

CRUSADERS OF MARY

Newsletter

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The Mystery of the Angel's Third Visit



On one particular September day, three young shepherds pastured their sheep at a small olive grove called the *Pregueira* (cave) that was owned by Lucy's family. It was situated just south of the rocky shelter where the Angel of Portugal had first appeared to them in the spring of that year. He was about to return for a third and final visit.

In her Memoirs Sister Lucy recounted:

"After our lunch, we decided to go and pray in the hollow among the rocks on the opposite side of the hill.

"To get there, we went around the slope, and had to climb over some rocks. The sheep could only scramble over these rocks with some difficulty."

As soon as they arrived, they knelt down with their foreheads touching the ground and began to repeat the prayer the Angel had taught them in the spring.

"My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love Thee ..."

"I don't know," wrote Sister Lucy, "how many times we repeated this prayer, when an extraordinary light shone upon us."

From overhead the Angel, holding a chalice, looked down upon the three upturned faces.

He was holding a chalice in his left hand with the Host suspended above it, from which some drops of Blood fell into the chalice.

Leaving the chalice suspended in the air, the Angel knelt

down beside them and made them repeat three times this most beautiful prayer:

"Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, I adore Thee profoundly, and, I offer Thee the most Precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of the same Son, 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 Thee the conversion of poor sinners."

Then rising, the Angel took the chalice and the Host in his hands.

He gave the sacred Host to Lucy and shared the Blood from the chalice between Jacinta and Francisco, saying as he did so, "Eat and drink the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, horribly outraged by ungrateful men! Make reparation for their crimes and console your God."

Then once again the Angel prostrated himself on the ground and repeated with them three more times the same prayer to the Most Holy Trinity.

Francisco gazed, transfixed, through his fingers at the Angel.



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Eight Beatitudes for the Home

BLESSED is the home where father, mother and children go to Confession regularly, receive Holy Communion frequently, and pray much; for the Lord abides in such a home.

BLESSED is the home in which the Sundays and holy days are properly observed, for the members will one day meet again at the festival of Heaven.

BLESSED is the home which no one leaves to go to sinful amusements, for in it the joy of Christ shall reign.

BLESSED is the home where evil speech does not enter, nor blasphemy, nor bad literature, nor intemperance, for on that home will be heaped the blessings of peace.

BLESSED is the home where father and mother are conscious of the sacred dignity of bringing children into the world and educating them in the service of God, where they faithfully fulfill the obligations they have towards each other and their children, and detest the sins sometimes committed in the married state, for they will merit favor and abundant blessings of God.

BLESSED is the home where the children are baptized promptly after they are born, for they will grow up from the first as children of God: and blessed is the home to which a priest is called in time to attend the sick, for their illness will have its consolation and death will be happy.

BLESSED is the home where Christian doctrine is properly appreciated and learned from the catechism and good books, for in that home the Faith will be kept firm and active.

BLESSED is the home where the parents find their consolation in children that are dutiful and obedient, and where the children find in their parents the example of the fear and love of God, for that home will be the abode of just people, the haven of virtues and the ark of salvation. †

THE MYSTERY OF THE ANGEL'S THIRD VISIT Continued from page 1

The three prayed together, "Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, I adore Thee profoundly, and I offer Thee the Most Precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of the same Son, Jesus Christ ..."

Enveloped by what Sister Lucy in her Memoirs called a supernatural force, they imitated the Angel in everything he did and said.

"We remained a long time in this position repeating the same words over and over again", Sister Lucy wrote.

It was Francisco who realized it was getting dark and drew the others' attention to the fact that they should take their flock back home. They had been lost in prayer all afternoon. So intense was the presence of the Angel that Sister Lucy would write: "I felt that God was in me."

The three children were enraptured. From that moment on they began to offer to God everything that mortified them, but without looking to impose particular penances on themselves, except to pass entire hours prostrate on the ground repeating the prayer the Angel taught them.

"These words were indelibly impressed upon our minds. They were like a light which made us understand who God is, how He loves us and desires to be loved, the value of sacrifice, how pleasing it is to Him and how, on account of it, He gives the grace of conversion to sinners."

It is possible to see in this communion given by the Angel, a confirmation by Heaven itself of Pope Saint Pius X's decree *Quam Singulari Christus*, published August 8, 1910, which encouraged priests to give communion to children at the age of reason, as early as age six, or most commonly set at seven. Lucy dos Santos had already received First Holy Communion in her parish church at six, thanks to this decree.

Still moved by a special grace, they kept the visits of the Angel to themselves. It would take a very special grace for children of such a tender age not to reveal to their parents how they received Holy Communion. †

"Look My daughter, at My Heart, surrounded with thorns with which ungrateful men pierce Me at every moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude. You at least try to console Me and announce in My name that I promise to assist at the moment of death, with all the graces necessary for salvation, all those who, on the First Saturday of five consecutive months shall confess, receive Holy Communion, recite five decades of the Rosary, and keep Me company for fifteen minutes while meditating on the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary, with the intention of making Reparation to Me."

— Our Lady to Sister Lucy, December 10, 1925



Miracles

by Saint Louis de Montfort

While Saint Dominic was preaching the Rosary in Carcassone, a heretic made fun of the miracles and the fifteen mysteries of the Holy Rosary, and this prevented other heretics from being converted. As a punishment, God suffered fifteen thousand devils to enter the man's body.

His parents took him to Father Dominic to be delivered from the evil spirits. He started to pray and begged everyone who was there to say the Rosary out loud with him, and at each Hail Mary Our Lady drove one hundred devils out of the heretic's body, and they came out in the form of red-hot coals.

After he had been delivered, he abjured his former errors, was converted and joined the Rosary Confraternity. Several of his associates did the same, having been greatly moved by his punishment and by the power of the Rosary.

The learned Franciscan, Carthagena, as well as several other authors, says that an extraordinary event took place in 1482: The Venerable James Sprenger and other religious of his order were zealously working to re-establish devotion to the Holy Rosary and also to erect a Confraternity in the city of Cologne.

Unfortunately, two priests who were famous for their preaching ability were jealous of the great influence they were exerting through preaching the Rosary. So these two Fathers spoke against this devotion whenever they had a chance, and as they were very eloquent and had a great reputation, they persuaded many people not to join the Confraternity.

One of them, bound and determined to achieve his wicked end, wrote a special sermon against the Rosary and planned to give it the following Sunday. But when it came time for the sermon he never appeared and, after a certain amount of waiting, somebody went to fetch him. He was found dead, and evidently had died all alone without any one to help him and without seeing a priest.

After convincing himself that death had been due to natural causes, the other priest decided to carry out his friend's plan and to give a similar sermon on another day.

In this way he hoped to put an end to the Confraternity of the Rosary. However, when the day came for him to preach and it was time to give the sermon, God punished him by striking him down with a paralysis which deprived him both of the use of his limbs and of his power of speech.

At last he admitted his sin and likewise that of his friend and immediately, in his heart of hearts, he silently besought Our Lady to help him. He promised Her that if She would only cure him he would preach the Holy Rosary with as much zeal as that with which he had formerly fought against it. For this end he implored Her to restore his health and speech, which She did, and finding himself instantaneously cured, he rose up like another Saul, a persecutor turned defender of the Holy Rosary. He publicly acknowledged his former error and ever after preached the wonders of the

Most Holy Rosary with great zeal and eloquence.

I am quite sure that freethinkers and ultra-critical people of today will question the truth of the stories in this little book, *The Secret of the Rosary*, in the very same way that they have always questioned most things, but all that I have done has been to copy them from very good contemporary writers and also, in part, from a book that was written only a short time ago: *The Mystical Rose Tree*, by the Reverend Antonin Thomas, O.P.

Everyone knows that there are three different kinds of faith by which we believe different kinds of stories:

To stories of Holy Scripture we owe *divine faith*;

To stories concerning other than religious subjects, which do not militate against common sense and which are written by trustworthy authors, we pay the tribute of *human faith*; whereas

To stories about holy subjects which are told by good authors and are not in the slightest degree contrary to reason, faith or morals (even though they may sometimes deal with happenings which are above the ordinary run of events) we pay the tribute of *pious faith*.

I agree that we must be neither too credulous nor too critical and that we should remember that "*virtue takes the middle course*" – keeping a happy medium in all things in order to find just where truth and virtue lie. But, on the other



Saint Dominic

Continued on page 4



Dear Fatima Center,

I received the Green Scapular as a gift from a dear friend. I am afflicted with non-specific pulmonary fibrosis. I am, and have been for a few years, on continuous oxygen because of difficulty in breathing. Since I received the Scapular and recited the prayer, I have received relief in my breathing and can even go for an hour or so without oxygen.

I have several friends my age who are ailing and I would like to present them with a Scapular. I would like to receive 6 Scapulars along with the pamphlet.

I regret not having heard of the Green Scapular because I lost my wife to breast cancer in 1996 and I am certain the Blessed Mother would have granted her a cure.

I myself have been wearing the Brown Scapular given to me by my brother who is a Carmelite Priest.

Respectfully,

Joseph G., NJ

From the Editor: *We sent Joseph the Green Scapulars he requested. If you know of anyone who may benefit from the power of the Green Scapular, please send us their name and we will send the Scapulars out right away.*

Dear Father Gruner,

Along with the summer issue of *The Fatima Crusader*, we were most touched to receive the letter from Coralie Graham notifying us of the cruel, heartless, soulless threats made against you.

We want to tell you, as we tell the Blessed Mother Mary in our prayers, that you personify the priesthood of the Roman Catholic Church to us. We thank the Heavenly Father for your Ministry in our time to us and to our people. And we mourn — and renounce — the persecutions that have been made against you by entities that can only come from forces of evil. May our souls' deepest affection and our prayers bring comfort to you; and may our gratitude for all that you have done be a consolation far greater than the pain that you have endured to preserve the true priesthood of the Holy Roman Catholic Church in our time.

We believe that the attacks against you are a portent of things to come in the manner described by Saint Paul in the great apostasy. Your courage and faithfulness give us an example without which we would be unprepared for the things yet to come, even as Saint Paul strengthened and prepared the people of his time for the tribulations before them. Keep it ever in mind, though tempests rage — you'll never walk alone.

Sincerely in Christian Love,

The S. Family

Three Hail Mary's

Please join other members of the Crusaders of Mary in praying 3 Hail Mary's each day to comfort Our Blessed Mother for the pain caused by those who blaspheme and ridicule Her and also to help bring Her words of hope and peace to a suffering world:

**HAIL MARY, FULL OF GRACE,
THE LORD IS WITH THEE,
BLESSED ART THOU AMONG WOMEN
AND BLESSED IS THE FRUIT OF THY WOMB JESUS.
HOLY MARY, MOTHER OF GOD,
PRAY FOR US SINNERS NOW
AND AT THE HOUR OF OUR DEATH.**

Amen

MIRACLES

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hand, I know equally well that charity easily leads us to believe all that is not contrary to faith or morals: "Charity ... believeth all things"; in the same way pride induces us to doubt even well-authenticated stories on the plea that they are not to be found in the Bible.

This is one of the devil's traps; heretics of the past who denied Tradition have fallen into it and over-critical people of today are falling into it too, without even realizing it.

People of this kind refuse to believe what they do not understand or what is not to their liking, simply because of their own spirit of pride and independence. †

**We'd Like to Hear From
YOU!**

Crusaders of Mary Newsletter

In U.S.A. – 17000 State Route 30, Constable, NY 12926

In CANADA – 452 Kraft Road, Fort Erie, ON. L2A 4M7

Call us toll free at: 1-800-263-8160

or fax us at: (905) 871-3646

Visit Our Lady's Web Site at: www.fatima.org

or E-mail us at: info@fatima.org