



# Catholic Treasure Chest



*Bringing out the Treasures of the Church*

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LENTEN SEASON 2026



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## SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION

### Featured Articles

- Devotion to St. Joseph
- Devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows
- Eucharistic Miracle of Lanciano
- Life of St. Frances of Rome
- Miraculous Healing of Norah through the Holy Rosary

*Reign of Jesus through Mary*

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# LENT 2026

ASH WEDNESDAY



FEBRUARY 18

PALM SUNDAY



MARCH 29

MAUNDY THURSDAY



APRIL 2

GOOD FRIDAY



APRIL 3

HOLY SATURDAY



APRIL 4

EASTER SUNDAY



APRIL 5



# Catholic Treasure Chest

## EDITOR'S CORNER

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"The Most Holy Virgin, in these last times in which we live has given a new efficacy to the recitation of the Rosary to such an extent that there is no problem, no matter how difficult it is, whether temporal or above all spiritual, in the personal life of each one of us, or of our families... that cannot be solved by the Rosary." ***Sr. Lucia of fatima***

### TREASURES OF THE CHURCH

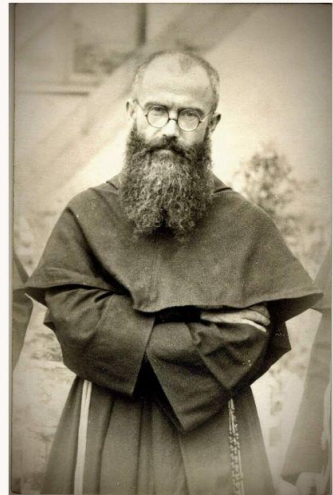
The Catholic Church has great treasures in the events that had taken place in the history of the Church, from the beginning of the Church till now. There are written accounts of supernatural events that had taken place in the Church at various times and places, which Heaven had used to demonstrate the authenticity of the Catholic Church and to strengthen the faith of the faithful.

To establish that His ministry is from God, Jesus did lots of miracles. He woke the dead, healed the sick, opened the eyes of the blind and the ears of the deaf. He foretold the future, multiplied bread, turned water into wine and, above all, He gave us His body and blood in form of bread and wine.

Jesus promised that those who believe in Him would do things that He did. In the lives of the Saints, we see the fulfilment of this promise of Our Lord Jesus. In this magazine, we bring to light, various accounts of supernatural events that had taken place in the Catholic Church, so that the faithful would read them and build their faith.

Kingsley Ifeanyi Eze  
Editor-in-Chief  
Director of Publications

"Never will anyone who says his Rosary every day be led astray. This is a statement that I would gladly sign with my blood," ***St. Louis Marie De Montfort***



St. Maximilian Kolbe, Pray for us

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## **Solemnity of the Annunciation**

The Solemnity of the Annunciation is a major feast in the Catholic liturgical calendar. It is the feast when the Church celebrates the moment when the angel Gabriel announced to the Virgin Mary that she would conceive and give birth to Jesus, the Son of God and the God made man. The solemnity of Annunciation is celebrated on March 25, exactly nine months before Christmas, December 25.



In the Gospel of St. Luke 1:26–38, we read:

*“Greetings, O favoured one,  
the Lord is with you!”*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favoured one, the Lord is with you!” But she was greatly troubled by the saying and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing is impossible with God.” And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

This is the interaction that ushered in the long-awaited Messiah, the Saviour of the world and the Redeemer of mankind. It was also from this interaction that Heaven has given us a prayer that is

considered one of the most efficacious prayers known by

man; the Hail Mary full of grace...

### Mary’ Perpetual Virginity and Singular Motherhood

Some Christians are very confused about how many children Mary Mother of Jesus had. Because of some passages in the scripture where relatives of Jesus were referred to as His brothers, some Christians uphold the belief that Mary had other children apart from Jesus. This is incorrect. Jesus was the only child the Virgin Mary bore, and Jesus was conceived, not through the natural way babies are conceived, but through the power of the Holy Spirit. Let us look at the facts here.

When the angel Gabriel disclosed to Mary that she would conceive and give birth to a son, Virgin Mary’s response to angel Gabriel

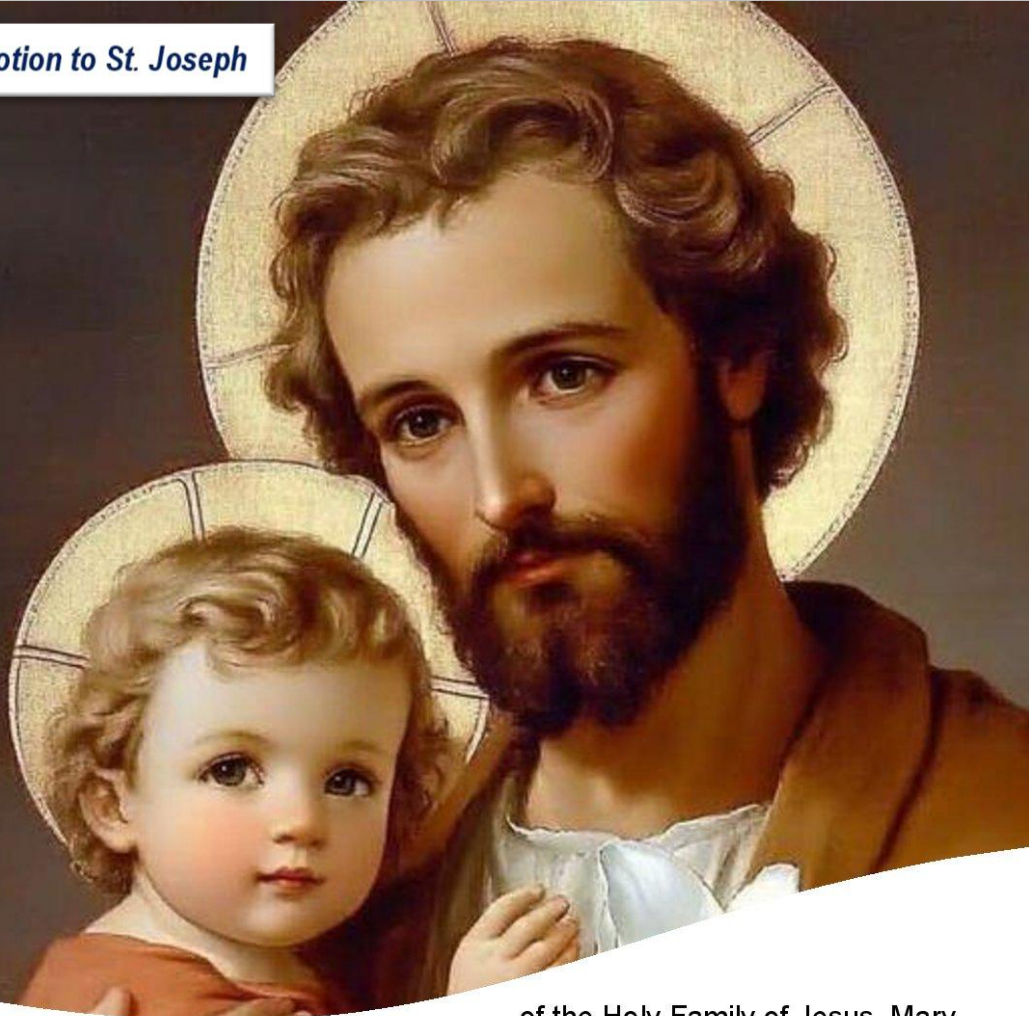
was a clear indication that Mary had no intention of giving birth to any child at all. *“How will this be, since I am a virgin?”* We must note that prior to this encounter with the angel, Mary had already been betrothed to Joseph who was to be the foster Father of Jesus, not His biological Father. If Mary had married Joseph with the intention that both would settle and start to build a family, her response to the angel would have been different. She wouldn't have had any reason to question the news that she would conceive of a baby knowing she had a man.

Again, let's say that Mary forgot that she was already married or that she did not know how a woman could conceive a baby with the help of a man. Well, the angel, being a pure spirit, wouldn't have been without the knowledge that Mary had a functional husband or be

ignorant of the steps Mary and Joseph would take to see the beautiful bumpy result. The angel would have reminded her that she had Sir Joe with her or educate her and Joe on the actions they should take as legally married couple to have his message about her motherhood come true. Rather, the angel made her know that her perpetual vow of virginity was not going to be disrupted.

*“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.”*

By divine implication and by the special privilege God had granted to her as the Mother of God, Mary was a virgin before, during and after the birth of Jesus



On March 19 every year, the Catholic Church celebrates the feast of St. Joseph husband of Mary. On May 1st, the Church celebrates the feast of St. Joseph the Worker. Joseph was the humble man chosen by God to be the foster father of Jesus, the chaste spouse of the Virgin Mary, and guardian and protector

of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. St. Joseph is highly venerated in the Catholic Church. After the Blessed Virgin Mary, he is the next saint that earns the highest honour and veneration among all the Catholic saints. According to the genealogy of Jesus in the Gospel of St. Matthew, Joseph is of the ancestral root of David.

St. Joseph is revered as a model of virtues. Despite the heroic roles he played in the lives of Jesus and Mary, Joseph, due to his virtue of profound humility, never uttered a word, or at least, any that was recorded in the scripture. He is a man of deep silence. The degree of silence he practiced is synonymous with souls that engage in continual mental prayers and recollection. As souls are said to lose massive amount of grace in talking, it can be unimaginable how much graces St. Joseph accumulated by his lifestyle of silence.

Joseph is a man with a heart full of compassion. His surpassing charity manifested in the way he handled the realization of Virgin Mary's mysterious pregnancy. In that confusion and uncertainty, he decided to quietly dismiss Mary rather than expose or disgrace her. The visit of the angel in his dream changed everything. He took Mary in as his wife and accorded her the necessary support during her pregnancy.

Joseph is a model of blind obedience. He adhered strictly to the commands from God without questions. His virtue of blind obedience reflected in how docile he was to God's instruction to take his family and leave for Egypt. He was prompt at carrying out this and other instructions from God.

Joseph is a man who trusted in God. In all the uncertainties hardships, and rejections he encountered, Joseph placed all his trust in God and accepted the cross and rigorous life without any complaint.

Joseph is a great intercessor. "Some Saints are privileged to extend to us their patronage with particular efficacy in certain needs, but not in others; but our holy patron St. Joseph has the power to assist us in all cases, in every necessity, and in every undertaking." We must invoke Joseph in all our needs.

Visit [www.reignofmary.com](http://www.reignofmary.com) to find some novena prayers to St. Joseph for various needs.

## Devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows

### Jesus Presented in the Temple (Luke 2:22-40)

When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took Jesus to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord", and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

*"Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."*

The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

## Devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows

Following old Simeon's prophesy, the Blessed Virgin Mary experienced unspeakable

sorrows. The sword truly pierced her heart. It was not only once, but at different points that the sword of sorrow pierced the heart of Mary Mother of Jesus and our Mother. Of the uncountable swords that pierced the soul of Mary, the Church set aside seven and urges the faithful to console our Blessed Mother by honouring her seven sorrows.

### 7 Sorrows of Our Lady



1. The Prophecy of Simeon: Mary is told a sword will pierce her soul.
2. The Flight into Egypt: Mary and Joseph flee to protect Jesus from King Herod.

3. The Loss of Jesus in the Temple: Mary and Joseph search for three days for the child Jesus.

4. Mary Meets Jesus on the Way to Calvary: Mary witnesses her son carrying the cross.

5. The Crucifixion and Death of Jesus: Mary stands at the foot of the cross, watching her son die.

6. Mary Receives the Body of Jesus: Jesus is taken down from the cross and placed in Mary's arms.

7. The Burial of Jesus: Mary watches as Jesus is laid in the tomb.

### PROMISES

St. Bridget of Sweden reported that Our Lady promised to grant seven graces to those who honor her and draw near to her and her Son every day by meditating on her sorrows.

Visit [www.reignofmary.com](http://www.reignofmary.com) to read the promises, see the chaplet of Our Lady of Sorrow and learn how to pray it.

## Life of St. Frances of Rome

Frances of Rome, also known as Francesca Bussa de' Leoni, was a remarkable figure who combined deep spirituality with practical service in a turbulent time in Rome.



Frances was born in 1384 into a wealthy Roman family. From a young age, she

felt a strong calling to religious life, but at the age of 12, she entered an arranged marriage with Lorenzo de' Ponziani, a nobleman. However, she embraced married life with devotion, raising children and managing a household.

Frances lived during a time of war, famine, and political unrest in Rome. Rather than retreating from the world, she turned and embraced it. She personally nursed the sick, even during plagues in Rome. She and her

sister-in-law, Vannozza, turned their home into a hospital during plagues, losing two of her three children to the plague.

She used her wealth to care for the poor and sick. She opened her home as a refuge for those suffering from famine. Her life is often compared to a blend of contemplative prayer and active charity.

In 1425, after the death of her husband, she founded the Olivetan Oblates of Mary, a group of women who, without formal vows, pledged to serve God and the poor. Their house at Tor de' Specchi in Rome still exists today.

She is famous for visions of angels, purgatory, and hell, as well as her ability to read consciences. She died on March 9, 1440, and was canonized by Pope Paul V in 1608. Her feast day is celebrated on March 9. She is the patron saint of widows and motorists (the latter due to legends of her angel lighting her path at night).

## MIRACULOUS HEALING OF NORAH

This is a story of how a Rosary that was blessed at the Shrine of Our Lady in Fatima Portugal miraculously healed Norah after being sick close to 7 years.



Norah became severely sick in September 2011. For the next six years, her life was miserable. All hope of

her survival was almost lost before the miraculous healing took place in early 2018.

That dark September morning in 2011, Norah woke up from sleep abruptly after she felt like she was hit on her head viciously with a heavy object. She looked around sharply as she woke up. She was surprised that no one was standing over her with a sledgehammer. She looked at the door to see if anyone was walking away from the room, but no one was in the room except her. As she felt sharp pain in her head, she ran her hand on her head to check what was going on, but her head was intact without any bruise, cut or smear of blood. At that point, the headache she felt was indescribable. She felt as though her skull was cracked. She got off the bed, got a glass of water and took some pain killers. Nothing changed after some

time. The headache was still intense.

As all the pain killers failed to stop the headache, she proceeded to the hospital. When the doctor saw the severity of the pain, he advised her to stop breastfeeding her seven-month-old baby. As days went by, the pain was not subsiding. The doctors could neither diagnose the cause of the headache nor state why the pain killers were not able to stop the headache. As weeks developed into months, her condition continued to deteriorate. The dangerous headache continued to constantly ravage her and disrupted her life for entire year and beyond.

Things turned so bad that she would collapse whenever she found herself in a crowded place. She was completely destabilized. She could no longer go near the stove or heat. At last, when the horrible headache defied diagnosis and refused to stop, the doctors referred Norah to the neurologist to begin a process for possible brain surgery. That was when our entire family broke down. Brain surgery was the last thing we expected. We all resorted to prayers, especially the Rosary. Norah is so devoted to Mary.

As a dedicated mother with young children, Norah was devastated by her inability to fulfil her responsibilities towards her children. At a certain stage of the strange illness, her restaurant business was shut down as she could no longer support the business. The closure of her business affected the family so badly as all the financial

responsibilities of the family fell on her husband. The sad situation lingered on painfully without anyone seeing any solution in sight.

## Norah's Strange Dream

That period, I lived in Barcelona Spain with my family. In 2017, six years after Norah had been extremely sick, and no one knew what to do to help her, the doctors had no options left after Norah vehemently refused to engage in a process that could lead to brain surgery. She literally discarded the referral paper given to her by the doctor to see the neurologist. At that point, she handed the entire case to Jesus and Mary and asked them to take absolute control.

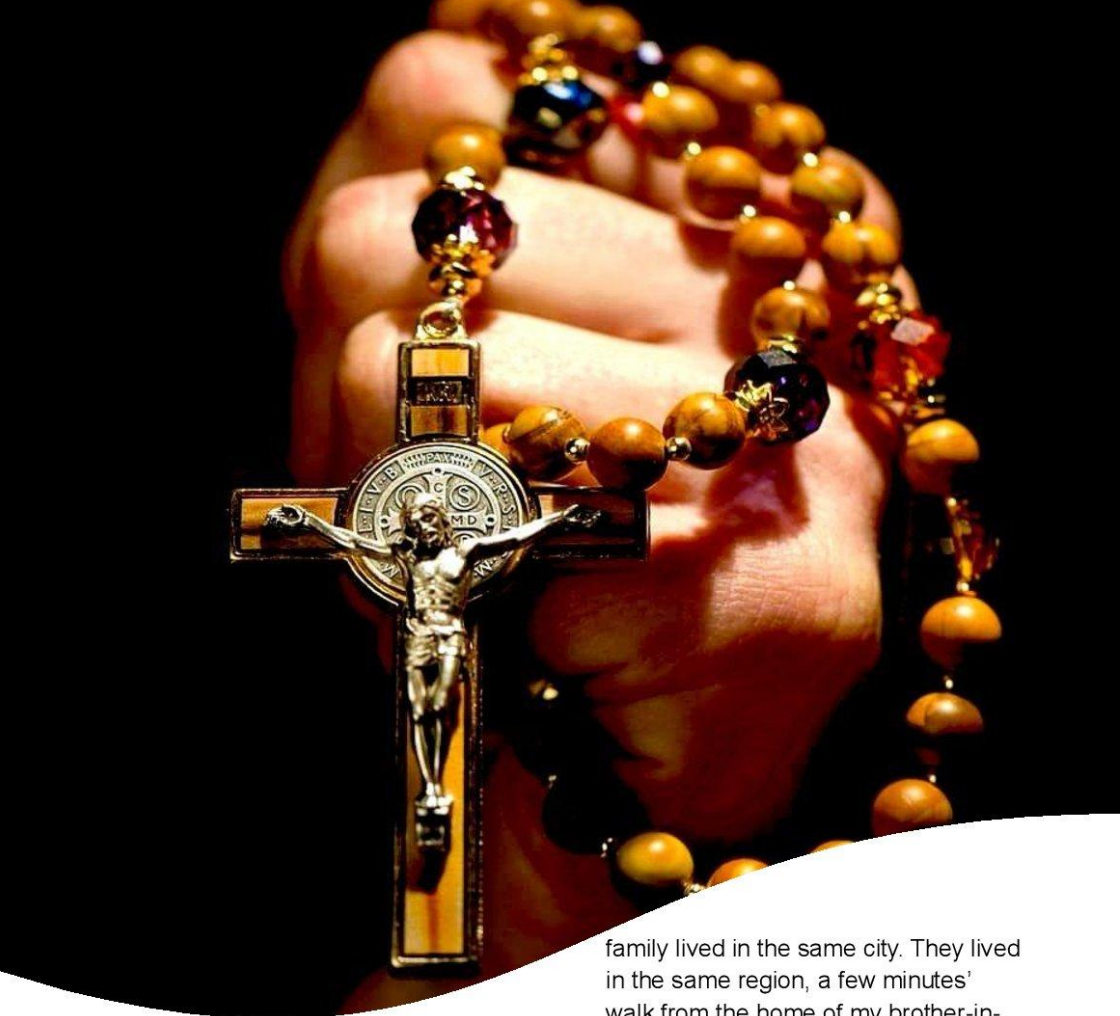
One morning in December of 2017, I called Norah to find out how she was doing. She began to tell me of the dream she had in which she saw me praying the Rosary with three men. In her account, in the dream she exclaimed, oh you are praying the rosary, and I responded telling her that it was the Blessed Virgin Mary that gave the rosary to me. She said that she took the rosary from me and touched it on Her head and chest and asked Our Lady to obtain healing for her. After listening to her dream, out of mere curiosity, I asked her what type of rosary she saw me praying in the dream. When she began to describe the rosary and told me the colour of the rosary and the material it was made of, I froze. I told her that what she had was a vision, not a dream.

She asked what I meant that the dream she narrated to me was a vision rather than a dream. I told her that the rosary she was describing was lying on our altar. I told her about the rosary I got from Fatima which was on the desk in our prayer room there in Barcelona as I was having the discussion with her. Norah lives in Nigeria. This is what happened.



## Rosary from the Shrine of Fatima

I travelled to Fatima from Spain on 22nd of August 2017 for the feast of the Queenship of Mary. That was my first visit to Fatima. While I was in Fatima, I purchased some rosaries and had them blessed at the Chapel of Apparitions, the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima. When I returned to Spain, I gave out all the rosaries. I kept only one rosary, not knowing who to give it to. When Norah described the rosary, I was praying in the dream, amazingly, it was the same rosary I blessed at the



Shrine of Our Lady in Fatima which I kept in our prayer room in case someone asks for a rosary. I never told her I brought the rosaries from Fatima and neither did I tell her that I kept one of the rosaries.

When I told her why I said that what she had was a vision rather than a dream, as I narrated to her about the rosaries I brought from Fatima, how I kept just one of the rosaries after giving out the rest, and how the rosary she described she saw in the dream

family lived in the same city. They lived in the same region, a few minutes' walk from the home of my brother-in-law. She was overwhelmed with joy when I told her I was going to include the rosary in the DHL box. The box was delivered to them in a week's time. Norah received the rosary a few days after. She was overwhelmed with joy holding the rosary that was blessed at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima.

## **The Rosary Heals**

On receiving the rosary in late December 2017, Norah would

place the rosary on her head and tie her head scarf on it. She carried the rosary wrapped in her head everywhere she went as she kept invoking Our Lady of Fatima for assistance.

In January 2018, barely three weeks after she received the rosary, as she was participating in a rosary procession, at some point, the rosary fell from her head and disintegrated into some pieces. She picked them up and gave them to her son to fix. Having put the rosary together, he gave the rosary back to Norah and she put it on Her head again and tied the scarf on it. For the second time, strange enough, the Rosary fell off her head. Picking up the rosary, she addressed Jesus and Mary telling them that she believed they had finished their work on Her. Holding unto faith that she had been healed, she did not put the rosary on her head again. After some days, she had the feeling that she was missing something. She thought of what it was that was no longer there. That was when she noticed she no longer felt

the headache. It had gone. It felt calm in subsequent days. It did not take long before she realized that she had received miraculous healing. The strange headache that had tormented her for over six years had gone. Until today, eight years after Norah experienced the healing, the headache did not return.

This miraculous occurrence further transformed her life. It has deepened her love for the Blessed Virgin Mary and Our Lord Jesus Christ. She had testified to this exceptional miracle at different places, and that has strengthened the faith of people that listened to her. Many people who heard or read about Norah's healing were drawn closer to the Holy Virgin Mary and Her rosary.

Visit [www.reignofmary.com](http://www.reignofmary.com) to read accounts of extraordinary graces received through the prayer of the rosary.

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## Apparitions at Fatima

In 1917, Mary Mother of God appeared six times within six consecutive months to three little shepherds of Fatima: Francisco, Jacinta and Lucia. Mary brought very important messages to the world during Her apparitions. Our Lady's apparitions in Fatima began in May 1917, with the first being on 13<sup>th</sup> of May. We will feature each of the apparitions and the messages brought by Our Lady in each of Her visits.

Before the apparitions of Our Lady began, there were three apparitions that took place in Fatima. These three heavenly visits were not made by the Mother of God. They were made by the Angel of Peace, Angel of Portugal. These three apparitions of the angel took place at two different locations in Fatima. Let us begin this beautiful journey with the first apparition of the Angel, all based on the accounts of Lucia, one of the three little shepherds of Fatima.

## The First Apparition of the Angel

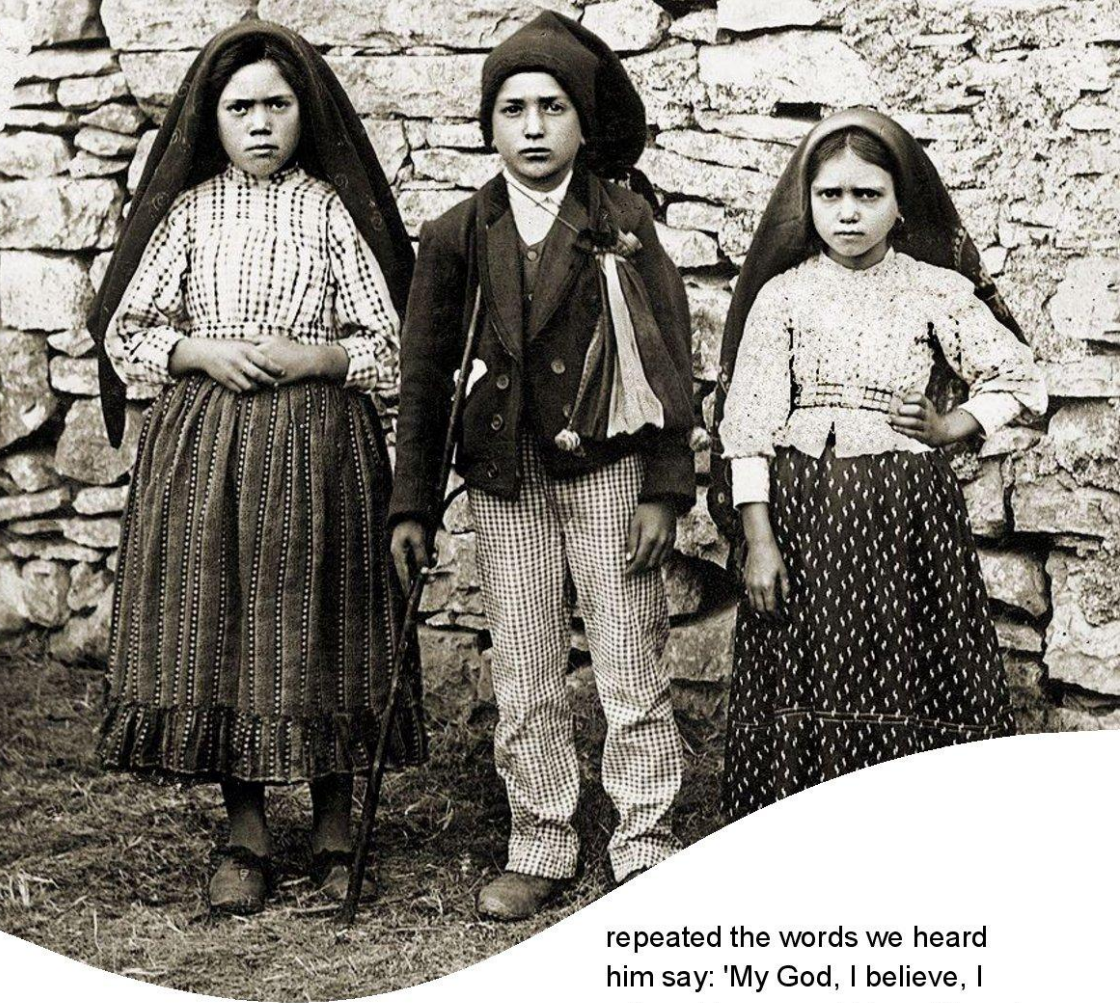
In 1916, a year before the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the three little shepherds began to witness the apparitions of the angel. Based on the accounts of Sister Lucia, the first apparition of the angel took place around the spring of 1916.

### Lucia's account:

"I think it was in the spring of 1916 that the Angel appeared to us for the first time at Loca do Cabeço." (A cave on top of a hill.)

"As we were playing, a strong wind shook the trees. It was a calm day, so the strong wind was noticeable. We looked up to see what was happening. Then we saw above the trees, the shape of a transparent young man who was more brilliant than the sun."

"As he approached, we saw he was of great beauty about fourteen or fifteen years old. We were speechless."



"Once he drew near us, he said:

'Fear not. I am the Angel of Peace. Pray with me.' "Kneeling down, he bowed until his forehead touched the ground."

Led by a supernatural inspiration, we imitated him and

repeated the words we heard him say: 'My God, I believe, I adore, I hope, and I love Thee. I beg Thee pardon for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope, and do not love Thee.'

"After he had repeated this three times, he rose and said: 'Pray thus. The Hearts of Jesus and Mary are attentive to the voice of your supplications.' Then he disappeared.

# Pilgrimage To Fatima

August 12 - 16



## PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- 4 Nights & 5 Days in Fatima
- Tour of the City of Fatima
- Flights, Hotel & Meals
- Visit to Village of 3 Shepherds
- Shopping at Famous Pracetas
- Airport Pickup from Lisbon City
- Gift of a Special Crystal Rosary

## THINGS TO DO:

We will join the Candlelight Procession, Pray Rosary at the Chapel of Apparitions, Join the Solemn Mass of the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima and the Solemnity of the Assumption. We will have spiritual retreat and shop religious articles.

## PLACES TO VISIT

- The 2 Basilicas at the Sanctuary of Fatima
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- The Village of the 3 Shepherds of Fatima
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## *Eucharistic Miracle of Lanciano*

The Eucharistic Miracle of Lanciano is one of the most famous reported miracles in Catholic Church. It occurred in the 8th century in the town of Lanciano.

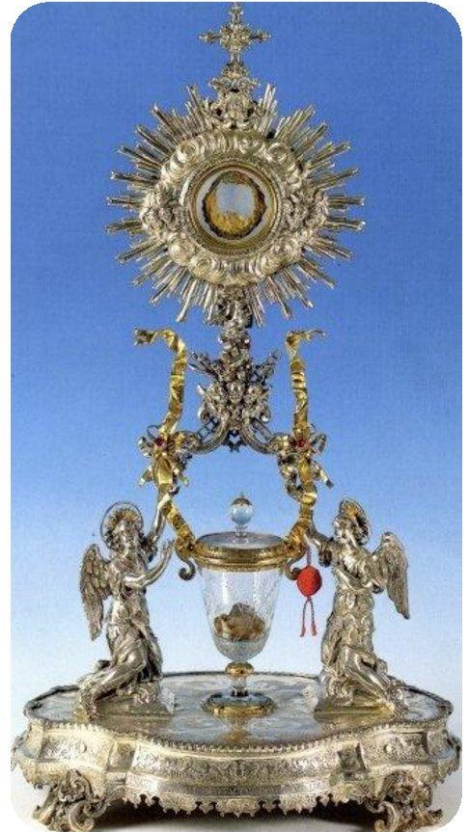
A Basilian monk who doubted the doctrine of Transubstantiation—the belief that bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ during consecration done by a Catholic priest—was celebrating Mass. During the consecration, the bread (host) turned into visible flesh and the wine turned into visible blood, forming five globules. The monk was said to have overcome his doubts after witnessing this.

The relics are still preserved in Lanciano. The flesh is kept as a small piece of tissue while the blood appears like five irregular clots. They are preserved at the Church of San Francesco.

### **Scientific investigations**

In the 1970s, studies were conducted on the tissue and the blood by Italian scientist Odoardo Linoli. The flesh was identified as human heart tissue and the blood

was identified as human blood type AB. No preservatives were found present in the species. This is considered without any doubt to be clear evidence of authenticity. The miracle is seen as a powerful affirmation of true presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. There are other reported Eucharistic miracles that have taken place in the Catholic Church that reinforce the faith in Christ's real presence.



# Pray the Rosary Daily



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Fatima

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