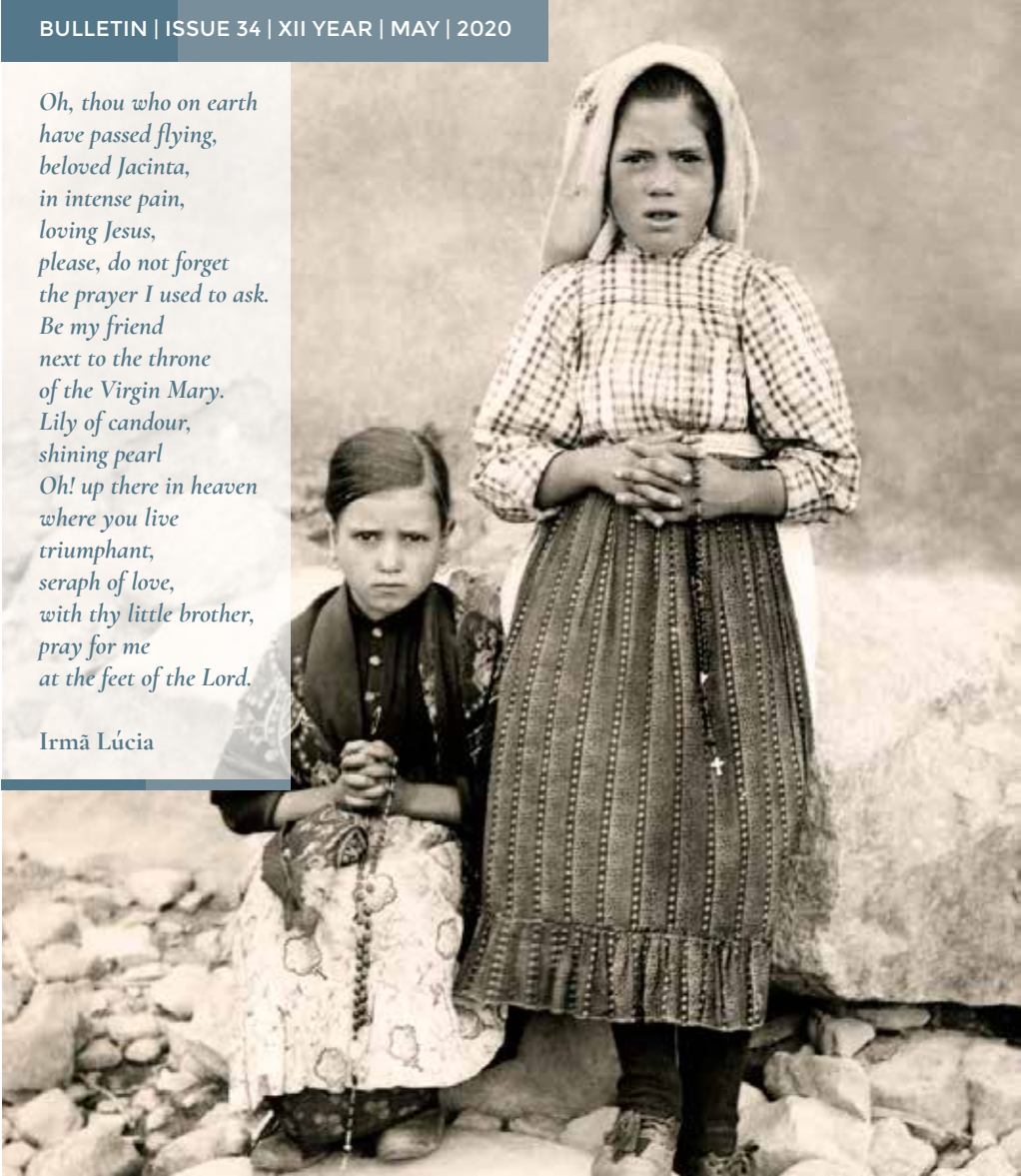


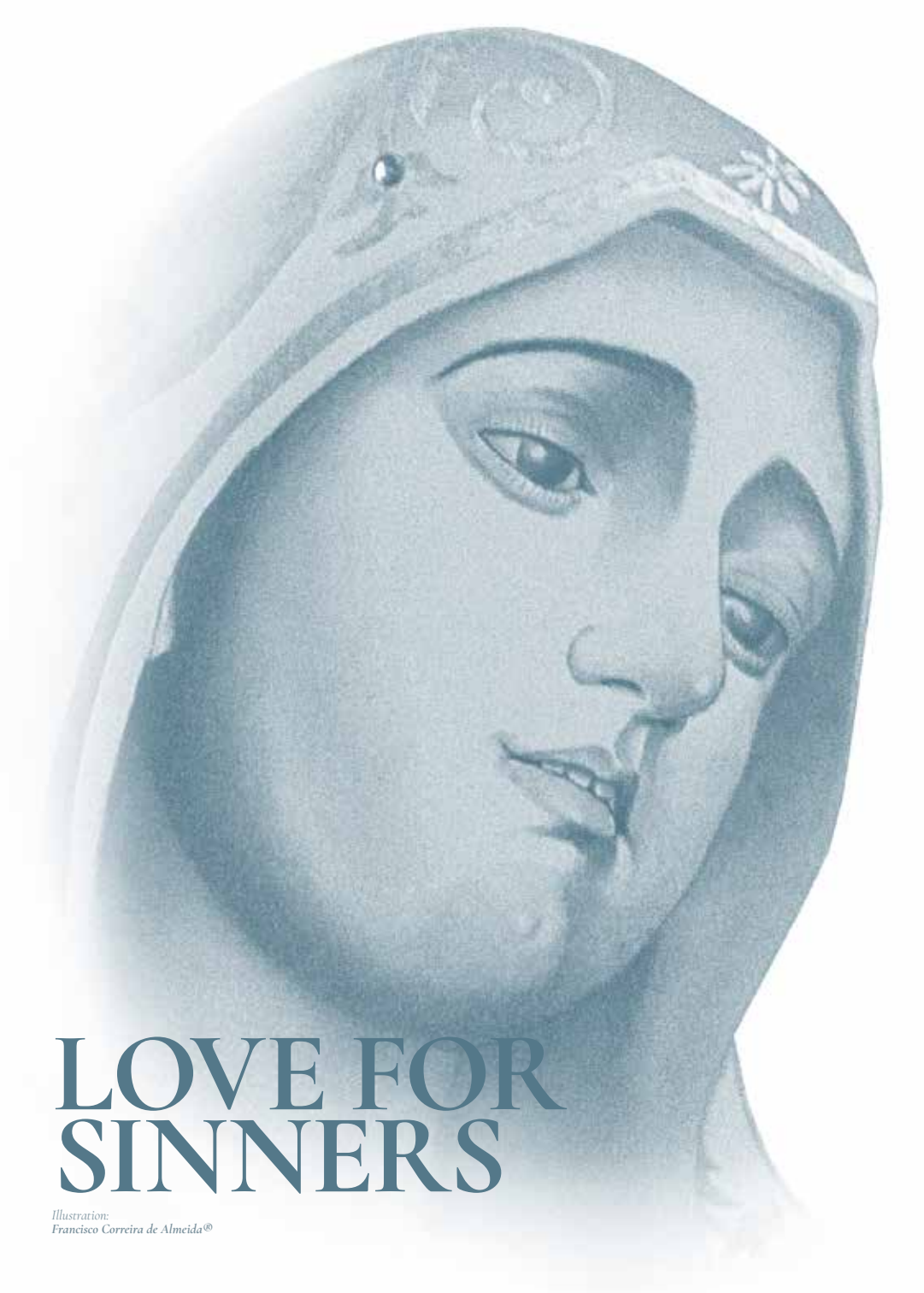
BULLETIN OF THE SERVANT OF GOD MARIA DE LÚCIA OF JESUS AND THE IMMACULATE HEART

BULLETIN | ISSUE 34 | XII YEAR | MAY | 2020

*Oh, thou who on earth
have passed flying,
beloved Jacinta,
in intense pain,
loving Jesus,
please, do not forget
the prayer I used to ask.
Be my friend
next to the throne
of the Virgin Mary.
Lily of candour,
shining pearl
Oh! up there in heaven
where you live
triumphant,
seraph of love,
with thy little brother,
pray for me
at the feet of the Lord.*

Irmã Lúcia





LOVE FOR SINNERS

Illustration:
Francisco Correia de Almeida®

Jacinta took the sacrifices for the conversion of sinners so much to the heart that she never missed an opportunity. There were two families from Moita whose children were often begging from door to door. On a certain day, we found them as we were walking with our flock. As soon as she saw them, Jacinta told us:

— Let us give our lunch to those poor children, for the conversion of sinners?

She ran and gave it to them. In the afternoon, she confessed to be hungry. There were, there, a few holm oaks and oak trees. The acorns were yet pretty green, but I told her we could eat them. Francisco climbed up a holm oak to fill his pockets. However, Jacinta had the idea of eating the acorns from the oak trees instead, so that we could make the sacrifice of eating the even more bitter ones. And this is how we have enjoyed such a delicious meal, in that afternoon! Jacinta adopted this as one of her regular sacrifices. We have agreed that, whenever we met those poor children, we would give them our lunch; too much happy with our alms, they would try to find us and wait for us on our way. As soon as we saw them, Jacinta ran to give them our daily sustenance, as happy as if she would not need it.

In the place where we used to live, there was a woman who insulted us every time she saw us. We once met her as she was leaving a tavern, and the poor lady, out of her mind, did not feel satisfied with the mere insults, but went further. When she stopped, Jacinta said to me:

— We must ask Our Lady and offer her sacrifices for the conversion of this woman. She says so many sinful words that, if she is not going to confession, she is going to hell.

A few days later, we were running nearby this woman's door. All of a sudden, Jacinta stopped, and turning back, she told me:

— Listen! Is it tomorrow that we are going to see that Lady?

— Yes, it is.

— Let us play any longer, then. We shall do this sacrifice for the conversion of sinners.

As if no one was watching her, she raised her hands and eyes up to the Heaven and made her offering. The poor lady was watching through a peephole in the house. Afterwards, she said to my mother that the Jacinta's deed impressed her so much that she didn't need any other prove to believe. Hereinafter, not only she stopped insulting us, but asked us constantly to pray for her to Our Lady to forgive her sins.

JACINTA:

SELF-GIVING IN TIMES OF PANDEMIC

“Our world is ill. I am not only referring to the coronavirus pandemic, but to the state of our civilization, as revealed in this global phenomenon. In biblical terms: *it is a sign of the times*”. This how Tomás Halík began an article he wrote about this singular time we live in. As any other sign of the times, it requires our diligent and patient effort to understand with our heart and hear the signs of God’s Spirit acting and present in history. In order to avoid superficial readings of it, discernment is necessary as well as a heart trustful in the Lord, as someone who knows “that in all things God works for the good of those who love him” (Rm 8: 28). We are called to the humbleness of those who, still with empty hands, do not understand anything, or nearly nothing, but perseveres to live in peace and serenity, because they know who they put their trust in (cf. 1 Tim 1: 12). But if this is an article about Jacinta, why am I writing about this pandemic? It seems unnecessary to say that she too lived a pandemic such as the one we are living, and that precisely a hundred years ago she lived the same painful circumstances we are living now. Even if our answers to the distressful questions arising in our hearts may not be clear, the life of this little girl might be a light for our steps

in such a labyrinth of emotions, anguish and fear, through which our heart and mind walk in days of isolation.

In times of fear, there is no need to understand everything immediately: the causes of what is going on, the scientific or theological reasons that could explain the anguish and insecurity generated by this situation of this time. Sometimes, as child in the darkness, it is enough to see the serene face of the mother, so that everything looks safe again, notwithstanding unknowing the scientific mechanisms of the darkness.

Jacinta could be that serene face by our side today. She knows the helplessness that means not being able to visit our sick loved relatives and friends, or being visited by them, and she knows also how painful it is to lose a brother in such circumstances. She knows how it feels the shortness of breath, the chest pain, or the extreme weakness of having high fever. Jacinta understands our loneliness and of those who, in the hospital, are awaiting the writing of their future in the uncertainty of the next chapter. As well as she knows the lonesome death, only with presence of the Immaculate Heart Lady. Jacinta knows what we are talking about when we do it so about the pains of this hour.

What would Jacinta, that little girl so discreet regarding her own pain, tell us? We do know, indeed, how much she would endeavour so that no one could realize her severe sufferings, the sacrifices she used to do, the renounce of not visiting Francisco in his illness bed, and how hard it had been to go to Lisbon without her Lúcia.

I believe that Jacinta would tell us about Jesus, how sad he was and her willing to comfort him. She would tell us about Mary's Heart, covered with thorns, and which she was so keen to repair. She would talk of the Holy Father's sufferings, which she wanted to support with her prayer and sacrifices. In the end, she would whisper the biggest love of her heart, the sinners, or *the poor sinners*, whom she longed to touch with the gift of herself. She would tell us about everything she loved but would not say a word about her pain. She didn't care that much about herself. She accustomed her heart to compassion. She had educated her heart "to do like Our Lord". With Him, she learned the self-giving. Not even the "trouble or hardship, persecution, famine, nakedness, danger..." (Rm 8: 35) would stop her or put boundaries to such a self-gift, for, as Christian Bobin would say, "what torments is nothing compared to what is hoped!"

Thinking of Jacinta, and the way she lived a similar situation to ours, we can see the words of Paul written with fire and blood in her body, wounded in the direction of the heart, and in her happy soul for *suffering for love*:

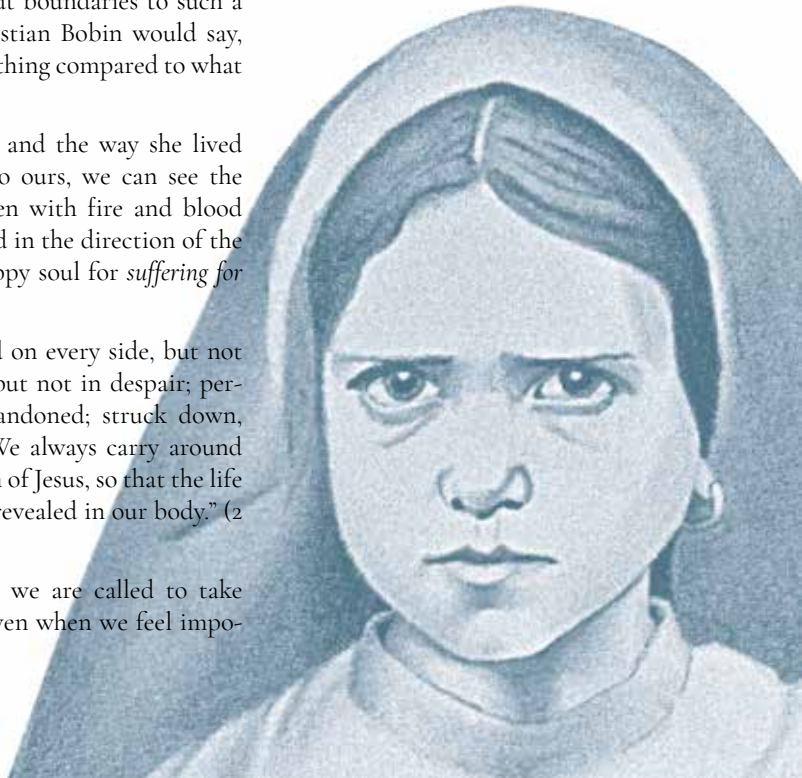
"We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body." (2 Cor. 4: 8-10)

Thinking of Jacinta, we are called to take care of the others. Even when we feel impo-

tent, and our martyrdom means not being able to do anything for those we love. For it is always possible to care through prayer and self-giving in sacrifice, looking to infect with hope those who are hopeless, that hope which is only possible because the Risen Lord is with us, even in times of pandemic. Jacinta knew all of this, and this is how she addresses us in this our hour of history: "That Lady told that Her Immaculate Heart shall be your refuge and the pathway which lead you to God. Don't you like it? I like so much Her Heart! It is so good!"

Ângela de Fátima Coelho, asm.

¹ Tomás Halik, *Il segno delle chiese vuote*, Milano: Ed. Vita e pensiero, 2020. [tradução livre].
² Christian Bobin, *L'uomo che cammin*



NEWS

15TH ANNIVERSARY OF LÚCIA'S DEATH



The Eucharist in the Carmel of St. Theresa, Coimbra, on the 13th of February, for the occasion of the 15th anniversary of Lúcia's death, was presided by the bishop of Coimbra, Mgr. Virgílio Antunes, and concelebrated by seven priests, amongst whom were the postulator of the cause for beatification, Fr. Romano Gambalunga, and the rector of the Shrine of Fátima, Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas.

Around 300 people have participated, who gathered to give thanks to God for the gift of the life of Sister Lúcia and ask for her intercession before God and Our Lady.



Acrylic on canvas: (120x80cm): Francisco Correira de Almeida®



SISTER LÚCIA MEMORIAL

Located next to the Carmel of Coimbra, where Sister Lúcia lived for 57 years, you can find her assets, with unique objects of personal use, the itinerary of her life documented with photographs, the cell where she lived and died, among other things.



Opening hours

Tuesday to Friday

From 10 a.m. to 12 a.m.

From 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

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From 15 p.m. to 6 p.m.

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memorialirmalucia@carmelitas.pt

Entrance ticket

Above 12 years old: € 1.50

GRACES



I want to give thanks for two graces granted through the intercession of Sister Lúcia. The first one is related to the reconciliation with my husband, when we were nearly on the verge of a divorce after twenty years of marriage; the second one regards a very distressful cause that I won in court. I keep praying to Sister Lúcia, asking her to intercede for my family, with the Heavenly Mother, before God.

Hélia Castro, Portugal

I would like to thank to Sister Lúcia for her intercession before God. My daughter underwent a surgery in the ovaries and, thanks to God, Our Lady and Sister Lúcia, everything went well, as she is fully recovered. Many thanks with all my heart.

K. Doherty, Irlanda

I would like to give thanks to the Servant of God, Sister Lúcia, the great grace it was granted to me by Our Lord, and truly witness it, hoping that her beatification comes as soon as possible. My daughter was bullied and put away by treason from her job. For many years, she couldn't find a job. So, I asked with hope and faith, praying for the beatification of Sister Lúcia with its prayer-card on daily basis, to help my daughter. After a few months, she got a job in place where she seems to be happy.

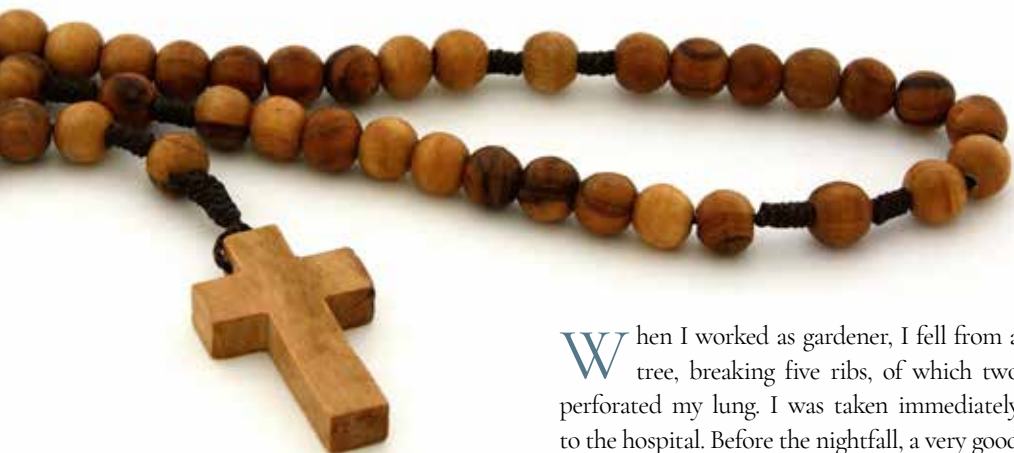
M. Duarte, Portugal

I want to give thanks the prayers for the healing of my husband, who is diabetic and had the big toe completely black, with the risk of being amputated and God knows what else could have happened. I asked Sister Lúcia to pray for him to be healed before God, and it was heard and answered! As he was taking his medicines, his toe progressively got better until it got back its normal colour. The doctor was astonished, for she was not expecting such a fast and complete recovery.

Helena Matos, Portugal

I prayed to Sister Lúcia asking for a favour. I was pregnant and the doctor told me I was in great risk, so I should make a test which would give 99% of how my baby was. I was afraid and didn't want to make it, but I had faith in Sister Lúcia, prayed and did the test. Thanks to God, the result was that the foetus was normal, and thus the doctor said that there was nothing to worry about. I give many thanks to Sister Lúcia for this great grace.

Antoneta, U.S.A.



I had a permanent ache in my left kidney which caused me a pain in all that side and a lot of suffering, for I have four hernia in my column as well. So, I prayed to Sister Lúcia, asking to intercede for me so that this pain might pass, and therefore promising to publish that grace if it happened. Because it did and the pain has passed without any other consequences, I am here to give thanks to Sister Lúcia and the Heavenly Mother.

Natália Brás, Portugal

It is with great gratitude and joy that I come to give thanks for the intercession of Sister Lúcia. When my son was in the second year of college, and failed a subject, he felt discouraged and wanted to drop out of school. I prayed and asked to Sister Lúcia to help him study. And, thus, it happened: he took an oral exam and got a good grade, thanks to God! I keep praying every day to Sister Lúcia, to whom I entrust all my family.

Anónimo, Portugal

When I worked as gardener, I fell from a tree, breaking five ribs, of which two perforated my lung. I was taken immediately to the hospital. Before the nightfall, a very good friend of our family came to see me and, as I was unconscious, she passed a Sister Lúcia's prayer-card with her relic over my body and asked to help me and save me. I put the prayer-card in my bedroom's wall myself, asking every single day to help me recovering, because I have a two years old son and my wife. It was a surprise when I realized that my recovery was going very fast and actually had no pain, except for a slight malaise. The accident occurred in November and by Christmas I was already at home with my family. After one hundred days, I began to work again as a gardener. I give many thanks to Sister Lúcia for her intercession before God and Our Lady.

Josep Roca, Espanha

Thanks to the intercession of Sister Lúcia, my daughter was able to carry on a risky pregnancy, giving birth to a beautiful boy. I am very much thankful.

Giusy, Itália

BOOKS

MEMÓRIAS DA IRMÃ LÚCIA I

Author: Sister Lúcia

Number of pages: 237

Price: € 6.00

MEMÓRIAS DA IRMÃ LÚCIA II

Author: Sister Lúcia

Number of pages: 194

Price: € 5.00

APELOS DA MENSAGEM DE FÁTIMA

Author: Sister Lúcia

Number of pages: 300

Price: € 7,50

COMO VEJO A MENSAGEM ATRAVÉS DOS TEMPOS E DOS ACONTECIMENTOS

Author: Sister Lúcia

Number of pages: 237

Price: € 2.00

O ROSÁRIO COM A IRMÃ LÚCIA

Author: Sister Lúcia/Carmel of Coimbra

Number of pages: 88

Price: € 3.00

UM CAMINHO SOB O OLHAR DE MARIA (Biography of Sister Lúcia)

Author: Carmel of Coimbra

Number of pages: 496

Price: € 20.00

LÚCIA, A VIDA DA PASTORINHA DE FÁTIMA (Children's literature)

Author: Theresa Ameal

Number of pages: 78

Price: € 10.00

BOOK MARKERS



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Set of 16 postcards with drawings by Sister Lúcia, presented at the exhibition "Pathway of Light", plus a booklet with Sister Lúcia's thoughts in a card cover

Price for unit € 6.00

The orders can be sent to:

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3000-359 Coimbra

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BIOGRAPHY

Lúcia Rosa dos Santos was born in Aljustrel, Parish of Fátima, on the 28th of March 1907. In the company of her two cousins, the Saints Francisco and Jacinta Marto, she was visited for three times by an Angel (1916) and six by Our Lady (1917), who asked them to pray and do penance for the reparation and conversion of sinners. Her peculiar vocation consisted in spreading the devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary as the soul of the Message of Fátima.

She entered the Dorotheans, in Spain, where she had the experience of the apparitions in Tuy and Pontevedra: the apparitions of the Holy Trinity, Our Lady and the Infant Jesus.

Yearning for a life of deeper retreat in order to better respond to the Message entrusted to her by the Lady, she entered the Carmel of Coimbra, in 1948, wherein she devoted herself more intensely to prayer and sacrifice. Our Lady came for her on the 13th of February 2005, and her body rests in the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary, in Fátima, since the 19th February 2006.

THIS BULLETIN IS FREE OF CHARGE.

To whom it might be interested in helping the expenses of the Cause for the Beatification of the Servant of God Sister Lúcia, we welcome the donations to the following address:

*Causa de Canonização Irmã Lúcia de Jesus
Carmelo de Santa Teresa,
Rua de Santa Teresa, n.º 16
3000-359 Coimbra - Portugal*

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We give thanks for all the donations received.

In the Carmel of Coimbra, on the first Saturdays of each month as well as in every 13th, the Eucharist is offered for the intentions of those who trust themselves to the intercession of Sister Lúcia.

PRAYER FOR THE BEATIFICATION OF SISTER LÚCIA

Oh, Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore thee profoundly and give you thanks for the apparitions of the Most Holy Virgin in Fátima, who revealed to the world the riches of her Immaculate Heart.

By the infinite merits of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I pray Thee, if it should be for your greater glory and the good of our souls, to glorify Sister Lúcia, the shepherd of Fátima, before the Holy Church, by granting us the grace which we ask through her intercession.

Amen. Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory.

With ecclesiastical approval.
We kindly ask you to communicate all the received graces to the Carmel of Coimbra.

CAUSE FOR THE BEATIFICATION
OF THE SERVANT OF GOD

LÚCIA

MARIA LÚCIA OF JESUS
AND THE IMMACULATE HEART

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PRAY THE ROSARY EVERY DAY

Even those who have the possibility of attending mass on a daily basis, should not neglect, for that reason, to pray the rosary every day.

For those people, the rosary prayer could be considered as preparation for a better participation in the Eucharist, or as a sort of thanksgiving along the day. There are many and beautiful prayers that might serve as a preparation to receive Christ in the Eucharist and to hold a familiar and intimate union with God. Nonetheless, I do not think that there is any other that could serve better for all in general, like the rosary prayer does.

The rosary is the prayer which God, through His Church and Our Lady, has been advising us with great insistence for all in general, as a pathway and door to salvation: “Pray the rosary every day”

Sister Lúcia
Apelos da Mensagem de Fátima