

Chapter Five

July Appearance

“Aren’t you going?” Lucia asked. {W 77}

“We wouldn’t dare go without you,” they cried. “Come, Lucia, come!” {DM 75}

“I’ll come.” {W 77; DM 75}

The two went from sadness to delight in a split second. As they stood up, Francisco told her, “I didn’t sleep at all last night. I spent the whole night crying and praying that Our Lady would make you go,” and off they went. {W 77; P 56}

This time there were between 2,000 and 3,000 people waiting for them when they arrived. Among the crowd was a most devout man from a nearby town who had told the priest his theory about the devil was way off. Why would the devil urge anyone to pray? Manuel Marto, the father of Jacinta and Francisco decided to come as well to observe the events. And, along came Olimpia Marto and Lucia’s mother, Maria Rosa, with blessed candles to ward off the devil and to protect the children. Afraid of what others might think seeing them there, they observed everything from a hiding place. {W 78, 79; DM 75, 76}

By the time their parents arrived the three were praying the Rosary in the midst of the crowd of people. They completely ignored a nasty woman who was calling them liars. They finished the Rosary and then, all of a sudden, Lucia said, “Take off your hats! Take off your hats... I see Our Lady already!” Manuel Marto later described what he saw: “...I saw what looked like a little greyish cloud resting on the oak tree and the sun’s heat lessened, and there was a delicious fresh breeze... then I began to hear a sound, a little buzzing, rather like a mosquito in an empty bottle.” Lucia and her cousins, meanwhile, were looking above the holm oak tree where Mary had arrived. {W 79, 80; DM 76}

“What do you want of me?” Lucia asked again. {W 80; P 59; DM 77}

“I want you to come here on the thirteenth day of the coming month and to continue to say five decades of the Rosary every day in honor of Our Lady of The Rosary to obtain peace in the world and an end to the war, for only she can obtain it.” {W 80; DM 77}

Lucia spoke up then, “I want you to tell us who you are, and to perform a miracle so that everyone will believe that you have appeared to us.” {W 80}

“Continue coming here every month,” answered the Lady. “In October I will tell you who I am and what I want,

and I will perform a miracle that everyone will have to believe.” {W 80}

Lucia then asked for some healings, including that of a young crippled friend. Mary replied that he would not be healed, but she would help him find work to support himself if he would pray the Rosary daily. Our Lady was quite strong in calling on people to pray the Rosary each day to receive graces. {W 80}

“Sacrifice yourselves for sinners,” Mary added, “and say often, especially when you make a sacrifice, ‘O Jesus, it is for your love, for the conversion of sinners, and in reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.’” {W 80}

As Mary finished saying this she opened her hands again and sent forth brilliant rays which now entered into the ground, showing below, as Lucia put it, “a sea of fire, and plunged into this fire the demons and souls, as if they were red-hot coals, transparent and black or bronze-colored, with human forms. They floated around in the fire, lifted up by the flames which came from it with clouds of smoke, falling on all sides as sparks from a great fire... [There were] shrieks and groans of sorrow and hopelessness which horrify... The devils appeared with horrible and disgusting forms of animals, frightful and unknown, but transparent like black coals that have turned red-hot.” {W 80, 81; LS 17, 19}

The three later said that if Mary had not promised them heaven, they might have died on the spot, so afraid were they. After having been almost glued to this frightening sight, they looked up to the Lady for some comfort. She said to them sadly but kindly, “You see hell, where the soul of poor sinners go. To save them God wants to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart. If people do what I tell you, many souls will be saved and there will be peace. The war will end. But, if they do not stop offending God, another and worse war will begin in the reign of Pope Pius XI. {W 81}

“When you see the sky lit up by an unknown light, know that it is the great sign that God gives you that He will punish the world for its crimes. [This will come about] by means of war, hunger, and persecution¹ of the Church and the Holy Father.

“To prevent this, I have come to ask for the consecration of Russia to my Immaculate Heart and the Communion of reparation on the first Saturdays. If they respond to my requests, Russia will be converted and there will be peace. If not, she will spread her errors throughout the world, causing wars and persecutions of the Church. The good will be martyred, the Holy Father will have much to suffer, and various nations will be destroyed. {W 81, 82}

“In the end my Immaculate Heart will triumph. The Holy Father will consecrate Russia to me, it will be converted and a certain time of peace will be granted to the world. In Portugal, the... faith will always be kept. Do not tell this

¹A persecution is an activity which causes pain and misery to another.

to anyone... Francisco, yes, you may tell him. {W 82}

“When you pray the Rosary, say after each mystery, ‘O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fire of hell, and lead all souls to heaven, especially those who are most in need.’” {W 82; LS 20}

The Lady then gave the children the “third secret of Fatima,” which was revealed 83 years later, in the year 2000. After this there was silence for some time. Then Lucia asked, “Do you want anything more of me?”

“No, I want nothing more of you today,” said Mary. Then she gave the children one more tender look and moved off to the east. So ended what might be considered the most important of Mary’s six appearances. {W 83; LS 21}

The people began to close in on the three children and ask them questions. “What did she look like?” “What did she say?” When they asked why Lucia looked so sad, she kept saying, “It’s a secret, it’s a secret.” Seeing all this was upsetting the children, Manuel Marto made his way through the crowd and lifted up his daughter Jacinta and carried her out to the road. Two other strong men carried the other two behind him. When someone offered them a ride in their car, all four gladly accepted. {W 83; DM 79, 80}