



DAILY STEPS

#pilgrimbytheheart



SANTUÁRIO DE FÁTIMA
SHRINE OF FATIMA



8.

See yourself in the light
which is God

This May, Fatima challenges you to go on a more essential pilgrimage: an inner path that may take you far away within yourself, towards the shrine in your innermost where God is present for you. Making yourself a pilgrim by the heart is trying to live inwardly what the pilgrimage experience causes and fulfils. Fatima is calling you. Despite not being able to come to the Shrine this May, come with us on this inner pilgrimage, day by day. And place a lit candle by your window every night.

Recalling Lucia's account of the May apparition, we shall find out how much God respects the freedom of man and which is the way He chooses to reveal Himself. Today, you are called to see yourself in the light which is God.

This May, Fatima invites you to be a Pilgrim by the heart. Get close to Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and see yourself in the light which is God, reflected in Her hands.

My God, I believe, I adore, I hope, and I love You. I ask pardon of You for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love You.

The eighth day of this pilgrimage by the heart, on this disconcerting May. Do you want to continue walking as a pilgrim by the heart?

Go deep down inside of you, to the innermost of your being, beyond your worries and distractions, and also beyond your suffering, which you have visited in yesterday's step, probably hurting. Try to listen to the fountain which springs from the hidden source of grace, the Holy Spirit, which turns into a river running over your days, to eternity. From the source of grace, light flows. Are you thirsty for light? Be willing to drink the light. Go deep down into your heart at the struggle of silence. Try to silence, silence everything, around you, around yourself, inside yourself. Awaken the hearing of your heart to listen. Summon your inner look... If it helps, close your eyes to that which surrounds you, in order to be able to concentrate more profoundly and see that which is only visible by your heart. Retreat... seclude yourself. Get ready for the light. In that light, by His light, you shall discover the truest truth of your truth: you shall discover yourself as the beloved child of God.

You are also the child of the 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», as Lucia tells in her Memoirs; and she goes on: «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.»

The Lady more brilliant than the sun, who in Cova da Iria appeared to the three little shepherds, opens her hands to you. These are the hands of the full of grace, hands full of light that comes from God. Open yourself to the light. And open yourself to the word. In a word, open your silence to God. Listen again to the last part of the dialogue from the May apparition and find out – and don't forget because it is very important – what happened next:



– 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 sins by which He is offended, and of supplication for the conversion of sinners?

– Yes, we are willing.

– Then you are going to have much to suffer, but the grace of God will be your comfort.

As she pronounced these last words “...the grace of God will be your comfort”, Our Lady opened her hands for the first time, communicating to us a light so intense that, as it streamed from her hands, its rays penetrated our hearts and the innermost depths of our souls, making us see ourselves in God, Who was that light, more clearly than we see ourselves in the best of mirrors.»

How much beauty there is in the experience of oneself offered by God, through the hands of Mary, to the little shepherds! It is the Mother who communicates the light, a light which doesn't come from Her, but in Her hands is reflected and communicates itself intensely. The light is God Himself, who by the hands of Mary penetrates the hearts and the innermost of the souls of Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta, almost like it once entered the history of humankind through her womb.

Listen to the Gospel of Luke | Luk 1,28.30-32.35:



²⁸And coming to her, he said, “Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you. ³⁰Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. ³⁵The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God”.»

Imagine the immense and profound silence in which the Virgin saw herself in God and from Him received Her truth. Try to experience that same silence. In that silence Mary heard, listened to who She was and what She was called for, what was Her place in the plan of salvation. God communicated himself to her and She communicated God to the world. Through Her the light has come to the world, She gave birth to the light of the world.

The little shepherds saw themselves in God which is that light: to see oneself in God, to see oneself in God more clearly than in the best of mirrors. What a God! What a God that through Mary gave Himself to the world, who by the Mother communicated Himself to the three children, frail, poor and ignorant shepherds from a lost village in Serra d’Aire! Is there someone to whom God doesn’t want to communicate himself as experience of light which allows the enlightened to see himself in Him? Does God exclude anyone from His light? No. You, as little as you may be, are desired, and God wants to fill you up with His light.

You that make yourself a pilgrim by the heart, do you want to see yourself in God? Today and each day, the light which is God offers itself to you. Do you know the experience of light which is God you can achieve? You have been asked to practice it every day, along this pilgrimage by the heart: the experience of light is the experience of silence, a silence inspired in Mary’s silence. Learn how to practice the inner silence, the silence of the heart’s prayer, of contemplative prayer. You should not want anything less than that: to be enlightened by the light which is God... and, if you don’t know where to find it, get close to the hands of the Lady of the light resembling sparkling water, when the rays of the burning sun shine through it. Get close to the full of grace who reflects the light which is God and drink the light from Her hands. The light which is God reflects in Her and communicates itself to you intimately and enlightens you from within, allowing you to see yourself in God. You shall find out who you really are

and what you are called to be because only God knows you wholly and accepts you unconditionally such as He knows you; and He knows you as much as he loves you and calls you to fulfil what you are in His plan of salvation for everyone, like the little shepherds of Aljustrel, who, seeing themselves in God, became through Him the little shepherds of the world. It is not simply a question of giving a place to the light of God in you. It is about discovering the light which is God as your place. The One who lives in you is offering you to live in Him, who is the light.



My God, You inhabit the innermost of my heart
and You call me to open this closed May, to become a pilgrim by
the heart
and to meet You there.

I thirst for light, the light of grace, the light which you are
and that is reflected and offered to me by the hands of the full
of grace,

the One who saw Herself in the light which You are and gave
birth to Your son, light of the world.

I ask for Your Spirit, the source of grace in the deepest of me,
to lead me while learning the way of silence of the heart,
the prayer born from silence,

the one that allows me to listen from You who I am and what
you are calling me to.

In these times of civilization crisis that the pandemic unveiled,
when the compulsory mask unmask ourselves as for our power
and individualism illusions

and reveals the fragility shared by all men

and the fraternity that bonds us in the responsibility for each
other,

allow that, masked paradoxically unmasked,

now denuded faces by the truth that the protecting mask
reveals,

we may see ourselves in the light which You are,
clearly than in the best of mirrors,

and following Saint Francisco and Saint Jacinta Marto,

we learn to wish for heaven, a broad heaven for all,

just like the earth, too, a world for all.

I am a pilgrim by the heart, in silence I long for seeing myself in
the light that You are.

I want to go on a pilgrimage by the heart
into Your mother's heart, mother of mine, Our Lady of the
Rosary of Fatima.

In Her heart, You will be waiting for my heart
and this May, away from the Little Chapel,
I make myself a pilgrim by the heart: I shall follow my heart
and in Mother's immaculate heart I shall listen to the merciful
beating of Your heart. Amen.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed are you
among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at
the hour of our death. Amen.

Mother of Heaven, be attentive to the supplications of a world
facing tribulation. Answer the cry of the poor and the sick,
give comfort and hope to all those who suffer, give strength
and compassion to all those who care for and work. Bring
peace to the world. In your immaculate heart, be for all your
children a refuge and a way to God.

Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, pray for us.

Saints Francisco and Jacinta Marto, pray for us.

Place a lit candle in your window tonight, let it be a sign that in your home
lives a pilgrim of Fatima by the heart. Our Lady watches over you and
offers to your thirst along the way the light which is God, so that you drink
it in the silence and see yourself in it. See you tomorrow.