

August 16, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Over the last many weeks we have been considering whether time and history is moving toward the fulfillment of Christ's promises for the ultimate triumph of His Kingdom. We have reflected on Jesus' prophecies about a time of tribulation, a time of peace, and ultimately His second Coming in glory. The last few weeks we have been considering messages from the Blessed Virgin Mary from some of her recent visits to visionaries. Those that we mentioned have either been recognized as authentic or are close to being declared so. As we celebrate a little known "octave," in the Church calendar this week we continue to consider Mary's messages in her recent apparitions. Yesterday, August 15th we celebrated Mary's Assumption into Heaven. She was taken body and soul to heaven by her Son at the end of her earthly existence and was then crowned as Queen of Heaven and Earth because she, like her Son, was gloriously triumphant over sin during her earthly life. And so, the "octave" of Mary's Assumption in our church calendar is "crowned" on the eighth day after August 15th with the celebration of Mary's Queenship on August 22nd. And so, this week, we will consider another of her appearances and messages to the world in recent years.

In Japan, a country with a population which is only 1% - 2% Christian, the Virgin Mary appeared to Sr. Agnes Sasagawa, who lived quietly in a convent in 1973. Many are unfamiliar with this particular visit from the Virgin Mary but it has the approval of the local bishop from that time who investigated the matter for eight years and found that there was no reason to doubt the apparitions or the messages.

One author explains: "The extraordinary events began on June 12, 1973, when Sr. Agnes saw brilliant mysterious rays emanate suddenly from the tabernacle. The same thing happened on each of the two days that followed.

On June 28, 1973, a cross-shaped wound appeared on the inside left hand of Sr. Agnes. It bled profusely and caused her much pain. On July 6, Sr. Agnes heard a voice coming from the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the chapel where she was praying. The statue was carved from a single block of wood from a Katsura tree and is three feet tall. On the same day, a few of the sisters noticed drops of blood flowing from the statue's right hand. On four occasions, this act of blood flow repeated itself. The wound in the statue's hand remained until September 29, when it disappeared. On September 29, the day the wound on the statue disappeared, the sisters noticed the statue had now begun to "sweat", especially on the forehead and neck. On August 3, Sr. Agnes received a second message. On October 13, she received a final third message. Two years later on January 4, 1975, the statue of the Blessed Virgin began to weep. It continued to weep at intervals for the next 6 years and eight months. It wept on 101 occasions.

### The Messages to Sr. Agnes

July 6, 1973

'My daughter, my novice, you have obeyed me well in abandoning all to follow me. Is the infirmity of your ears painful? Your deafness will be healed, be sure. Does the wound of your hand cause you to suffer? Pray in reparation for the sins of men. Each person in this community is my irreplaceable daughter. Do you say well the prayer of the Handmaids of the Eucharist? Then, let us pray it together: Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, truly present in Holy Eucharist, I consecrate my body and soul to be entirely one with Your Heart, being sacrificed at every instant on all the altars of the world and giving praise to the Father pleading for the coming of His Kingdom. Please receive this humble offering of myself. Use me as You will for the glory of the Father and the salvation of souls. Most holy Mother of God, never let me be separated from Your Divine Son. Please defend and protect me as Your Special Child. Amen.' When the prayer was finished, the Heavenly Voice said: 'Pray very much for the Pope, Bishops, and Priests. Since your Baptism you have always prayed faithfully for them. Continue to pray very much...very

much. Tell your superior all that passed today and obey him in everything that he will tell you. He has asked that you pray with fervor.'

### August 3, 1973

'My daughter, my novice, do you love the Lord? If you love the Lord, listen to what I have to say to you. It is very important...You will convey it to your superior. Many men in this world afflict the Lord. I desire souls to console Him to soften the anger of the Heavenly Father. I wish, with my Son, for souls who will repair by their suffering and their poverty for the sinners and ingrates. In order that the world might know His anger, the Heavenly Father is preparing to inflict a great chastisement on all mankind. With my Son I have intervened so many times to appease the wrath of the Father. I have prevented the coming of calamities by offering Him the sufferings of the Son on the Cross, His Precious Blood, and beloved souls who console Him forming a cohort of victim souls. Prayer, penance and courageous sacrifices can soften the Father's anger. I desire this also from your community...that it love poverty, that it sanctify itself and pray in reparation for the ingratitude and outrages of so many men. Recite the prayer of the Handmaids of the Eucharist with awareness of its meaning; put it into practice; offer in reparation (whatever God may send) for sins. Let each one endeavor, according to capacity and position, to offer herself entirely to the Lord. Even in a secular institute prayer is necessary. Already souls who wish to pray are on the way to being gathered together. Without attaching to much attention to the form, be faithful and fervent in prayer to console the Master.'

After a silence: 'Is what you think in your heart true? Are you truly decided to become the rejected stone? My novice, you who wish to belong without reserve to the Lord, to become the spouse worthy of the Spouse, make your vows knowing that you must be fastened to the Cross with three nails. These three nails are poverty, chastity, and obedience. Of the three, obedience is the foundation. In total abandon, let yourself be led by your superior. He will know how to understand you and to direct you.'

### October 13, 1973

'My dear daughter, listen well to what I have to say to you. You will inform your superior. After a short silence: 'As I told you, if men do not repent and better themselves, the Father will inflict a terrible punishment on all humanity. It will be a punishment greater than the deluge, such as one will never see before. Fire will fall from the sky and will wipe out a great part of humanity, the good as well as the bad, sparing neither priests nor faithful. The survivors will find themselves so desolate that they will envy the dead. The only arms which will remain for you will be the Rosary and the Sign left by My Son. Each day recite the prayers of the Rosary. With the Rosary, pray for the Pope, the bishops and priests. The work of the devil will infiltrate even into the Church in such a way that one will see cardinals opposing cardinals, bishops against bishops. The priests who venerate me will be scorned and opposed by their confreres...churches and altars sacked; the Church will be full of those who accept compromises and the demon will press many priests and consecrated souls to leave the service of the Lord. The demon will be especially implacable against souls consecrated to God. The thought of the loss of so many souls is the cause of my sadness. If sins increase in number and gravity, there will no longer be pardon for them. With courage, speak to your superior. He will know how to encourage each one of you to pray and to accomplish works of reparation. It is Bishop Ito, who directs your community.'

And She smiled and then said: 'You have still something to ask? Today is the last time that I will speak to you in living voice. From now on you will obey the one sent to you and your superior. Pray very much the prayers of the Rosary. I alone am able still to save you from the calamities which approach. Those who place their confidence in me will be saved.'

*From: John Ata, The Apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Akita, Japan, revised November 2011, EWTN Website*

Bishop Ito said: "The message of Akita is the message of Fatima." Our Lady asked us to pray in her messages at both apparitions, especially the Rosary, and to do penance for the conversion of the world to lighten the Great Tribulation that has been prophesied to come in the near future. It is also noted that many believe that the message of Our Lady on October 13th at Akita is actually the fourth secret of Fatima. It seems that many of the things in Our Lady's messages at Akita may have already come to pass. It is interesting that, like at Fatima, Our Lady's last official message to the world was given on October 13th. It is also noted that both villages of Fatima and Akita lay at the 39th parallel north. An interesting connection to Our Lady's messages at Medjugorje is that Our Lady mentioned that after the Enlightenment of Souls there will be a permanent and supernatural sign left by her Son in Medjugorje that no one will be able to deny. Our Lady at Akita also mentioned that 'the Sign left by my Son,' in addition to the Rosary, would be the only arms available to us against evil during the upcoming Tribulation. Regarding the number of times (101) the statue of Our Lady wept at Akita, another author states: "One day, according to authenticated reports, her guardian angel appeared to her inside the convent with a Bible. The Guardian angel opened the Bible and pointed to a specific verse which Sister Agnes Sasagawa recognized immediately as the passage of chapter 3, verse 15 of the book of the Genesis: 'And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.' The angel explained to her: 'There is a meaning to the number 101. It means that the sin has entered in the world by a woman and it is by a woman that will come the salvation. The zero between the two 1, represents the God eternal, being of all eternity until the eternity. The first 1 represents Eve and the second, the Virgin Mary.' Then Father Yasuda, the spiritual director of Sister Agnes, commented that this passage of the Genesis is considered as the first gleam of the salvation, the first promise of a Savior, made by God. It is also the first verse of the Bible referring to the Immaculate Conception of Mary, who never was under the domination of Satan." From: <https://mysticpost.com/2018/10/church-approved-prophecy-and-the-virgin-marys-mysterious-number-101-a-clue-to-todays-church-crisis-and-the-way-out/>

May Mary, Queen of Peace, Our Lady of Fatima, who is Our Lady of Akita and our Lady of Medjugorje, keep us safe in the Love of Her Son as we make our journey during these most interesting times! God's victory is near! Do not be afraid!

As we have mentioned week after week, it is time to pray, especially the Rosary and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, time to repent and come to Confession, time to come to Eucharist Adoration and Holy Mass if you are physically able, and time to fast and do penance and acts of charity for the conversion of others. As we have also have been encouraging for the last five months, please remember that the grace of Christ that we receive in His Sacraments is our sure refuge during these days. We are all being called to find refuge in Confession and to Jesus present in the Holy Eucharist. Once again, included below, is the liturgical schedule with additional Confession times, Mass times, and adoration times. Weekday Mass times may be adjusted on special days so please remember to check the parish Mass intention section of the bulletin to confirm weekday Mass times. Please remember the Catholic precept to confess sins in the Sacrament of Penance and to receive Holy Communion at least once during or near the Easter Season. Confessions are done in a socially distanced way in the church or outside on the parish grounds. We have many extra confession times scheduled. If you are unable to come to church or someone is home-bound and in need of any of the Sacraments, please let us know and the priest or deacon will come to you!

In Mary, the Queen of Peace,

Fr. Derda, Fr. Steve, Deacon Russ and Deacon Ed