



# DAILY STEPS

#pilgrimbytheheart



SANTUÁRIO DE FÁTIMA  
SHRINE OF FATIMA



**3.**

Free

for commitment

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, be ready to listen to the request for a committed relationship.

This May, Fatima invites you to be a Pilgrim by the heart. Assume your freedom today in order to be faithfully committed.

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.

In confinement, this May challenges you to go on an inner pilgrimage. Fatima invites you to make yourself a pilgrim by the heart, educating in it the great attitudes of faith that any pilgrimage allows to foster. Begin by going down into your heart. Vanquish all the noise that fills it. Vanquish the fear to find yourself in silence. Try to silence your inner self in order to pray.

Create some inner space to listen, today, to the answer given by the Lady to the radical questioning with which Lucia opened up her freedom to God, yesterday. What is freedom for? What are you free for?

Listen to the May apparition once again.



[...] 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:

- Do not be afraid. I will do you no harm.
- Where are you from
- I am from Heaven.
- What do you want of me?
- I have come to ask you to come here for six months in succession, on the 13<sup>th</sup> 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.»

I have come to ask you, the Lady says. To ask. Heaven asks. It could order, force, but instead, it just asks. A meaningful option from God, to which the Lady gives voice: She has come to ask. Man's freedom is sacred to God. He respects it, even when it comes to poor children.

What does heaven ask from you, who want to make yourself a pilgrim by the heart? What does it ask of you, in this time of your life, in which so many things are becoming different? What changes are you willing to embrace?

The Lady appeared to ask the three children to make themselves pilgrims: they should go there, to Cova da Iria, the place where She was appearing, for six months in succession, on the 13<sup>th</sup> day, at that same hour. That first time they were there by chance, because they went there with the flock, their task as little shepherds. Heaven visits us in our usual places. From that day on, they would go as pilgrims to a place that had become to them a door to heaven. That is what a shrine is. They would start coming to Cova da Iria to experience an encounter. Do you want to experience the encounter as a pilgrim by the heart, that shrine door to heaven that you have inside you?

And the three children would go, along six months, for five more times. The One who appeared to them didn't want just a sporadic encounter. She wanted to establish a regular relationship, a relationship that went through the hardship of life, life as it is, with its contradictions, enthusiasms and fears, advances and setbacks, expectations and sufferings; a relationship in which mutual understanding would gradually grow in a proven way.

Heaven wanted them to mature until they were prepared to know the identity of the One that appeared to them and what Heaven wanted from them. Vocational discernment is a lengthy process. Discovering who God really is and what He wants from you demands time of relationship, plenty of silence and prayer, a great deal of life shared by two until you reach a commitment. Are you willing to have a committed relationship with God, to live every one of your days as pilgrim by the heart, where He inhabits?

Listen to the Gospel of John | 1,35-39



<sup>35</sup>The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. <sup>36</sup>and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” <sup>37</sup>The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup>Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them: “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi – which translated means Teacher – where are you staying?” <sup>39</sup>He said to them: “Come, and you will see”. So, they went and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon.»

For the disciples of John the Baptist who followed Jesus there was not a request of six months of encounters, like it was for the little shepherds in Cova da Iria. The purpose for them had been the time in which they were the disciples of John. They had matured and he had introduced them to Jesus, saying immediately who He was: the Lamb of God. They were ready to follow Him immediately in His intimacy and accompany Him in the fulfilment of His mission. But previously, Jesus had put them the key question for everyone who wishes to become a pilgrim by the heart: What do you seek?

What do you seek? What are we talking about when we say to seek?

It is our intentions, our dreams and ideals; it is our yearnings, wishes and inner quests; it is our expectations on the future, our radical need to growing to be truly what we are, to overcome ourselves, go beyond our shadows, fears and mediocrities, fulfilling what we are made for and being recognised for what we will be.

Indeed, we seek for an experience of communion which leads to fully accomplish our deepest truth. The disciples have found what they were seeking by following Jesus and staying with Him. And you to become a pilgrim by the heart, just like Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta, who complied with the Lady's request, what do you seek and how do you think you may find it?



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 listen to the Mother of Your Son asking me to become Her  
relative

to live as a pilgrim by the heart  
taking a chance of familiarity with Her  
which will make me ready for Your Son and will introduce me to  
Him.

Listen to my voice and grant me the faithful constancy to the  
encounter with Her

to mature my poor humanity  
discover and purify my inner quests  
until I live and remain in the intimacy of Jesus  
and follow Him in the fulfilment of His saving mission.

I am a pilgrim by the heart, I seek you to live with you in  
commitment.

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 along the way. She will come to you. See you tomorrow.