



The Story of Fatima

presented by the Men of St. Elizabeth

The story of Fatima is important to Catholics and the world. Through the Men's Group, I became more educated about it. I hope that this 3-part mini summary (the secret, the miracles of the sun, and the children) will encourage you to do your own research and understand the importance of the message from Our Blessed Mother.

Part I: The Secret: On May 13, 1917, Our Lady appeared to Lucia dos Santos and her two cousins, Jacinto and Francisco Marto. Our Lady asked them, "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 then appeared each month over the next 5 months on the 13th day. In July, Our Lady revealed Her secret (in 3 parts) to the children. Part 1. Our Lady showed them Hell, where poor sinners go. Our Lady opened her hands and Lucia described it: "The light reflecting from them seemed to penetrate into the earth, and we saw as if into a sea of fire, and immersed in that fire were devils and souls with human form, as if they were transparent black or bronze embers floating in the fire and swayed by the flames that issued from within themselves along with great clouds of smoke, falling upon every side just like the falling of sparks in great fires, without weight or equilibrium, amidst wailing and cries of pain and despair that horrified and shook us with terror. We could distinguish the devils by their horrible and repulsive figures of frightful and unknown animals, but transparent as the black coals in a fire." The imagery was so unimaginable that Sister Lucia wrote if they weren't told that they have a place in Heaven they would have died of fear and terror!

Part 2. If people do not stop offending God, He would punish the world severely by means of famine, persecution of the Church, the persecution of the Holy Father, and another war during the Pontificate of Pius XI. To prevent these chastisements, Russia would need to be Consecrated to Her Immaculate Heart and the Communion of Reparation on the Five First Saturdays. If not, Russia will spread her errors throughout the world, the good will be martyred, the Holy Father will have much to suffer, and various nations will be annihilated. Then She said: "In the end, My Immaculate Heart will triumph." At the time, Russia was a pious country and had not become communist until November, when Lenin became dictator during the Bolshevik revolution. To this date, Russia has never been solely Consecrated to Her Immaculate Heart as Our Lady wished (Russia was included in a worldwide consecration by Pope John Paul II).

The 3rd part of the secret is mired in controversy and too complex to completely document here, but it is catastrophic. Our Blessed Mother told Lucia to write down the 3rd part and not reveal it until her death but no later than 1960, whichever came first. Church authorities have confirmed that the 3rd part of the secret concerns an unprecedented loss of faith, an apostasy, from which Portugal will be preserved. In a 1984 interview, Cardinal Ratzinger (future Pope Benedict XVI) confirmed this conclusion when he said, after reading the 3rd part, that the final part of the Secret speaks of "dangers threatening the faith and life of Christians, and therefore the world." The 3rd part was finally revealed in 2000 by Pope St John Paul II, many years later than requested by Our Lady. What does Our Blessed Mother want us to do? In 1980, Pope John Paul II, speaking of the 3rd part, held up his rosary and stated, "Here is the remedy against this evil. Pray, pray and ask for nothing else. Put everything in the hands of the Mother of God."

Next, the miracles of the sun.

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

Some sources: Fatima.org, americanneedsfatima.org, ewtn.com