

# Fatima

Presentation and Discussion on Friday 13 October, 2017

By Fr. Smith at St Raymond Catholic Church

## Welcome & Fatima Prayer (see prayer sheet)

### I. Background and History –

- a. See Map of Fatima - Fly into Lisbon and take the highway north 1 ½ hour to Fatima
- b. Do you know about Portuguese Independence?
- c. Blessed Nuno Alvares Pereira (Feast Day 11/6)
  - i. Born 1360 just west of Lisbon
  - ii. Named Commander of Portuguese armies at age 23
- d. King Ferdinand I of Portugal dies without an heir
- e. King John I of Castile becomes King by marrying King Ferdinand's only child Princess Beatrice
  - i. King John wanted to claim their inheritance for Portugal
  - ii. He wants that sliver of the Iberian peninsula
  - iii. First he sends emissary but was not successful.
    1. The Portuguese said they didn't want him as their king.
  - iv. This enraged King John and he assembled 31,000 soldiers
    1. Rode into Portugal to claim his rights on August 14, 1385
    2. The leader of the Portuguese forces, Blessed Nuno, defeated King John Castile decisively with only 6,500 troops
- f. See Map – Aljubarrota – / – Batalha
- g. On the way to the battle, on the **Old Roman Road**, (where the Cova is today), the horses refused to continue
  - i. Blessed Nuno realized that this must be holy ground and ordered all of his soldiers to get off their horses, and pray

### II. The Angel Appears

- a. The Angel appears three times – Spring, Summer, Fall 1916
- b. The Angel appears to the three shepherd children from Aljustrel
  - i. Lucia Santos 3/28/1907 – 2/13/2005 (cousin)
  - ii. Francisco Masto 6/11/1908 - 4/4/1919 (brother) – influenza outbreak
  - iii. Jacinta Masto 3/11/1910 - 2/20/1920 (sister)
- c. First Appearance – Spring 1916 – in the Loca do Cabeco – means Place of the Head
  - i. This is a place where the children would come and pray, let their sheep graze under the trees
  - ii. He identified himself as the Angel of Peace

- iii. At this time Portugal was now involved in WWI
  - iv. Angel gave them the Pardon Prayer (see the prayer sheet)
  - v. Asked them to pray it 3 times at the end of every Rosary
  - vi. NOTE: First it's an invitation to bring God into center of our lives
  - vii. NOTE: Second Jesus/Mary listen to and are attentive to our prayers
- d. Second Appearance – Summer 1916 – at the well in back of Lucia's house
- i. Angel asked them to offer sacrifice as reparation for sins and peace for Portugal (3/1916 Portugal entered WWI)
  - ii. Called himself as Angel of Peace *and* Angel of Portugal
    - 1. Portugal has a long history of devotion to Guardian Angel (since 13<sup>th</sup> century) – Who is it? St Michael!
  - iii. NOTE: This is the announcement for Mercy. God has designs of Mercy for us
  - iv. NOTE: Be an instrument of Mercy
- e. Third Appearance – Fall 1916 – Loca do Cabeco
- i. Angel prayed the Angel's Prayer (second prayer on prayer sheet)
  - ii. Angel gave them holy communion – their first communion
  - iii. NOTE: Eucharistic Adoration
  - iv. NOTE: Console our God
  - v. There was a Priest in Juncal (about 45 min away)
    - 1. When he went to the locked tabernacle in the morning, he noticed that three Hosts were missing!
    - 2. He immediately told his Bishop
    - 3. He was worried about the missing hosts for years, until he read Lucia's memoirs in 1930 and realized that it was the Angel that took the hosts for the children
    - 4. The Church's name was – St Michael Church in Juncal
  - vi. NOTE: It is interesting to see that St Michael took the consecrated hosts, and did not perform the consecration himself; only a Priest can perform the consecration

### III. Our Lady Appears

- i. Our Lady's First Appearance: The shepherd children were in the Cova da Iria on 5/13/1917 The sheep were grazing and the children were watching from the high ground – See Map
- ii. There was lightning, a flash of light, and a clap of thunder
- iii. The shepherd children thought a storm was coming and went down the hill to collect the sheep
  - 1. Our Lady appears .....
    - a. Lucia saw, heard, and spoke to Our Lady
    - b. Jacinta only saw and heard Our Lady

- c. Francisco did not hear or see until Lucia asked why, and Our Lady asked that he pray the rosary. Part way into the rosary he saw Our Lady. But, he never heard her speak.
  - 2. Our Lady said "Pray the Rosary every day to obtain peace in the world"
    - a. The children spontaneously prayed the Eucharistic Pray at this time (see third prayer on prayer sheet)
    - b. Our Lady said to come back the 13<sup>th</sup> of every month
  - 3. NOTE: Sr. Angela – "God is waiting for our "yes" to Him in order to work His mission of salvation of the world."
- b. Our Lady's Second Appearance – June 13, 1917
  - i. Now there are 50 Spectators
  - ii. Lucia asks to be taken to heaven – Our Lady responds that Francisco and Jacinto will be taken very soon, but you will wait a little bit longer in order to spread the devotion to the Immaculate Heart --- "little bit longer" is 88 years; Lucia was 97 years old when she passed.
  - iii. Lucia asks "will I stay here alone?" – Our Lady responds, "No my daughter, I will never leave you. My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge/shelter – I will lead you to God."
  - iv. NOTE: What Our Lady said above is a reminder for us
  - v. NOTE: We can take refuge in her Immaculate Heart; we imitate her as the Way to Christ
  - vi. Other spectators would not see or hear Our Lady, but tree branches would bend and sway where she was standing, and they would hear a buzzing like bees when she spoke
- c. Our Lady's Third Appearance – July 13, 1917
  - i. During this visit, Lucia asked for a sign so everyone would believe, and Our Lady promises in October she would give one
  - ii. On this visit, Our Lady gives the children a vision of Hell.
    - 1. "See how all the souls are lost because they have no one to pray for them."
    - 2. After this vision, the children started constant reparation
  - iii. The Three Secrets of Fatima
    - 1. Souls can be saved by a devotion to the Immaculate Heart
    - 2. Warning about WWII (not praying for peace will lead to an even more terrible war)
    - 3. Released on 6/26/2000 Suffering of the Church and the Holy Father (vision of man in white killed; May 13 Pope John Paul II was shot; After recovery, JP II came back on year later on the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, May 13<sup>th</sup> and placed the bullet inside the crown from our ladies statue – fit the bullet perfectly. Made from jewelry from women of Portugal.
  - iv. Hell reminds us of our salvation and the possibility of choosing heaven or hell

- v. Reminds us of the need for prayers – we are responsible for the salvation of each other – we are called to pray for souls
- d. Our Lady's Fourth Appearance – August 19, 1917
  - i. History: The oldest treaty on record at the time was Portugal and England – in existence for over 1,000 years
    - 1. 1910 the Masons entered Portugal from England, Portugal adopts a Masonic and anti-clerical government
  - ii. Mayor of Orem kidnaps the children 8/13; separates them; threatens to boil them in oil; they never changed their story no matter what.
    - 1. Note: this fearless strength of faith was used in the canonization process – the children were willing to be martyred. Youngest canonized non-martyrs.
  - iii. On August 13 Our Lady keeps her word and appears. People see the branch move even though the children were kidnapped and not present
  - iv. The children are released and they are playing at Valinhos and Our Lady appears to the children here on Aug 19
    - 1. She said, "Pray and make sacrifices for poor sinners for their conversion; prevent them from going to hell"
    - 2. We are members of the mystical body – the Church; part of the community of Saints
      - a. Our prayers can affect the history of the world; salvation of poor sinners
      - b. Pray convinced that you are being heard – because you are!
- e. Our Lady's Fifth Appearance – September 13, 1917
  - i. Now there are about 20,000 spectators
  - ii. The children were making sacrifices for sinners – they were wearing a rope around their waist day and night.
  - iii. Our Lady told the children that "God does not want you to wear the rope at night."
    - 1. Why? Because god does not want our sacrifices to harm our health (the rope was cutting into their flesh and they were having trouble sleeping)
  - iv. Our Lady asked "pray the rosary for poor sinners"
    - 1. Offer and do sacrifices with a smile; offering what life brings for the conversion of sinners
- f. Our Lady's Sixth Appearance – October 13, 1917
  - i. Now there are about 70,000 people
  - ii. There are three scenes:
    - 1. The Miracle of the sun –
      - a. "I am Our Lady of the Rosary"
      - b. She appeared as the Lady of Mt. Carmel, with St. Joseph and Jesus
      - c. Pray the rosary every day

2. Build a chapel
  3. Do not offend Jesus anymore, live lives of sanctity
  - iii. Can we build in our lives a chapel?
  - iv. Can we have lives of sanctity to help build up the church?
- IV. Pontevedra, Spain
- a. Lucia moved to Pontevedra, Spain and becomes a Dorothean Sister, 1925
  - b. Our Lady appears with Jesus December 10, 1925
    - i. Her heart was surrounded by thorns
    - ii. The Lord said “her heart is being wounded by blasphemies and ingratitude (example: towards her Immaculate Conception, her perpetual virginity, publicly scorned, outrages to her and her images)
      1. He gave the First Saturday devotion – He promised to give all graces necessary for salvation at the hour of death
        - a. Five Consecutive First Saturdays devotion includes:
          - i. Receive holy communion
          - ii. Receive confession (within 8 days; and continue each month)
          - iii. Pray the Rosary – “tercero” not a “rosario” (only 5 decades, not all 15 – or 20)
          - iv. Keep Mary company for 15 minutes meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary
        - b. **ALL** for the intention of reparation for the Immaculate Heart
- c. On February 15, 1926, Lucia was busy with chores and was about to empty the garbage can outside the garden. From Lucia’s diary we read:
  - i. “At the same place, several months previously, I met a child whom I had asked if he knew the Hail Mary. He had replied yes, and I had asked him to say it for me, in order to hear him. But as he would not say it alone, I had recited it three times with him.”
  - ii. Later, Lucia found out that child was Jesus.
- V. Tuy (Tui), Spain
- a. In 1926 Lucia left the convent in Pontevedra and entered the novitiate at Tui.
  - b. She took her habit on October 26, 1926 and pronounced her first vows on October 3, 1928.
  - c. In the summer of 1929, Lucia was making a Holy Hour in the chapel and there was an image of Christ on the Cross From Lucia’s diary we read:
    1. The image included The Father, Holy Spirit as a dove and Jesus Christ on the cross
    2. Suspended in the air were a chalice and a large Host, onto which some drops of Blood were falling, which flowed from the face of the Crucified One and from the wound in His breast.
    3. Running down over the Host, these drops fell into the Chalice

4. Mary was on the right side of the cross with her Immaculate Heart in Her hand. She appeared as Our Lady of Fatima
5. Under the left arm of the cross in large letters were “Grace and Mercy”
- ii. Mary asked for the consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary
  1. 10/31 1942 – Pope Pius XII – consecrated the entire world
  2. 3/25 1984 – Pope St John Paul II – consecrated Russia
  3. 2010 Pope Benedict XV - consecrated Russia
  4. 2013 Pope Francis - consecrated Russia
- iii. Of Note – a second consecration was made by these Popes
  1. 7/7/1952 Pope Pius XII – Consecrated Russia
  2. 5/13/1982 Pope St John Paul II – consecrated Russia with all Bishops
  3. October 1982 Pope St John Paul II – consecrated Russia at Synod of Bishops
  4. 3/25/1984 Pope St John Paul II – consecrated all the world with all the Bishops
  5. 8/25/1989 – Lucia says “The consecration of Russia has been accomplished”

VI. The Message of Fatima

- a. Did you know there is a spring at Fatima? (show picture of present day Fatima)
- b. Pray daily rosary? Yes, but more than that
- c. Consecration of Russia? Yes, but more than that
- d. Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary? Yes!
- e. Acts of Reparation to participate in salvation of the world; individual persons; peace in the world
- f. Fulfill the will of God in all things; Grow in faith, hope and love
- g. The Rosary – This was the only thing that Mary mentioned at all the apparitions
  - i. Pope St. John Paul II – 10/16/2002, he calls it the “school of Mary” in his Apostolic Letter – **Rosarium Virginis Mariae**
  - ii. Pope St. John Paul II said to pray the rosary mystically transports us to Mary’s side as she is busy watching over the growth of the child Jesus in the home at Nazareth.
  - iii. This enables her to train us and to mold us with the same care until Christ is fully formed “in us”
  - iv. The Rosary is a path to holiness – be like Christ with Mary our Mother through the rosary.
    1. It can be difficult to be like Christ
    2. But the daily rosary – **our** time, conforms us with our cooperation
    3. I pray and the Blessed Mother does the rest
    4. Rosary is a vocal & contemplative prayer; contains the life of Christ
  - v. Two priorities for praying rosary
    1. Rosary brings graces for our families
    2. Rosary brings peace in our world

- 3. You can be upset about the news – and you can do something about it
- h. Consecration of Russia
  - i. Lucia herself said this has been fulfilled
- i. Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary
  - i. Jesus asked for this
  - ii. Will of God is 5 first Saturdays
  - iii. Jesus says “have compassion on the Heart of your Mother”
  - iv. Mary says “you at least try to console me?”
  - v. We are always going to God and asking for something – Do we also go to God and ask what we can give, or how we can serve?
- j. Acts of Reparation
  - i. We are members of the communion of Saints
  - ii. What I do can affect others – both good and ill
    - 1. Just offering my normal hardships **every day** given in my vocation – charity, poverty, obedience
    - 2. Be faithful to our commitments
    - 3. One son asks – ask parents for money, car keys
    - 4. One son gives – Dad, how can I help you? Can I get you anything? I’ll take out the garbage.
    - 5. We see the difference – I always ask/I always give – which are we?
    - 6. Our Heavenly Father wants us to ask but also to give
  - iii. First Saturday Devotion – a devotion not to ask but to give; to make reparation
  - iv. Love God above all things – love our neighbor as ourselves
  - v. Become co-workers with Jesus in the salvation of the world
  - vi. For love of poor sinners – Jacinta **said** so many have no one to pray for them; we can offer sacrifices/prayers
  - vii. If we understand the mystery of Redemption.....
  - viii. If we understand the mystery of Love.....
  - ix. We will understand the mystery of Reparation!
- k. Give Glory to God
  - i. What is necessary to be a good Catholic? Become like Jesus
  - ii. Grow in faith, hope and love
  - iii. Grow in holiness
  - iv. Be the lamp shining on the lampstand
  - v. Be the salt of the earth