



Repent! The Kingdom of God is Here!

When Jesus entered the world of the deaf man born with a speech impediment in St. Matthew's Gospel (7:31-37), He possessed the divine insight to truly experience the silent and isolated life of the deaf and dumb. The man in the Gospel suffered these afflictions physically. We suffer them morally and spiritually in a world filled with all kinds of noise and moral cowardice. But Jesus approaches us with the same gentleness and compassion as He approached the deaf man. Because the man couldn't hear the words of Jesus, Jesus touches him. The Lord places His fingers in the man's ears, puts saliva on his tongue (an image of Jesus' Spirit), and then groans deeply so the man can feel the vibration of the Divine Presence. Jesus says: "Ephphatha, be opened!" And the man hears and speaks! I thought of this miracle as I contemplated the events of October 13, 1917. Once again, with divine gentleness, our Lord penetrates the deafness and dumbness of a very sinful world, by sending His most holy Mother to open our ears to His divine warnings, and loosen our tongues to proclaim the truth of our sad and desperate situation; and in order that we may listen anew to the Gospel call of repentance and conversion, and speak the praises of God in reparation and supplication. When we come to the Blue Army Chapel this October 13, we want to receive the plenary indulgence gained by visiting this newly-designated Our Lady of Fatima Shrine (first anniversary!); but, more importantly, we want to listen, as if for the first time, to the words addressed to Lucia on this date in 1917 by Our Lady of Fatima: "I want to tell you that a chapel

is to be built here in my honor. I am the Lady of the Rosary. Continue always to pray the Rosary every day. The war is going to end, and the soldiers will soon return to their homes” Lucia then asked for the healing and conversion of several people whose families had turned to her for help. Our Lady said that She would help some, but not others, because they have not repented of their sins and changed their lives. Then, with deep sadness, Our Lady said: “Do not offend the Lord our God anymore because He is already so much offended.” If the Lord Our God was “already so much offended” in 1917, to what depths of moral and spiritual degeneration have we descended in 2021! God is not pleased with us! He sends to us the Queen of Prophets to warn us of apocalyptic chastisements for the sins of the world and the Church. The Miracle of the Sun was a foreshadowing of future events that would bring punishments and suffering to a criminal world. Here is a description of an eyewitness. “Suddenly the rain stopped. (It had been raining for several hours turning everything to mud). The clouds parted, and the sun appeared behind them and shone more brightly than usual. It became increasingly larger and brighter, but did not dazzle those that gazed at it. Then it glowed and dimmed, and then spun round, emitting multicolored rays in all directions. The whole landscape changed in turn into various colors: blue, yellow, red, and green. All were enchanted, speechless with delight. But after a while their mood changed. The sun suddenly stopped spinning and started falling. The enormous, bright sphere sped through the terrified crowd. People shouted in fear, cried, fainted, fell to their knees, calling for mercy, regretting their sins. When the sun was just above the ground, it suddenly stopped and returned to its place. All were amazed that their clothes were dry, that the ground was sun-cracked as if it had not rained for ages.” Sinners were converted that day – even atheists who had come to scoff at the three children and their fantastic story. Cripples were cured. The blind regained their sight. Many who were sick found healing. While the crowd of about 100,000 people

passed from a state of euphoria and rapture to a state of terror, the children had another version. Lucia related it thus: “We beheld St. Joseph with the Child Jesus and Our Lady robed in white with a blue mantle, beside the sun. St. Joseph and the Child Jesus appeared to bless the world, for they traced the Sign of the Cross with their hands. When, a little later, this apparition disappeared, I saw Our Lord carrying His Cross, and Our Lady dressed as the Lady of Sorrows. Our Lord appeared to bless the world in the same manner as St. Joseph had done. This apparition also vanished, and I saw Our Lady dressed as Our Lady of Carmel.” If we learn anything from these visions on October 13, 1917, it is that we must consecrate ourselves and our homes to the Holy Family of Nazareth. We must imitate the virtues contained in the Joyful, Sorrowful and Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary. And that our souls and families must be dwelling places of the Most Holy Trinity. The time is short. In 1973, Our Lady of Fatima spoke through the image of Our Lady of All Nations at Akita, Japan and warned us that “fire will come down from heaven and consume three quarters of mankind” This fire will be the cause of the “annihilation of nations” prophesied in 1917. We can’t afford to turn a deaf ear to the Fatima message, nor fail to speak out in warning to our neighbor of coming chastisements. Come to the Chapel of Our Lady of the Rosary on October 13 for the first anniversary as the official Our Lady of Fatima Shrine in the Archdiocese of Detroit. Those who visit the holy Shrine, confess their sins with true repentance and amendment of life, receive Our Lord in Holy Communion in a spirit of reparation, and pray for the Holy Father will receive a plenary indulgence – the full pardon and remission of sin and punishment. Above all, hear the message from heaven as if for the first time, stop sinning, and warn others that the purification of the world begins now!

God love you,

Father John