

Celebrating 100 Years of Fatima

Messages of Fatima...

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On May 13, 1917 in the Cova de Iria, a beautiful woman, who later identified herself as the Blessed Virgin Mary, appeared to Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta. The apparitions continued monthly on the 13th of each month until October 13, 1917 (except August when they were imprisoned by the anti-clerical authorities.) During each month's apparition, the Virgin encouraged prayer, especially the rosary, and sacrifices. She also communicated certain prophecies of the future.

Follow along and read the amazing accounts of God's tender mercy for his people, the pleas from the "beautiful Lady" and the simple devotional faith of three small children that out does most!

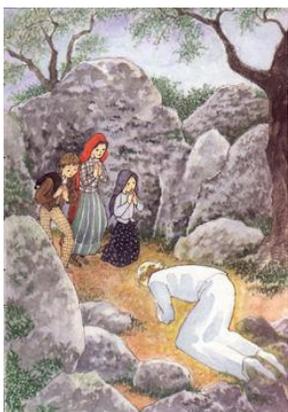
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The Spring of 1916, in a small village in the center of Portugal, three young children, Lucia de Jesus Santos (age 9) and her two cousins, Francisco (age 8) and Jacinta (age 6) Marto went out to the countryside each day for their sheep to graze. Lucia, very earnest in her catechism studies, had already received her first Holy Communion and would instruct her cousins each day. They would play games and pray the rosary after lunch as encouraged by her mother.

One day, while tending sheep, rain began to fall. They found shelter in a small cave where they stayed for awhile to eat their lunch, pray the Rosary and play a game. It was here a heavenly apparition occurred, an Angel of Portugal, came to prepare the trio for their mission and for an even greater visitor.

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While in the cave, sheltered from the rain, an unusual and strong wind stirred up the trees, accompanied by an intense light from which stood the form of a young man, whiter than snow and shining like crystal in sunlight. He instructed the three children, Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta, to imitate him by kneeling on the ground and bowing very low, saying: ***Fear not, I am the Angel of Peace. Pray with me.*** And they prayed as the Angel did, saying: ***My God, I believe in Thee, I adore Thee, I hope in Thee and I love Thee. I ask pardon for all those who do not believe Thee, do not adore Thee, do not hope in Thee and do not love Thee.***

Then he added, ***Pray this way. The Hearts of Jesus and Mary are attentive to the voice of your supplications.*** This began a course for these three children that would not only change their lives but lives for the whole world.

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In the Summer of 1916 all three children were playing near a well by Lucia's home. The Angel appeared to them and said: ***What are you doing? Pray! Pray a great deal. The Hearts of Jesus and Mary have merciful designs on you. Offer prayers and sacrifices continually to the Most High.***

They asked the Angel how they were to sacrifice themselves. ***Make everything you do a sacrifice, and offer it as an act of reparation for the sins by which God is offended, and as a petition for the conversion of sinners. By this you will bring peace to your country. I am its Guardian Angel, the Angel of Portugal. Above all accept and bear with submission all the suffering the Lord will send you.***

From that moment, they offered everything to Our Lord, not looking for other ways of mortification or penance, but spending hours and hours bent to the ground repeating the prayer the angel had taught them.

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In the Autumn of 1916, a third apparition of the Angel occurred.

The children brought their sheep to LaCabeco, a place they often used for the sheep to graze. In the Cabeco the Angel appeared, holding a chalice with a Host suspended above it with drops of Blood falling into the chalice. With the children, he prayed: ***Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore Thee profoundly. I offer Thee the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles in the world, in reparation for all the outrages, sacrileges and indifferences whereby He is offended. And through the infinite merits of His Most***

Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg of Thee the conversion of poor sinners (3 times).

The Angel then with great reverence, gave Holy Communion to the children; the Host to Lucia (only Lucia had been instructed and received her first Holy Communion at that time) and the contents of the chalice to Jacinta and Francisco.

The angel said, ***Take the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, horrible outraged by thankless men. Make reparation for their sins and comfort your God.***

The children went home determined to be strong, obedient, and humble in following the example of the angel offering small sacrifices to God to make up for the sins by which God is offended as the angel requested...

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On May 13, 1917, the children were pasturing their flock at the Cova da Iria. After having their lunch



and praying the rosary they were startled by a piercing light that flashed in the sky. Preparing to go home in fear of a storm, they saw a lovely lady dressed all in white, more brilliant than the sun, and rays of light like crystal in sparkling water, emanating from her. The lady spoke to them: ***Fear not! I will not harm you!*** Lucia asked where she was from. She said, ***I come from heaven.*** The Lady wore a pure white mantle, edged with gold which fell to her feet. In her hands, the beads of a rosary shone like stars, with its crucifix the most radiant gem of all. They felt no fear, only gladness and confident joy. After Lucia asked what she wanted from them the Lady responded, ***I want you to return here on the thirteenth of each month for the next six months, and at the very same hour. Later I shall tell you who I am, and what it is that I most desire. And I shall return here yet a seventh time. Will***

you offer yourselves to God, and bear the sufferings He sends you? In atonement for all the sins that offend Him? And for the conversion of sinners? Lucia responded, “Oh, we will, we will!” (Only Lucia could speak with the Lady) ***Then you will have a great deal to suffer, but the grace of God will be with you and will strengthen you.*** The Lady’s hands opened and they were bathed in a heavenly light that appeared to come directly from her hands cutting into their hearts and souls and somehow they knew it was God.

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During this first apparition of the beautiful Lady on May 13, 1917, the three children, Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco, embraced in the light radiating from her hands, fell to their knees, repeating in their hearts: ***“Oh, Holy Trinity, we adore You. My God, my God, I love You in the Blessed Sacrament.”*** Lucia

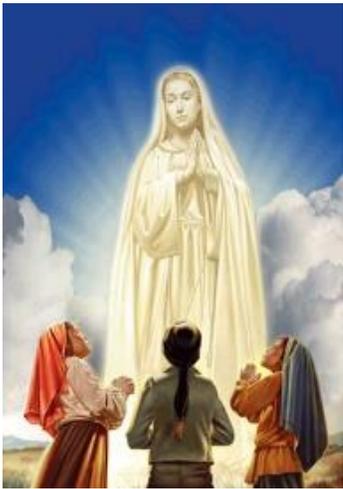
The Lady spoke again, mentioning the war in Europe which they had little to no knowledge. The Lady told them, ***Say the Rosary every day, to bring peace to the world and an end to the war [WWI].*** She ascended slowly until she disappeared with light encircling her as if the heavens opened.

The children were filled with excitement but Lucia cautioned them not to tell anyone. Jacinta could not be contained and revealed to her family the occurrence. Only her father believed her at first.

Lucia’s mother thought of her as an instigator of tales and thus began some of the suffering the Lady had foretold. She was hauled to the parish priest who was not a comfort either.

This was just a start of the suffering the three simple young children would endure as insults, accusations, and mockery began in the town and in their own homes.

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June 13, 1917, the feast of St. Anthony of Padua, was a greatly celebrated feast in Portugal, the three children were not distracted and went to the Cova to keep their appointment with the beautiful Lady at noon. Arriving they found a small crowd awaiting them.

After praying the rosary, the children saw for the second time a reflection of light and following, the Lady. *“Please tell me, Madam, what it is that you want of me?”* asked Lucia.

I want you to come here on the thirteenth of next month. I want you to continue saying the Rosary every day. And after each one of the mysteries, my children, I want you to pray this way: O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fire of hell. Take all souls to heaven, especially those who are most in need. I want you to learn to read and write, and later I will tell

you what else I want of you.

“Will you take me to heaven?” Yes, *I shall take Jacinta and Francisco soon, but you will remain a little longer, since Jesus wishes you to make me known and loved on earth. He wishes also for you to establish devotion in the world to my Immaculate Heart.*

“Must I remain in the world alone?”, Lucia asked. *Not alone, my child, and you must not be sad. I will be with you always and my Immaculate Heart will be your comfort and the way which will lead you to God.*

Opening her hands, She transmitted to the three children again the reflection of intense light and they felt submerged in God. Those present knew something unusual had occurred, seeing the “lightening” but did not see the Lady.

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Note: The apparition of July 13th would prove to be in many ways the most controversial aspect of the message of Fatima, providing a secret in three parts, a vision of hell and future role of Russia. The children guarded these zealously and did not reveal them for years to come.



As July 13th, approached, Lucia was troubled by the words of her pastor that told her the devil might be behind the apparitions. When the day dawned, her fears disappeared and she joined Jacinta and Francisco in the Cova where a large crowd had gathered praying the Rosary.

A flash of light came, and the Lady appeared again. Lucia asked pardon for her doubts and what did She want from her.

I want you to come back here on the thirteenth of next month. Continue to say the Rosary every day in honor of Our Lady of the Rosary, to obtain the peace of the world and the end of the war, because only she can obtain it. *“Yes, yes.”* *I would like to ask who you are, and if you will do a miracle so that everyone will know for certain that you have appeared to us.”*

You must come here every month, and in October I will tell you who I am and what I want. I will then perform a miracle so that all may believe.

Lucia began to place before the Lady the petitions for help that so many had entrusted to her. The Lady said gently some would be cured and some not.

Make sacrifices for sinners, and say often especially while making a sacrifice: O Jesus, this is for love of Thee, for the conversion of sinners, and in reparation for offences committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

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The vision that remained secret for years...



The vision that was revealed to the three children on July 13th, happened as the Lady's hands opened and rays of light seemed to penetrate the earth. They saw a sea of fire. Plunged in this fire were terrifying demons and souls in human form, amid shrieks and groans of pain and despair. This horrified them.

The Lady said so kindly and so sadly: *You have seen hell, where the souls of poor sinners go. It is to save them that God wants to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart. If you do what I tell you, many souls will be saved, and there will be peace.*

This war will end, but if men do not refrain from offending God, another and more terrible war will begin. When you see a night that is lit by a strange and unknown light [occurred Jan. 28, 1938], you will know it is the sign God gives you that He is about to punish the world with war and with hunger, and by the persecution of the Church and the Holy Father.

To prevent this, I shall come to the world to ask that Russia be consecrated to my Immaculate Heart, and I shall ask that on the First Saturday of every month Communions of reparation be made in atonement for the sins of the world. If my wishes are fulfilled, Russia will be converted and there will be peace; if not, then Russia will spread her errors throughout the world, bringing new wars and persecution of the Church; the good will be martyred and the Holy Father will have much to suffer; certain nations will be annihilated. But in the end my Immaculate Heart will triumph. The Holy Father will consecrate Russia to me, and she will be converted, and the world will enjoy a period of peace.

The Lady parted as before in the other apparitions.

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On August 13, 1917, the apparition did not take place as the others had. The Communist authorities were



fearful the children were having too much influence on the people, so they were taken into custody for two days by local Communist authorities, unbeknown to their parents. The children were threatened to be put into boiling oil if they would not reveal the Secret told them by the Lady, then put in jail with convicts. Never giving into the threats, they held to the truths and secrets Our Lady told them not to reveal. Meantime, the people gathered without the children in the Cova, but they only saw a dimly glowing light without the children there to pray with them. After the children were released a few days later, Our Lady appeared to them, **Come again to the Cova da Iria on the 13th of next month, my child, and continue to say the Rosary every day. In the last month (October) I will perform a miracle so that all may believe.** She told them the coming miracle would have been

even greater if they had not been kidnapped by the officials. Lucia asked her, "What are we to do with the offerings of money that people leave at the Cova da Iria?" **I want you to have two ardors [litters to carry statues] made, for the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. I want you and Jacinta to carry one of them with two other girls. You will both dress in white. And then I want Francisco, with three boys helping him, to carry the other one. The boys, too, will be dressed in white. Offerings left over will help towards the construction of a chapel that is to be built here. Then, sadly, she reminded the children, Pray, pray very much. Make sacrifices for sinners. Many souls go to hell, because no one is willing to help them with sacrifice.** Having said that she departed as she had on the other occasions.

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On September 13, 1917, about 30,000 people from all directions gathered at the Cova to pray the Rosary with the children. Soon, after the customary flash of light, they saw the Lady on the Holm oak tree.



She spoke to Lucia: **“Continue to pray the Rosary in order to obtain the end of the war. I want you to come on October 13th when the Lord will come, as well as Our Lady of Dolours and Our Lady of Carmel. Saint Joseph will appear with the Child Jesus to bless the world. God is pleased with your sacrifices. He does not want you to sleep with the rope on, but only to wear it during the daytime.”** (The knotted rope was a sacrifice the children took upon themselves to wear at the earlier request from the Lady to pray and make sacrifices.)

Lucia then began to put forward the petitions for cures, to be told: **“Yes, I will cure some, but not others. In October, I will perform a miracle so that all may believe.”** Then Our Lady began to rise as usual, and disappeared.

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October 13, 1917 - The Day the Sun Danced!

As October 13 approached, the day the Lady promised a miracle, intense speculation throughout



Portugal spread, and the journalist, Avelino de Almeida, published a satirical article on the whole business in the anti-religious newspaper *O Seculo*. People from other parts of the country descended by the tens of thousands (estimated 70,000) on the Cova despite the terrible storm that lashed the mountain country around Fatima on the eve of the 13th. Many pilgrims walked barefooted, reciting the rosary as they went, all crowding into the area around the Cova. By mid-morning the weather again

turned bad and heavy rain began to fall.

The children reached the Holm oak around noon where the Lady always appeared to them. They saw the flash of light as Mary appeared. For the last time, Lucia asked what she wanted:

“I want to tell you that a chapel is to be built here in my honor. I am the Lady of the Rosary. Continue always to pray the Rosary every day. The war is going to end, and the soldiers will soon return to their homes.”

Again Lucia made requests for cures, conversions and other things. Our Lady’s response was:

“Some yes, but not others. They must amend their lives and ask forgiveness for their sins.”

At this point Mary grew very sad and said:

“Do not offend the Lord our God anymore, because He is already so much offended.”

Then, opening her hands, a shaft of light guided them to the sun, as she ascended, the reflection of her own light continued to be projected on the sun itself and the miracle began...

The Miracle of the Sun

As the crowd of 70,000 watched along with the skeptical journalist, Avelino de Almeida, Our Lady



opened her hands and rays of light brought them to the sun, the rain stopped and the miracle began to unfold. The children saw the visions foretold during the September apparition and the greatest miracle to occur since the Resurrection. It is also the only miracle ever precisely predicted as to date, time of day and location. Although it is popularly known as “The Miracle of the Sun” or “The Day the Sun Danced,” a great deal more took place. The solar phenomena included the dancing of the sun, its

fluctuations in color, its swirling and its descending toward the earth. There were also the stillness in the leaves of the trees in spite of howling winds, the complete drying of the rain soaked ground, and the restoration of clothes all wet and covered with mud so that, as eye-witness Dominic Reis put it, “they looked as tho they had just come back from the cleaners.” Physical cures of the blind and the lame were reported. The countless unreserved public confessions of sin and commitments to conversion of life attest to the authenticity of what they saw.

The miracle is reported to have been seen from as far as 15-25 miles away, thus ruling out the possibility of any type of collective hallucination or mass hypnotism. Doubters and skeptics had become believers. Even the journalist who had written satirically before, now reported affirmatively, and stood by his story later on in spite of harsh criticism.

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Newspaper accounts of The Day the Sun Danced



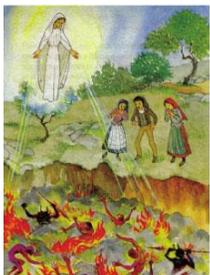
On October 13, 1917, there were thousands of witnesses to this amazing miracle promised by our Lady. It was described as the sun became exceptionally bright and began to turn, projecting different bands of color across the sky, the people, the trees and the clouds. It stayed still for a few moments, then went back to its normal position; stayed still for a little, then back again. Suddenly it moved out from the sky, as thought to fall into the crowd. Everyone was frightened beyond words. People fell to their knees onto the ground, and begged for mercy. All the people cried out. Then they saw what Mary had promised, visions of Mary, Our Mother of Sorrows, St. Joseph with the Child Jesus, and the Lord, Who blessed

the world. After all this was completed, people began to see that they were completely dry from the downpours that had happened only moments before. Lives were changed! Three young children, Lucia 9, Francisco 8, and Jacinta 6 devoted their young lives to prayer and sacrifice. They endured great hardships from the community, the government and their own family. They never wavered in their faith in the sincerity of the “Beautiful Lady” and trusted She was from God. They were entrusted with a great Secret that they only revealed parts of as the Lady directed.

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The Secret as it was revealed... Given during the third Apparition, July 13, 1917

The First Part of the Secret - Vision of Hell. Told by Lucia - *Our Lady showed us a great sea of fire which seemed to be under the earth. Plunged in this fire were demons and souls in human form, like transparent burning embers, all blackened or burnished bronze, floating about in the conflagration, now raised into the air by the flames that issued from within themselves together with great clouds of smoke, now falling back on every side like sparks in a huge fire, without weight or equilibrium, and amid shrieks and groans of pain and despair, which horrified us and made us tremble with fear. The demons could be distinguished by their terrifying and repulsive likeness to frightful and unknown animals, all black and transparent. This vision lasted but an instant. How can we ever be grateful enough to our kind, heavenly*



Mother, who had already prepared us by promising, in the first Apparition, to take us to heaven. Otherwise, I think we would have died of fear and terror.

The Second Part of the Secret – Our Lady’s request to Her Immaculate Heart

“You have seen hell where the souls of poor sinners go. To save them, God wishes to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart. If what I say to you is done, many souls will be saved and there will be peace. The war is going to end; but if people do not cease offending God, a worse one will break out during the pontificate of Pius XI. When you see a night illumined by an unknown light, know that this is the great sign given you by God that he is about to punish the world for its crimes, by means of war, famine, and persecutions of the Church and of the Holy Father.

“To prevent this, I shall come to ask for the consecration of Russia to my Immaculate Heart, and the Communion of Reparation on the First Saturdays. If my requests are heeded, Russia will be converted and there will be peace; if not, she will spread her errors throughout the world causing wars and persecutions of the Church. The good will be martyred; the Holy Father will have much to suffer; various nations will be annihilated. In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph. The Holy Father will consecrate Russia to me and she will be converted, and a period of peace will be granted to the world.”

Third Part of the Secret Revealed

Told by Lucia from her diary- *I write in obedience to you, my God, who command me to do so through his Excellency the Bishop of Leiria and through your Most Holy Mother and mine.*

At the left of Our Lady and a little above, we saw an Angel with a flaming sword in his left hand; flashing, it gave out flames that looked as though they would set the world on fire; but they died out in contact with the splendour that Our Lady radiated towards him from her right hand: pointing to the earth with his right hand, the Angel cried out in a loud voice: 'Penance, Penance, Penance!'. And we saw in an immense light that is God: 'something similar to how people appear in a mirror when they pass in front of it' a Bishop dressed in White 'we had the impression that it was the Holy Father'. Other Bishops, Priests, men and women Religious going up a steep mountain, at the top of which there was a big Cross of rough-hewn trunks as of a cork-tree with the bark; before reaching there the Holy Father passed through a big city half in ruins and half trembling with halting step, afflicted with pain and sorrow, he prayed for the souls of the corpses he met on his way; having reached the top of the mountain, on his knees at the foot of the big Cross he was killed by a group of soldiers who fired bullets and arrows at him, and in the same way there died one after another the other Bishops, Priests, men and women Religious, and various lay people of different ranks and positions. Beneath the two arms of the Cross there were two Angels each with a crystal aspersorium in his hand, in which they gathered up the blood of the Martyrs and with it sprinkled the souls that were making their way to God.



Lucia wrote later with permission the interpretation of the Secret. She expressed it pertained to the horrible tragedies in the wars of the 20th Century and the assassination attempt on Pope John Paul II that took place on May 13, 1981 (anniversary of the First Apparition). JP II had a great devotion to Our Lady of Fatima and requested a bullet extracted from him to be put in the Crown of Our Lady at Fatima stating, “It was a Mother’s hand that guided the bullets path”.

MOVIE NIGHT – For ALL Ages

Friday, October 13th

Celebrate the 100 Year Fatima Anniversary
of the *Day the Sun Danced*

Two movie versions will be featured...



Adult version –
Parish Hall

Youth version -
Education Center gym
(for children 3 years & up)

*Note: All children must be signed in
at 6:30pm before the show time!*



Show time - 7pm sharp!

Doors open with popcorn ready at 6:30pm.

BRING FRIENDS – IT'S FREE!