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The Voice of Fatima



The Sanctuary Organ, blessed and recommended by His Holiness Pope Pius XII

1948
SEPTEMBER
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N.º 32

The Message of Fatima

5. THE MEANS OF FULFILMENT

a) Duty.

It is obvious that the means are many and various but they can all be resumed in on word—love. Love is the fulfilment of the Law—that is to love God above all things and our neighbours as ourselves. These are Our Lord's own words and from St. Augustine we have: *Ama et fac quod vis*:—Love (the good) and do what you will.

It is no secret that Our Lady and at times even Our Lord, have continued to reveal and explain in greater detail the original message which was given to the world at the time of the Apparitions. We know too that Our Lady, during the Apparitions in the Cova da Iria ceaselessly recommended the practice of penance as she had done in previous Apparitions in other places, in order that Divine Justice might be appeased and sinners converted to God. The children themselves took this command absolutely literally and gave themselves up to a life of such heroic sacrifice as to astonish and surprise us in children of such a tender age. The penance they performed was of such an order as to require the direct intervention of Our Lady and her prohibition of certain things: «God is content with your sacrifices, but you are not to sleep with the cord. Wear it only in the daytime».

It would be admirable if everybody—especially those who have grave sins to expiate—were to perform penance of this kind. But we are frail and inconsistent, and either from lack of courage or perhaps of time and opportunity we tend to avoid wherever penance which causes us physical pain and distress.

And so Our Lord in his merciful knowledge of our human frailty, made known to Sister Lucia, that she might make it known to us, that he will be content with another kind of penance—the interior mortification of the senses and faculties, and the sacrifices which make up the exact fulfilment of our day by day duties and responsibilities.

At this point it is preferable to let Sister Lucia herself speak, for she, better than anyone else, can transmit the exact

words of Our Lord. She wrote in a letter dated April 20th 1943 to His Excellency the Bishop of Gurza: «This is the penance which the good God asks: the sacrifice which each person must impose upon himself in order to lead a just life and observe His law. He wishes his way clearly to be made known, otherwise, many people imagine that the word penance implies the practice of great austerities, feel that they lack the necessary generosity for these, become discouraged, and finally fall into a life of tepidity and sin».

During the night of Friday and Saturday, when I was in the Chapel with the permission of my Superiors, at midnight, Our Lord said to me: «The sacrifice of each soul consists in the fulfilment of its own duty and in the observance of My Law; it is the penance which I now ask and desire».

Doctrine as old as the human race. The Patriarchs and Saints of the Old Law did not sanctify themselves by any other means. The most sublime example lies in the life of the Holy Family. And from the day of S. Joseph's death until now, how many souls have climbed to the heights of sanctity by this path alone! Yet how many Christians forget this fact and become discouraged because they lack the courage for great austerity. A great responsibility rests upon those who teach and direct souls, parents, teachers, priests. God «wishes this way clearly to be made known». What way? One of sacrifice always. A just life in the observance of God's Law. But it must be a wholehearted acceptance of the whole Law, readily, joyfully, generously. That is not to pick and choose among the commandments, to observe one code in private life and another in public or vice-versa.

This is nothing new in itself, but has a particular importance for our own times. Our Lord and his Mother know well how the way of salvation can be adapted to all states and conditions: «The sacrifice of each soul consists in the fulfilment of its own duty and in the observance of My Law; it is the penance which I now ask and desire».

Thousands brave rain to witness Dedication of Shrine to Our Lady of Fatima

MILWAUKEE (U. S. A.).—From under an umbrella that provided meager shelter from rain, Auxiliary Bishop Roman R. Atkielski dedicated the outdoor shrine of Our Lady of Fatima on the convent grounds of the Dominican Sisters of the Perpetual Rosary. A crowd of several thousand defied the pouring rain to participate in the procession and the dedication services.

The shrine, the largest outdoor Catholic shrine in Milwaukee county, is built of ledge rock with streams of water flowing over it. The five statues carved in Italian white carrara marble depict the Blessed Virgin, the three children, Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco and a sheep. The fifth statue, that of one of the children, has not arrived.

A lay committee assisted by Fr. A. M. Klink, director of the Society of the Propagation of the Faith, and Mother Agnes, superior of the Dominican Sisters of the Perpetual Rosary, campaigned for funds to build the shrine. It was designed by Leonard Schmidt of Milwaukee and promoted by Joseph Lynch.

The dedication services were preceded by a procession from St. Anthony of Lisbon church, 76.6 W. Stevenson along Bluemound road to the shrine. The procession is held semi-annually on May 13 and October 13 to commemorate the six consecutive monthly apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima.

During the procession the statue of Our Lady was carried by boys of Don Bosco high school, attended by the Knights of Columbus color guard, the Naval Reserve and units of the National Guard.

