

(Ill) mother of Bill
Ensign (Bad), injured.
3 Special Intentions.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
May 10, 1948

(Ill) brother of Very
Rev. Father Steiner,
CSC, Provincial.

The Blessed Virgin Appears At Fatima

On Sunday, May 13, 1917, during the First World War, three shepherd children of Fatima, Portugal went to Mass, and then took their flocks out to the pasture lands. It was nearly noon when they found a choice spot. After eating their frugal lunch, they said the Rosary together. When their prayers were over, they began building stone houses.

Suddenly a kind of vivid lightening dazzled the children. Thinking that a storm was coming up, they decided to run home before it rained. They gathered their sheep and started down the hill on which they had been playing.

Halfway down the hill, another flash of light jumped through the air. The children stopped, but continued again. They had taken but a few steps when they found themselves surrounded by a light that nearly blinded them. Some impulse prompted them to look to their right. And there, before them, above a young oak tree of about three feet high, they saw a beautiful Lady of indescribable beauty. Frightened, they began to run away. But the Lady motioned to them, and spoke.

"Do not be afraid. I will do you no harm."

"Where do you come from, Madam?" asked Lucy.

"I come from Heaven."

"And what are you coming here for?"

"I come to ask you to meet here six times in succession, at this same hour, on the thirteenth of each month. In October, I will tell you who I am and what I expect of you."

"Shall I go to Heaven?" inquired Lucy.

"Yes, you will go there."

"And Jacinta?"

"Yes."

"And Francis?"

"Yes, but first he must say his beads very often."

Lucy and Jacinta saw and heard the Lady, but not Francis, though he heard Lucy talking to someone. "Let Francis say the Rosary, and in that way, he too will see me." Francis started to say his beads, and before he had finished a decade, the Lady became visible to him.

Lucy continued to ask questions. She wanted to know what happened to two girls who had died recently. The Lady said one was in Heaven, the other in Purgatory. Then the Lady made an appeal to the children?

"Do you want to offer yourselves to God to endure all the sufferings that He may choose to send you, as an act of reparation for the sins by which He is offended and as a supplication for the conversion of sinners?" Lucy answered "Yes" for all three.

"Then you are going to suffer a great deal, but the grace of God will assist you, and bear you up." Saying these words, the Lady separated her hands, and shed upon the children a mysterious light. Lucy said that the light penetrated to the depths of their souls, causing them to see themselves in God. Moved by an inward impulse, they fell to their knees and repeated the prayer an Angel taught them months before.

The Lady's departing words were, "Say the Rosary every day to bring peace to the world and the end of the war."