



FORMATION PROGRAM #7

Fourth Apparition of Our Lady

LUCIA SPEAKS:

"What do you want of me?"

"I want you to continue going to the Cova da Iria on the 13th, and to continue praying the Rosary every day. In the last month, I will perform a miracle so that all may believe."

[Lucia]: "What do you want done with the money that people leave in the Cova da Iria?"

[Our Lady]: "Have two litters made. One is to be carried by you and Jacinta and two other girls dressed in white; the other is to be carried by Francisco and three other boys. The money from the litters is for the "festa" [feast] of Our Lady of the Rosary, and what is left over will help towards the construction of a chapel that is to be built here."

[Lucia]: "I would like to ask you to cure some sick persons."

[Our Lady]: "Yes, I will cure some of them during the year."

[Looking very sad, Our Lady says]:

"Pray, pray very much, and make sacrifices for sinners; for many souls go to hell, because there are none to sacrifice themselves and to pray for them."

REFLECTION & RESOLUTION: Let us examine our motives for the things we do. We need only occupy ourselves with those things that have to do with our state in life. It is possible to be too busy with "extras" (be it parish work, visitations, apostolic endeavors, etc. as well as wasted time taken up with unnecessary activities), that we crowd out or make seemingly "good" excuses for avoiding those things at home which we really need to do to bring life to bodies and souls. By prioritizing, we can live a balanced, peaceful lifestyle. As we master our vocational call and put our own household in order, we will be able to see our way clear to do whatever else God may call us to. Unless He does the calling, we must ask ourselves, 'Who's will am I doing?'

[Brief period of silent reflection]

Discussion

Examination of last month's resolutions

Apostolic resolution

Resolution in brief: **Examine your motives and lifestyle. Prioritize and live your vocation by putting your household in order. Prayer and sacrifice must be our priority in living a balanced, peaceful lifestyle to fulfill God's Will in our lives.**

Act of Consecration

Accompanying Commentary:

Let us again open our heart and listen to what Our Lady asks of us.

Our Lady reminds us to persevere in our duty and to pray the Rosary daily. She reminds Lucia of the promise She made to her as a sign of Her own commitment.

People are already contributing to the work that is going to be done in the building of a chapel, yet Our Lady has not even made Her request for it yet. When God prepares us for a work, if we are obedient in the preparation of our souls, God is already bringing together events to make this work possible, which He will involve us in, at a later time.

Lucia again asks mercy for some sick persons and Our Lady gives limited consent...

What Our Lady really wants is to extend mercy that goes beyond the corporal works of mercy. She pleads for the means to be extended to people that will bring them eternal mercies. So many people are preoccupied with temporal good works that give life to the body, but few want to apply themselves to good works which truly give lasting benefit and eternal life to souls. This requires the true virtue of divine love of self-denial and self-giving, rather than only human love which is, too often, mingled with self-love.