

July 16, 2017

## Heart of the World XXXI

For the last couple of weeks we have considered Our Lady's Immaculate Heart. Just like when we discussed Our Lord's Sacred Heart, we began with the symbolism.

In her 2<sup>nd</sup> appearance at Fatima, Mary said to Lucia: "My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and the way that will lead you to God." She also showed the children another vision of God and revealed to them Her Immaculate Heart, surrounded by thorns. She told them that these thorns represented the sins of humanity (specifically 'outrages'—remember the Angel's prayer that we started with?). Mary bearing these thorns is herself seeking reparation for them and inviting us to do the same with our sufferings.

Last week we spoke of Mary's sufferings in this world and how they are summed up in her "7 Sorrows". By being willing to bear these grievous sorrows (and *many* others!) out of love for God and us, she allowed God to act in time and space. She allowed the miracle of the Incarnation of Our Lord. His coming forth from Heaven to save us.

We also pointed out that: "the 'crown' of roses is deeply related to the sword(s). It speaks of the beauty of her Love, her humility, (all of her virtues) and her true Queenship. It also speaks of the hidden suffering of perfect Love. Inside those roses are thorns."

The word Rosary literally means crown of Roses. There is much to consider here.

This past Thursday, was July 13<sup>th</sup> and commemorated Our Lady's third appearance. She asked the children to pray the Rosary in honor of Our Lady of the Rosary.

She promised to work a miracle to confirm her requests and make people believe her appearances were real. She promised that those who asked for bodily cures or conversions of loved ones that they would receive these graces if they prayed the Rosary.

After telling the children to "sacrifice yourself for sinners..." she showed them a vision of hell so terrible that they screamed from fear. She then told them that they have seen where the souls of poor sinners go and that God wishes them to be saved by fostering devotion to her Immaculate Heart.

There are a number of requests that she made in order for this to happen. We will look at these next week, but back to the Rosary.

Besides Mass, there is nothing more important that any of us can do in our spiritual lives than say a daily Rosary. Praying the Rosary is like holding Our Lady's hand as she shows us and explains to us the life of her Son. It is also like gently soothing her Heart, one thorn at a time—taking them out and leaving a rose in its place.

*Fr. Michael*