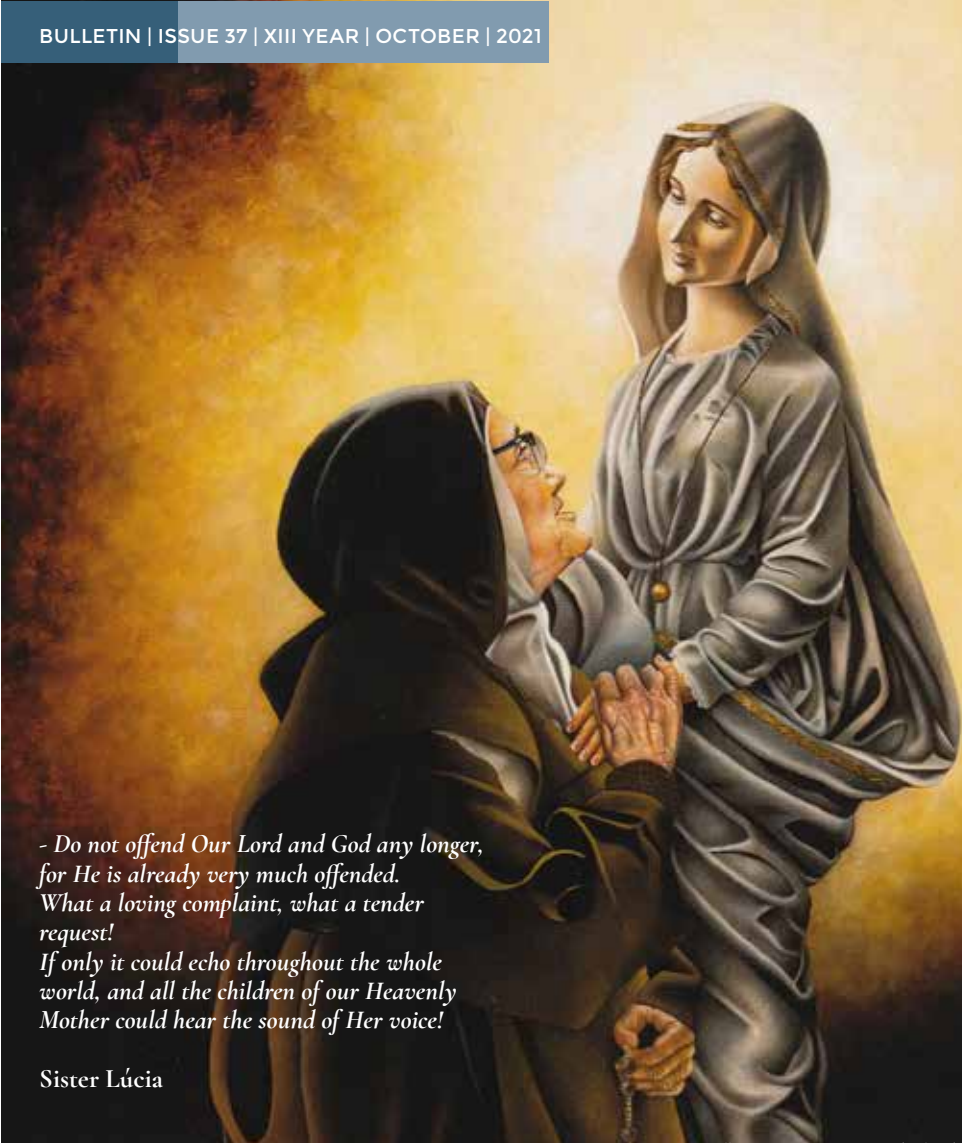


BULLETIN OF THE SERVANT OF GOD MARIA DE LÚCIA OF JESUS AND THE IMMACULATE HEART

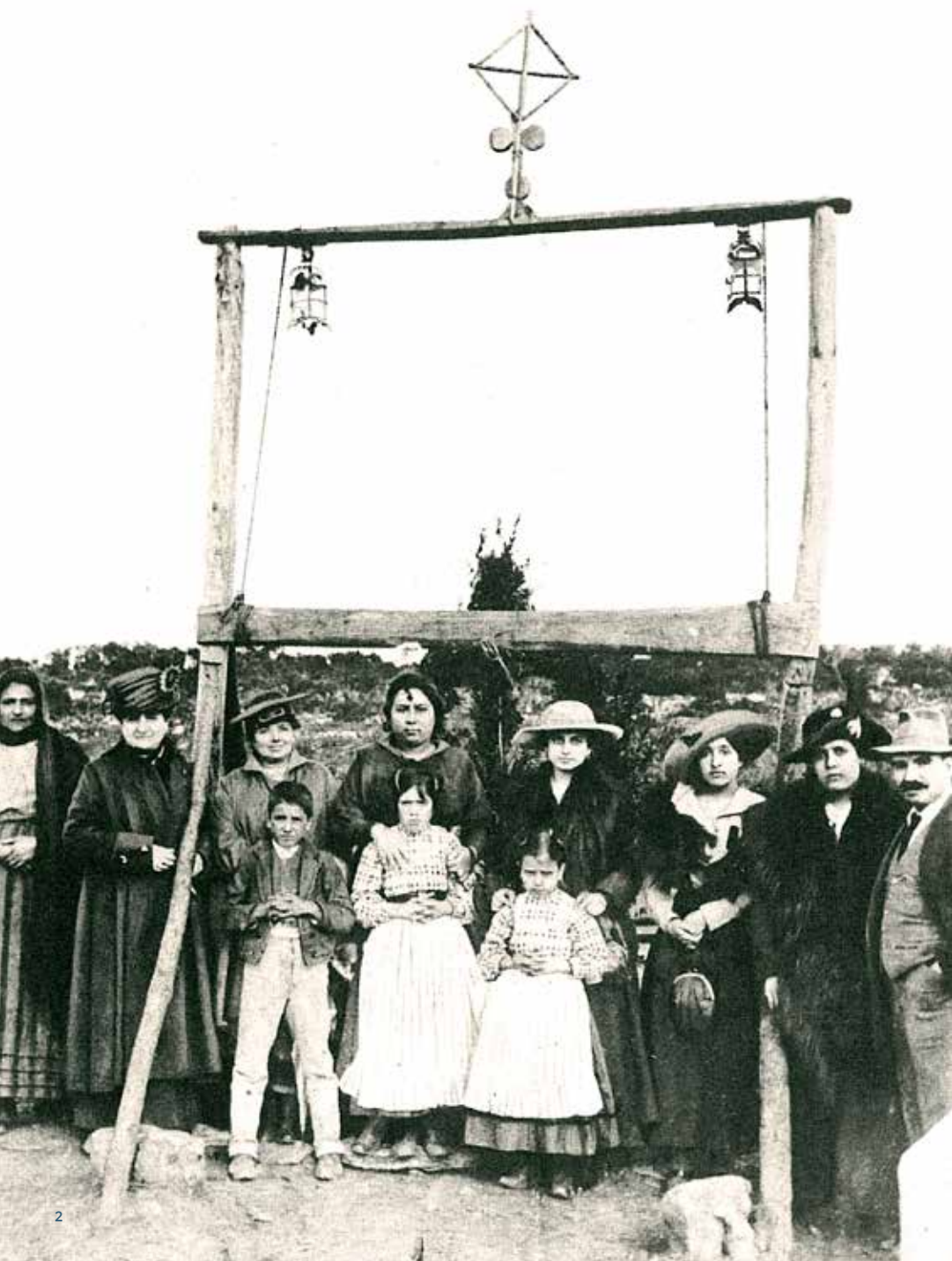
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An illustration depicting a moment of prayer. On the left, a woman in a dark brown nun's habit, identified as Sister Lúcia, is kneeling and looking up at the Virgin Mary. She has her hands clasped in prayer. On the right, the Virgin Mary stands, wearing a grey robe and a long grey veil. She is looking down at Sister Lúcia with a gentle expression, and her hands are resting on Sister Lúcia's hands. The background is a warm, golden-brown color with a soft, glowing light around the figures.

*- Do not offend Our Lord and God any longer,
for He is already very much offended.
What a loving complaint, what a tender
request!*

*If only it could echo throughout the whole
world, and all the children of our Heavenly
Mother could hear the sound of Her voice!*

Sister Lúcia



13 OCTOBER 1917

THE PROMISED MIRACLE

Regarding this Apparition, of all the words that most deeply engraved in my heart, there was the request made by Our Holy Mother of Heaven:

-Do not offend Our Lord and God any longer, for He is already very much offended.

What a loving complaint, what a tender request! If only it could echo throughout the whole world, and all the children of our Heavenly Mother could hear the sound of Her voice!

It was spread a rumour that the authorities had decided to explode a bomb close to us, at the very moment of the Apparition. I had no fear at all, and when I told this to my cousins, we all said:

-How wonderful if we were granted the grace of going up to Heaven together with Our Lady!

Nonetheless, my parents were frightened, and for the first time they were willing to come along with me, so they said:

- If my daughter is going to die, I want to die at her side.

My father then took me by the hand to the place of the Apparitions. But, from the moment of the Apparition, I did not see him again until I found myself in the family home in the evening. The afternoon of that day I spent it with my cousins as if we were some curious little animals that the crowds wanted to see and observe! I arrived at night truly exhausted after so many questions and interrogations. These did not even end with nightfall. Several people, who had been unable to question me, stayed the following day waiting for their turn. Some of them even tried to speak to me in the evening, but overcome by exhaustion, I let myself asleep on the floor. Thanks to God, human respect and self-love were at that time not yet known to me; and so, I was as much at ease before anyone as if I were with my parents. On the following day, or rather accurately, on the following days, the interrogations continued, because nearly every day, from then on, many people went to the Cova da Iria to implore protection to Our Heavenly Mother. And everybody wanted to see the seers, asked them questions, and pray the Rosary with them. Sometimes, I felt so tired of saying the same thing repeatedly, that I would look for any excuse to escape. But those poor people were so insistent, that had to make an effort, and quite often not that small, to satisfy them. Then, deep down in my heart, I repeated my usual favourite prayer: It is for the love of You, my God, in reparation of the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary, for the conversion of sinners, and the Holy Father.

13 OCTOBER 1917

A CALL FOR LOVE

Twenty years after the mariophany of 1917, when Lucia of Jesus was called to remember what she experienced in the Cova da Iria, she wrote: «regarding this apparition, of all the words that most deeply engraved in my heart, there was the request made by Our Holy Mother of Heaven: - Do not offend Our Lord and God any longer, for He is already very much offended» (CORAÇÃO IMACULADO, 2015: 96 and 97). Years later, the Servant of God will reaffirm the centrality of those words: «what Our Lady wanted and, therefore, the main goal of the Message was to ask us not to offend God, Our Lord, any longer, because He was already very much offended» (CORAÇÃO IMACULADO, 2005: 209).

In *Calls from the Message of Fatima*, Sister Lucia clarifies the meaning of this request of Mary from the perspective of love. After emphasizing that the offence does not affect «God in Himself», she explains that «God is love, and with sin, we diminish love: not God's love for us, but our love towards God. The moment we transgress one of His laws, we cease to love God, we open a gap in love» (CORAÇÃO IMACULADO, 2005: 255). To help us experience what this lack of love means, the Carmelite nun uses the comparison between God and a father who feels offended when, after having proposed to his son the pathway for happiness, is ignored by him. God's love for every human being is expressed in «the fatherly love with which he has created us, as well as all the attention and care that are in any good thing around us, and which was thought for our own good, the redemption from sin and the openness of the gates of Heaven, by which He shall grant us the condition of heirs of His Kingdom» (CORAÇÃO IMACULADO, 2005: 158). Therefore, «whenever we prefer the sin instead of the love we should devote to God and His Kingdom» (CORAÇÃO IMACULADO, 2005: 158), God is offended. Nonetheless, Sister Lucia stresses that the offence to God is not restricted to sin; the «coldness, forgetfulness, indifference, and contempt» (CORAÇÃO IMACULADO, 2005: 160) also offend Him since «we act towards Him ungratefully, as someone who does not acknowledge one's own greatest Benefactor, the One to whom we owe the most» (CORAÇÃO IMACULADO, 2005: 160).



Given the considerations of this singular Discalced Carmelite, the request that Our Lady makes not to offend God any longer regards the challenge to correspond, totally and generously, to the love of God. It is not merely a matter of formal, external, or calculating correspondence. Not to offend God means to welcome attentively every sign of His love and to live in a permanent state of response to such love; in conclusion, correspond affectively and effectively to the love of God.

In the light of this reading key, we can find out that the experience of Lúcia, Francisco e Jacinta, during the angelophanic and mariophanic cycles, is the opposite of offending God, for it means the correspondence to God's love, made real in the love for the others. The Angel calls the children to a repairing prayer, both regarding the offended God and for the forgiveness of those who offended Him (first and third angelophany), as well as he calls them to give their lives as a reparatory sacrifice (second angelophany), while introduces the children to a dynamism of worship (first angelophany), made Eucharist (third angelophany), and theological life embracing every moment of existence (second angelophany).

Beginning in May 1917, the Virgin Mary invites them to a reparatory gift of themselves on behalf of the offended God (first mariophany), leading them through a path that would end with the call to cease such offence (sixth mariophany). This path configures an authentic spiritual experience in which the whole existence of Lúcia, Francisco, and Jacinta, blessed with the promise of salvation and the certainty of being loved both by God and Mary (first and second mariophanies), they successively become centred on God and transformed into some correspondence to His love. Such correspondence implies participating in the healing of what offends/saddens God: the human being's failure to correspond to divine love. Nurtured by the perception of the suffering caused by that failure to God's love (third mariophany), the role of the three children takes place in very concrete and life-changing exercises, such as the prayer of intercession and the offering of sacrifice (third mariophany). The journey that the three children live is permanently accompanied and supported by God's presence, mediated by Our Lady, who strengthens them in the face of distress (fourth mariophany), and thus educating them towards an adequate correspondence (fifth mariophany).



If we pay attention to the life of Sister Lúcia, we can easily understand that the Servant of God lived her life in a key of love. The last two memoirs that she bequeathed to us explain that familial love eventually prepared her to experience the love of God. If during the angelophanies and mariophanies cycles Lucia gave priority to the faithfulness towards the love of God at the expense of other loves, it is in her youth and adulthood that the Servant of God will make the total gift of herself to the love of God, first as a Dorothean and then as a Discalced Carmelite. In the Carmel, Sister Lúcia found her place, in the heart of the Church, to live her «call to love» (CARMELO COIMBRA, 2013: 397). In the Carmel, the Servant of God learned with Saint Teresa of Jesus that «love generates love» in such a way that she happened to live what St John of the Cross sings: «my only office is to love». And if we found her praying, we would surely listen to Sister Lúcia saying: «I love You, because You are the only one worthy of my love, and I would love to pay you with the same love with which you love me» (CORAÇÃO IMACULADO, 2006: 21).

Br. Renato O.C.D.

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THE PENANCE ROPE

- God is pleased with your sacrifices, but he does not want you to sleep with the rope; wear it only during the day.

Apparition of 13 September 1917

(Memórias da Irmã Lúcia, Vol. I, 2005, p. 94)

The multiple requests transmitted by Our Lady to Lúcia, Francisco, and Jacinta are summed up in prayer, conversion, and penance. As the main protagonists and loyal keepers of this message of salvation, the little shepherds responded rapidly to the divine calls, putting in practice, in their own way, the sacrifices they were able to offer to God.

Within this context, Sister Lúcia tells us the following: on a certain day, as we were walking along the road with our sheep, I found a piece of rope that had fallen off a car. I picked it up and, just for fun, I tied it around my arm. It didn't last until I noticed that the rope was hurting me. Then, I said to my cousins:

- Look, this rope hurts. We could tie it around our waists and offer this sacrifice to God.

The poor children readily accepted my idea. We then decided to divide it between the three of us. The sharp edge of a stone, striking it with another stone, was our knife. Both because of the thickness and roughness of the rope, or because we sometimes tied it too tightly, this instrument of penance often caused us terrible suffering. Now and then, Jacinta would shed some tears, because of the great discomfort this caused her; and whenever I tried to take it off, she replied:

- No! I want to offer this sacrifice to Our Lord, in reparation and for the conversion of sinners (CORACÃO IMACULADO, 2005: 92).

In the ropes they tied a few knots to increase the sacrifice, and each one of them wore it around their waist tightly. They never took it off again,



until the Apparition of 13 October, when Our Lady maternally told them not to sleep with it. But they always used it secretly. Later, Sister Lúcia confessed that she felt sorry for having burnt the ropes that her cousins have given her: Francisco shortly before his death, and Jacinta right before she went to the hospital. She kept them until her final departure from Fátima when she entered the Asilo de Vilar¹. Anyway, she kept her own rope and continued to wear it as long as she could, but afterwards, she only used it with the permission of her confessor or spiritual director. It is a precious relic.

After her death, the rope was found with other instruments of penance that she had used. It is a sisal rope, like those used to bind animals, and measures 1m16cm, 1cm of thickness, and has five knots. To prevent it from shredding, Sister Lúcia gave it a few stitches at both ends. This rope is now in an exhibition, among other objects of her use, in the museum next to the Carmel of Coimbra, the “Memorial of Sister Lúcia” (CARMELO DE COIMBRA, 2013: 82).

1. The cousins' ropes were burnt by Sister Lúcia, because in the Dorotheans she was not allowed to have anything that was not for her own use.

José João Loureiro
CEHPC-OD

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GRACES



I thank Sister Lúcia for interceding for me before Our Lady. At the age of 50, and after a period of unemployment, when everything and everyone was saying it was impossible, she gave me strength and determination to finish my college degree... and to find a job. At a time, such as the one we are going through, so adverse, every day I feel “her presence” close to me, inspiring me to live with simplicity, faithfulness, and dispassion for material goods, and thus giving priority to love my neighbour.

Maria João, Portugal

I come to thank Sister Lúcia for the grace I have received. I have been married for seven years, and for genetic reasons, the couple could not have children. Having exhausted all the medical resources, I then turned to Sister Lúcia. I asked for her intercession before Our Lady and Our Lord to grant me the grace of a child, who I so much desired. God heard and answered my prayer: a child was born and is our joy. I thank God for His infinite goodness, as well as to Sister Lúcia for her intercession.

Adriana Vicente, Portugal

Dear Sister Lúcia, I thank you for your intercession before God and Our Lady for my daughter, who has succeeded in a permanent position in the company where she works. Thank you for everything and thanks be to God.

America Gaspar, Portugal

I finished my doctoral thesis, as I asked Sister Lúcia. It was defended on the 13th of May. A sign, no doubt, from Our Lady through the intercession of her servant Sister Lúcia.

Odete, Portugal

As I often suffered from nervous breakdowns, I resorted to the Servant of God Sister Lúcia of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart, asking her to cure me. For more than two years now, I have been well, and so I come to communicate the obtained grace through her intercession. Many thanks to God and Her.

Maria Teresa Fonseca, Portugal

On one day 13 October, while I was in the Shrine of Fátima, I began to pray, asking for the grace to find a righteous boyfriend, and thus to celebrate a holy matrimony. I prayed every single day the prayer [for the beatification] as well as the rosary, as Our Lady requested. On the last day of that same month October, I met a boy in a group of friends. About three months later, we began a relationship... and two years later we got married. Our wedding was celebrated in the Basilica, in Fátima. I thank God, through the intercession of Sister Lúcia, the grace of matrimony. But I kept praying the [beatification] prayer and the rosary. And as I couldn't get pregnant, I prayed the prayer for this intention too... and after a month I found out I was pregnant. I am very happy. Great is the Mercy of God. Thank you, Sister Lúcia!

O. Maria, Portugal



I asked for Sister Lúcia's intercession for the cure of my three-year-old son, who had been vomiting for three months without any medical diagnosis and had no appetite too. My request was granted, my son stopped vomiting, and he was able to eat again. Thanks to God!

Ana Paula Rodrigues, Brasil

I have been an emigrant in France for 8 years, with my husband and our daughter. Our work contracts ended at the beginning of the year, and both of us lost our jobs. Besides that, our car broke down. We were several months without work, so I asked Sister Lúcia to intercede for us to our Heavenly Mother, asking for protection and courage. In December, I received a call from a retirement home offering me a job and a means of transport to go to work until my car was repaired. Today, I am still working, so I trust everything in the Divine Hands of God. Thank you, Sister Lúcia, help me to be better every day of my life, and may I be worthy of the divine graces.

Alexandrina Costa, França

I am here to inform of a grace obtained through the intercession of Sister Lúcia. As there was great disagreement between my two daughters, I prayed a novena, asking Sister Lúcia to intercede before God to grant peace and reconciliation to my daughters. And so, it happened. I promised to communicate the grace as well as to offer two books of Sister Lúcia's

biography, *A pathway under the gaze of Mary*, which I am doing.

Irene, Alemanha

I come to give thanks to Sister Lúcia, for she granted me the grace of finding my lost debit card. As I was looking for it, I found a picture of Sister Lúcia, to whom I immediately prayed. After a short time later, as I was putting my car in order, I found it almost beside me, between my seat and the other. It was a great grace that has saved me from wandering about and worrying. I thank God, who is a Merciful Father, through the intercession of the dearest Sister Lúcia, and thus I send an offering for the Beatification process.

Maria Carvalho, Portugal

I am a mother of a child whose name is Carolina Lúcia. Her second name Lúcia was given to honour Sister Lúcia, because we believe that she has helped a lot. After a period of doubts, fear, and pain... right before Carolina Lúcia was born, the doctors gave us a diagnosis that was not favourable regarding her heart. They told us that, until she was born, it would not be clear what was her problem. We reached the end of the time of my pregnancy, and the news was increasingly full of hope, so much so that at birth it was clear that Carolina had no serious pathology. She did not need any surgical treatment and will certainly not be necessary. Therefore, we believe that our Sister Lúcia interceded before God, concerning this great grace granted to our daughter. We give thanks to God every day for her life, as well as for all the support and strength.

Mariola, Espanha

BLESSING OF AN EVOCATIVE CANVAS OF THE VISITATIONS OF OUR LADY TO SISTER LÚCIA IN THE CARMEL

On the liturgical day of the Visitation of Our Lady to her cousin Saint Elizabeth, 31st of May, Fr. Pedro Ferreira, the Provincial of the Carmelites, presided the Eucharist, in the Carmel of Saint Teresa, in Coimbra, blessing the evocative canvas of the visitations of Our Lady to Sister Lúcia in her Carmelite cell.

It is an oil painting on canvas by Francisco Correia de Almeida, with 2.30 x 1.60 cm. After the Eucharist, it was placed in Sister Lúcia's cell, where it will remain as a reminder of the fulfilment of Our Lady's promise addressed to her on the 13th of June 1917: "I will never leave you alone. My Immaculate Heart shall be your refuge!".



If you would like to purchase a copy of this canvas, you can do it so at:

website: www.lucia.pt/loja/

email: lojalucia@lucia.pt





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 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 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 of 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*

Attention! New account details

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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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13 October 1917

Having reached the Holm oak in the Cova da Iria, and moved by an interior impulse, I asked the people to shut their umbrellas to pray the Rosary. After a while, we saw the flash of light, and then Our Lady appeared on the Holm oak.

- What do you want from me?

- I want to tell you to build here a chapel in my honour, for I am the Lady of the Rosary, and I want you to keep coming here to pray the Rosary every day. The war is coming to an end, and the soldiers will soon return to their homes.

- I have many things to ask you: the cure of some sick persons, the conversion of sinners, etc.

- Some yes, but not others. They must convert themselves and ask forgiveness for their sins.

And looking very sad, Our Lady said:

- Do not offend Our Lord and God any longer, for He is already very much offended.

And opening her hands, she made them reflect on the sun. As she ascended, the reflection of her own light continued to be projected on the sun. After Our Lady had disappeared into the immense distance of the firmament, we saw, next to the sun, St Joseph with the Child Jesus and Our Lady robed in white with a blue mantle. St Joseph and the Child Jesus seemed to be blessing the world, because they were tracing the sign of the cross with their hands. A little later, when this apparition disappeared, I saw Our Lord and Our Lady, who seemed to me Our Lady of Sorrows. Our Lord seemed to be blessing the world in the same way as St Joseph had done. This apparition also disappeared, and then I thought I saw Our Lady once more, who seemed to me Our Lady of Carmel.

Irmã Lúcia - Memórias da Irmã Lúcia, 10.^a ed, 2005, pp. 181 e 181