

University of Notre Dame

Religious Bulletin

May 12, 1954

-----

Tomorrow - We Remember

It was on May 13, 1917, that Lucy, Jacinta, and Francis, aged 10, 7 and 9, of Fatima, brought their sheep to graze in a little plot nearby, called Cova da Iria. They ate a frugal picnic lunch, said their Rosary, then amused themselves gathering sticks and stones to build a toy house. Suddenly, a kind of lightning dazzled them. Fearing a storm, they gathered the sheep and headed them for home. They had not gone far when another flash, more brilliant than the first, held them riveted to the spot. Three or four yards from a little holm tree, they found themselves surrounded by a blinding light.

Before them, above the little holm tree, in the center of a halo of light, they saw a beautiful lady, brighter than the sun. Terrified, they sought to flee; but her maternal gesture and a sweet word held them back. The Lady said: "Do not be afraid. I will do you no harm!"

The wonderful "young lady" seemed to them to be eighteen at the most. Her dress was white. It was fastened about her neck by a golden cord that came down to her waist. A veil (mantle), with edges decorated in fine gold embroidery, covered her head and shoulders, and fell almost to the hem of her dress, enveloping her whole body. The face, pure, infinitely delicate, beamed in the sun's rays, smiling lovingly, with a touch of sadness. Her hands were joined at the breast. From the right arm hung a string of beads, white, with a silver cross. The feet, bare and rosy, rested lightly on an ermine cloud that touched the green branches of the shrub. The Lady looked at the children, and Lucy made bold to ask:

"Where do you come from, Madam?"

"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."

"Will you," the Lady asked the children, even at that first appearance, "offer sacrifices to God and accept all the sufferings He will send you in reparation for the numberless sins which offend His divine Majesty? Will you suffer to obtain the conversion of sinners, to repair blasphemies, as well as all the offenses committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary?"

"Yes, we will!" Lucy answered with enthusiasm, in the name of all three. And after a few minutes, while the children prayed, the apparition urged them to say their beads every day, with devotion, to obtain the peace of the world, and the conversion of sinners. Then the apparition moved away toward the east and vanished.

Tomorrow afternoon, in honor of this blessed anniversary, all the school children of the vicinity will gather at the Shrine of Fatima for their participation in the Novena now under way. Tonight: Dillon and Badin halls form the Official Pilgrimage Group from the University. Tomorrow evening, it will be Howard and Lyons halls. From St. Mary's will come the Juniors tonight; tomorrow, the Seniors.

-----  
PRAYERS - Donald Bernard Stanton (Korea); grandfather of Jack Sand of Alumni; mother of Thomas Finnigan (Off-Campus); grandmother of Tom Russell of Cavanaugh; father of Richard Gorman, CSC; father of Jack Gorman (Off-Campus); Frank Thomas, '23. Ill: the infant daughter of Joe Naughton, '50; father of Rev. Wm. Morrisson, CSC.