



# CRUSADERS of MARY Newsletter

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## THE COURAGE OF MARTYRS

**T**he three children chosen by Heaven to receive the Message intended for all mankind were locked in a prison cell in Ourem. It was evening. Lucy, Jacinta, and Francisco stared wide-eyed into the opposite extremes of the cell. Staring back at them was a handful of criminals.

In an effort to terrorize the three seers, the Tinsmith, the Administrator of Ourem, had locked the children in a jail cell.

Jacinta sniffled and rasped, "Neither your parents nor mine have come to see us. They do not care about us."

Francisco tried to be a man. "Don't cry. We will offer it to Jesus for sinners."

The tiny peasant child, in his old man's clothes and shepherd's toque, pulled the toque from his head, looked to Heaven and prayed aloud: "O my Jesus, it is for love of Thee and for the conversion of sinners."

Jacinta added, "It is also for love of the Holy Father and in reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary."

Francisco said, "If we do not see our mother again, patience! We will offer that for the conversion of sinners. The worst would be if Our Lady did not come any more! That is what would be the most painful! But I will offer it also for sinners." But seeking a little more reassurance than his own faith and bravado he asked Lucy, "Is Our Lady not going to appear to us anymore?"

Lucy, even now maintaining a maturity beyond her years, said "I don't know", making no effort to insist on the positive

when so much negative was in evidence. But she added, "I think so."

Francisco sighed, half cried, "I want so much to see Her!"

A man known as 'the Executioner' retrieves them from the cell, ushers them into a room and leaves them. Before he closes the door he says, "Soon they will come to get you in order to boil you in oil." An absurd claim even in Masonic Portugal, but all too believable for three peasant children who had never seen the inside of a police station, let alone a jail cell.

Lucy's face remained stony, expressionless, determined, as the door closed. Jacinta was at the window, crying. Lucy drew her near and comforted her.

Jacinta sobbed, "We are going to die without seeing either father or mother again. I should like at least to see my



The three seers, Jacinta, Lucy and Francisco, were terrorized by the Administrator of Ourem who jailed the children.

mother."

"Then you do not wish to offer this sacrifice for the conversion of sinners?" said Lucy.

"Yes, I do wish to!"

Raising her hands and eyes to Heaven, she said, "O my Jesus it is for Thy Love, for the conversion of sinners, for the Holy Father and in reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary."

The prisoners, huddled nearby, who had been watching started muttering, and one of them spoke for them all.

"But, then, tell that secret to the Administrator. What does

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it matter to you that this Lady does not wish it?"

Jacinta recoiled from the thought. "No! In place of that I prefer to die."

Jacinta then took a medal from around her neck and asked a prisoner to hang it on a nail on the wall. And on their knees in front of that medal the children began to pray.

The prisoners knelt down behind the three children and after listening awkwardly started to join in. Several of them had trouble making the Sign of the Cross.

Francisco glanced sideways and noticed a prisoner who was wearing a beret on his head. He shuffled toward him. "If you want to pray you should take off your beret."

The prisoner humbly removed his beret. At that moment, the door swung open. The 'Executioner' entered and yelled at Jacinta.

"The oil is about to be boiled: Tell the secret, if you do not wish to be burned!"

"I cannot!"

"You cannot? Well I am going to make you able to tell it. Come!"

Bravely, Jacinta, sniffing back tears, went with him, the attitude of adult martyrdom guiding her.

Francisco said to Lucy, "If they kill us, as they are saying, in a little time we will be in

Heaven! What happiness! That doesn't affect me at all." But he listened for sounds of Jacinta's 'torture'. "May God will that Jacinta not be afraid, I am going to say an Ave Maria for her," he said, and removing his cap he began to pray.

A guard demanded, "What are you doing?"

"I'm reciting an Ave Maria so Jacinta will not be afraid."

The guard made a scornful gesture as the Executioner returned.

Then he pronounced the terrible words, "Jacinta is already dead."

Francisco was very stoic, Lucy very shocked.

"Now you tell me the secret," ordered the Executioner.

"I cannot tell it to anyone," Francisco said.

"You cannot? We shall see."

Seizing him by the arm, he pulled Francisco along behind him to lead him to the 'torture room'. Francisco was shoved in. There stood Jacinta. No boiling oil!

Back in the prison cell, Lucy backed away as the 'Executioner' reached for her. He grabbed her and hauled her out.

Moments later the door to the torture room opened and Lucy was shoved in. Jacinta and Francisco ran to her. Immediately the Tinsmith entered.

"Now we will boil you in oil together!"

But he neither got the secret, nor even any confession. It was left to Canon Formigao to assess the behavior of the seers under this horrific pressure.

"Who does not see that the conduct of the children was extraordinary, even amazing? In everything that happened at Vila Nova de Ourem, with respect to them, do we not feel, so to speak, a supernatural protection which defends and encourages them? Without the strength of On High, it was (i.e., should have been) easy to make them contradict themselves, to extract the secret from them, to oblige them to retract. Children so young, so primitive, so ignorant, how

could they have avoided the traps which the intelligence of the wicked had set for them? How could they resist the promises which were so seductive, and especially resist such horrible procedures of intimidation, if they had not been certain of possessing the truth and if God had not been there with them?"

The next morning, after a final interrogation, the children were brought back to Fatima. Outside the priest's house, the three seers stood on the steps. People leaving Mass of the Assumption at the church alongside rushed to them. Ti Marto hugged his Jacinta.

The Tinsmith, having taken refuge in a neighboring tavern, watched through a window the scene at the priest's house across the street. As the priest approached the steps from the church, the Tinsmith immediately exited the tavern and crossed the street.

The people took up clubs, and except for words of appeasement and the accommodating attitude of Ti Marto, the Tinsmith would have undergone a beating. Ti Marto stepped between the people and the Tinsmith and the priest.

The priest also, whom some parishioners suspected of

**Prayer to the Blessed Virgin**

*My Queen, my Mother, I give myself entirely to Thee, and to show my devotion to Thee, I consecrate to Thee this day, my eyes, my ears, my mouth, my heart, my whole being without reserve. Wherefore good Mother as I am Thine own, keep me, guard me, as Thy property and possession.*

*Amen*

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## News from the Apostolate ...

### Chronology of a Cover-Up

In October our Fatima office staff, with the help of a few volunteers, did a mailing of the *Chronology of a Cover-Up* booklet, which was translated into Portuguese. It was mailed to over 5,000 Catholics in Portugal.

### Rosary Rallies

Father received an especially warm welcome in the state of California on two Rosary Rallies in September. Approximately 800 people came to venerate the Miraculous Virgin Statue and hear Father Gruner's words on Our Lady of Fatima's Message.

Volunteers in the California area graciously donated their time and money to make Father's visit a most special one. In the city of Ontario, the conference hall was donated and large fresh flower urns were placed beside Our Lady to accentuate Her beauty. And, in San Diego, Our Lady was greeted with a large choir who sang angelically the Fatima Ave as all participants sang with them. It was a great success!

### Literature Distribution

During the month of September, our Volunteers distributed over 70,000 pieces of literature and sacramentals. Among these were a new prayer card, Our Lady's Seven Sorrows, and the leaflet *The Devotion of the Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary*.

If you are interested in becoming one of Our Lady's Volunteers, or if you want more prayer cards, please call our volunteer hotline at 1-866-871-7723.

### The Year of the Most Holy Rosary

We commend the Holy Father for declaring the 25th year of his pontificate the year of the Most Holy Rosary. We promote the Fatima Rosary which is the original 15 mystery Dominican Rosary with the addition of the Fatima prayer "O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell; lead all souls to Heaven, especially those most in need." Our Lady of Fatima promoted the 15 Mysteries of the Rosary; in keeping with the Fatima Message, we do the same.



## A Mystical Rose Tree — for Devout Souls

by St. Louis de Montfort

Good and devout souls, who walk in the light of the Holy Spirit: I do not think that you will mind my giving you this little mystical rose tree which comes straight from Heaven and which is to be planted in the garden of your soul. It cannot possibly harm the sweet smelling flowers of your contemplations; for it is a heavenly tree and its scent is beautiful. It will not in the least interfere with your carefully planned flower beds; for, being itself all pure and well-ordered, it inclines all to order and purity. If it is carefully watered and properly attended to every day it will grow to such a marvelous height and its branches will have such a wide span that, far from hindering your other devotions, it will maintain and perfect them.

Of course you understand what I mean, since you are spiritually-minded; this mystical rose tree is Jesus and Mary in life, death and eternity; its green leaves are the Joyful Mysteries, the thorns the Sorrowful ones and the flowers, the Glorious Mysteries of Jesus and Mary. The buds are the childhood of Jesus and Mary, and the open blooms show us both of Them in Their sufferings, and the full-blown roses symbolize Jesus and Mary in Their triumph and glory.

A rose delights us because of its beauty — so here we have Jesus and Mary in the Joyful Mysteries. Its thorns are sharp, and prick, which makes us think of Them in the Sorrowful Mysteries, and last of all its perfume is so sweet that everyone loves it, and this fragrance symbolizes Their Glorious Mysteries.

So please do not scorn this beautiful and heavenly tree, but plant it with your own hands in the garden of your soul, making the resolution to say your Rosary every day. By saying it daily and by doing good works you will be tending your tree, watering it, hoeing the earth around it. Eventually you will see that this little seed which I have given you, and which seems so very small now, will grow into a tree so great that the birds of Heaven, i.e., predestinate and contemplative souls, will dwell in it and make their nests there. Its shade will shelter them from the scorching heat of the sun and its great height will keep them safe from the wild beasts on the ground. And best of all, they will feed upon the tree's fruit — which is none other than our adorable Jesus, to Whom be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

# CRUSADERS of MARY Reader Mail



**Dear Father Gruner,**

You and your Fatima apostolate are always in our prayers. I am very sad to see how certain churchmen are persecuting you. I do believe you are a thorn in their side.

I read, with special interest, all that is going on with the Fatima Prophecy.

Thank you for being the only priest out there keeping this issue in the forefront.

Again, God bless you. I pray Our Blessed Mother continues to guide you and your mission.

In Jesus through Mary,

*Marie C., CT*

**Dear Father Gruner,**

Thank you for the blessed Green Scapular you sent, it's needed very much in my family. I pray for you with every Rosary and your work for Our Lady. God bless you,

*Jan F., IL*

**Dear Father Gruner,**

Through your magazine, *The Fatima Crusader*, I have been able to know about your ordeal.

I am certain that your sufferings are of immense spiritual value for the Fatima Apostolate that you guide.

Through you, I learned about Fatima in its entirety and its profoundness. I try to live the message and make it known.

My prayers are with you always,

*Yolanda H., TX*

## We'd Like to Hear From

# YOU!

### **Crusaders of Mary Newsletter**

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contriving with the Administrator during the abduction of the children, was severely taken to task. The astuteness of the Tinsmith proved quite painful for Father Ferreira.

That evening in his office, Father Ferreira, shaken by the anger of the people toward him, drafted a letter which he made public, stating:

"My heart of a Catholic priest must reject with all its strength the insidious and unjust calumny addressed to me, and to shout before the whole world that I have taken no part, not even the smallest part, directly or indirectly, in the odious and sacrilegious act which was committed by the bold kidnapping of the children who, in this parish, saw Our Lady ..."

Later in the week, the letter of Father Ferreira would make known the events of the Cova in an objective way to a large public. It appeared on August 17, 1917 in *A Ordem*, the Catholic daily newspaper of Lisbon, and a little later in *O Mensageiro*, the weekly of Leiria, and in the bulletin of Ourem, *O Ourem*, of the dean of Olival. In order to excuse himself in the eyes of thousands of pilgrims for his attitude of indifference, Father Ferreira had to call to mind the facts. And probably without intending to do so, included several passages that made an excellent defense of the events in the Cova da Iria:

"In the words of thousands of witnesses, the children's absence did not prevent the Queen of Angels from manifesting Her power. All these people attest to the extraordinary facts and phenomena which have implanted their faith still more deeply. The Virgin has no need of the Parish Priest to show Her goodness, and it is necessary for the enemies of religion not to be able to slander the sparkling manifestations of Her benevolence in attributing the belief of the people to the presence and advice of the Parish Priest. For faith is a gift of God and not of priests. Here is the true motive for my absence and apparent indifference with regard to such a sublime and marvelous event. I abstain from reciting the phenomena which have been produced at the place of the apparitions because the press certainly has echoed them."

On August 19, in the little valley leading to the Cabeço called Valinhos, Lucy is electrified by an awareness of something unusual. She reaches out a hand abstractedly toward Francisco. He looks at her puzzled. John, Jacinta's and Francisco's brother who was accompanying them, stopped in his tracks.

Even as Father Ferreira's letter was being read by people all over Portugal, Our Lady was making an unexpected visit of consolation to the three children who had suffered so much for Her.