

Rosary Display at Funeral Reception **(13 rosaries made of 65 dozen cupcakes)**

(Located in the Parish Life Center (PLC) after the 6:00pm Funeral Mass on 2/18/2016)

Why: To honor Fr. Ed's priesthood. Monsignor Edward J. Thompson dedicated his priesthood to Our Lady of Fatima (who advocated praying the rosary during her apparitions to three young children in 1917 for world peace, for the end of World War I, for sinners and for the conversion of Russia).

Significance of the number 13:

Between May **13** and October **13**, 1917, three Portuguese children received apparitions of Our Lady near Fatima, Portugal. She asked the children to come to the same spot on the **13**th of every month for a total of 6 times. We celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima annually on May **13**.

On May **13**, 1982, one year after an assassination attempt in St Peter's Square on May **13**, 1981 (the anniversary of the first apparition), Pope John Paul II travelled to Fatima, where he met Sister Lucia (the eldest of the three children from Fatima had grown-up and become a Carmelite nun). He believed he owed his survival to the direct intervention of Our Lady. He donated the bullet that wounded him to the Roman Catholic sanctuary at Fatima and it was placed in the crown of Mary's statue. In the year 2000, Pope John Paul II directed the Holy See's Secretary of State to reveal the third secret told to the three children in 1917 in the apparitions at Fatima; it spoke of a "bishop in white" who was shot by a group of soldiers who fired bullets and arrows into him. Many people linked this to the assassination attempt against Saint (Pope) John Paul II in St. Peter's Square on May **13**, 1981.

Pope John Paul II beatified the two younger children (Francisco and Jacinta Marto) on May **13**, 2000 in a celebration attended by more than 700,000 people. They died in 1919 and 1920 respectively. Sister Lucia, the eldest of the three children, died in the convent at the age of 97 of old age on February **13**, 2005.

Significance of the number 65:

65 dozen cupcakes (equals 780) for his nearly **65** years of service as a priest. **65** dozen cupcakes allow for exactly 60 cupcakes per rosary (13 rosaries). A standard rosary has 59 beads plus a medal (thus, 60 objects per rosary plus a crucifix or cross).

Special thanks to the Council of Catholic Women (CCW) and some additional Disciple Volunteers for baking the cupcakes and preparing this inspiringly beautiful, prayerful and symbolic display in honor of Fr. Ed's service as a priest!