

coat with the sparkling white background. How carefully the green grass carpets the dark earth and brings new life to a scene that but a short time before was drab and lifeless.

The creek, too, has awakened from its slumber and gives off its soft music as it glides by its flooded banks. It swirls and swirls, singing a lullaby to itself as it journeys slowly onward to the sea.

By mid-day the earth seems to be bubbling over with life and the forest gives its show in technicolor. The yellow green leaves of the poplar and beech, the bright green of the wild cherry, the dull green of the yellow birch and the brown leaves of the shrubs and bushes, mingled with the red maple flowers and the dark green pine, gives a combination that calls for more expressive language than most of us possess. And to nature's bouquet are added the many wild flowers that dot the fields and forests with their simple charm.

What it is that awakens life everywhere, when such a brief time before everything appeared so utterly lifeless? Who can explain this mystery? Tiny seeds sprout and grow, plants shoot from the earth as if by magic and in a short space of time develop into flowers and trees. The age of miracles is not past—all around us in spring miracles are being performed. Surely in this panorama of beauty man can see the hand of God revealed in the beauty of His handiwork.

—JAMES MORRIS, '46

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FATIMA

"The war is going to end, but if people do not cease to offend God, not much time will elapse and precisely during the next pontificate another and more terrible war will commence. When night illumined by an unknown light is seen, know that this is the signal which God gives you that the chastisement of the world for its transgressions it at hand through war, famine, and persecution of the Church and of the Holy Father." The foregoing quotation is the words of our own Immaculate Mother, spoken at Fatima in July, 1917. Yet few have heard of them, fewer act in accordance with them. Follow, then, the story of Fatima with me and learn of a way to a lasting peace.

Fatima is a small village in Portugal where the Blessed Virgin appeared and spoke to three children on six different occasions during the dark days of 1917. About a mile from this small village, in the Canada Iria, on the morning of May 13th, 1917, three young children, L. Lucia, Jacinta, and Francisco, were watching their flocks in the fields. After the children had eaten their noonday meal they knelt down to say their Rosary. Thus far the way was an excellent one. As they arose from their prayers a great, bright flash of lightning startled them. While they were hurrying to gather their flocks another great flash pierced the ground at their feet. As they stood gazing at the ground they beheld a vision of a most beautiful Lady. The children were dumbfounded. After a seemingly great period of silence Lucy managed to ask from where and why the Lady had come. To the "why" Lucy received the reply that the three children were to go to Fatima on the thirteenth of each month. The Lady assured Lucy that the three children would go to Heaven, and exhorted them, saying, "Go on always saying the Rosary as you have just done." The Lady then vanished.

When the children told their parents of this the incredulous parents, naturally enough, scoffed at them. So on the thirteenth of June the children were escorted to the Cava by some elders. After saying the Rosary, the people were suddenly warned by Lucy that the Lady was coming. She again exhorted them to recite the Rosary often. But this apparition did not serve to convince the elders. The children were tempted to give up, but on July 13th they again went to the Cava. The news had spread rapidly, and accompanying the children to the Cava this time were 5000 residents of nearby towns. As in the two previous cases the Lady appeared and spoke to the children, and again she reminded them to be faithful to their recitation of the Rosary, assuring them that it would be a most effective means of ending the war, which was looking badly for the Allies at this time. The incredulous onlookers asked Lucy to ask the Lady to perform some miracle that they could see, to prove that she existed other than in the children's minds. The Lady replied, "Continue to come on the thirteenth of each month. On the thirteenth of October I shall tell you who I am and what I want and I shall work a wonderful miracle so that the whole world will believe in these apparitions." The Blessed Mother reminded the children of the great need of penance.

After this the children were imprisoned, so that on the thirteenth of August the children were unable to go to the Cava. However, some town dwellers went. This time a great clap of thunder and a bright flash of lightning served to convince the people that the vision was authentic. The children were soon liberated, and on the 19th of August, when they were again watching their flocks, the Blessed Mother again appeared to them. What she said this time is not very clearly known, but she again reminded them of the necessity of acts of repentance for other's sins as well as one's own.

The popularity of the Fatima stories continued to grow and on September 13th a crowd of thirty thousand people accompanied the children to the miraculous site. At noon a luminous globe, moving from the East to West, appeared before the people. At the same time a white cloud enclosed the children. Then a great bunch of white roses fell from Heaven, fading away before reaching the earth. Again the conversation between the Blessed Virgin and Lucy concerned the efficacy of the Rosary in the execution of the war. She also told her that on the 13th of October the child Jesus and Joseph would be with her.

Crowds assembled for the memorable day. The morning of October 13th dawned with rain pouring from the heavens. Gathered at the Cava were 70,000 people. At twelve noon the white crowd again appeared. This time it was visible to all for about fifteen minutes. As the cloud passed away, the sun changed in colour from gold to silver, and began to emanate great beams of light of every colour. Then it began to revolve violently. Three times it stopped short, three times it resumed its rotations. As the people watched this great miracle of the sun, the children only beheld a heavenly tableau of different phases on one side of the sun: St. Joseph and the Blessed Virgin holding the child Jesus in her arms, our Lord as a grown man blessing the multitude, the Mother of Sorrows, and our Lady of Mt Carmel with the scapular in her hand. Then was fulfilled the promise of our Lady that she would perform a miracle that would be visible to all. The sun came falling down to earth; closer and closer it came. The crowd were terrified; they thought it the end of the world. Then suddenly it stopped, just above the heads of the crowd, and returned to its accustomed place in the heavens.

During these visions the Blessed Virgin made known to the children three things. However, one of them has remained, and will always remain a secret. These things, can best be told in Lucy's own words. "The vision concerning which we have kept an inviolable secret until now took place on the 13th of July, 1917. It was a vision of Hell. Our Lord showed us a great sea of fire which seemed to be under the earth. Immersed in these flames were the devils and the damned. They were like transparent furnaces floating in this fire and carried about by the flames which came from them. Clouds of smoke were falling on all sides, like sparks from a great fire; the cries and sighs of sorrow and of despair were horrifying and awful. The devils were distinguished by the horrible and repulsive shapes of animals, terrifying and unknown, but transparent and black. This sight only lasted a moment, and without the help of our Heavenly Mother, who had promised us in the first apparition that she would take us to Heaven, I think we should have died of horror.

"After the vision of Hell, we raised our eyes to Our Lady and she said to us kindly but sadly: 'You have seen Hell where the souls of sinners go. To save these souls God wishes to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart. If people do what I have told you many people will be saved and find peace. The war is going to end, but if people do not cease to offend God not much time will elapse and precisely during the next pontificate, another and more terrible war will commence. When a night illuminated by an unknown light is seen know that this is the signal which God gives you that the chastisement of the world for its many transgressions is at hand, through war, famine, and persecution of the Church and the Holy Father. To avoid this I ask for the consecration of the world to my Immaculate Heart and the Communion in reparation on the first Saturday of each month. If my requests are heard, *Russia will be converted* and there will be *peace*. Otherwise great errors will be spread throughout the world, giving rise to wars and persecutions against the Church. The good will suffer martyrdom and the Holy Father will have to suffer much. Different nations will suffer, but in the end my Immaculate Heart will triumph. The Holy Father will consecrate Russia to me and an era of peace will be granted to humanity.'

"If my requests are heard etc, etc." We have seen the first part of her words come true; the second part is inevitable.

The crisis about which Mary spoke in her revelations at Fatima is imminent. The future of the world is in danger. If we listen to authority we can shape that future. And what authority is more to be trusted than that of the Mother of God. The peace for which we fight and pray can be attained not alone through the efforts of any man or group of men, but through the constant prayers and sacrifices of all men. God alone can bring us lasting peace, and, as Fatima has shown us, He has chosen His own Mother as His vehicle.

—THOMAS MacLELLAN, '47

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SCANDAL

It was with a feeling of pleasure that Mrs. Donovan watched Mrs Duffy coming up the walk on a cold December morning, because the latter always had all the gossip of the little town of Carleton. Mrs Donovan was equally anxious for gossip, but being a woman well advanced in years she had to depend on Mrs Duffy and others for her information as she herself was unable to be around among the neighbours.

After the two women had talked for about an hour on the weather, the price of eggs, the frivolities of the younger generation, and numerous other things, Mrs Donovan decided to serve tea.

As the two women sat before the fire slowly sipping their tea Mrs Duffy told her major story of the day. The newly-weds, Mr and Mrs Daley, who lived across the street from her, had quarrelled the night before and Mr Daley, forced to leave his house at the point of a rolling pin, had spent the night in his garage. Mrs Duffy confirmed her story by saying that her husband had seen Mr Daley, clad in shirt and trousers, coming out of the garage early in the morning.

To each of the many visitors whom Mrs Donovan received during the course of that day the same account of the quarrel was given, and as the news travelled it grew gradually worse. The story which reached the police station that evening told of a violent quarrel in which Mr Daley received a broken jaw, in which all the windows in the house were broken, and which resulted in Mr Daley's leaving home in the early morning clad only in trousers and a shirt.