

THE FATIMA APPARITIONS

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

Continued from previous poster:

October 13, 1917: Prior to the apparition, the secular press in collusion with the anti-religious politicians, conducted a bitter campaign to mock and discredit the apparitions. Even neighbors continued to be hostile to the children and priests and family members still tried to get the children to refute the apparitions, especially Lucia's own family and particularly her mother.

The general estimate of the crowd size on October 13th at the apparition site was 70,000 plus another 25,000 watching from about 25 miles around. It had been raining for more than a day yet both believers and critics had gathered in the field in the terrible rainy weather. Many newspaper reporters and photographers were there to record the miracle or prove the children were lying.

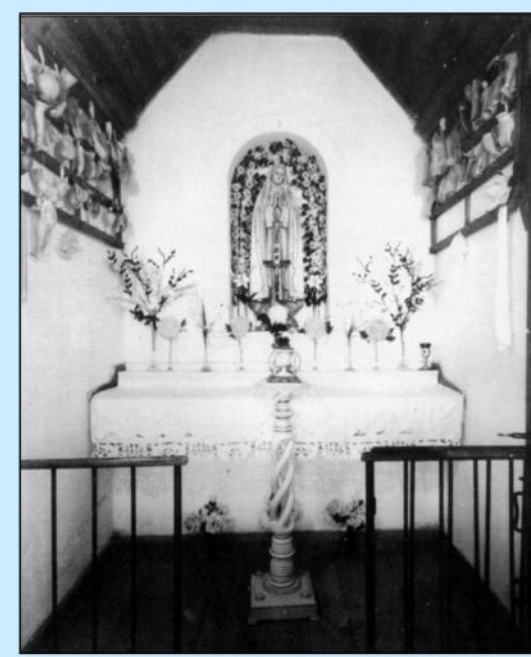
As the crowd stood in the relentless, pouring rain with mud up to their ankles, many were praying the Rosary. Suddenly Lucia cried out, "Put down your umbrellas everyone!" To Jacinta and Francisco she said, "Kneel down. Our Lady is coming! I have seen the flash!" And then Our Lady appeared.

Lucia asked: "What do you want of me?"

Our Lady: "I would like a chapel built here in my honor. I am the Lady of the Rosary. Continue to pray the Rosary every day. The war is going to end soon and the soldiers will soon return to their homes.

Lucia: "I have many things to ask you: the cure of some sick persons; the conversion of sinners; and other things."

Our Lady: "Some, yes, but not others. I have come to warn the faithful to amend their lives and ask for pardon for their sins." Then looking very sad she said: "Do not offend the Lord Our God any more, because He is already so much offended."



The initial chapel built at the Cova da Iria



Pilgrims looking up toward the miracle of the sun

As Our Lady was about to leave, she pointed to the sun and Lucia cried out, "Look at the sun!" The rain had stopped and the black clouds parted and the sun began to whirl in the sky, scattering rays of multi-colored light and lighting up the entire countryside.

The sun whirled for three minutes, stopped and, then, resumed spinning a second and third time lasting a total of twelve minutes. The sun spun faster each time and at the end seemed to tear itself from the sky and began plunging to earth.

The crowd was on their knees, terrified, asking pardon for their sins fearing that the end of the world was at hand. At the last moment the sun halted its descent and returned to its normal position. The miracle ended with the rain soaked earth and people's clothes now being completely dry. There were many reported healings.



Police officer carrying Jacinta safely away from the Oct. 13th apparition



As the crowd was witnessing the miracle of the sun, the children saw visions of the Holy Family, Jesus, Joseph and Mary. They also saw Our Lord carrying His cross with His Mother, Our Lady of Sorrows. Lucia also saw Our Lady of Mount Carmel who signifies the triumph over suffering.

The miracle was seen over a 600 square mile area. The daily newspaper of Portugal's capitol city, *O Seculo*, reported extensively on the miracle of the sun in its October 15, 1917 edition [see above photos] but newspapers in most other countries ignored the story.

AFTER THE MIRACLE OF THE SUN

THE DEATHS OF FRANCISCO & JACINTA



The Hospital in Lisbon where Jacinta died

In December of 1918, Francisco became sick with Spanish influenza. Soon afterwards, Jacinta also became ill with influenza and later pleurisy. Francisco willingly accepted his suffering and offered it for the conversion of lost souls. He died on April 4, 1919. He had grown so much spiritually since the first apparition.

Jacinta also willingly accepted her suffering. She still vividly remembered the suffering souls in Hell in the vision of July 13, 1917 and was willing to endure much suffering to save souls. Jacinta's health deteriorated throughout 1919 and she was moved to a hospital in Lisbon where she died on February 20, 1920.



The bedroom where Francisco died

ADDITIONAL VISIONS & MESSAGES GIVEN TO JACINTA

Before her death, Our Lady appeared to Jacinta several times between December 1919 and February 1920 and told her many things including:

"The sins of the world are very great... If men only knew what eternity is, they would do everything in their power to change their lives."

"You must pray much for sinners and priests and religious."

"Priests must be pure, very pure. They should not busy themselves with anything except what concerns the Church and souls. The disobedience of priests and religious to their superiors and to the Holy Father gravely displeases Our Lord."

"Fly from riches and luxury; love poverty and silence; have charity, even for bad people."

"More souls go to Hell because of sins of the flesh than for any other reason."

"Certain fashions will be introduced that will offend Our Lord very much."

"The Mother of God wants more virgin souls bound by the vow of chastity."

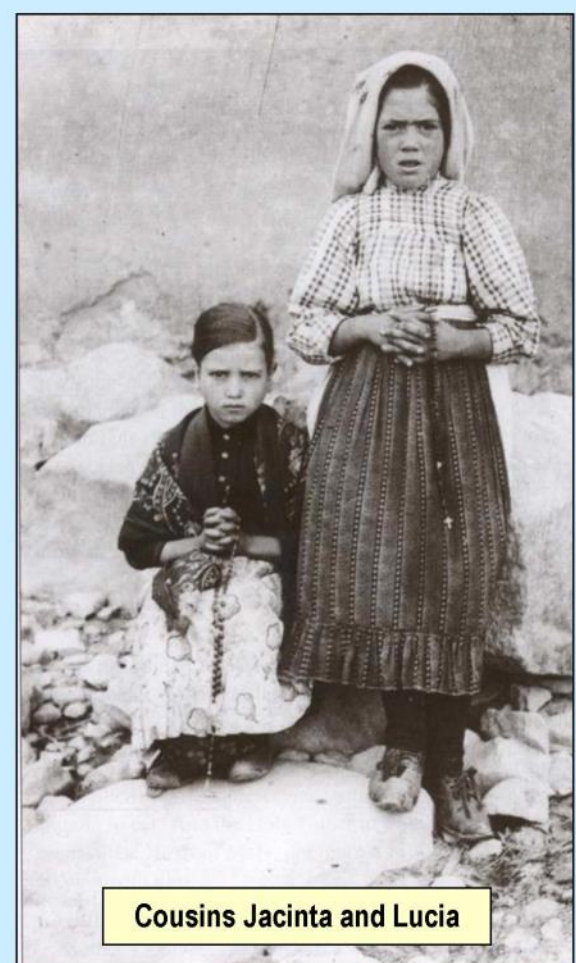
"Woe to women wanting in modesty."

"Confession is a sacrament of mercy and we must confess with joy and trust."

"Many marriages are not of God and do not please Our Lord."

"Let men avoid greed, lies, envy, blasphemy, impurity."

"Never speak ill of anyone. Never complain or murmur. Be very patient, for patience leads us to Heaven."



Cousins Jacinta and Lucia

"Our Lady can no longer uphold the arm of her Divine Son which will strike the world. If people amend their lives, Our Lord will even now save the world, but if they do not, punishment will come."

"If the government of a country leaves the Church in peace and gives liberty to our Holy Religion, it will be blessed by God."

"Tell everybody that God gives graces through the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Tell them to ask graces from her, and that the Heart of Jesus wishes to be venerated together with the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Ask them to plead for peace from the Immaculate Heart of Mary, for the Lord has confided the peace of the world to her."

June 16, 1921: This was the seventh apparition at Fatima that the Blessed Mother referred to in the May 13, 1917 apparition. It occurred on the eve of Lucia's departure to a convent school at Vilar de Oporto with her mother's consent to grow up as a normal child, thus removing her from being besieged by the many pilgrims coming to Fatima. This apparition had a personal message for Lucia which she did not consider necessary to relate in her memoirs.

In 1925 Lucia entered the Order of St. Dorothy at Tuy, Spain. Later when her long term desire to live in seclusion and solitude re-awakened, she received permission to transfer to the Discalced Carmelites near Coimbra, Portugal. Sister Lucia remained in a convent until her death at age 97 in February 13, 2005



Lucia in 1920 at 13 years-old

THE REQUEST FOR THE FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION



Lucia at 17 years-old

Historical Context - Germany Begins March to World War II: The request for the Communion of Reparation on the First Saturdays occurred on December 10, 1925, which was about two months before Hitler consolidated his leadership position in the Nazi Party at meeting of sixty of its leaders on February 14, 1926. Historian Ian Kershaw wrote that at the meeting "Hitler had reasserted his authority" and with subsequent actions and a directive it led to "the complete establishment of Hitler's supreme mastery over the party."

In the years that followed the request, the Nazi Party grew and Hitler eventually became the dictator of Germany and the instigator of World War II. On the night of January 25-26, 1938, there was a very unusual aurora borealis over Europe which Lucia, now a nun, understood was the "Great Sign." Seven weeks later, Hitler invaded Austria on March 13, 1938, the first of many German invasions that would follow in Europe and North Africa. While Austria protested, it did not resist militarily and that hostile German action could be seen as the starting point of World War II, a war that would cause the deaths of an estimated 66 million soldiers and civilians.

December 10, 1925: By this time Lucia was a postulant in the Congregation of the Dorothean Sisters at a convent in Pontevedra, Spain. On this date the Blessed Mother appeared to Lucia elevated on a luminous cloud with the Christ Child at her side in the convent chapel. In her hand, she showed Lucia a heart encircled with thorns.

The Christ Child spoke first: "Have compassion on the Heart of your Most Holy Mother, covered with thorns, with which ungrateful men pierce it at every moment, and there is no one to make an act of reparation to remove them."

Our Lady then spoke: "Look my daughter, at my Heart, surrounded with thorns with which ungrateful men pierce me at every moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude. You at least try to console me and say that I promise to assist at the hour of death, with the graces necessary for salvation, all those who, on the first Saturday of five consecutive months, shall confess [their sins], receive Holy Communion, recite five decades of the Rosary, and keep me company for fifteen minutes while meditating on the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary, with the intention of making reparation to me."



Sister Lucia as a Dorothean Sister

February 15, 1926: While Lucia was attending to her daily chores at the convent in Pontevedra, the Child Jesus appeared again and said:

"And have you spread through the world what our heavenly Mother requested of you?"

Lucia replied: "My Jesus, You know very well what my confessor said to me in the letter I read to You. He told me that it was necessary for this vision to be repeated, for further happenings to prove its credibility, and he added that Mother Superior, on her own, could do nothing to propagate this devotion."

Jesus: "It is true that your Superior alone can do nothing, but with My grace she can do all. It is enough that your confessor gives you permission and that your Superior speak of it, for it to be believed, even without people knowing to whom it has been revealed."

Lucia: "But my confessor said in the letter that this devotion is not lacking in the world, because there are many souls who receive You on the First Saturdays, in honor of Our Lady and of the fifteen Mysteries of the Rosary."

Jesus: "It is true My daughter, that many souls begin the First Saturdays, but few finish them, and those who do complete them do so in order to receive the graces that are promised thereby. It would please Me more if they did five with fervor and with the intention of making reparation to the Heart of your heavenly Mother, than if they did fifteen, in a tepid and indifferent manner..."



"Have compassion on the Heart of your Most Holy Mother, covered with thorns, with which ungrateful men pierce it at every moment, and there is no one to make an act of reparation to remove them." [Fr. Apostoli indicated that Jesus was directing Lucia to remain silent about the Third Secret.]

Lucia then placed before Jesus the difficulty that some people had about confessing on Saturdays, and asked that if it might be valid to go to confession within eight days.

Jesus: "Yes, and it could be longer still, provided that, when they receive Me, they are in the state of grace and have the intention of making reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary."

Lucia: "My Jesus, what about those who forget to make this intention?"

Jesus: "They can do so at their next confession, taking advantage of the first opportunity to go to confession."

December 17, 1927: In prayer in the chapel at Pontevedra, Lucia asked Jesus for direction concerning revealing the secrets of Our Lady's apparitions, particularly the December 10, 1925 apparition concerning the devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. By means of an inner locution, Jesus told her:

"My daughter, write what they [her spiritual director and bishop] ask of you. Write also all that the most holy Virgin revealed to you in the apparition in which she spoke of this devotion. As for the remainder of the Secret continue to keep silence." [Fr. Apostoli indicated that Jesus was directing Lucia to remain silent about the Third Secret.]

Narrative continues on the next Fatima Apparitions poster

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