

The Merciful Listener

A Pilgrim

During my recent pilgrimage to Fatima and Lourdes, there were two things happened to me that I felt God has answered my prayers.

Someone has told me the pilgrimage to Fatima and Lourdes is a once in a lifetime experience and I was very excited in going there. However, when the time came for the trip, I wished that it would start later because I was sick for three weeks and I felt I was not well enough to go abroad. I was worried that I would get sick during the trip.

Finally the day came for me to start the trip. I had been travelling for twenty-four hours and I was not able to sleep on the plane at all. After I arrived at Fatima, there was a Mass held before dinner and I prayed to God that I would not get sick and have a peaceful trip for my sixteen days pilgrimage. After dinner even though I was not feeling well enough, I forced myself to participate the candle light procession which I had wanted to do all my life. The next morning when I woke up, I felt energetic and all the symptoms of sore throat and fatigue were gone even I only slept for four hours. Finally I understood the meaning of God's Prayer because He had answered mine.

After three week of illness, I knew if I did not take care of myself I would easily get sick again. But I felt God's mercy and love because of my prayer. He knew that I would not want to miss the opportunity to bathe in the spring water at Lourdes. At the end even in the freezing spring water I did not get sick. I concluded if you have faith, there is no obstacle to stop us.



After these two incidents, I learned we could rely on God to protect and shelter us as long as we have faith in Him.

During the pilgrimage I was so touched by the candle light procession because there were so many people from different countries and yet we all shared the same universal belief in God. When we were holding up the candles and sang together "Ave, Ave, Ave Maria", that moment is the most heartfelt for me. At that time I had this feeling that when the time for me to leave this earth and go to heaven, I will have this sense of togetherness without barriers just like this moment when there are no races, communication break-down and competition!

God, we praise you, we adore you! 