

# THE FATIMA FAITHFUL

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The Fatima Faithful newsletter is published once a month and is available in the bulletin, on our website, and accessible through Facebook. Let us know what you think! Email [newsletter@ourladyoffatima.org](mailto:newsletter@ourladyoffatima.org) with suggestions. The Newsletter Team: Vicki Johnson, Angie Feltz and Guest Columnists.

## Take a Closer Look at the Novena

A simple novena definition is: prayers said over a continuous length of days for a special intention. "Novena" comes from the Latin word for nine. Traditionally, there are nine days of prayer in a Catholic novena. Nine days venerates the time between Ascension Thursday and Pentecost Sunday. "All these were persevering with one mind in prayer with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren." (Act 1:14) They remained there together until finally, on Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came, filling them with grace, hope and courage. This has served as a model for all future novenas.

Novenas don't have to be complicated. Form your specific intention, choose what prayers to say: the rosary, reciting a specific prayer, going to daily Mass, saying one Hail Mary or praying for the intercession of a favorite saint. You can even make up the prayer yourself. Then choose which length of time and commit to it. Nine days is usual; however, novenas have evolved into related lengths of time: nine hours or nine months. Some start a novena and just keep saying it for the rest of their lives. They quit counting and it becomes part of them.

In the Mexican culture, a type of novena is said specifically for the dead. Loved ones gather to pray the rosary at the home of the deceased. Praying nine days of the rosary after death is a way of asking God to release the soul from the punishment due to sin.

The "novenario" then culminates in celebrating the life of their beloved departed and hope of his resurrection. The message: we are fallen, struggle, and suffer, **but** we hope in God!

Many saints and other holy people have had novenas revealed to them by Christ or the Virgin Mary. For example, Christ revealed the Surrender Novena to Father Dolindo Ruotolo (1882–1970) (now a candidate for beatification) to guide us in growing trust in God. Mary revealed the 54 Day Novena to a young girl suffering from an incurable illness; the 54 days are actually comprised of 6 novenas. Depending on the particular saint or devotion, you will discover there are a variety of ways for novenas to be said. From the familiar to the obscure, many novenas can be found on the Hallow App, Laudate App or [praymorenovenas.com](http://praymorenovenas.com).

## ONLY THE STUBBORN MISS IT by Deacon Bill Jacobs

Summer is finally here. The trees are fully green, the birds are in song, and the fireflies decorate our evenings. This is also a chance for us to enjoy the outdoors which surround us in beautiful east Tennessee. Some of us are dusting off our hiking shoes to explore the trails of the Smokies. Or we're taking our tents (or our RVs) to a quiet camping spot. We might have a chance to take our boat out onto the lake or to enjoy our backyard while we fire up the grill and burn some burgers and dogs.

All this natural wonder should turn our hearts and our thoughts toward the One who created them all. To grasp the beauty and the complexity of nature confirms in our minds and hearts that there is only one way that this could come to be and that is by the creative action of our loving God.

Yet, somehow, there are people who refuse to grasp this basic truth. Their minds and hearts are hardened against the possibility that God exists. They see all the wonders of creation as evolutionary accidents.

This line of reasoning flies in the face of our lived experience. It would be as if we were to look at the beautiful paintings in the Sistine Chapel in Rome and deny that there was an artist who created them!



Some of these folks work hard to deny what their senses so plainly



reveal. Pope Pius XII spoke clearly about this when he wrote, "So it happens that men in such matters easily persuade themselves that what they would not like to be true is false or at least doubtful." You may know the theories which people consider when they seek to explain how all things were created. Some believe that the world was created by evolution over millions of years, guided by natural selection and the survival of the fittest. Some embrace the ideas of special creationism: the claim that the universe and life were created as they exist today by divine action, and that the only true explanations are those which are compatible with a literal interpretation of the creation stories found in the book of Genesis.

The Catholic Church has taken no official position on this matter. But the most logical explanation is known as intelligent design: that God created the world, and evolution is how he did it, guiding the evolutionary steps along the way. Certainly, we cannot know the definite answer to these questions this side of heaven. But if we are attentive, we will see that God reveals himself to us many times each day. We can see this clearly if we drop our resistance to the clear realities of God at work in our world. Praise God for all his created beauty! And please pass the mustard.

## The Helping Hand

Podcast: The Road to Emmaus with Scott Hahn

YouTube: Bishop Barron Presents

The Father Leo Show

Various John Bergsma discussions

Formed: A Mind At Peace (5-part book study)

The World of Owlegories (Kids)





# Fr. Renzo's Ordination and First Mass of Thanksgiving





## June 13th Pilgrimage Procession and Picnic



## Welcome Gathering



## Knights of Columbus Sacred Heart Banner



## Easter Poster Contest



## Installation of the new CCW Officers



## Respect Life Billboard



## CWV Breakfast Burrito





When the solar system first developed, two planets formed that were twins: they were the same size, made of the same materials and orbited next to each other in the inner solar system. As their surfaces became a hard crust, there arose atmospheres with significant CO<sub>2</sub> and NO oxygen. On one of the worlds, a miracle happened: life started! It was a single celled plant that grew and multiplied until it covered the majority of the planet. Like all plants, it pulled CO<sub>2</sub> out of the atmosphere, stored it safely in the ground, and replaced it with oxygen. The low level of CO<sub>2</sub> and abundant oxygen created an ideal place for plants and animals to thrive: a "heaven." We call it Earth.

On the other planet, the CO<sub>2</sub>, being a greenhouse gas, caused the atmosphere to continuously warm until today the surface everywhere is between 800-900F with a thick layer of yellow clouds that continuously rain sulfuric acid: a "hell." We call this planet Venus.

On Earth, things were fine until very recently when mankind discovered a wonderful energy source that has allowed us to do nearly anything we want. This energy source comes from taking the carbon that plants have stored away for billions of years and putting it back into the atmosphere. In the last 100 years, the CO<sub>2</sub> level has changed from a nominal 260ppm to 425ppm and is increasing rapidly toward the Venus problem! The warming atmosphere can hold onto more water causing droughts where it used to rain, resulting in a loss of croplands and unprecedented wildfires. When it does rain, the more water available causes a deluge and the flooding you see in the news every night. As the polar areas warm the Jetstream is weakened, allowing more polar vortexes to swing south in the winter. As the polar ice and snows melt, the sea levels rise. When all of the ice and snows melt, the sea level will rise about 230 ft. Unfortunately, most major cities in the world are built on the ocean so all of its inhabitants will have to move. This is an existential threat because civilization will not be able to handle the majority of mankind becoming migrants as well as the food supply being cut in half due to flooding and droughts. This could possibly happen within the lifetime of people being born today. Pope Francis's encyclical, *Laudato Si'* says it's our moral responsibility to prevent this threat and ensure a viable future all of God's children.



### Saint of the Month

Very little is known about the life of St. Peter Chrysologus who was born around 380 in the Italian town of Imola in the Roman Empire. After completing his studies of theology, he was ordained to the diaconate by the local Bishop of Imola, Bishop Cornelius, who Peter considered his spiritual father because he taught him the value of humility and self-denial. These lessons led him to live by embracing a lifestyle of asceticism, simplicity and prayer as a monk. He was a monk until the death of the Archbishop John of Ravenna in 430. At this time the clergy and people chose a successor and Bishop Cornelius was sent to Rome to obtain the approval of the Pope. Peter, then a deacon, traveled with him to see Pope Sixtus III. The night before this meeting, Pope Sixtus had a vision from God commanding him to reject their candidate and stating that Peter should be ordained the archbishop. Peter was welcomed by the people of Ravenna as well as by the Emperor and his mother. She gave him the title of Chrysologus meaning "of Golden Words" because of his preaching skills. At the time there were abuses and some paganism evident in his diocese, these Peter worked hard to overcome by his short sermons, many of which have come down to us today. The contents of his sermons were considered authentic. He was named as a Doctor of the Church in 1729 by Pope Benedict XIII. He is distinguished as the "Doctor of Homilies" for the excellent rich reflections he delivered during his time as the Bishop of Ravenna. Subjects of his sermons included: testimony to the Church's beliefs about Mary's virginity, the penitential value of Lent, Christ's Eucharistic presence, and the primacy of St. Peter and his successors in the Church. Peter returned to his birthplace of Imola in northern Italy before his death around A.D. 450. His feast day is celebrated on July 30.



### Spotlight on Taking a Walk Down Memory Lane

Prior to 1950 Blount County Catholics Sunday mass attendance involved driving to one of the Knoxville parishes, except for rare occasions when mass was celebrated in a private home. IN 1950, Bishop Adrain, 7th Bishop of the Diocese of Nashville, authorized a survey to determine the number of Catholics in Blount and Sevier counties. As a result of this survey the Mission Parish of Maryville was established with Reverend Paul Clunan as pastor. On September 3, 1950 the first mass was celebrated in a Maryville funeral home! For the next 2 months mass was celebrated in the Community Room at Eagleton Village. In November 1950 a house at 211 Ellis Avenue was leased and served as "the church," officially named Our Lady of Fatima. The first mass was celebrated at 7:00 AM November 5, 1950. Almost immediately, the approximately 50 families wasted no time in planning for the purchase of land for construction of a church and rectory. In the fall of 1951 land at the corner of Wright and Hunt roads was purchased from the Aluminum Co. of America. One year later the prayers, faith, dedication, hard work and sacrifice of the now 80 families, culminated in the December 6, 1952 dedication and first mass in the church that served the growing number of Catholic families until March, 2000. [Some of these families remain faithful members of our parish today!] The dedication booklet contained the following admonition for future OLOF parishioners: "THE MEMBERS OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA NOW ASK ONLY ONE

THING -- THAT THE FUTURE OF OUR CHURCH WILL BE WRITTEN WITH THE SAME PEN OF UNISON AS ITS HISTORY, WITH THE SAME LOVE OF OUR CHURCH AND FAITH -- OUR FUTURE IS THEN ASSURED" 12/6/52 September 1955 saw the opening of OLOF School which operated until 1970 (at least one of our current parishioners attended there!). By 1975 a mortgage burning ceremony rendered the parish debt free. During the next 10 years family membership increased to over 300 and from 1986-94 families increased to 350. It became obvious that planning for new and larger facilities was necessary. There were 2 options: Add on to existing facilities OR find 25 affordable acres in reasonable proximity to central Blount County. In the fall of 1994 God and the Holy Spirit intervened: the ATT building (the present Life Center before recent additions and renovations) was available at a bargain price. God's providence was further manifested when the house (present rectory) on the corner of the property was put on the market. From this point things moved rapidly. Thanks to the "nest egg" accumulated by previous pastors the ATT property was purchased January 17, 1995 and the house on January 30. Building and fund-raising committees were formed and began the 5-year process of bringing the new Church to fruition. Architects and contractors were carefully selected. Renovations of the ATT building and house were planned. The last Mass celebrated on Wright Rd was June 6, 1996. More to come.