

“My Immaculate Heart will be a way that leads you to God”  
(Apparitions of the angel and Eucharistic devotion)

In Sr. Lucia’s book, “Calls” From the Message of Fatima Sister views the first apparition of the Angel as a call to faith and faith is not something from which we must be fearful. “Do not be afraid. I am the Angel of Peace. Pray with me.” Prayer increases our faith and faith increases our desire to pray. In the first apparition the Angel teaches the children to pray “My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love You. I ask your forgiveness for those who do not believe, nor adore, nor hope and nor love You.” Three times they pray this together and then before he disappears, the Angel says, “Pray this way. The Hearts of Jesus and Mary are attentive to the voice of your supplication.” No other message is given. This is sufficient. The children are not yet ready for more.

The first apparition begins with the children seeing the beauty and majesty of Heaven reflected in the appearance of the Angel; a powerful wind, an unusual light which is whiter than snow, an angel who “...is whiter than snow and transparent, gleaming most brilliantly, like a crystal of great beauty through which the sun’s rays glisten...”, (p. 18, The Sun Danced At Fatima) he is both frightening and reassuring. The Angel comes to teach them to pray and to trust that their prayers are heard by Our Lord and Our Lady. The angel leaves them praying. This vision stretches them and their faith. Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta begin to pray more, attend early morning Mass and seek opportunities to be alone together. Without being told, they begin to keep the “Secrets of the King” sharing it only with each other.

Sr. Lucia reminds us that “Faith is the basis of the entire spiritual life. It is by faith that we believe in the existence of God, in His power, His wisdom, His mercy, His work of redemption, His pardon, and His fatherly love.” (p. 60, “Calls” From the Message of Fatima)

Faith and prayer lead to a greater love of God. Love is shown by a desire to offer acts of love and sacrifice for the Beloved. When the angel appears the second time, he teaches the children the importance of these acts for love of God.

“What are you doing? Pray, pray a great deal. The Hearts of Jesus and Mary have designs of mercy for you. Offer

unceasingly to the Most High prayer and sacrifices.” (p. 180, A Woman Clothed With the Sun) But being children, and not certain what exactly is meant by this, Lucia asked how to make sacrifices. To which the angel responded, “Offer up everything within your power as a sacrifice to the Lord in reparation for the sins by which He is so much offended and of supplication for the conversion of sinners. Thus bring down peace upon your country. I am the Guardian Angel of Portugal. More than all else, accept and bear with resignation the sufferings that God may send you.” (p. 180, *ibid*)

As we learn in the first Fatima prayer, the apparitions are also a call to adoration. Adoration by nature belongs to God alone. It is in the third apparition of the Angel that they will be given the example of how to adore God, especially, adoration of the Real Presence in the Eucharist. The children see the angel “holding aloft a chalice with a host suspended above it. From the host drops of blood fell into the chalice cup, and leaving both suspended in mid-air, he prostrated himself upon the ground and three times repeated ‘Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I adore You profoundly and offer You, the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles throughout the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges, and indifferences by which He is offended. And by the infinite merits of His Most Sacred Heart and those of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg for the conversion of poor sinners.’” (p. 180, *ibid*) Notice the posture, the Angel prostrated himself, and once again says the prayer three times, one for each person of the Trinity. It is only after the acts of adoration that the Angel will give the children Communion. Lucia, who has already received her first Communion and the Sacrament of Confession, received the Host. Francisco and Jacinta received the Precious Blood from the chalice. As the Angel gave them Communion he said, “Take and drink the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, horribly outraged by ungrateful men. Make reparation for their crimes and console your God.” (p. 181, *ibid*) Then the Angel, lying prostrate repeated the prayer of reparation three times and disappeared. He would not return, for his purpose of preparing them for the reception of Jesus and the apparition of Mary was completed.

This last event left the children sensing the powerful presence of God in their souls. Francisco and Jacinta had never before received Jesus in the Eucharist and Francisco did not totally understand what had happened. Jacinta, noting the drops of blood that fell from the Host, explained that it was Holy Communion. In imitation of the Angel, the children knelt down and remained in prayer.

Just as their first experience of the apparition begins with the children seeing the beauty and majesty of Heaven reflected in the appearance of an angel, the visits of the angel ends with an even greater experience of the beauty and majesty and love of God reflected in the Blessed Sacrament. Years later, Sr. Lucia reflecting on the reception of the Eucharist tied this act of faith to 1 Cor. 11:23-29 and St. Paul's teaching that those who eat and drink unworthily, eat and drink judgment upon themselves. She reminds her readers, "Before approaching the Table of the Eucharist, we must examine our conscience and if we find that we have committed some serious fault, we must first purify ourselves by confessing our sins in the Sacrament of Penance, with true repentance and a firm resolve not to sin again. Without these two conditions, our confession will not produce its full effect, even if the priest gives the absolution in the name of God. God sees our confession and confirms the pardon granted to us in His Name by the priest, to the extent to which He sees in our heart our repentance for having offended Him and the resolution we have made not to offend Him again." (p. 111, "Calls" From the Message of Fatima)

From this point on, it was with Mary that the children would experience Heaven, and she would bring them to God. For six months, Mary will ask them to come on the 13<sup>th</sup> and with the exception of when they were prevented by the government, she will appear to them on the 13<sup>th</sup> of each month. Some of the requests made by Mary will include: pray the Rosary daily, "Are you willing to offer yourselves to God and bear all the sufferings He wills to send you, as an act of reparation for the conversion of sinners? Then you are going to have much to suffer, but the grace of God will be your comfort." (May 13), "Jesus wants to use you to make Me known and loved. He wishes to establish the devotion to My Immaculate Heart throughout the world." (June 13), when making a sacrifice pray "O Jesus, it is for love of You, for the conversion of

sinner, and in reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary...” (July 13), God is much offended and we must strive not to offend Him any more. After seeing a vision of hell, Mary asked for the consecration of Russia to Her Immaculate Heart and that on the first Saturday of each month, people receive Communion in reparation for sin. She promises the conversion of Russia and peace if this is done, but if not, Russia will spread its errors worldwide, there will be wars, persecutions of the Church, the Holy Father will suffer much and nations will be annihilated.

In “Calls” From the Message of Fatima Sr. Lucia writes “Thus, having led us to offer to the Most Holy Trinity the merits of Jesus Christ and of His Mystical Body, the Message then goes on to ask us to contribute also the prayers and sacrifices of all of us who are members of that one same Body of Christ received from Mary, made divine in the Word, offered on the Cross, present in the Eucharist, constantly growing in the members of the Church.” (ibid, p. 115)

After the deaths of Francisco and Jacinta, and Lucia’s entrance into the Sisters of Saint Dorothy, Mary appeared to Sr. Lucia with the child Jesus. He said to her, “Have pity on this very sweet Heart which is continually martyred because of the ingratitude of men and has no one to console it with acts of reparation.” Our Lady then said, “Look, my daughter, at my Heart encircled by these thorns with which men pierce it at every moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude. Do you, at least, strive to console me, and announce: I promise to assist at the hour of death with the graces necessary for salvation all those who, with the intention of making reparation to me, will, on the first Saturday of five consecutive months, go to confession, receive Holy Communion, say five decades of the beads, and keep me company for fifteen minutes while meditating on the fifteen mysteries of the rosary.” (p. 156, The Sun Danced At Fatima)

Let’s review some of the messages and see which ones we can keep:

1. To pray more, attend early morning Mass and seek opportunities to be alone together.
2. To keep the “Secrets of the King” sharing it only with each other.
3. Offer unceasingly to the Most High prayer and sacrifices.

4. Offer up everything within your power as a sacrifice to the Lord in reparation for the sins by which He is so much offended and of supplication for the conversion of sinners.
5. Accept and bear with resignation the sufferings that God may send you.
6. Adoration before, during and after receiving the Blessed Sacrament.
7. Pray the Rosary daily
8. Jesus wants to use you to make Me known and loved.
9. He wishes to establish the devotion to My Immaculate Heart throughout the world.
10. When making a sacrifice pray "O Jesus, it is for love of You, for the conversion of sinners, and in reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.
11. We must strive not to offend God
12. Prepare well for the reception of the Eucharist
13. Frequently receive the sacrament of Reconciliation so as to stay in the state of grace and be prepared to receive the Eucharist well.
14. Make first Saturdays of five consecutive months, go to confession, receive Holy Communion, say five decades of the beads, and keep me company for fifteen minutes while meditating on the fifteen mysteries of the rosary.

As at Fatima, our guardian angel leads us to pray well, be open to our Triune God and believe with Faith what He teaches through the Church. As we learn to pray, we develop a relationship with our Blessed Mother Mary. She aids us in developing a greater relationship with Jesus, in being better prepared to receive Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Referring to the prayer of adoration of the Blessed Trinity taught by the angel, Sr. Lucia wrote, "We are dealing here with a mystery that has been revealed to us and which only in Heaven will we be able to comprehend perfectly. We believe in it, because God revealed it to us, and we know that our limited understanding is far removed indeed from the power and the wisdom of God." (Calls, p. 117) It is because of her relationship with God that we desire to build a relationship with Mary. For everything about Mary points to God and gives honor to Him alone. She as the greatest of all mothers wants us to love, and adore God and be prepared when receiving Jesus in the Eucharist.