

Good morning, my name is Monet Souza. I am in the 6th grade at St. Catherine of Siena School, in Norwood, Massachusetts. I am honored to speak to you, most of all the children of the world, and to share with you my Faith in Jesus Christ and my love for our Lady of Fatima. When the Angel of Peace appeared to Blessed Jacinta, Blessed Francisco and Sr. Lucia, he prepared them for the Messages of Fatima that our Lady revealed. The Messages that changed their lives and our lives. I pray that I am able to help us prepare ourselves for the changes Our Lady of Fatima wants us to make. Changes like believing more in the power of children's prayers and becoming more willing to make sacrifices, to offer things up, for God and his people. This is one of the ways that God wants to change the world, by changing us. Our Blessed Mother is calling us to do the same thing she told the children: place our trust in her Immaculate Heart and follow her Son and his Gospel. We should listen to her, because there are many voices in the world trying to lead us away from Jesus. But our Mother's voice is stronger and more powerful. Remember: "To Jesus through Mary." I know in my heart that this is true.

When I was 8 years old, I cut my lip and needed stitches. No one likes getting stitches and I was really scared. In the emergency room, my mother took my hands and held them in her hands. We prayed that our Blessed Mother would help me not be afraid. As we prayed, I felt my mother's love for me, and I also felt our Lady's love through my mother's hands. I knew I would be OK. God taught me a good lesson that day: prayer does really work. I imagine Jacinta, Francisco and Lucia remembered the same thing when they were afraid. Do you remember the time they were arrested? They prayed to God for the courage to stay faithful to Jesus. God did and they stayed faithful. God is

always offering us, through our Lady, the strength we need to stay faithful to Jesus, like the grace to make sacrifices, to offer things up, as the children of Fatima did.

This past summer our Lord called me to do the very same thing. I volunteered at a camp in Massachusetts for children who have physical and emotional handicaps. They are some of God's most beautiful children. At first, I was very nervous around them and did not see their true beauty. New experiences can make us feel this way. My parents knew I was uncomfortable, so they told me to pray to our Blessed Mother on the way to camp. They told me to pray that Mary would help me put aside my worry and anxiety, and to make it a sacrifice. They also told me to look the children right in the eyes and not to focus on their challenges. I did and I saw in their eyes their true dignity as children of God. I saw Christ staring right back at me. Prayer helped me to offer up and put aside my own needs. I cannot wait to go back next summer.

Every morning at Saint Catherine of Siena School, we gather to pray as Our Lady has taught us. We make our Morning Offering and pray for many people. Every Thursday we spend time in Adoration of the "Hidden Jesus," like Blessed Francisco. Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is one of God's greatest gifts to us, especially Jesus in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. We also rely on the Rosary throughout the year.

These are some ways we try to honor our Blessed Mother's request to live the Messages of Fatima. Too much in our world offends God. God needs us to be shining example of his goodness and all that pleases him. Let us promise to pray and make sacrifices that will help our Lord and our Lady change our world to reflect our Father's will and our Blessed Mother's call to us: Do whatever Jesus tells us to do. Can you imagine what could happen if we keep our promise. Thank you.