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Fatima —  
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*by*



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**Thomas McGlynn, O.P.**

*The cover shows the statue of Our Lady of Fatima made under the direction of Sister Dolores, (formerly Lucy dos Santos, sole survivor of the three children of Fatima), in Portugal, February 1947. The image represents Our Lady as she appeared in June in the second of the six apparitions of 1917. when she revealed her Immaculate Heart.*

*His Holiness, Pope Pius XII, blessed this statue on March 4, 1947 and at the same time gave his blessing to all those who are working to promote the message of Fatima in the United States.*



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## FATIMA

Fatima, (pronounced *Fáb-ti-ma*) is a small village on a mountainous plateau in the center of Portugal near which at a spot known as the Cova da Iria the Blessed Virgin appeared in 1917 in a series of six apparitions to three shepherd children, Lucy dos Santos, 10, and her cousins Francis Marto, 9, and Jacinta Marto, 7, brother and sister.

### PROOFS OF THE APPARITIONS

On July 13, 1917 Lucy predicted a miracle promised by Our Lady to be performed on October 13. The prediction attracted a crowd of 70,000 of all classes and of various degrees of belief and unbelief. All the Lisbon newspapers were represented. At Lucy's words, "Look at the sun," the crowd saw a torrential rain stop suddenly and the clouds split apart, revealing in a blue sky the sun, at which they could gaze without eye strain. The sun began to whirl on itself and to descend toward the earth; as it did the earth and atmosphere and all objects on the earth underwent many changes of color. Then quite suddenly the sun stopped in its downward course

and returned to its normal position and brilliance.

Hundreds of miracles, both physical and moral, have occurred since at Fatima, usually in connection with the great pilgrimages on the anniversary days of the apparitions (the 13th of each month from May to October).

After a canonical investigation of seven years the apparitions were declared worthy of credence by the Bishop of Leiria-Fatima in his pastoral letter of 1930.

The Holy See has indicated its recognition of Fatima in many ways, notably by the participation of Pope Pius XII in the silver jubilee of the apparitions through a radio address to the Portuguese nation on October 31, 1942, in which he consecrated the world and Russia in particular to the Immaculate Heart.

#### MOTIVE OF THE APPARITIONS AT FATIMA

Our Lady appeared at Fatima to call mankind to penance. By showing hell to the children she warned the world of the eternal damnation awaiting those who persist in sin. She foretold World War II and further afflictions as tempo-

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ral punishment of sin. "Do not offend Our Lord any more; He is already much offended," she pleaded at the last apparition. Lucy states that the motive of the apparitions is "the conversion of sinners and the return of souls to God."

### THE MESSAGE OF FATIMA

All the wonders of Fatima are intended to emphasize the message of Our Lady. This is the substance of that message: in order to save souls and to put an end to the chastisements now being visited on the world by divine justice "Our Lord wishes to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart."

### DEVOTIONS OF FATIMA

The *object* of the devotions of Fatima and the means of obtaining for the world the mercy of God is the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The devotional practices by which we have access to the Immaculate Heart and which were repeatedly insisted upon by Our Lady are THE ROSARY and COMMUNIONS OF REPARATION.

### THE ROSARY AND FATIMA

In every apparition Our Lady urged frequent use of the Rosary in the words, "Say the Rosary always." In the final

apparition she identified herself as "the Lady of the Rosary."

Lucy considers the Rosary "of greatest value not only according to Our Lady's words at Fatima but according to the effects of the Rosary one sees throughout history."

### FIRST SATURDAYS

This is the devotion in which the faithful make amends to God through the Immaculate Heart of Mary BY RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION ON THE FIRST SATURDAY OF EACH OF FIVE CONSECUTIVE MONTHS, going to Confession, saying five decades of the Rosary, and meditating for fifteen minutes on the mysteries of the Rosary. The Confession may be made within eight days before or after the Communion. This devotion was mentioned by Our Lady in promise in 1917 and explained in detail to Lucy in 1925.

To those who make the Communions of Reparation on the Five First Saturdays, Our Lady has promised assistance at the hour of death with the graces necessary for salvation.

### FATIMA AND RUSSIA

As the seeds of atheistic communism

were being sown in Russia the divine answer was being conveyed to the three children by Our Lady at Fatima. She predicted in 1917 that "Russia will spread her errors throughout the world fomenting wars and persecutions against the Church. Many will be martyred; the Holy Father will have much to suffer; and many nations will be destroyed."

At Fatima Our Lady asked for the consecration of Russia to her Immaculate Heart. She concluded the message of July 13, 1917, with the words: "In the end my Immaculate Heart will triumph. The Holy Father will consecrate Russia to me; Russia will be converted; and there will be a period of peace."

### THE CHILDREN OF FATIMA

During the June apparition Our Lady told Francis and Jacinta that she would come soon to take them to Heaven. Both lived the remainder of their lives in a spirit of prayer and sacrifice for sinners. Francis died in 1919 and Jacinta in 1920. Lucy was told at the same apparition that she must remain on earth to spread devotion to the Immaculate Heart. She entered the Congregation of St. Dorothy in 1925 and is now a religious of that community in Portugal.

## PRAYERS OF FATIMA

Note:

*Our Lady taught the children two prayers at Fatima. She asked that the first be said after each decade of the Rosary. In 1916 an angel had appeared to the children at a hilltop known as the Cabeco and had taught them two other prayers. The following is translated from Lucy's manuscript.*

### PRAYER

(To be recited after each decade of the Rosary)

O my Jesus, forgive us. Deliver us from the fire of hell. Draw the souls of all to Heaven, especially those in greatest need. (Taught by Our Lady at Fatima, July 13, 1917)

### PRAYER

(Our Lady said of this prayer: "Say many times, especially whenever you make any sacrifice.")

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

(Our Lady at Fatima, July 13, 1917)

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## PRAYERS TAUGHT BY THE ANGEL

### I

My God, I believe, I adore, I hope, and I love You. I ask Your pardon for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope, and do not love You.

### II

Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, I adore you profoundly, and 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 by the infinite merits of His Most Holy Heart and of the Immaculate Heart of Mary I ask You for the conversion of poor sinners.

(Fatima at the Cabeco in 1916)

### AN ACT OF CONSECRATION TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

Immaculate Heart of Mary, most perfect receptacle of the fulness of God's grace, Heart most loved by God and most loving of Him, Heart most tenderly devoted to men and to their salvation, Heart made most sorrowful by

our sins, Heart joyful in our charity, I consecrate myself entirely to thee.

O Immaculate Heart of Mary, in the fire of love which burns in thee, may all my sins be consumed and all my affections purified. Let me by true penitence draw out the painful thorns with which I have pierced thee.

May something of that divine fire of love which fills thee enter into my heart so that my service of thy Son may be complete.

In lasting devotion to thy Immaculate Heart may I be willing to share its sorrows now, so that seeing thee in Heaven I may possess some of the blessed joy which thy Son imparts to it. Immaculate Heart of Mary, I am thine in sorrow and in joy, in time and in eternity. Amen.

## BOOKS ON FATIMA

Walsh, Our Lady of Fatima, Macmillan

Ryan, Our Lady of Fatima, Newman

De Oca, More About Fatima, Newman

Windeatt, The Children of Fatima,  
Grail

Barthas-Fonseca, Our Lady of Light,  
Bruce

Medeiros-Hill, Jacinta, Catholic Book

Farnum, The Oak Tree Lady, Declan-  
McMullen

De Marchi, The Crusade of Fatima,  
Kenedy

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