

As their response to the Love of God, the Little Shepherds of Fatima took part in the Gift which they freely received and freely gave away for men’s salvation, thus making themselves collaborators in the redemption.

In a thanksgiving attitude, I raise my prayer to the Heavenly Father and say, in silence, deeply in my heart:

Holy Father,
I thank You for offering us the love of Jesus,
Who, in unconditional obedience to Your Will,
“spent His life doing good”, manifested to us Your Love
and sent us the gift of the Holy Spirit,
Who illuminates us and raises in us the grace of faith and love.

Holy Father,
I thank You for offering us Mary,
Your admirably generous servant,
Who Lived entirely for You,
manifested among men the wonders of Your gifts
And, in order to communicate them to whoever opens his heart to You,
continues to be, still in today’s world, Your instrument.

Holy Father,
I thank You also for the Little Shepherds of Fatima,
for the testimony of their commitment to Your love
and for the generosity of their acceptance of whatever the Virgin
Mary proposed to them.

Holy Father,
please fill my heart with faith, love and willingness to serve,
so I may know how to imitate those for whom I am thanking You here,
specially those Mary blessed with Her apparitions,
Blessed Francisco and Jacinta Marto
and Your Servant Sister Lucia de Jesus e do Imaculado Coração de Maria.
Amen!

Blessed Francisco and Jacinta, *pray for us!*

I first visit the tomb of Blessed Francisco and, afterwards, the tomb of Blessed Jacinta, next to whom are the mortal remains of Sister Lucia. It was at this place that the Little Shepherds, on May 13th, 1917, first became aware of a lightning bolt that preceded the apparition of Our Lady.

Like them, I proceed towards the place of that ineffable experience of God, where a little chapel was built, in order to fulfill the request of Our Lady.

4. My commitment

Little Chapel of the Apparitions, place of the faithful

I am at the place where, on May 13th, 1917, the Little Shepherds of Fatima saw the Mother of God and I am going to enjoy the recollection of that luminous day, through the words of Sister Lucia herself.

From the Fourth Memoir of Sister Lucia:

The 13th of May 1917 – High up on the slope in Cova da Iria I was playing with Jacinta and Francisco at building a little stone wall around a clump of furze. Suddenly we saw what seemed to be a flash of lightning.
- We’d better go home – I said to my cousins – that’s lightning; we may have a thunderstorm.
- Yes, indeed, they answered.
We began to go down the slope, hurrying the sheep along towards the road. We were more or less half-way down the slope, and almost level with a large holmoak tree that stood there, when we saw another flash of lightning. We had only gone a few steps further when there before us, on a small holmoak, we beheld a Lady all dressed in white. She was more brilliant than the Sun and radiated a light more clear and intense than a crystal glass filled with sparkling water when the rays of the burning Sun shine through it.
We stopped, astounded, before the Apparition. We were so close, just a few feet from her, that we were bathed in the light which surrounded Her, or rather, which radiated from Her. Then Our Lady spoke to us:
- Be not afraid! I will do you no harm!
- Where are You from? – I asked.
- I am from Heaven.
- What do you want from me?
- I have come to ask you to come here for six months in a row, on the 13th day, at this same hour. Later on, I will tell you Who I am and what I want. Afterwards, I will return here yet a seventh time.
- Shall I go to Heaven too?
- Yes, you will.
- And Jacinta?
- She will also go.
- And Francisco?
- He will go there too, but he must say many Rosaries.
- Are you willing to offer yourselves to God and bear all the sufferings He wills to send to you as an act of reparation for the sins by which He is offended and of supplication for the conversion of sinners?
- Yes, we are!
- Then you are going to have much to suffer, but the grace of God will be your comfort.

Once more, God calls men to holiness and waits for a reply. At Fatima, He does it through Mary. The response of the Little Shepherds was generous and without reservations.

How do I respond to God?

This response is to be a personal one, in silence, ending with a prayer to Mary, asking for Her help in imitating the Little Shepherds in an attitude of one’s offering of oneself to God and to the brothers.

O Mary, Holy Mother Who came to Earth from Heaven
to reveal to us the mercy and goodness of God,
in reply to the question “Are you willing to offer yourselves to God?”
which, here in Fatima, you posed to the Little Shepherds.
Like them, I also say “Yes, I am!”
I want to kindle, strengthen, live faithfully
and give testimony of faith to others
with my works, attitudes and words.
I want to practice love with generosity and gratitude.
I commit myself before You to become, in the world,
a maker of reconciliation and peace, justice and solidarity.
May Your maternal help and Your intercession before God
accompany and support me in doing so. Amen!

Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, *pray for us!*

In silence, I now have the opportunity to take on some commitments which I write down on this part of the leaflet and which I engrave on my heart. As a symbol of my attitude of commitment, I ask someone from the Shrine to deposit for me this tear-sheet at the base of the Statue of Our Lady.

In conclusion, at the end of the itinerary, I say:

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit!

and make the Sign of the Cross on myself.

Free distribution

Are you willing to offer yourselves to God?

EVOCATIVE COURSE OF **FIRST APPARITION OF OUR LADY**

2011 | 2012

PILGRIM’S ITINERARY



I write down the resolutions for my life with God and the brothers:

- To take part in Sunday Mass as an expression of gratitude to God ☐

- To go often to Confession in order to receive grace and mercy from God ☐

- To share with others the love received from God, in the environment of family, school, work ☐

- To renounce to what I like in order to be a Gift to others (to offer my time, lend a ear, give attention to...) ☐

- Other personal commitments:

Age _____ | Sex M ☐ F ☐ | Address _____

As a symbol of my attitude of commitment, I ask someone from the Shrine to deposit for me this tear-sheet at the base of the Statue of Our Lady.

PILGRIM'S ITINERARY



Are you willing to offer yourselves to God?

EVOCATIVE COURSE OF FIRST APPARITION OF OUR LADY

2011 | 2012

QUEREIS OFERECER-VOS A DEUS?
VOULEZ-VOUS VOUS OFFRIR À DIEU?
VOLETE OFFRIRVI A DIO?
¿QUEREÍS OFRECEROS A DIOS?
CZY CHCECIE OFIAROWAĆ SIĘ BOGU?
WOLLT IHR EUCH GOTT ANBIETEN?

PILGRIM'S ITINERARY 2011-2012 "Are you willing to offer yourselves to God?"

V. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
R. Amen!

At this same place in Cova da Iria, on May 13th, 1917, three children, 7, 9 and 10 years old, saw their daily routine interrupted when they received the visit of the Virgin Mary, Who, dressed in the light of God, asks them:

"Are you willing to offer yourselves to God?"

Like so many men and women called by God, the response of Jacinta, Francisco and Lucia was affirmative:

"Yes, we are!"

As a pilgrim of Fatima, throughout this second year in which we celebrate the Centennial of the Apparitions, I will take the same attitude and I will offer myself to God.

1. The commitment of Jesus, Son of God Prayer Area, in front of Nativity Scene

From the Letter to the Hebrews

When He came into the world, Christ says:
"Here I come to do Your will".
It was through this will that we were sanctified,
through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ,
made once for all.

In front of the Nativity Scene, image of the Mystery of Incarnation, I meditate on the words of the Letter to the Hebrews. Jesus Christ is the offering par excellence, for He came to do the Father's will. While I recite the prayer Jesus taught us, I am fully aware of how important is to say: "Your will be done".

Our Father...

2. The commitment of Our Lady Next to the Nativity Scene and facing the Little Chapel of the Apparitions

Mary also responds, through Her *Fiat*, to the salvific Mystery of God: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it done unto Me according to Thy Word".

Facing the Statue of Our Lady which is venerated at the Little Chapel of the Apparitions, I recall this unique moment when God expects an answer from Mary.

V. The Angel of the Lord declared onto Mary.
R. And She conceived by the Holy Spirit.
Hail Mary...

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
R. Be it done unto Me according to Thy Word.
Hail Mary...

V. And the Word was made flesh.
R. And dwelt among us.
Hail Mary...

V. Pray for us Holy Mother of God.
R. That we be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

In a pilgrim's attitude, I go to the Shrine's Basilica in order to, near to the tombs of the Little Shepherds, reflect on their response to the will of God.

3. The commitment of the Little Shepherds Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary, place of the faithful

Before I walk towards the relics of the Blessed Francisco and Jacinta, I meditate on their prayer life and on their commitment. I choose a place in the Basilica and, in the same way that Francisco and Jacinta prayed to the "Hidden Jesus", so I pray in silence to Jesus Christ present in the tabernacle.

Private prayer, in silence.