



Relationship with GOD

More than Just SUNDAY

The Fifth Apparition of Our Lady of Fatima

September 13th will be the anniversary of the fifth apparition of Our Lady in Fatima Portugal to three shepherd children in 1917. Each time that Mary appeared, word spread and more people became interested. Despite the ridicule and jokes of the secular, atheistic press, more than 30,000 people gathered in the Cova for the September apparition. Whether drawn by devotion or curiosity, they prayed the Rosary while awaiting the arrival of Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco and the apparition of Our Blessed Mother.

At the appointed time the crowd could hear Lucia say, "What do you want of me?" **Mary responded, "Continue the Rosary, my children. Say it every day that the war may end. In October Our Lord will come, as well as Our Lady of Sorrows and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. Saint Joseph will appear with the Child Jesus to bless the world. God is pleased with your sacrifices.**

Lucia replied, "I have the petitions of many for your help. Will you assist a little girl who is deaf and dumb?" **She will improve within the year.**

"And the conversions that some have asked to have brought about? The cures of the sick ones?" **Some I will cure, and some I will not. In October I will perform a miracle so that all may believe.**

With these last words still ringing in their ears, the Lady rose and disappeared in the heavens, as Lucia called to the crowd, "If you wish to see her --- look! Look!"

In the fifth apparition as in all the prior appearances, our Blessed Mother requested that the children pray the Rosary each day to bring peace to the world and an end to war and violence. Obviously this was important, and is no less important today! Praying the mysteries of the Rosary allows us to ponder the major events of Jesus' life by reading a short Scripture passage for each mystery and then briefly imagining the scene. (A Rosary pamphlet includes the Scripture verses.) For me, this is the way I come to know the details of how Jesus related to people with the utmost respect and compassion, how He prayed, what He taught,

where He went, what was important to Him and other important facts. In getting to know Jesus better, I can speak with Him as a living, breathing Person and learn to trust Him more. This also opens the door to having a conversation with Him about my personal struggles.

When I made a decision to pray the Rosary each day, months went by before I even got started. The problem was that I thought it was just going to happen. But life is busy. I finally figured out that it was only going to take place if I chose, beforehand, a specific time of day, and then was firmly committed to it. Setting a time for prayer is no different than setting times for eating sleeping, starting work, spending time with family etc. It needs to be planned. Of course, situations come up, but then schedules can be adjusted.

Let us ask Jesus to give us the desire to be committed to praying at least a decade of the Rosary each day. We will find greater peace and joy in our hearts, in our families, our communities, our nation and our world if we respond to Mary's call to pray the Rosary.

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