

INTRODUCTION

There are two main sections provided for each day:

1. A catechesis on the saints and the virtues
2. *Lectio divina* passages, questions, art, and prayers.

NOTES FOR SAINT & VIRTUE CATECHESIS

These 30 minute sessions are designed so that in telling the story of the saint of the day, you are also teaching about the virtue. In telling the stories about the saint, use the “looks like/sounds like” language of the virtue. Only later, define the virtue.

SAMPLE OUTLINE OF LESSON:

Time	Lesson
	Opening prayer
5 minutes	Biography <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce the saint, brief biography.
10 minutes	Stories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell stories about that saint – emphasize the virtues of the day (this replaces the “looks like/sounds like” cards). • May want to do one set of stories and then its virtue, then more stories and the other virtue.
10 minutes	Virtues & “Ways to Cultivate.” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define the virtues of the day. • Ask the students for things they heard in the stories of that saint practicing the virtue. • In the boxes, draw/write examples of the saint practicing the virtue and/or ways they can practice the virtue like the saint. • If necessary, help them write a description, such as “Francisco practiced prayerfulness when he visited the Hidden Jesus in the church.” Or “Francisco practiced docility because he began to pray the rosary after Our Lady asked him to.”
5 minutes	Wrap up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have students share what they drew/wrote. Discuss as a class.

Closing Prayer.

Fatima in Lucia's Own Words is available in its entirety online at http://www.pastorinhos.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/MemoriasI_en.pdf. Selections from this text have been inserted in boxes here to aid the catechist.

Fatima in Lucia's Own Words: Sister Lucia's Memoirs. Edited by Fr. Louis Kondor, SVD. Translated by the Dominican Nuns of Perpetual Rosary. *Secretariado dos Poastorinhos*, Fatima Portugal. 16th edition, July 2007.

NOTES FOR *LECTIO* AND PRAYER

How you use this section will be dependent on the age and experience of your children and access to a church or chapel. Begin these lessons outside of chapel, and if possible have a sacred space. Prepare the children for prayer and how to use the resources, and then bring them into the presence of the Hidden Jesus.

SAMPLE OUTLINE OF *LECTIO* & PRAYER:

Time	Lesson
5 minutes	Introduction
<i>Outside the chapel</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduce prayer and lectio. God speaks to us in the Bible, how to listen to Him and enter into a conversation with Him.• Talk about importance of being still, reverent.• Chapel expectations: How to sit and kneel, to look at Jesus in the monstrance or in the tabernacle, tell Him that you love Him.
5 minutes	Prep to <i>Lectio</i>
<i>Outside the chapel</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read the passage out loud, reverently and prayerfully. Talk about it together. Tell them that when they are in the chapel, you will read it again out loud, and they can draw/write.• Point out the art work and tell them that they can look at it prayerfully while in the chapel.
5 minutes	Prep for Prayer
<i>Outside the chapel</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Point to the diagram at the top of the page – prayer of adoration, thanksgiving, praise, petition.• Teach the children the Fatima prayer of the day. Tell them how the children learned these prayers from the angel, and they bowed their heads to the ground. Ask them which “type” of prayer is this Fatima prayer.
10 minutes	Chapel – guided <i>lectio</i> & prayer
<i>Inside the chapel</i>	<p><i>Lectio</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Depending on layout, find appropriate seating• Look at the <i>lectio</i> page read the scripture passage out loud, slowly and reverently. Ask the children to think about that passage, listen to what God is saying to them in that passage, then draw/write. Give silent time.• May need to do other questions out loud. <p>Prayer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If possible, either begin/end on the floor at the foot of the sanctuary. Say the Fatima prayers there together. <p>May say a decade of the rosary, etc.</p>
5 minutes	Wrap up
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have students come quietly and reverently out of the chapel.• Ask if anyone wants to share.

FIRST DAY/WHOLE GROUP INTRODUCTION

- **Theme:** Becoming saints with the children of Fatima. Learn about the story of Fatima, how Mary appeared to the children, how the children practiced virtue and became saints. Pope Francis described the Fatima children as “poor in means, rich in love.” We want to be “rich in love” like them.
- **Occasion:** 2017 is the 100 anniversary of the apparitions of Fatima. May 13, the date of the first apparition, is the feast of Our Lady of Fatima. On May 13, 2017, Pope Francis canonized Jacinta and Francisco as saints.
- **Role of Saints in the Church:** saints are people who loved Jesus and followed Him as disciples of Christ. They practiced heroic virtue.
 - † At Baptism – given grace – God’s own life in you. Our task is to say yes to that grace, to let God live in us and change our lives. He wants us to live a life of virtue because then we can experience true happiness.
 - † Virtue: the habit of doing good, being excellent, flourishing. When motivated by the love of God, it makes us act like Jesus, live as a disciple of Christ.
 - † Saints – practiced virtue heroically. They are models of virtue for us, models of holiness. They can show how to live as disciples of Christ.
- **This week:** Let Jacinta, Francisco, Lucia and Our Lady of Fatima show us how to be saints.
- **Introduce the story**
 - † Angel – taught them to pray and make sacrifices
 - † Mary – pray for peace, pray the Rosary, make sacrifices for the conversion of sinners, devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.
 - † Series of visions on the 13th of the month, between May-October.
Promise of a sign in October.

DAY 1: FRANCISCO, PRAYERFULNESS & DOCILITY

WHO IS SAINT FRANCISCO MARTO?

- See biography on page 8.

See <https://www.ewtn.com/fatima/francisco-marto.asp> for a more extensive biography

See <http://www.pastorinhos.com/en/francisco/> for chronology

- See Educator's Guide page 63 for prayerfulness and page 47 for docility.



MISCELLANEOUS ANECDOTES:

He was anything but fearful. He'd go anywhere in the dark alone at night, without the slightest hesitation. He played with lizards, and when he came across any snakes he got them to entwine themselves round a stick, and even poured sheep's milk into the holes in the rocks for them to drink. He went hunting for foxes' holes and rabbits' burrows, for genets, and other creatures of the wilds. Pg. 158

Francisco was very fond of birds, and could not bear to see anyone robbing their nests. He always kept part of the bread he had for his lunch, breaking it into crumbs and spreading them out on top of the rocks, so that the birds could eat them. Moving away a little, he called them, as though he expected them to understand him. He didn't want anyone else to approach, lest they be frightened. "Poor wee things! You are hungry," he said, as though conversing with them. "Come, come and eat!" And they, keen-eyed as they are, did not wait for the invitation, but came flocking around him. It was his delight to see them flying back to the tree tops with their little craws full, singing and chirping in a deafening chorus, in which Francisco joined with rare skill. One day we met a little boy carrying in his hand a small bird that he had caught. Full of compassion, Francisco promised him two coins, if only he would let the bird fly away. The boy readily agreed. But first he wished to see the money in his hand. Francisco ran all the way home from the Carreira pond, which lies a little distance below the Cova da Iria, to fetch the coins, and so let the little prisoner free. Then, as he watched it fly away, he clapped his hands for joy, and said: "Be careful! Don't let yourself be caught again." Pg. 158-159

STORIES

Prayerfulness/Rosary. Tell the story of how the children were told to pray the Rosary after lunch. Before the apparitions, they wanted to get back to their games.

[O]ne of our favourite amusements was to climb to the top of the hills, sit down on the biggest rock we could find, and call out different names at the top of our voices. The name that echoed back most clearly was 'Maria'. Sometimes Jacinta used to say the whole Hail Mary this way, only calling out the following word when the preceding one had stopped re-echoing. We loved to sing, too. Interspersed among the popular songs – of which, alas! we knew quite a number – were Jacinta's favourite hymns: 'Salve Nobre Padroeira' (Hail Noble Patroness), 'Virgem Pura' (Virgin Pure), 'Anjos, Cantai Comigo', (Angels, sing with me). We were very fond of dancing, and any instrument we heard being played by the other shepherds was enough to set us off. Jacinta, tiny as she was, had a special aptitude for dancing. We had been told to say the Rosary after our lunch, but as the whole day seemed too short for our play, we worked out a fine way of getting through it quickly. We simply passed the beads through our fingers, saying nothing but "Hail Mary, Hail Mary, Hail Mary..." At the end of each mystery, we paused awhile, then simply said "Our Father" and so, in the twinkling of an eye, as they say, we had our Rosary finished! Pg. 43-44

Prayerfulness/Docility. After the first apparition, Lucia asked the Lady if they would go to heaven. She said yes, but that Francisco would have to say many rosaries.

Afterwards, we told Francisco all that Our Lady had said. He was overjoyed and expressed the happiness he felt when he heard of the promise that he would go to Heaven. Crossing his hands on his breast, he exclaimed, "Oh, my dear Our Lady! I'll say as many rosaries as you want!" And from then on, he made a habit of moving away from us, as though going for a walk. When we called him and asked him what he was doing, he raised his hand and showed me his rosary. If we told him to come and play, and say the rosary with us afterwards, he replied: "I'll pray then as well. Don't you remember that Our Lady said I must pray many rosaries?" Pg. 143

Prayerfulness. Examples of Francisco's prayer

When we arrived at our pasturage a few days after Our Lady's first Apparition, he climbed up to the top of a steep rock, and called out to us: "Don't come up here; let me stay here alone." "All right." And off I went, chasing butterflies with Jacinta. We no sooner caught them than we made the sacrifice of letting them fly away, and we never gave another thought to Francisco. When lunch time came, we missed him and went to call him: "Francisco, don't you want to come for your lunch?" "No, you eat." "And to pray the Rosary?" "That, yes, later on. Call me again." When I went to call him again, he said to me: "You come up here and pray with me." We climbed up to the peak, where the three of us could scarcely find room to kneel down, and I asked him: "But what have you been doing all this time?" "I am thinking about God, Who is so sad because of so many sins! If only I could give Him joy!" Pg. 144

Every now and then, he went off and left us without warning. When we missed him, we went in search of him, calling out his name. He answered from behind a little wall, or a shrub or a clump of brambles, and there he was on his knees, praying. "Why didn't you tell us so that we could come and pray with you?" "Because I prefer to pray alone." Pg. 150

Docility. Easy going by nature, he was not stubborn, and didn't hold on to things. Lucia at one point talks about his attitude of "never mind" – especially when he won a game, but another child insisted that he won instead, or when someone wanted something that he had.

I recall how, one day, he came to my house and was delighted to show me a handkerchief with a picture of Our Lady of Nazaré on it, which someone had brought him from the seaside. All the children gathered round him to admire it. The handkerchief was passed from hand to hand, and in a few minutes it disappeared. We looked for it, but it was nowhere to be found. A little later, I found it myself in another small boy's pocket. I wanted to take it away from him, but he insisted that it was his own, and that someone had brought him one from the beach as well. To put an end to the quarrel, Francisco then went up to him and said: "Let him have it! What does a handkerchief matter to me?" My own opinion is that, if he had lived to manhood, his greatest defect would have been his attitude of 'never mind!' Pg. 139

In our games he was quite lively; but few of us liked to play with him as he nearly always lost. I must confess that I myself did not always feel too kindly disposed towards him, as his naturally calm temperament exasperated my own excessive vivacity. Sometimes, I caught him by the arm, made him sit down on the ground or on a stone, and told him to keep still; he obeyed me as if I had real authority over him. Afterwards, I felt sorry, and went and took him by the hand, and he would come along with me as good-humouredly as though nothing had happened. If one of the other children insisted on taking away something belonging to him, he said: "Let them have it! What do I care?"

...When we were at play and he won the game, if anyone made a point of denying him his rights as winner, he yielded without more ado and merely said: "You think you won? That's alright! I don't mind!" Pg. 138-139.

Consoling the Heart of Jesus. Can talk about Francisco's quiet and introspective nature, how he prayed by himself. Contrast with Jacinta's more outgoing nature.

Francisco was a boy of few words. Whenever he prayed or offered sacrifices, he preferred to go apart and hide, even from Jacinta and myself. Quite often, we surprised him hidden behind a wall or a clump of blackberry bushes, whither he had ingeniously slipped away to kneel and pray, or "think", as he said, "of Our Lord, Who is sad on account of so many sins." If I asked him: "Francisco, why don't you tell me to pray with you, and Jacinta too?" "I prefer praying by myself," he answered, "so that I can think and console Our Lord, Who is so sad!"

I asked him one day: "Francisco, which do you like better – to console Our Lord, or to convert sinners, so that no more souls will go to hell?" "I would rather console Our Lord. Didn't you notice how sad Our Lady was that last month, when she said that people must not offend Our Lord any more, for He is already much offended? I would like to console Our Lord, and after that convert sinners so that they won't offend Him any more."

... While Jacinta seemed to be solely concerned with the one thought of converting sinners and saving souls from going to hell, Francisco appeared to think only of consoling Our Lord and Our Lady, who had seemed to him to be so sad. Pg. 156-157

Hidden Jesus. Francisco's Eucharistic devotion

Sometimes on our way to school, as soon as we reached Fatima, he would say to me: "Listen! You go to school, and I'll stay here in the church, close to the Hidden Jesus. It's not worth my while learning to read, as I'll be going to Heaven very soon. On your way home, come here and call me."

The Blessed Sacrament was kept at that time near the entrance of the church, on the left side, as the church was undergoing repairs. Francisco went over there, between the baptismal font and the altar, and that was where I found him on my return. Later, when he fell ill, he often told me, when I called in to see him on my way to school: "Look! Go to the church and give my love to the Hidden Jesus. What hurts me most is that I cannot go there myself and stay awhile with the Hidden Jesus." Pg. 156-157

WAYS TO CULTIVATE

Prayerfulness	Docility
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prayed the rosary – in the fields and in church• Chose quiet places to prayer• Loved to pray by himself• Visits to the Hidden Jesus (adoration)• Would pray for others (intercession)• Console the heart of Jesus (adoration/contrition)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Easy going, not argumentative• Obedient to his parents• When Our Lady asked him to pray rosaries, he did

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Any sort of monstrance/Eucharistic crafts – talk about Francisco's prayerfulness and visits to the Hidden Jesus in the Eucharist.

DAY 2: JACINTA, CHARITY & MAGNANIMITY

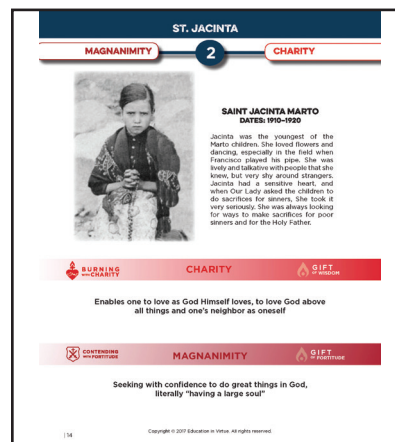
WHO IS SAINT JACINTA MARTO?

- See biography on page 14.

See <https://www.ewtn.com/fatima/jacinta-marto.asp> for a more extensive biography

See <http://www.pastorinhos.com/en/jacinta/> for chronology

- See Educator's Guide pages 36-38 for charity and page 75 for magnanimity.



MISCELLANEOUS ANECDOTES:

Before the 1917 apparitions.

[W]e see Jacinta in her new life as a shepherdess. We won over the sheep by sharing our lunch with them. This meant that when we reached the pasture, we could play at our ease, quite sure that they would not stray far away from us. Jacinta loved to hear her voice echoing down in the valleys. For this reason, one of our favourite amusements was to climb to the top of the hills, sit down on the biggest rock we could find, and call out different names at the top of our voices. The name that echoed back most clearly was 'Maria'. Sometimes Jacinta used to say the whole Hail Mary this way, only calling out the following word when the preceding one had stopped re-echoing. We loved to sing, too. Interspersed among the popular songs – of which, alas! we knew quite a number – were Jacinta's favourite hymns: 'Salve Nobre Padroeira' (Hail Noble Patroness), 'Virgem Pura', (Virgin Pure), 'Anjos, Cantai Comigo', (Angels, sing with me). We were very fond of dancing, and any instrument we heard being played by the other shepherds was enough to set us off. Jacinta, tiny as she was, had a special aptitude for dancing. Pg. 43

Jacinta also loved to hold the little white lambs tightly in her arms, sitting with them on her lap, fondling them, kissing them, and carrying them home at night on her shoulders, so that they wouldn't get tired. One day on her way back, she walked along in the middle of the flock. "Jacinta, what are you doing there," I asked her, "in the middle of the sheep?" "I want to do the same as Our Lord in that holy picture they gave me. He's just like this, right in the middle of them all, and He's holding one of them in His arms." Pg 44.

STORIES

Charity. Jacinta was deeply sensitive and strong-willed. Lucia points out some of these struggles in Jacinta prior to the 1917 apparitions. But even then, she had a single-hearted and simple love of Jesus.

Before the 1917 apparitions.

Speaking of Jacinta's favourite games, one of them was 'forfeits'. As Your Excellency probably knows, the loser has to do whatever the winner tells him. Jacinta loved to send the loser chasing after butterflies, to catch one and bring it to her. At other times, she demanded some flower of her own choosing. One day, we were playing forfeits at my home, and I won, so this time it was I who told her what to do. My brother was sitting at a table, writing. I told her to give him a hug and a kiss, but she protested: "That, no! Tell me to do some other thing. Why don't you tell me to go and kiss Our Lord over there?" There was a crucifix hanging on the wall. "Alright", I answered, "get up on a chair, bring the crucifix over here, kneel down and give Him three hugs and three kisses: one for Francisco, one for me, and the other for yourself." "To Our Lord, yes, I'll give as many as you like", and she ran to get the crucifix. She kissed it and hugged it with such devotion that I have never forgotten it. Then, looking attentively at the figure of Our Lord, she asked: "Why is Our Lord nailed to a cross like that?" "Because He died for us." "Tell me how it happened", she said. Pg. 38-39.

Jacinta also loved going out at nightfall to the threshing floor situated close to the house, there she watched the beautiful sunsets, and contemplated the starry skies. She was enraptured with the lovely moonlit nights. We vied with each other to see who could count the most stars. We called the stars Angels' lamps, the moon Our Lady's lamp and the sun Our Lord's. This led Jacinta to remark sometimes: "You know, I like Our Lady's lamp better; it doesn't burn us up or blind us, the way Our Lord's does." In fact, the sun can be very strong there on summer days, and Jacinta, a delicate child, suffered greatly from the heat. Pg. 40

Charity. Love for Jesus despite her early misunderstandings about the Eucharist. She was probably 5 or 6 at the time of this recollection.

Before the 1917 apparitions.

Every year, on a big feast, probably Corpus Christi, my sister used to prepare the dresses for the children chosen to represent the angels in the procession. They walked beside the canopy, strewing flowers. I was always among the ones chosen, and one day after my sister had tried on my dress, I told Jacinta all about the coming feast, and how I was going to strew flowers before Jesus. The little one begged me to ask my sister to let her go as well. The two of us went along to make our request. My sister said she could go, and tried a dress on Jacinta. At the rehearsals, she explained how we were to strew the flowers before the Child Jesus. "Will we see Him?" asked Jacinta. "Yes," replied my sister, "the parish priest will be carrying Him." Jacinta jumped for joy, and kept on asking how much longer we had to wait for the feast. The longed-for day arrived at last, and Jacinta was beside herself with excitement. The two of us took our places near the altar. Later, in the procession, we walked beside the canopy, each of us with a basket of flowers. Wherever my sister had told us to strew the flowers, I strewed mine before Jesus, but in spite of all the signs I made to Jacinta, I couldn't get her to strew a single one. She kept her eyes fixed on the priest, and that was all. When the ceremony was over, my sister took us outside the church and asked: "Jacinta, why didn't you strew your flowers before Jesus?" "Because I didn't see Him." Jacinta then asked me: "But did you see the Child Jesus?" "Of course not. Don't you know that the Child Jesus in the Host can't be seen? He's hidden! He's the one we receive in Communion!" "And you, when you go to Communion, do you talk to Him?" "Yes, I do." "Then, why don't you see Him?" "Because He's hidden." "I'm going to ask my mother to let me go to Communion too." "The parish priest won't let you go until you're ten years old." "But you're not ten yet, and you go to Communion!" "Because I knew the whole catechism, and you don't." After this, my two companions asked me to teach them the catechism. So I became their catechist, and they learned with exceptional enthusiasm. But though I could always answer any questions put to me, when it came to teaching, I could only remember a few things here and there. This led Jacinta to say to me one day: "Teach us some more things; we know all those." Pg. 41-42.

Charity. Lucia tells us that the apparitions inspired in Jacinta a great charity, and that charity inspired her sacrifices, her magnanimity.

I must first admit that there were certain aspects of Our Lady's apparitions which we had agreed not to make known to anybody. Now however, I may have to speak about them in order to explain whence Jacinta imbibed such great love for Jesus, for suffering and for sinners, for whose salvation she sacrificed herself so generously. Pg. 44

Magnanimity. The day after the first apparition, Jacinta was moved by charity.

That 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 lunchbag had been divided among the sheep. So that day, we fasted as strictly as the most austere Carthusian! Jacinta remained sitting on her rock, looking very thoughtful, and asked: "That Lady also said that many souls go to hell! What is hell, then?" "It's like a big deep pit of wild beasts, with an enormous fire in it – that's how my mother used to explain it to me – and that's where people go who commit sins and don't confess them. They stay there and burn for ever!" "And they never get out of there again?" "No!" "Not even after many, many years?" "No! Hell never ends!" "And Heaven never ends either?" "Whoever goes to Heaven, never leaves it again!" "And whoever goes to Hell, never leaves it either?" "They're eternal, don't you see! They never end." That was how, for the first time, we made a meditation on Hell and eternity. What made the biggest impression on Jacinta was the idea of eternity. Pg. 44

Magnanimity. Sacrifice – giving away lunch, eating unripe fruit.

Jacinta took this matter of making sacrifices for the conversion of sinners so much to heart, that she never let a single opportunity escape her. There were two families in Moita whose children used to go round begging from door to door. We met them one day, as we were going along with our sheep. As soon as she saw them, Jacinta said to us: “Let’s give our lunch to those poor children, for the conversion of sinners.” And she ran to take it to them. That afternoon, she told me she was hungry. There were holm-oaks and oak trees nearby. The acorns were still quite green. However, I told her we could eat them. Francisco climbed up a holm-oak to fill his pockets, but Jacinta remembered that we could eat the ones on the oak trees instead, and thus make a sacrifice by eating the bitter kind. So it was there, that afternoon, that we enjoyed this delicious repast! Jacinta made this one of her usual sacrifices, and often picked the acorns off the oaks or the olives off the trees. Pg. 47.

Magnanimity. Offering headache for sinners

“Tell the crickets and the frogs to keep quiet! I have such a terrible headache.” Then Francisco asked her: “Don’t you want to suffer this for sinners?” The poor child, clasping her head between her two little hands, replied: “Yes, I do. Let them sing!” Pg. 48

Magnanimity. Offering the suffering of prison

When, some time later, we were put in prison, what made Jacinta suffer most, was to feel that their parents had abandoned them. With tears streaming down her cheeks, she would say: “Neither your parents nor mine have come to see us. They don’t bother about us any more!” “Don’t cry,” said Francisco, “we can offer this to Jesus for sinners.” Then, raising his eyes and hands to heaven, he made the offering: “O my Jesus, this is for love of You, and for the conversion of sinners.” Jacinta added: “And also for the Holy Father, and in reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.” After being separated for awhile, we were reunited in one of the other rooms of the prison. When they told us they were coming soon to take us away to be fried alive, Jacinta went aside and stood by a window overlooking the cattle market. I thought at first that she was trying to distract her thoughts with the view, but I soon realized that she was crying. I went over and drew her close to me, asking her why she was crying: “Because we are going to die,” she replied, “without ever seeing our parents again, not even our mothers!” With tears running down her cheeks, she added: “I would like at least to see my mother.” “Don’t you want, then, to offer this sacrifice for the conversion of sinners?” “I do want to, I do!” With her face bathed in tears, she joined her hands, raised her eyes to heaven and made her offering: “O my Jesus! This is for love of You, for the conversion of sinners, for the Holy Father, and in reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary!” The prisoners who were present at this scene, sought to console us: “But all you have to do,” they said, “is to tell the Administrator the secret! What does it matter whether the Lady wants you to or not!” “Never!” was Jacinta’s vigorous reply, “I’d rather die.” Pg. 52

Magnanimity. Sacrifices

We were playing one day at the well I have already mentioned. Close to it, there was a grape vine belonging to Jacinta’s mother. She cut a few clusters and brought them to us to eat. But Jacinta never forgot her sinners. “We won’t eat them,” she said, “we’ll offer this sacrifice for sinners.” Then she ran out with the grapes and gave them to the other children playing on the road. She returned radiant with joy, for she had found our poor children, and given them the grapes. Another time, my aunt called us to come and eat some figs which she had brought home, and indeed they would have given anybody an appetite. Jacinta sat down happily next to the basket, with the rest of us, and picked up the first fig. She was just about to eat it, when she suddenly remembered, and said: “It’s true! Today we haven’t yet made a single sacrifice for sinners! We’ll have to make this one.” She put the fig back in the basket, and made the offering; and we, too, left our figs in the basket for the conversion of sinners. Jacinta made such sacrifices over and over again, but I won’t stop to tell any more, or I shall never end. Pg. 58

Charity/Magnanimity. Love as the motive, form of her sacrifices

As the Blessed Virgin had told us to offer our prayers and sacrifices also in reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary, we agreed that each of us would choose one of these intentions. One would offer for sinners, another for the Holy Father and yet another in reparation for the sins against the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Having decided on this, I told Jacinta to choose whichever intention she preferred. "I'm making the offering for all the intentions, because I love them all." Pg. 53

Charity. Bears fruit in joy

Visiting Jacinta in the hospital in Lisbon before her death.

The time allotted for the visit passed rapidly, and my aunt arrived to take me home. She asked Jacinta if she wanted anything. The child begged her mother to bring me with her next time she came to see her. So my good aunt, who loved to make her little daughter happy, took me with her a second time. I found Jacinta as joyful as ever, glad to suffer for the love of our Good God and of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, for sinners and the Holy Father. That was her ideal, and she could speak of nothing else. Pg. 61

WAYS TO CULTIVATE

Charity	Magnanimity
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Offering prayer: Oh my Jesus it is for love of you, for the conversion of sinners, for the Holy Father, and in reparation for sins committed against the Immaculate Heart..."Jacinta thought often of how much Jesus and Mary love us.Acts of charity, works of mercy – feeding the hungry, praying for others, make sacrifices for others.Love of the Holy FatherPrayer for sinners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Works of mercy, acts of sacrifice

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Make sacrifice beads (associated with St. Therese the Little Flower).

DAY 3: LUCIA, PERSEVERANCE & FORTITUDE

WHO IS LUCIA DOS SANTOS?

- See biography on page 20.

See <https://www.ewtn.com/fatima/lucia-santos.asp> for a more extensive biography.

- Because the accounts of Fatima are written by Lucia, and in the first person, she can be a hidden character in the accounts.
- See Educator's Guide pages 70-72 for fortitude and page 78 for perseverance.



STORIES

Perseverance. Lucia's mother had a strong sense of truth, and was terrified that her daughter was lying about the apparitions. She used several different means to get Lucia to admit that the apparitions were not true, but Lucia persevered, both in truth but also in love and respect for her mother.

It seems that this event is before the August ordeal at the prison.

My mother always told the truth, even against herself. We, her children, are indebted to her for this good example. One day, she resolved to make a fresh attempt to compel me to retract all that I had said, as she put it. She made up her mind to take me back the very next day to the parish priest's house. Once there, I was to confess that I had lied, to ask his pardon, and to perform whatever penance His Reverence thought fit or desired to impose on me. This time the attack was so strong, that I did not know what to do. On the way, as I passed my uncle's house, I ran inside to tell Jacinta, who was still in bed, what was taking place. Then I hurried out and followed my mother. In my account about Jacinta, I have already told Your Excellency about the part played by her and her brother in this trial which the Lord had sent us, and how they prayed as they waited for me at the well, and so on. As we walked along, my mother preached me a fine sermon. At a certain point, I said to her, trembling: "But, mother, how can I say that I did not see, when I did see?" My mother was silent. As we drew near the priest's house, she declared: "Just you listen to me! What I want is that you should tell the truth. If you saw, say so! But if you didn't see, admit that you lied." Without another word, we climbed the stairs, and the good priest received us in his study with the greatest kindness and even, I might almost say, with affection. He questioned me seriously, but most courteously, and resorted to various stratagems to see if I would contradict myself, or be inconsistent in my statements. Finally, he dismissed us, shrugging his shoulders, as if to imply: "I don't know what to make of all this!" Pg. 88-89

Perseverance/Fortitude. Questioned before the administrator, alone

Note: this occurred on August 11.

Not many days later, our parents were notified to the effect that all three of us, Jacinta, Francisco and myself, together with our fathers, were to appear at a given hour on the following day before the Administration in Vila Nova de Ourém. This meant that we had to make a journey of about nine miles, a considerable distance for three small children. The only means of transport in those days was either our own two feet or to ride on a donkey. My uncle sent word right away to say that he would appear himself, but as for his children, he was not taking them. «They'd never stand the trip on foot," he said, "and not being used to riding, they could never manage to stay on the donkey. And any way, there's no sense in bringing two children like that before a court." My parents thought the very opposite. "My daughter is going. Let her answer for herself. As for me, I understand nothing of these

things. If she's lying, it's a good thing that she should be punished for it." Very early next morning, they put me on a donkey and off I went, accompanied by my father and uncle. I fell off the donkey three times along the way. I think I have already told Your Excellency how much Jacinta and Francisco suffered that day, thinking that I was going to be killed. As for me, what hurt me most, was the indifference shown me by my parents. This was all the more obvious, since I could see how affectionately my aunt and uncle treated their children. I remember thinking to myself as we went along: "How different my parents are from my uncle and aunt. They risk themselves to defend their children, while my parents hand me over with the greatest indifference, and let them do what they like with me! But I must be patient," I reminded myself in my inmost heart, "since this means I have the happiness of suffering more for love of You, O my God, and for the conversion of sinners." This reflection never failed to bring me consolation. At the Administration office, I was interrogated by the Administrator, in the presence of my father, my uncle and several other gentlemen who were strangers to me. The Administrator was determined to force me to reveal the secret and to promise him never again to return to the Cova da Iria. To attain his end, he spared neither promises, nor even threats. Seeing that he was getting nowhere, he dismissed me, protesting however, that he would achieve his end, even if this meant that he had to take my life. He then strongly reprimanded my uncle for not having carried out his orders, and finally let us go home. Pg. 89-90

Poor mother! Now, indeed, that I understand what her situation really was, how sorry I feel for her! Truly, she was right to judge me unworthy of such a favour, and therefore to think I was lying. By a special grace from Our Lord, I never experienced the slightest thought or feeling of resentment regarding her manner of acting towards me. As the Angel had announced that God would send me sufferings, I always saw the hand of God in it all. The love, esteem and respect which I owed her, went on increasing, just as though I were most dearly cherished. And now, I am more grateful to her for having treated me like this, than if she had continued to surround me with endearments and caresses. Pg. 91

Perseverance/Fortitude.

Alone, in the midst of my sheep, whether on the tops of the hills or in the depths of the valleys below, I contemplated the beauty of the heavens and thanked the good God for all the graces He had bestowed on me. When the voice of one of my sisters broke in on my solitude, calling for me to go back home to talk to some person or other who had come looking for me, I felt a keen displeasure, and my only consolation was to be able to offer up to our dear Lord yet another sacrifice. Pg. 94

Perseverance/Fortitude. Lucia's long life, fidelity to her mission, life as a sister, etc.

WAYS TO CULTIVATE

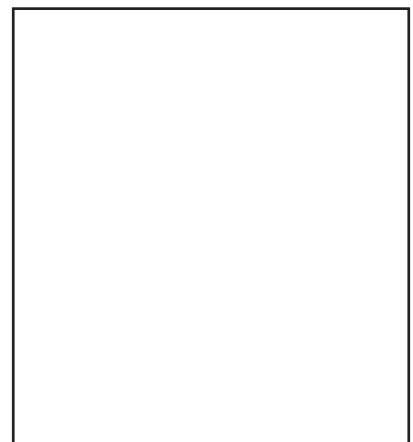
Perseverance	Fortitude
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lucia never gave up, always persevered in saying that her visions were true. • Never deviated in her telling of the apparitions, always consistent in the message • Never gave away the secret, except with ordered by the bishop in the 1940s. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bravery, especially in the face of opposition, in prison.

DAY 4: IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY, OBEDIENCE & HUMILITY

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

Throughout the apparitions, Our Lady often say things like: “In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph,” and “my Immaculate Heart will be your refuge.” What does it mean to have devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary? What can we learn from Our Lady about how to be a disciple of Christ?

- See Educator’s Guide page 61 for obedience and page 85 for humility.



Obedience. Mary says “yes” to God.
Read/discuss the Annunciation – Luke 1:26-38.

Humility. Mary gives of herself to others.
Read/discuss the Visitation and Magnificat – Luke 1:39-56.

Fatima. Mary’s concern for sinners, her sorrow for sinners and her prayer for sinners.
Devotion to Immaculate Heart.

From *Theological Commentary on the Message of Fatima*, Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, Prefect of CDF, 2000

The first and second parts of the “secret” of Fatima have already been so amply discussed in the relative literature that there is no need to deal with them again here. I would just like to recall briefly the most significant point. For one terrible moment, the children were given a vision of hell. They saw the fall of “the souls of poor sinners”. And now they are told why they have been exposed to this moment: “in order to save souls”—to show the way to salvation. The words of the First Letter of Peter come to mind: “As the outcome of your faith you obtain the salvation of your souls” (1:9). To reach this goal, the way indicated—surprisingly for people from the Anglo-Saxon and German cultural world—is devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. A brief comment may suffice to explain this. In biblical language, the “heart” indicates the centre of human life, the point where reason, will, temperament and sensitivity converge, where the person finds his unity and his interior orientation. According to Matthew 5:8, the “immaculate heart” is a heart which, with God’s grace, has come to perfect interior unity and therefore “sees God”. To be “devoted” to the Immaculate Heart of Mary means therefore to embrace this attitude of heart, which makes the fiat—“your will be done”—the defining centre of one’s whole life. It might be objected that we should not place a human being between ourselves and Christ. But then we remember that Paul did not hesitate to say to his communities: “imitate me” (1 Cor 4:16; Phil 3:17; 1 Th 1:6; 2 Th 3:7, 9). In the Apostle they could see concretely what it meant to follow Christ. But from whom might we better learn in every age than from the Mother of the Lord?

Available at: http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20000626_message-fatima_en.html

Fatima. Immaculate Heart.

Ratzinger, con't.

I would like finally to mention another key expression of the “secret” which has become justly famous: “my Immaculate Heart will triumph”. What does this mean? The Heart open to God, purified by contemplation of God, is stronger than guns and weapons of every kind. The fiat of Mary, the word of her heart, has changed the history of the world, because it brought the Saviour into the world—because, thanks to her Yes, God could become man in our world and remains so for all time. The Evil One has power in this world, as we see and experience continually; he has power because our freedom continually lets itself be led away from God. But since God himself took a human heart and has thus steered human freedom towards what is good, the freedom to choose evil no longer has the last word. From that time forth, the word that prevails is this: “In the world you will have tribulation, but take heart; I have overcome the world” (Jn 16:33). The message of Fatima invites us to trust in this promise.

Available at: http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20000626_messaggio-fatima_en.html

Immaculate Heart

- Heart – compassionate love
- Flames – her ardent charity, for God and for us
- Roses/flowers
 - † Her purity, sinlessness, single-hearted love of God
 - † Also, the flowers that we bring to her – our prayers, our virtue, our acts of sacrifice
- Sword – she suffers with Jesus for us, cf. Luke 2:34-35

WAYS TO CULTIVATE

Obedience

- Mary’s yes to God!
- Presentation in the Temple, followed Christ, stood by the Cross, at Pentecost

Humility

- Annunciation dialogue, Serving Elizabeth, Magnificat
- Her manifest love for sinners at Fatima

VOCATIONS

Our Lady came to the children of Fatima with a specific mission, a special task from Our Lord. Our Lord has a special mission for each one of us – a plan for our happiness and our holiness, a plan for us to get to heaven and bring others to heaven as well. A vocation is God’s call to follow Him, a call to experience His love in a special way. Saying “yes” to our vocation means saying “yes” to God’s invitation. It is an invitation to love and an invitation to work with Him for the salvation of souls.

Look at the pictures, discuss each of the vocations shown and the holiness of each.