

The meaning of Fatima: 100 years later

2017 marks the centennial of Our Lady's apparitions to three shepherd children in Portugal
by Dr. Robert Fastiggi OSV Newsweekly



The year 2017 marks the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady to the three shepherd children at Fatima, Portugal, where the Blessed Mother appeared once each month from May 13 until Oct. 13, 1917.

The message of Fatima highlights many central truths and devotions of the Catholic faith: the Trinity, the Eucharist, penance, the Rosary and sacrifices for the conversion of sinners. There is special emphasis on the Immaculate Heart of Mary, which is a refuge of maternal love for us all and a sure path that leads us to God. In the end, Mary's Immaculate Heart will triumph because Mary is full of God's grace and is all pure. She has the heart of a mother who cares for her children and wishes them to be saved by her divine Son, Jesus.

Although 2017 marks the centenary year, the Fatima apparitions began with the three apparitions of the Angel of Peace (also called the Angel of Portugal) in 1916 and extended beyond 1917 with subsequent apparitions given to Sister Lucia dos Santos in Pontevedra, Spain (1925-1927) and Tuy, Spain (1929).

Fatima is one of the most significant of all Marian apparitions. Along with Guadalupe (Dec. 12) and Lourdes (Feb. 11), it is one of three Marian apparitions honored with a feast day. In 2002, Pope St. John Paul II added the May 13 feast of Our Lady of Fatima to the general Roman calendar. May 13 was the day of the first Fatima apparition of 1917, and May 13, 1981, was the day when St. John Paul II survived an attempt on his life in St. Peter's Square. John Paul II credited his survival to the intervention of Our Lady of Fatima. The assassin's bullet that narrowly missed killing the pope now is inserted in a crown of Our Lady housed at the Fatima shrine. Fatima is also linked with the collapse of Russian communism more than 25 years ago.

It is estimated that some 4-5 million people visit Fatima each year, and more are expected for the centennial year, including a visit by Pope Francis, who plans to travel to Portugal to celebrate the 100-year anniversary.

Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us!

"My Immaculate Heart shall be your refuge and the way that will lead you to God"

Our Lady of Fatima to the three shepherd children, June 13, 1917

St. Mary Solon
100th Anniversary Our Lady of Fatima

Join Us in Church:
Tuesday, June 13
7:00pm

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO
a special prayer service with
Eucharistic Adoration & Consecration to
the Immaculate Heart of Mary



Come and offer your heart to Mary: to trustingly put your life into her hands. God has desired, that in this time we have been given on Earth, to seek his son through the heart of his Mother. God has entrusted to the Heart of Mary, the peace and conversion of the world.

At a time in our world, when a great battle is waging against the faith of his Son, our Heavenly Father is allowing the Immaculate Heart of Mary to be a refuge for his children. Our Blessed Mother shares God's great concern for the salvation of our souls—so many of whom she warned are being lost to damnation.

When we give our hearts to Mary—we do this with confidence, knowing that she can lead us away from the destructive forces of the world, and to the saving graces of her son.

Mary is looking for generous souls among God's children who are willing to let her lead them close behind her Son. Consecration to Mary requires a childlike simplicity and confidence, letting her lead us, regardless of what lies ahead—realizing that she knows best what will contribute most to God's glory, our holiness and the salvation of souls. Once we give ourselves to her, she will never abandon us.

"May the Immaculate Heart of Mary always be our refuge, our consolation and the way that leads us to Christ."

Pope Francis

May 14, 2017