

OCTOBER 2017

# Your every act should be done in Love for Jesus through *Mary*

## Take the Daily Family Rosary Challenge

**SCRIPTURE PASSAGE OF THE MONTH:**

JOHN 2:5

"Do whatever He tells You"

**HOUSEHOLD TEACHINGS OF THE MONTH:**

FATIMA: TWENTY POINTS THAT YOU SHOULD KNOW! by Fr Ed Broom, OMV

**SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS OF THE MONTH:**

- 1-The Miracle of Hiroshima – Jesuits survived the atomic bomb thanks to the Rosary
- 2-The Consecrations of Portugal (1931, 1938) and Their Benefits

**CFC USA CHALLENGE OF THE MONTH:**

Take the Daily Family Rosary Challenge

**SONG OF THE MONTH:**

Ave Maria

**SAINT OF THE MONTH:**

Sts. Jacinta and Francisco and Servant of God Lucia

**PRAYER OF THE MONTH:**

Prayer to Our Lady of Fatima

**BOOK OF THE MONTH:**

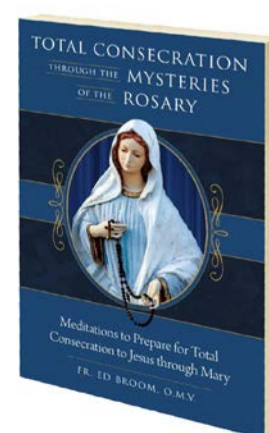
*Total Consecration Through the Mysteries of the Rosary* by Fr. Ed Broom OMV

**JOKE OF THE MONTH:**

The Right Question

**"FAITH WITHOUT ACTION IS DEAD" APPLICATION OF THE MONTH:**

Share the messages of Our Lady of Fatima to a non-CFC member.



OCTOBER 2017



2017 CFCUSA PASTORAL FORMATION MATERIALS

## Your every act should be done with LOVE... for Jesus through Mary: Take the Daily Family Rosary Challenge

Dear CFC USA Family:

For the month of October 2017, we focus on the last and greatest virtue embedded in our CFC 2017 theme – LOVE! That is to do everything out of LOVE...for Jesus through Mary.

In addition to the death and destruction left behind by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma and the catastrophic earthquake in Mexico, continuous disturbing and tragic global and local news headlines, such as the ones below leave us feeling outraged, helpless, fearful and doubtful about the prevalence of LOVE:

Sept 19, 2017. USA President Trump address to the United Nations: "The United States has great strength and patience, but if it is forced to defend itself or its allies, we will have no choice but to totally destroy North Korea."

Oct 5, 2017. Kim Jong Un: "Trump is pulling the noose around his neck obsessed with daydream. He is driving the destiny of the US doomed to ruin into bottomless abyss of total destruction."

Oct 1, 2017. LAS VEGAS — Perched in his suite at a high-rise hotel overlooking the Vegas Strip, a 64-year-old retiree with no real criminal history and no known affiliations with terror groups rained bullets down into a crowd at a country music festival Sunday, killing at least 59 people and injuring hundreds more in the deadliest mass shooting in modern American history.

Praise God, we have a God of mercy, hope and LOVE. Praise God we have a powerful and loving Intercessor and Heavenly Mother to protect and pray for us during these turbulent times. Remember that God, Our Blessed Mother...and history are on our side.

Let us go back 100 years, and learn from the Teaching of the Month (by Fr. Ed Broom)

**FATIMA: TWENTY POINTS THAT YOU SHOULD KNOW** and Movie of the Month, the 1952 classic- *The Miracle of Our Lady of Fatima*, the messages and warnings of our Blessed Mother on war and sin as well as peace, prayer and holiness. May Jesus and Our Lady help us stop sinning so that we will experience peace in our world ravaged by wars and innocent blood being shed every day.

In all 6 apparitions of Our Lady, she told the children and the world to pray the ROSARY for 2 specific intentions: world peace and salvation of the family.

The Supplemental Materials of the Month carry the same message of protection, salvation and deliverance through living holy lives and praying the Rosary. The Miracle of Hiroshima is an incredible true story of Jesuits who survived the atomic bomb thanks to the Rosary. In addition, the preservation and protection of Portugal from destruction in World War II was attributed to the Consecrations of Portugal in 1931 and 1938 to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

“Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven” -Matthew 18:3. Know and learn from our Saints of the Month- Jacinta, Francisco and Servant of God Lucia who had to go through persecutions and sufferings in obedience to our Blessed Mother. Finally, I strongly recommend that you order and purchase the Book of the Month, Total Consecration Through the Mysteries of the Rosary by Fr. Ed Broom OMV (our Teaching of the Month Contributor). Fr. Ed has developed this powerful do-it-yourself retreat that culminates in the total consecration to Jesus through Mary by focusing on the Mysteries of the Rosary and the Seven Sorrows of Mary. This newly published book is destined to be a classic.

So, as we celebrate a CENTURY of the apparition of our Lady in Fatima, in this MONTH of the Rosary in the YEAR of the Lord, I challenge you CFC USA brethren, that you and all your family and household members to commit to living holy lives and praying all the 5 DECADES of the Most Holy Rosary on a DAILY basis.

In Christ through Mary,  
Bro. Toffee Jeturian

John 2:5

# “Do whatever He tells You”



TEACHING OF THE MONTH:

## Fatima: 20 Points that you should know! by Fr Ed Broom, O.M.V.

As we commemorate the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima to the three shepherd children—Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta—we would like to present in this short article twenty points that we should know about this important event. We also invite you to meditate—that is to say, to pray over these points. Then we implore all of the great lovers of Jesus, Mary, Saint Joseph, Saint Jacinta, Saint Francisco and Servant of God Lucia to become Apostles of the message of Fatima. In sum, the message of Fatima is a simple but very profound summary of some of the most important messages in the Bible, some of the most important highlights in the Gospel, and some of the most salient teachings of the greatest Teacher, the Lord Jesus Christ!

Therefore, let us immerse ourselves deeply in this tremendous spiritual gold-mine of wisdom that is contained in the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Our Lady of Fatima, also known as Our Lady of the Rosary. These short points of meditation are meant for you, and for you to share with your loved ones for the purpose of the salvation of their immortal souls! Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us!

**1. NUMBER OF APPARITIONS.** Our Lady of Fatima appeared six times to Lucia de los Santos, and Francisco and Jacinta Marto. Both Francisco and Jacinta were siblings; Lucia was their older cousin, whose last name was Los Santos.

**2. THE NUMBER 13.** Our Lady would appear on the 13th of every month. Very curious! Many consider the number 13 to be a number that causes bad luck. Even elevators in tall buildings will go from the 12th floor to the 14th floor, eliminating 13th because many have fear that if they are living temporarily on the 13th floor bad luck will visit them. Our Lady appeared on the 13th to dispel this myth. There is no such thing as a bad number or a series of bad numbers. Actually, nothing happens by chance, but all is guided mysteriously but firmly by God's loving and providential hand; this we call "Divine Providence".

**3. ANGELS.** Before Our Lady appeared to the children in 1917, the Guardian Angel of Portugal appeared to the children three times, preparing the way for the appearance of Our Lady. Therefore, the reality of ANGELS has a prominent role in the message of Fatima.

Actually, the third and last apparition of the angel to the three children carried with it one of the most extraordinary elements in approved private revelations and apparitions. It was this: the angel appeared and suspended in the air was the HOST and CHALICE. The Host of course is the Body of Christ; in the Chalice is the Blood of Christ. The angel commanded the children to receive! Lucia received the Host and Jacinta and Francisco received from the Chalice, the reason being that the Chalice symbolizes suffering. Both Jacinta and Francisco shortly after the apparitions would suffer much and die so as to be taken to heaven. May we augment our faith, love and devotion for the most Holy Eucharist and have a real hunger for Holy Communion, even daily Holy Communion—"Give us this day our daily bread..." (The Our Father)

**5. WAR AND SUFFERING AND OUR LADY.** These apparitions took place in the world during a period of intense suffering and bloodshed—World War I. Our Lady stated clearly that war came as a consequence of sin. Furthermore, she stated sadly that if people kept sinning then a worse war would break out. We all know what happened close to twenty years later—World War II, resulting in even much more bloodshed than the First World War. May Our Lady and Jesus help us to stop sinning so that we will experience peace in our world ravaged by wars and innocent blood being shed every day.

**6. HELL EXISTS.** In the apparition on July 13, 1917, Our Lady appeared and manifested to the three children a very graphic vision of Hell. Very Ignatian and Dantesque, the vision

caused in the children fear and suffering. They stated that if the Blessed Mother was not there present with them, they would have died of fear. Today in so many liberal theological centers, the reality of hell is either laughed at or simply dismissed as an obsolete relic of the medieval times. Hell does exist and souls can go there if they die unrepentant in mortal sin.

**7. HEAVEN EXISTS.** Lucia asked Our Lady in the apparition in June if she would go to heaven, as well as Jacinta and Francisco. Our Lady said YES. However, Francisco would have to say many Rosaries before he would be ready to go to heaven. In our case, of course we want to go to heaven. Most probably we need to say many Rosaries too!!!

**8. JACINTA AND SACRIFICES.** After this vision of hell, little Jacinta armed herself to do as many sacrifices as possible so as to save poor souls from ending up in hell. Sacrificing grapes and dancing both of which she loved, wearing a rope around her waist underneath her clothes, giving her lunch to the poorer children, not drinking water on hot days, and praying many rosaries—these as well as many other sacrifices Jacinta willingly accepted and carried out so as to save souls from precipitating into the fires of hell after death!

**9. HEROISM TO THE MAX!** On August 13th, the children did not have the awaited and expected apparition of Our Lady at Cova da Iria. Why? Because they were detained and imprisoned by the local government. The news had spread far and wide about the apparitions and it was a real nuisance to the government and local officials. So they had a plan! They decided to apprehend the children and make them recant publically, say it was really a farce, really an optical illusion, and that they never really heard or saw Our Lady. And if they did not recant and admit that they were lying, then they would be boiled in a cauldron of hot oil! All three of the children refused to recant and were willing to undergo the cruel and painful martyrdom of being boiled to death. In a certain sense they were ready to be real martyrs. What a message for children and adults as to the importance of always telling the truth, despite the consequences! We should always think about what God wants and to carry it out. Jesus said: "I am the THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE! Jesus also said: "The devil is a liar and a murderer from the beginning."

**10. LUCIA'S MANY SUFFERINGS.** One of the greatest sufferings of Lucia, the oldest of the three, was that her mother Maria Rosa, did not believe her and for many years. How painful that this innocent child was thought to be a liar even by her own mother! May we always seek God's will above human opinion! As the poet Dante reassures us: "In God's will is our peace."

**11. EARLY DEATH.** Both Francisco and Jacinta would die as children. Also, they would suffer much before their death. Our Lady appeared later to Jacinta and asked her if she would be willing to suffer a little longer before she died to save souls and the little girl willingly said YES. Jacinta died alone far from home without her parents being present in a hospital in Lisbon. Question? Are you ready to die now? How would you like to live? What are your thoughts on death? Saint Ignatius of Loyola strongly exhorts us to meditate on death, most specifically on our own death, as a very powerful means to help us to eradicate sin from our lives!

**12. BEATIFICATION and CANONIZATION!** Did you know that both Jacinta and Francisco Marto were beatified by Saint Pope John Paul II in the millennium year—2000 and canonized by Pope Francis in 2017? What day do you think the saintly pontiff chose for their beatification and canonization? Nothing more fitting: MAY 13!!! This of course was the day of the 1st of Our Lady's apparitions to the children. Nothing happens by chance! May is for Mary, but May 13th is for Our Lady of Fatima! Saint Francisco and Saint Jacinta, pray for us and for the entire world!

**13. THE ROSARY.** In all of the six apparitions of Our Lady, she told the children as well as the world at large to PRAY THE ROSARY!!! Not only that, but she revealed her identity—THE LADY OF THE ROSARY!!! Saint Pope John Paul II in his document *The Blessed Virgin Mary and the Rosary* (October, 2002) insisted on the daily recitation of the most Holy Rosary and for two specific intentions: for world peace and for the salvation of the family. Let us obey the Pope and the Mother of God and pray the Rosary every day. Father Patrick Peyton encourages us: "The family that prays together stays together."

**14. THE GREATEST MIRACLE!!!** One of the greatest miracles last century was the miracle of the sun, October 13, 1917. The whole morning it was raining buckets and the people were drenched. However, shortly after noon the sun came out and wheeled around like a Ferris Wheel in the sky. The people fell to their knees and begged pardon for their sins. Miracles occurred: the blind recovered their sight and the paralyzed could walk. Not only that, but the people's clothes were immediately and totally dry after being soaked from the torrential downpour of rain! This was seen by as many as 70,000 people.

**15. THE VISION!** Lucia saw the Child Jesus in the arms of Saint Joseph blessing the world, as well as Our Lady of Sorrows and Our Lady of Mount Carmel! May the Holy Family—Jesus, Mary and Saint Joseph bless us. May all of us wear the brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. May all families, especially men, cultivate a tender and growing devotion to good Saint Joseph who is patron of men, of spouses, as well as of the family. Good Saint Joseph, pray for us!

**16. SALVATION OF POPE SAINT JOHN PAUL II.** May 13, 1981, after blessing children from his pope-mobile, Pope John Paul II was brutally shot and rushed to the hospital. It seemed as if it was a lost cause! Heaven was stormed with Rosaries, prayers and sacrifices for the beloved Pontiff. We all know history; he would live almost another 24 years—dying April 2, 2005. Pope John Paul II attributed his life being saved to Our Lady and specifically Our Lady of Fatima.

**17. THE CROWN AND THE BULLET.** The following year on May 13, 1982, Pope John Paul II, now healed from the attack, travelled as a pilgrim to Fatima. The purpose of this momentous visit, better said pilgrimage, was to thank Our Lady of Fatima for having intervened and saved his life! As the writer George Weigel highlighted, Pope John Paul recognized the malicious intent of the evil spirit in the shooting of the bullet that almost killed him. However, the hand of Our Lady was more powerful!!! Today we live in constant spiritual warfare, surrounded by countless spiritual bullets for our children, teens, as well as ourselves. May we seek refuge in the mantle and the Immaculate Heart of Mary as our most sure haven, refuge and ark of safety—like the Ark of Noah.



**18. REASON FOR THE LOSS OF MANY SOULS.** Our Lady pointed out that many souls are lost because of a shortage of SACRIFICES!!! She said that she was very pleased at the sacrifices of the children. Jesus also pointed out to Saint Faustina in the Diary of Mercy in my Soul that souls are saved by suffering—another name for sacrifices! The little children had no formal education, not too much spiritual formation, and of course no seminary formation. However, they had the best of teachers—Our Lady of Fatima, the Blessed Virgin Mary. What are you willing to sacrifice so as to collaborate in the salvation of immoral souls??? Never forget the teaching of the Angelic Doctor, Saint Thomas Aquinas: “One soul is worth more than the whole created universe.” Let us be generous and sacrifice for the salvation of immortal souls ransomed by the Precious Blood of Jesus!

**19. THE SINS THAT OFFEND THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY MOST.** Do you know what Our Lady revealed with respect to the sins that hurt her most? There are actually five...

- Sins against the Immaculate Conception—the fact that Mary was conceived without the stain of Original Sin
- Sins against her Perpetual Virginity—sins against purity and those who deny Mary was a Virgin before the birth of Jesus, during the birth of Jesus, and after the birth of Jesus
- Sins against Mary’s Divine Maternity—meaning sins against Mary’s greatest privilege of all—the fact that she was and is the MOTHER OF GOD
- Sins that damage the little children. Jesus said: “Let the little children come to me for such are the kingdom of God.” Think of the many sins that scandalize, damage, destroy the innocence of children! So many today! How the Hearts of Mary and Jesus weep.
- Profanation of images of Our Lady. Over the past few years, there have been a real proliferation of vandalism in churches and the destruction or mockery of the images of Mary! These sins of blasphemy penetrate and wound the Hearts of Jesus and Mary. May we do all we can to repair for these five sins against the Blessed Virgin Mary!

**20. IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY.** It would be incomplete if we did not mention in the message of Fatima, the importance of love and devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. When Jacinta was beatified Pope John Pau II presented her as a “Little Victim Soul”; Francisco, “A Little Mystic”. However, Our Lady wanted Lucia to spend more time on earth and she lived into her late nineties as a Carmelite cloistered nun in Coimbra,

Portugal. One of the hall marks of the spirituality of Lucia was to promote love, devotion and consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. In a later message to Jacinta, Our Lady revealed one of her most ardent desires: "Tell everybody that God give graces through the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Tell them to ask graces from her, and that the Heart of Jesus wishes to be venerated together with the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Ask them to plead for peace from the Immaculate Heart of Mary, for the Lord has confided the peace of the world through her." Therefore, let us all love the Immaculate Heart of Mary, consecrate our lives, families and parishes to her tender, loving and powerful intercession. "Sweet Heart of Mary, be my salvation."



SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS OF

## Mary and the Praying the Rosary

### The Miracle of Hiroshima

Jesuits survived the atomic bomb thanks to the Rosary

Hiroshima, Japan, Aug 9, 2015 / 07:08 am (CNA/EWTN News).- Seventy years ago, the only wartime use of nuclear weapons took place in the Aug. 6 attack on Hiroshima and the Aug. 9 attack on Nagasaki by the United States.

The Hiroshima attack killed around 80,000 people instantly and may have caused about 130,000 deaths, mostly civilians. The attack on the port city of Nagasaki killed about 40,000 instantly and destroyed a third of the city.

Four Jesuits were nearby the hypocenter of the attack on Hiroshima, but they survived the catastrophe, and the radiation that killed thousands in the months following had no effect on them.

The Jesuits priests Hugo Lassalle, Hubert Schiffer, Wilhelm Kleinsorge, and Hubert Cieslik were at the rectory of the church of Our Lady of the Assumption, one of the few buildings that resisted the bomb blast.

Father Cieslik wrote in his diary that they only sustained minor injuries from the broken windows – but nothing resulting from the atomic energy that was unleashed.

The doctors who took care of them afterwards warned them that the radiation they received would produce serious lesions, as well as illness and premature death.

The diagnosis never materialized. No disorders ever developed, and in 1976 Father Schiffer attended the Eucharistic Congress in Philadelphia and told his story. He confirmed that the other Jesuits were still alive and without any ailments. They were examined by dozens of doctors some 200 times over the course of the following years, without any trace of the radiation being found in their bodies.

The four religious never doubted that they had been blessed with protection by God and the Blessed Virgin Mary. “We were living the message of Fatima and we prayed the Rosary every day,” they explained.

Bishop Tarcisio Isao Kikuchi of Niigata said Aug. 6 that Japan can contribute to peace “Not with new weapons, but with the noble activities that have a long history in the growth of the world, and in a particular way in developing countries.”

Bishop Kikuchi added that “this contribution to development, which brings about full respect for human dignity and its fulfillment, would be very appreciated and respected by the international community.”

## **The Consecrations of Portugal (1931, 1938) and Their Benefits**

When the Pope, along with all of the world’s bishops, consecrates Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, what will we see? What will the Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary look like? Many people are not aware that Our Lady already gave the world a glimpse, a prelude, of what the Triumph of Her Immaculate Heart will be like.

She did this in Portugal after the Portuguese bishops consecrated that nation by name to the Immaculate Heart, on May 13, 1931.

It seems that Our Lady used Portugal to demonstrate on a national level what She will do worldwide when the Pope, in union with the world's bishops, consecrates Russia to Her Immaculate Heart. Perhaps Our Lady also gave us this preview so that an insipid pan-religious "civilization of love" could never masquerade successfully as the Triumph of Heaven's Queen.

## The Consecration of Portugal (1931)

On May 13, 1931, in the presence of the 300,000 faithful who had come to Fatima for the event, the bishops of Portugal solemnly consecrated their nation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. These good bishops placed Portugal under the protection of Our Lady to preserve that nation from the Communist contagion that was sweeping through Europe, and especially Spain. As a result of this Consecration, Portugal experienced a three-fold miracle. Here, we will outline this miracle.

1) There was a magnificent Catholic Renaissance, a great rebirth of Catholic life, so striking that those who lived through it attributed it unquestionably to the work of God. During this period, Portugal enjoyed a drastic upsurge in priestly vocations. The number of religious almost quadrupled in 10 years. Religious communities arose likewise. There was a vast renewal of Christian life, which showed itself in many areas, including the development of a Catholic press, Catholic radio, pilgrimages, spiritual retreats, and a robust movement of Catholic Action that was integrated into the framework of diocesan and parish life.

This Catholic Renaissance was of such a magnitude that in 1942 the bishops of Portugal declared in a Pastoral Letter: "Anybody who would have closed his eyes 25 years ago and opened them now would no longer recognize Portugal, so vast is the transformation worked by the modest and invisible factor of the apparition of the Blessed Virgin at Fatima. Really, Our Lady wishes to save Portugal."

2) There was a miracle of political and social reform, in accordance with Catholic social principles. Shortly after the 1931 Consecration, a Catholic leader in Portugal ascended to power, Antonio Salazar, who inaugurated a Catholic, counter-revolutionary program. He strove to create, as much as possible, a Catholic social order wherein the laws of government and social institutions harmonize with the law of Christ, His Gospel and His Church. A fierce adversary of socialism and liberalism, he was opposed to “everything which diminishes or dissolves the family.”

President Salazar did not simply talk a good line: he enacted legislation to protect the family, including laws that frowned upon divorce. One such law read, “In harmony with the essential properties of Catholic marriages: It is understood that by the very fact of the celebration of a canonical marriage, the spouses renounce the legal right to ask for a divorce.” The effect of this law was that Catholic marriages did not diminish in number, but increased, so that by 1960, nearly 91% of all marriages in the country were canonical marriages. That is a civilization of love, and it is nowhere in sight as we progress into the Third Millennium.

3) There was the twofold miracle of peace as a result of the Consecration. Portugal was preserved from the Communist terror, especially from the Spanish Civil War, which was raging next door. Portugal was also preserved from the devastations of World War II

CFC USA CHALLENGE OF THE MONTH:

**Take the Daily Family Rosary Challenge!**



SONG OF THE MONTH:

**Ave Maria**

André Rieu, Mirusia and The Johann Strauss Orchestra performing Ave Maria live in Maastricht. Taken from the DVD “André Rieu Live in Maastricht 4, A Midsummer Night’s Dream”.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3d4xXvF2ukY>



SAINTS OF THE MONTH:

## Sts. Jacinta, Francisco and Servant of God Lucia



### Saint Francisco Marto

(11 June 1908 – 4 April 1919)

Francisco was born 11 June 1908, the sixth of seven children of Manuel and Olimpia Marto. He was a handsome boy, with light hair and dark eyes. He loved games and other children, yet without the spirit of competition. He would not complain when treated unfairly, and gave up a treasured possession (a handkerchief stamped with the image of Our Lady) rather than contend for it. He was a peacemaker, but courageous, as his conduct under questioning by the Mayor would later show. He also had a mischievous turn. He was known to drop strange and inedible objects in his sleeping brother's mouth. He had a love for nature, and animals in particular. He played with lizards and snakes, and would bring them home, to his mother's chagrin. Once he gave a penny, all the money he had, to a friend for a captured bird, only to set the bird free. He played a reed pipe, to which Lucia and his sister Jacinta would sing and dance. In short, he was a kind, gentle boy, not yet a Saint, but one predisposed by God for the graces soon bestowed on him.

Alone among the three, Francisco never heard the Lady's words, although he saw her and felt her presence. After the first apparition, Lucia conveyed the Lady's message to him, that he would go to heaven if he prayed many Rosaries. In the second apparition, Lucia asked to be taken to heaven, and the Lady replied that Francisco and Jacinta would be taken soon, but Lucia would have to wait for a time. She died February 13, 2005 at the age of 97.

In the third apparition, the children were given a secret, including a vision of hell, which so changed them that they became more like adults than children. At this time the Mayor of the district, Artur de Oliveira Santos, a Freemason, devised a scheme to discredit the apparitions by terrorizing the children. He tried to bully them into admitting they lied, threatened to boil them in oil if they withheld the Lady's "Secret" (Francisco showed extravagant courage in anticipation of going to heaven), and jailed them to keep them from their appointment with the Lady on the day of the fourth apparition (August 13). They kept their appointment two days later.

For the fifth apparition, tens of thousands attended, having been alerted by the press to the Mayor's controversy with the children. Among the curious was a seminary professor from Santarem, Dr. Manuel Formigao, who questioned the children afterward and became convinced of their veracity.

When the public learned of a miracle promised for the next appointed day, many resolved to be there, and on October 13 perhaps 70 thousand people were present for the miracle of the sun.

After the apparitions ended, Francisco was enrolled in school but played truant as often as possible. He preferred to spend time praying to the "Hidden Jesus" in the Tabernacle. His great concern was to console His sorrowing Lord and the Heart of His Mother. When asked what he wanted to be when he grew up, Francisco answered, "I don't want to be anything. I want to die and go to heaven."

In August 1918, when World War I was nearing an end, Francisco and Jacinta both contracted influenza. They had short reprieves, but their decline was inevitable. In April of the following year, Francisco, knowing his time was short, asked to receive the Hidden Jesus for the first time in Holy Communion. The next morning, April 4th, at ten o'clock, he died with a glow on his shrunken face. He was buried the next day in a little cemetery in Fatima, across from the parish church, and later translated to the Sanctuary at Cova da Iria.

## Jacinta Marto

(11 March 1910 – 20 February 1920)

Two years younger than Francisco, Jacinta charmed all who knew her. She was pretty and energetic, and had a natural grace of movement. She loved to dance, and was sorry when their priest condemned dancing in public. Sometimes willful, she would pout when she did not get her way. She took a special delight in flowers, gathering them by the armful and making garlands for Lucia. At a First Communion, she was among the little "angels" spreading petals before the Blessed Sacrament. She had a marked love for Our Lord, and at the age of five she melted in

tears on hearing the account of His Passion, vowing that she would never sin or offend Him anymore.

She had many friends, but above all she loved her cousin Lucia, and was jealous of her time and attention. When Lucia, at the age of ten, became unavailable for play, being sent by her parents to pasture their sheep, Jacinta moped in loneliness-until her mother gave in and allowed her, with Francisco, to take a few sheep to pasture with Lucia.

Her sheep too became her friends. She gave them names, held their little ones on her





lap, and tried to carry a lamb home on her shoulders, as she had seen in pictures of the Good Shepherd.

Her days were playful and happy, delighting with her brother and cousin in the things of nature around her. They called the sun "Our Lady's lamp," and the stars "the Angels' lanterns," which they tried to count as it grew dark. They called out to hear their voices echo across the valley, and the name that returned most clearly was "Maria."

They said the Rosary every day after lunch, but to make more time for play, they shortened it to the words "Our Father" at the beginning of each decade, followed by "Hail Mary" ten times. This frivolity would soon change.

In the spring of 1916, as the children watched their sheep, an Angel appeared to them in an olive grove. He asked the children to pray with him. He appeared again in midsummer at a well in Lucia's garden, urging them to offer sacrifice to God in reparation for sinners. In a final appearance, at the end of the summer, the Angel held a bleeding Host over a chalice, from which he communicated the children. This experience separated them from their playmates and prepared them for the apparitions to come.

As might be expected, the three were changed by the visitations of the Queen of Heaven. Jacinta, talkative sometimes to a fault, became quiet and withdrawn. After the first apparition, Lucia had sworn her and her brother to secrecy. But Jacinta, bubbling over, had let slip all they had seen to her family, who then told the village. The news was received with skepticism by many, with mockery by some, and with anger by Lucia's mother. Jacinta was so contrite, she promised never to reveal another secret.

Her reluctance to reveal anything more of their experiences was increased by the vision of hell given the children in the third apparition seems to have affected Jacinta the most. To rescue sinners from hell, she was in the forefront of the three in voluntary mortifications, whether it was in giving up their lunches (sometimes to their sheep), refusing to drink in the heat of the day, or wearing a knotted rope around their waists. Involuntary penances included for her, as for her brother and cousin, the constant mockery of unbelievers, badgering by skeptical clergy, and needling by believers to reveal the Lady's secret.

Following the miracle of the sun, Jacinta complied with many requests for her intercessions. On one occasion she seems to have bilocated, in order to help a wayward youth find his way home. Lost in a stormy wood, he had knelt and prayed, and Jacinta appeared and took him by the hand, while she was at home praying for him.

When she came down with influenza, she was removed from her family to a hospital a few miles away. She did not complain, because the Blessed Mother had forewarned her that she would go to two hospitals, not to be cured, but to suffer for the love of God and reparation for sinners. She stayed in the first hospital for two months, undergoing painful treatments, and then was returned home. She developed tuberculosis and was sent to Lisbon, first to a Catholic orphanage. There she was able to attend Mass and see the Tabernacle, and she was happy. But her stay there was short. She was soon transferred to the second hospital prophesied by the Blessed Mother, where Jacinta was to make her final offering in dying alone. Her body came to rest in the Sanctuary built at the Cova da Iria, where the Lady had appeared to her.

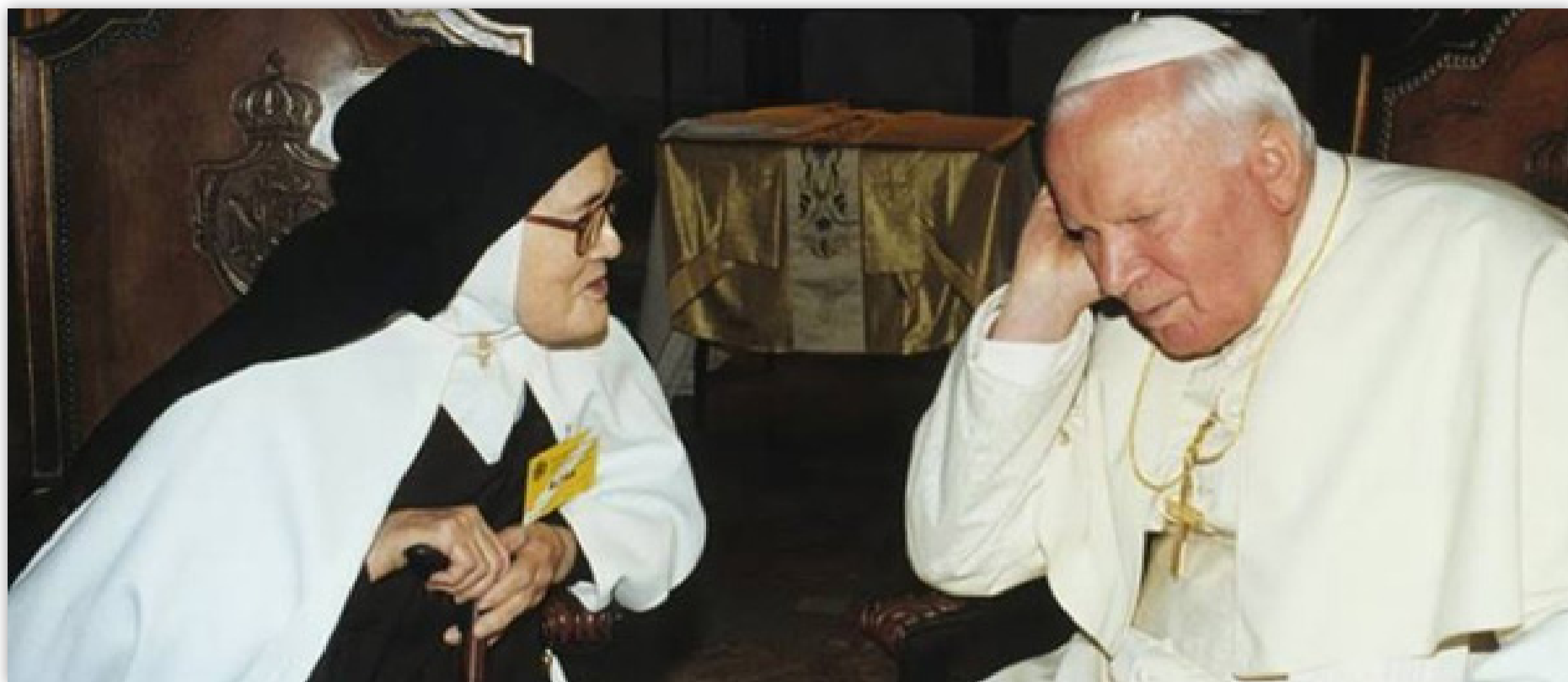
## **Servant of God Lucia de Jesus dos Santos**

(28 March 1907 – 13 February 2005)

Lucia was born in Aljustrel, a village in the parish of Fátima, Portugal, on March 28, 1907, and baptized a few days later on March 30. Her parents were Antonio and Maria Rosa dos Santos. She was the youngest of seven children, six girls and a boy. At age 6 she received her First Holy Communion. By 8 she was occupied with the tending of the family's sheep, accompanied by other boys and girls of the village.

It was while in the company of her cousins, Jacinta and Francisco Marto, that the first heavenly apparition occurred, that of the Angel of Portugal, come to prepare the young trio for their mission and for an even greater visitor.

Lucia was 10 years old when on May 13, 1917, while tending the sheep in the Cova de Iria, a woman, who later identified herself as the Blessed Virgin Mary, appeared to the



children. The apparition would continue monthly on the 13th of the month until October 1917 (save August, when imprisonment by the anti-clerical authorities prevented it). During each month's apparition, the Virgin encouraged prayer, especially the rosary, and sacrifice. She also communicated certain prophecies of the future (the end of World War I, the rise of error in Russia (communism) and its propagation throughout the world, the annihilation of nations, another war preceded by a heavenly sign if men did not convert, and the suffering and persecution of the good, especially the Holy Father). On Oct. 13, 1930, the bishop of Leiria-Fátima, José Alves Correia da Silva, declared the apparitions of Fátima worthy of credibility and allowed public devotion to the Virgin under the title of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fátima.

After the prophesied death of Jacinta and Francisco, during the flu pandemic of 1919, Lucia alone remained to carry on the mission assigned by the "woman from heaven." At 14 she was admitted as a boarder to the school of the Sisters of St. Dorothy in Vilar, near Oporto in the north of Portugal. On Oct. 24, 1925, she entered the Institute of the Sisters of St. Dorothy as a postulant in the convent in Tuy, Spain, not far from the Portuguese border. During these years she would continue to receive private revelations explanatory of the message of Fátima. She made her first vows on Oct. 3, 1928, and her perpetual vows on Oct. 3, 1934, receiving the name Sister Mary of the Sorrowful Mother.

In 1946, seeking a more contemplative life, Lucia entered the Carmelite convent of St. Teresa in Coimbra, where she made her profession as a Discalced Carmelite on May 31, 1949. She took the name Sister Maria Lucia of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart.

In 1967, Sister Lucia traveled to Fatima to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the apparitions, presided over by Pope Paul VI. She went again in 1982, when Paul John Paul II came to the Shrine on 13 May to give thanks for the saving of his life during the assassination attempt of 13 May 1981, and again when the Pope came there in 1991, and finally in 2000, to beatify Jacinta and Francisco.

Over the years Sr. Lucia would write two books, *Memoirs*, recounting the events of Fatima in her own words, and *Calls from the Message of Fatima*, giving answers to the many questions about living the message of Fátima, which she has been asked over the years.

In the second apparition, that of June 13, Lucia asked the Lady, "Will you take us to heaven?" The Virgin responded, Yes, I shall take Jacinta and Francisco soon, but you will remain a little longer, since Jesus wishes you to make me known and loved on earth. He wishes also for you to establish devotion in the world to my Immaculate Heart.

That mission came to an end on February 13, 2005, when after weeks of weakness Sr. Maria Lucia succumbed to the infirmities of old age. Her funeral Mass at the cathedral of Coimbra was presided over by the city's bishop, Most Reverend Antonio Cleto. She will lie in rest at the convent where she spent so many years, until a place is prepared for her body at the Basilica in Fátima, where Francisco and Jacinta are entombed.



PRAYER OF THE MONTH:

## Prayer to Our Lady of Fatima

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pf2ZY5Yv9fA>

O Most Holy Virgin Mary, Queen of the most holy Rosary, you were pleased to appear to the children of Fatima and reveal a glorious message. We implore you, inspire in our hearts a fervent love for the recitation of the Rosary. By meditating on the mysteries of the redemption that are recalled therein may we obtain the graces and virtues that we ask, through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer. Amen.



MEDIA (MOVIE) OF THE MONTH:

## The Miracle of Our Lady of Fatima

Click link below for the official trailer

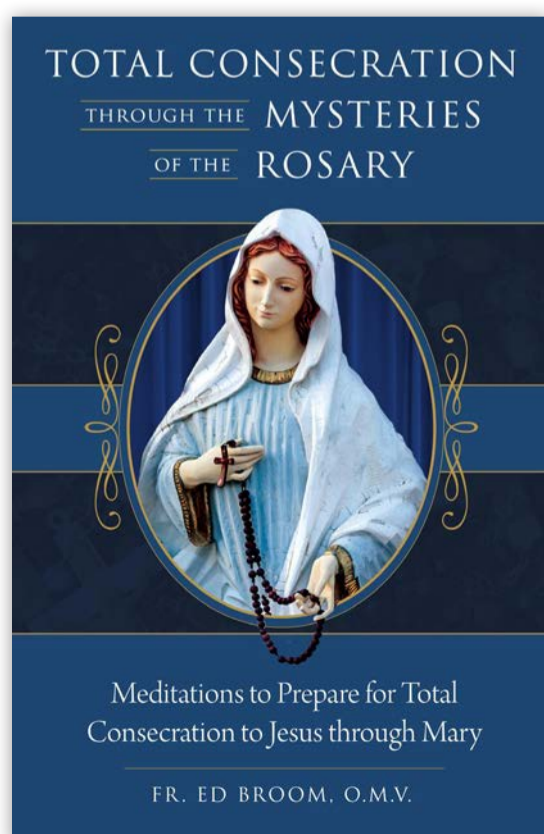
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1jOFyznf53w>

In 1917, three shepherd children living just outside Fatima, Portugal have visions of a lovely lady in a cloud. The anticlerical government wishes to squelch the Church; reports of religious experiences are cause for serious concern. Yet the children stand by their story, and the message of peace and hope the Lady brings. In the last vision, attended by thousands of people, the Lady proves her reality with a spectacular miracle that is seen by everyone present. Based on actual events at Fatima in the summer of 1917.



BOOK OF THE MONTH:

## Total Consecration Through the Mysteries of the Rosary by Fr. Ed Broom O.M.V. (Author)



In his 18th century masterpiece, *True Devotion to Mary*, St. Louis de Montfort tells us that the quickest, easiest, and most efficacious path to Jesus is through the Blessed Virgin Mary. In her 1917 appearances at Fatima, Mary repeatedly urged us to pray the Rosary daily.

Since Mary is the best path to Jesus and since she herself insists on daily recitation of the Rosary, Fr. Ed Broom has developed this powerful do-it-yourself retreat that culminates in the total consecration to Jesus through Mary by focusing on the Mysteries of the Rosary and the Seven Sorrows of Mary — and all it takes is a few moments each day!

For years Fr. Ed Broom has transformed lives by leading this five-week retreat in Southern California. Now, for the very first time, that retreat is available in book form for those who cannot attend one of Father's retreats in person. Here you'll find the entire retreat program to bring you closer to Our Lady and to Our Lord: Scripture readings keyed to each Rosary decade, Fr. Broom's succinct meditations on each Mystery, daily prayers, and wise but practical steps to help you gain the most from each meditation as you draw daily closer to your retreat's culmination in the fifth week: your own Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary.

Why not spend the next five weeks with Fr. Broom meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary and the words of Scripture? Do so, and you'll quickly come to appreciate as never before the beautiful prayer that is the Rosary as well as Jesus and Mary, whom you will soon know better and love more.



JOKE OF THE MONTH:

## The Right Question

A Franciscan and a Jesuit were friends. They were both smokers who found it difficult to pray for the Rosary without having a cigarette. They decided to go to their superiors and ask permission to smoke.

When they met again, the Franciscan was downcast. "I asked my superior if I could smoke while I pray the Rosary and he said 'no,'" he said.

The Jesuit smiled. "I asked I could pray the Rosary while I smoke. He said 'of course.'"



APPLICATION OF THE MONTH:

## Share the messages of Our Lady of Fatima to a non-CFC member.