

Our Lady of Fatima's Peace Plan

Almighty God tells us in Holy Scripture that the Blessed Virgin will defeat the devil, his followers and plots: "I will put enmities between thee and the Woman, and thy seed and Her seed: She shall crush thy head and thou shalt lie in wait for Her heel." (Gen. 3:15). In Her appearances at Fatima, the Mother of God solemnly promised us final victory over the forces of evil in our own time. "In the end, My Immaculate Heart will triumph," She told us, "the Holy Father will consecrate Russia to Me. Russia will be converted and a period of peace shall be given to mankind."

Because the warnings that Our Lady gave the world at Fatima are so stern and terrible, many have mistakenly characterized Her Message as "apocalyptic". Yet at the heart of the Fatima Message is the promise of peace which the Blessed Virgin offers to all men and women of faith and good will. In both its simplicity and its universality, Our Lady's Message is a unique Heaven-sent opportunity for all people everywhere to work for a real, lasting peace in our homes, churches and nations.

Our Lady's Peace Plan is founded on three simple, but powerful requests. The first is a request for *prayer*, most particularly the Holy Rosary and the devotion of the Brown Scapular. The *second* calls for us to make reparation for the sins and outrages perpetrated against God's Grace and blasphemies against the Holy Hearts of Jesus and Mary. The *third* request is for consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, both on a personal basis and, publicly, that of Russia (and Russia *specifically*) by the Pope and all the world's bishops.

PRAYER. Each time the Blessed Virgin appeared to the three children at Fatima, She repeated Her requests that we pray the Rosary each day. In the final vision, on October 13, 1917, Our Lady silently held out the Brown Scapular of Mount Carmel as a sign of Her desire that we undertake this great devotion. In fact, Sister Lucia has stated that "the Scapular and the Rosary are inseparable." Emerging from faith, prayer becomes the unshakable foundation for peace in Heaven's plan for our salvation.

REPARATION. At Fatima, Our Lady told the seers that Our Lord is much offended by sin and declared that "people must amend their lives and ask pardon for their sins." She also told them that She would return later to ask for a new devotion of reparation in order to save souls. True to Her word, on the evening of December 10, 1925, She and the Child Jesus appeared to Sister Lucia in her convent cell in Pontevedra, Spain. Showing the young nun a Heart encircled by thorns, Our Lady told her to announce to the world in Her Name that she would assist, at the moment of death, all those who, on the First Saturday of five consecutive months confessed, received Holy Communion, recited five decades of the Rosary and spent fifteen minutes meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary with the intention of making reparation to Her.

Arising from hope, this great devotion of the Five First Saturdays now unites millions of hearts in an unbroken chain of reparation for sin and atonement for offenses against the Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

CONSECRATION. To consecrate is to make holy, to dedicate to God and to declare as sacred. Our Lady's Plan for Peace is a call to both personal *and* public consecration. In accordance with Holy Gospel, the Mother of God asks each of us to consecrate our lives to Her Immaculate Heart, letting it become our gateway to Her Son, Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. At the same time, Our Lady also asks the Church to publicly acknowledge Her divinely-appointed role as the Mediatrix of all Graces and Queen of Peace by consecrating Russia (and *specifically* Russia) to Her Immaculate Heart in a public ceremony by the Pope and all the world's Catholic bishops. "By this means," She promises, "to convert that poor nation" and bring peace to the world. Speaking to Sister Lucia, Our Lord has confirmed that it is His intention that this great public act shall glorify His Blessed Mother's Immaculate Heart throughout the world. Deriving as it does from charity or selfless love, the act of consecration is the single *most* important element in Our Lady's Plan for Peace.