



WORLD APOSTOLATE OF FATIMA  
DETROIT ARCHDIOCESAN DIVISION



# Marian Messenger

News from The Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima

July, August, September, 2018



## Fr. John's Journal

Fr. John Hedges,  
Spiritual Director  
Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima

July is designated the “Month of the Precious Blood” – a time to think more about the Passion of Christ, to visit Him more often in the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Altar, and to adore this great “Price of our Salvation” poured out on the Cross and in every Holy Mass.

The Holy Eucharist – the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ – is called the “Living Bread come down from heaven”; the “Bread of Life”; the “Pledge of Eternal Life”; the “Bread of Immortality”, and the very “Life of the World.”

Padre Pio, whose 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of death will be commemorated on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, spoke of the Most Holy Eucharist as the reason why the world continues in existence;

“The world can exist longer without the sun, than without the Holy Mass!”

Jesus proclaimed: ***“I Am the Life of the world!” “Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood will never die, but will have eternal life!”***

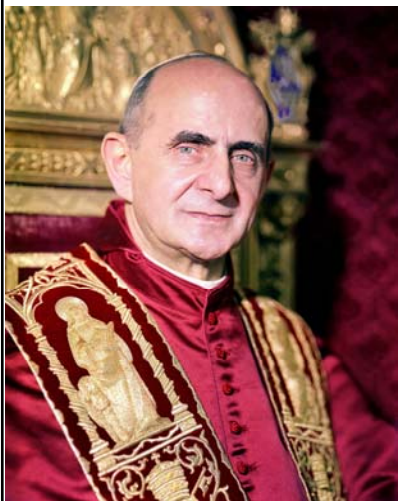
For this reason, the Church will always proclaim the Gospel of life and bear witness to the holiness and inviolability of every human life. In his encyclical letter, “The Gospel of Life,” St. John Paul II places at the center of the world, and the Church, the real and living Presence of Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist as the Source and Summit of All life. This divine Presence of God in our world preserves us from de-humanizing man. St. John Paul wrote that once we exclude God from our society, we begin to regard the human person as a “thing among other things” in this world. We see the sad reality of this today in our “culture of death.”

On July 25, 2018, we will mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Humanae Vitae, the encyclical letter of Blessed Paul VI which defended the Sanctity of human life from its conception to its natural end, and reaffirmed the Church’s condemnation of contraception, sterilization, abortion and euthanasia. Blessed Paul VI reaffirmed the Church’s constant teaching that every marital act must be open to the transmission of life. He prophesied that once we begin to allow contraception as



legitimate, we will not be content to stop there. If we can prevent the conception of new life, why not kill the fruit of conception in abortion? If we can kill the baby in the womb, why not kill the baby outside the womb in infanticide? If we can destroy life at its very beginning, why not kill life at the very end in euthanasia?

How quickly the prophecies of Blessed Paul VI were realized! Five years after the encyclical was promulgated, the Supreme Court passed its iniquitous decision, Roe vs. Wade legalizing the murder of children in our country: Fifty years later, all the prophecies of Humanae Vitae have been fulfilled: contraception, sterilization, abortion, the killing of the handicapped, the terminally ill, the elderly, and all those deemed “unworthy of life.” We also see the complete breakdown of our society in divorce, cohabitation, and same-sex unions. Blessed Paul VI, whose canonization was announced by Pope Francis, prophesied that



once we begin to “play God” with the procreative powers of the human person in conceiving new life, we would go down that slippery slope of “playing God” at all stages of human life.

Pope Paul VI suffered from Humanae Vitae. Before the encyclical

he was very popular among the hierarchy and the faithful. He had brought the Second Vatican Council to its conclusion, and had implemented many liturgical changes and reforms. There was an atmosphere of great optimism in the Church. But, Blessed Paul VI, guided by the Holy spirit, knew that the moral and doctrinal teachings of Christ and His Church could not be altered or changed. He reaffirmed the doctrinal teachings with The Credo of the People of God on June 29, 1968, and on July 25, 1968, he reaffirmed the moral teachings of Christ with Humanae Vitae.

Just as Christ was abandoned by the multitudes when He announced the great mystery of the Holy Eucharist, so Pope Paul VI

lost his popularity and support by the majority when he promulgated Humanae Vitae. He could not do otherwise.

Those who inflicted the greatest pain were the bishops themselves who should have known better. Like Pilate, they scurried favor with the crowds who clamored for a change in the Church’s teaching on contraception. Many bishops condemned Pope Paul for this teaching even though it was rooted in the Natural law, and God alone is the Author of the Natural law. Paul VI had no more authority to change the teaching of Humanae Vitae than he had the authority to change the divine Commandments.

Entire episcopal conferences dissented from the Church’s teachings. These bishops led the faithful into an underlying “schism” that persists to this day. The Church was split in two. Humanae Vitae marked the beginning of a divide between Cardinals, bishops and priests which, in 2018, is now more overt.

But not everyone abandoned Blessed Paul VI. He had tremendous support from the saints of that time! St. John Paul II (who helped to write Humanae Vitae!), St. Teresa of Calcutta, St. Jose Maria Escriva, St. James Alberione, the Servants of God, Venerable John Paul I, Venerable Fulton Sheen, and Venerable Patrick Peyton wrote letters to support to the sorrowful Pontiff. But the saint who brought him the greatest consolation was St. Pio of Pietrelcina. Shortly before his death on September 23, 1968, Padre Pio sent a message to Pope Paul VI supporting Humanae Vitae and offering his sufferings for the Holy Father. Two months after the encyclical was promulgated, Padre Pio died.



During the months of July, August, and September we want to remember the great “Mystery of Faith “ – the Holy Eucharist – which is also the great “Mystery of Life.” We want to remember

(Continued on page 5)

HV 50  
*Faithful* *to*  
GOD'S DESIGN





**President's Corner**  
**By: Leonard St. Pierre**

Summer's longer and warmer days provide us with the opportunity for renewal, both interior and exterior. Reflect on Proverbs 27:19 while you spend time in nature during these beautiful months. While relaxing in the sun, or at a lake, or while walking in the sunshine, take time to look into your heart. Does it reflect the beauty that God intended it to have? Are you using these peaceful months to practice a much needed virtue, pray more, and praise God for his awe inspiring nature? Let's all try to increase our time in nature to work on our hearts this summer.



**As face mirrors face in water, so  
the heart reflects the person.**  
*Proverbs 27:19*

of July are for Priests and their pastoral ministry. Please join me in praying more for Father John. Perhaps offer a Mass for him or find a way to say thank you to him for his priesthood and all he does for us his spiritual children.

The month of August is dedicated to **The Immaculate**

**Heart of Mary.** Join us for Masses at The Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in August. Come early as we pray Mary's rosary before Mass and honor her in a special way!

As September draws us to the close of summer, we are particularly focused on the harvest season and thanksgiving to God for the bounty of the earth. Let's pray too that we are able to bring in a harvest of souls. Pray for the conversion of sinners, ask a fallen away Catholic to attend Mass with you at The Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima. Let's bring in a harvest of souls for Jesus!

As I close this article, I want you to know that we've been busy working to offer you **new** and

beautiful items at our St. Joseph Bookstore, which is adjacent to the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima. Gorgeous statues, books and other religious items from around the world! We are offering these to you at greatly reduced and affordable prices as it's our mission to help you with your spiritual walk. Follow us on our

new Facebook page @stjosephbookstore for updates on sales, and new items as well as prayers and articles to help you with your faith walk. Thank you to all our volunteers who make our St. Joseph Bookstore a true gem for Catholics Downriver.

May God bless you!



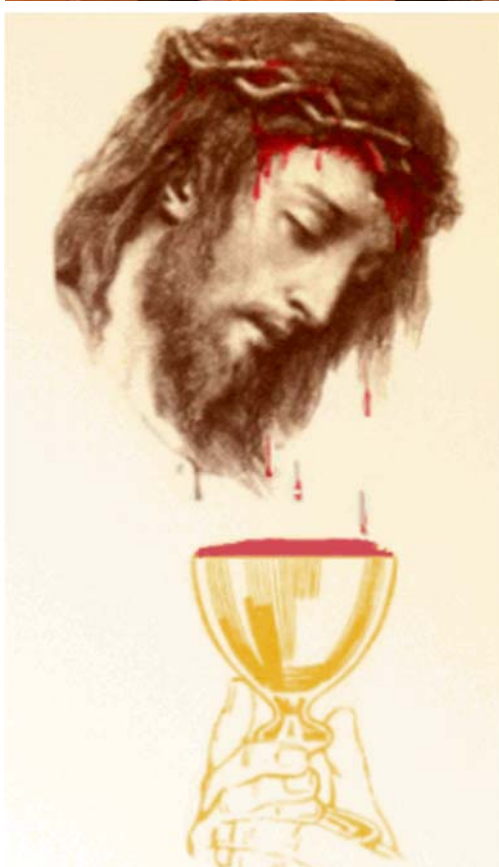
**THANK YOU FATHER JOHN!**  
We are extremely blessed to have Father John Hedges as the Spiritual Director of the World Apostolate of Fatima, Detroit Archdiocesan Division. He works tirelessly for our apostolate; celebrating Mass at The Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima each First Friday and First Saturday and on the 13<sup>th</sup>s of the month from May-October. He also hears countless confessions before Mass, blesses religious items and feeds us so much spiritual food! The Holy Father's intentions for the month





## Thank you Knights of Columbus!

Monsignor Eppenbrock Council #3615 contributed funds towards the restoration of the ciborium used at the Our Lady of Fatima Shrine. The Mass on April 6th was celebrated for the deceased members of their counsel. Thanks to the other generous benefactors who also contributed to the restoration of the ciborium!



## Blood of Jesus, Help me!

In every need let me come to Thee with humble trust saying:

**Blood of Jesus, help me!**

In all my doubts, perplexities, and temptations,

**Blood of Jesus, help me!**

In hours of loneliness, weariness and trials,

**Blood of Jesus, help me!**

In the failure of my plans and hopes; in disappointments, troubles and sorrows,

**Blood of Jesus, help me!**

When my heart is cast down by failure, at seeing no good come from my efforts, ,

**Blood of Jesus, help me!**

When others fail me, and Thy grace alone can assist me.

**Blood of Jesus, help me!**

When I throw myself on Thy tender love at my Father and Savior.

**Blood of Jesus, help me!**

When I feel impatient, and my cross irritates me.

**Blood of Jesus, help me!**

When I am ill, and my head and hands cannot work and I am lonely,

**Blood of Jesus, help me!**

Always, always in spite of weakness, falls and short-comings, of every kind.

**Blood of Jesus, help me and never forsake me.**



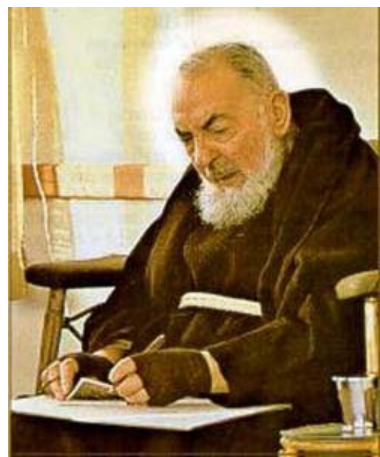
Blessed Paul VI, who fifty years ago wrote “On Human Life” (Humanae Vitae). We want to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of his death on August 6, 1978, the feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord. (Blessed Paul VI would also write an encyclical on the Holy Eucharist entitled. “The Mystery of Faith” (Mysterium Fidei) reaffirming the doctrine of Transubstantiation and refuting the Protestant errors denying the Real Presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament resurfacing after the Second Vatican Council.)



And, finally, we want to remember St. Padre Pio on the fiftieth anniversary of his death.

One hundred years ago, on September 20, 1918, Padre Pio received the sacred stigmata while making his thanksgiving after Holy Mass in the monastery choir at San Giovanni Rotondo. Until his death, he suffered the Passion of Jesus in his body and soul especially during the Mass. His life was spent in the confessional and at the altar as a victim soul for the conversion of sinners. His constant prayer was the Holy Rosary, which he recited continuously: and had many mystical experiences of Our Lord, the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Michael, the Angels, and the Holy Souls in Purgatory. He engaged in hand-to-hand combat with Satan.

Padre Pio knew the apparitions of Our Lady at Garabandal were true. From 1961 until his death, he encouraged pilgrims to San Giovanni Rotondo to visit Garabandal, Spain, and to heed the messages of Our Lady and St. Michael. He sent a



message to one of the seers, Conchita, and one of his gloves that covered his stigmata, to show his support and lend credence to the apparitions.

In memory of St. Padre Pio, I conclude with the words of the Virgin of Carmel at Garabandal:

## THE TWO FORMAL MESSAGES OF OUR LADY AT GARABANDAL

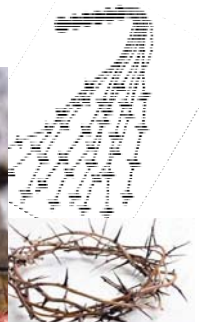
**October 18, 1961** We must make many sacrifices, perform much penance, and visit the Blessed Sacrament frequently. But first, we must lead good lives. If we do not, a chastisement will befall us. The cup is already filling up, and if we do not change, a very great chastisement will come upon us.

**June 18, 1965** As my message of October eighteenth has not been complied with and has not been made known to the world, I am advising you that this is the last one.

Before, the cup was filling up. Now it is flowing over. Many cardinals, many bishops and many priests are on the road to perdition and are taking many souls with them. Less and less importance is being given to the Eucharist.

You should turn the wrath of God away from yourselves by your efforts. If you ask His forgiveness with sincere hearts, He will pardon you. I, your mother, through the intercession of Saint Michael the Archangel, ask you to amend your lives.

You are now receiving the last warnings. I love you very much and do not want your condemnation. Pray to Us with sincerity and We will grant your requests. You should make more sacrifices. Think about the Passion of Jesus.



There is no greater  
Love than this.

*The World Apostolate of Our Lady of Fatima of Michigan, Inc.*

*Detroit Archdiocesan Division*

*18637 Ray Street*

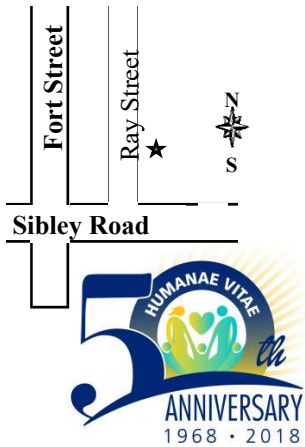
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Pray the Rosary · Wear the Scapular



## The Holy Mass Schedule

### July

**July 6th**, First Friday, 7:00 P.M.

**July 7th**, First Saturday Mass 8:00 A.M.

**Friday, July 13th**, Mass 7:00 P.M.

### August

**August 3rd**, First Friday, - Mass 7:00 P.M.

**August 4th**, First Saturday Mass 8:00 A.M.

**Monday, August 13th**, Mass 7:00 P.M.

### September

**September 1st**, First Saturday Mass 8:00 A.M.

**September 7th**, First Friday, - Mass 7:00 P.M.

**Thursday, September 13th**, Mass 7:00 P.M.

Confessions are heard 1/2 hour before First Friday and  
First Saturday Masses

### Virtus Men's Prayer Group

Virtus Men's Prayer Group has regular meetings:  
9:00 AM-10:30 in the Chapel on  
**2nd and 4th Saturdays.**

### St. Joseph Bookstore hours

**Before and after all Masses**

**Wednesdays 11:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.**

**Saturdays 11:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.**

All work at The Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima is  
done by volunteers. We have no paid staff. Please  
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**E-mail us at:** [bluearmy18637@gmail.com](mailto:bluearmy18637@gmail.com)

Leonard St. Pierre at: (313) 320-7887.

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