

### The International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Fatima

This statue, sculpted in 1947 by famous sculptor Jose Thedim, reflects the precise instructions of Sister Lucia. Her desire was that the pilgrim image represent Our Lady's position when she revealed herself as the Immaculate heart to the shepherds in 1917.

The purpose of the tours was and still is to bring the graces of Fatima and Our Lady's message of hope, peace and salvation to those millions of people who may never have an opportunity to make a pilgrimage to Fatima.

On December 8, 1947, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, the statue entered the United States in Buffalo, NY. Over 200,000 people lined the streets to welcome Our Lady.

On October 24, 1952, Pope Pius XII blessed the statue and imparted a special blessing on the work of the Fatima Pilgrim tours. Then, on October 16, 1992, six bishops descended on Red Square in Moscow carrying the Pilgrim Virgin Statue. It was crowned at midnight in front of Lenin's tomb.

An uninterrupted flow of graces and favors have been reported wherever the statue has traveled including physical cures (which can only be officially pronounced by the Church authorities). More important, people are converted and return to the sacraments after many years of being away from the Church.

Sister Lucia remarked that she had never seen any image, which so resembled the actual apparition of Our Lady. In fact, out of all the pictures by various artists that she had been shown, she said this particular statue was "so much like Our Lady."

On more than 30 occasions the statue has shed tears.

This quote of Sister Lucia dos Santos, one of the visionaries of the 1917 appearances of Our Lady, is as relevant today as it was at the time of the apparitions. **"The final battle between the Lord and the kingdom of satan will be about marriage and family. Do not be afraid, because anyone who works for the sanctity of marriage and family will always be found and opposed in every way, because this is the decisive issue. However, Our Lady has already crushed his head."**

The staff of the Office of Life and Family are honored to offer this opportunity to all people on this tour and encourage you to take time from May 15 to May 26 to visit one of these parishes and to venerate the world-famous statue.