

**Second Apparition** (June 13, 1917) Poor little Jancinta could not keep the secret of the apparition, and soon the three children were being mocked and persecuted in the village.



Lucia suffered the most and did not want to return to

the Cova on June 13. But in simple obedience to Our Lady, and drawn by an inner attraction, she went. Fifty people were at the site, and at solar noon Our Lady appeared after the flash of light. “What do you want of us?” Lucia asked. The Lady told them to return on July 13, to learn to read, and to await further instructions. “Will we go to heaven?” Lucia asked. “Yes,” the Lady replied. “I will take Jacinta and Francisco soon. But you are to stay here some time longer. Jesus wishes to make use of you to make me known and loved. He wants to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart.” Lucia asked “Will I be alone after my cousins go to heaven?” Our Lady replied: “Don’t lose heart, my daughter. I will never forsake you. My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and the way that will lead you to God.”

**Third Apparition** (July 13, 1917) The third and sixth apparitions are the most important ones. In July Our Lady showed the children the horror of hell and entrusted to them three “secrets” (visions with messages) that they were not to reveal until instructed to do so. These visions and messages should be studied carefully. Our Lady asked for the consecration of Russia to her Immaculate Heart,

and for Communions of Reparation. “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. Entire nations will be annihilated.” She also reassured them that “in the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph.” We must firmly believe in this ultimate victory for the Kingdom of God, both partially on earth and fully in heaven.

**Fourth Apparition** (August 19, 1917) The socialist mayor, Arturo Santos, abducted the children on August 13, threatening to boil them in oil, but Our Lady appeared six days later at Valinhos. “Pray, pray very much,” she told them. “Many souls go to hell because there are none to sacrifice themselves and to pray for them.”

**Fifth Apparition** (September 13, 1917) By now 25,000 were at the site and Our Lady told the children that God would do a great miracle on October 13.

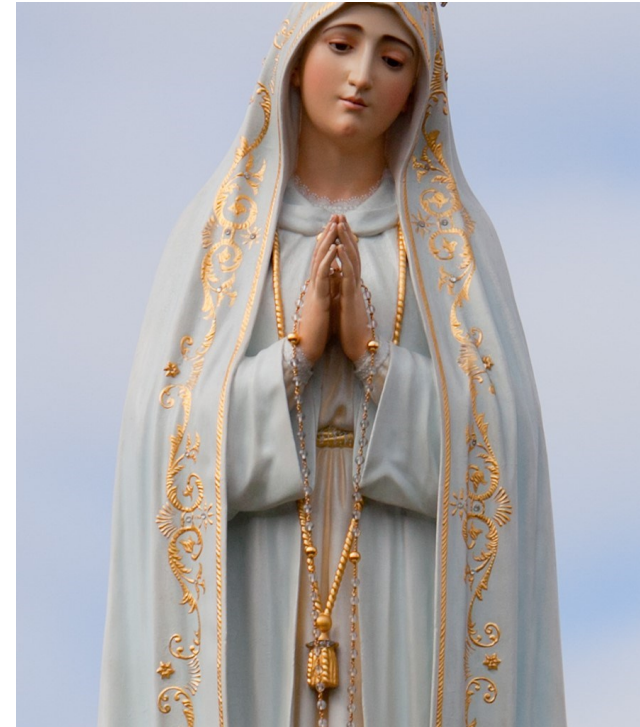
**Sixth Apparition** (October 13, 1917) 70,000 people had made their way through deep mud and pouring rain. Our Lady came, and Lucia asked her if some persons would be cured and others converted. “Some yes, but not others. They must amend their lives and ask forgiveness for their sins, because God is already so much offended. I am the Lady of the Rosary.” Then a great sign appeared in the sky: the sun began spinning, throwing off colors. It rushed toward the people, but then returned to the sky. Even atheists were converted in this miracle seen by more people than any other in history. All should know Fatima’s full story.

### **Recommended reading**

Books on Fatima abound, but one of the best is *Fatima For Today*, by Fr. Andrew Apostoli. Sr. Lucia’s own testimony, though, is captured in the book *Fatima in Lucia’s Own Words*.

# Our Lady of Fatima

## Historical Facts and Essential Messages of Our Lady in 1917



*Welcome to Our Lady’s Shrine here in San Francisco. In this pamphlet, prepared by our pastor, Fr. Joseph Illo, you will learn the basic facts and message of this apparition. You are encouraged to spend some time in quiet prayer and perhaps go to confession. Please keep a reverent silence in the Church, especially when the Blessed Sacrament is exposed.*

### **Star of the Sea Church**

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**What:** Three apparitions of the Angel of Portugal and six apparitions of Our Lady

**Where:** Fatima, Portugal

**When:** 1916 and 1917

**To Whom:** Lucia dos Santos, age 10  
Francisco Marto, age 9  
Jacinta Marto, age 7

Fatima is perhaps the greatest of all Marian apparitions in history. It is certainly God's message for our time. Both the Angel of Portugal and Our Lady speak in the most universal manner, not only to the entire Church but to the entire human race. Our Lady gives the most dire warnings about the future of humanity, but also the strongest promises that "the war will come to an end, the soldiers will return to their homes, and in the end my Immaculate Heart will triumph." She confronts modern atheism and assures the world of God's ultimate victory over human darkness and despair.

### The Three Children

Lucia dos Santos, one of seven children of Antonio and Rosa dos Santos, was old enough to spend many hours in the fields tending the family's flock of sheep. Her two younger cousins, Francisco and Jacinta Marto, who lived in the same tiny hamlet of Aljustrel (near Fatima), would join Lucia most days in the fields. They would pray a little and play lots of games.

### The Three Visits of the Angel

In the spring of 1916 the three children were playing outside when a strong wind shook the trees. A "young man, about fourteen or fifteen years old, whiter than snow, transparent as crystal when the sun shines through it and of great beauty" came to them and spoke these words:

"Do not be afraid! I am the Angel of Peace. Pray with me." The angel bowed down until his head touched the ground and asked them to pray in these words: "My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love You! I ask pardon of You for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love You."

The Angel appeared a **second time** in the summer of 1916 as the children were playing outside. "What are you doing?" he asked them with some urgency. "Pray, pray very much! The most holy Hearts of Jesus and Mary have designs of mercy on you. Make of everything you can a sacrifice, and offer it to God as an act of reparation for the sins by which He is offended, and in supplication for the conversion of sinners. You will thus draw down peace upon your country. I am its Angel Guardian, the Angel of Portugal."

Finally, the angel came to them a **third time** that October as the children were praying at the Cabeco, with their heads to the ground as the angel had taught them. He appeared in a golden light holding a chalice in his left hand. Above the chalice, suspended in mid air, was a host from which drops of blood fell into the chalice. The angel left the chalice in the air with the host above it, and knelt down with the children. "Most Holy Trinity," he prayed, "I adore You profoundly and 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 indifference with which He Himself is offended. And, through the infinite merits of His most Sacred Heart, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg of You the conversion of poor sinners." The angel then gave the Sacred Host and chalice to Lucia, but only the chalice to Francisco and Jacinta (they had not yet received their First Holy Communion).

**Our Lady** first appeared to the three children on **May 13, 1917**, on the Feast of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament. The children went early to Mass, then off to a little valley owned by Lucia's father, the Cova da Iria, or Irene's valley, or valley of peace. It was a sunny day, bright blue sky. The children had lunch, prayed an "abbreviated" rosary (saying only the first two words of each Pater Noster and Ave Maria), and began their games. A bright flash made them think a thunderstorm was coming, so they gathered their things to bring the flock in, then another flash, and there in front of them, on a little oak tree, stood a lady. Lucia described her: "She looked about seventeen years old; wore a mantle and a tunic that seemed to be made of light. Around her neck was a cord with a little ball of light. There was a star toward the bottom of her tunic. In her hands were beads of a rosary which shone like stars, with the crucifix the most radiant of all."

She spoke, but Francisco at first could not see or hear her. After he prayed, he could see but not hear her. "Do not be afraid," she said. "I will do you no harm." She opened her hands, "communicating to us a light so intense that penetrated our hearts and the innermost depths of our souls, making us see our-



selves in God, Who was that light." *Pray the Rosary every day to obtain peace for the world, and the end of the war,* she told them.