



## FORMATION PROGRAM #5

Second Apparition of Our Lady

### LUCIA SPEAKS:

"What do you want of me?"

"I wish you to come here on the 13th of next month, to pray the Rosary every day, and to learn to read. Later, I will tell you what I want."

[Lucia asked for the cure of a sick person.]

"If he is converted, he will be cured during the year."

[Lucia]: "I would like to ask you to take us to heaven."

[Our Lady]: "Yes, I will take Jacinta and Francisco soon. But you are to stay here some time longer..."

**"Jesus wishes to make use of you to make me known and loved. He wants to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart."**

"I promise salvation to those who embrace it, and those souls will be loved by God like flowers placed by me to adorn His throne."

[Lucia]: "Am I to stay here alone?"

"No, my daughter. Are you suffering a great deal? Don't lose heart. I will never forsake you. My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and the way that will lead you to God."

[The light of God coming from Mary, again, permeates the children as they find themselves immersed in God. It is the communication of Her own participation of His Presence, which they share in. She reveals, and lets them experience, the glory of that joy which accompanies the acceptance of the Will of God in their life. We see the participation of their partnership together, acting both in heaven and on earth by the light, and how it was directed in their regard. This is the communion of saints. Lucia receives strength from this communication and her great suffering becomes bearable. In seeing Our Lady's own Heart, pierced by thorns, they recognize and understand that She too, participates in a suffering that is made manifest to them on a human level. It is this participation of love and suffering which makes them understand they are ALL really in it together...yet, for Our Lady, **a chasm of omission** - thorns of ingratitude and blasphemies leveled against Her - are yet to be repaired, as God now reveals.]

**REFLECTION & RESOLUTION:** God's call and plan is made known to you. Let the truth of this reality sink deep within you. Go before Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, or to a quiet place, and become aware of how these words affect you. The deeper you participate in its realization, the more Our Lady will be able to use you. Consider: Isn't it so often true that we see things from our own perspective, and even perhaps other's perspectives, but fail to see things from God's point of view? So many set Mary aside thinking devotion to Her takes away from the attention we owe to Christ. Jesus is compared to Mary, and then Our Lady is rated accordingly. But Jesus wants us to look at Mary from His relationship perspective. In doing so, we might begin to understand the kind of relationship He wishes us to have with Him.

[Brief period of silent reflection]

Discussion

Examination of last month's resolutions

Apostolic resolution

Resolution in brief: **Ponder deeply on the relationship between Jesus and Mary, especially when you pray the Rosary. Consider how much Mary means to Jesus. How will you help to make Mary known and loved in order to please Him?**

Act of Consecration

Accompanying Commentary:

Do you also desire to know what Our Lady wants of you?

In opening our heart to Our Lady, Her inspirations help us to make simple short term commitments, daily faithful practices, and a specific task to accomplish. If we are faithful to these temporal preparations which are permeated with spiritual value, She will later reveal what She wants of us.

In this impatient and self-absorbed society, people seek instant gratification. Yet within the context of a promise, and in order to give encouragement, this good, wise, and prudent Mother has Her children work for what they want, by putting their priorities first. We should consider this example in our dealings with suffering.

Once Lucia has her selfless concerns addressed, she makes known to Mary her own personal request. But God has different plans.

Here Our Lady reveals the first reason for Her visits. Placing Jesus' wishes before Her own, She reveals what it is that Jesus wants of us right now. Let these words penetrate into your heart. [Re-read these words of Our Lady again... slowly]

How do Her words affect you? Do you feel pierced in some way? Listen to Her promise:

Do you not wish to console your outraged God, deeply hurt by the numerous, grievous sins of humanity, by making Mary known and loved? God wishes your salvation, and Mary promises Her intercession on your behalf. Your little acts of love will be like those of St. Therese, the Little Flower.

Lucia is pierced in two ways: She does not receive her request to go to heaven soon and she is informed she will lose the companionship of her very dear cousins.

Again, Our Lady balances the pain of the cross with Her comfort--both in words and in commitment...an example for us in the way to extend mercy to the sorrowing. Mary does not hide from Lucia the painful truth, nor deny her sorrowful realization, but promises Lucia Her presence and Her help. Our compassion, too, must be balanced with truth and sacrificial commitment.