

## 35. “Diabolical Disorientation”

As the first wave of post-conciliar reforms were implemented there arose from within the Catholic Church a campaign to suppress the Rosary.

With the necessary permission granted, a small book of Sister Lucia’s letters defending the Rosary was published. Entitled *A Little Treatise About the Nature and Recitation of the Rosary*, it contained Sister Lucia’s counsel to other Catholics defending the Rosary, and some of her reflections on the Rosary itself.

Lucia was asked to lend her name and opinions to the campaign to defend the Rosary, but she declined, explaining:

“I should not, nor am I able to give testimony. I should remain in silence, prayer, and penance. This is the best way in which I can and should help...this is the part that the Lord chose for me: to pray and sacrifice myself for those who fight and work in the vineyard of the Lord, and for the extension of His Kingdom.”<sup>1</sup>

Sister Lucia remarked on “the insistence with which Our Lady requested and recommended that the Rosary be prayed every day, having repeated this in all the apparitions, as if forewarning us that in these times of diabolical disorientation, we must not let ourselves be deceived by false doctrines that diminish the elevation of our soul to God by means of prayer...

“Unfortunately, the majority of people are ignorant in religious matters and let themselves be tossed wherever the wave carries them. Therefore the great responsibility lies with those who have the office to lead them...

“It is necessary then to pray and pray always. This means that all our activities and labors should be accompanied by a great spirit of prayer, because it is in prayer that the soul meets with God, and in this meeting grace and strength are received, even when one’s prayers are accompanied by

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distractions. Prayer always brings an increase of Faith to souls...and God will dismiss and pardon those distractions attributed to human weakness, ignorance, and littleness."

In another letter Lucia displays a militant spirit and shrewd political sense:

"I thank you for your letters and newspaper clippings...I really enjoyed seeing how they are already retreating...How the partisans of the devil work for evil, and they are not afraid of anything! Neither of being in an awkward position, nor of losing! They march ever forward with intrepid audacity! And have we only to become cowards?! Is it that maybe God can do less than the devil?! Or do we have less Faith in God and in His power?! – It is necessary to march forward without fear and without dread. God is with us, and He must conquer.

"God willing, the meeting with the Archbishop of Mitilene will have gone well, and His Excellency will not be one of the chicken-hearted...I think the best course would be that things be done with the bishops' full knowledge, but without them taking responsibility (as if they did not know), this is to say, to avoid the inconvenience of fears...Afterwards, when success comes, they can then declare that they took part in it."

In another letter Lucia lamented:

"Our poor Lord, Who saved us with such love, and how little understood He is! How little loved! How badly served! It is painful to see such disorientation, and in so many people who occupy positions of responsibility!...

"As much as possible, we have to seek to make reparation by a union with the Lord that is ever more intimate, identifying ourselves with Him, so that He may be, in us, the light of this world which is immersed in the darkness of error, immorality and pride. It hurts me to learn about what you say, of what already is also happening there!...

"It is because the devil has been able to infiltrate evil

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under the guise of good, and they act as the blind leading the blind, as Our Lord tells us in His Gospel; and souls go on allowing themselves to be deceived.

“Voluntarily I sacrifice myself and offer my life to God, for peace in His Church, for priests and for all consecrated souls, above all for those who carry on so erroneously and so deceived!...This is why the devil has made such war against it (the Rosary). And what is worse is that he has succeeded in deluding and deceiving souls who have much responsibility because of the positions they occupy!...They are the blind leading the blind!...We pray, work, sacrifice ourselves and trust that — In the End, My Immaculate Heart Will Triumph!”

In a letter to a nephew who was a priest, Sister Lucia wrote:

“That which some disoriented people have published against the prayer of the Rosary is false. More ancient than the prayer of the Rosary is the light of the sun, and they do not want to lose the benefit of its brilliance and heat. More ancient are the Psalms, and they, as with the prayers that constitute the Rosary, form part of the Sacred Liturgy.

“The repetition of the Hail Mary, Our Father, and Glory Be is the chain that elevates us to God and takes us to Him, giving us participation in His divine Life in us, — like the repetition of the morsels of bread with which we feed ourselves and sustain natural life; and we don’t call that outdated!

“The disorientation is diabolical! Don’t let yourself be deceived.”

To another priest-nephew Lucia wrote:

“It is necessary, therefore, to not let yourself be drawn away by the doctrines of disorientated contradictors...The campaign is diabolical. We need to confront it, without getting into conflicts: Say, to souls, that now more than ever we need to pray for ourselves and for those who are against us!

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"We need to pray the Rosary every day. It is the prayer Our Lady most recommended, as if forewarning us of these days of diabolical battle against it. The devil knows it is by prayer that we have to save ourselves, and he takes up arms against it to try to send us to hell.

"It is easy to see here the cunning of the devil and his followers who want to drag souls away from God, separating them from prayer. It is by prayer that souls meet with God, and it is in this meeting that God gives Himself to souls, communicating to them His graces, lights, and gifts. This is why they make such war against it! Don't let yourself be deceived."

There are echoes in these letters of Sister Lucia to her statements to Father Fuentes twelve to fourteen years earlier. Perhaps there is a connection between her remark to Father Fuentes in 1957 that a "spiritual chastisement is imminent" and her frequent references to a "diabolical disorientation" in her later letters, as if the later diabolical disorientation was allowed by God as a spiritual chastisement.

Sister Lucia told Father Fuentes that the devil sought to lead astray souls consecrated to God; twelve years later she makes repeated references in her letters to the devil "deluding and deceiving souls who have much responsibility because of the positions they occupy"; "It is painful to see such disorientation, and in so many people who occupy positions of responsibility!"; and "the great responsibility lies with those who have the office to lead" souls. Lucia's concern, as ever, is for souls, the souls of the disoriented and those who are led astray by them.

Also of interest is Lucia's mission, as she sees it. In 1957 she told Father Fuentes "My mission is to indicate to everyone the imminent danger we are in of losing our souls for all eternity if we remain obstinate in sin." In two later letters (1969 and 1971) it is evident there has been a development in Sister Lucia's mission:

"This is the part that the Lord chose for me: to pray and sacrifice myself for those who fight, and work in the vineyard of the Lord and for the extension of His Kingdom... Voluntarily I sacrifice myself and offer

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my life to God, for peace in His Church, for priests and for all consecrated souls, above all for those who carry on so erroneously and so deceived.”

A new development perhaps, but again not so new, as Lucia and her cousins had constantly sacrificed themselves in reparation for sinners and for the Holy Father. The passage of fifty years had deepened Sister Lucia’s spirit of reparation to the offering of her life for peace in the Church — but dead or alive she willed to remain hidden, silent, never calling attention to herself.

See how the spirit of the beautiful Lady has become her own. As Mary stood at the foot of the cross offering Her bitter sacrifice for those who “know not what they do,” Her heart in perfect union with the pierced Heart of Her Son, so also does Lucia stand, beholding the Church’s agony, and sacrificing herself for the souls of the disoriented, who know not what they do, for the souls led astray, and for peace in the Church. Her fidelity is beyond admirable.

Sister Lucia’s letters also contained thoughtful, even profound, insights about the Rosary, and to these we now turn.

### **Notes**

1. *A Little Treatise About the Nature and Recitation of the Rosary*, English translation by Joseph Cain and John Andrade, Ph.D. Except as otherwise noted, all quotations in this chapter are from this source.