

THE FATIMA APPARITIONS

~ AS RELEVANT TODAY AS IT WAS FOR PEACE IN 20TH CENTURY ~

A continuation of the June 13, 1917 apparitions from previous poster:

And like the first apparition, Our Lady opened her hands and the immense light surrounded the children who were overwhelmed in their spirits by being immersed in God's presence and goodness. In her memoirs Lucia wrote: "Jacinta and Francisco seemed to be part of the light which rose toward Heaven, and I in that which was poured out on the earth. In front of the palm of Our Lady's right hand was a heart encircled with thorns which pierced it. We understood that this was the Immaculate Heart of Mary, outraged by the sins of humanity, and seeking reparation." Our Lady then rose into the sky as the crowd saw the little cloud of light drift away and that the leaves of the shrub were bent as if Our Lady's garments had trailed over them.



Our Lady of Fatima and her Immaculate Heart

July 13, 1917: The apparitions of July 13th and October 13th would be the most powerful and important. In July Our Lady gave the core of her message and in October she gave the miraculous sign validating the message. The July message consisted of serious warnings in words and visions and a promise of the ultimate victory of her Immaculate Heart.

Some 4,000 - 5,000 people joined the children in the field that day. As the children were praying the Rosary, a little white cloud descended. Our Lady appeared only to the children but bystanders sensed that something unusual was taking place. Seeing Our Lady, Lucia asked, "What do you want of me?"

Our Lady: "I want you to come on the thirteenth day of next month and to continue to pray the Rosary every day in honor of Our Lady of the Rosary, in order to obtain peace for the world and the end of the war for she alone can help." [Jesus would later affirm to Lucia that He had placed the peace of the world in the hands and heart of His Mother.]

Lucia: "I would like to ask who you are and to perform a miracle so that people will believe that you are appearing to us."

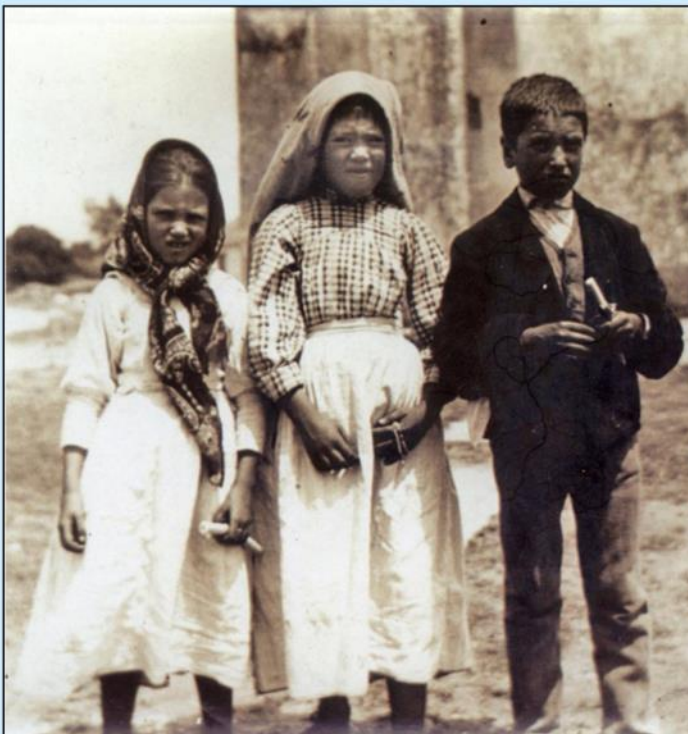
Our Lady: "Continue to come here every month. In October I will tell you who I am and what I want. And I will perform a miracle so that everyone may see and believe."

Lucia then submitted petitions and prayer requests for Our Lady to present to God. Our Lady gave some responses including that it would be:

"Necessary for such people to pray the Rosary in order to obtain the graces" that they were requesting.

Then Our Lady gravely said:

"Sacrifice yourselves for sinners and say often, especially when you make some sacrifice, 'O my Jesus, this is for love of You, for the conversion of sinners, and in reparation for the offenses committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.'"



The children after the July apparition

this sight which made me cry out, as people say they heard me.) The demons could be distinguished by their terrible and repellant likeness to frightful and unknown animals, black and transparent like burning coals. Terrified and as if to plead succor, we looked up at Our Lady who said to us, so kindly and so sadly:"

Our Lady: "You saw Hell where the souls of poor sinners go. In order to save them, God wishes to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart. If people do what I ask, many souls will be saved and there will be peace."

After the vision of Hell, Our Lady gave the "second secret" saying that World War I, which was raging at that time and would ultimately claim 20 million lives in the worst war until that time, would come to an end. But she then warned about an even worse war [World War II would begin 21 years later causing 66 million deaths] and of famine [such as famines in the USSR/Russia caused 5 and 6-10 million deaths in 1921-22 and 1932-33 respectively, and 20-40 million deaths in Communist China in 1959-61] and persecutions [the Church would be severely persecuted in the USSR until the late 1980s and it continues elsewhere in the world today]. Historians would later document how Russia fell into the clutches of the evil of Communism immediately after the last Fatima apparition in October 1917.

Our Lady: "The war is going to end. But if people do not stop offending God, another, even worse one will begin in the reign of Pius XI. When you shall see a night illuminated by an unknown light know that this is the great sign that God gives you that He is going to punish the world for its many crimes by means of war, hunger, and persecution of the Church and the Holy Father. To prevent it, I shall come to ask for the consecration of Russia to my Immaculate Heart and the Communion of Reparation on the first Saturdays.

"If people attend to my requests, Russia will be converted and the world will have peace. If not, she [Russia] will scatter her errors throughout the world, provoking wars and persecutions of the Church. The good will be martyred, the Holy Father will have much to suffer, and various nations will be destroyed.

"In the end my Immaculate Heart will triumph. The Holy Father will consecrate Russia to me; it will be converted, and a certain period of peace will be granted to the world. In Portugal the dogmas of the Faith will always be kept."

At this point Lucia and Jacinta were given the *Third Secret*, a vision of events beyond World War II. This *Third Secret* was eventually sent to the Vatican archives in 1957 and read by Pope St. John XXIII in 1959, by Pope Paul VI in 1965 and then Pope St. John Paul II in 1981 but the *Third Secret* was not publicly revealed until 2000. [Lucia's description of the vision, which was not committed to writing until 1944 at the direction of her Bishop, appears later in this presentation along with the Vatican's interpretation of the vision.]

At the end of this vision, Our Lady instructed the children:

"Do not tell this to anyone. Francisco ... yes, you may tell him."

Then Our Lady directed the children to pray this prayer:

"When you say the Rosary, say after each mystery: O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of Hell and lead all souls to Heaven, especially those most in need."

After a pause, Lucia asked, "Do you want anything more of me?"

Our Lady: "No, today I want nothing else of you."

Lucia then pointed to the sky said, "There she goes! There she goes! Now you can't see her anymore."

August 13, 1917: As noted earlier in the Part 1 Overview, the monarchy of Portugal was overthrown by a revolution of the very anti-Catholic, anti-clerical Freemasons in 1910. Then in power, the Freemasons passed in 1911 a very anti-religious law, their leader's goal being to eliminate Catholicism within two generations. This was the internal political climate in Portugal leading up to the apparitions that were gaining the attention of the faithful as well as the secular press and political leaders. As the word spread of the children having received secrets, that generated even more interest. With the number of pilgrims increasing with each apparition, the local officials sought to stop the pilgrims by discrediting the three young children and also to pry the secrets from them.

Just prior to August 13th, Lucia and her father were interrogated by civil administrator of the area. This official even threatened to kill Lucia but she would not reveal the secrets nor declare the apparitions a hoax. He further threatened the parents with civil penalties if they did not keep the children away from the apparition site.

On August 13th, the civil administrator deceitfully kidnapped the children to keep them from the apparition site and took them to his home overnight.

On August 14th, the three children were interrogated and then, seeking to terrorize them, the administrator locked them up in jail with thieves but the children, despite their fear and abandonment, courageously stood their ground and prayed the Rosary. Some of the prisoners even joined them in prayer. The frustrated administrator then threatened to throw the children in a vat of boiling oil but the children were prepared to die as martyrs.

On August 15th, the Feast of the Assumption, the children were driven back to their parish church rectory in Fatima and left on the steps.

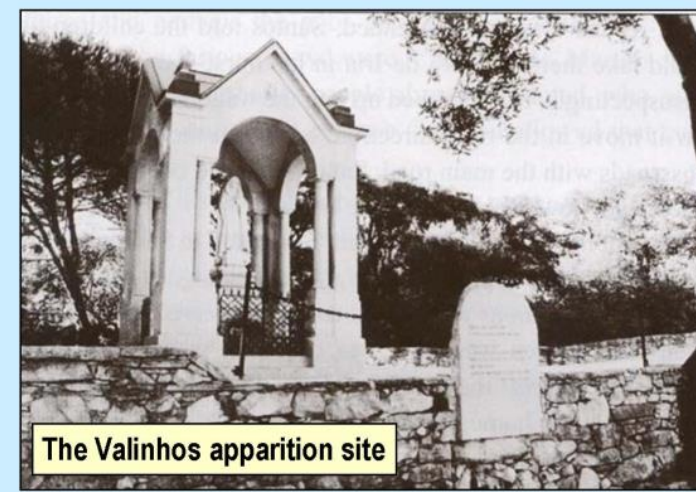
Meanwhile back on August 13th at the apparition site, a crowd of around 15,000 had gathered in the field. When they heard that the children were kidnapped by the authorities, the crowd was becoming angry about the news, and then suddenly there was a loud, frightful clap of thunder and a blinding flash of light and then a small, brilliant white cloud descend to where the children met Our Lady in the previous apparitions. The cloud remained for a few minutes and then rose to the heavens. A supernatural light remained. There was also a heavenly fragrance of flowers that people experienced. Our Lady had made her presence known even though the children could not be there.



The 3 children at their parish church

August 19, 1917: While Lucia, Francisco and his brother John were tending their sheep in a little place called Valinhos, Lucia sensed Our Lady would soon appear. She sent John to get Jacinta and as soon as she arrived, Our Lady appeared and Lucia asked her, "What do you want of me?"

Our Lady: "I want you to continue going to the Cova da Iria on the 13th, and to continue praying the Rosary every day. In the last month [October], I will perform a miracle so that all may believe. Had they not taken you to Ourem [the town of the devious civil administrator], the miracle would have been greater." [Fr. Apostoli commented on how a lack of faith can diminish God's miraculous power.]



The Valinhos apparition site

Our Lady continued saying in October: "St. Joseph too will come with the Holy Child to bring peace to the world. Our Lord will also come to bless the people. Our Lady of the Rosary and Our Lady of Sorrows will come too."

Lucia then asked, "What are we to do with the offerings of money that people leave at the Cova da Iria?"

Our Lady: "Have two litters [portable trays used to carry items] made. One is to be carried by you and Jacinta and two other girls dressed in white, the other one is to be carried by Francisco and three other boys. The money from the litters is for the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, and what is left over will help towards the construction of a chapel that is to be built here."

Lucia: "I would like to ask you to cure some sick persons."

Our Lady: "Yes, I will cure some of them during the year." Then looking very sad, she continued: "Pray, pray a great deal and make sacrifices for many souls go to Hell because they have no one to make sacrifices and to pray for them."

The vision then rose in a cloud of light and disappeared.

September 13, 1917: The terrible treatment of the children in August caused even greater interest in the apparitions. On September 13th, the estimates of the much larger crowd ranged from 25,000 to more than 30,000. Many people saw the small white cloud descend to the children. They also saw what looked like a rain of colorful rose petals which vanished when reaching the ground. When Lucia cried out, "You must pray!", thousands of pilgrims fell to their knees praying the Rosary. The children then saw a flash of light as Our Lady appeared and Lucia asked: "What do you want of me?"

Our Lady: "Continue to pray the Rosary every day in order to obtain the end of the war. In October Our Lord will come as well as Our Lady of Sorrows and Our Lady of Mount Carmel. St. Joseph will appear with the Child Jesus to bless the world.

God is pleased with your sacrifices, but He does not want you to sleep with the rope on [tied around your waste]; wear it only during the day."

Lucia: "People have begged me to ask you many things. The cure of some sick persons, of a deaf mute..."

Our Lady: "Yes, some I will cure but not others. In October I shall perform a miracle so that all may believe."

Lucia then rose and said, "If you wish to see her look in that direction." People could see the small white cloud ascending into the sky.

Narrative continues on the next Fatima Apparitions poster

THE FATIMA PLAN FOR PEACE

- ✦ By Eucharistic Devotion: Mass, Holy Communion & Eucharistic Adoration
- ✦ By Striving to live good Christian lives
- ✦ By Praying daily, especially the Rosary
- ✦ By Observing the Five First Saturdays Devotion as an act of reparation
- ✦ By Make sacrifices for the conversion of sinners and accept suffering patiently in reparation for our sins and those of others
- ✦ By The Consecration of Russia by the Pope and all the Bishops



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