

A GIFT FOR THE CHURCH AND FOR THE WORLD!

Mother Adela, SCTJM

Foundress

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Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Today, the 13th of October, we remember the last apparition of Our Lady in Fatima in which the Blessed Virgin opened Her hands and pointed to the sky, thus beginning what we have come to know as the Miracle of the Sun. This event has been considered one of the most prodigious manifestations of the twentieth century.

That day, the pilgrims who came from many different places to be present during the last apparition of Our Lady, had to wade through paths full of mud due to a strong rain that did not seem as if it would end. Everything was dark; black clouds covered the sky and it is in those conditions that the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared, fulfilling Her promise: "In the last month, I will do a miracle so that all may believe." As the Mediatrix of all graces, through Her intercession, She obtains for us the miracles that initiate, defend, strengthen and increase the faith of the people of God.



Again in the twentieth century, we saw the rise of great black clouds that assaulted the life, mentality, consciousness and roots of the contemporary human heart. This darkness required great interventions of the Holy Spirit, and at the same time, of the maternal gaze of the Virgin Mary who cares for all men and history with great solicitude. Modern civilization, symbolized in the secret of Fatima as a city of ruins, was in need of another miracle brought about through the hands of the Immaculate Virgin, another miracle of the sun, another luminous miracle that presented itself in the midst of great contemporary floods capable of drowning faith, truth, solidarity, human dignity and the defense of life. It needed a miracle of light for a dark era.

Therefore, just as in Fatima, the Virgin again opened Her hands and Her Immaculate Heart and fulfilled Her promise of "a miracle so that all may believe." This miracle happened so that a world without answers, a disorientated humanity, many darkened and fatigued consciences, and those without direction and searching for a way, would be able to believe. This luminous miracle, brought about by the hands of the Virgin for the Church and the world, has a name, and it is no other than His Holiness John Paul II.

With honesty, we can all recognize that the Holy Father has been, and still is, a great gift of God to the Church and to the world. Even those who reject the light of Christ he holds out, respect his authenticity and the fact that he is a living witness to the truth he teaches. The testimonies of the many hearts that have been touched by his presence and his word are innumerable, just as his contacts with humanity have also been innumerable - through apostolic trips, audiences, meetings around the world, youth days, letters to children, women, and families, encyclicals, and apostolic letters. He has taught the appreciation and promotion of human dignity, the sublime and permanent love of marriages, and the strong defense of life from conception until natural death. He has given a testimony of peace and reconciliation to a world obsessed with war, shown untiring efforts for the unity of Christians, and wisely implemented the Second Vatican Council. He has demonstrated care and concern for the persecuted Church and offered constant consolation to those who suffer. He has encouraged sanctity through his exhortations on the holiness of consecrated life, his numerous beatifications and canonizations, and his physical sufferings born with a sacrificial spirit that challenge a culture of comfort and ease. He has loved to the extreme in fidelity to Christ, to the Church and to us, for whom he remains afoot as a lighthouse that brightens the darkness for those ships navigating through dangerous seas. We - contemporary humanity - are these ships that navigate through this historic moment amidst turbulent seas with great waves capable of causing shipwreck - unless we are aware of where to navigate to find the sure port.

O Holy Spirit, we thank You for always coming to the aide of the Church, assisting her with the gifts that she most needs in each historic moment. Thank you, Holy Spirit, for having inspired the conclave, begun on the 14th of October, 1978, that elected Karol Wojtyla as the 263rd successor of Peter and as captain of the ship of the Church!

Thank you, Most Blessed Virgin, Mediatrix of all graces and our Advocate, for having opened Your hands before the dark sky of our modern history and giving us the miracle of such a luminous sun as His Holiness John Paul II.

Thank you, Holy Father, for being an authentic image of the Good Shepherd who gives his life for his sheep. Thank you for sustaining yourself in the Eucharist and in Mary Most Holy, and for teaching us, the entire Church, to sustain ourselves in them. Thank you for such a fruitful pontificate, which has been the fruit of a

docile heart that allows itself to be pierced so that others may have life. Thank you, Holy Father, for having given us a witness - with your life, words and actions - of the joy that comes from living the Gospel in a radical manner. Thank you for having taken us through the Heart of Mary, during a turbulent era, to the fountain of Redemption, the Heart of Christ.

In the Two Hearts and with gratitude for the gift of the Pontificate of His Holiness of John Paul II,

In the Love of the Pierced Hearts,

Mother Adela, Foundress SCTJM

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