

The Active Presence of Mary

John 19 At the most important moment in the history of the world Jesus gave us two gifts:

1. He shed his blood for us which purchased our redemption
2. He gave His mother to be our mother

Her role is to be a *maternal presence*

- To help you and I and the whole world to know her Son Jesus
- and to do His will in all things

We have not taken full advantage of this gift, so I want to tell you a story that may help you embrace Mary as your Mother for she has been sent from heaven to lead us to her Son.

Approved Apparitions

Mexico City	1531 – Our Lady of Guadalupe
Paris	1830 – St. Catherine Labouré – Miraculous Medal concurrent with a revolution Coup in July but far more peaceful than 1789.
LaSalatte	1846 – Mary foretells the rise of Communism two years before Marx writes the Communist Manifesto.
Lourdes	1858 – St. Bernadette – Pray the Rosary – The French regime was openly atheistic and hostile to the Church with socialism on the rise
Pontmain	1871 – Franco Prussian War
Knock Ireland	1879
Fatima, Portugal	1917 WWI and the Communist Revolution
Beauraing, Belgium	1932 – Hilter takes over fully and begins expansion
Banneux, Belgium	1933
Akita, Japan	1984 – highpoint of Nuclear crisis: example Norwegian weather balloon incident.
Chontaleu, Nicaragua	1987
Kibeho, Rwanda	1988
Betania, Venezuela	
Medjugorje	1981 to the present (Still under investigation – the local bishop has not given his approval)

Fatima helps us to understand why Mary appeared and what she was sent to tell us

The historical context

Russia had been a Christian nation for over 900 years (King Vladimir was baptized in 987) – Yet overnight it becomes Atheistic. *How?*

Gregory Rasputin is without question one of the most scandalous figures in Russian history.

- His father Efim was a horse thief
- Gregory earned himself the surname Rasputin (the Dissolute) from his sexual promiscuity and prowess
- There were rumors of his connection with Satanic cults which combined sexual orgies with the worship of demons.

Bishop Anthony of Tobolsk had denounced Rasputin, who had then disappeared into the Siberian forests.

He roamed over the immensity of Russia, proclaiming his conversion to a holy and Christian life

This wandering self-proclaimed mystic from Siberia arrived in St. Petersburg in 1903.

Alongside Russian Orthodox faith and practice, there had spread among the high society of the Russian capital at this period a dangerous fascination with the occult. Séances were much in vogue. Tales of clairvoyants and poltergeists were breathlessly exchanged. Two princesses from Montenegro, Militsa and Anastasia, were leaders in these chic spiritualistic activities. It was Militsa who first introduced Rasputin to the Czar and his family in November of 1905.

Within a few years he became one of the most influential men in government circles.

- In spite of his widely publicized bouts of drunkenness and womanizing

Rasputin's rise to power in the Russian government was due to his close relationship with the wife of Czar Nicholas, Alexandra. The heir to the Russian throne, Alexis, suffered from hemophilia – and only Rasputin could do what the top medical professionals could not: he could stop the boys bleeding. Because of this, Alexandra believed he was a holy man sent from God to protect Alexis.

After the Russian defeats in 1915 in WWI, Czar Nicholas went to the front lines to take command of the Army.

- Leaving the Russian government in the hands of Alexandra – which now meant in the hands of Rasputin for she was entirely under his influence and power.

Rasputin forced out all able the leaders and replaced them with incompetent, wicked or insane men

- Both the government and the country were now in the death grip of Rasputin bent on its self-destruction
- Though all could see what was happening – Czar Nicholas would not listen to reason because Alexandra was convinced Rasputin was sent to protect her son.
- Russia was descending into chaos and no one could stop it

Finally on Dec 31, 1916, a small group of men close to Czar Nicholas decided that Rasputin's destructive grip on Russia must be broken – he must be killed in order to save Russia.

They lured him to Prince Yusupov's house

- Poisoned him with three small cakes laced with cyanide, and then from two glasses of wine also poisoned with cyanide
- Shot him at point blank range in the heart and in the neck
- Bludgeoned him with a walking stick with a two pound head made of lead
- Threw him over the bridge to smash through the ice into a frozen river
 - He was finally dead – but it was too late for Russia
 - Russia was in chaos

This opened the way for the March and October Revolutions of 1917, and the **reign of atheistic communism.**

At La Salette, France, 1846

Mary told Maximin Giraud, “Afterwards, this peace will be disturbed by the monster (Communism). The monster shall arrive at the end of the 19th, or at the latest, the commencement of the 20th century.”

WWI June 28, 1914 Archduke Francis Ferdinand shot to death at Sarajevo by a Bosnian assassin with the consent of the Serbian Govt.

WWI begins August 1914: Austria, Germany, and Turkey going to War against Russia, France, England and later the United States.

- In the 1st 3 weeks of war – more than one million men alone dead in battle
- In the year 1915 – more than 4 million
- In 1916 more than 2.25 million dead on the Western front alone
- On a single day at Somme – July 1, 1916, the British Army lost 60,000 men
- In the end...
 - 9.5 million dead
 - 15 million men wounded
 - 9 million prisoners of war
 - Numberless millions of civilians who had died in every imaginable way

After 2 ½ years (early 1917)

- the war had made no progress except in the death toll
- There was no end in sight and neither side would give in – it was a fight to the death of Europe.
- The trench lines had hardly moved

May 5 1917

Pope Benedict XV begged the world to pray that Mary under the specific title of “Queen of Peace” would come to the world’s assistance at this dark moment.

8 days later, Sunday May 13, she came herself, in person.

Mary appears to three children on May 13, June 13, July 13, Aug 13 (no appearance), Sept. 13, and October 13, 1917.

Fatima, Portugal from *Mary in Private Revelation* (pp. 143ff.):

The apparitions of Fatima were prefaced by three angelic apparitions to three Portuguese children in 1916: **Lucia** (10), **Jacinta** (7), and **Francesco** (8).

The most informative of the 1917 apparitions of Fatima was the third apparition of July 13.

From Lucia's Memoirs we read:

A few moments after arriving at the Cova da Iria, near the holmoak, where a large number of people were praying the Rosary, we saw the flash of light once more, and a moment later Our Lady appeared on the holmoak.

“What do you want of me?” I [Lucia] asked.

“I want you to come here on the 13th of next month, to continue to pray the Rosary every day in honor of Our Lady of the Rosary, in order to obtain peace for the world and the end of the war, because only she can help you. Continue to come here every month. In October, I will tell you who I am and what I want. And I will perform a miracle so that everyone may see and believe.

“Sacrifice yourselves for sinners, and say many times, especially whenever you make some sacrifice: O Jesus, it is for love of You, for the conversion of sinners, and in reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.”

Vision of Hell

As Our Lady spoke these last words, she opened her hands once more, as she had done during the two previous months. The rays of light seemed to penetrate the earth, and we saw, as it were, a sea of fire. Plunged in this fire were demons and souls in human form, like transparent burning embers, all blackened or burnished bronze, floating about in the conflagration, now raised into the air by the flames that issued from within themselves together with great clouds of smoke, now falling back on every side like sparks in huge fires, without weight or equilibrium, amid shrieks and groans of pain and despair, which horrified us and made us tremble with fear. (It must have been this sight which caused me to cry out, as people say they heard me.) The demons could be distinguished by their terrifying and repellent likeness to frightful and unknown animals, black and transparent like burning coals. Terrified and as if to plead for succour, we looked up at Our Lady, who said to us, so kindly and sadly:

“You have seen hell where the souls of poor sinners go. To save them, God wishes to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart. If what I say to you is done, many souls will be saved and there will be peace. The war is going to end; but if people do not cease offending God, a worse one will break out during the pontificate of Pius XI. When you see a night illuminated by an unknown light, know that this is the great sign given you by God that he is about to punish the world for its crimes, by means of war, famine, and persecutions of the Church and the Holy Father.

“To prevent this, I shall come to ask for the consecration of Russia to my Immaculate Heart, and the Communion of Reparation on the First Saturdays [ROSARY]. If my requests are heeded, Russia will be converted, and there will be peace; if not, she will spread her errors throughout the world, causing wars and persecutions of the Church. The good will be martyred, the Holy Father will have much to suffer, various nations will be annihilated. In the end, my Immaculate Heart

will triumph. The Holy Father will consecrate Russia to me, and she will be converted, and a period of peace will be granted to the world.

August 13, 1917

The children were kidnapped by the mayor as 18,000 people waited at the Cova da Iria.

September 13, 1917 (30,000 people present)

On September 13, 1917, the Lady appeared. Lucia, as was her custom, asked, “What do you want of me?” The Lady replied, “Let the people continue to say the rosary every day to obtain the end of the war.” Lucia begged her to perform a miracle. The Lady replied, “Yes, in October, I will perform a miracle so that all may believe.”

October 13, 1917

A severe storm had raged through Europe. The ground was soaked and muddy. A crowd estimated between 50,000 to 70,000 made its way – drenched – to the apparition site.

The Lady appeared, and in reply to Lucia’s usual question, “What do you want?” The reply was, “I want to tell you that they must build a chapel here in my honor, that I am the Lady of the Rosary; that they continue to say the rosary every day. The war will end and the soldiers will return to their homes soon.”

As the blessed Mother was leaving she opened her hands, and from them rays of light extended in the direction of the sun. Gradually the sun grew pale, appeared as a silver disk at which all could gaze directly, without shielding their eyes. Rays of multicolored light shot out from the sun in every direction; red, blue, yellow, green, and every color of the spectrum. Then the sun began to spin madly on its axis and appeared like a giant wheel of fire. The sun began to dance wildly. Suddenly the sun seemed to be torn loose from its orbit. It hurled closer and closer to earth, and looked like it was going to plummet to the earth. The people were terrified and there arose cries of repentance and appeals for mercy. Many thought it was the end of the world. Then, just as suddenly, the sun stopped plummeting downwards, and in the same swirling motion it began to climb upward until it resumed its place in the sky.

The rain-soaked clothes of the 50,000 to 70,000 people were immediately dry.

This was an event reported by several newspapers of the day.

Summary of Fatima

1. Mary asked us to Pray the Rosary Daily for world peace and for the end of World War I – a goal that could only be obtained through the intercession of Mary.
2. A vision confirming the reality of Hell
3. Prophecy of World War II, during the pontificate of Pius XI
4. Persecutions of the Church
5. The annihilation of nations
6. Suffering of the Pope
7. All because of the ubiquitous offenses against God.

Do you know the three main causes of huge losses of human life in the twentieth century?

- 6 million Jews + 20% of Poland's entire pop. murdered by the Nazis in World War II.
- 33.6 million dead from fighting in World War I and World War II.
- 84.5 million killed by the Communist Party in the world's Communist countries under the leadership of Stalin, Mao Zedong and Pol Pot.

Message of Hope

Through the consecration of Russia to her Immaculate Heart and the First Saturdays of Reparation, Mary's Immaculate Heart will triumph in the end and a period of peace will be granted to the world.

WWI ends in 1918

Jacinta and Francesco would die of influenza in the intervening years

June 13, 1929: Consecration of Russia Requested

In the convent at Tuy, Spain, Sister Lucia had a vision of the Blessed Trinity and Mary as the Virgin of Fatima. Mary was holding the Immaculate Heart in her hand and told Sister Lucia:

“The moment has come in which God asks the Holy Father in union with all the bishops of the world to make the consecration of Russia to my Immaculate Heart, promising to save it by this means.”

Lucia conveyed this message to her spiritual director, Father Jose Bernardo Goncalves, and the priest turned it over to the bishop of Leira. There is no evidence that Pope Pius XI ever got the message. Eventually the message reached Rome, but in the meantime Russia was not consecrated and events continued on a disastrous course in the Soviet Union.

January 25-26, 1938

The lights predicted at Fatima on July 13, 1917, were seen in the United States and Europe. The people were startled by the display of lights which the scientist termed an Aurora Borealis of “exceptional magnitude.”

Lucia, at the convent in Tuy, Spain, marveled at the spectacle. She sent a letter to the bishop stating that: “God made use of this sign to make me understand His justice was about to strike the guilty nations.”

Within months Hitler marched into Austria, annexing it to Germany. Hitler’s aggression had commenced, and soon World War II began with the invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939.

Poland’s national confidence in Mary’s maternal presence and protection.

1. “Vow of servitude” by King John Casimir to the Mary, the Virgin of Czestochowa, in 1656, for the liberation of Poland from the invasion of the Lutheran King Charles X.
2. For over three hundred years, since the time of John Casimir, the great principle of unity for Poland has been confidence in the Queen of Poland, Our Lady of Czestochowa. “Rallying around their Queen, Poles retained both their faith and their national identity against overwhelming odds.” (Calkins, 118)
3. Invaded by **Germany in 1939**, then taken over by **Communism** at the end of WWII.
4. 1953 to 1956 Polish Cardinal Wyszynski is imprisoned. There he develops his “program of entrustment to Mary,” for the freedom of the Church and Poland.
5. 1957 – 1966, Nine-year pastoral plan to implement the “program of entrustment,” **beginning with the 1956 National Consecration to Mary – 1 Million people** gathered at Jasna Gora and after each verse of the consecration they shouted, “Queen of Poland, we promise!”
6. This act of entrustment to Mary would be deeply engraved on the heart of **Karol Wojtyla**. As Archbishop of Krakow he entered wholeheartedly into the spirit of the Great Novena.
7. **Karol Wojtyla becomes John Paul II in Oct 1978**. In a homily at Jasna Gora, June 4 1979, says, “I have, in fact, taken with me from Poland to the chair of St. Peter in Rome this “holy

habit” of the heart (**entrustment and confidence in Our Lady** of Czestoshowa) which has been built up by the faith of so many generations, has been tested by the Christian experience of so many centuries, and is deeply rooted in my soul.” (p. 118 Totus Tuus by Calkins)

May 13, 1981 Pope John Paul II was seriously wounded by an assassin’s bullets.

The Pope was saved from death when he turned to look at a young girl in the crowd wearing a picture of the Virgin of Fatima.

As the Pope turned, a shot aimed at his head missed. The assassin then shot twice more, striking the Pope in the abdomen.

The Pope spoke with Lucia from his hospital room. While he was recuperating from his wounds he read everything he could about Fatima.

May 13, 1982 Pope John Paul II went to Fatima to thank Mary for saving his life.

“One hand fired, and another guided the bullet.”

His life was spared in order to fulfill the consecration

JPII stated the “message of Fatima is still more relevant than it was sixty-five years ago. It is still more urgent.”

- Having sent letters to all the Catholic bishops of the world, the Pope attempted to “collegially” consecrate with them the world and therefore Russia to the Immaculate Heart.
- Many bishops did not respond,
- Sister Lucia said afterwards the attempt did not fulfill all the conditions required by God.

March 25, 1984 **Feast of the Annunciation:** Pope John Paul II was joined by a moral totality of all Catholic bishops throughout the world in consecrating the world and therefore Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

In July of 1989 Sister Lucia stated that the Collegial Consecration of Russia requested by Our Lady “has been accomplished” and “God will keep His word.”

A few months later the world began to witness the empire’s collapse.

November 9, 1989, the Berlin Wall falls.

December 1, 1989 Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev went to the Vatican to meet with John Paul II. The Pope said the meeting was prepared by providence.

“This was an act of surrender” G. Weigel, p. 601

December 1, 1990 Mikhail Gorbachev went to the Vatican for the 2nd time.

May 13, 1991 JP II publicly gave thanks to Mary for the liberation of east central Europe from Communism, which were the fruits of the Consecration to Mary on “that memorable day, March 25, 1984” and for his own deliverance from death a decade before.

August 19, 1991 The Soviet hardliners attempt a coup to reestablish power.

August 22, 1991, Feast of the Queenship of Mary

The Coup attempt fails!

December 8, 1991 Feast of Mary’s Immaculate Conception

The formation of the commonwealth of former Soviet republics began, each one to be independent, indicating the imminent collapse of the Soviet Union

December 25, 1991 The Soviet red flag with the hammer and sickle was lowered for the last time, and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev announced his resignation and the end of the Soviet Union.

- A nonviolent revolution had swept away Stalin's external empire in less than six Months and had established democratic regimes rather than a new regime of terror.
- St. Agnes and the Letter of Vaclav Havel Pres. of Czechoslovakia

Mary's Message to the World: Faith, prayer, fasting, conversion and peace (It is the same message as Matthew Chapter 6 in the Sermon on the Mount)

1. Faith: A more committed faith in the one God and in Jesus Christ as the one Mediator to the Father
2. Prayer: A greater generosity in terms of both quality and quantity of prayer summarized in the often used request for "prayer of the heart." Mary gives the invitation to daily Mass and Eucharistic adoration as well as praying the Rosary, meditation on Sacred Scripture and a personal consecration of all peoples to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Pray! Pray! Pray!
3. Fasting as recorded in the Didache (60-70 A.D.) "Do not fast like the hypocrites on Monday and Thursday; you (Christians) are to fast on Wednesday and Friday." Rather than requesting a new fasting practice, it appears that Mary seeks to return the faithful to the more committed fasting practice of the early Church.
4. Conversion: a greater conversion to Jesus Christ, specifically through the reception of the sacrament of Reconciliation at least once a month.
5. Peace: the theme of peace calls for the spiritual peace of Christ in the heart of each believer as the fruit of greater prayer, greater faith, greater fasting, and greater conversion. This interior spiritual peace of Christ in the heart should then blossom into family peace, societal peace and eventually global peace. But global peace is possible only if it is founded upon the spiritual and interior peace of Jesus Christ in the hearts of humanity.

Entrustment to Mary

Pope St. Pius X By imitating Jesus' love toward Mary we come under her tutelage allowing her to form us in the likeness of Christ. **"Nobody in the world has known Jesus as she has; nobody is a better teacher and better guide to teach Jesus. From this it follows...that neither is anybody equal to her in uniting men to Jesus."**

1. Live in filial dependence upon Mary - a lived relationship with Mary: Live in imitation of Jesus' relationship with Mary as He was a little child growing to

maturity under her care and protection. Live in constant conversation with her. Her role is to help us know and do His will.

2. Pray the Rosary every day.

Entrustment

1. The Key for the world was the entrustment of Russia to Mary
 2. The Key for John Paul II – his individual life – was entrustment to Mary
 3. The Key for my life – entrustment to Mary
- The more we become aware of God working in our lives the more we will respond to His action through His instruments.

Personal examples of God's work in our lives through Mary

- Confusion in vocation and career
- Youth Ministry and Doctoral studies after the Consecration
- Fr. Bob's transformation
- Congar's book
- Our Lady of the Pillar "No more questions please."
- Marian's Pizza

What was Mary's role in the Incarnation?

1. She cooperated with the Holy Spirit in the *Birth and Development of Jesus*.
2. Mary *educated and formed* Jesus as He grew to maturity (Luke 2:51)

As her child Jesus entrusted Himself to Mary:

1. to belong entirely to her
2. to depend totally on her

John 19:25-27: **Jesus entrusts humanity to Mary.**

Through Grace and Baptism the life of Christ dwells in our soul

- Galatians 2:20, "It is not I who live but Christ who lives in me."

We are the Mystical Body of Christ - The continuation of the Incarnation.

Mary is our Mother in the order of grace.
Mary's maternal role continues in the lives of the faithful.

We are called to live in perfect imitation of Christ.

Think of what a mother does for a child.
Motherhood in the order of grace preserves the analogy with that of nature.

She cooperates with a mother's love in the action of the Holy Spirit that we may be formed more fully in the image of Jesus Christ.

Paul VI and John Paul II – “We believe that Mary the Most Holy Mother of God, the new Eve, the Mother of the Church, carries on in heaven her maternal role with regard to the members of Christ, cooperating in the birth and development of divine life in the souls of the redeemed.”

But we are free

Thus, we must *freely accept* Mary's maternal role as John did.
We must freely enter into this consecration.
We may do this by entrusting or consecrating ourselves entirely into her hands – into her maternal care.

Vat II decree on the Apostolate of lay people, “Everyone should have a genuine devotion to her and *entrust his life* to her motherly care.” 4

2677 Entrust everything to Mary

Why? Her role is to help us to **know** and **do** His will.

Consecration to Jesus through Mary

In articles 227 – 233, St. Louis de Montfort outlines a *thirty-three day preparation* to give oneself entirely to Jesus Christ through the hands of Mary. The first twelve days are centered on emptying oneself of the spirit of the world, which is opposed to the Spirit of Jesus. The next twenty-one days are spent imbuing oneself with the Spirit of Jesus through the maternal help of Mary. At the end of thirty-three days one should go to confession and receive Holy Communion with the intention of giving oneself to Jesus through Mary as His slave of love. Then one must recite the consecration Montfort gives, which follows, in his work, *Love of Eternal Wisdom*

How do I live this act of entrustment daily?

- 1. Live in filial dependence upon Mary** - a lived relationship with Mary
 - a. Live in imitation of Jesus' relationship with Mary as He was a little child growing to maturity under her care and protection.
 - b. Live in constant conversation with her.
 - c. Her role is to help us know and do His will.

2. Pray the Rosary every day.