



FORMATION PROGRAM #9

Sixth Apparition of Our Lady

LUCIA SPEAKS:

[Lucia begins her account to describe the scene leading up to the final apparition. She says, "Once there, moved by an interior impulse, I asked the people to shut their umbrellas and say the Rosary"...]

"What do you want of me?"

"I want to tell you that a chapel is to be built here in my honor."

"I am the Lady of the Rosary."

"The war is going to end, and the soldiers will soon return to their homes."

[Lucia]: "I have many things to ask you: the cure of some sick persons, the conversion of sinners, and other things..."

[Our Lady]: "Some yes, but not others. They must amend their lives and ask forgiveness for their sins."

"Do not offend the Lord our God any more, because He is already so much offended."

[With that, She opens Her hands so that the light from them reflect on the sun- a symbol and figure of the Son of God- revealing a mystery. As Christ reflects and projects His eternal light in the life of Our Lady, so also Our Lady, as She ascends, reflects and projects this very light on His symbol found in nature, displaying the various manifestations of its beauty and power to change the course of history, as Christ can and does in our life to the degree in which we cooperate.]

[Lucia, moved by an interior impulse for the second time, directs the people to look at the sun, though she is unaware of their presence. See how Our Lady makes us docile instruments of the Holy Spirit once we are dead to the attachments of our feelings and to allowing the awareness of things and people to control or distract us. In the new life, everything and everyone is only seen and addressed in a new way. Life is not ended but changed.]

[The children see the Holy Family which can be said to illustrate the joyful mysteries of life and the need for the sanctification of the family. The Holy Family is a model of the life of the Blessed Trinity and a pattern of living set before us. In the blessing of St. Joseph and the Child Jesus on the world, we see in that act God's blessing upon our humanity which we must work to divinize through a life of prayer, self-denial, and self-giving by service to God and each other amidst our daily family duties.]

[The second vision of Our Lord and Our Lady of Dolours seems to illustrate the sorrowful mysteries of life; not so much the sorrowful mysteries of Christ, but rather the sorrows of Our Lady. It is usually the women of the world who carry the suffering of the sorrowful mysteries in their heart due to the sins and injustice in the world. Jesus blesses the world again, as though through these prayers and sufferings they bear. How many women today, however, have been the causes of these very sufferings because they have refused to bear the cross and be Jesus to the world?!

[The last apparition of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel can be said to illustrate the glorious mysteries of our lives. The Brown Scapular, which She silently holds out for us to wear, is a devotion of the heart: a devotion of a higher love. It is a silent hidden devotion of "presence"— living presence. It is the living presence of the love of Jesus and Mary for us. By our wearing it, it becomes a sign of our living presence to Them. We live in the company of each other. In the new life, you are constantly aware of Their presence, even if you are not thinking of Them, just as you are aware of someone being in the same room with you... On the way to this new life, you may not be aware of Their presence, but you still stand before Them. This is your sign to them that you

Accompanying Commentary:

What is Our Lady teaching here through Lucia? Go against your natural inclinations. Renounce yourselves whenever you see the occasion. Do the opposite your feelings desire until your feelings no longer dictate to you what you should or shouldn't do.

Now Lucia is ready; stripped of attachment to her feelings, supple and ready to be used in the hands of God, Lucia places herself once more at the service of Our Lady ready to carry out the task which Our Lady has been preparing her for.

Our Lady makes Her simple request— a chapel in Her honor— not the great Basilica seen today in the heart of Fatima built by the generosity of the people, but a chapel. Capelinha means "little chapel". It is here, in this little place where our humble Mother appeared. She Herself is little 'chapel' of God.

What is the Rosary but a depiction of the intertwined lives of Jesus and Mary? Is this not why She insists we pray it, so by way of comparison, we can see our own lives intertwined therein in the Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful, and Glorious Mysteries? She has set the pattern of our own lives before our very eyes! Through this prayer and by living lives of self-denial, we can begin to see it take shape! With the eyes of faith, we will be able to look beyond the present circumstances and see the resurrection beyond the suffering of carrying the cross of our daily duties - beyond the crucifixion when all seems lost. We will be able to hold on. We are in the Heart of Our Lady of the Rosary!

It is finished. Lucia has reached the resurrection of a promise about to be fulfilled. The quota of Rosaries and sacrifices were met to obtain the end of the war, combined with Our Lady's treasury of merits as Co-Redemptrix in union with Christ.

Everyone is on this spiritual pilgrimage. Notice the conversion of sinners has now been added to the list of requests -- the people are learning. Here Our Lady specifically reveals the reason why She says 'no' to some.

Here is the heartfelt cry of Our Lady, pleading as She is from Her Immaculate Heart, and wounded deeply by the sins of humanity against God, Whom She loves more than Herself.

wish to get to heaven, or at very least to avoid hellfire. The good news is we can begin to live this new life - Our Lord's resurrected and glorious life - dead to the world and alive for God, even before we come to the end of our mortal life, simply through perseverance in living the way of life described in these lessons.]

REFLECTION & RESOLUTION: When you pray the Rosary, you may notice how your mind wanders through events that have happened throughout the day. When you find this happening to you, gently draw its connection to the Mysteries you are meditating on. Reflect on the pattern of living that Jesus and Mary show you in Their lives. Your distractions then become a means to your desired end. We are enlightened in the Divine Mysteries, however, not by intellectual efforts alone. It is only through the help of the Holy Spirit. Without sacrifice, you may find this to be a laborious task. For others, the Rosary may cause your mind to go blank. In this case, speak mentally to Jesus and Mary during your prayer or just rest in Their presence, until you find your mind has taken you somewhere else. Through practice and experimenting with different ways of praying, the Rosary will be a means of working out your salvation through amendment of life, asking forgiveness for sins, and avoiding evil.

[Brief period of silent reflection]

Discussion

Examination of last month's resolutions

Apostolic resolution

Resolution in brief: **Pray and live the Rosary by using it as a means to amend your life, ask forgiveness for your sins, and avoid offending God.**

Act of Consecration