



The three Fatima children, Lucia dos Santos (right) and her two cousins, Jacinta and Francisco Marto.

The Story of Fatima continues ... The Children of Fatima presented by the Men of St. Elizabeth

This is the last part of my series on Fatima focusing on the children. What these children willingly endured because of their faith is amazing unto itself. In 1917, Lucia was 10 years old, and her cousins Francisco and Jacinta were 9 and 7 respectively.

Part III: The Children

When Our Lady first appeared to them, they didn't know who she was, only that She came from Heaven and She asked: "Do you want to offer yourselves to God to endure all the sufferings that He may choose to send you, as an act of reparation for the sins by which He is offended and as a supplication for the conversion of sinners?" "Yes," they said. "Then you are going to suffer a great deal, but the grace of God will be your comfort." Our Lady told them to say the Rosary every day and make sacrifices to bring peace to the world and end to war.

Each day the children sacrificed themselves for the reparation of sins. During one appearance, Our Lady told Lucia: "I will take Jacinta and Francisco soon. You, however, are to stay here a longer time. Jesus wants to use you to make Me known and loved. He wants to establish the Devotion to My Immaculate Heart in the world. I promise salvation to those who embrace it and their souls will be loved by God as flowers placed by Myself to adorn His throne." The children were continually harassed, threatened, bribed, and abused by family, friends, townspeople, and the clergy. They were even told that the vision of The Lady was the devil. In August, the children were kidnapped by the Magistrate and held in the jail, unable to go to the field on the 13th and threatened to be boiled in oil.

After the miracles, Our Lady did not abandon the children, but they lived a difficult and suffering life. Francisco was ravaged by the influenza and told Lucinda that he was suffering greatly but he wanted to suffer more for the love of Our Lord and Our Lady. He died in 1919, the day after receiving his First Holy Communion. Jacinta died from influenza in 1920. She died alone in a hospital far from her family so she could sacrifice herself more for sinners. Days before she died, she stated that Our Lady took away all her pain which was corroborated by her physician. In 1951, when Jacinta's tomb was opened, her body was incorrupt.

Lucia was constantly harassed and in the early 1920's went to a convent anonymously, later becoming a Carmelite nun. In 1925, the Infant Jesus appeared to Lucia asking for the Communion of Reparation on the five 1st Saturdays: "Have pity on the Heart of your Most Holy Mother. It is covered with the thorns with which ungrateful men pierce it at every moment, and there is no one to remove them with an act of reparation."

<https://www.marian.org/13th/firstsaturday.php>

In 1927, Sister Lucia received permission from Heaven to reveal the 1st two parts of the secret--the vision of Hell and the urgent need for the devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. In 1929, Our Lady appeared to Lucia to fulfill Her request that Russia be Consecrated to Her Immaculate Heart. Sister Lucia died in 2005 at the age of 97.

Tom LaMagna, Men of St Elizabeth
menofstelizabeth@outlook.com

Some sources: Fatima.org, americanneedsfatima.org, ewtn.com; the 1952 movie "The Miracle of Our Lady of Fatima"