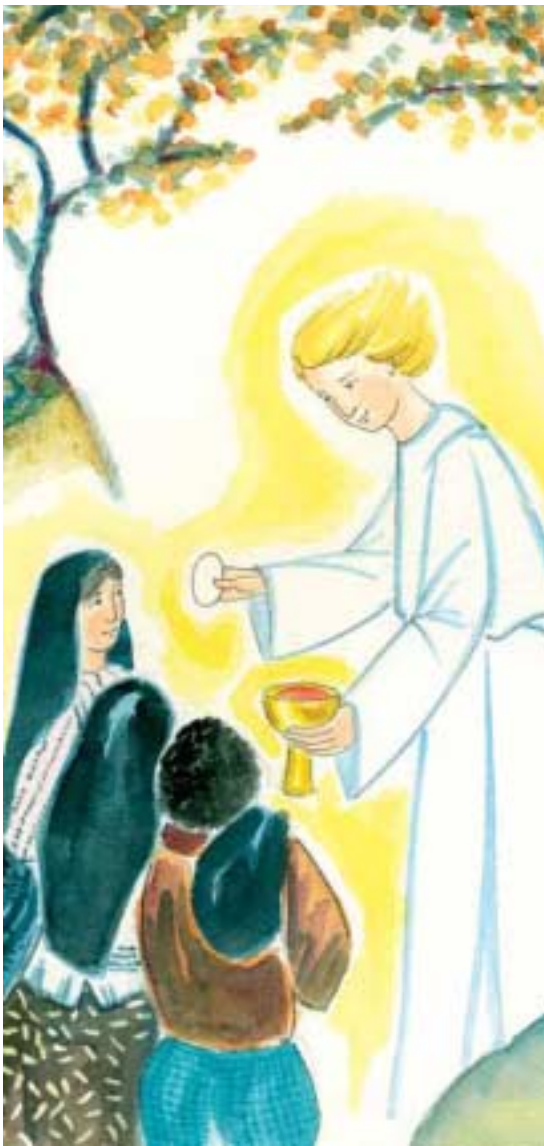


PORTUGAL, 1916

The Angel of Peace, Fatima

The Angel of Peace appeared three times to the little shepherds of Fatima to prepare them for the future apparitions of the Virgin Mary and to lift them up with Holy Communion to the supernatural state. During the third apparition, the Angel gave Holy Communion to Lucia with a Host from which fell some drops of the Precious Blood which were gathered in the chalice. Francisco and Jacinta, who had not yet made their First Communion, were instead given the contents of the chalice in its place. In this apparition the Angel said to them: “Take and drink the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, which has suffered such horrible outrages from ungrateful men. Make reparation for their crimes and so give consolation to your God.”

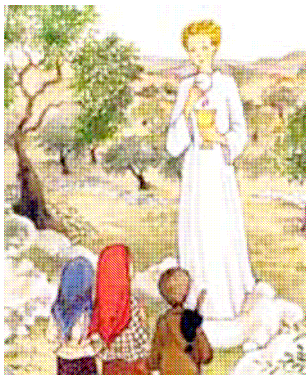




First Apparition of the Angel

“We began to see, at a certain distance, a light that was whiter than snow, more resplendent than a crystal penetrated by the rays of the sun...As it drew closer we came to distinguish its traits: a young man who looked about 14 or 15 years old, of great beauty. We were surprised and in rapture. We did not say a word. As the angel drew near to us, he said: ‘Be not afraid. I am the Angel of Peace. Pray together with me.’ And

kneeling down the earth, he bowed his forehead to the ground. Moved by a supernatural power, we imitated him and repeated the words which we heard him pronounce: ‘My God! I believe, I adore, I hope, and I love Thee. I ask pardon for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope, and do not love Thee. Pray in this way. The Hearts of Jesus and Mary are attentive to the voice of your supplications.’ And then he disappeared. The supernatural atmosphere which surrounded us was so intense that for a long period of time, we were unaware of our very existence.”



Second Apparition of the Angel

“The Angel said to us: ‘What are you doing? Pray! Pray very much! The Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary have designs of mercy for you. Offer prayers and sacrifices constantly to the Most High.’ ‘How should we make these sacrifices?’ I asked. ‘In every way possible, offer to God a sacrifice as an act of reparation for the sins by which He is offended, and pray for the conversion of sinners. In this way, you will bring peace to your homeland. I am its guardian Angel, the Angel of Portugal. Above all, accept and endure with submission the suffering which the Lord will send you.’ And then the angel disappeared... These words of the Angel were inscribed in our soul, like a light which made us comprehend who God was: how He loved us and wished to be loved; the value of sacrifice, and how it was pleasing to Him; how, because of this, He converted sinners.”



Third Apparition of the Angel

“We saw the Angel with a chalice in his left hand and a Host suspended above it, from which some drops of the Precious Blood fell. Leaving the chalice and the Host suspended in the air, the Angel prostrated himself to the ground and repeated three times the prayer: ‘Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I adore Thee profoundly; I offer Thee 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. Through the infinite merits of His Most Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg the conversion of poor sinners.’ Then, getting up, he took again into his hand the chalice and the Host; he gave the Host to me and gave the contents of the chalice to Jacinta and Francisco to drink, saying at the same time: ‘Take and drink the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, which has suffered such horrible outrages from ungrateful men. Make reparation for their offenses and bring consolation to your God’...and then the Angel disappeared.”



(1) “Francisco, who did not hear the Angel speak, nor would he hear the Virgin speak later, asked Lucia: ‘The Angel gave you Holy Communion, but what did he give to me and Jacinta?’ ‘It was also Holy Communion,’ Jacinta responded with ineffable joy. ‘Did you not see the blood dripping from the Host?’ ‘I felt that God was within me, but I did not know how it would be!’, Francisco responded. And lying prostrate on the ground, he remained there for a long time with his sister, repeating the Angel’s prayer: ‘Most Holy Trinity, etc.’ Among all the apparitions with which Heaven favored him, this was the one which surely had the greatest impact on the good soul of Francisco. The words of the Angel asking him to give comfort to God, saddened because of so many outrages and sins, struck his sensitive heart deeply. From then on, his goal was to give comfort to the Lord. Whereas Jacinta became the apostle on behalf of sinners, Francisco wished to be the comforter of Jesus.”



(4) On October 13, 1917, the pilgrims who gathered (70,000) saw the rain suddenly stop, the clouds split apart, and the disc of the sun appear as a silvery moon which spun over and over upon itself, like a wheel of fire, dispersing in all directions bands of light of every color, which brilliantly lit up the clouds of the sky, the trees, the rocks, and the land, bouncing off

and dazzling the immense crowd. After a few still moments, a dance of light began once again, like a dazzling and splendid windmill of fire. Once more there was a brief interval, and then, for the third time, an explosion of fire, more varied, multi-colored, and brilliant than ever. The crowd had the impression that the sun had detached itself from the firmament and had thrown itself headlong in their direction; and this is why the whole crowd raised a shout in unison: “A miracle, a miracle!” When everything ended, even the clothes which a little earlier had been drenched in water were perfectly dried.



(4) Blessed Jacinta Marto told how the Blessed Virgin told her in one of the apparitions: “Pray, pray much and make sacrifices for sinners. Take note of how many, many souls go to hell because there is no one to pray and make sacrifices for them...” And she continued: “The sins which bring the most souls to Hell are sins of the flesh. Certain fashions will arise which give much offense to Jesus. Those who serve God should not follow the latest fashion. The Church does not change with the times. Jesus is always the same. The sins of the world are very great. If people understood what Eternity is, they would do everything to change their life. Souls are lost because they do not think of the death of Jesus and do not do penance.”