



FORMATION PROGRAM #1

First Apparition of the Angel

LUCIA SPEAKS:

"Do not be afraid."

"I am the Angel of Peace. Pray with me."

[Kneeling, head bowed to the ground, the children imitate him.]

"My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love Thee! I beg pardon for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love Thee!" [3x]

"Pray thus. The Hearts of Jesus and Mary are attentive to the voice of your supplications."

Accompanying Commentary:

With the first encounter of God's Presence, we may find He is powerful and overwhelming to our nature. We are small, helpless, and unworthy. But God doesn't take back His call.

What the Angel is about to teach is the means which will bring about peace. He prepares them with prayer.

This prayer is primary to our Faith: the Theological virtues- Acts of Faith, Hope, and Love.

As though in a nutshell, here is the practice of the Two Great Commandments:

Love of God, as witnessed in the act of adoration found in thought, heard in word, and seen in action by their humility in bowing to the ground (here we also see a unity in east and west in this form of prayer); and **Love of neighbor**, as expressed in reparation for those who do not acknowledge God, contained within the same act of thought, word and deed. It is repeated in the Trinitarian number.

The Angel teaches us how to adore God. God is attentive to our prayers. He manifests His listening "Heart"¹ in the Persons of Jesus and Mary: "The Word was made Flesh" and "The Hearts of Jesus and Mary are One."

REFLECTION & RESOLUTION: This first vision of the angel to the children is a prayer in action to move their hearts to the awareness of God's Presence, and to unite their hearts to His. We must also be aware of God's Presence and allow the Holy Spirit to move our hearts by taking steps to place ourselves in His Presence. By taking these first steps, God is given greater access to our hearts so as to do great things in us and around us in His Plan to bring peace to the world. Practice the "Presence of God" by saying this thrice repeated Angel prayer each day, even several times, with intended concentration on the words, until you, too, can lose yourself in God once it becomes a habit.

[Brief period of silent reflection]

Discussion

Examination of last month's resolutions

Apostolic resolution

Resolution in brief: **Say the Angel prayers everyday attentively and devoutly.**

Act of Consecration

¹ Rosarium Virginis Mariae, Pope JPII #26, par. 2