On Sunday, May 13, 1917, three little children of Fatima, Portugal, took their sheep out to the family pasture land. The children were very young; Jacinta and Francis were seven and nine—they were brother and sister—and their cousin Lucy was ten.

About midday, a blinding flash of lightning crossed the sky. Not a single cloud could be seen. Thinking that a storm was brewing on the other side of the hill the children drove their sheep before them down the slope. Halfway down the hill there was a second flash, much bigger than the first. At the bottom of the slope, they came to a dead stop.

A few feet from them, they saw a Beautiful Lady standing on the leaves of a small oak tree.

The Lady was really a very young girl, between fifteen and eighteen years old. She was most attractively dressed and carried a rosary with a silver cross and beads of pearls in her right hand.

Lucy asked the Lady where she came from. "From Heaven," was the reply. And then the children were asked to visit the spot of the apparition for six months on the thirteenth of each month, at the same hour. When the three asked the Lady her name, she put them off and told them to wait for five months.

On October 13, she revealed herself as the Lady of the Rosary.

The children became very much interested in Heaven. Lucy asked if she would go there with Jacinta and Francis. The two girls were given the assurance that they would reach Heaven. But the Lady was not quick to give the good word to Francis. "He will go also, but he must first recite many rosaries."

Up to this time, Francis had taken no interest in the mysterious conversation. When he heard his name spoken, he showed new life. He protested that he could not see any Lady. Lucy then asked the Lady: "How is it that Francis does not see you?" The Lady replied: "Tell him to recite the rosary and he will see me." Francis took up his beads, and after saying six or seven Hail Marys he saw the Beautiful Lady.

Then the Lady asked the three children for a favor. "Would you like to offer yourselves to God to make sacrifices, and to accept willingly all the sufferings it may please Him to send you, in order to make reparation for so many sins, which offend the Divine Majesty, to obtain the conversion of sinners, and to make amends for all the blasphemies and offenses committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary?"

Lucy spoke for all three: "Yes, we should like that very much." From that time on the youngsters prayed and suffered for sinners. (Why don't you offer you sufferings for sinners, too?)

PRAYERS: (deceased) father of Tom Perry, '43; brother-in-law of Ed Cashman (OC) (Ill) aunt of Paul Hanlon (Morr); father of Ed (Dil), Tom (Z) and Charles (USNR) King, very serious; father of John Dwyer (Cav). Two Special Intentions.