

Mother of Sollicitude - Marian Apparitions

“And a great sign appeared in heaven, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars...”

-Rev. 12:1

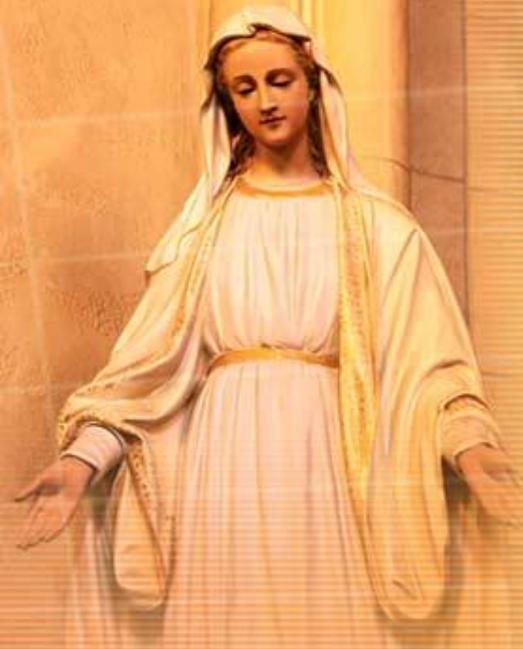


Blessed Virgin Mary's influence in History

“The 12th and 13th centuries were a period when men were at their strongest; never before or since have they shown equal energy in such varied directions, or such intelligence in the direction of their energy; yet these marvels of history - these Plantagenets [a dynastic family of kings]; these Scholastic philosophers; these architects of Rhiems and Amiens; these Innocents, and Robin Hoods, and Marco Polos; these crusaders who planted their enormous fortresses all over the Levant; these monks who made the wastes and barrens yield harvest - all, without apparent expedition, bowed down before the woman”. (The Education of Henry Adams)

Blessed Virgin Mary's influence in History

“Mary is everywhere: Marigolds are named for her. Hail Mary passes save football games. The image in Mexico of Our Lady of Guadalupe is one of the most reproduced female likenesses ever. Mary draws millions each year to shrines such as Fatima, in Portugal, and Knock, in Ireland... She inspired the creation of many great works of art and architecture (Michelangelo’s Pieta and Notre Dame Cathedral, as well as poetry, liturgy, and music. And she is the spiritual confidante of billions of people, no matter how isolated or forgotten”.



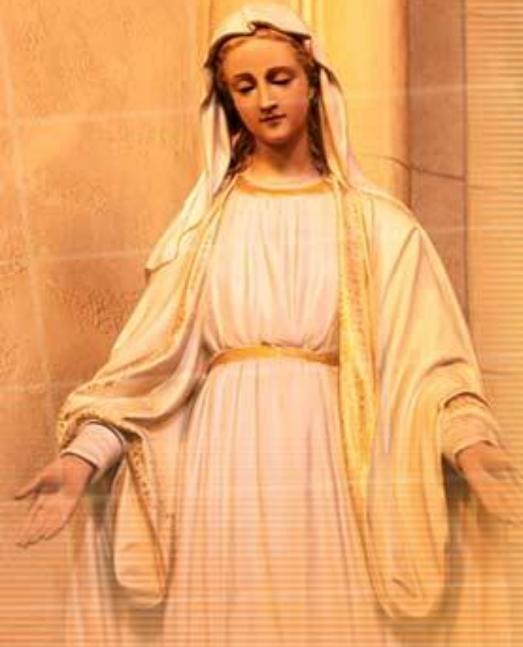


HER ROLE AS MOTHER OF US ALL

- ***Mary stood at the foot of the cross, Jesus said (Jn 19:26f), “Woman, behold, your son” and to the Apostle John, “Behold, your mother.”***
- ***Her mission: to be our spiritual Mother collaborating in God’s work of transformation in holiness, “until Christ be formed in [us]” (Gal 4:19).***
- ***Pope Francis recently extended the feast of Mary, Mother of the Church to the Roman Catholic general calendar.***

TURNING TO MARY IN TIMES OF CRISIS

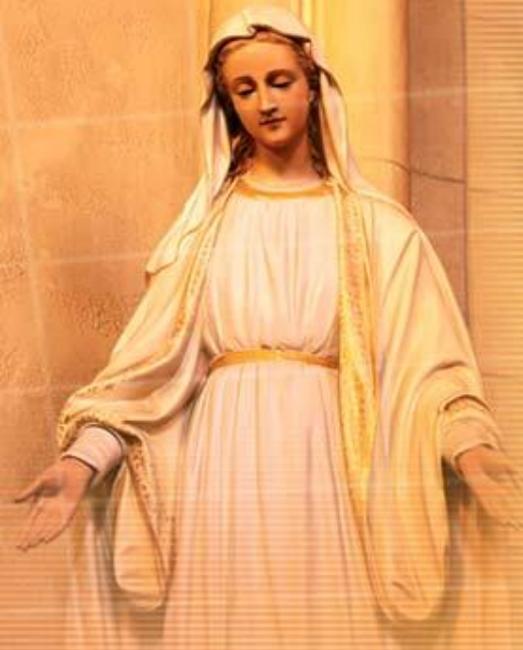
“At Cana in Galilee there is shown only one concrete aspect of human need, apparently a small one of little importance (‘They have no wine’). But it has a symbolic value: this coming to the aid of human needs means, at the same time, bringing those needs within the radius of Christ’s messianic mission and salvific power. Thus there is mediation: Mary places herself between her Son and mankind in the reality of their wants, needs and sufferings. She puts herself ‘in the middle,’ that is to say she acts as a mediatrix not as an outsider, but in her position as mother” (No. 21).



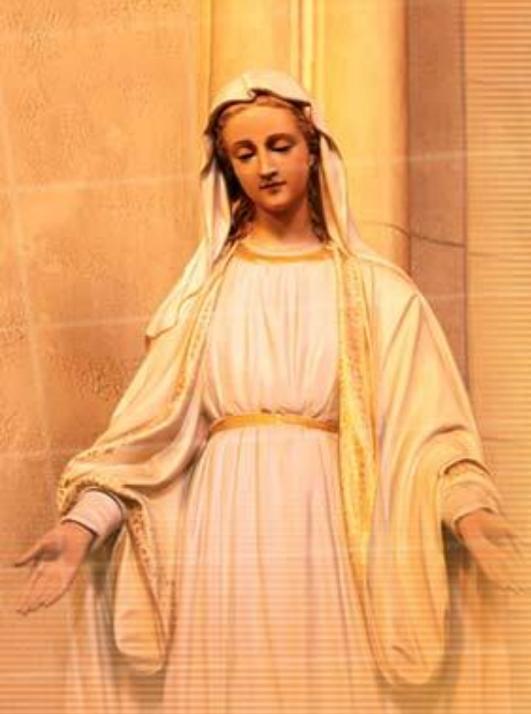


Maria Salus Populi Romani - Mary, Salvation/Health of the Roman People

Appeals to the Virgin Mary throughout History



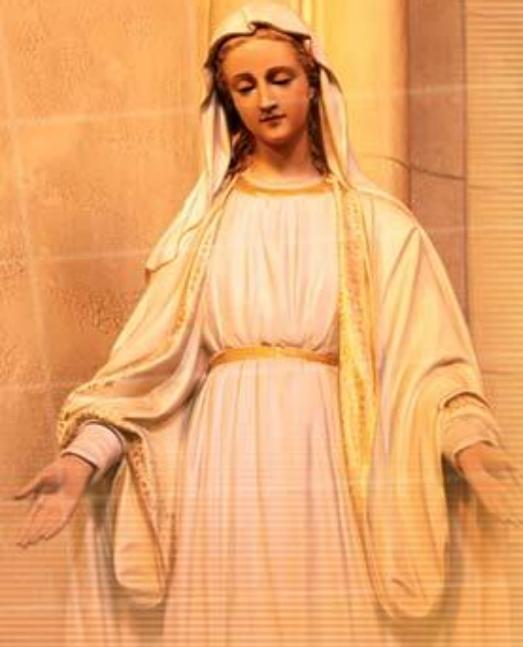
- *the icon was painted by St. Luke the Evangelist and then discovered by St. Helena in Jerusalem in the fourth century.*
- *it was brought to Rome during the pontificate of Pope St. Gregory the Great (590-604) - plague in Rome.*
- *Pope St. Pius V (1566-72): another plague... the Battle of Lepanto... established the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary - October 7th.*
- *Pope Gregory XVI prayed before the icon when cholera broke out in Rome in 1837. Feast of the Assumption - August 15th*



Appeals to the Virgin Mary throughout History

- ***Our Lady of Czestochowa: 1655 when Sweden invaded Poland, the monks of Trinity Monastery prayed to Our Lady.***
- ***In 1683, the Turkish troops invaded Vienna in an attempt to take over Europe.***
- ***The Polish King Jan III Sobieski came to the rescue of the Austrian and Hungarian troops...before stopping at Czestochowa to pray before the icon of Our Lady.***
- ***Bl. Innocent XI adopted the feast of the Holy Name of Mary***

What is an Marian Apparition



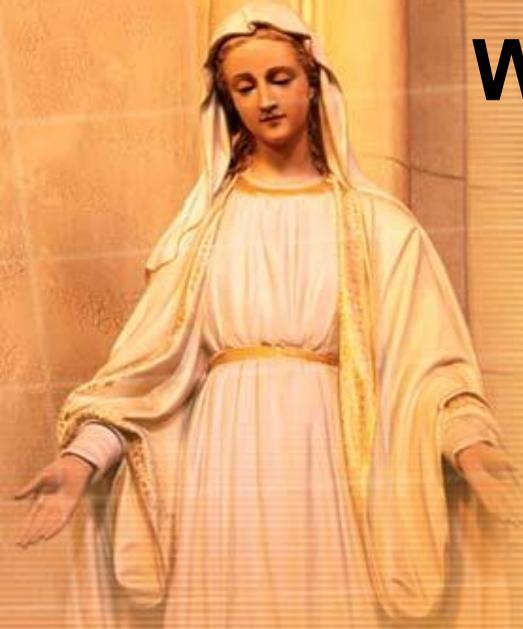
- *appearances of the Blessed Virgin Mary, coming down from heaven to earth.*
- *these appearances are often paired with some type of message Our Lady wants to communicate.*
- *there is always at least one witness to an apparition, and it is not uncommon for the witness to later become a saint or holy figure within the Church.*
- *for an apparition to be worthy of belief and devotion within the Catholic Church, it must be approved by the bishop of the area where the apparition took place.*



Marian Apparitions in Europe...

Why are they important for faith?

- *beautiful way Mary connects us to her Son, Jesus Christ.*
- *direct calls from Our Lady to go deeper into the Faith, and use her advice to strengthen our relationship with not only her son, but with our brothers and sisters.*
- *her messages leads us to Jesus Christ...*



Many messages with one objective

- ***“Penance! Penance! Penance! Pray to God for sinners. Kiss the ground as an act of penance for sinners!” (Our Lady of Lourdes to St. Bernadette)***
- ***“People do not observe the Day of the Lord. They continue to work with out ceasing on Sundays. Only some older women go to Mass in the summer. And in the winter, when there is nothing else to do, they go to Church to ridicule religion. Lenten time is ignored. Men swear, taking the Name of God in vain. The disobedience and disregard of God’s commandments are the things that make the hand of My Son heavier.” (Our Lady of La Salette to Melanie Calvat and Maximino Giraud)***

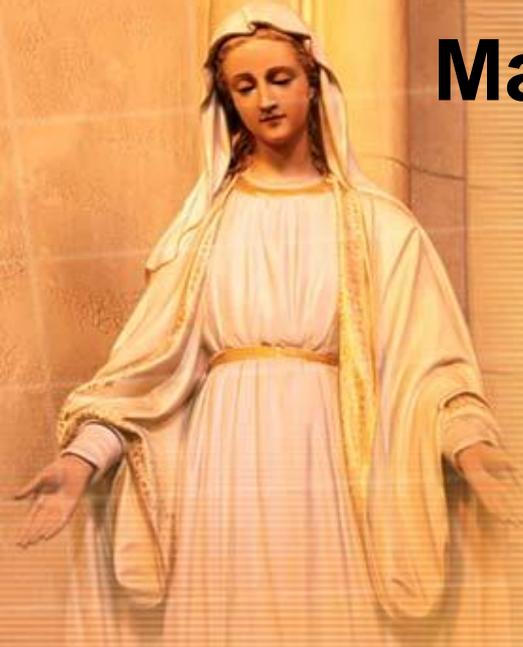


Many messages with one objective



- ***“Pray, pray a great deal and make many sacrifices, for many souls go to Hell because they have no one to make sacrifices and pray for them.” (Our Lady of Fatima to children)***
- ***“I am your merciful Mother, the Mother of all who love me, of those who cry to me, of those who have confidence in me. Here I will hear their weeping and their sorrows, their necessities and misfortunes. Listen and let it penetrate your heart.” (Our Lady of Guadalupe to St. Juan Diego)***

Many messages with one objective



- ***“To save the souls of poor sinners, God wishes to establish the devotion to My Immaculate Heart throughout the world.” (Our Lady of Fatima to children)***
- ***“I feel so happy to be able to help the children who beg me for protection. But so many do not ever come to me!” (Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal to St. Catherine Laboure)***
- ***“I do not promise to make you happy in this world but in the other.” (Our Lady of Lourdes to St. Bernadette)***

Feast Day: May 13

Location: Fatima, Portugal

Number of Apparitions: 6

Witnesses: Lucia dos Santos, Jacinta Marto, and Francisco Marto

First Apparition: May 13, 1917

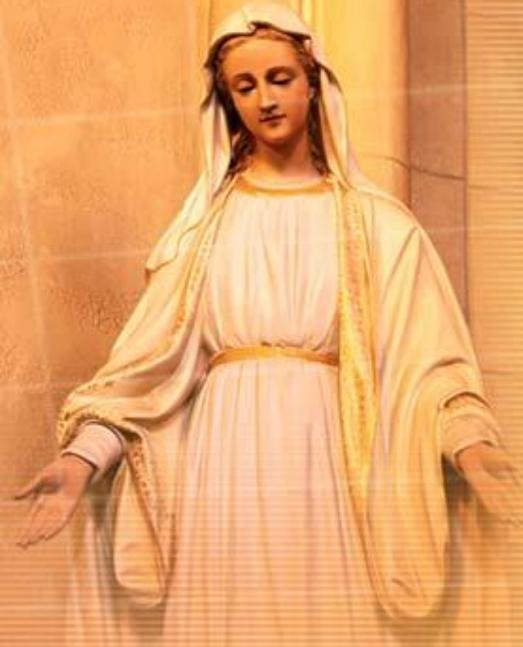
Last Apparition: October 13, 1917

Approved: October 13, 1930 by Dom José Alves Correia da Silva, Bishop of the Diocese of Leiria-Fatima



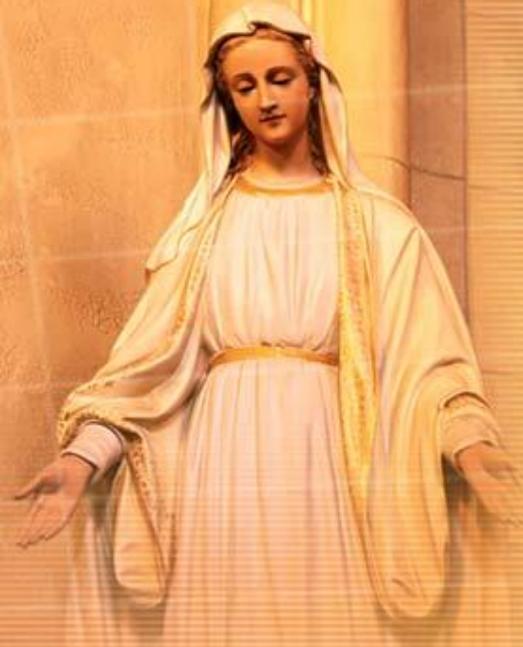
OUR LADY OF FATIMA and COMMUNISM Significant Historical Timeline

WORLD EVENTS LEADING TO UP TO FATIMA



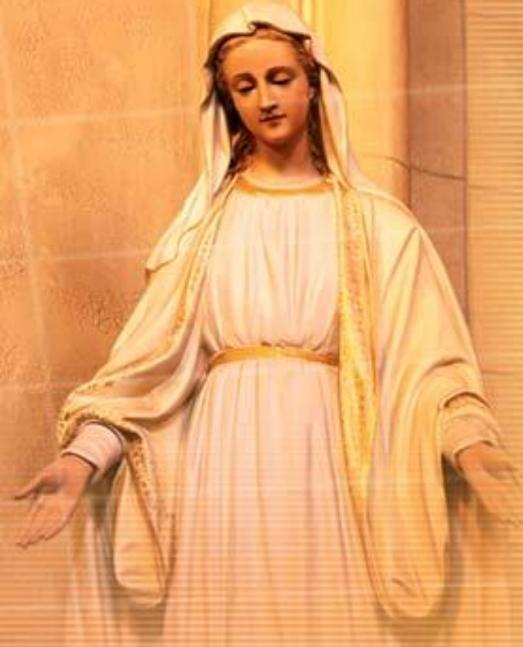
- *Tours, France 1846-1848, Jesus to Carmelite nun and warned her of an approaching storm: “the malice of revolutionary men”, stating that a society known as the “Communists” was working to spread...*
- *Brussels, Belgium 1847: Karl Marx, unknown political theorist living in exile in Brussels wrote his social contract called The Communist Manifesto.*
- *In Germany 1875, the German Socialist-democratic party was created.*
- *In 1890 it was once again legalized and fully adopted Marxist principles*

WORLD EVENTS LEADING UP TO FATIMA



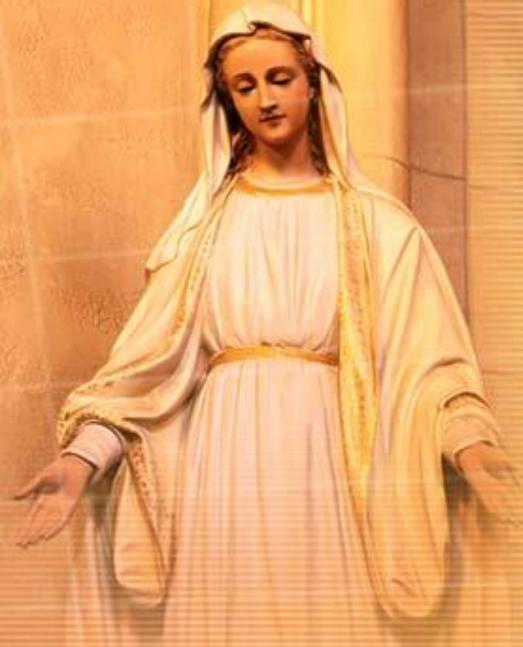
- ***Vatican City, On October 13, 1884, Pope Leo XIII had an extraordinary vision: It was at this time that Pope Leo XIII composed the well-known Prayer to Saint Michael the Archangel.***
- ***Russia: By 1905, three competing parties evolved in Russia. The Marxist Russian Social Democratic Labor Party advocated for a complete revolution.***
- ***Other parts of Europe experienced socialist leanings and anti-religious fervor. The conflicts centered around two factions: those wanting to retain their personal liberties vs. the new forms of socialist governments and a conflict between the Catholic Church and atheist communism.***

WORLD EVENTS LEADING UP TO FATIMA



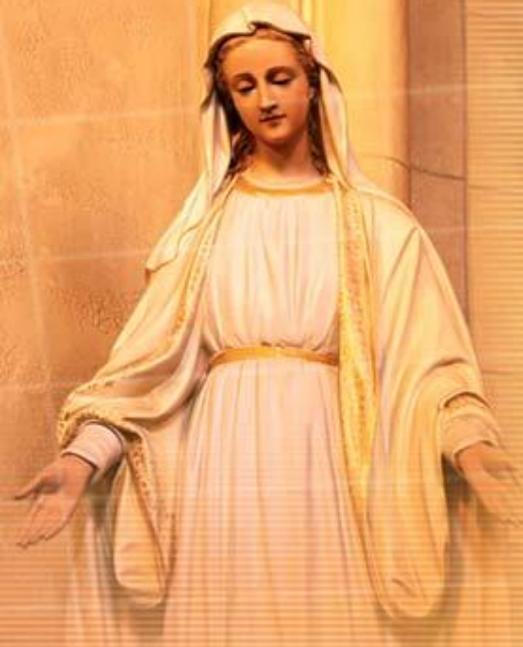
- ***Religious persecution broke out in Portugal. Between 1911 and 1916, 1,700 priests and religious were murdered.***
- ***On May 12, 1914, two weeks before the outbreak of World War I, 22 people in Hrushiv, Ukraine saw an apparition of the Virgin Mary...***
- ***Two weeks later, World War I broke out across Europe. Coupled with a global epidemic of tuberculosis, the war claimed tens of millions of lives.***
- ***Pope Benedict XV issued a public letter with an urgent plea to Mary to help bring peace to the world.***

BLESSED MOTHER APPEARS AT FATIMA



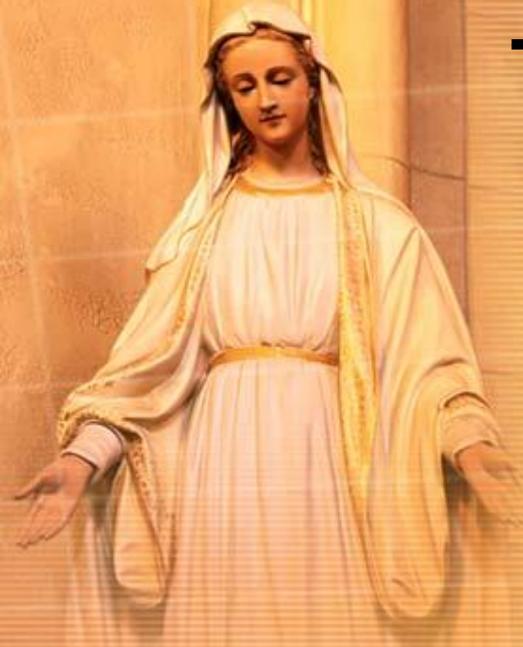
- ***Fatima, Portugal: On May 13, 1917, eight days after the Pope made his plea, three shepherd children in a remote region of Portugal experienced the vision of a magnificently beautiful woman...***
- ***They asked where she was from, and she said, "I am from Heaven." She asked that the children return on the 13th of each month for five more months.***
- ***On the third visit, July 13, 1917, she declared that war is going to end, but that if the people do not cease offending God, a worse war will break out...***

BLESSED MOTHER APPEARS AT FATIMA



- ***She promised to return to ask for the consecration of Russia to her. She did this in a future visit to one of the visionaries in 1929. Russia will soon become Communist.***
- ***On October 13, 1917, the final apparition, more than 70,000 people witnessed the Miracle of the Sun. It was exactly 33 years to the day since Pope Leo XIII had seen his vision in the Vatican chapel.***
- ***Moscow, Russia: In the same hour in which the Miracle of the Sun took place at Fatima, Vladimir Lenin entered Russia with a plan to establish a Communist state.***

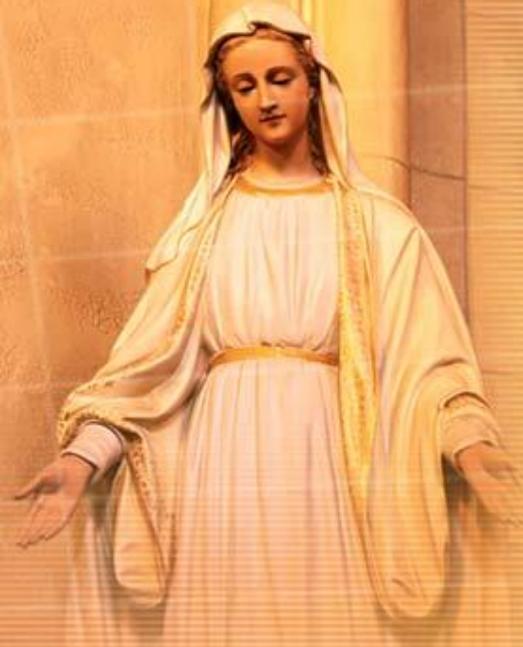
THE SPREAD OF COMMUNISM



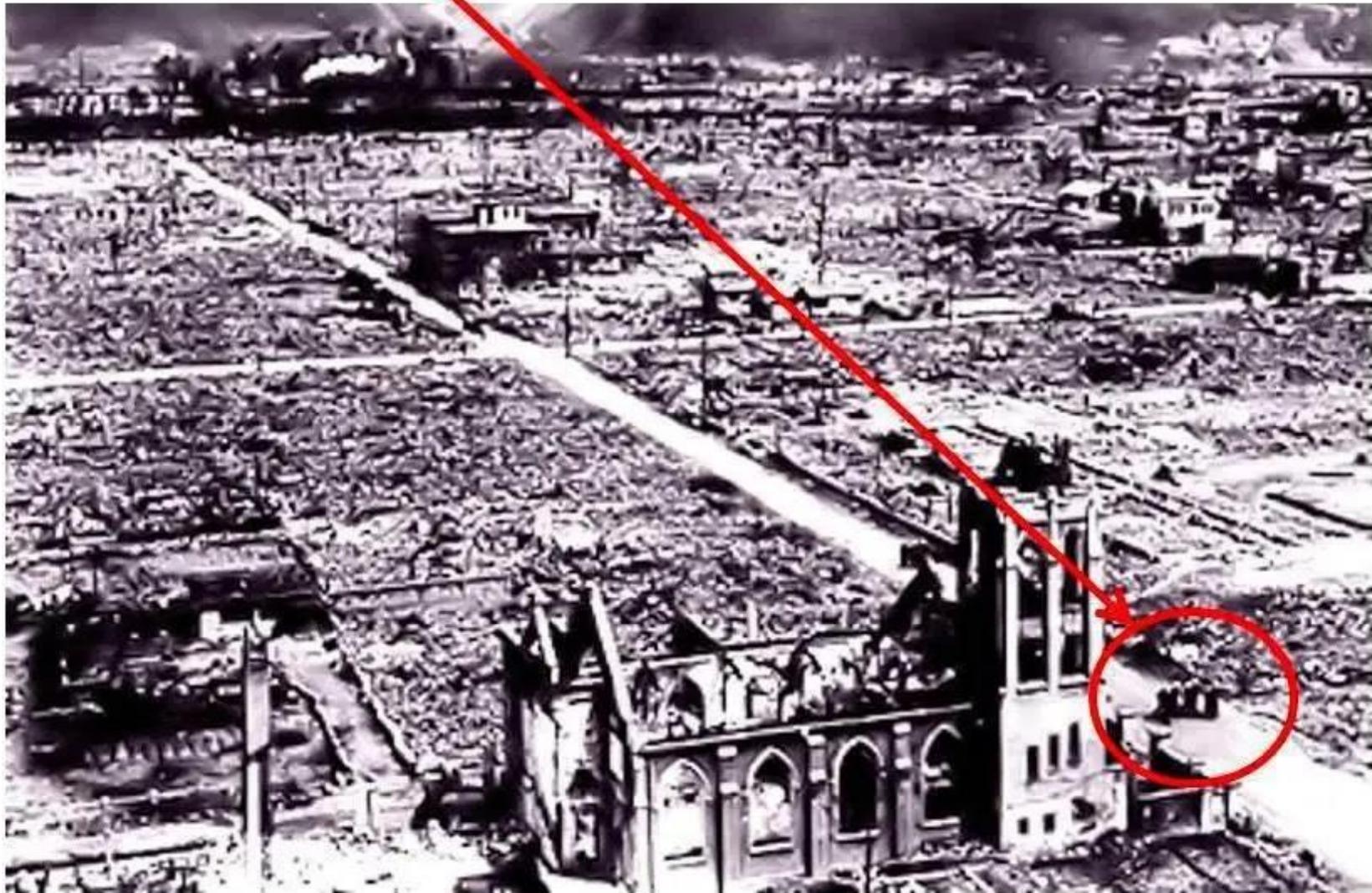
- ***Moscow, Russia: In the same hour in which the Miracle of the Sun took place at Fatima, Vladimir Lenin entered Russia with a plan to establish a Communist state.***
- ***Lenin was succeeded by Joseph Stalin, who would ultimately be responsible for 20 million deaths.***
- ***In the 1930s, it became dangerous to be openly religious in Russia as churches were destroyed or confiscated and religion was violently persecuted.***
- ***In Spain, during the Spanish Civil War, 11,000 priests and nuns were killed by communist loyalists, and more than 20,000 churches, convents, and Catholic schools were desecrated or destroyed.***

WORLD WAR II

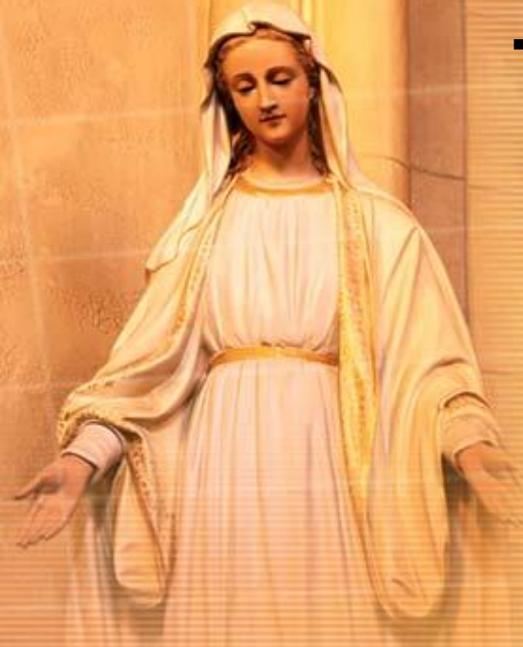
- *On the evening of January 25, 1938, an enormous light appeared in the sky across the globe, attributed later to be the greatest aurora borealis since 1709. The New York Times headline the following day was “Aurora Borealis Startles Europe.”*
- *Ten days later, Adolf Hitler took command of the armed forces of Germany. Several nations were ravaged by war, fulfilling the prophecy of the “Beautiful Lady” at Fatima.*
- *By 1945 the tide had turned and World War II in Europe was nearly over, but with a staggering cost: 50 million dead.*



The Jesuits at Hiroshima, less than a mile from ground zero of the atomic bomb, not only survived, but never got radiation poisoning! Why? Because they were living out the Fatima message AND SAYING THEIR ROSARY EVERY DAY!

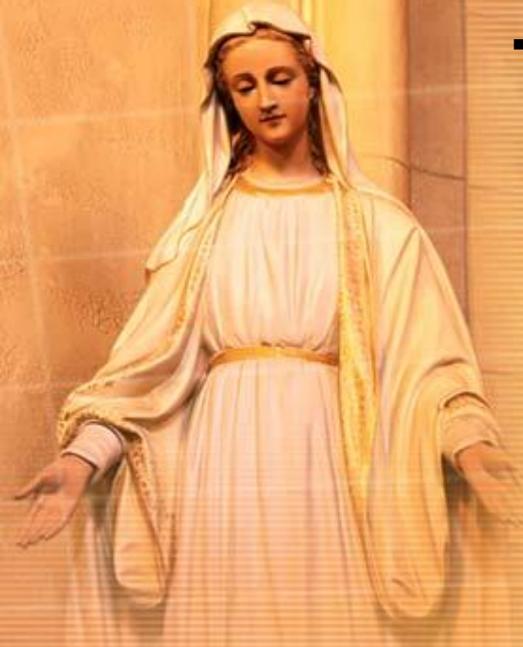


THE CONVERSION OF RUSSIA



- In 1978, a little-known cardinal from Communist Poland was elected pope.
- On May 13, 1981, the 64th anniversary of the first appearance of Mary at Fatima, Pope John Paul II was shot and nearly killed in Saint Peter's Square by a man with ties to Bulgarian Communism.
- The following year, Pope John Paul visited Fatima and stated that Mary “guided the bullet” saving his life.
- Pope John Paul II asked for the documents pertaining to Fatima in the Vatican Archives. He read them, concluding that the consecration of Russia to Mary, in union with the bishops of the world, would fulfill Mary's request and end Russian Communism.

THE CONVERSION OF RUSSIA



- **100 years after Pope Leo XIII had his vision of satanic influence, Pope John Paul II consecrated Russia to Mary in a ceremony in Saint Peter's Square.**
- **The following year, an obscure communist, Mikhail Gorbachev, became leader of the USSR. Pope John Paul, in a letter to the last surviving Fatima visionary, asked if the consecration was done correctly. She responded, "Our Lady will keep her promises."**
- **Later in 1991, Mikhail Gorbachev appeared for a news conference on Russian television and announced that he is dissolving the Soviet Union and ending Russian Communism. The date was December 25, 1991, Christmas Day.**