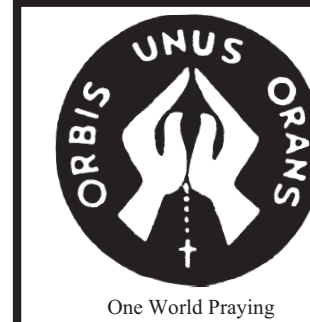


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FATIMA NEWS

November - December 2006

Pres. David Tedford's Message:

As most of you know, Sunday October 15, 2006 was the annual diocesan-wide Rosary Sunday in Phoenix. The event, I feel was highlighted by a talk by Fr. Andrew Apostoli, CFR. Fr. Apostoli is a big National and International World of Apostolate (WAF) promoter. Fr. Apostoli spoke about the Rosary, the Message of Fatima and the Five First Saturdays of Reparation.

Feeling awful proud of being your President of the Phoenix Diocesan Division, I had to go introduce myself. Thinking wow, I am the president of this division, Fr. Apostoli will notice me. Well, Fr. Apostoli informed me that I had a **GRAVE RESPONSIBILITY** to promote the Five First Saturday Devotion. My prideful ego was now popped, because I knew that there was a lot more I could have done. So now, I will try to change.

The blessed Virgin appeared to Sr. Lucia in her convent at Pontevedra, Spain on December 10, 1925. The Most Holy Virgin said, "...I promise to assist at the hour of death, with the graces necessary for salvation,

THE GIFT OF HOPE

—Rev. Fred LeClaire CMF, Dioc. Div. Spiritual Director

Dear WAF Members,

This is a special time in our Church! We have celebrated Rosary Sunday in the diocese of Phoenix and have begun children's adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. Often times, it is easier for us to hear the evil and bad things that are happening in the world. *The gift of hope* tells us that God does not abandon us and is still working in our world. It is obvious that the works of many dedicated members of the WAF are reaping positive rewards in our harvest for souls.

In November, we remember all the saints, people who inspire us to remain faithful in following the gospel message. This is done by prayer, works of mercy, sacrifice, and bearing witness to the gospel message. We are all blessed in our baptismal call to continue the gift of our ministry in following the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary in bringing others to her Son. This is what the saints did in their lives. We are called to be saints today in living fully the gifts that God has given to us to help others along the path of salvation. Saints are not simply people of the past, but are alive and well today. We share in this calling in following the example of Mary and confront the evils of this world with the good works of the WAF. What a blessing to have positive news and activities excite our world and bring a new found hope.

This hope is magnified during the Advent and Christmas season. It is a time of expectation and joy. A hope that is fulfilled leads to joy, and no greater joy can we have than the gift of our salvation. Jesus' birth is the beginning of our salvation and an annual reminder that our work is not yet complete. Our journey through life is a time for us to give gifts every day of our lives. That special spirit of Christmas should be with us daily in our fulfillment of our Christian calling.

Advent is a time that prepares us to enter more fully into that joy by realizing our salvation is near. This is a time of hope, expectation, and joy. The pessimism of evil would like us to believe otherwise. It reflects upon sadness, fate, and hopelessness. As people who have endured the crucifixion with our daily struggles and sufferings, we are reminded that there is a resurrection. Without that hope, we will never experience joy and fulfillment.

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