



THE APPARITIONS OF THE
ANGEL OF PEACE

FÁTIMA
1916



A Raízes de Fátima project on the apparitions of the Angel of
Peace in Fátima.

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Fátima, 1916

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and **Sister Ângela Coelho** for authorizing the use of **Sister**
Maria da Conceição's illustrations in this eBook.

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Índice

05	Onde tudo começou... Aljustrel
07	As famílias dos Pastorinhos
09	Quem eram os pastorinhos
17	A "Nuvenzinha Branca" com forma humana - 1915
19	As Aparições do Anjo da Paz em Fátima - 1916
21	Primeira Aparição – Loca do Cabeço
25	Segunda Aparição – Poço do Arneiro
27	Terceira Aparição – Loca do Cabeço
32	As aparições do Anjo – uma preparação silenciosa
35	Sobre as Pinturas ilustrativas
39	Referências Bibliográficas



FÁTIMA

POR MADALENA SCAFURO

- 1 BASÍLICA DE NOSSA SENHORA DO ROSÁRIO DE FÁTIMA
- 2 CAPELINHA DAS APARIÇÕES
- 3 BASÍLICA DA SANTÍSSIMA TRINDADE
- 4 VIA-SACRA NO CAMINHO DOS PASTORINHOS
- 5 VALEINHOS
- 6 LOCA DO CABEÇO

- 7 CASA DE SÃO FRANCISCO E SANTA JACINTA MARTO
- 8 CASA DA IRMÃ LÚCIA
- 9 POÇO DO ALTEJO
- 10 IGREJA PAROQUIAL
- 11 ESTAÇÃO DE AUTOCARROS

WHERE IT ALL BEGAN... ALJUSTREL

Aljustrel is the name of the small village in the Fátima region where the three Little Shepherds were born and raised — the same children who, in 1917, saw Our Lady.

The village was a simple place, marked by rural life, where everyone shared the same way of living and worked together as families, each member taking on different responsibilities according to their age.

The Little Shepherds, being the youngest in their families, were tasked with tending the sheep. They spent almost the entire day outdoors, leaving early in the morning and returning only at the end of the day. Because of this, they did not attend school — they were illiterate, like most of the Portuguese population at that time.

When the apparitions of Our Lady occurred, Aljustrel had fewer than 200 inhabitants. The only literate person was Lúcia's mother, who was also a catechist and taught the village children. It was a simple community, alive in faith, where the rosary was prayed every night as a family, and Sundays were sacred — dedicated to Mass and rest.

And it was here, in Aljustrel, that it all began — the place where the three Little Shepherds of Fátima embarked on a journey, and where the Angel of Peace prepared them for what would become the six apparitions of Our Lady in Fátima.

As Sister Lúcia herself described:

**“Almost the entire village
lived so united that it
seemed like one single
family.”**



Apelos da Mensagem de Fátima, pág. 39

THE FAMILIES OF THE LITTLE SHEPHERDS

António dos Santos and Maria Rosa had seven children, the youngest of whom was Lúcia.

Olímpia was a widow and already a mother of two when she married Manuel Marto. Together, they had seven more children, including Francisco and Jacinta.

“They were two families bound by the closest ties of kinship... These two families lived so united that the children felt at home both in their uncles' house and their own.”

(Apelos da mensagem de Fátima, p. 39)

Both families were Christian, poor, and hardworking.

“When Sister Lúcia spoke of her parents, she always did so with great reverence, highlighting the qualities she always admired.”

(Um caminho sob o olhar de Maria, p. 10)

These admirable parents, though lacking in worldly education, were extremely careful in preserving the innocence of their children.

In their homes, there was no wealth of material goods — so highly valued by the world — but with the little needed for each day, there was peace, unity, joy, and love. This was the fruit of mutual understanding, reciprocal forgiveness, and the pardon of shortcomings inherent to human weakness.

**“Thus, the little was
enough for many,
because when shared:
everything belonged to
everyone.”**



(Apelos da mensagem de Fátima, p. 41)

WHO WERE THE LITTLE SHEPHERDS





LÚCIA

Called to Proclaim

Born: March 28, 1907

Died: February 13, 2005 (aged 97)

Lúcia de Jesus was born into a humble but very devout family. She was the youngest of seven siblings and, from an early age, showed great sensitivity to the things of God. She helped with the work in the fields and carried a special joy in her heart.

Still a young girl, she loved to pray and lived with a simple yet profound faith. Remarkably, at the age of six, she had the joy of receiving her First Communion. But it was in 1917, when she was just 10 years old, that her life changed forever.

With the apparitions of Our Lady between May and October, Lúcia received the mission to “make known and loved” the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Despite her young age and the many difficulties, she never wavered.

After the apparitions and the death of her cousins Jacinta and Francisco, Lúcia spent many years away from the public eye. She left Fátima at the age of 14 to study as a Dorothean sister in Vilar, near Porto, and later in two Spanish cities — Tuy and Pontevedra. Yet in her heart, she longed to be a Carmelite. In 1948, she joined the Carmelite convent in Coimbra, where she spent the rest of her life in cloister, in deeper recollection and contemplation. She prayed, wrote, and offered her days for all of us.

She died at the age of 97, leaving behind a testimony that still profoundly touches us today.

Her process of beatification is currently underway. Lúcia’s life was, above all, a constant “yes” to God — she only wanted to do Heaven’s will.

She is remembered as a faithful bearer of the Message of Fátima, a silent soul in deep prayer, and a tireless guardian of the light entrusted to her.



FRANCISCO

Contemplative

Born: June 11, 1908

Died: April 4, 1919 (aged 10, victim of the Spanish flu)

Francisco Marto was Jacinta's brother and Lúcia's cousin. He had a calm and serene nature, loved the outdoors and animals, and was not very talkative — yet there was a distinct peace about him. His faith was simple but sincere, like that of pure-hearted children who trust without hesitation.

Interestingly, Francisco could see the Angel and Our Lady, but could not hear them. This silence left a deep mark on the young shepherd, who experienced the apparitions with great seriousness.

Despite being only 9 years old, he embraced a profound mission: to pray, offer sacrifices, and keep company with Hidden Jesus, often spending hours in silent adoration before the tabernacle.

He would often say that he wanted “to think about God, who is so sad because of sins.” His spiritual maturity was striking — the way he understood Christ’s suffering and longed, in his own way, to bring consolation.

Not long after the apparitions, Francisco died of the Spanish flu. He departed this life with a serene peace and a smile on his face, as if the mission entrusted to him had been fulfilled.

Canonized in 2017, Saint Francisco Marto is remembered today as a shining light of quiet faith, gentle courage, and deep love for God.



JACINTA

Compassion

Born: March 5, 1910

Died: February 20, 1920 (aged 9, victim of the Spanish flu)

Jacinta Marto was Francisco's younger sister — a cheerful, lively girl, full of energy and tenderness. She had a sensitive heart, easily moved by emotion, and loved to dance, sing, and play with the other shepherd children.

Despite her young age — only 7 years old during the apparitions of Our Lady — Jacinta completely transformed her life by allowing the love of God to dwell in her heart.

In the 1917 apparitions, she both saw and heard Our Lady, and each encounter left a deep mark on her soul. She was especially moved by the vision of hell, which led her to offer many sacrifices for the souls of poor sinners.

Jacinta had a deep love for the Pope, for the souls in purgatory, and for people who did not know God. She prayed for them with touching faith. Often, she would refuse food or stop playing in order to offer up her pain.

What moved her most was knowing that Our Lady was sad — and she did everything she could to console the Heart of Mary.

She died alone in a hospital in Lisbon, just as Our Lady had told her she would. Though she suffered greatly, she did so with sweetness and trust, offering her suffering for the conversion of poor sinners.

Canonized in 2017, Saint Jacinta Marto is remembered today as a pure example of love, sacrifice, and total surrender to God.





THE “LITTLE WHITE CLOUD” WITH A HUMAN FORM – 1915

According to Sister Lúcia's testimony, there is a little-known event, rarely associated with the Apparitions of Fátima — a mystical experience that took place in 1915, prior to the three apparitions of the Angel in 1916.

Lúcia was tending her flock in the company of three friends (before she began shepherding with Jacinta and Francisco) when a figure descended from the sky over the treetops in the valley at Monte do Cabeço. There were no words or gestures — only a mysterious and silent presence.

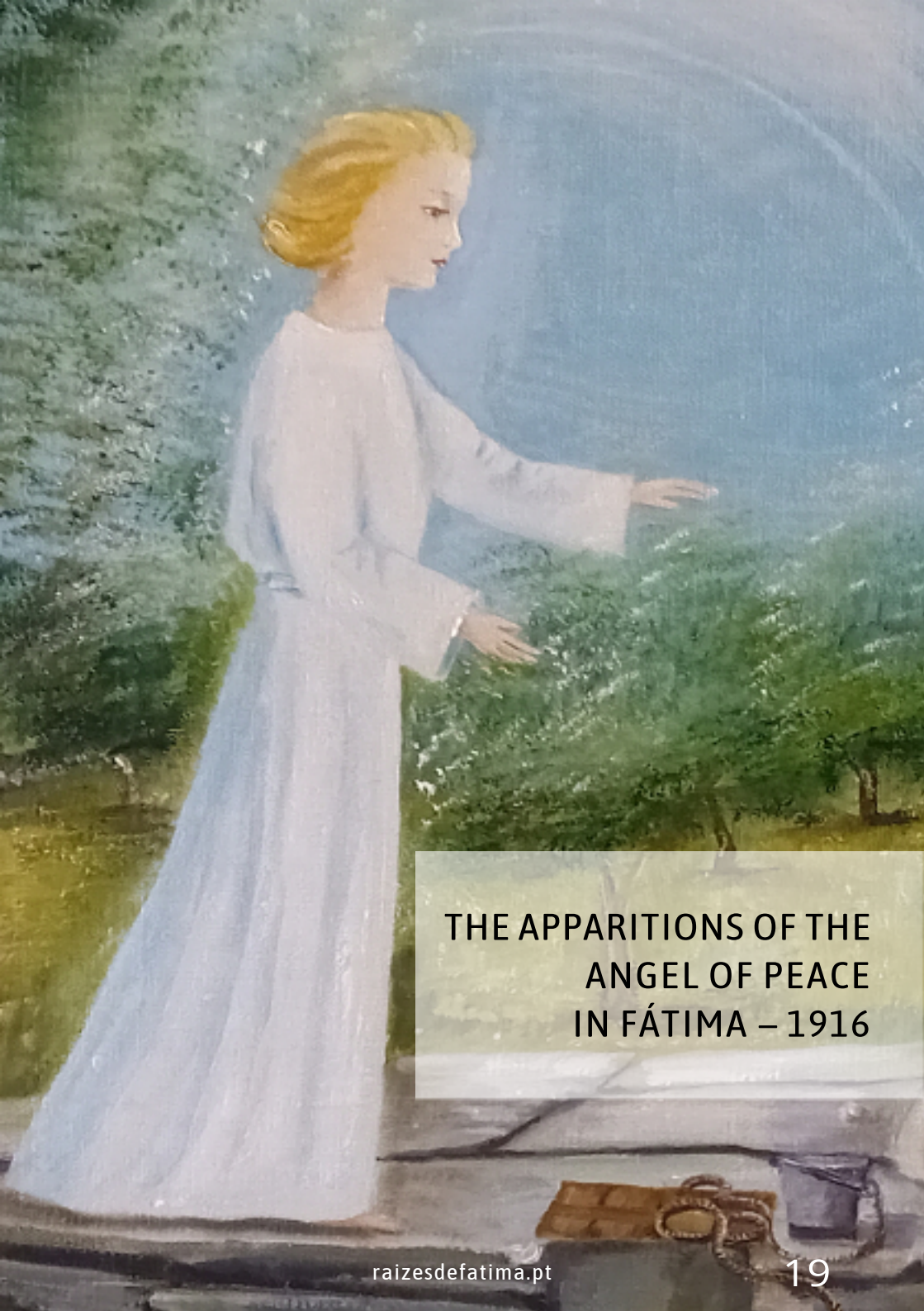
“While we were on the slope of the place called Monte do Cabeço, we saw what seemed to be a little white cloud in human form, coming down from the sky and slowly passing before us, above the treetops that stretched across the valley below, as if trying to draw our attention and captivate our gaze... I have been asked many questions about this apparition, which occurred several times and in different places.”

(Apelos da Mensagem de Fátima, p. 52)

Sister Lúcia recounts that, at the time, she couldn't explain what it was and chose not to tell her parents or most people, keeping silent and only confirming the event when directly questioned.

“Perhaps in this way, without speaking, he wished to make his presence felt and thus prepare souls for the fulfillment of God's designs.”

(Memórias da Irmã Lúcia, 2007, p. 52)



THE APPARITIONS OF THE
ANGEL OF PEACE
IN FÁTIMA – 1916

When Lúcia became responsible for her family's flock, her cousins Francisco and Jacinta — still too young for such work — stayed at home and deeply missed her during the day. They constantly begged their mother to let them care for their own sheep as well.

Perhaps to give them some peace, and despite their young age, their mother eventually entrusted them with the care of a small flock.

"We would decide together where to pasture that day, and off we went, so happy and joyful, as if we were heading to a celebration."

Memórias da Irmã Lúcia, pag 43

Together, the three little shepherds — Lúcia, Francisco, and Jacinta — spent their days tending their flocks, when an angel appeared to them three times between the spring and autumn of 1916.

These supernatural encounters transformed their lives and prepared their hearts to embrace the mission that God would entrust to them.

When asked about the dates of these events, **Sister Lúcia explained that she and her cousins were illiterate and had no clear sense of dates, days, or months. For that reason, the memories of the Angel's apparitions were marked by the seasons of the year and by the natural circumstances surrounding them.**



FIRST APPARITION LOCA DO CABEÇO

Spring of 1916

The first apparition of the Angel to Lúcia, Francisco, and Jacinta took place at Loca do Cabeço, a secluded spot in the hills near Aljustrel.

During a moment of play, after praying a shortened version of the Rosary, the three seers saw a luminous figure approaching.

Sister Lúcia (2007, pp. 77-78) recounts that as the figure drew nearer, they could begin to make out its features: a youth of about 14 or 15 years old, whiter than snow, made transparent by the sunlight as if he were made of crystal, and of great beauty. Upon reaching them, he said:

“Do not be afraid! I am the Angel of Peace. Pray with me.”

And kneeling on the ground, he bowed his forehead to the earth. Moved by a supernatural impulse, we imitated him and repeated the words we heard him say:

“My God, I believe, I adore, I hope, and I love You. I ask pardon for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope, and do not love You.”

After repeating this three times, he rose and said:

“Pray like this. The Hearts of Jesus and Mary are attentive to the voice of your supplications.”

Memórias da Irmã Lúcia pp. 77-78

Sister Lúcia describes that the Angel's words were engraved so deeply in the minds of the little shepherds that they never forgot them.

The presence of God was felt so intensely and intimately that we did not even dare to speak to one another. The following day, we still felt enveloped by that atmosphere, which only faded away very slowly.

(Memórias da Irmã Lúcia. 2007, p. 169)

And from that moment on, they spent long periods in prayer, repeating the Angel's words — “sometimes until they fell from exhaustion.”



FIRST PRAYER TAUGHT BY THE ANGEL

My God,
I believe, I adore, I hope,
and I love You.

I ask pardon
for those who do not
believe, do not adore, do not
hope, and do not love You.

(Repeat three times)



SECOND APPARITION POÇO DO ARNEIRO

Summer of 1916

The Little Shepherds were playing near the Arneiro well, in the backyard of Lúcia's family home, when the Angel appeared.

Sister Lúcia (2007, p. 170) recounts that she and her cousins were playing near the Arneiro well, at her home, when suddenly the Angel appeared and said:

“What are you doing? Pray! Pray very much! The Hearts of Jesus and Mary have merciful designs for you. Offer prayers and sacrifices constantly to the Most High.”

“How are we to make sacrifices?” I asked.

“Make of everything you can a sacrifice, and offer it to God as an act of reparation for the sins by which He is offended, and as a supplication for the conversion of sinners. In this way, you will bring peace to your country. I am the Angel of your Guardian Angel, the Angel of Portugal. Above all, accept and bear with submission the suffering which the Lord will send you.”

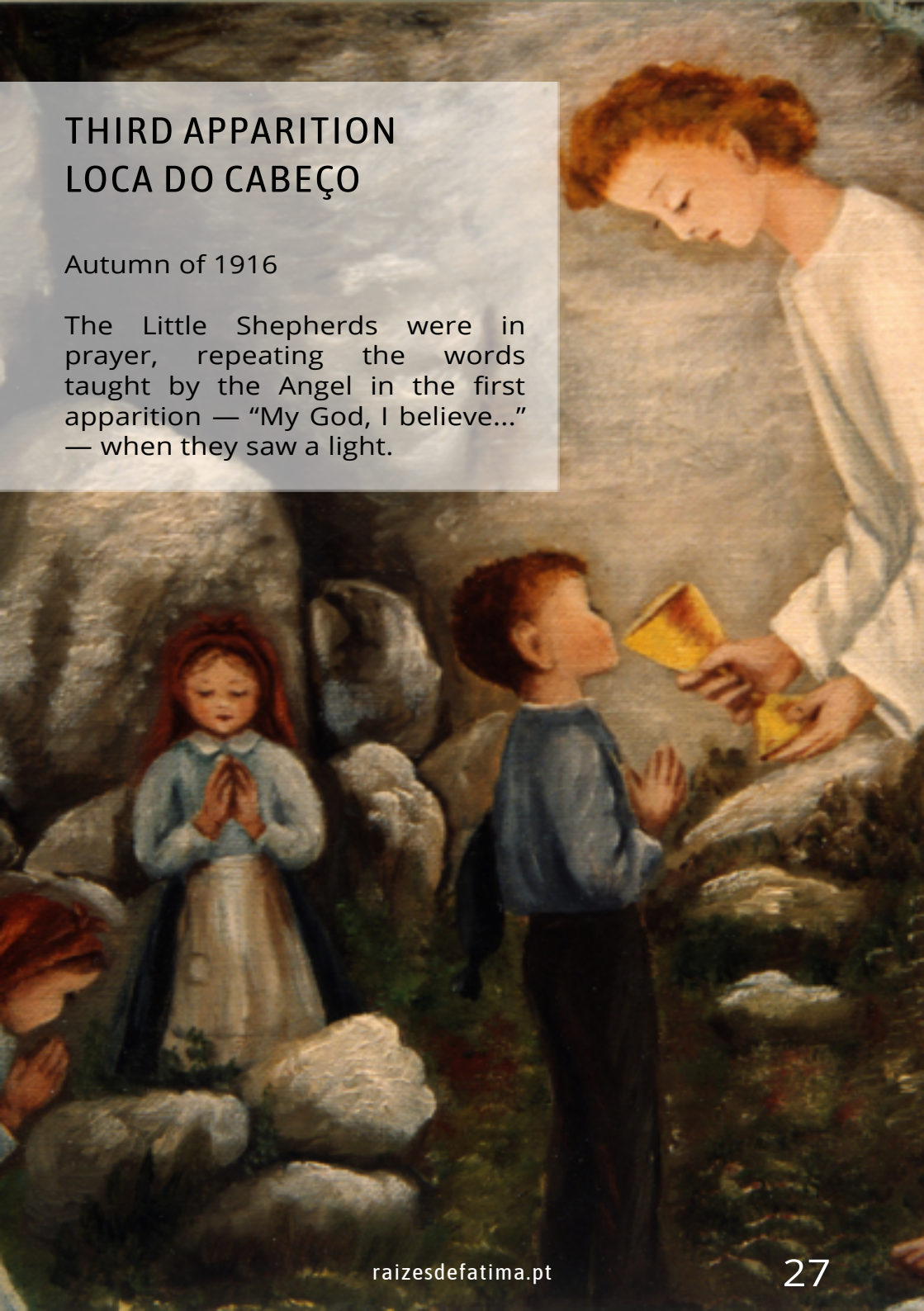
Memórias da Irmã Lúcia, p- 170

This teaching about the redemptive value of sacrifice deeply impacted the little shepherds, who began offering their difficulties in a spirit of reparation.

THIRD APPARITION LOCA DO CABEÇO

Autumn of 1916

The Little Shepherds were in prayer, repeating the words taught by the Angel in the first apparition — “My God, I believe...” — when they saw a light.



Sister Lúcia (2007, p. 107) recounts:

"[...] we saw the Angel holding a chalice in his hand, and above it a Host, from which a few drops of blood were falling into the chalice. Leaving the chalice and the Host suspended in the air, he prostrated himself on the ground and repeated three times the prayer:

Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I adore You profoundly, and I offer You the Most Precious Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges, and indifference by which He is offended. And through the infinite merits of His Most Sacred Heart and of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg You for the conversion of poor sinners."



Then, rising, he took the chalice and the Host once more. He gave the Host to me, and what was in the chalice he gave to Jacinta and Francisco to drink, saying at the same time:

“Take and drink the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, terribly outraged by ungrateful men. Make reparation for their crimes and console your God.”



Once again, he prostrated himself on the ground and repeated the same prayer with us three more times.

Sister Lúcia (2007, p. 171) wrote in her memoirs:

“Carried by the force of the supernatural that enveloped us, we imitated the Angel in everything — that is, we prostrated ourselves as he did and repeated the prayers he said. The strength of God’s presence was so intense that it nearly completely absorbed and overwhelmed us (...) The peace and happiness we felt were immense, but purely inward, with the soul entirely concentrated on God.”



SECOND PRAYER TAUGHT BY THE ANGEL

Most Holy Trinity,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
I adore You profoundly,
and I offer You the Most Precious Body,
Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ,
present in all the tabernacles
of the world,
in reparation for the outrages,
sacrileges, and indifference
by which He Himself is offended.
And through the infinite merits
of His Most Sacred Heart and the
Immaculate Heart of Mary,
I beg You for the conversion of poor
sinners.

(Repeat three times)



THE ANGEL'S APPARITIONS A SILENT PREPARATION

The apparitions of the Angel of Peace were a sublime touch of God upon the hearts of the Little Shepherds — so serene and profound that it transformed the hearts of those children. Amid the silence of the hills of Fátima and the simplicity of rural life, they learned to pray, to offer sacrifices with love, and to trust fully in God.



Everything happened with gentleness and depth, as only Heaven knows how to do — without haste, yet with an eternal purpose.

Each apparition was a sure step: first, faith — a living faith, made of adoration, trust, and silence. “My God, I believe,” the Angel taught. Then came surrender: to humbly accept everything God allows — even suffering — and to offer it with love. Sacrifices, even the smallest ones, became intimate secrets between the soul and God. Pain, transformed into prayer, became a sign of spiritual maturity.

The Angel then led them to the heart of the Eucharistic mystery. With gestures of reverence that spoke more than a thousand words, he showed them that in the silence of the consecrated Host dwells the One who awaits our love — “Hidden Jesus.” Before the suspended chalice and Host, the Little Shepherds received Communion with reverence and open hearts, as those who draw near to an infinite mystery with small hands and hearts full of Heaven.

They also learned to turn with reverence toward the mystery of the Holy Trinity — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — the source of all love. The prayer taught by the Angel opened their spiritual eyes: adoration was more than prayer; to adore was to participate in an eternal, full, and living love.

But this adoration also healed — it was reparation. A consolation offered to God for so many who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope, and do not love. In praying, they offered themselves on behalf of the absent, loving where love had been forgotten. For them, reparation became a deeper way of loving.

This is how the great commandment was engraved in the hearts of the Little Shepherds — not as a lesson learned, but as a truth lived: to love God above all things, with all their heart, all their soul, all their strength... and to love their neighbor with a tenderness that knows how to go beyond itself, that welcomes, understands, and bows with humility before another's pain and dignity.

With each act of reparation, with every sacrifice offered, their awareness grew: true love gives itself, pours itself out, forgets itself — and little by little, their hearts were being converted, shaped by grace, and conformed to the love of God.

In Fátima, this was Heaven's preparation: to form hearts capable of loving as Jesus loves.

Even today, the Angel continues to teach us what is essential — if we are willing to listen... if we have the courage to live the invitation to adore in truth, to make reparation with love, and to love with all our heart.





ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATIVE PAINTINGS

Sister Maria da Conceição

In 1980, Sister Maria da Conceição painted the apparitions of Our Lady of Fátima and the apparitions of the Angel, based on guidance from Sister Lúcia, the Little Shepherd of Fátima, who was with her at the Carmel of Fátima. This close connection with Sister Lúcia helped ensure that the paintings were as faithful as possible to what had truly happened.

The works were commissioned by Father Kondor, Vice-Postulator of the Cause for the Canonization of the Little Shepherds.

Name of Sister Maria da Conceição: Maria Isabel Guerra

Born: March 11, 1914

Died: November 29, 2003



THE APPARITIONS OF
OUR LADY OF
FATIMA

May 13



The story of the Apparitions continues...

It is an eternal invitation to faith, hope, and love. Visit our website and discover transformative content, unique experiences, **and the opportunity to let the message of Fátima live in your heart, wherever you may be.**

Download the eBook “The Apparitions of Our Lady.”
<https://raizesdefatima.pt/free-ebooks/>



Raízes de Fátima

Amid the silent hills of the Serra d'Aire, Fátima is more than just a destination. It is a call to faith, an invitation to conversion, a maternal embrace from Mary to the world. It was here, on this blessed ground, that the Most Holy Virgin chose to reveal herself to three humble little shepherds, bringing a message of hope, reparation, prayer, and surrender.

Inspired by the desire to keep this sacred flame alive, Raízes de Fátima was born — a project dedicated to sharing the essence and depth of this divine love story. We are instruments of this greater mission, bringing to hearts the beauty of faith and the testimony of the holy Little Shepherds.

We welcome pilgrims with unique and special guided visits — both at the Sanctuary and in Aljustrel, the village of the Little Shepherds — where each moment becomes an experience of connection, reflection, and grace. These are always deeply moving times for us, touched by the emotion that overflows from the pilgrims.

But what about those who cannot travel to Fátima? We bring Fátima to you! Through online content, we break down barriers and spread this living flame, so that the message of the Most Holy Virgin may reach every soul, wherever they are.

With a dimension and intensity capable of transforming lives, the message of the “Lady brighter than the sun” will surely touch your heart.

Let yourself be embraced by this light, and come experience our transformative journeys!



Eliana Oliveira

www.elianaoliveira.pt



With a well-established career in the business world in Portugal for over two decades, Eliana Oliveira now embraces a mission close to her heart: to keep alive the essence of the Apparitions of Fátima, rescuing their traditions, simplicity, and the deep spiritual meaning they hold.

Her life story is deeply connected to Our Lady of Fátima and the Holy Little Shepherds. The daughter of Portuguese parents who emigrated to Brazil, she carries in her blood and soul the legacy of Fátima. Surrounded by stories of faith that marked her family across generations, she was shaped by this sacred heritage. Her maternal grandfather was a cousin of Jacinta and Francisco Marto, and her paternal great-grandmother was among the faithful who witnessed the Miracle of the Sun. Growing up hearing these stories awakened in her a profound sense of wonder and commitment to this sacred history.

Guided by the strength of a calling she felt in her heart in 2017 — the centenary of the apparitions — Raízes de Fátima was born as her life's great project. In truth, it is more than just a project; it is a mission: to let Fátima transform your life!



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