



Holy Martyrs | St. Jude | St. Gregory the Great | Sacred Heart

FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION

February 26, 2023

Sts. Francisco and Jacinta Marto – February 20

St. Francisco Marto (1908-1919) and St. Jacinta Marto (1910-1920) were little children when Our Lady appeared to them at Fatima. Their cousin Lucia dos Santos (who was with them for the apparitions) recorded these memories of Our Lady's first appearance:



We had only gone a few steps further when, there before us above a small holm oak, we beheld a Lady all dressed in white. She was more brilliant than the sun, and radiated a light more clear and intense than a crystal glass filled with sparkling water, when the rays of the burning sun shine through it...[The Lady asked] "Are you willing to offer yourselves to God and bear all the sufferings He wills to send you, as an act of reparation for the sins by which He is offended, and of supplication for the conversion of sinners?"

"Yes, we are willing."

"Then you are going to have much to suffer, but the grace of God will be your comfort." ...

The next day, when we reached the pasture, Jacinta sat thoughtfully on a rock.

"Jacinta, come and play."

"I don't want to play today."

"Why not?"

"Because I'm thinking. That Lady told us to say the Rosary and to make sacrifices for the conversion of sinners. So from now on, when

we say the Rosary we must say the whole Hail Mary and the whole Our Father! And the sacrifices, how are we going to make them?" Right away, Francisco thought of a good sacrifice: "Let's give our lunch to the sheep and make the sacrifice of doing without it." In a couple of minutes, the contents of our lunch bag had been divided among the sheep. So that day, we fasted as strictly as the most austere Carthusian."

– Joe Moreshead