

Reflection Saturday 5th Week Easter Our Lady of Fatima 2023

Our Lady of Fátima: This feast commemorates the visions of Our Lady seen near Fátima in Portugal in 1917 by three shepherd children, Lúcia dos Santos and her cousins Jacinta and Francisco Marto. The visions occurred on the 13th day of each month from May to October, and by October huge crowds were gathering at the site of the visions and reporting visions and miraculous occurrences themselves. Pope John Paul II was devoted to Our Lady of Fátima and attributed his survival of an assassin's bullet on 13th May 1981 to her intervention. Jacinta and Francisco Marto, who died in the great Spanish Flu pandemic of 1919-20, were beatified on 13th May 2000.

In the early growth of the Church and the spread of the gospel, it is clear that the Holy Spirit played a major part in its development. Jesus never held back on the difficulties his followers would have to face in spreading the gospel. He even blames himself for it! We know that Paul was stoned yet survived, that his message was rejected in places but it never deterred him. He had complete trust in the Holy Spirit.

Almighty God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
to me the least of saints,
to me allow that I may keep even the smallest door,
the farthest, darkest, coldest door,
the door that is least used, the stiffest door.
If only it be in Your house, O God,
that I can see Your glory even afar,
and hear Your voice,
and know that I am with You, O God. Amen

St Columba

This happened to an Englishman in France who was totally drunk. A French policeman stops his car and asks if he has been drinking. With great difficulty, the Englishman admits that he has been drinking all day, that his daughter was married that morning, and that he drank champagne and a few bottles of wine at the reception, and many single malts scotches thereafter.

Quite upset, the policeman proceeds to breath test the Englishman and - ping, pow, boom - verifies that he is indeed sloshed. He asks the Englishman if he knows why, under French Law, he is going to be arrested. The Englishman answers: "No sir, I do not! But while we're asking questions, do you realize that this is a British car and that my wife is the one driving on the other side?"