

MAY- THE MONTH OF MARY

The month of May brings to mind for many families the celebration of their children's first Communion, and for many young couples it is the favourite month to celebrate their wedding day.

But for most Catholics May is the month traditionally dedicated to Mary, the Blessed Mother of God and Mother of all Christians.

For those who were raised in a small town like me, the month of May brings back memories of Marian devotions, Marian processions, praying the rosary and singing joyful Marian songs in our home parish.

I remember our Parish Priest telling us children the true story of the apparitions of Mother Mary to the three children of Fatima, in Portugal, on May 13, 1917. Our Lady's message given to the three children was meant for all Catholics as well, we were told: "pray for the conversion of atheist Russia and for sinners to repent and return to God. Too many of them go to Hell because not enough people are praying for them! – Pray the rosary every day for peace in the world."

Since then I have learned about a great number of Marian apparitions throughout the world. Mary is sent by God as a modern day Prophet and Messenger to remind us that our Merciful Father is always waiting for the return of His prodigal children. She continues to urge us to read the Word of God, to reconcile with God through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, to spend time in adoration and thanksgiving in the Eucharistic presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, to forgive and love one another, to bring peace and unity in the family, to raise children in the love of God. She urges us to turn away from and abandon the false gods of materialism, immoral entertainment, and illicit pleasures. She reminds us that only in our Creator God we find true and everlasting happiness. **Our Bishops have been inspired to consecrate Canada to the Immaculate Heart of Mary this May 1st. By praying the rosary and following Mary's messages, we will live our own consecration and join our Shepherds into asking our Blessed Mother's protection and intercession. Pandemic and calamities can be stopped if everyone prays: that's our Lady's promise. Let us listen to Her!**