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## **Introducing the World Apostolate of Fatima Prayer Cell Crusade**

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The World Apostolate of Fatima, also known as the Blue Army in the U.S.A. is the official organization approved by the Vatican to spread the message of Fatima. At the request of Pope John Paul II, the World Apostolate of Fatima was officially recognized as a Public Association of the Faithful under the Pontifical Council for the Laity. Its goal is to help people to learn, live and spread Mary's peace plan from heaven, for the salvation of souls and world peace.

Five years ago, Bishop Samuel Aquila requested that a division of the World Apostolate of Fatima be established in the Fargo Diocese. A meeting that was open to all parishes in the diocese took place at St. Mary's Cathedral, Fargo, and a division was established with nine board members and a spiritual director. The members were approved by the bishop to help spread the message of Fatima in the diocese.

We are seeking more willing souls to join our apostolate. We are excited about the possibilities that will open up as more members commit their time for Mary. Padre Pio, the spiritual father of the World Apostolate of Fatima, said, "I will accept all who sign the World Apostolate of Fatima Pledge as my spiritual children, provided that they live up to the pledge."

The WAF pledge of Our Lady of Fatima, developed more than 55 years ago with the help of Sister Lucia, is simple in structure yet profound in its meaning and effect. We have been doing some activities in the diocese, and we look forward to further sharing the message of Fatima. Thus far, we have shown the Fatima film, "The 13th Day," in different parishes. We also have a regular children's holy hour that all are welcome to attend. We most recently held a conference in Jamestown that was well attended.

The focus of the apostolate is prayer. Mary came to the laity to promote her peace plan. Our goal is to mobilize an army of prayer across the Diocese of Fargo to learn, live and spread the message of Fatima, to pray for the triumph of Mary's Immaculate Heart and for that time of peace she promised.

"In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph and there will be an era of peace," she said. For this reason, we are focusing on establishing prayer cells across the Diocese of Fargo and encourage all parishes to join this effort. The prayer cell devotion is done by two or more people in their home or church. We encourage it to be done once a week in the home as it helps you learn, live and spread the message of Fatima. It is a beautiful devotion that helps you realize the importance of Mary's message and how we, the laity, have the ability to change the world around us.

Prayer has power beyond our understanding. We are fighting a spiritual battle in our world and it will take a spiritual focus to overcome the evils of our time.

*For more information about prayer cells, for the children's holy hour schedule, or to learn more about the World Apostolate of Fatima in our diocese, visit [www.waffargo.org](http://www.waffargo.org) or call Karen Splonskowski, president, at (701) 371-8409.*