

Our Lady of Fátima

A brief guide to the Apparitions
of Our Lady at Fátima, Portugal,
in the year 1917, together with
prayers and devotions to the
Immaculate Heart of Mary



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Let us offer ourselves to God, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, in the act of thanks and willingness; let us offer our sacrifices in union with Christ the Redeemer and, with our souls in prayer of atonement and conciliation, let us repeat: Lord Jesus, it is love of you, in reparation for sins and for the conversion of sinners.”

—Pope St. John Paul II



The Apparitions at Fátima

During the year 1917, on the 13th day of each month from May to October, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to three young Portuguese children in a field (the Cova da Iria) in the village of Fátima, Portugal.

At first, only the three children—Lúcia Santos and her cousins, Jacinta and Francisco Marto—were present for these visions, but by the time of the Second Apparition others joined them. At first, people came mainly out of curiosity. As the months passed, however, many thousands began to attend out of devotion. They wanted to be present to hear the words Our Lady related through the children. Many of them also hoped to see Mary themselves, although this was a privilege reserved for the three children alone. Other people perceived her presence as a white mist above the small tree where she appeared and through other inexplicable phenomena: for example, there were flashes of lightning or sounds like thunder when no storm was occurring.

Many suspected the three children of lying about their visions in order to gain attention. However, the children maintained the truth of their experiences when interrogated by the political authorities and even when they were threatened with death if they did not either recant their visions or offer proof of them.



The Children of Fátima

Lúcia de Jesus Rosa Santos

(Sister Mary Lucy of Jesus and
of the Immaculate Heart)

Born March 28, 1907

Died February 13, 2005

Lúcia Santos, the oldest of the three visionaries, was ten years old at the time of the Fátima Apparitions. Her testimonials and memoirs provide the majority of our knowledge of the visions. It is she who revealed the Three Secrets.

After the Fátima visions and the deaths of her cousins Jacinta and Francisco, Lúcia was sent to a convent school. There, under an assumed name, she was able to study in peace. While at the school, she discerned a calling to religious life. In 1925, she joined the Dorothean Sisters as a postulant and took her final vows in 1934.

In the convent, Sister Lúcia had several more visions of Our Lady and other sacred apparitions. She wrote extensive memoirs, revealing the first two of the Three Secrets and establishing the practice of the Five First Saturdays of Reparation in Mary's honor.

In 1949, Sister Lúcia became a Discalced Carmelite. She continued to write her memoirs and made four