



Our Lady of Fatima, Portugal May 13

Three children, Francisco, Jacinta and Lucia were tending sheep in a tiny village in Fatima, Portugal when they saw an angel. He was transparent and shining. He said to them, "Do not be afraid. I am the angel of Peace." Two more times, he appeared to the children to pray with them.

Beginning on **May 13, 1917**, the Blessed Mother, dressed in white and shining brighter than the sun, appeared to the three children of Fatima. Mary visited the children on the 13th of every month. Her last visitation to them was **October 13, 1917**. At this time, World War I was raging. Mary asked the children to pray the Rosary for world peace, for sinners, and for the conversion of Russia which was strange at the time since Russia was very Orthodox back then.

Mary told the children three secrets. The **first** secret was a vision of Hell. The children said it was very frightening, "There were devils and souls submerged in a great sea of fire... pains and groans of despair." The children prayed fervently for sinners so they would not end up in Hell. The **second** secret was a warning. If man did not stop offending God through many sins, there would be a worse war, Russia would spread communism around the world, and the Church and the Pope would be persecuted. Our Lady asked for our devotion to her Immaculate Heart to avoid these catastrophes. Sadly, people continue to commit grave sin. World War II followed and ravaged the world while Russian communist ideals have spread across the globe. The **third** secret was that a "bishop in white" would be fired upon. Also, many religious, priests and laypeople would be attacked. Many people believe Mary's words came true with the assassination attempt on Pope John Paul II which happened on **May 13, 1981**.

News of the Virgin Mary's appearances spread throughout the neighboring villages. People started to pay visits to the sight. The Portuguese government was anti-religious at that time. On August 13, authorities apprehended the children, threatened and intimidated them and tried to force them to say that they made up the apparitions. The children defied the government and steadfastly proclaimed that they had seen the Blessed Mother. Devotion to Our Lady intensified.

On September 13, 1917, 30,000 people gathered at the visitation sight. Many people were there because they believed. Others were skeptical. And still others were there to pressure the children into recanting their story. It was very tense. Mary appeared again so that only the three children could see and hear her. She announced that in October she would perform a miracle so that all may believe.

On **October 13, 1917** a crowd of over 70,000 people waited in the rain. The atmosphere was tense. After a long time the rain finally stopped. Miraculously, everything became instantly dry. When the sun emerged from behind the clouds, it began to spin and change color. A Lisbon newspaper reported, "...the sun trembled, made sudden incredible movements outside all cosmic laws - the sun danced."

Within three years, Francisco and Jacinta died. They were canonized saints May 13, 2017. Lucia received one last vision of Mary. She dedicated her life to God and became a Carmelite nun. She died in 2005 at age 97. The cause for sainthood for Sr. Lucia is currently being investigated.

Our Lady of Fatima, Pray for us!!!