

## Parish Family Ablaze 2-18-18

### FATIMA DECADE PRAYER (July 13, 1917)

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of Hell. Lead all souls to Heaven, especially those most in need of Your mercy.

### “HE DESCENDED INTO HELL”: THE FIRST “SECRET” OF THE JULY APPARITION—THE VISION OF HELL (from Fr. Andrew Apostoli’s *Fatima for Today*, pp. 55-67)

#### I. Apparitions of July 13, 1917—Three “Secrets” related to the Triple Threat

- A. Vision of Hell (Victory over the Devil)
- B. War, Communism, and the Immaculate Heart (Victory over the World)
- C. Penance and the Sufferings of the Church (Victory over the Flesh)

#### II. Lucia’s description of the vision that comes from the open hands of our Lady:

“The rays of light seemed to penetrate the earth, and we saw as it were a sea of fire. Plunged in the fire were demons and souls in human form, like transparent burning embers, all blackened or burnished bronze, floating about in the conflagration, now raised into the air by the flames that issued from within themselves together with great clouds of smoke, now falling back on every side like sparks in huge fires, without weight or equilibrium, amid shrieks and groans of pain and despair, which horrified us and made us tremble with fear. . . . The demons could be distinguished by their terrifying and repellent likeness to frightful and unknown animals, black and transparent like burning coals. Terrified and as if to plead for succor, we looked up at Our Lady, who said to us, so kindly and so sadly: ‘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.’”(p. 60)

##### A. Aspects of Hell

- 1. Utter disorder in culture and nature (consequence of disobedience)
- 2. Loveless alienation and violence (consequence of sin and malice)
- 3. Suffering (consequence of opposing the truth)
- 4. Experiencing the fire of God’s love as torture
- 5. Eternal vision of the Devil (The Father of Lies and Murderer) rather than Beatific vision of God
- 6. Lordship of the Devil (Satan/Beelzebul/Belial/Lucifer)—“Father” of all unrepentant sinners—a fallen angel who appears as a Serpent in Genesis and in Revelation
  - a. Murderer
  - b. Liar and Deceiver
  - c. Adversary or Accuser

##### B. Contrasts in Heaven

- 1. Peace in a perfectly ordered culture and nature (consequence of obedience)
- 2. Holy Communion with God and all the angels and saints (consequence of grace and love)
- 3. Happiness (consequence of living in truth)
- 4. Experiencing the fire of God’s love in rapture and ecstasy
- 5. Beatific Vision, with no tears or sorrow, fear or suffering
- 6. Lordship of God
  - a. Father: Author of Life
  - b. Son: Truth

c. Advocate/Paraclete

C. The Justice of Hell

1. God provides the message and means to avoid Hell, through His Son and His Saving Sacrifice and superabundant grace and mercy.
2. Hell is freely chosen by those angels and humans who end up in that eternal state.
3. Hell is how unholy persons (angelic or human) experience God's goodness, truth, beauty, and love.
4. In the end, God accepts what each person decides, but in true, real, and substantial terms (His terms).

III. Benefits of considering the reality of Hell and the Devil

- A. Servile Fear (or Fear of Punishment) that motivates our obedience to God, the beginning of wisdom and of love
- B. Filial Fear (Fear of Separation from God's Love)
- C. Charity: Desiring, not only for ourselves, but for others, what God desires for us —Ultimate Happiness = Heaven, and making sacrifices to increase the number of children in God's family
- D. Mary's invitation to the children of Fatima and to us: "Sacrifice yourselves for sinners, and say many times, especially whenever you make any sacrifice: '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.'" (p. 38)

**DIALOGUE QUESTIONS**

- I. If Jesus suffered and died as the perfect sacrifice to save all human persons, why is it important for me also to offer my sufferings and sacrifices for the salvation of souls?
- II. Which do I do more frequently: complain about my sufferings, or silently offer them as sacrifices in reparation for my sins and those of the whole world?

**MISSION**

- I. Morning Prayer: "The Pardon Prayer," "The Prayer of the Angel of Peace," "The Eucharistic Prayer," and "The Fatima Decade Prayer"
- II. Mental Prayer during the day (20-35 minutes)
  - A. The Rosary
  - B. Journal Dialogue with one of the Three Persons of the Trinity, with Mary, or with one of the shepherd children of Fatima.
- III. Examination of Conscience
  - A. Do I make sure that all my goals and desires are properly united to my ultimate goal to get to Heaven?
  - B. Have I behaved in a way that alienates others from God and from me or that invites them into communion with God and with me?
  - C. Have I cultivated what is true, good, and beautiful this day, or instead raised up what is false, evil, and ugly?
  - D. Did I remember to pray for the souls in Purgatory and to ask them for their prayers? Did I offer sacrifices today for the conversion of sinners and in reparation for sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary?