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LIVING THE LIFE OF FATIMA: June 13, 2017

QUESTION: How can I live the messages of the June 13, 1917 apparition of Our Lady to the three shepherd children?

To begin, have you listened to the Messages of Our Lady at her first apparition? Have you begun to live those messages? One suggestion from last month was to scrub the exclamation “Oh My God” from your speech - as well as any other careless and disrespectful uses of the Holy Names. Have you worked on this? Have you committed yourself to this?

During her second apparition, Our Lady asked the three children (Lucia, Jacinta, and Francisco) to pray the Holy Rosary daily. Perhaps you are in the habit of doing this already. But do you offer the Rosary prayerfully, pausing to consider the content of each of the Mysteries?

- There are 20 Mysteries, including the 5 Luminous Mysteries added by Pope St. John Paul II. If someone asked you, could you name all 20 in order from the Annunciation to the Coronation? The Mysteries of the Holy Rosary are the Gospel of Jesus Christ offered as meditations and prayers. The Rosary helps us to know Jesus Christ because it brings us into his Incarnation, earthly ministry, passion, death, and resurrection. The 20 Mysteries are the story of Jesus Christ and therefore of the Faith.
- Our Lady told Lucia that she would live longer than Jacinta and Francisco in order to make Our Lady better known and loved, and also so that Lucia could work to establish a global devotion to Her Immaculate Heart. Lucia now turns to us to help her. What are you doing now to make Mary Immaculate better known and loved among your family, friends, fellow workers, and neighbors? Do you maintain a quiet but consistent daily devotion to Our Lady, including daily Rosary, short or long-distance pilgrimages to Her shrines, frequent confession to keep your soul “immaculate,” that is “unspotted” by sin? Do you ask Mary to help you “to do whatever He asks you to do” as an obedient disciple of Jesus?
- Do you pray daily for the conversion of sinners, especially those in most danger of unprepared, unrepentant death? To do so is to “live the life of Fatima.”
- Do you seek **personal holiness**, without which you cannot ultimately see God? Seeking personal holiness through deeper conversion will increase your influence in healing divisions and resolving animosities in your family, among your friends and fellow employees, and in your neighborhood.

During this month of the second apparition, invite three people to attend Mass with you. Prepare them by explaining the Mass and making yourself available to answer questions after Mass.

On Saturdays, especially First Saturdays, make 5 small hidden sacrifices to remove 5 thorns from the crown of thorns that the children saw encircle the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Personal Holiness is Heaven’s Plan for Salvation and Peace for Ourselves, our Families, our Communities, and our World.

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