

# Fifth Sunday of Easter

My beloved brothers and sisters, yesterday, we celebrated that 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1<sup>st</sup> appearance of Our Lady of Fatima, to the three Pastorinhos, very young peasant children, who were totally uneducated and very simple. She came to them proclaiming that She had been sent by God, to offer a message and a way to peace by means of repentance, prayer, and the sacraments. What was the essential message all about? Was it about the unfolding apocalyptic events of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century? No! Was it about the prophecies that we see unfolding before us in our time? No! Was it about the 3<sup>rd</sup> Secret that seems to fascinate so many? No! Certainly, Her message contained all of these things; but most essentially, Her message was the essential message of the Gospel: "Repent, and begin to believe the Good News of God!" It was a message from God who has entrusted our Holy Mother with the message of Peace and the way to peace by taking personal responsibility for our Relationship to God, to each other, and to the Church!

**It is the essential message that is found in today's Gospel:  
Only Christ Will Satisfy Our Hearts' Deepest Desires;  
everything else leads us into a hell on earth!**

From ancient times, wise men and women have summed up the human condition as a **quest** to answer three fundamental questions: What should I **do**? What can I **know**? What can I **hope for**? In response Jesus Christ gives us the definitive answer to **each one** of these questions when he tells us that he is the way, the truth, and the life. Jesus doesn't just **give** the answers; he **is** the answer.

"I am the **way**" answers the question: "What should you do? **Follow me!** Do what I have done." I am the **truth**" means: "What can you know? You can know **everything that is truly important**, if only you know **me**." That is why Our Blessed Mother was sent to these very young, innocent and ignorant shepherd children. God was saying to them and to us through Our Lady: "By knowing Jesus, more and more every day, you know the **secret** behind the workings of the whole **universe** and the deepest yearnings of the **human heart**, because I made them both. I am the **eternal Word**, the very **Wisdom of God**."

"When Jesus says: I am the **life**" He means: "What can you hope for? In me, through me, you can hope for the **fullness of life** that you long for in the very **depths** of your soul; and this is true joy, because you were created for this! "You can hope for **your very own place** in my Father's house, in heaven - I have gone to prepare it for you."" "In my Father's house all **sorrows** turn to **joy**, all **weakness** turns to **strength**, and **life** grows more **alive** as eternity unfolds."

What is the essential message of Fatima, what is the essential message of the Gospel? Jesus is truly the **living water** that quenches every thirst. Jesus is truly the **light** that scatters every type of darkness. Jesus is the **quest** of every man and woman to satisfy the heart's **deepest needs**. **Jesus** is the quest to **seek the face of God by seeing the Face of Jesus**. St Augustine famously wrote, "Our hearts are **restless** until they **rest** in God."; and **Jesus Christ is God**.

Our Lady of Fatima tells us how to get on the Road to peace and joy, with five requests: 1) Prayer, Prayer, Prayer, especially the prayer of the Rosary: it is the peace plan of God! 2) Frequent Confession, at least once a month, and struggling with all our might to live the moral law of God with His help. 3) Penance for our sins, carrying the cross of our daily lives and our self-chosen penances given to the Heart of Jesus through the Heart of Mary. 4) Keeping the First Fridays, and Making Reparation for sins against the Immaculate Heart of Mary by keeping Five Saturdays in Mary's honor and reparation to God. 5) Making Reparation to God for the sins and offenses against God by people in the world, especially the great sin of atheism expressed in Communism, Socialism and Humanism that have so infected the world.