



The Story of Fatima

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In 1916, in a town named Fatima, an angel of God came to see three children who were taking care of their sheep. The angel's name was the Angel of Peace (or Angel of Portugal). The Angel appeared to the children three times. During these visits, the Angel taught the children some important lessons and prepared them for upcoming visits from Our Blessed Mother.

The Angel taught the children (1) how to love "the Hidden Jesus" in the Most Blessed Sacrament, (2) to pray for sinners and for people that do not believe in Jesus, (3) to pray for peace, and (4) to accept and offer Jesus the sufferings that they would experience.

On his first visit to the children, the Angel taught the children the words to this prayer:
 "My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love you! I ask pardon for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love you!"

On his second visit, the Angel told the children to offer their prayers and sacrifices to God. The children learned of God's love and that God wants to be loved too. They learned that their sacrifices are received by God, please Him, and that God uses the sacrifices for the conversion of sinners.

On the third visit to the children, the Angel appeared "holding a chalice in his hands, with a host above it from which some drops of blood were falling into the sacred vessel." The Angel left both the chalice and host suspended in the air. The Angel and the children prostrated themselves upon the ground and prayed three times:

"Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, 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 by which He Himself is offended. And by the infinite merits of His Most Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg of you the conversion of poor sinners."

Then, the angel gave the host (Body of Jesus) to one child to eat and the wine (Blood of Jesus) in the chalice to the other two children to drink. Through this third visit, the Angel taught the children to adore and love Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

The Angel's visits prepared the children for six visits from the Mother of God - Jesus' mother. Our Lady of Fatima (1) taught the children prayers to her Son, (2) asked the children to pray the rosary devoutly (with much thought) every day, (3) asked the children if they would be willing to offer sacrifices in reparation for (to make right) the sins of the world. The children said yes to it all.

Since there was much doubt by the town's people, one of the children asked Our Lady of Fatima for a miracle so that people would believe. On October 13, 1917, the miracle of the sun was seen by 70,000 people. The miracle began with the sun breaking through rain clouds and shining brightly. The sun then started to spin in the sky while shooting blue and yellow light out. The sun appeared to drop towards earth and then return to its place in the sky. Through this miracle, many people came to believe in Our Lady of Fatima.

The visits from the angel and Our Lady of Fatima created in the children a love of visiting Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. The children said countless prayers to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and many devout rosaries. As Our Lady of Fatima requested, the children offered constant sacrifices in reparation for (or to make right) the sins of the world. These sacrifices were the pain, fear, or sadness the children would experience and then give to Jesus as a gift.

We can follow the example of these three shepherd children by (1) visiting Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, (2) behaving respectfully before Jesus in Adoration, (3) choosing to say the prayers taught by the angel and Our Lady, (4) saying the rosary thoughtfully, and (5) giving Jesus our pains in reparation for the sins of the world.

Prayers taught by the Angel of Portugal or Peace:

Pardon Prayer

My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love you! I ask pardon for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love you!

Prayer of Reparation

O Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore Thee profoundly. I offer Thee 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 indifferences by which He is offended. By the infinite merits of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg the conversion of poor sinners.

Prayer taught by Our Lady:**Eucharistic Prayer of Adoration**

O Most Holy Trinity, I adore You! My God! My God! I love You in the Most Blessed Sacrament!

The Fatima Prayer

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, and lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of Your Mercy