

Lesson 23: Jacinta and Our Lady of Fatima

Please click twice to watch the video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UEclx13--UA>

Jacinta Marto was born in the village of Aljustrel near Fatima in Portugal on March 11, 1910. She was only 6 years old when the Angel of Peace appeared, and just seven when Our Lady appeared in 1917.

Jacinta was naturally very affectionate; her father called her the sweetest of their nine children. She was also very capricious and somewhat self-willed. She loved games, but was easily offended and would go into a corner to pout. She could only be coaxed back if she could name the game herself. After the apparitions she retained her affectionate nature, but became more serious. Whatever she did, she did with her whole heart, so after the apparitions she accepted wholeheartedly the message of Our Lady.

Jacinta's affection during the time of Mary's appearances was directed into new channels, deepening her love for our Lord, his Mother, for the Church, for the Holy Father and for sinners. It was as though the light that came from Our Lady's hands in the first and second apparitions, which reflected on all three children, gave Jacinta a deep insight into the meaning of God and eternity.

The terrible vision of hell caused her great distress and she asked Lucia, "Why doesn't Our Blessed Lady show hell to sinners? If they could see it they would never commit any more sins." She had a deep trust in Mary's advice to pray very much and make sacrifices for sinners, "for many go to hell because there are none to sacrifice themselves and pray for them."

Jacinta made her First Communion some time before her final illness. During her illness, she told Lucia, "I love Our Lord and Our Lady and I never get tired telling them that I love them. When I do that it seems I have a fire in my heart, but it does not burn me."

As her illness progressed and she was too weak to attend daily Mass, she told Lucia, "It doesn't matter. I want to go to make up for those sinners who will not go even on Sundays. Do you know, Lucia, our dear Lord is so sad and Our Lady told us he is already too greatly offended and we must not offend him anymore, but nobody listens and they just go on committing the same sins." Near the time of Francisco's death, Our Lady appeared and asked her if she wanted to come to heaven then, too, or stay on earth longer to suffer for the conversion of sinners. Jacinta said she wanted to stay and suffer. Our Lady then told her that she would die alone in the hospital in Lisbon, but not to worry because she would come and take her to heaven.

Just before leaving for the hospital, she told Lucia, "It will not be long now before I go to heaven. You will remain here to make known that God wishes to establish in the world devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Tell everybody that God grants us graces through the Immaculate Heart of Mary; that people are to ask her for them; and that the Heart of Jesus wants the Immaculate Heart of Mary to be venerated at his side. Tell them also to pray to the Immaculate Heart of Mary for peace, since God has entrusted it to her."

Jacinta died alone in Lisbon on the night of Feb. 20, 1920. Just before Our Lady came to take her to heaven, she appeared to Jacinta and told her that her sufferings and sacrifices saved many souls. When her grave was exhumed so that her body could be moved to the parish cemetery of St. Anthony in Fatima, her face was found to be incorrupt and she exhibited a sweet smell like bouquets of flowers. Today she is laid to rest next to Lucia's grave, with St. Francisco's grave on the opposite side chapel in the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary at the Shrine of Fatima in Portugal. She, along with Francisco, was canonized by Pope Francis on May 13, 2017.

Jacinta never tired of encouraging others to love Our Lord and his Mother, as well as to pray for the Holy Father and make sacrifices for sinners. During her Beatification on May 13, 2000, Pope St. John Paul II publicly thanked her for her prayers and sacrifices.

