

# **The Message of Fatima is the New Evangelization**

## **Heaven's Call for Children's Prayers Confirmed by the Popes**

### **Children of the World Your Mother is Calling YOU!**

**Pope Pius X 's decree in 1910** allowed children who had reached the age of reason to receive Holy Communion. During the four years following the decrees of Pius X, a world gone mad destroyed what was left of Christian civilization in blood, fire and hatred. **St. Pius X saw his urgent calls for peace ignored; the conciliatory attempts of his successor Pope Benedict XV were treated the same way. His memorandum for peace, dated July 1, 1915, was unanimously rejected by the nations at war and even some priests. Some even protested against the Pope's initiative.**

**In June of 1916** Benedict XV, finished with these rebuffs towards his efforts for peace he said he was finished with "man's wisdom" and turned with trust to "God's folly" **'the cross' and the pure and innocent prayers of children.** On June 20<sup>th</sup> **Benedict XV** prescribed to all the bishops of the nations at war that **on July 30, 1916 all the children of their dioceses receive Communion in the most solemn manner for the intentions of the Pope.** On that day, these nations saw thousands of children receive Holy Communion and unite their sacrifices to the Sacrifice of Our Lord for the conversion of the world, and an end to the war, World War I.

**On July 30, 1916,** to the children gathered in Rome for that momentous day, the Pope delivered a stirring homily in which he said:

*...We look for solace in the thought that the innocence of children will be more pleasing to God than the penance of adults...we see the power of your prayers. A power that comes directly from your innocence. Because in God's presence, the supplication of a pure heart is much more efficacious than the one of a penitent heart. A power generated by your lack of human strength, because it is the custom of the Almighty to confound the deluding strength of this world by accepting only what the world considers as weakness....we have exhorted and we have prayed; all in vain... Maybe God...will be appeased by the innocent lament of the children, because it is a lament of the just, a lament according to the heart of His Son, the Redeemer of the world. One*

*child only, by the splendor of his grace, moves the heart of God; would not it be true then, that thousands and thousands of children will move the Sacred Heart of Jesus?"*

**The call for the prayers and sacrifices of children in these coinciding events between the Church on earth and the Heavenly Kingdom was not a coincidence. It was a confirmation of the call for the mobilization of children that was born of the Decrees on Holy Communion.**

Already in 1915, the Jesuit Father Albert Bessières, founder of the Eucharistic Leagues in 1910, proposed a new crusade to 28 children at Bordeaux, France. **Under his direction, 'Treasure Sheets' were created for the students and they began to write down daily, the sacrifices they would offer for the end of the war and the salvation of the soldiers killed in action. The idea circulated from school to school at a speed denoting God's blessing.**

The Croisade des enfants (Children's Crusade), subsequently renamed Croisade eucharistique (Eucharistic Crusade), was approved on Holy Thursday 1916 by Cardinal Andrieux, Archbishop of Bordeaux, who gave them their first rules and regulations. Within a few months, approved by over 20 cardinals and bishops, this Crusade spread to over 65 French dioceses and in several other countries. It would be by the millions that the Crusade would count sacrifices and prayers for the triumph of the Peace of Christ.

- Did you know that

## **FATIMA CONFIRMS THE CALL TO CHILDREN**

**The apparitions of the Angel of Peace confirmed the actions of Pope Pius X, Pope Benedict XV and the work that Jesuit Father Albert Bessieres, began with the 'sacrifice' campaign, as he distributed the 'treasure sheets' to the Catholic school children to save the soldiers.**

**SPRING - 1916** - That same year the 'Angel of Peace' interrupted the games of three shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal. – Lucia's account is beautiful –

**First Apparition of the Angel of Peace – Teacher of Love**

**Do not be afraid. I am the Angel of Peace. Pray with me.**

He knelt, bending his forehead to the ground. With a supernatural impulse we did the same, repeating the words we heard him say:

**My God, I believe, I adore, I hope, and I love You. I ask pardon for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope, and do not love You.**

After repeating this prayer three times the angel rose and said to us:

**Pray in this way. The hearts of Jesus and Mary have designs of mercy on you.**

### **SUMMER – 1916 -Second Apparition of the Angel of Peace -**

Suddenly we saw the same angel near us.

**What are you doing? You must pray! Pray! The hearts of Jesus and Mary have merciful designs for you. You must offer your prayers and sacrifices to God, the Most High.**

"But how are we to make sacrifices?" I asked.

**Make everything you do a sacrifice, and 'offer' them to God in reparation for the sins by which He is offended, and in supplication for sinners. In this way you will bring peace to our country, for I am its guardian angel, the Angel of Portugal. Above all, bear and accept with patience the sufferings God will send you.**

### **FALL – 1916 -Third Apparition of the Angel of Peace -**

Lucia is uncertain when the third apparition of the angel occurred, sometime in late September or in October 1916 is her recollection. Having gone to the Cabeco with their flocks, and being more attentive to the words of the angel, they immediately knelt down to pray the prayer taught them by the angel: My God, I believe, I adore etc...

After we had repeated this prayer I don't know how many times we saw shining over us a strange light. We lifted our heads to see what was happening. the Angel was holding in his left hand a chalice and over it, in the air, was a host from which drops of blood fell into the chalice. The Angel leaves the chalice in the air, kneels near us and said, 'pray with me.'

**We repeated this prayer three times.**

**Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore You profoundly, and I offer You the Most Precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges and indifferences by which He is offended. And by the infinite merits of His most Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg the conversion of poor sinners.**

After he arose and took again in his hand the chalice and the host. The host he gave to me and the contents of the chalice he gave to Jacinta and Francisco, saying at the same time,



**Eat and drink the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ terribly outraged by the ingratitude of men. Offer reparation for their sakes and console God.**

**Pope Benedict XV 'calls' for all to plead for the intercession of the Mother of God.**

**Early 1917 – Again Pope Benedict XV pleaded for peace and called upon the intercession of the Mother of God in a letter dated to 'all' May 5, 1917:...***Since all graces which the Author of all good deigns*

*to grant to the poor children of Adam, by a loving design of His Divine Providence are dispensed through the hands of the most holy Virgin, we wish that the petition of Her most afflicted children, more than ever in this terrible hour, may turn with lively confidence to the august Mother of God.*

He wished the world to have recourse to the Heart of Jesus through the mediation of Mary, and he **ordered that the invocation ‘Queen of Peace, pray for us’ be permanently added to the Litany of Loreto.** Then, confidently placing the peace of the world in Her hands, the Pope made another appeal:

*To Mary, then, who is the Mother of Mercy and omnipotent by grace, let loving and devoutly an appeal go up from every corner of the earth – from noble temples and tiniest chapels, from royal palaces and mansions of the rich as from the poorest hut – from blood-drenched plains and seas. Let it bear to Her the anguished cry of mothers and wives, the wailing of innocent little ones, the sighs of every generous heart: that Her most tender and benign solicitude may be moved and the peace we ask for be obtained for our agitated world.*

**Only eight days later, at Fatima, Portugal,** the Virgin Mary came in response to the cries raised to Her from a warring world. She came to demonstrate her maternal care for us, and entrusted her message and ‘peace plan’ not to adults **but to three young children: adoration of her Son Jesus, truly and substantially present in the Most Blessed Sacrament, prayer, especially the Rosary, the request of our Heavenly Father for the establishment of devotion to His Mother’s Immaculate Heart, penance and sacrifices offered to the Sacred Heart of Jesus through her Immaculate Heart.**

Our Lady appeared to the Three Little Shepherds for six months in succession. **She asked the children to pray the Rosary every day for an end to the war.** During the final apparition, October 13th, Our Lady seemed to be saying to Pope Benedict XV. *Thank you, you did exactly what I wanted you to do. You gathered the children, asked them to pray and to make sacrifices and receive frequent Communion.*

*As a result, in October, she told the children: “The soldiers will be coming home soon.”*

The call for the prayers and sacrifices of children in these related events between the Church on earth **and the Heavenly Kingdom was not a coincidence. It was a confirmation of the ‘CALL’ for the mobilization of children that was born of the Decrees on Holy Communion.**

### **The War Ends**

**After four years of war which left Europe in ruins, in 1918 God answered the prayers of the children throughout France and three little Shepherds. Would that be the signal to disband the little crusader's army? No, by no means! Father Bessières reminded them in the Crusade newsletter *Hostia*: “After man's peace the Eucharistic Crusade will have to obtain God's victory and the official admission of Jesus Christ's rights over the world. Only that would bring to our naturalist societies a true and lasting peace. This is our only way to salvation. Fight for it through your prayers, your sacrifices and your Holy Communions. Fight for the coming of Christ's Social Kingship” (Hostia, October 1919).**

**Approved and blessed six times by Pope Benedict XV, who granted it a solemn audience on 29 March 1921, the Crusade was encouraged worldwide by more than 400 cardinals, bishops and**

archbishops. Children by the hundreds of thousands joined the ranks of the Crusade. Father Bessières led the movement until 1925, and by 1928 it had more than 1.5 million children members in France, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy, Syria and Mexico and in the Catholic missions of China, India, Madagascar, Egypt and Guyana. Unceasingly, the priests in charge said to the new members: *"Pray, receive Communion, make sacrifices, be an apostle."*

This advice became the motto of the Crusade.

1922 – Pope Pius XI - blessed the Children's Eucharistic Crusade and thanked them for their prayers...

*"I bless them...I rely on them, especially on the very young: they are all powerful with the Heart of our Lord..."*

### **In the United States of AMERICA!**

The Children's Eucharistic Crusade was recognized canonically by Pope Pius XI on August 6, 1932. It had three million members then. Every month, a treasure was composed by the total number of sacrifices made and carefully recorded by the children. It was then sent to the Pope. Here is an example: in September of 1934 the intention was for priests and seminaries; 695,585 Masses were offered, 509,585 Communions, 3,785,529 visits to the Blessed Sacrament, 4,939,544 sacrifices, etc. (Le CroisÃ©, October 1934).

<http://arc.stparchive.com/Archive/ARC/ARC11011924p05.php>

Arkansas 1924 report of Eucharistic Crusade a must read

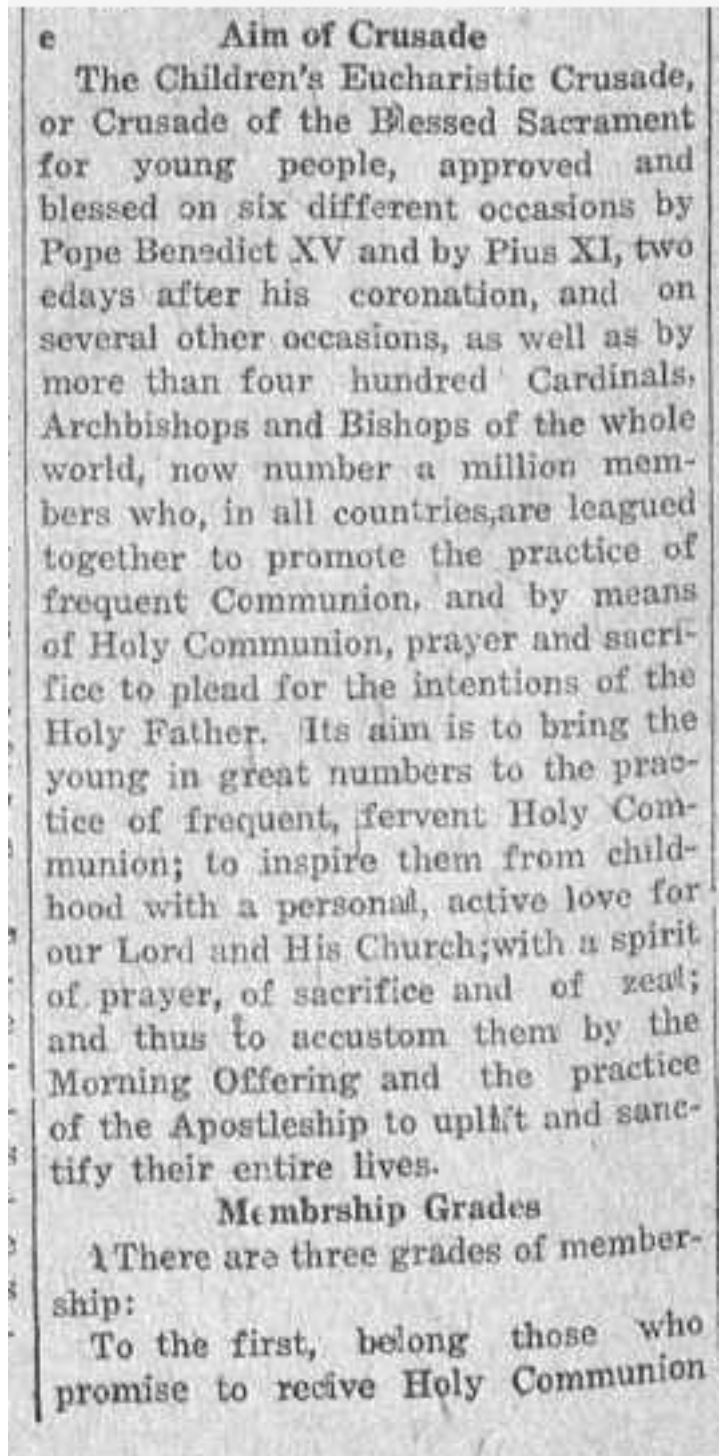
Middle section - GENERAL INTENTION – November Intention of the Children's Eucharistic Crusade

One of the characteristics of the Crusade, besides the fact that it was made up of children, **was its emphasis on the devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. The child, by his Communion, offered himself in sacrifice with the Supreme Sacrifice, the Mass.** It is no wonder that one of the consequences of the Crusade was the birth of multitudes of vocations as anyone reading the bulletins of that time clearly saw.

The Eucharistic Crusade continued through World War II with a renewed spirit of self-sacrifice, remembering the words of St. Pius X: *"Brandish the Cross of Jesus and bestow it upon mankind as the only and unique source of peace and salvation."*

**On January 6, 1958,** Pope Pius XII gave a solemn and permanent approval. It was, although no one knew it at that time, the swan song of the Crusade...

**In 1960,** the 50th anniversary of Pius X's Encyclical was celebrated in Rome by 3,500 delegates of the Crusade, who were blessed by Pope John XXIII. On that occasion, the Pope was made to believe that the name of Crusade and Crusader "reminded certain countries of painful memories" and the Crusade's name was changed to Youth's Eucharistic Movement. Very soon, new chaplains with new methods were assigned to reform what they called with derision "that religion of little papers" (making allusion to the sheets of paper in which the treasures were collected). The name of the bulletin was changed from *Hostia* to *Sharing*: a whole new program! The whole spirituality of Christian struggle and sacrifice was thrown out under the appearance of a simple change of name. The Crusade was destroyed in the name of ecumenism. It was the beginning of the Council. Where would we be



## America's Headway

While the Children's Crusade has made great headway in Europe, its progress has not been so rapid in the United States. The explanation is a simple one. Under our wonderful parochial school system, with nearly two million children, practically all are Associates of the Apostleship of Prayer and from the time of the decree of Pius X they have been taught to practice frequent and even daily Communion. This is the purpose of the Children's Crusade in Europe. Likewise, the marking of the Calendar of the Apostleship of Prayer and of the Treasury Blanks is more general in our schools than in Europe. Two hundred and twenty thousand Promoters each month receive the Treasury Blanks. Again, the children in our schools have been most active in helping us to obtain the consecration of more than a million families to the Sacred Heart during the past ten years. Thus we see that the general ideas of the Children's Crusade are being followed even where the new Crusade itself has not been adopted.

However, there is room in the United States for the Children's Crusade. In those parishes where there is no parochial school, the Children's Crusade will be found an efficient aid in fostering holy purity among Christ's little ones and of bringing them nearer to Him by frequent Communion. The local Director of the Apostleship should appoint Apostles or Promoters who will see that the names are handed to the Reverend Director or Secretary for enrollment in the League Register, and teach the children how to mark the Treasury of Good Works. A special Mass, in large parishes, could be had for the children and the First Friday of the month, or where this is not possible, the children could be seated together with their Apostles or Promoters. Where the Apostles

Refer to the 1924 newspaper article.

Jane out of this article please bring out that the children were encouraged to make frequent and holy communion especially on the First Friday of the month, fulfilling the requests of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, to make reparation to His most Sacred Heart.

**It was the school children of the United States that worked to obtain more than a million families to become consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.**

This is why Children of the Eucharist, young Missionaries of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, has turned to the children of the world to fulfill the requests of Our Lady of Fatima to become missionaries of her Immaculate Heart, to become her missionaries in their parishes, schools and families.

Dear Boys and Girls,

Ask your teachers and parents to enroll you into the 'School of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.'

- An Enrollment
- A simple Promise to be made to Our Lady followed by 5 Easy Steps to fulfill her requests.

- Morning Offering
- Visits to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament
- Entrustment to the Immaculate Heart of Mary
- Wear a Sign of your Entrustment
- The Most Holy Rosary

We are counting on the Children of the World and especially the Catholic school children, Faith formation Children, Home school children, and all the children to hear the 'CALL of the IMMACULATE HEASRT OF MARY' TO CHANGE THE WORLD. Because if this does not happen what will!

Where would the world be today **if from the four corners of the world the sacrifices of these little souls would not have continued to ascend to heaven?** These same little souls who carried daily a small part of the Cross of the Church?

### 1994- Saint John Paul II

referring to Pius X's statement: '*There will be saints among the children*' adds, "*and there actually have been saints. But we can now add: There will be apostles among the children. Let us pray that this prediction, this auspice may come true ever more, as St. Pius X's came true.*"

### 1994 – Saint John Paul II Christmas Letter to the World's Children

**He entrusts the families of the world to the prayers of the children of the world.**

In his *Christmas Letter to the World's Children* the pope called for the prayers of children for world peace: "*For how many children in the history of the Church has the Eucharist been a source of spiritual strength, sometimes even heroic strength! What enormous power the prayer of children has! Jesus and his Mother often choose children and give them important tasks for the life of the Church and of humanity. I decided to ask you, dear boys and girls, to take upon yourselves the duty of praying for peace. The Pope relies very much on your prayers.*"

And here I come to an important point in this Letter: at the end of this Year of the Family, ***dear young friends, it is to your prayers that I want to entrust the problems of your own families and of all the families in the world.*** And not only this: I also have other intentions to ask you to pray for. *The Pope counts very much on your prayers.* We must pray together and pray hard, that humanity, made up of billions of human beings, may become more and more the family of God and able to live in peace. At the beginning of this Letter I mentioned the unspeakable suffering which many children have experienced in this century, and which many of them are continuing to endure at this very moment. How many of them, even in these days, are becoming victims of the hatred which is raging in different parts of the world: in the Balkans, for example, and in some African countries. ***It was while I was thinking about these facts, which fill our hearts with pain that I decided to ask you, dear boys and girls, to take upon yourselves the duty of praying for peace. You know this well: love and harmony build peace, hatred and violence destroy it. You instinctively turn away from hatred and are attracted by love: for this reason the Pope is certain that you will not refuse his request, but that you will join in his prayer for peace in the world with the same enthusiasm with which you pray for peace and harmony in your own families.***

St. Pio of Pietralcina repeated many times:

***Children will save the world!"***

But where will they get this power?

- From the Eucharist, by receiving Jesus at the age of reason and by adoring Him in the Most Blessed Sacrament.
- From Consecration, that is, in the offering of themselves to God;



- From the Rosary, recited alone or in small groups;

The message of Our Lady of Fatima is now!

Let us help the children of the world to hear the 'CALL' of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary to save our families and a world that has spun out of control.

Pope Pius X Decree

Homily of Pope Benedict XV

Pope Benedict XVI

Saint John Paul II's

Christmas Letter to the World's Children

Newspaper articles – 1924 - Arkansas

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