

# 'Secret of Fatima' Expected To Remain So Unless Pope John Acts

## No Indications Of Intention To Reveal Message

Lisbon—The third and last secret of Fatima is still a secret as this "Year of Revelation" draws to a close and it probably will remain so into 1961 unless the Pope himself decides to act.

There are no indications whatsoever that the spiritual leader of the world's Roman Catholics intends to reveal on short notice the third message given by the Holy Virgin to a shepherd child 43 years ago.

The actual "Secret of Fatima" is a document handwritten by Sister Lucia, the sole survivor of three shepherd children who claimed to have seen the Virgin Mary at Fatima, 100 miles north of Lisbon, in 1917.

In this document, Lucia—now a Carmelite nun at Coimbra in Central Portugal—

reveals what she believes is a message from the Virgin. **Two Parts Disclosed**  
In 1942, the Catholic Church disclosed two parts of the Virgin's message. These told of the end of the first world war, predicted the second war and warned of the worldwide spread of Communism. They also called for devotion to the Virgin.

For the past two years speculation about the contents of the third part of the message, which Sister Lucia herself said should be opened in 1960,

has caused worldwide stir. Probably as a result of this commotion the sealed document is said to have been taken to Rome although this has never been officially confirmed at the Vatican.

It is believed in religious circles that it probably will contain a strictly religious message such as "The Triumph of the Immaculate Heart."

Worldwide agitation over the "third secret" reached its peak in June, 1959, when a Mexican priest, Father Augustine Fuentes who had been in personal contact with Sister Lucia, said in Mexico that the message predicted the end of the world.

Though he later claimed that he had been misquoted, Father Fuentes' lecture was reported as inferring that according to Sister Lucia disaster would befall the world in 1960 because the world had ignored the 1917 call for prayer and devotion. **Silence Broken**  
Denials flew thick and fast and Sister Lucia herself broke

a silence of many years to state "I know nothing and therefore can say nothing about such punishments falsely attributed to me."  
Fatima's religious publication itself announced at the time that there was no reason to believe that the third part of the secret of Fatima would announce the end of the world. The third message was handwritten by Sister Lucia in 1945 and she announced at the time that it should be opened in 1960.  
The three children involved

in the original apparitions were Lucia Abobora, now 79, and her two brothers, Jacinto and Francisco, who were 10 years old at the time; her cousin, Francisco Marto, eight years old when the visions started, who died in 1919, and another 7-year-old cousin, Jacinto Marto, who died in 1920.

The visions assertedly appeared to the children—the "Angel of Peace" and the Virgin herself—at Cova De Iria in a very religious part of the country where faith remained even during strong anti-clerical

times.  
**Visions in 1919**  
The three shepherd children said they had their first visions in the summer of 1919 when the "Angel of Peace" appeared three times. They reported their first vision of the Virgin Mary on May 13, 1917, a Sunday, at noon. Then and there they were instructed, according to Lucia who apparently was the only one actually to see the Virgin, to return in succession on the 13th of every month at the same hour to see the Virgin

and finally on the 13th of October for the seventh and last time.  
Fatima has since been a place for pilgrimage to an increasing extent. Pilgrims now flock to the area in millions every year.

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