

“Queen of Peace, Obtain PEACE FOR OUR WORLD”

by Bro FRANCESCO DILEO OFMCap



For us believers, it does not take much stretch of the imagination to associate the month of May with Our Lady of Fatima. In fact, it was on the unforgettable day of 13 May 1917, that a “Lady dressed in white, more radiant than the sun,” appeared for the first time to the three shepherd children and implored them to “pray the Rosary everyday to obtain peace for the world and the end of the war.”

Then, in a third apparition on 13 July, in the same year, the Virgin Mary foretold to them the end of the first world war, but warned “if people do not cease offending God, a worse one will break out during the Pontificate of Pope Pius XI. [...] To prevent this, I shall come to ask for the Consecration of Russia to my Immaculate Heart, and the Communion of reparation on the First Saturdays. If my requests are heeded, Russia will be converted, and there will be peace; if not, she will spread her errors throughout the world, causing wars and persecutions of the Church. The good will be martyred; the Holy Father will have much to suffer; various nations will be annihilated. In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph. The Holy Father will consecrate Russia to me, and she shall be converted, and a period of peace will be granted to the world.”

This consecration already done by Pope Pius XII, Paul VI and John Paul II, was renewed on 25 March by Pope Francis who, in a historic moment of armed con-

flict initiated, in fact by Russia, addressed and implored the Mother of God: “Holy Mother, amid the misery of our sinfulness, amid our struggles and weaknesses, amid the mystery of iniquity that is evil and war, you remind us that God never abandons us, but continues to look upon us with love, ever ready to forgive us and raise us up to new life. He has given you to us and made your Immaculate Heart a refuge for the Church and for all humanity. By God’s gracious will, you are ever with us; even in the most troubled moments of our history, you are there to guide us with tender love. We now turn to you and knock at the door of your heart. We are your beloved children. In every age you make yourself known to us, calling us to conversion. At this dark hour, help us and grant us your comfort. [...] Star of the Sea, do not let us be shipwrecked in the tempest of war. Ark of the New Covenant, inspire projects and paths of reconciliation. Queen of Heaven, restore God’s peace to the world. Eliminate hatred and the thirst for revenge, and teach us forgiveness. Free us from war, protect our world from the menace of nuclear weapons. Queen of the Rosary, make us realize our need to pray and to love. Queen of the Human Family, show people the path of fraternity. Queen of Peace, obtain peace for our world.”

We too are called to do all we can, materially and spiritually, to return the world to the way of reconciliation and peace. We can do this by assisting the victims, whose lives have been shattered

with the loss of family members and the destruction of their homes. But this must be done united to the Holy Father’s prayers to Our Lady our “Mother of Good Counsel” and “Seat of Wisdom” imploring her intercession. We must listen to her invocation to “Pray the Rosary everyday to obtain peace for the world and the end of the war.” And not forgetting Padre Pio’s spiritual example who once confided: “Our Lady has never refused me any grace that I have asked for through the prayer of the Rosary.” We must listen and put into practice the maternal request of the Holy Virgin who asked the children on 13 May 1917: “Are you willing to offer yourselves to God and bear all the sufferings He wills to send you as an act of reparation for the sins by which He is offended and in supplication for the conversion of sinners?” And with the knowledge that it is sin that is at the root of every violence, because it nullifies God’s presence and makes us incapable of receiving His love so that we are left in the throes of our egotism and hate. This is not the dream and delusion of persons who think that they may attain without effort what diplomacy has failed to attain, but a real belief in the power of prayer to the Lord who grants to those who have faith what they request, a power more powerful than every weapon ever invented by man and able to silence them all.



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