

THE ANGEL OF PEACE

PORTUGAL, 1916

The angel appeared three times to the shepherds of Fatima in order to prepare them for future apparitions of Our Lady and elevate them to a supernatural state with Holy Communion. During the third apparition the angel gave Lucy Holy Communion with a Host from which drops of Blood fell into the chalice. Francesco and Jacinta, not having yet made their First Holy Communion, were given the contents of the chalice. In this apparition the angel told them: "Eat and drink the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, terribly outraged by the ingratitude of men. Offer reparation for their sakes and console your God".



When Lucy asked Our Lady if she would take them to Heaven the Virgin replied, "Yes, I will soon take Jacinta and Francesco, but you will stay here for quite a while. Jesus wants you to serve Him by making me known and loved. He wants to establish in the world a devotion to my Immaculate Heart. I promise salvation to all the devotees. These souls will be dearest to God, and like flowers they will be placed by me before His throne".



The angel that appeared to the three shepherds in Fatima in 1916 held in his left hand a chalice, and over it in the air, was a Host from which drops of Blood fell into the chalice.



Blessed Jacinta Marto related what Our Lady said during one of the apparitions: "Pray, pray constantly and make sacrifices for sinners. Take note, many souls will go to Hell because you did not pray and make sacrifices for them..." In addition, "The sins that take most souls to Hell are the sins of the flesh. Certain fashions will come that will offend Jesus very much. The people that serve God need not follow the trends. The Church has no trends; Jesus is always the same. The sins of the world are very great. If men only knew what eternity is, they would do everything in their power to change their lives. Man loses his way because he does not think of Jesus' death and does not repent" (cf. CCC 1035).



Francesco, who did not hear the angel speak, nor did he hear Mary speak later, asked Lucy: "The angel gave you Holy Communion, but to Jacinta and me what did he give?" "It was indeed Holy Communion," replied Jacinta with unspeakable happiness. "Did you not see the Blood falling from the Host?" "I felt God in me, but I did not know what it was!" replied Francesco. And kneeling on the ground, he stayed a long time with his sister, repeating the prayer of the angel: "Holy Trinity etc.". Among all of the apparitions kindly sent from Heaven, this was certainly the one that most influenced the good soul of Francesco. The words of the angel asking for solace for God, saddened by abuses and sins, deeply touched his sensitive heart. From that point, his ideal was to console Our Lord. While Jacinta became the *apostle for sinners*, Francesco wanted to be the *consoler of Christ*.

First Apparition of the Angel

"We began to see, in the distance, a light whiter than snow in the form of a young man, quite transparent, and as brilliant as crystal in the rays of the sun. As he came near we were able to see his features: a young man about 14 or 15 years old and very beautiful. We were surprised and quite taken aback. We did not say a word. He reached us and said: 'Do not be afraid. I am the angel of peace. Pray with me.' He knelt, bending his forehead to the ground. With a supernatural impulse we did the same, repeating 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. Pray in this way. The hearts of Jesus and Mary are attentive to your prayers.' And he disappeared. The supernatural atmosphere that he left us in was so intense we were for a long time unaware of our own existence..."

Second Apparition of the Angel

"The angel said to us: 'What are you doing? You must pray! Pray a lot! The hearts of Jesus and Mary have merciful designs for you. You must constantly offer your prayers and sacrifices to God, the Most High.' 'How are we to sacrifice?' I asked. 'In every possible way offer sacrifice to God in reparation for the sins by which He is offended, and in supplication for the conversion

of sinners. In this way you will bring peace to your country. I am the Guardian Angel of Portugal. Above all, bear and accept with submission the sufferings God will send you.' And he disappeared... These words of the angel cut into our spirits like a light, making us understand who God is, how He loves us, and how He wants us to love Him; the value of sacrifice and how it pleases Him; how He receives it for the conversion of sinners."