
FATIMA NEWSLETTER

Apparition of August 19, 1917

As recounted in Sister Lucia's Memoirs



ISSUE NO. 8

A newsletter devoted to the full and complete message revealed by Our Lady of Fatima and the Guardian Angel of Portugal to three young shepherd children.

*Featuring excerpts from
Sister Lucia's Memoirs*

Lucia is Interrogated

[Two days before the 13th of August, I (Lucia) was] to appear at a given hour before the Administration in Vila Nova de Ourém. This meant we had to make a journey of nine miles, a considerable journey for small children. The only means of transport in those days was either our own two feet or to ride on a donkey.

They put me on a donkey and off I went, accompanied by my father and uncle. I fell off the donkey three times along the way. Jacinta and Francisco suffered that day, thinking that I was going to be killed. As for me, what hurt me the most was the indifference shown me by my parents. I remember thinking to myself as we went along:

"I must be patient," I reminded myself in my inmost heart, "since this means I have the

happiness of suffering more for love of You, O my God, and for the conversion of sinners." This reflection never failed to bring me consolation.

At the Administration office, I was interrogated by the Administrator, in the presence of my father, my uncle and several other gentlemen who were strangers to me. The Administrator was determined to force me to reveal the secret and to promise him never again to return to the Cova da Iria. To attain his end, he spared neither promises, nor even threats. Seeing that he was getting nowhere, he dismissed me, protesting however, that he would achieve his end, even if this meant that he had to take my life. He then strongly reprimanded my uncle for not having carried out his orders [to bring Francisco and Jacinta to see him], and finally let us go home.

The Children Are Jailed

The 13th day of August had dawned. Ever since the previous evening, crowds had been pouring in from all parts. They all wanted to see and question us [the three children], and recommend their petitions to us, so that we could transmit them to the most Holy Virgin. In the middle of all that crowd, we were like a ball in the hands of boys at play. We were pulled hither and thither, everyone asking us questions without giving us a chance to answer anyone.

In the midst of all this commotion, an order came from the Administrator, telling me [Lucia] to go to my aunt's house, where he was awaiting me. My father got the notification and it was he who took me there. When I arrived, he was in a room with my cousins [Francisco and Jacinta]. He interrogated us there, and made fresh attempts to force us to reveal the secret and to promise that we would not go back to the Cova da Iria. As he achieved nothing, he gave orders to my father and my uncle to take us to the parish priest's house.

[The children were kidnapped there by the Administrator and put into jail in Ourém, where he threatened to throw them into a tank of boiling oil if they did not reveal the secret to him. Meanwhile, signs at the Cova made the crowd realize that Our Lady had come, but since the children were missing, She had

returned to Heaven.

The Administrator released the children on August 15th, and Our Lady appeared to them in another location on the 19th, as described by Lucia below.]



Our Lady Appears Later

I was accompanied by Francisco and his brother John. We were with the sheep in a place called Valinhos, when we felt something supernatural approaching and enveloping us. Suspecting that Our Lady was about to appear to us, and feeling sorry lest Jacinta might miss seeing Her, we asked John to go and call his sister. As he was unwilling to go, I offered him two small coins and off he ran.

Meanwhile, Francisco and I saw the flash of light, which we called lightning. Jacinta arrived, and a moment later, we saw Our Lady on a holmoak.

"What do you want of me?"

"I want you to continue going to the Cova da Iria on the 13th, and to continue praying the Rosary every day. In the last month, I will perform a miracle so that all may believe."

"What do you want done with the money that the people leave in the Cova da Iria?"

"Have two litters made. One is to be carried by you and Jacinta and two other girls dressed in white; the other one is to be carried by Francisco and three other boys. The money from the litters is for the 'festa' of Our Lady of the Rosary, and what is left over will help towards the construction of a chapel that is to be built here."

"I would like to ask you to cure some sick persons."

"Yes. I will cure some of them during the year."

Then, looking very sad, Our Lady said:

"Pray, pray very much, and make sacrifices for sinners; for many souls go to hell, because there are none to sacrifice themselves and to pray for them."

And She began to ascend as usual towards the east.