

Fatima 2019. EF Mass 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday Pentecost

*Accordingly, under the admonition of the duty of Our Apostolic office that, in the face of such audacity on the part of the enemies of God, We should most vigilantly protect the dignity and honor of religion and preserve the sacred rights of the Catholic Church, We by our Apostolic authority denounce, condemn, and reject the Law for the Separation of Church and State in the Portuguese Republic. This law despises God and repudiates the Catholic faith ...*

That was a none-too-pleased Pope St Pius X in 1911 writing about the plight of Portugal, which had just fallen victim to Masonic revolution. But beyond his strong condemnations, what could the Pope do? Papal armies were a thing of the past. Portugal needed a miracle.

In 1139 Alfonso the Conqueror and his troops, greatly outnumbered, won a decisive battle against the Muslims in Portugal. Alfonso became Portugal's first Christian king. Convinced that our Crucified Lord helped him win the battle, King Alfonso had five shields incorporated onto his country's flag, which represented the five wounds of Christ.

In 1908 a couple of Freemasons shot and killed the King of Portugal and his heir apparent son. And in October 1910 Portugal had a revolution, instigated by Freemasonry, secret societies bent on overturning the Christian social order. The traditional Portuguese flag, with the five shields came down and a new revolutionary flag, mostly red in color, went up the flag pole.

Just five days after the installation of the Masonic government, it was decreed that all convents, monasteries and religious orders were to be suppressed. The Church's property and assets were then seized by the State. All bishops were persecuted, and all but one was eventually driven from his diocese. Seminaries were closed, property of clerics was seized, and the wearing of the cassock was banned.

Just a few weeks after the revolution, divorce was legalized, and marriage become a civil ceremony. Worship times and ringing of church bells were restrained. Religious feasts and outdoor processions were suppressed. And religious education in primary and secondary schools was prohibited. The author of these laws, the Freemason Alfonso Costa, an anti-clerical "Alfonso the Conqueror," boasted that in two generations "Catholicism will be completely eliminated in Portugal."

So, there is some context for us today on October 13, the 102<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun outside the tiny village of Fatima, Portugal in 1917. Without that context we might just see the Fatima event like the rest of the world does. We would look at holy cards and posters with three little shepherd children and Our Lady on them and say, "What a cute little story conjured up by the Catholics."

But it wasn't a cute story. When three Portuguese shepherd children informed their village that, starting on May 13 they saw a beautiful lady who told them to pray and make sacrifices for sinners, the villagers were hardly thrilled.

The villagers ridiculed the children in part because they were afraid. You see, the administrator of the region, a Catholic who had renounced his faith, was a Mason and viciously anti-clerical. Tales of celestial visitors telling children to pray the Rosary would only bring on trouble.

Nonetheless, on July 13, 1917, 4000 people descended on the village. On that visit, Our Lady showed the children a horrifying vision of hell, and she spoke of the hell that would soon be unleashed in Russia, which would suffer Masonic - Marxist revolution later in the year. The children had no clue who Russia was. They thought she was a woman who needed converting.

On September 13, 25,000 people came to Fatima. The children were shocked at the sight of the large crowd. And so were the authorities. They put out pamphlets stating this was all a hoax, a “clerical deception.” They then staged an anti-clerical rally in front of the small church.

On this September visit, Our Lady told the children that in October she would give them a sign of her authenticity. The sign was contingent of course, on their dutiful recitation of the Rosary. The liberal press did as much as it could to promote the foretold miracle. The thought was that the more this circus was publicized the greater the embarrassment it would be for the Church.

The authorities were not the only problem, however. Most of the neighbors in the village mocked the children, blaming them for their troubles. You see, the great crowds that came trampled over their fields, destroying their crops. And when the whole thing would be exposed as a fraud, their village would become the laughingstock of Portugal.

On October 12, the oldest child’s mother, who up to this point had not believed her daughter, took her daughter to confession. She figured after the hoax was exposed her daughter and most likely herself would be lynched by the outraged mob. She figured her and her daughter needed to prepare for death.

On October 13, 1917, 70,000 pilgrims, freezing and soaking wet as they stood in the mud in a downpour, started getting agitated. The noose was tightening around the children – when the rain stopped. The sun appeared, with a transparent veil over it so people could look directly at it. The children saw the Virgin Mary, as well as St Joseph and the Christ Child. Then multicolored lights were strewn across the countryside, bathing the landscape in surreal hues. The sun started to spin on its axis and then it appeared to plunge toward the earth, terrifying the assembled crowd, who thought the world was ending. When it was all over everyone’s clothes were dry and the mud on the ground had dried up.

This was not a mass hallucination. People saw it twenty miles away. It was, as one scholar put it, a “convincing contradiction to the atheistic regimes at the time.” The Masonic newspapers could not explain it away. Their reporters, present that day, ready to gloat, wrote what they saw was outside all cosmic laws. The sun, they wrote, had danced.

Speaking of dancing, the paralytic healed by Christ in today’s passage probably engaged in some. Right before his miraculous healing Christ told him: “Courage my son, be of good heart, your sins are forgiven.” That miracle, outside of all natural laws, was a sign of Christ’s authenticity. It substantiated the claim that He was God. For only God, not a mere man could forgive sins.

And going forward only God could pass on that power to His Church, giving Peter the keys and His Apostolic College the power of binding and loosing.

The successor of Peter, Pope Pius X was none-too-fond of Freemasons. Our present Pope, Francis is none too-fond of cassocks. But a man wears a cassock, draping himself from head to toe in black because he is dead to the world. You see, he knows the world is ending and he needs to prepare himself and others for death. Rigid in his faith in Christ, he doesn't worship "mother earth" or other such pagan nonsense. He knows "mother earth" is just an aging woman made up of dirt and water, heated by a burning out star that God once made dance.

My friends, we need a miracle. We need a miracle for the Church, the Bride of Christ, a woman in need of converting. In the face of clerical deception, in the face of such audacity on the part of the enemies of God, in the face of those who despise God's laws and repudiate the Catholic faith, let us pray for a miracle. Let us pray to Our Lady by our dutiful recitation of the Rosary that she will intercede for us. *The King of kings, and Lord of lords who alone has immortality and who dwells in unapproachable light*, refuses His Mother nothing.

Today we will ring bells and march in an outdoor procession under the banner of Our Lady. Perhaps this will bring on trouble for some of us. Courage my sons and daughters. The bells will be rung, we will march and say the Rosary outside, and then we will go back inside and celebrate. We will have a nice Catholic party. Because it's good to be alive.