



MAY REFLECTION

TO: THE DIOCESE OF STOCKTON

FROM: BISHOP MYRON J. COTTA

DATE: MAY 3RD 2021

May 13, 1917 - 1st Apparition of Fátima

“Where are you from?” - Lúcia Dos Santos- visionary

“I am from heaven.” - Our Lady

“What do you want of me?” - Lúcia

As we begin our journey through this month of May, let us do so by asking the question that Lúcia directed to the Lady who came from Heaven; the same Lady who would continue to appear to her and her two cousins, Jacinta and Francisco, from May to October of 1917.

Traditionally, May is known as the month of Mary. Offering prayers and bouquets of flowers, special devotions, the Rosary, May Crownings, and calling to mind the Apparitions of Fátima, can help us to prayerfully acknowledge this special Marian month.

It is fundamental: we must accept the childlike attitude of Lúcia and ask Our Lady, who comes in the name of God - “What do you want of me?” It is in our openness to, and the receiving of, the *good news* from heaven that is key to our relationship with God as we seek to do his will in our everyday lives - *his* will, not ours. In the midst of this, it is interesting to reflect upon the words of Lúcia’s question. Her words are similar to the questioning words of the Blessed Virgin at the Annunciation. Mary, too, pondered the words of a messenger, but all the while, she sought only to do what was pleasing to God - his will.

To know his will in our lives, we must be people of prayer. Let us allow this month of May to be a time, especially for families, to focus on prayer. A fitting means of prayer for the month of Mary is the Rosary. Praying the Rosary within the *domestic church*, the home, can have a powerful impact upon, not only the family, but the whole world.

So then: “What do you want of me?” - as a child, youth, spouse, parent, as clergy and religious? Our Lady wants us to rid ourselves of all that gets in the way of our relationship with Jesus, her Son. She wants us to leave sin behind so as to follow him. Our Lady wants our life to be guided by the teachings, *the gospel*, of her Son. She wants a life of holiness for us. She wants our destiny to be heaven.

This May, let us become more attentive to prayer and experience its power to transform our lives. During this Easter season, as we await the great day of Pentecost, may the Risen One come to heal our world wounded by division. He alone can transform hardened hearts and bring about peace and unity.

So, as we begin the month of May, let us commit the beginning of each day with the question: “What do you want of me?” May these simple words be seen as a prayer to help center us and to set things into motion in order to do God’s will in all things.



Our Lady of Peace, pray for us.
Our Lady Queen of Heaven, pray for us.
Our Lady of Fátima, pray for us.

In the Peace of Christ,

Bishop Myron J. Cotta