
FROM THE CHAPLAINCY



FATIMA, PORTUGAL

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Dear Woodrose Parents,

Welcome to the new school year. Earlier today, we celebrated the customary Mass of the Holy Spirit in the covered gym of Woodrose. Through the Eucharistic celebration, we gave thanks to God for the 40th year anniversary of the school, for the new Senior high school building, and for the new school year. We also asked the Holy Spirit for his guidance and grace for the next ten months of learning and formation. We offered the Mass for everyone in the Woodrose family: parents, teachers and students, staff and personnel, members of the school board, the MANCOM, the cleaning staff, the security, those in maintenance and repairs.

We are celebrating this year the centenary of the apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima. The 100th year anniversary started last November 27 and it will end on November 26 of this year. I would like to share with you two articles about the message of Fatima so that we all could reflect on and put into practice the message of the Blessed Mother at Fatima.

“Fatima: How July 13, 1917 *changed* the Church.”

Tom Hoopes | Jul 10, 2017

This week marks the 100th anniversary of the most controversial apparition of Our Lady in Fatima, Portugal.

What she did that day inspired many to convert but provoked others to reject the faith out of hand. It made some people a little nutty and won the begrudging respect of others.

July 13 was the day Our Lady scared the daylights out of three shepherd children by showing them hell and sternly warning them about a second global war and a new age of martyrdom.

But the surprising — and surprisingly harsh — July 13, 1917 apparition changed the faith of the Church in our time.

First: July 13 returned hell to the center of Catholic consciousness.

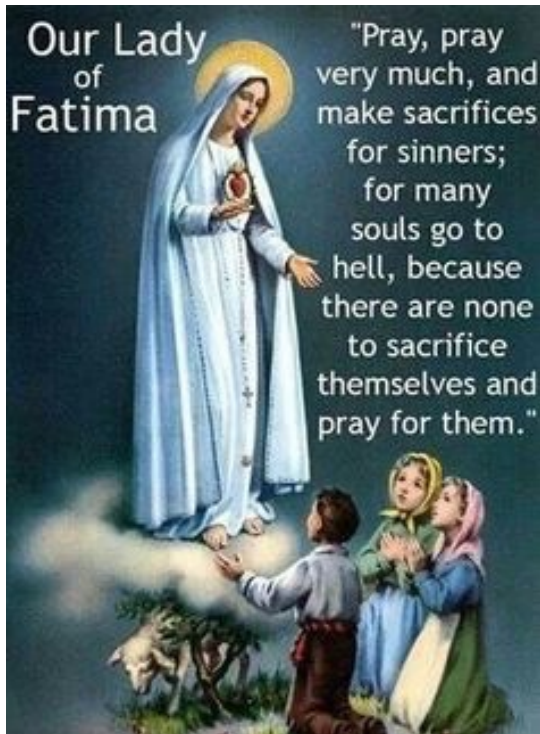
Little Lucia dos Santos was 10 when Our Lady of Fatima began to appear to her every 13th of the month starting in May, 1917, along with her cousins Francisco and Jacinta Marto, 8 and 7.

But in July, instead of just exhorting the children to say the Rosary and pointing them to heaven, she showed them a terrible sight.

“We saw as it were a sea of fire,” Lucia wrote. “Plunged in this fire were demons and souls in human form ... amid shrieks and groans of pain and despair, which horrified us and made us tremble with fear.”

To give Our Lady of Fatima credit, the vision of hell only happened after a year of preparation, including visits by an angel and much reassurance about heaven. But the vision so badly rattled Jacinta, especially, that it seemed to change her personality utterly.





The only thing that would make this vision okay, and not an example of emotional abuse, is if hell were a real place and we were in eminent danger of ending up there if we don't do something drastic.

It is. We are.

Second: She reiterated the most unpopular — and most important — message of Christianity.

The messages of Jesus (Mark 1:15), John the Baptist (Matthew 3:1-2) and Peter (Acts 2:38) were all the same: “Repent!” Jesus defined the Church’s mission as preaching “repentance, for the forgiveness of sins” (Luke 24:47).

Yet every pope from Pius XII to Francis has said “the sin of the century is the loss of the sense of sin.”

The refusal to repent — the belief that sin doesn't really matter — is at the heart of the major moral disasters of our time, from abortion to human trafficking, from the pornography epidemic to the urban violent crime rate. Those who see no wrong do terrible things.

Our Lady of Fatima’s vision of hell is an absolutely necessary corrective to the presumptuous expectation that we are all going to heaven no matter what. It is true that God wants to forgive everybody. But one thing stops him: We don't repent.

Third: Our Lady of Fatima de-romanticized war.

“This war will end,” Our Lady of Fatima told the children in July, “but if men do not refrain from offending God, another and more terrible war will begin.”

Whatever they understood about the particulars, the general sense of this message was clear to the children: War isn't an occasion for God to reward victors, but to punish sin.

The “reward” paradigm had existed for a long time in Christian history: From Charlemagne to Joan of Arc, from Notre Dame des Victoires to the Conquistadores. Every Christian culture had their Robin Hood and King Arthur figures: Heroes of the unconventional virtues of clever violence.

But Our Lady of Fatima poured cold water on all of that. Martial virtues are real, but they are an example of God bringing good out of evil — not of God’s will being won by violence.

Finally, July 13 de-romanticized martyrdom.

For that matter, Our Lady of Fatima also level-set our understanding of martyrdom.

In the at-home movies era, many of us are only now watching *Silence* by Martin Scorsese, which follows a Jesuit's disillusionment as he looks for glory in the persecutions of Japan and finds soul-numbing horror instead.

Our Lady of Fatima taught that lesson 100 years ago.

The children saw a vision of the pope “half trembling with halting step, afflicted with pain and sorrow,” praying for the corpses he stumbled past until he was himself shot. Our Lady knows that in heaven martyrdom is glorious — and that on earth, it is painful and sad.

The meaning of all of this was not lost on the three shepherd children.

They learned that it was absolutely urgent that they console Jesus, convert sinners and commit to Mary.

July 13 is only part of their story — a story that includes far more consolation than condemnation and was meant for every generation, including ours.



How We Should Celebrate the Fatima Centenary

BY JAEL SC · MAY 2, 2017

This year is the centenary of the apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima which took place between May and October 1917 to three shepherd children — Lucia dos Santos and siblings Francisco and Jacinta Marto — in that small town in northern Portugal.

Pope Francis declared that the celebrations of the centenary of Fatima apparitions should begin on November 27, 2016 and end on November 26, 2017.

What were the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima?

On May 13, 1917, Our Lady first appeared to the shepherd children Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta in Fatima. She appeared to them again on June 13, July 13, August 19, September 13 and October 13.



During the course of her apparitions, she delivered some important messages to the children to announce to the world.

In all the apparitions, Our Lady told them to “pray the rosary every day”. She also told them to “pray, pray very much and make sacrifices for sinners for many souls go to hell, because there are none to sacrifice themselves and to pray for them”.

She warned: “Do not offend the Lord our God anymore, because he is already so much offended.”

She told them to continue to pray the rosary every day in order to obtain peace for the world and the end of the First World War — which had been raging since 1914 and ended in November 1918 — because only she can bring peace. She assured them that “in the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph”.

What are the highlights of the message of Fatima?

The highlights of the message of Fatima include the following:

Amendment of Life: “I have come to warn the faithful to amend their lives and ask pardon for their sins. They must not continue to offend Our Lord, who is already too much offended.”

Five Warnings: “If my requests are not granted, Russia will spread her errors throughout the world, provoking wars and persecutions against the Church. Many good people will be martyred; there will come another great war (Second World War), and various nations will be destroyed.”

War: “Wars are a punishment for the sins of mankind.”

Sins of the Flesh: “More souls go to hell because of the sins of the flesh than for any other reason.”

Immodest Fashions: “Certain fashions will be introduced that will offend Our Lord very much.”

Sinful Marriages: “Many marriages are not good; they do not please Our Lord and are not of God.”

Daily Rosary: “Say the rosary every day to obtain peace for the world. And after each decade say the following prayer: ‘O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, and lead all souls to heaven, especially those who have most need of thy mercy’.”

Prayer and Sacrifice: “Pray, pray a great deal, and make sacrifices for sinners, for many souls go to hell because they have no-one to make sacrifices and pray for them.”

Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary: “God wishes to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart. If people do what I tell you, many souls will be saved and there will be peace.”

First Saturday Devotion: “I promise to help at the hour of death with the graces needed for salvation those who, on the first Saturday of five consecutive months, go to confession, receive Holy Communion, say five decades of the rosary, and keep me company for 15 minutes while meditating on the mysteries, with the intention of making reparation to my Immaculate Heart” (Message communicated to Sr Lucia in 1925).

World Peace: “Tell everybody that God gives his graces through the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Tell them to ask graces from her, and that the Heart of Jesus wishes to be venerated together with the Immaculate Heart of Mary, for the Lord has confided the peace of the world to her... In the end my Immaculate Heart will triumph, Russia will be converted and there will be peace.”

What prayer did Our Lady emphasise most at Fatima?

The prayer which Our Lady emphasized most at Fatima is the rosary. In all her six apparitions, from May 13 to October 13, 1917, she told the children to “say the rosary every day”.

Why mark the centenary?

The objectives of the celebration of the centenary of Our Lady’s apparitions at Fatima include the following:

To stress the importance of the apparitions of Fatima for the Church and for the world.

To spread the message of Fatima nationwide and worldwide.

To deepen our knowledge of the theology of the message of Fatima.

To develop pastoral proposals in the life of the message of Fatima.

To promote the living out of the spirituality of Fatima.

To develop the Marian dimension in the Christian expression of the faith.

Personal celebration

Pray the rosary every day.

Participate more frequently and actively in Eucharistic celebrations.

Pay more visits to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament as acts of reparation to our Eucharistic Lord who is greatly offended by the sins of men.

Participate actively in the spiritual exercises and programmes for your group and those organised by your parish including lectures, seminars and workshops to deepen your understanding of the role of Mary in the salvation of mankind.

Practise the First Saturdays devotion fervently as required by Our Lord and Our Blessed Mother.

Imitate the virtues of Mary, especially her ardent charity, purity, humility, obedience, lively faith and submission to the holy will of God in all things, and so on.

