

Rosary devotions
every evening at
5 o'clock.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
October 14, 1947

Late Masses daily
at 7:20A.M. in
Dillon and Cavanaugh

30 Years Ago -- A Miracle

On October 13, 1917 a prodigy took place at Fatima in Portugal. There were 70,000 people who witnessed this wonder. To get an idea of the size of this crowd, recall that the Notre Dame stadium holds 55,000. There was such a tremendous gathering because the date, hour and place of the miracle were predicted.

The miracle centers around Our Blessed Mother and three little children of Fatima. The morning of October 13 was wet, gloomy and cold. The place foretold was a vast pit, which had become a sea of mud because of the rains. The pilgrims were thoroughly drenched. Yet in spite of the dullness of the day, the sun suddenly appeared in a patch of blue sky. It was very bright, but not dazzling. One could look straight at it.

Then the wonders started. The sun began to dance. It trembled and finally turned giddily on itself, like a wheel of fire, casting in all directions enormous beams of light. The beams changed in color from green, red, blue and violet to other tints. All the colors were reflected in a most fantastic manner on the clouds, trees, rocks, the earth and on the clothing and faces of the crowd. This went on for four minutes, and then the whirling stopped. And then all the fireworks began again. This drama was seen distinctly within a radius of twenty-five miles.

The Sun Falls From the Sky

The climax of this stupendous event was the fall of the sun from its place in the heavens. This was the phenomenon that brought the crowd to make acts of sorrow and love of God. The spinning sun left its place in the sky and began falling in a zigzag manner upon the crowd below, sending out intense heat. The crowd was terrified; many prepared for death by making acts of sorrow for sin. Some fell to their knees in the mud. Suddenly the sun stopped in its fall and began zigzagging its way back to its normal place in the sky. When the people were convinced that the danger was over, they shouted: "Miracle! miracle! Praised be the Blessed Virgin!"

Up to this moment the crowd had been drenched by the rain. After the miracle everyone felt comfortable, and when they found their garments dry, the wonder became a subject of widespread discussion. The crowd left the place of the miracle happy, and with renewed confidence and greater love of God and Our Lady.

Why? Why?

There was a divine purpose behind this miracle. Before this event Our Blessed Mother had appeared many times to the three children, and had given them definite messages for the world. The miracle served to convince men of the reality of the apparitions at Fatima and the truth of her message.

Above all things, Our Lady wants us to have fervent devotion to her Immaculate Heart. It is well to note that if one has devotion to the Most Pure Heart of Mary in response to her wishes, his petitions will receive a more favorable hearing. If you are anxious to receive a special favor very soon, you should begin immediately a Novena of Rosaries in honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

At Fatima Our Blessed Mother made other requests: "The faithful...must say the rosary," "If my requests are heard, Russia will be converted, "Pray, pray much...for sinners." The message of Fatima is for you. Are you going to respond?