



The Meaning of the Holy Family Image and Interview with Sr. Lucia

This special portrait of the Holy Family depicts a vision that the three children of Fatima, Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta, saw during the "Miracle of the Sun" on October 13, 1917. Though this vision is explained in all of the major documentation of Fatima, not very many people are aware of it.

During the "Miracle of the Sun," the sun swirled in the sky and great shafts of color flooded the entire plateau of Fatima, Portugal. The sun then plummeted towards the Earth, and the over 70,000 people present thought it was the end of the world. At this same time, the children of Fatima saw the following vision, as described by Sr. Lucia:

When our Lady disappeared in the immense distance of the sky, next to the sun, we saw St. Joseph holding the child Jesus and Our Lady dressed in white with a blue mantle. St. Joseph and the child seemed to be blessing the world, making the sign of the cross (Letter from Sr. Lucia to her Bishop, December 8, 1941, Tuy, Spain).

Jerome Coniker, founder of the Apostolate for Family Consecration, with permission granted by Cardinal Ratzinger, personally visited Sister Lucia and asked for her blessing on this portrait of the Holy Family of Fatima, the work of the Apostolate for Family Consecration, Familyland[®] Television Network, and the special television production about the Fatima message.

During Sister Lucia's half-hour interview with Mr. Coniker, she spoke a lot about this beautiful portrait. She said, "It's the best that any human being could do." She also liked the symbolic additions that were made to the portrait. For instance, on the garment of St. Joseph is the reverse side of the Miraculous Medal (the cross going through the "M" and the two Hearts of Jesus and Mary, all encircled by 12 stars). This shows St. Joseph's love for the Hearts of Jesus and Mary and his protection over the Church, symbolized by the twelve stars which represent the twelve Apostles.

Sr. Lucia was happy to see our Lady holding the Rosary and the scapular in her left hand—summarizing the apparitions of our Lady at Fatima. The scapular is the sign of our consecration to Jesus through Mary and is an act of faith when worn with reverence.

The rosary-heart outlining the Holy Family shows that the Rosary is an integral part of the Fatima message. The family Rosary is the primary prayer that will protect the family, and becomes a window through which we can see, with eyes of faith, the interior life of the Holy Family and the principal mysteries of our Faith. Through the Holy Spirit's illumination and power of love—symbolized by the flames and dove above the heart-shaped Rosary—poured out through Mary, Mediatrix of all Grace, we are more and more able to live consecrated lives as adopted members of the Holy Family. This rosary-heart outline is also the logo of the Apostolate for Family Consecration.

Sr. Lucia noticed the image of the Sacred and Eucharistic Heart of Jesus with the flame of love and the cross above it, which depicts the Holy Eucharist and the Divine Mercy rays. The rays refer to the Divine Mercy apparition of Our Lord to St. Faustina, an apparition that our Holy Father, the Pope, has held up to the entire Church. The Fatima message is the formula for drawing down Divine Mercy. Once enough families follow this formula and are consecrated to Jesus through Mary in the truths of our Faith, and live these truths with great fervor, the era of peace promised by Our Lady of Fatima will be granted to the world.

The Immaculate Heart of Mary with the sword of sorrow going through her heart depicts our Lady of Sorrows and flame of love above it depicts devotion to her Immaculate Heart, which is also a prerequisite for world peace.

The portrait summarizes The Apostolate's prayer: *All for the Sacred and Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, all through the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, all in union with St. Joseph.*

At the end of the interview, Sr. Lucia clutched the picture in her arms while holding it against her chest and took the picture for her own room. She loved the Apostolate for Family Consecration's work and the Holy Family of Fatima portrait very much. She said she would pray for the members and work of the Apostolate for Family Consecration. The Apostolate was "conceived" in Fatima when the founding family lived there from 1971-1973, and "born" in America when it was founded in 1975.



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