

reality is UNREALITY to such a one. Throughout the Biblical account God has been constant in giving warnings to thoughtless man. He even sent His only and most beloved Son to present man with “the way, the truth, and the life”. – All to no avail. In more recent times – especially over the past 150 years – over and over again, by way of the glorious appearances of His most Blessed Mother, God has made serious reference to His mounting wrath, constantly demanding prayer and penance and mortification – acts of reparation to appease His wrath. He warns that He will send a punishment more terrible than the Flood. Again, all to no avail. The warnings fall on deaf ears as Man cheerfully continues his life of dreams in seeking safety and security in all the wrong places.

Fierce and frantic is the talk about the rights of man. But the talk about the rights of man has, at the same time, canceled out – in the mind of Man – the duties owed to God. The heart of the Race of Man seems hardened and his voice sings the air with his incessant blasphemies. Sunday, which continues to belong to God, is all but forgotten and is now treated as one of the usual workdays of the week (look at the shopping malls).

We all know the history surrounding the various, glorious, and wonderful approved apparitions of our Most Blessed Mother, and we – those of us whose determined will and intention is to live the life of grace – know the words of the MESSAGE, which is always the same. It is simple. It is to the point. It is urgent. It is dreadful. If the world is ever to recover, Man must travel the simple but sacred course of PRAYER, PENANCE, AND MORTIFICATION. This, of course, is abhorrent to the ears of man. To him, the entire proposition is unthinkable, a myth, a product of a mind-set of antiquated and out of touch old-timers. A “real” man, however, seeks recovery and security in the possession and use of money. He develops physical strength in his increased possession of money. He respects intelligence and fosters discovery, but his conscience is corroded with untruth and injustice. He sees no evil in the use of injustice so long as it produces the desired result.

Isn't it strange how the Blessed Mother, in communicating the MESSAGE to the world, did so through the use of the most unlikely of agents. The MESSAGE, so powerful, so cataclysmic, was presented in most cases to shabby, poor, uneducated, and not too pious, children. Children from homes in the withering grip of extreme poverty, intimately acquainted with sorrow and hard work, were the recipients of this unspeakable important MESSAGE. Once again we witness how God uses the ignorant and the weak to confound the powerful and the mighty, the rich and the intellectual; we witness also how God uses the simplest statements to overthrow the most sophisticated scholarship of man. The Blessed Mother manifested herself to witnesses incapable of imagining or fabricating anything of the sort, witnesses peculiarly receptive and peculiarly qualified, through their very simplicity, to transmit what it was she had to say to the world.

And what was this MESSAGE? First, simply and profoundly, the Blessed Mother stressed the undeniable fact of sin, with its evil and destructive consequences. The woes of the world all stem from this: that men ignore God and His Will as not being worth any consideration, and