

## 100 - Year Anniversary Conference

### OUR LADY OF FATIMA

#### Conference 1- "The School of Mary: Who is this Woman?"

As we enter into this most SACRED TIME – a time of **Prayer, Contemplation** and the **Awesome Mystery of God's Will** unfolding along the passage of human history – I invite you all to frame the **LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE and UNDERSTANDING** that will be imparted within you over the course of the next 3 days within the context of **FOUR Words**.

For the following **FOUR Words** *ENCAPSULATE* the journey we're about to embark upon.

And those FOUR words are:

#### **'THE SCHOOL OF MARY...'**

Now I know that going to school isn't something that's much of a *HIGH PRIORITY* on everyone's list of "THINGS TO DO," however, if we're going to give God a chance to actually stir something within us and give His Spirit permission to move us beyond ourselves, then we need to do what his Son, Our Blessed Lord taught us to do over and over again during the course of his life on earth: "**Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like a child, you will never enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.**" (Matt. 18:3)

So let's begin with what it's like when we first enter school as children. When we walk through the doors of that **Grade One Classroom**, the LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE that we have as far as what's important in life consists of whatever experiences we will have lived through within the short amount of time we've been on earth. When we're in grade one, what matters most is **BEING HAPPY** and knowing that **WE'RE LOVED BY MOM and DAD**.

When we first enter into '**THE SCHOOL OF MARY**', regardless of our age or life experiences, we're all pretty much at a Spiritual Grade 1 level: for everybody likes to **BE HAPPY** and we all want to know that **we're loved by at least one other person in this world...** And while in and of itself, it's not a bad thing to live this way – IT SURE DOESN'T EQUIP US FOR LIFE IN THE WORLD.

No one here would ever claim that even after one year in school, someone is **EQUIPPED** to deal with the world. As a matter of fact, even after High School, (that's 12 years of school) that still doesn't really **EQUIP** someone for the demands that the world now places upon our young adults. High school is usually followed up by another four years for a **Bachelors Degree**. BUT THEN, if you really want to get somewhere in life, you'll follow that degree up with a **Masters** and perhaps even with a **DOCTORAL DEGREE**. All in all, on average it takes 22 to 27 years of school to become an expert, **A DOCTOR**, in any given field...

Now, if such is how things are for those who desire to succeed **IN THE WAYS OF THE WORLD** – how much more so ought we be investing TIME in "**THE SCHOOL OF MARY**?" with a teacher whose **only desire for all of her students** is that they **SUCCEED IN THE WAYS OF HEAVEN** – the only state of being where human beings will know the fullness of what it means to be **HAPPY** as they go on to experience and share in GOD'S LOVE for all of Eternity.

Good News being that just as no one is born with a **DOCTORAL DEGREE TO SUCCEED IN THE WAYS OF THE WORLD**, in the same way no one is born an **EXPERT ON THE WAYS OF GOD'S REVELATION** and that which has been **MADE AVAILABLE TO US IN CHRIST**

The Knowledge of an **IMMORTAL SOUL** that will someday be reunited with our **GLORIFIED BODIES RISEN FROM THE DEAD** and from there, all peoples from all Nations of the world will then be **ASSEMBLED BEFORE HE WHO SITS ON THE THRONE OF JUDGMENT**.

All who find themselves to his RIGHT will hear these words:

*“Come, you who my Father has blessed, and take as your heritage the KINGDOM prepared for you from the foundation of the world...”*

Following which, all those to the LEFT will hear these words: *"Go away from me with your CURSE upon you to the ETERNAL FIRES prepared for the Devil and his Angels..."*

No one is born with this **KNOWLEDGE OF THINGS TO COME** – we come to Understand these things as we pass through life and **allow our Souls, our Hearts to be formed by the Spirit of God who leads us into the FULLNESS OF TRUTH**. And one of the vehicles that leads **CHILDLIKE OPEN SOULS** into the **TRUTH** is the class room we are going to sit in over the next three days at *‘THE SCHOOL OF MARY.’*

Now before we take what will prove itself to be a rather condensed course that I would call: **"Our Lady of Fatima's WARNING FROM HEAVEN to Humanity"** FIRST we have to ground ourselves into Understanding **WHO** this Woman really is. For it's only by Understanding who Mary truly is as a Woman within the Matrix of Salvation History that we will then be able to find ourselves in a position whereby we **JUST MIGHT choose to allow for the WEIGHT of Our Lady of Fatima's WORDS TO PENETRATE INTO THE DEPTHS OF OUR HEARTS...**

There's only **ONE CONTEXT** out of which **Mary, The New Eve, The Mother of God, Our Blessed Mother** can be understood and that **CONTEXT** is given to anyone who has even just a basic knowledge and understanding concerning the layout of the Scriptures.

Most believers out there are familiar with the names of the **FIRST** and the **LAST BOOK** of the Scriptures. The 1st being **GENESIS** and the last being **REVELATION**.

But what most people aren't familiar with is the premise that **NEITHER OF THOSE BOOKS are meant to be taken 'literally' – for THEY ARE NOT HISTORY BOOKS!** Rather, they are books that serve to reveal Hidden Truths about the **MYSTERY** of the Universe and the Ultimate Purpose behind our **EXISTENCE...**

Truths that will forever remain *“hidden from the 'learned and the wise but will be REVEALED to those who have faith like infants.”* (Matt. 11:25)

Another thing to note about those 2 books is that they serve as **‘Book Ends’ for the rest of the sacred writings**. That's why you will find that every personage involved in the **COSMIC DRAMA** of **CREATION, REDEMPTION, and SALVATION** is included in both of those books!

Just as we encounter our **TRINITARIAN GOD, the Angels, Human Beings, Fallen Angels and Satan at the beginning of the story of Creation** – likewise, all of them are present at the END of the story – at the moment when we are revealed NEWS regarding an up and coming RE-CREATION of ALL THINGS! And just to situate our state of things living in the year 2017, as we speak, we are living out the experience of our lives on earth **between the 2 Book Ends**: we live in the **"IN-BETWEEN TIMES."**

It has pleased God in His Wisdom and Goodness to share with us how the story of our current Creation **ENDS**, but getting there – to the end of **ENDS** is a journey that, well frankly, no one want to acknowledge and or talk about these days.

And so I'll leave it to **St. Peter to explain to us in plain English what's reserved for this world of ours** before we cross over into the **END** of this form of Creation as we know it.

This is from St. Peter's 2<sup>nd</sup> Letter and it's found in Chapter 3 verse 10:

**“The DAY of the Lord will come *LIKE A THIEF* and then with a ROAR, the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and melt away, the Earth and all that it contains will be burned up...”**

On that ‘*Day of Days*’ the same personages that we find in the first book of the Scriptures and in the last book of the Scriptures are all that will remain: our **TRINITARIAN GOD, the Angels, Human Beings, the Fallen Angels and Satan.**

That's the context, **THE ONLY CONTEXT** out of which we are to Understand the coming into being of Mary and what her role is in the midst of this Universe and the DRAMA of RE-CREATION at work in our midst.

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And so let's piece together parts of the reality in which we live.

When God saw all that he had made on the 7th day, he said: "**THIS IS VERY GOOD!**" (Genesis 1:31) as we all know, it didn't last very long in that shortly thereafter, the fall of the human race entered creation and **God the Father while addressing Satan exclaimed the following throughout the Universe:**

**"I shall put enmity between you and *THE WOMAN*, between your offspring and hers; He will crush your head and you will strike His heel".** (Genesis 3:15)

While it was Eve, **the First Woman that assisted in unleashing the fall of humanity**, God the Father is not speaking about the Original Eve with the words you just heard. He's already making reference to **the NEW EVE that is set to come upon the scene of Creation thousands of years from now...** The one who will 'undo' that which came to pass through the fall of the Original Eve!

Mary is ‘***THE WOMAN***’ God the Father is referring to. Her offspring is Jesus Christ – the Eternal Son of God – who came to earth in order to bring to NOTHING THE WORKS of the Devil. As we are told in the first letter of John chapter 3 verse 8: "**The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's works.**" Through his death on the cross and his descent into hell for three days, he has ***crushed*** the head of Satan!

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And just to make this come alive for you, I invite you to USE YOUR IMAGINATION and picture with me the DIVINE COUNSEL meeting that took place in Heaven prior to **THE INCARNATION**. That is prior to the sending of **God the Father's Eternal Son** by the power of the **Spirit** to take flesh within the womb of the **New Eve**.

**“THE WORLD HAS FALLEN and WE NEED TO SAVE IT!”** And so God the Father says: "I'm going to send what **I MOST LOVE**, I'm going to send my Son and I will send the Spirit!!! And Spirit here is your role: make it possible, **make it possible for ONE HUMAN LIFE** to be THE VESSEL that carries the ENTIRE REALITY of my Divine Son.”

This idea that ‘ONE, FINITE, MORTAL, HUMAN LIFE’ would carry the entire reality of the Divine Son?? That's like **planting a SEQUOIA TREE** inside of a little pot and telling the seed to make sure that as the tree grows, it doesn't break the pot! It's impossible... as it grows, IT WILL BREAK THE POT.

What we have HERE in this assignment of the Holy Spirit is something that's even more outside the realm of that which is comprehensible:

**"Holy Spirit, plant the Divine Nature of my Eternal Son INSIDE OF A HUMAN NATURE and DON'T YOU LET THAT HUMAN NATURE BREAK! Keep them both intact..."**

We see this in the Scriptural Text in the moment when this plan was proposed our Blessed Mother. Her first response: *'How can this be?'* The answer, **'The Holy Spirit will OVERSHADOW YOU... and thus the one to be born from you will be called the Son of God.'** And **HE WILL REALLY BE BORN OF YOU!**

Really born of one particular human being... The Eternal, Incorporeal Being through which all things came into existence was **BORN of a WOMAN** – this is a **DIVINE WORK** – because what simply cannot possibly happen by definition alone – **HAS HAPPENED** in Mary...

The Holy Spirits task at the moment of the Incarnation was to make one particular human life – MARY – a vessel capable of carrying **THE ENTIRE REALITY OF GOD...**

She was made to carry **INFINITY**, which by definition alone is beyond all containment, **IT'S LOGICALLY IMPOSSIBLE.**

And yet, that's exactly what happened...

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To grasp of the wonder of who this **INCREDIBLE WOMAN** is, The New Eve, **St. Louis de Monfort** writes:

**"MARY:** Daughter eternally loved by the Father, Mother of the Son, spouse of the Holy Spirit. Understand these words and you will have some idea of her Power..."

St. Anselm had this to say concerning our Blessed Mother: "To Mary God gave his Only Begotten Son, **whom He loved as himself**. THROUGH MARY God made himself a Son, not different but the same, by nature Son of God and Son of Mary. God the Father, then is **Father of the created world** and **Mary IS the Mother of the RE-CREATED world.**"

That's a **POWERFUL LINE**: **"Mary IS the Mother of the RE-CREATED world..."**

And as every mother that's here with us tonight can attest, the one common thread that unites every Mother's Heart to the source of all love, which is God, is a Mother's desire for her children to experience that which **IS BEST FOR THEM IN THIS LIFE. That your children be HAPPY and that they know that they are LOVED!**

Mary not only felt and desired the same things for her Son Jesus back when he was a young boy – **BUT NOW** – as the Mother of the Re-Created World set to come, **she finds herself in Heaven desiring Eternal Happiness and the experience of God's Love for all of her children**. Which in short, happens to be every man, woman, and child that's ever come into being within a woman's womb.

Our Lady, the **NEW EVE**, not only desires, but she knows what is best for us **IN THIS LIFE** and in the life to come – and that is that **we know, love, and experience the life of her Son**. Only her Son Jesus gives **ETERNAL LIFE** to those who believe in Him. He is the path that leads souls to Heaven. And it was in order to remind us of a **'MOTHERS LOVE'**: of her Inner Hearts deepest desire that all souls be saved: that's the **REASON** why 100 years ago **Our Lady of Fatima came to earth and revealed 3 Secrets from Heaven to the world!!!**

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We're **'THIS CLOSE'** to experiencing time in the classroom with our Lady of Fatima as our teacher, but before we do, there are four more things we must know about the Glory of she who was sent to earth 100 years ago to reveal a series of **APOCALYPTIC VISIONS** and to speak **PROPHECIES** concerning the **plight of mankind in the 20th century and beyond.**

When it comes to Mary; we're talking about a **Woman here to whom the Church has attributed the definition of Four Dogmas**. That's right, the definition for how True Believers are meant to understand Mary's Personal Relationship with God in light of **HER ROLE IN SALVATION HISTORY** is so precise that it has taken the formulating of 4 **DOGMAS** to get the message across.

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**Before I briefly unpack the Four Marian Dogmas**, I want to provide you with a working definition for how we are to understand these Dogmas:

**The Dogmas concerning the Blessed Virgin are TRUTHS rooted in the realm of Faith.** The Church understands them to have been Revealed By God – having been transmitted from the Apostles in the Scriptures or by Tradition. The Church presents *Marian Dogmas as Articles of Faith that are NECESSARY TO BE BELIEVED by all Catholics*.

What that means is that if someone **chooses not to ASCEND TO THEM IN FAITH**, in other words, if for whatever reason one chooses NOT TO BELIEVE the Marian Dogmas and even perhaps go so far as to contradict them, at that very moment, *that person will have entered the realm of HERESY* – in other words, the moment someone expresses disbelief in one of the four Marian Dogmas, (or any other Church Dogma for that matter) – at that very moment, they will have experienced the ***BREAKING OF THE BOND OF FAITH*** which results in their becoming a **HERETIC**.

By definition, a **Heretic is any baptized Roman Catholic who willfully and persistently rejects ANY ARTICLE OF FAITH**.

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Now let's take a brief look at each of the 4 DOGMAS, an exercise that could be likened to **reading the credentials and the biography of one's professor prior to taking his or her GRADUATE-LEVEL course**:

### **Dogma #1 – Divine Motherhood**

Mary is recognized the world over as ‘**THEOTOKOS**: that is **The Mother of God**.’

Her Divine Motherhood was proclaimed at the **Council of Ephesus back in the year 431**. This particular Dogma is meant to be **understood in light of the Council's declaration that in Christ THERE ARE TWO NATURES, one Divine and one Human – and yet, He is only ONE PERSON**.

This is what we call **THE HYPOSTATIC UNION**. One person, or subject acting through two natures or principles of operation. Christ has two wills; Christ has two consciences, and yet, he is one **Psychological Subject**. It's the Son of God who died on a cross, while at the same time, it's the Son of Mary that created the world.

20 years later, in the year **451 at the Council of Chalcedon**, **Pope Leo** eloquently expressed the implications behind such a TRUTH.

“By the act of **HIS INCARNATION** a miraculous action took place in creation whereby the weakness and lowliness of our humanity was taken on by the power and Majesty of God. As a result, we that were once mortal **HAVE NOW BECOME ETERNAL**. For the nature of God which cannot be harmed, became united to our human nature, which suffers, so that we might be discharged of Original Sin.”

Mary – the **NEW EVE** – is **THEOTOKOS**, the Mother of God, because *she BEGOT* in the flesh the Only Begotten Son of the Father by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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### **Dogma #2 – Her Perpetual Virginity**

The expression often times used is: "**Perpetual Virginity, Ever-Virgin**, or simply: *The Virgin Mary*." These titles are in direct reference to THE CONCEPTION and BIRTH OF JESUS. Although never explained in detail, the Catholic Church holds as dogma that Mary **was and is Virgin before, in and after Christ's birth**.

A statement formulated at the Lateran Council of 649 is even more explicit. Mary conceived "**without any detriment to her Virginity, which remained inviolate even after his birth**." (Council of the Lateran, 649).

From the very first FORMULATIONS OF FAITH going as far back as the THIRD CENTURY, especially in **Baptismal Formulas**, the Church has always professed that Jesus Christ was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit – **ONLY**.

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### **Dogma #3 – The Immaculate Conception**

On **Thursday, March 25, 1858**, three weeks after the APPARITIONS in Lourdes to **Bernadette Soubirous** had begun, Bernadette asked the beautiful woman in White: "**Would you be so kind to us to tell me who you are?**"

The answer she received: "***I am the Immaculate Conception.***"

Having finally received this crucial piece of information, Bernadette made her way to the local priest who upon hearing the name that Bernadette had received, **became visibly shaken to the point where he was unable to speak.**

He immediately wrote a letter to his Bishop saying: "***She could never have invented this...***"

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She could never have invented such an answer because four years earlier, **on December 8, 1854**, the Church had **Officially and Infallibly** declared the following Dogma: that Mary was the "***Immaculate Conception...***"

Thing is, a young peasant girl like Bernadette would not have known about this because **it was not being discussed in the liturgy and she could neither read nor write.**

By means of a SUPERNATURAL REVELATION, God confirmed that which **Pope Pius IX** had solemnly declared from the Chair of St. Peter on December 8, 1854.

**"That the most Blessed Virgin Mary, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege from Almighty God and in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, was kept free of every stain of Original Sin."**

The Dogma of the Immaculate Conception is a DIRECT REFERENCE concerning **HOW MARY** was conceived in the womb of her mother St. Anne. The teaching holds that by way of a special privilege from God, Mary was **preserved IMMACULATE** free from all stains of Original Sin at the very moment of her conception.

Just as the '**Original Eve**' came into this world free from Sin, so the '**NEW EVE**' **shared in this same Grace.**

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### **Dogma #4 – The Assumption**

This Marian Dogma was Solemnly Proclaimed by **Pope Pius XII on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November in 1950**. It's the BELIEF IN FAITH that Mary was assumed into heaven – BODY and SOUL – by the Power and Grace of God.

It's important to **keep a distinction between the Ascension of Jesus** and the ASSUMPTION OF MARY. Jesus Christ, Son of God and Risen Lord, **ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN**, a sign of DIVINE POWER – of His own Power...

While Mary, on the contrary, was ASSUMED BY THE POWER and GRACE OF GOD. The Dogma states:

**"Mary, Immaculate Mother of God ever Virgin, after finishing the course of her life on earth, was taken up in Body and Soul to Heavenly Glory."**

As Pope Pius XII explained:

**“She, by an entirely unique privilege, completely overcame sin by her Immaculate Conception, and as a result she was not subject to the law of remaining in the corruption of the grave, and she did not have to wait until the end of time for the redemption of her body.”**

As such, following her death, both her body and soul were assumed into heaven as a reminder for us of the reality that awaits every human being on the Day of DAYS – the END TIMES – when suddenly **“the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and melt away, the Earth and all that it contains will be burned up...”**

Who she is NOW is that which we long to someday be: GLORIFIED IN BODY AND SOUL, **Mary is already in the state that WILL BE OURS following the Resurrection of the dead.** In other words, in Heaven – only two people exist with their glorified bodies while the rest of our dead brothers and sisters exist in the state of a soul separated from their body, awaiting the time of THE RESURRECTION – Mary and Jesus foreshadow for us that which awaits every human being that will dwell with God upon a New Earth and a New Heaven – the place where there will no longer be a sun in the sky for GOD WILL BE OUR LIGHT!

And it's from that place, *from that STATE OF BEING*, that our Blessed Mother continues to shower forth her **Maternal Love towards ALL OF her children journeying on earth.** I love the way **Lumen Gentium**, (a Vatican II document), along with the Catechism capture this moment for us:

In Heaven, Mary's active involvement in salvation history continues: **"Taken up to Heaven, she did not lay aside her salvific duty... By her Maternal Love SHE CARES for the brothers and sisters of her Son who still journey on earth"** (LG).

How and why do we know that? It's because the Eternal Son of God the Father and Mary the Mother – **He to whom the Father has given all Authority, He set it up this way...**

It was **ONE OF HIS SEVEN LAST WORDS FROM THE CROSS** – knowing that his time had come, he looked lovingly into the eyes of his Mother and said: **"Woman, behold your son."** At that moment, he glanced towards John the Beloved Disciple...

He who at that VERY MOMENT IN TIME, stood in for all would be believers until the end of the age... and he said to him: **"Son, behold your Mother."** The Scriptures go on to tell us that: **"from that Hour, THE DISCIPLE took her into his home."** (John 19:27)

**“Have we, as his Disciples of these MODERN TIMES – have we taken Mary into the HOME of our Hearts?”** If not, my prayer for each of you over the course of the next three days is that you will...

Either way, one thing for sure, tomorrow's conference marks our entry into **THE SCHOOL OF MARY.** The course we are about to be exposed to is entitled: **"Our Lady of Fatima's WARNING FROM HEAVEN to Humanity."**

Between now and then, I invite you to PRAY your way and CONTEMPLATE the awesome wonder of just how special this woman truly is: **Mary, The New Eve, The Mother of God, Our Blessed Mother!**

**I leave you with a thought that comes to us from St. Louis de Monfort** – he who out of all the saints that have ever walked the earth, was privileged to understand and to share with us a taste that reveals what a REMARKABLE WOMAN Mary is in *the Eyes of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit:*

"Our Blessed Lady is the means our Lord made use of to come to us. She is also the means which we **MUST MAKE USE OF TO GO TO HIM** – she is the direct and Immaculate Way to Jesus and the perfect guide to him. He who finds Mary **FINDS LIFE**, that is, Jesus Christ who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

But no one can find Mary *who does not look for her...* and no one can look for her *who does not know her* because no one seeks or desires SOMETHING UNKNOWN.

Always remember that the **STRONGEST INCLINATION** of Mary is to unite us to Jesus Christ, her Son: and the strongest inclination of the Son is that **we should come to him through HIS HOLY MOTHER...**"

**Our Lady of Fatima – PRAY FOR US!**