

apparition refuses to give a sign on request. The signs will come later, freely and without warning. Our Lady returns to faith alone, through the very words of the risen Christ:

Blessed are those who have not seen and who believe.

These important words of Jesus, Our Lady repeats on Sunday, June 28th, in response to a new question on what she wants:

Let them believe as if they had seen. Let those who do not see, believe as you who see me.

At the end of the apparition of June 26th, she already gives "faith" as the means of reconciliation.

For that, it is necessary to believe, to pray, fast, and confess.

What does she expect of the Franciscans?

That they persevere in the faith, and that they help others keep the faith.

On June 28th, she insists:

Let the people believe and persevere in the faith.

What do you wish from our priests?

Let them be firm in the faith and let them help you.

Why don't you appear to those in the church?

Blessed are they who believe without having seen.

On June 29th, she likewise responds to a new question on what she expects.

There is only one God, and one faith. Believe firmly and do not fear anything.

And again:

That you may have a strong faith and that you keep the faith.

This faith, as in the Gospel, is tied to hope, which relies on God and dares to ask for the impossible. . . . in the sense of God's will, of course.

At the request of Dr. Darinka Glamuzina to the seers:

"May I touch the apparition?"

The Gospa gives this gently ironic response:

There have always been doubting Thomases. Let her come.

(June 29th)

That same day, the seers asked:

"Will we know how to bear persecutions?"

You will, my angels. Do not be afraid. You will be able to bear everything. You must believe and have faith in me.

Prayer

Prayer came into play before being the object of a message, and it did not cease to intensify during succeeding years.

At the first apparition, the visionaries spontaneously say the "Our Father," the "Hail Mary," the "Creed," perhaps nothing more.

On the next day, they receive advice from an old lady in the village who invites them to say, according to a local tradition, seven Our Fathers, seven Hail Marys, seven Glory Be. Since the first days, it seems the Virgin will ask them to have those prayers preceded by the Creed—always the faith!

"Her favorite prayer is the Creed," notes Vicka, on February 10th, 1982. "When we recite it, the Gospa does not cease to smile. I think that no one has ever seen her happier than during this prayer."

Fasting

From her second apparition of June 26th, Our Lady explicitly stated:

One must believe, pray, fast. . .

Fasting is tied to prayer. This message brings to life a local tradition which was on the way of disappearing. Fr. Jozo Zovko tried in vain to restore it. Since the 2nd of July 1981, without knowing the invitation of Our Lady it seems, he made the following proposition to his parishioners who had gathered at the Church:

"If you would like to, let us fast three days in order to ask for enlightenment." The agreement to do so was massive and unexpected.

The apparition was precise later:

Fast twice a week, on Wednesdays and Fridays.

On July 21st, 1982, in response to a question from Father Tomislav Vlastic, asked through the seers, she answers:

1. *The best kind of fasting is that on bread and water.*
2. *Prayer and fasting can put off wars.*
3. *It can alter the laws of nature.*