

OUR LADY OF FATIMA



"OUR LADY of FATIMA"

By REV. JOSEPH CACELLA



COMING BOOKS BY FATHER CACELLA

"THE WONDERS OF FATIMA"

Sequence to "Our Lady of Fatima"

A more complete and detailed work on the wondrous events of Fatima. This work has been revised by Sister Lucy herself and it contains her personal message to the people of America, together with a special letter from the Bishop of Leiria.

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At last, another new and revised edition of "Jungle Call" is to be published. The original editions are now out of print. To meet the continued requests for publication, "Jungle Call" was brought out in serial form in St. Anthony's Visitor. This did not satisfy the demand, judging by the thousands of requests for copies of the celebrated autobiography that continue to pour in, and even though it means a sacrifice, "Jungle Call" will be published again.

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Be sure to read "Jungle Call." Price: Five dollars.

Excerpts from

OUR LADY OF FATIMA

"I am the Lady of the Rosary."

"You must recite the Rosary every day."

"Continue, my children, reciting the Rosary with devotion, every day, to obtain peace for the world."

"Men must no longer offend Our Lord, Who is already too much offended."

"Men must amend their lives, and ask pardon for their sins."

"I shall ask for the consecration of the world to my Immaculate Heart . . ."

" . . . Our Lord wishes that the devotion to my Immaculate Heart be established in the world."

"See, my child, this Heart of mine, surrounded with thorns with which men transfix it at every moment by their blasphemy and ingratitude. Do you, at least, try to console me, and announce in my name that I promise to assist at the hour of death with the graces necessary for salvation, all those who, on the first Saturday of five consecutive months, go to confession and receive Holy Communion, recite the Rosary, and keep me company for fifteen minutes while meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary, with the intention of making reparation."

"If my requests are granted, Russia will be converted and there will be peace."

OUR LADY OF FATIMA
— BY FATHER JOSEPH CACELLA



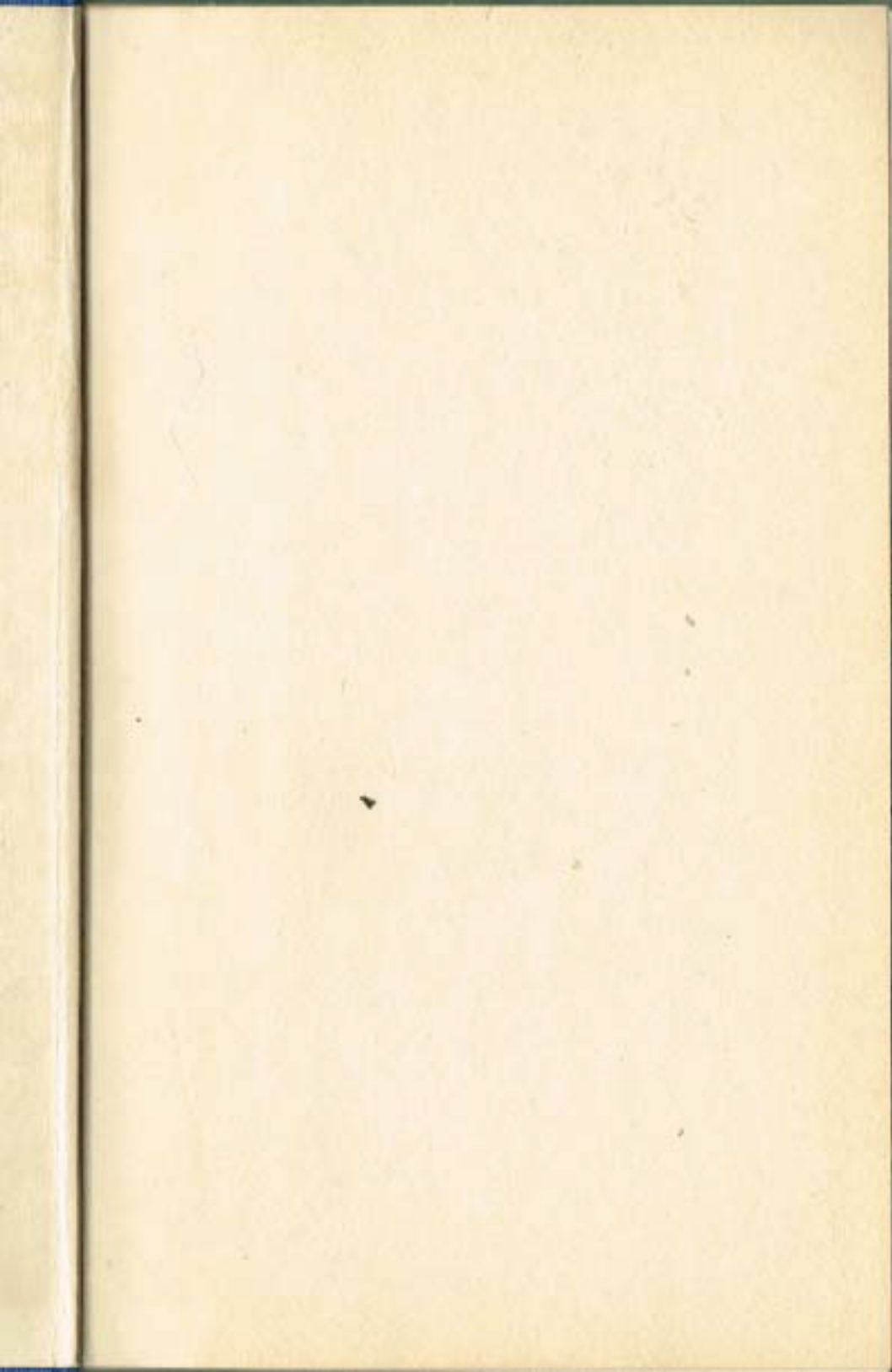
OUR LADY OF FATIMA

The revelations of Our Lady of Fatima have done much to encourage the Catholic World to better know and love Our Blessed Mother.

The wonderful events which took place at Fatima, Portugal, in 1917, have made that mountain village renowned throughout the world, and have done much to re-awaken the faith of many in this world of greed, pride, and love of material power.

Through the revelations of Our Lady to the Seers of Fatima, she has asked for an amendment of our lives, the daily recitation of the Rosary, especially the Family Rosary, and devotion to her Immaculate Heart, as the solution of the present turmoil and famines, and the enmity between the nations of the earth.

Rev. Fr. JOSEPH CACELLA
 St. Anthony Welfare Center
 441 E. 135th St.
 New York, N. Y.
 Phone MO 9-2922





ABOUT THE AUTHOR, REV. JOSEPH CACELLA

Father Joseph Cacella, the author of Our Lady of Fatima, was born near the now world-famous village of Fatima in Portugal on June 21, 1882. He was educated at the Seminary of Santarem in Lisbon, Portugal, the very same house of studies in which the Wonder-Worker, St. Anthony, had bent over his books. Ordained in 1909, he was made Pastor, shortly afterwards, of the Parish of Vistoria, Portugal, but the following year we find him in Brazil, an exile of the revolution of 1910, presenting his credentials to Dom Frederico Costa, Bishop of Manaus, Amazon, Brazil.

During the following five years, Father Cacella served as a Missionary to the Indian tribes in the jungles of the Amazon. His health collapsed, the result of beri-beri, and on the advice of his physicians, who had prescribed a change of climate, he came to stay with his sisters and brothers who were domiciled in New Bedford, Massachusetts. It was thought, at this time, that he had little or no chance of recovering his former vigor.

Later, in the course of his stay at the Monastery of the Atonement Friars at Graymoor, New York, he began to feel equal to the resumption of priestly duties, and Father Paul James Francis, of treasured memory and a great friend of Father Cacella, placed him on the faculty of St. John's College. Then came a call from beloved Patrick Cardinal Hayes, Archbishop of New York, who wanted a Pastor for the Portuguese people of the Archdiocese. Father Cacella responded, and, coming to the great city, he founded St. Anthony's Welfare Center, which, today, is one of the most widely-known Catholic Centers in the world.

At St. Anthony's, under Father Cacella's direction, works of charity go hand in hand with the promotion of the devotion to Our Lady of Fatima. He is Editor of two leading Catholic magazines—Our Lady of Fatima Magazine, and St. Anthony's Visitor—and of the Portuguese Catholic Weekly, A Luta. In his zeal for the spread of the Message of Fatima, he has published over eleven million copies of the booklet, Fatima and the Rosary, and is now preparing another book on The Wonders of Fatima, as well as an amplified and revised edition of his autobiography, — entitled Jungle Call.

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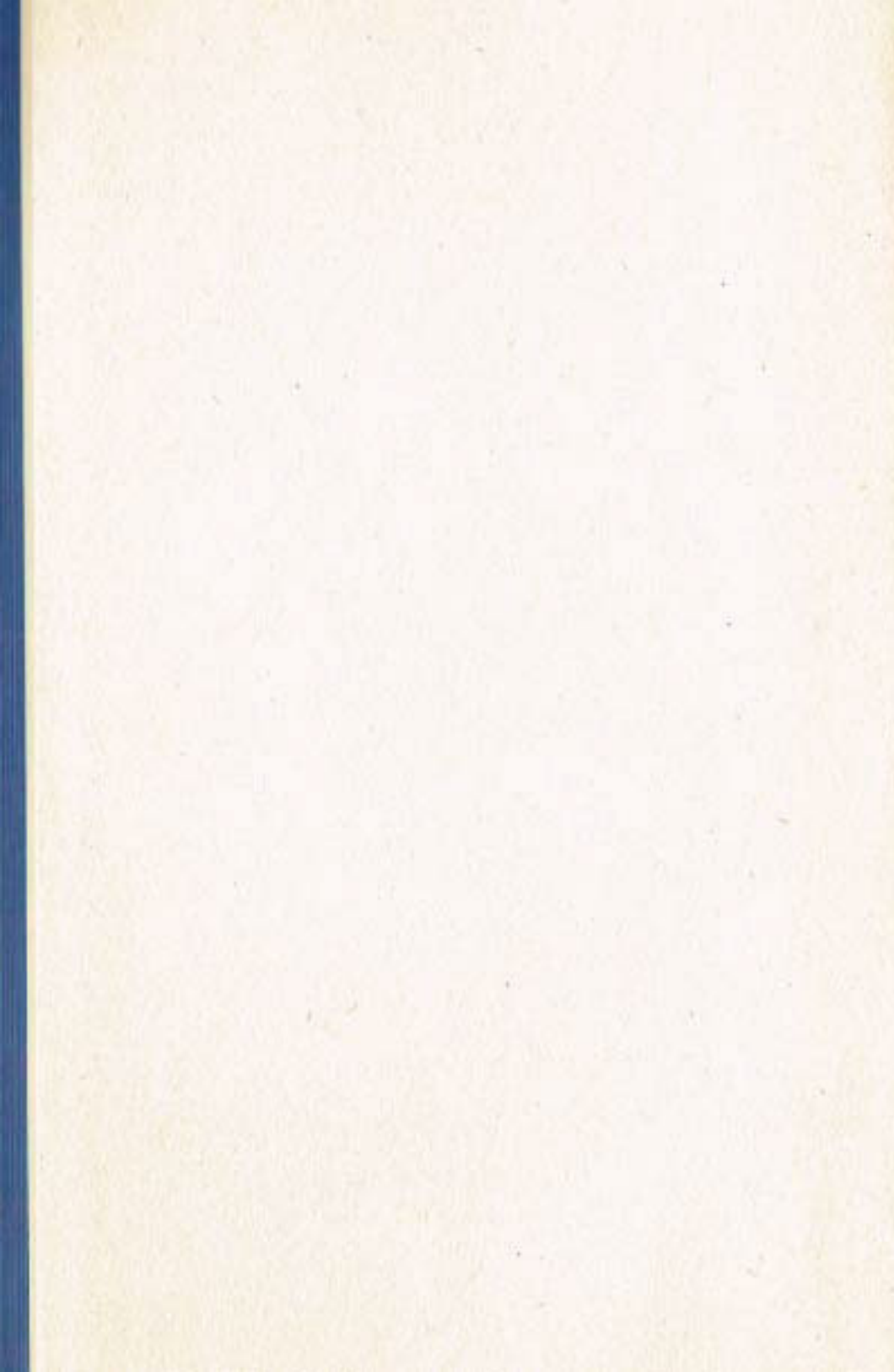
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OF FATIMA





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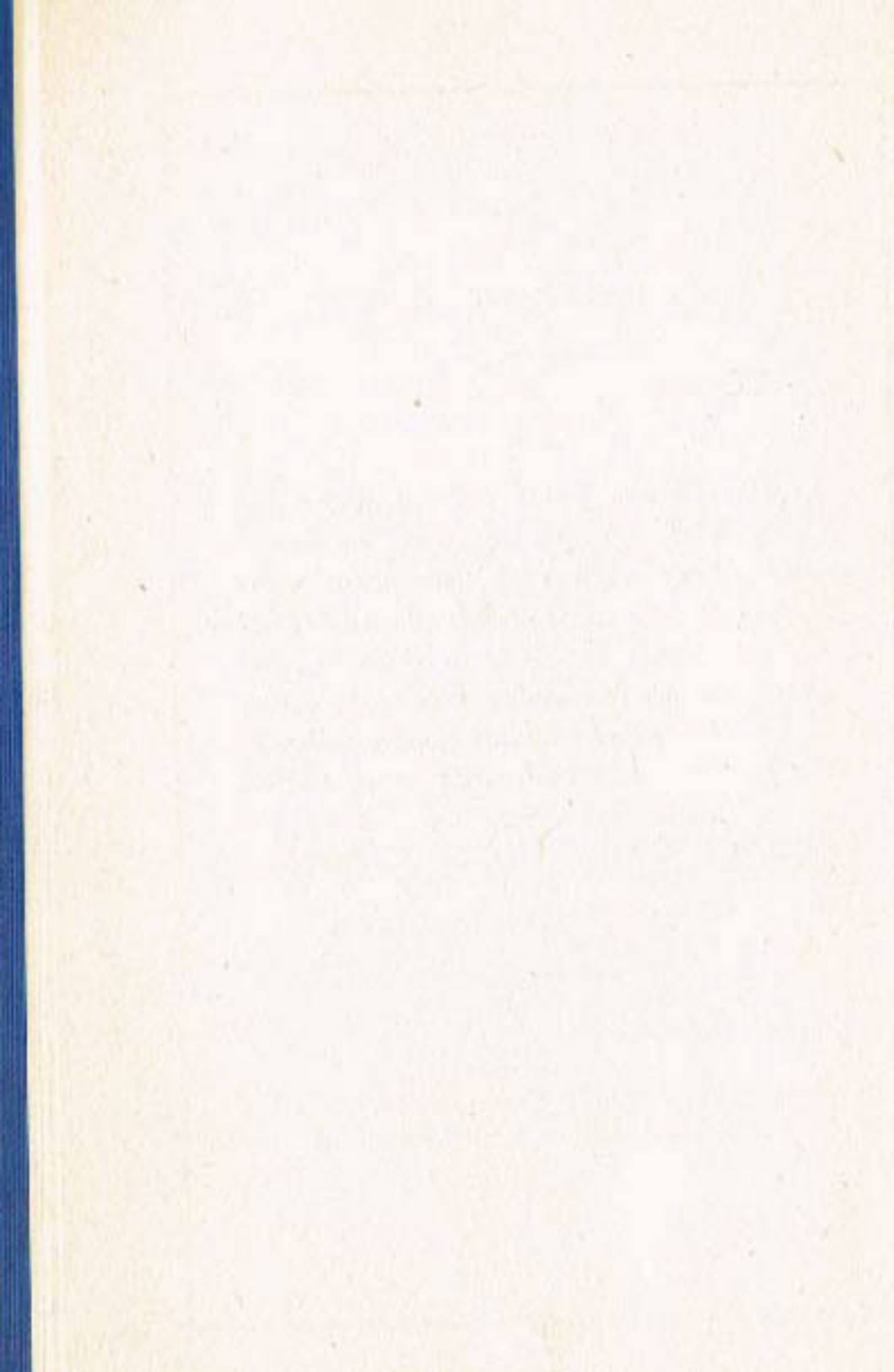
DEDICATION

FOR HIS kindly and fatherly advice and counsel, which were a source of encouragement and inspiration to me, thus enhancing the promotion of the cause of Our Blessed Mother — Our Mother — Our Lady of Fatima, and devotion to her Immaculate Heart, the author with filial love and gratitude humbly dedicates this book to that friend, writer, poet, patriot, soldier, priest, Archbishop, beloved by all,
FRANCIS CARDINAL SPELLMAN.

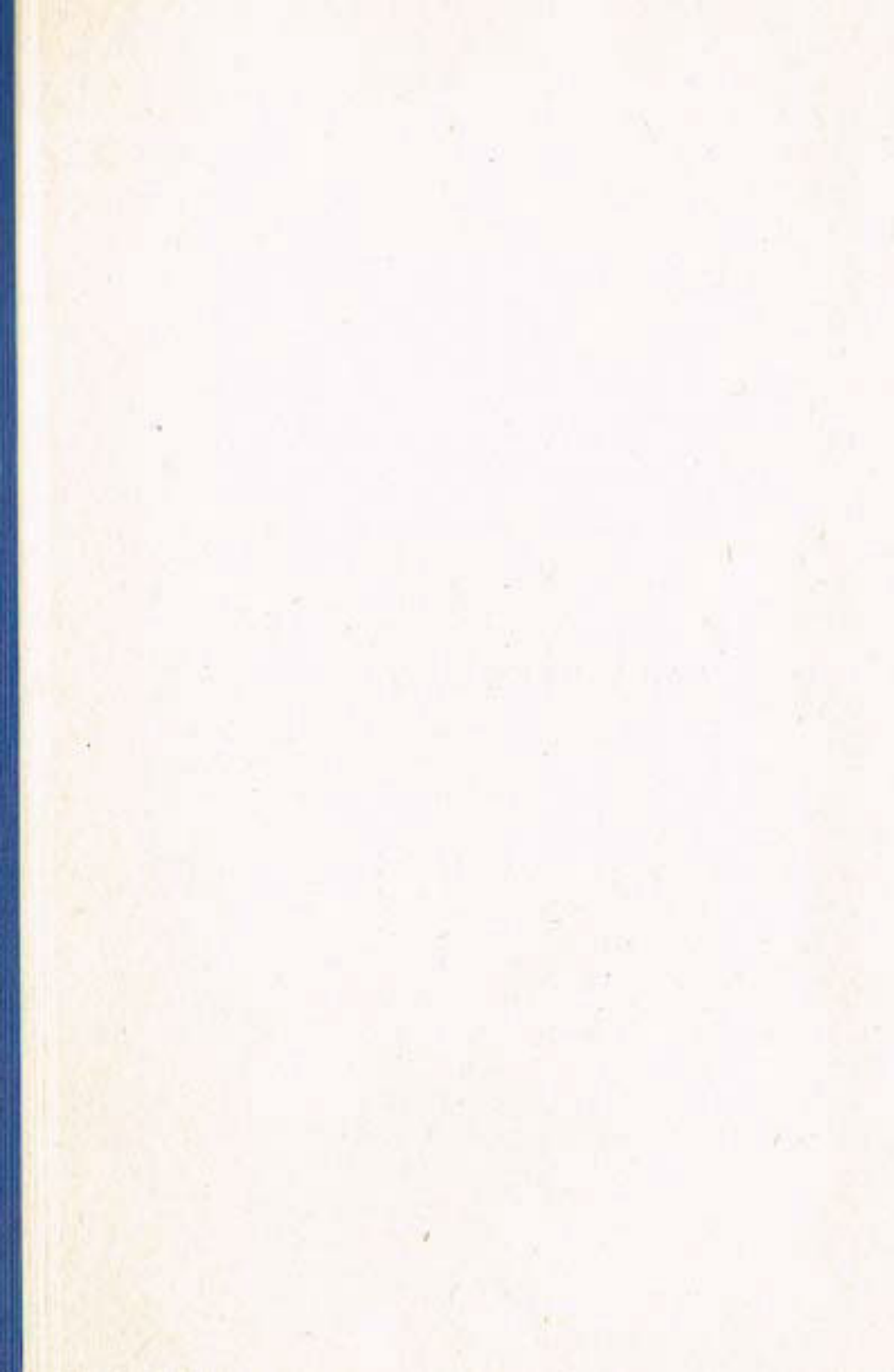
REV. JOSEPH CACELLA

August 15, 1946

Feast of the Assumption.



OUR LADY OF FATIMA



PREFACE

Our Lady of the Rosary



This brief account will reveal to the impartial reader the apparitions of Fatima, and one of the most wonderful miracles that occurred in the history of the world and of the Church. It recalls to mind the most striking manifestations of divine power in the Old Testament namely the thunder and lightning on Mount Sinai, the sun standing still at the command of Joshua. It is an answer to the demands and criticisms of the most prejudiced rationalism. The miracle of October 13th, 1917, had been foretold three months beforehand—the place, the date, the exact hour, everything was fixed. The largest possible publicity had been given to it in all the provinces of Portugal. Publicists, journalists, reporters, photographers—all hastened to the spot and had every liberty to watch, to see, and to verify.

The Blessed Virgin Mary came down to Fatima, maternal and condescending, in order to enlighten the minds and hearts of all men. This miracle is, as it were, God's signature, the proof of the authenticity of the apparitions, before a tribunal of 70,000 witnesses come together to verify this sign, the sign of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady of the Rosary.

Read it, and you will be astonished that in our age of electricity, of wireless, of every possible means of publishing news and information, humanity, after 29 years, still remains ignorant, for the most part, of this sign of God which shone forth in the heavens of Fatima on the 13th of October, 1917.

This striking miracle has a name: THE MIRACLE OF THE ROSARY. It is in order to affirm the supreme efficacy of the Rosary that Mary shook the very powers of the heavens.

Christian soul, take this Rosary — too much disdained — with a renewed faith and love. Sceptic or unbeliever, suspend your judgment, or rather, think it over in the light of facts, and pause with respect to consider this mystery which you still reject.

REV. JOSEPH CACELLA



Our Lady Of The Rosary Of Fatima

Historical Background



To appreciate the history of the apparitions of Fatima, and the wonders that followed, it may be useful to cast a rapid glance over the history of Portugal. It will become apparent, we believe, that the destinies of this nation are linked indissolubly with devotion to the great Mother of God, the Mother of Nations. The historical significance of the apparitions at Fatima will become clearer when viewed in connection with the vicissitudes of the Catholic Faith in the Land of Holy Mary. We shall treat briefly, therefore, of the ancient and modern history of Portugal, noting the irreligious role of the Liberals and anti-clericals immediately after the turn of the present century.

The Revolution and Chaos

Following the revolution of 1910, Portugal was at the mercy of unscrupulous radicals whose main objective was to divest the nation of its allegiance to God and His Church. Naturally, it would be a profitable matter to rob the Church of its many valuable real and personal properties (and the Church in Portugal was rich at this particular time). Fiercer and more diabolical in its plans and schemes than that of the French revolution, the new atheistic government, consisting of radical Freemasons and Socialists, stopped at nothing to gain their objective of rooting out the faith from the Portuguese. Their diabolical hatred had no bounds. Sacred images were tied to horse-carts and shamefully dragged through the streets of Lisbon before the assembled rabble. Seminaries and convents of religious orders were closed and confiscated. These agents of the devil extended their operations to the various far-away colonies, closing mission houses and resettling them with Protestants. Alas, the people in the cities were weak and were easy victims of these adventurers. They turned their back on God and hence, to put it mildly, there was a national apostasy in Portugal. But, thank God, the people who were located in the country and on the mountain sides far away from the big cities were made of sterner material and the occasion for apostasy was less prevalent in these outlying

districts. The author of this book was in the first year of his holy priesthood and he too was spied upon, persecuted and urged to lean toward the new form of government and its tenets. Suffice it to say that shortly afterwards he was in exile—in the jungles of the Amazon, bringing Christ Crucified to the aborigines of Brazil.

The Name Of Fatima

The name of Fatima is of Arabic origin, usually spelled Fathema, or Fatima. Its origin and application to a place situated between Ourem and Leiria is historical and very interesting reading. Frei Bernardo de Brito, a Cistercian of Alcobaca Monastery, one of our great historians, tells the beautiful story that goes back to the foundation of the Portuguese nation. Dom Affonso Henriques was rewarded by the King of Spain for his gallantry and service to Spain by being given the County of Portugal—an immense territory, and this was the founding of the Nation. Dom Affonso Henriques, founder of the Portuguese nation, who was anxious to enlarge his territories, decided to oust from the shores of Portugal the Moors who had invaded and settled there for over a century. He selected D. Goncalo Henriques whose military genius was not equalled and whose sincerity and character were above reproach. He was the son of an old soldier who had given his life

for his country at the battle of Ourique in 1139 but not before he had been responsible for the destruction of hundreds of Moors. Valiant and courageous, he was known as "O Lutador" — (The Fighter). His son possessed the same courageous and valiant qualities as his father. With the approval of D. Affonso Henriques, and assisted by a competent staff, he planned his campaign well and strategically. It was decided to take a key position, the Castle of Alcacer do Sol, in the Alemtejo district, which was strongly fortified and occupied by Moors.

The festival of St. John's Night of 1158 was the occasion used for the surprise attack. On this festival, the peasants usually celebrated with songs, dances, sports and other entertainments. The Moors, especially the younger set, boys and girls, became interested in these spectacular sights and ventured forth unarmed and unprepared, to get a better view, and mingled with the crowd, little suspecting that D. Goncalo Henriques had expected that such would happen. Before the Moors knew what really happened, the attack took place and the majority of the Moorish boys and girls were captured and made prisoners. Amongst them was the daughter of the Vali of Alcacer, the Governor of the Region, and her name was Fatima. A few Moors, who had been fortunate enough to flee back to the Castle, brought the news to the governor. Enraged, he organized a squadron of picked troops and after a furious and bloody battle recaptured Fatima, the princess, daughter of

the Vali of Alcacer. Dom Goncalo Henriques was not to be outdone, and he again, with renewed vigor, recaptured Fatima, and fled with her to Santarèm, which was then a very important key city located near the Roman Road.

Having brought the Moorish campaign to a successful issue, the King of Portugal amply rewarded D. Goncalo Henriques by giving him the "Condado of Leiria", a vast area. For this brilliant and courageous handling of such a military operation he was known as "O Traga Moros" (Moor-Eater). He was a handsome young man with all the traits of a gentleman. Quite naturally, Fatima fell in love with him. She abjured the Moslem tenets and embraced Christianity, becoming a fervent and exemplary Catholic. She received the name of Ouriana Fatima, or Ourana Fatima, in baptism, and hence sprang the name of the village of Ourèm, now a prosperous city. For many years they lived a happy Christian life until death struck its cruel blow. Fatima died at an early age. The shock caused much sorrow and tribulation to D. Goncalo Henriques. Not long afterwards, he decided to dedicate his life to the service of God in the monastery as a priest. He entered the Cistercian Order at Alcobaca, a monastery which has been in existence since the foundation of the nation, and donated his Condado and great wealth, properties and goods to the Order.

Years later, the Abbot of Alcobaca built a monastery at Fatima, three miles from

Ourém, and its first Abbot was D. Goncalo Henriques, who was accompanied by five other friars. The monastery was named Santa de Tamara and was completed on July 23, 1171. D. Goncalo Henriques had the body of Fatima exhumed and re-interred in the Monastery, where he too was laid to rest alongside his wife, when his stewardship in this life had been accomplished. Hence the name of the small town of Fatima.

Every Church Speaks of the Blessed Mother in that Region

It is worthy of note that nearly all the churches, convents and religious institutions were dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. In the district where this writer was born and reared there are some hundred churches, all of which, except ten, are dedicated to Our Blessed Mother under one title or another. The other ten are dedicated to St. Joseph, St. John and St. Sebastian. In this area, comprising Porto de Moz, Batalha, Leiria and Ourém, fifty-nine convents were placed under the protection of the Blessed Mother. Today there remain but the ruins of these hallowed institutions. Further, it is to be noted that the majority of women receive the name of Mary in baptism. In the writer's family two sisters were called Maria. Such was and is the

devotion of Portugal to Our Blessed Mother. Portugal was dedicated to and placed under the protection of Our Blessed Mother, by D. Affonso Henriques, founder of the Nation.

The Family Rosary

The Family Rosary, an old Portuguese tradition, was recited daily in every household in our day. In the writer's home the eleven members of the family, together with four servants, all knelt at night to recite at the fireplace, right after supper, the family rosary, no matter how tired or wearied they were, or what chores were to be done. Family visitors were included whether they liked it or not. There was no alternative.

It was very edifying also to hear the Angelus recited in public. As soon as the Angelus bell sounded everyone stopped in the streets, men removed their hats, and those inside came onto the porches, and there someone already appointed said the prayers, while the responses were recited by those assembled. Such fervor and devotion could not be ignored by Our Blessed Mother. In some quarters, immediately after the Angelus had been said, an appointed person (usually a mother, who took weekly turns) would recite the rosary, while those present in the street and on the porches gave the responses. What a beautiful custom! Surely Our Blessed Moth-

er had a tender spot in her Heart for this particular locality which she afterwards chose to be the scene of her apparitions to the three little shepherds.

Social and Political Downfall

The monarchy had been superseded by a republican government. Corruption was rife among politicians and occasionally among some of the clergy. Of course there were many honorable exceptions, but too few to stem the tide that was leading the nation to ruin and chaos. Revolution after revolution made Portugal the tinder-box of Europe from 1910 to 1930. Corrupt politicians and a worldly-minded clergy brought about a state of decay. At that time the Church had a concordat with the State; that is to say, Church and State worked hand in hand. Hence the impotence of the clergy. The press played a great part in contaminating the city folk, but the peasantry, who were far removed from politics, remained steadfast in the faith of their fathers. Noteworthy during these hectic times is the fact that the majority of the Portuguese women remained faithful and we may thank the Family Rosary. This was of paramount importance later in saving the nation. The dioceses of Leiria and Lisbon especially kept the faith. They had in them the rooted teachings of the Cistercians and Dominicans and were especially faithful

to the daily rosary. Even the young were taught to say the beads at an early age.

The turning from God, and the participation of some of the clergy in corrupt politics, plunged Portugal into materialism. God was forgotten and apostasy was almost complete. The people followed the leaders and the great revolution of 1910 broke out.

The Revolution Was a Blessing In Disguise

Yet the revolution was a blessing in disguise. Thus was hastened the day of the apparitions of Our Blessed Mother to the three little shepherds of Fatima—the apparitions to the people of Portugal, who loved Mary and had adhered to the teachings and love of her Divine Son. Here she was to manifest her love for the land which bears the name of Fatima. Six times did Our Blessed Mother appear to the little shepherds herding their sheep at Aljustrel near Fatima. Since then, a new generation of clergy and political leaders has brought Portugal out of its chaotic state and again the principles of Christianity rule the nation.

The Expulsion Of The Moors



The history of Portugal as an independent kingdom does not go back farther than the beginning of the twelfth century. Previous to that, the territory now belonging to it shared the common fortunes of the Iberian Peninsula, being dominated successively by the Iberian Celts and the Graeco-Phoenicians in almost pre-historic times, the Carthaginians and Romans, roughly, in 300 and 200 B. C. The Roman culture was influenced by the Goths in the fifth century and by the Moors from the eighth century onwards.

By the close of the eleventh century Moorish control had become weak, and Alphonsus VI, King of Castile, who had assumed the title of Emperor of Spain, conceived the idea of a reconquest which would free the Peninsula from it altogether. It was an enterprise, however, which he could not carry through unaided — one indeed whose magnitude was to necessitate centuries of effort. He invited his kinsmen, Count Raymond of Toulouse and Count Henry of Burgundy, to help. Many reasons, doubtless, led them to respond willingly: the claim of kin, the spirit of adventure, and, perhaps as much or more, a realization that the project was a Crusade of Christian against infidel. There were political considerations and complica-

tions also, but record of these plans has no place here. Suffice it to say that to Henry of Burgundy was assigned that part of the Peninsula lying, roughly speaking, between the Minho and the Tagus bounded on the east by what is now the Portuguese frontier. He was given the title, Count of Portugal (The *Portus Cale* of the ancients), and occupied the fortress of Leiria as the centre of his operations. He died in the year 1112, after fifteen chequered years of sporadic fighting against the Moors.

His son, Affonso Henriques (Alphonsus, son of Henry), a young man of eighteen, succeeded to the Countship. The name Affonso is great in Portuguese history; for, although historians propose conflicting accounts of his earlier career, he is recognized as the first founder of Portuguese independence and as having at least some of the characteristics of a saint. With the restlessness and ambition of youth, he does not seem, during his first years of authority, to have devoted himself exclusively to the expulsion of the Moors. But in 1139 he did go southward across the Tagus and on the Plain of Ourique defeated them in open battle.

Modern historians are inclined to make little of this event, though popular tradition invests it with all the importance of a critical struggle. This tradition would have it that, faced with overwhelming odds, Affonso had recourse to prayer and was comforted by a vision similar to that vouchsafed to Constantine. A great triumph resulted. The Moors

were routed, and, in the manner of the times, Affonso's soldiers, in their enthusiasm, acclaimed him King. But, as has been said, rationalistic history derides all this, and particularly the idea that the supernatural could have part in such thoroughly human affairs. Whether this assumption of kingship took place at Ourique in the dramatic way described, or later, his position would seem to have been recognized both by the King of Spain and by the Pope before the end of 1143.

St. Bernard And King Affonso Henriques



Within the confines of the Burgundy of those days was the famous monastery of Clairvaux, ruled over by Saint Bernard, that extraordinary man who for thirty years was universal arbiter of the social and political affairs of Europe. His preeminent claim to honour by the Church, however, is that he was a saint, and every Catholic knows of Saint Bernard's devotion to Our Blessed Lady, Virgin Mother of God. It is his authority that Pope Pius XI especially adduces in confirmation of the doctrine that God has willed every blessing

to come through Her, a confidence voiced by myriad lips that say the *Memorare*.

It is impossible that Count Henry of Burgundy and his young son should have been outside the pale of Saint Bernard's influence, and two important facts in Affonso Henriques' history give body to the supposition that over him, at any rate, the religious ascendancy of the Saint was real. In 1147 he made over his Kingdom of Portugal as fief to Our Lady of Clairvaux, and that same year he began the building of the great Church and Monastery of Our Lady at Alcobaca, fifteen miles or so from Leiria. In 1153 he gave the monastery to the monks of Saint Bernard, with lands sufficient to support a community of nine hundred, so that the praise of God and of His holy Mother might resound there perpetually, by day and by night, and a blessing be assured to the King and his people. Thus, in a manner unparalleled in the history of nations, did Portugal take Our Lady as its Queen in the very moment of its national birth. In recognition of this, it is said, the Kings of Portugal never wore the crown. It was Our Lady's, not theirs, to wear.

The tradition of all this finds record and new expression in the celebrated Decree published by King Joao IV of Portugal on the 25th of March, 1646. The exordium proclaims his confidence in the Immaculate Virgin, and recalling the act of Affonso Henriques, King Joao declares his intention of imitating it by a new and formal recognition of Our Lady Immaculate as Patroness and De-

fender of the realm. He proposed to the assembled Cortes the renewal of their vassalage to Our Lady, as well as a more particular and solemn celebration of the feast of Her Conception. He undertook to obtain from Pope Urban VIII confirmation of Her Patronage, and, in token of it, bound himself and his successors to send fifty gold crowns annually to the *Santa Casa de Conceicao* at Villa Vicosa (the first sanctuary in the Peninsula dedicated to Our Lady under this title). Finally, he took an oath to confess and to defend, to the death if need be, that the Virgin Mother of God was conceived without stain of original sin, and ordained that members of the University of Coimbra should take a similar oath.

Little wonder, then, that Pope Benedict XV replying, in 1918, to an address from the Portuguese Hierarchy, should have written (the happenings at Fatima, a few months previously, being, doubtless, present to his mind) that he could not believe that the depressed state of the Church in Portugal would continue, but that, on the contrary, he was full of hope for its future. "This hope," he added, "is confirmed especially by Our knowledge of the burning love for the Immaculate Virgin for which this portion of the Lord's flock is so greatly renowned. Such piety, indeed, deserved some outstanding help from the Mother of God."

Portugal Remained Faithful

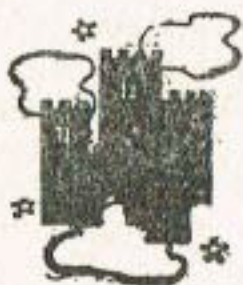


The Kingdom of Portugal, so auspiciously founded by Afonso Henriques, did not immediately reach the full status of independence. Indeed, for two and a half centuries the nation's growing pains were many.

At the start, its separation from Spain was quite artificial: there was no diversity of blood, no natural, geographical frontier, no conflict of aims. But while, perhaps, during the first hundred years of its autonomy, a reunion might have taken place, as time passed the consciousness of its national identity was becoming more and more clear. After two centuries that consciousness was definite.

Then came the great Schism of the West. Spain espoused the cause of the anti-Pope. Portugal remained with Urban. Religious animosities were thus fomented at a time when popular feeling was already inflamed. A crisis was inevitable. It was precipitated by Leonor Telles, Spanish Regent of the Kingdom after the death of her husband King Fernando. She was a clever and ambitious woman. Her religious sympathies were Clementine. When it became known that she had plans for the fusion of Spanish and Portuguese interests under a Spanish King, the storm of battle broke. It brought to the throne in 1385, the second founder of Portugal, Joao I.

Blessed Dom Nuno Alvares Pereira



On the 24th of June, 1360, the feast of Saint John the Baptist, was born in the castle of Bonjardim, a remarkable man, Nuno Alvares Pereira. Around Nuno's cradle was repeated the question which was asked concerning the great Precursor of Our Lord: "What, think ye, shall this child be?" Considering his ancestry, it was not difficult to foresee that he would be a warrior and, with a little imagination, to add that he would wield an invincible sword. Had it been said that he would be a saint, the guess would have been prophetic.

The Pereira family was intimately connected with the Knights Hospitalers, then an intensely national organization, and it was in an atmosphere of chivalry, consequently, that Nuno grew up. A sturdy boy, though lightly-built, with a mind delicately poised and pure, on the one hand he cherished knightly ideals, and on the other, was shocked by the loose morals of the age. It is related that his favorite study was history, and that he was entranced with the legends of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. He fancied himself a Galahad. He dreamed of one day being a leader with a sword of light for his country and people. His mind

was filled with such thoughts when in 1373 his father introduced him at Court.

He drew upon himself the attention of the Queen, who chose him for her squire and herself invested him with knightly armour. A thrilling start, it seemed to him, to his great career. For three or four years he remained at Court, and there his eyes were opened to the general corruption and decadence of social and national life. Then, to please his father, he married, retired to the country and left behind him forever, as he thought, his youthful aspirations. From him descended a great posterity which included the Emperor Charles V, and Manoel, last King of Portugal.

On the death of King Fernando, Nuno came to Lisbon for the obsequies. He was well aware that a national crisis was at hand, and vaguely wondered whether he would be involved. Events moved much more quickly than anybody could have foreseen. Revolution and war were in the air. Joao, the late King's half-brother, was, chiefly through Nuno's suggestion, named Protector of the Realm. Hasty resistance was organized against the Spanish forces closing in on Portugal. The great struggle had begun.

Dynasty of Aviz



But at first, Jaoa was somewhat undecided, and Nuno retired to Santarém to await his decision. Walking by the river bank one evening he passed by chance an armourer's shop, and noticed a peculiarly splendid sword exposed for sale. The sight awakened the Galahad in him once more.

"Armourer," said he, entering the shop, "that is a beautiful sword. Could you make mine like it?"

"I can make it much better. Send for it in the morning."

When Nuno returned the following day, he scarcely recognized his sword: it seemed indeed a blade of fire! Looking more closely he saw on one side the motto:

Excelsus super omnes gentes Dominus;

(The Lord is high above all nations. Ps.cxii.)

and on the other his own name and coat of arms and, above, the name:

M A R I A .

"How much do I owe you, armourer?"

"Nothing just now, Sir. Later, when you return as Count of Ourém, you can pay me."

Devoted as he had been to Our Blessed Lady, he felt in some sort that his service to an earthly sovereign was over: henceforth he was Her Knight, and that not only was the impending war for the integrity of the *Terra de Santa Maria* a sacred enterprise, but that his first duty to his Queen was to urge it on. (Upon this episode is founded the well-known drama of the Portuguese poet, Almeida Garret, *O Alfageme de Santarèm*, "The Armourer of Santarèm"). With that he hastened back to Lisbon, reanimating the courage of Joao, and together with him devised measures which resulted in the temporary check of the Spaniards and the acclaim of Joao as King, the first of the dynasty of Aviz. Nuno was named Constable of the Kingdom. He was not yet twenty-five years old.

The Knights Hospitalers



It was clear that a decisive battle must be fought, and when news came that the Spanish King was coming south and was actually at Coimbra, the King and Nuno went up to meet him. They halted at Ourèm. This was a country quite familiar to Nuno, for the Knights Hospitalers had their chief establishments in this central region of Portugal and his actual birth-

place was not many miles west of what was to be the most historic parcel of land in the realm. The soldier and strategist in him rejoiced at the chance given him to choose the battlefield.

Ourém is on the hilly road that comes from Lisbon through Santarém and Thomar to Leiria; but nearer the coast is another, in flatter country lying beneath the Serra d'Aire. Nuno rode out to view the position and decided that the plain, backed by the hills, would give him great advantage, especially as his forces were less numerous than those of Spain. He led down his troops during the night. The Spaniards advanced also, and on the 14th of August, 1385, the armies met.

In the Decree of Nuno's beatification one of his sayings is quoted thus: "Whoever wishes to see me defeated in battle let him take from me the sacred banquet where God, the food of the strong, refreshes men. Strengthened by this food, I put on courage, fortitude, and strength to put down my enemies." Inspired by this faith he had Masses celebrated for the soldiers and encouraged them to receive Communion.

He himself, having disposed his forces, knelt down by his standard to pray for victory. This was a holy war, he felt, and he appealed to Our Lady and Saint George, adopted as patron of his army, to help. The King had vowed to build a great memorial church in thanksgiving, and he also promised one to Our Lady and one to Saint George.

The decisive battle was definitely to be

fought under the patronage of Mary! The Archbishop Primate of Braga was by the King's side, his casque surmounted by an image of Our Lady, and the standard of Nuno itself fluttering in the breeze kept her mystically before the eyes of all. Its white ground was divided into four fields by a red cross—the Cross of Christ, ever a Portuguese symbol; in each corner the foliated cross of Nuno's family; in the upper left hand quarter, next to the staff, an image of the Crucifix with Our Lady and Saint John; in the upper right, of the Virgin Mother with Child; below to the left, Saint James; to the right, Saint George.

All day long the Spaniards manoeuvred to improve their position. They saw the impossibility of successful attack on the site selected by Nuno. One hour before sunset the battle began. It seemed for a few minutes that the Portuguese were yielding; but rallied by Nuno and the King, they held ground. The tide of battle turned. The Spaniards fled in dismay. Within an hour, the Portuguese victory was complete. Aljubarrota had its place amongst the decisive battles of the world.

The following day Nuno returned to Ourense to give thanks to Our Lady. The King went barefoot to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guimaraes and decreed the building of the church and monastery of Our Lady of Victories, Battle Abbey (Batalha), a few miles from the field of Aljubarrota.

This great monument is one of the most splendid specimens of Gothic architecture in the world, and has ever been regarded as the shrine of Portuguese nationalism.

The Dominicans

Readers of this book will have been asking what all this has to do with Fatima. Their patience is now to be rewarded.

Affonso Henriques, it will be remembered, peopled his monastery of Alcobaca with Cistercians, King Joao entrusted Batalha to the Order of the Friars Preachers, the "Friars of Mary", or "Fathers of the Rosary," as they were popularly called in the beginning. Who better could be given the task, he asked himself, of making Batalha a living praise of thanksgiving to Our Lady of Victory?

As everybody knows, the Friars Preachers are hereditary trustees of one particular form of devotion to Our Lady, the most holy Rosary. The tradition that assigns this honour to them has had the uninterrupted support of the Popes, and latest of all, of Pope Pius XI. "Amongst the weapons used by St. Dominic to convert heretics," he writes, "one of the strongest was the Rosary of Mary, the rite of which was made known by the

Blessed Virgin Herself . . . It may justly be said that the Rosary of Mary is the very principle on which the Order of Saint Dominic rests."

Long established in Portugal and worthily associated with its religious history, it was with joy that they accepted the royal commission to take charge of this noble gift to God and to the Mother of God-Incarnate.

Little effort of the imagination is needed to see the white-robed sons of Saint Dominic moving amongst their people, preaching the gospel truths after the traditional manner of the Father, inculcating the use of that devotion which Our Lady had assured him would prove so powerful a weapon against evil. In fact, the Rosary became the popular prayer in all the country round, both as a family and personal exercise of piety; so that if Portugal as a whole might vaunt its claim to be the *Terra de Santa Maria* this district might well be called *Terra do Santissimo Rosario*. Our Lady's choice of it as the scene of Her appearance as Queen of the Most Holy Rosary would seem to justify the propriety of such a title of honour.

Conversely, then, may we not see in the course of events which led up to the Dominican foundation at Batalha part of the long preparation of Providence, which, in 1917, was to culminate at Fatima?

Batalha and Ourem



The south easterly road from Batalha towards Ourem leads by a gradual ascent to the top of a low ridge of hills named Serra d'Aire. Looking back one can see where Leiria, Aljubarrota and Batalha lie. One is viewing the very scene that Nuno

saw as he reconnoitered on the eve of the great battle. This is historic ground; and a glance at the map of Portugal will show that it is approximately the geographical centre of the country.

About eight miles from Batalha the Cova da Iria, near Fatima, lies to the left of the road. Here the apparitions took place, though the name of Fatima has been formally associated with them, since it is the nearest to the village and parish.

Fatima is a mile and a quarter or so southwards on the Ourem road, and has not more than a few hundred inhabitants. The mode of living there is primitive; but,

“Let not ambition mock their useful toil,
Their homely joys and destiny obscure;
Nor grandeur hear with a disdainful smile
The short and simple annals of the poor.”

In such a place the richest gems have indeed been found.

The glories of the region may well en-

noble it in Portuguese history, but long after Aljubarrota has been forgotten the name of Fatima will live in the grateful memory of the world.

The Countship of Ourem



After the victory of Aljubarrota King Joao conferred the Countship of Ourém on Nuno (the armourer of Santarém had been a prophet!) and gave him other ample revenues as well. Wealth he looked upon as a loan from God, and nothing gave him greater joy than to use it for God's glory, especially by honouring Mary, the Mother of God. To Her he was wholeheartedly devoted, fasting every Saturday in Her honour, striving to reproduce Her virtues, inculcating Her honor upon his soldiers as their best defense. He built and endowed six churches in Her name, the last and most splendid being that of Our Lady of Mount Carmel (the Carmo) at Lisbon. This was a thank-offering for a second victory vouchsafed his arms at Valverde, two months after that of Aljubarrota.

For nearly forty years he continued, in collaboration with the King, the work of consolidating the independence of his country.

But when he was growing old, and filled with thoughts of eternity, he saw more and more clearly the futility of worldly ambitions and achievements. His youthful dreams of living for God alone recaptured his soul.

In 1422 he knocked at the gates of the Carmo and asked to be admitted as a brother. His sword, *Maria*, he deposited at the feet of his Lady. He donned the Carmelite habit, taking as his religious name *Nuno de Santa Maria*. On the 15th of August, the following year, anniversary of his first great military triumph, he made his religious profession, achieving thus the nobler triumph of the Cross. "The Constable of Portugal is dead; the Count of Ourém is dead," he said to the King, who was scarcely able to believe the news of what his friend had done.

Nuno of Holy Mary lived, however, in increasing holiness for eight years more. Then realizing that the end was near, he said: "Bring me my Lord that I may die in Him as I have lived." Having been comforted with the Sacraments he asked that the history of Our Lord's Passion be read for him. At the words, "Behold thy Mother," he died. It was the feast of All Saints, whose glorious company he joined.

"With zeal have I been zealous for the Lord God of Hosts" (3 Kings XIX. 10). These words of Elias are the motto of the Carmelite Order, who look to the Prophet of Carmel as their Father. The Order's crest is a man's right hand grasping a sword of light.

Motto and crest suited Nuno of Holy Mary perfectly. So, after his death, the Friars of the Carmo took his sword and put it in the hand of a statue of Elias: a symbol of the perfect warrior of God.

Nuno was beatified by Benedict XV, on January 23rd, 1918. The Decree was pre-faced by the words: "It was evidently the provident and wise counsel of God to reserve this most noble cause for this time of war and stress in Europe, that a perfect example of Christian patriotism might shine in the darkness of selfish hate."

Thus did the complications of men and affairs set the stage for the drama of Fatima. This done, they fade to unimportance. The Queen of heaven and earth appears, the cynosure not of Portuguese eyes only, but of the world's.

The Queen of Peace



When May, the month of Mary, came around, in 1917, the Great European War was nearing the end of its third year. Gloom and desolation had settled down upon the peoples, but none felt the weight of anguish more than the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XV, whose glorious reign had been so tragically shadowed by the conflict.

In a Letter addressed to His Eminence Peter Cardinal Gasparri, his Secretary of State, he recounts his efforts to bring about peace, and sorrowfully complains that his appeals to the belligerent nations and their heads have been unavailing. Nevertheless he has not lost confidence. Something tells him that the auspicious day is not far off when all men, children of the same Father in heaven, will greet one another as brothers. He prays the Divine Redeemer, in the goodness of His Heart, to turn the heads of Governments toward peace, and urges all, especially when they have purified themselves from sin by sacramental confession and, in Holy Communion, are heart to heart with Our Lord, to join, with loving insistence, in this petition.

After this introduction the Letter continues: "Because all graces which the Author of every good deigns to distribute to the poor

descendants of Adam, are, by the loving counsel of His Divine Providence, dispensed by the hands of the most Holy Virgin, we wish the petitions of Her most afflicted children to be directed with lively confidence, more than ever in this awful hour, to the great Mother of God.

"We charge you, then, Lord Cardinal, to communicate to all the Bishops of the world Our ardent desire that recourse be made to the Heart of Jesus, Throne of Grace, and that to this Throne recourse be made through Mary.

"To this end We ordain that . . . the invocation *Queen of Peace, pray for us*, be permanently added to the Litany of Loretto . . .

"To Mary, then, who is the Mother of Mercy and omnipotent by grace, let loving and devout appeal go up from every corner of the earth; from noble temples and tiniest chapels, from royal palaces and mansions of the rich as from the poorest hut—from every place wherein a faithful soul finds shelter—from blood-drenched plains and seas. Let it bear to Her the anguished cry of mothers and wives, the wailing of innocent little ones, the sighs of every generous heart: that Her most tender and benign solicitude may be moved and the peace we ask for be obtained for our agitated world."

This Letter was issued on the 5th of May, 1917. Our Lady of Fatima appeared at Fatima on the eighth day following, the 13th.

A mere coincidence? He who hears the story now to be told will hardly think so.

The Secrets of God's Providence



While we may not presume to penetrate the secrets of God's Providence, reasons may be advanced which may explain, perhaps, why Our Lady bestowed so singular an honor upon Portugal.

(A) The Patroness of Portugal is Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception. From the earliest days, the kings and lords of Portugal chose Mary as their Patroness. In 1634, the king summoned his Cortes and consecrated the kingdom to Our Lady Immaculate, conjuring his successors most solemnly never to abjure or forget their Sovereign Lady and Patroness. In order that this consecration should be more binding, he sent ambassadors to Rome to have this solemn pledge ratified by the Vicar of Christ. Later, the kings offered their royal diadem in homage to Mary, and never after placed it on their own heads.

(B) All the great Cathedrals of Portugal are dedicated to Our Lady's Assumption, their towers pointing to her heavenly throne, their sonorous bells proclaiming: "There is our Queen."

(C) All the great monuments of the country were built in honor of the Blessed Mother—for instance Santa Maria de Mafra, Coimbra, the National University, representing the intellectuals of Portugal, pledged it-

self, under oath, to defend the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception centuries before the Church declared it a dogma.

(D) The Army, from the earliest times, used as its battle cry: "Holy Mary and Saint James for Portugal!" The soldiers were obliged to have their Beads, and the English officers in command of Portuguese detachments in the Peninsular war were not a little surprised to see the SOLDIERS PRODUCE THEIR ROSARIES AT THE MORNING DRILLS AND INSPECTIONS.

(E) In the country parts, when one asked how far it was to a certain town or village, it was customary to say, "Two Rosaries, three Rosaries, five Rosaries", that is to say, it will take you as long to get there as it will take to say two, three or five Rosaries.

(F) In the cities, it was usual at five or six o'clock in the evening for a lady to open her window and clap her hands. This was a signal for all the windows on both sides of the street to be opened, after which the Rosary was recited chorally; the ladies on one side saying the opening verse of the "Hail Mary" as announced by the Angel Gabriel, those on the opposite side giving the response.

(G) Portuguese families have the beautiful custom of giving Our Blessed Lady's name to four, six and even eight of their daughters: Maria do Rosario, Maria do Carmo, Maria das Dores, etc., that is, Mary of the Rosary, Mary of Carmel, Mary of the Dolors.

Why Did Our Lady Appear As "Queen of the Rosary" in October And Not at an Earlier Time?



Again, while not presuming to search the ways of God's wisdom (Rom. II, 33), we may admire here what, even by human standards is a marvel of providential fitness. It was in October, 1917, that the

Communist revolution was launched. As the world knows, this was no local political revolution, but the beginning of the most determined revolt against God ever organized by the satanic enemy of mankind. "This modern revolution," writes Pius XI, "has actually broken out or threatens, everywhere, and it excels in amplitude and violence anything yet experienced in preceding persecutions directed against the Church. Entire peoples find themselves in danger of falling back into barbarism worse than that which oppressed the greater part of the world at the coming of the Redeemer. This all too imminent danger in socialistic atheism aims at upsetting the social order and undermining the very foundations of Christian civilization." But against what odds they strive. For "who is she that cometh forth as the morning rising, fair as the moon, bright as

the sun, terrible as an army in battle array?" (Cant. 6, 9.) As if to remind the serpent of his original curse—of the irreconcilable enmities between him and the Immaculate Virgin, behold, at the very moment he raises his head, Mary appears to crush it: "Sure Protectress and Invincible Help of Christians," says the Holy Father.

**Pastoral Letter of the Bishop of Leiria
Concerning the Formal Recognition
Of the Cult of Our Lady of Fatima
October 13th, 1930**

Divine Providence, that rules and directs all creatures, has for man, who is endowed with an immortal soul, special regard and kindness. Just as a good head of a family cannot, because he never ought to, abandon his wife and children, so too, the infinitely good God, Who has created us out of His own free will and goodness, cannot abandon us. Both history and experience have proved this.

What tenderness the Lord had for His chosen people who at times were so ungrateful . . . How He defended them against their enemies; how He preserved them in the practice of the true religion despite their idolatrous tendencies! Even while chastising, how He showed Himself as a tender, loving Father! . . .

When the happy hour of Redemption arrives, the very Son of God descends from Heaven into this world, assumes human nature, and dies on the Cross to redeem us, to save us!

And even after His death, He remains with us, thus fulfilling His promise: *Behold I shall be with you unto the consummation of the world.*

Mary Our Mother

In this work of Redemption and Salvation, Our Lord wanted His Mother to be associated with Him. Let us just reflect upon Our Lord's agony on Calvary.

Like the father that spends his life in working for his children, Jesus had given us all without measure and without reserve. He gave us His doctrine and with it light and life. He gave us grace and resurrection. He instituted the Sacraments as so many other means of sanctification. But His love was not yet satiated. Now that He is about to die, He wishes to dispose of what remains with Him, He wishes to make His last will. But He has only His dear Mother. It is She that He bequeaths to us! What a solemn moment! All mankind are His heirs; the gentiles, represented there by the Roman soldiers; the Jews, by the inhabitants of Jerusalem who had come to witness His death; the sinners by the two crucified thieves; and

the just by the holy women who accompanied Jesus to the heights of Golgotha.

John, the only Evangelist, is the one that is charged to put down in writing Our Lord's words.

Jesus pardons the repentant thief. He forgives His executioners: *Father, forgive them . . .* And then exclaims: *Behold thy Mother!*

And Mary most holy, the Virgin pure, the Treasure of Heaven and earth, the *handmaid of the Lord*, receives us as her children, brought forth in the immense pains of Calvary!

Prostrate before Our Lady we cannot but say with our holy Mother the Church, with the Christians of all times: "Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy, hail our life, our sweetness and hope! To thee we cry, poor banished children of Eve, to thee we send up our sighs mourning and weeping in this vale of tears! Hail!"

Fulfilling Jesus' bequest, we see her with the Apostles waiting for the descent of the Holy Spirit; we see her praying with the primitive Christians and participating in afflictions.

And how loving a mother has she been throughout all these ages! . . .

Even though it were possible to count the sands of the sea and the stars in the heavens, it would yet not be possible to count the gifts which the Virgin most holy has showered upon souls.

Look at the number of charitable institutions spread throughout the world, placed under her protection. Count the innumerable churches and shrines raised in her honor, the offerings of grateful individuals and nations, for benefits received . . . And without going very far, without leaving our own dear Motherland, it is enough to point to the chapels and churches and monuments of glory, raised by the faith of our forefathers, so many of them, in honour of our dearest Heavenly Mother, the Sovereign Lady of Portuguese lands.

But above all, it is in calamitous times, when her children or nations are about to perish, victims of their ingratitude and of their sins, when as the prophet says, "I called and you did not answer, I spoke and you did not hear," in such times of peril it is that Mary calls men to do penance, as at La Salette, and lately at Fátima.

Mediatrice Of All Graces

In times past, Jeremias threatening the Hebrew people in the name of Jehovah, had exclaimed:

"I will suddenly speak against a nation and against a kingdom, to root out, and to pull down and to destroy it. If that nation against which I have spoken shall report of evil, I also will repeat of the evil that I have thought to do them."

This care and zeal of our Heavenly Father and of our Mother in coming to us to inspire us, to speak to us, is most natural. Could we perchance admit that a kind father will not speak with his son? Or that a mother will have no love for him whom she bore in her womb and whom she nursed? Sometimes it is the mute language, but none the less persuasive, of a silent action of the father, or the tears which freely flow from the eyes of the mother; . . . at other times, it is the prudent advice or the severe warning that guides us on the path of duty; again, it is the parental smiles that encourage us or the threats that frighten us.

Now if earthly parents bestow on us so much care and attention, is the love of our Heavenly Father, to Whom everything is possible, not superior—the Father Who watches over the birds of the air and clothes the lilies of the fields?

Who of us has not felt within himself the workings of grace, those good thoughts and holy inspirations that illumine our minds . . . those generous sentiments and pious impulses which incite our will to do good?

It is God, our kind Father in Heaven, Who speaks to us . . .

How often do not these divine lights deter us from falling into some criminal action. How often do they not remove us from occasions that would otherwise be our ruin? . . . How often have sorrow and remorse made us feel ashamed of some deed of our past life

and in the midst of afflictions and tears there has arisen within us the hope of regeneration, the bright vision of the reward which God has promised to those who fight the good fight and persevere to the end! . . .

All these are inspirations which divine goodness grants us directly or through the mediation of Our Blessed Mother.

Miracles, Prophecies, Visions

Besides these graces there are others which are very rarely granted to a particular soul, not so much for its own utility as for the good of religion, of peoples, of nations, of a community

These are the gifts of miracles, prophecies and supernatural visions. These gifts, bestowed almost always on saints, do not by themselves sanctify the persons thus favoured, because holiness demands an effort, a continuous co-operation on our part with God's grace, but they profit a corporate body and at times the whole world.

It was this that Our Lord wished to signify when He asked His Father in Heaven to work the great miracle of Lazarus' resurrection as a proof of His divine mission.

But since it is human to err on account of great intellectual weakness and very limited knowledge, the Church never imposes visions as a matter of Catholic faith upon us but demands strict proofs to permit belief in

them for our instruction and edification though merely with human credence.

We must remember that, however great the impatience of men may be, our holy Mother the Church is never in haste. Especially in such delicate matters she marches on through the ages slowly and majestically, aided by the Holy Ghost, with the consciousness of her perpetuity, listening to all, appreciating everything, so that she may give her verdict according to the wise laws which her Founder has given her.

Jesus has, in this matter as in everything else, taught us how to proceed, cautioning us against *false prophets*.

"By their fruits you shall know them. Do men gather grapes of thorns or figs of thistles? A bad tree cannot yield good fruit."

And to His own teaching He applies the same principles saying: "If I do not the works of my Father, believe Me not. But if I do, then you may know and believe that the Father is in Me and I in the Father."

To determine the truth in the matter of visions, prophecies and other supernatural manifestations, we must examine the qualities of the persons favoured with those gifts, if any personal, material interest moves them, if the doctrines they present are or not in conformity with the teaching of Holy Mother the Church, if the object which actuates those favoured with visions is good and supernatural.

The Apparitions of Fatima

The above considerations are made on account of the well-known "case" of Fatima.

On May the 13th, 1917, three children of the parish of Fatima, Vicariate of Ourém of our diocese, were tending a flock of sheep in a place known as Cova da Iria. The oldest of them, Lucy de Jesus, was 10, Francisco 9, and Jacinta 7. Francisco and Jacinta were brother and sister, and Lucy was their cousin. None of them knew how to read or to write.

It was about noon, and, according to their custom, the children recited the five decades of Our Lady's Rosary.

After finishing their prayers, they occupied themselves in building a little house of loose stones when suddenly there was a flash of lightning, vivid and bright. Though the sky was clear and cloudless, the children, dreading a thunder-storm, began to gather their flock of sheep, in order to go home.

However, on reaching the site where the springs of water now are, there was again a flash of lightning, and a few steps away the children were surprised to see standing on a small tree, upon the site where now stands the poor, small Chapel of the Apparitions, a Lady of incomparable beauty, clothed in a dress of purest white, a gold-bordered mantle covering her head and the greater part of her body. Her face, of heavenly beauty, was calm and serious, with a tinge of sadness.

From her joined hands there hung a beautiful rosary ending with a Cross. From her whole person there spread out rays of light with a splendour more brilliant than that of the sun.

The children came nearer and there followed a dialogue between the Lady and the eldest of the children, during which the Lady invited them to come there on the 13th day of every month until October.

As evidence of the children and many other people shows, there were six Apparitions, one on the 13th of each month, except in August when the Apparition was seen a few days later, because the administrative authority had imprisoned the children in Ourém.

The Lady told them that her home was Heaven, confided to them a secret which they were not to reveal to anyone, taught them a short ejaculation, recommended the recitation of the Rosary, advised Lucia to learn how to read, insisted on the necessity of prayer and penance to end the war, asserted that Our Lord was much angered on account of the sins of men—above all, the sins of the flesh—ordered that a chapel be built there in her honour and declared that she was the Lady of the Rosary . . .

Investigation of the Events

As the crowds were increasing extraordinarily on each occasion, and as the diocese of Leiria, canonically erected in that year, was being then administered by His Eminence the Cardinal Patriarch of Lisbon, Dom Antonio Mendes Belo, of happy memory, His Grace the Archbishop of Militene, now Bishop of Vila Real and then Vicar-General of the Patriarchate, ordered an inquiry into the occurrences.

On our taking charge of the diocese as its Bishop in 1920, we could not ignore what had taken place and therefore, by our order of the 6th of May, 1922, we appointed a Committee of priests to freely take evidence in favor of or against the events and to submit to us the report. Two members of this Committee were called by God to His presence, but the others continued the work. Recently they submitted a lengthy report which we have examined with care.

We wish here to thank the Rev. Fathers who constituted the Committee, and particularly the Rev. Canon of the Patriarchal See of Lisbon and the distinguished Professor of the Seminary of Santarèm, Dr. Manuel Nunes Formigao, Junior, who worked on the Committee, with indefatigable zeal, worthy of imitation, as he does in everything that concerns the worship of God and the honour of Our Lady.

Our holy Mother the Church having en-

trusted to our care the New Diocese of Leiria and it being our duty, as Bishop, to care for the faithful entrusted to us, and following the example of the Venerable Prelates in such cases, after having attentively studied the events during 10 years we have now resolved to give our decision, declaring, however, that to the Holy See we humbly submit our judgment.

The Marvellous Episodes Of Fatima

Referring to the small number of the wise, the powerful and the noble among the Christians of the primitive Church, St. Paul adds: "But the foolish of the world hath God chosen that He may confound the wise: and the weak things of the world hath God chosen, that He may confound the strong: and the mean things of the world and the things that are contemptible hath God chosen and things that are not, that He might destroy the things that are: that no flesh should glory in His sight . . . that, as it is written, he that glorieth may glory in the Lord."

History upholds these observations with facts. The Apostles chosen by Our Lord to preach Christian doctrine to the whole world were fishermen; St. Gregory VIII, the champion of the liberty of the Church, belonged to a poor peasant family; St. Joan of Arc who liberated France, and Blessed Bernadette de

Soubirous, the happy seer of Lourdes, were poor shepherdesses.

At Fatima it is the same. The place chosen for the apparitions is stony without any attractions whatsoever. Portugal is rich in beautiful spots, verdant lands, superb panoramas. Cova da Iria, besides being a real cove, had nothing attractive about it. The children who saw the Vision were humble creatures from our mountain-lands, modestly dressed, without instruction, not knowing how to read and with but a rudimentary religious knowledge.

They were not nervous, but affable and loving in the midst of their rough surroundings, fond of the family, obedient to their parents, happy! . . .

One cannot discern in them any self-interest or the spirit of vanity. They rejected the alms or presents which people wished to give them. And when we decided to take upon ourselves the direction of the works and the religious movement, they honourably handed over to us, in their original species, the money and the objects of value which the people would leave on the site of the Apparitions.

Their parents were poor and today they continue in the state in which they were before. They worked for their living and they continue to do so today. In no way have their lives been altered after the lapse of 13 years.

The children, when questioned jointly or separately, answered with the same precision, without noticeable contradictions, the

different questionnaires, whether official or private, to which they had once declared.

They say nothing against faith or morals, according to the word of the Apostle: "No man speaking by the Spirit of God saith anathema to Jesus."

Finally, the two younger children, brother and sister, contracted influenza which carried away so many in the whole world and both died edifying deaths, while Lucy, the only surviving child, freely and voluntarily, without coercion, after receiving the consent of her mother embraced the religious life.

It is necessary likewise to consider the circumstances which accompanied the visions.

The favored children were young, rustic and poor. We must have proofs in order to believe their statements.

According to these children, the "Lady" would appear to them on a small holm-oak (azinheira), stunted and scrawny as trees generally are in these stony places; and hundreds, nay thousands of persons, whose truthfulness we cannot doubt, saw a column of smoke, which like incense would envelope the tree during the apparitions. This phenomenon, which cannot be humanly explained, was repeated several times.

This reminds us of the exclamation in the Canticle of Canticles which our Holy Church applies to the most holy Virgin: "Who is she that goeth up by the desert, as a pillar of smoke of aromatical spices, of

myrrh and frank-incense and of all the powders of the perfumer?"

The solar phenomenon of the 13th of October, 1917, described in the papers at the time, was something marvellous and caused a great impression upon those who had the happiness to witness it. The children had previously announced the day and the hour in which it would occur. The news spread quickly over the whole of Portugal and despite the copious rains that day, the thousands who had assembled at the hour of the final Apparition (October 13, 1917), witnessed all the manifestations of the sun paying, as it were, its homage to the Queen of Heaven and Earth more brilliant than the sun in its zenith.

This phenomenon which no observatory has registered, and, therefore, was not a natural one, was observed by persons of all social ranks and classes, believers and unbelievers, journalists of the principal Portuguese dailies and even by persons kilometers away, all of which eliminates the idea that it was a collective illusion.

The Argument of Persecutions

The argument of persecutions, which are a sign that the works are of God, was not wanting either in the case of the Apparitions of Fatima.

No one was persecuted more than Jesus,

and the Church has suffered contradictions in all ages.

A countless multitude of Saints suffered martyrdom in the midst of astounding torments.

St. Peter of Alcantara would say to Saint Theresa, that one of the greatest punishments in the world was the one she had suffered, that is, the contradictions of well-intentioned people.

The holy Prophet Jeremias says: "I am become a laughing-stock all the day, all scoff at me."

The seers of Fatima were imprisoned by the authorities who threatened to cast them into a cauldron of boiling oil.

It is common knowledge that the authorities did all they could to prohibit the pilgrimages, creating difficulties of access, while certain publicists were ridiculing and scoffing at the ardent faith of the good Portuguese people.

The belief in the Apparitions resisted all the violences which, after all, but served to increase religious fervour and to propagate the graces and favours which Our Lady showered on those who invoked her.

And let it not be said that Fatima is an invention of the clergy, for if the government with all the power and prestige at its disposal did not succeed in vanquishing faith in Our Lady of Fatima, how could our humble clergy despoiled by the revolution of all the possessions which Christian piety had given to the Holy Church for her maintenance—the

clergy so often persecuted and calumniated, in such a diocese as Leiria, the smallest and poorest, have the power to create a religious movement at Fatima which today has extended to the whole of Portugal and is so consolingly developing in so many foreign countries?

Besides this, His Eminence the Cardinal Patriarch Dom Antonio Mendes Belo, prohibited from encouraging or taking part in any religious manifestation relating to Fatima, and gave wise prescriptions which we too upheld for some time after our entry into this diocese.

Remarkable Spread of the Devotion To Our Lady of Fatima

But let us return to the Divine Master's sentence quoted above: "Though you will not believe Me, believe the works."

Devotion to Our Lady of Fatima spread rapidly, as we have said, in this diocese and in the whole country and today is extending to all parts of the world not only among Catholic nations, but among Protestant and even pagan ones.

The sweetly sad gaze of the most holy Virgin—loving us as our Mother, though sad on account of our sins, is spreading over the whole world, elevating hearts and reviving the faith.

The multitudes in many thousands, from all parts, composed of persons belonging to all classes, without advertisement of any kind, coming from all the corners of the country, without any attractions, hasten to Fatima, after long journeys beset with the greatest possible difficulties and discomforts.

Where has one seen such multitudes meet in the best of order and profound respect as at Fatima? And it is not once alone that it happens—the movement is continuous, constant, increasing year after year.

The voice of the people answers the Voice of God.

The sick go there with so many sacrifices, so much trouble . . . How many marvellous cures have been wrought through the intervention of the most holy Virgin. And what a spirit of resignation do the sick manifest even when they have not obtained the cure of their physical ills!

And while the infirm of body come to Fatima in thousands, greater still is the number of the morally afflicted. Our Lady is the health of the sick and the refuge of sinners. How many wayward hearts have found pardon there! How many of those who had abandoned the faith of their fathers or were indifferent to it, found it again there!

Oh! if the confessionals of Fatima were not rigorously sealed with the sacramental seal—ever inviolable—what marvels of grace would they not be able to recount to us!

Blessed and praised be the Mother of Mercy.

Let me yet consider another point.

Many of you have known the site of Cova da Iria, barren and lifeless. You have also seen the buildings under construction, which naturally require vast expenditures. Yet up to now not a single subscription has been started, not a single alms asked for, no appeal, private or public, made to the charity of the faithful. The alms have been spontaneously offered and almost all anonymously. How great is the force of faith!

How prodigious is the power of the most holy Virgin who draws the multitudes to a barren mountain and in a few years transforms the lifeless place into a magnificent centre of piety, into a most amazing miracle of the religious life of our times! . . .

Recognition of the Apparitions And Official Approbation of the Devotion

In virtue of what we have explained, and of other matters which we omit for brevity's sake, invoking humbly the Divine Spirit, and placing our confidence in Mary most holy, after accepting the opinions of the Consultors of our Diocese, we have the pleasure

FIRST, to declare as worthy of credence the visions of the children in Cova da Iria, Parish of Fatima, of this Diocese, on the days between the 13th of May and October, 1917; .

SECONDLY, to permit officially the devotion to Our Lady of Fatima.

It now remains for us, beloved children in Our Lord, to warn you that if the favour the Virgin most holy has bestowed upon us is a great source of joy and consolation to us, our duty to reciprocate her goodness is even greater.

The experience of years has shown that "the eyes of God are open and His ears attentive to supplications in this place" but it is necessary that by the purity of our life, by the observance of the Commandments of God and the Precepts of the Church, by respect and submission to the instructions of the Apostolic See, we show ourselves to be perfect Catholics, for "not every one that saith, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven but he who does the will of My Father, Who is in Heaven, he shall enter the Kingdom of Heaven."

Our holy Mother the Church, referring to the Mystery of the Incarnation of the Divine Word, exclaims:

"Oh, the gift worthy of eternal gratitude! God made Himself known to us in a visible manner in order that in beholding Him we may burn with love for the invisible beauties."

In a special manner we do recommend to our beloved Diocesans the love of Our Lord in the Most Holy Eucharist, devotion to

the most holy Virgin, to St. Joseph, to the holy souls in Purgatory, the daily recital of at least five decades of the Rosary, flight from sins of the flesh, from immodest fashions and immoral reading, the practice of penance on which Jesus so much insisted and of which the Virgin, Our Lady, spoke so much, charity towards all our brethren and principally towards the sick and the poor.

If we do this the words of the Prophet may well be applied to our Motherland: "For if you will order well your ways, I will dwell with you in this place in the land which I gave to your fathers from the beginning and for evermore."

This Pastoral Letter of ours shall be sent to all the Rev. Parish Priests that they may read and explain it to the faithful in the customary way.

The Apparitions Of Fatima

The 1st Apparition: May 13th, 1917

The village of FATIMA, scene of the facts related here, is situated in the diocese of Leiria, Portugal, about 60 miles north of Lisbon.

On Sunday, May 13th, 1917, towards the end of the morning three children, LUCY, aged ten, and her cousins JACINTA, aged seven, and FRANCIS, aged nine, are looking after a flock of sheep at a spot called COVA DA IRIA.

From the belfry of the church the sound of the ANGELUS rings out. Faithful to the time-honored tradition of this country devoted to Our Lady, the children stop playing and piously let their Rosary beads slip through their fingers as they say their Hail Marys. When the prayers are finished, the children are just about to resume their games, when suddenly a bright flash of lightning blinds them. Afraid of a gathering storm in spite of the cloudless sky, Lucy makes up her mind to go back home. But scarcely have they taken a few steps in the direction of a young oak tree, when a second flash of lightning, brighter than the first, brings them to a standstill frightened and trembling. On their right, in the *blinding* light, a young lady (so Lucy describes her), of dazzling beauty, appears before their timid eyes.

X With a motion of her hand, she reassures them: "Do not be afraid, I shall not hurt you." The children gaze at her in ecstasy. The "Young Lady" seems to be about fifteen to eighteen. Her face, of indescribable beauty, flooded with heavenly light, seems to be over-shadowed by sadness; her hands are joined on her breast in an attitude of prayer; her dress, white as snow, reaches to her feet and is fastened at the neck by a golden cord, the ends of which fall to her waist. A white mantle, edged and embroidered with gold, covers her head and falls to her feet. In her right hand she holds a Rosary of shining pearls with a silver cross.

At last Lucy breaks the silence of ecstasy.

"Where do you come from?" she asks the Lady.

"I COME FROM HEAVEN," the Vision replies.

"And what have you come here for?"

"I want you children to come here on the thirteenth of each month at this same hour. In the month of October, I shall tell you who I am and what I want."

Lucy continues:

"Do you come from Heaven! Shall I go to Heaven?"

"Yes, you will go there."

"And Jacinta?"

"Jacinta, too."

"And Francis?"

The Apparition looked earnestly at the child with motherly reproach.

"Yes, but first he will have to say many Rosaries."

"And the two little boys who died last year?"

"One is already in Heaven, the other in Purgatory."

In her turn the Lady questions the children and tells them what she desires.

"Do you wish to offer yourselves to God in order to bear the sufferings He wants to send you as a means of reparation for the sins which offend Him, and as a means of supplication for the conversion of sinners?"

With heroic simplicity the children answer with Lucy.

"Yes, we do want to."

"Then you will have many sufferings, but God's grace will strengthen you," replied the Lady.

Then before leaving them she adds:

"My children, go on always saying the Rosary as you have just done."

Then, without walking, like someone gliding along, the beautiful lady retreated towards the east and faded into the sunlight. The apparition had lasted about ten minutes.

If deep joy fills them to the very depths of their being, the sufferings foretold by Our Lady will soon have to be paid as its price. In spite of the arrangement made by Lucy to keep silence about it all, little Jacinta told everything to her mother. Sceptically her parents refused to believe. The children are continually rebuked over it. Lucy is whipped, treated as a liar and hypocrite by her

own family and by the people of the village. Calmly and simply, without contradicting one another, the three children adhere to their determination to be present at the appointed place on June 13th.

The 2nd Apparition: June 13th, 1917

This is the feast day of *Saint Anthony of Lisbon*, Portugal, a traditional patron of Portugal. The three children, accompanied by about sixty people, make their way to the Cova da Iria before mid-day. The parents, after the scoldings of the first days, had adopted an attitude of prudence. After the Rosary had been devoutly said, Lucy rises to her feet, her face towards the east. As Jacinta and Francis suggest a second Rosary, she calls out:

"I have seen the flash of lightning, the Lady is coming," and she hurries towards the evergreen oak.

The Apparition comes again. She recommends to the children the FREQUENT RECITATION OF THE ROSARY.

"You will add," she says, "after the 'Glory be to the Father' of each decade, this prayer: 'O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, ~~and~~ ^{deliver} us from the fire of Hell, and give relief to the souls in Purgatory, especially the most abandoned.'"

To Lucy the Lady says:

"I wish you to learn to read."

Finally she tells a secret to each of the children, forbidding them to reveal it to anyone.

The Vision then disappears as on the first occasion.

When Lucy said she was going, one of the witnesses relates that the branches of the oak were brushed aside and bent downwards towards the east as if the Lady's dress had swept across them.

Throughout the apparition, the witnesses, who did not see the Vision nor hear what she said, noticed that the sunlight had lost some of its brilliance, and that the atmosphere had become yellow-gold.

After this apparition, the three children, but especially Lucy, had to undergo the same insults, reproaches, and sarcastic comments of their relatives and neighbors. The parish priest did not say very much, but the opinion he expressed was such an unfavorable one that it must have discouraged the children, for Lucy was very much tempted not to go on July 13th. But Our Blessed Lady was watching over the faithful children, ready to help them at the right moment.

The 3rd Apparition: July 13th, 1917

The sixty people who had witnessed the apparition of June 13th had spread the news of it throughout the surrounding districts, and on Friday, July 13th, more than *five*

thousand were hurrying on their way to Cova da Iria.

At the same hour and in the same manner the apparition took place. At Lucy's request the thousands of spectators kneel down.

The Lady recommends to the children the frequent recitation of the Rosary as a means of bringing the war to an end, adding:

"Only the intercession of Our Blessed Lady can obtain this grace for mankind."

When Lucy asked her heavenly visitor to say what her name was and—at the suggestion of the witnesses—to work a miracle as a proof of the reality of her presence, the Vision replied:

"Continue coming here on the thirteenth of each month. On the thirteenth of October, I shall tell you who I am and what I desire, and I shall work a wonderful miracle, so that the whole world will believe in the apparitions."

The Lady answered several petitions for special graces, recommending, in a maternal tone, the recitation of the Rosary.

Before disappearing, she addressed the three children:

"Sacrifice yourselves for sinners and say this prayer very often: *'O Jesus, I offer this for the love of Thee, for the conversion of sinners, and in reparation for all wrongs done to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.'*"

The Blessed Virgin confides to the children a secret, part of which is now known and concerns the establishment of the devotion to her Immaculate Heart.

During the apparition the spectators had noticed that in addition to the sunlight becoming dull, a little white cloud surrounded the children and covered the scene of the apparition.

The Reactions

If the words and promises of the Lady from Heaven had strengthened the confidence and conviction of the visionaries and had deeply moved the spectators when they heard from Lucy what she had said, they did not put an end to the trials and persecutions of the three children. The opposition of the family did not diminish, but was aggravated the more by the disturbance and setbacks which these events and the numerous visits and inquiries caused to the work on the farm.

At this time, while the religious authority and the Catholic press were maintaining great reserve and advising prudence, the liberal press was spreading throughout the length and breadth of Portugal news of these events with vivid descriptions and highly exaggerated details, when they were not altogether an invention of the imagination. Some concluded that it was staged by the clergy, who were carefully trying to set up a business in miracles and to make it a source of profit. To others it was just another strange case of auto-suggestion.

At Vila de Ourém, the local authority

controlling Fatima, the administrator, named Le Ferblantier, was a sectarian, an anti-clerical and a Freemason, who had determined to nip in the bud this invasion of mysticism and to destroy this reactionary machiavelianism. He summoned the parents and the children, questioned them over and over again, and used threats to get them to retract everything and to find out the famous secret which intrigued him. He did not hesitate to threaten death, and one can well imagine the effect of this on the minds of the children, who, not realizing it was just a trick, replied with heroic simplicity:

"If we are killed it will not matter; we shall go to Heaven."

August 13th, 1917

All this disturbance among the authorities, and the newspaper campaign, brought to Cova da Iria on August 13th a huge crowd of people estimated at about 18,000, for the most part devout believers, who were praying, singing and saying the Rosary aloud.

Mid-day . . . the children are not there. How strange! Everyone waits impatiently; at last the news spreads. The children are not coming. The administrator of Vila Nova de Ourém has taken them off in his carriage and shut them up in the house. The crowd, in indignation, at once talks of going to lodge a protest with the local authority, when some-

thing extraordinary happens which captivates and calms them. From the midst of the clear sky a clap of thunder breaks, and a brilliant flash of lightning shoots through the heavens. The sun grows pale; the atmosphere becomes dull yellow; a light cloud, very beautiful in form, appears near the oak—the spot of the apparition—rises in the air, and then fades away. Filled with awe, feeling the presence of the supernatural, the crowd disperses, calmed now, and filled with gratitude as they comment on these events.

In the meantime, the administrator had taken the children to his home, and for three days, resorting variously to promises, ruses, and threats, he tries in vain to make them contradict one another, to admit that they have lied, or to give away the secret entrusted to them.

Because of his failure, he adopts an artifice. "Either you tell me the truth or I shall have you fried in a red-hot frying-pan," and, taking the children off one after the other, he pretends to carry out his threat.

Lucy remained the last, and later, when she was asked, "What did you think he was going to do to you?" she replied:

"I certainly thought he meant it and that I was going to die in the pan, but I could not betray my secret, and I placed myself in the hands of Our Blessed Lady."

Forced to yield, the administrator had to take the children back to the parish priest of Fatima on August 16th, and he restored them to their family, whose anxiety may be surmised.

The 4th Apparition At Valinhos: August 19th, 1917

Having forcibly missed the appointment for August 13th, the children, not expecting to see the Lady before the next month, went to their ordinary occupations. But, to their great surprise, on August 19th, in another place called "VALINHOS" — THE LADY APPEARS TO THEM. She complains about the man who had prevented them from meeting her at Cova da Iria on August 13th. She adds that because of this the miracle announced for October 13th will be less striking than it would have been. She invites them to pray and to sacrifice themselves for the conversion of sinners.

"Pray, pray very much and make sacrifices for sinners, for many souls go to hell because there is no one to make sacrifices for them."

The children took back home with them the branch on which the Virgin had rested her foot. While Lucy's mother was holding it, a *delicious perfume*, of a kind unknown, came from the foliage.

The 5th Apparition: September 13th, 1917

On September 13th, 30,000 people assembled at Fatima. Roads and paths were crowded with pilgrims, ardent and zealous,

saying their Rosary as they went along. From ten o'clock onwards the little valley, from now on sacred, was filled with a crowd which respectfully went towards the scene of the apparitions.

A little before mid-day when the three children arrive, Lucy calls out to the crowd watching them, "*You must pray.*"

"I shall never forget," says a witness, "the deep impression it made on me to see so many thousands of people, at the voice of a child, falling on their knees, praying with tears streaming and begging with confidence the maternal protection of the Queen of Heaven."

At mid-day exactly, the kneeling crowd sees the sun grow dim; the atmosphere change to dull gold.

Suddenly cries of surprise and joy break out, "*There she is . . . She's coming . . . over there . . . look.*" In the cloudless sky, a luminous globe appears, which, moving from east to west, glides slowly and majestically across the heavens. A light white cloud envelops the green oak and the three children. Then, more wonderfully still, from the cloudless sky falls a shower of white flowers which, without reaching the ground, fade away at a certain distance from the earth.

The crowd, profoundly moved, is rapt in admiration, aware too that the children are conversing with an invisible person. They hear what Lucy says, without seeing the Lady or hearing her answers.

The Apparition tells the children that it

is necessary to go on *reciting the Rosary in order to obtain the end of the war.*

She promises to return on October 13th with St. Joseph and the Child Jesus. She insists earnestly that the children must be faithful to the meeting. Lucy asks the Vision if she will cure the sick. She replies:

"I shall cure some of them, but not all, because the Lord has no confidence in them."

All these events, the number of witnesses and the wonderful things accomplished in full daylight, as well as the obvious sincerity of the children, made even those who were learned and prudent feel that they were in the presence of the supernatural. Hence many of them hastened, in this month of September, to visit the village of Fatima. Among the numerous visitors we may note the illustrious professor of theology from the patriarchal Seminary of Lisbon, who, when he first came, on September 27th, 1917, and on many occasions later, undertook to question the children impartially and in careful detail.

The 6th Apparition: October 13th, 1917

An exact date: Oct. 13th, 1917 — An appointed hour: Mid-day

A definite place: Cova da Iria

Announced by the Apparition of July 13th, confirmed by those of August 19th and of September 13th, the great miracle of October 13th must have attracted to Fatima an

immense concourse of people. The prediction, spread throughout the whole of the country and received in many different ways, was the subject of innumerable and universal comments.

Both believers and unbelievers rejoiced over the gallantry and boldness of this prediction which promised a great miracle: — thus putting at everyone's disposal a straight, easy and irrefutable way of verifying whether or not the apparitions of Fatima were AUTHENTIC and DIVINE.

On the eve, the highways and roads leading to Fatima were crowded with vehicles and pedestrians, many of whom were bare-footed, carrying their rosaries in their hands and singing hymns on the way. A very large number spent the night out-of-doors, many at Cova da Iria, in spite of the coolness of the season. The morning of the 13th brought with it a disappointment. It was raining and it was cold. The heavenly Vision is giving a hard trial to those on whom she is soon to bestow a wonderful spectacle. The rain falls heavily and incessantly all the morning. Stoically the crowd increases and prays. The hour is approaching. 70,000 people are at the children's meeting place, praying and saying the Rosary. With difficulty, the three children, accompanied by their parents, make their way through the vast, respectful crowd.

Lucy asks that the umbrellas should be taken down; with docility the crowd obeys. In the rain this multitude recites the Hail Marys of the Rosary.

EXACTLY AT NOON, Lucy interrupts the prayer, crying out, *'There! She is coming!'*

Three times in the twelve to fifteen minutes during which the apparition lasts, the crowd is able to see a *white cloud* enveloping the children.

The Message Of Our Blessed Lady

This is the heavenly message, recounted by the children after the apparition:

"She said that she was Our Lady of the Rosary, that we must repent of our sins, change our lives and no longer offend Our Lord Who is so much offended! And that the Rosary must be recited. She added that she wished a chapel to be built there in her honor; She promised that if men changed their lives, the war would finish quickly and that she would answer their prayers."

The Great Miracle

Moving away from the children, Our Lady pointed to the sky. Automatically Lucy called out, *"Look at the sun."* Then, for twelve minutes, this huge crowd of 70,000 people was able to contemplate a wondrous, stupefying spectacle, never seen before.

The rain had suddenly stopped, the clouds had dispersed and the sun appeared

like a silver globe at which one could gaze without being dazzled.

Then all at once the sun began to spin round and round, just like a wheel of fire, casting in every direction, like a gigantic magic lantern, enormous beams of light; green, red, blue, violet, and of every color, painting the clouds, the earth, the huge crowd, in most fantastic fashion.

After four minutes, the sun stood still, only to begin again a second and then a third time the same whirling dance in a fairy-like maze of light.

While everyone in the crowd held his breath and gazed upon the startling spectacle, the three children—and they alone—saw at the side of the sun three living tableaux appear in succession:

1. *The Holy Family, Our Lady of the Rosary and St. Joseph carrying the Infant Jesus.*
2. *Our Lord, grown up, lovingly blessing the crowd, and Our Lady of Sorrows.*
3. *Our Lady of Mount Carmel with the scapular in Her hand.*

And then, as the tableaux faded, there came the final moment.

The sun, after its magic dance of fire and color, ceased to turn, and, like a gigantic wheel, which by the very movement of turn-

ing had become loosened, detached itself from the firmament and hurtled down towards the crowd crouching, terror-stricken, on the ground, convinced that this was the end of the world foretold in the Gospels.

From all the vast multitude, suddenly on its knees in fear of death, arose the most ardent supplications, the most fervent acts of contrition.

But the end did not come. As if stayed by the Divine Hand, the sun stopped in its headlong descent, and when the first fearful heads were raised, it was to see the marvels vanished and the sun shining in its usual place in the sky.

This is the miracle. It is beyond explanation or denial.

There is nothing to add to these facts so wondrously divine which are ratified by such an abundance of proof and by authentic witnesses.

The Rosary

Salvation Of The World In Peril

At Fatima, as at Lourdes and at Pontmain, Mary presents to us the Rosary, peaceful weapon which triumphs in warfare.

Always our Mother, Our Lady holds out to us across the ages the same saving branch.

The treacherous heresy of the Albigensians threatened, 700 years ago, to overwhelm the social order of Christendom. In vain St.

Dominic fought against them. Docile to the voice of the Blessed Virgin, he armed himself with the Rosary and he triumphed.

Three centuries later, the powerful Turkish fleet once again became a menace to the nations of the West. At the request of Pius V, an ardent *crusade of the perpetual Rosary* was organized . . . Although much inferior in numbers, the Christian fleet crushed the Turks at Lepanto and saved civilization.

In 1716 the countless hordes of Islam advanced again to the very heart of Europe like a devastating and irresistible tidal wave. In Rome, thanks to the influence of the Confraternities of the Rosary, the whole population took up the weapon of Marian intercession, and soon Charles VI, Holy Roman Emperor, conquered the Turks under the very walls of Vienna.

At this moment, when unbridled attacks launched by the powers of hell, threaten Christian civilization, our social order, our homes, our children, our country, and the world, Mary offers to us with maternal insistence the weapon of salvation: *THE ROSARY*.

Christians, listen to the voice of Mary, take hold of the lifebuoy in the midst of the storm. *Each day take and say your Rosary.*

The Message Of Fatima

Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary The First Saturday of the Month

No doubt the future will show that at FATIMA, on the 13th of July, 1917, the Blessed Virgin wished to inaugurate devotion to HER IMMACULATE HEART, in the same way as Our Blessed Lord instituted at Paray-le-Monial devotion to HIS SACRED HEART.

The importance of this salutary devotion will become more evident as Christians lend a more attentive ear to Mary's call. *Let us hope that this will not be delayed very long*, and that new and harder trials will not be required to bring the world to shake off its apathy and to respond to the maternal and merciful pleadings of Our Heavenly Mother.

Read the message of Fatima, and you will realize that the establishment and propagation of devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary can spare the world terrible evils. THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY WILL TRIUMPH OF NECESSITY, but this triumph will be hastened by the docility and generosity with which we honor and make efforts to spread Her Kingdom.

This triumph of the Heart of Mary is of vital interest to us . . .

WHY?

For the simple reason that the cessation of wars which cause much sorrow to human-

ity, the establishment of peace among nations, the end of so much suffering, bloodshed and destruction . . . all this depends on the establishment of devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary!

The Vision Of Hell

“The vision concerning which we have kept an inviolable secret until now took place on the 13th of July, 1917. It was a vision of hell.” Here are the very words of Sister Lucy of Jesus: “The secret”, she says, “consists of three different revelations, of which I will tell you two. The first was a vision of hell. Our Lady showed us a great sea of fire which seemed to be under the earth. Immersed in these flames were the devils and the damned. They were like transparent furnaces floating in this fire and carried about by the flames which came from them. Clouds of smoke were falling on all sides, like sparks from a great fire; the cries and sighs of sorrow and of despair were horrifying and awful. The devils were distinguished by their horrible and repulsive shapes of animals, terrifying and unknown, but transparent and black. This sight only lasted a moment and without the help of Our Heavenly Mother, who had promised us in the first apparition that she would take us to Heaven, I think we should have died of horror.”

The second revelation was the request

to establish the devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. On the 13th of June, Our Lady had consoled Lucy, assuring her that she would never abandon her and that her Immaculate Heart would be her refuge and the road that leads to God. "Saying this, she opened out her hands, causing to penetrate into our hearts the brightness that they reflected. It seems to me that this was in order to infuse into us a special knowledge and love for her Immaculate Heart. Since that time we have had a more ardent love for her in our hearts."

D e v o t i o n

To the Immaculate Heart of Mary

*God wishes to establish in the world devotion
to the Immaculate Heart of Mary*

Here is Lucy's description of the second part of the vision of the 13th of July, 1917:

"After the vision of hell, we raised our eyes to Our Lady, and she said to us kindly but sadly: 'You have seen hell where the souls of sinners go. To save souls, GOD WISHES TO ESTABLISH IN THE WORLD DEVOTION TO MY IMMACULATE HEART. If people do what I have told you, many souls will be saved and will find peace. The war is going to end, but if people do not cease to offend God, not much time will elapse and

precisely during the next Pontificate another and more terrible war will commence. When a night illuminated by an unknown light is seen, know that is the signal which God gives you that the chastisement of the world for its many transgressions is at hand through war, famine, and persecution of the Church and of the Holy Father. *To avoid this, I ask for the consecration of the world to my Immaculate Heart, and Communion in reparation on the First Saturday of each month.* If my requests are heard, Russia will be converted and *there will be peace.* Otherwise, great errors will be spread throughout the world, giving rise to wars and persecutions against the Church. The good will suffer martyrdom, and the Holy Father will have to suffer much. Different nations will be destroyed; *but in the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph. The Holy Father will consecrate Russia to me; Russia will be converted, and an era of peace will be granted to humanity."*

Is this clear?

Will the world hear this urgent message of Our Lady? Will the Christian world spread this message after the example of the Holy Father?

Pope Pius XII has spoken in keeping with the message of Fatima.

Consecration of the World And of Russia To the Immaculate Heart of Mary

*The 31st of October, 1942, by Pope Pius XII
at the solemn closing of the Celebrations
in honor of the Apparitions of Fatima
held in the Cathedral of Lisbon.*

On October 31st, 1942, the entire Portuguese Episcopate was united in the Cathedral of Lisbon in the presence of the Papal Nuncio and of the military and civil authorities for the closing of the jubilee celebrations.

By a magnificent ceremony, which will go down as the most worthy of memory in the religious history of Portugal, the Message of Our Lady of Fatima was recalled. From Rome the voice of the Pope was heard. In noble language, *His Holiness obeyed the message of Fatima*, and consecrated the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The Consecration

“Queen of the most Holy Rosary, Refuge of the human race, thou who dost ever triumph in God’s battles, we humbly prostrate ourselves before thy throne, confident that we shall receive mercy, grace and bountiful assistance and protection in the present

calamity, not through our own inadequate merits, but solely through the great goodness of thy maternal Heart.

“To thee, to thy Immaculate Heart, in this, humanity’s tragic hour, we consign and consecrate ourselves in union not only with the Mystical Body of thy Son, Holy Mother Church, now in such suffering and agony in so many places and sorely tried in so many ways, but also with the entire world, torn by fierce strife, consumed in a fire of hate, victim of its own wickedness.

“May the sight of the widespread material and moral destruction, of the sorrow and anguish of countless fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, and innocent children, of the great number of lives cut off in the flower of youth, of the bodies mangled in horrible slaughter, and of the tortured and agonized souls in danger of being eternally lost, move thee to compassion.

“O Mother of Mercy, obtain peace for us from God, and above all procure for us those graces which prepare, establish and secure peace.

“Queen of Peace, pray for us, and give to the world now at war the peace for which all peoples are longing: peace in the truth, justice, and charity of Christ . . . Give peace to the peoples separated by error or by discord, and especially to those who profess such singular devotion to thee, and in whose homes an honored place was ever accorded thy venerated ikon (today perhaps often kept

hidden to await better days); bring them back at the one fold of Christ under the one true shepherd."

The Pope has spoken, and he has solemnly consecrated the world and Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This is a very important, an essential gesture. Is it sufficient? I dare say NO . . . if the Christian world does not re-echo the voice of the Pope! But in these critical days the voice of the Pope will not be as a voice in the desert . . . Christian peoples, anxious to be saved, will re-echo this august appeal.

After his example, nations, dioceses, parishes, families, individual souls will consecrate themselves to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, sending up to this throne of mercy and of maternal love the confident cry of anguished souls, of saddened hearts, and of wounded bodies. Men will find in this virginal and maternal Heart, masterpiece of God's power and love, the *source of that true fraternity between classes and nations.*

The Immaculate Heart of Mary, following the dictates of her quasi-infinite love for mankind, will be touched by the call, the homage, the love of her children, and she will obtain by her powerful intercession that God's anger be appeased and the powers of hell destroyed, so that the world will enjoy an era of peace.

God, Who cannot refuse anything to Mary and Who wishes her Immaculate Heart to reign, will bestow on the world, thus con-

secrated to her, pardon for its crimes and true fraternity in justice and in truth.

Mary, who is strong as an army in battle array, will be able to conquer and grant victory to those who proudly stand beneath the Standard of Her Immaculate Heart.

It is the Immaculate Heart of Mary, ardent furnace of an incomparable maternal love, which will cause true fraternity in justice, and justice in truth, to reign in this world so worn by hatred.

The Little Flower cried out towards the end of her life: *"To love, to be loved, and come back to earth to make Love loved."*

The world is heading to destruction by hatred; and hatred is being nourished by error, hypocrisy and lies . . . Love alone is fruitful, constructive; *God is Love and Truth . . . Humanity will be regenerated when minds will return to Eternal Truth and hearts to Eternal love.*

All these gifts, this salvation, this liberation, God, Author of all good, has placed in the Immaculate Heart of His Mother.

Come then, one and all, to Her.

Invoke her, honour her Immaculate Heart, our salvation, our resurrection.

She must reign over all peoples, over the entire world.

God Wishes It!

Means for Practising and Spreading this Devotion

1. **CONSECRATE** yourself to the Immaculate Heart of Mary—any formula will do; it must be a sincere gesture, a fervent prompting of the mind and of the heart, confiding yourself without reserve to the maternal love of Mary.

2. **PUT IN THE PLACE OF HONOR** in your home the Image of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, reverence this image, consecrate the family to Mary, and recite in common before the picture of Mary your family prayers.

3. **BE FAITHFUL TO THE FIRST SATURDAY** of each month by receiving Holy Communion in reparation and by saying, and meditating on, the Rosary. This is the express request of Mary at Fatima, corresponding to the first Friday in honor of the Sacred Heart. It is a means of maintaining and of perfecting this wonderful devotion in the minds and hearts of the faithful.

4. **RECITE** as often as possible, even each day, **THE ROSARY**, and invoke the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

5. **REPEAT THE FOLLOWING INVOCATIONS:**

Immaculate Heart of Mary, save us!
Immaculate Heart of Mary, thy Kingdom
come!
Immaculate Heart of Mary, save Russia!
Immaculate Heart of Mary, make my
heart like unto thine!
Immaculate Heart of Mary, save our
country!

6. DO YOUR BEST by meditation and prayer to *penetrate into the ineffable sentiments of the Heart of Mary*, woman blessed among all women, Mother blessed among all mothers, Virgin of Israel, joy, honor, and salvation of the world, because devotion should not be a mere formality, it should be living. It should engender in our hearts an active charity, that fraternity of which the heart is the symbol and which should be the basis of the regeneration of society.

7. PROPAGATE IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE THIS DEVOTION.

The Immaculate Heart of Mary must reign in the world to save the world. Act accordingly. Become an ardent and indefatigable propagator of the devotion. Mary will reward you a hundredfold in this world and in the next.

Here we might recall the promise of Our Lord in reference to the enthronement of the Sacred Heart in the home.

“Those who propagate this devotion shall

have their names inscribed in My Heart and they will never be effaced."

May we not hope that Our Lord in His Mercy will grant the same reward for the enthronement of the Immaculate Heart of His Mother in the home?

The Five First Saturdays In Honor Of Our Lady of Fatima

On the thirteenth of May, 1939, in the fifth edition of the *Official Handbook of the Pilgrim of Fatima*, p. 131, His Lordship, the Bishop of Leiria, caused the following to be published:

"It is Our Blessed Lady Herself who, in our times (through Sister Lucy of Jesus, who saw the apparitions of Fatima), has deigned to teach us this devotion of the Five First Saturdays, the object of which is *to make reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary* for all offenses and outrages committed against her by ungrateful men."

This devotion consists of:

- 1) Going to Confession and Holy Communion on these days;
- 2) Saying five decades of the Rosary;
- 3) Meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary for fifteen minutes;
- 4) Performing the above exercises with the intention of making reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The Great Promise

Our Blessed Lady said to Sister Lucy of Jesus:

“My child, behold my Heart pierced with thorns which the blasphemies and ingratitude of men drive deeper at every moment. Do thou, at least, try to console me, and make known to men that

I promise to assist at the hour of death with the graces necessary for salvation all those who, on the first Saturday of five consecutive months, go to Confession, receive Holy Communion, say the Rosary, and spend a quarter of an hour with me in meditating on the fifteen Mysteries of the Rosary, with the object of making reparation to me.”

N. B. — Confession may take place in the week which precedes or follows, provided that Holy Communion is received in a state of grace. The meditation may be on one or several of the Mysteries of the Rosary. It seems preferable that one mystery should be taken each month and meditated on in detail, so that after three repetitions of this devotion, the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary will have been meditated.

Devout souls and members of religious communities have great facility for making these first Saturdays. It is sufficient for them to offer their usual Rosary on these days for

the intentions stated above, and to take one or more Mysteries of the Rosary as the subject of their morning meditation.

Already on the 13th of June, 1912, the Holy See had granted a plenary indulgence, under the usual conditions, to all who, on the first Saturday of any month, perform special exercises of devotion in honour of the Immaculate Virgin Mary in reparation for the blasphemies against Her Name and Her prerogatives. (See No. 335 of the Official Collection: Preces et Pia Opera, 1938).

Our Lady's request to Sister Lucy, therefore, only confirms and sanctions a devotion already in existence and approved by the Church. Thus those who practice the devotion of the Five First Saturdays will thereby fulfill the conditions required to gain the plenary indulgence granted by the Holy See.

The Spirit of the Devotion To the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Why does God wish to save, to renovate and regenerate the world by the Immaculate Heart of Mary?

Here are thirteen reasons:

(1) Firstly, *God is sovereignly free in His gifts.* If it pleases Him to grant such ef-

ficacy to the devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, who would dare to doubt it? Who would not accept such an admirable plan? Now, precisely God wishes it! *God wishes to establish in the world the devotion to the Immaculate Heart.*

(2) God gives us everything through Mary, Universal Mediatrix of all graces. Mary is the indispensable agent willed by God to manifest the Divine generosity; generosity comes from the heart. The Heart of Mary is *the expounder of the Divine liberality.*

(3) After devotion to the *Sacred Heart*, it is in the order of Divine Wisdom that the *Immaculate Heart of Mary* be honored on the *first Saturday.*

(4) God wishes for His Mother a devotion of predilection, a devotion of hyperdulia, as is said in the proverb concerning Our Lady: "*De Maria nunquam satis.*"

The devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary is a *new jewel in the crown of the glories of Mary.*

(5) The Heart of Mary on Calvary was imbued with sorrows, especially when the lance pierced the Sacred Heart of Her Divine Son.

The Heart of Mary was crucified on Calvary. It must be very specially glorified today.

(6) It is again on Calvary that Mary accepted us as her children in the person of St. John: "*Behold thy Mother.*"

The glory, the greatness, the beauty of the Mother is her maternal love—it is her Heart.

In the family it is the heart of the mother which triumphs over the *anger of the father.*

(7) In several places *the Gospel speaks of the Heart of Mary.*

The aged Simeon foretold to her that one day *the sword would pierce her Heart.*

In Jerusalem, when she found her Jesus in the midst of the doctors after three days of great anguish for her maternal Heart, she came back to Nazareth, meditating in her Heart the incomprehensible designs of God.

(8) The feast of the Most Pure Heart of Mary has been celebrated by the Church for a long time. The liturgy invites us then to honor the Immaculate Heart.

(9) *A Congregation* was founded in the 17th century in France, by *St. John Eudes*, under the patronage of *the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary to propagate devotion towards these two Hearts.*

(10) Blessed Anthony Claret founded during the last century the Congregation of the Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and several Sisterhoods, for the ex-

press purpose of propagating devotion to the Heart of Our Heavenly Mother.

(11) *In Paris*, in the very heart of the city, the celebrated sanctuary of Mary, *Our Lady of Victories*, was founded in a very providential manner under the impulse of the Queen of Heaven herself, wishing to be honored in this place under the title of: *Immaculate Heart of Mary, Refuge of Sinners*.

(12) In this time of immorality and unrestrained liberty of morals, when according to the words of Scripture, "*All flesh has corrupted its ways*," it is in the designs of the Divine Mercy to cure the world through *the original purity of the Immaculate Heart of Mary*.

(13) Lastly, if God is Charity and love: *Deus caritas est*; if the heart is the symbol of love, if Mary is truly the receptacle of the Gifts of God, it is *Her Heart which becomes the Source* whence starving and exhausted humanity will come to be nourished and to drink of *that saving Charity* which sums up the law and the prophets, and comprises the entire Gospel.

The world, for its cure and recovery, is not lacking in money or physical strength, nor in intelligence—it is wanting in love, it lacks charity, and it is because it is wanting in *charity and love* that it despises truth and violates justice.

"It is *in the Heart of Mary*," said Blessed Grignon de Montfort, "that the world will find again true fraternity; it is *by the Heart of Mary* that it will obtain pardon and mercy of God; it is *with the Heart of Mary* that the New City will be built in truth, justice, and charity; it is *for the Heart of Mary*, for its honor and glory that humanity, grateful and free, will in the near future increase its manifestations of love and filial gratitude."

Divine Approval

From the booklet "Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary", by the Claretian Fathers

Divine approval of this devotion was given to several Saints. St. Gertrude was assured by Our Lord Himself that those who honored Mary's Heart would quickly feel her merciful love. St. Brigid heard this consoling promise from the lips of Jesus: "Ask Me for favors through the Heart of My Mother and you shall obtain what you desire."

Among other holy persons who had special devotion to Mary's Heart may be mentioned St. Mathilde, Venerable Romana Angelica, and the saintly Mary Villani. In a vision Mary Villani heard from Our Lady Herself, the following words concerning this devotion, "I will be a special protectress in life and in death to those who thus honor me."

As time passed, devotion to Mary's Immaculate Heart captivated more and more hearts of the faithful, but it was still only a private cult. Three requisites were needed to make it a public devotion, namely, that it be (a) performed in the name of the Church; (b) promulgated by Her ministers; and (c) practiced by acts approved by the Church.

Already in 1640 pious preachers and apostolic men were exerting their best efforts to convert this private devotion into a public one. Such zealous sons of the Church as Fathers Nicholas Boldoni, Philip Marchese, Paul di Barri, and Venerable Ignatius di Nente, by their fervor in sermons and writings helped to popularize the devotion to Mary's Immaculate Heart.

Confraternity For Laity And First Public Cult

This consisted in the establishment at Naples of a confraternity for the laity with the express purpose of honoring the Immaculate Heart. The founder was the Rev. Vincent Guinigi. Official ecclesiastical approbation was given this Confraternity in 1640. Thus began the first public cult to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Apostle of Devotion

To The Immaculate Heart Of Mary

Honor and credit for the spread of devotion to the Immaculate Heart are due most of all to the glorious St. John Eudes. His fervent preaching on the love and glories of Mary's Heart enshrined it forever in the hearts of the faithful. The devotion was also expounded in his numerous written works with the result that even in the Saint's own life-time veneration of the Immaculate Heart was well propagated throughout France.

St. John Eudes also founded two religious Congregations, one of men and another one of women, the principal aim of which is to honor the Most Pure Heart of the Blessed Virgin. The members of the Congregation for men founded by him are known as the Eudists, while the Sisters are known as "Daughters of Our Lady of Charity." The Saint has likewise the honor of being the author of the Office and Mass for the feast of the Most Pure Heart of Mary, which was celebrated for the first time in the Cathedral of Autun on the 8th of February, 1648, with the permission of Bishop Ragny of that diocese. By the year 1672 the feast was observed with great piety throughout all France.

The Popes and the Immaculate Heart

The growth and progress of this devotion were due in no small measure to the many Pontiffs with whom it found favor and approval.

The first Papal sanction of the Feast of the Most Pure Heart of Mary was given by Pope Pius VI to the Sisters of Notre Dame de Corbeil. The same Sovereign Pontiff established public devotion to the loving Heart of the Virgin Mother at Palermo, Sicily. Clement IX enriched a Confraternity established to honor Mary's Immaculate Heart with many indulgences. His Holiness Pius VII granted to many dioceses the privilege of commemorating the feast of the Most Pure Heart of Mary with the Mass and Office of Our Lady of the Snows. Finally, on July 21st, 1853, the Sacred Congregation of Rites approved the Office and Proper of the Feast, composed by the same St. John Eudes.

Modern Apostle Of Mary's Immaculate Heart

There remains only one phase in the history of this devotion which demands our attention, namely, how it has progressed and spread almost miraculously under the influence of its propagators in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Oustanding among the children of the Church distinguished for their devotion to the Immaculate Heart during the last century is a zealous missionary of an ardent, apostolic spirit, whom the infallible authority of the Church has raised to her altars.

Blessed Anthony Claret

Blessed Claret expended all the talents and powers at his command to spread this devotion to Mary's Immaculate Heart. To this end he labored in the court of Queen Isabelle II of Spain, whose confessor and spiritual adviser he was. But the court was by no means the only scene of his zeal for the propagation of this beautiful devotion. He labored in very many cities and towns of Spain, Cuba, the Canary Islands, France and Italy.

This missionary's insatiable zeal gave him no rest as long as there remained souls in the world who had not heard of the love and tenderness of Mary's Heart. Proof of this is his unbelievably active life, during which he delivered not less than 25,000 sermons and published very many pious books and pamphlets. The publications of this forerunner of Catholic Action, as he was called by Pius XI, reached the colossal number of eleven million copies. Small wonder, then, that devotion to the Immaculate Heart at-

tracted hundreds of thousands of new devotees, when such a lover of Mary as Blessed Claret dedicated himself to the task of promoting it.

His Plans

In order to insure the continuance of this devotion to the Immaculate Heart, Blessed Claret founded or took a most important role in founding such Congregations of Sisters as: The Sisters of the Immaculate Heart, the Sisters of Mary Immaculate, and the Daughters of the Heart of Mary. His chief foundation, however, was the Congregation of the Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

From the very first day of their existence, July 16, 1849, to the present time these Missionaries have labored to bring people nearer to Mary's Immaculate Heart. This they have done by preaching missions, giving retreats, conducting seminaries, educating youth, publishing more than one hundred and ten magazines in many languages, all with the primary intention of propagating devotion to the Heart of their Heavenly Mother. The Claretians, as these Missionaries are also known, have brought this devotion to almost all the countries of the globe, and have spared neither time nor labor to bring about the consecration of the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

During the late Spanish Civil War the Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary added a new, brilliant chapter to their already glorious history of zeal for the Heart of their Heavenly Mother. More than two hundred and seventy of these Missionaries were cruelly put to death for the sole crime of being priests and religious. Heroically disregarding the most barbaric tortures to which they were subjected, they all remained true Sons of the Immaculate Heart to their last breath. Many of them marched to their place of execution singing hymns of praise to the Heart of Mary in spite of their executioners' efforts to silence them. The death-cry of all was, "Long live the Immaculate Heart of Mary!" They offered their blood to God in a special manner for the spread of the devotion to Mary's Heart.

The last words of one of these martyrs, preserved for us by one of his brethren who was subsequently released due to his foreign citizenship, will perhaps best show their feelings as they went to meet death. Asked if he had anything to say before being shot, he answered, "The only thing I have to say is that I die very happy . . . I offer my blood for the reign of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Spain and I also offer it in a special manner for the reign of the Immaculate Heart of Mary!" (These were the words of a young man who would have been ordained priest one month later).

The last, crowning page in the progress and development of this devotion, as we have

seen, was written on December 8, 1942, when His Holiness Pope Pius XII consecrated the Church and the entire world to this glorious Heart. May it reign forever over our hearts and the hearts of all men!

The Prayer Of The Angel

(frequently said by the children of Fatima)

My God, I believe, I adore, I hope, and love You. I ask pardon for those who do not believe, who do not adore, who have no hope, and who do not love You. *(Three times.)*

Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, I offer to You, and I adore them, the very precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, present in all the Tabernacles in the world, in reparation for the outrages by which He is Himself offended.

By the infinite merits of His Sacred Heart and by the intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg of You the conversion of sinners.

N. B. — The children said this prayer kneeling, with their heads bowed touching the ground. An Angel taught them this prayer.

**The Radio Address Delivered By
His Holiness Pope Pius XII At The Close
Of The Silver Jubilee Of Fatima
October 31st, 1942**

Venerable Brethren and Beloved Children:

Benedicite Deus caeli et coram omnibus viventibus confitemini Ei quia fecit vobiscum misericordiam suam (Tobias 12, 6). "Bless ye the God of heaven, give glory to Him in the sight of all that live because He hath shewn His mercy to you."

More than once during this year of graces, you have gone in devout pilgrimage to the holy mount of Fatima, bearing with you the hearts of all believing Portugal, to lay at the feet of your Virgin Patroness, in that oasis breathing forth the perfume of faith and piety, the filial tribute of your perfect love. It has been a homage of gratitude for the immense benefits received by you in these latter times, and a confident entreaty that She would continue Her patronage over your country from end to end, warding from it the great tribulation which torments the world.

We, Who as common Father of the faithful make Our own both the sorrows and the joys of Our children, unite Ourselves with you with all the affection of Our heart, to praise and thank the Lord, Giver of all good

things, to thank Him especially for the graces of Her by whose hands the Divine munificence pours forth on you these torrents of grace. We do so all the more willingly since, with filial delicacy, it has been your desire, in the midst of this solemn Eucharistic prayer and Jubilee of Our Lady of Fatima, to associate yourselves with the twenty-fifth anniversary of Our Episcopal Consecration.

The Holy Virgin Mary and the Vicar on earth of Christ are two devotions profoundly Portuguese, united in the heart of Portugal "most faithful" from the very dawn of her nationality: for the very first reconquered lands—the nucleus of the future Nation—were consecrated to the Mother of God as the *terra de Santa Maria*, the land of Holy Mary, and scarcely had the kingdom been established when it was placed under the protection of Saint Peter.

1. Gratitude

The first and greatest duty of man is gratitude. Nothing is so acceptable to God as a soul grateful for the graces and benefits which it has received. And you owe a great debt to the Virgin, Mistress and Patroness of your country. In a tragic hour of darkness and confusion when the Portuguese Ship of State—the course of its most glorious traditions having been lost—was tossing in the anti-Christian and anti-National storm, and

seemed to rush towards certain shipwreck (all unconscious of actual dangers and still less of those to come: dangers which, in any case, mere human prudence, how far-seeing soever, could not have discerned at the time), Heaven lovingly intervened, and from out the dark shone light; chaos gave place to order; to the tempest succeeded calm. And Portugal can rediscover and knit together again the lost thread of its most noble traditions of the "most faithful Nation," to follow in our day (as in the time when Christian daring to extend the law of eternal life was never wanting in the *Pequena Casa Lusitana*) the course of glory proper to a crusading and missionary People.

Honour to those worthy men who were the instruments of Providence for so great an enterprise, but, first of all, glory, benediction, and thanksgiving to the Virgin, Mistress, Queen, and Mother of the *Terra de Santa Maria* which She has saved a thousand times, and always succours in tragic hours. And this She did so manifestly in what was perhaps the most tragic of all, that already in 1934 Our predecessor Pius XI of immortal memory (in the Apostolic Letter *Ex officiosis litteris*) bore witness to the extraordinary benefits with which the Virgin Mother of God had favoured your country. Yet, at that date, there was no thought of the vow of May, 1936, against the red peril so dangerously near and so unexpectedly warded off. Then there was not the fact of marvellous peace which, in

spite of all and everything, Portugal continues to enjoy—with all the sacrifices which it necessitates, immensely less ruinous though they must ever be than those of this war of extermination that is destroying the world. Today, when a very atmosphere of miracle envelops Portugal—manifesting itself in numerous prodigies of grace and conversion (florescent in this perfumed Spring of Catholic life and pledge of fruits most excellent): yes, today with much greater reason do we recall Her beneficence.

We must confess that the Mother of God has heaped upon us benefits truly extraordinary. There rests on you the sacred duty of giving Her infinite thanks. That you have shown yourselves grateful during this year We know well. Most pleasing to Heaven must have been the official acts of homage, more moving still the sacrifices of little children, the sincere penance and prayer of the humble. Your acts are emblazoned on the scrolls of God: the apotheosis of Our Lady ever Virgin during Her progress from the Sanctuary of Fatima to the Capitol of the Empire on the memorable days of last April eighth and twelfth (perhaps the greatest manifestation of faith in the eight centuries of your country's history); the national pilgrimage on May thirteenth, that day of heroic sacrifice when, in spite of cold and rain, and enormous distances to be travelled on foot, there were gathered together in Fatima hundreds of thousands of pilgrims to pray, give

thanks, and make reparation, amongst whom, gleaming with fresh beauty, stood proudly out the *Juventude Catholica*; the pageant of youth belonging to the Eucharistic Crusade in which the little children, so beloved by Jesus, could with childlike confidence and innocence protest to the Mother of God that they had done all She had asked—prayers, Communions, sacrifices in thousands—and for this reason could supplicate: Our Lady of Fatima, now we are alone with You, say to Your Divine Son one single word and the world shall be saved, and Portugal be free, entirely free, from the scourge of war. The precious crown of gold and precious stones, still more the perfect love and generous sacrifices which you offered to your Heavenly Patroness in the Sanctuary of Fatima as a symbol and perpetual remembrance of enduring thankfulness: these and other splendid demonstrations which you have made in every diocese and parish during this jubilee year under the guidance of the Episcopate, show clearly how the faithful Portuguese people acknowledges with gratitude, and wishes to pay, its immense debt to its Heavenly Queen and Mother.

2. Confidence

Gratitude for the past is a pledge of confidence for the future. God demands that we give Him thanks for benefits received, not

because He needs our gratitude but that our gratitude may move Him to grant us benefits greater still. For the same reason it is proper to say that the Mother of God, accepting your thanksgiving, will not leave Her work incomplete, She will continue unfailingly the patronage extended to you up to now, and preserve you from greater calamities. But in order that this confidence may not be presumptuous, it is necessary that each, recognizing his own responsibilities, endeavor to do nothing that would make him unworthy of the special favour of the Virgin Mother; rather must everyone strive more and more to conciliate Her motherly love. We must listen to the maternal counsel which She gave at the marriage feast of Cana, and do all that She says. She tells us all to do penance—*penitentiam agite*—to amend our lives and flee from sin, which is the principal cause of the awful chastisement with which Eternal Justice punishes the world. She bids us be, in a world given over to materialism and pagan propaganda, a sun of light to save and enlighten it. She bids us to cultivate purity, and reflect the holy austerity of the Gospel. She bids us boldly, cost what it may—as avowed the *Juventude Cathòlica* at Fatima—live as sincere, convinced, integral Catholics. More still, She bids us, out of the fulness of Christ, to diffuse around us, near and far, the perfume of Christ, and by constant prayer—especially the daily Rosary—as well as by such sacrifices as zeal inspires, to win for sinful souls the life of grace and life eternal.

Doing these things you may call confidently on the Lord: He will hear you. Approaching lovingly the Mother of God, She will answer: Here I am! Then he will not watch in vain who defends the city, for the Lord will watch with him and defend it, and the house built on the foundations of a "new order" will be securer because the Lord has founded it. Happy the people whose Lord is God and whose Queen is the Mother of God! She will intercede and God will bless His people with that peace which is a compendium of all blessings. *Dominus benedicet populum suum in pace.*

3. Supplication

But you must not be blind to what is going on around you. Who can be unmoved at sight of the immense tragedy that agonizes the world? The greater the mercies for which today you thank Our Lady of Fatima, the more assured the confidence you place in Her for the future, the nearer you feel Her to be, protecting you under Her mantle of light, the more tragic appears, by contrast, the fate of so many nations torn to pieces by the greatest calamity in history. Awe-inspiring manifestation of Divine Justice! Let us tremblingly adore, and yet not doubt of the Divine mercy. Our Father is in heaven and does not forget us, not even in the day of His wrath: *Cum iratus fueris, misericordiae recordaberis.*

Now that the fourth year of war has dawned more sombrely than those that went before in this disastrous and destructive conflict, more than ever only utter confidence in God can be of avail; voiced, before the Divine Throne, by a Mediatrix such as She whom one of Our predecessors, during the first world war, directed should be invoked as Queen of Peace. Let us call on Her once more, for She alone can help, She whose maternal Heart was moved by the evils grown big in your country and from which She so marvellously rescued it. Compassionating the distress arising from the immense tribulation wherewith the justice of God punishes the world, She has already pointed out, beforehand, the way of salvation by prayer and penance. She can not withhold from us Her motherly tenderness nor the efficacy of Her patronage.

Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, Help of Christians, Refuge of the human race, Conqueror in all the great battles of God, we suppliantly bow down before Thy throne. We are confident of winning Thy pity and of finding favour and present aid in these calamitous days: not because of our deserving for we have none, but relying solely on the goodness of Thy Maternal Heart. In this tragic hour of human history, as Common Father of the greatest Christian family and Vicar of Him to Whom is given all power in heaven and on earth, and from Whom We have received the care of all souls redeemed by His Blood, We give, We entrust, We consecrate to

Thee and to Thy Immaculate Heart the Holy Church, Mystical Body of Thy Jesus, suffering and bleeding in so many places. And not only the Church, but also the whole world, torn asunder by internal discords, aflame with the fires of hatred, and victim of its own wickedness.

Oh, be moved at the spectacle of such moral and material ruin; of such suffering and agony of fathers and mothers, of husbands and wives, brothers and sisters and innocent little children; of so many lives cut short in the flower of their age; of so many bodies lacerated in this dreadful carnage; of so many souls tortured and agonizing, of so many souls in danger of being lost eternally.

Do Thou, O Mother of Mercy, entreat peace for us from God, and those graces which in one moment can convert evil hearts—graces which prepare, conciliate, and assure peace. Queen of Peace, pray for us and give the world at war the peace desired by the nations: peace in the Truth, the Charity, and the Justice of Christ. Give them peace in body and soul, so that the Kingdom of God may come in the tranquillity of order.

Extend thy protection to the infidel and to those who still sit in the shadow of death: give them peace and make the Sun of Truth shine on them, so that with us they may exclaim, before the only Saviour of the world: Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth to men of good will.

Give peace to those peoples separated (from the Church) by error and discord, par-

ticularly those who have professed a special devotion to Thee—so that there was no house that did not display its venerated *icon* (now put away in hiding against a better day); give them peace and bring them back to the one fold of Christ, under the one true shepherd.

Grant perfect peace and truth to the Holy Church of God. Stem the mounting flood of wholly material neo-paganism, and stir up in the faithful a love of purity, the practice of Christian living and apostolic zeal, so that the people who serve God may increase in merit and in number.

Finally, as to the Heart of Thy Jesus were consecrated the Church and the human race, placing all their hopes in Him as pledge of victory and salvation, so from this day forth let them be consecrated for ever also to Thee and Thy Immaculate Heart, to Thee our Mother and Queen of the world, that Thy love and patronage may hasten the triumph of the Kingdom of God. May all generations at peace among themselves and with God, proclaim Thee blessed and with Thee chant from pole to pole, the endless *Magnificat* of glory, love and thanksgiving, to the Heart of Jesus, in Whom alone are to be found Truth, and Life, and Peace.

Trusting that these Our supplications and yours may be favourably received by the Divine Good-pleasure, We impart, as pledge of heavenly graces, with Our love and fatherly affection, the Apostolic blessing: to you, beloved Cardinal Patriarch, you, Venerable Brethren and your clergy: that the grace of

the Most High may make your labours ever more fruitful; to the Most Excellent President of the Republic; to the Illustrious Chief of State, Members of the Government, and other civil authorities: that, in this hour of unique difficulty, Heaven may continue to assist your activities for the common good for peace; to Our beloved children one and all of Portugal, on the Continent, in the Islands, and beyond the seas. May the Virgin Mother confirm the work She has deigned to do in you.

Great National Processions

With the Pilgrims at Fatima

Pilgrimages to Fatima usually arrive there on the afternoon of the 12th of each month, and are especially numerous in the months from May to October. Let us join in spirit one of these pilgrimages and see what takes place during them.

The first collective act of homage to Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima is the torch-light procession. This starts about ten o'clock on the night of the 12th. In the great National Processions from May to October many hundred thousands of people have taken part. On the 13th of May, 1931, when all Portugal headed by the Cardinal Patriarch of Lisbon and the Papal Nuncio, assembled in Cova da Iria for the solemn dedication of Portugal to

the Sacred Heart of Mary, there must have been at least 300,000 persons bearing candles to swell the sea of light which spread over the immense amphitheatre among the hills.

The processions at Fatima, an eye witness tells us, are quite different from the "Processions aux flambeaux" at Lourdes. "At Lourdes you seem to see a great river of light flowing through the plain. At Fatima it is a sea of light which tosses and tumbles before your astonished gaze, and in the midst of this sea flows a river of still more intense light, forcing a way for itself with gigantic windings."

The multitude sings untiringly canticles to Our Lady of Fatima having its own version of the beloved Lourdes *Ave*, or answers the Rosary which is given out from the balcony of the Pavilion of the sick and reaches the immense multitude by the help of eight loud speakers.

The procession, which in the bigger pilgrimages may last until midnight, is ended with the singing of the *Credo* by a massed choir, embracing that immense multitude. Dr. Fischer, describing his impressions of the pilgrimage of May, 1929, writes:

"These choral melodies of the *Credo* of the Holy Mass, sung by several hundred thousand voices, sung at midnight, sung in the glow of the countless tapers, grip one in a manner that no tongue can describe. One's thoughts go back to the Catacombs. Are not these melodies, these glowing lights, these

masses of men and women, a flaming protest of the spirit of sacrifice and prayer against the errors of this world of ours sinking in sin and unbelief?"

Precisely at twelve begins the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, for which Our Lady had asked, so that reparation might be made to her Son in her Sanctuary for all the sins of the world.

This night adoration was first held in the parish church of Fatima, but since September 13, 1927, it has been transferred to the Chapel of the Apparitions in Cova da Iria.

Dr. Fischer will be only too happy to allow us to take part in this night of adoration and reparation in his company. Describing what he saw in Cova da Iria on the night of May 12-13, 1929, he writes:

"His Excellency the Bishop of Leiria goes to the loud speaker and gives out in those rich melodious and clear tones of his voice the five Joyful Mysteries. Not less than six times does he address himself to the multitude, recommending to their prayers first, the Holy Father, who has shown such a deep interest in Fatima, then the Cardinal Patriarch of Lisbon, the Portuguese Episcopacy, the Bishop of Algarve (who had just arrived at the head of a pilgrimage from his diocese) and lastly a poor lady who had been run over and instantaneously killed by a lorry at Fatima that day in the presence of her invalid husband and priestly son—all pilgrims to

Fatima. One's thoughts recall Good Friday and Mother Church praying for all classes of humanity—and the people's part therein, *Oremus! Flectamus genua!*"

At 2:30 or 3:00 o'clock A. M. the priests begin the celebration of the Holy Mass—sometimes there are about three hundred of them! The numbers approaching the Sacraments are enormous, and everywhere priests are to be seen with a crowd of penitents waiting their turn to approach the Holy Tribunal. Among them, thank God, are many strayed sheep who, through the door Our Lady opened at Fatima, have sought re-admission to the Fold of the Good Shepherd. In this connection a priest tells a strange story:

"At one o'clock in the morning of May 13, 1930, I saw a young man of nineteen approach my confessional. 'Father,' was his astonishing request, 'I want you to hear my confession, give me Holy Communion, and baptize me.' I spoke some words of encouragement to him, and made an appointment with him for a later hour. 'I came here to see what it was like,' he explained, 'but perceiving the faith and fervour of the pilgrims I have felt something within me which urges me to become a Christian like them!'"

On another occasion the Bishop of Leiria was imparting the Eucharistic Blessing to the sick when a distinguished looking gentleman was seen kneeling among the sufferers, as if

he wanted to receive that Benediction. He was told it was exclusively meant for the sick. "I know that well," he replied, "but alas! I am sick of soul." Greatly touched, His Excellency stopped, raised up the Monstrance, and made over the kneeling figure a great Sign of the Cross. A sick soul had found the way to healing!

The most remarkable circumstance in connection with Fatima is the enormous number of Holy Communions distributed to the Faithful. "Today," writes one priest, describing the events of October, 1929, "there were twelve of us priests giving Holy Communion, and 28,000 communicants. What struck me most was that on the esplanade, where we were engaged in our ministry, there was the most absolute silence, though one hundred thousand persons were gathered there." Another writes: "There were on the altar two enormous ciboriums, each containing 6,000 Hosts, and it was necessary to consecrate both of them two or three times over. I myself distributed the Bread of Angels for two hours and a half without interruption. During part of this time I was accompanied by an officer in full-dress uniform, wearing all his decorations, and carrying a lantern, and a barrister bearing a paten. The former afterwards told me he rarely wears full dress, but here at Fatima he did it to honour the Blessed Mother, and as a public profession of faith."

Every pilgrimage brings its sick, and

sometimes there are hundreds of them. Those declared incurable by their own doctors are examined a-new by doctors at Fatima, many of them non-Catholics. Then they are carried to the pavilion reserved for them. There at noon Mass is celebrated for them, and each in turn receives the Benediction imparted by the Bishop with the Eucharistic Host.

A little before the Mass of the Sick takes place the Procession during which the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima is borne from the Chapel of the Apparitions to the Pavilion of the Sick; it is held amid scenes of indescribable enthusiasm, each person in the vast crowd waving a white handkerchief, and the great amphitheatre seems to one who looks back on it as if it were filled with enormous flights of snowy doves. There follows a rain of rose leaves scattered by the hands of the pilgrims, or from the airplanes that circle overhead to crown Our Lady's triumph!

A Great Basilica

On May 13, 1928, the first stone of a great Basilica dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima was laid with accustomed solemnity. On this occasion, among the pious pilgrims was the wife of the President of the Executive Council of the Portuguese Government. A year later Doctor Fischer found the automobiles of two statesmen themselves drawn up before the porch of the local hotel

— though neither General Carmona nor Colonel de Freitas went to the length of taking part in the demonstration of honor to Our Lady of the Rosary. However, the good will of the "powers that be" has been thus, at least tacitly, expressed; and the news, therefore, that the Portuguese Government has already had the plans drawn for the future city of Fatima is not so surprising.

The Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, which is to form its central point, will be a beautiful and imposing structure. Around the great nave will be fourteen chapels, which, with the High Altar, will represent the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary. To the right of the Basilica the chapel for the confessions of men already exists, and it is to be faced on the left by a similar one for women. Behind the little chapel of the apparitions a hospital is in course of erection, and probably complete by this time. Here is housed the "Bureau des Constatations Médicales," where a similar procedure is followed with respect to the verification of cures as at Lourdes.

Like Lourdes, too, Fatima has its Brancardiers and volunteer nurses, grouped into two associations called respectively, "Servos and "Servas" of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima. Up to date they number more than four hundred. The Bishop of Leiria recently inaugurated the 'enclosed retreat movement,' of which he desires to make Fatima a centre, by retreats given to each of these divisions. They were followed by a course of spiritual exercises for doctors and students.

Cures at Fatima

Have there been many cures at Fatima? Let the following account answer that question:

“From May, 1926, until December, 1928, 5,348 sick were registered at the ‘Bureau des Constatations Médicales.’ Among these 260 cures have been officially vouched for. They include cases of cancer, consumption, blindness, meningitis, peritonitis, Pott’s disease, etc. Some of these cures were instantaneous; five took place on the application of medals and pictures of Our Lady of Fatima, two before the statue; six during the recitation of the Rosary; six during the blessing of the sick; and seventy on the application of the water from the miraculous fountain.

“A very remarkable cure was that of little Manuel Conceicao a little boy of seven, who had been attended by four doctors of the highest distinction at Braga and pronounced by them an incurable case of Pott’s disease. His mother brought him to Fatima on October 12, 1927, and spent hours praying for the cure of her afflicted child before the statue in the Chapel of the Apparitions. It seemed that her prayers were not to be granted, and with a sorrowful heart the mother bent her steps homeward. She was obliged to break the journey at Coimbra, where they spent the night, and there she found that little

Manuel was completely cured! She brought him home to Braga and had the four doctors, who had already examined him, examine him again. Their verdict was that the cure was complete, and inexplicable on any scientific principle. The whole city of Braga flocked to see the small miracle, and the papers devoted a great deal of attention to the case. So Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima has many devout clients in Braga."

But not Braga alone but every city nay, every village of Portugal, was represented in the enormous pilgrimage of last May when, in the moving words of the Cardinal Patriarch of Lisbon, the Bishops of Portugal led their people "to return thanks for the honor Our Lady of the Rosary had done them in visiting their country, consecrating Portuguese soil by placing her throne of mercy in Fatima whence to all she shows Jesus the Saviour of the world."

The Angel Of Peace Prepares The Seers Of Fatima

For quite some time prior to the Apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima, the three shepherd children had been receiving unexpected visits from an Angel, by way of preparation for their future mission.

World War 1 was in its second year, when on March 9th, the German Alliance declared war on Portugal, because of an international incident, whereby Portugal had been forced to seize all refugee ships in her ports.

The Angel Of Peace

Towards the end of the Spring of 1916, while Portugal was hastily and feverishly preparing for war, due to the incident mentioned above, the three future Seers of Fatima were tending the sheep of their parents on the slopes of the hill of Cabeco. At noon a heavy shower forced them to take shelter in a cave hidden in the trees. Here, they partook of their modest mid-day repast, and recited the Rosary—a custom inculcated in them by good Christian parents—and then resumed their duties and play.

A sudden gust of wind caused them to pause and look up, and behold, they saw a white cloud approach towards them and assume a human form, resembling a statue of

snow, made to glitter by the action of the sun-rays. As it approached nearer to them, the three shepherd children beheld the form, of a superhuman beauty, of a boy about sixteen years of age.

"Fear not," he said, *"I am the Angel of Peace. Pray with me."* Kneeling down, the Angel placed his forehead on the ground, and three times said: *"My God, I believe, I adore, I hope, I love You, I ask pardon for those who do not believe, nor adore, nor hope, nor love You."* (1)

Then rising, he said: *"Pray thus. The holy Hearts of Jesus and Mary will allow themselves to be touched by your supplications."*

Lucy informs us that the Angel disappeared after this event, but the words were so deeply imprinted on their minds that they were unable to forget them. Commenting on this, Lucy said: "From that day forward we often remained prostrate for long hours in the Angel's attitude, repeating this prayer, until we fell exhausted."

Second Apparition Of The Angel

On another occasion, about July or August of 1916, the three future Seers of Fatima were playing near a well in the garden of

(1) The Bishop of Leiria has granted an indulgence of 100 days, each time, to the prayer of the Angel. (Manual do peregrino da Fatima. 1-1-'45.)

Lucy's parents, when the same Angel suddenly appeared and spoke to them thus: "*What are you doing? Pray very much; the holy Hearts of Jesus and Mary have designs of mercy on you. Offer continually to the Lord prayers and sacrifices in reparation for the numerous sins which offend Him, and in supplication for the conversion of sinners. Try then to bring peace to your country. I am its Guardian Angel. Above all accept and bear with submission the sufferings which it will please the Lord to send you.*"

"*Those words,*" writes Lucia, "*engraved themselves on our minds like a living light, making us understand how much the good God loves us, how much He wishes to be loved by us, how great is the value of sacrifices, and how by them the Lord converts sinners. Henceforth we made a habit of offering the Lord whatever mortified us . . . and we continued to repeat each day the Angel's prayer for long hours*"

The Angel Appears A Third Time

As usual the children led their sheep to the hill of Cabeco. They continued to do this daily. About two months or so later, they had just finished their mid-day repast, and retired to the cave to recite their Rosary, and to spend some time reciting the Angel's prayer, when the Angel came again.

They had already recited the Angel's prayer several times, when suddenly, they were surrounded by an extraordinary light. Rising in wonder, they beheld the Angel, who was holding a Chalice in his hands. The Chalice was surmounted by a Host, from which drops of Blood flowed into the Chalice . . . leaving the Chalice and Host suspended in mid-air, the Angel knelt beside the three shepherd children and made them say three times the following prayer: *"Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, I offer to You, and I adore them, the Most Precious Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, present in all the Tabernacles in the world, in reparation for all the outrages committed against them; and by the infinite merits of His Sacred Heart, through the intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I pray for the conversion of poor sinners."* (1)

Then rising, the Angel took the Host which he gave to Lucia, and then took the Chalice which he divided between Jacinta and Francisco, saying: *"Receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ horribly outraged by ungrateful men. Make reparation for their sins and console your God."*

Prostrating himself on the ground, as if in thanksgiving, the Angel repeated three times the prayer: *"Most Holy Trinity, Father,*

(1) The Bishop of Leiria has granted an indulgence of 100 days each time to the prayer of the Angel. (Manual do peregrino da Fatima. 1-1-'45.)

son, and Holy Ghost, I offer to You, and I adore, the most Precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, present in all tabernacles in the world, in reparation for all the outrages committed against them, and by the infinite merits of His Sacred Heart, through the intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I pray for the conversion of sinners."

The children remained prostrate on the ground in adoration, repeating over and over again the prayer of the Angel taught them in first and second apparition.

They continued in prayer for hours, being intimately seized by deep supernatural recollection. And during these long hours of prayer in the cave, their sheep attended to themselves in the pastures in some mysterious way. It was only at the approach of dusk, that Francisco suggested that they return home with their flock.

The Meaning Of The Apparitions Of The Angel

What is the meaning of these extraordinary visits of the Angel, the reality of which is assured us by official documents published at Fatima and Rome? Doctor Fonseca, S.J., of the Biblical Institute of Rome, who has made a close study of all the documents relating to Fatima, and whose "Le Meraviglie

di Fatima" has reached numerous editions, the fourth of which received the Imprimatur of the Vicar General of Vatican City, says: "It is evident that they were but a preparation and an orientation. They prepared for the great apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima in 1917, and they directed the prayer of the three children against future assaults of the great modern pagan movements, which profess "not to believe, nor adore, nor hope, nor love."

The Triple Message Of Fatima: Penance, Rosary, And Devotion To The Immaculate Heart Of Mary

To better understand the Message of Fatima the distinction between the Message and the Prodigies must be clearly understood.

The Message of Our Lady of Fatima constitutes the objective or end of the apparitions, while the Prodigies are only the means of proving the divine and heavenly origin of the Message.

And while we may marvel at these prodigies, especially the great solar prodigy, the important thing for us to do and remember, is to put into practice the recommendations made by Our Lady of Fatima.

The recent publication of official documents enables us to better understand the purpose of the apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima.

There is, however, a portion of the Message of Fatima that has not yet been revealed to the world. That will be announced at the proper time, at God's pleasure. Yet, we are enabled to trace the connection of events of Fatima.

Ungrateful mankind had forgotten God. They had foolishly deified the flesh, and ignored Jesus, His Church, and the Commandments. The sins of a modern and liberal world had increased and become too great.

God, in His Justice, decided that a period of castigation was necessary. But Our Blessed Mother, moved by a maternal love and pity, interceded with her Divine Son for a postponement of this terrible act, and chastisement was postponed.

It was then that the Blessed Mother appeared at Fatima with the Heavenly Message, and accompanied by many Prodigies to prove that the Message was of divine origin. Yet this was not enough for a wicked world. The instructions and recommendations of the Message of Fatima were not heeded, and Divine Justice resumed its course in a war that was the most horrible that the world had ever witnessed.

Yet the Divine Mercy of God still prevails, and Our Lady of Fatima is still unceasing in her intercessions for our concern. Let us remember that the danger is not yet over. Do you not hear the rumblings of another world upheaval under foot? The allies of Satan—pink to blood red, are on the march,

endeavouring to formulate a new civilization, culminating in a humanity without God.

There is still time to avoid another castigation from the hand of God. If men but heed the Message of Fatima, the chastisement which if not completely avoided, will at least be mitigated. Well may we join with Cardinal Schuster in saying: "If we comply faithfully with the demands," he wrote "Our Lady of Fatima promises us the cessation of the war, the return of Russia to the Catholic unity, and the beginning of a new era of apostolate and conquest for the Catholic Church."

Let us therefore study well the triple Message of Fatima—that of PENANCE, ROSARY, and DEVOTION TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY—that through its faithful practice and promotion we may efficaciously draw down the blessing of God on this world. To this end we shall set forth the triple Message under its respective headings in the three following chapters.

Penance

In each of the Apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima, she asked prayers and sacrifices for the conversion of sinners, and reparation for the sins of the world. Finally, at the last Apparition on October 13th, 1917, she insisted on this matter saying: "*Men must amend their lives, and ask pardon for their sins.*"

Then in a supplicatory tone of voice, she added: "*Men must no longer offend Our Lord, Who is already too much offended.*"

This is the Message of Penance of Fatima. It not only asks for repentance and faithful expiation, but also asks us to change our lives for the future, and to break completely with sin, which grievously offends God, and brings down on us His punishment.

Lucy was greatly impressed by the Message of Penance, and in her comment on this phase of the Message says: "The part of this last apparition which has remained most deeply imprinted on my heart is the prayer of our heavenly Mother begging us not to offend anymore Almighty God, Who is already offended too much. What a loving reproach is contained in these words, what tender pleading! Oh! I wish I could make it re-echo throughout the entire world for all the children of our heavenly Mother to hear."

And Jacinta was equally as ardent in preaching the amendment of life, not only for sinners, but also for the faithful. She was adamant in insisting on the flight from sin, and the practice of the Christian virtues and penance. While at the Orphanage of Lisbon, she said to the Mother Superior: Oh! if men only knew what eternity is, how they would make all possible efforts to amend their lives! Oh dear Mother Superior, mortification and sacrifice give great pleasure to Our Divine Lord! Oh! flee luxury! flee riches! Love holy poverty! Be very charitable even towards the wicked! Never speak evil of any-

one and avoid those who do. Be very patient because patience leads to heaven."

And continuing the same thought at another time she said: The sins of the world are too great! The sins which lead most souls to hell are the sins of the flesh!... Oh! men must do penance! If they amend their lives, God will still pardon the world; but if they do not, the chastisement will come!

When the Mother Superior of the Orphanage of Lisbon was recording these words in February of 1920, she commented thus: "This refers to a great punishment of which the child speaks to me confidentially. May God have mercy on us! In a few years many things will be seen in the world! The Blessed Virgin said, it is true, 'If men do not amend their lives!' So it depends on us. God have mercy on us!"

These words written in 1920 would eloquently and fittingly apply to the period of twenty years later.

Let us then receive the MESSAGE OF PENANCE OF FATIMA with open arms. We must humbly admit that we have deserved the chastisement that has been visited upon us by Divine Justice. Sincerely and earnestly then must we ask pardon for our sins, and seek the grace of God to seriously reform our lives.

Sinners must amend their lives and become good Christians by constantly observing the law of God. The good must strive to become better each day, and the better must apply themselves to become perfect.

Even the perfect must do better. They must aspire with all their hearts and souls to be elevated to the state of sanctity, which consoles God and helps avert the just castigation that may be visited on this poor world.

Surely it is insanity to offend God, and it would be still a more unintelligible crime to provoke the Divine anger at a time when the world has and is suffering so much, countless millions are still suffering from the effects of a fierce and terrible war, dying from hunger and cold, of wretchedness, and weep and mourn their departed dear ones.

Let us then renounce resolutely, in a spirit of penance, all indolence, all self-indulgence, all sensuality.

Let us prove ourselves true Christians who understand the meaning of the fearful trials which have just passed and the inevitable ones that are to come unless we do penance. In this debased world let us seek to sanctify ourselves, and do all in our power to earn the pardon and blessing of an all merciful God.

Doing penance for our sins, may we, like the people of Nineveh, merit grace and blessings from God, as they did, and as is recorded in the Holy Scripture: "*God saw that they turned away from their evil ways. He had mercy with regard to the evil which He had promised to do them, and did not do it.*"

O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.

(300 days Indulgence. Pope Pius XI. 4-15-'32)

The Rosary

The Message of Fatima is also the Message of THE ROSARY. It is around the ROSARY that the great events of Fatima have unfolded themselves. It was at the final apparition that the Blessed Mother declared herself as: "I AM THE LADY OF THE ROSARY."

As the noonday Angelus is tolling, summoning the inhabitants of Fatima to prayer, the three little shepherds of Fatima, trained by devout and truly Christian parents, leave their chores and play to recite the Rosary together. Evidently in approval of their prayer, it was at this particular time that the 'Lady' chose to appear. She herself has a pearly white Rosary hanging from her right wrist. She instructs Lucy to tell Francisco that to see her he must say the Rosary, and she tells him that he must say many Rosaries before he can enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. In a final instruction before she disappeared, the heavenly Lady said to the three children: "*Continue, my children, reciting the Rosary with devotion, every day, to obtain peace for the world.*"

At the second apparition the 'Lady from heaven' further recommends the daily recitation of the Rosary. Quite a number of people were present at this apparition of June 13th, and were reciting the Rosary together with the children when the apparition occurred.

On July 13th, there were about five thousand people gathered at the Cova da Iria

to recite the Rosary with the little Seers. For a third time the 'Lady' appeared and insisted on the daily recitation of the Rosary, saying: "*You must recite the Rosary every day in honor of the Blessed Virgin to obtain the end of the war through her intercession, because she alone can come to our aid.*" Here we are reminded of the Blessed Mother's charge to St. Dominic: "*Go and preach the Rosary, and the enemy of all good will be confounded.*"

It was at this, the third apparition, that she promised the great Solar Prodigy of October 13th, 'in order that the world may believe'. On this occasion she promised to heal sick people who were recommended to her, provided they recited the Rosary for that purpose. She advised that the cripple of Atouguia be instructed to recite the Family Rosary.

During this apparition Lucy was heard to repeat over and over again, as if to remember well what the Lady had recommended to her: "*Yes, she wishes people to recite the Rosary, people must recite the Rosary.*" Here the Lady asked that the following prayer be added after each decade of the Rosary: "Oh Jesus forgive us our sins, save us from the fire of hell, and lead all souls to heaven especially those who most need your help." There is another version of that prayer, which you may use at your own volition. It is: "*My Jesus forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, relieve the Holy Souls in Purgatory, especially the most abandoned.*"

And again on August 19th, the occasion of the fourth apparition, Our Lady insisted: "*You must say the Rosary every day.*" She exhorted the three shepherds to pray very much, and to offer their sacrifices for poor sinners, for many have been sent to hell because there was nobody who bothered to pray or make sacrifices for them.

The fifth apparition on September 13th, brought an aggregation of approximately thirty thousand people, and again the Blessed Mother continued to insist on the recitation of the Rosary: "*You must continue to recite the Rosary in honor of Our Lady of the Rosary, in order that she may put an end to the war.*"

At the sixth and final apparition of Our Lady of Fatima, she reiterated all the requests she had previously made at the previous apparitions, in the Message of Fatima, and by means of the tableaux, beside the sun. It is here that the beautiful Lady reveals herself as "*I AM THE LADY OF THE ROSARY*", that deigned to appear on earth to urge men *to amend their lives, and say the Rosary.* It is worthy of note that Pope Leo XIII in his encyclicals had stated that the Rosary was precisely one of the best means to be used in the reform of life.

Father Fonseca, S. J., who had access to, and made a deep study of all the official documents relating to Fatima, in speaking of the Tableaux, considers the first scene of The Holy Family as representing the Joyful Mysteries of the Infancy of Jesus. The sec-

ond scene of Our Lady of the Seven Dolours reminds us of the Sorrowful Mysteries and urges us to do penance. Lastly, the scene of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel with the Sabbatine privilege brings to mind the Glorious Mysteries and our last end, pleading with us to avoid hell, gain heaven, and to shorten as much as possible purgatorial expiation.

The Rosary, Nucleus Of Fatima

Without hesitation it can be said that the Rosary forms the nucleus of the Message of Fatima. The Message contains a threefold end: Penance, the Rosary, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, but the Rosary forms the central point.

Jacinta, when asked what the Blessed Mother asked most, summed up the Message of Fatima thus: "*What Our Lady of the Rosary recommended to us is to recite the Rosary every day adding after each decade the short prayer: "O Jesus forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, relieve the Holy Souls in Purgatory, especially the most abandoned."*

Dr. Formigan, who was the first to follow in great detail the entire course of events of Fatima says: "The Message of Fatima can be summed up in two words: *ROSARY* and *EXPIATION.*"

Thus reciting the Rosary devoutly every day, with sincere expressions of penance and reparation, is the core of the Message of Fatima from Heaven.

“I Am The Lady Of The Rosary”

Our Lady had already appeared to Saint Dominic and charged him with the preaching of the Rosary as an efficacious and potent means of regenerating souls, and obtaining relief in public calamities. It is through the Rosary that the Blessed Mother interceded and came to the help of Holy Mother the Church during the critical periods of the Albigensian heresies, and the Turkish invasions.

It is the same simple means of the Rosary that Our Lady of Fatima prescribes today for the reformation of souls and the means to avoid great calamities that overwhelm this poor world.

The devout and constant recitation of the Rosary always produces results. It neither tires the lips, nor the heart that loves; through it, God grants the graces and favors requested by the importuning of His Blessed Mother—The Lady of the Rosary.

The Rosary is our treasury of prayer. It can be recited by rich and poor, young and old, illiterate or learned, with much spiritual benefit. The Rosary can be recited anywhere,

and even added on to other devotions. The laborer can recite it on his way to work; the housewife can say it while doing her chores around the home; the tradesman can recite it at his work; the traveller on the train; the doctor and nurse in their hospitals and offices; the engineer while at the throttle of his train; everyone, everywhere, will find an opportunity to recite their Rosary sometime, even during the most trying moments. The sick and dying may pray their Rosary, kissing lovingly their Rosary, the sign of their love and confidence in Mary, The Lady of the Rosary. All are consoled and strengthened by the constant and devout recitation of the Rosary.

It is said that the mother, who on her deathbed obtains the promise of her children to recite the Rosary daily, can die in peace, for she feels that she is sure to be re-united with them again in heaven. Father Vaysiere says: "The Rosary is not a devotion to the Blessed Virgin, *it is a devotion to Mary.*"

Let us then learn to love and appreciate the Rosary, which the Blessed Mother recommends so highly through the Seers of Fatima, and all the saints.

The Seers Of Fatima And The Rosary

On the condition that he say many Rosaries, Our Lady promised Francisco that he would go to heaven. On hearing these glad tidings, Francisco became radiant with joy.

Crossing his hands on his breast, and raising his eyes heavenward, he exclaimed earnestly and lovingly: "Oh! Blessed Virgin! Rosaries! I shall say as many of them as you want!"

These three shepherd children said many Rosaries together each day, and Francis added many more in private. Many a time he was known to stop playing with his companions and walk about in silence.

"What are you doing, Francisco?" they asked him one day, and he answered by showing them his Rosary beads.

Another time they called to him, saying: "Come and play with us for a little while: we will all pray afterwards."

"Later", he would reply. "I must pray now and afterwards. Do you not remember that Our Lady said I must recite many Rosaries?"

It is said that Francisco recited as many as eight or nine Rosaries a day, notwithstanding the many hours he spent in reciting the Angel's prayer.

Lucia and Jacinta were no less ardent than their companion in offering each day many Rosaries to their heavenly Mother. The Blessed Mother had taken great care in teaching them. During the Mass of the Ascension on May 9th, 1918, Our Lady again visited Jacinta to teach her how to say the Rosary well, and how to meditate on the Mysteries.

Surely the Rosary must have a special importance and power, because Our Lady of Fatima has recommended it so insistently and so strongly, and has called herself "*THE*

LADY OF THE ROSARY". Too, she has taken the pains of appearing on earth to teach the three shepherd children—the Seers of Fatima—how to recite it well.

The Saints And The Rosary

Since the time of St. Dominic, all the Saints have exhibited a peculiar love for the Rosary. A few examples will suffice.

St. Dominic. It was this holy man of God who received the revelation of the Rosary. In preaching one day he said: "After the Divine Office and Holy Mass there is no homage as pleasing to God and His Blessed Mother as the fervent recitation of the Rosary." To confirm this truth, he worked a miracle.

Saint Bernard. This saint used to love to say: "The Hail Mary puts the devil to flight, and causes hell to tremble with terror."

Pope Saint Pius V recited the Rosary every day. Prior to the battle of Lepanto he requested that the Rosary be recited throughout all Christendom to obtain victory. He donated a Rosary beads to each soldier as the best arms. The victory for the Christians was overwhelming.

St. Charles Borromeo called the Rosary "the most divine of prayers after the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass". Reciting it daily with his household, he recommended it to the clergy, and imposed it on all Seminarians in this

imperative formula: "You shall recite the Rosary, as often as you are able."

Blessed Grignon de Montfort said: "It has always been observed that those who bear the mark of reprobation, like heretics, the impious, the proud, hate or despise the Hail Mary and the Rosary." He adds: "I find nothing more powerful in drawing within us the Kingdom of God, the Eternal Wisdom, than to join vocal to mental prayer by reciting the Rosary and meditating on the fifteen mysteries."

Saint John Chrysostom said: "God governs the world, but prayer governs God Himself."

Saint Alphonsus often repeated, and Pope Pius XII recalled it in July 1941: "He who prays is saved; he who prays not is damned."

The Curé d'Ars said with emotion: "I know something stronger than God: the man who prays. He makes God say 'Yes', when He had said 'No'!"

Saint Frances de Sales added: "The best method of prayer is the Rosary, if you say it well."

Add up the evidence of these sayings, and it will give a small idea of the value of the Rosary. *St. Francis de Sales* says: "To say my Rosary is the most pleasant occupation, and the most pure joy of my heart." *Saint Jeanne de Chantal* tells us that he bound himself to say the whole Rosary every day, and spent an hour at it.

Father Lamy, apostle of the Red suburb of Paris, always went around with his Rosary in his hand. "When you say the Rosary, you have nothing to fear," he said. He continued: "It is the recitation of the Rosary that makes Lucifer desperate. He is the sworn enemy of the Rosary. Even if I had not the love of God, I should recite the Rosary just to annoy him."

The holy Curé d'Ars startled his congregation one day by remarking: "If, in order to give something to the Blessed Virgin I could sell myself, I should do so." We can give our Rosary every day to the Blessed Virgin, without having to sell ourselves. Our Blessed Mother asks us to recite the Rosary every day. Let us not fail to do so, to show her our love for her, that through her intercession we may draw down the grace and blessing of God on ourselves and this wretched world.

The Church And The Rosary

We could go on in endless recountings of what the saints have to say by way of praise for the Rosary. However, let us now turn to Holy Mother Church herself, and see what our Sovereign Pontiffs have said of the Rosary.

Since the time of St. Dominic more than fifty Popes have raised their voices to repeat to the whole Church: "The Rosary is of divine rather than human origin. It is the prayer most agreeable to Mary; it contains in itself

all the reverence due to Mary; it is the best means of obtaining her protection and her favors; it is the most efficacious means of satisfying for offences against the Divine Majesty; and for healing the deplorable evils which ruin the individual, the family, and society."

Gregory XVI says: "The Rosary is the most wonderful means of destroying sin and recovering the grace of God."

Pius IX wrote, amid the great sorrows of his pontificate: "We are filled with joy at the thought that Our Lady will destroy, as she has in times past, the monstrous errors of our century, and that she will be able to thwart the sacriligious attacks of the wicked, on condition that the faithful often recite the Rosary." The same Pope added in 1877: "*Great is the strength of the army that holds in its hands, not the sword but the Rosary.*"

Pope Leo XIII, who succeeded Pope Pius IX has repeatedly explained to the whole Church the importance of the Rosary, with such insistence that he has been called: "*The Pope of the Rosary*".

And from his voluntary imprisonment on Vatican hill, this great Pontiff saw the rise of error and modern revolt, which, after misleading so many souls, finally threatened society itself with ruin. Then suddenly, as if by inspiration of the Queen of the Rosary,

this beloved Pontiff of happy memory, was raised with unspeakable confidence towards the Blessed Virgin. Year after year he wrote an encyclical on the holy Rosary. It is unique in Church history to see the same Pope write so many encyclicals on the one subject—the Rosary—twelve encyclicals, and as many decrees and constitutions on the same subject—the Rosary. It was this same Pope who added to the litanies this invocation: "*Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, pray for us*". In 1897 he wrote: "*As Vicar of Jesus Christ, I wish also to honor Our Lady of the Rosary, and say to each Christian, Behold thy Mother.*" Pope Leo XIII granted many indulgences to the recitation of the Rosary. These beautiful and inspiring encyclicals of Pope Leo ended only with his death.

Let us then read with respect and love those masterpieces on the Rosary, as written by Leo XIII, deservedly called "*The Pope of the Rosary*".

Pope Pius X says: "*The Rosary is the most beautiful and the most rich in graces of all prayers, it is the prayer that touches most the Heart of the Mother of God . . . and if you wish peace to reign in your homes, recite the Family Rosary.*"

Pope Pius XI. Pope Pius XI consecrated his encyclicals of 1937 to the Rosary. He says: "*The holy Rosary occupies a special and exceptional place among the various public prayers we address to the Virgin Mother of God.*"

The Message Of Fatima Confirms The Voice Of The Popes

To support these weighty authorities come the wonderful events of Fatima. Consider the account of the apparitions with their words and prodigies. Remember especially the great day of October 13th, 1917, with the Message of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, and the wonderful solar prodigy. As in the time of Moses, when God promulgated the Law of Moses on Mt. Sinai amid thunder and lightning, so, we may assume, the Blessed Virgin has willed to reiterate the law of the holy Rosary, on the mount of Fatima, with extraordinary abundance of external signs and prodigies which have produced in hearts sincere contrition.

Fatima, as it were, is the solemn promulgation of the immortal encyclicals of Pope Leo XIII, on the Rosary, which the Lady from Heaven has thus confirmed and recommended to the entire world by incomparable prodigies.

Cognizant of the eminent dangers from the impious atheistic movement which was then being inaugurated, Pope Benedict XV had decided to mobilize the Catholic world in a campaign of prayer, to obtain peace for the world through the intercession of our Blessed Mother. He wrote to Cardinal Gasparri: *"Since all graces are distributed to us through the hands of the Blessed Virgin, now in this terrible hour we wish more than ever that*

the prayers of Mary's afflicted children be directed with lively confidence to the August Mother of God. We therefore charge you to make known to the Bishops of the entire world our desire that recourse be had to the Heart of Jesus, throne of all graces, and that recourse be had to this throne through Mary." At the same time the Sovereign Pontiff ordered the invocation "*Queen of Peace, pray for us*", to be added to the litanies.

This letter of Pope Benedict had hardly been made public, on May 5th, 1917, when on May 13th, 1917, Our Lady of the Rosary appeared at Fatima, and during each of her apparitions asked for the "*recitation of the Rosary to obtain the end of the war*", adding "*that she alone could come to our aid*".

Surely this was clearly a heavenly reply to the voice of Christ's Vicar on earth. He had just sought the prayers of the entire world for peace through the intercession of Mary. Our Blessed Mother came to indicate and made clear the fact that she alone could help bring an end to the great scourge of war, and that this grace must be sought through the Rosary, recited with a deep feeling of sincere contrition and penance.

The people of Portugal have remained faithful to the Message of Fatima. Faith has been awakened in souls, and there in Portugal the Rosary has become the great daily prayer of individuals and families.

And this little country that had for many years lived in an habitual state of agitations and upheavals — in sixteen years it had

sixteen revolutions, eight presidents of the Republic, forty-three changes in the Ministry and financial disaster—has now found, once again, after the wonderful events of Fatima, a wonderful peace and prosperity. And should this little country ever be forced into a war, it will enter it with full confidence in the assistance of Our Lady of Fatima.

Yet, the world has not been converted as Our Lady of Fatima had asked. God's justice has taken its course. We have just ended another more terrible war than the world has ever experienced. And still graver dangers threaten the world through modern atheistic movements.

May the great solar prodigy of Fatima revive the faith in souls everywhere, and make men realize in a practical manner the heavenly Message of Our Lady of Fatima, which is the condition laid down by God for the emergence of the world from chaos, and peace through the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

"Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, pray for us." (300 days indulgence.)

The Immaculate Heart Of Mary

The Message of Fatima is, in the third place, the Message of the devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

It will be remembered that in the apparition of the Angel, in preparation for the

great apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima, the Angel united the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, when speaking of the designs of mercy that would be fulfilled through the three shepherd children of Fatima. It will be also remembered that Our Lady herself asked for reparation for all the blasphemies and offences against the Immaculate Heart of Mary, from the first of her Apparitions at Fatima.

At the second apparition on June 13th, Our Lady of Fatima said to Lucia: *"You must remain longer on earth. Jesus wishes to use you in making me known and loved. He wishes to spread in the world the devotion to my Immaculate Heart. I promise salvation to those who embrace this devotion. Their souls will be loved by God with a love of predilection, like flowers placed by me before His Throne."*

When Lucy appeared sad at the thought of remaining alone on earth after the death of her two companions, Our Lady of Fatima said: *"No, my child, I shall never abandon you. My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge, and the way that will lead you to God."*

The account of the third apparition clearly indicates that the devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary holds a very important part in the Message of Fatima. After causing the children to see the vision of hell, terrifying in itself, Our Lady said: *"You have just seen hell where poor sinners go. To save souls the Lord wishes to establish in the world the devotion to my Immaculate Heart. If*

people do what I tell you, many souls will be saved, and there will be peace."

She then added: "I shall ask for the consecration of the world to my Immaculate Heart, as well as a Communion of reparation on the First Saturday of the month. If my requests are granted, Russia will be converted and there will be peace. Otherwise an impious propaganda will spread its errors through the world, raising up wars, and persecutions against the Church. Many will be martyred, the Holy Father will have to suffer much, several nations will be wiped out . . ."

The official documents are very reticent. A great reserve is observed in these publications, lest our weak nature might be terrified at the gloomy perspective of the chastisements provoked by our sins. Yet, Our Lady gives us consolation and confidence in her words: "*My Immaculate Heart will finally triumph.*"

When and how will this triumph take place?

In asking the question: When and how will this triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary take place, Father Fonseca S. J., an authority on the events of Fatima says: "That is part of the 'Secret', that will be revealed at the proper time." In the meantime we know that the consecration to the Immaculate Heart was made by His Holiness Pope Pius XII at the close of the Fatima Jubilee Celebration on October 31st, 1942, and this act was solemnized at the great Basilica of St. Peter on

the Feast of the Immaculate Conception—December 8th, 1942.

As a result of this consecration, Russia will eventually be converted to Catholicism, and a certain period of peace will be granted to the world.

Since July 13th, 1917, therefore, Our Blessed Mother has given us the devotion to her Immaculate Heart, and especially the practice of the First Saturdays and the consecration to her Immaculate Heart, as the means—the providential means recommended to a modern world, not alone for the salvation of souls, but also that of giving and preserving peace in the world—a peace which the world itself cannot give.

New Apparitions

According to Father Fonseca, in his sixth edition, there were more apparitions, entirely intimate, that were made for the purpose of completing the previous apparitions and making more precise the practical way of making the consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

It is not possible for us to enumerate these revelations, but suffice it to say for the present, that on the 10th day of December, 1925, Our Blessed Mother—Our Lady of Fatima, with the Infant Jesus beside her, appeared to Lucia, sole surviving member of the three Seers of Fatima. She showed Lucia her

Immaculate Heart surrounded with thorns; and the Infant Jesus said, indicating with His hands: "*Have pity on this loving Heart, a continual martyr to the ingratitude of men.*" The Blessed Mother then added: "*My child, behold my Heart pierced with thorns which the blasphemies and ingratitude of men drive deeper at every moment. Do you, at least, try to console me, and make known to men that I promise to assist at the hour of death with the graces necessary for salvation all those, who, on the first Saturday of five consecutive months, go to Confession, receive Holy Communion, say the Rosary, and spend fifteen minutes with me in meditating on the fifteen Mysteries of the Rosary, with the intention of making reparation to me.*"

On February 15th, 1926, just about two months later, the Infant Jesus again appeared to Lucia, and encouraged her to spread the devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. He told her that the many difficulties pointed out by her confessors would be overcome by God's help. It was on this occasion that Lucia asked the question if confession made during the week would count for the First Saturday of the month. The reply was that it would; but it is to be understood that Holy Communion must be received in the state of grace, and with the intention of making reparation to the Immaculate Heart.

Commentary Of The Three Seers Of Fatima

Lucy relates that on July 13th, 1917, the occasion of the third apparition, Our Lady spoke at length about her Immaculate Heart, and that, stretching forth her hands, she threw a ray of light upon them, and they saw themselves as if immersed in God. Our Blessed Mother held in her right hand a Heart surrounded with thorns, which pierced it from all sides. The children understood this to be the Immaculate Heart of Mary, afflicted by all the sins of the world, which demanded penance and reparation. Continuing, Lucy said: "It seems to me that on that day the purpose of the light was to pour into us a special knowledge and love of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, as on other occasions it infused into us the knowledge and love of God, and the mystery of the Blessed Trinity. From that day, indeed, we experienced a more ardent love for the Immaculate Heart of Mary."

Francisco, commenting on this light that Our Blessed Mother threw on them, said: "... it seemed to come from her Heart." Later he asked Lucia: "Why did Our Lady hold a Heart in her hand throwing on the earth this light which is God? You were with the Blessed Virgin with the light that went down to earth, while Jacinta and I were in that which went up to heaven!"

"It is because you and Jacinta will soon go to heaven, while I must remain some time longer on earth with the Immaculate Heart of Mary," replied Lucia.

"Is it the Blessed Virgin who explained the meaning of the two beams of light?"

"No, I saw it in the light she put into our breasts."

"That is right," said Jacinta who had followed the conversation between Francisco and Lucia, "I saw it also."

It appears that Jacinta had received a special light to understand and to comprehend in detail the meaning of the heavenly revelations. Shortly before going to the hospital in 1919 she remarked to Lucia: *"I am going to heaven soon. You will remain still on earth to make known to men that the Lord wishes to spread in the world the devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. When you have to speak about it, you will no longer have to hide yourself. Proclaim openly to the whole world that: **IT IS THROUGH THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY THAT GOD WISHES TO GRANT US HIS GRACES!**"*

"It is from the Immaculate Heart that we must ask them."

"The Heart of Jesus wishes the Immaculate Heart of Mary to be venerated with His own!"

"It is through the Immaculate Heart of Mary that peace must be asked, because it is to that Heart that the Lord has confided it."

"How I love the Immaculate Heart of

Mary! It is the Heart of our Heavenly Mother."

"Oh! if only I could put into all hearts the fire I feel in my own, which makes me love the Hearts of Jesus and Mary so much!"

The example of the lives of these three shepherd children is indeed the best recommendation we can receive in the devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. After these revelations they were true models of devotion and reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. They loved the Immaculate Heart of Mary intensely and ardently. They constantly invoked it, and were so enthusiastic in speaking of it. They induced and multiplied their sacrifices to console the Immaculate Heart, and to make reparation for all the blasphemies and offences that were made against it and that caused it to suffer.

Devotion To The Immaculate Heart Of Mary

In previous chapters we have already spoken of Penance and the Daily Rosary as recommended by Our Lady of Fatima. Here, we will give a summary of three principal practices of devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary: the *First Saturday* of the month, the *Five First Saturdays* and the *Consecration*. It is well to note the marked similarity to the practices so widespread in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Devotion Of The First Saturdays

The practice of the devotion of the *First Saturdays* consists of the following exercises performed with the intention of consoling the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and of making reparation to it, for all the offences, and outrages it has to suffer from ungrateful mankind: (a) the Rosary; (b) Communion of Reparation; (c) Reparatory prayers; (d) some sacrifices made for the same intention.

Devotion Of The Five First Saturdays

For the practice of the *Five First Saturdays* there are a few more exercises added to those already noted above. For clarification, we will enumerate them, so as to avoid any doubt, and as a means of assisting those who desire to practice this beautiful devotion.

1. *Reception of the Sacrament of Penance.* The confession may be made within the eight days preceding or subsequent to the First Saturday, provided Holy Communion is received in the state of grace.

2. *Reception of Holy Communion.* Holy Communion is to be received on the First Saturday of the month as a Communion of Reparation for the blasphemies and ingratitude of men towards her Divine Son, and her own Immaculate Heart.

3. *Rosary.* Recitation of five decades of the Rosary.

4. *Meditation.* Meditation for fifteen minutes on the Mysteries of the Rosary. The meditation may be on one, several, or all of the Mysteries. A sermon preached for the occasion will suffice for the meditation, and such is actually the practice in some churches.

5. *Act of Reparation.* The performance of the aforementioned exercises with the intention of making reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Consecration To The Immaculate Heart Of Mary

Our Lady of Fatima has asked for the consecration of the world to her Immaculate Heart, and in particular she asked for the consecration of Russia. In return she has promised the conversion of Russia to Catholicism, an era of peace to the world, and a fruitful apostolate for the Church.

On October 31st, 1942, Our Holy Father, Pope Pius XII, now gloriously reigning, made an official and solemn consecration of the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, on the occasion of the closing of the Jubilee Celebrations at Fatima. This consecration was

solemnized at the great Basilica of St. Peter in Rome, on December 8th, 1942—the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

This solemn act of the Holy Father was made in the name of all of us, and we must supplement that consecration by our own individual and collective consecrations. We must enter into this great devotion, and respond with happiness by consecrating ourselves, our families, our homes, our parishes, schools, dioceses, and country to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Such an act will be very pleasing to Our Blessed Mother, and many blessings are sure to follow with peace and salvation for ourselves and the entire world.

This consecration so earnestly requested by Our Lady of Fatima does not consist of a mere matter-of-form recitation of the formula. It is a real programme of Christian life, and as such must be accompanied by a solemn and sincere resolution of faithfully putting it into practice under the maternal and loving protection of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

It is a matter of edification for us to recall the example of Portugal, which faithfully accepted the Message of Fatima, and through the intercession of Our Lady was lifted from ruins to become, in a few years, a happy country respected by all nations. And we too, if we emulate the example of Portugal, in our trials and misfortunes, and consecrate ourselves to the Immaculate Heart of Mary,

while living in a manner worthy of that consecration, will be sure of a glorious and lasting salvation. The official formula of Consecration, as composed and used by the Sovereign Pontiff, will be found on another page.

A Future Hope

It was on the occasion of the Jubilee Celebrations at Fatima that Cardinal Cerejeira, Patriarch of Lisbon, in his sermon of March 13th, 1942, said: "*Our Lady of the Rosary came down at Fatima, bringing to the world a Message whose importance cannot even yet be measured. This fact opens up bright horizons of hope in the gloomy mist of the present. With great hope we have confidence that through the intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, whom we call the Mother of Mercy, God is preparing great things for the world . . . Many might be tempted to expect the approach of the end of the world. Why not rather think, since we believe in Providence and in the maternal Heart of the Immaculate Virgin, that it is the painful birth of a new world? . . .*

"Fatima has not yet told Portugal and the world all its secrets; but it does not appear to us too much to say that what it already has revealed to Portugal is the sign and the earnest of what it has in store for the world!"

It was the same Cardinal Cerejeira who wrote by way of a preface to the life of little Jacinta: "*We believe that the apparitions of Fatima open a new era, that of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. What has taken place in Portugal is of the miraculous order. It is the foreshadowing of what the Immaculate Heart of Mary is preparing for the world.*"

Appeal To The Clergy

Dear Brothers in Christ, I pray that you will not think me presumptuous in directing this appeal directly to you. I do so only in the interest of the promotion of the devotion to Our Lady of Fatima.

Knowing well that our holy Faith was founded on the revelations and miracles of Our Divine Lord, and His Apostles, and that there is now no need of new miracles to prove it, you may not be inclined to pay much attention to present day apparitions and prodigies, no matter how authentic they may be.

Yet, events as extraordinary as those of Fatima merit your attention in a very special way, and above all since His Holiness Pope Pius XII has consecrated the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Surely, Our Blessed Mother, who deigned to come down from Heaven with this heavenly Message of Fatima, which was accompanied by such a profusion of prodigies and

a love still greater, desires her priests to work for the deliverance of the MESSAGE OF FATIMA—THE MESSAGE OF HOPE—THE MESSAGE OF SALVATION, to everyone, everywhere. Why should the souls committed to our care be deprived of the effects of faith and love that the MESSAGE OF FATIMA can produce in them?

Verily then must we take heed of the MESSAGE OF FATIMA. It is the *Message of Salvation*. It is the practice of the self chosen devotion of the Blessed Mother. Preaching the *Message of Fatima* is the means of awakening in the faithful their faith, by instructing them in the authentic account of the prodigies so recent and unique in history.

Indicate to the faithful the great love and esteem of the Saints and Popes for the Rosary, which we are neglecting too much. Show that Our Lady, as at Lourdes, but more definitely and more emphatically, has deigned to come down to Fatima to confirm their teachings. Our Blessed Mother has presented the Rosary to the world as a means, simple in truth, but of divine origin, and still efficacious in our times, of regenerating souls, families, parishes, and society itself which is in an urgent need of such a renewal.

Example Of The Popes

In recommending the Rosary, our clergy are merely following the example and exhortations of the Popes, especially Popes Leo XII and Pius XI of happy memory.

It may be well to relate a little story told by Monsignor Touchet, Bishop of Orleans, who on visiting the late Pope Leo XIII, surprised him reciting his Rosary. Telling Cardinal Rampolla of the incident he ventured to say: "He prays very much to the Blessed Virgin." "Ah," replied Cardinal Rampolla, "You have seen his Rosary hanging on the chair? Well, you may be sure that he was reciting the Rosary before you went in, and he took it up again after your departure. When he is not working he recites his Rosary."

Pope Pius XI remarked to Monsignor Richaud, Auxiliary Bishop of Versailles: "*Tell your priests to pray very much! Tell them that the Pope recites his Rosary every day; and that as long as the Pope has not recited his Rosary, the Pope's day is not over.*" On another occasion he said: "*Yesterday, it was already very late, We were very tired, and We still had our third Rosary to say.*"

Surely, if the Sovereign Pontiffs, charged with the care of the Universal Church, can find time to recite the daily Rosary, what excuse may we offer for neglecting it, especially in these times when it is so needed

in the world, and again because Our Lady of Fatima has asked it of us.

Verily, then, must we take cognizance of the Message of Fatima. Let us get people to recite the Daily Rosary, especially the Family Rosary, meditating on the mysteries, and adding the short prayer after each decade as requested by Our Blessed Mother; "Oh Jesus forgive us our sins, save us from the fire of hell, and lead all souls to heaven, especially all those who have most need of your mercy." Another version of this prayer will be found elsewhere in this book, and the version of choice may be recited. Both versions have been granted an indulgence of 100 days each time by the Bishop of Leiria. (*Manual do peregrino da Fatima. — 1-1-1945.*)

Let us promulgate the devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, which consists of the devotion of the First Saturdays, and the Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Let us consecrate ourselves and our parishes, and ask others to do the same. Let us invite parochial works, schools, and families to consecrate themselves to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Let us then propagate the devotion of the First Saturdays, details of which will be found on another page. These are the self-chosen devotions of Our Lady. And if we but consider the dignity, the splendour, the majesty and the power of the speaker of the Heavenly Message at Fatima, and our du-

ty to obey, we would not hesitate one minute to accept the wishes of the Mother of Jesus, as requested in the Message of Fatima.

Let us consider, too, that the salvation of souls and the peace of the world depend upon the triumph of the Immaculate Heart, the means of accomplishing which are contained in the Message of Fatima. Our preaching of the Message of Fatima will inevitably hasten the triumph of the Immaculate Heart, because reparation through the Rosary and First Saturdays will be known by more and faithfully practiced.

Let us then with loyalty and devotion to Our Blessed Mother Our Lady of Fatima, encourage others to know and practice this beautiful self-chosen devotion of Our Blessed Mother, that her Immaculate Heart may triumph, thereby saving souls, and bringing an era of peace to the world—a peace which the world itself cannot give.

Appeal To The Laity

My dear friends, I have tried in a very humble way to bring you the great wonders of Our Lady of Fatima. The account of these wonderful happenings has probably been a means of edification and enthusiasm for you. Please, do not forget about them, but procuring more books endeavour to spread the Mes-

sage of Fatima as much as possible. These books are available for the asking. They have been prepared solely to make the Message of Fatima known to everyone, everywhere. Do you want to win mankind back to Christ?—then now is the opportune and proper time—become an apostle of Our Lady of Fatima. Any activity on your part for the cause of Our Lady of Fatima will not go unrewarded. Many blessings are sure to follow.

And, dear friend, the reading of this book recounting the wonderful events of Our Lady is a grace obtained through her, and one that merits a corresponding response of welcome to the heavenly Message sent to you, by heeding it and faithfully putting it into practice.

In times such as we live in now Our Blessed Mother deigned to come down to this earth to ask us to recite her Rosary, that peace may be obtained, because only she can come to our aid. She asks for the amendment of our lives and penance. And to ensure that we believe in her Message and obey her command, God caused the great Solar Prodigy, to prove to the assembled 70,000 people that it really was Our Lady who had appeared to the children. She has given to us the means of making her Immaculate Heart triumph—Rosary and First Saturdays.

**LET US THEN TURN TO MARY—OUR
LADY OF FATIMA.**

Let us then give freely to Our Lady what she asks of us in our own interest. First, let

us make a good confession and receive her Divine Son in the Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist. Let us then begin a truly Christian life, faithful to God and His Commandments, and those of His Church, as well as those duties of our state of life. Finally, let us practice the devotion to Our Lady of Fatima as requested by her at Fatima in 1917. Let us avoid those false whisperings and excuses of Satan. We live in times that are not normal, and therefore our conduct should be exemplary. Let us resolutely change our habits, if such be necessary, let us not wait another castigation from the hand of God to make that change by force.

Let us then resolve to promise Our Lady that we will recite the Rosary daily, and whenever possible with our family. If Pope Pius XI with all the heavy responsibilities and cares that were his lot as Head of the Universal Church could find time to recite the full Rosary with the members of his household before retiring at night, who is there that will dare offer the excuse that he cannot find time for even one Rosary. A mother whose children recite the daily Rosary can die in peace, because she is sure to meet them again in the heavenly Kingdom. Saint Hilary says: "No matter how criminal a sinner may be, if he perseveres in his devotion to Mary, he will be saved." Again we read in the promises made to Bl. Alan de la Roche by Our Blessed Mother: "He who trusts in me through the Rosary will not perish." Thus,

let us try to recite more Rosaries each day. Perhaps another Rosary or two could be added on your way to work or even in bed at night.

Let us immediately make our personal consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, of our homes, our families, of those over whom we have charge, and our work. It is well for us to remember and clearly understand the gravity of the times, of the events that are taking place, as well as those that will inevitably follow. In all earnestness let us pray fervently for the conversion of sinners and an amendment of the lives of ungrateful mankind.

Let us comply with the request of Our Lady of Fatima by practicing the devotion of the First Saturdays. The Message of Fatima contains that request, and it is accompanied by a promise—an appeal for prayer and reparation by mankind for their transgressions against the Law of God; a promise of peace and love in this life and eternal happiness in the next, contingent on the twofold condition of prayer and amendment.

Let us then give an earnest and loving welcome to the Message of Fatima.

Let us acknowledge that we have merited chastisement.

Let us be contrite for our past sins.

Let us resolve to amend our lives.

Let the good amend their lives so that they become better.

Let the better apply themselves to become perfect.

Let the perfect aspire and strive to be elevated to the state of sanctity.

Let us each consider the Message of Fatima as being personally delivered to each of us, and that the salvation of souls and the peace of the world are dependent on the faithful practice of the devotion to Our Lady of Fatima.

Let us then, dear friends, give the Immaculate Heart of Mary the joy of seeing her heavenly Message heeded and faithfully put into practice. By so doing, we shall draw the blessing of God on ourselves, our families and on our country.

The Testimony Of Miracles

On the occasion of her last two apparitions Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima had promised the three Seers of Fatima that she would cure the sick that invoked her intercession with faith. How well that promise has been kept and fulfilled is well attested by the many miracles that have followed. To record them all would take a far larger volume than

this, and due to lack of space we can record but a few of them.

As at other Shrines, there is at Fatima a Medical Bureau which exercises a strict observation of all the cures attributed to the use of the spring waters at Cova da Iria, or to petitions made in the now famous Basilica of Our Lady of Fatima. We must remember that Holy Mother Church acts in this matter with great prudence and caution, yet with all this reservation many favors have been granted, which, after due and mature inquiry, have been accepted by the Ecclesiastical authority as being undoubtedly miraculous, because such conclusion is inevitable, as no other natural explanation is sufficient for the facts.

These miracles are as varied as they are wonderful. Many, for example, have been worked in favor of unbelievers; or, at least, of person predominantly lacking devotion. Some have been instantaneous, others gradual, and more have been accomplished in places far removed from the Shrine.

The First Cure At Fatima

The first cure at Fatima was very remarkable, as it occurred on the day of the last apparition of Our Lady, October 13th, 1917, and the seriousness of the malady from which Mrs. Maria dos Santos suffered.

Maria do Carmo was the wife of Joaquim dos Santos who lived in Arnal, a village about eighteen miles from Fatima. For five years she had suffered from tuberculosis, and in the early part of 1916 took a definite turn for the worse. Severe pains in head, chest, stomach and intestines were experienced. A drop-sical condition developed in her hands and feet. Loss of weight followed, and the taking of nourishment induced such severe agony that her sustenance was but a little milk. There was no facility for medical treatment due to the remoteness of her abode, and financial embarrassment forbade her transfer to a city. Later medical attention was given by a Doctor from Batalha, but no beneficial results were noted. She steadily grew worse, and July, 1917, saw her with but a very short while to live.

The wonderful events of Fatima renewed hope in this desolate woman. Confident in a strong faith, she appealed to Our Lady to cure her, promising to go to Fatima bare-footed. She told her promise to her distraught husband, but he objected to the journey, as, being poor, he had no means to procure transportation to Fatima. He feared that she would not survive such a journey. Maria insisted, and her husband at last consented. On August 13th, they started the journey to the Cova da Iria, reciting the Rosary on the way. A little improvement was noted and maintained after she returned home. The journey was repeated on September 13th, with similar results.

She returned again on the day of the final apparition—October 13th. Like the rest of the 70,000 pilgrims present she was drenched with rain, but immediately she reached the Cova da Iria she felt perfectly well. The pains had ceased, the cough bothered her no more, and the dropsical swellings had subsided. The bloody expectorations ceased, and her appetite returned. SHE WAS CURED. Twelve months later she said that she never felt better in her life. On November 13th, 1917, she returned to Fatima to fulfill her promise, and to give thanks to Our Lady of Fatima for the favor granted to her.

The Visconde de Montello, a personal friend of the author, investigated this case and has vouched for the facts recorded here for not only Maria herself, but also for her husband and other trustworthy witnesses. Thus, the first cure at Fatima.

Other Miraculous Favors

Since the cure of Maria do Carmo many others have taken place, and over a thousand cases have been recorded in the "Voz da Fatima". The circumstances of these cures have been various, some being instantaneous, others gradual, some at Fatima, while others have occurred in places far removed from the Shrine. It is not the purpose of the author

here to go into the question of what is a miracle, and when and how it happens. Many have said that the common consensus of belief of all peoples is that miracles are folly. However, Heaven through Fatima has spoken otherwise. Even those of scientific ability have to admit that the cures of Fatima are beyond natural causes. They have to admit to their supernatural cause.

The Catholic Church, ever prudent and ever cautious in these matters, is even more rigorous than those scientific critics in demanding indisputable evidence of the supernatural. At Fatima, as at other Shrines, every precaution to prevent mistatements or exaggerations is taken. A medical Bureau has been established, where complete information concerning the sick person such as the nature, origin, and case history of the ailment, must as far as possible be attested to in writing by a competent physician. Also required are the circumstances surrounding the cure, and the means employed to obtain it. Too, the mentality of the patient before and after the cure is recorded, as well as the observations of physicians. The subsequent history of the case is followed up. These cures are, with the consent of the party involved, reported through the columns of "Voz da Fatima", for the greater glory of God and the honor of His Blessed Mother, that souls may be edified. They are the recordings of scientific observations, and not the equivalent of an ecclesiastical pronouncement as to the miraculous nature of the cure.

The tide of Our Lady's mercy is far from ebbing as it is attested by further favors being received by those who have invoked her aid with faith. The following list of cures is recorded in brief, for your edification and the greater glory of God, and the honor of His Blessed Mother—Our Lady of Fatima:

Documents received from *Mr. Ivo Gonçalves*, Figueriro do Campo. He reports: "My daughter Mary was grievously ill. Doctor Julio de Oliveira diagnosed a lesion in the heart, and that this was incurable. Doctor José Cristiano was of the same opinion, giving her but a few months and perhaps less to live. It was at that moment that a copy of "Voz da Fatima" came into my hands and my wife and I started a novena to Our Lady. On the ninth day she was completely cured."

Documents from a Franciscan Father, *Rev. J. Diniz da Costa*, Funchal: "I was for many years a paralytic. Together with my family I made a novena to Our Lady of Fatima. By the ninth day there was no sign of paralysis."

Mrs. Maria Adelaide da Rocha Spratlez, Oporto, says: "The Doctors said that I would never be cured from the vomiting of blood from which I ceaselessly suffered; death was apparently a matter of days. I said a short prayer for my two little children whom I was going to leave behind. Then I sipped a few drops of water from Fatima. From that moment there was no further vomiting and I am quite well."

Mr. José Martins Gonçalves, Ramalde, Oporto. Among the documents writes: "In 1935 I fell gravely ill with tuberculosis. All the Doctors I consulted told me that I could not live long, and that my sickness was mortal. I promised to the Blessed Virgin that if I were cured I would publish the miracle in the 'Voz da Fatima'. Sure as I am of the completeness of my cure, I wish to make known all over the world that Our Lady cured me."

Mrs. Maria Natividade Marquez, Chainca, Leiria. Enclosing her documents in her letter, she writes: "I was instantaneously cured on my arrival at the hospital of Coimbra of polype of the nose for which I was to have an operation, without any other intervention than that of the Blessed Virgin. Then I was ordered to the infirmary by Doctor Bissaia Barreto. I was there examined by many Doctors who were obliged to state, after a scrupulous examination, that no trace could be found of my sickness. Not daring however to pronounce me cured, they subjected me to new investigations, obliging me to remain in the hospital for twelve days, after which they were convinced that I was perfectly cured and healthy."

Mrs. Rose Lopez dos Santos, Ovar, enclosing the documents, says: "The diagnosis of the Doctors was that I had a uterine tumor, and that I must submit myself to a dangerous operation. I simply had recourse to the Bless-

ed Virgin, said a few prayers and I was cured."

Mrs. Alice Matos, Machado de Cavaleiros. Presenting the documents says: "My father had a haemorrhage of the stomach. His death was considered by the Doctors to be imminent. At the end of a novena to the Blessed Virgin of Fatima, my father was cured."

Mr. Agostinho do Nascimento Coruja, Epadaeda. Enclosing the documents says: "My wife could not retain any food in her stomach. Besides this she had chronic bronchitis. We went to all the Doctors near our home, but having no more to consult, we started a novena to Our Lady. On the first day my wife managed to retain a little of the food we were giving her. She continued eating and digesting whatever we gave her, and now she eats as if she never suffered from the stomach."

Alfonso Rousinol, Ninho do Acór. According to the documents his parents say of him: "He was suffering terrible pain from internal tumor. He was discharged from the hospital of Astelo Branco as incurable. We had recourse to Our Lady of Fatima and without any treatment the pains ceased and on examination by the Doctors the tumor proved to have disappeared."

All those cures enumerated above have been vouched for by the Parish Priest of each

party, and by the testimonials of the assisting Doctor. These may be termed the physical miracles, but the moral miracles, as the Bishop of Leiria points out, are in every way more numerous and wonderful than the physical ones.

These things have been written for your edification, that a greater and stronger bond of love between you and Our Blessed Mother may be effected; that through that love Our Blessed Mother—Our Lady of Fatima, may be better known and loved by others; that through reparation to her Immaculate Heart the salvation of souls will be assured, and a true, lasting, just peace be granted unto the world—a peace which the world itself cannot give. No better words can more fittingly conclude these chapters than those of our beloved Pope Pius XII—Pope of Peace—Pope of the Immaculate Heart—in his Christmas exhortation:

“The call of the moment is not for lamentation, but for action: not lamentation over what has been, but a building up of what is to arise. It is for the best and most distinguished members of the Christian family, filled with the enthusiasm of the Crusaders, to unite in a spirit of truth, justice and love of the Cause. *GOD WILLS IT!* They must be ready to serve, to sacrifice themselves like the Crusaders of old! The essential aim of this necessary and holy Crusade is that the *Star of Peace*, the Star of Bethlehem, may shine out again over the whole of mankind in all its brilliant splendor and reassuring conso-

lation . . . *FIGHT FOR THE CAUSE OF MANKIND!*"

Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, pray for us. (300 days Indulgence).

"Let us go with confidence to the throne of grace . . ." (1)

"Thou art the hope of the world . . ." (2)

The Fatima Jubilee Celebration

In 1942 lack of transportation prevented the great national pilgrimage to Fatima and it had to be postponed. In May, 1946, however, it was possible and the ceremony was undertaken with all solemnity; in this ceremony was included the presentation of the precious crown, which had been offered to Our Lady of Fatima by the women of Portugal in 1942.

The Celebration was determined by a collective Pastoral Letter from the Portuguese Episcopate issued on Jan. 18, 1946. In this letter, emphasis was laid upon the miracle of peace having been preserved in Portugal, and it was ordained that the pilgrimage should be one of thanksgiving and reparation.

The Pope, who has an undisguised liking for the Portuguese nation and its rulers, wished to be associated in this national festi-

(1) & (2) Texts taken from the new Mass of the Immaculate Heart.

al in honor of Our Lady, and appointed as his representative one of the most notable Cardinals of the Sacred College, Benedetto Aloisi Masella, who was created Cardinal in the Consistory of Feb. 18th, 1946. This prelate has had a brilliant career which is of especial interest to Portuguese, as a great part of it, and perhaps the most difficult, was passed in Portugal. In 1910, the Provisional Government broke off diplomatic relations with the Apostolic Mission and recalled some time later the Portuguese representative from the Vatican. The Papal Nuncio, Monsignor Giulio Tonti, left Lisbon; his secretary, Mons. Masella remained, charged with the extremely delicate and difficult work of continuing, in an unofficial capacity, as the liaison between the Holy See and the Church in Portugal. His procedure was prudent and firm and contributed greatly to maintaining the conscientious Portuguese Catholics unyielding and courageous in the defense of their rights. It was not until 1919, after the resumption of diplomatic relations with Rome, that Mons. Masella left our country. Later he went as Nuncio, first to Chile and then to Rio Janeiro and, in the latter city, was glad to find himself once more in a country of Portuguese language and civilization.

It was this Cardinal that the Pope sent to Portugal as his Legate *a latere*, his personal representative at the festival of the great pilgrimage and the coronation of the image of Our Lady of Fatima.

The Cardinal arrived at the Portella aero-

drome, by a special plane on May 10th. Among the officials waiting to greet him were General Amilcar Mota, representing the President of the Republic, the President of Council, the Ministers for Home Affairs and Justice, the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, the Apostolic Nuncio, the Cardinal Patriarch and various Portuguese Bishops; also present were the Presidents of the National Assembly, the Corporative Chamber, the Municipal Council of Lisbon, and the Supreme Court of Justice and, also, the Military Governor of Lisbon. Behind them was a great crowd that broke into a roar of acclamation as the Cardinal Legate, followed by his attendants, stepped out of the aeroplane on to Portuguese soil.

On May 13th, after the various religious acts customary on these pious occasions, there came the special ceremony of the Coronation of the image, so venerated by every Portuguese Catholic and, indeed, by thousands of people of the same Faith throughout the World.

The multitude in Fátima was enormous. It is estimated that there were about half a million Portuguese, praying and singing. There were also many foreigners—Spanish, Belgian, Dutch and American—people of far-distant Nations and lands. A group of Dutch, formerly imprisoned in a concentration camp, sent an aeroplane full of flowers, in fulfilment of a vow they had made. Flowers were sent also by Belgian and Spanish Catholics. All the World was in Fatima and broke

into cries of salutation when the Cardinal Legate placed upon the head of the figure of Our Blessed Mother the precious crown that had been presented by the women of Portugal.

It rained continuously, but all were content on that day of penitence and piety. "The rain of Fatima does no harm" — said the multitude.

All classes of Portuguese were present—representatives of the Government, practically all the Portuguese Episcopacy, various foreign Bishops and a great concourse of laymen of every social grade. Shortly after the Coronation, it was announced by means of loud-speakers that the Pope would broadcast a message, once more in the language of Camoens, to the Portuguese gathered in Fatima. This message is a most honourable document for our country and the people of Portugal. It is a testimony, from the highest power on Earth, the greatest dignity and moral authority in the World, to the faith and Christian spirit of Portugal.

The Message From The Pope To The Bishops Of Portugal

In his message the Holy Father said in part:

"Our Presence today in this Sanctuary, among the immense multitude assembled here, is testimony that the Virgin, whose maternal and compassionate Heart made the miracle of Fatima, has heard largely your supplications. Your love and gratitude are symbolized in that precious crown which, through the medium of our Cardinal Legate, we place upon the Image, in recognition of the great love and innumerable blessings that the Virgin Mary has bestowed upon the land. Eight Centuries of blessings; the first five under the sign of Saint Mary of Alcobaca, Saint Mary of Victory and Saint Mary of Belem, in the epic wars against the Crescent, in the times of your heroic adventurers and the discoveries of new islands and new continents, where your ancestors planted the Cross of Christ; in the last three Centuries under the protection of the Immaculate, whom the Monarch of the Restoration, with the entire Nation, acclaimed Patroness and Protector of his kingdom and dominions, crowning Her as an especial tribute of homage, vowing to serve her, even unto death, in the name of her Immaculate Conception and, in his own words, 'trusting with great faith in the in-

finite mercy of Our Lord, through the intercession of our Patroness and Protector, who protects and defends us from our enemies, for the glory of Christ and the exaltation of the Holy Roman Church, the conversion of the gentiles and the subduing of the heretics.

“And the Faithful Virgin was rightly trusted. It is sufficient to reflect upon the past thirty years, upon the crises that have been overcome and the blessings received. We have only to lift our eyes to see this Cova da Iria that has been transformed into a running fountain of sovereign graces, of physical and even greater moral miracles. The torrents from this spot have descended over the whole of Portugal and, from there, broken all frontiers and spread through the Church over the whole World. How little worthy we are of this blessing and how feebly can we show our gratitude. Three hundred years ago, the Monarch of the Restoration placed the crown at the feet of the Immaculate and proclaimed her Queen and Patroness, as a sign of his and his people’s love and recognition. To-day, you, with the pastors of souls and your Government, are all people of The Land of Saint Mary.

“By our ardent prayers, generous sacrifices, eucharistic solemnities, the thousand signs of your filial love and devotion and the bestowal of this precious crown, you bind yourselves to Our Lady of Fatima. Here, in this blessed oasis, all must feel the super-

natural nearness of her Immaculate Heart, pulsing with immense tenderness and maternal solicitude for us and for all the world. Precious crown, expressive symbol of love and gratitude! This great gathering, the fervour of your prayers, your holy enthusiasm and the thunder of your acclamations at this sacred rite, in this hour of incomparable triumph for the Holy Mother, remind us of other multitudes yet more vast, other and greater acclamations, other triumphs more divine: her Assumption into Heaven, that great day when the glorious Virgin entered triumphantly into the Celestial Kingdom and, kneeling at the throne of the Holy Trinity, was crowned Queen of the Universe and seated at the right hand of the Immortal King of the Centuries. And the world realized that she was worthy of the honour, the glory and the Empire, as she was full of grace and sanctity, incomparably greater than the greatest saints and angels, and, because of her mystical union with the Blessed Trinity, chosen Spouse of the Holy Ghost and Mother of the Word.

“She is the Mother of the Divine King to Whom, at His Birth, the Lord God gave the throne of David and the royalty of the House of Jacob. He to Whom has been given all power in heaven and on earth, He, the Son of God, has conferred on the Celestial Mother the glory and majesty and the empire of His royalty.

"You thanked to-day your Queen for the sovereignty you have experienced not only by material blessings but also by innumerable endearments with which you have been enriched.

"For four long years, the greatest of all wars encircled your frontiers and you escaped, thanks to Our Lady's prayers and intercession for you and your Government. Because her protection preserved you from calamity and did not permit the war to touch you, you now crown her Queen of Peace and of the World and pray to her that she will help the world to find that peace and rise again from ruins.

"This crown, symbol of love and gratitude for the past and of faith and loyalty in the present, will become for the future the crown of a message and a hope. In crowning the image, you have performed an act of faith in her royalty, loyal submission to her authority and filial and constant response to her love. You have done still more: you have constituted yourselves crusaders for the conquest and re-conquest of her Kingdom, which is the Kingdom of God. You have promised, in the sight of heaven and earth, to love, venerate, serve and imitate her so that, through her intercession, you may the better serve God; you vowed, at the same time, to work that she may be loved, venerated and served by the family, the community and the world."

In this decisive hour of history, in which the Powers of Evil are employing all their forces to destroy faith and morals, the Kingdom of God — the sons of light, the sons of God, must combine in His defence, that they may not be lost in the catastrophe that is far greater and more disastrous than all the material ruin brought about by the war.

There must be no neutrals, no indecision, in this battle. We must have an enlightened Catholicism, staunch in faith and the Commandments, in its sentiments and in its private and public work — such a faith as was proclaimed four years ago in Fatima by the Young Catholic Movement; we must be a hundred percent Catholic!

In the devout hope that Our wishes may find favour with the Immaculate Heart of Mary and that the hour of His triumph, the triumph of the Kingdom of God may be hastened, in pledge of the celestial grace, to you, Venerated Brethren, to your Clergy, to His Excellency the President of the Republic, to the illustrious Chief and Members of the Government, to the military and civil authorities, to all of you beloved Sons and Daughters, to you pilgrims to the shrine of Our Lady of Fatima and to all those who are united with you in spirit, in Portugal and overseas, we give with all our love and affection the Apostolic Benediction.

America's Debt To Our Lady Of Fatima

Our nation is emerging from its cruelest war. It owes a debt of gratitude to Our Lady of Fatima who foretold the war, and then guided us through it so manifestly. Despite boundless natural resources, we could not have turned the tide of battle on earth had Our Lady not directed the tide of mercy from Heaven. The United States played a great role in World Wars I and II, but Mary's role was much greater. Our National Patroness should receive a token of honor and that token is the consecration of the nation to her Immaculate Heart. Now is the acceptable time.

Newspaper headlines are crowded with demands for the prosecution of war criminals. They have no space for Our Lady of Fatima, but they have plenty of it for the lesser heroes. Justice is not being done. It is cause for dismay to follow the trials of alleged war criminals. The ghastly lynchings which occur in some areas and the persecution of Catholic majorities in others are no less revolting to civilized sensibilities than formal trials in which political gangsters, corrupted by atheism and expediency, are permitted to testify against personal enemies. Disgusting biographical details obscure the points at issue. Yet, not a word of editorial sympathy for nations (small ones of course!) ruthlessly eliminated from the map of the world! Judas and Pilate are with us again. Shall we abandon the quest for justice?

Both World Wars, I and II, were caused by sin. They were occasioned, naturally, by the known historical circumstances. Sin provoked the anger of a just God and war was the expiation of guilt. The length and violence of both wars were lessened by the prayers of the just — notably, very notably, by the intervention of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima.

In World War I, she bore secret messages from Heaven to the shepherds of Fatima. Aware of the force of her prayers before the throne of God, she claimed that she alone could stop that war. And she proved it, for in answer to the query of Jacinta of Fatima she promised, in 1917, to bring home all the troops soon. She did so in 1918, saving, thereby, countless American lives. Our men were pouring into Europe by the millions at that time. It was the age of trench warfare, gas bombs and mass infantry movements. Of course Mary received no medal at Versailles, for Christ Himself was not welcome there. And we speak of justice!

Our Lady's services in World War II were much greater. She tried heroically to prevent the conflict. Her secret message was heard but not heeded. "If what I tell you is done, there will be peace. But if not, during the next pontificate, another and more terrible war will break out . . ." The failure to accept Our Lady's mediation cost some 40 million lives.

Despite the spiritual blindness of men, Our Lady declared that, in the end, her Immaculate Heart would triumph and usher in an era of peace. That clearly indicates that her prayers and merits played a rather large, if not altogether independent role, in the awful cataclysm. (It was not the atomic bomb after all!) The Immaculate Heart did triumph at last and world peace dawned. Practically every major development in the unfolding of the peace occurred on Mary's feast days, and the majority of them coincide strikingly with the dates of Fatima's history as if to call attention to the prophecies so heroically delivered to the world in 1917. (See "Mary Days in America")

Without the mediation of Our Lady of Fatima, World War II might have continued indefinitely, taking a greater toll of American lives and lend-lease expenditures. Suppose our enemies had invented the atomic bomb before we did? Suppose that ghastly weapon had been used by both sides earlier in the conflict? Suppose our crops had failed, or a plague had broken loose due to the absence of our doctors?

It would be a mistake to accredit our victory in this war to the atomic bomb. Mary's fiat is more powerful than any bomb, however deadly. The sun is much greater than the atom. The enormous labor and expense we underwent to split the atom fail to impress us when we recall the miraculous ease with which Our Lady moved the sun at Fati-

ma in 1917. Our Lady's intelligence and power transcend scientific genius. The issue of the war was determined, not in a chemical laboratory, but in the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Since God has given her control over the blind forces of nature, we need not fear a third world war as long as we fly to her protection and obey her counsels.

Great Rosary Crusades swept the United States during World War II. Fatima was their light and inspiration. How grateful our nation should be to Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima! Her leadership achieved its end mightily but ordered all things sweetly. The necessities of life abounded among us and even luxuries were not wanting. Materially speaking, we were the most blessed nation under the sun.

"Our cities and towns remain unscathed by the devastating, deadly bomb", observed the Brooklyn Tablet. "Our system of government is strong and universally respected; the institutions of our nation still flourish. Our people are united. Our means of livelihood are largely intact."

Bishop Hoban of Cleveland rightly emphasized that it is through the intercession of the Mother of God that peace came at last. "Immaculate Heart of Mary," he prayed, "Queen of all hearts, reconcile thy children with God and with each other; thou alone canst obtain for them a taste of the sweet-

ness of the peace that is a prelude to eternal life.”

As a medal of honor for Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, we suggest the consecration of the United States to her Immaculate Heart. It is a token of distinction for which she herself expressed an ardent desire in connection with World War II.

Mary Days In America

Our Nation, by formal dedication, is a part of Mary's realm. From her throne in Heaven she exercises her prerogative as Mediatrix of all Graces by reproducing among us her Christian virtues and bestowing needed graces. Her inner life is the pattern of American life; her spirit the mould of our national spirit. To be Marian is to be American in the finest sense of the word.

A striking coincidence of dates in the life of our Nation and National Patroness comes to mind at this turn of history. True the coincidences are purely exterior, but they set off a host of thoughts, like doves taking flight. Comparing salient dates of World War II and the Marian liturgical cycle, one almost forgets whether he is reading a religious calendar or a diary of war. A few examples will be of interest.

DECEMBER 8

1846—The United States, Benjamin among Marian nations, is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception. (The centenary was solemnized last year, 1946.) Deep devotion to Our Lady burns in the hearts of the bishops united in the Council of Baltimore, for it is not until eight years later, December 8, 1854, that the dogma of Mary's Immaculate Conception is defined by the Universal Church. It is a holy day of obligation.

1941—American Catholics are pondering Our Lady's sinless entrance into this valley of tears when news comes that the nation is entering its cruelest war. When a flight of Japanese airplanes drops bombs on Pearl Harbor, it is December 8th in Tokyo and December 7th in Washington, D. C. Congress does not declare war until the next day, December 8, 1941, hence *that date must be written in red letters on the pages of American history.*

M A Y 1 3

1917—It is noon and the silver-toned Angelus sounds over the mountain at Fatima as the Lady of the Rosary appears for the first time. She reveals that peace will be granted to mankind, after World War I and II, only through her intercession.

At Rome. While the apparition of Our Lady takes place at Fatima, Monsignor Pacelli is being consecrated bishop. As Pope Pius XII, he consecrates the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and establishes the new feast of the Immaculate Heart. The war ends during his pontificate. He is the Pope of Peace and of the Immaculate Heart.

1945—The joyful pealing of church bells summons the people of the United States to prayer. It is the day of national thanksgiving to God for V-E Day. The decree emanates from Harry Truman, President of the Peace. It is also Mother's Day and World Sodality Day.

AUGUST 13

1917—15,000 pilgrims await the fourth apparition of Our Lady at Fatima. They thrill with poignant expectancy, but she fails to appear. Disquieting rumors are set afoot when it is learned that the shepherds are in prison at Vila Nova de Ourem. There is confusion and disappointment on the mountain-side. Suddenly a shining white cloud of beautiful form descends majestically from the blue of heaven to the little oak tree. The crowds contemplate it with reverence and joy.

1945—Millions of Americans expect peace momentarily in the Pacific. Misleading re-

ports occasion premature rejoicing. Confusion follows a disappointing denial from the the White House. Mixed emotions are felt during the trying suspense, but joy prevails because the white cloud of peace is visible to all.

AUGUST 15

It is the feast of the Assumption, greatest of Marian Festivals. It is a glorious mystery, the consummation of all the mysteries which make Mary's life heroic. On this day the Church commemorates the end of Our Lady's earthly mission, her triumph over sin, her ascent to eternal glory. It is a holy day of obligation in the U. S. A.

1945—It is August 15th in the Land of the Rising Sun when the American ultimatum of surrender is accepted. The war is over in the Pacific. News of the surrender reaches the United States on the 14th of August, sweeping like a paean of triumph, from coast to coast. World War II is over, and American prestige rises to new heights.

AUGUST 19

1917—Our Lady of the Rosary appears to the shepherds, not at Fatima but at Valinhos. It is her fourth visit. She consoles the three children who suffered imprisonment for her

sake. She requests the building of a Rosary chapel. The shepherds take home a branch of the tree on which Our Lady stood and it gives forth a sweet perfume.

1945—The perfume of gratitude towards God rises from the heart of America for the ending of World War II. It is the day indicated by President Truman for national prayer and thanksgiving after V-J Day. It is Sunday and the churches are crowded.

AUGUST 22

1945—Our Lady enjoys a fruit of her apparitions at Fatima—the first observance in the United States of the new Feast of the Immaculate Heart established by Pius XII. *The world observance of this feast is a formal triumph for her Immaculate Heart.* It is the Octave Day of the feast of the Assumption.

1945—The first fruits of our Pacific campaign are harvested in the Ryu Kyu Islands. Captain Masanori Shiga signs a document recording the unconditional surrender of Mili Atoll aboard the USS Levy anchored in Mili Lagoon. It is the first formal surrender of a Japanese island to American forces.

SEPTEMBER 1

1945—*It is the First Saturday of the month, sacred to Our Lady of the Rosary. At Fatima*

Our Lady promised to obtain great graces for the world if people receive Holy Communion in the spirit of reparation to her Immaculate Heart on the First Saturday of the month. *First Saturdays are red-letter days on the Marian calendar.*

1945—General MacArthur receives the written surrender of the Japanese Empire from its agents on the USS Missouri anchored in Tokyo Bay. A sunburst throws a golden glow on the bay as the last Japanese signature is affixed. It is Sunday in the Far East and the First Saturday in the West.

S E P T E M B E R 8

1945—Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Fathers of the Church compare Mary in her birth to a radiant dawn. Mary's birth announces the dawn of Redemption, the approaching advent of the Sun of Justice.

1945—The First American flag to fly in Tokyo since the surrender is raised atop the Nippon News Building in a ten-minute ceremony. General MacArthur issues the order: "Have our country's flag unfurled and in Tokyo's sun let it wave in its full glory as a symbol of victory for the right."

New Mass Of The Immaculate Heart

AUGUST 22ND

Introit. Hebr. 4. 16. Let us go therefore with confidence to the throne of grace: that we may obtain mercy, and find grace in seasonable aid.

Ps. 44. 2. My heart uttered a good word: I speak my works to the king.

V. Glory be to the Father.

PRAYER

Almighty and eternal God, Who in the Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary hast prepared a worthy dwelling for the Holy Spirit: mercifully grant that as we devoutly observe the feast of the same Immaculate Heart, we may merit to live according to Thy Heart. Through Our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the same Holy Ghost, God, world without end. Amen.

Epistle. Eccli. 24. 23-31. As the vine I have brought forth a pleasant odor: and my flowers are the fruit of honor and riches. I am the mother of fair love, and of fear, and of knowledge, and of holy hope. In me is all

hope of life, and of virtue. Come over to me, all ye that desire me, and be filled with my fruits. For my spirit is sweet above honey, and my inheritance above honey and the honeycomb. My memory is unto everlasting generations. They that eat me, shall yet hunger: and they that drink me, shall yet thirst. He that hearkeneth to me, shall not be confounded; and they that work by me, shall not sin. They that explain me shall have life everlasting.

Gradual, Ps. 12. 6. My heart shall rejoice in thy salvation. I will sing to the Lord, who giveth me good things: yea I will sing to the name of the Lord the most High.

V. Ps. 44. 18. They shall remember thy name throughout all generations. Therefore shall people praise thee forever; yea, forever and ever.

Alleluia, alleluia. *V. Luke 1. 46-41.* My soul doth magnify the Lord. And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. Alleluia.

In votive Masses after Septuagesima, the following is substituted for the Alleluia and its V.

Tract. Prov. 8. 32-35. Now therefore, ye children, hear me: Blessed are they that keep my ways. Hear instruction and be wise, and refuse it not. Blessed is the man that heareth me, and that watcheth daily at my gates, and

waiteth at the posts of my doors. He that shall find me, shall find life, and shall have salvation from the Lord.

Gospel, John 19. 25-27. At that time, there stood by the cross of Jesus, his mother and his mother's sister, Mary of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalen. When Jesus therefore had seen his mother and the disciple standing whom he loved, he said to his mother: Woman, behold thy son. After that, he said to the disciple: Behold thy mother. And from that hour, the disciple took her to his own.

The Creed.

Offertory. Luke 1. 46-49. My spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour; because he that is mighty hath done great things to me, and holy is his name.

Secret: Offering to Thy divine majesty, O Lord, the Immaculate Lamb, we beseech Thee that the divine fire, which ineffably inflamed the Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, may inflame our hearts. Through the same Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God, world without end. Amen.

Preface of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Communion: John 19. 27. Jesus said to His mother: Woman, behold thy son. After that He said to the disciple: Behold thy moth-

er. And from that hour, the disciple took her to his own.

Postcommunion: Refreshed with Thy divine sacraments, Oh Lord, we humbly implore that being freed from present dangers through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the feast of whose Immaculate Heart we have celebrated with solemn rite, we may obtain the joys of eternal life. Through Our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God, world without end. Amen.



Fatima In The Eternal City

Pope Consecrates The World To The Immaculate Heart Of Mary

We now come to the effect produced by all these events at Fatima *in ecclesiastical circles in Rome*, always extremely reserved in matters of this kind.

In reply to a report of the Portuguese Bishops, Benedict XV wrote on April 29th, 1918, that he had always hoped that the depressing situation of the Church in Portugal was only passing, because the ardent devotion of that country to the Immaculate Conception *merited for it an extraordinary aid from the Mother of God*. It is beyond doubt that these grave words of the Holy Father alluded to the great events of Fatima, which were then occupying all minds in Portugal.

On November 1st, 1926, *the Apostolic Nuncio* at Lisbon came spontaneously to Fatima, where, after praying and addressing the people, he granted 200 days' indulgence.

On January 21st, 1927, *the Sacred Congregation of Rites* granted to the Sanctuary of Fatima the indult of the Mass of Our Lady of the Rosary.

On May 13th, 1927, the first stone of the Basilica of Fatima was blessed in the pres-

ence of a crowd of 300,000 pilgrims. A description of this great pilgrimage, published in the *Osservatore Romano* on June 13th, 1928, was the subject of much comment.

More significant still is *the personal act of Pope Pius XI*, who, on January 9th, 1929, at the audience of the Portuguese Seminary in Rome, was pleased to offer to each seminarist two pictures of Our Lady of Fatima. On December 6th of the same year, Pius XI wished to bless personally at the Vatican the statue of Our Lady of Fatima, sent from Portugal for the Portuguese Seminary in Rome. Short of giving a definite judgment, the Sovereign Pontiff could not have manifested in a more expressive manner his opinion and his good will towards these events of Fatima. It is also known that Pius XI wished to read all the acts of the Canonical Process of Fatima in order to acquaint himself personally with such an extraordinary marvel.

On May 13th, 1930, the Portuguese Seminary in Rome celebrated the anniversary of the first apparition of Fatima, and the *Sacred Congregation of Rites* granted it the indult of celebrating the Mass of Our Lady of the Rosary under the rite of a double of the first class.

On October 1st, 1930, *the Sacred Penitentiary* granted to the faithful who visit individually the Sanctuary of Fatima and pray for the Pope's intentions, seven years' indul-

gence; and to those who make the pilgrimage in a group, a plenary indulgence once a month. As has been said above, it was on October 13th of that year that His Lordship the Bishop of Leiria was to promulgate his Pastoral Letter approving officially the Apparitions and cult of Our Lady of Fatima; and it will be observed that these indulgences granted at Rome on October 1st came just in time to prepare minds to receive with entire confidence the proximate episcopal approbation, *which the Holy See has thus discreetly supported.*

Pius XII, in his Apostolic Letter "Saeculo exeunte octavo", of June 13th, 1940, addressed to the Bishops of Portugal to develop the Portuguese missions, said also: ". . . *Let the faithful, when reciting the Rosary so strongly recommended by Our Lady of Fatima, not omit to address an invocation to the Blessed Virgin in favour of missionary vocations.*" And at the end of the letter: "*God will then bless this holy crusade (of the Missions) and the chivalrous Portuguese people, under the auspices of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, the Blessed Virgin of the Rosary, who obtained the victory of Lepanto.*"

In their collective Pastoral Letter of 1942, the Portuguese Bishops wrote on this subject: "We are happy to see *the Supreme Authority of the Vicar of Jesus Christ evoke thus the testimony of Fatima* and proclaim *Urbi et orbi* the name of Our Lady of Fatima in an

Apostolic Letter addressed to the Portuguese Bishops, but published for the whole world."

On erecting in Mozambique, in 1941, the new diocese of Nampula, the Holy See gave it officially as Patroness Our Lady of Fatima (A.A.S. 33 (1941), 16).

On the occasion of the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of Fatima, *The Osservatore Romano* of Sunday, May 10th, 1942, published eight large columns in folio with illustrations, on the Apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima.

On May 13th, 1942, was issued, also from the Vatican Press, the 4th edition of Fr. Fonseca's book: "*Le Meraviglie di Fatima*", with the *Imprimatur* of the Vicar-General of Vatican City.

On October 31st, 1942, His Holiness Pius XII associated himself with the closing celebrations of the Jubilee of Fatima; and in his radio message to the Portuguese nation, made the consecration of the world, and of Russia in particular, to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Quite true, neither the Apparitions nor the message of Fatima are articles of Faith, and the infallibility of the Church is not involved in any of the acts we have just recounted. But without giving any dogmatic judgment, the Holy See could not have man-

ifested in a more expressive manner its opinion and good will towards the events of Fatima. And since the visible Head of the Church, after an examination of the documents, believes in the reality of these Apparitions, and recommends the devotion of Our Lady of Fatima, let us follow him: with him we are in excellent company.

THE CROWDS OF FATIMA

Fatima is situated in a mountainous region at a distance of about ten miles from the railway station in the plains. In spite of this pilgrims come in great numbers, because forgetting their own comfort, they come to pray, to do penance, and to ask for health of soul and body.

These pilgrimages take place especially on the 13th of *each* month. This day chosen by Our Lady of the Rosary for Her Apparitions has become, in Portugal, a holy day; and as people receive Holy Communion on the First Fridays and the First Saturdays of the month, so also on the 13th in honour of Our Lady of Fatima.

In winter pilgrims are less numerous: 2,000, 3,000, sometimes 5,000. The numbers increase very much in summer, during the months of the Apparitions, reaching one, two, three hundred thousand and more, especially at the two great national pilgrimages on May 13th (the first Apparition), and October 13th.

THE WONDERFUL CURES

At the fifth and sixth Apparitions, Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima had promised to heal sick persons and hear our prayers. She has not broken Her word.

On the very day of the Great Solar Prodigy a wonderful cure took place among the crowd. The number of these cures continued to increase until, as at Lourdes, Hospitals, a Bureau of Medical Examination, stretcher-bearers, etc., had to be established at Fatima. The Medical Bureau at Fatima registers an average of 2,000 sick per year. But the majority of the sick do not register. Evidently miracles are rare, and not all sick are cured. But all, or almost all, receive great moral strength, and the inestimable grace of bearing with resignation and merit the cross Divine Providence has imposed on them.

The official organ of The Sanctuary—*"The Voice of Fatima"*—has already registered about 1,000 cures of all types of diseases: tuberculosis, blindness, meningitis, ulcers of every kind, fractures, Pott's disease, etc. Many of these cures are truly wonderful, and an account of them can be read in the books recommended.

PORTUGAL CROWNS OUR LADY OF FATIMA

*Pope Pius XII addresses nigh on
a million Pilgrims.*

Nearly one million pilgrims attending the celebration of the Coronation of Our Lady of Fatima, were greeted in an address by His Holiness Pope Pius XII on May 13th, 1946 over the facilities of the Vatican Radio.

His address was in Portuguese, and solely spiritual in nature. "None can remain neutral in this struggle" he said in his 15 minute Message to the Pilgrims of Fatima.

His Holiness was represented at the ceremonies by His Eminence Cardinal Masela, as Apostolic Delegate. The Apostolic Delegate met the Cardinals, Archbishops, Bishops, clergy and High Government officials at the historical monument at the Convent of Batalha dedicated to Our Lady of Victory.

Here at Fatima amid solemn ceremonials the act of the Coronation of Our Lady of Fatima took place, on the 29th anniversary of the First Apparition at Fatima, where pilgrims to the number of almost one million were aggregated. The ceremonials commenced at 10 o'clock a. m., and were followed by an address of His Holiness Pope Pius XII, on a devotion that is very dear to his heart—the devotion to Our Lady of Fatima.

How To Consecrate To The Immaculate Heart

"Behold this Heart encircled by thorns... You at least try to console me . . . !" (June 13, 1917)

"I ask the consecration of the world to my Immaculate Heart." (July 13, 1917)

Every action we perform to console Mary's Heart is, in a broad sense, a consecrated act. The desire to please her, to honor her, to obey her, to belong to her—these things are the essence of any consecration. To stand on ceremony is to miss the point.

The act of consecration to the Immaculate Heart does not impose new obligations on a Christian. It is reparatory and supplicatory like the Act of Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. **IT IS NOT A TITULAR DEDICATION.** It nowise affects the title of a parish, school or diocese. It has nothing to do with patron saints.

INDIVIDUALS may consecrate themselves by a short ejaculation, once or several times daily. "Immaculate Heart of Mary, I consecrate myself to thee!" If they desire formality, they may visit a church and read an act of consecration from a prayer-book or leaflet.

PARISHES should first spread the message of Fatima. Sermons from the altar and parochial society activities will facilitate this. Booklets or leaflets may be distributed gratis. Then at a well attended religious service, or on a popular feast day, the priest may read aloud the act of consecration, either alone, or together with his flock. The rubrics permit such an act, for example, after the Divine Praises following Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS should popularize the story of Fatima. An easy task, for the pupils find it thrilling! Then all classes may consecrate themselves together formally at some common religious function, or they may simply add an ejaculation to the Immaculate Heart after the usual prayers before class. A picture of the Immaculate Heart would fittingly adorn the walls of the class room.

DIOCESES have been consecrated in various ways, since there is **NO METHOD OF CONSECRATION**. The consecration brings blessings but entails no canonical effects or ritual. Naturally the bishop's intention to consecrate will find expression in the public reading of the Act of Consecration. The Act of Consecration of the Human Race to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, composed and used by Pius XII in 1942, is usually employed. The reading of the Act acquires dignity and

authority if performed by the bishop from his throne during some solemn function such as a Solemn Mass on a Marian feast, or after a sermon on Fatima during Novena Services. Circular letters from the chancery effectively prepare the clergy and public to share, locally, in these services, with intelligence and devotion.

A Message From Our Lady Of The Rosary Of Fatima

The apparitions of Our Lady of the Rosary at Fatima during the first world war shed rays of heavenly light and hope over the world of today. As you know, the Blessed Virgin appeared to three little shepherds at Fatima in 1917, and repeatedly urged them to say the Rosary for the ending of the war.

Mary not only foretold the second war as a punishment for the sins of mankind, but like a good Mother, she prescribed the means of avoiding or at least shortening it. Six times she visited the children. Six times she carried and recommended her sacred beads, making it clear that she possessed from her Divine Son the power of stopping the war. That was in 1917. The war ended in 1918.

Fresh and consoling conclusions emerge from the facts of Fatima:

1. Mary could have stopped the war, and she wished to do so.

2. Mary requested a Rosary Crusade to end the war.

3. Mary wants the Rosary recited properly. She made meditation on the mysteries of the Rosary an explicit condition of the great promise connected with the First Five Saturday devotions.

4. Mary considers children capable of saying the Rosary well. Jacinta was 7, Francis was 9, and Lucy was 10, at the time of the apparitions.

5. The Rosary moulds and develops Christian character. Jacinta died in the odor of sanctity at the age of 10. Lucy is still leading a life of great holiness.

Would it not be a wise measure of Christian pedagogy to place Mary's Rosary in the Catholic curriculum so that pupils may be more effectively equipped to face the trials of life? The mysteries of the Rosary inculcate the life of Christ, the science of saints, the history of histories. The Catholic pupil who prays the Rosary intelligently cannot fail in the battle of life. He will be an exemplary Catholic, a future citizen of heaven.

The mysteries of the Rosary will nourish his youthful imagination with the high idealism of scriptural heroes. Moreover Mary herself would become a teacher in Catholic schools. How effectively she would impart the knowledge of the one thing necessary!

THE LIVING ROSARY

The living Rosary is one of many practical methods of giving form to this sacred project. It need not assume an "official" character. No constitutions, no roll calls, no meetings, no dues. Here is a suggested plan of procedure:

1. The 15 mysteries are distributed among 15 pupils, so that every day the complete Rosary is recited by that group. John receives the Annunciation, Mary the Visitation, Henry the Nativity, and so on through the 15 mysteries. More groups are formed until the enrollment list is exhausted. Every pupil in the school is responsible to Mary for his "daily decade". In a school of 150 pupils, 10 complete Rosaries ascend to Mary's throne each day and bring down rich blessings on the school, the parish and the world!

2. A lesson is given on the mechanics of the Rosary. The mysteries are briefly ex-

plained in a religion class. The chief interest should center on the mysteries. Introductory and concluding prayers are not essential to the Rosary.

3. Each pupil privately recites the same decade once each day, at any time, in any place, for any intention. Even periods of vacation could be sanctified by this practice. Of course the decade could also be recited in common, if that is preferred, since only 2 or 3 minutes are required to do so with reverence. The latter method would encourage the Catholic practice of carrying the beads.

4. The mysteries may be written, outlined, painted or printed on holy cards bearing a brief instruction or related virtue to be practised. The mysteries or holy cards may be changed at the end of the month or semester by the various teachers, or drawn at random from a basket or bowl with entertaining ceremony in a class-room or assembly hall. The pupils might retain the holy cards as reminders during the month.

5. The mysteries may be employed for monthly English essays, poems, short stories, plays, color or painting projects. The best ones might be published in the school bulletin or magazine. This is a pleasing method of eliciting original reflection on the life of Christ. It is being carried out with great success in some Catholic schools.

6. The teacher may suggest intentions to be prayed for each month or semester such as world peace, vocations, conversions in the parish, success in examinations, non-practising or deceased relatives. Two or more intentions may be proposed, a collective one, e. g., world peace, and an individual one according to personal necessity.

A GIFT TO MARY IMMACULATE

In this great country dedicated to Mary Immaculate in 1846 there are about 2 million pupils in Catholic schools. If Mary were to receive the priceless gift of 2 million decades of the Rosary each day, our country would surely receive the grace to realize its spiritual mission among the nations of the world. It would not be satisfied with mere political or commercial supremacy. There would be joy in heaven, peace on earth, conversions to our holy faith, and a great army of missionaries in pagan lands. Do not the many political projects concerning good neighbor policies and post-war global confederations indicate that we must crusade for Christ at home before we can do so abroad?

As things stand now, the sad truth is that many educated in our Catholic schools are not crusaders. As far as the Rosary is concerned, some of them could not even name five

of its mysteries. Remember that our country is largely non-Catholic. Our children shouldn't be denied the privilege of saving souls by a reasonable apostleship conformable to their age.

It is just and edifying to note, however, that many American Catholic children, enrolled in schools where the Rosary Crusade is being fostered zealously, are engaged in holy and happy emulation of little Jacinta, Francis, and Lucy. Gratified teachers report that examinations are being passed by formerly

failing students, that parents are receiving striking temporal favors, that moral conduct and spiritual attitudes are being renovated generally. The pupils of one school, unsolicited, receive Holy Communion almost daily, and they have persuaded, as only children can, 37,000 families to recite the FAMILY ROSARY each day for world peace!

God has entrusted Mary with the dispensation of all His graces. Let us heed the message of Fatima. Mary, kindly Mother of all nations, dispensed these graces with great generosity to the humble shepherds at Fatima when she said: "I wish you to say the Rosary, and say it properly."

Fatima Is Going Places

Excerpts From Those Who Have Heard

Hear ye, the prophetic words of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, uttered at Fatima, in 1917, and transmitted to posterity by the three shepherd children to whom she appeared on the thirteenth of each month from May to October: ". . . . To save souls, the Lord desires that devotion to my IMMACULATE HEART be established in the world. If what I tell you is done, many souls will be saved and there will be peace. The war will end but if they do not cease to offend the Lord, not much time will elapse, and precisely during the next Pontificate another and more terrible one will commence. . . . To prevent this I ask the consecration of the world to my IMMACULATE HEART."

The "*Message of Fatima*" was unheeded. The world was embroiled in war again. We can help to re-establish peace by spreading this beautiful devotion of REPARATION to the IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY, through the daily recitation of the ROSARY, and the devotion of the FIVE FIRST SATURDAYS.

The "MESSAGE OF FATIMA" is both a warning to the world, which has ceased to heed the Commandments, and a call to every-

one, everywhere, to give REPARATION to the IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY. In this book, we present evidence of the remarkable spread of this beautiful devotion, compiled from *Excerpts From Those Who Have Heard*—from a few of the many millions of souls, everywhere, who have heard, and heeded, the MESSAGE OF FATIMA.

To Bro. Servatius, of the Congregation of the Bros. of Mercy, Buffalo, goes the honor of being the First Promoter for the Sodality of Reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Untiringly and successfully has he endeavored to bring the Message of Fatima to all that come within reach of his apostolate as a Brother of Mercy.

REV. J. O'CONNELL—Sacred Heart Rectory,
Wheeling, West Virginia.

...*"What are the conditions for establishing the Sodality or Confraternity of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, or of Reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary?"*

JOSEPH A. BRIEG—1307 Creedmore Avenue,
Pittsburgh 26, Penna.

"Bishop Hugh C. Boyle has designated the Holy Name Society of the Diocese of Pittsburgh as an agency to propagate devotion to Our Lady of Fatima, I am Chairman of the special committee . . . Will you,

therefore, please send me 400 of the booklets, "Fatima and the Rosary", and 3,000 of the leaflets? . . ."

FR. FRANCIS KUHN, C.P.—St. Paul's Monastery, Pittsburgh 3, Penna.

. . . "Upon my return to the Monastery I found the two boxes (of booklets) . . . I give them only to those I think will follow the matter up. I preach on it (the devotion to Our Lady of Fatima). In every rectory I try to interest the priests in it, giving them a few copies for themselves."

REV. R. E. AYCOOK, S.S.—St. Mary's Seminary, North Paca St., Baltimore, Md.

. . . "I find your booklets very valuable to place in the hands of our students to acquaint them with Our Blessed Mother's recent manifestations in Portugal . . ."

GEORGE J. WALTER, C.S.S.R.—St. Peter's Church, 1019 N. 5th St., Phila., Pa.

. . . "Recently I came across your booklet, entitled "Our Lady of Fatima", and I wish to congratulate you upon your excellent work . . . would be pleased to have you send me a copy of it as soon as possible. There is also a four-page booklet entitled "A Message From Our Lady of Fatima", which I would like you to include" . . ."

REV. FRANCIS J. WHITE — St. Henry's
Church, 2428 Arlington Ave., Pittsburgh
10, Penna.

. . . *"Please send to me immediately
500 leaflets on the "Lady of Fatima" Devotions.
I should like to have them in time for
distribution at our Masses on First Friday".*

FRATER VENARD KANFUSH, O.F.M., Cap.,
Capuchin College — Brookland, Wash-
ington, D. C.

. . . *"Many thanks for the generous
amount of booklets on Our Lady of Fatima
. . . Father Harold Vogler of this college is
also doing well with the booklets sent him.
I think that he spoke on Our Lady of Fati-
ma at a recollection day held for a group
of women, here, in Washington." . . .*

SISTER MARY FRANCIS—Saint Ursula Se-
nior Unit, Catholic Students' Mission
Crusade, Ursuline Academy of the Im-
maculate Conception, Louisville, Ky.

. . . *"The quantity of literature on Our
Lady of Fatima which you so generously
sent me several times has been sent South,
East, North and West, to pastors, nuns and
laity. I sent a card and some pamphlets to
the pastor of the Parish I left forty-five
years ago. He intends to have the 'Living
Rosary' introduced in his school (Calmar,
Iowa)." . . .*

SISTER MARY ELIZABETH—Mercy Hospital, Rockville Center, L. I., N. Y.

... *"I am very anxious to spread the devotion and we have a splendid opportunity to do so here. May I ask you to send some extra leaflets . . . It seems that it is only within the last six months that we have heard of Our Lady's appearance at Fatima. Well, anyhow, we are going to try to make up for lost time."* . . .

MISS ANNE CURRAN—451 First Street, Troy, New York.

... *"Will you please send a few books about Our Lady of Fatima to distribute throughout the class? I am in the sixth Grade in Saint Joseph's School, Troy, N. Y. I am going to make the First Five Saturdays."* . . .

(*Editor's Note.*—We might pause to observe, at this point, that children are taking an important part in the promotion of the devotion to Our Lady of Fatima. It might be remembered too that it was to children that Our Blessed Mother revealed the MESSAGE OF FATIMA, and that it is through children that it will be carried to posterity.)

MARY HUNTER—327 Third St., Troy, N. Y.

... *"I am a member of the Seventh Grade in St. Joseph's School. We (the class) are very much interested in the spread of*

the Family Rosary. We try to start it in our family and in other families . . . Would you kindly send us thirty Pledge Cards of the Sodality of Reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary." . . .

(*Editor's Note.*—St. Joseph's of Troy, N. Y., was the first and original Fatima Club.)

BROTHER PETER, S. M. — Marist College,
Brookland, Washington, D. C.

. . . "My most sincere thanks for the abundant number of booklets and the book on Our Lady of Fatima. I am sure the devotion will be established in this house by all the seminarians and those friends who are interested in our Rosary Mission. I know it will interest you to know that Monsignor Fulton Sheen, speaking at the Church Unity Octave on the reconversion of Russia, built his whole sermon on the promises given to the three holy children. He says it is through the intercession of Our Lady of Fatima that the Russians will come back to Christ." . . .

BRO. ARMAND BENOIT—Ecole Des Sts.-
Martyrs, 182 Marquette, Quebec, Ca.

. . . "I should like to have some details about the book, "THE MESSAGE OF FATIMA", in the new and revised edition . . . If you have any editions in French, please send me a series for one of my confrères; the others in English." . . .

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY — T. F. O'LEARY, 1112 King Ave., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

... *"Please send 1,500 books, 'Fatima and the Rosary', to the St. Vincent de Paul Society, c-o Rev. V. J. Rieland, 1118 Chislett St., Pittsburgh 6, Pa." ...*

MARTHA BLATTAU—631 Frick Building, Pittsburgh 19, Pa.

... *"Please send me some booklets, 'Fatima and the Rosary' ... As a member of a study club who visit shut-ins it is nice to pass the story around of Our Lady of Fatima." ...*

MARY K. SENN,—Grand Regent, Court Massillon, Catholic Daughters of America, 406 Korman Ave., N. E., Massillon, Ohio.

... *"Your very generous shipment of leaflets and brochures of Our Lady of Fatima and the Rosary arrived a few days ago. Our Study Group was very happy to receive them and is working to spread this devotion." ...*

BRO. JOEL STANISLAUS—Saint Mary's College, Winona, Minn.

... *"I am deeply grateful for your invitation to become a Promoter of devotion to Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima. At*

once, I enrolled my whole community of 20 members. In addition, we have a college of about 250 students. A great number of these may wish to enroll in the Sodality. Please send more blanks. By the daily recitation of the Rosary we presume you mean five decades each day. Am I right?" . . .

(*Editor's Note.* — Five decades of the Rosary, recited daily is the requisite for membership in the Sodality of Reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. REPARATION to the IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY should be the intention. For children, the requirements is one decade each among groups of five, and such is the arrangement of the children's Fatima Clubs.)

FR. PAUL SHULTE—Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows, Oblate Fathers, Belleville, Ill.

. . . "God bless you for sending me several packages of pamphlets on Our Lady of Fatima. I am making good use of them in order to spread the devotion to the Queen of the Most Holy Rosary . . . Our Bishop here is very much in favor to spread the devotion to Our Lady of Fatima." . . .

MRS. PIERRE F. ALLEGAERT—205 Homer Street, Newton Centre 59, Mass.

. . . "Please find enclosed five pledges to recite the Rosary of the Blessed Virgin daily, with the name of His Excellency The

Most Rev. Richard J. Cushing, D. D., our Sacred Heart Church Pastor, and of my family and self. Our eldest son Peter Francis was killed in action in France on September 30th, 1944, so my family circle—five of us—is broken by his death. But we want His Excellency to take his place so we all together pray to Our Blessed Lady of the Rosary.” . . .

RIGHT REV. WILLIAM C. McGRATH—Scarboro Foreign Mission Society, Scarboro Bluffs, Ontario, Canada.

. . . “You are certainly to be congratulated on your wonderful part in making the story (The MESSAGE OF FATIMA) known throughout America and in our own small way we are trying to do the same in this country. It does seem almost the only hope of the world these anxious days . . . Wishing you every success in your Heaven-inspired apostolate.” . . .

SISTER ROSE GERTRUDE, O. P.—161-06—89th Avenue, Jamaica, L. I., N. Y.

. . . “We received the booklets and literature on Our Lady of Fatima and distributed them to all present at the Graduation Exercises on Friday evening . . . Our valedictorian stressed the need for heeding Our Blessed Mother’s request. Let us hope that... many will respond by making Reparation on the Five First Saturdays and the frequent recitation of the Rosary.” . . .

MRS. ANDREW FOLEY—411 Carters Street,
Camden, N. J.

... "As I have had many calls for the pamphlets on Our Lady of Fatima, I am most anxious to receive them. I shall be grateful if you will send them to me quickly." ...

BROTHER TOBIAS—c-o The Ave Maria,
Notre Dame, Indiana.

... "Please send me 1,000 Booklets—Fatima and the Rosary ... I represent THE AVE MARIA in this city (Chicago), and I am of the opinion that I may be of some help to the cause." ...

MRS. JOSEPHINE MITCHELL—Blessed Sacrament Library, 77 Centre Avenue, New Rochelle, New York.

... "Will you please send twelve copies of "Our Lady of Fatima", by Father Cacella, to above address?" ...

SISTER M. PATRICIA ANN, O.P.—Saint Helena's Convent, 2080 Benedict Avenue, Bronx, New York.

... "It is my great desire to spread devotion to Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima. Your prayers and labors in behalf of Our Lady of Fatima are bearing much fruit in the extensive and untold good she is reaping in souls through this devotion."

MRS. J. G. MADDEN, East Palestine, Ohio.

... "I should like to obtain several copies of the small orange-colored booklet,

'Fatima and the Rosary', for our Mothers' Club . . . We are hoping to spread the devotion of the Five First Saturdays, for peace." . . .

JOHN L. STANKA—3222 North Oakland Ave., Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

. . . *"Thank you for the copies of the new revised edition of Our Lady of Fatima which you have sent me. I shall do my very best to spread the devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.*

"Please accept my heartiest congratulations for the splendid work you have done in giving to the English-speaking world such a vivid, accurate, and detailed account of the happenings at Fatima. You have certainly rendered Our Lady the greatest service possible.

"The book holds the reader spell-bound and after one has completed its reading, he or she is virtually held a captive, as if by some unforeseen force. Of course, it is all due to the love and goodness of Our Blessed Lady. She is simply all-captivating!

"What a beautiful example the three little shepherd children give us! If only a few faithful will imitate them in these trying days, countless souls will be saved.

"Love and respect for Our Lady, dear Father, seemed to be very close to the hearts of our forefathers. The Polish people, like the Portuguese, have crowned her, "Queen of Poland". May Portugal and Poland be forever faithful to Our Heavenly Queen!"

MOTHER M. FLORENTIA, I.B.V.M. — Saint
Bride Convent, 7760 South Shore Drive,
Chicago, Ill.

Thank you for the booklets, pledge cards and other material which you recently sent us. Our friends and pupils have received them so enthusiastically that we are moved to ask for more. We are very happy to share in this laudable work of spreading devotion to Our Lady. May She continue to bless your efforts. Sincerely yours in J. C.

FLORENCE MARTOS—1028 Elizabeth, Midland, Michigan.

. . . "I received all of the literature which you sent me about Our Lady of Fama. I have been having quite a bit of success in asking people to recite the daily Rosary in honor of Our Blessed Mother — so much so that I need about fifty more pledge cards. Would you be so kind as to send them to me? Enclosed please find a small offering contributed by some good people who wish to make Our Lady better known. Thank you very much." . . .

HELEN EMOND—Ursuline Academy, Great Falls, Montana.

. . . "I want to thank you for that most beautiful medal and chain. All the girls admired it very much. I am going to organize that club I have. I have twelve members already. With sincere and good wishes." . . .

DOROTHY BALTHASER—Secretary, Catholic Action Club, Holy Family High School, Columbus, Ohio.

... *"We wish to express our appreciation of the pamphlets of "Our Lady of Fatima" which you sent to us some time ago. They have been put to good use. We have chosen Our Lady of Fatima as patroness of our club. The enclosed small offering we want you to use in any way you choose for the many good works you are undertaking."*

SISTER M. DOMINIC—The Convent of Mercy, 273 Willoughby Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.

... *"We thank you for your kind donation of three hundred booklets of "Fatima and the Rosary". Kindly accept the enclosed contribution to help spread devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Our Blessed Mother."* ...

CATHERINE M. GATELY—100 Johnson Avenue, Malverne, New York.

... *"Thank you for your answer to my questions. If all your promoters bother you so much, I'm afraid you spend most of your time answering your mail. However—I started to distribute the booklets. One woman in the parish told me that she has been trying to organize the women to receive Holy Communion in a body at the seven-thirty Mass on the first Saturday of each month. She wanted to know where I got my literature saying that she could use*

all I could give her. I gave her some and then I suggested that I send her name to you as a promoter. She knows the people of this parish much better than I do, as I am a comparative stranger out here. She is a great worker so I think you will find her a great help. Her name is; Mrs. John L. Phippard, 51 Norwood Ave., Malverne, N. Y.— I also asked my brother who is a curate in a Brooklyn church to do what he could to spread this devotion. He said that his pastor had mentioned something about starting it, so he told me to get him some literature. His name — Rev. A. Gately, 319 Maple St., Brooklyn, N. Y.— Rectory of St. Francis of Assisi.—I am also enclosing the names of some who would like to join in this devotion. They are: — Irene M. Curran, Katherine M. Curran, Margaret T. Roche, Loretta Gately, Nancy Barrile. — I am enclosing a donation. Please send me more booklets as one priest asked me to give him all I had, as he wanted to pass them out to his congregation. Just at present I am almost out of supplies. Thank you." . . .

The letters from which these few quotations are selected are chosen at random. They represent but a mere iota of the many, many letters from devotees of the devotion to Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima which come in an endless and ever-increasing flow to our office. In a letter which the compiler is unable at the moment to locate, word comes from the Rev. Edmund J. Baumeister, S.M.,

Director of the Library of Marian Literature, University of Dayton, Ohio, and Editor of the Marian Library Newsletter, informing us that he has become a Promoter of the devotion to Our Lady of Fatima. From another letter, likewise at present unavailable, and written by the Reverend Secretary of the Catholic Pamphlet Society of the diocese of Buffalo, we learn that this Society, at the request of the most Rev. Bishop, has begun to promote the devotion through the distribution of the booklet, "Fatima and the Rosary", copies of which they place in the church racks throughout the diocese.

In addition to submitting this edifying evidence of the spread of the devotion of REPARATION to the IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY, the compiler would like, too, to quote from the letters of those who have received favors through the intercession of Our Lady of Fatima. This he hopes to be able to do in some future issue of *Our Lady of Fatima Magazine*. Meanwhile, recipients of favors received through the intercession of Our Lady of Fatima are requested to forward the details to Father Cacella, who is doing so much, in spite of the limited means at his disposal, for the spread of the devotion.

L. J. C. & M. I.
LES MISSIONNAIRES OBLATS DE M. I.
SCOLASTICAT SAINT - JOSEPH

Ottawa.

Reverend Joseph Cacella,
New York 54, N. Y.

Reverend and dear Father:

"That you endeavor to spread this devotion among your friends."

Well, Reverend Father, I will certainly do my best!

Oblate of Mary Immaculate, overtaking the second year of philosophy, I wish also to overtake the Heart of Our Immaculate Mother.

Our scholasticate, which shelters 200 Oblates, some 165 students to priesthood, should be good ground! Furthermore the devotion to Mary Immaculate is not unknown! . . .

Some time ago the wonderful story of the Apparitions of Fatima knocked at our door. I heard much of the name, pamphlets were distributed and even a speech was delivered on the subject.

But . . . as many excellent things, the devotion sunk into some (I should say many) generous hearts, and . . . The other day a friend of mine felt that such a gem could not

be smothered, it had to be set on the mountain. And together we decided to *do something*.

Bro. Beliveau (it is my friend's name) and I read and reread your pamphlets. Then a careful study of the genuine words of Our Lady herself, in your 34-page booklet, added new interest to the subject. Questions arose. And here they are:

1—Are *all* the words said by the Blessed Virgin at Fatima noted in your account—and is their authenticity beyond doubt?

2—Did Our Lady tell two secrets to the Children: one on June 13, the other in July? . . . and how much of each is actually known to us?

3—Was the contents of the secret of July 13th (p. 16) revealed to us by Lucy (girl) or by Sister Lucy of Jesus (in religion)?

4—Have we any knowledge of the third part of the secret of July 13th?

5—When did Our Lady say to Lucy of Jesus: "My child, behold my Heart . . . I promise to assist at the hour of death, etc." (p. 20)?

This work has proved to be so interesting and useful, that we wonder whether you would not have any sort of analysis, or documents that would help understand the devo-

tion to the Immaculate Heart and handle more efficaciously your booklet.

Be sure dear Father, that we would be glad to receive any work of the sort and with your permission type out a copy of it—for our own personal use and devotion. Will also return without delay anything you wish to have back.

Also lengthy information about the Sodality of Reparation would be greatly appreciated.

OPORTET ILLAM REGNARE

So far our letters carry, as well as they can, the “good news” to relatives and friends. But you know that pamphlets and hosts of pictures, consecrations etc. . . . are needed to carry on this work.

I therefore inclose a small donation to help you buckle up. Now I do not ask for that amount of goods, the “*admirabile commercium*” does not proceed thus. But I would like to have,

1—ten (10) of your (9½ in. x 6¼ in.) books of Our Lady of Fatima.

2—twenty-five (25) or so “Fatima and the Rosary” small size.

3—a certain amount of pictures for propaganda and consecration and a few large pictures if you have some to spare.

With this to begin with, a bibliography on Fatima (English, French and Spanish) would come in very handy—checking or preferably sending those you can obtain for us immediately.

Now I believe this is a good beginning and wish to end with the second thought proposed to your booklet.—“a remembrance in our prayers.”

May the Immaculate Hearts of Jesus and Mary take good care of you during the coming year and bless your apostleship.

Sincerely yours “in Xsto et M. I.”

Bro. Geo. Alb. Auger, O.M.I.

P.S. — We have previously sought the approbation and encouragement of our Superiors, which have been kindly extended to us.

RESPONSE TO ENQUIRIES

*Contained In Letter of Bro. Auger, O.M.I.,
Regarding Fatima*

1. ARE ALL THE WORDS SAID BY THE B. V. M. AT FATIMA NOTED IN YOUR ACCOUNT?

ANSWER: By no means. The Lady of the Rosary remained with the children for:

some time during each of her apparitions. "About the time that it takes to recite the Rosary", observed Lucy. Much could be said in that time. Much could be understood also by simple contemplation, even though no words were spoken. Sublime ideas were impressed upon the minds of the shepherds. The world can only imagine a *small part* of the GRACE AND TRUTH communicated by Mary.

2. DID OUR LADY TELL *ONE SECRET* IN JUNE AND *ONE* IN JULY?

Yes, she did. We do not know how much of each is known. These secrets were to be kept by Lucy until such time as obedience to OUR LORD and her superiors (the Bishop of Leiria, etc.) required her to reveal them. Then the Bishop published *ONLY THAT PART OF THEM WHICH HE DEEMED PRUDENT*. Sister Lucy has probably committed to writing her recollections of the events of Fatima and the words of Our Lady, but they are secret documents which cannot be revealed without the proper permissions.

3. WAS THE CONTENTS OF THE SECRET OF JULY 13th REVEALED TO US BY THE GIRL OR NUN?

This was made known to the Bishop by Sister Lucy, but not published immediately. Hence as far as WE are concerned, it was some years after the apparitions. Our Lady

herself told Lucy to keep many things secret at the time of the apparitions. But she appears to Lucy even to this day. Hence it would be easy for her to tell Lucy when to reveal parts of her secrets and to whom, etc. Remember that Lucy could not have WRITTEN these things at the time of the apparitions. She was illiterate. It is probable that Our Lady requested her to learn to read and write for the express purpose of being able to give lucid and reliable expression to her supernatural knowledge. She studied under the Dorothean Sisters after she left Fatima.

4. KNOWLEDGE OF THE 3rd PART OF THE SECRET OF JULY 13th?

Not that I am aware of. It may be that the Bishop is unwilling to publish it at present, or it may be that Our Lady has not given Sister Lucy the word to reveal it. I have no doubt that Sister Lucy would reveal it at once if possible, because she speaks of its great importance to our day in these words: "We see her (Our Lady) turning aside the chastisement in proportion as efforts are made to propagate this devotion, but I fear that we will not be able to do more than we are doing and that God, being not well pleased, may lift the arm of His mercy and let the world be devastated . . ."

It is clear that Sister Lucy realizes the importance of her message. But she cannot do much without the cooperation of the Bish-

op; nor anything without permission from heaven.

5. WHEN DID OUR LADY SAY "BEHOLD MY HEART . . . I PROMISE . . ."

June 13th, 1917. But since Our Lady has appeared subsequently to Sister Lucy, it is not unlikely that she repeated the promise. The Bishop did not make this promise known until 1939, after the war had already begun.

GENERAL NOTE: It would appear that the PUBLIC part of the words and actions of Our Lady at Fatima concern the ROSARY. The private or secret parts concern the IMMACULATE HEART devotion. OFFICIAL recognition of the requests of the Immaculate Heart by Church authorities was granted AFTER the war began. That recognition by lesser authorities has not yet been given universally. We need not be surprised that the war broke out in 1938. . . .

The message of Our Lady is authentic, but allowance must be made for translations into various languages. Different words may express the same idea. It is my impression also that all references to RUSSIA, by name, were omitted by the Bishop of Leiria, until after the consecration of the world to the Immaculate Heart by the Holy Father. Even the Pope avoids the WORD "Russia" in his consecration.

DOMINICAN SISTERS

Marywood — 2025 Fulton Street, E.
Grand Rapids 6, Michigan

Eve of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Dear Father Cacella:

What a God-given treat two lovely letters from you. Thank you so much for the prayers for my Mother and Father and all my intentions.

The Fatima Club leaflets surely came at an opportune time. Besides telling about it at Byron Center I will have one sent to each of our missions with the mimeographed school bulletin. In this school bulletin there is material on Parliamentary Law for our children in all the grades and a Club is recommended. What more lovely than your Fatima Club. You surely must be a great friend of Our Blessed Mother even materially to say nothing of the spiritual aspect. Thank you for all the lovely booklets. You are the most generous of anyone I ever knew with materials. . . .

God bless you for your prayers and remembrance in your holy Masses. God is so good to give friends like you. How dear your

work for Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima and for God's poor who must be ever at your Center for food and clothing. May each day find "you less you" and "more Christ-like."

God and Mary love and bless you. May all the Feasts of Our Blessed Mother find you nearer to the Heart of Her Divine Son.

Be assured of my prayers for your intentions and I beg a continued memento for my intentions.

Devotedly yours in Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima,

Sister M. Bernetta, O.P.

P.S.—So happy another First Saturday will soon be here!

Further Excerpts
From Those Who Have Heard

CAPUCHIN COLLEGE—Brookland, Wash-
ington 17, D. C.

Dear Fr. Cacella: I am deeply grateful for your generous shipment of pamphlets and Fatima medals. Be assured that we are using all the material sent us to the best advantage. I shall try to distribute the Spanish and Portuguese pamphlets as soon as I find an opening for them.

Father Patrick Peyton, C.S.C., the propagator of the Family Rosary, is scheduled to speak to the clerical conference of the Catholic Students' Mission Crusade of the Catholic University sometime during the coming week. We are looking forward to hearing him. Undoubtedly, Fatima will be mentioned considerably.

I trust that you are doing quite well in your good work, Father. May our Lady of Fatima bless your every effort!

Gratefully and sincerely yours in Our Lady,

Fr. Venard Kanfush, O.F.M., Cap.

ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL of Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Father Cacella: I have been waiting and waiting for a bill for all those booklets and pictures you sent me of Our

Lady of Fatima. I was so pleased to receive them and distribute them to our nurses. Most of them are making the "Five First Saturdays" and are very faithful to the daily recitation of the Rosary.

May God and Our dear Mother bless you abundantly for your zeal in spreading this devotion, and may many souls be won back to Christ through it.

I am enclosing a little offering. Later on I expect to have more and I will send you some more, so you can keep up your good work.

Sincerely in Jesus and Mary,

Sister M. Constance.

THE MISSION ACADEMIA — St. John's Seminary, Brighton 35, Mass.

Dear Father Cacella: His Excellency, the Most Reverend Richard J. Cushing, of Boston, has asked me to write you and to gratefully acknowledge the grand assortment of booklets and prayers to Our Lady of Fatima. Through our Academia, the Mission Unit, we have distributed these to the student body and will do the same when the various priest organizations meet here.

May God bless you for the grand work that you are doing in furthering the cause of and devotion to Our Lady of Fatima. Of particular personal interest, are Our Lady's words regarding the conversion of the Rus-

sian people. Perhaps a new and extensive field of Missionary endeavor will be opened.

Thanking you again and with every good wish, I remain,

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Fred R. Rondon

ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL—Troy, New York.

Dear Father Cacella: We have received the envelope containing literature and best of all, your picture. We want to thank you very much for them.

We have obtained 175 more names of families for you to put in the Golden Book. We are sending their names to you for this purpose. So far we have 418 families pledged to say the Rosary, and we have added new members to the Club. We now have a total of 75 in our Club. Each one has signed the pledge card and received the certificate of membership and Medal.

We are sending some of the verses we made up all by ourselves to the Blessed Mother and we shall send the play later.

If you pray real hard for us we might have something great to tell you in regard to our Club in a few days.

The large colored picture of Our Lady of Fatima is beautiful. If possible, may we have 14 more pictures. We want them for the rest of the classrooms in the school.

We are praying for you and going to Mass for you every morning. Please pray for us.

Elizabeth Doocey

Mary Hunter, Secretary.

MISS MARY HUNTER, Secretary — Our Lady of Fatima Club, 327 Third Street, Troy, New York.

Dear Mary: I must confess that your letter was one of the greatest joys I have received in a long time. Just imagine that in so short a time your Club has got 418 more families to recite the daily Rosary. Imagine 418 Rosaries ascending to Heaven every day in Reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Surely Our Blessed Mother must be very pleased with you all, for such splendid work on behalf of her self-chosen devotion.

I am so pleased that your membership is increasing. The bigger your membership, the bigger and greater will be the things that you can do for the Blessed Mother, and the sooner will the Message of Fatima be brought to the attention of more people. That is exactly what Our Blessed Mother wishes. The Message of Fatima must be delivered to everyone. St. Joseph's School has taken the initiative, and leads the way. I am proud to boast about you all to the other Clubs, and to many, many others as well.

I am glad you liked my picture. Of course

the picture is far better looking than I really am. I'm not such a good looking fellow, but every time you take a look at me it will remind you to pray and pray for the success of my work.

I am sending some more of the colored pictures of Our Lady of Fatima. They are very nice, aren't they? The verses were very nice too. I will publish them from time to time in our magazine. I am publishing a magazine all for Our Lady of Fatima herself. In the second issue you may be sure that Saint Joseph's School of Troy, New York, will get a very, very honorable mention. That will be an edification for the other schools and children.

Don't forget to consult your good Sister about Club affairs. You know that she will give you all the best and most experienced advice. Ask her also to say a prayer for the success of my humble work.

Surely, I am remembering you and all your Club, as well as the good Sisters of Saint Joseph's School, in my Holy Masses and prayers.

May God, through the intercession of His Blessed Mother, Our Lady of Fatima, shower down His choicest blessings on you all, is the earnest and sincere prayer of,

Sincerely yours in Our Lady of Fatima,

Rev. Joseph Cacella

I N D E X

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