

Saint
JACINTA MARTO
of FATIMA

*“Amen I say to you, whosoever shall not
receive the kingdom of God as a little child,
shall not enter into it.”*

—Mark 10:15

Saint
JACINTA MARTO
of FATIMA

by
Msgr. Joseph A. Cirrincione

*“Suffer the little children to come to me,
and forbid them not; for of such is the king-
dom of God.”* —Mark 10:14

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“At that hour the disciples came to Jesus, saying: Who thinkest thou is the greater in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus calling unto him a little child, set him in the midst of them, and said: Amen I say to you, unless you be converted, and become as little children, you shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, he is the greater in the kingdom of heaven.”

—*Matthew 18:1-4*

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INTRODUCTION

I have written this booklet for two reasons: The first is in thanksgiving to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, who through the intercession of Jacinta and Francisco Marto, vouchsafed to restore me to health in 1990 when I was at death's door.

For many years, I had been praying for the beatification of Jacinta and Francisco Marto, having been spurred on by a quarterly newsletter from Father Luis Kondor, S.V.D., Vice Postulator for the Cause of their beatification.

Thus, when on July 8, 1990 I awakened during the night, suffering from chest pains that presaged a heart attack, I commended myself to their intercession. Taken to St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester, New York, I had to spend a week in the coronary intensive care unit. The doctors sought to correct the problem with medication. But, after a week, they informed me that open heart surgery was the only solution, which, they advised, was quite risky at my age—then 80 years old.

Since that type of operation is not performed at St. Mary's, I was transferred by ambulance to the Rochester General Hospital. Upon arrival, an

angiogram was performed which revealed that an artery was 95% occluded. The doctors decided upon immediate surgery. Again, as I was prepared for the operation, I commended myself to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and to Jacinta and Francisco Marto.

I survived the operation, but two days later I suffered a cardiac arrest that damaged my heart and has since left me short of breath when I speak. Nonetheless, I was discharged from the hospital within a few days and was sent home.

However, within a week, I suffered a stroke and had to return to St. Mary's Hospital. Quite miraculously, it is my opinion, I suffered no permanent effects from the stroke—no paralysis and no brain damage. My prayers had been answered.

And this brings me to the second reason for writing this booklet; I want to encourage readers to join me in praying for the beatification of these two holy children, who were among the three visionaries at Fatima. (See Publisher's Note on p. 3.)

For I have another special grace for which to be thankful: On February 15, 1991, during a routine checkup by my doctor, an X-Ray of my chest was taken, which revealed a lesion in my lungs. Further surgery so soon after my heart surgery was likely to be fatal. So again, I turned to Jacinta and Francisco and prayed for their intercession on my behalf. The doctor offered me two options, surgery or prayer. I chose prayer.

On April 18, 1991, another X-Ray of my lungs was

taken. And wonderful to relate, the lesion was completely gone!

Therefore, in July of 1991, I went on a pilgrimage of thanksgiving to Fatima, taking with me the X-Rays of my lungs—before and after the lesion disappeared—along with a letter from the radiologist, explaining that there were no signs of the lesion or disease in my lungs.

In presenting the documentation to Father Kondor, I was told that April 18 was two years to the day since Jacinta and Francisco had been declared Venerable, though the public announcement was not made until the following May 13.

On April 15, 1992, another chest X-Ray of my lungs was taken; it still showed no signs of a nodule of any sort in my lungs. Providentially, friends of mine were going to Fatima in May, 1992, and they graciously consented to take the latest documentation to Father Kondor, together with the new X-Ray.

Msgr. Joseph A. Cirrincione

June 29, 1992

Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Since this book's first printing, Jacinta Marto was canonized by Pope Francis. On May 13, 2017, Jacinta Marto joined the great cloud of witnesses whom

we rely on for intercessory strength. Her brother, Francisco, was canonized on the same day, and they became the first child saints who are not martyrs in our Church's history. The final miracle attributed to Saints Jacinta and Francisco occurred when a ten-year-old boy was miraculously healed of major brain damage. His father and loved ones prayed for Jacinta and Francisco's intercession. Only a few days later, the boy was totally and miraculously healed. Saints Jacinta and Francisco, pray for us!

Part I

THE THREE CHILDREN OF FATIMA

I first learned of the happenings at Fatima in 1947, when someone gave me a copy of a paperback edition of a book written by Finbar Ryan, then the Dominican Archbishop of Port-au-Prince, Haiti. It made a tremendous impression on me, and it amazed me that such extraordinary events could have occurred in 1917 *and* I was just then hearing of them, thirty years later. World War II had ended only two years before, and now I was reading that Our Lady had predicted it to three little children at Fatima, Portugal in 1917. This was something that I felt should be shouted from the housetops. I looked for other books on the subject and came across and read *The Crusade of Fatima* by Father John De Marchi, I.M.C. Next I obtained and read a copy of William Thomas Walsh's *Our Lady of Fatima*, as well as a book written by Barthas-Fonseca, entitled *Our Lady of Light*.

Equipped with this source material, I looked for an opportunity to share *The Story of Fatima* with a larger audience. The opportunity came when I discussed with a parishioner, who was program director of a local radio station, the possibility of