

# Welcome to *Fatima: The Only Way to World Peace*

An edited transcript of the Opening Address at the Fatima Center *World Peace Conference* in Chennai, India on January 30, 2008.

by Joanna Swords

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**O**n behalf of the Fatima Center I would like to welcome you to *Fatima: The Only Way to World Peace Conference*, and we thank you for honoring us with your presence.

## **Fatima: The Only Way to True Peace**

We are here today to discuss the important issues of the only way to achieve true peace in the world that Our Lady of Fatima spoke about, and how to get Our Lady's message of hope and peace out to the rest of the world.

The planning of this conference providentially began last year. Since the initial planning — as you already know — the horrible persecution of Christians reignited last month, and is still occurring, right here in India, in Orissa.

In fact, just yesterday a priest planning to attend this conference, who was coming

from Orissa, phoned our office to let us know he was unable to attend due to the chaos in Orissa. He said he could not leave his parishioners, many of whom are still hiding in the woods for fear of losing their lives. He said many of the children have lost their parents, who have been killed in these persecutions.

Persecution of Christians, among other things, is what Our Lady of Fatima spoke about and warned about.

## **Holy Rosary**

We have asked you to join us here this coming week — we want to share with you the weapons Our Lady has given to us through great saints, such as the Holy Rosary through Saint Dominic and the Brown Scapular through Saint Simon Stock — weapons, the importance of which has been stressed throughout the centuries by great Popes,

such as, Saint Pius V and Pope Saint Pius X. Of course, Our Lady of Fatima also stressed and emphasized the importance of praying the Rosary and wearing Her Brown Scapular.

We also want to share with you the rest of Our Lady's plan that was given to us at Fatima, in the hope of avoiding further persecution, and that these horrible wars and persecutions throughout the world may be stopped.

I think many of you already have seen a great deal of our literature out there. We had hundreds of thousands of pieces of literature and sacramentals shipped here. These include *The Fatima Crusader* magazines, spiritual booklets, prayer cards, leaflets, Brown Scapulars, Green Scapulars, Miraculous Medals, and Rosaries. These items have been shipped here so that you can take them back to your dioceses, back to your parishes,

back to your families, to give to all those whom God places on your path.

If you don't see something on the tables please come and ask myself or one of the other staff members. We just recently had several spiritual leaflets printed in the language of Tamil. Please plan to take these items home with you.

### **Thanks to Our Lady's Supporters**

We ask that you please remember in your prayers the tens of thousands of supporters around the world, here in India and the rest of the world, who have generously donated and have made it possible for all of us to be here today. We are dedicating our morning Rosary for these supporters and for their generosity.

(Welcome address — "Fatima Center Works of Mercy" [continues on page 40.](#))

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## **Expressions of Gratitude**

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**"I am immensely grateful to devotees of Our Blessed Mother who sponsored me. I consider this conference a miracle of my priestly ministry. Keep up please. You have my daily prayers."**

*... Father Mark, Archbishop's house*

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## Fatima Center

### Welcome Address

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Our office in Chennai was established in 1991 and has been managed by Anthony Sebastian, who, incidentally, is the one who worked tirelessly with us to provide you with your travel and accommodations for this conference.

In the years following its inception, the Chennai office has mailed hundreds of thousands of pieces of literature to priests, religious, and laity, here in India as well as to priests in other English-speaking countries.

It also responds to the many requests for information on the Message of Fatima and for Sacramentals and Fatima literature.

Currently, the Fatima Center in Chennai is continuing to mail

to priests, religious, and laity. In response to requests, they are also sending out Fatima materials to Africa and other parts of the world. Fatima literature and Sacramentals are sent to various priests and missionaries in different countries. Lay people who ask for these items, or information on the Message of Fatima, are also given these free materials.

### Fresh Drinking Water

In 1993 the office in Chennai contacted the Canada office and made them aware that in the diocese of Hyderabad, in the State of Andhra Pradesh, there was a village which was seeking a means of getting fresh drinking water to the village from its source some distance away. The Fatima Center in North America, thanks to



## Works of Mercy

the generosity of supporters, was able to come up with the finances to make this happen.

### **Immaculate Heart Orphanage**

Also in 1993, the Fatima Center here in India opened an orphanage in the same diocese of Hyderabad. A few years later, in 1995, the orphanage needed to be expanded and a new building was constructed. The same year, a medical center was also built to provide medical care for the children of the orphanage as well as for people from three surrounding villages.

### **Convent Construction**

In 1996 a convent was built for the religious sisters who care for the orphans and who teach them. They also run the

medical center. The orphanage currently has eighty-five children. Mr. Sebastian, who oversees the office here, also directs the orphanage in Hyderabad. He travels there once a month making sure that the care of the children is proper and that their needs are met.

### **Scapular Factory**

Around 2001, the India office opened up a Scapular-making factory, also in the diocese of Hyderabad, which provides employment for people in the village near the orphanage. It also helps provide the Fatima Center with Scapulars which we in turn then distribute around the world. Approximately forty thousand Scapulars are made per month and are sent out to be distributed worldwide. **RC**