



# SSPX



## Regina Coeli Report

Number 304 June - July 2022 ∴

# Fatima and Holy Communion

During the month of May many of our chapels have celebrated the First Communion of their members. The month of May is also dedicated in a particular way to honoring the Blessed Mother. This issue of the *Regina Coeli Report* unifies those two ideas in a very concrete way.

That way is through the example of the Fatima children. When we receive Our Lord we receive Heaven in our souls and become transformed into him. Becoming like Christ means sharing his spirit as the Fatima seers did. Sharing his spirit means sacrifice in reparation for sin out of a selfless love of God.

If we want to keep the same selfishness in our lives, he can't change us. We not only need to pray at the Mass in which we communicate but also make our

lives one great preparation for the Eucharist as those children did.

The Blessed Mother and her Marian month remind us that she is our greatest friend and ally in becoming what we're meant to be as she was for them.

In an age when respect for the Eucharist has become so denigrated, we need the example of the three children. The reduction of Our Lord's presence at Mass to a mere symbol and the consequent cavalier attitude towards receiving Him in the hand make that need even more pressing.

We hope that the example of the Fatima seers and the examples of children throughout the District in this issue making their First Communions will inspire in all of us a great devotion to the Blessed Sacrament.

# Letter from the District Superior



Dear Friends,

Having passed the month of May and entered June, this *Regina Coeli Report* presents the First Communion ceremonies in our chapels throughout the U.S. District. The Eucharist is the center of parish life emphasized in the months dedicated to the Sacred Heart and His Mother.

A good First Communion is a well prepared First Communion. This means both parents and teachers take part in cooperating with God's grace coming into a soul. Images in this issue demonstrate the extremely active life in our District schools and chapels involved in this process.

During a time of social conflict over God's sole sovereignty over human life, the importance of this involvement is even more highlighted. Good First Communicants daily strengthened by the presence of Our Lord will grow into good citizens unafraid to stand for God's Law.

I encourage all of you to devoutly receive Communion as frequently as possible. The more we are asked to stand for our Faith, the more we need Our Lord. Please continue to support our apostolate in the Society of St. Pius X as we continue to bring Our Lord and His Faith to you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "John P. Fullerton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fr. John Fullerton



# Fatima and Holy Communion

We are familiar with the story of the Fatima apparitions in 1917 ending in the very public Miracle of the Sun. What can too often go unnoticed is the real beginning of the Fatima story, the apparitions of the Angel of Peace in 1916.



Those apparitions were centered round the Eucharist, called the “Hidden Jesus” by the Fatima children. Their lives and First Communions reflect how important He was for them and teach us how important He should be for us.

## Angel of Portugal

On a spring day in 1916, as on many others, the children took out their parent’s sheep. Because of a rainfall they took shelter in a cave where they knelt to say the rosary. They felt a strong wind and looking up saw a light over the valley. The brilliant light took the form of a young man and entered the cave.

His first words to them were “Do not be afraid! I am the Angel of Peace. Pray with me.” He taught them the prayer *“My God I believe; I adore; I hope, and I love Thee. I beg pardon for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope, and do not love Thee.”* He told them to pray that way often and that Jesus and Mary heard their prayers.

He would visit them two more times in the summer of that year. The first time he told them to pray incessantly and offer everything in their life to God. He told them to especially offer the sufferings the good God would send them.

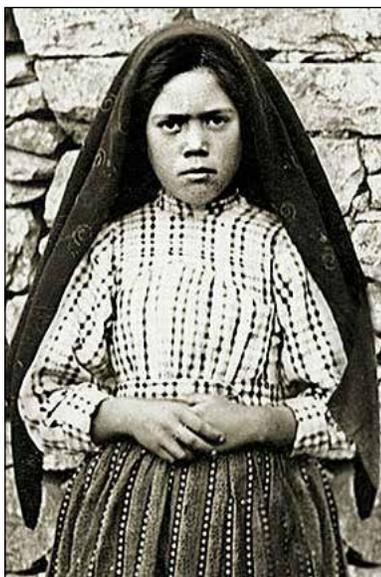
Those sacrifices would soon come. Francisco and Jacinta’s brother would enlist in the army in World War I. Lucia’s father began to spend the little money he earned for his family at the bar.

The last time the Angel saw them he gave the Host

to Lucia and the contents of a chalice to Francisco and Jacinta. It was then that he taught them another prayer:

*Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, I adore Thee profoundly, and I offer Thee the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges and indifferences by which he is offended. By the infinite merits of his most Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg of Thee the conversion of poor sinners.*<sup>1</sup>

Each of us has a Guardian Angel. We should ask him to help us prepare to receive Our Lord as the Angel of Portugal did for the children. The prayers that he taught them express very well what that preparation is. That preparation is adoration, sacrifice, and trust.



## Sister Lucia

At the time of those apparitions Lucia was the only one of the three to receive her First Communion. She had made it three years previously at age six, unheard of at that time when ten was the usual minimum. It was a visiting Jesuit

missionary, called in to help with confessions, Fr. Cruz, who convinced Lucia's parish priest, Fr. Pena, to include her.

Fr. Cruz had found her in tears at being excluded and examined her. He told her pastor, "She understands what she's doing better than many of the others." Her life justified his judgment. After her First Communion she said she "...only felt at home in some solitary place where, all alone, I could recall the delights of my First Communion."

Before her First Communion she asked what she should do and received some excellent advice from her confessor that bears repeating:

*Kneel down there before Our Lady and ask her, with great confidence, to take care of your heart,*

*to prepare it to receive her beloved Son worthily tomorrow, and to keep it for Him alone!*<sup>2</sup>

Even better than her confessor's advice was her mother's. She told Lucia; "Above all, ask Him to make you a saint." Sister Lucia said that one sentence from her mother made such an impression on her that even as a nun years later she could hear the echo of her mother's voice when she received Our Lord.<sup>3</sup>

Sister Lucia lived a long and lonely life. Her death in 2005 was at a convent where she had lived since 1948. Think of how many times she received Our Lord during those years, and how prepared she must have been to receive him!

As a First Communicant, Lucia is already teaching us. She teaches us that to receive Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament means being on the path to becoming a saint.

## Jacinta

Before the Angel of Peace appeared to Jacinta she was identified by her desire for Our Lord. On one Feast of Corpus Christi, she was overjoyed because Lucia's sister told her that they would see Our Lord. Lucia's sister was perplexed when during the actual Eucharistic procession Jacinta didn't strew flowers in front of Our Lord.

'Jacinta, why didn't you strew your flowers before Jesus?'

'Because I didn't see him. Did you see the Child Jesus?'

'Of course not. Don't you know that the Child Jesus in the Host can't be seen? He's hidden! He's the one we receive in Communion!'

'And you, when you go to Communion, do you talk to Him?'

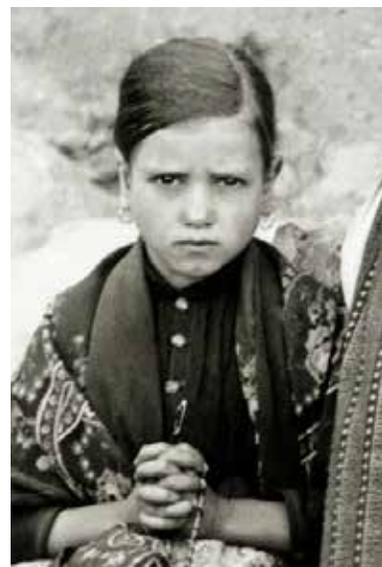
'Yes, I do.'

'Then, why don't you see him?'

'Because he's hidden.'

'I'm going to ask my mother if I can go to Communion, too.'<sup>4</sup>

From that time on, Jacinta was insatiable in her desire to learn





the catechism so that she could receive Our Lord. She never stopped asking Lucia questions about the Blessed Sacrament.

Jacinta would die in a hospital in far-away Lisbon, Portugal. She suffered for two months after an epidemic of bronchopneumonia. She had a large wound in her chest that became infected and necessitated the removal of two ribs. All that suffering for a 10-year-old!

Her great desire in that suffering was the same as before. On February 20th, 1920, she knew her death was near and asked to receive Viaticum. The priest promised to come the following day, but Jacinta did not survive the night. Our Lord would ask her to wait to be with him in heaven.

The great idea Jacinta had was saving souls. She offered everything to God and became a great saint. She even offered not being able to receive Our Lord before her death. Being willing to offer anything for others is a big part of being ready to receive Communion well.

## Francisco

Out of all three children, Francisco was the most reflective and the most devoted to the love of the Eucharist. After drinking from the chalice, he said “I knew God was in me, but did not know how he was.”

Unlike Lucia and Jacinta, Francisco could not hear either the Angel or Our Lady speak. His whole focus was on what he saw, which made a deep impression on him. What impressed him most was the idea of spending time with Our Lord to console him.

As part of consoling Our Lord he resolved to avoid all sin as part of doing what pleased God. From age seven he started to go to confession frequently. He became sick with the same bronchopneumonia Jacinta had. Francisco offered everything he suffered to God as a sacrifice.



Francisco had one fear. He was afraid that he was so sick he wouldn't be able to receive Communion before death. On April 2nd, 1919, he confessed and fasted despite being deathly ill to receive Communion for the first and only time on April 3rd.

Imagine what Francisco's one and only Communion must have been! It was the First Communion of someone who only cared about Christ. He teaches us that only caring about Christ means avoiding sin. Avoiding sin is a must for making a good Communion!

## Three First Communicants

The Fatima children's lives are a living catechism. Their story has beautiful lessons for us to prepare our children to receive Communion. If we're honest with ourselves, they have a lot to teach us about receiving Our Lord ourselves!

1. [https://sspx.org/en/fatima\\_angel\\_apparitions\\_peace](https://sspx.org/en/fatima_angel_apparitions_peace)
2. Sister Lucia, Fatima in Lucia's Own Words pg. 81
3. Sister Lucia, Fatima in Lucia's Own Words pg. 82
4. Sister Lucia, Fatima in Lucia's Own Words pg. 46

# Preparing Children for Holy Communion

Interview with an SSPX priest

## **What do you look for in evaluating if a child is ready to make their First Communion?**

The easiest way to answer that question is by starting off saying what's not necessary. Children don't need to necessarily have an encyclopedic knowledge of their Faith. Often that can result in them using a lot of words they don't understand.

That being said, a fundamental knowledge of the mysteries of their Faith is absolutely necessary. That does involve some things that they will have to memorize without a complete grasp. The Creed, the Sacraments, the Commandments, knowing basic prayers are all a part of solid instruction in their Faith.

What is most important is that they understand that when they receive Communion, they receive Our Lord. They must know He is truly present in the Host, that He comes to them to help them to be good. If a child can't answer that he receives Our Lord in Communion, he can't receive!

Flowing from that truth, what they do when they receive should be explained to them. Since it is really Our Lord coming to them in the Host, they kneel to receive him on the tongue. They shouldn't look around when they go to Communion.

They should ask their Guardian Angel to help them receive Him well and thank Our Lord afterwards. Kneel up straight when receiving, and before and after receiving, because they are welcoming God with respect and love.

The prayers they are taught to say, the bodily postures they are taught to adopt, all of that teach a child God is there. Our Lord's Real Presence is a reality which is becoming more and more lost, so belief in it must be more and more strengthened from as early an age as possible.

## **Who should prepare children to receive their First Communion?**

Everyone should know that parents have a duty before God to instruct their children in the Faith. Part of that instruction is ensuring they are prepared to receive him in the Blessed Sacrament.

Marriage is for raising children to go to Heaven, which implies knowing they know how to get there!

Of course, that doesn't mean they necessarily need to teach them everything directly. Their parish school or catechism program are there precisely to help parents fulfill their duty. A good practicing Catholic in either environment working with the parents ensures that this is possible.

But even with this help, parents shouldn't "check out" on their children's preparation! As with any part of their education, at home they should check in to make sure that their children are learning their Catechism. Parents should talk to their children about their big day like it's something important. Their big day should be celebrated as well, with a party either hosted or attended! Give them a nice rosary or prayer book as a First Communion gift.

## **What follow up can parents do to ensure that graces from their children's First Communion persist?**

Simply said, take them to Mass! If daily Mass is not circumstantially possible for some, take advantage of First Fridays, First Saturdays, and feasts. Treat as much as possible going to Mass as a normal part of your life, and not just on Sundays. That makes receiving Our Lord a normal contact in their life.

Children learn by example. Parents receiving devoutly, praying, stays in their head. As with any aspect of parenting, there are all sorts of difficulties and distractions. Crying babies, uncooperative children, thoughts of things to be done that day can make recollection difficult.

However, it doesn't make it impossible. The internal attitude of belief in Our Lord's presence and offering of yourself to Him can be there, distractions or not. If all a mother has is 5 seconds for herself at Mass, use them to offer her Mass in union with Christ's sacrifice to God. Those 5 seconds make that Mass sanctifying for her!



There were attendees from all of the SSPX chapels in the Pacific NW for the Oregon Right to Life Rally & March to commemorate the January 22 anniversary of Roe vs. Wade. Approximately 40 attended the event.

Parishioners held their first annual “Builder’s Expo” at Our Lady of Fatima in Vancouver, WA to celebrate the feast of St. Joseph the Worker. The faithful brought in samples of their talent and competed for prizes.





The Jubilee Cup is an annual event held in St. Marys, KS where the students from St. Marys, St. Vincent de Paul in Kansas City, MO, and Our Lady Help of Christians in Watkins, CO meet to celebrate the anniversary of the founding of the SSPX. The meeting ended with a rosary walk to the cemetery to gain the indulgences for the Poor Souls.

A procession in honor of Our Lady at Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Church in West Palm Beach, FL.



The champions of St. Vincent de Paul's (Kansas City, MO) fourth annual North American Martyrs Whiffle Ball Tournament: the Peppercorn Pandas.





Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Church in West Palm Beach, FL held an All Saints Day Pageant on November 21.



On Ash Wednesday, the children at Our Lady of Fatima in Vancouver, WA made a crown of thorns craft out of toothpicks and dough. The children then take out toothpicks all through Lent as they make sacrifices.

Our Lady of Fatima in Vancouver, WA (near Portland, OR) hosts potluck Soup Suppers on Fridays in Lent after Stations of the Cross.





Students from St. Joseph's Church in Ray Township, MI are happy to be in the second year at their new building — even if it is a renovated insurance office down the street from the chapel!



Students from Queen of Angels in Dickinson, TX went on a field trip to Loretto Chapel in Santa Fe, NM, built in 1878. Loretto Chapel is known for its unusual spiral staircase that has two 360 degrees turns and no visible means of support. It is also said that the staircase was built without nails, only wooden pegs.



High School boys from Queen of Angels Academy in Dickinson, TX with their Principal, Fr. Purdy. Queen of Angels has recently expanded their school to include grades 9-12.



Father Fabula and his “mini me” at the All Saints Day Celebration at Our Lady of Victory Mission in Davie, FL.



Father participates in one of the games set up by parishioners for the All Saints Day Festival at Our Lady of Victory.



The entire student body from Queen of Angels Academy in Dickinson, TX gather for their flag ceremony at the start of the school day.

## US Pilgrimages

**Cabrini Pilgrimage** **August 19-20, 2022**  
Walk from St. Isidore's Church in Watkins, CO, to the shrine of St. Frances Cabrini in the foothills of Golden, CO. The first American citizen saint and patron of immigrants, Mother Cabrini worked tirelessly in the areas of New York, Chicago and Denver in the U.S. Contact Sharon Ocaña for more information: socana@saintisidore.org.

**Auriesville Pilgrimage** **September 10, 2022**  
Join other pilgrims in upstate New York for a trek culminating at the hallowed ground where a group of Jesuit priests and religious were martyred by the Iroquois Indians: Sts. Isaac Jogues, René Goupil and John LaLande. Near the same shrine is the birthplace of the "Lily of the Mohawks" St. Kateri Tekakwitha. For more information, contact: auriesville@sspax.org.

**Starkenburg, MO Pilgrimage** **October 6-8, 2022**  
This pilgrimage takes place over three days, but pilgrims are welcome to join for a two or one-day pilgrimage. Pilgrims walk to the small Missouri town of Starkenburg to visit the shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows. Organized by St. Vincent de Paul Church, Kansas City, MO. Contact: svdpchapel@gmail.com.

For more information please visit [sspaxflorida.com](http://sspaxflorida.com) or contact [stma.office@gmail.com](mailto:stma.office@gmail.com) / (407) 212-3032.

## Mass Stipends

To request a Mass intention, please note the current requested stipends:

- For one Mass: \$20
- For a novena of Masses (9 consecutive Masses): \$200
- For Gregorian Masses (30 consecutive Masses): \$800

## Upcoming Retreats

### Men:

Aug 29-Sept 3	Ignatian	Ridgefield, CT
Aug 29-Sept 3	Ignatian	Los Gatos, CA
Sept 12-17	Ignatian	Phoenix, AZ
Oct 10-15	Ignatian	Los Gatos, CA
Nov 7-12	Ignatian (Spanish)	Phoenix, AZ
Nov 14-19	Ignatian	Ridgefield, CT
Dec 5-10	Ignatian	Phoenix, AZ
Dec 14-17	3-day Ignatian	Los Gatos, CA

### Women:

July 11-16	Ignatian	Ridgefield, CT
July 18-23	Vocations	Phoenix, AZ
Aug 8-13	Ignatian	Ridgefield, CT
Sept 19-24	Ignatian	Los Gatos, CA
Oct 10-15	Ignatian	Phoenix, AZ
Oct 10-15	Ignatian	Ridgefield, CT
Nov 14-19	Ignatian (Spanish)	Phoenix, AZ
Nov 30-Dec 3	3-day Ignatian	Los Gatos, CA

### Mixed:

Oct 26-29	Matrimony	Phoenix, AZ
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Dates subject to change. For more information please contact: 816-733-2500 | [www.sspax.org](http://www.sspax.org)

## Eucharistic Crusade

### Monthly Intentions

**June:** For the Superiors of the Society of Saint Pius X



*Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, model of the priestly heart, have mercy on us. (3 times)*

**July:** For the Pope and the Bishops around the world

*O Holy Ghost, Creator, renew in charity and grace the spirit of thy servants, whom Thou hast anointed, that they may glorify Thee and the Father and His only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

**August:** For Christians suffering persecution

*O God, from whom proceed all holy desires, all right counsels and just works; grant unto us Thy servants that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be devoted to Thy service, and that, being delivered from the fear of our enemies, we may pass our time in peace under Thy protection. Through Christ our Lord. Amen..*

E-mail: [eucharistic-crusade@sspax.org](mailto:eucharistic-crusade@sspax.org)