

Our Lady came to bring peace to the world and the foundation of peace is the possession of grace. Wars are only punishment for the sins of the world. Only grace makes man pleasing to God. Only when grace illumines man's soul is there peace between God and man. And when peace reigns between God and enough men, Mary will reward the world with peace.

To persevere in this peace and the grace of God, not all men need to perform heroic sacrifices as did the children of Fatima; but all men must fulfill their daily duties in life. And because these duties are oftentimes hard and burdensome, they become works of penance and sacrifice. "The sacrifice required of every person is the fulfillment of his duties in life and the observance of My law. This is that penance that I now seek and require." In the Gospel, Our Lord speaks of this as man's "daily cross." "If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me." (Luke 9:23)

An essential element in the life of Christ was a deep love of His Mother, Mary. So the true disciple of Christ must share in this love for Mary and prove it in his daily life through the recitation of the Rosary. The person who says his beads sincerely is bound to be pleasing to God and draws God's grace unto himself. Also, the Rosary gives Mary new power to crush the head of the Serpent and to destroy his evil power over the world.

Communions of Reparation are also required for the fulfillment of this personal consecration to Our Lady. It was no mere coincidence that Our Lord requested the Communions of Reparation on the First Saturdays in almost the same words that He used when He spoke to St. Margaret Mary about the First Fridays. He desires that this devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary be made known and spread throughout the world and that it become a common practice like that of the First Fridays.



Lucia's family after the death of her father, Antonio, in 1919. Her mother, Maria Rosa, is seated and Lucia stands beside her. Her mother's face shows the effects of the illness she almost died from. Behind from left are Lucia's brother, Manuel, and her sisters Maria (holding her daughter Gloria Lucia), Caroline and Gloria.