



# Relationship with GOD

## More than Just SUNDAY

### The July 13 Apparition and the Secret of Fatima

The third Apparition of Our Lady to the children in Fatima Portugal in 1917 was particularly dramatic. More than five thousand people were on hand at the sheep pasture. In anticipation, the children knelt and prayed the Rosary, including the prayer previously taught them by Mary. After a blinding flash of light, Our Lady appeared.

Lucia began by asking, **“What do you want of us?”**

The Lady smiled. **“I want you to continue saying the Rosary every day in honor of Our Lady of the Rosary. Only she can bring an end to this terrible war”** [The First World War, 1914-1918].

**“But who are you, please? So many people want to know!”** Lucia said.

The Lady’s eyes were kind. **“In October I will tell you who I am. Continue coming here on the thirteenth day of each month until then. And tell those who do not believe that in October I will work a great miracle that will convince them that I am real.”**

Our Lady then revealed a three-part secret to the children that foretold a series of devastating events if mankind did not heed her message and amend their lives. This information was to be kept secret until Our Lady instructed them to reveal it.

#### The first part—The vision of hell

Lucia writes, **“Our Lady showed us a great sea of fire which seemed to be under the earth. Plunged in this fire were demons and souls in human form, like transparent burning embers, all blackened, floating about in the conflagration, now raised into the air by the flames that issued from within themselves together with great clouds of smoke, and amid shrieks and groans of pain and despair, which horrified us and made us tremble with fear. This vision lasted but an instant. How can we ever be grateful enough to our kind heavenly Mother, who had already prepared us by promising, in the first Apparition, to take us to Heaven? Otherwise, I think we would have died of fear and terror.”**

The second part—The warning of the chastisement and how to avoid it

The children then looked up at Our Lady, who said to them so kindly and so sadly: **“You have seen hell where the souls of poor sinners go. To save them, God wishes to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart. If what I say to you is done, many souls will be saved and there will be peace. The war is going to end: but if people do not cease offending God and amend their lives, a worse one will break out during the Pontificate of Pius XI [1922-1939]. When you see a night illumined by an unknown light\*, know that this is the great sign given you by God that He is about to punish the world for its crimes, by means of a second world war, famine, and persecutions of the Church and of the Holy Father. To prevent this, I shall come to ask for the consecration of Russia to my Immaculate Heart, and the Communion of reparation on the First Saturdays. 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 of the Church. The good will be martyred; the Holy Father will have much to suffer; various nations will be annihilated. In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph. The Holy Father will consecrate Russia to me, and she shall be converted, and a period of peace will be granted to the world. In Portugal, the dogma of the faith will always be preserved, ...”** \*[The night illumined by an unknown light is believed to have taken place on the night of January 25-26, 1938, when a very unusual Aurora Borealis was seen in all Europe and North America.]

#### The third part of the Secret of Fatima

At the left of Our Lady and a little above, we saw an Angel with a flaming sword in his left hand; flashing, it gave out flames that looked as though they would set the world on fire, but they died out in contact with the splendor that Our Lady radiated toward him from her right hand. Pointing to the earth with his right hand, the Angel cried out in a loud voice: ‘Penance, Penance, Penance!’ We saw an immense light that is God, something similar to how people appear in a mirror when they pass in front of it, a bishop dressed



**in white (we had the impression it was the Holy Father), and other bishops, priests and men and women religious going up a steep mountain, at the top of which there was a big cross of rough-hewn trunks as of a cork tree with the bark. Before reaching there, the Holy Father passed through a big city half in ruins, and trembling with a halting step, afflicted with pain and sorrow, he prayed for the souls of the corpses he met along his way. Having reached the top of the mountain, on his knees at the foot of the big cross he was killed by a group of soldiers who fired bullets and arrows at him, and in the same way there died one after another the other bishops, priests, men and women religious, and various lay people of different ranks and positions. Beneath the two arms of the cross there were two Angels each with a crystal aspersorium in their hand, in which they gathered up the blood of the martyrs and with it sprinkled the souls that were making their way to God.**

This third part of the secret was shown to Pope Saint John Paul II after he was shot in St. Peter's Square following his General Audience of **May 13, 1981**. The Pope believed that this part of the secret pertained to him: the third part describes "the bishop dressed in white" being shot and killed. Further, the Holy Father realized the attempt on his life took place on the anniversary of the first apparition, and he recognized that he should have died from the gunshot wounds as the bullet was heading toward two key organs in his body but then changed direction. Pope John Paul II said, "One hand fired the shot but another hand guided the bullet." He was convinced the Blessed Mother had spared his life.

As expressed in both the June and July apparitions, the devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary is a key aspect of the message of Fatima. Our Lady introduced the children to the mission of spreading this devotion and she told Lucia that the peace of the world had been entrusted to her Immaculate Heart. So on March 25, 1984, "united with all the Pastors of the Church," Pope St. John Paul II entrusted the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. In his prayer of entrustment, he singled out..."in a special way...those individuals and nations which particularly need to be entrusted and consecrated." Sister Lucia said the Consecration was "accepted by Heaven."

Devotion to the Immaculate Heart involves entrusting ourselves to Mary, allowing her to use us to draw others to Jesus. A helpful tool to grow in this devotion is the book, *33 Days to Morning Glory*, by Fr. Michael Gaitley. It presents Marian devotion through the insights of Pope Saint John Paul II, St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta, St. Maximillian Kolbe and St. Louis de Montfort.

On this Centenary of the first apparitions, let us listen to the words of Our Lady of Fatima and commit to praying the Rosary and entrusting ourselves to her Immaculate Heart, for peace in our country and throughout the world!

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