



Bishop's Monthly Reflection

May 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we find ourselves “on the heels” of the recent consecration of Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, we are reminded that May is dedicated to Our Lady as our *Blessed* Mother. On Mothers’ Day, the second Sunday of May, we express our love and gratefulness for *motherhood*. It is a special day when we show our thankfulness for the gift of life, and the love we have received from our mothers throughout our lives.

Also, within the providential love of Our Lord, Jesus chose the month of May to send his Mother to share with the shepherd children of Fátima in 1917, his message of peace for the Church and the world. It is because of her bidding, that we have consecrated Russia and Ukraine, and the whole world, to her Immaculate Heart. Pope Francis’ desire for the Church to join him in this consecration, is not to be seen, solely, as a *pious* gesture soon to be forgotten. We are called to continue to fulfill Our Lady’s request to pray the Rosary for peace and for the conversion of sinners.

Our Heavenly Mother, Our Lady of the Rosary, stresses the importance of praying the Rosary daily and to commit to the First Saturday Devotion to her Immaculate Heart. Her instruction was not only to consecrate Russia to her Immaculate Heart, but, also, to engage our hearts in this special devotion to her Maternal Heart. She assured the shepherd children, and assures us, that if this was practiced, there would, and will be peace; and in the end, her Immaculate Heart will triumph!

Let us commit to Our Blessed Mother’s desire, God’s heavenly remedy, which she proclaimed to the children of Fátima. Let us take up the Rosary during this month of May. As a family, make it a point to set up a special prayer space in the home, within the *domestic church*, and pray the Rosary together during this month of May. Be it in the home or within faith formation classes, we are to teach our children to become familiar with the Rosary and become *disciples of the Rosary*.

I challenge all, during the month of May, to become familiar with the message of Fátima and the six apparitions of Our Lady. Allow the message to serve as a means to catechize the family. The teaching of the Trinity, the Eucharist, the Gospel, Heaven/Purgatory/Hell, morals and virtues, and the power of prayer and penance is all-encompassing in this



OFFICE OF BISHOP MYRON J. COTTA, D.D.

“school of Mary.” If you, as an individual or as a family, are seeking to be evangelized and are desiring to be formed *anew* in the Faith, look no further than the evangelical message of Fátima. The Message of Fátima can play a key role in opening the door to the *New Evangelization* and *Family Catechesis*!

As mother, Our Lady taught and formed her children and pupils well. Lúcia, Jacinta and Francisco, through the gifts of *grace and mercy*, came to know the depths of the mysteries of faith. So, too, can we!

Lord Jesus, we thank you for your Mother Mary and ask that you bless all mothers, especially, those who have gone before us. May they know your love and mercy.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us.
Our Lady of the Rosary of Fátima, pray for us.
Our Lady, Mother of the Church, pray for us.

In the Peace of the *Risen* Christ,

Bishop Myron J. Cotta