

Lesson 25: Lucia and Our Lady of Fatima

Please click twice to watch the video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w0bO5Tr1Ei8>

Lucia dos Santos was born March 28, 1907, in the village of Aljustrel near Fatima, and baptized on March 30, 1907. She was the youngest of seven children of Antonio and Maria Rosa dos Santos.

At the tender age of 10, she was given a great mission by Our Lady of Fatima, who promised never to forsake her. Lucia spent her entire life fulfilling this mission, being devoted every day to the requests of Our Lady and obedience to God's will.

The Three Secrets: The heart of Our Lady's Message to the world is contained in what has come to be called the "Secret" which She confided to the three child seers in July 1917. The Secret consists of three parts, the first two of which have been publicly revealed.

The first part of the Secret was a horrifying vision of hell "where the souls of poor sinners go" and contained an urgent plea from Our Lady for acts of prayer and sacrifice to save souls.

The second part of the Secret specifically prophesied the outbreak of World War II and contained the Mother of God's solemn request for the Consecration of Russia as a condition for world peace. It also predicted the inevitable triumph of Her Immaculate Heart following Russia's consecration and the conversion "of that poor nation" to the Catholic Faith.

The last part of the secret (known as the "third secret") was written down in 1944 in a letter by Lucia Dos Santos, the last living Fatima seer. It was placed in the care of The Holy See, with instructions that no one should read it until 1960. Most informed sources speculate that this portion of the Secret concerns chaos in the Catholic Church, predicting widespread apostasy and a loss of faith beginning in the 1970s. However, it is now believed that it predicted the 1981 assassination attempt of Pope John Paul II.

Lucia had no ambition for credit, to stand up and say, "I am the one heaven used for a worldwide mission." At age 18, in 1925, Lucia left Vilar to become a postulant in the order of St. Dorothy at Tuy, Spain. She had leanings to the Carmelites, but it was not yet to be. Before the year was up, Lucia would learn more of her mission, which Our Lady had partially revealed in the June and July apparitions.

On December 10, 1925, the Most Holy Virgin Mary appeared to her with the Child Jesus by her side, elevated on a cloud of light. Lucia was given the message requesting sacramental and prayerful acts of reparation to the Immaculate Heart on the First Saturdays (First Saturday Communion of Reparation). Two months later the Child Jesus again appeared to Lucia, asking her if she had spread the devotion of reparation to the Immaculate Heart of His Holy Mother. She told Our Lord of the difficulties pointed out by her mother superior and confessor, but the excuses were not good enough. "It is true that your Superior alone can do nothing, but with my grace she can do all," the Child Jesus told her.

At prayer on June 13, 1929, in the Dorothean convent chapel at Tuy, she experienced a vision of Our Lady and the Holy Trinity. Our Lady spoke, “The moment has come in which God asks the Holy Father, in union with all the bishops of the world, to make the consecration of Russia to my Immaculate Heart, promising to save it by this means.”

She would write many letters to her bishop and the popes appealing for this Consecration to be made, waiting 55 years for its accomplishment by St. John Paul II on March 25, 1984. In the meantime, she watched as Our Lady’s prophecies unfolded throughout the 20th Century, resigning herself to God’s providence: “It is the same God who requested it, who has permitted this.” When the Consecration of 1984 was “accepted by Heaven,” she told those who asked about its fulfillment: “Look to the East.”

Sister Lucia died in 2005 at the age of 97, at the Carmelite convent of Santa Teresa in Coimbra, where she had lived since 1948.

While Jacinta and Francisco were taken to heaven, Lucia was told by Our Lady that she was to remain in the world “some time longer” – nearly nine decades. And for what would she remain? To make the Immaculate Heart of Mary “known and loved.” For Our Lady said that Jesus “wants to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart.” The mission of Lucia over these many decades had been very clear; to make known devotion to the Immaculate Heart of the Mother of God and to draw mankind to her love.

