The Miracle Of The Sun.

Our Blessed Mother promised a great miracle to the three little children of Fatima in Portugal, to whom she had been appearing monthly. Miracles are unusual occurrences, but this was a unique one in that the date, place and hour were predicted. The day was October 13, 1917. 70,000 people gathered to witness this prodigy. They were not disappointed.

The Blessed Virgin appeared at the customary hour, about noon. Of course only the three children saw her. Her conversation with the children should be remembered: "I am Our Lady of the Rosary; I want a chapel built here in My honor. The rosary must be recited every day. Men must amend their lives, and ask pardon for their sins. Men must no longer offend Our Divine Lord, who is already offended too much." Then the miracle took place.

The morning of October 13th was wet, gloomy and cold. The place of the apparitions was a vast mud pit. All the pilgrims were drenched. The sun suddenly appeared at its zenith in a patch of blue sky. It was very bright, but not dazzling, and one could look straight at it.

The sun began to dance. It started to tremble and finally turned giddily on itself like a wheel of fire, casting in all directions great beams of light. The beams changed in color from green, red, blue, violet to other tints, and all the colors were reflected in a most fantastic manner on the clouds, trees, rocks, the earth and on the clothes and faces of the crowd. After about four minutes the sun came to a stop in its whirling. Then it began its fireworks all over again. There was a second stop followed by another fantastic display of motion and color. This drama was seen distinctly within a radius of twenty-five miles.

The purpose of the miracle was to compel men to believe in the reality of the apparitions, and to obey the message which Our Lady brought from heaven.

The Fall Of The Sun.

The climax of this stupendous event was the fall of the sun from its place in the sky. This was the phenomenon that brought the crowd to make acts of sorrow and love of God. The spinning sun left its place in the sky and began falling in a zigzag fashion upon the crowd below, sending out intense heat. The crowd was terrified; many prepared for death by making an act of sorrow for sin. The people fell to their knees in the mud. The sun stopped suddenly in its fall, and zigzagged its way back to its place in the sky. When the people were convinced that the danger was over, they shouted: "Miracle! Miracle! Praised be the Blessed Virgin."

Up to this moment the crowd had been drenched by the rain. After the miracle everyone felt comfortable, and when they found their garments dry, the wonder became a subject of widespread discussion. The crowd left the place of the miracle happy and with renewed confidence and love of God and Our Lady.

The Miracle of Fatima should lead you to say the rosary every day, and to take to heart all the words spoken by Our Lady during the apparitions. (More about Fatima later).

PRAYERS: (deceased) Fabian Mud, '23; brother of Sister Leo Marie, C.P.; brother of Pat O'Neill (Dil), anniversary of death in Germany; Mrs Sadrima Bonventre; mother of Father Leo Sullivan, CSC and Father Robert Sullivan, '40; mother of Prof. Harold Ellithorn (E.E. Dept.); father of Marshall McManney, '33. Two Special Intentions.