

✠ J.M.J. ✠

“After that, He saith to the disciple: Behold thy Mother.” – John 19:27

[Date]

[Feast]

Dear [Name],

The three children who interacted with Our Lady of Fatima were changed forever by the experience. Every word and gesture of the Queen of Heaven overflowed with incomparable grace and sublime reverence for God. The children loved to ponder Her inexpressible beauty and goodness.

Our Lady led the Fatima children to virtue and to Her Son. She does the same for us today. She is the most sublime work of God’s creation and redemption, who urges us to do whatever Jesus wants (*cf.* Jn 2:5). To prayerfully consider Her life and Her virtues is a certain means of sanctification.

The poet Dante recognized the importance of Our Lady to living a virtuous life. In his great allegory on the spiritual life, *The Divine Comedy*, he depicts souls climbing Mount Purgatory, advancing to higher levels only when they have cleansed themselves of each of the seven capital sins. Souls replace pride, envy, wrath, sloth, avarice, gluttony, and lust with humility, benignity, patience, diligence, generosity, temperance, and purity ***by imitating the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary!*** On each level of Mount Purgatory, souls witness a scene from Our Lady’s life exemplifying a particular virtue, which they ponder and internalize on their prayerful journey upwards.

The *best* response we can make to the current crisis in the Church and the world is to draw ourselves closer to Our Lord by advancing in the spiritual life. There is no better guide for doing this than Our Lady. Pope St. Pius X assures us, *“Nobody ever knew Christ so profoundly as She did, and nobody can ever be more competent as a guide and teacher of the knowledge of Christ.”* Saint Louis de Montfort adds, *“In the school of the Blessed Virgin, the soul progresses further in a week than in a year elsewhere.”*

You and I must enroll in the school of Our Lady!

The Fatima Center has begun an ambitious project to “enroll” as many souls as possible in “the school of the Blessed Virgin.” In a series of videos and podcasts entitled *“Know Mary, Know Jesus”* (a.k.a. *No Mary, No Jesus*), traditional Marian priests will teach us about our Blessed Mother – pondering Her life, Her virtues, Her mysteries, and Her many titles. Production on this series has already begun, but we need your help to bring this important endeavor to completion!

In our diabolically disoriented age, we must have a tender devotion to Our Lady to persevere in grace. Such a devotion is not optional – Our Lord insists upon it. When Sister Lucia asked Our Lord why He would not convert Russia without its Consecration, He replied: *“Because I want My*

whole Church to acknowledge that Consecration as a triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary so that it may ... put the devotion of the Immaculate Heart beside the devotion to My Sacred Heart."

To love someone, you must first know him or her. Our Lady is too little known in the world today. Instead, many attack Our Lady's Immaculate Conception, Her role as Co-Redemptrix, Her Rosary, and other Marian devotions.

The "*KNow Mary, KNow Jesus*" series is essential for The Fatima Center because it advances our primary objective. This series will help *many souls* come to know and love Our Lady, imitate Her virtues, and explain Her to others. It will help us make Reparation to Console Our Mother – The Fatima Center's theme for 2021 – by performing the Five First Saturdays devotion with greater fervor. It will help merit the graces so desperately needed for the Church hierarchy to consecrate Russia.

Given the importance of this project, we are determined to launch it immediately, despite not having the funds to complete it. The costs of quality video production are high, but the stakes in the battle for souls are higher.

The first episode of the series with Father Daniel Couture will air on The Fatima Center's website and YouTube channel on Sunday, August 15th, the Feast of the Assumption.

A new episode will follow on each Sunday thereafter. I strongly encourage you to watch or listen to these episodes. A full-page insert enclosed with this letter provides all the relevant details. We are counting on the zeal and generosity of Our Lady's friends like you to see this effort through.

Our Heavenly Queen is the highest created model of Christian virtue. She is blessed among women – blessed in the great humility She modeled in the Annunciation, blessed in the great generosity She modeled at the Marriage feast in Cana, blessed in all the virtues modeled throughout Her life. By your prayers and donations, please help us make Her better known, honored, and loved throughout the world for the good of souls. May Our Lady, in turn, reward you!

Ad Iesum per Mariam,



Fr. Michael Rodríguez
Diocese of El Paso, Texas

P.S. Please help The Fatima Center complete our bold new project, "*KNow Mary, KNow Jesus*," a video and podcast series designed to make Our Lady better known and loved. Video production is expensive, but with your financial support, we can use mass media to lead souls to the Faith and to a life of virtue in imitation of Our Blessed Mother. The first episode of the series will be available on The Fatima Center's website and YouTube channel on August 15th. If you wish to receive regular email updates regarding new episodes in this series, please include your email address on the enclosed reply form. Please spread the word to your family members and friends!