

## FATIMA DAY AT HOLY FAMILY NOVITIATE



On October 13, 1950, the following article appeared in the Catholic newspaper of the San Francisco Archdiocese.

“An exquisite statue of Our Lady of Fatima has been brought from Portugal by Mr. and Mrs. Manuel Perry and their son, Edwin, of San Jose, to be presented to the Sisters of the Holy Family as a token of great love for our Lady and esteem for the Sisters who have conducted religious instruction classes in this vicinity for the past forty years.”

After being solemnly blessed at the Old Mission San Jose, the statue will be brought in procession to the lovely novitiate gardens, where the Sisters and their friends will receive it with song and prayer. Conducted to a specially erected outdoor altar it will be enthroned and crowned, while hundreds of children sing their hymns to the Mother of God and Queen of Heaven. An act of Consecration and Rosary will be offered by all in attendance and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament will bring the celebration to a close.



“The ceremony will take place on Sunday, October 15, beginning at 2 o’clock, and the Sisters invite all their friends to join them in this act of reparation and public prayer for the intentions of Our Lady of Fatima - the conversion of Russia and world peace.” During the month of the Rosary, and near as one could hope to the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima on October 13, the events were attended by hundreds of priests,

sisters and laity from all over the Archdiocese of San Francisco, usually numbering about 5,000. Remember, that in those days there were no dioceses of Oakland, Stockton or Santa Rosa (all established in 1963), nor a diocese of San Jose (1981). Buses and carpools arrived from everywhere, bringing people to pray together as a community. These processions and days of October prayer continued up through 1966 with some commemorations of the event in the 1980s and 1990s.

The following pictures will help you to envision the respectful and colorful observance of those days of prayer and a desire for peace that has not lessened in our own day.

