



DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

2110 Broadway • Sacramento, California 95818 • 916/733-0200 • Fax 916/733-0215

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Memo

To: All
From: Bishop Myron J. Cotta
Date: June 5, 2017
Subject: 100th Anniversary of Fátima, June Reflection 2017, June 13th 1917

Within the month of June we celebrate three Solemnities of the Church. The first is Pentecost. It is followed by the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity. The third is the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. The theological significance of these Solemnities were reinforced within in the Apparitions of Fátima.

During the Apparitions of the Angel of Peace in 1916, the three shepherd children, Lúcia, Francisco and Jacinta were instructed by the Angel of the importance of adoring the Three Persons of the Most Holy Trinity. The Angel's catechesis to the children continued with the teaching of the True Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist in regard to his Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity. Their special love for the "Hidden Jesus" in the Blessed Sacrament became the focus of their spiritual lives. It was the motherly love of Our Lady which would confirm, in the following year, the truth that was revealed to the children by the Angel of Portugal.

The Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Most Holy Trinity, and Spouse of Our Lady, graced Lúcia, Francisco and Jacinta in a very special way during the second apparition of Our Lady in the Cova da Iria on June 13, 1917. The following is the firsthand account of the Second Apparition in the words of Sr. Lúcia.

The 13th of June, 1917

As soon as Jacinta, Francisco and I had finished praying the Rosary, with a number of other people who were present, we saw once more the flash reflecting the light which was approaching. The next moment, Our Lady was there on the holmoak, exactly the same as in May.

"What do you want of me?" I asked.

"I wish you to come here on the 13th of next month, to pray the Rosary every day, and to learn to read. Later, I will tell you what I want."

I ask for the cure of a sick person.

"If he is converted, he will be cured during the year."

"I would like to ask you to take us to Heaven."

"Yes. I will take Jacinta and Francisco soon. But you are to stay here some time longer. Jesus wishes to make use of you to make me known and loved. He wants to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart."

"Am I to stay here alone?" I asked, sadly.

"No, my daughter. Are you suffering a great deal? Don't lose heart. I will never forsake you. My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and the way that will lead you to God."



DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

2110 Broadway • Sacramento, California 95818 • 916/733-0200 • Fax 916/733-0215

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

As Our Lady spoke these words, she opened her hands and for a second time, she communicated to us the rays of that same immense light. We saw ourselves in this light, as it were, immersed in God. Jacinta and Francisco seemed to be in that part of the light which rose towards Heaven, and I in that which was poured out on the earth. In front of the palm of Our Lady's right hand was a heart encircled by thorns which pierced it. We understood that this was the Immaculate Heart of Mary, outraged by the sins of humanity, and seeking reparation. Thus, concludes the second visit of Our Lady to the Shepherd Children of Fátima.

Let us, during the month of June, reflect on this second apparition of Our Lady. Throughout this "month of Solemnities," may we continue to pray the rosary daily for peace in this world and to pray that we will be open to the "immense light" which comes by way of the Holy Spirit; the indwelling of the Holy Trinity; and nourished by the Most Precious Body and Blood of Christ.

With the recent celebration of the feast of St. Mary Magdalene de Pazzi, let us reflect on her inspired words in regard to our three Solemnities: "Come Holy Spirit. Come! As you descended upon Mary, that the Word might become flesh, work in us through grace as you worked in her through nature and grace. Come! Food of every chaste thought, fountain of all mercy, sum of all purity. Come! Consume in us whatever prevents us from being consumed in you."

Our Lady of the Rosary of Fátima, pray for us.

St. Jacinta, pray for us.

St. Francisco, pray for us.