

24th Sunday after Pentecost, 2007

“Let the peace of Christ rejoice in your hearts, wherein also you are called in One Body; and be ye thankful”

(Colossians 1. 12–13)

Indeed for such progress in the spiritual life, we must know Christ; and our knowledge of Christ comes from our constant conversation with Him in which we listen, with loving obedient open hearts, to what He has to say to us. That means we must learn how to pray. Sister Lucia tells us that the call to prayer was given to us during the second apparition of the Angel at Fatima. “The three children were sitting on the side of the well in the grounds attached to the house of Sister Lucia's parents. The heavenly Messenger appeared and said to them: ‘What are you doing?’ Then without waiting for a reply he went on: ‘Pray, pray very much! The hearts of Jesus and Mary have designs of mercy on you. Offer prayers and sacrifices constantly to the Most High ... Make of everything you can a sacrifice, and offer it to God as an act of reparation for the sins by which He is



offended, and in supplication for the conversion of sinners. You will thus draw down peace upon your Country: I am its Angel Guardian, the Angel of Portugal. Above all, accept and bear with submission the suffering which the Lord will send you.” Sister Lucia continues: “Supernatural revelations are ordinarily accompanied by a special grace which clarifies their meaning. In fact, however, at that time, the three children were very far indeed from understanding its full meaning, as we can understand it today and transmit it to souls, as it is God's will that I should, and it is for this that He continues to keep me here at His disposal.”

Later, she quotes *Corinthians*¹: “The first man was of the earth, earthly: the second Man (Christ) from heaven, heavenly ... Therefore, as we have borne the image of the earthly, let us also bear the image of the heavenly.” And that is what is expected of all mankind. The heavenly image of which the Apostle speaks, and which we must endeavour to reproduce in ourselves, is Jesus Christ: we must reproduce Him in ourselves by faith and charity so that, on the day of our departure to eternity, the Father may see in us the features of Christ and welcome us as His children into His Kingdom; and also so that in the resurrection from the dead our body may share in the happiness of the spirit. It is so necessary to make progress in prayer; this is a slow process for we must progress from the formulae of vocal prayer to the prayer of meditation—and from there to the heights of contemplation. And this depends on the

¹ *Corinthians* 15:47–49

measure of charity—the bond of perfection that we have attained; so that we fulfil that further necessary condition by which we become a living part of that one body to which we are called and through which the peace of Christ fills our hearts with joy. All else will follow on from this. There is One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism; One Lord, One authority to which we must lovingly submit. In this one Holy Sacrifice, there is the very core of contemplation which can be attained only if we are One Body in Christ.

Let us turn to our blessed Mother, who herself lived a life of contemplation—“And Mary kept all these things in her heart and pondered them.” The depth of meaning in those words of Sacred Scripture! A Fount of Wisdom from which we can never cease to learn more. And that from a loving Mother who is ever willing to show us the way. Call upon her as the seat of divine wisdom so that we may know Her divine Son and learn how to lovingly contemplate the mysteries of His Life, Death and Resurrection and rejoice in the peace of the great promise they hold for us.