



In an increasingly fast-paced world, where uncertainty and confusion seem to dominate the global landscape, the messages of Fátima resonate with prophetic and consoling power. The apparitions of the Virgin Mary at Cova da Iria, Portugal, in 1917, are not merely a historical event or a pious tale; they are an urgent call to conversion, a light guiding humanity toward peace and reconciliation with God. But what are the secrets of Fátima, really? Why do they remain relevant more than a century later? And, above all, has the third secret been fully revealed, or is there still more to uncover?

The Origin of the Apparitions: A Historical and Spiritual Context

On May 13, 1917, in the midst of World War I, three shepherd children—Lucía dos Santos and her cousins Jacinta and Francisco Marto—witnessed a heavenly apparition in Fátima. A “Lady brighter than the sun” appeared to them and asked them to return to the same place on the 13th of each month for six months. What began as a local encounter soon became a worldwide phenomenon, culminating in the “Miracle of the Sun” on October 13, 1917, witnessed by thousands of people.

The Virgin Mary, under the title of Our Lady of the Rosary, entrusted the children with three secrets, known as the “Secrets of Fátima.” These messages, revealed gradually over the years, contain warnings, promises, and a profound call to prayer and penance.

The First Secret: The Vision of Hell

The first secret was a terrifying vision of hell, described by Lucía as a “sea of fire” where the souls of sinners suffer eternally. This vision was not meant merely to frighten but to remind us of the reality of sin and its consequences. The Virgin asked for prayer and sacrifice to save souls from hell, emphasizing the importance of the Rosary and devotion to her Immaculate Heart.

This message is deeply relevant today. In an age of moral relativism and religious indifference, the vision of hell reminds us that our actions have eternal consequences. As Jesus says in the Gospel of Matthew: *“What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?”* (Matthew 16:26).

The Second Secret: Devotion to the Immaculate Heart and the Conversion of Russia

The second secret contains a promise and a warning. The Virgin promised that if humanity converted and consecrated Russia to her Immaculate Heart, there would be peace.



Otherwise, Russia would spread its errors throughout the world, causing wars and persecutions of the Church.

This message was interpreted at the time as a reference to atheistic communism, which indeed spread across the world in the 20th century. The consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart, carried out by several popes, has been the subject of theological debate. Some believe the fall of communism in 1989 fulfilled this promise, while others argue that Russia's complete conversion is yet to come.

The Third Secret: Fully Revealed or Still Hidden?

The third secret is undoubtedly the most controversial and mysterious. Written by Lucía in 1944, it was kept in the Vatican archives until Pope John Paul II decided to reveal it in the year 2000. According to the official version, the third secret describes a vision of a "bishop dressed in white" (interpreted as the Pope) who is killed alongside other martyrs in a place that appears to be Rome.

Many have interpreted this vision as a prophecy of the assassination attempt on John Paul II in 1981, which occurred on May 13, the anniversary of the first apparition at Fátima. However, some theologians and scholars argue that not all of the secret has been revealed. They claim that the published text lacks specific details about future events and that there may be more content related to crises in the Church or the world.

This controversy has fueled theories and speculation, but it is important to remember that, as Cardinal Ratzinger (the future Pope Benedict XVI) said, the central message of Fátima is not fear but hope: *"The purpose of the vision is not to show a film of an irrevocably fixed future. Its meaning is exactly the opposite: to mobilize the forces of change in the right direction."*

Fátima Today: A Call to Hope and Action

The secrets of Fátima are not just a story from the past; they are a guide for the present and the future. In a world marked by wars, injustices, and a deep spiritual crisis, the message of Fátima is more relevant than ever. The Virgin calls us to prayer, especially the Rosary, to penance, and to consecration to her Immaculate Heart.

The story of Fátima also teaches us the power of simple faith. Lucía, Jacinta, and Francisco were humble children, but their openness to grace transformed the world. As Saint Paul says: *"God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong"* (1 Corinthians 1:27).



Conclusion: A Mystery Inviting Us to Trust

The secrets of Fátima are a reminder that, even when evil seems to prevail, God has a plan for humanity. The Virgin Mary, as a loving mother, guides us to her Son, Jesus Christ, the source of all peace and salvation.

Has the third secret been fully revealed? Perhaps that question is not the most important one. What matters most is to heed the message of Fátima: to convert, to pray, and to trust in God's mercy. As the Virgin told the shepherd children: *"In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph."*

In a world crying out for hope, Fátima offers us a sure path: the path that leads to the Heart of Mary and, through her, to the Heart of Christ. May her message inspire us to live with faith, hope, and charity, building a more just and peaceful world in the light of the Gospel.