

Miracle at Fatima

Three years ago on the thirteenth of May, Maria de Silva was cured at the shrine of Our Blessed Mother at Fatima in Portugal. Maria was twenty-one years old at the time. Her case was a most desperate one. Four years previous she underwent a surgical operation, and the wound never healed. Two great sores developed, one in the abdomen and the other on her left arm. The arm wound was so bad that the dead tissue had to be scraped and removed.

About noon of the eventful day, Maria was taken to the Basilica for Mass and benediction on her stretcher. She was more dead than alive. She seemed to be in a coma. At one time during Mass her nurse thought she was actually dead. Her heart action had to be revived by an injection given by the attending doctor. The only sign of life that could be detected was her constant gasping for breath. All through Mass she showed no signs of taking notice of what was going on.

At the end of the High Mass, the Cardinal Legate sent by the Pope for the anniversary ceremonies of the famous May 13, 1917 miracle of the sun, came down from the altar carrying the Blessed Sacrament, and commenced blessing the sick. Maria was the second patient to be blessed.

The Cardinal stopped in front of the girl and with the Monstrance in his hands gave the unconscious girl the blessing. In describing the miracle, Maria's nurse who was beside her at the time, says, "As the Blessed Sacrament came in front of Maria, she suddenly leaped up, unassisted, and said 'I am cured! Nothing hurts me!'"

As soon as possible Maria was taken back to the hospital on the grounds of the Shrine. It took much persuasion to keep her from walking back all by herself. Once back in the hospital, she jumped about and walked around the room. The doctors examined her and found that her sores were almost healed, and the next morning they were healed, only scars remaining.

One witness of the miracle saw Maria within an hour of the cure. He testified that her color had returned and that she seemed in perfect health. Maria told him she had been ill for five years, and for two had not been able to walk properly. Her left arm had been paralyzed and now she waved it to show how complete her cure was. After the doctors had examined her, Maria went to the Chapel of the Apparitions to pray, and then she thought of her mother who was in the crowd and wanted to run out to find her.

A year later when questioned, Maria added a few details to her story. The journey to Fatima was a very painful one. The village doctor had offered her the service of his car, but she declined, preferring to ride in a donkey-cart so that she could suffer more.

The Novena for Mother's Day is being made in honor of Our Lady of Fatima. Entrust your mother to her. Do your part during this Novena, especially be assisting at Mass and receiving Holy Communion.

PRAYERS: (111) father of Henry Woods (Far); father of Jack and Lawrence Terrio (How), recovering. Nine Special Intentions. Two Thanksgivings.

F I R S T F R I D A Y