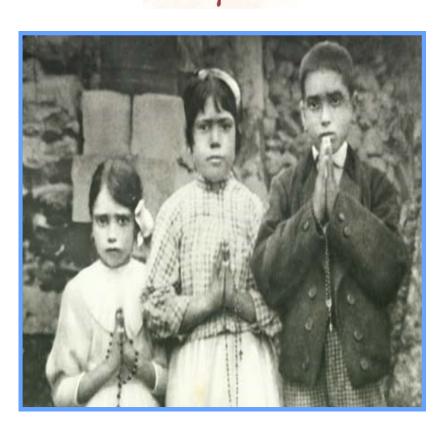
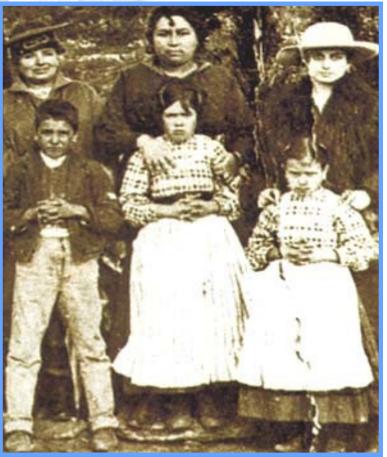
Children must look to Jesus Christ as their model in His obedience to God, the Father. Wives must follow the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary in her offering of herself and the acceptance of God's will. Husbands must look to St. Joseph to follow his marvelous example of the sanctification of his daily duties. The spirituality of Fatima can transform the family. We pray that the Good Lord will bless our needy families granting the Church a new Marian Pentecost. The authentic triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary will come through our families.



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## Fatima and the Sanctification of Our Family



The Children of Fatima
Francisco — Lúcia — Jacinta

## Fatima and the Sanctification of Our Family

by Américo Pablo López – Ortiz

The children of Fatima were renewed and transformed along with their families from the message of Fatima. It is important that the instruments of God used in Fatima to renew these families with three little children. It is as if the Good Lord wishes to renew our families today through the role of the little ones in bringing people closer to God.

The family members of Fatima were evangelized by the example of the three little shepherds who lived the Christian virtues in an extraordinary and heroic way. Such little children, rewriting the manuals of theology, were capable of living a holy life, and sanctifying themselves and their families in such a way that they can say with St. Paul: "it is no longer I who live... it is Christ that lives in me." The three little shepherds became other Christ's, their families were transformed and we must look at how this was done!

Let us examine the people in the village of Fatima in the days of the Apparitions. Our lady first called the children to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The adults were more or less living a Christian life. But they were far away from perfection. Through the children, their parents were called to come closer to God. Let us focus on children and young people first; then parents and adults will come. The triumph of the Heart of Mary will be a reality when this is achieved.

The Immaculate Heart of Mary represents the spiritual motherhood of Mary over humanity. When she appeared to Sister Lucia, Our Lady had the Heart in her hand and she offered her heart to Lucia. Lucia was representing all human beings when Our Lady said: "My heart will stay with you till the end." Our Lady was risen and assumed into heaven, body and soul, by her Son, Jesus Christ, but she left her Heart with us on earth: the Heart is the spiritual presence of Mary. The spiritual action of the Mother is so much needed by her children. She wants to save her children. She has given us her Immaculate Heart, which is with us on earth. We have two wonderful gifts from heaven. The most important one is the divine in real presence of Jesus Christ in the Most

Blessed Sacrament. The second greatest gift is the spiritual motherhood of Mary.

From the beginning, the Church has seen in St. John the Evangelist, the children of God, and all human beings, receiving the Blessed Mother Mary as their spiritual Mother. This calls us to a new family life, rich in God's grace and mercy!

God is first. God is a family. The Most Holy Trinity is a family. Our Blessed Mother relates to each of the three persons in a threefold role as child (to the Father), mother (to the Son) and wife (to the Holy Spirit).

The family of Nazareth is the "mother" of all human families. It is best if we follow the example of the Holy Family and not the bad examples set forth by other false idols and celebrities in our societies which have abandoned Christian values and virtues.

Those who do not believe in marriage or the sanctity of life are in favor of a culture of death. There are parents who spoil their children through TV, Internet, profane music, magazines, publications and movies. False idols destroy the authentic human family. We should not follow these fashions as they oppose the Gospel. Our Lady said in the Message of Fatima: "Many fashions will come that will greatly offend God."

We must look at the home of Nazareth to make out own home a domestic church, in the model of the holy family: Jesus, Mary and Joseph. We have to love and communicate with each other, in order to accept God's grace and mercy. We must consecrate our family to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, so that they will dwell in our own home.