

July 23, 2017

Heart of the World XXXII

As we have considered Our Lady's Immaculate Heart we spoke of the symbolism of the image. The crown of roses bespeaks of the beauty of her true Queenship, virtues, and also the hidden suffering of perfect Love—inside those roses are thorns. The word 'rosary' means crown of roses.

When we pray the Rosary it is like holding Our Lady's hand as she shows us and explains to us the life of her Son. Therefore, praying the Rosary is also like gently soothing her Heart, one thorn at a time—taking them out and leaving a rose in its place.

Last week we spoke of our Blessed Mother's third apparition at Fatima (July 13th) and how she made a number of requests. We mentioned that she showed the children a vision of hell and asked them to make "sacrifice [of] yourself for sinners..." so that she could intervene on their behalf.

"Then Our Lady opened Her hands, as during the previous apparitions, and the light that was God streamed forth. In this light they were given, on this occasion, a vision of Hell so horrible and gruesome that the children shrieked aloud with fear. After showing them Hell Our Lady said to the children: "You have seen Hell where the souls of poor sinners go. To save them, God wishes to establish in the world devotion to My Immaculate Heart. If what I say to you is done, many souls will be saved and there will be peace. The war is going to end; if people do not cease offending God, a worse one will break out during the pontificate of Pius XI. When you see a night illumined by an unknown light, know that this is the great sign given you by God that He is about to punish the world for its crimes, by means of war, famine, and persecutions of the Church and of the Holy Father. "To prevent this, I shall come to ask for the consecration of Russia to My Immaculate Heart, and the Communion of Reparation on the First Saturdays. If My requests are heeded, Russia will be converted, and there will be peace; if not, she will spread her errors throughout the world, causing wars and persecutions of the Church. The good will be martyred, the Holy Father will have much to suffer, various nations will be annihilated. In the end, My Immaculate Heart will triumph. The Holy Father will consecrate Russia to Me, and she will be converted, and a period of peace will be granted to the world. In Portugal the dogma of the Faith will always be preserved . . ." "When you pray the Rosary, say after each mystery: 'O my Jesus, forgive us, save us from the fire of Hell. Lead all souls to heaven, especially those who are most in need.'"

As you can see, there is much yet to do... Next week: answering her call.

Fr. Michael