



Relationship with GOD

More than Just SUNDAY

The Fourth Apparition of Our Lady of Fatima

The events at Fatima, Portugal in August 1917 were quite interesting as a clever persecutor was defeated by three faith-filled children. The fourth apparition of Our Lady of Fatima to the three young shepherd children was to have taken place on August 13, 1917. That did not happen, however, because the mayor of the district, Artur de Oliveira Santos – a man who hated the Church – offered to take the children to the apparition site in his car, but instead drove them to his headquarters. There he tried first to bribe them, then put them in jail with other prisoners, and finally pretended to have them escorted out, one by one, to be “boiled in oil” – all to get them to reveal their secrets and admit they had invented everything as a hoax.

But Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco held firm, saying they would rather die than reveal what Our Lady had told them to hold secret. The rabidly anticlerical mayor was forced to recognize he had met his match and finally let the children go.

Crowds that had gathered at the Cova da Iria in expectation of that day’s apparition wondered why the little seers had not shown up. Eventually they dispersed. But Our Lady simply adjusted her schedule and appeared to the children on Sunday, August 19, instead, accompanied by her characteristic radiant light.

As the children fell to their knees, Lucia asked the beautiful Lady, “What do you want of me?”

“Come again to the Cova da Iria on the thirteenth of next month, my child, and continue to say the Rosary every day. In the last month I will perform a miracle so that all may believe.”

“What are we to do with the offerings of money that people leave at the Cova da Iria?”

“I want you to have two ardors [litters to carry statues] made, for the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. I want you and Jacinta to carry one of them with two other girls. You will both dress in white. And then I want Francisco, with three boys helping him, to carry the

other one. The boys, too, will be dressed in white. What is left over will help towards the construction of a chapel that is to be built here.”

Lucia then asked for the cure of some sick people.

“Some I will cure during the year.”

Looking sadly at them, Our Lady then spoke these words before departing into the clouds: **“Pray, pray very much. Make sacrifices for sinners. Many souls go to hell, because no one is willing to help them with sacrifice.”**

Two things especially emerge from the August appearance of Our Lady of Fatima.

- First, the actions of the mayor show that man can interfere with God’s plans, but only up to a point. We may confidently put our trust in God, knowing that He will always prevail in the end.
- Second, sin and hell are real, and we must pray and offer sacrifices not only for our own salvation, but that of “poor sinners” in danger of losing their souls.

Let us pray often the prayer that Our Lady taught the children: “O my Jesus, forgive us our sins. Save us from the fires of hell. Lead all souls to heaven, especially those most in need of your mercy!”

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