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PAX

# OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE MONASTERY



SPRING 2022



Dear Friends and Benefactors,

**T**HESE PAST FEW MONTHS HAVE WITNESSED great progress in our manifold projects, among which our new Abbey Roast coffee facility is now ready for operations. We thank our numerous customers for their loyal patronage which has helped to fund the Monastery expansion work in order to keep up with the influx of vocations in both of our communities. To all who continue to support our coffee apostolate we extend our heartfelt gratitude.

The inner life of our twin communities of monks and nuns has seen numerous investitures of new recruits, renewed vows and final commitments, each one a miracle of grace and divine charity. Thanks to the support of our benefactors, the work of God continues with great fidelity and generosity on the part of our communities. The special intentions of all of our friends and benefactors are included in our daily Masses and especially in the public prayers of the Divine Office performed eight times daily.

The following pages will show you what your generosity has helped us to accomplish. Many of these family events took place under the gracious presence of His Excellency, Bishop Fellay, with our friends in the active priesthood and religious life.

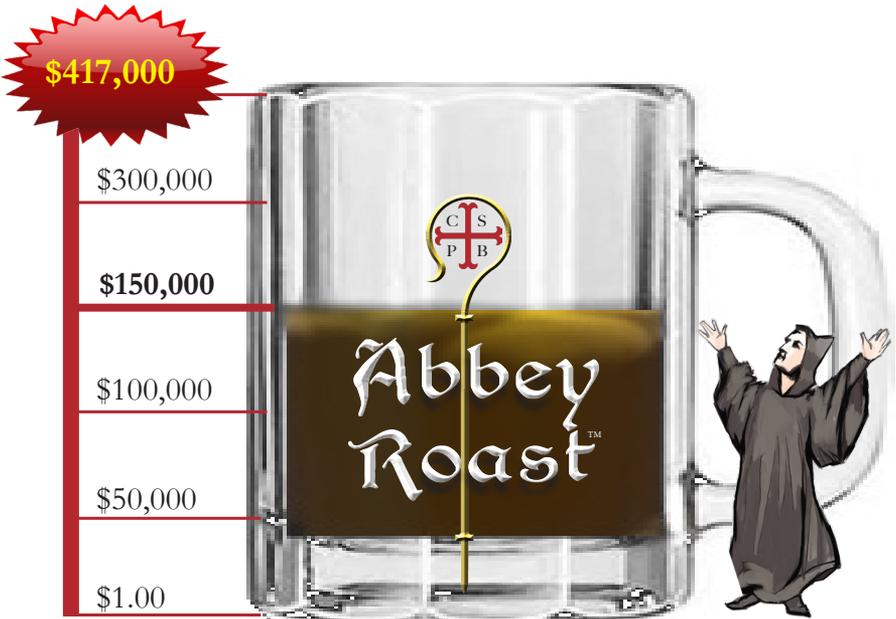
With our unceasing thanks for your continued generosity, May the protection of Our Lady of Guadalupe be yours forever,

*Fr. Cyprian*



**T**HE NEW ABBEY ROAST COFFEE FACILITY was blessed and inaugurated by His Excellency, Bishop Fellay, on March 14th. However, due to the ever increasing response to our coffee apostolate, our friends specializing in the design and engineering of coffee production equipment have helped us to upgrade our current insufficient production capacity.

**PLEASE HELP US RAISE PAYMENT FOR THE NEW EQUIPMENT**





*"Trusting in the help of God, I promise."*



*Our brothers Philip and Sebastian pronounce their perpetual vows*



*Br. Peter makes his final oblation*



*A joyful family of vocations : Seminarian, Monk and Dominican nun !*



*First Mass and blessing from newly ordained Fr. DeLallo*



*Annual blessing of the Monastery*

**O**N JULY 13TH, 1917, OUR LADY SAID TO THE CHILDREN AT FATIMA : “To prevent this, that is to say, that God “punish the world for its crimes,” I shall come to ask for the consecration of Russia to my Immaculate Heart and the Communion of Reparation on the First Saturdays. **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. (...) 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.”<sup>1</sup>

Is this consecration that the Pope is accomplishing today the fulfillment of this promise of Our Lady that “The Holy Father will consecrate Russia to me, and she will be converted, and a period of peace will be granted to the world?” Only time will tell. The experts and non-experts will certainly speculate about this and there are arguments found on both sides. What is certain is that this consecration makes a very important step in the right direction in that, for the first time, the Pope is “inviting” all the bishops of the world to join him in this consecration, an invitation that implies, at least, his formal will that they do so. Even if many of them ignore him, we can hope that at least the *sanior pars*—the healthier part—of the episcopate will obey him and, according to canonical tradition, that will suffice.

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1— *Fatima in Lucia's Own Words, Sister Lucia's Memoirs*, Fundação Francisco and Jacinta Marto, 21st edition, July 2017, p. 179.

**T**HIS PARTICIPATION OF THE BISHOPS is the novel aspect of this consecration, in comparison to all those that the previous popes and Pope Francis himself have accomplished, and gives us hope that it might finally fulfill the request of Our Lady at Fatima and so be followed by the fulfillment of her promise to convert Russia and give “a period of peace” to the world. As we unite ourselves to this solemn act, then, let us examine a little more closely this precise aspect of the great mystery of Fatima.

It was on June 13, 1929, that Our Lady fulfilled her promise to “come to ask for the consecration of Russia to my Immaculate Heart.” In a magnificent vision which Frère Michel de la Sainte Trinité describes in his book on Fatima as “a spectacular theophany for which no comparable example can be found in the entire history of the Church since the apparition of Our Lord to Saint Paul on the road to Damascus,”<sup>2</sup> Our Lady said to Sister Lucy:

**“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.”**

It is this aspect: “**in union with all the Bishops of the world,**”<sup>3</sup> that is new in the act of consecration that the Pope and the bishops are making today. But what does it mean? Why does Our Lady add these words: “in union with the Bishops of the world?” Sister Lucy certainly could not have invented that herself: she could have had no idea what it really meant. So it is certainly Our Lady Herself who made this specific request.

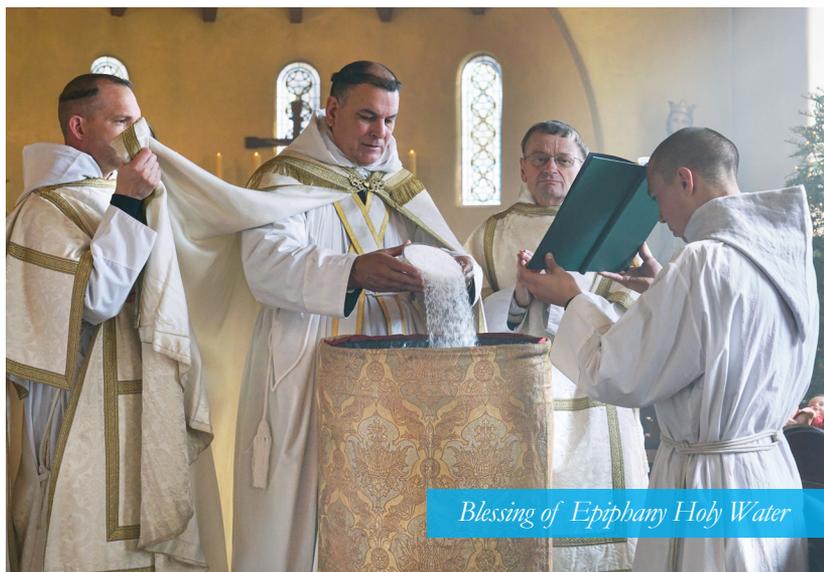
2— Frère Michel de la Trinité, *The Whole Truth about Fatima*, t. II, p. 461.

3— *Fatima in Lucia's Own Words*, p. 198.



**W**ITHOUT GOING INTO GREAT THEOLOGICAL DETAIL, to explain what this means we can simply recall that the bishops do, in fact, have authority in the Church by Divine Right, and when the pope invites them to associate themselves to him, they can exercise this authority with him over the entire Church. That's what happens in ecumenical councils. We've had twenty of them already in the history of the Church. When there is something very important to be done or decided that involves the whole Church, the pope calls together all the bishops together with him and associates them in the exercise of authority over the entire Church. By themselves the bishops don't have this authority, they only have authority over their own dioceses; but when the pope chooses to call them together in a council, they share with him this authority over the whole Church and they actually sign with him the documents of the council, which shows that they really do share in that divine authority over the Church in this case. Theologians and canonists say that this can happen even if the bishops do not come physically to Rome, as long as they are united to the pope in an exercise of this divine authority over the whole Church.

So the fact that the Pope has done that today, and that the bishops all over the world are uniting themselves with him in this act of consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, gives it a great solemnity, one could even say, a divine solemnity, a divine authority. That is why Our Lady asked for it. That is what the councils did. In certain extremely important moments in the history of the Church, to give more solemnity to an act, the Holy Father called together all the bishops of the world to act together with him and that is what happened today, thanks to this request of Our Lady.



*Blessing of Epiphany Holy Water*



**N**OW, THIS PARTICULAR POINT, if we think about it a little bit, is particularly significant with regard to Russia. For the Russian Orthodox Church, in fact, even though it is schismatic, does have a valid episcopate. Also, they believe in this divine power of the bishops together with the pope.

So Our Lady, by proposing this formula, “together with the bishops of the whole world,” is giving to the Russian Orthodox bishops something that they want, something that they understand, something that they appreciate. But at the same time that She gives them something, **She is also asking them for something by drawing their attention to what they are missing: namely, that for their authority to be valid, it must be united to the Bishop of Rome, it must be united to the pope.**

**T**HAT IS WHAT THIS CONSECRATION which has just happened all over the world has shown. All the bishops, at the invitation and under the authority of the Holy Father, the bishop of Rome, have made this act of consecration. So for the Orthodox bishops, it’s at the same time an appreciation of what they have, but also an invitation to receive what they don’t have. And that’s what Our Lady has promised through this solemn act of consecration: that She will convert the Russian Orthodox Church and that it will become Catholic.

Now we don’t know, as I said at the beginning, if this consecration will completely fulfill Our Lady’s request, because obviously there are certain difficulties in what the Holy Father has done today. But it’s certainly a step in the right direction and Our Lady has always responded to these incomplete fulfillments of her desires.



*Br. Luke, receiving the habit from His Excellency, begins his novitiate*

**A**LREADY IN 1942 WITH A CONSECRATION OF THE WORLD to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, She turned around the course of the Second World War, so that it was directed to its completion. Also, after the incomplete consecration that John Paul II did in 1984, there was certainly a change in Russia. It was no longer Communist—at least in the way that it was before—and things have changed.



*Br. Jerome is clothed in the garment of conversion*



*Perpetual vows of our Br. Jeremy*

**S**O WE CAN HOPE BY THIS CONSECRATION THAT OUR LADY WILL INTERVENE, and perhaps—we don't know—perhaps it is enough, because the essentials are there. The Pope today, in union with all the bishops throughout the world, has consecrated Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. So we can thank our Holy Father for having done this. He's done something that is very good.



*Our Br. Brendan renews the five Benedictine vows*



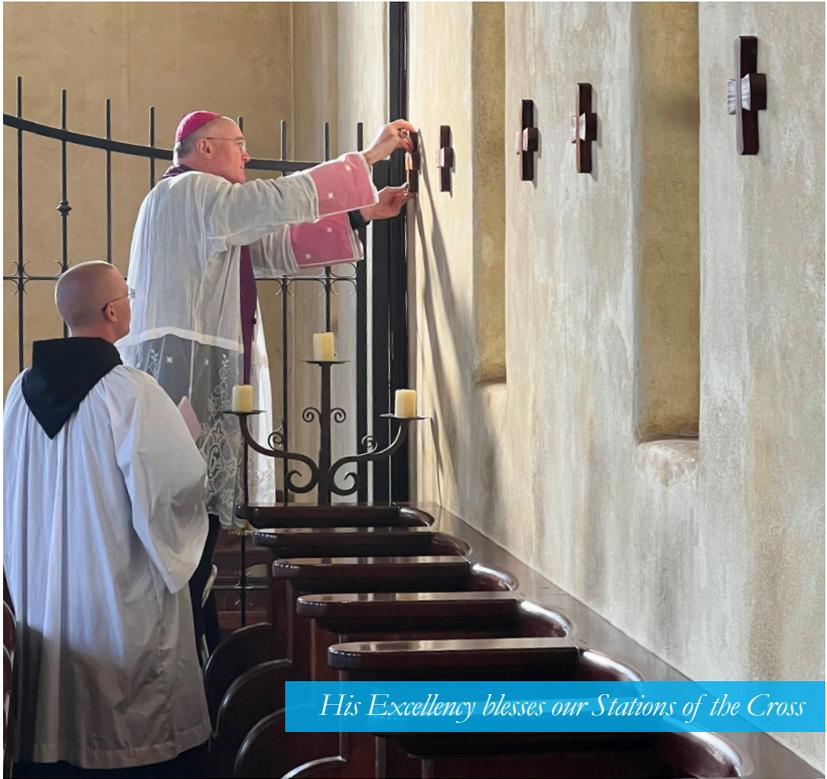
*Our Sisters participate in the Fatima Consecration*

**T**O CONCLUDE I JUST WANT TO READ TWO TEXTS TO YOU. The first is from a letter of Sister Lucy which was written to a group of Russian Catholic pilgrims in 1950. They had come to Rome for the solemn proclamation of the Assumption of Our Lady that Pope Pius XII did at that time, and they met with the Pope to talk about Fatima. In response to a letter from the head of this delegation, Sister Lucia wrote the following words:

“Our Heavenly Mother loves the Russian people and I love them also; uniting myself to the secret designs of Her Immaculate Heart, I ardently desire their return to the right road which leads to Heaven. I know that the Russian people are great, generous and cultured, that they are capable of walking on the paths of justice, truth and good.

No sooner had I seen the kindness of the Mother of God in their regard, than I began to look on them as brothers, and I wish nothing more than their salvation. I know that the true faith, the Christian faith is alive among you; I know that there are chosen souls among you who serve God and sacrifice themselves to obtain the salvation of those who have left Him. Nobody can and nobody must fulfill this great mission better than the very members of your country. It is a task which will take not just one day, but many years of work and prayer. But in the end, the Immaculate Heart of Mary will triumph, and it will be our happiness to have worked a little and suffered for Her triumph. Do not cease doing everything you can for the salvation of your people and your homeland.”<sup>4</sup>

4— *The Whole Truth about Fatima*, t. III, p. 309.



*His Excellency blesses our Stations of the Cross*

The second is in another letter to her confessor, Fr. Gonzalves on May 18, 1936, in which she writes:

**I**T SEEMS TO ME THAT IF THE HOLY FATHER DID IT RIGHT NOW, God would accept it, and would fulfil His promise; and without any doubt, through this act, the Holy Father would gladden our Lord and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Intimately, I have spoken to our Lord about the subject, and not too long ago I asked him why He would not convert Russia without the Holy Father making that consecration? **“Because,”** He replied, **“I want my whole Church to acknowledge that consecration as a triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, so that it may extend its cult later on, and put the devotion to this Immaculate Heart beside the devotion to My Sacred Heart.”**

“But my God,” she objected, “the Holy Father probably won’t believe me, unless Thou Thyself move him with a special inspiration.”

“The Holy Father! Pray very much for the Holy Father. He will do it, but it will be late. Nevertheless, the Immaculate Heart of Mary will save Russia. It has been entrusted to Her.”<sup>25</sup>

*Allocution regarding the Consecration of Russia*  
*Rev. Fr. Albert, O.P.*

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5– *Documentos*, p. 415.

OUR SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH MONASTERY





**T**HANKS TO THE OVERWHELMING generosity of our friends and benefactors, our newest phase of canonical enclosure is nearing completion. Twelve new cells, a sewing room, greenhouse, and various renovations are presently under construction, thanks to the labors of love of our dedicated volunteers.

We have welcomed several new novices into our community, while awaiting the arrival of more postulants throughout the summer months. We continue to welcome young ladies who wish to observe our life while discerning their vocation.

Our special prayers of gratitude to all of you are included in our daily Mass and all eight Hours of the Divine Office, which is the heart of the life of the cloistered Benedictine Nun.

*Sr. Mary Agnes*





*The Investiture of Virgins begins with the solemn prayers of Holy Church*



*The newly clothed novice receives the flame of her ardent Charity*

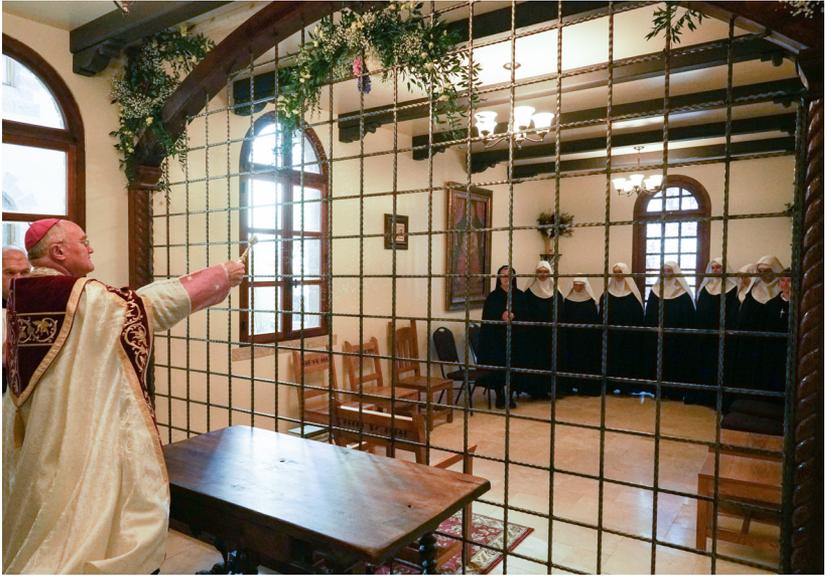


*The white veil is blessed and given to wear during the two-year novitiate*



*Our two new novices knock to be received into the community*





**H**IS EXCELLENCY, BISHOP FELLAY, blesses and inaugurates our newly renovated Chapter Room, which he kindly designed, where the Rule of Our Holy Father St. Benedict is solemnly read each morning. The new classroom hosts our teachers who give the community courses in the various subjects needed in our canonical formation, such as Latin, Sacred Scripture, Philosophy, Theology, Liturgy, and Gregorian Chant.





**OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE MONASTERY**  
142 JOSEPH BLANE ROAD  
SILVER CITY, NEW MEXICO 88061



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