



FORMATION PROGRAM #8

Fifth Apparition of Our Lady

LUCIA SPEAKS:

[As Lucia had digressed, something can be said on the matter of the digression itself: People are so taken up with appearances that they lock themselves in a kind of a mental prison. If Jesus, but for one brief second, showed Himself in the Great Sacrament of the altar, which He has entrusted to us, all these people, and certainly ourselves, would flock to Him with all those things that crowd our heart and thoughts. But our good Jesus knows our weakness, and so He allows little specks of His light to enter us, through the means that we choose to reach Him in others, when our desire is there to reach out and touch Him. But what great wonders untold does He pour out in great measure to those who come to adore Him where He is truly present! If we but have the dispositions of Our Lady in our attitude in approaching Him, heaven and earth would be ours!]

“Continue to pray the Rosary in order to obtain the end of the war.”

“In October Our Lord will come, as well as Our Lady of Dolours and Our Lady of Carmel. Saint Joseph will appear with the Child Jesus to bless the world.”

“God is pleased with your sacrifices.”

“He does not want you to sleep with the rope on, but only wear it during the daytime.”

[Lucia]: “I was told to ask you many things, the cure of some sick people, of a deaf-mute...”
[Our Lady]: “Yes, I will cure some, but not others.”

“In October I will perform a miracle so that all may believe.”

REFLECTION & RESOLUTION: Go back again and read the questions addressed in the first paragraph of the commentary of this instruction. Formulate the desire you wish to entrust to Our Lady. Give it to Her and let Her bring it about for you. She says in another place: “Believe in me, I will believe in you;⁶” and, “Take care of my interests and I will take care of yours.” We continue to fulfill our duties, but we don’t need to make plans to bring about that which we will entrust to Her. She will arrange the events to bring it about Herself. Persevere in the promises you make for living out Our Lady’s wishes. If you do, She will make known to you a promise... a gift from Her Immaculate Heart-- a personal gift to you. In the measure which you give, it will be given back to you. If you persevere to the end, you will receive your request. Too many give up right at the edge of receiving all, because they lose it all by giving up. We must die in order to rise. We must persevere when everything is lost and things seem hopeless. It is then that we have reached the

Accompanying Commentary:

ALL things can be obtained from the power of Our Lady’s intercession through the Rosary. What is it that calls you to prayer? What is most important to you? What drives you forward to hope? If nothing, what would? What is your deepest longing? If you could do anything, be anything, or obtain anything in the whole world, what would be your desire? Our Lady tells you to continue to pray the Rosary.

Our Lady has plans for the October event and reveals to Lucia that the request she had asked for would include more than what Our Lady had promised her. Our good Mother uses our requests to commit Herself to a promise that She will answer in a greater way than we could ever imagine, if we are faithful to our part of the commitment.

The children set themselves each day to strive hard to please God. How consoling these words must have been to them. Our Lady, this time, did not increase on them a greater urgency of giving themselves more, as She did in the third apparition. They had truly turned their lives over to making this their primary work and were now heartened to hear they were succeeding in their objective. This becomes an examination of conscience for ourselves-- how hard are we striving to please God? Are we sincerely sacrificing ourselves to obtain a worthy purpose from our prayers?

Our good and Holy Father in Heaven is very reasonable. He desires that we daily work and train ourselves to give ourselves completely without reserve to a righteous cause until, like Christ, we hold nothing back. However, He knows our frail humanity (that we are but dust), and He understands our weakness. So in His most wonderful plan He has set within the natural order, times to rest-- for the day, the week, the year, and additionally in the Church, Holydays and Jubilee Years.

Even in the Old Testament, one was considered unclean only until evening; and one day is given within seven to rest. All of us take some time during the year to go on vacation. God blesses rest and makes it holy. In fact, He has made it **His** day, claiming it for Himself and showing Himself to be the Giver of rest. These times are to refresh us, so that we might have the strength to begin again.

Why does Our Lady cure some but not others? We know the greater good of the person is at stake here. Will the cure bring about a good for the individual? Or will it free them from an impediment which keeps them from a life of sin? Suffering is not an end in itself. There is a definite purpose for it. Once it has achieved its purpose, the suffering is removed. If the removal of the suffering would cause greater harm, Our Lady will protect us from ourselves and leave us to carry that cross. How good She is! Our Divine Parents know us, and what is good for us, better than we know ourselves.

Lucia has kept her commitments. Our Lady again promises She will keep Hers.

⁶ The Apparitions of Our Lady at Banneux (approved), pg. 22

point which precedes the resurrection of the promise to be fulfilled...right when it is the most impossible. How strong is your faith? If we break with faith, the promise will still be fulfilled, but it will be late and at what cost?

[Brief period of silent reflection]

Discussion

Examination of last month's resolutions

Apostolic resolution

Resolution in brief: **What is the deepest longing and desire of your heart, that you would be willing to pray and sacrifice for, in order to obtain or achieve it? Entrust it to Our Lady. Fulfill Her requests daily. Persevere; and let Our Lady prove Her commitment to you.**

Act of Consecration