

The Ascension Weekly

October 8, 2017

Lecture and Concert on Fatima this Friday at Ascension

This Friday, October 13, 2017, will mark the 100th anniversary of Our Lady's final apparition in Fatima, Portugal to three young shepherd children. Catholics around the world will be celebrating this momentous occasion in various ways, and it is with great excitement and gratitude to Our Lady that Ascension plans to have its own event to mark the occasion. On Friday evening beginning at 7:30 pm, the Catholic Association of Scientists and Engineers will host a presentation by one of its members, Mr. Larry Yore, L.T., on the message of Our Lady at Fatima. The lecture will be followed by a concert performed by the Prince George's County Choral Society which will feature a number of beloved Marian hymns.

This will be the second time that Mr. Yore, a retired educator with a Licentiate in Theology from the Catholic University of America, has given a presentation at Ascension on the events of Fatima that occurred in May through October of 1917. Last year, he addressed in depth the validity of the great miracle of the sun that took place on October 13, 1917 and was witnessed by one hundred thousand people simultaneously. This year, he has chosen to focus on what he considers one of the most important aspects of the events at Fatima, namely, the question posed by the Lady from Heaven on May 13, 1917. Mr. Yore will propose that each of us consider the possibility that the question, originally addressed to the three children, is also directed to each one of us. He will also describe how, before we can give a meaningful answer to her question, we must first pass through five steps or stages of preparation. In his lecture he will elaborate on just the first two steps that must be taken. "If we take these two steps with humility of a little child, and with total trust in Jesus," he explains, "the Lady from Heaven will lead us through the additional stages so that, like little children, we may

answer the question with a fervent 'Yes, I do.'"

Mr. Yore has been passionate about Our Lady's apparitions at Fatima nearly his entire life. "I was seven years old in Chicago," he relates, "when I witnessed the great lights in the sky that Mary had warned about at Fatima." The aurora borealis which he glimpsed that evening in January of 1938 also appeared in a stunning display all over Europe, serving as the sign that Mary had foretold two decades earlier, of another, more terrible war which would occur if people did not commit to prayer, penance, sacrifices and mortification for the conversion of sinners. Shortly after the sign occurred, Hitler invaded Poland and set into motion the events that would lead to World War II, the terrible war that Our Lady had predicted.

Mr. Yore is emphatic that the message of Fatima is still relevant today, and in fact is more urgent than ever before. If you look around at what is happening in the world today, he says, it is clear that we are in a period of chastisement. We have not yet responded to the message of Our Lady of Fatima, or we would not be in the state we are in today. "Mary was clear that her Immaculate Heart would triumph, but she did not say when that would happen. That depends on us, and we haven't done our part yet. We haven't made an impact on the world around us the way the early church did. The early martyrs were arrested and put to death for being Christians. Do we take our faith that seriously? Are we doing our share?" In the midst of the instability and the threats of war in the world today, as well as the constant undermining of the family and of the truths of our faith, it is more needful than ever for each one of us to take to heart Mary's call to prayer and sacrifices for the conversion of sinners.

To learn more, come on over to Bates Hall this Friday at 7:30 pm and join us in celebrating the centennial of Our Lady's apparitions at Fatima. Light refreshments will be served following the lecture and concert.