of faith are not based upon mere opinions but upon truth and therefore cannot possibly change; in exegesis, by

transmitting the true conception of divine inspiration; in the science of morals, in sociology and law, by laying down sound principles of legal and social, commutative and distributive, justice and explaining the relations between justice and charity; in the theory of asceticism, by his precepts concerning the perfection of the Christian life and his confutation of the enemies of the religious orders in his own day. Lastly, against the much vaunted liberty of the human reason and its independence in regard to God he asserts the rights of primary Truth and the authority over us of the Supreme Master. It is therefore clear why Modernists are so amply justified in fearing no Doctor of the Church so much as Thomas Aquinas.

27. Again, if we are to avoid **errors** which are the source

CAMPAIGN TO KICK THE VATICAN OUT OF THE UN GROWS TO 400 ORGANIZATIONS

From – Catholic Family & Human Rights Institute – January 21, 2000 Volume 3, Number 10

Almost one year ago, a group of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) announced that they intend to get the Vatican kicked out of the United Nations. Through extensive international media coverage, a sophisticated web-site, and advertising in the New York Times, the campaign has grown to 400 organizations that are now calling for the UN to downgrade the status of the Vatican from Permanent Observer to NGO.

The leader of the campaign is Frances Kissling, President of Catholics for a Free Choice (CFFC), an NGO dedicated to overtuming official Catholic teaching on contraception and abortion. Kissling last year compared the Holy See's position at the UN with "Euro-Disney sitting on the Security Council." Kissling wondered "why...an entity that is in essence 100 square acres of office space and tourist attractions...with a citizenry that excludes women and children have a place at the table where governments set policies affecting the very survival of women and children."

Called "See Change", the campaign began with 70 organizations, including one of the most powerful UN NGOs, International Planned Parenthood Federation, the largest abortion provider in the world. The coalition has grown to include three major strands: pro-abortion groups, those in favor of population control, and groups hostile to religion. *Continued, top of page 5*

Continued from page 4.

Participants include the Center for Reproductive Law and Policy, Equality Now, Marie Stopes International, the National Abortion Federation, the Feminist Majority, the Sierra Club, Population Concern, Center for Research on Population and Security, the American Humanist Association, and Atheists United. The list includes groups from more than a dozen countries.

Kissling claims her coalition will ask UN Secretary General Kofi Annan to "review" the status of the Holy See. Their complaint is that the Holy See delegation is able to block various initiatives to expand women's rights in UN documents. Over the years, beginning at the International Conference on Population and Development, the Holy See has become the main voice in opposition to expansion of abortion in UN documents. The Holy See participates in a loose-knit coalition of Catholic and Muslim states that has also stopped the efforts to expand gender to include homosexuality, and to redefine the family to include homosexual couples.

Since the UN works by consensus, any small group of states can theoretically stop any piece of language they find objectionable. Since most states rely on foreign aid, the pressure to bend to the will of the Clinton Administration and the increasingly radical European Union is intense. The Holy See does not receive any foreign aid, so it cannot be pressured in the traditional ways.

Not even Kissling believes her campaign will have the stated effect of taking the Holy See out of the UN. She said as much in an article in the Washington DC-based Legal Times published last summer. Veteran UN observers understand that the Kissling effort is really intended to intimidate the Holy See delegation and to scare away her allies from Latin America and the Middle East.

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Apparitions, Continued from page 2

approves is the supernatural character, the meeting place to which our Lord invites of building up the faith, risk leading it divine origin of the apparitions. She also us, that we might be strengthened in our astray in dubious prophetism. grants them public credibility which, in the certitudes and our faithfulness as believers. eyes of the faithful, guarantees the orthodoxy of the devotion and the pilgrimage. heart of the Gospel: the revelation of the craving for the sensational and private 2) This public approval of the apparitions Son of God. We need not look for any revelations is to participate directly and does not imply for Christians what theolo- other truth than that: "God sent his son into effectively in the Church's mission. A gians call the "assent of faith." The mes- the world ... that through him the world Christian who teaches religion, for examsage of the apparitions, even if it is ap- might be saved" (John 1:11, 17). This is ple, shares too much in the seriousness of proved by the Church, retains the character the central truth of our faith. There is no of a private revelation, which is not the other. "I have told you everything in my and in faith education to burden himself direct and explicit object of our faith. The Son," writes St. John of the Cross. And the with new revelations. The Gospel and the Christian, therefore, remains free to accept entire message Bernadette received from Creed are enough for him. A Christian or to reject it. However, in deference to the the Blessed Virgin does nothing else but judgment of the Church, the Christian recall the mission of Christ the Redeemer, midst of human realities runs less risk of should have an attitude of openness and which is to reconcile all mankind in the being won over by predictions whose obvi-"pious affection." 3) With respect to the tenderness and forgiveness of the Father. apparitions or visions which have not been publicly approved by the Church, it is fit- maintaining the faith of his disciples where the vocation of the baptized lay perting to maintain an attitude of prudence within the very center of the mystery of son is to be found. and reserve. The Church allows us to carry Christ: "Only you must continue in your out certain forms of prayer, but in a private faith, firm on your foundations, never to be of truth and simplicity in the faith. We manner. She warns us against massive dislodged from the hope offered by the should look at her. She is the icon given to demonstrations that might risk abusing the gospel which you heard" (Col. 1:23). And us by the Blessed Virgin to discover, in faith, and, especially, she warns us against to Timothy, he adds: "For the spirit that her, why and how we should believe. the risk of credulity, or of devotion that God gave us is no craven spirit, but one to would endanger the proper balance of faith inspire strength, love, and and Christian hope. 4) With regard to reve- discipline" (2 Tim. 1:7) lations that have been totally turned down, it behooves the Christian conscience to on our faithfulness and, I might add, our bind itself through obedience to the loyalty, to the church, more specifically to Church's decision. That decision was not the magisterium which the Lord has estabmade without close scrutiny. There is need lished for this mission of evangelization here to purify the religious sentiment, a mission which implies, first of all, spiriwhich we know is forever exposed to what tual discernment with respect to every I call: "the tide of vain credulity" and the event of a supernatural character. need for supernatural signs.

self-

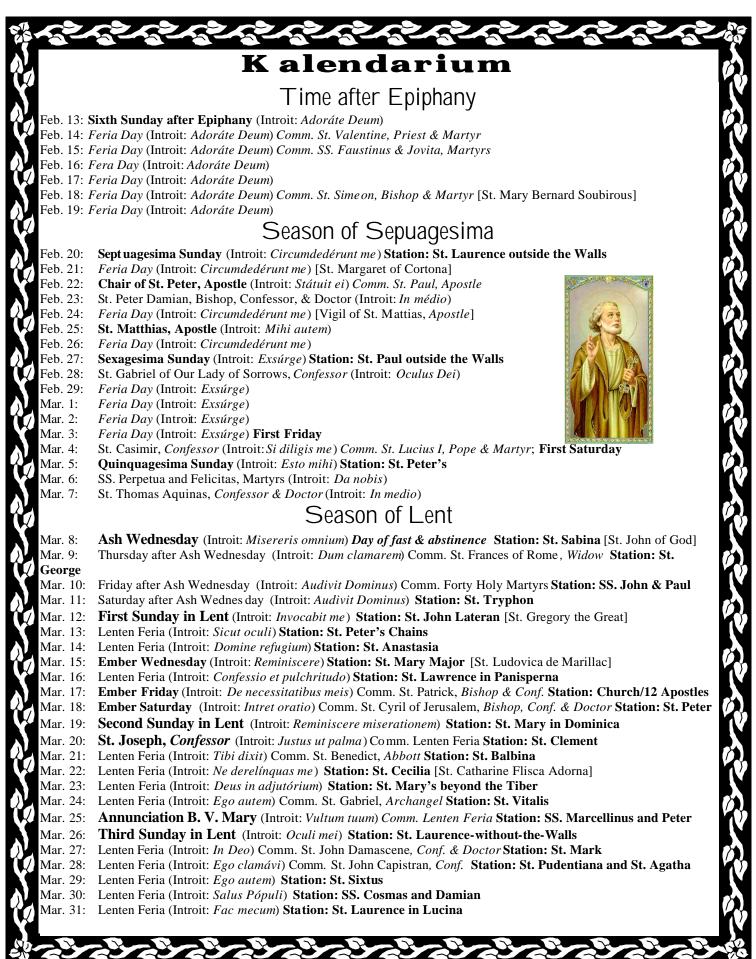
Our faithfulness as believers is founded

The faithful Christian is the one who My conclusion is precisely that our pil- defers to the judgment of the Church and grimage, in the footsteps of Bernadette and does not try to put aside his own prudence

her message, is for us a challenge to be by undertaking new and unprecedented rooted in our faith and to purify it by ad- devotions. Much less is it a question of said. 1) What the Church recognizes and hering to the essentials. Lourdes is the taking pleasure in visions, which, instead

> In closing, I would like to share a con-Our certitudes rest upon what is at the viction of mine. The best antidote for this the transmission of the Christian mysteries who wishes to witness to his faith in the ous effects are to render the faith weak and Already St. Paul was preoccupied with lead one to abandon the apostolic field,

> > Bernadette presents us with the picture

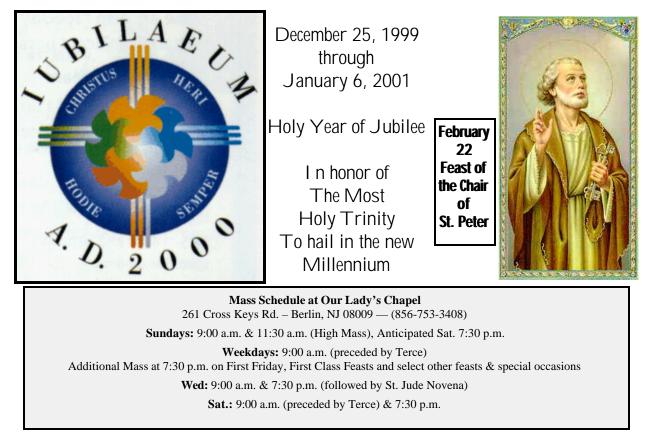


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 has received IRS approval as a 501(c)(3) corporation for tax purposes. I would like to be a member of <i>Opus Mariae</i>. I will pray the Rosary once a month for the intentions of <i>Opus Mariae</i> and I love the Latin Tridentine Liturgy and support efforts to promote its dignified celebration. Please list the following prayer intentions in <i>Cor ad Cor</i>:	
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COR AD COR — February, 2000



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