

July 12, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

During the warm and quiet days of summer, it is good to rest a bit after the stresses of the last several months. We continue to ask our Lord to intervene to bring conversion and peace to all hearts in our country and the world. The Blessed Mother has been coming to the earth many times in the last few hundred years to call us to prayer and conversion of heart so that the world would not have to endure trials. It seems that the errors of Russia (as the Communist Soviet Union) have spread into many parts and countries of the world and even threaten the peace of our time: totalitarianism, atheism, disregard for human life and human property, and the destruction of civil societies, just to name a few. We really do seem to be in a great struggle between good and evil today. Below is recounted the conversation the Virgin Mary had with the children of Fatima on July 13th (103 years ago tomorrow). Just to be clear, we don't have to believe in private messages from heaven that are approved by the Catholic Church in order to be saved, however, it seems that in our time we may be wise to take them to heart. The message is even more needed today.

Mary's message at Fatima July 13, 1917:

Lucia: "What do you want of me?"

Our Lady: "I want you to come here on the 13th of next month, to continue reciting the Rosary every day in honor of Our Lady of the Rosary, in order to obtain peace in the world and the end of the war, because only She can help you."

Lucia: "I should like to ask You to tell us who You are, and to work a miracle so that everyone will believe that you are appearing to us."

Our Lady: "Continue to come here every month. In October, I will say who I am and what I want, and I will perform a miracle so that all might see and believe."

Lucia then presented some petitions that had been entrusted to her. Our Lady said she would cure some, but not others, and that it was necessary to say the Rosary in order to obtain these graces throughout the year.

Our Lady: "Sacrifice yourselves for sinners, and say often to Jesus, especially whenever you make a sacrifice: 'O Jesus, it is for love of Thee, for the conversion of sinners, and in reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.'"

"As Our Lady spoke these last words, she opened Her hands once more, as she had done during the two previous months. The rays of light seemed to penetrate the earth, and we saw as it were a sea of fire. Plunged in this fire were demons and souls in human form, like transparent burning embers, all blackened or burnished bronze, floating about in the conflagration, now raised into the air by the flames that issued from within themselves together with great clouds of smoke, now falling back on every side like sparks in huge fires, without weight or equilibrium, amid shrieks and groans of pain and despair, which horrified us and made us tremble with fear. (It must have been this sight which caused me to cry out, as people say they heard me). The demons could be distinguished by their terrifying and repellent likeness to frightful and unknown animals, black and transparent like burning coals. That vision lasted only a moment, thanks to our good Mother of Heaven, Who, at the first apparition, had promised to bring us to Heaven. Without that, I think we would have died of terror and fear.

"Terrified and as if to plead for succor, we looked up at Our Lady, who said to us, so kindly and so sadly:

"You have seen hell where the souls of poor sinners go. To save them, God wishes to establish in the world devotion to My Immaculate Heart. If what I say to you is done, many souls will be saved

and there will be peace. The war is going to end; but if people do not cease offending God, a worse one will break out during the reign of Pius XI. 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, 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, 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 will 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. Do not tell this to anybody. Francisco, yes, you may tell him.

“When you pray the Rosary, say after each mystery: O my Jesus, forgive us, save us from the fires of hell. Lead all souls to Heaven, especially those who are most in need.”

Lucia: “Is there anything more that you want of me?”

At many other apparitions of the Virgin Mary over the last 100-200 years and in statements from various popes, priests and laypeople, there have been indications that God will give every person an Enlightenment of Conscience at a certain time in the near future so that they will turn their hearts back to God. Are we approaching that time? Pope St. Paul VI who died in 1978 and who completed Vatican II said this:

“The maturity of conscience, most difficult to evaluate today, is the discernment between evil and good. Humanity has performed so many evil deeds that its conscience is now darkened by sin. We will need a terrible warning, and many will refuse to listen—a terrible warning. Most people will not heed it, but it will be essential to replace the moral order. Many have lived using their freedom for every kind of pleasure, and they are under the gaze of our God; but this judgment will be direct—at the same time, with His tenderness—and they will be forced to recognize their sin and to separate their sin from their goodness. This time, the sins of the world will be revealed.”

God calls us to change our hearts because He is merciful and only wants good for us. We encourage all of our brothers and sisters at this time to pray the Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy every day, to go to confession at least monthly, to do acts of sacrificial love for God and others, to fast and to do other spiritual sacrifices. We will offer these prayers and sacrifices for the change of heart of people who are separated from God, to bring peace to the world and, and so that, miraculously, good will triumph over the rampant evil that surrounds us.

As we have been encouraging for the last four months, please remember that the grace of Christ that we receive in His Sacraments is our sure refuge during these days. We are all being called to find refuge in Confession and to Jesus present in the Holy Eucharist. Once again, included below, is the liturgical schedule with additional Confession times, Mass times, and adoration times. Weekday Mass times may be adjusted on special days so please remember to check the parish Mass intention section of the bulletin to confirm weekday Mass times. Please remember the Catholic precept to confess sins in the Sacrament of Penance and to receive Holy Communion at least once during or near the Easter Season. Confessions are done in a socially distanced way in the church or outside on the parish grounds. We have many extra confession times scheduled. If you are unable to come to church or someone is home-bound and in need of any of the Sacraments, please let us know and the priest or deacon will come to you!

Come, Lord Jesus to save us, and do not delay!

In Jesus' Precious and Saving Blood,

Fr. Derda, Fr. Steve, Deacon Russ and Deacon Ed

