WHAT CHRISTIAN HEART, NO MATTER HOW LUKEWARM AND THOUGHTLESS, COULD RESIST THE VOICE OF MARY? — Pius XII



It has always been true that the love of the Mother of God leads devotees to the love of her Divine Son. God, through His Immaculate Mother, at Fatima, has laid down peace terms for the world contained in the two words: prayer and sacri-rifice. Our Lady always appeared sorrowful during the Fatima apparitions — twice clothed as Our Lady of Sorrows.

If since our arrival here we have done anything unworthy of a client of Our Lady tonight at 8 o'clock in Sacred Heart Church is the night to begin the Perpetual Novena in her honor as part payment on our debt of reparation. Notre Dame has a debt to the Blessed Virgin, an unsettled account that can never be paid in full. Interest on that debt is met by her sons when we pay her homage, and when we lead lives she would approve.

There is much more to this devotion than that. Like a mother bending over the bed of her dying son, Our Sorrowful Mother bends over a world in agony. There is tenderness in her motherly concern, sternness in her timely admonitions, but an almost infinite compassion in her Immaculate Heart which suffers immeasureably more than the sufferer: for she knows what is the disease with which all men are ill—it is the disease which we call SIN.

A heavy down-payment on our debt falls due tonight. Every client of Our Lady will be there, because in him there is something that always escapes infection—he is never incurable, never "impossible," never beyond repair or reparation, if he has love for his mother. And if that love be for Mary Our Mother he knows full well that love of her "hath made brutes men, and men divine."