



World Apostolate of Fatima

Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis

A World-Wide day of Prayer

October 7 ~ 2004 Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary

CHILDREN'S HOLY FIELD TRIPS

CANDLELIGHT ROSARY PROCESSIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Group seeks to establish worldwide day of prayer
for the renewal of families and respect for all life

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA—July 13, 2004— The local chapter of the World Apostolate of Fatima with the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, Office of Family, Laity, Youth and Young Adults will sponsor the second annual school children's rosary field trip, and an evening candlelight rosary procession for families **to pray for the renewal of family life and respect for all life** at the St. Paul Cathedral in St. Paul, Minn. on Thursday, October 7th, 2004, the *Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary*. Based on the tremendous success of the 2003 events, the group is inviting schools and parishes in every diocese worldwide to gather in their Cathedrals or their local parishes on October 7th and establish a worldwide day of prayer for these two intentions.

Calling it a simple, yet powerful way for Catholics to unite in praying for families and for life, Connie Schneider, who is helping to coordinate the St. Paul events, said uniting our children and families for a worldwide day of prayer, responds to our Holy Father's request at the end of the **International Year of the Family in 1994**. In his *Christmas Letter to Children*, Pope John Paul II wrote, *'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...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.'*

"This year is the 10th Anniversary of that appeal, and we, as adults, can help our children realize their mission. All we have to do is unite in prayer. It has worked before, and it can work again," said Schneider

recalling the Battle of Lepanto in 1571 when the Holy Father appealed to Christians to pray the Rosary to stop the threat against Christian Europe. “With the deepening crisis in the Church, in our families, and in the world, we feel inspired to invite Catholics worldwide to unite in prayer of the Rosary on the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. What a welcome reception as well for the **Year of the Eucharist**, which begins on October 10th..”

Harry Marthaler, president of the local World Apostolate of Fatima chapter, said more than 3,200 school children from 28 Catholic schools participated in the 2003 St. Paul Cathedral field trip, and more than 3,000 people attended the evening Candlelight Rosary Procession. A letter was sent by the Archdiocese marriage/family office to Catholic school principals and parishes, just 60 days before the events. Commenting on the field trip, presider, Fr. John Paul Echert, of the Saint Paul Seminary, said, **“I looked out upon a sea of thousands of children on their knees with eyes and voices lifted towards Heaven, and better understood the words of our Lord, ‘Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God.’”**

Schneider said a letter with information on how to promote events has been sent to every U.S. Bishop and Cardinal, as well as every diocesan Office of Marriage and Family, and Pro-Life Office. The group has also sent information to the Holy Father. A Web site has been developed with promotional pieces that are downloadable and available to use, www.mostholyrosary.org.

The St. Paul children’s rosary field trip will take place at 10 a.m. on October 7th, in the Cathedral of St. Paul, led in prayer by Bishop Fredrick Campbell, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis and Rector of the Saint Paul Seminary. Gathering for the evening candlelight rosary procession will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the steps of the State Capitol and will be led by retired Bishop Paul F. Dudley. For more information, contact Connie Schneider, event coordinator, 651-776-0363, connieschneider@earthlink.net. Or visit the Web site at www.mostholyrosary.org.

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