

October 22, 2017

Heart of the World XLV

October 13th marked the 100th anniversary of Our Lady's last apparition to Lucia, Jacinta, and Francisco in Fatima. We have undertaken this series as a way to consider the message of the Fatima event.

The "message" of Fatima was addressed to the whole world. It can very basically be summed up as a request for penance, prayer and devotion to Mary's Immaculate Heart.

To the whole world, the Blessed Mother repeatedly emphasized the necessity of praying a daily Rosary, of wearing the Brown Scapular and of performing acts of reparation and sacrifice. She also asked for the practice of a new devotion of reparation on the first Saturday of five consecutive months.

To the bishops and the Pope, she requested the solemn public Consecration of Russia to Her Immaculate Heart. This was to prevent the terrible chastisement that would come by means of Russia and to attenuate the suffering of its citizens.

The heart of Our Lady's Message to the world is contained in what has come to be called the "Secret". This was shared with Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco in July 1917. Often referred to as three secrets, it is actually one secret in three parts. The first two have been publicly revealed for some time, now.

The first was a horrifying Vision of hell "where the souls of poor sinners go" and was an urgent plea for acts of prayer and sacrifice to save these poor sinners. The second prophesied the outbreak of World War II if her requests were not met and contained the request for the Consecration of Russia as a condition for world peace. It also predicted the inevitable and eventual triumph of Her Immaculate Heart following Russia's consecration and the conversion "of that poor nation" to the Catholic Faith.

The third has been revealed as being about the assignation attempt on the life of the Holy Father. John Paul II saw himself in that and that has been the official position of the Church. For what it is worth, this is a legitimate point of controversy as there is a very compelling case to be made that the third "secret" involves more and has yet to be fully revealed.'

So what does this mean to us here at St. Francis Xavier Parish? In answer to Our Lady's plea, I recommend making the observance of the Five First Saturdays, a daily Rosary, wearing of the Brown Scapular, frequent Confession, prayers and acts of penance in reparation for the "outrages, sacrileges, and indifferences" by which the Lord is grieved and "poor sinners" are lost because they have no one to pray for them.

Additionally, I would love it if here at St. Francis, everyone would spend at least a moment in prayer of gratitude after Mass before rushing out into the parking lot and the rest of life. If there is a habitual need to run off immediately, then go to another Mass. There are many.

Fr. Michael