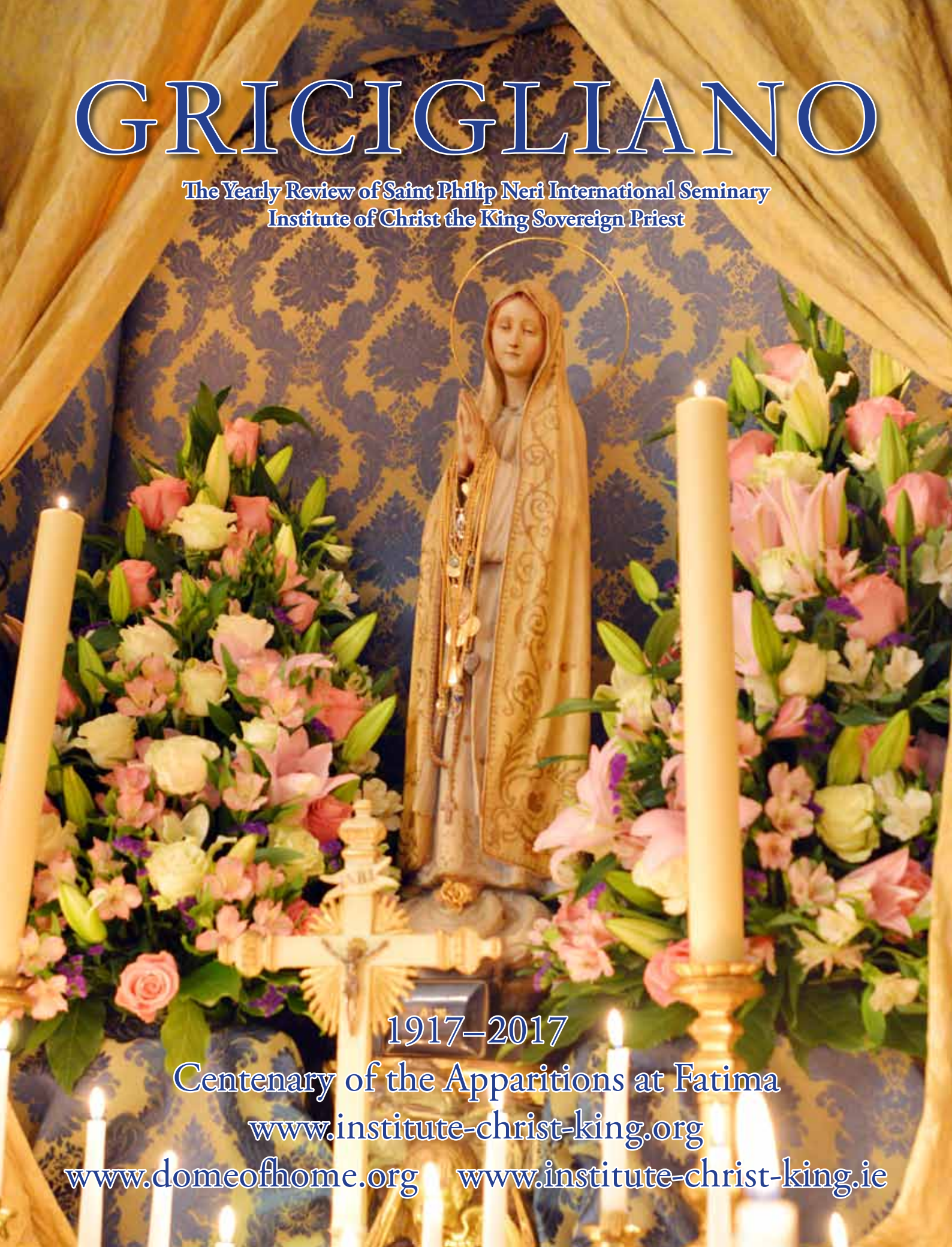


GRICIGLIANO

The Yearly Review of Saint Philip Neri International Seminary
Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest



1917–2017

Centenary of the Apparitions at Fatima

www.institute-christ-king.org

www.domeofhome.org

www.institute-christ-king.ie

Dear friends,

It has already been 100 years since the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to three little Portuguese shepherds. Three fervent souls, raised in a Christian milieu that resisted the growing secularism of 1917 Portugal. The entire message of Fatima is diametrically opposed to the spirit of the so-called Modern Age, which is in fact fundamentally anti-Christian. The very virtues that Fatima celebrates are those most needed in the struggle against the vices of our age: obedience against self-aggrandisement under the cover of liberty, prayer against obsessive activism and penance against unbridled sensuality.

For these reasons and because of the secret, this message provoked heated discussions and controversies during the second half of the twentieth century. Therefore, the message that we attempt to present to you clearly in the pages that follow, is it outdated, does it belong to the past?

On the contrary, nothing could be more pertinent to our world than the consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Divine Providence has chosen this consecration to bring about the conversion of hearts and societies in our age.

Each of us can contribute to the final victory of the Immaculate Heart promised by Our Lady, by consecrating oneself to her and by spreading this devotion. May these few pages help you to learn more about the message of Fatima and enliven it in your hearts!

Happy reading,
Canon Philippe Mora
Rector of the Seminary.



“YOU MUST PRAY! PRAY! THE HEARTS OF JESUS AND MARY HAVE MERCIFUL DESIGNS FOR YOU. YOU MUST OFFER YOUR PRAYERS AND SACRIFICES TO GOD, THE MOST HIGH.”

The Angel to the children, summer 1916.

CONTENTS

Editorial <i>by Canon Philippe Mora</i>	2
The Message of Fatima	4
Apparitions to Sister Lucia	8
The Fatima Seers: Jacinta and Francisco.	10
The Fatima Seers: Lucia	12
Prayer and Penance	16
The Devotion of the Five First Saturdays.	20
From Paray-le-Monial to Fatima	22
The Secret of Fatima	24
Our Lady of Fatima at Gricigliano.	27
Afterword <i>by Monsignor Gilles Wach</i>	29

SHORT DAILY CONSECRATION TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

composed by Sister Lucia

PROSTRATED BEFORE THINE IMMACULATE HEART, O most holy Virgin, I place, confide, and consecrate today and for ever my poor heart with all its affections, pains, and sufferings, my soul, all that I am and all that I have.

Preserve me in thine Immaculate Heart as thine own possession. Place my poor soul under thy maternal protection so that it may remain pure and arrive at eternal salvation. Assist me to accomplish with fidelity and love all my duties of state. Accord me the grace to pray and to sacrifice myself for love of Jesus, in order to convert sinners and to make reparation for the sins committed against thine Immaculate Heart. May thy Heart be my refuge and the path which will lead me to God.



THE MESSAGE OF FATIMA (1915–1917)

THE APPARITIONS OF THE ANGEL

Between April and October 1915

The angel appeared three times to Lucia but without saying anything. These three apparitions can be considered as preparatory to the apparitions the following year.

Spring 1916

“Do not fear! I am the Angel of Peace. Pray with me:

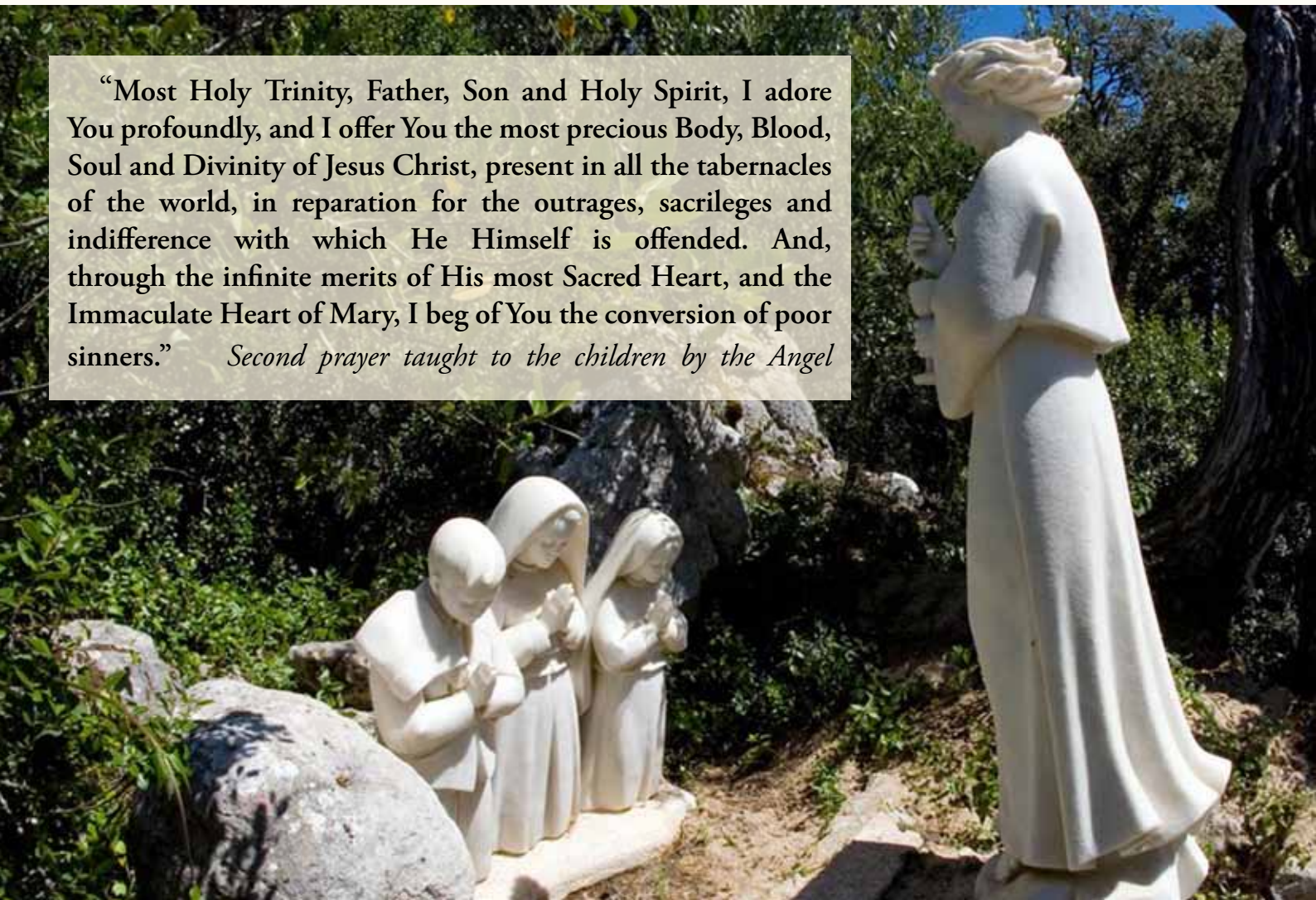
“My God, I believe in Thee, I adore Thee, I hope in Thee and I love Thee. I ask pardon for all those who do not believe in Thee, do not adore Thee, do not hope in Thee and do not love Thee.’

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

Summer 1916

“What are you doing?” he asked. “Pray, pray a great deal! The Holy Hearts of Jesus and Mary have designs of mercy on you. Offer unceasingly prayers and sacrifices to the Most High.

“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 with which He Himself is offended. And, through the infinite merits of His most Sacred Heart, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg of You the conversion of poor sinners.” *Second prayer taught to the children by the Angel*



“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 in supplication for the conversion of sinners. In this way, you will draw peace upon your country. I am its Guardian Angel, the Angel of Portugal. Above all, accept and bear with submission the sufferings which the Lord will send you.”

“ABOVE ALL, ACCEPT AND BEAR WITH SUBMISSION THE SUFFERINGS WHICH THE LORD WILL SEND YOU.”

Autumn 1916

The angel taught the children the prayer “Most Holy Trinity” for the conversion of sinners.

The apparitions of the angel were intended to prepare the children for the apparitions of Our Lady and her requests. The angel asked, from the first apparition, for the faithful to take the place of those hostile to God, so that they may be led to say:

“My God, I beg you, by my prayers and sacrifices, for those who do not believe in You, do not love You, do not adore You and do not hope in You, to do what is necessary for their conversion.”

THE APPARITIONS OF OUR LADY

During all the apparitions, the three children saw the Blessed Virgin, but Francis could not hear her and only Lucia spoke.

First Apparition (13th May 1917)

The first conversation between Our Lady and Lucia:

“Please don’t be afraid of me, I’m not going to harm you.”

“Where are you from?”

“I am from heaven.”

“And what do you want of me?”

“I want you to return here on the thirteenth of each month for the next six months, and at the very same hour. Later I shall tell you who I am, and what it is that I most desire. And I shall return here yet a seventh time.”

“Can you tell me whether the war will still last a long time, or if it will soon end?”

“I cannot tell you yet, as I have not yet told you what I want.”

“And shall I go to heaven?”

“Yes, you will.”

“And Jacinta?”

“She will go too.”

“And Francisco?”

“Francisco, too, my dear, but he will first have many Rosaries to say.”



Monument constructed at Valinhos where the fourth apparition of Our Lady took place on 19th August 1917.

Asked by Lucia, Our Lady informed her that among her friends who passed away, Maria Neves (who was sixteen years old) was in heaven whereas Amelia (who was between eighteen and twenty years old) would be in purgatory until the end of the world.

“Will you offer yourselves to God, and bear all the sufferings He sends you? In atonement for all the sins that offend Him? And for the conversion of sinners?”

“Oh, we will, we will!”

“Then you will have a great deal to suffer, but the grace of God will be with you and will strengthen you... Say the Rosary every day, to bring peace to the world and an end to the war.”

Second Apparition (13th June 1917)

“I wish you to come here on the thirteenth of next month, to pray the Rosary every day, and to learn to read. Later, I will tell you what I want. Jesus wishes to make use of you [Lucia] to make me known and loved. He wants to establish in the world devotion to My Immaculate Heart. To whoever embraces this devotion, I promise salvation; those souls will be cherished by God, as flowers placed by Me to adorn His throne. 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.”

During the course of this apparition, Lucia asked to be brought to heaven. The Blessed Virgin announced that Jacinta and Francisco will soon be taken to heaven, but Lucia must stay for some time on earth to establish and spread the devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Third Apparition (13th July 1917)

“I want you to come back here on the thirteenth of next month, to continue to pray the Rosary every day in honour of Our Lady of the Rosary, in order to obtain peace for the world and the end of the war, because only she can help you.

“Continue to come here every month. In October, I will tell you who I am and what I want, and I will perform a miracle for all to see and believe.

“Sacrifice yourselves for sinners, and say many times, especially whenever you make some sacrifice: ‘O Jesus, it is for love of You, for the conversion of sinners, and in reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.’”

The children then saw a vision of hell and the Blessed Virgin revealed the secret to them.

Fourth Apparition (19th August 1917) at Valinhos

“I want you to continue going to the Cova da Iria on the 13th, and to continue praying the Rosary every day. In the last month, I will perform a miracle so that all may believe.” This delay and change of location was due to the children’s imprisonment on 13th August.

Our Lady elaborated that for the miracle of October, Saint Joseph will be present with the Infant Jesus, as well as Our Lady of the Rosary and Our Lady of Dolours.

Fifth Apparition (13th September 1917)

“Continue to pray the Rosary in order to obtain the end of the war. In October Our Lord will come, as well as Our Lady of Dolours and Our Lady of Carmel. Saint Joseph will appear with the Child Jesus to bless the world. God is pleased with your sacrifices. He does not want you to sleep with the rope on, but only to wear it during the daytime.”

Sixth Apparition (13th October 1917)

“I want to tell you that a chapel is to be built here in my honour. I am the Lady of the Rosary. Continue always to pray the Rosary every day. The war is going to end, and the soldiers will soon return to their homes.”

The vision of Our Lady, Saint Joseph and the Infant Jesus as well as the miracle of the sun took place during this apparition.



Page of a Portuguese newspaper describing the “miracle of the sun” which took place at Fatima on 13th October 1917 in the presence of 70,000 people.

THE APPARITIONS TO SISTER LUCIA (1925–1931)

THE APPARITIONS AT PONTEVEDRA

Apparition of the Infant Jesus and the Most Holy Virgin (10th December 1925)

The Infant Jesus: “Have compassion on the Heart of your most holy Mother, covered with thorns, with which ungrateful men pierce it at every moment, and there is no one to make an act of reparation to remove them.”

The most Holy Virgin: “Look, my daughter, at my Heart, surrounded with thorns with which ungrateful men pierce me every moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude. You, at least, try to console me and say that I promise to assist at the hour of death, with the graces necessary for salvation, all those who, on the first Saturday of five consecutive months, shall confess, receive Holy Communion, recite five decades of the Rosary, and keep me company for fifteen minutes while meditating on the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary, with the intention of making reparation to me.”

“YOU, AT LEAST,
TRY TO CONSOLE ME”

Meeting with the Infant Jesus (15th February 1926)

The Infant Jesus appeared to Sister Lucia regarding the devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, already practiced by souls who received Holy Communion on the first Saturday of the month in honour of Our Lady and meditated on the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary, but not yet made public.

“It is true, my daughter, that many souls begin the First Saturdays, but few finish them, and those who do complete them do so in order to receive the graces that are promised thereby. It would please me more if they did five with fervour and with the intention of making reparation to the Heart of your heavenly Mother, than if they did fifteen, in a tepid and indifferent manner.”

TWO IMPORTANT DATES

- *13th October 1930* – The Most Reverend José da Silva proclaims the divine origin of the apparitions.
- *13th May 1931* – The Portuguese episcopate, under the presidency of Cardinal Cerejeira, patriarch of Lisbon, in the presence of the apostolic nuncio, officially consecrates Portugal to the Immaculate Heart of Mary before more than 300,000 pilgrims. Portugal will be the only country in Europe not to suffer from World War II.

THE APPARITIONS AT TUI

17th December 1927

Our Lord asked Sister Lucia to reveal the part of the secret relative to the devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary (the First Five Saturdays). This was revealed to her confessor, Canon Galamba, her superior and her bishop, the Most Reverend José da Silva.

13th June 1929

Our Lady: “The moment has come in which God asks the Holy Father to make, in union with all the bishops of the world, the consecration of Russia to My Immaculate Heart, promising to save it by this means. So numerous are the souls which the justice of God condemns for sins committed against Me, that I come to ask for reparation. Sacrifice yourself for this intention and pray.”

Cell of Sister Lucia in the convent at the convent of Pontevedra, converted into a chapel, place of the apparition of 1925.



May 1930

Our Lord made it known to Sister Lucia that the two requests of devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and of the consecration of Russia must be addressed to the Holy Father.

THE APPARITION AT RIANJO

August 1931

Our Lady told Sister Lucia that the consecration of Russia was still not accomplished and expressed her discontent: “They did not wish to heed My request! ... Like the King of France they will repent of it, and they will do it, but it will be late. Russia will have already spread its errors throughout the world, provoking wars and persecutions against the Church. The Holy Father will have much to suffer.”



THE FATIMA SEERS

Francisco Marto (1908–1919) and his little sister Jacinta (1910–1920) were the children of Manuel Pedro Marto and his wife Olimpia. Both were good Catholics and gave their children from their earliest years the example of a good Christian life.

Francisco and Jacinta were discreet, leaving behind no writings about their short pilgrimage here on earth. It was at the request of the Bishop of Leiria that Lucia would reveal through her own writings the profound, intense, though hidden life of her dear cousins.

JACINTA AND FRANCISCO

Doted with a lively character, Jacinta showed great enthusiasm and perhaps a certain oversensitivity in playing with children of her age. Before the apparitions, Jacinta was always eager to sing and dance.

Francisco, by contrast, was more even-tempered, of a “peaceful and condescending” nature (*Memoir no. 4*). Though he might not always have been a perfect child, he gladly sought to make his little sister happy. He seemed to take part in childish games more out of a desire to please his schoolmates than by inclination. Francisco’s contemplative nature preferred solitude and he would gladly withdraw from the company of others to pray.

Since Lucia knew her catechism very well despite her young age, she was able to make her First Holy Communion early. Francisco, however, would not receive his First Holy Communion until after the apparitions, while he was already bedridden with the sickness that would end his short life. His sister Jacinta would die before receiving her First Holy Communion.

Nevertheless, both Francisco and Jacinta nourished a great desire and love for the *hidden Jesus*, the name they gave to the Blessed Sacrament.

After the Blessed Virgin Mary had taught the children to offer sacrifices, Francisco and Jacinta sought to outdo one another in generosity, offering both great and small things to Jesus.

“Did you not notice, last month, how sad Our Lady became when

*FRANCISCO: “I WOULD LIKE TO
CONSOLE OUR LORD, AND
THEN CONVERT SINNERS.”*

*Jacinta, Lucia and
Francisco in 1917.*



she told us that men must stop offending God, Our Lord, for He was already greatly offended? I would like to console Our Lord, and then convert sinners so that they no longer offend Him.”

**JACINTA KNEW HOW TO PRACTICE
VIRTUE AND HOW TO SHOW
HER LOVE TO GOD AND TO
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
BY OFFERING SACRIFICES.**

insulted us every time that she met us. When she had finished her work, Jacinta said to me: “We are going to pray to Our Lady and offer sacrifices to her for the conversion of this woman. She says so many sins that if she does not confess she will go to hell.’

“Several days later, we were running by the door of this woman. All of sudden, Jacinta stopped, and turning to me she asked:

“Listen, tomorrow is the day we are going to see Our Lady?’

“Yes.’

“So then, let’s not play. We will make this sacrifice for the conversion of sinners.’

“Thinking herself unseen, she made this offering lifting her eyes and her hands towards heaven. However, the poor woman was watching us from an opening in her house. Afterwards she told my mother that Jacinta’s offering had so impressed her, that she no longer needed any proof to believe in the reality of what had transpired. From that moment on, not only did she no longer insult us, but she also continually asked us to plead with Our Lady to obtain for her pardon for her sins.” (*Manuscript no. 1*)

Jacinta and Francisco fell ill within a few weeks of one another, suffering from pneumonia, at this time when the Spanish influenza was striking all of Europe. To both of them was revealed the moment of their death. They prepared themselves amidst great

“While going to school, sometimes upon arriving in Fatima he would say to me: Listen, you go to school. I am staying here in the church close to the hidden Jesus.” (Manuscript n. 4)

Lucia describes the graces obtained by Jacinta:

“In our village, there was a woman who



*At the time of the apparitions in 1917,
Jacinta was 7 years old; Lucia was 10 years old.*



Exhumed in 1935, Jacinta's face was found incorrupt.

physical sufferings which they offered, without ever complaining, “to console Jesus” and “for the conversion of sinners”.

Spending long months in hospitals away from her family was a great suffering for Jacinta, as was the thought of dying alone. On several occasions Our Lady consoled her, announcing to her the sacrifices which would be hers to bear. Faithfully offering sacrifices to the last, Jacinta left this world for her eternal reward.

Her remains were transferred in 1935, fifteen years after her death. Those who opened her coffin found

her face intact. Bishop da Silva sent the photo taken that day to Lucia. She thanked him saying: “She was only a child by her age. She knew how to practice virtue and how to show her love to God and to the Blessed Virgin Mary by offering sacrifices. It is remarkable how well she understood the spirit of prayer and of sacrifice which the Most Blessed Virgin asked of us.”

Pope Saint John Paul II beatified Jacinta and Francisco Marto on 13th May 2000.

LUCIA

Born on 28th March 1907, Lucia learned her catechism and prayers from her mother since her earliest years.

Several times during her childhood, she received very special graces. One such grace was on the day of her First Holy Communion, which she received at a very early age for her time due to her excellent knowledge of her catechism:

“The priest had no sooner placed the Divine Host on my tongue than I felt an unalterable serenity and peace. I felt myself bathed in such a supernatural atmosphere that the presence of our dear Lord became as clearly perceptible to me as if I had seen and heard Him with my bodily senses. I then addressed my prayer to Him:

“O Lord, make me a saint. Keep my heart always pure, for You alone.”

Lucia was lively and affectionate, making her much admired among her companions. She taught catechism to Francisco and Jacinta. During the apparitions of the Most Holy Virgin, she was the only one to speak to her, because Francisco did not hear what Our Lady said, and Jacinta did not speak.

“I FELT MYSELF BATHED IN SUCH A SUPERNATURAL ATMOSPHERE THAT THE PRESENCE OF OUR DEAR LORD BECAME AS CLEARLY PERCEPTIBLE TO ME AS IF I HAD SEEN AND HEARD HIM WITH MY BODILY SENSES.”

After the apparitions and the deaths of Jacinta and Francisco, while crowds hurried to Fatima to “see the seer”, the bishop of Leiria asked Lucia to leave Fatima in secret. Lucia obeyed and moved to a school run by the Sisters of Saint Dorothy at Oporto. At the moment of her departure, she was troubled by the thought of abandoning everything:

“I then felt your helping hand and maternal touch on my shoulder, I looked up and I saw you, it was you, Blessed Mother, holding my hand and showing me the path, and your lips unveiled the sweet timbre of your voice, and light and peace was restored to my soul:

“Here I am for the seventh time. Go, follow the path which the bishop wants you to take, this is the will of God.”

“Some days later, on the counsel of His Excellency, I adopted as rule of life *obedience* and as motto these words of Our Lady written in the Gospel: *Whatsoever He shall say to you, do ye.*”

Lucia stayed in this school from 1921 to 1925, hiding her identity under the name of Mary of the Sorrows. She introduced among her companions the prayers she learned from Our Lady and the Angel without ever revealing anything about the secret, and spent her holiday with the Bishop of Leiria, who took great care of her both temporally and spiritually. There, she saw occasionally her mother and received Confirmation on 24th August 1925.

“I ADOPTED AS RULE OF LIFE
OBEDIENCE AND AS MOTTO THESE
WORDS OF OUR LADY WRITTEN
IN THE GOSPEL: *WHATSOEVER HE
SHALL SAY TO YOU, DO YE.*”



The Bishop of Leiria, the Most Reverend José Alves Correia da Silva with Sister Lucia, Dorothean sister.



On 13th May 1948, at the age of 41, Sister Lucia took the novice's habit at the Carmel of Coimbra.

After the opening of the canonical process in 1922, she was questioned in 1924 and gave several precise accounts of the events. She made a vow of perpetual chastity during these years.

In 1925, nourished by a great devotion to Saint Thérèse of the Infant Jesus, she desired to enter Carmel at Lisieux, but instead followed the counsels given to her; she was admitted to the novitiate of the Sisters of Saint Dorothy as a sister in charge of household duties. Her identity remained unknown at least during her first few years.

During her postulancy and then her novitiate from 1925 to 1934, she was graced with multiple apparitions of the Most Holy Virgin Mary and Our Lord, mainly concerning the devotion to the Immaculate Heart. In her correspondence she endeavoured to spread this devotion while keeping secrecy. During all her life, she

was torn between her obedience, which spurred her to spread the message, and her humility. Her task of writing was made difficult and burdensome by her status as coadjutrix sister of the Dorotheans.

Sister Lucia professed her perpetual vows at Tui on 3rd October 1934, receiving the name of Sister Mary of the Sorrows. She was then sent to the convent at Pontevedra: she lived there during the Spanish Civil War in the midst of great hardships.

It was also at this time that, following several pressing inner revelations, she wrote to Pope Pius XII and the Archbishop of Valladolid.

During the 1940s, her health was very fragile. The death of her mother as well as the order from the bishop of Leiria to write the secret of Fatima afflicted and troubled her for many months. Her obedience during this time was made all the more heroic, and she delivered the secret to Bishop da Silva.

Since her return to Portugal in 1946, she could finally accomplish her desire of becoming a Carmelite: she was admitted to the Carmel of Coimbra in March 1948. The Holy See

**LUCIA WAS ALWAYS
JOYFUL REGARDLESS OF
CONTRADICTIONS OR TRIALS.
AS SHE SAID,
“SORROW IS THE EIGHTH
DEADLY SIN!”**

intervened several times and, without consulting Sister Lucia, chose the Carmel where she was to pass the rest of her days. She made her profession on 31st May 1949, taking the name Sister Maria Lucia of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart. She lived there for the rest of her days in a life of prayer and penance despite numerous visits and an extremely abundant correspondence.

Sister Lucia still had several opportunities to return to Fatima, on the occasions of the visits of Popes Blessed Paul VI and Saint John Paul II, and notably for the beatification of her cousins Francisco and Jacinta.

At the request of the Holy See as well as the bishop of Leiria-Fatima, Sister Lucia wrote several memoirs regarding the apparitions. Thanks to them, a large number of details about the apparitions are available. These memoirs were also indispensable during the beatification process of Jacinta and Francisco.

Sister Lucia, 97 years old, spent her last months of her life bedridden in her cell. She confided the following to her prioress: “Our Lady said that I would stay here a little longer, but this is long!” She, to whom the Holy Virgin spoke 87 years prior, renewed the offering of her life and of her sufferings for the intentions of the Holy Father. Surrounded by her community, Sister Lucia received on the morning of 13th February 2005 the apostolic blessing of Pope Saint John Paul II and then the visit of the Bishop of Leiria-Fatima. She passed away a few hours later. Her body was buried, according to her will, in the Carmel of Coimbra for one year before being transferred to Fatima.

On 13th February 2008, Pope Benedict XVI waived the required delay of five years before the opening of her beatification process.



On 31st May 1949, Sister Maria-Lucia of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart made her perpetual profession.

**“OUR LADY SAID THAT I
WOULD STAY HERE A LITTLE
LONGER, BUT THIS IS
QUITE LONG!”**

PRAYER AND PENANCE

Throughout the apparitions of Fatima, the angel of Portugal and then the Most Holy Virgin ceased not to call the little shepherds and, through them, the whole world to prayer and penance.

Let us remind ourselves of these heavenly instructions. The angel recommended to them, “Pray often ... constantly offer prayers and sacrifices to the Most High... accept and bear with submission the sufferings that the Lord will send you.”

It was then the “Beautiful Lady” who asked them to “offer [themselves] to God, and bear all the sufferings He sends [them], in atonement for all the sins that offend Him and for the conversion of sinners.” Furthermore, during each of these apparitions, she insisted on the importance of the *daily* recitation of the Rosary, “to bring peace to the world and an end to the war.”

“And let men and beasts be covered with sackcloth, and cry to the Lord with all their strength, and let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the iniquity that is in their hands. Who can tell if God will turn, and forgive: and will turn away from His fierce anger, and we shall not perish? And God saw their works, that they were turned from their evil way: and God had mercy with regard to the evil which He had said that He would do to them, and He did it not.”

Jonas 3:8-10

To all these appeals, let us not forget to add the terrifying vision of the secret in which the three children saw “an Angel with a flaming sword in his left hand... pointing to the earth with his right hand, the Angel cried out in a loud voice: ‘Penance, penance, penance!’”

THE PENANCE OF PERFECTLY ACCOMPLISHING THE DUTIES OF OUR STATE OF LIFE

Penance, or rather the common idea that is made of it, disgusts our poor human nature so much that the appeals of Heaven to penance are difficultly heard.

Let us not be mistaken about the nature of Our Lady’s call to penance. In a letter written on 28th January 1943, addressed to her spiritual director, the Bishop of Gurza, Lucia, already a religious sister, gives us precious insight:

“Our Lord complains bitterly and sadly about the very limited number of souls in the state of grace, disposed to deny themselves according to what the observance of His law requires of them.

“Here is the true penance which the Good Lord requests today: *the sacrifice which everybody must impose on himself to lead a life of justice in the observance of His law.*

“And He desires that this law be clearly made known to souls, for many give to the word *penance* the sense of great austerities, and as they feel neither the strength nor the generosity for that, they get discouraged and let themselves slip into a life of lukewarmness and sin.”

The most common misunderstanding is to imagine that in order to render penance agreeable to God, it is necessary to impose severe austerities. The young shepherds themselves,

“The exacting fulfilment of the duties
of one’s state in life: therein lies holiness!”

Joseph the Carpenter (c. 1645) by Georges de La Tour.

with all the nobility of their hearts, had responded so generously to this call to penance, that the Most Holy Virgin Mary had to ask them to temper their exercises during her fifth apparition: “God is satisfied with your sacrifices, but He does not want you to sleep with the rope. Wear it only during the day.”

Sister Lucia continues in her letter:

“From Thursday to Friday, while in the chapel with my superiors’ permission, at midnight, Our Lord told me: *The penance that I request and require now is the sacrifice demanded of everybody by the accomplishment of his own duty and the observance of My law.*”

The following anecdote, recounted by Sister Lucia to defend the posthumous memory of her father, illustrates how much she pleased God by the humble submission to her vow of obedience and by the repeated offering of her vow of poverty:

**OUR LORD: “THE PENANCE THAT I
REQUEST AND REQUIRE NOW IS THE
SACRIFICE DEMANDED OF EVERYBODY BY
THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF HIS OWN DUTY
AND THE OBSERVANCE OF MY LAW.”**

death left me in great sorrow because he died without making his confession: he had asked for a confessor, who, judging that the illness was not serious, took his time and thus arrived too late. Thanks to the immense goodness of the dearest Mother of Heaven, I then knew that his soul was saved from the fact of his desire to go to confession and from the act of contrition that my mother suggested to him as soon as she saw that he would die, but his soul stayed in purgatory to expiate his sins. I sought with all my means to free him, and one



day, learning that someone had sent me a monetary gift, I asked my superior the permission to use it to offer some Masses for his eternal rest. This authorisation was refused. Thus, in the place of the Masses which I wanted to offer for the repose of his soul, I offered to Our Lord my vow of poverty, which stripped me of everything for His love, and then by the dear Mother of Heaven I learned that God had accepted it and that his soul was already in heaven. How great is the goodness of God!”

This *penance of the duties of our state of life* consists in offering every day the sacrifices necessary for the Christian accomplishment of our daily duties. This is the veritable penance that consoles the dolorous Hearts of Jesus and Mary offended by so many outrages, obtains from them the conversions of poor sinners and cooperates with the work of our sanctification.

A prelate once told Sister Lucia what Pope Pius XII had told him: “My son, there is only one necessary thing: holiness.”

She replied: “This is what Our Lady asks: the penance of the perfect fulfilment of the duties of one’s state in life. There are souls who think of extraordinary mortifications and macerations which they do not feel capable of performing, and thus they lose courage. When Our Lady requires penance, she speaks of the exacting fulfilment of the duties of one’s state in life: therein lies holiness!”

*SISTER LUCIA: “THIS IS WHAT
OUR LADY ASKS: THE PENANCE
OF THE PERFECT FULFILMENT
OF THE DUTIES OF
ONE’S STATE IN LIFE.”*

PRAYER, IN PARTICULAR THE DAILY RECITATION OF THE ROSARY

On 19th August 1917, at the end of the fourth apparition, the Most Holy Virgin Mary said to the children with sadness, “Pray, pray very much. Make sacrifices for sinners. Many souls go to hell, because no one is willing to help them by sacrifice.”

Thus *prayer* and *penance* would seem inseparable. In her diary, Sister Lucia highlights the urgency for our time and stresses that peace will be obtained only at this price:

*POPE SAINT PIUS X: “THE ROSARY
IS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL OF ALL
PRAYERS AND THE RICHEST IN
GRACES; IT IS THE PRAYER THAT
TOUCHES MOST THE HEART
OF THE MOTHER OF GOD.”*

“Right now, the Lord asks the most for penance and prayer: for public and collective *prayer* and *penance*, in avoiding sin at the same time, because this revives faith in minds and confidence in souls, and sparks the flame of charity in hearts. This stirs up the indifferent, shines light upon the blind and attracts the unbelieving. That is what the Lord expects when He

sends His angel with a flaming sword to disperse the diabolical armies invading the world who blind souls and destroy peace: peace in the Church, peace among the nations, peace in

the home and in the family, and peace of conscience in souls. *There is lack of peace because of a lack of faith, of penance, of collective and public prayer.*”

The Blessed Virgin Mary insistently repeated the necessity of praying the Rosary every day, and Sister Lucia strongly endeavoured to transmit this message. She echoes the words of Pope St. Pius X: “The Rosary is a summary of the Gospel and will grant to those who pray it the rivers of peace spoken of in Scripture; it is the most beautiful of all prayers and the richest in graces; it is the prayer that touches most the Heart of the Mother of God.”

Sister Lucia emphasises that this way of speaking to God every day is simple and accessible to all: “The praying of the Rosary is accessible to everyone, rich and poor, educated and simple, old and young. All souls of good will can and should pray the Rosary every day. Why? In order to be in contact with God, to thank Him for all His benefits, and to ask Him for the graces we need. [...] It can be prayed in common or alone, in church before the Blessed Sacrament or at home, with the family or individually, while traveling or walking through fields. There are twenty-four hours in a day. It is not too much to reserve a quarter hour for the spiritual life in order to intimately and familiarly meet with God!” She says also: “For those who find the prayer of the Rosary to be monotonous, what is lacking is love. It is why the catechism tells us that the Ten Commandments are contained in one, that of loving God above all things and loving our neighbour as ourselves.” (*Calls from the Message of Fatima*)

SISTER LUCIA: “FOR THOSE WHO FIND THE PRAYER OF THE ROSARY TO BE MONOTONOUS, WHAT IS LACKING IS LOVE.”



During the month of October at the seminary, the Rosary is recited in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

THE DEVOTION OF THE FIVE FIRST SATURDAYS

The Most Blessed Virgin appeared to Sister Lucy to request the practice of this devotion, on 10th December 1925 at Pontevedra in Spain. She said: “Look, my daughter, at My Heart, surrounded by thorns with which ungrateful men pierce me every moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude. You, at least, try to console me and say that I promise to assist at the hour of death, with the graces necessary for salvation, all those who, on the first Saturday of five consecutive months, shall confess, receive Holy Communion, recite five decades of the Rosary, and keep me company for fifteen minutes while meditating on the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary, with the intention of making reparation to me.”

Our Lady has thus shown her Heart surrounded by thorns which represent our sins. In order to draw out these thorns, she has asked that we make acts of honourable amendment by the reparatory devotion of the Five First Saturdays of the month. As recompense she promises us “all the graces necessary for our salvation.”

Our Blessed Lord, in the two following years—on 15th February 1926 and 17th December 1927—insisted on the propagation of this devotion. Sister Lucy wrote: “War and peace in the world both depend on the practice of the devotion of the Five First Saturdays united to the consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.”

FOUR CONDITIONS TO OBTAIN THE PRIVILEGES OF THE FIVE FIRST SATURDAYS OF THE MONTH

WHY FIVE SATURDAYS?

The five Saturdays, according to a revelation of Our Blessed Lord, correspond to five sorts of offenses and blasphemies against the Immaculate Heart of Mary:

- Blasphemy against her Immaculate Conception,
- Against her Virginity,
- Against her Divine Maternity, in refusing to recognize her also as Mother of mankind,
- By instilling in children’s hearts indifference, contempt, and even hatred of this Immaculate Mother,
- By insulting her directly in her holy images.

1. Confession

A confession with the intention of reparation must be made for each of the First Saturdays; it may be made any day before or after the First Saturday on condition of receiving Holy Communion in a state of grace on that day.

Our Lord was asked: “O my Jesus! What of those who forget to form this intention of reparation?” Jesus answered: “They may form the intention in their following confession, profiting by the earliest opportunity to confess.”

The three other conditions must be fulfilled the very day of the First Saturday, unless a priest, for a just motive, permits them to be fulfilled the following Sunday; they are:



Our Lady presenting the Rosary to Saint Dominic, altarpiece of the Chapel of the Holy Rosary, Gricigliano.

2. Reception of Holy Communion in reparation.

3. The Holy Rosary

This was the message so often repeated by the Mother of God to the little shepherds. Along with the recitation of the Rosary on the Five First Saturdays, recite it every day of your life. Even more, imitate the example of little Jacinta and make it that it be recited every evening by the family. Our Lady always had a rosary in her hands when she appeared to her children.

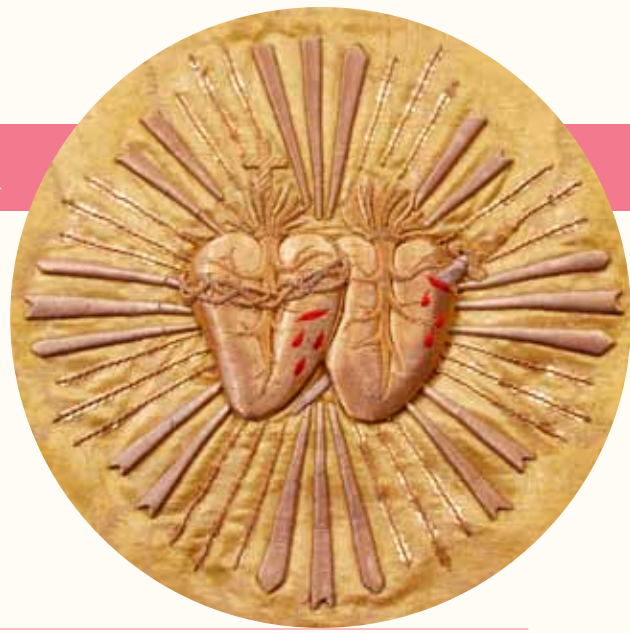
She also asked the three children to recite a special prayer at the end of each Mystery: “Recite the following prayer after the *Glory be* of each Mystery—‘O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, lead all souls to Heaven, especially those who are most in need of Thy Mercy.’”

4. Fifteen minutes of meditation upon one Mystery, several Mysteries, or all of them.

It is also possible to make a meditation, or give an explanation, of three minutes before each of five Mysteries of the Rosary. In these four acts listed it is necessary to have the intention to make honourable amendment to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This devotion was approved by the Bishop of Leiria-Fatima on 13th September 1939.

FROM PARAY-LE-MONIAL TO FATIMA

Although more than two centuries separate these apparitions, they bear similarly important traits. Heaven calls for reparation, asks for a consecration, and the apparitions culminate with the wish that a new devotion might grow in the life of the Universal Church for the greater glory of God and for the conversion of poor sinners.



THE SACRED HEARTS OF JESUS AND MARY

At Paray-le-Monial, Our Lord Jesus Christ chose a humble French religious of the order of the Visitation, Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque (1647-1690), to make of her an ardent apostle of the devotion to His Sacred Heart. He appeared to her on several occasions and during the “Great Apparition” of June 1675 showing His Heart to her, He said with great affliction:

“Behold the Heart that has so loved men so as to spare Itself nothing even to exhausting and consuming Itself, in order to bear witness to Its love; and in return I receive from the greater part only ingratitude by their irreverence and sacrilege, and by the coldness and contempt they have for Me in this Sacrament of Love. But what I feel most keenly is that it is hearts which are consecrated to Me, that treat Me thus.”

For the honour of His Sacred Heart and to make amends for the affronts that He receives in the Blessed Sacrament, Our Lord asked for two acts of reparation: a Holy Communion of reparation on the First Friday of every month and a Holy Hour on Thursday nights in union with His Agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. In addition, He asked that a particular feast be celebrated in honour of His Sacred Heart, on the Friday after the octave of the feast of the Blessed Sacrament.

These requests and these painful pleas of the Heart of Jesus find an echo in the apparitions at Fatima. Firstly, during the apparition of 13th June 1917, when the Beautiful Lady revealed to Lucia: “Jesus desires to use you to make me known and to make me loved. He wishes to establish in the world devotion to My Immaculate Heart.” Then on 10th December 1925, at Pontevedra, the Blessed Virgin Mary, while showing her Heart to Sister Lucia, said: “Behold, my daughter, My Heart surrounded by the thorns with which ungrateful men afflict me at every moment by their blasphemies and their ingratitude.”

To console and to make reparation for the offenses against her Heart, the Blessed Virgin Mary asked of the young religious that she propagate the devotion of the Five First Saturdays of the month offered in reparation.

FRANCE CONSECRATED TO THE SACRED HEART AND RUSSIA TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

Our two seers were not only apostles of new devotions, but at the same time each bore a request for a consecration.

In a letter from June 1689, addressed to the Mother Superior of the monastery of the Visitation of Dijon, Mother de Saumaise, Saint Margaret Mary related the words which the Sacred Heart had confided to her, which were to be communicated to Louis XIV:

“Make known to the Eldest Son of My Sacred Heart, that just as his temporal birth had been obtained by devotion to the merits of My Holy Infancy, so shall he obtain his birth by grace and of eternal glory through the consecration he shall make of himself to My Adorable Heart, which desires to conquer his own, and through him the hearts of the great men of the world. My Heart wishes to reign in his palace, be painted on his standards and engraved on his arms, to make them victorious over all his enemies, by striking down at his feet the heads of the proud and haughty, to make him triumphant over all the enemies of Holy Church.”
(*Vie et œuvres de la Bienheureuse Marguerite-Marie Alacoque, Mgr Gauthey, Archbishop of Besançon, 3rd edition, volume II, 1915, Lettre C, pp. 435-436*)

It remains unknown whether King Louis XIV was ever truly informed of this request. However, the words of Our Lady to Sister Lucia suggest that he had been: Our Lady herself draws the parallel between the requested consecration of Paray-le-Monial and that of Fatima: “They did not wish to listen to my request. Like the King of France, they will repent and they will do it, but it will be late.” (*Our Lady to Sister Lucia, Rianjo, August 1931*)

As for Sister Lucia, she became the messenger of the request for the consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. During the third apparition at Fatima, 13th July 1917, the Blessed Virgin Mary announced to the shepherd children that she “[would come] to ask for the consecration of Russia to [her] Immaculate Heart.” Twelve years later, 13th June 1929, at Tui, Our Lady did indeed appear to Lucia in the convent chapel of the Sisters of Saint Dorothy, where she had entered into the noviciate, to reveal to her that “the moment [had] come to make, in union with all the bishops of the world, the consecration of Russia to [her] Immaculate Heart,” in order to gain by this means its conversion.



Our Lord appearing to Saint Margaret Mary
Eugène Hamel, 1871, Canada

THE SECRET OF FATIMA

FIRST AND SECOND PARTS OF THE “SECRET”

The text below is the version presented by Sister Lucia in the “Third Memoir” of 31st August 1941, destined for the Bishop of Leiria-Fatima.

“This will entail my speaking about the secret, and thus answering the first question. What is the secret? It seems to me that I can reveal it, since I already have permission from Heaven to do so. God’s representatives on earth have authorized me to do this several times and in various letters, one of which, I believe, is in your keeping. This letter is from Rev. Fr. José Bernardo Gonçalves, and in it he advises me to write to the Holy Father, suggesting, among other things, that I should reveal the secret. I did say something about it. But in order not to make my letter too long, since I was told to keep it short, I confined myself to the essentials, leaving it to God to provide another more favourable opportunity. In my second account, I have already described in detail the doubt which tormented me from June 13th until July 13th, and how it disappeared completely during the apparition on that day.

Well, the secret is made up of three distinct parts, two of which I am now going to reveal. The first part is the vision of hell. Our Lady showed us a great sea of fire which seemed to be under the earth. Plunged in this fire were demons and souls in human form, like transparent burning embers, all blackened or burnished bronze, floating about in the conflagration,

OUR LADY: “YOU HAVE SEEN HELL WHERE THE SOULS OF POOR SINNERS GO. TO SAVE THEM, GOD WISHES TO ESTABLISH IN THE WORLD DEVOTION TO MY IMMACULATE HEART.”

now raised into the air by the flames that issued from within themselves together with great clouds of smoke, now falling back on every side like sparks in a huge fire, without weight or equilibrium, and amid shrieks and groans of pain and despair, which horrified us and made us tremble with fear. The demons could be distinguished by their terrifying

and repellent likeness to frightful and unknown animals, all black and transparent. This vision lasted but an instant. How can we ever be grateful enough to our kind heavenly Mother, who had already prepared us by promising, in the first apparition, to take us to Heaven. Otherwise, I think we would have died of fear and terror.

We then looked up at Our Lady, who said to us so kindly and so sadly:

“You have seen hell where the souls of poor sinners go. To save them, God wishes to establish in the world devotion to My Immaculate Heart. If what I say to you is done, many souls will be saved and there will be peace. The war is going to end: but if people do not

cease offending God, a worse one will break out during the pontificate of Pius XI. When you see a night illumined by an unknown light, know that this is the great sign given you by God that He is about to punish the world for its crimes, by means of war, famine, and persecutions of the Church and of the Holy Father. “To prevent this, I shall come to ask for the consecration of Russia to my Immaculate Heart, and the Communion of reparation on the First Saturdays. If my requests are heeded, Russia will be converted, and there will be peace; if not, she will spread her errors throughout the world, causing wars and persecutions of the Church. The good will be martyred; the Holy Father will have much to suffer; various nations will be annihilated. In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph. The Holy Father will consecrate Russia to me, and she will be converted, and a period of peace will be granted to the world.”

THE THIRD PART OF THE “SECRET”

The following text is from the letter written on 3rd January 1944 by Sister Lucia from the convent of the Sisters of Saint Dorothy at Tui and addressed to the Bishop of Leiria-Fatima. The English translation is provided by the website of the Holy See.

“The third part of the secret revealed at the Cova da Iria-Fatima, on 13 July 1917.

I write in obedience to you, my God, who command me to do so through his Excellency the Bishop of Leiria and through your Most Holy Mother and mine.

After the two parts which I have already explained, at the left of Our Lady and a little above, we saw an Angel with a flaming sword in his left hand; flashing, it gave out flames that looked as though they would set the world on fire; but they died out in contact with the splendour that Our Lady radiated towards him from her right hand: pointing to the earth with his right hand, the Angel cried out in a loud voice: ‘Penance, Penance, Penance!’. And we saw in an immense light that is God: ‘something similar to how people



The Most Reverend José Alves Correia da Silva, Bishop of Leiria-Fatima from 1920 to 1957, officially recognised the apparitions and was the recipient of the secret, of which he sent the third part to Rome.

appear in a mirror when they pass in front of it' a Bishop dressed in White 'we had the impression that it was the Holy Father'. Other Bishops, Priests, men and women Religious going up a steep mountain, at the top of which there was a big Cross of rough-hewn trunks as of a cork-tree with the bark; before reaching there the Holy Father passed through a big city half in ruins and half trembling with halting step, afflicted with pain and sorrow, he prayed for the souls of the corpses he met on his way; having reached the top of the mountain, on his knees at the foot of the big Cross he was killed by a group of soldiers who fired bullets and arrows at him, and in the same way there died one after another the other Bishops, Priests, men and women Religious, and various lay people of different ranks and positions. Beneath the two arms of the Cross there were two Angels each with a crystal aspersorium in his hand, in which they gathered up the blood of the Martyrs and with it sprinkled the souls that were making their way to God."

AT THE LEFT OF OUR LADY AND
A LITTLE ABOVE, WE SAW AN ANGEL WITH
A FLAMING SWORD IN HIS LEFT HAND [...]
POINTING TO THE EARTH WITH HIS RIGHT
HAND, THE ANGEL CRIED OUT IN A LOUD VOICE:
'PENANCE, PENANCE, PENANCE!'

Sister Lucia met Pope Saint John Paul II for the third time in 2000, on the occasion of the beatification of her cousins Jacinta and Francisco.

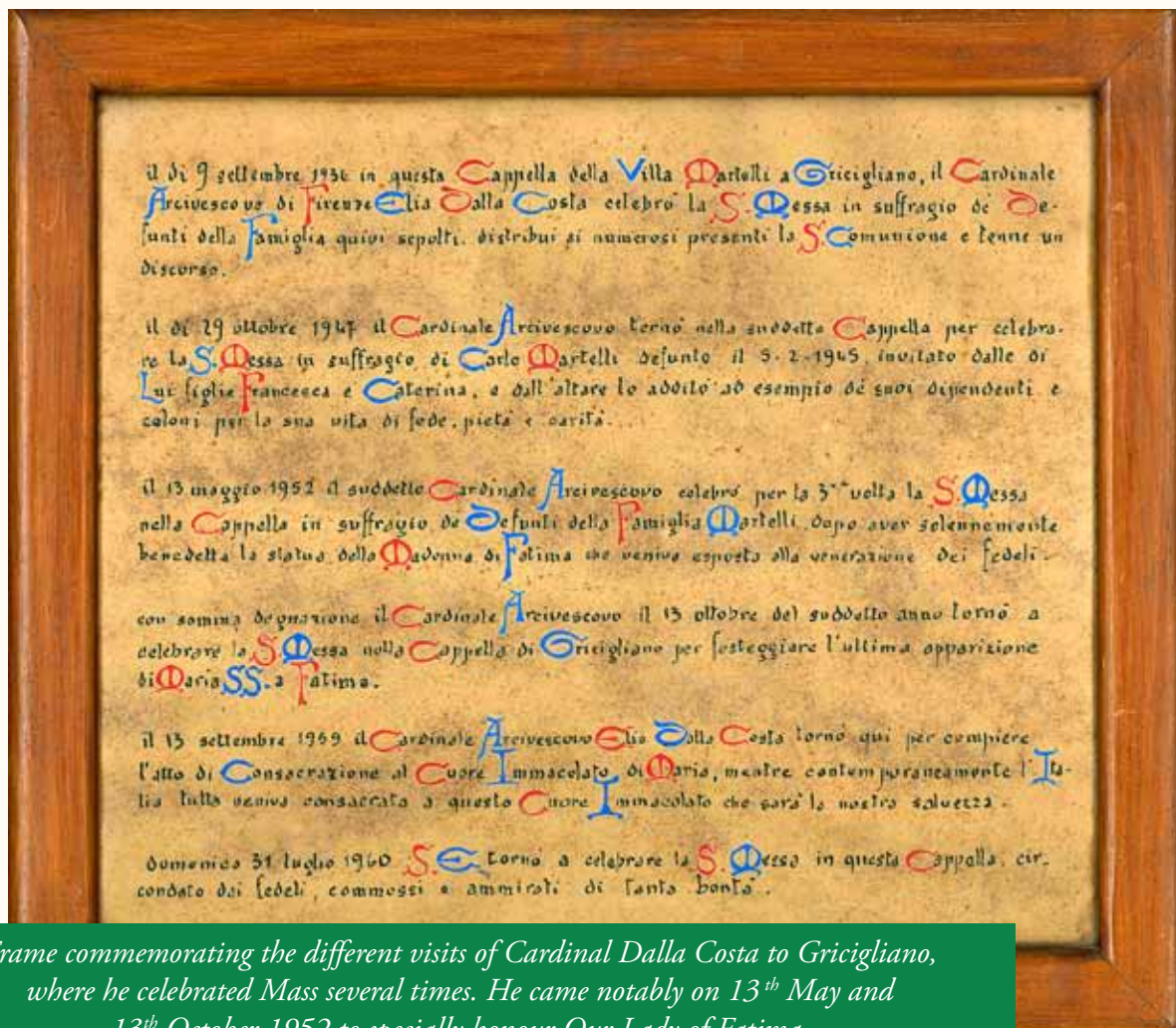


OUR LADY OF FATIMA AT GRICIGLIANO

At day's end at Gricigliano, priests and seminarians of the Institute can be seen gathering around the feet of Our Lady of Fatima. They have come quietly confiding the Institute and their persons to a Mother's Heart, abandoning to her a day long-spent in the hopes of growing ever-closer to the Priestly Heart of Her Son.

Our Lady of Fatima has long been at the heart of Gricigliano. While the Institute was still a distant hope hidden in the designs of Divine Providence, the Servant of God Cardinal Della Costa, Archbishop of Florence, fulfilled the express wish of the Martelli family. This illustrious Tuscan family, who lived at Gricigliano for five centuries, wished to place themselves and Gricigliano under the protection of Our Lady.

Having celebrated Holy Mass at Gricigliano for the faithful departed of the Martelli family in 1936 and 1947, His Eminence returned on the 35th anniversary of the first apparition of Our Lady of Fatima, 13th May 1952, and solemnly blessed the statue of Our Lady of Fatima which continues to be venerated to this day.



Frame commemorating the different visits of Cardinal Della Costa to Gricigliano, where he celebrated Mass several times. He came notably on 13th May and 13th October 1952 to specially honour Our Lady of Fatima.



Solemn renewal of the consecration of the Institute to the Immaculate Conception, pronounced at the feet of the statue of Our Lady of Fatima by Msgr. Gilles Wach, founder and Prior General.

Cardinal Della Costa would also return on the 13th October of the same year to celebrate Holy Mass in honour of the anniversary of the final apparition. Five years later, His Eminence would pronounce at Gricigliano the Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, to whom all of Italy had recently been consecrated.

It was thus in 1994, at the dawn of the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest, that Monsignor Gilles Wach, Prior General and Founder, would retrace the steps of the Servant of God and the Martelli family, by solemnly consecrating the Institute, before this very statue, to the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Our Lady of Fatima, by Her Immaculate Heart, would from now on reign over the Institute as its Principal Patroness under the title of Her Immaculate Conception.

This venerable history is evoked every morning, throughout the world, wherever a member of the Institute is to be found, when he recites with his confreres, or in private, the daily consecration of the Institute to the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

De Maria numquam satis. Not content with daily acts of homage, following a novena preparing the feast, Monsignor the Prior General solemnly renews this consecration of the Institute every year on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, confident that no one could better form priests according to the Sacred Heart than the spotless Heart that bore Him.

Dear Friends,

For us Christians, our true Homeland is in Heaven, and our life here on earth is but a passing time of trial to merit better, or not, eternal beatitude. Let us therefore turn our regards towards this Celestial Home, for it is from Heaven alone that we should expect Salvation, as well as the directions necessary to obtain it. Let us lift then our eyes to Heaven which has spoken to us so clearly, spoken as a mother to preserve us from danger and to show us the way to our true Happiness.

On 13th May 2010, Pope Benedict XVI stated in his homily that “Fatima... [is this] ‘home’ from which Mary chose to speak to us in modern times. We would be mistaken to think that Fatima’s prophetic mission is complete.”

To authenticate this message, God performed an exceptional miracle seen by at least seventy thousand witnesses, of whom some were several kilometres away from the site of the apparitions. Without a doubt, never has one seen a cosmic miracle of this scale since the darkness of Good Friday. At a certain moment, Lucia cried out: “Look at the sun!” All could contemplate the solar disc for a long time, shining brightly and warmly, without injuring the eyes or damaging the retina. Let us listen to several testimonies related in an article by Professor de Mattei:

“THE SUN TURNED RAPIDLY UPON ITSELF AND THEN SEEMED TO DETACH FROM THE SKY, DRAWING NEARER TO THE EARTH.”

The journalist Avelino de Almeida, editor-in-chief of *O Seculo*, a socialist daily based out of Lisbon, who had until then ridiculed the events wrote on 15th October in the newspaper: “The enormous crowd turns to the sun, which pierces through the clouds, at its zenith. It resembles a silver plate and it is possible to look directly at it with no difficulty. It does not burn, it does not blind. One would say that it was an eclipse. But behold there rises up a clamorous cry and we hear those closest to us cry out: ‘A miracle, a miracle! What a marvel!’” Antonio Borelli Machado describes the phenomenon in these words: “The solar globe began to turn at a dizzying speed, its borders became scarlet and it moved in the sky like a whirlwind casting out red flames of fire. This light was reflected on the ground, the plants, the shrubs, and even the faces of people and their clothing, taking on shimmering tones of many diverse colours. Animated three times by a most insane movement, the globe of fire seemed to tremble, shake, and precipitate in a zigzag towards the terrorised crowd. The whole thing lasted about ten minutes.” The lawyer Dominhos Pinto Coelho wrote in the Catholic daily *O Ordem*: “The sun appeared at one moment surrounded by crimson flames, at another moment crowned with yellow and red. At times it turned rapidly on itself and then seemed to detach itself from heaven to approach the earth.” Finally, the sun returned zigzagging back to the place from which it had precipitated, once more calm and brilliant with its usual light. The “dance of the sun” of 13th October is a historical fact to which thousands of persons attest, which has been described to the finest detail.

By this astounding miracle, God Himself wished to attest to the authenticity of the Fatima message which is all at once tragic, frightening but also filled with love. Indeed, God here recalls all of the constant messages of Sacred Scripture: that He wills our good, that He loves us, but that we must convert, that we must detest sin, that evil is indeed evil, that sin is grave because it offends

God and destroys man. For decades, by the intercession of His divine Mother, God in His infinite mercy has entreated us to be converted and to do penance. The Blessed Virgin asked us to do “penance, penance, penance” in reparation for the sins of men. However, sin itself must still be identified, sin must be named as such, condemned and rejected. **This is, dear friends, the drama of our times. Not only is sin not recognized as such, but it is justified with numerous subtleties and even exalted. Thus, let us not be astonished if the hour of chastisement, rather than receding, draws ever nearer. At that hour, Heaven will have very clearly and very explicitly warned us. Yes, let us convert, let us reject sin, practice humility, charity, and purity, let us be good to our neighbour—for we are never good enough to him—and let us be devoted to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, our refuge and our protection. It is at this price alone that God will have pity on His people, on the world and on the Church who finds Herself in the midst of a merciless storm.**

The Blessed Virgin reassured Lucia on 13th June 1917: “My Immaculate Heart will be your comfort and the way which will lead you to God.” “In the end my Immaculate Heart will triumph.”

(Apparitions of 13th June and 13th July 1917) Behold the note of hope, here then are the very same comforting words which make our fidelity possible and allow us to weather the difficult moments which seem now to arrive and which Heaven has announced to us now for so long.

Let us consecrate ourselves then to the Immaculate Heart of Mary who is the admirable masterpiece of God. Let us listen to the Apostle Saint Paul: “Be not overcome by evil, but overcome evil by good.” (Rom. 12:21) Yes, let us renounce evil, may we live in God’s grace, and practice the devotion of the First Saturday of the month, let us say many rosaries and practice the virtue of penance. Right before her death, little Jacinta said: “It is necessary to do penance. If people change their ways, Our Lord will still avail the world, but if they do not amend their lives, Almighty God will send the world a punishment such as never has been seen!”

Fatima’s message is therefore an urgent appeal for conversion, calling upon humanity not to get involved with the “dragon”, whose “tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and cast them to the earth.” (Apoc. 12:4)

Heaven is man’s end and purpose. There he finds his true home, where the Heavenly Father waits for all. God desires that no one be lost. That is why two thousand years ago He sent His Son on earth to seek and to save that which was lost. He has saved us by His death on the cross. May no one render this Cross vain! Jesus died and rose again so that He might be the firstborn amongst many brethren.

To conclude, let us take up once more the beautiful words of Pope Saint John Paul II about the message of Fatima: “Father, to you I offer praise, for what you have hidden from the learned and the clever you have revealed to the merest children. Father, to you I offer praise for all your children, from the Virgin Mary, your humble Servant, to the little shepherds, Francisco and Jacinta. May the message of their lives live on for ever to light humanity’s way!”

Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us. Immaculate Heart of Mary, protect us!

Saint Michael the Archangel, pray for us!

SAINT PAUL: “LET US NOT BE OVERCOME BY EVIL, BUT LET US OVERCOME EVIL BY GOOD.”

Monsignor Gilles Wach
Prior General

CONSECRATION TO THE
IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY
WRITTEN BY LUCIA

O Virgin Mary, Mother of God and our Mother, I consecrate myself to thine Immaculate Heart in order to be fully offered and consecrated to the Lord.

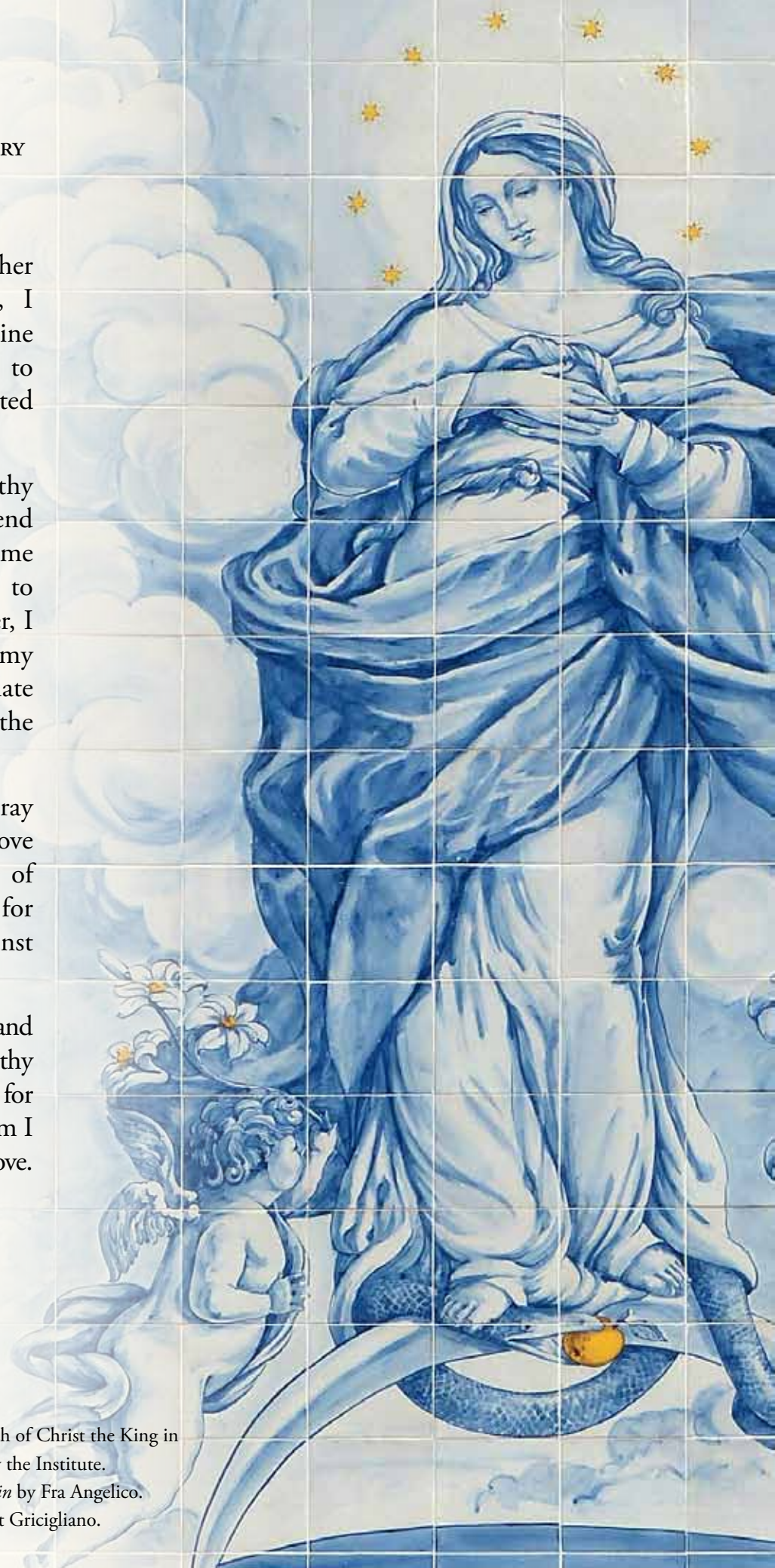
Deign to take me under thy maternal protection; defend me against dangers, help me to overcome temptations, to flee from sin, and watch over, I beseech thee, my body and my soul. May thine Immaculate Heart be my refuge and the path which leads to God.

Grant me the grace to pray and to sacrifice myself for love of Jesus, for the conversion of sinners and in reparation for the sins committed against thine Immaculate Heart.

Confiding myself to thee and in union with the Heart of thy Divine Son, I desire to live for the Most Holy Trinity in whom I believe, I adore, I hope, and I love.

Amen.

Right: Detail from the façade of the Church of Christ the King in Libreville, Gabon, constructed by the Institute.
Back cover: *The Coronation of the Virgin* by Fra Angelico.
Seminarians praying the rosary at Gricigliano.





Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest

Society of Apostolic Life of Pontifical Right, in the tradition of secular canons
Seminary of Saint Philip Neri - Villa Martelli
Via di Gricigliano, 52 - 50065 SIECI (FI) - Italy
www.icrsp.org - info@icrsp.org
www.domeofhome.org - www.stwalburge.org

