

## Our Lady of Fatima

August 13th – September 13th – October 13th

1917

**By July 13, 1917**, the shepherd children of Fatima had already received the three secrets from our Lady. Lucia and Jacinta heard them from Mary herself. They would communicate them to Francisco only at the behest of the Virgin Mary. The last words she spoke before delivery of the famous “third secret of Fatima” were: “In Portugal, the dogma of the faith will be preserved.....” The implication of these words is that other nations would not preserve the dogma of the faith, indicating the great apostasy we see in the Church today.

Because of the secrets communicated by Our Lady of Fatima, Lucia, Jacinta, and Francisco were in jail in Our’em on August 13th. The civil administrator threatened to boil them in oil if they did not tell the Lady’s secrets. Even in the face of death, Lucia, Jacinta, and Francisco would not disobey the Lady. They chose death to betraying Mary by disclosing her secrets.

**At the Cova on August 13th** a large number of people had gathered, not knowing that the children had been kidnapped.

According to an eyewitness:

“Right after the thunder came a flash and immediately, we all noticed a little cloud, very white, beautiful, and bright, that came and stayed over the holm oak. It stayed a few minutes, then rose toward the heavens where it disappeared. Looking about, we noticed a strange sight that we had already seen and would see again. Everyone’s faces glowed, rose, red, blue, and all the colors of the rainbow. The trees seemed to have no branches or leaves but were all covered with flowers; every leaf was a flower. The ground was in little squares, each one a different color. Our clothes seemed to be transformed also into the colors of the rainbow. The two vigil lanterns hanging from the arch over the holy spot appeared to be of gold.” “When the signs disappeared, the people were sure that Our Lady had come, and, not finding the children, had returned to heaven. They felt that our Lady was disappointed.....”

**On August 19<sup>th</sup>**, Mary returned while the children were tending sheep in a hollow called Valinhas. She appeared over a holm oak slightly taller than the one in the Cova, and said:

“I want you to continue to come to the Cova da Iria on the thirteenth and to continue to pray the Rosary every day.”

Lucia asked:

“What do you wish us to do with the money and the offerings that the people leave at the Cova da Iria?”

Our Lady replied,

“Two litters should be made; you and Jacinta are to carry one with two girls dressed in white; Francisco is to carry the other with three boys also dressed in white robes. The money placed on the litters is for the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.”

Our Lady repeated her promise of a miracle.

“In October, I shall perform a miracle so that all may believe in my apparitions. If they had not taken you to the village, the miracle would have been greater. St. Joseph will come with the Baby Jesus

to give peace to the world. Our Lord also will come to bless the people. Besides, Our Lady of the Rosary and Our Lady of Sorrows will come.”

Notice how kind and consoling Mary is toward the children. She knows how traumatized they were by the civil administrator who threatened to kill them if they didn't reveal the secret. Mary tells them that because they had suffered such brutal treatment, the miracle would be diminished. (The miracle of the sun would already be tremendous in October. Imagine what it might have been had the children not been kidnapped!)

Our Lady also gives Lucia, Jacinta, and Francisco something great to look forward to by telling them that Jesus will come on October 13<sup>th</sup>, and St. Joseph; and that she would come as the Virgin of Carmel and the “Mater Dolorosa”. She is a tender Mother to the shepherd children in the apparition of August. On that hot day in August, Lucia asked for the cure of some sick persons, and was told that some of them would be cured within the year. Our Lady made it plain, however, that her principal concern is for souls:

“Pray, pray a great deal and make sacrifices for sinners; for many souls go to hell because they have no one to sacrifice and pray for them.”

What a lesson we learn from these words! The salvation of souls depends on the prayers You and I offer; and the sacrifices we make on earth for the love of God and neighbors!

**What was Our Lady's message on September 13<sup>th</sup>?** It was brief:

“Continue to say the Rosary to bring about the end of the war.”

She repeated the promise of a miracle the following month. Then she said,

“God is content with your sacrifices but does not wish you to sleep with the rope. Wear it only during the day.”

Someone gave Lucia a bottle of cologne with the request that it be presented to Our Lady. Our Lady graciously refused the gift saying,

“That is not necessary in heaven.”

Many of the people who were present for the apparition on September 13<sup>th</sup> saw a luminous globe cross the sky and stop over the holm oak. Then later it rose and disappeared toward the sun. Monsignor John Quaresma, Vicar General of the diocese of Leiria, who was one of the many to behold this sign, said, “The three little shepherds had seen the Mother of God herself; to us had been given the grace to see the chariot that had borne her from heaven to the barren and inhospitable hill of Aire.”

Another unusual feature of this apparition was that many people saw white flowers which showered down from heaven but disappeared before reaching the ground.

In July, August and September, Our Lady had promised a miracle in October. Unbelievers scoffed at the idea and made the journey to prove the “hoax of Fatima”. Believers were filled with hope and expectation that a promised miracle would take place in Portugal. Lucia's mother tried to get the girl to retract her story. The families of the children were very much frightened, but the children themselves were calm and serene. “There will be a miracle, because Our Lady promised it,” Lucia said.

**October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

The day was cold and rainy but more than 70,000 people gathered at the Cova. They sang hymns, recited prayers, and said the Rosary. A path had been cleared through the throng for Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta.

“Put down your umbrellas,” Lucia said. All the umbrellas were lowered. At noon, Lucia saw the flash of light that always preceded Our Lady’s appearances.

“Silence, silence, Our Lady is coming!” Lucia cried.

What did Our Lady say on October 13<sup>th</sup>? Our Lady came out of the east and again stopped above the hold oak. Lucia asked,

“Who are you, Madam, and what do you want of me?”

“I am the Lady of the Rosary, and I desire a chapel built in my honor in this place. People must continue to say the Rosary every day. The war will end soon, and the soldiers will return to their homes.”

Lucia said, “I have so many things to ask you.”

Our Lady said, “I will grant some of them, the others, no.”

Assuming a sadder air, the Lady spoke her final words – her farewell –

“Men must offend Our Lord no more, and they must ask pardon for their sins, for He is already much offended.”

The miracle of the sun took place as foretold. The children beheld the heavenly vision of the Holy Family, and the tableau of the Mysteries of the Rosary. As the sun plunged to the earth, the people cried out,

“Save us, Jesus!”

“Our Lady, save us!”

Many fervently prayed the Act of Contrition. The children could never forget the sorrowful countenance of Our Lady as she spoke her final words at Fatima. Lucia says that they are the very essence of the message of Fatima.

“Men must offend Our Lord no more, and they must ask pardon for their sins, for He is already much offended.”

It was the same message given at LaSalette:

“If my people will not submit, I shall be forced to let go the hand of my Son. It is so strong, so heavy, that I can no longer withhold it.”

In these “Fatima Months”, take the words of Our heavenly Mother to heart. Put them into practice.

**TIME IS RUNNING OUT!**

*God Love You!*

*Fr. John*