

THE ARCHBISHOP FULTON JOHN SHEEN FOUNDATION
419 NE Madison Avenue
Peoria, IL 61603
309.671.1550



May 8, 2020

Dear Friend of Sheen,

Bishops across the United States joined in a renewed consecration of our nation to the Blessed Virgin Mary as we entered the month of May which is dedicated to Our Lady. I joined them in also renewing the consecration of the Diocese of Peoria to her Immaculate Heart.

In a few days on May 13, the Church will celebrate the feast day of Our Lady of Fatima. It was on this day that the Blessed Virgin Mary started her series of apparitions to three shepherd children in the small village of Fatima in Portugal. Her message was one of penance, prayer and devotion to her Immaculate Heart.

The church continues to turn to Mary, especially during this time of pandemic, imploring her protection, as it renews its consecration to her Immaculate Heart. It does not go unnoticed, that 100 years ago, the two youngest children from Fatima, Francisco and Jacinta, died during another pandemic, the Spanish Flu. This outbreak infected 500 million people, about 1/3 of the world's population at the time and was one of the deadliest pandemics in human history.

Today, May 8, marks the 125th anniversary of the birth of the Most Reverend Fulton J. Sheen whose great devotion to our Blessed Mother is a model for many. May 12 will also mark the 125th anniversary of Sheen's baptism. He once said

*The revelation of **Fatima** is a reminder that
we live in a **moral** universe,
that evil is **self-defeating**,
that good is **self-preserving**,
that the basic troubles of the world are not in politics or economies
but in our **hearts** and our **souls**,
and that spiritual **regeneration** is the condition of social **amelioration**.*

Let us turn to Venerable Servant of God Fulton J. Sheen today as an example of devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and seek his intercession for the end of this current pandemic throughout the world.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel R. Jenky C.S.C.".

+Most Reverend Daniel R. Jenky, C.S.C.
BISHOP OF PEORIA