



**THE APPEALS
OF OUR LADY**
APPARITIONS
AND
MARIAN SHRINES
IN THE WORLD

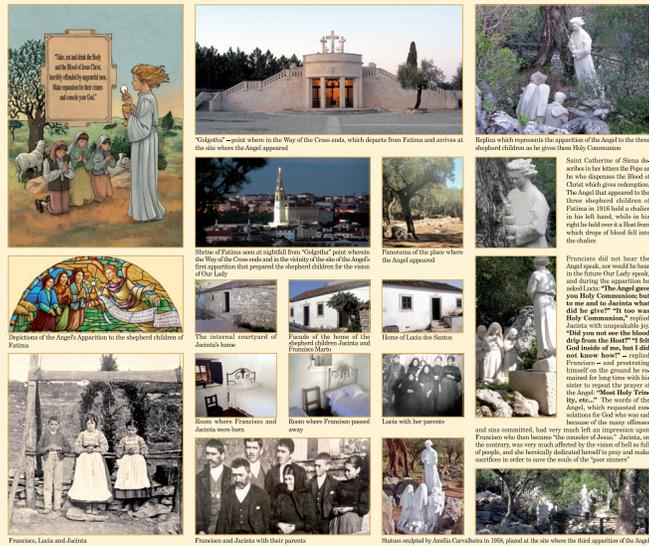
Apparition of an Angel in FÁTIMA

 PORTUGAL, 1916

This is how these events occurred according to how it was narrated in the biography of Blessed Jacinta written by her cousin, Sister Lucia dos Santos: "It seems to me that the **first appearance of the Angel** in our grotto of the Cabeço dates back to the spring of 1916. We had been playing for some time, and it was here that a strong gust of wind rustles the plant leaves and makes us raise our gaze to see what was happening, because the day was clear skies and calm weather. In that moment we begin to see on the plants a light more white than snow, which was assuming the transparent aspect of a young man, shining more brightly than a crystal illuminated by beams of sunlight. As he was slowly approaching us, we were able to distinguish his features: a youth about 14 or 15 years old, very handsome. Arriving near us he said: 'Be not afraid! I am the Angel of Peace. Pray with me!' And he knelt down on the land, bowed his head to face the ground, having us repeat these words three times: 'My God! I believe, adore, hope and love Thee. I beg pardon for all those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope, and do not love Thee.' Afterward, he got up and said: 'Pray in this manner. The Hearts of Jesus and Mary are attentive to the voice of your supplications.' Then he vanished, and the supernatural atmosphere which enveloped us was so intense that we almost did not even realize it, and for a long period of time we remained in the position in which the Angel had left us, always repeating the same prayer. His words became etched in our minds so much so that we would have never forgotten them. Ever since then we would remain for a long while like this, prostrate on the ground, repeating them, at times even to the point of toppling over because of fatigue."

The **second apparition** of the Angel occurred by the water well in the back of the small farm owned by Lucia's parents. "While we were playing near a water well, nicknamed Ameiro by us, which my parents had on their farm, from one moment to the next we saw in front of us appear the same figure of the Angel who said: 'What are you all doing? Pray! Pray very much! The Most Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary have for you designs of mercy. Unceasingly offer up prayers and sacrifices to The Most High!' **'How are we to sacrifice ourselves?'** I asked. 'In all ways possible, offer up to God a sacrifice as an act of reparation for the sins by which he is offended, and of supplication for the conversion of sinners. In this way you will invoke peace to your homeland. I am her Guardian Angel, the Angel of Portugal. Above all else, accept and endure with submission the suffering that the Lord will send to you.' These words were etched in our minds like a light that helped us understand who God was; how he loved us and how he wanted to be loved; the value of sacrifice and how he appreciated it; and how, through us, it could convert sinners. Therefore, ever since then we began to offer to God everything that was our mortification."

The **third apparition** occurred around September or October of 1916. "Once again the Angel came down with a message, even more elevated, to the Cabeço grotto, site of the first apparition. As soon as we arrived there, we began to repeat the Angel's prayer — on our knees, with our faces bowed down toward the ground: **'My God! I believe, adore, hope and love you, etc.'** I do not know how many times we had repeated this prayer, when we saw that above us gleamed an unknown light. We got up to see what was happening and we saw the Angel with a chalice in his left hand and above it a Host, from which dropped into the chalice several drops of blood. Leaving the chalice and the Host suspended in air, he prostrated himself upon the ground near to us and repeated three times the prayer: 'Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I offer you 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 indifferences with which He is offended. And through the infinite merits of His Most Sacred Heart and of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg of You the conversion of poor sinners.' Then arising he once again took the chalice and the Host, and gave me the Host and that which the chalice contained he gave as drink to Jacinta and to Francisco, saying at the same time: 'Take and drink the Body and the Blood of Jesus Christ, horribly offended by ungrateful people. Compensate for their sins and console your God.' Again he prostrated himself on the ground and repeated with us another three times the same prayer: Most Holy Trinity... and then he disappeared."



Francisco, Lucia and Jacinta | Francisco and Jacinta with their parents | Statue erected by Anelita Carvalhosa in 1956, placed at the site where the third apparition of the Angel occurred