



WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW A SECRET?

Part 1

for older children aged 11 and over

Dear Children!

We feel proud when someone tells us: *"I'm going to tell you a secret!"* A secret is something that only a few people know—or else it wouldn't be a secret if everyone knew about it, would it? When someone tells us a secret, we feel proud, because they have picked us out as one of the few who can be trusted with their secret.

Well, I am going to tell **YOU** a secret! A very important secret! A secret so great, that it is even MORE IMPORTANT than life or death! But what on earth can be more important than life or death, you may ask? There **IS** something more important than life or death! It is what happens AFTER life and death! It is... (Ask the children: *"What do you think it is?"*)

Yes! It is HEAVEN and HELL! That **IS** far more important than life or death! Life lasts only a few years—60, 70 or 80 years, if we are lucky. But Heaven or Hell last FOREVER AND EVER AND EVER! Heaven and Hell will never end, but our life on earth will end one day! If only we would take just as much care over our eternal life as we take care of our earthly life, then we would be safe and would be sure and certain of going to Heaven! Just think of the many, many ways in which we are very careful not to get hurt or risk our life in our daily activities!

We look both ways before crossing a busy road, so that we don't get run over by a car. We don't go too close to a bonfire, in case we get burnt. We keep away from insects that can hurt us, such as spiders, wasps, bees, hornets and similar insects. We stay away from certain kinds of fierce, growling dogs, or even snakes, in case they bite us. We stay well clear of skunks, in case they spray us and make us smell like a skunk for days and days afterwards. We wear seat belts in cars to protect us if there is a car crash; we lock the doors of our homes at night so that we can sleep safely; we have fire alarms and burglar alarms at home or in the school to warn us of a fire or a break-in. We have doctors to heal our illness or even save our lives after serious accidents; we have police to patrol our towns to protect us from criminal activity.

We do and have all these things and many more besides, just to protect and save our earthly lives. But our eternal life is FAR more important than our earthly life. Yet we THINK SO LITTLE about it and we DO SO LITTLE to make sure that we get to eternal life in Heaven. Jesus said: *"But seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His justice, and all these things shall be added unto you."* (Luke 12:31) and St. Paul adds: *"For what things a man shall sow, those also shall he reap. For he that soweth in his flesh, of the flesh also shall reap corruption. But he that soweth in the spirit, of the spirit shall reap life everlasting."* (Galatians 6:8).

So if we are very careful about what we eat and drink, so that we don't become sick and perhaps die, because of some poisonous food; how much more must we be careful of what we 'eat and drink' in our soul! We should 'eat' the Bread of Life in Holy Communion as often as we can, not just on Sundays. Jesus also said: *"It is written, Not in bread alone doth man live, but in every word that proceedeth from the mouth of God."* (Matthew 4:4). That means that we should READ GOOD RELIGIOUS BOOKS, in which we will find the word of God that Jesus is talking about.

Just as we wash our food and wash our hands before eating—to wash away any germs or poisons—we also have to wash away any bad books, or anything that makes us grow cold or careless toward God, or things that can take us away from God and the things of God. There are many poisonous or dangerous things for the soul—that can kill God’s life in our soul (we call this the life of grace)—and we all know what happens if we die without grace in our soul, don’t we? (*Ask the children to answer the question*)

Yes! That’s right! We will go to Hell if we die without God’s grace in our soul! So the most important thing in our life is not having fun; nor playing games; nor having many friends; nor having lots of money and things to eat and drink, nor having lots of clothes to wear, nor having nice big houses! The MOST IMPORTANT THING IN OUR LIFE is to get the grace of God, to grow in the grace of God, to keep the grace of God and to die with the grace of God in our souls!

Do you remember the story Jesus told us about the man who lived only for the himself and the world? Jesus said: *“The land of a certain rich man brought forth plenty of fruits. And he thought within himself, saying: ‘What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?’ And he said: ‘This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and will build bigger ones; and into them I will gather all things that are grown to me, and my goods. And I will say to my soul: “Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years take thy rest; eat, drink, make good cheer”. But God said to him: “Thou fool, this night do they require thy soul of thee: and whose shall those things be which thou hast provided?” So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich towards God. And Jesus said to His disciples: “Therefore I say to you, be not worried about your life, what you shall eat; nor for your body, what you shall put on. The life is more than the meat, and the body is more than just clothing. Consider the ravens, for they sow not, neither do they reap, neither have they storehouse nor barn, and God feedeth them. How much more valuable are you than they?”* (Luke 12:16-24)

All the money, treasures, possessions, toys, games, clothes, friends or whatever else, will not save our souls at the moment of death. It is ONLY the GRACE OF GOD that can save us and give us a HAPPY ETERNITY IN HEAVEN! Without the grace of God in our soul, we will suffer a MISERABLE ETERNITY IN HELL. Possessions count for nothing with God on judgment day—as Jesus said: *“For what shall it profit a man, if he gain the whole world, and suffer the loss of his soul?”* (Mark 8:36). Grace is the fuel that we need to take us to Heaven, Grace is like food for the body, or like gas for the car. If I don’t eat, I will feel faint and weak, or even get sick, and won’t be

to do much of anything. If I don’t fill my car with gas and keep refilling it with gas, then I won’t be able to drive to where I want to go!

Now where is it that WE want to go? Yes, of course, we all want to go to Heaven! So we need the strength to be able to make the long journey through this dangerous and difficult life to Heaven, and, therefore, we need to fill our souls with lots of ‘spiritual food and spiritual gas’—which is the grace of God! That is the most important thing that we must always look out for—ways to get, keep, and grow in the grace of God.



If we don’t eat good food, we will be sick and weak and won’t have the strength to do all our duties

How do we do this? We receive and grow in grace by going to Holy Communion and Confession often, not just once in a while. We grow in grace by talking often to Jesus and Mary, as well as the Angels and Saints. We grow in grace by reading, thinking and talking about God and the things of God. We grow in grace by making sacrifices and doing penances. These things are FAR MORE IMPORTANT than eating, drinking, partying, playing; watching TV, DVD’s, or videos; playing computer games; listening to music and having fun all the time. That is why the Angel said to the children at Fatima, when he found them playing, told them to leave their games and to start praying, saying: *“What are you doing? Pray! Pray a great deal! The Hearts of Jesus and Mary have merciful designs upon you. Offer prayers and sacrifices continually to the Most High.”*

That is why Jesus said: *“Seek first the kingdom of God and then all the things that you need on earth will be given to you by God!”* (Notice that Jesus says the things we NEED, and not the things we WANT—for we always WANT more than we NEED!) So if we put God first, then He will look after our needs! If the most important thing in our lives is getting to Heaven, then we WILL get to Heaven—God will see to that!

But for now, until we meet again, let us think about how much more important HEAVEN and HELL are than the things of this life—even more important than things like life and death. Let us understand that God wants us to enjoy Heaven forever! God does not want us to live on earth forever. God does not want us to just think about enjoying life and having fun in this world forever. We were made for Heaven, not for this world. Once we REALLY, REALLY, REALLY understand this, then we will pay less attention to the things of this world and we will pay more attention to the things of Heaven! We will think less about the money of this world and the many things that money can buy for us, but we will think more about the ‘money’ of Heaven—which is GRACE—and which buys us the never-ending joys of Heaven!

As Jesus so truly pointed out: *“For where thy treasure is, there is thy heart also”* (Matthew 6:21). If our treasure is in the things of this world, then that is all that we will think about and talk about. If our treasure is Heaven, then we will, more and more, think and talk about Heaven. *“Jesus said to him: ‘Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with thy whole heart, and with thy whole soul, and with thy whole mind’”* (Matthew 22:37); for, as Our Lord explained: *“No man can serve two masters. For either he will hate the one, and love the other: or he will hold to the one, and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”* [mammon means the pleasures, the treasures and the money of this world] (Matthew 6:24 & Luke 16:13). Focus on God and God’s grace! Forget the pleasures and treasures of the

world. Do not live for them! Do not run after them! *“Know you not that the friendship of this world is the enemy of God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of this world, becometh an enemy of God”* (James 4:4).



That is the secret of getting to Heaven! That is the secret of avoiding Hell! In our next talk, I'll tell you another secret—AN EVEN BIGGER ONE!

Also, why not tell someone else about this little secret that you now know? You might be planting the seed of Heaven in someone else's soul! Too many people have forgotten what it is that REALLY matters in life! It is not only adults that teach children. Children can also teach adults. So if you see adults living and acting the wrong way, let them into the secret that Heaven matters much more than the silly—and sometimes sinful—things of this life. The more we surround ourselves with other people who are living for Heaven and not living for this world, the easier it will be to get to Heaven! So let someone else into your secret! Share it!

May God bless you and Our Lady watch over you until we meet again for our next talk!