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Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

Image by Christine Sponchia

A PILGRIM'S DISPATCH: THE BLESSING OF MYSTERY

By Julie Mussché

A Reading from the Gospel of Luke

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed..."

LUKE 1:46-48

Reflection

Growing up in the 1960s, there was television, but certainly programming was much more limited than today. We probably had six or seven stations and PBS in the Southern California area; broadcasting was limited, not 24-7; and shows were far more tame and stylistic than today. Consider, for example, the "Donna Reed Show" or "Make Room for Daddy." If you are not old enough to remember these TV series, you can probably catch a glimpse on YouTube.

Holiday shows during this time offered musical and variety entertainment and inspirational movies. Films of the season included “Going My Way,” “The Ten Commandments,” “The Bells of St. Mary’s,” “The Song of Bernadette” and “The Miracle of Fatima.”

While a dramatic representation of the events surrounding the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima, the general story of the movie aligned with what was reported to have happened.

Today, as our tour bus made its way to Fatima, our guide narrated the story of the three children who were blessed to have witnessed multiple apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima culminating with the Miracle of the Sun on October 13, 1917.

As we rolled toward the Basilica, I recalled that the day was a remembrance of Jacinta and Francisco, the brother and sister who, with their cousin, were blessed with the visits from Mary. As the bus stopped and we exited and walked toward the vast plaza, you could hear the praying and singing of the rosary.

Entering the Sanctuary of the Basilica of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, people from all over the world were offering devotions. Fatima had a slow start as a formal pilgrimage site and the Basilica was constructed in the 1950s. I also visited the Little Chapel of the Apparition and prayed before the familiar statue of Our Lady of Fatima. There were a number of pilgrims on their knees circling the holy place in deep devotion. What an awe-striking blessing is mystery.



Fatima Basilica
Photo by Julie Mussché

For Pondering

- How do you hold the blessings of Mystery?
- What is the meaning and expression of devotion to you?

For Prayer

*Hail Mary,
full of Grace,
The Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed
is the fruit
of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary,
Mother of God,
pray for us now,
and the hour of our death.
Amen.*

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