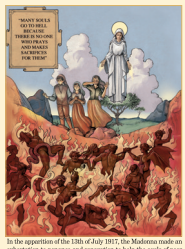
Image of the Shrine of Fatima in Portugal

FÁTIMA

During the apparition of the 13th of May in 1917, Lucia tells of having asked the Blessed Mother about the fate of two girls who had recently died: **"Is Maria das Neves already in Heaven?"** (a friend of hers, dead at the age of 16). Our Lady: "Yes, she is in Heaven." And once again Lucia asked: **"And Amelia?"** (another friend, who died at the age of 18). Our Lady: "She will remain in Purgatory until the end of the world."



In the apparition of the 13th of July 1917, the Madonna made an exhortation to penance and reparation to help the souls of poor sinners not go to Hell: "You have seen Hell– where the souls of poor sinners go. To save them, God wants to establish in the world the devotion to my Immaculate Heart. If you will do that which I will tell you, many souls will be saved and they will have peace. This war is going to end, but if they do not cease offending God, another one, a worse war, will begin during the reign of Pope Pius XI..." It is interesting to note Achille Ratti took the name Pius XI as Pope upon his election in 1922, but at the time of the apparitions, Pope Benedict XV was the papal authority, and the name of the future pope was not yet known

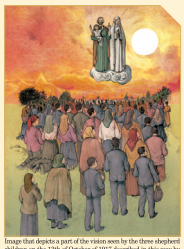
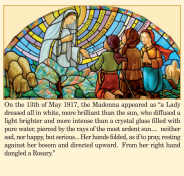


Image that depicts a part of the vision seen by the three shepherd children on the 13th of October of 1917 described in this way by Lucia: **"Three scenes were presented, the first symbolizing the joyful Mysteries of the Rosary, then that of the Sorrow Mysteries, and lastly the Glorious Mysteries. Then, beside the sun, appeared Saint Joseph with the Child Jesus and Our Lady of the Rosary. It was the Holy Family. Saint Joseph blessed the crowd by making the Sign of the Cross three times. The Child Jesus did likewise. Then followed the vision of Our Lady of Sorrows and Our Lord Jesus Christ, suffering with pain on the way to Calvary. The Blessed Mother did not have the sword piercing her heart. Our Lord made the Sign of the Cross to bless the people. Lucia could only see the upper part of the body of Our Lord. At last appeared, in a glorious vision, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, the coronated Queen of Heaven and Earth, with Baby Jesus in her arms"**



On the 13th of May 1917, the Madonna appeared as "a Lady dressed all in white, more brilliant than the sun, who diffused a light brighter and more intense than a crystal glass filled with pure water, pierced by the rays of the most ardent sun... neither sad, nor happy, but serious.. Her hands folded, we'll to prayer, resting against her bosom and directed upward. From her right hand dangled a Rosary."

During the second apparition, on the 13th of June in 1917, in front of the palm of the Madonna's right hand was a Heart surrounded by thorns, which appeared to be piercing it. We understood it was the Immaculate Heart of Mary, so offended by the sins of mankind, that desired reparation

Image in which is depicted the vision of the 3rd Secret of Fatima received by the shepherd children of Fatima in 1917

When the Bishop of Leiria ordered Sister Lucia to write down the 3rd secret of Fatima, initially he did not succeed. It was as if a force impeded her from being able to write it. This left him truly perplexed, because all the rest of it she was able to write down. Lucia herself narrates this drama: **"While I was awaiting the response, on the day of 3-Jan-1944 I knelt down next to my bed that, at times, served as my writing table, and I tried again without being able to do anything; that which shocked me the most was that I could write anything else without difficulty. I then asked Our Lady if she could let me know what was the will of God. And she directed me to the chapel: it was 4 o'clock in the afternoon, the hour in which I had the custom of going to make a visit to the Most Blessed Sacrament, because that was the hour in which He was most alone, and I do not know why, but I like to be alone with Jesus in the Tabernacle. I knelt down in front of the step of the Communion Rail and asked Jesus to let me know what was His will. Accustomed as I was to believe that the orders of superiors were the incontrovertible expression of the will of God, I was not able to believe that this was not it. And perplexed, half absorbed, under the weight of a dark cloud that seemed to loom over me, with my face in my hands, I awaited, without knowing in what way, a reply. I then felt a friendly hand, affectionate and maternal, which touched my shoulder. I lifted my gaze and saw my dear Heavenly Mother who said:** "Be not afraid. God has wanted to test your obedience, faith, and humility; be at peace and write down that which they order you, however not that which is given to you to understand its significance. After having written it, put it in an envelope, close and seal it, and write on the outside that it is to be opened only in 1960 by the Cardinal Patriarch of Lisbon or by the Bishop of Leiria." **And I felt a spirit bathed in a mystery of light that is God and in Him I saw and heard the pointed tip of the spear like a flame that elongate itself until it touches the terrestrial axis and this shock: mountains, cities, towns, and villages– with their inhabitants all getting buried. The sea, the rivers and the dark rainclouds emerge from the embankments, overflowing, flooding, and dragging with it into a vortex an incalculable number of homes and people: it is the purification of the world from the sin in which it has immersed itself. Hate and desire provoke the destructive war In the accelerated beat of my heart and in my spirit I heard once again a sweet voice that said:** "In the age of time, only one Faith, only one Baptism, only one Church– Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic. In eternity, Heaven!" **The word Heaven filled my soul with peace and happiness, in such a way that almost without realizing it, I continued to repeat for a long time: "Heaven! Heaven!" "As soon as I passed that overpowering supernatural force, I set about to write and I did it without difficulty, on the 3rd day of January 1944, on my knees, leaning against my bed that served as my table"**

Interior of the Shrine of Fatima

Panoramic view of the Shrine of Fatima

Interior

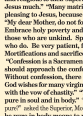
A little chapel built precisely upon the site where the apparitions of the Madonna took place

Pilgrimage to Fatima

Because of a need for space, in Fatima a new church was inaugurated, dedicated to the Most Holy Trinity, that could hold up to 10,000 pilgrims

The old Shrine, as seen from the church of the Most Holy Trinity

Jacinta had stayed in the Hospital of Vila Nova de Ourém for two months, July and August of 1919. Here Jacinta passed hours upon hours praying in front of the Most Blessed Sacrament. She was assisted by the Mother Superior, Maria da Purificação Godinho, who had taken note of that which the Madonna in other apparitions had communicated to Jacinta: **"In the world there are many wars and conflicts... Wars are chastisement for the sins of the world. The Blessed Mother can no longer hold back from the world the arm of her beloved Son... If men and women do not amend their ways, God will send punishment upon the world – a chastisement as never before seen, and to Spain first of all, before the other nations." Jacinta spoke of "terrible events throughout the world that were to take place around the year 1940." "My dear Mother, pray very much for sinners!" "Pray much for priests!" "Pray much for the religious!" "Priests should occupy themselves only with things of the Church! Priests must be pure, very pure!" "The disobedience of priests and religious to their superiors and to the Holy Father offends Jesus much." "Many matrimonies are not good, they are not pleasing to Jesus, because those marriages are not of God." "My dear Mother, do not follow immodesty; flee from riches. Embrace holy poverty and silence. Be charitable even with those who are unkind. Speak ill of no one and avoid those who do. Be very patient, for patience brings us to Heaven. Mortifications and sacrifices are very pleasing to Our Lord." "Confession is a Sacrament of mercy. For this reason people should approach the confessional with confidence and joy. Without confession, there is no salvation." "The Mother of God wishes for many virgin souls, who bind themselves to her with the vow of chastity." "To be a religious, one must be very pure in soul and in body." "And do you know what it means to be pure?" asked the Superior, Mother Godinho. **"I do, yes, I know. To be pure in body means to preserve chastity. And to be pure in soul means to not sin: to not look at that which is sinful; to not steal; to not lie, and to always tell the truth, even when it is costly..." "One who does not fulfill the promises one makes to the Madonna, will not have peace."... "Doctors do not have success with science to treat their patients, because they do not have love for God."** Noting that many visitors conversed and laughed in the chapel of the orphanage, Jacinta asked the Mother Godinho to make it known to them that this behavior showed a lack of respect towards the Real Presence. Since the measure did not result with success, she asked that it be communicated to the the Cardinal: **"Our Lady does not want people to talk in church"**



In the Orphanage of Lisbon, Jacinta remained from the 21st of January to the 2nd of February 1920. This is the bed where she slept, and the chair upon which the Blessed Mother sat when she came to visit her

While at the Doña Estefânia Hospital, in Lisbon, Jacinta occupied bed number 38. Here she died on the 20th of February 1920. Shortly before being admitted, the Blessed Mother asked her if she would have accepted to suffer even longer for sinners. Jacinta herself recounts: **"Our Lady came to visit me, and said that she comes very soon to take Francisco to bring him to Heaven. And to me she asked if I wished to convert even more sinners. I told her 'yes.' She said that I would have gone to a hospital, and that there I would have a lot to suffer for the conversion of sinners, in reparation for the sins against the Immaculate Heart of Mary and for love of Jesus. I asked if you would have come with me. She told me no. This is what displeases me the most. Our Lady said that I will go to Lisbon, to another hospital; that I will see neither you, nor my parents, ever again; that after having suffered much, I will die alone; but that I must not be afraid, because she will come got me herself to bring me to Heaven"**

Speaking about Our Lady's phrase, contained in her Fourth Memoir: "In Portugal, the dogma of the Faith will always be preserved, etc..." Sister Lucia lets this affirmation slip out, fruit of her reflections: **"If Portugal does not allow abortion, it is saved; but if instead it approves it, it will suffer a great deal. For the sin of one individual is paid for by the person responsible, but for the sin of a nation the entire populace pays, because the rulers who promulgate evil laws do so in the name of the people who have elected them"**

Lucia She confides her concerns for the world: "They did not want to fulfill my request... Like the King of France, they will repent and they will do it, but it will be late. Russia will have already spread her errors throughout the world, provoking wars and persecutions against the Church: the Holy Father will have much to suffer"

Sister Lucia met with Pope Paul VI in Fatima on May 13, 1967

Saint John Paul II, after having endured the assassination attempt in Saint Peter's Square on the 13th of May in 1981, he went in 1982 to Fatima to thank Our Lady. On this occasion he donated to the Shrine the bullet with which he was shot by the assassin Ali Agca, that miraculously entered perfectly into the crown of the statue of the Virgin of Fatima. He also had a long conversation with Sister Lucia

Photo of John Paul II injured in the May 13, 1981 attack in Saint Peter's Square

Sister Lucy with Saint John Paul II, on the occasion of the beatification of Francisco and Jacinta

On the 25th of March of 1984, Pope John Paul II directed an act of entrustment and consecration of the world and of Russia to the Virgin of Fatima. On October 8th, 2005, on the occasion of the Jubilee Year of the Bishops, Pope John Paul II entrusted the millennium to Our Lady of Fatima

On the 12th of May 2010, Pope Benedict XVI went to Fatima, and he said: "Whoever thinks that the prophetic mission of Fatima were to be confuded would deceive oneself. Here is brought back to life that plan of God which seeks humanity since primordial times: 'Where is Abel, your brother?' [...] The voice of your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground! Gen 4:9. Mankind has been able to unleash a cycle of death and terror, but is not able to stop it... In Sacred Scripture it appears frequently that God is in search of righteous men and women to save the city of men and He does the same here, in Fatima, when Our Lady asks: 'Do you want to offer yourselves to God, to endure all the sufferings which He will want to send you, in an act of reparation for the sins by which He is offended, and as an act of supplication for the conversion of sinners?' (*Memoirs of Sister Lucia*, I, 162). With the human family ready to sacrifice its most sacred bonds upon the altar of the petty, selfish motives of nation, race, ideology, group, individual– from Heaven came Our Blessed Mother, offering to transplant – in the heart of all those who entrust themselves to her –the Love of God which burns in here"

From left to right: Jacinta, Lucia, and Francisco

Blessed Jacinta Marto recounts that the Blessed Mother had told her in one of the apparitions: "Pray, pray very much and make sacrifices for sinners. Be mindful that many, many souls go to Hell because there is no one who will make sacrifices and pray for them." And also: "The sins for which most souls go to Hell are the sins of the flesh. Certain fashion styles will come that will very much offend Jesus. The people who serve God must not follow the mode of fashion . The Church does not have fashion trends. Jesus is always the same. The sins of the world are great. If men really knew what Eternity is, they would do everything to change their lives. Men and women lose their souls, because they do not think about the death of Jesus and they do not do penance." (cf CCC 1035)

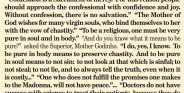
On the 13th of October of 1917 the pilgrims flocked (70,000), saw the rain suddenly cease, the clouds parted, allowing the sun to be seen like a silver moon which vertiginously spun upon itself, similar to a wheel of fire, projecting in every direction beams of light of every color, which fantastically ignited the clouds of the sky, the trees, the rocks, the earth, and which reverberated upon the immense crowd, dazzling it. After a few moments of rest, again began the dance of light, like a sparkling and richly colored pinwheel. Then once more it paused, and for a third time, a display of fireworks, even more diverse, colorful, and blazing than before

Photograph taken on the 13th of October 1917 of the last apparition, when the sun began to "dance"

The multitude had the impression that the sun had detached itself from the firmament and nearly fell; and it was for this that the whole crowd cried out in one voice: "Miracle! Miracle!" When all that had ended, even their clothing previously soaked by the rain had become perfectly dry

"O Seculo," a notoriously anti-clerical newspaper, on its front page reported the miracle of the "sun that danced," which occurred in Fatima on the 13th of October in 1917

The "dance of the sun" was described also by Lisbon's weekly publication



Newspaper article dated the 26th of January of 1938 in which is described the strange phenomenon of the aurora borealis foreseeing by Our Lady of Fatima as a sign that the war would begin

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