

## Heaven's Confidante

**T**he most beautiful story in all of history since the birth, death and resurrection of Our Lord was saved by Heaven for the 20th Century. The whole world knows at least some of the details of the wonders that took place in a pasture in Portugal in the year 1917. Mention the name Fatima and immediately images of the Mother of God, a small holm-oak tree and three small children come to mind. But few people know, much less have been able to understand, the mysterious event that launched the story two years earlier than that.

About 20 years after the great events in the Cova da Iria, Lucy dos Santos, the sole survivor of the three seers of Fatima, began writing her memoirs at the order of her bishop. She would go into the attic of her convent in Tuy, Spain, and there, sitting on a box,



Our Lady at Fatima in 1917

Lucy would write down her recollections. It was only then that we learned the beginning of the great Fatima adventure had actually taken place in 1915, when Lucy had just turned eight years of age. The story began with Lucy and her companions from the village of Aljustrel: Teresa Matias and her sister Maria Rosa. Already, at that early age, the children of Fatima had adult duties to perform — on this day, the herding of sheep. The sound of sheep braying and bells jangling filled the air.



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“From what I recall of the weather, I think this must have happened between the months of April and October in the year of 1915. Together with our flocks, we climbed almost to the top of the hill.

Lucy wrote: “At our feet there were olives, oaks, pines, holm-oaks and so on. Around midday, we ate our lunch.

“After, I invited my companions to pray the Rosary with me, to which they agreed. We had hardly begun when, there before our eyes, we saw a figure poised in the air before the trees. It looked like a figure made of snow, almost transparent in the rays of the sun ... a cloud in human form, almost transparent.

Teresa Matias called out, “What is that?”

Maria Rosa answered, “I don’t know.”

“I resolved to say nothing,” continued Sister Lucy, “but my companions told their families what had happened the very moment they reached home. The news spread ...”

Lucy’s mother, the formidable Maria, who was to play such a critical role in the great events to come, in reacting to the first rumors stepped onto the world stage for the first time.

“... My mother questioned me,” is how Lucy described it.

“Look here!” exclaimed Maria, “They say you’ve seen I don’t know what up there. What was it you saw?”

“I don’t know. It looked like a person wrapped in a sheet.

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## Make No Mistake ... We Are At War

“And there was a great battle in Heaven ... the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath ... and the dragon was angry against the Woman, and went to make war against the rest of Her seed.” *The Apocalypse*

**T**he devil has at his disposal the enticements of the world: wealth, power, fame; he can appeal to our senses; his rewards are instantaneous. All he wants in return is for you to spend eternity with him in hell.

Jesus forfeited His life so that we could free ourselves from satan's grip. And now Our Lord and His Mother are asking us to join Their army. Some of the weapons have been at our disposal for quite some time: the Bible, the Rosary, the Brown Scapular, the Five First Saturday Devotion. Other weapons are more recent and less well-known.

If the enemy's attempts to destroy the effectiveness of new weaponry is an indication of its value then *The Fatima Crusader* must be quite a threat.

What began as an eight-page black and white publication in 1978 has grown to a 64-page color magazine distributed world-wide every three months. Its contents are read by more than 1,000,000 souls each time it comes off the press.

Father Gruner has dedicated his magazine to promoting the Fatima Message. A message that is the only solution to the wars that have been ongoing since the devil's fall from grace.

The devil has used various methods in his attempt to silence Our Lady's magazine, including Church officials, but he has been unsuccessful. His traps have been well-set but Our Lady's hand has guided Father Gruner to safety.

The lies and threats have done some damage to the Apostolate and if it weren't for his loyal friends and supporters Father Gruner may well have been tempted to seek peace, even though the terms would have forced him into an unwanted exile.

The presses keep rolling, the *Crusader* keeps getting mailed, the message reaches new readers; Our Lady keeps getting closer to the final victory. Peace is one step closer. †

## The Creed

by St. Louis de Montfort

**T**he Creed of the Apostles which is said on the crucifix of the Rosary is a holy summary of all Christian truths. It is a prayer that has great merit because faith is the root, foundation and beginning of all Christian virtues, of all eternal virtues and also of all prayers that are pleasing to Almighty God. “He that cometh to God, must believe ...” (Heb. 11:6) Whosoever wishes to come to God must first of all believe and the greater his faith the more merit his prayer will have, the more powerful it will be, and the more it will glorify God.

I shall not take time here to explain the Creed word for word but I cannot resist saying that the first few words “I believe in God” are marvelously effective as a means of sanctifying our souls and of putting devils to rout, because these four words contain the acts of the three theological virtues of faith, hope and charity.

It was by saying “I believe in God” that the saints overcame temptations, especially those against faith, hope or charity – whether they came during their lifetime or at their death. They were also the last words of St. Peter, Martyr, a heretic had cleft his head in two by a cruel blow of his sword and St. Peter was almost at his last gasp, but he somehow managed to trace these words in the sand with his finger before he died.

The Holy Rosary contains many mysteries of Jesus and Mary and since faith is the only key which opens up

these mysteries for us we must begin the Rosary by saying the Creed very devoutly, and the stronger our faith the more merit our Rosary will have.

This faith must be lively and informed by charity; in other words, to recite properly the Rosary, it is necessary to be in God's grace, or at least in quest of it. This faith must be strong and constant, that is, one must not be looking for sensible devotion and spiritual consolation in the recitation of the Rosary; nor should one give it up because his mind is flooded with countless involuntary distractions or one experiences a strange distaste in the soul and an almost continual and oppressive fatigue in the body. Neither feeling, nor consolation, nor sighs, nor transports, nor the continual attention of the imagination are needed; faith and good intentions are quite enough. †

### PRAYERS OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA

*O Most Holy Trinity, I adore Thee; My God, my God, I love Thee in the Most Blessed Sacrament.*

*O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of Hell. Lead all souls to Heaven, especially those most in need.*

## Apostolate Updates

### Library of Fatima Literature

The Overseas Volunteer Department is looking forward to starting libraries of video and audio cassettes in every English-speaking country around the world. While few people in Africa or India have televisions and VCR's, we are hoping that those who have will be encouraged to arrange Block Rosary groups in their area. After the Rosary, a *Fatima*: "The Moment Has Come" program can be shown to the group. Likewise, *Heaven's Peace Plan* programs will be sent to those who have audio cassette players. These tapes will then be added to the library of Fatima literature for parishes and seminaries.

In areas where only a few speak English, the volunteer leader would translate. We have many priests requesting this form of information, they will have access to the schools, and so the programs can be aired to the children.



### Distribution of Fatima Materials

We have recently heard from a priest in Africa who wrote us asking for more Fatima materials to distribute to his parishioners, after hearing *Heaven's Peace Plan* on his radio.

### Our Lady's Website [www.fatima.org](http://www.fatima.org)

Our website is the largest Catholic website in North America. It includes the history of Our Lady's Fatima Apparitions, prayers, biographies of the Fatima seers and some of the most important books you will read concerning your Catholic Faith. Our newest feature is a regular column, *Fatima Perspectives*, written by Christopher A. Ferrara in which he focuses on current events in the world that provide additional proof that the Consecration of Russia has not been done according to Our Lady's request.

In our effort to spread Our Lady's Fatima Message worldwide, we have information available in Italian, French, Spanish, German, Portuguese and Swahili.

The newest addition to our site is *Fatima Priest* the biography of Father Gruner written by Francis Alban and Christopher A. Ferrara.

### Catholic Books Online [www.catholicbooks.org](http://www.catholicbooks.org)

Your non-profit source for Catholic books & gifts. An easy way to shop for those books that should be at the top of your reading list. Your source for sound Catholic doctrine, the real story that some do not want revealed, history as it should have been taught in school, and much more, each book has been approved by a priest of the Apostolate.

We feature a *Book of the Month* and an *Editor's Choice*. Either selection would be perfect for gift-giving.



### The Editor,

#### League of the Immaculate Heart Newsletter,

IN U.S.A. - 17000 State Route 30, Constable, NY 12926

IN CANADA - 452 Kraft Rd., 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**: [www.fatima.org](http://www.fatima.org)

or **e-mail** us at: [info@fatima.org](mailto:info@fatima.org)



### Hello Tania, Fatima Center,

My name is Kathleen and I met a beautiful man just a short time ago and discovered early on that he was so very special. Michael has prostate cancer and it has now spread to his pancreas, kidneys and his stomach. We were thinking of making a visit to Fatima when I decided to do some research and came across this web-site. The Lady's Blessed Statue and the "Fatima Priest" are planning on making a visit to New Hampshire and this is where we live. Please, could we schedule a visit to see the Fatima Statue of Blessed Mary and the "Fatima Priest"?

We have enormous faith in miracles and we are forever at the mercy of our merciful Jesus.

God Bless,

*Kathleen, via the internet.*

### To Father Gruner,

Thank you for your prayers. God bless you.

I am watching Father Gruner on Sunday morning on CHRO. I love Father Gruner. He is so understanding and loving.

The testimonies are also very helpful. I said the Rosary and Novenas. I watched and marked the 54 days on the calendar.

The lady who was talking to Father Gruner was right. I prayed from January 27 to April 4. I got my miracle. Glory to God. I love Him so much. I was putting the Holy Water on the part where I was sick and Jesus healed me. I was on antibiotics, nothing worked, and they made me so weak. I still felt sick but after Father Gruner prayed for me, and the Holy Water, I am healed. This condition could not possibly be cleared on its own. I love this ministry, and I am so glad to write to you. I will pray each day for Father Gruner. He is a wonderful priest, and he is in my prayers. I pray and leave this in the Lord's hand. He loves us so much, He knows our hearts. Love,

*Suzanne M., Ottawa, ON*

### Dear Father Gruner and dear associates of the Volunteers of Our Lady,

Here is a book order and a little more. Thank you, thank you for all you send. The *Crusaders* and now the Miraculous Medals that shall go to the young Navy men and Marines (women too). Thank you also for the beautiful explanations of the medal to which I shall attach them... and the booklet *Heaven Opened by Three Hail Mary's*. It may seem small and simple, but these precious items certainly will bring grace and enlightenment to these searching young people.

Thank you, and please pray for our demoralized and desolate, especially our military. Gratefully and in the love of the Holy Family.

*Anne-Marie R., Suffolk, VA*

### Dear Father,

Thank you for your religious enlightenment of us over the past 10+ years - through your magazine and TV program.

*Terry S., Charleston, WV*

### Father,

I wanted to congratulate you on an excellent job defending the Faith. Too often the tough questions get sidestepped, equivocated, or capitulated. You didn't back down on any of them, my thanks. I think part of Father Malachi's popularity on the program was his willingness to do the same. You're in good company. Great job,

*Thomas G. from the internet.*

### Dear Father Gruner and Staff,

Thank you for your lovely card, letter and gift of the Green Scapular. I have had great devotion to Our Lady of Fatima since 1952 and the Green Scapular since 1959. I have seen the miracle of healing our son John from Asian Flu in 1960 and a holy death for brother-in-law in 1962. I so agree with all that you do.

Thank you for all your *Crusader* magazines, holy cards, teaching of different Popes and prayers. You do make a good teacher in all respects, letting us know what really is going on in our Faith and country.

May God Bless you and your helpers.

*James H., Rochester, MN*

### *continued from page 1*

You couldn't make out any eyes or hands on it."

"Childish nonsense!"

Alas, for Lucy and her young shepherd friends, they would continue to be the object of jibes and ridicule for, on two more occasions in 1915, the mysterious happening repeated itself.

Village children hurled mockery at the three children.

"Did you see someone wrapped in a sheet?" was the familiar taunt.

After some time the girls were able to return with their flocks to the same place.

Once again the wind, bees and birds of the hillside created a beautiful natural setting for a most unnatural arrival.

Lucy reported, "And the very same thing happened again."

Her companions once more told the whole story. But that was not the end.

After a brief interval, the same thing was repeated. Later, much later, Lucy would recognize in this mysterious snowy white figure the same angel she was to contemplate again in 1916.

In her *Memoirs*, Lucy wrote: "It was the third time that my mother heard all these things being talked about ... Some people started making fun of us."

Lucy was being tested by God and it seemed that she knew, even then, the necessity of keeping some things secret. †