



Recently I have noticed, and many of you may have noticed as well, that more and more the battle between good and evil is heating up in the world. We have seen it play out in the constant the rise of radical Islamic terrorism, we have seen it in cut-throat nature of the most recent election, we see it in the constant marches and protests throughout the country, we see it in the confusion in the Church where there is infighting over basic doctrine such that we see Cardinal opposing Cardinal and Bishop opposing Bishop, and we see it in things as simple as the constant bickering and negativity on social media. All of this has the potential to bring about something the devil loves: division. The devil loves to divide people. Whether in the Church, the country, our families, or among our friends, he loves to divide us. As we look around us, we see division everywhere, which means the devil has been working overtime, and many of us are falling for it.

Now, this all might sound very negative, but Jesus, and I as his priest, haven't come just to spread more negativity, but rather to spread hope! Jesus didn't come to bring us sadness, frustration, and depression, but joy, peace, and hope! God, in His love, has given us a solution to all of the division and disunity in our world. The solution is holiness and union with Jesus. If we want peace instead of division, we must all become more holy and more united with Jesus. We know from the example and teaching of the Saints that the easiest, surest, and quickest way to Jesus is through His mother, Mary. One hundred years ago, Mary came to the three shepherd children at Fatima and revealed to us a way to peace. The message, although revealed one hundred years ago is more relevant today than it was one hundred years ago. The message is very simple: Prayer (in particular the daily Rosary), penance, and reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Given what is happening in our world and in the Church, and given the extraordinary one hundred year anniversary of the apparitions of Fatima, I am proposing that those willing to take on the challenge join me in a program of growth in holiness that I am calling the 90 Day Fatima Plan. This is loosely based on a program created by Fr. Richard Heilman from the diocese of Madison Wisconsin, but I have modified it a bit. This program is designed to be accessible to everyone, yet challenging. It will push you to grow. It will push you do things that you may not normally do. It may even cause you a little discomfort – but that's what penance is supposed to do. So, if you are willing to grow, if you, relying upon the grace of God, want to allow God to stretch you beyond where you thought you might be able to go, if you want to be part of the solution to the problems of the world by praying, doing penance, and making reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, join me.

The 90 Day Fatima Plan of Action is listed below. It is a guide, and can be modified to fit your individual lifestyle and schedule. The way the plan of action works is that under each heading is one or more “**mandatory**” practices. Those are the things that everyone doing the program needs to commit to doing. The other things are ideas of other additional practices you might want to take on, but are totally optional. The 33-day consecration to Mary (dates are listed below) will include weekly meetings to watch videos and engage in small group discussions, so keep that in mind.

The plan is a 90-day plan. It's 90 days, because science suggests that it takes 90 days to break bad habits (vices) and create good habits (virtues). Also, keep in mind that this will overlap with Lent, so this would be a great way to make this Lent the best Lent of your life! Finally, I would like to throw out a special challenge to the **Knights of Columbus** to step up and take this on. It would be a great way of living out your Knighthood. I also would like to throw out a special challenge to **the men in our parish who are fathers** to do this as a way of embracing your role as the spiritual leader of your families. There is work to be done to grow in holiness and change the world, so lets all get to it! In the words of a famous comedian, "Let's get er done!" There will be sign up sheets in the entrance of the Church for those who would like to join me! - Fr. Christensen

**The Fatima Plan of Action:**

1. Prayer
  - a. Daily Rosary - **mandatory**
  - b. 1 hour (or 20 minutes minimum) per week of prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament (this can be done all at once or spread out during the week) - **mandatory**
  - c. Confession every 3 to 4 weeks - **mandatory**
  - d. Daily Chaplet of Divine Mercy
  - e. Daily Scripture reading
  - f. Attend Daily Mass once a week
  - g. Wear the Brown Scapular
  - h. The Liturgy of the Hours
2. Penance:
  - a. One day a week of fasting (one meal – two small snacks) in addition to what the Church requires of us during Lent – **mandatory** unless ones health doesn't allow this
  - b. No TV except EWTN
  - c. No internet
  - d. Giving up caffeine
  - e. Giving up alcohol
  - f. Exercising 30 minutes a day
3. Reparation:
  - a. Consecrating yourself to Jesus through Mary (**mandatory** – will be done through the 33 Days to Morning Glory program).
  - b. Offering your work, prayer, penance in reparation to Jesus for the sins committed against Him.
  - c. Consecrating yourself to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The 90 Day Fatima Plan begin on February 13<sup>th</sup> and ends on May 13<sup>th</sup>, the anniversary of the first apparition of Mary at Fatima.

Beginning on Wed. April 5<sup>th</sup> we will begin our classes that will guide us through the 33 day preparation to consecrate ourselves to Jesus through Mary. We will be using a program called 33 Days to Morning Glory. There will be a cost for this to cover the DVD's and the workbooks.