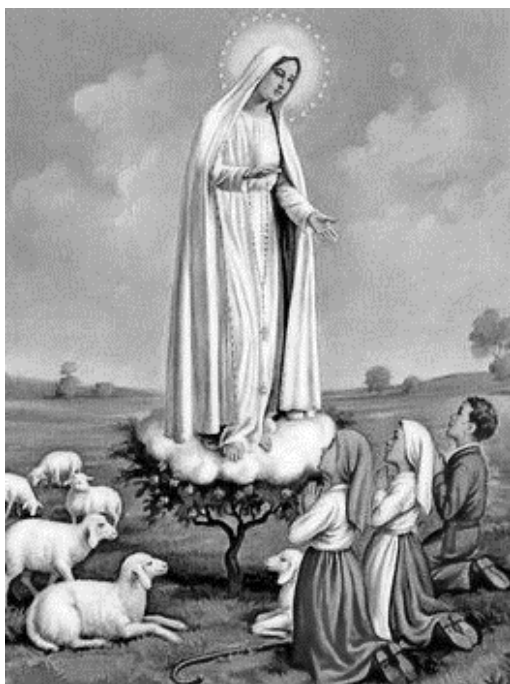


## Our Lady of Fatima's Importance Today



Through her Fatima messages, Our Lady requests a number of sincere actions from us that will benefit our own souls and the souls of others as well. The Blessed Mother desires that we **pray the rosary**. “Pray the rosary every day in honor of Our Lady of the rosary to obtain peace in the world...for she alone can save it” (The Blessed Mother on July 13, 1917). In all six of her apparitions at Fatima, the Blessed Mother emphasized the daily recitation of the rosary. Fr. Andrew Apostoli, CFR, believes that everyone can and should fulfill the Blessed Mother’s requests by committing to praying the daily rosary. He wrote, “Our Lady told the children of the rosary’s power to end wars, bring world peace and convert sinners. Everyone who wants to fulfill our Lady’s requests at Fatima must make the resolution to pray the rosary every day. Remember, Mary wants our prayers; Mary needs our prayers for the triumph of her Immaculate Heart.”

Our Lady of Fatima asks us to become devoted to **the Immaculate Heart of Mary**. “Jesus wishes to establish devotion to my Immaculate Heart in the world. I promise salvation to those who embrace it.” (The Blessed Mother on June 13, 1917). We are encouraged to **consecrate our lives to the Immaculate Heart of Mary**. Any formula can be used as long as it is sincere and confides oneself without reserve to the Blessed Mother.

The Blessed Mother asks us to do our part and make the commitment to the **Five First Saturdays devotion**, which include: reception of Holy Communion and confession (within eight days before or after), to pray five decades of the rosary, and to spend fifteen minutes in meditation on the mysteries of the rosary to be offered up in reparation for sins and ingratitude against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Transforming the world and establishing the Kingdom of God on earth begins with our own **conversion of heart**. We pray daily for graces to convert our hearts, to receive those graces and allow God to dwell in us in our interior life. Conversion of heart is an ongoing process. It is not just once in a lifetime. We need to pray every day for the conversion of our hearts so that we can become a brilliant light of God’s love in a darkened world. We are called to conversion and holiness, not just the children at Fatima or someone else. St. Theresa of Calcutta often said, “Holiness is not the luxury of a few, but a simple duty for you and me.”

Our Lady of Fatima asks that we offer in **reparation** our own personal crosses and trials of life and to **make sacrifices** for the conversion of sinners, especially those sacrifices involved in keeping God’s commandments, in patiently accepting God’s will and in fulfilling the duties of one’s state in life. We are to offer them through the Immaculate Heart of Mary in reparation to God so offended by sin, and the for the conversion of sinners. This instruction made a lasting impression on the young visionaries and should on us too. “Sacrifice yourselves for sinners and say often whenever you make a sacrifice: ‘O Jesus, it is for love of You, for the conversion of sinners, and in **reparation** for the offenses committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary’” (The Blessed Mother on July 13, 1917). “Pray much and make sacrifices for sinners, for many souls go to hell because there is no one to make sacrifices for them.” (The Blessed Mother on August 19, 1917).