



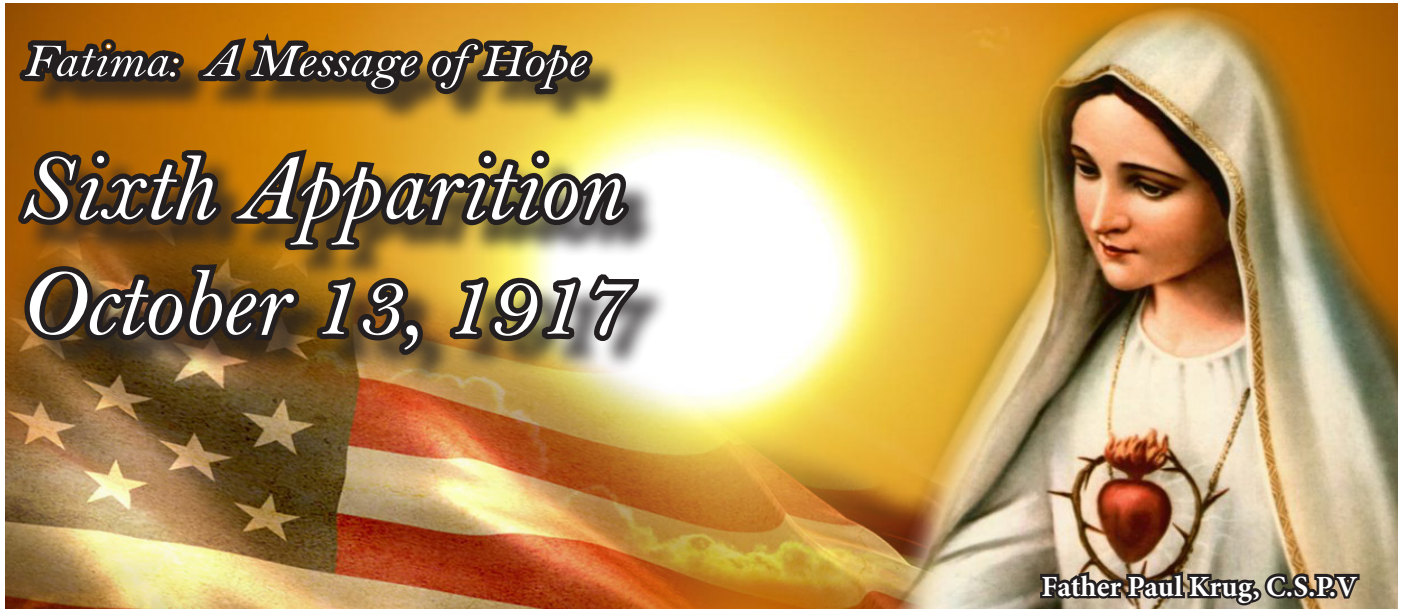
Dolorosa

LAST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

NOVEMBER 2017

Fatima: A Message of Hope

Sixth Apparition October 13, 1917



Father Paul Krug, C.S.P.V

This past October 13, at a number of our chapels across the United States, we commemorated the final appearance of Our Lady at Fatima. At Saint Joseph's Novitiate in New York and at Immaculate Conception Church in Ohio, Solemn High Masses were offered in honor of Our Lady. A number of other chapels conducted evening processions and other devotions in honor of the Blessed Virgin. At missions that were not able to have a procession, numerous parishioners gathered to recite the fifteen decades of the Rosary in reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Our Lady certainly must have been pleased by the tremendous number of people who comforted and consoled her that day.

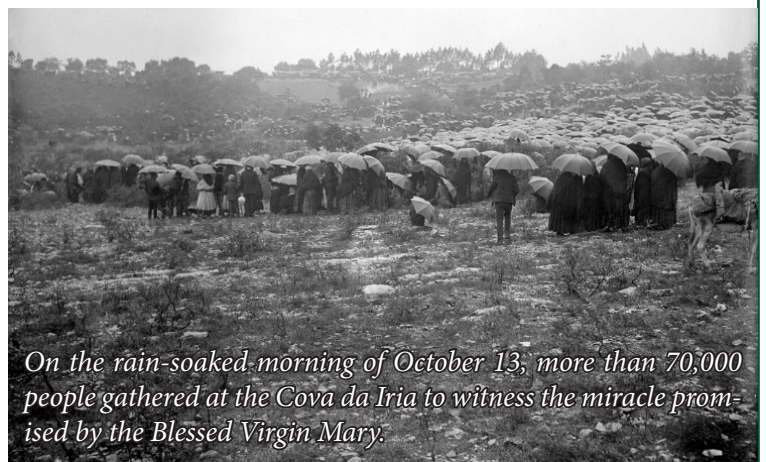
For pictures from the Fatima processions at some of our chapels, see pages 5-8

The last apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary was the culmination of all the apparitions of 1917, and it was the most important. This is because if Our Lady had not worked a miracle on this occasion, as she said she would, everything else she had said, every request she had made, from May to October would have been doubtful. The miracle of October, therefore, guarantees that Our Lady's message at Fatima was genuine.

On the morning of October 13, 1917, Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta awoke to a dreary, rainy day. The rain and the cold, however, did not stop massive crowds of people from descending upon the Cova da Iria. In his book *The Woman Shall Conquer*, Don Sharkey relates that:

... nearby communities, towns and villages, emptied of people. . . . They came on foot, by horse or by carriage. They travelled the highways and the roads, between hills and pine groves. . . . [Thus], by 11:30, more than 70,000 of them had gathered at the Cova." (109)

The crowd was so dense that a path had to be cleared through which the three children could pass to reach the holm oak.



On the rain-soaked morning of October 13, more than 70,000 people gathered at the Cova da Iria to witness the miracle promised by the Blessed Virgin Mary.



Upon reaching the place of the apparitions, Lucia, by some sort of inspiration, directed the people to close their umbrellas and to put them down even though it was raining. To this request, the people readily agreed. All then began to recite the Rosary.

At noon Lucia saw the flash of light which always preceded Our Lady's arrival. "Silence!" Lucia called out to the crowd. "Silence! Our Lady is coming." Moments later the Mother of God was visible to the children.

As related by Don Sharkey, Lucia spoke to the Lady. She asked her who she was and what she wanted.

"I am the Lady of the Rosary," the Blessed Virgin said, "and I desire a chapel to be built in my honor in this place. People must continue to say the Rosary every day. The war will end soon, and the soldiers will return to their homes."

Our Lady's face then grew sorrowful; her countenance assumed an air of sadness. "Men must offend Our Lord no more," she said. "They must ask pardon for their sins, for He is already much offended. . . . I desire nothing else" (133).

After saying this, Our Lady, according to Don Sharkey's account, stretched out her hands, and from them, rays of light emerged. Next, the Blessed Virgin pointed to the sun, which had become visible through the parted clouds, though it was not as bright as the light from her hands. She then disappeared.

As Lucia raised her eyes to the sky, she cried out: "Look at the sun!" Most, if not all, of the 70,000 people looked towards the sun. It had become pale as the moon, and thus the people could look directly at it without harming their eyes. While the crowd marveled at this, Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta were given a series of visions. Saint Joseph appeared to the left of the sun, holding in his arm the Child Jesus. In unison, the Christ Child and Saint Joseph traced the Sign of the Cross over the world three times. As they did this, Our Lady of the Rosary appeared to the right of the sun, dressed in blue and white.

While Francisco and Jacinta gazed upon these visions, Lucia alone was privileged to see the apparition



of Our Divine Savior. She saw Him appear, dressed in red as the Divine Redeemer, and bless the world. Beside Him, stood Our Lady, clad now in the purple of Our Lady of Sorrows, but without the sword of sorrow. Finally, Lucia saw the Blessed Virgin appear dressed in the simple brown garb of Our Lady of Mount Carmel (109-110).

As the children stood enraptured by these marvelous visions, the crowd continued to be held spellbound by the sun, which had begun to fade and glow. It was then that what has come to be known as “The Miracle of the Sun” took place. This is the account given by Ti Marto, Francisco and Jacinta’s father, as related in *The Message of Our Lady of Fatima* by Father John de Marchi:

Everybody stood still and quiet, gazing at the sun. At a certain point, the sun stopped its play of light and then started dancing. It stopped once more and again started dancing until it seemed to loosen itself from the skies and fall upon the people. It was a moment of terrible suspense. (136)

Another eyewitness, Maria da Capelinha, had this to say:

The sun cast different colors, yellow, blue, and white. It trembled constantly. It looked like a revolving ball of fire falling upon the people. (136)

The crowd was struck with terror as they beheld the sun appear to detach itself from the sky and begin to plunge towards the earth. What happened next is perhaps best described by Don Sharkey. He wrote:

The terrified people thought they would be crushed by [the sun]. Most of them fell to their knees in the . . . sea of mud. “Save us, Jesus!” went up . . . from hundreds of throats. “Our Lady, save us!” Many fervently said the Act of Contrition.

Some cried, “I believe!”; others, “Forgive!”

Just when it seemed certain that the world would be destroyed, the sun stopped its downward plunge and climbed back to its accustomed place in the sky. (111)

This is the scene that was witnessed not by one, not by one hundred, not even one thousand, but by seventy thousand people. This large gathering which witnessed Our Lady’s miracle was comprised not only of devout Catholics, but of enemies of the Church—skeptics, atheists, freemasons, and socialists. Reporters from local Portuguese newspapers were also there. Even reporters from the government-controlled papers were present. None of them, however, could deny what they beheld that day. They certainly tried to downplay the miracle, but not one of them could deny the fact that something miraculous had occurred on October 13, 1917. People of every belief and persuasion were thus present to witness Our Lady seal her message with a miracle.



The message of Our Lady at Fatima was a message not just for Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta. Nor was it a message meant only for Catholic people. It was a message for the entire world. It was intended to secure peace for a world that seemingly had none. It was meant to deliver the world from the tyranny of the devil and to bring light to the world which hitherto had been governed by “the rulers of the world of darkness” and “the spirits of wickedness in high places” (Eph. 6:12). Our Lady’s message was thus one of hope—hope for the world, hope for our country, and hope for each and every one of us.

While Our Lady's words in 1917 were—and are—intended for the entire world, they nonetheless certainly have a unique connection with our country and thus should be of special importance for us. This is because the United States of America is Our Lady's country. It is hers because on May 13, 1846, twenty-two U.S. bishops were gathered in Baltimore for a provincial council. There, they proclaimed the Blessed Virgin Mary, Conceived without Sin, to be the special patroness of the United States of America. In other words, these bishops solemnly placed our country under the maternal protection of Our Lady.

Ireland has Saint Patrick for its special patron; Spain has Saint James the Apostle; Germany has Saint Boniface; and England has Saint George. The United States, however, does not have an apostle or a martyr; the United States has the very Mother of God. She, the woman who will crush the head of Satan, as Almighty God foretold in the Book of Genesis (3:15), and the woman spoken of in the Canticle of Canticles who comes forth “as the morning rising, fair as the moon, bright as the sun, terrible as an army in battle array” (Cant. 6:10)—she is our patroness and our protectress. As a strong army set in battle formation, then, she will go to war with the powers of hell for our country, for her country, and in the end, she will crush the proud head of Satan and cast out the powers of darkness from her land.

Although the days of previous centuries have passed—days in which the one, true Faith flourished—they are not yet gone forever. Although the darkness of sin and the shadow of unbelief have enveloped the world and our nation and have all but extinguished the light of faith and the light of virtue, we must not lose hope. No matter how dark and desperate the situation in the world and in our country becomes, we must never forget that there is one light that will never be extinguished, a light that God has given us in these dark times—His own Mother, the Most Blessed Virgin Mary. She will shine through the darkness



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Let us, then, diligently follow this heavenly light given us by God. Let us follow Mary by doing our part in the plan she gave us at Fatima. It is true, we are relatively small in number, and in the grand scheme of things, we really are insignificant in this world. Yet, is this not what Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta were? Were they not small in number and insignificant in the eyes of the world? Yet, Our Lady chose them to spread her message. Like her Divine Son, the Mother of God often uses the weak and insignificant of the world to confound the strong and mighty.

We, thus, cannot allow the smallness of our number, or anything for that matter, deter us from fulfilling our part of the Blessed Virgin's message. If we do our part, we can make a difference; with God's grace and our efforts, we will make a difference. We need only strive to cultivate a true devotion to Our Lady, and with one devoutly-prayed Rosary at a time, one fervent Communion of Reparation at a time, one penitent sacrifice for sinners at a time, we will be difference-makers in our evil days. Furthermore, we must strive to heed

Our Lady's grief-filled request of October 1917 and offend Our Lord no more by our sins, for He is already so much offended. If we do these things, we will certainly make a difference not only in our country, but in the world as a whole.

May Our Lady's message of hope inspire us with that hope we so desperately need in these times. May it spur us on to do the most and not the least in the practice of our God-given faith. May our faithful fulfillment of her requests bring peace to this chaotic world. Finally, may Our Lady, the patroness of our country, drive Satan and his agents from our beloved nation so that her Immaculate Heart may once again

reign in her land and our land—so that she may reign as Queen in the United States of America.

*Saint Joseph's Novitiate
Round Top, New York*



Saint Pius V Chapel Oyster Bay, New York



Immaculate Conception Church Norwood, Ohio



Saint Anne's Church

White Bear Lake, Minnesota

