



## *Diocese of Rockford*

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Office of the Bishop

August 10, 2017

Dear Friends in Christ,

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the apparition of Mary at Fatima to the three young children, Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta.

Since the appearance of Mary at that moment near the end of the First World War, her message about the need for repentance and penance calls the modern world to conversion to the message of the Gospel. Her words and her motherly care, demonstrated at Fatima, have been taken to heart by the Church, and even the last three Popes have made special visits to Fatima to honor Mary.

The 100th anniversary falls on Friday, October 13th, the date Mary's final appearance and of the famous Miracle of the Sun witnessed by tens of thousands. In order to leave that date free for any possible local or parish celebrations of the anniversary, I will offer a Mass to commemorate those events on Thursday, October 12, 2017, at 7 p.m. at the Cathedral Parish of St. Peter in Rockford. In the course of that Mass, I will renew the consecration, made by my predecessor Bishop Thomas Doran in 2004, of the Diocese of Rockford to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. At that same Mass, I will offer the consecration and service of the priests of this Diocese to Our Blessed Mother as well.

I take this opportunity to invite you to be present for that Mass. Please consider joining me in this special celebration and in offering reparation to Christ and to the Immaculate Heart as requested by Mary at Fatima.

With prayerful best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *David J. Malloy*

Most Reverend David J. Malloy  
Bishop of Rockford