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Teachings on The Simple Path to Union with God Year 2020

Introduction

These formation teachings of the Love Crucified Community are based on what the Lord and the Blessed Mother have taught us through The Simple Path to Union with God. They have helped us to apply the Simple Path to our ordinary daily life as God's hidden victims of love.

Simple Path to Union with God: A spiritual path walked with Mary to become ONE with Jesus Crucified as the most perfect transformation into LOVE. It is God's formation manual for His hidden victims of love, the saints of the end times, to enter prepared the decisive battle.

The book is available on our website at <https://www.lovecrucified.com/simple-path-to-union-with-god>

Abbreviations:

LC: Love Crucified Community

MOC: Mothers of the Cross (women of the community)

MC: Missionaries of the Cross (men of the community)

Italics: Messages from Jesus or Mary.

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Loving with Christ Restores Manhood and Womanhood

Feb. 13

Simple Path Ch.4-G / p.171 / p.294

Lourdes Pinto

The Lord taught us in *The Simple Path to Union with God*, p.243, #88, what it means that Jesus Christ is the Light:

Only love radiates the light of God, for His light is love. The light of Jesus Christ is love that suffers for all and with all, love in pain and sorrow, love that enters into the brokenness of humanity and receives her brokenness into Himself to heal and restore her in God. Love receives her wounds and bears them upon His body to heal her with the balm of His tenderness in mercy. The light of the world is Love, the Word Incarnate.

It's beautiful to hear the Lord refer to us as feminine – “her,” because He is the Bridegroom, and we, the Church, are His bride, composed of both men and women. When He says that “He enters into each of us,” He means that He enters into our hearts to receive the brokenness of our masculinity and our femininity.

That He enters each heart is important. In the Gospel of Mark 7:21-23, we read:

For from within, out of the heart of man come evil thoughts—fornication, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, foolishness—all these evil things come from within, and they defile a man.

Therefore, Jesus Christ, the new Adam, the God-Man, has to enter the depths, the recesses, of each of our hearts to receive all our garbage. There He suffers profoundly and deeply, in the grief of God, our brokenness, our woundedness, our manhood and womanhood that have been distorted from the way God created us, in His image and likeness.

As I pondered this teaching again, I was touched by its beauty. In *The Path*, the Lord constantly tells us He wants to bring forth a new creation in us –men and women. What is this new creation? The new Adam in our men and the new Eve in us women through His Redemption, His Blood, His Cross, His death and resurrection. The Lord wants to restore us to what He created us to be in the beginning: His image and likeness. In this way, Jesus, the Man, teaches us how to love.

Since part of what manhood lost was the capacity to provide, protect, and defend the garden and Eve, his spouse, Jesus reveals in His humanity what true manhood is. He shows us a manhood that provides profound love and tenderness by being intimately attentive to the innermost heart of His bride, the Church—each of us. That is true manhood. He teaches that, for a man to love truly, he must be willing to receive a woman's brokenness, suffer it deeply in his manly heart, and give her his tenderness physically through his gaze, touch, kiss, and words. This is true manhood restored.

As we, men and women, live this way of loving with the help and fire of the Holy Spirit, our manhood and womanhood are restored in Divine Love and mercy. This is amazing.

In the second part of this teaching from the Lord, He invites us to love in this way. He says to us:

Receive My wounds, the sin, brokenness, and oppression of your brothers and sisters so that you can radiate My light in the darkness. This is love. The love of the world is self-seeking and self-centered, but the love of God is self-giving.

As I reflected on this teaching from three years ago, I recognized how often, through the years, the Lord kept bringing me back to it. I have struggled deeply trying to live it. Consequently, I saw that there are two parts to the love to which Jesus invites us.

First, I must receive the brokenness and woundedness of the men, women, and children that God has placed in my life and suffer all of it with Him; that's a big part of the Path, and I would say that this part has come easier for me.

The second part is my greater struggle: giving tenderness in mercy to the souls in my life who are my crown of thorns, to the souls who keep hurting me deeply in my feminine heart. As I have struggled to love with tenderness in mercy, I have discovered in my heart profound anger, resentment, frustration, disappointment, and discouragement—all of which I have to constantly battle against. This experience has given me a lot of self-knowledge, yet in the end, the Lord asks more—He says that the help between men and women should be like the love of God: self-giving, pouring itself out to the other. God created us to love this way, with. There was a complete equality of dignity between men and women. God created us men and women to live in communion, in a relationship with Him who is Trinity.

Therefore, as we live this *Path* and enter the depth of the love of God, we are confronted with our brokenness as men and women. As we see our brokenness through the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit and persevere in our faithfulness to repent, get up and try again, we are, little by little, restored by God. But the key is that we truly enter our hearts.

The more I go out over the world to speak about the *Path* to laypeople, priests, seminarians, and consecrated women, the more I realize how few men and women, but especially men —our priests and seminarians— have genuinely entered with the Holy Spirit, into the depths and recesses of their hearts. I have discovered that the formation of the heart is most lacking in our seminaries. Jesus Christ, in Mark 7, shows us that He, the Man-God, lives with His Heart connected to our hearts. Without the crucial process of entering first into their own hearts with Jesus, priests cannot give good spiritual direction. They cannot help others to be restored in Christ and experience the powerful transformation that the Holy Spirit wants to realize. Entering the heart is crucial. That is why, from the beginning, the *Path* brings us to the heart. The *Path* is the formation of the heart.

In my meditation, I learned that I must, like Jesus, humble myself by becoming the servant of the people most difficult to love. I must choose to serve them with tenderness in mercy. The faithful servant, like Jesus, comes to serve, not to be served. He serves by receiving our brokenness. So true humility, for all of us, is to serve with tenderness the souls who are our crown of thorns. That's tough.

Here we get to another point, and that is relationships. God created man and woman to live in relationship, a profound relationship—in God. Therefore, man and woman cannot be transformed *outside* of relationships. If we look carefully at p. 171 of our *Path*, the Lord tells us:

Ponder every relationship and situation in your lives where you are not loving with Me, through Me, and in Me.

God is so practical; He then gives us the assignment to ask ourselves:

Why is it so difficult to love this person or to love in this situation? It is precisely in those situations and with those persons where you need to be purified.

This teaching of Jesus Christ in our *Path*, #88, takes me to the relationships in my life with the souls that are a constant struggle for me. I have to ask myself not what's wrong with the other person; that's not what the Lord is asking! Not what's wrong with my husband, or with my children, or with that community member, but what's wrong with me! Why can't I love this difficult person? If we are sincere, we will discover the primary areas where our manhood or womanhood is wounded and distorted.

In our *Path*, p. 294, the Lord again takes us to relationships. In #106, "Tenderness through our Hands," Jesus tells us:

Choose to love those most difficult to love.

I think many of us have memorized that sentence. Why? Because it's so difficult to love our crown of thorns, whoever is piercing us the most. Then the Lord says:

You must always choose love, patience, and tenderness, and never give in to anger and resentment.

That is how Christ, the new Adam, loved. As we realize our inability to love in total self-giving, we face our misery, brokenness, and woundedness, all of which brings us to humility. Humility grows from acknowledging our misery. As we face the reality that we cannot love selflessly, we accept our total dependence on God, and we beg Him for cleansing and healing. Knowing the immensity of God's love for us, knowing that the God-Man has provided, protected, and defended us, we become more and more transformed into His new creation.

The testimony of Father Cizek in his book, *He Leadeth Me*, illustrates this process as he enters deep within his heart. He says:

I had to have constant recourse to prayer..., to the eyes of faith, to a humility that could make me aware of how little my own efforts meant, and how dependent I was upon God's grace, even for prayer and faith itself.

We need to get to the same place. Fr. Cizek ends by saying, "It was only by struggling with such feelings, however, that growth occurred."

What feelings am I struggling with as I try to love by receiving the brokenness of those who hurt me, as I suffer with purity united with Jesus, giving tenderness and mercy to the person who is constantly hurting me? This new attitude means that when I gaze at that person, my eyes are not full of disgust or revenge. It means that when I gaze at that person, he sees the mercy of God in my eyes; It means that I can hug and embrace that person; It means that I can speak with words of love and not give little stabbings. If I'm attentive to my heart, as our *Path* teaches us, I will recognize when words come out of my mouth contaminated with resentment, even if in the most subtle way. I can't hide that from myself anymore. Therefore, I am confronted in my conscience with my constant anger and resentment and I'm called by God to live with transparency. That's what Father Cizek had to do, and he became a saint (his process of beatification has begun). He had to struggle constantly.

Therefore, if I'm constantly struggling in my brokenness, that's humility. True humility—being real and transparent before myself and God—will always bring forth growth.

Stations of the Cross Lived with Jesus – How to live Lent

Feb 27

Simple Path Ch.3-B (p.130); Ch.5-B (p.281)

Lourdes Pinto

A dear priest friend asked me, “**Lourdes, what is pure love?**” This question brought me to a very fruitful process in my heart which led to a teaching on how to enter and live Lent as Mothers, Missionaries of the Cross, and aspirants of Love Crucified. I would like to share it with you. Each of us should take the time to ponder this question, for its answer reveals the ultimate purpose of Lent and how to apply it to our lives — dying to ourselves and our egos so that we can grow as ONE with Christ in pure love.

Entering this contemplation, I remembered in *The Simple Path to Union with God* the beautiful testimony of a woman, a Mother of the Cross, in our community. She described how her alcoholic father would vow every year to give up alcohol as an act of penance for the forty days of Lent. Once Easter day arrived, he would break the Lenten fast and return to drinking. Despite all the Lenten sacrifices he made, nothing truly changed; there was no transformation and no growth in love. We, too, like this man, can give up many things, all kinds of foods and habits, but with what purpose? Are those sacrifices in and of themselves bringing forth a profound transformation in us? Are they helping us grow in love?

As I pondered this, I entered deep prayer and asked the Lord, “What is your Will for me? How do you want me to live my Lent?” Immediately, a few words the Lord gave me many years ago came to my mind— “**Mortify yourself in silence.**” He was taking me deeper. The Lord showed me that He desired that I mortify myself in silence more than any denial of food. After many years of entering this true silence, I can now see that it is much more difficult than any mortification of food, and it has a transformational effect on the soul.

A second thought that came to mind as I prayed were the words the Blessed Mother placed in my heart while on pilgrimage in the Holy Land. She specifically asked that we pray the **Stations of the Cross** in a new way, no longer as I had done in the past, on the Fridays of Lent, often rushing through them quickly to get to the end. Instead, we should take one Station every day, delve deep into the Scripture account of the Lord’s passion, and enter that suffering of Jesus’ passion profoundly with Him.

The Lord’s last prompting in my heart was to reflect on the **Love Crucified Examination of Conscience**, allowing it to take us deeper to greater perfection of love.

As I began to enter this new process of Lent, the words of Our Blessed Mother I had received at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher resounded in my heart. I was standing before the mosaics of the 10th & 11th Stations of the Cross (Jesus is Stripped and Nailed to the Cross), I had an interior vision of Mary in deep mourning as the Mother of Sorrows, and she said:

It is a time of mourning, mourning for Jerusalem and the entire world. My Son has not been contemplated hanging on the wood of the Cross; His gaze of love has been ignored; His cry for Jerusalem has been ignored. The blood of the martyrs unites to the Blood of the Lamb of God and cries out to Abba, “Father, justice.” Soon, and very soon, every eye will be forced to contemplate the Lamb of God crucified for love of mankind; and they will have

to choose to believe or turn away. I desire for the Mothers and Missionaries of the Cross to unite to my mourning through prayers and sacrifices, for many souls will be lost to the fires of Gehenna. Remain with me and pray the Stations of the Cross so that many hearts will be open, will see, and be converted. After this great grace from God will come the final tribulation. God's little mustard seed has been born upon the earth to prepare souls for these decisive times. Pray also for my shepherds, for their hearts, too, have become dry and brittle, unable to see the God who gave them life hanging from the Tree of Life. Pray, my little ones, pray, for the justice of God is upon the world. I bless you with my tears of love. 11/3/17

Our Lady is imploring us to remain in prayer with her and pray the Stations of the Cross for the salvation of souls. Our Lady lived the Stations of the Cross as one with her Son, and that is what she is calling us to do. She invites us to live the Stations of the Cross with Jesus so that many hearts will be open, will see, and be converted. Therefore, let us enter together the Scriptures as we meditate on this first Station of the Cross.

First Station of the Cross: Jesus is Condemned to Death

Jesus stands before the High Priest. He is condemned to death even before He is sent to Pilate. Mt 26: 57-68

Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas, the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. 58 But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. 59 Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, 60 but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward 61 and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'" 62 The high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?" 63 But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him, "I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God." 64 Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, from now on, you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven."

65 Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. 66 What is your verdict?" They answered, "He deserves death." 67 Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, 68 saying, "Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?"

Upon reading this Scripture, two lines stood out. First, "Peter followed at a distance." This led me to meditate on the section in *The Simple Path* (p. 130-135), which refers specifically to this passage. I pondered these powerful words from St. Catherine of Siena: "**What is still the distance that remains between Jesus and me?**"

Peter already loved Jesus greatly at that point, but his love had not yet been perfected. His **fears** were still greater than his love, and he was still centered on self-love. Fear kept Peter from perfect love. Fear kept him from courageous love. Fear kept him from laying down his life as one with Christ. I had to ponder, "What are the fears that continue to paralyze me?"

God teaches St Catherine of Siena about this imperfect love: (*Simple Path* p. 133)

If they serve Me with a view of their own profit, or the delight and pleasure which they find in Me, [their love] is imperfect. Do you know what proves the imperfection of this love? [When I] withdraw the consolations ... This I do so that, coming to perfect self-knowledge, they may know that of themselves they are nothing.

To grow in pure love, we must live daily in the knowledge of our nothingness, in the knowledge of our fears, in the knowledge of our disordered desires, in the knowledge that our love is so imperfect, in the knowledge of our misery. This is a very important step to pure love. Unless we grow in the **first level of humility, knowing that we are nothing and miserable, we cannot love.**

This mediation stayed with me throughout the day. I thought about Jesus; how did He feel when one of his best friends, His brother, followed Him at a distance? His best friend betrayed him. What was the Lord feeling? The Lord was suffering Peter's impure love. He was suffering for him to obtain the grace of deeper conversion. Jesus' suffering for Peter was pure, without any resentment. When Peter finally denied Jesus three times, he saw the gaze of Jesus. He saw a gaze of pure love, tenderness, and mercy!

I went back, starting with my high school years, and remembered, one by one, all the friends who had betrayed me, who had betrayed my trust. One by one, I thought of them and how those wounds had contaminated me with resentments. I reflected on Jesus being condemned to death, on Jesus' suffering for Peter, and begged Him to heal me of all the resentment that I still had towards some of those friends. To enter and live this Station of the Cross with Jesus, I began to place in His Heart every friend who betrayed my trust and prayed for each one by name, asking Jesus to love them, heal them, and more deeply convert them. It was a powerful experience, my family. This is growth in pure love. This is living the Stations of the Cross.

During my pilgrimage to the Holy Land, as I knelt before the altar at the rock of Gethsemane, Jesus spoke these words concerning our Love Crucified Community:

*Love Crucified has been called to **REMAIN with Me** as I continue to shed tears for Jerusalem, to remain with Me in My continuous agony for souls, to participate with Me in the salvation of the world, as you choose daily to receive the brokenness of the souls I have placed in your lives and to suffer with Me for them. The time of the great destruction draws near; many souls will be lost; you will hear the wailing of Jerusalem throughout the world. Bring Me victim souls to suffer with Me in order to obtain graces of conversion for many souls, who otherwise will be lost. Believe in the power of your hidden lives of suffering with Me.*

I recalled the words of Scripture when, at Jesus' trial, they brought false witnesses before the Sanhedrin. "**Jesus was silent**" (Mt 25:63). These three simple words resounded within me. Jesus did not defend himself. He did not justify Himself. He was silent. I spent almost all Holy Week **entering into the silence of Jesus**. That silence was not a nothingness. That silence was a profound living of Jesus Christ; that silence was the work of redemption! He was receiving in that silence the hardness, darkness, and oppression in each of those souls. He was feeling profound pain and agony for those souls in danger of hell, and He was suffering and interceding before the throne of the Father for each of them.

Jesus' silence was the opposite of Peter's. It was not rooted in fear but in power. In the power of knowing who He is, His mission on earth, and where He was going — to the Cross. Jesus did not defend Himself nor justify himself. He was not attached to what others thought about Him. He was entirely centered on fulfilling in perfect obedience the Will of the Father. In His silence, He was redeeming souls; He was suffering their hardness of heart and was interceding for them. The work of redemption was primarily done in the silence of Jesus' Heart—in the martyrdom of His Sacred Heart. It was a silence of intense interior work—receiving the hardness, sin, and darkness of all those souls and humanity and suffering intensely with them in God's silent cry. This silent work in the Heart of Jesus was revealed in His gaze. He gazed at each soul that hurt Him with tenderness in mercy—the gaze of pure love! To mortify ourselves in silence, we, too, must do the work of entering Jesus' silence.

I recalled a word Our Lord gave us once: **“This is whom you have become, but it is not who you are. I see you as who you are and suffer whom you have become”**. Each of us has become someone we are not; we wear masks to hide the brokenness brought by sin and by our wounds. We are broken people and our transformation into pure love will come, through the power of the Holy Spirit, as we discover that who we have become is not who we are and begin to live authentically in Christ who we are. I had to ask myself, “Who am I? What is my mission, and where am I going?” Throughout the years, Christ has been leading us more and more to live authentically who we are.

We see people living in fear during these difficult times, with so much news regarding Corona Virus and so much unrest throughout the world. Fear leads to anxiety, which leads to confusion, which leads to despair. We, **God's victim souls, must remain focused, living as ONE with Mary, gazing at Jesus.** Mary lived amid great turmoil and darkness during the Passion of Christ, but by keeping her gaze fixed on Jesus, she was able to live the Passion with Jesus in perfect peace, suffering all with Our Lord.

We are called to do the same. We must take our gaze away from the television, away from the constant news, and enter the Scriptures to live Jesus' agony with Him, suffering with Him specifically for the dark times we are now living. This is who we are, my family; we are Mothers and Missionaries of the Cross for these decisive times. We must live every moment centered on our mission to help provide graces for souls who, during these times, are entering despair and anxiety. We, the Mothers and Missionaries of the Cross, have to be centered in who we are, centered in our mission to go to the Cross to be crucified with Christ so that we can be raised with Him—Pure Love.

I invite you to enter Lent living the Stations of the Cross through the Scriptures. Ponder and pray the Examination of Conscience (see below). Mortify yourself in silence; live the Stations with Mary to obtain graces for many souls. This is who we are! Amen.

Resources:

1. Examination of Conscience based on Love:
<https://www.lovecrucified.com/examination-of-conscience-on-love>
2. Through *The Simple Path to Union with God*; Am I living the love of Christ in my daily life?
3. Pray the Litany of Humility – *Simple Path* p.450.

His Living Tabernacles in the World – as St. Joseph

March 19

Simple Path—prophecies Ch.8 / St Joseph Ch.2 (p.74) Ch.5 (p.299) Ch.6 (p.349)

Lourdes Pinto

In my journal, I came across an experience of the Love Crucified Community of Colombia, which took place during the retreat of 2016. Ten members were making their covenant that evening during the Mass: seven Mothers of the Cross and three Missionaries of the Cross. On the front of the altar stood the seven chalices of the MOC. When Father Jordi went to get the ciborium with the hosts for Holy Communion, the tabernacle door would not open. Different people came into the chapel to try to open it. They tried and tested. It would not open.

Father Jordi had only consecrated the priest's Host. Exactly 33 people waited in line to receive Holy Communion. As each person approached the Eucharist, Father kept breaking little pieces of the Host, never thinking the one Host would be enough to feed all 33 people. But to the amazement of all present, the last teeny tiny piece of Host was given to the 33rd person in line!

The Lord later explained the meaning of what had happened—the grace He was giving our community that year in Colombia. The Lord said,

It was a sign from heaven of what is to come. You will look for Me in the tabernacles of the world, but they will be shut. I no longer will be there. One Host fed 33 souls. "33" represents Me, my life on earth. At the age of 33, the end of My earthly life, I shed My blood for you. I am the Sacrifice of Love, the Sacrifice of God's New Covenant with His people. The triumph of My Eucharistic life is at hand. You, [meaning plural, all of us], are My participants in this triumph: one Host, one Body. No longer two, but One in My Sacrifice of Love. Prepare your hearts and minds to shed your blood as one sacrifice for the renewal of the world.

Seven chalices represent My souls who have allowed Me to empty them and purify them so that they now become God's pure instruments to purify the world. The doors of My Mercy are closing. The fury of Satan will be let loose for a short time, but My living hosts will pierce this darkness and usher in the reign of the Immaculate Heart of My Mother with a New Pentecost. Prepare by living as one Body with Me, and you will be in perfect peace during the time of great darkness. 10/12/16

Although that experience in Colombia with our community was amazing, I had forgotten it. I now realize it wasn't by chance I came across this message from 2016 for years later. God wanted me to find it. God wanted me to share it with you to remember it together.

I searched for the significance of the number seven, as we had seven chalices, and found on CatholicCulture.org a powerful definition:

“Seven” is the symbolic number for charity, grace, and the Holy Spirit. It is the term that stands for perfection. There are seven sacraments, seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, seven deadly sins, seven joys, and seven sorrows of Our Lady.

The Lord says:

This is the number of My souls that are allowing Me to empty them, to purify them, to make them My living chalices so that My Blood can be poured out upon the earth.

That is us. Amazingly, the Lord was already preparing us, as He has been all these years, for these times we're living. Who would have imagined a few weeks ago that almost every church worldwide would be closed (due to the Covid pandemic)? However, this has happened, and the Lord has also prepared us for this.

My brothers and sisters, even though you might not have the daily Eucharist now, the Lord has formed our hearts to be His living tabernacles; and Jesus is truly present, alive, in each of our hearts. Every day we can adore Him by entering the heart, by encountering Him deep within us. We are His living hosts, my family, and we must believe.

I want to focus now on St. Joseph, on his feast day, because he is a beautiful example for us. I spent my time in prayer this morning reflecting on our *Path*, p. 74, # 22, in which Jesus gave us a beautiful teaching about St. Joseph:

St. Joseph centered his life in prayer and silence. He meditated on the Word of God daily in humility, seeking no places of honor for himself.

How important this is, especially for us now, to **enter prayer and silence** where there is so much noise, chaos, fear, and panic in the world. My family, turn off the news. Turn off the television. With the churches now closed, the Lord has prepared us so that our homes, our rooms, become our sacred sanctuaries. Just as Jesus, the Living Host, was present in the womb of Mary and presided in their home and their family, Jesus is also present through each of us in our homes and families. **You are now the living hosts**, and our homes must be those sanctuaries that are filled with gratitude to Jesus and bring glory to God in reparation for all those souls that are not, especially our shepherds in the Church.

The teaching continues:

Hidden, he [St. Joseph] remained content.

The Lord has been forming Love Crucified for years as His **hidden force**. How well our beloved St. Joseph knows, loves, and lives the hidden life. Are we content being hidden? The **purification of our desires**, the first nail of crucifixion¹, is important. We all have innate desires that come from our woundedness. We long to be seen, to be recognized, to be acknowledged, to be chosen, to be promoted; yet these desires need to be purified so that the greatest desire may arise in us: to be hidden, to be ignored, to be set aside, to be forgotten, to be humiliated. The first nail of crucifixion brings us to the next level of humility.

+ St. Joseph, grant us the grace to desire to be hidden.

Jesus continues in this teaching,

Through the purity and humility of his heart, he was able to see the purity and holiness of Mary.

¹ The Lord taught us in LC that "the first nail of crucifixion" is surrender of our desires and attachments.

Mary looked like any ordinary young woman of her time, but it was the heart of St. Joseph, so pure and so humble, that could see with the eyes of God the beauty of God in Mary. The beginning of the *Path* teaches us to see with the “eyes of our heart.” As Jesus begins to purify our hearts, we can start to see others through the eyes of God within us.

+ St. Joseph, help each of our hearts truly to grow in humility and purity.

The message continues:

When he [St. Joseph] learned that Mary was with child, through humility, he entered the hiddenness of his heart and sought to know the will of God.

St. Joseph suffers terribly when he finds out that Mary is pregnant. Imagine, he doesn't know about the angel appearing to Mary, yet St. Joseph doesn't react in anger, pride, or self-righteousness. He does not accuse Mary; he enters silence and profound prayer to listen to the voice of God, and God blesses that holiness. How important it is for us during this time of storm to enter greater silence and prayer to listen to God guiding us. The ways of God are not the ways of the world. We must listen to Him.

+ St. Joseph, help us to enter silence and prayer. Grant us the grace to hear the voice of God.

The message continues. Jesus tells us:

This is what makes a great man, to seek the Will of God in all things.

The Lord is speaking of both men and women, but how much during these times we need holy men—men who are capable of living in the Will of God, not in their own wills! Jesus continues:

My power and strength were manifested in his tenderness and docility of heart. When men let go of their human tendency to control and rely completely on Me, they will begin to possess the true power of God.

With this teaching, *The Path* reaches each of us. But this teaching is needed to a greater extent for men, for the New Adams of these decisive times! Men like St Joseph, who through the grace of God, can enter their hearts and come to know their tendency to control; men who will abandon themselves entirely to the Will of God; men who are faithful protectors, like St Joseph; who embraced Mary as the Mother of God and lived in humility.

+ We pray, St. Joseph, that all men, especially the Missionaries of the Cross, embrace with true humility the holy women in their lives, bless them, honor them with tenderness and goodness, listen to them, never dominate and control them. St. Joseph, teach men how to be holy men and how to see the beauty of every woman.

Finally, Jesus says of St. Joseph,

He embraced the mission of God revealed and contained in Mary most humble. The mission of God was contained in our Blessed Mother, and St. Joseph received that mission from her and blessed her and became one with that mission, obedient to God.

St. Joseph knew who he was. St. Joseph knew his mission. He was not distracted, trying to be someone he was not. He did not try to take the place of our Blessed Mother. St. Joseph entered the beauty of his hiddenness and became a powerful intercessor! He is our righteous heavenly man — father, protector, defender, and provider. Thank you, Lord, for the gift of St. Joseph.

We have some powerful words about St. Joseph from Pope Francis in the *Path*, wholly centered on St. Joseph as the protector. From the Fall to this day, our men have lost their capacity to be who God created them to be, especially protectors and defenders because they have been wounded and broken. This is one of the big sorrows in the Church; so many of our priests are not capable of defending and protecting the Bride of Christ. What Pope Francis tells us on p. 299, in the first paragraph, is a critical reminder to our men:

To be protectors, we also have to keep watch over ourselves. Let us not forget that hatred, envy, and pride defile our lives. Being protectors, then, also means keeping watch over our emotions, over our hearts, because they are the seat of good and evil intentions, intentions that build up or tear down.

***The Path* teaches both men and women to enter deep within their hearts to encounter and find the evil that exists in all.** For a man to become the protector, he first and foremost must become a man who can enter into his heart, be attentive to his own heart, and allow God to bring him face to face with his own evil so that God can transform his heart and purify it. His heart is the chalice God wants to empty to make like St. Joseph's. Many women lament and have profound wounds because their feminine hearts were at times not protected by their fathers, brothers, grandfathers, uncles, boyfriends, or priests.

+ St. Joseph, we pray that you help our men become true protectors.

I exhort the men and women of our community to take to heart, especially this part of the teaching. On *The Path*, p. 349, #131, we find a beautiful reflection on St. Joseph and the Holy Family, a critical message for these times we're living. Our Lord says:

St. Joseph and Mary were perfect, holy victim souls. They were united as one to the Victim of Love. St. Joseph never uttered a complaint during his many struggles, trials, and sufferings.

This reminded me of something the wife of one of our Missionaries of the Cross, who has suffered a long and difficult battle with cancer, had shared with me. She would often tell me how she had never heard her husband utter a complaint throughout his illness. It is no accident that her husband was named after St. Joseph. We have a blessed brother dying of cancer, who is of one heart with our beloved St. Joseph.

The Lord goes on to tell us in this message,

The human existence here on earth is full of struggle, challenges, difficulties, sufferings, trials, and tears because of the Fall. I came to transform human suffering through My death and resurrection. The Holy Family lived the human condition through Me, with Me, and in Me; thus, their lives were transformed into love, the love of the Most Holy Trinity.

The Holy Family lived the slaughter of the innocent boys. They lived under the horrible oppression of the Roman Empire. They lived the darkness within the hearts of their Jewish leaders. They lived in poverty. They lived economic distress, but they lived it all with Jesus, through Jesus, in Jesus.

Let us ask St. Joseph and the Holy Family,

During this time of great struggle, of great darkness, help us to live everything, every trial, through Jesus, with Jesus, in Jesus, with the joy of the faith of knowing who we are, our mission as the hidden force, especially now in our homes, and the joy of knowing where we are going—to die with Christ for the salvation of the world and the glory of God. Amen.

Receive My Tears – True Repentance

March 26

(Simple Path – “Repentance,” Ch.2; “Tears,” Ch. 3, p. 124)

Lourdes Pinto

In this teaching, I would like to share my meditation on a message the Lord gave Love Crucified on March 21, 2020. I spent many hours before the Blessed Sacrament pondering these words of Our Lord:

Receive My tears as one with Mary’s. The world continues to live detached from God. This state of humanity is what is empowering Satan and all his dominions. The darkness is Satan and all his lies. The night is his evil that desires only to destroy lives. I shed tears as I continue to watch humanity refuse to turn their gaze toward Me. My little one, the world must be brought to its knees. When they lose everything, then some will turn to Me. This is the time of great mourning, but also of hope, for the God of Mercy will intervene and give humanity a last chance to repent. I desire My faithful mustard seed to cry with Me and suffer as one with Me to obtain the graces of repentance for many souls who otherwise will be lost for all eternity. Do not fear, for I am with you. You (LC) have found favor with God, and He listens to the cry of your hearts.

Remain faithful to all I have taught you;

Remain faithful to the way I have formed you, for the power to defeat Satan and all his principalities emerge only through Love.

Remain steadfast as I continue to guide you on the path of total transformation in Me, and you (LC), along with My faithful remnant, will defeat Satan, cast him into hell, and usher in My era of peace.

Remain faithful in living and teaching My path to the few willing to be transformed into Love.

Remain to console My Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart of My Mother as the Light of the world is hidden for a certain amount of time. It is now the time for which I have prepared you to be My light, for I live in you (plural).

Be at peace as the darkness grows darker, for God will save the world through His little remnant of victim souls. Tell My community to seek Me and find Me hidden in their hearts, for I will reveal, at the designated time, My light through My living hosts. Know that I am pleased with the few who have responded to My call for these end times. Know and rejoice that you are counted among the few; therefore, continue to persevere on the path of crucifixion so that the salvation of the world can be fulfilled through you, with you, and in you—My apostles of the end times. I bless you (pl.) with My precious Blood and My Mother’s tears for the fulfillment of My mission.

My meditation began with the first sentence,

Receive My Tears as one with Mary's.

The word "receive" immediately became a focus for me interiorly. I felt that the Lord desired to give each of us a gift, that He was asking for our permission, allowing us the freedom to choose to receive the gift or not. I closed my eyes and just imagined the Lord speaking these words, "Receive My tears as one with Mary's." I turned to Our Blessed Mother and the Holy Spirit to understand the meaning of these words. What do the words "receive My tears" mean? How do I receive them in the reality of my life? I couldn't understand how I was to live this.

As I prayed, pondering about Jesus giving me and receiving His tears, I realized in my heart that those are the tears that Jesus shed for me. I felt that the Holy Spirit was showing me something important, that I was part of this humanity for whom Jesus had shed so many tears. God did not want me to receive this message as if it were meant for some other humanity, humanity I was separate from as if humanity were the bad guys, and here I was, Lourdes, the holy one. That would be a total deception. The Lord was asking me, "Lourdes, receive My tears, the many tears that I have shed and continue to shed for you." Suddenly, this message took on a whole new perspective for me.

I then moved to the second sentence, where the Lord said,

The world continues to live detached from God.

Here I came to see all the tears shed for the many ways I continue to live detached from God, for I am not yet living in total union with Him. During the night of our Love Crucified cenacle, as we prayed the Sorrowful Mysteries, I felt that the Spirit wanted me to continue in this same meditation with each decade of the rosary. As I reflected on Jesus being scourged, I could see the Lord shedding tears for me, and I collecting the Lord's tears. What were these tears? They were the many times I had acted in hardness, harshness, anger, and resentment. Every time I treated another soul in this way, I hurt Jesus profoundly, and He said, "Receive my tears, shed for you." As I entered the Crown of Thorns, I again heard Jesus say, "Lourdes, receive My tears." During this decade, the rosary leader focused her reflection on how our Lord had chosen a unique crown of thorns for each of us. In this mediation, I began to see and receive the tears of the Lord for every precious thorn He had wanted to give me, but I had refused, through my pride, through my self-love and self-willfulness.

When we entered the mystery of Jesus Carrying the Cross, the Lord was saying,

Lourdes, receive My tears for the many times you have rejected the Cross that I, from the beginning of time, had specifically designed for you.

I began to see the many times I had dragged the Cross behind me, the many times I refused the Cross and walked the other way because I was sick and tired of that Cross. The many times I had complained and complained in my mind, imagining another Cross that I would prefer... and I heard His words, "Lourdes, receive My tears." Then I was able to see the face of the Lord on the Cross crying. As I knelt at the foot of the Cross with my heart opened, I began to receive one by one the tears of My Lord into my heart. All the tears He had shed for me each time I had refused to live in His Will but instead chose to remain in my will, in my desires, and insist on my way.

In the following sentence of the message, Our Lord explains,

The state of the world is what is empowering Satan and all his dominions. The darkness is Satan and all his lies.

This led me to the section in The Path where the Lord brings us to know Satan's lies within our own hearts. It seemed that I heard the Lord asking me, "Receive, Lourdes, My tears and Mary's, for the evil and the darkness that continue to live in you."

The Lord continued,

My little ones, the world must be brought to its knees.

Well, I, Lourdes, am part of the world. Have I been brought to my knees? Being brought to our knees means repentance. Once I was able to receive the tears of my Lord, my prayer then changed to sorrow for my sins: "Lord, I receive your tears; I am so sorry for my sins."

But can I cry for my sins as I receive the tears of my Lord? Upon seeing the Lord giving us the tears He shed for each of us, we should kneel and cry tears of genuine sorrow. Only then will we hear Our Lord say, as He says in the last sentence of the message, "You have found favor with God, and He listens to the cry of your hearts."

The Lord then said,

When they lose everything, then some will turn to Me.

What does The Path teach us? It teaches us to receive and live in the spirit of poverty. I live the spirit of poverty when I, Lourdes, am willing to lose everything and crucify my reputation, desires, expectations, plans, and attachments; when I lose everything and turn to the Lord. The spirit of poverty means that He becomes my all. Am I there? I came to understand, my family is, that I can pray and receive the tears of Jesus for the rest of humanity, for each of you, only to the extent that I can enter the depth of my own heart to receive Jesus' tears for me. The Lord led me to remember a section in The Path dedicated to "Tears" (p.124-129) which contains powerful words. I entered them in a new way after reflecting on this message from the Lord for five days.

My purpose in sharing this personal meditation with you and making myself transparent and vulnerable is to teach you how to receive the messages of our Lord when He speaks to us. If I, Lourdes, upon receiving these words, had said to myself, "how beautiful," and gone on to something else, I would have failed to receive the full extent of all the Lord desired to give me. I needed those five days of pondering and delving deep into the message to hear what the Lord wanted to tell me, yet I'm only at the beginning of the message! We have to receive the words of the Lord in this way, not as if they are from me, but rather as the Word of the Lord for our community and world. This process provides the formation of The Path, the formation of victim souls.

Let us go back in The Path, to the section on tears, to some important words from Pope Francis:

Today's world doesn't know how to cry... Certain realities of life we only see through eyes cleansed by our tears. I invite each one here to ask yourself, have I learned how to weep... for the marginalized, for the street child, for the drug addict?

In this same section of The Path, at the end of message #36, the Lord invites us to:

Remain with Me and collect My tears to present them to the Father.

Our hearts must first be filled with Jesus' tears shed for our sins before we can be brought to our knees in repentance, with our hearts able to expand, in width, in length, in depth, to receive the Lord's tears for our brothers and sisters and all humanity.

In the following message (#37), in this same section of the Path, Our Blessed Mother also invites us to collect her tears:

I desire for you to collect in your pure hands my tears of blood and to unite your tears with mine and raise them to the Father as one with the Blood of My Son.

What are these tears, our most pure tears, your tears, and mine? They must be tears of repentance, our repentance, to see and turn from our evil and the many ways we hurt the hearts of Christ and Our Blessed Mother.

And finally, in message #38 on page 128, second paragraph, the Lord says:

The act of Mary Magdalen and Peter, in which they come to me with tears of sorrow, is necessary to pierce the hardness of the human heart seeped in sin.

So yes, the Lord wanted not only me but each one of us in the community to receive His tears, the tears He has shed for each of us. Therefore, I invite you, my family, to do this meditation personally. Read the section of the "Tears" slowly in The Path as a self-reflection, allowing the Spirit to move your hearts to come to a deeper understanding, more profound repentance, for all the tears Jesus has shed for each of us.

Covenant in Love Crucified Community

May 7

Lourdes Pinto

Note: This teaching was a preparation for the renewals of covenants in the Love Crucified Community after our 2020 Encounter called “[The first Nail of Our Interior Crucifixion: Purification of Our Desires.](#)”

In this teaching, I will focus on the significance of our Love Crucified covenant. Every year we end our Spiritual Exercises with the renewal of our covenants. This year before renewing our covenants, I would like to encourage all members and aspirants of the community to take time to carefully read through our covenant and ask themselves, “How well am I living the promises I made to God? And where do I need to improve?”

Let us start by reviewing **what is a covenant**. A covenant is a solemn promise, a serious promise, a promise of deep sincerity. It is a promise concerning a future action, a promise fortified by an oath that comes from the depth of our hearts. The oath might be expressed in words or symbolic action. The oath we make in our Love Crucified covenant needs to be expressed by words and by living it out in our daily actions.

A covenant is more than a contract. In a contract, two parties agree to exchange goods and services. A covenant, on the other hand, binds persons to each other. It forms a bond, a relationship. A covenant –like marriage– is a sacred family bond. While contracts are bound to a promise, covenants are pledged with an **oath**. An oath is an invocation to God to witness the truth of the covenant. That, in a nutshell, is the big difference between a covenant and a contract. The covenant we make in Love Crucified binds us to God and one another, forming a spiritual family.

Covenants generally involve a ceremony with witnesses, as is the case of the Love Crucified covenant. We make our covenant at the end of a Mass, face to face with God, kneeling before the Blessed Sacrament, with the community as a witness. A covenant unites flesh and blood and ensures a common family name. In our covenant, we make a promise, by taking an oath, to be victim souls, ONE with Christ. When we sign our covenant, it’s as though we are sealing it with our blood, united to the Blood of Christ, and taking on a new family—Love Crucified!

God made six covenants in the course of the history of salvation, beginning with Adam and Eve, but they broke it when they sinned. God continued to seek to establish covenants with us. Why? Each covenant shows His immense love and mercy for us. His purpose was always to draw us back, unite us as one to Himself, that we might be His people and He our God so that we could live in happiness with Him in eternity.

The second covenant was with Noah and his family. The third covenant was with Abraham, Moses, and the Covenant with David. Finally, God promised through Jeremiah a new covenant, which Jesus fulfilled.

Jer. 31:31-34:

Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. Not like the covenant which I made with their fathers when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. My covenant which they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord.

It is important to recognize that God is the only one who has remained faithful to the covenants He made with His people. We, His people, from the beginning, have been unfaithful to the covenants made with God.

Jeremiah continues:

But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it upon their hearts: and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. And no longer shall each man teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

The new covenant with God is through His Son. What is offered is no longer the blood of animals, but the Blood of God himself, in Jesus Christ. In the fifth reflection of this year's Spiritual Exercises, we end by focusing on our spousal union with the Lord. This, my family, was not planned by us but designed by God.

I want to share with you some of the ways covenant is mentioned in our Path.

In the Simple Path on p.261, we have beautiful words from Pope Francis, commenting on the Wedding at Cana:

Jesus reveals himself as the Spouse of the people of God proclaimed by the prophets and reveals to us the depth of the relationship that unites us to Him. It is the new covenant of love. What is at the foundation of our faith? An act of mercy by which Jesus binds us to Himself and the Christian life is the response to this love. It is like the history of two people in love; God and man meet, seek, find, celebrate, and love one another, just like the lovers in the Song of Songs. Everything else comes as a result of this relationship.

My community, what is our Love Crucified covenant? It is our oath, our promise to respond to the love of our Bridegroom. It is a promise to lay down our lives for Him, with Him, to love Him by holding nothing back, to love Him with all we have, a pouring out of ourselves totally. That is the love of a victim soul; that is the covenant of Love Crucified. It is the response of the bride saying "yes" to the Spouse. That is why, in Love Crucified, when we make the covenant, we celebrate it as a marriage banquet; it's our wedding day with the Lord. **The Cross** we receive and wear around our neck is a symbol, like a wedding ring, of the oath, the promise we make to our beloved Spouse. Therefore, Love Crucified is a covenant community, NOT a prayer group or a group of apostolic work. It is a covenant community that makes a covenant with God and takes an oath to live a particular way of life as Christ's faithful bride. On p.263 of the Simple Path, we have words from Pope Benedict:

The Covenant with Israel was like a period of courtship, a long engagement. Then came the definitive moment, the moment of marriage, the establishment of a new and everlasting covenant. As Mary stood before the Lord, she represented the whole of humanity. In the angel's message, it was as if God made a marriage proposal to the human race. And in our name, Mary said yes.

In fairy tales, the story ends there, and all “live happily ever after.” In real life, it is not so simple. For Mary, there were many struggles ahead as she lived out the consequences of the “yes” that she had given to the Lord.

When we make our covenant, it is our “yes” united to Mary, and it is also only the beginning of a life of many struggles and hardships, as God calls us to persevere like Mary, with Mary, in our covenant, in our “yes” to the Lord.

The Lord also spoke to us of our covenant, our yes, as spouses united to Mary. In *The Simple Path*, on p.257 (#92), the Lord said to Love Crucified and to all who read *The Simple Path*:

Know who you are, as John the Baptist knew who he was and the gift given to him from heaven to accomplish his mission. He was the Bridegroom’s best man (meaning prophet), preparing the heart of the bride (the Church) to recognize, know, and love the Bridegroom. When the Bridegroom appears, John understands he must decrease. His joy is made full. You, on the other hand, are My bride (He is speaking to each of us), the Church, as one with My Mother, the perfect, pure, holy bride. Your mission, as one with Mary’s (look how Jesus reiterates to us our spousal union to Him with Mary), is to bring souls to the foot of the Cross to contemplate the love of the Bridegroom, to look and gaze at the One who has been lifted up and to be healed, restored and made new. (4/28/11)

We promise in our covenant to remain faithful to living this Simple Path, to allow the Holy Spirit to make us new—the New Adams and the New Eves. In living as new women and men in Christ, especially through witnessing our faithful spousal union with our Beloved, we can bring others to Him.

In #93 on p. 266, Jesus continues to speak to us about spousal union:

It is My victim souls abandoned to My crucified love that possess the power of God to defeat Satan and usher in the reign of the Immaculate Heart of My Mother. Do not be afraid to be My voice. Do not be afraid to be crucified with Me.

This year our Encounter was the beginning of the crucifixion of our desires. The Lord continues:

Be My spouse. A bride follows her spouse wherever He goes.

Then the Lord asks us a question:

Will you follow Me to My Cross, where our love will be consummated in the power of God?

It is through our Love Crucified covenant that we say “yes,” and as a community, a spiritual family, we hold hands and promise to be faithful to the Cross. The Lord goes on to say:

Suffer all with Me, your Spouse, through the embrace of the silence of the Holy Spirit. This is most pleasing to Me. Trust.

These words are powerful. We've been learning this for years through the Holy Spirit in our covenant community. Our Lord ends by saying:

... for there isn't a suffering I permit that will not bring you into the union of love I desire.

Think at this moment of the different sufferings in your life. Those sufferings were allowed and permitted by God, and through them, He is promising that if we live them in trust, as faithful spouses, they will bring us to a deeper union of love with the Bridegroom. Then He tells us again:

Trust in the power of suffering all as ONE with Me. It is this power that will set the world on fire with My Spirit. Raise up My victims of love for these decisive times. (7/9/12)

We must remember, my community, our Love Crucified covenant has two purposes. The first is to draw us into union with our Bridegroom, Our Beloved Jesus Christ, and through Him to be one with the Father and Holy Spirit. The second is a promise from God that to those who are faithful to this covenant and become one with His Beloved Son, God will give the power of Divine Love to cast into hell Satan and pierce the darkness in the world. They will usher in the Reign of the Immaculate Heart of Mary with the Eucharistic Reign of Jesus in a New Pentecost. That is the promise to the few who enter spousal union with Christ and a union with the Most Holy Trinity. It is the triumph of love over evil.

#94 p. 268:

My Daughter (my daughters and sons, I add), as my spouse, you will satisfy my thirst for your love as you lay down your life for the mission I have placed in your heart.

The mission of Love Crucified is one with the desire of the Heart of God; it is that oneness with His desire that must move us to lay down our lives to the mission entrusted to us. This sacrifice is part of our fiat, of our covenant.

#96, p.269, These are words from God the Father:

Are you now ready to become My Son's sacrifice of love? You can no longer be concerned about what others think of you, nor your reputation; you can be concerned only with pleasing My Son. You are no longer His handmaid but His spouse. As His spouse, your life must be lived to console Him and to be faithful out of love to His desires.

I want to go back to the last message Our Lord gave our community a few months ago, on March 21, 2020, regarding **faithfulness**. God has suffered and cried because His bride has not been faithful since Adam and Eve. How much it hurts the Lord when a Mother or Missionary of the Cross takes off their Cross! Why do we pray every single week for perseverance? Just as in marriage, so in our covenants, perseverance is not easy. Not all in this community have remained faithful to their covenant, so we pray every week for the grace of fidelity. This covenant we make, this marriage covenant is serious, my family. Consequently, our preparation in the discernment stage and every accompaniment is crucial for our community.

The Lord said on March 21:

Remain faithful to all I have taught you.

Jesus is why we have to be faithful to our covenant and attend the **cenacles**. How can we become faithful to all the Lord teaches us if we are not in the cenacles? How can we be faithful if we are not living the retreats? We cannot.

The Lord goes on to say:

Remain faithful to how I have formed you, for the power to defeat Satan, and all his principalities is only through love.

The entire formation of the Simple Path is **transformation into Love**. Look at the depth of what we have lived during the five weeks of this retreat. We have grown in love, my family, as we have come to see and **face our disordered desires and enter more into the desires of Christ**. In the past five weeks, I have been touched to the core of my being by the growth in love and faithfulness of the Mothers, Missionaries of the Cross, and aspirants who have shared their hearts with me in accompaniment.

The Lord continues in this message:

Remain steadfast as I continue (you see, He is not done with us) to guide you on the Path of total transformation in Me.

“TOTAL”— the Lord is pouring upon us the grace of grace, a total transformation! That means total union with Christ and unity in the Holy Trinity through Him.

And you, Love Crucified, along with my faithful remnant, will (again the promise of the covenant)... will defeat Satan and cast him into hell and usher in My era of peace. In the following line, again, He speaks of faithfulness:

Remain faithful in living and teaching My Path to the few willing to be transformed into love.

First, we must be faithful in living our covenant; we must promise to be faithful to living the Path. My most beautiful accompaniments are with brothers and sisters who, after years of meeting with them, open the Path and share with me where the Lord is taking them deeper. They have not tired of discovering God in the Path. They have not tired of entering deeper into the Scriptures, the Gospel’s messages, through their faithfulness in the Path. The Path and Scripture are united.

In the last line from that message, the Lord again says to remain:

Remain to console My Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart of My Mother, as the light of the world is hidden for a certain amount of time. It is now the time I have prepared you for, to be My light, for I live in you” (meaning all of us).

The Lord has prepared us for this time where the Eucharist is hidden, locked up in our churches. He has promised us, “I am alive; we are one. Your hearts are My living tabernacle. Enter daily through your spiritual communions in the Mass; adore Me and find Me, your Spouse, who has been faithful and lives in the tabernacle of your hearts.”

I remind you, my family, of the words God the Father gave us in a cenacle in 2012 regarding our Love Crucified covenant. May we never, never forget:

I, the God of heaven and earth, have received your covenant.

To those of you who are about to make your covenant, God the Father says, “I am receiving your covenant!” How serious it is when we break it; we break the heart of God. We are the spouse who divorces Him. He goes on to say:

I have placed you in the palm of my hand to guide you, to protect you, to bless you, to anoint you. I seal you on your foreheads with the sign of the Cross, with the Precious Blood of My only Begotten Son.

Ponder these words. Remember when we were kneeling making our covenant, God the Father received it and blessed each of us on our foreheads with His hands, with the Blood of His Son, sealing our covenant. God the Father says:

I am forming you to fight the decisive battle that we are in. Do not be afraid, for I, the God of heaven and earth, am with you.

As the darkness grows darker, do not be afraid, my family; God is with us. We are in a covenant, spousal relationship, and our God will never be unfaithful. Whether we live or die does not matter. We are spouses of God. He is faithful. Let us be faithful to the end.

God the Father ends by telling us:

You must become one with the sacrifice of My Beloved Son so that you can possess the power of God to take the dragon and conquer Him. The world does not understand; no, it does not. Look at the world; what does it understand? Nothing. But you understand, for you have listened to My Son, be at peace my family, know that I am with you. I hold you in the palm of My hand, and I bless you.

My community, take out the covenants that you have signed; read and reflect on them. Those of you who are in discernment can read it on p. 449 and use it in your discernment. In our covenant, we take an oath before God and His witnesses. We tell God we will be faithful spouses. We need to be faithful to our cenacles, our retreats, and our way of life centered on the Eucharist, the sacraments. I can't tell you enough about accompaniment. If you have not had accompaniment during the five weeks of retreat, you have not fully lived your retreat. If you have not been faithful to your accompaniment, you have not been entirely faithful to your covenant.

Accompaniment in Love Crucified is one of the greatest gifts of the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit that works in accompaniment. In the accompaniment, we live the part of our Path that says we will walk hand in hand, helping each other. It is often impossible for us, in our hearts, to see what we need, so we should trust the heart of our accompanier, who has promised to walk with us, to take us into those deep places we would never enter by ourselves.

Our covenant also speaks about community and how it binds us together. It says in our covenant; I enter into a covenant of love with my brothers and sisters.”

We do not come to cenacles to receive but also to be together, to support one another. It is beautiful to see that when members of our community are undergoing trials and suffering, they receive joy, comfort, and encouragement from their brothers and sisters of the community, whom they have never met. That is why we are a community; we are a family. It is important to take the time and interest in each other, in what is happening to each other, call one another when we can, and send little text messages. That is community.

Thank you for being such an amazing family; I thank all of you for your years of commitment. I thank all of you who have entered this retreat and are living it in the depth of your hearts, all of you who have blessed me every time you have opened your heart. I thank those who have been diligent throughout this retreat and have taken full advantage of accompaniment. I especially thank the Missionaries of the Cross who have reached out to me; the honor of hearing from the men of our community and seeing their growth has been an enormous blessing for me as a spiritual mother of this community. So, I thank you, my brothers, from the depth of my heart. God bless you.

Labor of Love

May 28

Lourdes Pinto,

I hope that this teaching, Labor of Love, will serve to bridge The First Nail of Our Interior Crucifixion (the theme of our 2020 Encounter) with the second and third nails of crucifixion taught in The Path.

Our mission is to be One with Jesus crucified, His victims of love for the salvation of many souls.

In the Gospel of John, Ch. 16: 20-21, Jesus said:

Very truly, I tell you, you will weep and mourn, but the world will rejoice. You will have pain, but your pain will turn into joy. When a woman is in labor, she has pain because her hour has come; but when her child is born, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy of having brought a human being into the world.

As I reflected on these words from the Lord, the Holy Spirit took me back to ponder my child-bearing experiences. Consequently, **I will use the analogy of giving birth** to reflect on how we are to desire the Cross evermore. In our humanity, we desire to live on earth with as little pain as possible, sailing through continuous consolations, but that is one of the greatest deceptions of Satan. Jesus Christ teaches the opposite. In the above scripture passage, He tells His disciples, “You will weep and mourn, and suffer pain while on earth.” This is the message that pervades the Scriptures. We see it constantly in the apostles’ lives, yet we continue to expect to have a comfortable life as followers of Jesus Christ. What a lie! As Mothers and Missionaries of the Cross, we have to put to death this desire and expectation, which is Satan’s deception.

What is God’s desire? Jesus, in His final prayer (Jn 17), reveals His **desire for unity**. In The Path, # 87, in the first sentence, Jesus also tells us:

I desire to draw you into true unity, the unity of the love of the Most Holy Trinity.

Then, continuing in # 87 of The Path, we read these powerful words of Jesus:

The union of sorrows will bring you into the union of love.

As Mothers and Missionaries of the Cross, do we desire the trials, challenges, pains—the sorrows that will unite us to Jesus?

When I read **the Lord comparing the life of His followers to a woman in labor pains**, I began to remember some details of my labors. I have eight children, and I had the grace of having eight natural births. Women usually start labor, experiencing minor contraction pains that intensify with time. Upon entering the hospital, the mother is immediately connected to a monitor that allows her to see the progression of the contractions. Each contraction can be compared to a wave that goes up and down. The contractions peak, then come down, giving the woman time in between to rest. We can compare this sequence of waves to many life events we experience: a wave of desolation, then one of consolation, desolation, and consolation, etc.

It's important to note that the force of the contraction, not the periods of rest, is what achieves the goal of bringing forth the new life. Without the pain of the contraction, the baby cannot be born. This is analogous to our own lives. The most important times of our life are not the consolations but rather the times of desolation. What happens during the pains of desolation? We are purified; we receive self-knowledge. Thus, we come to know our misery and our nothingness. We acquire knowledge of God, His goodness, and mercy. We are also given the opportunity during the desolation to love God. When life is the hardest, we prove our love to God.

Through the labor pains which fill our life, we are not only restored in the image and likeness of God, but we also bring forth new life in other souls. Our Lord speaks powerful words in our Simple Path, p. 210, concerning desolation:

In times of desolation, your life has the greatest power and is most fecund. In My desolation on the Cross, My life shone most brilliantly the love of God the Father. My desolation made My faith in My Father radiate its perfection. Through My desolation, I gave birth to My Church and all her sacraments. [#69]

The Lord starts to show us how He gives birth to us in desolation, in pain:

Through My desolation, I gave birth to all My sons, My priests. Through My desolation, the Holy Spirit expanded the maternal Heart of My Mother to embrace all of humanity.

It is in your times of desolation that the Holy Spirit and My Mother wish to unite you more intimately to Me. It is in your times of desolation that you are given the opportunity and grace to suffer with Me. It is through your desolation that you can come to know the pain, suffering, and love of My Heart. It is through your desolation united to Mine that your life will also be most fecund.

We will give birth, the life of Christ, to many, many souls. The Lord says:

My desolation was so important for the salvation of the world that the Father willed for My Mother to continue suffering My desolation on earth. Her suffering of solitude was her continuation of My desolation, and it produced and continues to produce a shower of graces for the world.

I desire for the souls who love Me to live their times of desolation united to Me and completely abandoned to the Holy Spirit. In this way, My hidden force will acquire the power of God to overcome the darkness in the world. My Cross is not My Cross without the power of desolations lived with perfect faith. (3/2/11)

My community, my heart is on fire with the Holy Spirit as I feel the intense gravity of these times. How significant is this first nail of crucifixion! Through it, we achieve the death of our expectations and our desires. This work of the first nail is critical if we are to be prepared for the difficult times to come. We must beg, my family, for the fire of the Holy Spirit to consume us with the desire for the Cross, with the desire for suffering—not because we desire pain, but because we desire to give life! We desire to cooperate with Jesus Christ to help bring to life the dead hearts. We must desire with all our heart to save souls in danger of hell, my family. This mission is who we are.

Jesus emphasized this message to Blessed Conchita:

What matter betrayals and persecution, even on the part of My own [priests] (the most painful), She [the Church] will majestically sail on through the myriads of tempests which serve, served, and will serve but to render her more wondrous and glorious.²

In this time of darkness, in this tempest, in this time of tribulation in the world, God will bring forth a more extraordinary radiance in the Church and each of us. Do we believe?

Let us go back to our analogy of a woman in labor. The strength and duration of the contractions felt by the woman are not all the same. Every contraction is different. Some contractions are very intense; some contractions are less severe. Some contractions are longer and seem never to end; some contraction pains are short. These variations also manifest in our lives. Some tribulations, challenges, and trials come quickly and go quickly, and some stay a long time, but they are all necessary to bring forth life.

We can make another comparison with childbirth: not all women labor the same. Some get very angry and can become aggressive with their husbands or coaches. Others, although also in great labor pains, endure in great calmness, peace, and inner tranquility. Many times, what makes the difference in how women labor is their preparation. The Holy Spirit had me remember the Lamaze class my husband and I attended together. It was a preparation to live well through the pains of childbirth. One of the techniques we learned in the Lamaze class was a way to breathe, which helped me enter a profound silence and stillness.

Another helpful technique we learned in the birthing class was the importance of having a focal point while going through the contractions. As the memory of my labors came back to me, I began to see how the Lord had begun to prepare my heart for the mission of Love Crucified over thirty-five years ago, with the birth of my first son. I now clearly see how it was no coincidence that I had chosen an image of Jesus Crucified as my focal point. My husband would place the image of Our Lord Crucified on the wall in front of my bed in the hospital. Every time I felt the pain coming, I would focus on the gaze of Jesus, uniting the pain of that contraction to Jesus Crucified for the salvation of souls and my family. How beautiful it is to see how God was preparing me for the works of Love Crucified!

Another memory I had was of my sister, who, as the “hidden force,” prayed and accompanied me in many of my labors. As my pains intensified and I found it more difficult to recite the prayers, she would sit in the corner of my room praying the rosary, interceding on my behalf. All I could do was to focus and enter the pain. Having my sister near, watching her pray each bead of the rosary, gave me strength. It was a force to help me stay focused on Jesus Crucified.

We see how God always prepares souls for His work. One example that comes to mind is the three children of Fatima. Our Blessed Mother prepared Jacinta, Francisco, and Lucia to be victim souls. She prepared them to suffer well with Christ in reparation for the sins of the world against her Immaculate Heart and the salvation of souls, especially those in danger of hell. She prepared them by teaching them how to pray and how to suffer.

In the following article, Lucia speaks of her young cousin Jacinta, as she suffered from the Spanish Flu epidemic that eventually took Jacinta and Francisco’s lives. Lucia would often visit her two cousins, pray with them, encourage them, and help them suffer well. The article states:

Only Lucia knew the extent of Jacinta’s suffering. Jacinta said to her, ‘I am suffering a lot, but I suffer it all for the conversion of sinners and for the holy father. I love so much to suffer for the love of Jesus and Mary; they greatly love those who suffer for the conversion

² Conchita, A Mother’s Spiritual Diary, pg. 144.

of sinners. I don't want you to tell anyone that I am suffering, not even my mother, because I don't want to sadden her.

Wow! What a lesson for us today! At the age of eleven, Jacinta already desired to suffer and expected it in her life. Our Blessed Mother prepared her, and she embraced this Cross like a true victim of love. She was ready when the pains came; she was prepared to enter the pains of childbirth, and she has given birth abundantly in the Church!

Therefore, my family, we need to look closely at our desires and expectations; we need to expect suffering in our lives and be ready when the pains of childbirth come. Jesus said in John 16:33,

In the world, you will have trouble but take courage. I have conquered the world.

He never said we'll have an easy life, my family. We need to put that expectation to death.

The role of the coach is an accompaniment

Before ending this reflection, I want to stress the importance of the coach's role during labor. In each of my labors, my beloved husband was my coach. He gave me strength through his encouragement, through his love, through his tenderness, through his suffering with me. But as crucial as that was to help me persevere through the labor, his most important role, I must say, was helping me remember; for, you see, when the pain comes, we can easily forget. Therefore, his job was to help me remember to keep focused on Jesus Crucified and not to believe the lies of Satan when, amid the pain, he wanted me to say, "I can't do it. I can't finish; I can't go on. I can't do this." And my husband would speak the truth, "Yes, you can; yes, you can. Look at Jesus Crucified; He's giving you the grace." To what can we compare this, my family, if not to spiritual accompaniment?

Spiritual accompaniment can be viewed in light of the role of the coach. It is the means for helping each other get through the difficulties of giving birth, the pains and trials of our lives. In Spiritual Accompaniment, we are challenged to remember our formation and the words that Our Lord has spoken to us. We encourage one another to suffer well and keep our eyes focused on Jesus Crucified. This is what an accompanier does, and, in a way, we are all accompaniers because we are called to walk hand in hand, assisting each other, helping each other remember.

Acts 14:22,

There they strengthened the souls of the disciples and encouraged them to continue in the faith, saying, 'It is through many tribulations that we must enter the Kingdom of God.'

The early Christians coached each other; they were there for one another. They helped each other suffer well. The early Christians entered the Church expecting persecution, knowing that they would probably be martyred for their faith in Christ. They were moved by the fire of the love of the Holy Spirit in their hearts, and they desired to die for Christ, in Christ, and for the salvation of others. They lived our motto: Suffer all with Me, no longer two but one, in My sacrifice of love.

Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 6:4,

But as servants of God, we have commended ourselves in every way, in great endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, and hunger.

What is the fruit of the Holy Spirit? The fruit is joy, seeking and expecting to follow Jesus and suffer rejection, persecution, trials, and hardships. What keeps us many times from joy is our disordered desires and expectations. If I expect an easy life, I will not be ready when the trials come, and I will complain and murmur. But if I wish to suffer as a follower of Jesus Christ, I will be ready to enter those labor pains with Christ for the salvation of souls.

I want to end this reflection with a message from our Lord on March 14, 2019:

If my words remain in your heart, you will persevere through the many trials predestined for you to suffer for the glory of God and the salvation of countless souls.

The Lord tells us there will be sufferings and crosses, yet we have the free will to receive or reject them. How glorious are the men and women who receive them; they are the saints! The Lord goes on to say,

I desire to see each of you rejoicing, like St. Paul, in good times and in bad because you have come to believe that I am with you. You have come to taste the goodness of the Lord. Joy is the fruit of trust; therefore, my followers live in praise of God. My witnesses will be known in the world through the light of praise and joy that radiates from your lives.

The Lord is urgently preparing us to enter the three nails of the crucifixion. Why? Because we are being prepared for the great persecution and the Illumination. We have a mission, my family. Many are not prepared. The Lord has been telling us that many souls are going to hell or will go to hell when the time of Illumination comes. We need to live well the first nail. Without entering into the first nail of the crucifixion and putting our disordered desires and expectations to death, it will be more difficult to enter the second and third nails of persecution and respond in love to our enemies. Therefore, my family be focused. Do not allow this time of darkness to distract you. Do not be afraid. God is with us. This time of darkness is needed for the purification of the world and the purification of the Church. I love you all. God bless you.

Pray Unceasingly, for the Battle Has Begun

June 25

Simple Path Ch.5-A, Ch.8

Lourdes Pinto,

The Spirit placed in my heart this message for us tonight:

We need to be focused; we need to be centered; we need to be steadfast in who we are.

The Lord, for some time now, has been letting us know that **the battle has begun**. For years, He has been preparing us for this time when we enter the decisive battle as warriors. We must be focused to be the warriors God formed us to be.

This battle is fought interiorly through the martyrdom of our hearts united to Christ. Prophesying, healing, working ministries, etc., are not enough.

Matthew 7:21-23

Not everyone who says to me, “Lord, Lord,” will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

What the Lord says next is very powerful:

On that day, many will say to me, “Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name?”

My community, the mission of Love Crucified is a prophetic one. The Simple Path to Union with God is a prophetic book with which we teach the messages of the Lord. We are prophets. We are prophesying, yet the Lord tells us that it is not enough.

The Gospel continues,

...and cast out demons in your name. Did we not do many deeds of power in your name?

We, too, do many deeds, we pray over people for deliverance, for healing, and yet the Lord is saying, “That is not enough.” We all can have great apostolates. We can be involved in many important missions in the Church, in Pro-Life, Emmaus, and the retreats of Love Crucified—so many! Yet the Lord is saying, “That is not enough!”

The Lord goes on to say,

Then I will declare to them, “I never knew you; go away from me, you evildoers.

They were acting in the name of Jesus, but **He never knew them because they were not transformed in Him**. To be transformed in Christ, we need to be attentive and docile to the Holy Spirit that enables us to go deep into our hearts with God to encounter the evil within us to repent and be made new. This is the Illumination offered to us in The Simple Path to Union with God.

The Lord is saying that it's crucial we live in the Will of the Father. His Will is that we be who we are: Mothers and Missionaries of the Cross in Christ, for the Church. We must be transformed by the words the Lord has taught us and **live them**.

The prayer and silence of warrior victim souls

The Holy Spirit has been taking me back to the words the Mothers of the Cross received on June 6, 2020:

The time has come in which the principalities of darkness will consume the earth, the terrible day of the Lord. The demons have no power over you (plural) and My followers. My mothers (MOC) must remember that during these dark times, your prayers lived with perfect trust in Me have the power to aid in the protection and salvation of many souls otherwise destined for hell. The battle is fierce, but My little one, you hold the Sword of the Spirit. Your hearts purified, emptied, and formed as My victims of pure love, one with My Mother of Sorrows, is the power of God to cast into hell the principalities of death. Give yourselves to prayer and silence as My warriors preparing and saving souls, for the moment of judgment is upon the world. Do not waste time with any frivolity, for the decisive battle has begun. Pray, pray, pray, pray unceasingly, for your prayers, as one with My Mother's, have great power before the throne of our Father. He hears the cry of the poor.

In these words, I feel this new zeal and passion in my heart to pray for souls. The Lord said,

It is time—give yourselves to prayer and silence as my warriors preparing and saving souls.

The Lord is showing me that once you are in battle, there is a new focus. Now the Church has entered her passion, and the decisive battle has begun; therefore, the Spirit is moving us to greater silence and prayer so that we can live intensely the martyrdom of our hearts.

The words Pray, pray, pray, pray unceasingly, keep ringing in my heart.

Overcoming frivolity through prayer and silence

As I took a hard look at how I use my time, the word “**frivolity**” came to mind. Consequently, I entered a real heart-to-heart with the Lord about the meaning of “**frivolity**.” The word means “Not having any serious purpose or value.” This brought to memory something very helpful that I heard in our retreat— Father Ron said that we often use our imagination in frivolous ways. I remembered that, in the shower, my imagination easily travels to many irrelevant events, past or future. I realized how frivolous this was— such a waste! So, I took this to prayer — Lord, where am I not seeing my frivolity?

I felt the Lord respond, “**Buckle down!**” When a soldier enters the battlefield, everything he does is important. When he's in battle, he's not frivolous; he's not wasting time. Every moment, everything he says, everything he looks at, everything he does is serious and important. Life and death are hanging in the balance.

It is the same thing with us, my family. We are in battle, and the battle is for the salvation of souls. The Lord has been telling us repeatedly, for years, that so many souls are in danger of hell. As I look around, I see so many souls, even some of my own family, living in mortal sin. I'm sure you also have family members in serious sin patterns. This situation is serious, and the Lord says it

depends on you; you're battling for souls. He makes us a promise that souls that are in danger of hell will be saved when we take the battle seriously. This makes me more accountable before God for how I'm using my time.

After meditating on this message again, I was moved to go to our Path, to the section on prayer where the Lord said to us, "Pray unceasingly." I read #97 on page 278:

I say your life is a prayer (I mean that) your life is an offering. To offer Me your life is the perfect prayer. Your thoughts directed to Me, directed to love, is a prayer. Your desire to know Me, love Me, and serve Me is a prayer. Your touch is a most beautiful prayer. Your words of encouragement and love to others are a prayer. Your efforts to bring peace and unity to your families are a prayer. Your smile is a prayer. But your most perfect prayer is your pure suffering united to Me and My Mother.

The prayer of pure suffering is the sweetest fragrance that reaches and delights the Heart of our Father. This is also the prayer that produces an abundance of fruit. This is the prayer that is most united to Mine as I intercede before the throne of My Father.

This is why My Mother's suffering of solitude produced and continues to produce showers of graces upon the world. I wish the Mothers and Missionaries of the Cross to be perfected in the prayer of suffering.

But my Lord, what about contemplative prayer and the prayer of praise?

It is through contemplative prayer that you come to know Me and the prayer in which I fill, guide, and form you, but it is the prayer of suffering in which you honor, console, and love Me and participate in the redemption of souls. The prayer of gratitude and thanksgiving should be your every breath.

The Lord taught us in the message above, back in 2010, how to pray unceasingly,

Your thoughts, directed to Me ...is a prayer

I had to ask myself this morning, in my examination of conscience, regarding frivolity. Our thoughts are closely aligned with our imagination. Where are my thoughts? I have to allow the Holy Spirit to consume my thoughts in the Will of God. I have to discipline my thoughts.

The Lord tells us, **Your desires** to know Me, love Me, and serve Me is a prayer.

We just had our retreat on the crucifixion of our desires and the need to unite our desires to the Lord's. When my desire is, more and more, the Cross, to save souls, to thank God because I am His victim-soul, that desire is a continuous prayer before the throne of Abba, our Father.

The Lord also said, **Your touch** is a most beautiful prayer.

One example of how we express our desire is how we touch others. This morning I was massaging with oils the feet of my husband and children to help protect them from the virus, and as I was touching them, I was praying for them. That touch was a prayer.

The Lord went on to say, **Your words** of encouragement are a prayer.

How do we speak to one another? That's a prayer. Your efforts to bring peace and unity to your family are a prayer. Your smile is a prayer. How sad to be wearing these masks everywhere we go! No longer can that prayer of our smile be seen by people, for each smile is a prayer.

But the greatest prayer Our Lord tells us we must focus on is this:

The **prayer of pure suffering** is the sweetest fragrance that reaches and delights the heart of our Father

He tells us that this prayer is the sweetest fragrance because it is the prayer most united to the prayer of Jesus Christ before God the Father. This morning, I sat before the Lord praying fervently, for I had so much to do and write for our mission, yet I did not feel the Lord moving me to write. Instead, I remained silent and heard from Him these words:

Prayer and silence

I know that the Lord again was teaching me the prayer of pure suffering. What came to mind was a situation that happened to me the day before when I went to help one of my children. Before we started the task, I said, “Let’s pray. Let’s bring this to the Lord.” My child said, “What is that going to do? I need to do this work.” The response of my child pierced my heart. I felt devastated to see such darkness come from my child’s words. I saw no faith and trust.

I prayed, I cried with the Lord, yet my day got busy, and I moved on. Then today came, and where did the Lord take me? To **silence** so that I could enter again the piercing of the darkness of my child—the very darkness of souls all over the world, the darkness of teenagers everywhere. If I was going to save souls, I had to enter that pain of my child, whom I love so much, and cry and feel the pure pain of that suffering with Christ as I battle for souls. The Lord wanted me to go back to that pain, not to be distracted. I had to **remember**. If I had been writing, I would have been distracted from the pain; and the Lord said, Lourdes, enter the silence so you can feel the pain again and again. In the silence and the remembering lies the power of prayer. Even now, the pain of that experience is so present. It is here in the pain that I am a warrior for the Lord, and the Lord is saying,

Focus, my family, focus. Silence.

Without silence, we can’t suffer. If we’re busy all the time and fail to enter silence and feel the pure suffering, we lose our most powerful prayer for saving souls—the prayer of pure suffering.

Preparation in the spirit of St. John the Baptist – The Illumination

June 25

Simple Path Ch.4-B-1, Ch.8, mission of MC & MOC

Lourdes Pinto

Our mission parallels closely that of St. John the Baptist because both are missions of preparation of the way. Yesterday, on the feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, when I went to our website, I was surprised to find “**Prepare to Encounter Justice**,” a message that the Lord gave us in 2013. I didn’t quite understand it when I first received it, but now I see clearly how the Lord is preparing us through this message:

Prepare the way. Prepare for what? Prepare to encounter Justice (God). Love (God) is Justice. You have been encountering Mercy, but each soul must prepare to encounter Justice. On that day, will you remain standing, or will you be swept away in His justice? My little one, very few are prepared to encounter Justice. The gaze of Justice will condemn you or embrace you in an instant. Few are prepared to encounter Justice, the gaze of Truth. You, Fr Jordi, and My community of LC are called to help many prepare the way through the Simple Path to Union I have entrusted to you. My hidden martyrs of love are a gift of Divine Mercy to help many be prepared to encounter the gaze of Justice. I desire that you work more diligently to finish the Path, My little one, for the time is short. My hidden victims of love are preparing the way through the power of their blood united to My precious Blood being poured upon many by the mercy of Abba. You, My family, are helping God prepare our people for the encounter with Justice. It will visit you like a thief in the night, and few are prepared. Bring Me victim souls, for the time of justice is upon you, soon to be knocking at your door. Be attentive to the words I speak to your heart; be obedient. Share them immediately with Father. Respond, My little one, with all the passion of your life. Be pure and holy as I am Holy. Live who you are as MY martyrs of Divine Love preparing the multitudes for the great and terrible day. Prepare the way as the new men and women clothed in the white gown made clean in the Blood of the Lamb. You are My white army being sent out into the world to prepare the way for the encounter with Justice (God). 12/11/13

The Lord said to us:

Prepare to encounter Justice [which is God]. Love [which is God] is Justice. You have been encountering Mercy, but each soul must prepare to encounter Justice.

My family, He said, each soul. That means every soul in the world. Of course, at the moment of death, we will encounter Justice. But there’s something else here. The Lord is preparing us, I believe, in this message back in 2013 for the gift of the **Illumination**.

He goes on to say,

My little one, very few are prepared to encounter Justice. The gaze of Justice will condemn you or embrace you in an instant. Few are prepared to encounter Justice, the gaze of Truth.

Some of you may have heard of Marino Restrepo, a Colombian man who received the gift of the Illumination. His testimony is powerful. Within a few hours, the Lord revealed to him his entire life, every sin, everything he had done, and the love of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He lives now traveling the world, helping souls to prepare for the Illumination.

I believe The Simple Path is God's most tender way of bringing us the Illumination, but we must be willing to enter this Path. **Self-knowledge** is the illumination of the Holy Spirit that reveals our sins, wounds, lies, evil, pride, everything—everything! The illumination also gives us **knowledge of the love of Jesus, the love of the Father, and the love of the Holy Spirit**. The Lord revealed, in this message, that this grace will come to the world,

When you think everything is lost and there is no hope, my Mercy will bring this last grace to the world.

Therefore, the Lord is telling us,

Even when the Illumination comes for every soul in the world, many will not be prepared. Many will die, especially those in mortal sin.

He has asked Love Crucified to prepare—how? By living the Path, allowing the Holy Spirit's Illumination to bring everything to the Light so we can be emptied and filled with God. Through this union with Christ, through our prayer and pure suffering as victim souls with Christ, we can help in the salvation and preparation of countless souls. This mission of preparation is who we are. The Lord went on to say to us,

You, Father Jordi, and my community of Love Crucified are called to help many prepare the way through The Simple Path to Union, which I have entrusted to you.

He goes on to say,

You, Love Crucified, are helping God prepare our people for the encounter with Justice. It will visit you like a thief in the night, and few are prepared. Bring Me victim souls, for the time of Justice is upon you, soon to be knocking at your door!

Are we prepared? Live, my community, The Simple Path. Continue to let God crucify our desires and expectations.

I want to stress the words our Lord directed to both the **Missionaries of the Cross and Mothers of the Cross** in the message of St. John the Baptist. The first word was to the Missionaries of the Cross. I was amazed that the Lord compared their mission to John the Baptist! What struck me about this comparison is how closely it is related to the teaching of our retreat this year. Again, He tells them, “no purse, no sandals, no gold or silver, no bag for the journey, nor two tunics.”

The Lord said to the Missionaries of the Cross:

They must be detached completely from their egos, knowing themselves as miserable.

They must be willing to speak the truth about the darkness in my priesthood and in souls. They, My Missionaries of the Cross, must be willing to live rejected, cast out, and even stoned to death.

The Lord is preparing us for persecution. In this time of darkness, those who speak the truth will be persecuted and misunderstood. Are we ready? That's why we have to crucify ourselves, because, as long as we are attached to our reputations, to being affirmed and liked, we are not going to speak the truth; we will not risk being misunderstood and persecuted.

What I loved most in that message to the Missionaries of the Cross were His words, "**They will need great courage.**" Sometimes I think it is harder for the lay Missionaries of the Cross than for our priests because they are out in the world; they are in the workforce; they are in the middle of darkness. How difficult it is for our Missionaries of the Cross to be the truth in the world we're living in today.

The Lord ends by saying one sentence to the Mothers of the Cross:

My daughter, tell my daughters, the Mothers of the Cross, to persevere suffering all with Me solely for love of Me.

The Mothers of the Cross have always had the mission to raise up the Missionaries of the Cross through our capacity to suffer with our feminine, maternal hearts in a way that men don't often suffer. We must know who we are. We must be focused and be steadfast.

Again, the Lord reminds us to reflect on what we still need to die to. What are my attachments? How am I attached to the things of the world? What do I have in excess? The Lord is bringing us to greater poverty and simplicity.

Disciples of Christ – Disciplines for the mission

Diary of a MOC, 1/30/18 "Mission of the 12."

My little one, I have chosen you to bear fruit for the Kingdom of God on earth. The mission is not easy, for the ways of God are never the ways of the world. All who are chosen by God to fulfill His plan on earth are hated by some, rejected by others, ill-treated, persecuted, for I came upon the earth to set one against another, for the ways of God will never be accepted nor appreciated by those who live for the things of this world. You have been asked by God to bring Him victim souls. A victim soul must fix his eyes on Christ, must desire with all his being to become one with his Master, must be willing to learn from Him, and imitate Him. He must be willing to fight against all his disordered desires. This requires certain disciplines for my disciples:

1) "take no gold nor silver nor copper"—that means detached from the riches of this world, trusting that God will provide.

2) "no bag for your journey," which means that My disciples must allow My spirit to detach them from all disordered attachments. (my Lord, how do we know what a disordered attachment is?) Anything that weakens your desire for Me, distracts you from loving Me, takes your gaze from Me.

3) "nor two tunics"—My disciples must live simply as I did, poor, never in excess.

4) "nor sandals"—a life dedicated to sacrificial love, penance, renunciation.

5) “nor a staff”—My disciples lean on Me; I become their support; I lead the way.

My disciples wear My yoke—the wood of the Cross, united to Me. I am their All. My disciples are the men and women consumed in love and desire for Me. They choose to live this way of life for love of Me, and the consuming desire to be made perfect—which is to become Love. Only in this way will My disciples reflect the face and light of God in the world. These are my victim souls that possess the power of God on earth

The Lord says,

My disciples are these: detached from the riches of the world, trusting that God will provide.

I have the honor of speaking to some in our community who have been unemployed, those who, from month to month, do not know if they can pay their bills or even purchase their food; people in our community suffering from illnesses. I see the grace God has given them—but how about the rest of us? Sometimes it’s harder for us to detach on our own. Have we grown in the spirit of poverty so that, more and more, we desire the salvation of souls?

These thoughts focus on how we, Mothers and Missionaries of the Cross, are called to respond to the darkness.

Pope Benedict XVI, in our Path on p. 275,

As Christians, we can never be pessimists...

That means that even amid this darkness, we cannot be pessimists. Why? Because we know the outcome! We are people of faith and hope.

He goes on to say:

We know well that along life’s journey, we often encounter violence....

Look at the violence we see every day on the news.

Falsehood, hate, and persecution, but this does not discourage us.

We cannot be discouraged by anything we’re seeing in the world. The Pope goes on to tell us,

Above all, prayer teaches us to see the signs of God, of His presence and action; indeed, to be lights of goodness that spread hope and point out that the victory is God’s.

When people ask me, “Lourdes, look at this! The pandemic, the violence, the anarchy!” I say, “God is already triumphing.”

Our response cannot be to enter into the whole cycle of the world’s darkness. Our response should be to let the people know that Jesus is in control, that the triumph of the Cross has already taken place and will be fulfilled. The Lord said to Love Crucified, “Be My heralds of hope.” Lord forbid that we enter the fear of the world in conversations with people when talking about the darkness without ever mentioning the Light! That is not who we are! Are we focused, my family?

I leave you now to ponder all these thoughts. Know that I love you very, very much. God bless you.

The Power of Intercession – I

July 9

Lourdes Pinto & Fr. Jordi Rivero

Simple Path Ch.4-D, 5-A, 7

What is the prayer of intercession? In his general audience on June 17, 2020, Pope Francis reflected on what it means to be an intercessor based on the prayer of Moses. His words helped me to form my heart in a deeper knowledge of **our vocation as victim intercessors in Love Crucified:**

Moses resists God who speaks, who invites him to take care of the people of Israel once more, with his fears and his objections: he is not worthy of that mission, he does not know God's name, he will not be believed by the Israelites, he has a stammering tongue ... so many objections that Moses has when God calls him. The word that issues most frequently from Moses' lips, in every prayer he addresses to God, is the question: 'Why? Why have you sent me? Why do you want to free this people?'

I believe many of us in Love Crucified can understand and relate to how Moses felt. Like him, each of us has been chosen by God to be His prophet for these decisive times, and we, too, have doubts and fears. When I first received my call, I also had many concerns and asked similar questions: "Why me?... I have been silent all of my life... What about my fear of public speaking?" I have heard similar objections from many of our members throughout the years as they enter the community: "Oh, but I'm not worthy of this community... I'm not worthy of being chosen as a victim soul..." and countless other objections. However, God has chosen each of us; and we all need to go through the process, as Moses did, of working through our fears—fears of suffering, fears of losing our reputation, fears that come with doubts: "Is this really from God? Is God really speaking to us?" More and more, like Moses, we must move beyond our fears and respond to the calling God has given each of us.

Pope Francis continues:

Thus, the manner of prayer most proper to Moses is through intercession (cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2574). **His faith in God is completely at one with the sense of fatherhood he feels toward his people.**

Let us focus on the last sentence above in bold, for it is the key to understanding intercession. This sentence means that for me, Lourdes, to be an intercessor, my faith in God has to be united with my sense of motherhood to all my people. Your faith in God, my brothers, must be one with your fatherhood towards your people.

Pope Francis continues:

Even in the most difficult moments, even on the day when the people repudiate God and Moses himself as leader and make themselves a golden calf, Moses does not feel inclined to set his people aside.

Moses' action here is critical. The people deny God and Moses. The people refuse to be associated with God and Moses. They refuse to be faithful to their covenant with God. In other words, they repudiate God, but even then, Moses does not set them aside. He does not reject God or His people.

Exodus:

This people have sinned a great sin; they have made for themselves gods of gold. But now, if thou wilt forgive their sin — and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written” –Ex 32:31-32.

Instead of saying, “Forget these people, I give up on them,” Moses prays to God and says, “God blot me out and save them.” **Moses is willing to be the victim for God to have mercy on His people.** Moses is preparing the way for the victim messiah, who is to come. He is the bridge. He is the intercessor.

The concept of bridge/intercessor/victim is significant to Love Crucified. God the Father reveals to St. Catherine of Sienna that **the bridge is Jesus Crucified, the Cross.** As the bridge that connects heaven and earth, Jesus becomes the means for us to enter heaven. Every intercessor must become a bridge. To be true intercessors, like Moses, we must become one with the Crucified. **Only united to Christ, Bridge/ Intercessor/ Victim, can we intercede** before the Father for the people, our people.

Pope Francis goes on to say:

Moses does not barter his people. He is the bridge; he is the intercessor... He does not sell out his people to advance his career. He does not climb the ladder; he is an intercessor for his people.

My community, do you realize what this means for us? Many of you who work in companies, businesses, or governments have experienced people who, seeking to advance themselves and climb the ladder of success, sacrifice others. Missionaries of the Cross in our community have shared with me that, at times, co-workers have spread lies about them to advance their careers. Yet, that difficult boss, that co-worker who is talking bad about you, who is trying to run over you, is part of your territory of souls by the will of God. Those people have become your people. Consequently, Jesus Christ asks you, “Will you be like Moses, my intercessor? Will you suffer with Me and die with Me, for them, to save them, to obtain mercy for them?” Wow! Now it hits home.

As we prayed the rosary, I was looking at the Lord, asking myself a profound question: Can I honestly say, “Jesus, blot me out, for some people who are my enemies, for some people who have tried to hurt our community and me”? Can I honestly say to Jesus, “Receive my life, Jesus, that they may be saved and have life in You”? Am I willing to die for these souls? If I am transparent with you, my family, I must honestly say I am not there yet. I don't think my love is at that point yet. Throughout the rosary, I kept looking at the Lord, begging Him, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to make my heart pure and full of the fire of the Holy Spirit so that someday I can honestly say those words and mean them.

Pope Francis goes on to explain:

And this is the prayer true believers cultivate in their spiritual life. Even if they experience people's shortcomings and their distance from God, these prayerful people do not

condemn them, they do not reject them. The intercessory attitude is proper to the saints who, in imitation of Jesus, are ‘bridges’ between God and His people.

Satan will always tempt us to give up on difficult people, to give up on those who constantly reject us. How often have I felt in my heart, “That’s it, I’m done with that person, I don’t even want to pray anymore for them”? This discouragement or rejection is a temptation for all of us, as it was for Moses. We must realize that Satan will always tempt us, but we can work through the temptation and ask Our Blessed Mother and the Holy Spirit to help us persevere. We can choose to love, continue to pray, and intercede for these most difficult people, our people.

Pope Francis continues:

Moses urges us to pray with the same ardor of Jesus, to intercede for the world, to remember that despite all its frailties, it still belongs to God. Everyone belongs to God. The worst sinners, the most wicked people, the most corrupt leaders, are children of God, and Jesus feels this and intercedes for everyone. And the world lives and flourishes to the blessing of the righteous, to the prayer for mercy.

Our Blessed Mother and Jesus teach LC our identity as intercessors

Our Blessed Mother spoke to Love Crucified:

My little one, be attentive, for God our Father is allowing Satan to tempt you. [meaning the Love Crucified Community]. –August 6, 2013,

She went on to say:

The power of your intercession is contained in the purity of your hearts, the purity of your intentions.

Our Blessed Mother tells us that our intercession has power, but the level of power depends on the purity of our hearts. Persevering in the purification of our hearts through The Path is essential because the more we are purified in the Spirit, the more powerful our intercession is.

Next, Our Lady explains why God is permitting us to be tempted:

Trust and, with patient endurance, allow all your disorders to come to the Light. It is only in this way that you can be made pure in the furnace of God’s love.

We see that **God allows us to be tempted so that we see where we are still not loving purely and where we still have disorders**. Then the light of the Spirit can work through the light of our conscience to purify us.

Then Our Blessed Mother ends by telling us, “I need you”:

I need you to be my pure intercessors of love before the throne of our Father with me. You are my white army.

Our Lord, a year later, on October 31, 2014, speaks to us about the power of our intercession as Mothers and Missionaries of the Cross:

Your power of intercession lies in your willingness to suffer ALL that I permit in your lives as ONE in My sacrifice of love. Your prayers receive the full power of the Holy Spirit in your abandonment to suffer all with Me.

Meditate these words from the Lord, my family. They are so powerful: **your prayers receive the full power of the Holy Spirit.** I don't think any of us can even fathom, or even come close to fully understanding what the Lord is telling us of the power He wants to give our prayers of intercession.

The Lord continues:

As you trust in My love manifested in My great suffering for you, you enter into the mystery of suffering for Love. These are My little victim souls of love that God is raising up to defeat the forces of darkness.

Do we know who we are? We must know with all conviction that God has chosen us as His victim intercessors for His people who are our people. Our Lady has chosen us to be her white army. We have been chosen to be in Love Crucified, His little mustard seed. Know who we are, my community.

What lesson can we learn from this?

From Our Blessed Mother:

1. The power of our intercession depends on the purity of our hearts.
2. Be attentive to temptations, and with trust and patient endurance, your disorders will come to light so they can be purified.
3. She needs us as intercessors.

From Jesus:

1. The great power of our intercession to defeat Satan comes from our fiat to suffer everything that God permits in our lives as one with Him, the bridge, Jesus Crucified.
2. Trust in My love manifested in My suffering for you.

The Lord then gives us four intentions that we, as intercessors, must remember.

1. **For more souls to respond:** Pray with Mary for many more souls to respond to the trumpet call from heaven. That's the call for victim souls, God's army, to fight this decisive battle. We need to pray to intercede for more laborers; the harvest is ready, but the laborers are few. Pray, my family, for more victim souls.
2. **For trust in His love:** Pray for trust in my love for you to be solid, unshakable.
3. **For perseverance:** Pray for perseverance for all My victim souls as they are being sent into the battlefield to wage this great battle for souls. Since we have entered the battlefield, we need to be focused and pray for one another.
4. **For purity:** Pray for purity of heart so that Satan cannot deceive you. Know that you are My Mother's white army of victim souls for these decisive times.

Jesus ends by saying:

Pray with My Mother through the **power** of the oblation of your lives united in My perfect sacrifice of love.

Again, the word **power**. This idea is united with what Pope Francis said of Moses. The power of our intercession depends on the unity of our oblation with the oblation of Jesus Christ. We live this oblation with perfect faith that God the Father sent His only Begotten Son into the world for me and all.

Knowing the love of God and united in perfect faith in our oblation to Christ, we can then become mothers and fathers united with the Trinity for our people. Our people are the people of God. We are ONE in the Body of Christ.

Your faith is your protection against the deception of Satan. Believe in all that I have spoken to you, for the great battle has begun.

Power of Intercession – II

July 16

Lourdes Pinto

In this second part of the teaching, “**The Power of Intercessors in Jesus Crucified**,” we continue with Pope Francis’ reflection on the role of Moses as the intercessor of the people. In part one of the teaching, we saw how Moses (who was chosen by God to lead His people) struggled and was rejected by his followers. We saw how the people not only rejected Moses as their leader but, by building and worshipping gold idols, rejected God as well. In the face of rejection, we have the natural tendency or temptation to walk away or abandon those who are rejecting us. We can understand how tempted Moses must have been to say, “The heck with them... destroy them...I’m done with these people.” Yet Moses, as a true intercessor who prefigures Jesus Christ as intercessor, doesn’t respond to his deepest wound or pain but is willing to remain and become the victim for his people.

The Lord gave me this teaching when I was undergoing a deep piercing of my heart, for a brother of ours and spiritual son to me had just recently left our community and abandoned his covenant. Together with those close to him in the community, I had to pray with all my heart, from the deep wound of abandonment in Jesus Crucified, for him. This teaching prepared me for that suffering. Every brother and sister, spiritual son and daughter, who, for whatever reason, abandons the covenant, remains our brother and sister, a spiritual son and daughter. And we, as faithful intercessors in Christ, must receive those wounds and suffer them with Christ, the perfect intercessor, as grace for them. We cannot forget the people God has given us, in our families, community, and work.

Pope Francis focused on an important word: **bridge**. We, as intercessors in Christ, are a bridge. Our Blessed Mother and Lord taught us three essential conditions **to be true intercessors with Christ**.

1. Our Blessed Mother taught us that the power of our intercession lies in the **purity** of our hearts. The whole formation of the Simple Path is based on purity. Only in purity can there be a cleansing of our wounds, and our disordered desires and tendencies come to light. Purity requires bringing into the light of our consciences the lies that live within our hearts lies that we have come to live by. The whole Path is a path of purification which helps us grow in virtue.
2. **Perseverance** in suffering everything with Christ, **everything!**
3. **Power**. From the start, God has been speaking to us and using the word power in just about every message He has given our community and the whole Church.

In the message of April 25, 2014, the Lord said:

They [meaning the Mothers of the Cross] and you must believe that your hidden ordinary lives hold the power of God.

Jesus explained that this power could be used or wasted. We must understand and recognize that the power lies in God; we do not have power. God tells us that this power in our union with Christ Crucified can be **used or wasted**. This power is contingent on our faith; if we do not believe, the power of God dissipates. I clearly remembered the word He used—**dissipates**, meaning we lose it; it disappears. The power of our intercession lies in the purity of our hearts, in our faithfulness to continue to live the Path daily, in our faithfulness to live wrapped in self-knowledge, in our union as ONE with Jesus crucified in suffering, and in our **believing with all our hearts** in the faith we have been given.

Fr Jordi often reminds us how we can see the evil that exists in every Cross we face. It can be an illness, a financial problem, or a violent attack; whatever way the Cross is manifested, there lies some form of evil, and it is only through faith that Jesus Christ is suffering it with us that we can prevail. This power requires us to have a pure heart to believe that Jesus' presence in us is always more powerful than the evil that is so evident. By faith, we can understand that Jesus is more powerful than the evil we see in our Cross. Consequently, at the foot of the Cross, united to Jesus in prayer, we defeat evil.

I want to move to the message Our Lord gave to the Mothers of the Cross seven years later, on June 6, 2020. In the span of seven years, we see how the Lord continues to speak to us about the power of our intercession and who we are—our identity. Let us together enter deep into these words from the Lord.

The time has come in which the principalities of darkness will consume the earth, the terrible day of the Lord.

The demons have no power over you [plural] and My followers.

We must remember this critical message! He is Our Father, preparing us, letting us know what is to come. How easy it is for many people to focus on demons and become fearful of them but neglect to realize that they have no power over us if we are in a state of grace, living in Jesus Crucified, through Him, with Him, and in Him. God is with us and in us! Satan fears God and fears each of us because God is with us. We are God's victim souls. Satan hates us, fears us, and will do all he can to discourage us from our vocation and calling.

The Lord goes on to say:

My mothers, [Mothers of the Cross] must remember that during these dark times, your prayers lived with perfect trust in Me have the power to aid in the protection and salvation of many souls otherwise destined for hell. The battle is fierce, but My little one, you hold the Sword of the Spirit.

Your hearts **purified, emptied, and formed** as My victims of pure love, one with My Mother of Sorrows, is the power of God to cast into hell the principalities of death.

Notice that He says three critical words: purified, emptied, and formed. That is the entire Path, purifying us, emptying us of our ego and false self, and forming us as His warriors in the decisive battle. The keyword always is **love**. God's power is love, and we have power when we are transformed into love.

The Lord tells us that we have the power of God, first, to help save souls that are on the path to hell, and second, to defeat the principalities of Satan. This is where our faith must be—believing that our prayers have this power.

The Lord goes on to say:

Give yourselves to prayer and silence as My warriors, preparing and saving souls, for the moment of judgment is upon the world. Do not waste time with any frivolity, for the decisive battle has begun. Pray, pray, pray, pray unceasingly; for your prayers, as one with My Mother's, has great power before the throne of our Father. He hears the cry of the poor.

Three times Christ mentions the word power, wanting us to believe in the power of our intercession. We are "Warrior Intercessors called to Battle." That is who we are. This last message is very similar to the one the Lord gave in the early years of Love Crucified. It is a battle cry. We are, my family, in a battle against the forces of darkness, against Satan and all his principalities. This is not an ordinary battle. The Lord, for years, has been telling us it is the "decisive battle." And in this latest message of June 2020, He calls it the "fiercest battle." The Lord has been preparing and forming His warriors for these decisive times and battle. **Power** is a keyword for us. These intercessory warriors hold the power of God. We must understand that of our own; we have no power; the power is in God who is with us, in Jesus Crucified.

We must ask an important question: "**The power to do what?**"

1. Power to save souls from hell.
2. Power to prepare souls for the judgment, which I believe will come with the Illumination.
3. Power to usher in the New Pentecost with the Reign of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Eucharistic Reign of Christ.
4. Power to help raise up God's army of victim souls to defeat the forces of darkness.

We are all part of this army; we are warriors who have been prepared by God himself and called to bring and form more warriors to fight this battle.

The Lord stressed in this message that the battle is fierce. This battle is already raging around us. We see one example in this worldwide movement, Black Lives Matter and its agenda. Just the name of the movement is a deception of Satan; of course, black lives matter. Who in this community would disagree that the lives of our black brothers matter? As Christians, we believe every life matters—Black, White, Indian, unborn, elderly, women, men matter, all life matters. Every life is sacred and matters! This world movement called Black Lives Matter is evil. The force behind it is Satan, the prince of deception and lies. I want to give you an example. I researched their mission statement, and I encourage you to do the same. As you begin to read the mission, much of what it proposes

sounds good and true. As you read between the lines, you begin to see the hand of Satan as he weaves the lies within the truth. We must understand the consequences of this movement, which is working in the United States and has widespread influence worldwide. Let us take a few examples of how grave evils are promoted in this fierce battle.

Their mission statement reads:

We are self-reflexive and do the work required to dismantle cis-gender privilege and uplift black trans-folk, especially black trans-women, who continue to be disproportionately impacted by trans-antagonistic violence.

After reading that, I must admit I didn't have the slightest idea what they were talking about. I had to do more research. Cis-gender is a term for people whose gender identity matches their sex assigned at birth. Therefore, since God made me female, and I believe I am a woman, I am what they refer to as cis-gender. Black Lives Matter's communistic goal is to "dismantle" God's creation, the belief that God created man and woman in His image and likeness. Black Lives Matter is proclaiming a grievous error that denies Christian teaching.

Here is another excerpt from their mission statement that reveals the fierce battle we are up against:

We disrupt the western prescribed nuclear family structure requirement, by supporting each other as extended families and villages that collectively care for one another, especially our children, to the degree that mother, parents, and children are comfortable.

The word they use here is—disrupt. They want to disrupt the nuclear family created by God, consisting of a mother, a father, and children. As a Cuban American whose family fled Cuba's communist control, I understand these tactics to replace the family unit, disrupt it and redefine it as a "village." How do the communists "disrupt" the family unit? The children become the property of the State and are sent to "villages" to be indoctrinated in the beliefs of the State and not according to the Judeo-Christian principles.

We see how this one organization, Black Lives Matter, has incorporated the works of Satan and his evil agenda. In its mission and core values, we see the influence of Satan the way he works in darkness, confusion, and lies. This is just one example of the evil that God is telling us that we, together with Him, must battle and conquer!

Power of Intercession – III

July 23

Fr. Jordi Rivero

Protestants object to the intercession of Mary and the saints. They say, “**There is only one intercessor between man and God, and it is Jesus.**” **This is true. But it is an incomplete truth because it ignores how Christ redeems us.** To understand intercession, we first need to understand **redemption.**

Redemption means to buy back. We were slaves of Satan, and Christ paid the price to set us free. But what is the effect of redemption in our lives? The Protestant reformers taught that we are “saved” by merely saying that we believe Christ died for us and accepting Him as our Lord and Savior. Then the Blood of Jesus covers our sins, like an exterior shield against punishment. The Father sees the Blood of His Son over us and is pleased without requiring any cooperation on our part. In their view, redemption does not restore our nature; we remain spiritually rotten inside.

Catholics also believe redemption is God’s work received by faith, but we understand that “receiving” means cooperation with the grace given. We respond by opening our minds and hearts to receive His love and decide (an act of the will moved by grace) to give ourselves entirely to Him. The Blood of Christ not only covers us; it penetrates to the core of our being. Christ applies the power of His crucified love to free us from the bondage of sin and enable us to live as ONE with Him, sharing in His love and ministry.

Christ remains the only intercessor, but we have become Christ’s Body! We intercede in virtue of being ONE with Him. Not only can we intercede—we must. Our entire lives should be intercession, which means we become an oblation of love to the Father. Our intercession is the continuation of Christ’s. Intercession is a **participation in the life of the Trinity**: We intercede as one with Christ, giving our lives to the Father, guided by the Holy Spirit.

The Protestants do not understand redemption or intercession, but how could they? What example do they receive from us Catholics? Do we understand the grace we have received? Do we yield to the Holy Spirit to allow Him more and more to make us ONE with Christ so that we can say with St. Paul, “No longer I live, but Christ lives in me?”

I have been working these days translating Lourdes’ diary and have found some gems that illustrate the need to seek a greater outpouring of the Spirit’s power to become one with Christ. The Lord tells her,

The multitudes have not come to know and enter My mercy. This is true because they haven’t come to encounter Me on the cross.

Lourdes writes:

We can be intensely doing intercession, devotions, prayers, and receiving all kinds of things on social media about the faith. But the question is, am I truly surrendering my life?

Intercession is an intercession to the extent that our hearts are united with Christ’s desires. We intercede as He does before the Father: giving His life. The Lord told us,

A soul’s obstacle to me lies within the heart.

This is why the Lord gave us The Simple Path to Union with God. As we live the Path, we enter the Heart of Christ.

The Path teaches us to intercede with the power of the Cross.

Which is the act of love of Christ that defeated Satan at the Cross. To be united to His act of love means to be willing to suffer with Him.

We intercede for our conversion.

With the power of the Cross, Jesus puts to death the tendencies of our flesh, the old man in us who seeks to control our thoughts and attitudes. This requires attention to humbly discover all the garbage we carry, all the infected wounds within us. By doing this, we are yielding to Christ's work of redemption.

Intercession is a characteristic of the love of Christ.

He intercedes for us because He loves us and gives His life for us. If we are one with Him, intercession is not just something we **do**; it's who we **are**—we are intercessors because we love. It's our very life, our very being, given to the Father in Christ. Intercession is the result of Christ's consuming fire that sets the world ablaze. Jesus said,

How much I wish that it was already ablaze.

This fire is released only by the love of the Cross, which is the consummation of divine love through the human Heart of Jesus. This consuming love, this consuming fire, now goes forth to all who want to gaze upon His crucified love. This desire to plunge into the fire allows us to be purified in the process of self-denial, surrender, acknowledging our misery and detaching ourselves from our self-will and desires. This process allows us to participate in Christ's intercession more fully. We intercede in the Spirit; we intercede for what Jesus wants, not what we want.

One Host for 33 persons

Another gem I discovered in Lourdes' journal was an entry on October 12, 2016, while in Colombia for our yearly retreat. It recalled what happened as we were celebrating the Mass of the Covenant. At the time of Communion, lo and behold, the tabernacle could not be opened! As much as we all tried, it remained locked. Thirty-three persons wanted to receive Communion, but we had only the consecrated Host of the priest. (We had planned to distribute communion using the Hosts in the tabernacle.) What were we to do? I had to break the Sacred Host into 33 tiny, tiny pieces. All had to approach the altar as little birds, tilting their heads up to heaven so that I could drop a small fragment of Eucharist on their open mouths. It was amazing. Once the Mass ended, and everybody had received communion, we tried again to open the Tabernacle, and, to our surprise, it opened with no problem.

Lourdes received from the Lord that day the following message, closely connected to our identity as intercessors:

It was a sign from heaven of what is to come. You will look for Me in the tabernacles of the world, but they will be shut. I no longer will be there. One Host fed 33 souls; 33 represents Me, My life on earth. At the age of 33, at the end of My earthly life, I shed My Blood for you. I am the sacrifice of love. The sacrifice of God's new covenant with His

people. The triumph of My Eucharistic life is at hand. You are My participants in this triumph, one Host, one Body. No longer two but one in My sacrifice of love. Prepare your hearts and minds to shed your blood as one sacrifice for the renewal of the world.

Let's pause and reflect on these words. The Lord is telling us that, to be intercessors, we must be ready, at a moment's notice, to give our lives in whatever way God so desires of us. At times, it may mean just to bite our tongues and not say something. At other times, it may be to speak out when we would prefer to remain silent. It may mean allowing the Spirit to reveal jealousy or anger we may have in our hearts. All these are opportunities to intercede by uniting ourselves with Christ's offering.

The message tells us that the Lord is preparing us for great sufferings and sacrifices as His intercessors. He is calling us to be united as a community that is His Body. My dear family, **becoming Love Crucified** is not equivalent to joining an association or a group that enables us to feel good about God and share with friends. The Lord calls us to a profound unity that consumes us in this journey which is our life.

In that Mass, there were seven chalices representing the seven Mothers of the Cross making their covenant in Love Crucified. In His message, the Lord continues saying:

Prepare your hearts and minds to shed your blood as one sacrifice for the renewal of the world. Seven chalices represent My souls who have allowed Me to empty them and purify them so that they now become God's pure instruments to purify the world. The doors of My Mercy are closing. The fury of Satan will be let loose for a short time. But my living hosts will pierce this darkness and usher in the reign of the Immaculate Heart of My Mother with a New Pentecost. Prepare by living as one body with Me, and you will be in perfect peace during the time of great darkness.

This was October of 2016, a little less than four years ago. Part of this message has already been fulfilled. I believe the Lord is calling us to be attentive to this message since I received it from her diary twice in one week, in very surprising ways. When this type of confirmation happens, I know that the Lord is saying, "Be attentive!"

Being consumed with love, with the fire of the Holy Spirit, should not make us gloomy. I don't see the Blessed Conchita gloomy. I don't see Lourdes gloomy either. St. Paul says, "Rejoice in the Lord always." Look at the life of St. Paul. Wow! What a warrior! What intensity, what a fire in his heart! What an intercessor! Can you see it? St Paul was consumed with love, with the desire to give all for Christ, to suffer all for Christ with great joy.

Intercession must be directed to God's Will and not our expectations.

Jeremiah Chapter 2:

God says, they have forsaken me, the source of living water. They have dug themselves cisterns, broken cisterns that hold no water.

Isn't this happening today? Jeremiah is speaking to the Jewish people who were trying to make alliances with whatever power they could find to protect them from the great threat posed by the Syrian and Babylonian empires. In effect, Jeremiah is telling them, "Don't look for worldly alliances;

they are like broken cisterns. Unite yourself with God. He is the only answer, the only way.” The reason they were in this mess was their drifting away from God.

We, too, say we believe in Jesus. We say we love Him, but is there a consuming fire in us? Is there an oblation of life?

In Matthew 13:10, the disciples approach Jesus and ask, “Why do you speak to the crowds in parables?” He says to them in reply:

Because knowledge of the mysteries of the Kingdom has been granted to you, but to them it has not been granted. To anyone who has, more will be given, and he will grow rich. From anyone who has not, even what he has, will be taken away.

Does that mean that God has predestined some to be lost and others to be blessed and grow rich? Not at all. What is happening here? Jesus is pointing out that many people come to Him excited about His miracles but with their own expectations about what they wanted from Him. They expected healing, favors, that Jesus would get rid of the Romans... The people held on to their beautiful expectations and would not listen to what Jesus was offering them. This is why the Kingdom is not granted to them.

We need to pray, “Lord set me free from my own expectation; allow my intercession to be one with Yours, and therefore powerful and pure. May Your will be done.”

Most of us pray for what we perceive to be good. If someone is sick, we pray for healing, which is good. However, in our prayer, we should remember that God may have another plan that we do not understand, and we should desire that God’s Will be done, for there lies the greatest good.

As we see events unfolding around us, let us intercede and pray that we may fully carry out the mission that God has given to us. That should be our focus, our priority, to enter the Heart of Jesus, to allow Him to enter ours so that we suffer all with Him.

God will reveal to us the mysteries of the Kingdom of heaven but not everything yet. We walk knowing His power and love for us even when it means embracing the Cross.

To anyone who has, more will be given, and he will grow rich.

This is the richness of being ONE with Him. The more we give ourselves, the more we surrender, the richer and richer we will grow in Christ.

The disciples also had problems with their false expectations. In Matthew 20:22 (about seven chapters later), Jesus listens to James and John interceding; they ask for special places for themselves in the Kingdom. Jesus asks them,

Can you drink the chalice I am going to drink?

Do you see where Jesus leads them? They come with their expectations, and Jesus points to His expectation: that they be with Him. This is why He called us. If we love, then we will desire to be one with Him: “Lord, we want to be with you in your sufferings, in your trials.”

In Matthew 20:26, after telling them how the world behaves, Jesus says:

It shall not be so among you. You’re not supposed to be thinking with the expectations of the world. But whoever would be great among you, must be your servant. Whoever would

be the first among you, must be your slave. Even as the son of man came, not to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.

Giving life as a ransom for many is intercession. In effect, Jesus is saying,

If you want to be My disciples and follow Me, then forget about being great according to the world; forget about being first. Look to do the opposite. Know that I came to give My life to rescue many, and you're called to do the same.

He is giving them their mission, which is our mission as well. Let us say, "Lord, whatever time I have left in this life, I want to give it to the Father as one with you." We need to follow through by living the Path and taking accompaniment seriously so that the truth about ourselves comes to light.

Jesus asks the bride

"Do you want to drink My chalice?" His Blood. First in the Sacrament, then in My Cross. Jesus longs for His bride to share in His life of pure love. Do you want to join the Bridegroom, laying down your life as a ransom for the salvation of many?

The powerful intercession of a few

My dear family, Love Crucified is not meant to be an elite community for only a few. God desires our community to be overflowing with members who love as one with the Victim of Love, yet few respond. Still, the mercy of God is so great that He uses the few, as He did with Abraham in Genesis 18:32, when he intercedes to spare Sodom from destruction. He interceded with the Lord not to wipe away the innocent with the guilty, pleading, "What If I find at least ten innocents?" For the sake of those ten, God was willing not to destroy the city. Unfortunately, Abraham could not find even ten.

Lourdes writes in her diary:

I feel called to greater stillness of heart, recollection in order to live in the cloister of my heart, the temple of my Bridegroom. So, our hearts are the temple of the Bridegroom. That's where we find Him, suffering with Him His sorrows for a humanity that has gone astray. Think about the love of Jesus for a broken and lost humanity. He wants us to share in His same longing to save them. ...Silence is of the essence to allow the piercings to enter the depth of my heart, which is where my Lord dwells, so then intercession takes place. These violent piercings thrust my heart into the heart of my Lord, and it is in the union of sorrows that I live true marital intimacy with my Spouse, Jesus. Our vocation is to suffer with Him, to remain with Him, accompany Him in His agony. This is our vocation, to love. Interiorly, we must live more and more sowing in tears as our hearts receive the thorns. But exteriorly, revealing the smile of a beautiful blossom. Psalm 126, "Those that sow in tears shall reap rejoicing."

My dear family, we have been blessed. We have been given this treasure. This invitation to be one with the Bridegroom, interceding to the Father for our brothers and sisters and ourselves. This is what the Lord told Saint Faustina to pray, "For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world." What do we mean "through His sorrowful passion"? It means that we become one with Him as intercessors.

Sword of the Spirit – I

August 1

Lourdes Pinto & Father Jordi Rivero

This first part of the teaching on the “Sword of the Spirit” will focus on understanding how we are called to become one with the Sword of the Spirit. Let us begin by looking at some Scripture references to the “Sword of the Spirit.”

Ephesians 6:17-18

Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.

What is the Sword of the Spirit? Ephesians states clearly: “the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.” Ephesians then explains how we are to pray as we yield to the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word. It is important to understand that it is the Holy Spirit who gives us the Word and teaches us how to pray. Jesus Christ, the one intercessor, is the Sword of the Spirit. It is to Him, the Word, to whom we should yield and unite ourselves so that we can pray with the Spirit.

How then are we to pray? We must allow our hearts to be pierced as Saint Paul tells us:

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

To be transformed into one with Christ crucified, as the Simple Path to Union with God teaches us, we must first allow Jesus Christ to pierce our hearts, to bring into the light of the Spirit all the darkness, all the sin patterns, and all our woundedness, for us to be healed and purified. Imagine a sword penetrating your depth, bringing everything to the light, and uncovering everything in you. This is the illumination of the soul, an interior knowledge of your true self. This experience can be very unsettling for us, for it forces us to see ourselves as God sees us and not how we desire to see ourselves. This piercing of the Sword leads us to repentance, transformation, and new life in Christ.

Does this mean the first work of the Sword of the Spirit is a purification of the heart? Absolutely! The enemy has penetrated us, and we are all oppressed. If we don’t believe this, we don’t believe that we need redemption. Truly to be His warriors, we need for the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, to penetrate us, shake us up and remove from us all that is out of place, all that is disordered, that is rotten. This ongoing process transforms us to become one with Jesus crucified—the Sword of the Spirit.

In Revelations 1:16, we again see the reference to the Sword of the Spirit in the great battle at hand.

Coming out of his [Son of man's] mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword.

Jesus is the WARRIOR KING, fighting the great battle against Satan and all his dominions. The book of Revelation makes clear that his followers, the men, women, and children who allow themselves to be cleansed, purified, and made new, become one with the Warrior in the great battle. The Simple Path to Union with God is God's manual for forming His warrior saints for these decisive times. It is a book that must be lived, not just read. Chapter 8, the last chapter of the book, reveals the great battle that is to come against the Church. To become warriors in this battle that has already begun, we must prepare ourselves for the life-long process of living all the chapters that come before it. Unfortunately, many are tempted to skip the work of purification and move to Chapter 8; that's like wanting to land on the battlefield before undergoing any training. We train for this battle by allowing God, the Sword of the Spirit, to purify us.

The Lord is forming "His warriors of Love"

The Lord has been forming us for many years to be His warriors of love for these decisive times. In a message from 2011, "I am Forming You as My Warriors of Love," He tells us:

The armor you put on is to protect you from being overcome and conquered by the enemy, but your sword is what has the power to pierce the enemy and conquer it. To put on the armor of light, to put on your Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 13:12,14) **is to become the Sword of the Spirit**. I have been leading you through the passage of union with your Crucified, union with the Word of the Cross. It is in this union in which you enter your Crucified, beginning at the foot of the Cross with Mary, that your lives become the **Sword of the Spirit**. These are the warriors that will fight the decisive battle and have the power of God to conquer the dragon. I desire each of you to **become ONE with the Sword of the Spirit through My Cross**. (11/2/2011)

Our retreat this year focused on the crucifixion of our desires and on living more and more in the desire of God himself, in His Will. In this message, the Lord is telling us again His desire, inviting each of us, all who are hearing this teaching, to become His warriors, to enter His army for the battle that has begun. The Lord gave us this message in 2011, almost nine years ago. We had no idea at that time what was coming, but now it's here. What we are going through is not just a problem with a virus; it's not just social justice riots in our cities; there's something much, much deeper going on. What we are seeing, my brothers and sisters, is the world rapidly entering into a global revolution where the enemy baits us with ideas that sound beautiful but which are empty of content and lure many into his bandwagon without their realizing it. As we enter deeper into the battle, we will see things continue to crumble, much chaos and turmoil, and our lives hindered in many ways. But it

will also be a time of great opportunities to evangelize and put on God's armor—the Sword of the Spirit.

I think up to now, most of our prayers focused on asking God to fix our lives, to help us be good people, and to protect our jobs, families, and health. All these good things that we desired in this world are now being shaken up. What is the Lord saying to us? He is saying, "I'm going to be your strength and your support; come to Me." It will take a profound transformation of heart; that is what the Lord wants to bring forth in us. As we learn about being warriors and taking on the Sword of the Spirit, the Word brings us to a new consciousness, a new understanding of the purpose of our lives—to be pierced as one with Our Lord. Our prayer should no longer be to avoid suffering or avoid problems, but the focus is now on moving forward with Christ as His warriors to conquer the forces of evil. What soldier goes to war saying, "My priority is not to get hurt?" One must enter war willing to suffer, to risk everything to be able to win the battle. As the heavenly warrior who defeats the beast in Revelation describes:

I saw heaven standing open, and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice, he judges and wages war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations... On his robe and on his thigh, he has this name written: King of Kings and Lord of lords. (Rev 19:11-16)

This passage from Revelation is significant to our Love Crucified community with the image of our Lord and His army on white horses. The Lord says that the souls following Him on white horses are dressed in fine, white, pure linen. That description means that these souls have allowed themselves to be purified and made clean through the Blood of Jesus Christ; that's each of us. This purification is the work of the Simple Path. It takes us interiorly, to the depth of our hearts and souls, to be cleansed of everything that is not pure love. It takes us to God Himself.

This passage of Revelations speaks to us about warriors, power, and victories and gives us an earthly image of the imminent battle to come. It describes this glorious image of the battle according to the perspective of God, but through our eyes, it may appear very different. Here on earth, the warrior in battle may resemble Maximilian Kolbe in a concentration camp, mocked, deeply beaten, abused, and starved to death. Think of all the prisoners throughout the world, the hundreds and hundreds of Christians, who live being scorned and persecuted, ridiculed, and considered an obstacle to progress. Can they be the strong warriors of the book of Revelations? We need to understand that in the world, God's powerful warriors are disguised as those unnoticed, the humble, the hidden and insignificant, the forgotten, yet in them lies the power of victory!

Warriors of Love in the Decisive Battle

Throughout the years, the Lord has given the Love Crucified Community several messages forming us to be His warriors and preparing us for the battle.

In this message, “PREPARE TO ENTER THE DECISIVE BATTLE,” the Lord tells us:

Prepare to enter into the decisive battle I have been preparing you for so many years. You are dressed fully in the “armor of God.” You will lead My army of victim souls to wage the war against the principalities of darkness. Be still; be silent; be ready for the battle cry; be recollected, for the hour is coming when the prince of darkness will cover the earth, and then My army of victim souls will be sent out, with Me upon the white horse of righteousness, to conquer the forces of evil. Be prepared!!! (9/27/2013)

Back in 2013, the Lord was already forming and preparing us, and now, seven years later, we are beginning to see not just one country but every country on earth covered with the darkness of Satan. So many countries seem to be waging battle against the evil forces of socialism and communism. The Lord is calling the few who are willing to respond, to be His “army of victim souls,” to go out with Him, to conquer the forces of evil. This, my family, is not a doomsday message; the Lord is preparing us, arming us, to participate in the victory that has already been won. Jesus Christ has already conquered, but the fulfillment of the fruits of His death and resurrection is coming through His Body, the Church. Our hearts should be filled with joy and zeal, not fear!

On the Feast of St. Monica, we received a word from God the Father:

The Cross of My beloved Son is the Sword that conquers all darkness. You will form and raise up My army of victim souls, for it is they that possess the power of God as ONE with the Word of the Cross, but you hold the golden sword of the mission. Protect this sword, my little one, for Satan will try to snatch it from you. (8/27/2012)

The Lord has given us an important mission, the “golden sword,” but Satan will challenge each of us, as he did Jesus; and we have to be prepared to protect the mission He has entrusted to us. The devil will abuse us, he will attempt to hurt us, and we will have to suffer injustices and persecutions. Some will lose their jobs, others will die from the pandemic, many will be oppressed and lose freedoms, much suffering, and much evil will be inflicted on us. All this we are living is concretely the Cross.

What is our Lord telling us in this message? That the power is not in the evil that is happening around us. True power issues from our faith, in the Love of Jesus Christ that confronts and overturns the powers of evil. The power comes when we join Jesus Christ, and we choose to live by faith, open to the Sword of the Spirit, suffering all with Him— this is how we become supernaturally powerful. As one of the Fathers of the Church said, “The Cross of my beloved Son is the sword that conquers all darkness.” But it is important to note how He conquered— by hanging on the Cross and dying. We, too, as His victim souls, must be willing to suffer and die to ourselves and to sin.

If we are expecting a triumph other than through the Cross, we are not hearing Our Lord. If we expect that being good Christians means we won't lose our jobs or get sick, then we totally misunderstand this battle. That is not where the power of the Cross is. The Lord is leading us to victory in His way. And there's only one way to victory, and that is Love. The love of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the love of the Trinity. The only victory over Satan and all darkness is love. That is the way of The Simple Path to Union with God, which brings us to pure love. Everything in us that is not love needs to be purified. We must live every trial, every Cross as one with the Sword of the Spirit in Christ crucified.

The mission that God has given our community of Love Crucified is to form His victim warriors as one with Jesus, the Victim, for this decisive battle. Every Christian who receives this mission receives the Sword of the Spirit. In the following message, the Lord instructs us how we are to approach the mission entrusted to us.

My little one, the time draws near. **You hold the sword of the Spirit in the mission given to you.** My family of Love Crucified are My warriors of love that will defeat the dragon in the decisive battle that draws near. Be ready to approach this evil in the same way that David approached Goliath. You will conquer the dragon... (1/18/12)

As I was meditating on this teaching from the Lord, the story of David and Goliath took on a new life in me. As I watched the news, I saw my country, the United States, crumbling. I felt such sadness to see how this strong and powerful nation, this Goliath, had fallen to such evil, such anarchy. At that moment, I truly felt like David, so little, so insignificant, so helpless as so many people these days feel.

But the Lord is telling us, His little ones, as He told David, be ready to approach this evil. The Lord is telling us we are not to hide, nor take bunker, but rather approach this evil in the same way that David approached Goliath, with trust and courage. This is the hope, the promise the Lord is giving us—we, united with Him, will conquer the dragon.

You will conquer the dragon in your littleness and purity because it is God who is with you. You must not fear. Believe with the innocence and zeal of David.

The Lord stresses the importance of purity. We cannot become these warriors without purity. Notice how Satan has been working in the world against purity... against the purity of our priests, against the purity of our children, of families, of men and women. It is through our purity of heart that we will combat these evils.

Imagine, as we watch all that is happening throughout the world, the Lord giving us this final instruction for battle. The message of the Lord ends with these words:

My daughter, form My family well in the teachings I give to you. You each must approach the battle with five stones also. First, the stone of **humility**, possessing the perfect

knowledge of your nothingness and My power and majesty. Second, the stone of **purity**, purity of mind, heart, intention, word, desire... Third, **simplicity**, detached from all, most especially your ego. Fourth, **trust** perfectly abandoned to My Will. Fifth, **courage**, courage rooted in love of Me to be perfectly obedient to My commands. These stones are your weapons for battle, for the dragon will not be defeated according to the standards of the world but in the Light of Love. Therefore, My family, prepare for battle. Be attentive to Me.

Sword of the Spirit – II

August 1

(Power of Intercession – V)

Lourdes Pinto & Fr. Jordi Rivero

This talk is the fifth in a series that Fr Jordi and Lourdes Pinto gave to the Love Crucified Community on the “Power of Intercession.” It continues focusing on using the "Sword of the Spirit" as warriors in battle in everyday life.

Fr. Jordi:

One way to wield the Sword of the Spirit is by meditating the mysteries of the rosary. Fr. Donald Calloway, in his history of the Rosary, shows us that it has been a powerful weapon in critical times of the Church (and there have been many).

Fr. Calloway states:

The rosary was forged in an age of chivalry. It is a spiritual weapon, a heavenly sword fashioned by the hands of a divine craftsman. All swords take time and skill to make, but this heavenly sword requires the greatest of efforts, centuries to produce. It is a weapon unlike any other. It has the power to slay dragons, that's demons; it has the power to convert sinners and to conquer hearts. The blade of this sword was forged in the living Word of God, shaped by the hammer of divine inspiration, and entrusted to the Queen of Heaven and her chosen servants.

Lourdes:

We must take our prayer time seriously so that our lives are centered on the Eucharist, prayer, adoration, silence, and daily meditating on the Word of God. Therefore, commitment to the daily rosary is part of the formation of our community of Love Crucified. Without the Blessed Mother, we cannot be warriors of Christ. We believe that this heavenly weapon helps us live a deep prayer life.

Fr. Jordi:

If we understand that God wants to give us His Word as the Sword of the Spirit, we will treasure our prayer time. It cannot be limited to formulas or to asking for things. Some think that the power of prayer is based on finding one that “works” best. Instead, God wants us to render open our hearts to listen to Him. Prayer essentially is God's work, and our part is to respond to the movement of the Spirit.

Lourdes:

In my spiritual accompaniment, especially with the men in our community, I see the stress level increasing due to added work demands. For example, many of our members in Colombia who are quarantined and are working from home are pressured to start work earlier and finish later at night. What is the danger here? These men and women of God find that their prayer is diminishing. Many live in fear of losing their jobs when they are scarce due to the pandemic.

Here lies a great danger because if we truly seek to become one with the Word of God, the Sword of the Spirit, we have to pray. Regardless of our situation, I believe that if we can begin our day with prayer, giving our hearts to God, pleading with God, He will protect us; He will provide us with the grace to handle the pressures and the darkness surrounding us. If we succumb, letting go of prayer, we risk drowning in stress and anxiety—we will not survive this way. It is critical to understand our toxic environment and take action.

I would like to share recent examples from the lives of some of our community members. One member who contracted Covid wrote me, describing how sick and weak she felt and how her soul entered a terrible spiritual lethargy. "I had moments," she wrote, "when I did not know what was happening to me." She was feeling physical and spiritual helplessness. One night in her room, she felt prompted to pray for the souls in purgatory. At that same time, as she suffered with Jesus, the whole community prayed with her and for her, and she felt a source of great grace being poured out upon those souls in purgatory. This is an example of how we are called to battle for souls. This doesn't mean that we are not to seek medical help; it means that we suffer whatever God permits united to Him. Suffering her weakness with Jesus obtained many graces for the souls in purgatory.

Another community member was recently taken to the hospital with severe cervical spine stenosis, which caused damage to her arm and hand. She writes, "I had the episode Saturday of severe pain and numbness in my left arm. I immediately thought of Jesus hanging on the Cross and united my pain to the horrendous pain He felt in his arms. In this union, I offered my pain for priests and for the souls that need it the most." This is a warrior woman!

The pain in her arm remained the same after she prayed, but her focus changed from herself to Jesus. She allowed the Holy Spirit to unite her pain to the immense pain of Jesus on the Cross for love of us, particularly centering on the pain of His arms. Then her suffering took on the power of His suffering. Being the Sword of the Spirit consists in our willingness to enter this kind of oblation.

Fr. Jordi:

We must unite our illnesses, our weakness, the bad behavior of loved ones, whatever Cross is coming our way which we find difficult to bear to Jesus on the Cross. The Lord is teaching us,

...live it with Me. I went through that; I was scorned, I was abused, I was hurt; live each instant with Me, and I promise you that you will have the power of the Cross. You will become the Sword of the Spirit.

This kind of prayer is more powerful than anything else because it is a powerful act of faith united to Christ. It is also a source of joy. St. Paul said to the Colossians,

I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the Church (1:24).

Not that Christ lacks anything, but we as His body participate in the suffering of the Head. It's the power of redemption coming through all these brothers and sisters, from you and me, when we live with this awareness with faith.

Lourdes:

Another example is from a couple in our community in Spain, a Mother and a Missionary of the Cross. The husband is in the last stages of his fight with cancer and is very jaundiced, very, very

thin, and weak, yet the beauty and strength of this couple are so evident in the love they have for each other. All the pain he suffers every day, he surrenders to Jesus Crucified. He has indeed become one with the Crucified and his wife with him. He is full of peace and humor. Despite his pain, every day, he is laughing; he is smiling; they are embracing. His eyes and his body, hardly recognizable, reflect Jesus crucified; but his eyes are full of the light of God, which is the light of love. How beautiful to see this couple united with Jesus on the Cross, suffering this cancer, giving themselves up for their territory of souls, the Church, the priesthood, and the world, fighting as true warriors.

Fr. Jordi:

What an amazing testimony. We see God radiating His peace, this communion of heart with them, and what a difference it makes. This is how Christianity propagates: by the presence of men and women like these whom we are all called to emulate in these decisive times.

Lourdes:

I want to share with you another story, a personal experience I had recently. I was sound asleep in the middle of the night when I was suddenly awakened. I felt the need to pray for one of my sons. I sensed he was in danger, and I saw deep darkness in the gaze of his eyes. I immediately arose like a true warrior, alarmed and ready for battle as a mother. I felt the Spirit moved me to pray the rosary for this son. I spent days nonstop praying for him. This is what it means to be in battle as one with Jesus Crucified, like a true warrior mother fighting for the salvation and conversion of a son.

I'd like to share an experience that men and women, and even some priests, have shared with me in spiritual accompaniment. Throughout the years, I've learned how Jesus, at times, allows me to experience overwhelming physical fatigue as a means to do battle for souls. During the days of fatigue, I can do very little, but my condition remains hidden even from my family because the Lord permits me to do the tasks of my vocation. At first, I didn't know what to do with this fatigue. I've been to many doctors, and they have found nothing wrong. I've learned that this is part of the spiritual battle I am being called to fight as a victim of love. This fatigue keeps me from becoming very busy doing things. I have learned to allow the fatigue to become my prayer. It takes me into a profound silence, a stillness. In the fatigue, I am in a constant battle for souls. Usually, after a few days, the Lord lifts it, and I return to normal.

Here is another testimony I received from one of the Mothers of the Cross in our community. It is a beautiful example of how to live as a victim soul as the Lord taught us. She writes:

Suffer all with Him, in His sacrifice of love.

Unfortunately, I fail to put this into practice—this freely giving and receiving. The other day I bought sandwiches for my kids and husband for lunch, which is a treat because we don't eat out much. I found myself feeling frustrated when none of them said a simple "thank you" as I was expecting. It was a lesson: to be truly me, I need to give without expecting a thank you.

This is a very ordinary example, no big deal, yet it becomes a big deal in Christ. Let us take this example and learn how we are being called to respond as victims of love. This example is not to deny the value of teaching gratitude. It is rather an example of a mother learning to receive a piercing from her family and growing in virtue through it. All of us as victim intercessors are called like Mary to wear the crown of thorns in our hearts. This mother received the thorn of ungratefulness,

one that pierced the Hearts of Jesus and our Blessed Mother many times. How often does Jesus suffer in the Blessed Sacrament for all the ungrateful souls who fail to thank Him for this great gift?

How can we respond to the thorns in our lives as one with the Sword of the Spirit? In this example, this mother had to receive the thorn of the hardness of heart of her family, who takes her for granted. She is called to remove the frustration and resentment, and suffer the pure pain of ungratefulness with Christ, in Christ, for the conversion of her own family. In this way, she does battle for the souls of her family.

Then she goes on to speak about the Church. She says,

When I see something in the Church that I believe is offensive to God, it is difficult to discern if I should speak or keep silent. I think I have a warrior spirit. I have had difficulty seeing how the battle is won in this poverty of spirit because the fruits are not visible.

So here again, many of us can relate with her, as we too see much wrong in the Church. Many of us, I feel, are living just and holy anger, seeing our priests, our bishops, not guiding the Church during these difficult times. Our churches, our adoration chapels, and so many places remain closed. We experience just anger, but first and foremost, like this woman, we have to take that just anger to prayer. We have to allow God to purify just anger of any resentment or frustration so that the Spirit can unite that anger to Christ to become a force for good. Then we can suffer with Christ our shepherd's lack of guidance and courage and be the hidden force for them. Only by first taking the experience to prayer and suffering it as one with Christ for our shepherds that we can discern if the Spirit is calling us to speak or not.

Another battle we must learn to face is temptation.

We turn to the Gospels and see how Jesus battled temptations in the desert and throughout his life. Living The Path does not mean that we are exempt from temptations. But learn that temptations are a great opportunity to battle for souls. We will fight temptations of fear, anxiety, temptations of helplessness. The other day, I felt that fear, anxiety, in seeing all that's happening in my country. I had to go immediately into prayer, focus on Jesus Christ, and focus on His battle being won to recover my centeredness and peace. This battle against the temptations of fear can become a prayer for souls tempted to give in to fear and fall into despair.

As warriors in this battle, we must conquer many other temptations. Many are battling the temptation of pornography which is against purity. United to Christ, the suffering of this battle can become a force of intercession for many falling into that sin. We all have temptations we must battle—to turn to alcohol, television, social media, or to discontinue prayer...the list is endless. Each temptation we fight against is an opportunity to battle for the salvation of souls.

The power of tears

Another powerful weapon we have as warrior intercessors is our tears. The book of Jeremiah 14:17 says:

Let my eyes overflow with tears night and day without ceasing for the virgin daughter, my people, has suffered a grievous wound, a crushing blow.

Fr. Jordi:

To be warriors, we must engage not only the intellect but also the heart. St. Paul says we must have the same thoughts, feelings, and desires as Christ. We need to learn to cry as Jesus cried for Jerusalem. We must cry for our country. We must cry for all the people, not only for those infected with Covid 19 or those experiencing job loss, but also the madness and blindness of so many souls. The Lord is crying, and if we are one with Him, will we not cry more than Jeremiah?

Lourdes:

We find a chapter specifically centered on tears in *The Simple Path to Union with God* (Chapter 3, Section A-4 p. 124-129). Here we see how the Lord is forming us as His warriors and is bringing us to a deep purification of our hearts, moving us to tears.

Fr. Jordi

In the Path (p.125), we have the words of Jesus to Blessed Conchita describing the power of our tears:

Those are the tears that should fill this chalice; tears that I cannot find in the world, the ones I am looking for, those which must exist among the souls that truly love me. Tears of gratitude towards me; tears because of the souls that are lost, tears of love from a thirst for more suffering just to console me.

Lourdes:

Then in *The Path* #36 (p.126), we have the Lord's words forming us as His warriors:

Be with your God and Savior as I enter My agony again. [This is the time of the passion of the Church again]. The time has come [Jesus tells us] when the Father will turn his gaze from the world. My Mother and I will cry for you [meaning humanity]. Who will remain faithful during the great and terrible persecution? Remain with Me and collect My tears to present them to the Father. (2/15/13)

Our Mother of Sorrows also has taught us the power of our tears. In *The Simple Path* #37 (p.127), our Blessed Mother said this to Love Crucified:

I desire for you to collect in your pure hands my tears of blood and to unite your tears with mine and raise them to the Father as one with the Blood of my Son.

One of my daughters-in-law sent me a video of an undercover sting operation on human trafficking. You could hear the men buying the girls wanting to know how old they were in the video. They were seeking 13-, 14- and 15-year-olds. The camera then focused on the faces of some of the girls. I was horrified! Miami, where we live, is one of the major child trafficking cities in the world. This great evil of our time is a horrific part of the pornographic industry.

I was horrified! What could I do? I have a young daughter; it brought me to tears. I prostrated myself before the Lord at the Hour of Mercy and cried! What did I have to offer Jesus? As Mary, our Mother said— my tears united with hers in His Precious Blood. I offered my tears as one with the Blood of Christ in the consecration of the Mass and begged the Father to pour out this union of

Blood and tears upon the world to help these young girls protect them. This is who we are as warriors. This is how we battle, with the power of our tears! And as Pope Francis taught us, "tears are like a heart that has opened; a heart that's no longer frozen, and cold and rigid; a heart that can feel, a heart that can suffer, a heart that can pray." We warriors must battle with our tears.

Fr. Jordi:

Through suffering in the union of hearts with the Lord, our tears are the tears of the Lord, shed for all the violence, evil, and pain around us. This also keeps us away from temptation because who can see the horror of the effects of human trafficking and still flirt with the temptation of pornography? No! We will reject it with decisiveness because it is precisely the evil we are suffering for. But what happens when we start toying or playing with the enemy by watching tainted movies and telling ourselves, "Oh, this isn't so bad. I can see that, but I'm not going to fall into temptation"? That's a lie! We need to be pure, and we need to be focused.

Lourdes:

As warriors, will we be able to resist every temptation? As soldiers that go to battle, we will not win every time. Sometimes we won't battle well; other times, God allows us to battle and lose, becoming wounded soldiers. Every time we doubt God, we lose to Satan. Anytime we react in the battle with anger, resentment, frustration, or revenge, we lose the battle. We need to battle constantly with the five stones David used to slay Goliath: they represent the five virtues in which we have been formed: **humility, purity, simplicity, trust, and courage.**

What should we do when we lose and are wounded? Repent! Repentance is always the answer. Each time we fall is an opportunity for growth. The Lord often allows the falls to teach us that suffering can bring us self-knowledge. So, we ask ourselves, why did I lose? Why did I give in to this resentment? Then the Lord will reveal the darkness that needs to be purified in each of us.

Fr. Jordi:

Each fall is an opportunity to realize how weak and dependent we are. As the Lord told St Paul,

My strength is sufficient for you. In your weakness, I am strong.

Lourdes:

Jesus compares our strength as warrior-victim souls to David and Goliath. Like David, our strength lies in acknowledging our weakness, our littleness. At times, our Lord will allow us to lose so that we don't forget our complete dependence on Him. This self-knowledge and the knowledge of God should bring us to repentance, confession, and transformation. By living in this awareness, we hold the Sword of the Spirit and become pure and stronger warriors with Christ.

Let us end this series on the Sword of the Spirit with a message from our Lord:

My little one, the time has come. The principalities of darkness will consume the face of the earth.

The Lord said this to us during Holy Week of 2013. Seven years later, we are seeing this prophecy come to light.

Jerusalem will weep, for she failed to recognize the time of her visitation. All will suffer; many will be lost. It is time for you to get up and walk with Me, for I have prepared you to enter this battle. You will hold tight the sword I have placed in your hands. This is the sword that Satan fears, My sword of righteousness. [I asked the Lord how I am going to fight in this battle... I do not understand what these words mean. And He said,] [You will conquer] In the same way I conquered this battle, through the power of the Cross. My Cross is the sword of righteousness, and everyone that enters in it conquers with the power of God.

Now, remember, when injustices, evil, and suffering attack us, we are experiencing the Cross, and we overcome by entering the power of the Cross! That's where we take the Sword of the Spirit and choose to live this Cross with Christ and be victorious.

In 2014, the Lord said:

Some saints received the stigmata with the physical pain of the nail wounds, but ALL My saints were mystically crucified with Me through My nails. The mystical crucifixion is no less real and painful than the physical one, just as the white martyrdom is no less real and painful than the red martyrdom. Unity in the Holy Trinity is the fruit of becoming one with Me in My crucifixion, for this is perfect love. The ecstasy of the love of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit transforms the pain into the Sword of the Spirit that pierces the darkness of Satan.

I end with these last words from our Lord for you to meditate and contemplate in prayer:

This union of love is achieved by few because of a lack of perseverance and selfless love. One saint who becomes one with me in my crucified love has the power to transform an entire society. For the decisive times at hand, I am raising my saints to fight my holy war and usher in the era of peace.

We leave you, our Community of Love Crucified, with this challenge: How will you respond to God's invitation to enter His army with the Sword of the Spirit and be His warriors of love?

Eucharistic Reign

Sept. 10

Lourdes Pinto

Prayer:

I ask you, Holy Spirit, to open our hearts, minds, and souls to receive this pure milk of knowledge and allow it to penetrate the depth of our soul so that we truly can become your living hosts. Amen.

Last week I came across an entry in my journal from 2015 that profoundly affected my heart:

As I adored Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, He allowed me to see Him crying. I was moved to a profound sorrow of heart as I gazed at His tears. “Why, my Lord, are you crying?” I asked. He cries for the sin of indifference to His presence in the Eucharist. He explained that there is an even greater darkness than the darkness of all the evil of the terrorists, and that is the darkness of the indifference to Jesus alive and present in the Eucharist. This darkness leads and opens the way for the darkness of evil to spread and grow. Because of this sin of indifference to His Eucharistic life, we will live in a time when we will not have Jesus in the Eucharist.

This entry was written in 2015 during widespread terrorism around the world. We are now seeing how this message of five years ago is being fulfilled during these times. The Eucharist is not being made available to many souls. In Colombia, the churches remain closed. I have reflected many hours on these words, which have brought me to tears and kept me many hours before the Eucharist, thanking God, adoring Him, and praising Him. Understand, my family, that this sin, this great sin of indifference to Jesus in the Eucharist, is what has opened the door for Satan and his intense darkness to spread throughout the world. During this quarantine time due to COVID-19, this sin of indifference has come to light.

Although our churches in the United States have opened, our Masses remain quite empty. Due to fear, many people choose to attend Mass through the internet, which means they are not receiving Jesus in the Eucharist. This cannot be the way for us in Love Crucified, for Mothers or Missionaries of the Cross. We must make every effort to find churches that celebrate Mass and distribute the Eucharist. We must do all we can to travel, whatever the distance, to receive the Lord. Love Crucified has the mission from God to prepare ourselves and the world for the new Pentecost that will bring forth the Eucharistic Reign of Christ. What is the Eucharistic Reign? In this message of November 27, 2018, Jesus explains to our community:

My Eucharistic Reign will be a time of peace in which My presence will be seen through My living hosts. These lights in the world will shine brightly, and many will come to know and love Me in the Eucharist, thus making My Eucharistic presence the center of their lives. I will be known, adored, and glorified in My Eucharist through the impulse of the Holy Spirit.

The Lord is telling us, my community, that a time of peace will come to the world. The Path that He has given us transforms us into living hosts. God chose us to be His adorers, to glorify Him

in the Eucharist. Above all, my community, Jesus Christ in the Eucharist, must become the center of our lives. Everything must be Jesus in the Eucharist, first and foremost, for each of us.

The Lord continues to tell us in this message:

The Path has been entrusted to us by God as a gift of His Divine Mercy to prepare the Church and us for what is to come. This Path prepares the saints, the victim souls who will endure these end times and usher in the Reign of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and Christ's Eucharistic Reign.

The Path is the grace of Divine Mercy to awaken, illuminate, purify, and transform us into the Light of God in the world—His living hosts. Therefore, the Lord encourages us to recommit ourselves to live with great faithfulness and zeal The Simple Path to Union with God. Anyone who thinks that he has finished the Path has fallen into the deception of Satan. Such a claim is impossible. Not even at the end of our lives will we fully live The Simple Path to Union with God. It is a daily walk, a daily struggle, a daily falling, and getting up and trying again.

The Eucharistic Reign—the reign of Love—is expressed in the radical Gospel of Luke 6:27-36, where Jesus shows us how to love our enemies:

But I say to you that hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,²⁸ bless those who curse you; pray for those who abuse you.²⁹ To him who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from him who takes away your coat, do not withhold even your shirt:³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you, and of him who takes away your goods do not ask them again....³² If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.

In the Path (p. 294), Jesus teaches us this same message: We must choose to love those most difficult to love. We must always choose love, patience, and tenderness and never give in to anger and resentment. In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus goes on to say again,

Love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you too will be sons of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish.³⁶ Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

The words which conclude this passage give us the whole transforming experience of the Gospel. "Be sons of the Most High, for He is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish." He is speaking of you and me.

In the Path (p. 162, # 49), Jesus taught that the Eucharist is the power of God in the world. The love of God is the Eucharist and is transmitted through the Eucharist. This is why the scale has now been tilted. Because the power of God's love in the Eucharist is not being realized in souls due to their indifference. The power of Satan is what has taken force in the world.

The Lord then goes on in that message to say: I give Myself fully. The word **fully** is so important. Jesus Christ gives himself fully to the good and the bad, to the deserving and the undeserving, to those who love Me and those who persecute Me... I continue to love those who do not love Me. I continue to love those who use Me. I continue to love the unfaithful. I continue to love those indifferent to My love. Such complete, unconditional giving of self is Love. That is God.

The only way to love our enemies and those who abuse us is through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ—by becoming one with the Living Host! This Gospel can be lived only by souls who have placed Jesus in the Eucharist at the center of their lives, souls who have chosen to be with Jesus daily and for long periods, sacrificing their inordinate desires for the sake of Him. Therefore, for us to become God’s martyrs of love, one with Love Crucified, which we have been called to become, the Eucharist must be the center of our lives, our One and All! How is it that the Most High is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish? Because God is who He is regardless of our sins. Our behavior does not change who God is. He is the great “I AM”!

The message from November 27, 2018, ends with this sentence:

Prepare... by pondering who you are and the mission entrusted to you.

God always brings us to know who we are and the mission given to us. He teaches us that we have become someone we are not, and the Path of transformation leads us to discover who we are in Christ. If I, Lourdes, remain stuck in my wounds, believing all the lies Satan has planted in my wounds and acting in my disordered tendencies, it will be impossible for me to love those who hurt me. Then, the passage mentioned above from Luke (6:27-36) becomes my green light to become the wrong kind of victim—the “doormat,” the enabler, the people pleaser, and the “nice” person—who lives stuck in fears and in the desire to be liked by everyone. Only through long hours with Christ before the Eucharist can we learn from Him, can we encounter Love, and come to know who we are. Then, for example, when someone insults us, saying that we are “good for nothing,” I know it is a lie; I know that I am Abba’s beloved daughter. I know that He sent His only begotten Son to set me free to be entirely one in the Love of the Trinity. I know my dignity as God’s daughter and spouse of Christ; therefore, that insult doesn’t penetrate nor change the truth of who I am. That insult doesn’t bring me to react from my wounds but moves me to acclaim the truth: “That is a lie, and I am worth a lot because I am the daughter of God.” When I act in truth, in Christ, I do not take the evil personally in the other person, and I can mourn the darkness in that soul and pray for his conversion. That is Divine Love. Jesus was insulted, pierced, mocked, spat upon, and crucified by our darkness. Yet he remains who He is and continues to love us.

We cannot love if we live as “doormats” because we believe the lie to be the truth. Having a distorted image of ourselves, we take abuse personally and react from our wounds. This is the cycle of oppression, deep-rooted darkness in which Love cannot triumph.

I want to end this teaching with a message from our Lord from November 3, 2019:

My little one, much will have to take place on earth before the establishment of My Eucharistic Reign. You are My saints of the end times united as one with the holy saints in heaven. Because My saints on earth are united to My sacrifice of love in your abandonment to suffer with Me, your prayers are powerful before the throne of Abba. Know, my little one, that your prayers are continuously before the throne of our Father as pure incense. He delights in your prayers, and He hears the cry of the poor. The poor are not only the poor of body but also the poor of spirit—those who have died to themselves so that I can live in them and through them. Much affliction must take place on earth because of the rebelliousness of the human heart, but God, in His infinite mercy and goodness, will bless the prayers of His saints—past, present, and future—and establish His Kingdom on earth. Be at peace with complete abandonment to the God who loves you and listens to the cry of the poor. Persevere

in your own crucifixion for the glory of God and the establishment of His Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Go in peace to be My Light in the world.

Therefore, I encourage you to remain with Christ. The union of sorrows with Him is our identity. He has asked the Mothers and Missionaries of the Cross to be the men and women who remain with Him as He suffers His agony again.

Today, a brother in our community said: “Lourdes, no matter how bad things get in the world, you make sure you never lose your peace and your joy because you have believed what God has said, and you live knowing that the Eucharistic Reign of Christ with the reign of the Immaculate Heart of Mary is at hand.”

My community, God has chosen us to usher in this great time for the Church. As your spiritual mother, from the depth of my heart, I encourage you to be Eucharistic adorers. Collect the tears of our Beloved Spouse, love Him, attend to Him for all the souls that have forgotten Him, and cry with Him for the grace of many souls to come to know our Beloved in the Eucharist. Amen.

Warn and Awaken My People – I

Sept 24

Lourdes Pinto & Daniel Blanchette

1 Corinthians 5:1-8:

It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and of a kind that is not found even among pagans; for a man is living with his father's wife. 2 And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you. 3 For though absent in body I am present in spirit, and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment 4 in the name of the Lord Jesus on the man who has done such a thing. When you are assembled, and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. 6 Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? 7 Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our paschal lamb, has been sacrificed. 8 Let us, therefore, celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

There is much to learn from this Scripture passage on the life of St. Paul and the Christian community. As we probe deeper, this Scripture will help us better understand what is happening in our Church and in the hearts of our bishops and many of our priests who have been silent and not leading the Church during such a crucial time. I want to focus first on St. Paul's reprimand to the Christian community.

St. Paul admonishes the Christians in Corinth because they are acting from a spirit of criticism which St. Paul calls "arrogant" (5:2), "boasting" (5:6), and the "leaven of malice and evil" (5:8). St. Paul sees the impurity of their intentions. Without profound mourning of heart for the death of their brother's soul, they condemn and judge the sinner, the man who is part of their Christian community. What they lack is love.

Let us focus on these few words from St. Paul: "Ought you not rather to mourn?" (5:2). These few words are associated with the groans in our Simple Path. St. Paul can reprimand and judge his brother in the community with love because St. Paul can mourn for his brother profoundly; he lives with Christ the pain and sorrow of his brother's sin and groans with Him for the condition of his brother's soul.

In two messages in the Simple Path, #77 and #78, Jesus goes deep into the importance of the groans. One of our Missionaries of the Cross, Daniel, will share his own experience in how we are called to enter the groans.

Daniel's witness:

Lourdes asked me to share a bit of a conversation we recently had that ties into this topic of the groans, specifically to the series of talks that Lourdes and Father gave at the beginning of the

pandemic—the Sword of the Spirit. Around the time I was listening to the conference, I heard a Scripture reading that stuck with me.

Romans 8:26:

In the same way, the Spirit too comes to the aid of our weakness for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit itself intercedes with inexpressible groaning.

During this whole time of the pandemic, I, just like you, have been observing much weakness on the side of the Church—a certain unhealthy silence. Not only in the Church, but you can say there is a certain silence and rolling over of the silent majority in submission to this oppressive force that many call the One World Order tyranny. In my case, it is too easy for me to be critical and judgmental about the inactions of the clergy and the hierarchy. In conversations with others, I became extremely upset with our local parish priest, who seemed to be missing in action during this time. As I watched the news these months, I was emboldened to see people willing to speak out, to hear a voice out there, like John the Baptist, willing to call out the evils. They seemed few and far between, but there were some. In my heart, I would find myself rejoicing and cheering these voices on, these few John the Baptists. Yet every time I would go to pray, I felt a powerful movement within me, something moving in me saying, “It’s not your place, nor is it in your power to be that John the Baptist.” This is oxymoronic for those who know me because I love to be critical. It is very easy for me to slice and dice any situation and pull out the evils that are going on.

I say this because the Spirit was doing something in me during the pandemic. He allowed me to experience my weakness. For example, one situation that became clear to me was my inability to love in a particular relationship in which I had fallen into lots of criticism, suspicions, and tension. The situation boiled over, resulting in a big shakeup for us involved. The shakeup for me was to see my mediocrity, my inability to love, in such a small thing.

Consequently, in prayer, I was led to see in myself the very weakness that I am seeing in the Church in these times. I expected the Church to be the Sword of the Spirit in these difficult times, yet I was incapable of being that Sword of the Spirit. Therefore, what transpired by this shakeup, I could say, was a profound experience in the prayer of my groans. This is an experience I think we have all had when, in a truly remarkable moment of self-knowledge, we enter repentance that leads to a groaning of ourselves, a repentance that leads to actual tears.

The dictionary defines groaning as a deep, inarticulate sound in response to pain, despair, or grief. I think it’s important that I bring this up because we emphasize self-knowledge in our community, and we’re talking here about groans. It’s impossible to listen to and be attentive to the groans of the Lord if we have never really experienced groaning for ourselves.

Then a few weeks later, I experienced these groans again. In one week, I had five names come to me of priests whom I knew very well, with whom I had worked and lived, who had left the priesthood. How strange that all five of these names came to me in the same week! That doesn’t happen often. And again, it brought me to the chapel with this profound experience of my groans.

Amid my groaning for myself and my weakness, I was groaning for these priests; I could easily relate to them.

The passage from St. Paul tells us the Spirit groans with inexpressible groaning. Many times we don't completely understand our groans. They are complicated, deep, and many things feed those groans; but they are real. If there's one thing we know, they are real. I found myself going to prayer often, complaining of the heartache of those groans. But then, one day, I felt I needed to stop complaining, stop pushing them off, stop rejecting those groans, and just let them be. I think that's when a lightbulb flipped for me. I had to let the Spirit groan within me. The Lord permitted my own experience of my weakness, my groans, for a reason so that I could come to groan with Him. We could ask a very simple question, "Isn't the Holy Spirit groaning intensely in the times that we are living in?"

One beautiful part of the Simple Path talks about how our wounds touch the wounds of Christ and become one; that very same principle applies to groaning. When they can come into contact with the groans of Jesus, your groans become transformative; they become powerful. We like to use that little gesture with our hands, my groans, His groans, when they become one, a miracle happens. And I think this is precisely what the Spirit has been doing in many of us during this COVID period. Many of you have experienced a certain heartache, a particular concern for the things going on in the world. Have you realized it? Have you permitted the Spirit to groan in you?

I read the two messages from the Path that Lourdes is mentioning:

#77. Living Tabernacle of God, Diary of a MOC

Can you hear My groans that come forth from the depth of My Crucified Heart? The groans of My agony of love. Listen to My groans of love. (3/11/12)

#78. Living Tabernacle of God, Diary of a MOC

To be one with Me means that you become the living tabernacle of God. My loving, pulsating Heart lives in you as one with you. You feel My sorrows and participate in My groans for the fulfillment of humanity's transformation into LOVE. (10/15/12)

I think it's vital that we understand that our mission and identity in Love Crucified is precisely to groan with Him. The enemy is going to attack that on all fronts. He will put doubt and guilt in your minds for those heartaches and groans that you experience but don't understand. You might tell yourself that your heartache is a lie, that you have heartache because you are not fervent or far from God, etc. Or that maybe your heartache is just a disordered sadness. It would probably be good for you to analyze in spiritual accompaniment your groaning, your heartache, to see if the devil is not confusing you there. One kind of darkness of the heart and soul that is our fault results from acedia and various other temptations to laziness in prayer. Still, I believe that we can quickly write off our groans and heartaches as something bad, whereas it's precisely the Spirit wanting to groan in us. I say this as I try to motivate you, in your moments of weakness, to pray with your groans, fight with your groans, give birth with your groans, and allow yourself truly to love with your groans.

Lourdes:

Daniel expresses in these groans what St. Paul is telling us when he says, “Ought you not rather to mourn?” For that Corinthian Christian community to love their brother who had fallen into deep sin, they had, first and foremost, to be able to mourn the condition of his heart. Among the many significant insights Daniel gave us, I would like to highlight one in particular.

To be able to mourn the sin, oppression, and hardness of the hearts of others, we have to be able to mourn our own darkened condition. That is true repentance. When we come to know our sin patterns and our disordered tendencies and falsehood come to the light of our conscience, we must mourn this with Christ. That’s true repentance! That act of the Holy Spirit, with our cooperation, opens our hearts to enter the mourning for our brothers and sisters when we see their sin and their oppression.

This past week, I watched one of the episodes of *The Chosen* for the second time. *The Chosen* is a fantastic series in the U.S. on the life of Christ. In one episode, Jesus is in a house teaching a large group of people, and a group of men lowers from the ceiling a paralyzed man to Jesus to be healed. A Pharisee begins to challenge Jesus, asking Him, “With what authority are you doing this?” What most deeply struck me in this scene was the gaze of the actor playing Jesus; he was able to capture the gaze of the Lord at the moment that He looks at the Pharisee, not with hatred, not with resentment, not with anger, not with disgust, but with pain and sorrow. That gaze of Jesus revealed the groans of His Heart for the hardened condition of our hearts.

Today I was reflecting on the Gospel of Matthew (Ch. 23:13-36). Here we find Jesus continuously condemning the Pharisees, as St Paul was doing to the Christians in Corinth regarding the man who fell into the sin of impurity with his father’s wife. Jesus calls the Pharisees to their faces “hypocrites” six times. He also calls them “blind guides,” “white-washed tombs,” “dead men’s bones.” He used some very strong words! We can easily hear this same tone in some of our priests and others today speaking the truth about our leaders in the Church and the world. In response, people often say, “Oh, but that’s not correct.” But we need to pause and see why Jesus and St Paul spoke like this? Because they spoke convicted with the strength of the Sword of the Spirit, with sincerity, truth, and love. They always spoke with pure hearts, full of love! Jesus Christ and St. Paul could reprimand souls because, first and foremost, they lived the groans of the martyrdom of the heart interiorly. Since those groans of love moved their hearts, they could speak in the Spirit with transparency, sincerity, and truth about the sin and the darkness of their brothers and sisters.

The Lord says to us, “participate in my groans.”

My brothers and sisters, if we are going to be able to warn and awaken the men and women in our lives and speak the truth in an intense way, even to priests and bishops, if the Lord moves us to do so — first and foremost, we have to live and live well the interior groans of the heart. For as Daniel said, only in that way can the Sword of the Spirit move through us to pierce the hearts of others as St. Paul did with this community. If we try to speak the truth and condemn the evil and darkness in the hearts of some of our bishops and priests, or the hearts of some of our family members, in resentment, hatred, anger, in frustration, we fail to act in pure love and allow Satan the victory. This is what the Lord has been forming in us and what we have been striving to achieve

through spiritual accompaniment— to enter deeper and deeper into the groans. In those groans, we are transformed into love and bring His light.

St. Paul witnesses a restored manhood in Christ moved by the Spirit of Love. He also admonishes the sinner severely with strong words like Jesus' to the Pharisees. He says, "You are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh." Those are strong words that most of us would think, "Whoa! That's not very nice! Isn't that a little harsh?" Yet it was needed. St Paul excommunicates the man from their community. That severe punishment was needed to humiliate the man to bring about the taming and eradication of his lust to save his spirit.

Listen carefully; the discipline and awakening of this Corinthian community needed to be carried out as with sorrow for one who has died. This discipline came from a deep sorrow within the heart to save the other person's soul. That is proper discipline. That is the discipline that a father and mother know. That is the discipline of a true father, St. Paul, to his community and that of Jesus to the people he came across — His people. St. Paul acts with the authority of the Holy Spirit, knowing that this sin is rooted in the sexual disorders that were common among the pagans of that culture. If this "bad weed" spread to the new Christian community in Corinth, it would destroy them. St. Paul acts in truth. In his Bible Commentary, William Barclay says, "Discipline has to be exercised for the sake of the church. To shut our eyes to the offense is not always a kind thing to do; it may be damaging." That is precisely what has taken place for a long time in the Church. We have closed our eyes to severe disorders, and that strong voice that comes from the groans of the heart has not been brought forth to awaken souls.

Therefore, I ask you, my community, to enter deeply into these words, these Scriptures from 1 Corinthians, and the section of the groans in our Path on p.225.

I have learned after many years of struggling to live in these groans is that before I speak to anybody and bring to light any darkness that God calls me to reveal in their hearts, I must first and foremost enter a profound silence, suffer the groans of the disorders I see in others, purify any resentment, and frustration, and live the pain, the pure pain, the groans — through Christ, with Christ, in Christ. In that way, when I am ready, if the Spirit asks me to be transparent, open, vulnerable, and expose myself, I can share what can be shared with the love of Jesus Christ through having suffered with Him in the groans.

Warn and Awaken My People – 2

Oct. 15

Lourdes Pinto

Before we go on, I would like to say a few things about the groans, especially for those new in our community, those who have begun their discernment process, and those who have not been living the Simple Path for as long as others. The part of the Simple Path which focuses on **the pure pain of our core wounds** is crucial to every Mother and Missionary of the Cross. The core wounds are those we suffered a long time ago-- rejection, abandonment, not being loved or affirmed, etc. We could not process that deep pain as children and even adults, so we buried it. An essential work of the Holy Spirit in our formation to become victims of love—one with Christ crucified—is, little by little, to lead us back to live that pain, that sorrow, so that we can enter the groans, the deepest sorrows of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. In our entering and experiencing the deepest sorrows of our human hearts, our hearts are opened wide so that the Holy Spirit can then unite us with the pain of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Therefore, I encourage you to do this work with your accompaniment.

Saint Paul reprimanded the people of Corinth because he knew what was in their hearts. He knew that they were living in a spirit of criticism and not in the spirit of love. At the deepest recesses of our hearts are our intentions. The Sword of the Spirit, Jesus Christ, desires to expose our true intentions and enable us to become naked to ourselves and God so that we are no longer veiled with falsehood. As Psalm 119 tells us:

Remove from me the way of falsehood.

Falsehood is the lies we have come to believe and live by and our disordered desires and tendencies. Falsehood is also the fear with which we continue to live with. Saint Paul calls this falsehood malice and evil. It is the pride and the self-will in the human heart.

This episode from the life of Saint Paul reveals his intentions of heart and those of the Christians in Corinth. Saint Paul, acting in Christ as the Sword of the Spirit, exposes the intentions of the people and, at the same time, witnesses pure love as a man transformed in Christ. Pure love always brings us to love the soul more than ourselves; therefore, we are willing to expose the true intention.

Let us focus now on the spirit of love versus the spirit of the world. Here we learn a great deal from Saint Paul in his letter to the Galatians, chapter 5. Saint Paul defines the spirit of love in verses 22-23:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

During my Holy Hour, I pondered all of these virtues. I memorized them, and I encourage you also to memorize these nine virtues, these attributes of God Himself, so that we can grow more and

more in each of them. Review each fruit, one by one, in prayer before the Lord. Ask yourself, “Do I lack this virtue? Why? In verse 26, St. Paul continues his reflection on the spirit of love. He says:

Let us have no self-conceit.

Having self-conceit is living in our ego. When we live in the spirit of love, we live with **ordered** tendencies. We live what Saint Paul calls sincerity and truth. Living in the spirit of love, a person can be transparent, open, and fully exposed to Christ. A healthy person can mourn with tears for his misery and others’. Hector (a member of our community) reminded us that there is no criticism, murmuring, envy, or resentment, but only love in the pure groans of Christ. Another ordered tendency when we live in the spirit of love is silence, the right kind of silence—not the silence of hiding.

What then is the spirit of the world? Saint Paul teaches us about this also in Galatians 5:19-21:

Now the works of the flesh are plain: fornication, impurity, licentiousness,

Licentiousness is promiscuity, a sexual disorder. This sexual disorder also includes masturbation, pornography, etc. He goes on to say:

Idolatry, sorcery, enmity,

Enmity is the state or feeling of hostility. When you say, “I’m in a bad mood” or “This person is in a bad mood,” those bad moods are a state of hostility—enmity.

Saint Paul also talks about strife. Strife is angry or bitter disagreement over fundamental issues. We are seeing much strife in our country of the United States right before our elections of November 3rd.

St. Paul goes on to tell us:

Jealousy, anger, selfishness, dissension,

Dissension is disagreement that leads to discord. How often do we live dissension in our families, communities, and Church? Then he mentions also the party spirit:

Envy, drunkenness, carousing

When we live in the spirit of the world, we have disordered tendencies and desires such as murmuring, gossip, hiding, separating ourselves, complaining, criticism, control, talking too much, judgment without mourning, and on and on. This is what St Paul calls malice and evil. The hypocrite, who is in all of us, has the spirit of the world but pretends to be in the spirit of love. He keeps his

intentions hidden even from himself and, of course, from God. Therefore, he lives in denial and is stuck in his darkness, chained in his lie; he cannot be set free.

We learned from Father Cantalamessa that it ceases to be hypocrisy when we see the hypocrisy in ourselves. What did the Lord teach us at the beginning of the Simple Path? The Lord said that we must **live wrapped in the gift of self-knowledge**. The Lord showed us that if we grow in holiness and advance in the spirit of love, we will never stop receiving self-knowledge. Therefore, we live in a permanent state of repentance. When I talk about **a permanent state of repentance**, I'm not speaking about guilt but a beautiful state of humility. Through the permanent state of repentance, the Holy Spirit has brought us into true humility where we live, knowing our weakness, knowing our misery, knowing how we're constantly moving in the spirit of the world. To live in the groans of Christ, we must live the groans of our misery. A litmus test to know if we are genuinely living the Simple Path led by the Holy Spirit is whether or not we find ourselves in a permanent state of deep repentance. A state in which we live knowing our misery and incapacity to love purely, and this deep sorrow in our hearts is expressed in continuous groans. When we sit before our Lord in Adoration, and the tears of our hearts swell to the surface because we are not capable of loving Him the way He deserves to be loved, nor do we have the capacity to love others unconditionally without the grace of God, then we have come to know the groans of Christ for us and can live His words, "Receive My tears."

The spirit of love versus the spirit of the world is the battle in each of us! All of us have the spirit of the world, and we also have the spirit of love. Perseverance in living the Simple Path takes us more and more out of the spirit of the world to live in the spirit of love. That is why we can never separate ourselves from humanity. We cannot read Galatians 5 and see others in the spirit of the world and ourselves in the category of the fruit of the spirit. This attitude is hypocrisy! We must live in the knowledge that the spirit of the world is in each of us and that even if we have significantly grown in the spirit of love, we can easily fall back into the spirit of the world because this is our misery.

These are some questions to help expose the condition of our hearts to ourselves. First, is it difficult for me to confront others with truth, to be sincere and transparent? If so, specifically with whom, and why? Second, when the sins and disorders in others wound me, do I feel intense sorrow for them, or is my tendency to judge, condemn, get angry, resentful, frustrated, or do I separate myself from them? This last question is fundamental! Am I able to see in myself the same sin by which the other person wounded me?

I had an anointed accompaniment with a sister in our community. She entered a deep wound caused by her boss at work. As she recalled how he had wounded her for so long, in his arrogance, pride, in seeking power, in his constant criticism of her, ignoring her, humiliating her, putting her down, she entered that wound profoundly. She entered her disordered tendencies through which she had responded to that wound. Then came the most extraordinary grace of the Holy Spirit in this accompaniment; she looked at me with tears in her eyes and said, "Lourdes, that same sin I've been so wounded by has also been my sin. I did the same thing years ago at work to others. I was full of pride; I was full of wanting power. I was controlling and harsh with others." Then she entered the

groans and the tears of repentance. You see, my family, when we're able to see our sin in the same sin that pierced us through the actions of others, and we are confronted with the patience, the kindness, the goodness, the mercy that God has had with us, then we can process that wound and sin. With the fruit of the Holy Spirit, we can love that person who wounded us also by having patience, gentleness, tenderness, and kindness.

This beautiful sister in the community looked at me with tears and said, "Lourdes, how can it be that I have been in this community for so many years, and I did not see this in my heart, this wound, the infection, my disorders? I can speak to other community members, and I can guide them and accompany them and give them all this light, yet I didn't see it!"

This is what happens to all of us. When we are in pain, as in labor pains, we need a coach because we don't see our disordered tendencies in the pit of our wound. That's why we need community and accompaniment to help us see what we cannot see. That is one of the most beautiful graces God has given this community.

As Mothers and Missionaries of the Cross, we have been entrusted with a prophetic mission. Jesus has asked us to pray for others, warn them, and bring to light the darkness that Satan wants to keep hidden. Ezekiel 33:7-9 is critical to understanding this mission; ponder it carefully in prayer:

So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. 8 If I say to the wicked, O wicked man, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. 9 But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way; he shall die in his iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

I shudder to think of myself. Every time I read this Scripture, I come to tears because I must look at myself honestly before God. Have I been faithful to the solemn words spoken to me? Have I warned the people He has wanted me to warn, or have I backed off as a coward because of fear of being rejected or misunderstood?

In the year 2010, on Memorial Day, the Lord gave me a severe message to the United States of America. He said:

You, My nation of the United States of America, have forsaken Me, your God. You have made materialism your god. You have made yourselves your own God. You have slaughtered My innocent little ones, and their precious blood cries out to Me. You have turned your face from Me. Now I will turn My face from you during the time of the great chastisement. My daughter, raise up My army of holy ones. You must speak My words of warning, for I, your Lord and your God, love you. You must tell them to open their eyes to Love Crucified, to unite themselves to Love Crucified; for it is only in this way that the power of My Cross will triumph over the evil that prevails.

The Lord has asked you and me to raise this little army to fight this decisive battle. In 2011 Jesus said:

You will go out with Fr. Jordi to speak the truth of all that I tell you, warning My people and calling them to repentance before the time of My visitation. You will call them to enter the safety of My Cross, which is the only place they are safe from the darkness that surrounds them and wants to consume them.

In 2011 our Lord asked me to read Jeremiah 6. Then He said:

My daughter, it is time for all My chosen prophets to come to the light. You have been chosen, hand-picked by the Father, for these decisive times. I lament the justice of God before you. The time of the great and horrible destruction is near, yet few are prepared. My chosen prophets will suffer greatly. Are you willing to speak My words, My daughter? Are you willing to be crucified as ONE with Me? The time is near, yet the world sleeps. My chosen sons called to shepherd My people to safety slumber in the sin of their sloth and arrogance. My daughter, the path to new life is very narrow. It is the wood of My Cross. I desire for you and Father to warn My people, especially My sons, of the destruction that is at hand and call them to awaken through repentance of their many sins. Call them to be My victims of love. Call them to martyrdom for love of Me. Call them to holiness. My daughter, few will listen; but you are called to be My voice in this wilderness.

Have Father and I been obedient to this call from the Lord? Have you? In 2010 the Lord spoke of the Missionaries of the Cross, and He said:

They will bring to light the darkness hidden deep in the hearts of My chosen sons. They will preach My love and mercy while there is still time, calling each of them to repentance.

Finally, I want to end with a message given to the Community of Love Crucified in 2012 on the feast of St Paul of the Cross. The Lord said:

I have formed you (speaking of Love Crucified), trained you, dressed you to be My prophets of light to warn and awaken My people before the horrible day of judgment comes down upon you. There will be wailing, groaning, and grinding of teeth in your streets. The darkness of evil will cover you. Be prepared when these things happen that I speak to you about. Do not let the thief catch you unprepared. Believe, you are My people, My little ones, held in the Father's palm. Believe that I am one with you, the light in the world, My living hosts. Believe so that My Light can shine through you to penetrate the darkness consuming the world. Believe in the Power of God working through His hidden force.

Love and continue to suffer ALL, as one with Me in My sacrifice of love, to enter prepared with God's armor the fiercest battle that is at hand. Do not be ashamed of My words (Mark 8: 38) and share the treasure of Heaven that has been entrusted to you (The Simple Path to Union with God) with many. Complete My Path and, as My Heralds of Hope, teach it from the housetops. This is your mission. Respond with great zeal and courage of heart, as My warriors of love, for these decisive times.

The Lord wanted this message to come at the end of the teaching because, for us to speak the truth as St. Paul did, as Jesus did, which can be very difficult to speak and hard to hear, we have to be men and women who mourn. First, we must be men and women who groan our repentance; we must be men and women living in the spirit of love, so like St. Paul, when we warn and awaken people, it is from the spirit of love, not the spirit of the world.

I end this teaching with a prayer:

My Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner. Please have mercy on each of us, your little ones. Thank you for choosing each of us, knowing that we are the “ANAWIMS,” knowing the immensity of our weaknesses. Thank you for leading us through this most incredible path, which is the blessing we have received from You. Receive our tears of repentance as a community, first and foremost for ourselves. Through these tears, my Jesus, grant us courage during these times, the courage that comes in loving You and loving souls, the courage that will take us to die, to desire the Cross as one with You, solely for the salvation of others. I beg You, grant us courage. Amen.

The Blood of Christ, United with His Martyrs of Love, Will Save the World

Oct. 22

Lourdes Pinto & Fr. Jordi Rivero

Message from the Lord:

Be attentive when the Lord uses the pronoun “you,” for He is speaking to all of us.

You are My beloved spouse of My Most Precious Blood. It is My Blood that refreshes the soul and brings forth new life in the Spirit. My little one, My Blood, poured out for mankind, has been trampled on. It has not been received as My gift of Myself to humanity. At every Mass, My Blood is present to you (pl.), to receive into your own hearts. This Blood is the power of My love for you (pl.). This Blood is sacred, for it is the Blood of the Lamb of God who voluntarily laid down His life for you (pl) so that you can be free. Yet My Blood has not been received. Your tears are one with My tears and Mary’s, for the wrath of God is upon the earth. My Blood saves, restores, heals, and brings forth new life. Yet the world has chosen to give their good God the blood of the most innocent, My little ones in the wombs of their mothers, and the blood of the slaughtered innocent ones on the streets of the world. This is the blood of (the victims of) Satan, the blood (shed on account) of evil. You have been chosen by the Father to bring to God the blood of My martyrs of love; the blood shed with tears of pure love as one with Me. This blood hidden to the world has the power to cast out evil and usher in the reign of peace. Continue to unite these pure martyrs of My Divine Love to save the world from utter destruction.

When the Lord placed in my heart these words, “the blood of the slaughtered innocent ones on the streets of the world,” a flash came to me where I saw children of all ages killed in the streets throughout the world. I saw human trafficking, all the innocent ones that have been taken and killed. I saw families and people in their neighborhoods and towns being attacked by terrorists and so many other atrocities against many innocent ones.

The power of the Blood of Christ

I want to focus on the beginning of the message, where Jesus speaks about His Blood. He describes how His blood refreshes the soul and brings forth new life in the Spirit. He says that His Blood is the power of His love. This brought me back to last week’s teaching that focused on St Paul’s words to the Galatians in Chapter 5, where he differentiates between the spirit of love (which is the fruit of the Holy Spirit) and the spirit of the world. These both live within us, and it is the power of Christ, the power of His Precious Blood, that brings us to new life in the Spirit.

After receiving these words during Holy Communion, I prayed intently on His message to us. I started to pray with all my heart, with all my strength, with all my energy, with all my mind, believing in the power of the Blood of Christ that I had just received. I begged the Holy Spirit with the power of Christ’s Blood to pierce the spirit of the world within me and to pierce the spirit of judgment and all of the darkness that continues to live within me. I just started to pray, “Fill me with the spirit of Love.” I prayed every day, not only for myself but for each of you, for all my territory of souls, that through the power of the Blood of Christ, the power of His love, He grants us the grace to love, to be full of joy, to be full of peace, patience, kindness, goodness. I prayed that He keep us faithful to our vocations, faithful to the vows we’ve made; faithful to the covenant to be Mothers

and Missionaries of the Cross; to be tender and gentle, and to have self-control. This is the spirit of love.

It's beautiful how the Lord gives Himself, His Sacred Blood, to us. He is the Lamb of God who lays down His life for us to be free. What is freedom? In Galatians 5, St. Paul sums up freedom with one phrase: "love your neighbor as yourself." The whole focus and power of being God's victim souls is love.

Living Chalice

I invite you to go to the Path and read the section on how we are called to be Living Chalice. Through the Path, Our Lord is forming our hearts to be Living Chalice, to receive the life, Blood, and love of Jesus Christ within us. His Blood is then poured out from us, through our faculties, through our prayers, upon many souls.

Tears

The Lord mentions in this message tears, so I also exhort you to read the section in the Path on "tears." In our formation as Mothers and Missionaries of the Cross, tears are so important. Our Lord has repeatedly spoken to us throughout the years about the power that exists when we collect His tears and the tears of His Mother and unite our tears with His.

Father Jordi:

I am impressed that the Lord continues to speak to us about His Precious Blood shed for us. This is so important to understand, my dear family, because only His Blood gives us an understanding of the meaning of many words that are otherwise abused, such as fraternity, liberty, and equality. The French Revolution used these words to bring about massacres, the guillotine—the opposite of what God intends. These words can be easily manipulated by Satan to cover up his own work. The communists did the same thing in Cuba when they spoke about agrarian reforms for the poor and countless other empty promises. It is happening again now with ideologies that use these words.

To protect ourselves from the deception of Satan, we must anchor our lives on the Cross, keep our gaze fixed on Jesus so that we console and become one with His Heart that sheds so many tears for humanity. Only in Christ, with Christ, and through Christ can the human mind be freed from the oppression of the lies and movements that are seducing the masses and making people fall for ideologies. Christianity is not an ideology; it is a personal encounter with Christ. The more He enters our lives, as St. Paul tells us, the more we begin to see the power of the Holy Spirit working in us, drawing us into a deeper encounter with Jesus to the point where we are convicted in our consciences and our hearts that Jesus Christ is Lord! It is only in Him, anchored in Him and living in Him, that loving one another is real, for as we participate in the shedding of His Blood, we too become victim souls, one with our crucified Lord.

If we don't become one with the Victim as an oblation to the Father (which is what the Mass is all about), we reduce Christianity to another ideology of beautiful words. This is why the Lord is calling us to be victims of love, to be one with Him, through every single offering, every day in the particular circumstances of each of our lives. Suffer with Him, enter into His tears of sorrow for the brokenness of our own lives and the lives of others. We must live in the full understanding that only in Him, through Him, and with Him can we be lifted up from this oppression.

This past week, I had the opportunity to share with a group from Colombia about the importance of understanding the meaning of the Cross. I said that the Cross was a tool of torture invented by Satan. This is something Catholics need to understand as we fight the spiritual battle. The Cross was designed to hurt, humiliate, and destroy human beings. The Romans used it for that purpose. But Jesus, our Lord and Savior, entered as a man into the reality of the world, which is full of the works of Satan and evil, and He chose to love. He chose to be faithful to the Father, so Satan came against him with the Cross. But what happens? Jesus chooses to enter this battle. We see its depth in the account of Gethsemane, where He sweats Blood— that’s how serious this battle is for Jesus. He does not spare himself the agony. He perseveres, choosing to love as He faces the Cross and all that it represents, the sin, the evil of humanity. Jesus’ Divine Love, lived out with a human heart, vanquishes Satan. Love triumphs over the power of evil that comes in the form of the Cross.

Jesus, by embracing the Cross in love and fidelity to the Father, transforms the Cross into a trophy. Remember that passage in the Gospel where the strong man comes and takes the weapons of the enemy that he vanquished and makes them his own? So did Jesus when He took the Cross and made it our path to victory over Satan. The Cross is not only a trophy or a symbol; it is the only way for us and the Church to be transformed in Christ. Through our embracing our crosses, we make it our trophy also.

This battle continues as the Cross comes to us in different forms and appearances, but it’s the same Cross of Jesus, and it’s the same Satan attacking us. It can come through somebody who defames us, steals from us, hurts us, or hurts someone in our family. All forms of evil that we have to face are the Cross. We must remember to profess our faith in Jesus Christ and the power of the victorious Cross of Jesus Christ.

So, the Cross is a confrontation between good and evil that we must face. We are on the side of evil when we crucify others, and we are on the side of Christ when we suffer the Cross united with Him. Pope Benedict states this clearly: We are saved not by what the evil people did to Jesus, for that’s Satan’s work; what saves us is the love of Christ facing that evil and conquering it. We can’t run away from the Cross, but we would be defeated if we faced it alone. We need to identify our crosses as opportunities to enter a closer union with Jesus and His Body, the Church. Trust in His power to draw good for us and many. We battle united with the Church to receive the strength of the Body of Christ. This is what St. Paul calls the power of the Cross. This battle implies a willingness to suffer and give our lives –one with Christ. But this is not the common understanding that people have of Christianity. We want Jesus to spare us having to go into battle. This is the great deception.

Jesus reveals His Heart

St Margaret Mary Alacoque

As I was reflecting on all this, the Lord gave me two messages that are well known (but which I had never put together). The first one, from the 17th century, is from Jesus to St. Margaret Mary. Jesus reveals His heart to her. What does it mean to reveal your heart? It is the most intimate act of self-disclosure and self-giving, making you totally vulnerable to being judged and betrayed. That is why we guard our hearts, and they can become hearts of stone.

St. Margaret, while the Blessed Sacrament was exposed, saw Jesus with His five wounds resplendent in glory. He then revealed to her to what excess He loved men, from whom He receives **only ingratitude and contempt. Jesus said: I feel this more than all that I suffered during My**

Passion.³ Please take note: Jesus suffers more due to our ingratitude and contempt than from His physical pain.

Jesus then said:

If only they would make some return for my love, I should think but little of all I have done for them and would wish, were it possible, to suffer still more.

How unfathomable is His love! This is a lover that wants our love even if He had to suffer more, but you see, we don't think this way. We think about Jesus, the Savior who protects me, who takes care of me, who's going to resolve my problems, and who gives me all I need.

Then he pleads with St. Margaret and each of us who receives this message: You at least console me by supplying for their ingratitude as far as you are able. **At least you love me. At least you console me.** It's basically the same message given to our sister Lourdes.

We may ask, "Jesus, You're God; you've got everything; why would you want my love?" We don't understand. He goes on to say:

The sole return they make for all my eagerness to do them good is to reject me and treat me with coldness.

Now we are faced with two possibilities: we are moved by this, or we remain indifferent and continue the anguish of the Lord. Do you see how simple it is? It's a love affair, my family. And here Christianity finds its essence; it's all about a God who has madly fallen in love with His creatures and wants them to return His love. So, it's not about multiplying activities and doing more novenas. It's about giving Him our Love by choosing to love Him in each circumstance of our life, with each thorn we receive, as we face injustices and struggle in our daily sufferings as one with Christ. The Holy Spirit shows us how to do that.

Our Lady of Fatima to Lucia

The second message that came to me was from Mary to Lucia at Fatima. Look at the parallel. As Jesus held His Heart, showing it to St. Margaret in Fatima the Blessed Virgin rested her hand on Lucia's shoulder while with the other hand, she showed her heart encircled with thorns. Mary had with her the child Jesus who tells Lucia: "Have compassion on the heart of your Most Holy Mother covered with thorns with which ungrateful men pierce it at every moment, with no one to make an act of reparation to remove them." And then the Blessed Mother says: "Look my daughter at my heart, surrounded with thorns with which ungrateful men pierce me every moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude." Now listen to what she asks St. Lucia: "You at least try to console me." The same thing that Jesus asked St. Margaret 300 years before. Jesus wants to be consoled, the Blessed Mother wants to be consoled, and it's not because they're wimps. It's because they love us so much, and their hearts that make themselves vulnerable, exposed for us to see, cannot become one with ours unless we are moved to console, to gratitude, to stop worrying about suffering, and be willing to embrace suffering.

In the 21st century, the Lord continues to show us His tears and the Blood that He has shed. Look at Jesus and Mary; find them in the faces of those suffering. He urges us to respond because He loves us so much and sees us on the verge of a precipice and is warning us of the drama, of a battle unleashed on the world right now. On our part, it may seem as if we can't do anything to

³ <https://indefenseofthecross.com/sacred-heart-apparition/>

change the outcome, but we hold the power of the Cross. As St Paul says, “It’s a mystery that was hidden for all ages.” It’s still madness and scandal, but for us, it’s the power of God and the wisdom of God. This will be the victory over all the world’s darkness; a victory reserved only for martyrs, some by shedding blood, others, like Mary, with the martyrdom of the heart.

The cross is the power that Satan brought against Jesus. Jesus defeated Him and transformed the Cross into His sign of victory, yet many remain oppressed, distant from Christ and the Cross, seeking to “be safe” from suffering. With the revelation of their hearts and their pleading for love, Jesus and Mary want to set our hearts on fire as He said: “I came to set fire upon the world, and I wish it was already ablaze.” What is the fire that Jesus Christ wants to set upon the world? It’s the fire of His Sacred Heart. It sets us ablaze with the desire to respond to His crucified love, to be one with His love, His desire, His longings. This fire is consumed at the Cross. Fire burns; there is suffering as it purifies desires and attachments to free us to be solely Christ.

The Pope and Remaining in the Bark

Nov. 5

Fr. Jordi Rivero

There is much confusion regarding the type of assent to the declaration of a pope that the Catholic faith requires of the faithful. The Catechism teaches us that there are different types of papal statements:

1– “Infallible definitions.” To these, we give the assent of faith.

2– The “ordinary Magisterium.” These are teaching that “without arriving at an infallible definition and without pronouncing in a “definitive manner” they propose in the exercise of the ordinary Magisterium a teaching that leads to better understanding of Revelation in matters of faith and morals.” “The faithful are to adhere to it with religious assent which, though distinct from the assent of faith, is nonetheless an extension of it. (CCC 892)

3–The third kind of statement is those that are not part of the Magisterium. These are not presented as formal teachings in matters of faith and morals. They are the Pope’s views on pastoral or social issues which should be considered respectfully but do not call for the assent of faith or religious assent. In other words, they need to be discerned and the faithful may disagree.

But what about when the Pope openly shows support for pastoral initiatives that contradict Church teaching, for example, homosexual activity? That would not be part of the Magisterium, but we must not react to the confusion by closing our hearts to everything that such a Pope teaches. The Catholic doctrine on the supreme authority of the Pope in matters of faith and morals remains true with popes that make confusing statements when speaking the third type of statement.

Jesus gave Peter the keys, then severely rebuked him for holding on to a human way of thinking but did not revoke his call. Then, although Peter denied him, the resurrected Jesus confirmed him again in his call.

Let us be clear: If we only accept the popes we like, we have become judges over the Church and are not trusting the Holy Spirit.

The temptation toward schism

St. Ignatius teaches that the devil is a brilliant strategist. He studies our defenses to discover our weak points and what doors are easiest to pry open to enter our hearts. If we are firmly pro-life, he will not attack us there. He knows where we hurt and what is disturbing us, and that is where his lies are most effective. He will tempt us to react to the trials we face without trusting God.

Today we suffer the trial of wolves ravaging the flock while shepherds fail to defend it and, in many cases, enable the wolves. As a result, many Catholics who not long ago would say, “to be faithful to Christ, one must be with the Pope,” now reject the authority of the Pope. What happened? They were ready to battle against the world but not to be wounded by the shepherds within. Satan then sets the trap by offering false solutions, such as blaming the Second Vatican Council⁴ and doubting the validity of the pope. It is characteristic of this position to resist referring to him as pope, calling him only “Bergolio.”

⁴ <https://www.catholicworldreport.com/2020/07/01/analysis-as-archbishop-vigano-denounces-vatican-ii-the-vatican-is-not-speaking>.

Schisms often begin as reactions to something in the Church that needs correction. If we do not suffer it united with Christ, our hearts get infected with contempt, resentment, and condemnation. Luther protested against the abuses and corruption among the Church's shepherds, but pride blinded him and led him to make himself the judge of how reform should take place. The result was the great schism that remains to this day.

If our shepherds cause us wounds, we are tempted to find satisfaction when they are vilified. We then spread the poison. **St. Teresa of Avila** advises to **“never affirm anything unless you are sure it is true.”**⁵ But even if we were certain, does the Lord want me to judge in this matter, to dwell on it, to propagate it?

The saints see what is wrong in the Church and suffer for it. St Paul confronted Peter but continued to recognize him as head of the Church. He remained focused on the mission that God had given him so that God could bring about true renewal through him.

When Mother Theresa was asked: “What would you do to improve the Church?” Her answer was: **“I would change myself.”** This is what Jesus taught: First, we must remove the beam from our eye and come to self-knowledge and knowledge of Him. Then God will work through us as He pleases. The saints prove that no crisis in the Church can stop us from becoming saints if we have faith. St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross wrote, “We can turn evil into an opportunity for purification.”

The Lord has called us in our community to **be victim souls for our shepherds**. We believe in the power of suffering for them united with Christ.

- We love the Pope.
- We assent to what pertains to the Magisterium.
- We do not judge as if we were a superior authority. We try to understand, and if we cannot reconcile the Pope's words with Catholic doctrine, we allow our hearts to be pierced; we remain faithful to the truth.

St. Cyprian, Father of the Church, wrote:

If a man does not hold fast to this oneness of Peter, does he imagine that he still holds the faith? If he deserts the Chair of Peter upon whom the Church was built, has he still confidence that he is in the Church?⁶

We can learn from saints who had a prophetic message for a pope.

God the Father told **St. Catherine of Siena** regarding the shepherds of the Church:

You must not reverence them for themselves but for the authority I have entrusted to them. Therefore, you must not sin against them because if you do, you are really sinning not against them but against me. This I have forbidden, and I have said that it is my will that no one should touch them.

For this reason, no one has an excuse to say, “I am doing no harm, nor am I rebelling against the Holy Church. I am simply acting against the sins of evil pastors.” Such persons are deluded, blinded as they are by their own selfishness... It is me they assault, just as it was me

⁵ Complete Works, Vol 3, 256.

⁶ St. Cyprian, bishop of Carthage, "On the Unity of the Catholic Church", n. 4; The Faith of the Early Fathers, Vol. 1, pp. 220-221

they revered. To me redounds every assault they make on my ministers: derision, slander, disgrace, abuse. Whatever is done to them, I count as done to me....

The virtuous must not lessen their reverence, even should these ministers fall short in virtue. And so far as the virtues of my ministers are concerned... [they are] stewards of...my Son's body and blood and of the other sacraments. This dignity belongs to all who are appointed as such stewards, to the bad as well as to the good.

You should hold [these sinful ministers] out to me with tears and great desire, so that I in my goodness may clothe them with the garment of charity... Indeed, I have appointed them and given them to you to be angels on earth...as I have told you. When they are less than that, you ought to pray for them. But you are not to judge them. Leave the judging to me, and I, because of your prayers and my own desire, will be merciful to them.

The more you offer me sorrowful and loving desires for them, the more you will prove your love for me. For the service neither you nor my other servants can do for me, you ought to do for them instead. Then I will let myself be constrained by the longing and tears and prayers of my servants and will be merciful to my bride by reforming her with good and holy shepherds.

Mark Mallet, in his article entitled "This is a Test," argues that our Catholicity is being tested:

- **If you have lost your peace** over anything happening in Church today, you are failing the test. Our peace comes from trust in Jesus, who is the Lord of history and is with us in all trials... Phil 4,6: "Have no anxiety at all."

- **If you think that the Second Vatican Council, the Novus Ordo Mass, or any of the magisterial teachings since St. Pope John XXIII** are the cause of the upheaval, you are failing the test. Our Catholic faith teaches us that the Holy Spirit guides all the Councils of the Church. There may be many controversies in them, but the result is Christ's teaching to His Bride. In addition, Pope John XXIII, Pope Paul VI, and Pope John Paul II—the great defenders of the Council, are canonized saints, a further sign of God's approval upon their Magisterium.

- **If you say that the hierarchy is destroying the Church**, you are forgetting the promise of Jesus: Mt 16:18: "I will build my Church and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it." Shepherds have an important mission, and they can do much harm if they are unfaithful, but the Lord will always prevail.

- **If you are judging the Pope, you are failing the test.** The Pope can make mistakes, we may disagree on things that are not defined by the Magisterium, but we owe him the respect of his office as the vicar of Christ. It would be our loss if we ignored the immense richness of his teachings because there are some that we struggle with.

- **If you have said that Pope Francis is a false pope** and the real one is Benedict XVI, you are failing the test. The pope emeritus wrote: "it's actually a straightforward matter... no one has tried to blackmail me. If that had been attempted, I would not have gone since you are not permitted to leave because you're under pressure. It's also not the case that I would have bartered or whatever. On the contrary, the moment had—thanks be to God—a sense of having overcome the difficulties and a mood of peace. A mood in which one really could confidently pass the reins over to the next person."⁷

⁷ Benedict XVI, Last Testament in His Own Words, with Peter Seewald; p. 24 (Bloomsbury Publishing)

Cardinal Sarah: “The truth is that the Church is represented on earth by the Vicar of Christ, the Pope. And whoever is against the Pope is, *ipso facto*, outside the Church.”⁸

Pope Francis: “We need to take up the spiritual means that the Lord himself teaches us: humiliation, self-accusation, prayer, and penance. This is the only way to overcome the spirit of evil. It is how Jesus himself overcame it.”

Message from Jesus to Love Crucified Community:

*Your power of intercession lies in your willingness to suffer ALL that I permit in your lives as ONE in My sacrifice of love. Your prayers receive the full power of the Holy Spirit in your abandonment to suffer all with Me. As you trust in My love manifested in My great suffering for you, you enter into the mystery of suffering for Love. These are My little victim souls of love that God is raising up to defeat the forces of darkness. Pray with Mary for many more souls to respond to the trumpet call from heaven. Pray for trust in my love for you to be solid, unshakable. Pray for perseverance for all My victim souls as they are being sent into the battlefield to wage this great battle for souls. Pray for purity of heart so that Satan cannot deceive you. Know that you are My Mother’s white army of victim souls for these decisive times. Pray with My Mother through the power of the oblation of your lives united in My perfect sacrifice of love. **Your faith is your protection against the deception of Satan.** 10/31/14*

God has given us a mission, a way of life. It may appear insignificant, like a mustard seed, but if we believe, we will move mountains. For years the Lord has been telling us about the power of a victim soul united to Him, the power of our ordinary life, and the little things done for love as ONE with Him.

The Catechism regarding the Pope

882. The Pope, Bishop of Rome and Peter’s successor, “is the perpetual and visible source and foundation of the unity both of the bishops and of the whole company of the faithful.” “For the Roman Pontiff, by reason of his office as Vicar of Christ, and as pastor of the entire Church has full, supreme, and universal power over the whole Church, a power which he can always exercise unhindered.”

937. The Pope enjoys, by divine institution, “supreme, full, immediate, and universal power in the care of souls” (CD 2).

2034. The ordinary and universal Magisterium of the Pope and the bishops in communion with him teach the faithful the truth to believe, the charity to practice, the beatitude to hope for.

⁸ Corriere della Sera, October 7th, 2019; americamagazine.org

Christ's Crusade of Victim Souls vs. Satan's New World Order Do Not Be Afraid – I

Nov. 19

Lourdes Pinto

I'd like to begin by reading today's Gospel:

Luke 19:41-44:

When He approached Jerusalem, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, "If you had known on this day, even you, the conditions for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes. For the days will come upon you when your enemies will put up a barricade against you, and surround you and hem you in on every side, and they will level you to the ground, and throw down your children within you, and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation.

During Holy Week 2013, our Lord said:

My little one, the time has come. The principalities of darkness will consume the face of the earth. Jerusalem will weep, for she failed to recognize the time of her visitation. All will suffer; many will be lost. It is time for you to get up and walk with Me, for I have prepared you to enter this battle. You will hold tight the sword I have placed in your hands. This is the sword that Satan fears; My sword of righteousness.

(I asked the Lord, "How am I going to fight in this battle? I do not understand what these words mean...") The Lord said, In the same way, I conquered this battle—through the power of the Cross. My Cross is the sword of righteousness, and everyone that enters in it (conquers) with the power of God.

In 1978 St. John Paul II gave us some prophetic words for the time we have now entered, "We are now standing in the face of the greatest historical confrontation humanity has gone through." (Path p.409) How significant those words are! For years the Lord has been speaking to this community and anyone willing to listen, calling this battle the decisive battle, the fiercest battle.

John Paul II goes on to say:

I do not think that wide circles of American society or wide circles of the Christian community realize this fully. We are now facing the final confrontation between the Church and anti-Church, of the Gospel versus the anti-Gospel. We must be prepared to undergo great trials in the not-too-distant future, [That future has now come, my community], trials that will require us to be ready to give up even our lives and a total gift of self to Christ and for Christ. Through your prayers and mine, it is possible to alleviate this tribulation, but it is no longer possible to avert it. How many times has the renewal of the Church been brought about in blood! It will not be different this time.

How sad, all of us are suffering the condition we see in the world and the country of the United States. But the greatest suffering for all of us in this community is to see the condition of the Church, the Body of Christ. How sad that the hierarchy of the Church — many bishops and cardinals — have forsaken the Lord, have betrayed him like Judas, and have left us, the sheep, to be attacked by the wolves. Yet we remain in the barque of Peter because God is sustaining and shepherding us. He has a plan in this great darkness, as He has told us many times: I AM making ALL things new. Do we believe as we look at everything falling apart around us?

In 2013, the Lord said:

Come, My little one, and be My companion of love. Be with your God and Savior as I enter My agony again. The time has come when the Father will turn his gaze from the world. My Mother and I will cry for you (humanity). Who will remain faithful during the great and terrible persecution? Remain with Me and collect My tears to present them to the Father...

I have spent many days pondering the stained glass of the Pieta in our chapel. I ponder every morning the passion that the Church has entered again. When the Lord walked on earth, He was not only betrayed by Judas, but He was also betrayed by the religious officials, the Pharisees, and the Scribes. But not all betrayed Him. Some were his friends; some were faithful to Christ, but most put him to death. The Gospel of John, Chapter 6, tells us clearly that when Jesus spoke about the Bread of Life is His Body and Blood, almost all His disciples abandoned Him. Many enthusiastic followers of Jesus wanted to see miracles. Palm Sunday was filled with 'alleluias.' Then came the great confusion, the great deception, false witnesses that the Pharisees solicited against Christ. So many ordinary people believed the deception, believed the lies and also left.

We have begun the agony of Christ again. He is being betrayed again by the Church officials, bishops, cardinals, priests, and laypeople. Many have left. Many have believed the lies, deception, and even many good Catholics now want to leave the barque of Peter. They do not want to accept the Pope because he has said many things that have alarmed them and have caused great confusion in the Church.

So yes, my family, the agony of Christ has begun again. As I ponder the Pieta and see all that is happening around us, I contemplate our Blessed Mother. I ponder her silence when the Passion begins, her focus; she remains with Him, suffering with Christ. She remains, believing in all the Lord's words to her throughout His life. She ponders and keeps everything in her Heart. She does not forget. She believes that her Son, with Abba Father and the Holy Spirit, are making all things new in this darkness. Therefore, I choose through the grace of God during this great darkness to remain with our Blessed Mother, suffering with Christ, pondering, and believing in all the words He has spoken to us, to form us, to enable us to persevere, to strengthen us, to transform us for these times. I pray with all my heart that you, my sons and daughters, will remain and that we will help one another as Mary helped St. John and Mary Magdalene and the few others to remain. The Lord has been preparing us for years for this great and terrible persecution. The 3rd nail of crucifixion in our Path is the nail of persecution. This is significant; I realize now what I didn't years ago; we will live the persecution! And the Path has been preparing us—for the 3rd nail of persecution, which is total union with Love crucified.

In 2011 the Lord spoke for the first time of a **new world order**. I had no idea what that meant. I had never heard that phrase. This is what the Lord said:

I want the Love Crucified website used to help form My martyrs of love for the decisive battle at hand. There will be wailing and grinding of teeth, massive confusion, and desperation. This state of the world will open the doors for the new world order and then will begin the time of great darkness and persecution for all My followers.

In 2012, speaking again about this **new world order**, He said:

Satan is working to bring forth his new world order of destruction, but My crusade of victim souls will possess the power of God to crush the head of Satan. You are the heel of the Queen of Heaven and Earth. Continue giving your life daily for the mission I have entrusted to you... Do not lose hope in all that I have placed in your heart. My crusade of victim souls will have to suffer greatly and be formed to perfection in love to fight this fierce battle but know that My Cross has triumphed. Now, through this crusade, it needs to triumph in the hearts of My people. Persevere in love! Persevere in trust.

The Lord is preparing us to suffer greatly, but He's also saying that we have to be formed to perfection in love. The whole Path is our formation, our transformation into Love which is God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—because the only force that can fight this battle is “Divine Love.”

Satan has a hidden force. It's Free Masonry. It's the elite of the world (the Bill Gates, the Soros, the Rockefellers, Clintons), the hidden force that controls the world, the banking industry, big business, big pharma. The hidden force of Satan has lots of money; they are very, very powerful men and women; but the ways of God are not the ways of the world.

God has His hidden force also. God's **hidden force** is His crusade of victim souls. They are ordinary men and women—past, present, and future. The anawims, the little ones; the innocent and pure ones; the humble ones, who remain unseen. The world does not see us (Love Crucified). We are God's hidden force of victim souls. God is guaranteeing us the triumph of the Cross. This great battle has already been won by God's hidden force, which we are honored and privileged to have been chosen by God to be a part of. Jesus is our Commander in Chief. He is our King. He has been coming to this community speaking to us, forming us in the heart of the Church to be His warrior victim souls.

What an honor! How much joy should be in our hearts! We must not forget! We must remember! Remember... remember, my family! Remember!

Christ's Crusade of Victim Souls vs. Satan's New World Order, Be Not Afraid – II

Dec. 10

Lourdes Pinto

This is part II of the teaching, Christ's Crusade of Victim Souls v. Satan's New World Order, Be Not Afraid. Part I of the teaching focused on the first part of a message the Lord had given Love Crucified in 2019. It reflected how we must allow the Holy Spirit to destroy our plans, expectations, and perceptions. In Part II of the teaching, we will focus on the second part of this message from Our Lord, on entering the Mystery of Divine Love found and encountered in the Cross.

Message from September 30, 2019:

The Mystery of the Cross is unveiled to the pure and innocent of heart. Its meaning with its power and glory is known and understood by My little ones that approach Me with sincerity and simplicity of heart. Those that allow the Holy Spirit to destroy their plans, expectations, perceptions, and desires enter into the Mystery of Divine Love. My apostles at first could not receive the mystery of God's plan of salvation, which opens the passage to enter into God through His Son, because their desires and expectations kept their minds and hearts concealed to the knowledge of God's love, but when their expectations and desires were shattered, and their hearts were humbled in grief the Holy Spirit could begin to reveal to them the Mystery of Divine Love found and encountered in the Cross and through the Cross. Till this day, the Mystery of the Cross continues to be veiled to the majority of people because they are not willing to allow the Spirit to pierce through their pride, control, stubbornness, plans, and self. Continue to enter through the passage I have created for you with the innocence of My little ones, and receive the graces of Abba's love, protection in maintaining perfect peace, and the joy of the saints who live with perfect faith and hope in the knowledge of Divine Love. Once My apostles received the knowledge of My death and resurrection, they lived in the power of the Holy Spirit amidst great tribulations and darkness. Fear no longer had a hold on them. It is the same for you during these times of tribulations and great darkness – My hidden martyrs of love living in the knowledge of Divine Love through the Mystery of the Cross will shine like bright stars during the darkness of the great persecution. Persevere living as My hidden martyrs of the end times.

In the sentence, My Apostles at first could not receive the mystery of God's plan of salvation which opens the passage to enter into God through His Son, the Lord is telling us of His desire of love for us. God's plan of salvation not only desires to redeem us and forgive us our many sins, but God's plan of salvation also **opens the passage to enter into God through His Son.** This is truly amazing! The Love of God goes beyond just forgiving us. God's plan of salvation and His desire is to draw us into Himself, into the union of love of the Most Holy Trinity. The Lord then explains what was blocking the Apostles from receiving this mystery of Divine Love. He says, Their desires and expectations kept their mind and heart concealed to the knowledge of God's love.

Few people have fully received the love of God, the love of Abba Father, through Jesus Christ, and even fewer have lived in the knowledge of that love like Mary and Joseph lived. To live in the knowledge of God's love is to live more and more in the knowledge of who He is, to live as Mary

and Joseph lived. The Apostles were blocked from living in that knowledge because they were set on their plans and expectations. Our work in the Simple Path to Union with God must take us to the first nail of crucifixion, to the crucifixion of our plans, desires, and expectations so that we can enter the plan of God's salvation— enter His Divine Love.

How does God bring the Apostles to this realization? By allowing their plans and expectations to be shattered. This realization is what Jesus is describing to us in this message. Not until their expectations and desires were shattered, and their hearts were humbled in grief, not until they were brought down from their pride, from their set ways, could the Holy Spirit begin to reveal to them the mystery of Divine Love. And it will be the same with us.

We often hear about people who must first reach the lowest point in their lives before they can open themselves to receive the grace of God to lift them. This is something we often see with people who suffer from addictions. Like many of these souls, we can become stubborn, hardened, and resistant to cooperate with God's plan for our lives. This causes great suffering in the Heart of Our Father, for He doesn't want to see His children reach rock bottom, but it is sometimes the only way. This may be likened to the suffering we are now living in the world—God's immense love for humanity is bringing us to hit a certain rock bottom so that people's hearts can be opened to receive the mystery of Divine Love.

Jesus says something compelling to us in this message,

The Holy Spirit could begin to reveal to them the mystery of Divine Love found and encountered in the Cross and through the Cross.

These two paragraphs, when pondered with the Holy Spirit in prayer, reveal to us something beautiful: that the mystery of Divine Love and the mystery of the Cross is One. The mystery of Divine Love is the mystery of the Cross, and it is the mystery of the Cross, which is God's plan of salvation, that continues till today. Therefore, it is impossible to enter God outside of the mystery of the Cross. That is why St. Paul preached Jesus Crucified. Without entering Jesus Crucified, St. Paul could not be transformed nor enter into union with God and be able to say, "It is no longer I who live, but Christ Crucified who lives in me" (Galatians 2:20).

This reflection reminds me of the Lord's question in a message in 2019, "**Do you think that My death and resurrection were useless and powerless?**" Do we believe that God the Father loves us so much that He sacrificed His Son for us? That Jesus Christ loves us so much that He, being obedient to His Father, allowed the Holy Spirit to bring Him to be crucified for us? That God would go through such an extreme to save us, to draw us into His Divine Love? That Jesus Christ would pour out His Blood for the love of us and die for us? Do you believe that the love of God in Jesus crucified is present still and working powerfully in the world? Of course, it is! If we don't see it, if we doubt and do not trust, it is because we are not living in the mystery of Divine Love, in the mystery of the Cross.

As we come to live in the Divine Love of God, in the power of the mystery of the Cross, we increase in faith and hope so that even amid the darkness that Satan is working in the world, we remain in peace and even joy. We begin to see how God is making all things new. This knowledge is what pierces our fears, enabling us to move through them. The greatest fear we see during these times of tribulation is the fear that comes from doubt, the fear that comes from not believing in the mystery and power of the Cross. If we don't live in the knowledge of the power of God, of who He is, and how much He loves us, we are going to fall into doubt and be overwhelmed with fear because we are not going to believe that God is at work. Today, most people, including many Christians and Catholics, live in doubt and fear.

What does it mean to live in the mystery of the Cross? It's our Path. This is what I have learned from what our Lord taught us,

I choose to respond to the blessing, the invitation to be Christ's victim soul. I choose daily to receive the piercings of the brokenness of those I love and remain in the pain with Christ on the Cross as my prayer of intercession for my people. I choose to remain in silence, patience, gentleness, kindness, goodness, peace, faithfulness, and self-control against bitterness, anger, frustration, disappointment, and resentment. These choices constitute a life lived in the words of St. Paul in Galatians Chapter 5. Living in the spirit of love, I am lifted on the wings of the Holy Spirit through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ into Abba's embrace. I choose to remain in the process of allowing the Holy Spirit to break me of all that is not the image and likeness of God: my pride, harshness, selfishness, self-willfulness, criticisms, complaining, and judgments. Remaining with my Father, I choose to live my motherhood in Him.

What did we learn about the love of Abba Father in our retreat?

That Abba Father loves us, waits for us, and grieves for us. As Jesus and the Father are One, how can God the Father not live the sorrows of his children gone astray? Jesus reveals to us God the Father. Rembrandt's painting of the Prodigal Son is so anointed in how it allows us to enter the Heart of the Father to experience His waiting... His grief for the son that left... His forgiveness and generosity— His total gift of self to His son. That is how God the Father loves, and how I must choose to love in the same way — by waiting, waiting, waiting for the souls whom I love to return to their God, to return to the Church, waiting for my sanctification, waiting for the Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven... I, too, must live the martyrdom of the heart in the grief of God the Father by forgiving and suffering all with Jesus, and with a generosity of heart, continuing to pour myself out. This is the Path, living in the mystery of the Cross, the mystery of Divine Love. This is the Path, living in God's plan of salvation, in His Holy Will. The fruit of living in Divine Love is joy, peace, and courage.

How will we be God's army in these times, fighting the great battle against Satan and all his principalities, if we do not enter the Cross?

Here I must stop and reflect on our sister Macu, and her husband Jose, two beautiful examples of how we are called to be victims of love. I have had the honor of walking side-by-side with my sister and brother for two years. Shortly after being diagnosed with cancer, Jose entered Love Crucified as a Missionary of the Cross. The cancer was not part of their plan, not part of the expectations they had for their lives, yet I watched how Jose and Macu continuously crucified their expectations for their life and accepted the Will of God, His plan of salvation. And how did they do that? By living in the mystery of the Cross in the most hidden way.

They spent most of those two years hidden away in their apartment. Amid everything they were living, the Covid virus hit the world, forcing them to stay quarantined in their apartment, barely leaving their house. Yet it was there, just like in Bethlehem, just like in Nazareth, that Macu and Jose entered into Jesus Crucified with Mary and lived the martyrdom of the heart, abandoning themselves to the Will of God; and they began to be purified more and more. Hidden away in their little apartment, Macu began to see Jose being transformed and sanctified in this journey, to the point of dying a saint! He truly was one with Jesus crucified. His body was completely consumed. He

never complained in the two years of illness. All he wanted was to love Macu and live as a Missionary of the Cross.

United to St Joseph, Jose lived the beauty of silence! Macu shared an experience Jose had as she read a section of the Path on silence to him. With the grace of God, he entered a true silence in which he felt the deep embrace of the love of the Trinity. He shared that experience with Macu. Together they lived their martyrdom hidden from the world, yet the power of God in the mystery of the Cross of Divine Love was moving out from that little enclosed apartment to the whole world. Jose, now rejoicing in Heaven, has been shown the glory of the Cross that he chose by his suffering in love. “In love”—that is the key.

As they entered Divine Love in the mystery of the Cross, they were able to move through their fears. For Jose, it was the initial fear of what he would have to suffer physically and emotionally; Jose’s fear of leaving Macu, his wife, without him there to protect her and provide for her. They had to work through each of those fears. They could move through those fears, and those fears did not oppress them and bind them, because they were living in the mystery of the Cross and Divine Love; and that love moved them through the fear. It brought them courage, courage to embrace the Cross. For Jose, it was the daily courage to receive the physical pain and the courage of Macu to suffer with Jose. Every day, it took courage. That is how we are all called to live!

What a blessing for us to enter this teaching, remembering the witness of our brother Jose, a Missionary of the Cross. From the depth of my heart, I thank God for the grace of bringing Jose to our community. Before Jose left for heaven, I asked Macu to ask him, “Please, take us all with you to heaven. Please, don’t let us go. Please, help us through the Path!” I know that our beloved brother is with our deceased sister Monica, a Mother and Missionary of the Cross in Heaven, obtaining many graces for us. I pray, my family, that we, too, not allow fear to have a hold on us. Amen!

Fear No Longer Had a Hold on Them – III

Jan. 7, 2021

Lourdes Pinto

The third part of the teaching is entitled “Christ’s Crusade of Victim Souls Versus Satan’s New World Order.” We will begin by taking the last part of the message from 2019, in which our Lord deals with fear:

With the innocence of My little ones, continue to enter through the passage I have created for you and receive the graces of Abba’s love, protection in maintaining perfect peace, and the joy of the saints who live with perfect faith and hope in the knowledge of Divine Love. Once My apostles received the knowledge of My death and resurrection, they lived in the power of the Holy Spirit amidst great tribulations and darkness. **Fear no longer had a hold on them.** It is the same for you during these times of tribulations and great darkness – My hidden martyrs of love living in the knowledge of Divine Love through the Mystery of the Cross will shine like bright stars during the darkness of the great persecution. Persevere living as My hidden martyrs of the end times.

The Lord states, “Fear no longer had a hold on them.” By this, He doesn’t mean that we will no longer experience fear, but that our fears will no longer control us; Divine Love will begin to move us through our fears. Let us go back and review a few things from the first teaching we had in this series, “Christ’s Crusade of Victim Souls Vs. Satan’s New World Order—Do Not be Afraid.”

In the Simple Path (p.409), Saint John Paul II states:

We must be prepared to undergo great trials in the not-too-distant future, trials that will require us to be ready to give up even our lives, and a total gift of self to Christ and for Christ.

Are we ready to give up our lives? In 2013 the Lord asked us: **Who will remain faithful during the great and terrible persecution?** (p.126 Simple Path).

Through the Simple Path, the Lord has been preparing us, His little mustard seeds, and many others throughout the world to be faithful during the great persecution that is upon us. To remain faithful, we must pray daily for greater love—a love that will move us to be faithful.

In a message in 2012, the Lord said,

My crusade of victim souls will have to suffer greatly and be formed to perfection in love to fight this fierce battle but know that My Cross has triumphed.

Are we ready to suffer greatly and remain faithful? Are we persevering in allowing the Lord to form and perfect us in love through the Simple Path? This, my family, is where the Path takes us.

In Matthew 14:22-33, we find the story of Jesus walking on water. His disciples are in a boat when a great storm comes. The disciples enter great fear because the boat is in danger of sinking and may drown. During this terrifying experience, Jesus appears walking on water. Thinking He’s a ghost, they cry out in fear, but Jesus tells them, “**Take heart, it is I; have no fear.**” (verse 27)

Peter responds, saying, “**Lord, if it is You, bid me come to You on the water.**”

Jesus says, ‘**Come,**’ so Peter gets out of the boat, walks on water, and comes to Jesus. But when Peter feels the wind, he becomes afraid and begins to sink. When he cries out, “**Lord, save me,**” Jesus immediately reaches out His hand and catches him, saying to him, “**O man of little faith, why did you doubt?**” O man, O woman of little faith, why do you doubt? You see, fear and doubt go hand in hand. I remember hearing a priest give a homily in which he compared this Gospel to what a racecar driver once told him. He explained that there are two rules all racecar drivers follow. The first is this: When you’re driving close to the wall, do not look at the wall, or chances are you will hit it. Keep your eyes on where you want to go. The second rule is this one: If there is a crash, don’t look at the crash, but stay focused on where you want to go.

When Peter looked at the storm and away from Jesus, he sank. We, too, can be tempted to move our gaze from Jesus and focus on many other things: the Covid 19 pandemic, the many serious problems existing around the world, the new radical left government that was elected in the United States whose cabinet is filled with many liberal, anti-Christian (especially anti-Catholic). All around us is deep darkness, not only in the United States but worldwide. Soon, many of us may have to face religious persecution as our religious freedoms are clearly at stake. Therefore, we very easily may become distracted and focus on the crash, darkness, and storms and lose focus on Jesus.

Our Lord gave these words on December 27, 2020, preparing us for what is coming. This message is a warning and a message of great hope. Allow these words to enter profoundly into your hearts.

My little one, My Passion has begun again for My Body, the Church. It is a time of **intense silence and suffering**. My Body, too, will be stripped of all her earthly glory. She, too, will be made naked before the world. Her members living the Passion as one with Me, her Head, will obtain my Body's sanctification. Her glory will shine like the radiance of the sun through the purity of its few victims of love, and these few, united as one in My sacrifice of love, will usher in the **new dawn** for My Church and world. **Know that I have found favor with you** and my little mustard seed of Love Crucified. Persevere in My Love crucified.

The Lord is letting us know that now it is time for His Body, the Church, to enter her Passion and that the Church will be stripped as we already see happening. Like the race car driver, Our Lord exhorts us to remain focused on the new dawn that is coming and not on the crash, not on the storm we see before us. He again tells us He has found favor with us. Let those words be our strength as they were to Mary. The moment our gaze turns away from Jesus, like Peter, we will doubt, and the darkness will overwhelm us.

A few years ago, I gave three-part teaching entitled, “Faith—Do I Believe?” in which I spoke about how the Israelites, upon entering the great persecution, became so scared in the great battle that in their fear, they forgot the power of God who was with them. I recall asking the Lord, “What is a disordered desire?” And the Lord said, “Anything that takes your gaze from Me.”

The words of the Lord, “**it is a time of intense silence and suffering,**” have been a guiding light and words I feel we all should take to heart as well. After receiving this message from the Lord, I felt that our ministry would change. I see this is already the case in Love Crucified, as we can no longer have retreats or minister as we have in the past. When Jesus entered His Passion, His ministry changed. He entered a time of intense silence as He entered His suffering for love, as He entered the mystery of the Cross. I believe we are being called to enter this time in greater focus and intense silence so we can suffer well, for the battle has begun.

When the race driver was asked by the priest, “Then why are there so many accidents?” He answered, “Because they succumb to the TEMPTATION to look at the wall or the accident.”

We too must battle the temptation to focus on all the evil around us, for it will bring us to doubt who we are and to forget that God is with us. I was speaking to a friend this week, a consecrated woman who had recently gotten Covid. She had been 11 days quarantined in her bedroom, unable to receive Jesus sacramentally. Her doctor, a highly esteemed physician, had told her that if she had no symptoms after ten days, she was safe to come out of quarantine, but her superior told her to wait 12 days. At the time of our conversation, she was feeling great! She was feeling strong, full of energy, like herself again. She was set to end the quarantine until she received a call from a woman friend, a doctor, advising her to remain quarantined in her room for at least three weeks to ensure she would not infect others. These words affected her, causing her great anxiety, doubt, and fear as my friend seriously considered extending her quarantine yet again.

As we began to speak, she came in touch with deep fear in her heart, the fear of being rejected by her sisters when she went out of the bedroom and the fear that they would be afraid to get close to her. That fear was so strong in her heart, yet she was not consciously aware of it. That fear was enough to have her stay in her bedroom, away from the Eucharist. That is what fear does to us; it paralyzes us, makes us lose our objectivity, and lose trust. Once she could confront her fear and process it, she felt liberated. Fear is an oppression of Satan. She decided to come out of quarantine that day, and it was a wonderful day! She went to Mass and received the Eucharist. Her sisters were so happy to receive her.

The call she received from her doctor friend that day was a temptation from Satan. He will tempt us, for he knows our human condition and our fears. We all fear; even Our Lord feared. I’ve been reading a little bit every day from The Dolorous Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ by Anne Catherine Emmerich ever since our Blessed Mother told us to focus and pray every day on the Passion for saving souls. This is what I recently read about Jesus having to move through His fear.

When our Redeemer, on Mt. Olivet, was pleased to experience and overcome that violent repugnance of human nature to suffering and death which constitutes a portion of all sufferings, the tempter was permitted to do to him what he does to all men who desire to sacrifice themselves in a holy cause.

Jesus Christ also had to overcome the violent repugnance, the fear He had of suffering on the Cross. We see this very clearly in Luke chapter 22:42. Jesus prays, “Father, if you are willing, remove this chalice from me,”; yet love moves him through the fear. The second part of Jesus’ prayer affirms the power of His love, His courageous obedience to the Father, “. . .nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.”

The words of Bl. Catherine Emmerich is critical for us. She says Satan will attack **all men and women who desire to sacrifice themselves for a holy cause**; that's us! That is our covenant; we have given our, yes, to be victim souls, one with the Victim, to sacrifice ourselves in Christ Crucified for the glory of God and the salvation of souls. Therefore, **we must expect the same temptation that assaulted Jesus, that of fear**. She goes on to write:

A succession of new and terrifying visions were presented before His eyes, and that feeling of doubt and anxiety which a man on the point of making some great sacrifice always experiences, arose in the soul of our Lord, as He asked Himself the tremendous question: “And what good will result from this sacrifice?”

Jesus had to move through the feeling of doubt and anxiety. He had to move through the question some of us have already had, “What good is this hidden life of martyrdom doing?” I still see so many of my family members not converted, so I ask, “Is this making a difference?” Those are temptations to doubt what the Lord has said to us repeatedly. It is a temptation, but one that Jesus lived so that when we, too, are tempted, we, in Christ, have the grace to move through it.

How are we to approach fear? The way the Lord taught us in the Path with the “five stones”—**humility, purity, simplicity, trust, and courage—are our weapons of battle.** When we are being tempted with fear and doubt, for they go hand in hand, we are battling against the tempter Satan; therefore, we need to be armed with these “five stones.”

1. Humility

Humility means knowing our nothingness, weaknesses, fears, wounds, and limitations; knowing who God is (all goodness, love, and power) and that He, our Spouse, Protector, and Defender, is with us.

While I was visiting the Refuge in Georgia, something unexpected happened. While we were in the Chapel awaiting Mass, one morning, Maria came sick as I had never seen her. We were all alarmed to see her trembling. We didn't know what was wrong. Immediately, of course, we thought she had caught the Covid virus. Maria has asthma, so she took many supplements but wasn't improving. As I was visiting from Miami, I didn't have a doctor I could call and was feeling at a loss as to what to do. I started to feel fear; anxiety came over me. Because of my living the Path, I immediately became aware of my heart's anxiety. I rushed out of Maria's house and went to the chapel, got on my knees, and began to pray with the Bible verse that the Lord had given me the previous week, and which was a preparation for this moment: Is 41:13, **“I am holding your right hand; do not fear, for I am with you.”** I prayed with these words, “You are holding my right hand and Maria's...do not fear...for I am with you.”

As I repeated it like a mantra, over and over, I entered peace; I entered a deep joy. It was the joy of faith, believing totally that God the Father was with us. He had given me this one Scripture verse to help me because He knew my weakness. He knew I would freak out, seeing my friend so sick, and He was already preparing me. Those words filled me with faith and with joy. Yes, God is with us, helping us, and with that faith, I ran back to Maria's house. Fr. Jordi and I called our doctors from Miami, whose advice coincided. It was clear I had to take Maria to the hospital emergency to have her lungs X-rayed. We felt God guiding us each step of the way. I could not be with Maria in the hospital, so I waited the whole day outside while she was inside. I was filled all day with joy, the joy of perfect faith, in the knowledge that God was helping us, and all fear was cast out.

2. Purity is the second stone with which we must approach evil. A pure heart is purified of self—of all our desires, plans, and intentions—a heart that desires solely the Cross.

3. Simplicity is the third stone we have as a weapon. Simplicity enables us to BELIEVE that God conquered darkness and death through the Cross—suffering solely for Love.

4. Trust is the fourth stone. It requires abandonment to the Will of God, which is the mystery of the Cross.

Another example is when Juliana came to Miami this past December to see her father in a nursing home; she hadn't seen him in over a year. Ernie, her wonderful, supportive husband, stayed home to care for their five girls. She came with a good desire, an expectation, to go to the nursing

home and see her father, embrace him, and be embraced as his little girl by him. But what happened to Juliana's desires, her plans, her expectations? Due to Covid, they would not allow her to be near her dad. She could only see him that day at a distance outside, with a fence between them.

I had the honor of having Juliana stay at my house, witnessing her devastated heart. I said to her, “Juliana, receive the mystery of the Cross, receive God's plan, even though it's not your plan. God desires you to suffer with Him this agony. This, my sister, is a greater grace for your father. You, as his little victim daughter, are preparing his soul for death.” As another true mother of the Cross, Juliana fully embraced the mystery of the Cross, entered and participated in the agony, allowed her desires to be crucified, and accepted the Will of God. That is courage, that is faith, that is hope!

5. **Courage** is the last stone—the courage to choose to do what is most difficult – Love. If we are oppressed in fear, we will never have the courage to be the remnant during the great persecution. Courage is of the essence. Courage is the opposite of fear.