As we celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Our Lady’s appearance in Fatima, we give Father, Son and Holy Spirit thanks for the presence of Mary in our lives and we ask her powerful intercession for dramatic missionary growth in the Diocese of Rockville Centre.

Our Lady’s appearances to children at a time of world crisis and turmoil in 1917 remind us that Our Lady is always present to us in moments of world crisis, family crisis and personal crisis.

Times of crisis and confrontation with evil remind us of Our Lady’s call to us to be both holy and missionary.

Mary is the Woman of the Word of God. In The Word of the Lord, Pope Benedict XVI writes: “Mary is the image of the Church in attentive hearing of the word of God, which took flesh in her. Mary also symbolizes openness to God and others; an active listening which interiorizes and assimilates, one in which the word becomes a way of life.”(27)

The 100th Anniversary of Fatima is a time for us to rekindle our Eucharistic Amazement and allow Our Lady at the Foot of the Cross who is present to the suffering of her Son and the suffering of all humanity to intercede for us that we may understand more fully that the holy sacrifices we make in every day life are an expression of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.
Mary is the Woman of the Rosary. She teaches us that the biblical and contemplative daily rhythm of the rosary in our lives expands our capacity for concentration and focus at the Mass, and helps to make us beatitudinal peacemakers within our families to the world.

The 100th Anniversary of Fatima is an opportunity for every Catholic of every age and vocation to rediscover the power of the rosary and to pray it with deeper fervor, strength and concentration.

We pray the rosary for peace in the world, for respect for the sanctity of human life at every stage of life, for holiness and mission in marriage and family life, for the needs of refugee families who live with worry and anxiety about the future, and for the raising up of saints in the Diocese of Rockville Centre who are instruments of dramatic missionary growth.

In celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Fatima on May 13, 2017, I ask every Catholic in the Diocese of Rockville Centre to not only rediscover the power of the rosary but to pray the rosary daily during the month of May 2017 in honor of Our Lady of Fatima and for the promotion of dramatic missionary growth in the Diocese of Rockville Centre.

And we ask St. John Paul II whose life was saved by Our Lady of Fatima in 1981 and who had such deep devotion to her to intercede for us to rediscover the compelling spiritual beauty of Our Lady of Fatima working in our lives.