

THE FATIMA MESSAGE

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THE DEEPER MESSAGE OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA - PART I

Sometimes one hears that the message of Fatima is referred to as “merely a repetition of the requests for prayer and penance in the Gospels”. Actually, Fatima is immensely more significant than that. We are living in a confused time inside the Church as well as in the world. It is in helping to clear up this confusion that Fatima is immensely important. The revelations at the Cova da Iria in Fatima Portugal made by Our Lady to three shepherd children give us, in addition to the vital message, a compendium of the major doctrines of the Church.

In an age when many doubt the Real Presence in the Blessed Eucharist, we find the Angel who appeared to the three children leaving a Host and Chalice suspended in the air while he prostrates himself and prays the prayer:

Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, I adore You profoundly!

I offer You the Most Precious Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of our

Lord Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation

For the outrages, sacrileges and indifferences committed against Him; and through

The infinite merits of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of

Mary – I beg or the conversion of poor sinners.

Not only does the vision of the angel adoring the Host and Chalice reassure us in our belief in the beautiful doctrine of the Real Presence, but the drops of the Precious Blood falling from the Host into the Chalice confirm what the Church has always taught, that Christ is present, whole and entire, in either species.

Another doctrine of the Faith brought forward at Fatima is the doctrine on hell. How many so-called theologians, in this sad age, have taken it upon themselves to dismiss the doctrine of a hell of eternal fire as “not suitable for the mentality of modern man”? At Fatima, the children were given a terrifying vision of that same hell of fire, proving that the magisterium has not erred. These children of 7, 9 and 10 were told by Our Lady that this is where the souls of poor sinners go because there is no one to pray and make sacrifices for them. Our Lady urged the necessity of compassion for our neighbors when She said this, telling us that we are all in some sense mediators of intercession for souls, many of whom we can save if we pray and do penance for them. Upon hearing and seeing this, the children spent their days making little sacrifices and prayers so that souls would not fall there, leaving us with this heroic example.

The Immaculate Conception of Our Lady was clearly implied in the references to Her Immaculate Heart. Therefore, by inference, the doctrine of Original Sin, so often challenged today, is confirmed. If Our Lady is immaculate, then the rest of us are conceived in sin as the Church has always taught.

The doctrines of Heaven, Hell and Purgatory, of the existence of angels and devils, of the need for prayer and penance to attain salvation are all brought to the notice of the modern world at Fatima, and of course, are confirmed by the great Miracle of the Sun on October 13, 1917. This happens to be the only miracle predicted to happen, day and hour, which actually did happen as predicted. Shouldn't this make this message significant? Shouldn't we study what the message is and live it? Our Lady of Fatima pray for us!

OUR LADY OF FATIMA'S ROSARY - PART 2

On the morning of October 13, 1884, immediately after saying Mass, Pope Leo XIII suddenly went into a trance, which lasted for a short while. During the trance he had a mystical experience showing him the possible course of the 20th century; specifically, he overheard Satan boasting to Jesus that, given enough time and power, he could destroy the Church. When Jesus asked, "How much time? How much power?" the devil demanded a century, along with an increased influence over those consecrated to the service of God. Our Lord agreed, granting Satan great power over the 20th century, but warned him that if he failed – as he surely would, due to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Michael the Archangel – the Church would emerge from the ordeal stronger and more glorious than before.

When Pope Leo came out of this trance, he first described this revelation to his shocked attendants, then immediately went to his study and wrote the Prayer to St. Michael which he order to be prayed aloud at the end of every Low Mass offered throughout the world. (This directive remained in effect until 1964. Also, the Oath Against Modernism that began in 1910 by Pope Pius X remained in effect until 1967)

33 years later to the very day and hour, Our Lady came to Fatima Portugal on October 13th, 1917 at 12 noon. She came to three shepherd children and appeared to them on the 13th day of each month for six consecutive months to give messages of peace to a world in the grips of Satan. The world at the time was in the First World War and she predicted that if people do not cease offending God and if they do not pray, especially pray the Rosary each day, that a second and worse World War would occur.

With each and every one of the six visits, Our Blessed Mother asked for the daily Rosary. On the last visit, She told the children that She was the Queen of the Most Holy Rosary. This apparition is approved by the Church and is probably the most well-known by name but not by its content.

It was on July 13, 1917, Our Lady told the children to say this prayer at the end of each decade:

"Oh My Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of Hell, lead all souls to Heaven; especially those most in need of Your Mercy."

She also opened the earth on this date to show the children Hell where poor sinners go because there is no one to pray and make sacrifices for them. This is very powerful! She had shown us Hell, She had asked for the Rosary and She had asked that people cease offending God. She also predicted the Second World War if we did not listen to Her requests.

As our true Mother in Heaven, Our Lady certainly intercedes for us as a most powerful mediator of intercession with Her Son; and the most striking modern proof of this is Her coming at Fatima, an event with is confirmed by a public miracle which was reported even in the daily press of those times.

It has commonly been taught by approved doctors and theologians in the Church (Saint Bernard, Bonaventure, Alphonsus and others) that it is more efficacious to approach Jesus through Mary than to try to reach Him by any other means. It is impossible to reproduce all the persuasive reasonings they use here but those who are specially interested in this subject will find some of them in the famous treatise on “True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary” by St. Louis de Montfort, who also wrote, “The Secret of the Rosary”.

May we listen to Our Mother and pray the daily Rosary, especially with our families that are under the attacks of Satan and his cohorts. May we pray for the peace that Our Lady had promised. Fatima is not over. The message is still for our times. Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, pray for us.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA'S FIVE FIRST SATURDAYS OF REPARATION – Pt. 3

The Message of Fatima did not begin on May 13, 1917. It began in the Spring of 1916 when the Angel of Peace (believed to be St. Michael the Archangel) appeared to the three shepherd children and said, “The Hearts of Jesus and Mary are attentive to the voice of your supplications.” This angel appeared to them three times. It was on the third visit that the angel was holding a chalice with a Host suspended above it. From the Host drops of blood fell into the chalice and leaving them both suspended in mid-air, he prostrated himself on the ground and three times repeated this prayer:

Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, I adore You profoundly!

I offer You the Most Precious Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of our

Lord Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation

For the outrages, sacrileges and indifferences committed against Him; and through

The infinite merits of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of

Mary – I beg for the conversion of poor sinners.

Anything which offends the Heart of Jesus offends the Heart of His Mother. The greatest offenses are those directly against Our Lord, in the Sacrament of His Love.

Today, how many Communion are not only careless but even sacrilegious! Our Lord had asked for Communion of Reparation to His Sacred Heart on nine First Fridays and now He reminds us of the same thorns piercing the Heart of His Mother. He asks for Communion of Reparation to Her Immaculate Heart.

Our Lord said to Lucia in March, 1939: “*Ask, ask again insistently, for the promulgation of the Communion of Reparation in honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary on the First Saturdays. The time is coming when the rigor of My Justice will punish the crimes of diverse nations. Some of them will be annihilated. At last, the severity of My Justice will fall severely on those who want to destroy My Reign in souls.*” (Documentos, pg. 465)

Jesus gave Lucia these five reasons for wanting five Saturdays:

- 1) Blasphemies against Her Immaculate Conception
- 2) Blasphemies against Her Virginity
- 3) Blasphemies against Her Divine Maternity, refusing at the same time to accept Her as the Mother of mankind
- 4) Those who try publicly to implant in the hearts of children indifference, contempt, and even hatred against the Immaculate Mother
- 5) Those who insult Her directly in Her sacred images

Jesus further added: *“Here, My daughter, are the reasons why the Immaculate Heart of Mary compelled Me to ask for this little act of reparation and, due to it, to move My Mercy to forgive those souls who had the misfortune of offending Her. As for you, try unceasingly with all your prayers and sacrifices to move Me to Mercy toward those poor souls.”*

What is asked of us on each First Saturday is the following: To go to confession, receive Holy Communion, pray the Rosary and pray for an additional 15 minutes with the distinct intent of making reparation to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary for the above offenses.

Of course we are not limited to this. We can memorize the Angel of Peace Prayer for reparation. We can offer up little daily sacrifices for these intentions. We can evangelize to those who are guilty of the above offenses. We can share this message with all those around us because the Hearts of Jesus and Mary are greatly offended now more than ever. Fatima is not over – reparation is needed – the First Saturdays are greatly needed. May we listen to the Heart of Jesus and give this reparation in order to soften the blow that Our Lord told Lucia is about to strike the world.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA'S VICTIMHOOD – Part 4

Who is a victim soul? Victim souls are those to whom the future reparation for the sins of mankind has been revealed so that they could pray and do penance for them. They are like little Christs or like jewels in a treasure chest that the Heart of Jesus collects. A victim soul who expiates for the sins of others does it out of love for God and neighbor or it is not fruitful.

At Fatima, Our Lady said to the three children:

“Do you want to offer yourselves to God to endure all the sufferings that He may choose to send you, as an act of reparation for the sins by which He is offended and as a supplication for the conversion of sinners?”

Promptly Lucia responded for all three, *“Yes, we want to.”*

“Then you are going to suffer a great deal,” the Lady promised, *“but the grace of God will be your comfort.”*

Our Lady opened her hands and shed upon the children a highly intense light of infused grace. They fell to their knees, while repeating these words:

“Most Holy Trinity, I adore You! My God, My God, I love You in the Most Blessed Sacrament.”

Again the Lady spoke to them, *“Say the Rosary every day to earn peace for the world and the end of the war.”*

Later on Sept. 13, 1917, during the fifth apparition, after the children had been offering various sacrifices, Our Lady told them, *“God is pleased with your sacrifices, but He does not want you to sleep with the (penitential) cord on; only wear it during the daytime.”*

On the day after Francisco's death, April 4, 1919, Our Lady told Jacinta she was to be taken to two different hospitals “not to be cured, but to suffer more for sinners” and that “she was to die all alone far away from home but that Our Lady would be there to take her to Heaven.”

During their lives, they prostrated themselves on the ground to pray the prayers taught to them instead of playing their usual games. They gave up their lunches to the poor in the street on their way to tending to the sheep. They offered their thirst for the conversion of sinners. Once little Jacinta had a headache and wanted the crickets and frogs to stop with their singing. Francisco reminded her that this could be offered for sinners and she was then glad to make the sacrifice. Their days were filled with constant sacrifice until they were called Home to Heaven. Was all of this worth it? Would we think of doing this today? Think of the souls that are now in Purgatory instead of Hell. Think of the eternal reward made in exchange for fleeting pleasures given to us here. The children were trustful, prompt in obedience and respectful to God's teachings. The three children of Fatima had to share with Christ the ordeal of persecution from both civil and ecclesiastical authorities. The Church authorities strongly warned them to stop the madness

especially on the event of the miracle of the sun where even those who were gravely ill braved the rain to be at the apparition site.

These children were filled with a supernatural motivation of saving souls. This helped in their acceptance of the suffering allowed by God and the sufferings that they willingly embraced.

The Gospel of Suffering is above all a call, a vocation. At first, Christ does not explain suffering to His disciples, but before all else He calls them: *“Follow Me! Come! Take part through your suffering in this work of saving the world, a salvation achieved through My suffering! Through My Cross!”*

If this suffering is not done in love and united to the Cross of Jesus Christ then it is in vain. The children were taught to say the prayers taught by The Angel and by Mary. In order that their sacrifices were to be pure, they were to pray: *“Oh My Jesus, I offer this for the love of You, for the conversion of poor sinners and in reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.”* each time they had something to offer.

We too can offer little sacrifices (maybe big ones) with the advice of a good spiritual director who knows the value of reparation. On Judgment Day, Our Lord and Our Lady will show us what souls were saved by the sacrifices we made on this earth. This life is short and the next is eternal – don't you want to help prevent souls from being damned for all eternity? More importantly, this will please the Hearts of Jesus and Mary who are already so greatly saddened.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA'S REQUEST FOR CONSECRATION OF RUSSIA – Pt. 5

Our Lady of Fatima in 1917 told the three children that the war [World War I] was going to end: but if people did not cease offending God, a worse one would break out during the Pontificate of Pius XI [World War II]. She told them, *“When you see a night illumined by an unknown light, know that this is the great sign given you by God that He is about to punish the world for its crimes, by means of war, famine, and persecutions of the Church and of the Holy Father. To prevent this [World War II], I shall come to ask for the consecration of Russia to my Immaculate Heart and the Communion of reparation on the First Saturdays. If my requests are heeded, Russia will be converted, and there will be peace; if not, she will spread her errors throughout the world [Communism], causing wars and persecutions of the Church. The good will be martyred; the Holy Father will have much to suffer; various nations will be annihilated. In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph. The Holy Father will consecrate Russia to me, and she shall be converted, and a period of peace will be granted to the world. In Portugal, the dogma of the faith will always be preserved, etc. ...”* (Words in brackets are added)

It is painfully obvious that Our Lady's requests were not heeded in time. World War II broke out, and the errors of Russia spread throughout the world, not only with the implementation of communist regimes in many countries of Europe, Asia and the Americas, but equally through the spread of doctrines and customs that are consistently leading the world to abandon natural and Divine law. Drives for homosexual “marriage,” abortion and euthanasia are but a few of these manifestations.

According to a private revelation to Sister Lucia on June 13, 1929, Our Lady, appearing with the Infant Jesus, asserting that the hour for the consecration of Russia had come. Later, this request having not been heeded, Our Lady said to Lucia: *“They did not want to pay attention to my request. Like the king of France, they will be sorry, but it will be too late. Russia will already have spread its errors throughout the world, causing wars and persecutions of the Church. The Holy Father will have much to suffer!”*

In a letter to Father Gonçalves in 1936, Lucia mentions another communication from Our Lord: *“...Pray very much for the Holy Father. He will do the consecration of Russia, but it will be too late. Nevertheless, the Immaculate Heart of Mary will save Russia. It has been entrusted to Her.”*

The consecrations carried out afterwards were certainly pleasing to God but, as the historical events clearly show, they no longer had the power to forestall the chastisement.

Papal Consecrations:

- Pope Pius XII: On October 31, 1942, he consecrated the Church and the human race to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and on July 7, 1952, consecrated the Russians to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.
- Pope Paul VI: On November 21, 1964, he confided the human race to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.
- Pope John Paul II made two consecrations of the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary: in Fatima on May 13, 1982; and in Rome on March 25, 1984.

- Pope Benedict XVI on May 13, 2007 invoking Our Lady of Fatima on the ninetieth anniversary of the apparitions, stated, “In a special way we entrust to Mary those peoples and nations that are in particular need, confident that she will not fail to heed the prayers we make to her with filial devotion.”
- Pope Francis on October 13, 2013 entrusted the World to Our Lady of Fatima in Rome

What is the defense against this creeping horror known as Communism?

Pope Pius XI wrote in his encyclical *Divini Redemptorist*, which was promulgated on the feast of St. Joseph, 1937 (We may want to take heed to this now):

“No one...may collaborate with it (communism) in any undertaking whatsoever no matter how innocent this may appear. He warned how communists, “without receding an inch from their subversive principles, invite Catholics to collaborate with them in the realm of so called humanitarianism and charity; and at times even make proposals that are in perfect harmony with the Christian spirit and the doctrine of the Church”.

The choice lies before all, for the temptation is now global indeed: Apostasy or Death? Not a question of saving human life, but of saving the Faith. “Every other enterprise,” said Pius XI “however attractive or helpful, must yield before the vital need of protecting the very foundation of the Faith and of Christian civilization.”

The “errors of Russia” mentioned by Our Lady of Fatima can only be overcome by supernatural force, because there are no natural means superior to them. Given the impairment of nature by Original Sin, there are no natural means which are even proportioned to these “errors”.

The defeat of Communism will be affected by prayer and penance, in the name of Him who before His Passion said, “In the world you will have affliction but take courage, I have overcome the world!” (John 16:33) It is not the dictatorship of the proletariat which is “inevitable”, but the Triumph of the Church!

Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us!

PS – It may not only be wise to study the message of Fatima but also Communism so that we can recognize it. May we listen to Our Lady and consecrate ourselves to Her and pray the Rosary daily for peace.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA'S BROWN SCAPULAR - Part 6

Our Lady gave four conditions for world peace at Fatima: the daily Rosary; the five First Saturdays; Penance; and Consecration to Her Immaculate Heart. Personal Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary is the least understood, but one of the most important elements of the Fatima Message. Our Blessed Mother is asking generous souls living in the world, to consecrate themselves to Her and by their prayers and cheerful acceptance of the duties of their state of life, to make reparation.

Our individual answer to Mary's request at Fatima is to live fully our Scapular Consecration. It is through our enrollment in the Brown Scapular that we become individually consecrated to the Mother of God. This we can accomplish by living in the spirit of our Scapular Consecration which necessitates avoiding occasion of sin, and making a deliberate and conscious effort to live in dependence upon Mary to whom we have given our person, rights and goods. In return for our life of Consecration through Her Scapular, our Blessed Mother has promised us, not only Peace on Earth, but Eternal Peace, "Whoever dies clothed in the Scapular shall not suffer eternal fire." (Words of our Lady to St. Simon Stock) By this gift of our will, we give to Mary absolute confidence and the filial trust of a child, that Mary's maternal heart overflows with compassion for us, Her pilgrim children.

Not many people realize that the Scapular is part of the Fatima Message. On October 13, 1917, the Blessed Virgin appeared in a vision to the three children clothed in the robes of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. She was holding a Brown Scapular in Her hand and had Her Infant Son upon Her knee.

Lucy, as a Carmelite nun, was questioned as to the importance of the Scapular in the Fatima Message, during an interview on August 15, 1950. She replied, "Our Lady wants all to wear the Scapular. The Scapular and the Rosary are inseparable."

It is encouraged that if you and your loved ones are not enrolled in the Brown Scapular, that you ask a priest to enroll you. The effects of living our Scapular Consecration will insure our own sanctification because Our Lady will watch over you and guide you to Her Son which will bring you eternal life. You will grow in interior happiness and peace. You will grow in courage from the knowledge that you do not fight alone. Our Lady will be at your side as your true Mother and Queen. She will pray for you as you daily wear Her Scapular that you remain faithful to the commandments of God in loving Him above all things and in loving your neighbor as yourself.

Act of Consecration

(to be said daily)

O Mary, Immaculate Queen of Carmel, Mother of God, and my Mother, by my holy Scapular I am entirely Yours. Assist me this day, and obtain for me the grace to live faithfully my Scapular Consecration, whereby my heart, my mind, my body, my whole being is Yours without reserve, forever. Help me to offer all to the Heart of Jesus, through You, for the salvation of souls. Amen

“A new crime is arising in the world, that of being a Christian; and there must arise a new virtue, that of being consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.” Venerable Bishop Sheen