

Reflection of the February 2011 Message

Dear Children! Nature is awakening and on the trees the first buds are seen which will bring most beautiful flowers and fruit. I desire that you also, little children, work on your conversion and that you be those who witness with their life, so that your example be assign and an incentive for conversion to others. I am with you and before my Son Jesus I intercede for your conversion.

NATURE IS AWAKENING AND ON THE TREES THE FIRST BUDS ARE SEEN WHICH WILL BRING MOST BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS AND FRUIT.

This month's message begins by reminding us of how nature is awakening after the long sleep of winter, and on the trees the first buds are seen which will produce the most beautiful flowers and fruit.

Just as nature is awakening, we too, as God's children must in spiritual terms wake up if we are spiritually asleep, and, by Gods' grace stay awake spiritually so as not to give the Devil his opportunity.

Both the apostles Paul and John reminded the early Christians in their letters to this reality. To the church at Ephesus "Wake from your sleep, rise from the dead and Christ will shine on you." Eph 5:14 and, to the Church at Sardis, "Wake up; revive what little you have left: it is dying fast." Rev 3:2

Soon we will witness once again the power and the beauty of God's creation in nature as the most beautiful flowers and fruit appear on the trees.

WHAT BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS AND FRUIT DO YOU THINK GOD AND HIS BLESSED MOTHER WOULD LOVE TO SEE APPEAR AND BLOSSOM IN OUR LIVES, IN HIS CHURCH TODAY?

Here I would like to dwell on two kinds of flowers and fruit that God loves to see in us, and on which we can work on for conversion as Lent approaches.

The flowers we shall think of are the "ROSE" and the "LILY". In the Song of Songs, we see that the flowers represent the Bridegroom since He is the flower of the fields and the lily of the valleys, "I am the Rose of Sharon, and the Lily of the valleys." Sg 2:1

THE ROSE OF SHARON AND LOVE

God is love and He desires that we receive and keep his love in our hearts. Love is the bond of perfection which is union with God and makes us truly beautiful in God's eyes. Once our Blessed Lady was asked by the visionaries, "Why are you so beautiful,?" The Blessed Mother replied, "I am beautiful because I love."

As we approach another season of Lent, let us ask God in prayer that He will bestow His grace and love upon us generously so that the "good works" we do in His Name, may blossom in His love like beautiful flowers and fruit that last.

Our Blessed Lord does not look at the amount of work we have done or the number of years we have spent in his vineyard but rather the measure of love with which we do things for Him and others.

Notice how many so called works not only fail to flower but wither and die and become valueless in God's sight even though they maybe perfect from a human stand point of view. Only where God bestows His grace and love do we see works that have blossomed in His love.

The need for spiritual awakening is so great and needed more than ever before if people are to see and understand what is written in Sacred Scripture,

“The wonder of your love is before my eyes.”

“How lovely is your dwelling place Lord God of hosts.”

“This is not the time to be sleeping but to be awake and sober.” 1Thess 5:6

“I slept but my heart was awake.” Sg 5:2

Let our prayer be “awake my soul” let me see O Lord the wonder of your love before my very eyes. Let me dwell in your presence forever and if I must sleep let my heart be awake, beating one with yours in perfect love.

THE LILY OF THE VALLEYS

The Rose (actually the crocus) and the lily (the red Palestinian anemone) in Mt 6:28 are symbolic of spring and the world to come.

In many places lilies are blessed on the feast of St Anthony and given to those who desire them. Once the Franciscans had been expelled from Corsica and their church abandoned, yet people came to the church for the observance of the annual feast of St Anthony on June 13th. One year some month's after the feast of St Anthony, a man wandered into the church and found lilies still fresh. The custom of blessing the lilies approved by Pope Leo XIII and the prayer of blessing asks for the grace to preserve chastity, peace and protection against the evil one.

Soon Lent will be upon us and once again the church goes into battle against the forces of darkness and evil. The weapons we use are spiritual weapons, prayer, fasting, the word of God, the sacraments, especially the sacrament of confession, of reconciliation and of course the Eucharist feeding on God's word and the Most Blessed Sacrament of our Lord's Body and Blood, the food of eternal life.

We have Mary interceding for us and with us as we pray and work on our conversion so as to not only bring ourselves closer to God but also to become a sign and an incentive for others to come and know the ways of God, to know God and his love as the Rose of Sharon and the Lily of the valleys.

God bless you all and may you and your families have a very special grace filled lent So that when Easter comes we all will be shining more brightly like Jesus the Morning Star who never sets, who never sleeps but lives to die no more.

Fr Ciaran