

The SHEPHERDS of FÁTIMA

By Sr. Emmanuel Alves, FSP

Remember the speculation as we waited for the famous "third secret" of Fátima to be made public?

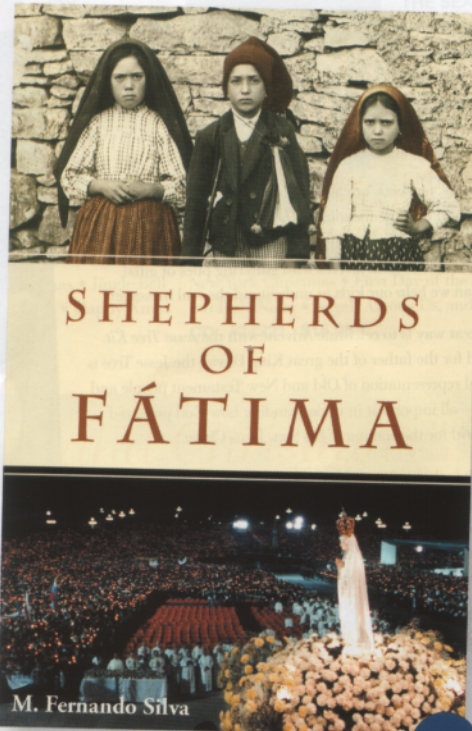
It was revealed at the beatification of the two youngest seers that Pope John Paul II was the focus of that message—his suffering and the attempt on his life.

Aside from the more sensational events, the message of Fátima is the message of the Gospel, forever relevant: repentance, prayer, and conversion. It is a loving reminder from our heavenly Mother that when all is said and done, only one thing is necessary: the love and service of God and neighbor.

A few short years from now will mark the centenary of that marvelous event that has influenced so many lives.

The Shepherds of Fátima is a masterful work drawing heavily from Lucia's memoirs as eyewitness to all that transpired during those moments when Mary visited three young children. The book brings the reader right into the homes and family life of the three little shepherds. It opens a window onto their simple everyday lives, their joys and sorrows, their worries and fears, and especially the Love that so transformed them. Miracles took place in Fátima, but we marvel more at the miracles of God's grace at work in them. In beatifying the two youngest shepherds (Sr. Lucia's cause has also been introduced), the Church shows us that heroic virtue is possible even for very young children when there is correspondence to God's grace. These children possessed gifts, limitations, personalities, joys, and sorrows—just as we do.

Apparition messages are rarely just for the seers; they are for us as well. As you read this account, let these simple children take you by the hand and lead you along the road Our Lady showed them, the road of penance and prayer, of confidence and love, "for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" (Mt 19:14).



NEW!

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THE SHEPHERDS OF FÁTIMA

M. Fernando Silva

Drawing from historical sources and eye-witness accounts, *The Shepherds of Fátima* is a captivating retelling of Mary's apparitions at Fátima, Portugal, in 1917. Fr. Silva leads readers through the lives of the three little shepherds—Lucia dos Santos and her cousins, Blessed Jacinta Marto and Blessed Francisco Marto—and the events at Fátima with skillful storytelling and expertise. This well-researched account reads like a novel and includes photos.

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