

# BLESSED FRANCISCO AND JACINTA MARTO

BULLETIN OF THE LITTLE SHEPHERDS – OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2005 (43<sup>rd</sup> YEAR)

## AND THE SUN DANCED IN FATIMA

The two first apparitions had taken place in Fatima when, on 13th July 1917, Lucia asked the Blessed Virgin the following question: «I would like to ask you to tell us who you are, and also to work a miracle so that everybody will believe that you are appearing to us». Our Lady's reply to this was as follows: «Continue to come here every month. In October I will tell you who I am and what I want, and I will then perform a miracle for all to see and believe».

Only a miracle, a work of God, places God's seal on events, as happened with Our Lord himself.

At the beginning of his public life, Jesus found sellers and money-changers in the temple and drove them all out. At this the Jews asked him: «What sign have you to show us for doing this?» Jesus replied: «Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up». The Jews then said: «It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?» But he spoke of the temple of his body. When, therefore, he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this ... (John 2, 17-22).

On another occasion, when he was teaching the people and proclaiming the Good News, once again, the chief priests, the scribes and the elders came to him and asked: «By what authority are you doing these things, or who gave you this authority to do them?» (Mk 11, 27-28). Jesus replied: «When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak thus as the Father taught me. And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone for I always do what is pleasing to him». (John 8, 28-29).

On another day, some of the scribes and Pharisees said to him: «Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you». But he answered them: «An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the whale, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth» (Mt. 12, 38-40; Luke 11, 29-32).

«When you see a cloud rising in the west, you say at once: 'A shower is coming'; and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat'; and it happens. You hypocrites! You know

how to interpret the appearance of the earth and sky; but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?» (Luke 12, 54-56). «The works which the Father has given me to accomplish, these very works which I am doing, bear me witness that the Father has sent me. And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness to me. His voice you have never heard, his face you have never seen; and you do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe in him whom he has sent» (John 5, 36-38).



On the Feast of the Dedication of the Temple, Jesus again declared: «If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the

Father is in me and I am in the Father» (John 10, 37-38).

«Although Jesus had done so many signs before them, yet they did not believe in him» (John 12, 37).

«Jesus cried out and said: He who believes in me, believes not in me, but in him who sent me. I have come as light into the world, that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness» (John 12, 44-46).

Jesus rose on the third day as he had promised.

Our Lady's mission, too, was confirmed by the miracle of the sun on 13<sup>th</sup> October 1917.

Thus, even if nothing else had happened, there was at least the prophecy which had been clearly announced three months earlier and which was fulfilled to the letter. On the day and at the time foretold, something happened which had never been seen before, and which was seen and testified to by tens of thousands of people.

It was also testified to by the journalist Avelino de Almeida, who had been sent by the daily 'O Século' to report on whatever happened in the Cova da Iria on that 13<sup>th</sup> October 1917. He saw «astonishing things» with his own eyes, and in the issue of the paper published on 15<sup>th</sup> October 1917, under the heading 'How the sun danced at midday in Fatima' he wrote: «And, when I was beginning to think that I was not going to see anything more impressive than this noisy but peaceful crowd, obsessed with the same crazy idea and moved by the same powerful yearn-

ing, what did I then see that was truly extraordinary on the heath at Fatima? At the time foretold, the rain stopped, the dense mass of clouds opened and the royal star, a dark silver disk, appeared in the zenith and began as it were to dance as in a violent and frenzied dance, which many people took to be a serpentine dance, so beautiful and scintillating were the colours that followed one another across the surface of the sun.

Miracle, as the people declared? Natural phenomenon, as the 'wise' claim? I don't now want to know, all I want to do is to declare what I saw... The rest is for science and the Church».

D. José Alves Correia da Silva, Bishop of Leiria, in whose territory the place where the events happened was located, studied, and arranged to have studied, the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin. Paying special attention to the documents of the witnesses of the miracle of the sun on 13<sup>th</sup> October 1917, he declared, on 13<sup>th</sup> October 1930, that the visions seen by the children in the Cova da Iria on the 13<sup>th</sup> of the months of May to October 1917 were worthy of credit, and he officially authorised the cult of Our Lady of Fatima.

Thus, the voice of the people chimed in with the voice of God and with the voice of the Church.

Gunther Stolze, a German lawyer specialising in patents, trained in canon law, and also a doctor and theologian, has spent the past 40 years studying the phenomenon of the miracle of the sun. In June 2005, he gave a conference on the subject in Vienna.

His description is the first attempt to explain the unheard-of performance of the sun in the sky over Fatima that took place at about midday on 13<sup>th</sup> October 1917. Having devoted himself for decades to a careful examination of the more than 100 eye witnesses, he still needs time to correct, modify or extend his conclusions. His method corresponds to that used in the investigation of evidence in the courts. There will undoubtedly be contradictions to correct, but his work, based on the testimony of eye witnesses, corresponds to reality. He describes what we would have seen in the Cova da Iria between 12 noon and 12 minutes past 12 on 13<sup>th</sup> October 1917 if we had been there.

The number of people, estimated to be about 70,000, who were there waiting for the miracle which had been promised for 13<sup>th</sup> October, occupied a rectangular area measuring about 300 metres in length by 150 metres in breadth. Outside of this area, nothing happened. The sun, the central star of our system, was immensely far away, in no way related to our 'rectangular area'.

Within this particular atmospheric space, more or less at the centre of it, there was another smaller space which also had nothing to do with the miracle of the sun, or perhaps to some extent only at the end. Within this smaller space were located the three little Shepherds who had the vision of the lovely Lady, which is something that we cannot measure, or prove in any way, because we are dealing with a miracle of a completely different kind. A miracle within another miracle, which took place at the same time and in the same place.

The event that was observed in the atmosphere, therefore within the area we have 'marked off' so to speak, was not visible outside it, except in an abbreviated way, as happened in some places within a radius of 50 km. from that spot.

In the Cova da Iria, some 70,000 people had waited for four hours in the rain, soaked to the skin, in pools of water up to 10 cm deep, and they had also endured the cold.

The miracle had been promised for midday. At exactly midday, the dark clouds suddenly parted. The crowd seemed to see the blue sky over their heads, but it was no more than an optical illusion. The people were seeing, not the true sun, but a disk that appeared to be gold to some observers and silver to others, or even a dirty salmon pink, or changing colours. The astonishing thing was not the disk, but the circular band of light which grew rapidly in luminosity, in a circular sector of about 30 degrees, illuminating that crowd, without blinding their eyes and at the same time enfolding all present in a diffused light, a kind of semi-darkness, without casting shadows in any direction.

The disk began to rotate in this sea of celestial light, increasing in speed, projecting beams of light and captivating all the onlookers, instilling in them feelings of happiness, like someone who is present, at night at a firework display. But in Fatima it was much more intense and fantastic! All this lasted for two minutes. After a brief pause, lasting perhaps another minute, a new and even more astonishing act began. In one of its dancing movements, the disk started to change colour from gold to silver, while at the same also continually changing its position under the intense light of the sky.

The disk then began to jump from place to place in the form of a triangle, imitating in this the rhythm of a popular dance. It started to wobble and then became more stationary. After a further pause of about 60 seconds, the third act of this display by the earthly elements began. The disk, like an express train, moved down towards the earth at an increasing speed, that is, towards the thousands of onlookers, before withdrawing, in a dancing movement, upwards towards the real sun which, in the end, swallowed it, only then breaking through the high and highly symmetrical clouds.

The drama of the earthly elements had ended: water, fire, earth and air settled down. At the very end, there came a wave of heat and suddenly, all the soaked clothes dried and the water in the puddles and bogs evaporated. This wave of heat was felt with pleasure by some and not even noticed by others.

Many people showed that they were deeply moved by praying out loud and asking God to forgive them their sins. However, these were no more than secondary reactions. The extraordinary dance of the natural elements was not a threat, but an invitation to our world to rejoice. The extraordinary beauty of the three interconnected scenes was addressed to men and women and was in keeping with their physiology. No animal could have taken it in. The recipients were 70,000 human beings, ourselves among them. Since 1917, all human beings of all times are its recipients.

With this description, we had before our eyes the display produced by the natural elements during a period of 12 minutes. We had yet to see the inner aspect of all this. Let us imagine that a TV crew wished to reproduce these three scenes. What side and wing scenery, what demands, what projectors and fans would be required for the production of such a film? The title of such a film could be: «The planet introduces itself»!

There had been torrential rain for more than four hours,

and it was very cold. Then, exactly as had been foretold 92 days earlier, and at exactly the time indicated, the rain stopped and the weather turned fine. A marvellous rainbow, harbinger of happiness, appeared. Nature here used this play of light, although against the rules, as normally a rainbow can only be seen in the morning or in the late evening, not at midday. But the rainbow appeared over Fatima at midday, its colours shone with an intensity one hundred times brighter than normal, forming instead of a domed arch, a great streak 12 metres high which enveloped people, the walls and the trees. After this play of colour, the powerful and increasing heat pushed the rainy weather up into the sky. The water evaporated rapidly, and was replaced by great heat. But this did not inconvenience anybody. Our physicists do not know of any such rapid methods of drying, as the quantity of water that evaporated could not normally disappear in a few minutes from the atmosphere. Yet, when the triple play of light came to an end, everything was completely dry. Several thousand tons of water must have evaporated in less than three minutes!

There is no doubt that the air, the fourth element, would cause the most difficult problems for the television operators. While they could in one way or another manage to film the effects of the elements as described above, they would be quite unable to capture the column of air.

The many clouds at different altitudes, ranging from a few hundred to several thousand metres, were moved from one place to another and placed on top of one another in such a way that the true sun lost its brilliance and none of the 70,000 spectators suffered any damage to their retina. Hence, the different openings between the clouds were directed with sensational precision.

The three little Shepherds were in the midst of that multitude. During the dance of the sun they were in the company of the Lady of royal dignity.

If we had been there that day in Fatima, even as mere spectators, we would have returned home filled with an inexplicable feeling of happiness. We would have been thinking: 'What a wonderful planet the earth is!'

The bog-like water and the cold mud were transformed into lovely summer beauty. The disk, which was taken to be the sun, danced in the sky, and then came down before the eyes of the onlookers, almost close enough to touch, but without any kind of threat!

Thanks be to God and thanks to the One who brought this present to us from heaven, certainly without any intention of frightening, but to prove that she had really come!

Now we ask: what is the content, and the importance, of this event? Are we obliged to admit that a 'miracle' took place (or rather a double miracle, seeing that the 'miracle revealed to the little Shepherds' fitted exactly into the 'miracle witnessed by the other seventy thousand people', though in fact of a totally different kind)?

From the juridical point of view the exterior miracle proves a transcendent intelligence, but says nothing about God. The other miracle, although interior, speaks secretly, with entreating seriousness, to the entire world. From the very beginning, the Lady of the Rosary shows herself only to the visionaries, that is, to true believers, and accomplishes her mission of bringing the world back to God.

We, who today have the documents in our hands and can study the events of Fatima, are astonished by the spiritual superiority of this source, which caused this event

to happen. The content and the importance of what we have here described can only be discovered by those who believe.

Nevertheless, in this exterior miracle, too, we see an extraordinary happening which has never been taken into consideration until today. We are dealing with a grandiose spectacle which fills us with extraordinary enthusiasm: its attractiveness, the dazzling band of colours, the amazing drop in height and the evaporation of that enormous quantity of water, which happened in a matter of minutes in a display of colours, the fine streaks in the air, the glare that did not blind, the image and the dance of the rotating disk spreading its radiance over a distance of many kilometres.

What famous theologians have said concerning the substance, effects and criteria of 'miracles' would seem not to be correct. Romano Guardini, Karl Rahner and others of the same calibre do well to say nothing about the solar phenomenon, which does not fit in with their idea of a miracle!

Let us compare Lourdes with Fatima. A person suffering from cancer goes to Lourdes, prays to Mary Immaculate, suddenly shouts out like someone struck by lightning, and is found to be perfectly healthy! We call this a miracle, if in fact what has been asserted turns out to be the truth.

But here in Fatima? On 13<sup>th</sup> October, 1917, for 12 minutes at midday, in this atmosphere, what happened? None of the 70,000 people had prayed for such a thing. Suddenly, a gigantic kaleidoscope appeared and then as rapidly disappeared. We think that this phenomenon was not only a miracle, but something even greater, much more moving. This object of light marked the beginning of a new age for our world, for which we suggest the name 'NOVA', in order to express the absolute NOVELTY, the SURPRISE, the SUPERLATIVE QUALITY and the ENORMITY of this experience of the solar phenomenon, which is the Message transmitted by the Visionaries.

The NOVA spoken of by astronomers is in fact a chaos, born of chaos, and it ends by the cruel destruction of celestial bodies moving round in a circle.

But what the people saw in Fatima leaves the sun intact in its glory. Its image projects beautiful tongues of light, its heat gives pleasure, its rays of light enchant everyone. The sun does not explode; it dances. To put it briefly, everything happens in a comprehensible order and for this reason the witnesses declare that everything remained 'in order'.

The phenomenon, witnessed by thousands of people, can only be deemed to have been produced by a super-human intelligence.

And while the sun danced, the Apparition itself appeared: «I am the Lady of the Rosary!»

«What do you want of me?» was the question Lucia asked.

«Do not offend the Lord our God any more because He is already so much offended! »

«Then opening her hands she made them reflect on the sun, and as she ascended from the holm oak, the reflection of her own light continued to be projected on the sun itself.» (Sister Lucia's Fourth Memoir).

## OUR MEMORIES OF SISTER LUCIA

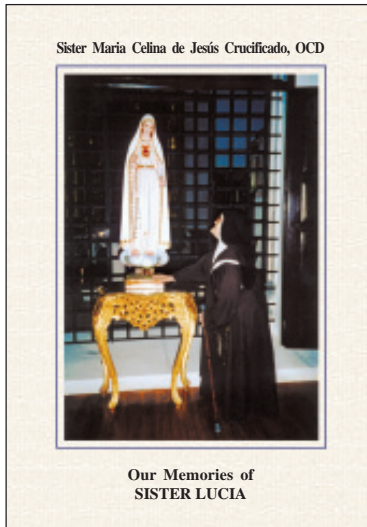
«Every monastery shall keep a book in which the names of the deceased Religious of the house are written, and a biographical sketch of each.»

«When a Religious dies, the Superior General, the local Ordinary of the Monastery, and the other Monasteries which have close ties with the Community are to be notified».

It was in order to comply with this provision of the Carmelite Constitutions, that Sr Lucia's Prioress, Sr Maria Celina de Jesus Crucificado wrote a brief biography of Sister Maria Lucia of Jesus and of the Immaculate Heart, whose baptismal name was Lucia Rosa Santos. The Prioress does no more than record the Sisters' memories of her in the years during which they all lived under the same Rule and under the same roof, together sharing the beauty and also the cross of community life.

We reproduce a delightful description of an experience of Sister Lucia's which the Carmelites heard from her own lips: «All this was followed by the pain of separation from her family and from her home. Her mother thought that, if Lucia were not there, 'the whole thing' would come to an end. She was therefore prepared to let her go to live with some ladies who had offered to take her in. Her father, however, was not willing to allow her to go for more than a few days; certainly not as a permanent arrangement. After her father's death, her mother did agree to allow Lucia to be taken to Lisbon, where she spent some time in the home of Dona Assunção Avelar, who wanted to transform her into a 'city girl'. She entrusted her to the care of a governess, who was to educate her and teach her elegant ways of behaving, which were very different from her former way of life in the heart of her family and with the children of the Serra d'Aire. She used to amuse us with her account of the 'fix' she created for the governess one day when important visitors were being entertained. She would have been about 13 years of age at the time. Her body, accustomed to being unrestrained in any way, was suddenly encased in a corset which made her feel suffocated. The governess was dressing her very elegantly before she appeared in the dining room to meet the visitors. As she went down the stairs, saying nothing, she thought to herself about David, when Saul clothed him in his own armour: «He could not move with those, for he was not used to them» (1 Sam. 17, 39).

Once the introductions were over, they all sat down at table. The visitors included Dom José Alves, Bishop of Leiria, and Canon Formigão. Once seated, Lucia felt worse. That corset made it difficult for her to breathe and



as for eating ... Very quietly, while keeping a careful eye on her governess and on the ladies who were seated at table, she slid off her chair and unobtrusively left the room. No-one followed her as they thought she would be returning, which indeed she did, but with a difference!

In her room, which she reached panting, she stripped off those elegant clothes and that ill-fated corset and put back on the clothes she had worn in Fatima. She placed on her head the little velvet hat with coloured feathers which her mother had bought for her in Lisbon and reappeared, radiant, in the dining room, and resumed her place at table as if it were the most natural thing in the world, now quite ready to eat. The governess, very surprised and a bit put out, said to her:

«What have you been doing?» to which Lucia replied: «Madam, I simply couldn't eat like that! It was so tight that all I could think of was my mother tightening the donkey's harness!» Everybody laughed. From there she returned home to her mother, on account of the rumour that was going around to the effect that she had been hidden away.»

This book is available in: Portuguese, French, German, English, Italian, Spanish und Hungarian (other languages in preparation), und costs €1 plus postage and packing.

## BLESSED FRANCISCO AND JACINTA MARTO

This little 80-page booklet, with illustrations done for children, and the text of which, written for children, is based on the Memoirs of Sister Lucia, contains the exact words of the message given by Our Lady and by the Angel to the little Shepherds.

It is available in: Portuguese, French, Spanish, English, Italian, German, Hungarian, Polish and Slovenian.

Price: €0.42 plus postage and packing.

This Bulletin is published quarterly in seven languages: Portuguese, French, Spanish, English, German, Italian and Hungarian, and is sent free of charge to anyone who asks for it. However, contributions towards the cost of printing and postage are gratefully received. Contributions can be sent by cheque, made payable to the Secretariado dos Pastorinhos.

**The Vice Postulation wishes  
all the Friends of the Little Shepherds  
a blessed Christmas and  
a peaceful New Year rich in God's blessings.**

BLESSED FRANCISCO AND JACINTA MARTO – Quarterly Publication. Price: 0.05 €. Director: Fr. Luis Kondor, svd  
Editor and Proprietor: Postulação de Francisco e Jacinta Marto – Apartado 6; 2496-908 FATIMA – PORTUGAL Ph. 249 539780  
Fax 249 539789. E-mail: Sec.pastorinhos@mail.telepac.pt – Printed in Gráfica Almondina, Torres Novas – Dep. Legal 163921/01

Visit our website: [www.pastorinhos.com](http://www.pastorinhos.com)