

# Our Lady of Fatima

100 YEARS OF GRACE



SPECIAL REPORT

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the appearance of Mary to three young visionaries in the town of Fatima in Portugal. This report is excerpted from *Fatima, 100 years of Grace* by the World Apostolate of Fatima, U.S.A. — Our Lady’s Blue Army. If you would like to read an in-depth account of the miracle, its history and the lives of the children, accompanied by historical photography, visit [www.wafusa.org](http://www.wafusa.org).

## The story

During World War I, Pope Benedict XV made repeated, but forlorn, pleas for peace. Finally, in May 1917, he made a direct appeal to the Blessed Mother to intercede for peace in the world. Just over a week later, Our Lady began to appear at Fatima, Portugal, to three shepherd children: Lucia dos Santos, age 10, and her cousins Francisco and Jacinta Marto, ages 9 and 7. However, it was in the previous year, 1916, that the children had their first supernatural encounters with an angel as a means of preparing them to receive the Queen of Heaven.

## The angel of Portugal

In the spring of 1916, as the three shepherd children tended their sheep in a property called Old Chousa, a drizzling rain began to

fall, so they climbed the hill to find shelter in the crevices of a rock. Suddenly, a strong wind began to shake the trees. They looked up and saw coming toward them a dazzlingly beautiful young man, seemingly made of light, who told them, “Do not be afraid. I am the angel of peace. Pray with me.”

Kneeling on the ground, he bowed down until his forehead touched the ground and had them repeat three times: “My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love you. I ask pardon for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love you.”

Then, rising, he said, “Pray thus. The hearts of Jesus and Mary are attentive to the voice of your supplications.” Leaving them absorbed in a supernatural atmosphere, the angel disappeared.

The angel appeared to them again later in the summer and in the fall, encouraging them to pray and to make sacrifices for the reparation of sin.

## The first apparition of Mary

On May 13, the three children took their flocks out to pasture in the area known as the *Cova da Iria*. After lunch and the rosary, they suddenly saw a bright flash of light, followed quickly by another flash in the clear blue sky.

They looked up to see, in Lucia’s words, “A lady, clothed in white, brighter than the sun, radiating a light more clear and intense than a crystal cup filled with sparkling water lit by burning sunlight.” She said, “Do not be afraid, I will not harm you. I come from heaven.” She asked them to come to the Cova for six months on the 13th day of the same hour

She ended the visit by saying, “Say the rosary every day to obtain peace for the world and the end of the war,” and began to rise serenely toward the east until she disappeared.

## Monthly apparitions

Mary continued to appear to the children throughout the months, and encouraged the children to pray the rosary for the reparation of sins and the conversion of Communist Russia. As word spread, large crowds gathered to witness and pray.

“Do not be afraid. I am the angel of peace. Pray with me.”



(l-r) Jacinta Marto, Francisco Marto, and Lucia dos Santos.

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## The three secrets

The children said they had been told a three-part secret. Lucia wrote down the third part of the secret at the order of her bishop, but it was not divulged until 2000, just after the beatification of Jacinta and Francisco.

### ■ THE VISION OF HELL

“As she spoke these words she opened her hands. The light seemed to penetrate the earth and we saw, as it were, a sea of fire. Plunged in this fire were demons and souls in human form, like transparent burning embers, all blackened and 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 huge fires, without weight or equilibrium, 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 repellent likeness to frightful and unknown animals, black and transparent like burning coals. Terrified and as if to plead for succor, we looked up at Our Lady, who said to us so sadly:

“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.”

### ■ THE REQUEST FOR THE CONSECRATION OF RUSSIA

“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.”

### ■ THE CALL TO PENANCE

Obeying an order from her bishop, Sister Lucia wrote the last part of the secret on Jan. 3, 1944:

“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 splendor that Our Lady radiated toward him from her right hand. Pointing to the earth with his right hand, the angel cried out in a loud voice: ‘Penance, Penance, Penance!’ We saw 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 it was the Holy Father) and other bishops, priests and 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 a halting step, afflicted with pain and sorrow, he

prayed for the souls of the corpses he met along 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 their hand, in which they gathered up the blood of the martyrs and with it sprinkled the souls that were making their way to God.” †

▼ TOP PHOTO:  
Statue  
portraying the  
angel of peace  
apparition

▼ BOTTOM  
PHOTO:  
Holm oak  
tree where  
apparition  
appeared at  
Cova da Iria



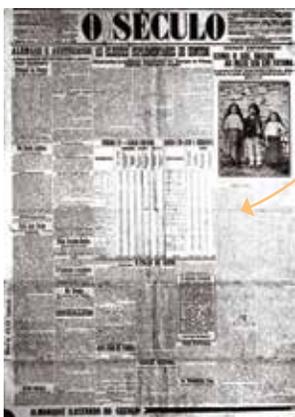


## The Miracle of the Sun

### DURING THE OCTOBER APPARITION

The greatest miracle to occur since the resurrection is also the only miracle ever precisely predicted as to date, time of day and location. It is popularly known as “The Miracle of the Sun” and Oct. 13, 1917, has come to be known as “The Day the Sun Danced.” The miracle was viewed by 70,000 or more people at the Cova that day, and is reported to have been seen from as far as 25 miles away. Doubters and skeptics had become believers. Even the secular newspaper *O Seculo*'s chief reporter, Avelino de Almeida, who had written satirically before, now reported affirmatively, and stood by his story later on in spite of harsh criticism.

For an eyewitness account of the miracle by Dr. José Maria de Almeida Garrett, professor at the Faculty of Sciences of Coimbra, Portugal, visit <http://www.fatima.org/essentials/facts/miracle.asp>. On Oct. 13, 1951, the papal legate, Cardinal Tedeschini, told the million people gathered at Fátima that on Oct. 30, Oct. 31, Nov. 1 and Nov. 8, 1950, Pope Pius XII himself witnessed the miracle of the sun from the Vatican gardens.



**THREE-PART SECRET REVEALED TO THE CHILDREN**

#### 12TH CENTURY

The village of Fatima is named after a beloved Muslim princess who converted to the Catholic faith and married the Christian knight Goncalo Hermingues

#### 1915

9-year-old Lucia sees a figure in white suspended in midair

#### SPRING 1916

The angel of peace appears to Lucia and her cousins Jacinta and Francisco

#### SUMMER 1916

The angel of peace appears a second time, announcing himself as the angel of Portugal

#### FALL 1916

The angel of peace appears a third time

#### MAY 13, 1917

First apparition of Our Lady of Fatima at the *Cova da Iria*

#### JUNE 13, 1917

Second apparition of Our Lady of Fatima

#### JULY 13, 1917

Third apparition of Our Lady of Fatima — three-part secret revealed to the children

#### AUG. 13, 1917

The Fatima shepherds are kidnapped by Administrator Arturo de Santos, a leading Freemason

#### AUG. 19, 1917

Fourth apparition of Our Lady occurs in Valinhos near the village of Aljustrel

#### SEPT. 13, 1917

Fifth apparition of Our Lady of Fatima

#### OCT. 13, 1917

Sixth apparition of Our Lady of Fatima, **Miracle of the Sun** occurs before 70,000 witnesses in the *Cova da Iria*

#### FALL 1918

Francisco and Jacinta Marto contract the deadly influenza

#### APRIL 4, 1919

Francisco dies from influenza

#### APRIL 29, 1919

First Capelinha, “Chapel of Apparitions,” is built at the site of the apparitions

#### FEB. 20, 1920

Jacinta dies from tuberculosis and bronchial pneumonia

#### JUNE 13, 1920

The first statue of Our Lady of Fatima, sculpted by José Thedim according to Lucia's description, is placed at the Capelinha

#### JUNE 15, 1921

Our Lady appears to Lucia a seventh time and tells her to follow the path the bishop wants her to take; she departs to a school in Porto led by the Dorothean Sisters, taking the name Maria das Dores

#### MAY 3, 1922

Bishop Jose Alves Correia da Silva opens an official inquiry into the events at Fatima

#### OCT. 24, 1925

Lucia joins the Dorothean Sisters in Spain

#### DEC. 10, 1925

Our Lady and the Child Jesus appear to Sister Lucia in the convent chapel and request the propagation of the First Saturday Communions of Reparation

# Fatima: A timeline

SPECIAL REPORT

## FEB. 15, 1926

The Child Jesus appears to Sister Lucia, asking what is being done to spread the First Saturday devotion

## JUNE 13, 1929

Sister Lucia receives a vision of the Holy Trinity in the chapel; Our Lady appears and requests the consecration of Russia to her Immaculate Heart by the Holy Father and all the bishops

## OCT. 13, 1930

Bishop da Silva issues pastoral letter approving the apparitions at Fatima

## OCT. 3, 1934

Sister Lucia professes final vows with the Sisters of St. Dorothy, becoming Sister Maria Lucia of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart

## SEPT. 13, 1939

The bishop of Leiria makes public the request for the First Saturday devotion

## DEC. 2, 1940

Sister Lucia writes to Pope Pius XII requesting the consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart

## OCT. 13, 1942

Coronation of Our Lady of Fatima statue with a crown of jewels donated by Portuguese people, in thanksgiving for being spared during World War II

## SEPT. 1943

Bishop of Leiria orders Sister Lucia to write the third part of the secret, fearing she was dying

## JAN. 3, 1944

Our Lady appears to Sister

Lucia giving permission to write the third part of the secret; the contents are delivered to the bishop of Leiria for safekeeping

## 1947

Msgr. Harold V. Colgan co-founds The Blue Army with John Haffert and pledges it will oppose the Red Army of Communism

## MARCH 25, 1948

Sister Lucia enters the Carmel of Coimbra, Portugal

## JAN. 1950

The first issue of *Soul* magazine is published to spread the message of Fatima; 1 million signed pledges are buried at the Fatima Shrine

## JULY 7, 1952

In a special apostolic letter, Pope Pius XII consecrates the Russian people to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

## AUG. 17, 1959

Pope St. John XXIII reads the contents of the third part of the secret, but discerns it is not the right time to release it

## MARCH 27, 1965

Pope Paul VI reads the contents of the third part of the secret and decides not to publish the text

## MARCH 25, 1984

Pope St. John Paul II consecrates the world (and implicitly Russia) to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, in union with the Catholic bishops of the world and some Orthodox bishops; Sister Lucia confirms this consecration “was accepted by heaven” and fulfills Our Lady’s request

## MAY 13, 1989

Pope St. John Paul II declares Jacinta and Francisco “venerable”

## MARCH 15, 1990

The Vatican establishes diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union, following a meeting between Pope St. John Paul II and President Mikhail Gorbachev

## MAY 13, 1991

At Fatima, Pope St. John Paul II thanks Our Lady for the fruits of the 1984 collegial **consecration** and renews the consecration of the world to her Immaculate Heart

## 1990s

New Roman Catholic dioceses erected in Russia

## MAY 13, 2000

Pope St. John Paul II beatifies Francisco and Jacinta, declaring them “Blessed”

## JUNE 26, 2000

The Vatican publishes the third part of the secret of Fatima

## FEB. 12, 2005

Sister Lucia dies

## FEB. 19, 2006

Sister Lucia’s body is transferred from the Carmel to the Basilica of the Shrine of Fatima and laid to rest by the tombs of Francisco and Jacinta

## OCT. 13, 2013

Pope Francis consecrates the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary before the statue of Our Lady of Fatima that is flown to Rome for this occasion

## 2016-2017

The World Apostolate of Fatima celebrates the centenary of the apparitions at Fatima †



Pope St. John Paul II and Sister Lucia

## THE FATIMA PRAYERS:

### *Pardon Prayer*

*My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love thee! I beg pardon for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love thee.*

### *Angel's Prayer*

*O 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 of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges and indifference by which he is offended. By the infinite merits of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg the conversion of poor sinners.*

### *Eucharistic Prayer*

*Most Holy Trinity, I adore thee! My God, my God, I love thee in the Most Blessed Sacrament!*

### *Sacrifice Prayer*

*O Jesus, it is for love of you, for the conversion of sinners, and in reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.*

### *Decade Prayer – to be recited after each decade of the rosary*

*O My Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell. Lead all souls to heaven, especially those most in need of thy mercy.*

### *A Solemn Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary*

*Most Holy Virgin Mary, tender mother of men, to fulfill the desires of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the request of the vicar of your Son on earth, I consecrate myself and my family to your Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart, O Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, and I recommend to you all the people of our country and all the world. Please accept my consecration, dearest Mother, and use me as you wish to accomplish your designs in the world.*

*O Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary and Queen of the World, rule over me, together with the Sacred Heart of Jesus Christ, my king. Save me from the spreading flood of modern paganism; kindle in my heart and home the love of purity, the practice of a virtuous life, an ardent zeal for souls, and a desire to pray the rosary more faithfully. I come with confidence to you, O Throne of Grace and Mother of Fair Love, inflame me with the same divine fire which has inflamed your own Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart. Make my heart and home your shrine, and through me, make the Heart of Jesus, together with your rule, triumph in every heart and home. Amen. – POPE PIUS XII †*