

# THE MESSAGE OF FATIMA

Illustrations by Júlio Gil







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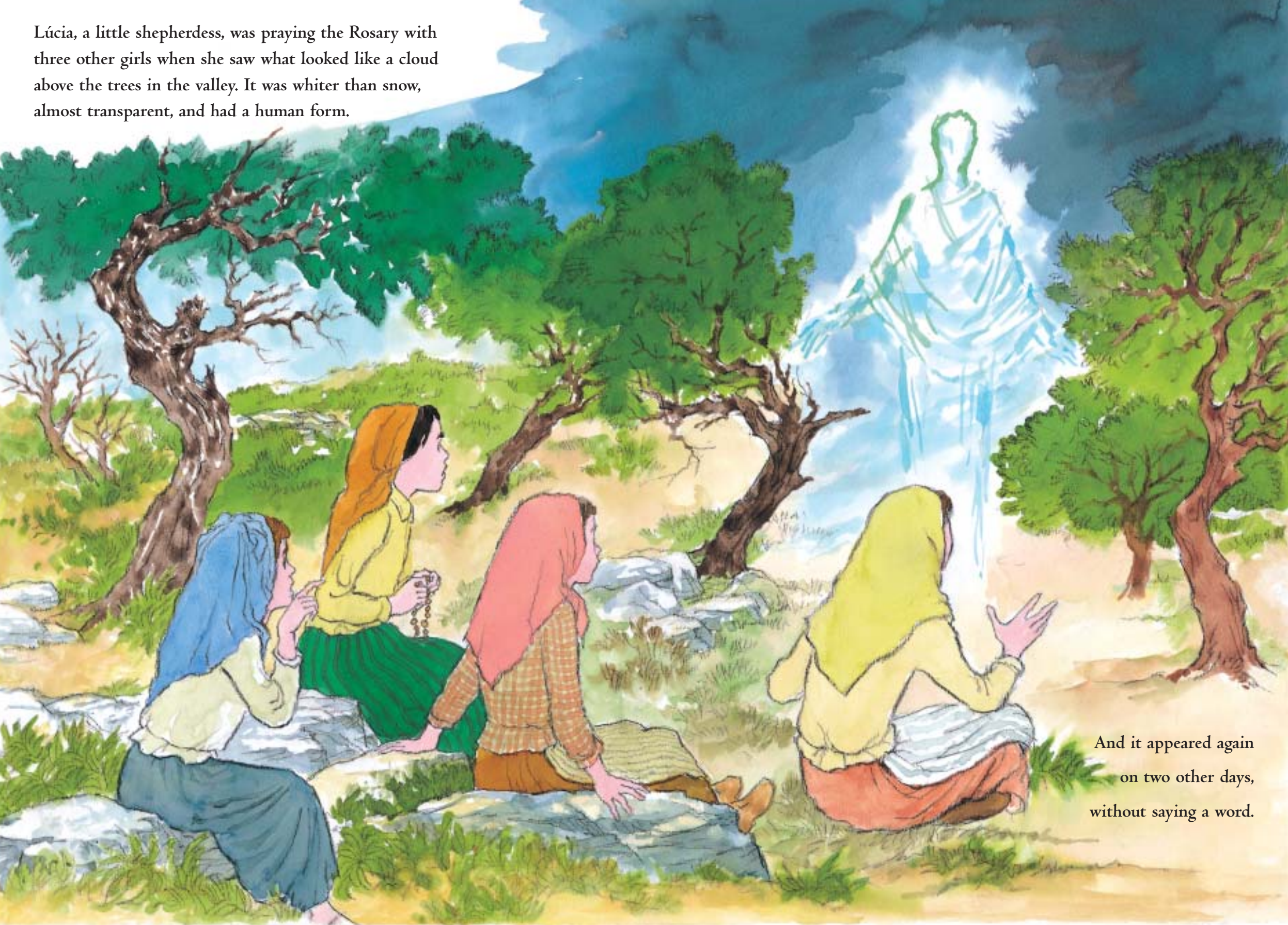
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In the centre of Portugal, up in the Serra d'Aire,  
there is a place called Aljustrel.  
And it is there, near Fátima, in 1915,  
that this true story begins.

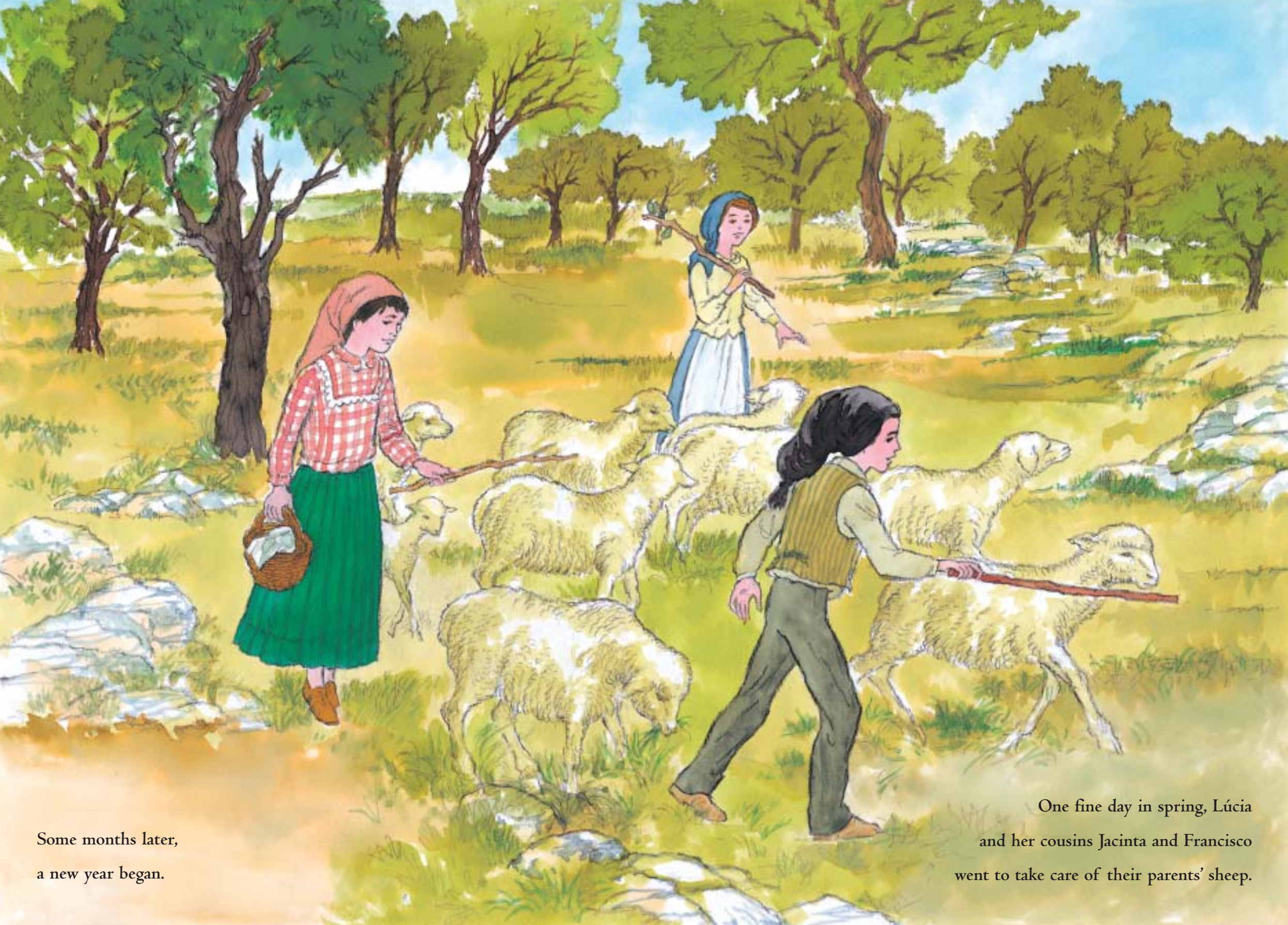


Lúcia, a little shepherdess, was praying the Rosary with three other girls when she saw what looked like a cloud above the trees in the valley. It was whiter than snow, almost transparent, and had a human form.



And it appeared again  
on two other days,  
without saying a word.





Some months later,  
a new year began.

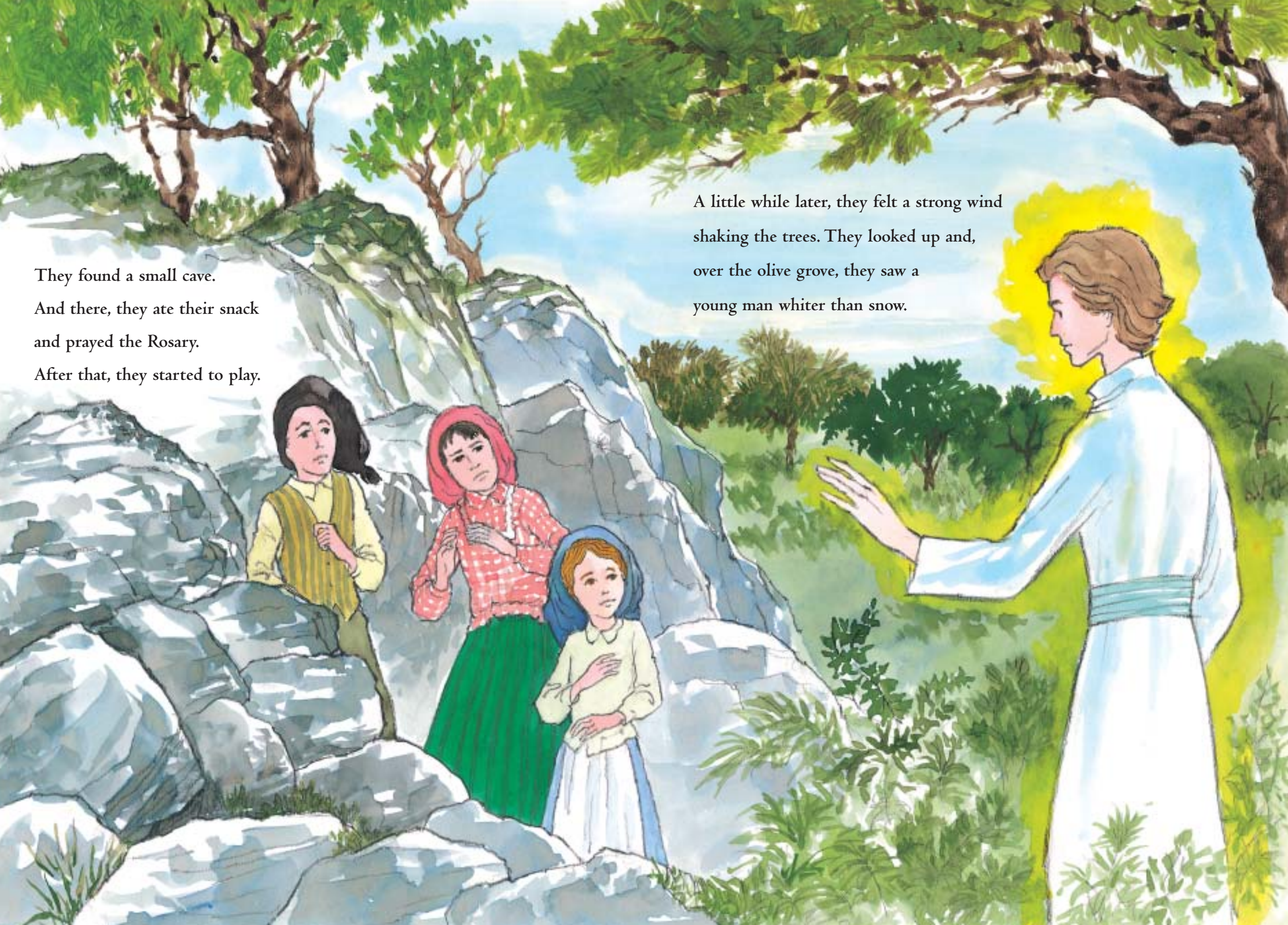
One fine day in spring, Lúcia  
and her cousins Jacinta and Francisco  
went to take care of their parents' sheep.





However, in mid-morning it began to drizzle; and the three little shepherds climbed a rocky slope, looking for some shelter.

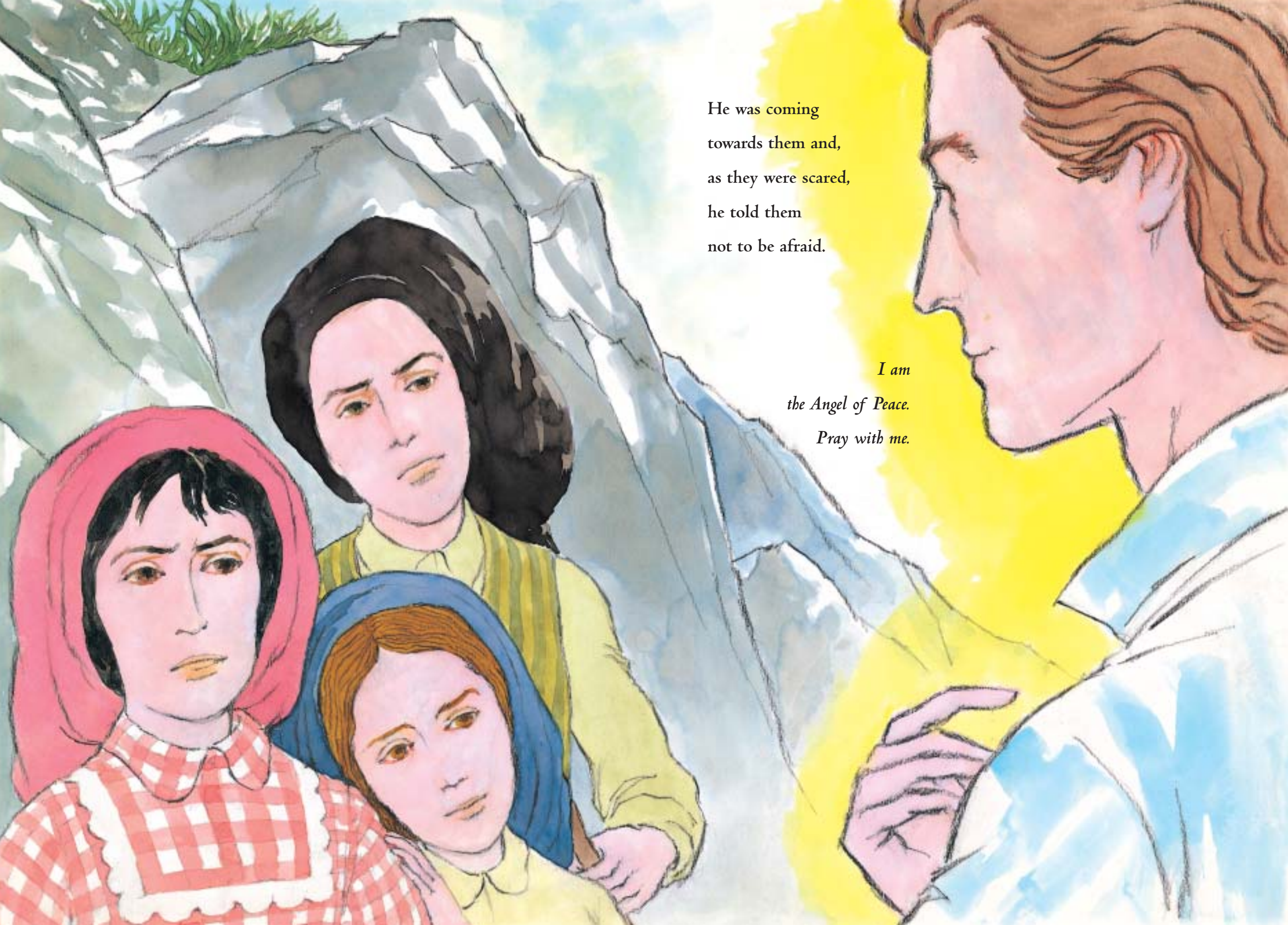




They found a small cave.  
And there, they ate their snack  
and prayed the Rosary.  
After that, they started to play.

A little while later, they felt a strong wind  
shaking the trees. They looked up and,  
over the olive grove, they saw a  
young man whiter than snow.





He was coming  
towards them and,  
as they were scared,  
he told them  
not to be afraid.

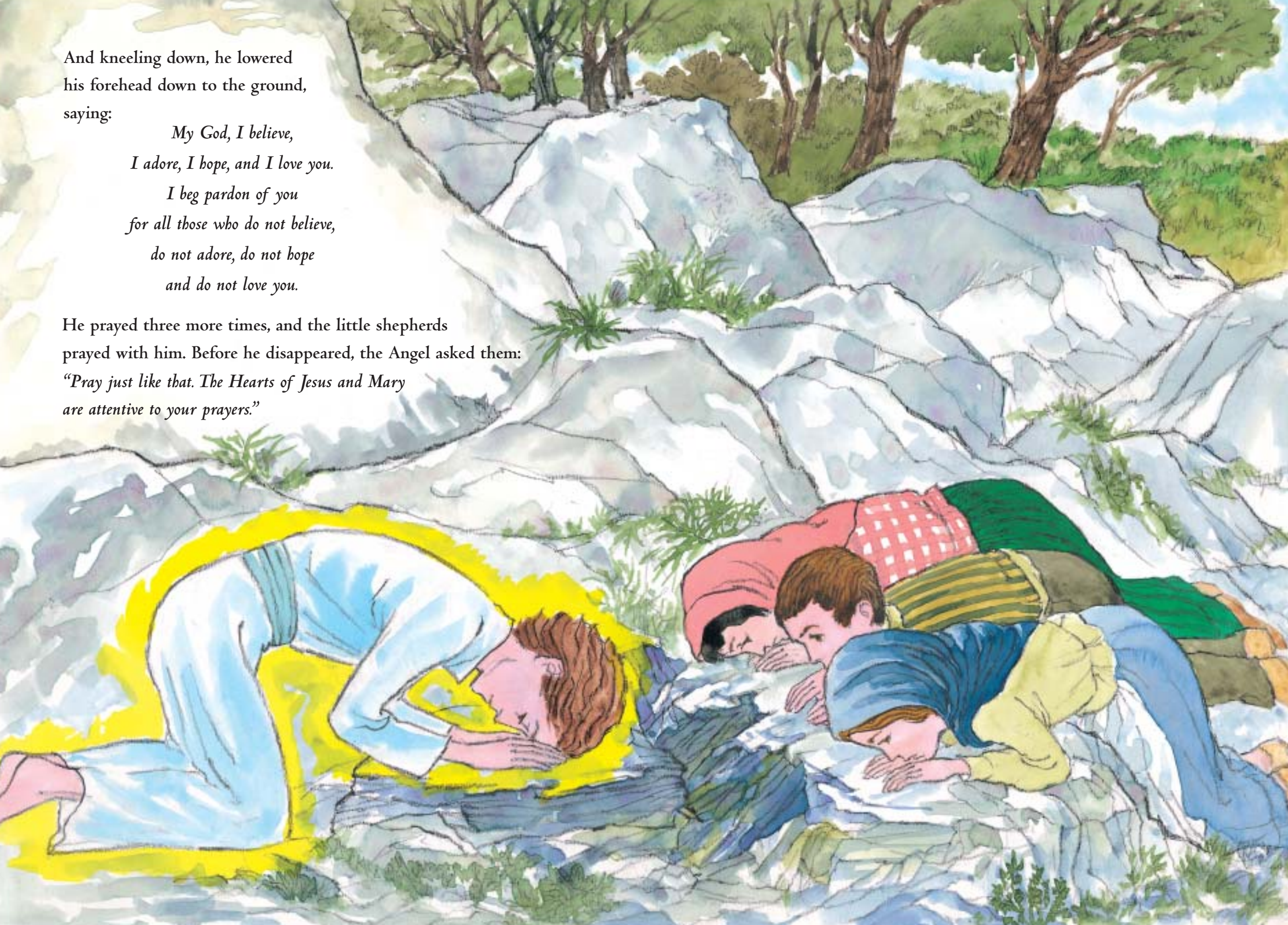
*I am  
the Angel of Peace.  
Pray with me.*



And kneeling down, he lowered  
his forehead down to the ground,  
saying:

*My God, I believe,  
I adore, I hope, and I love you.  
I beg pardon of you  
for all those who do not believe,  
do not adore, do not hope  
and do not love you.*

He prayed three more times, and the little shepherds  
prayed with him. Before he disappeared, the Angel asked them:  
*“Pray just like that. The Hearts of Jesus and Mary  
are attentive to your prayers.”*







On a summer's day, in the middle of the afternoon, the children were playing beside the well in the garden, when, suddenly, the Angel appeared again.

He told the little shepherds: *"Pray! Pray all you can!"*

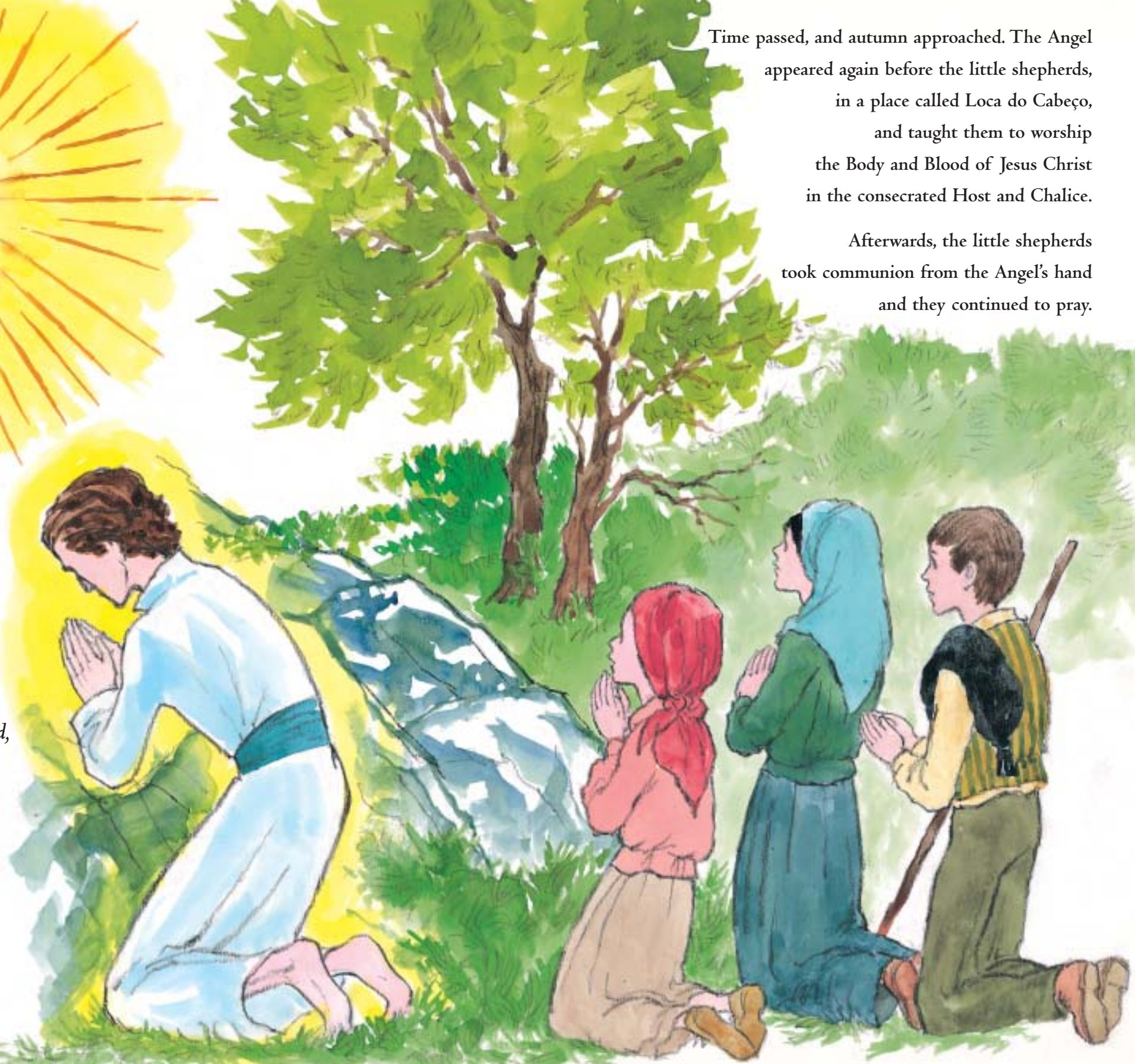
He then asked them to offer God prayers and sacrifices – for the conversion of sinners and for peace. And he told them he was the Guardian Angel of Portugal.

*"Accept and bear with submission all the suffering which the Lord will send you."*





*Most Holy Trinity:  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
I adore you profoundly,  
and I offer You  
the most precious Body, Blood,  
Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ,  
present in all the tabernacles of the world,  
in reparation for the outrages,  
sacrileges and indifferences  
with which He Himself is offended.  
And, through the infinite merits  
of his Most Sacred Heart  
and the Immaculate Heart of Mary,  
I beg of You the conversion  
of poor sinners.*

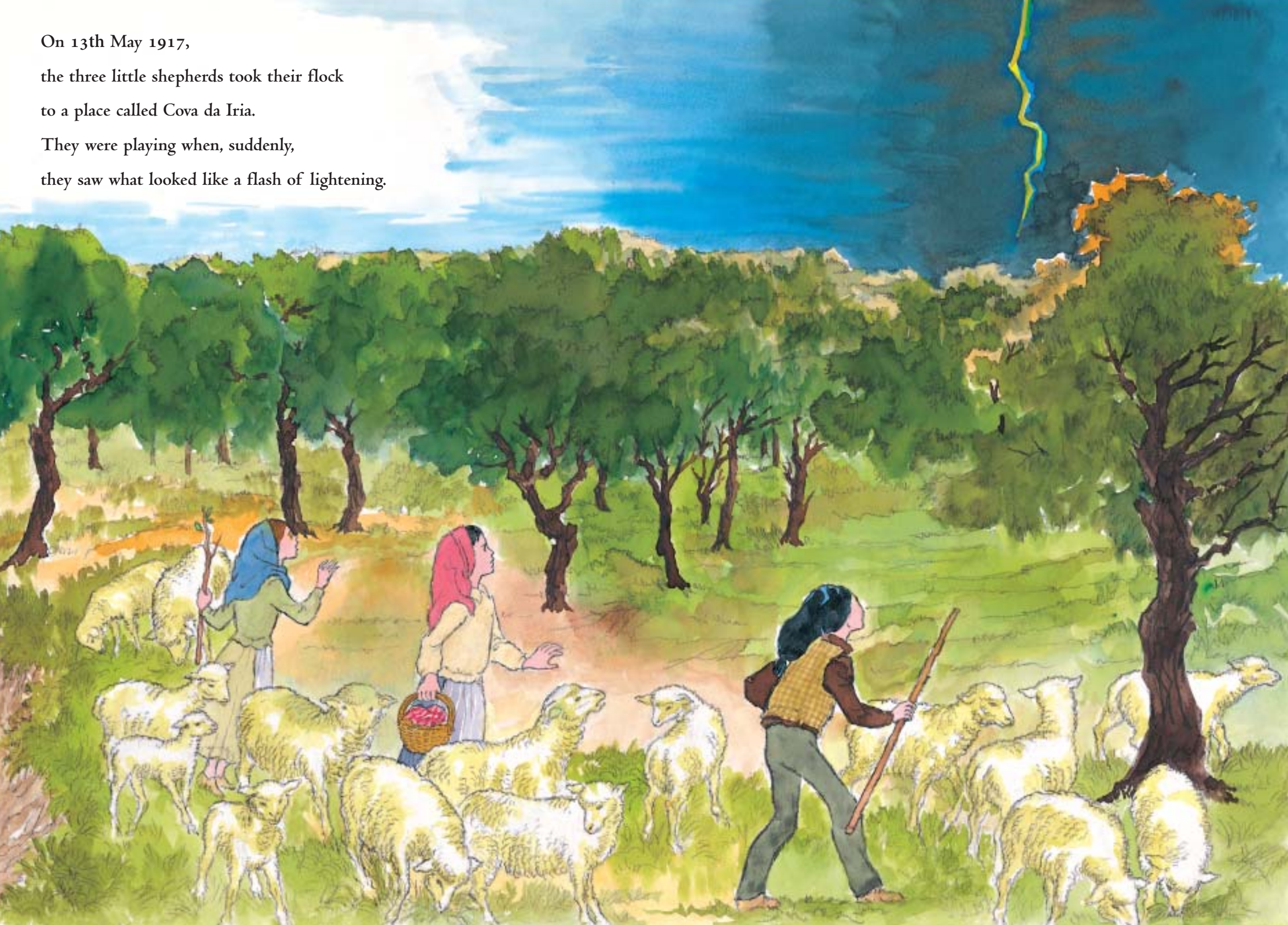


Time passed, and autumn approached. The Angel  
appeared again before the little shepherds,  
in a place called Loca do Cabeço,  
and taught them to worship  
the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ  
in the consecrated Host and Chalice.

Afterwards, the little shepherds  
took communion from the Angel's hand  
and they continued to pray.

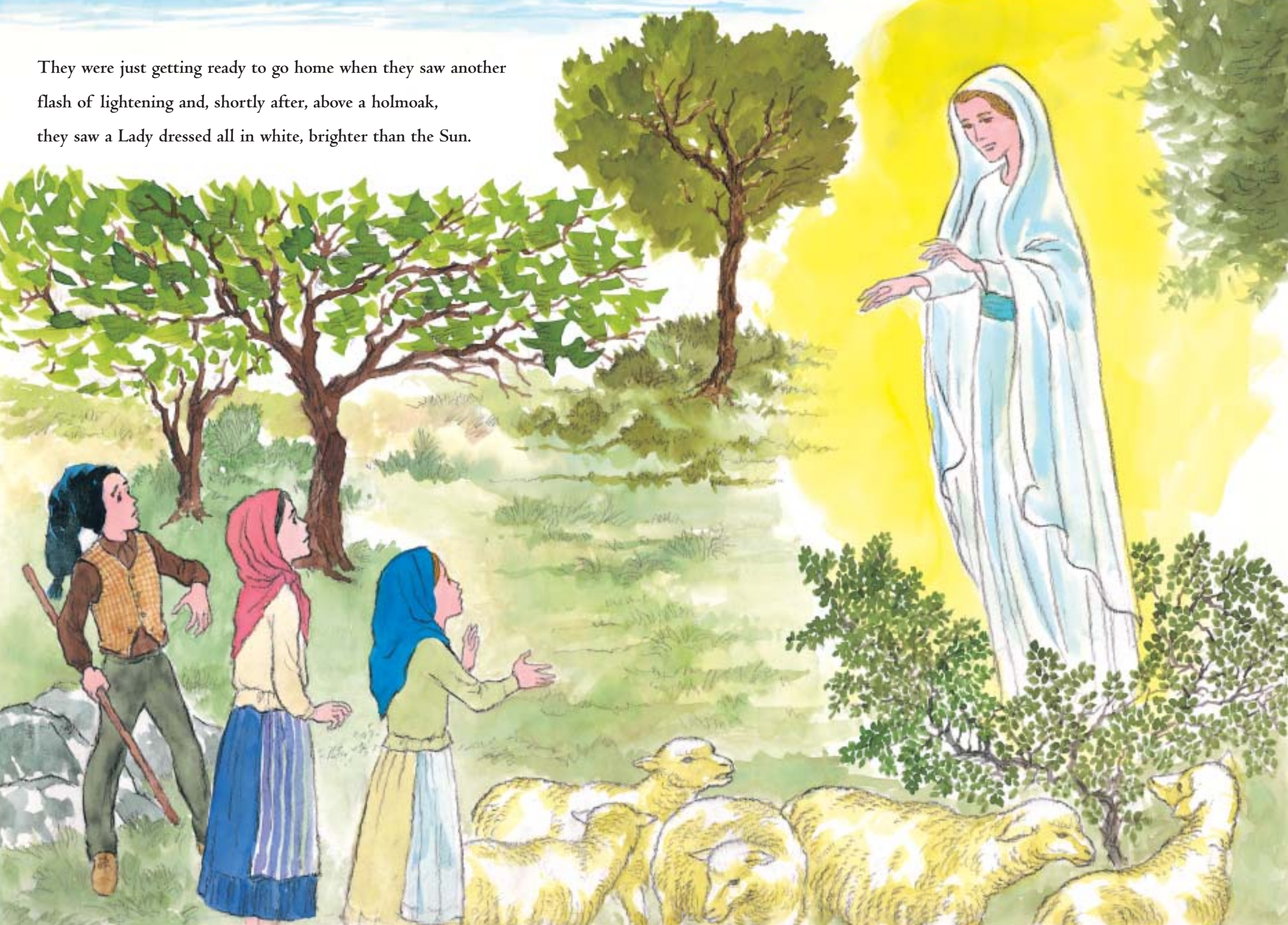


On 13th May 1917,  
the three little shepherds took their flock  
to a place called Cova da Iria.  
They were playing when, suddenly,  
they saw what looked like a flash of lightning.





They were just getting ready to go home when they saw another flash of lightening and, shortly after, above a holmoak, they saw a Lady dressed all in white, brighter than the Sun.



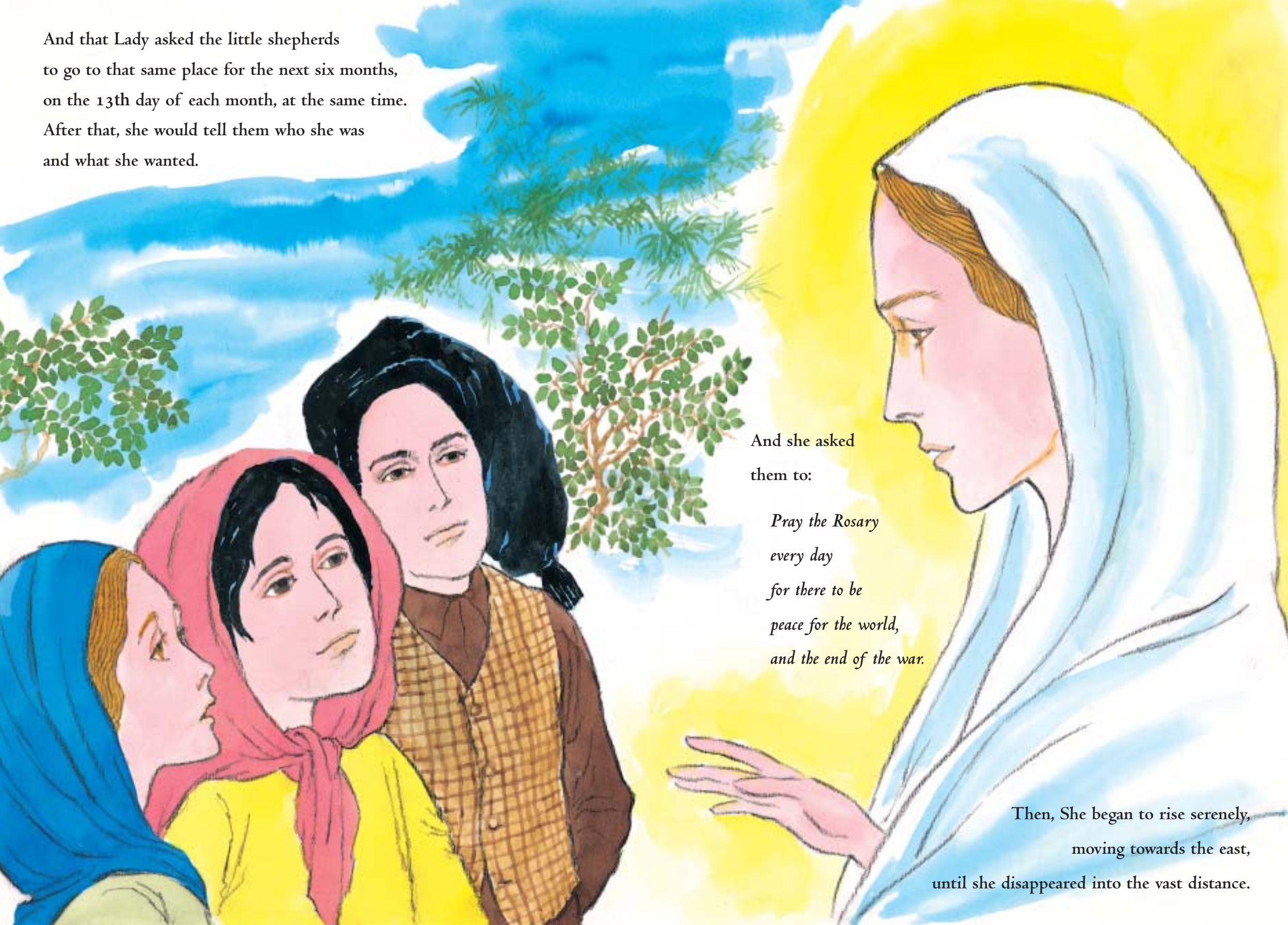


And that Lady asked the little shepherds  
to go to that same place for the next six months,  
on the 13th day of each month, at the same time.  
After that, she would tell them who she was  
and what she wanted.

And she asked  
them to:

*Pray the Rosary  
every day  
for there to be  
peace for the world,  
and the end of the war.*

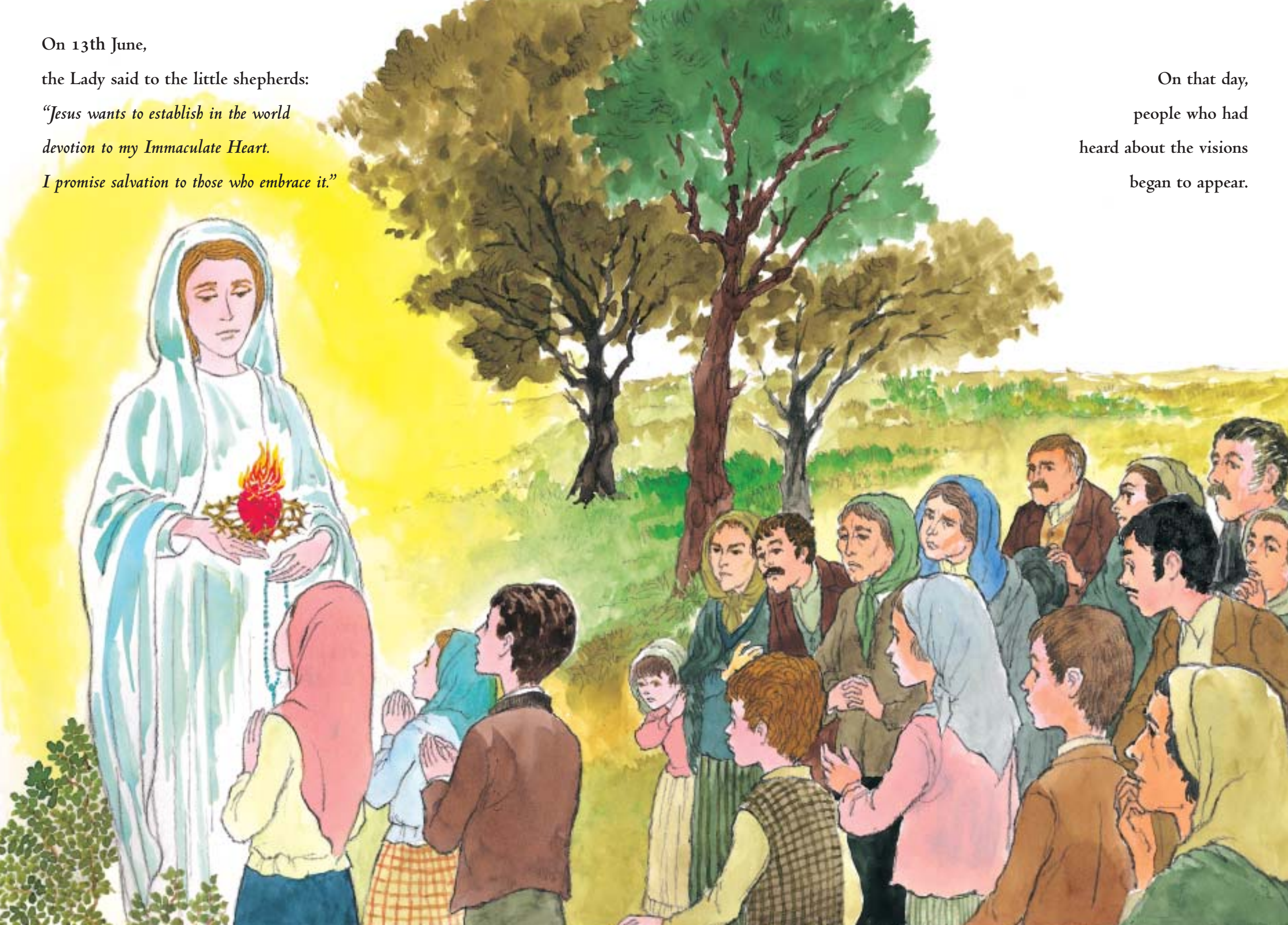
Then, She began to rise serenely,  
moving towards the east,  
until she disappeared into the vast distance.





On 13th June,  
the Lady said to the little shepherds:  
*“Jesus wants to establish in the world  
devotion to my Immaculate Heart.  
I promise salvation to those who embrace it.”*

On that day,  
people who had  
heard about the visions  
began to appear.



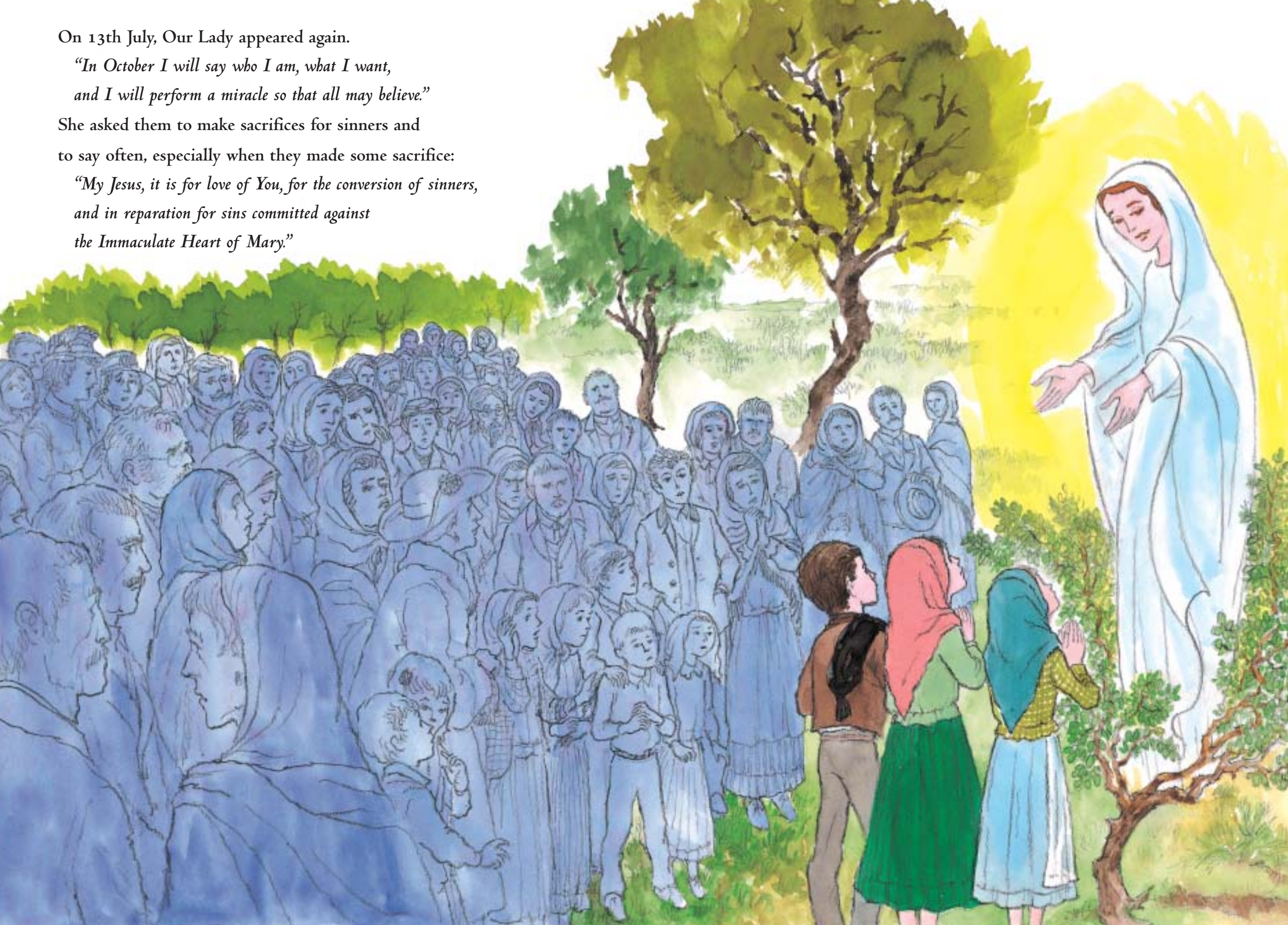


On 13th July, Our Lady appeared again.

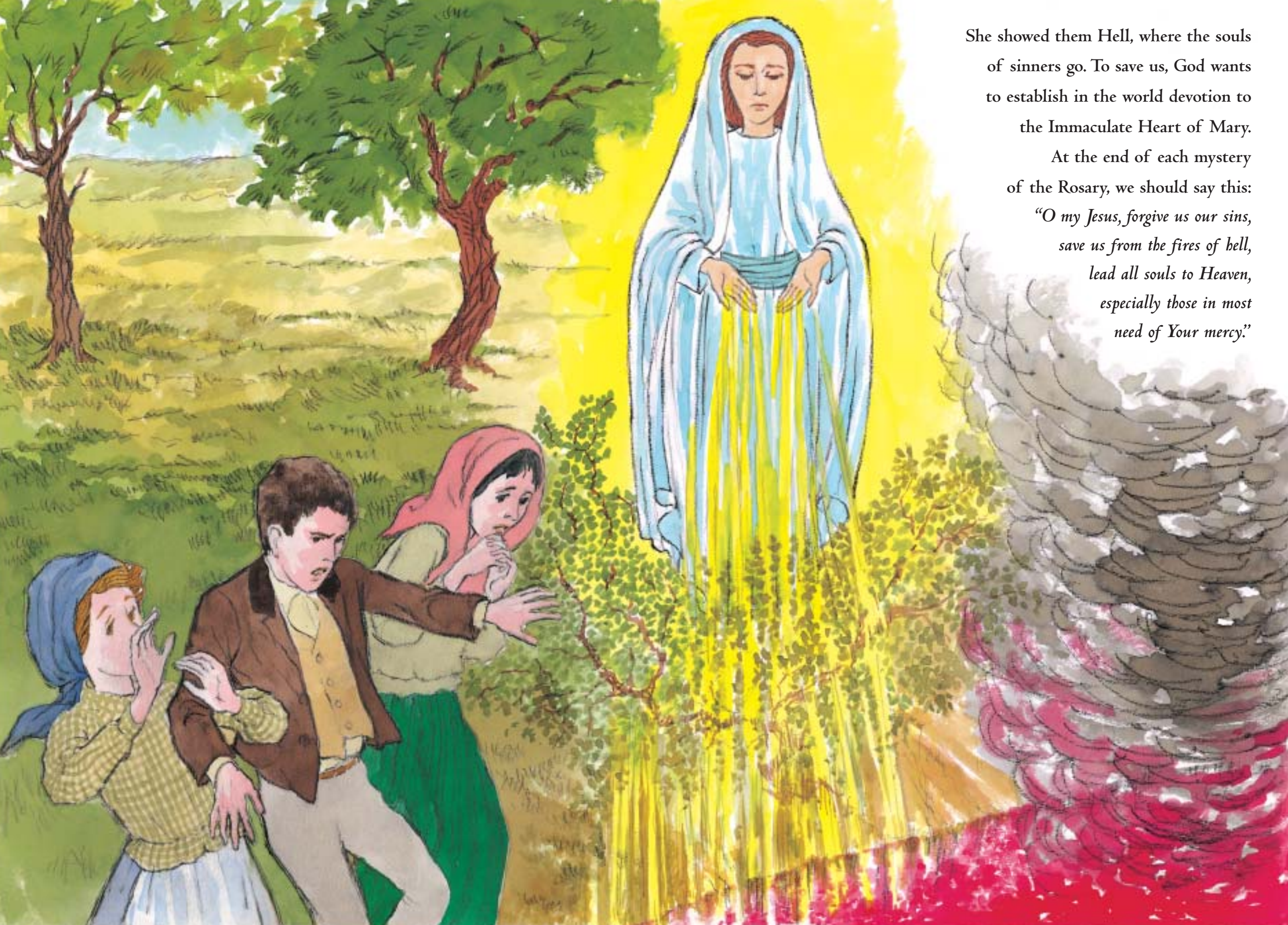
*"In October I will say who I am, what I want,  
and I will perform a miracle so that all may believe."*

She asked them to make sacrifices for sinners and  
to say often, especially when they made some sacrifice:

*"My Jesus, it is for love of You, for the conversion of sinners,  
and in reparation for sins committed against  
the Immaculate Heart of Mary."*







She showed them Hell, where the souls of sinners go. To save us, God wants to establish in the world devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

At the end of each mystery of the Rosary, we should say this:

*“O my Jesus, forgive us our sins,  
save us from the fires of hell,  
lead all souls to Heaven,  
especially those in most  
need of Your mercy.”*



The little shepherds had begun to suffer punishments and persecution.

There were people who threatened them; many made fun of them.

They wanted them to deny what they had seen – and even held them and threatened them with terrible tortures and death.

On 13th August, they could not go to Cova da Iria,

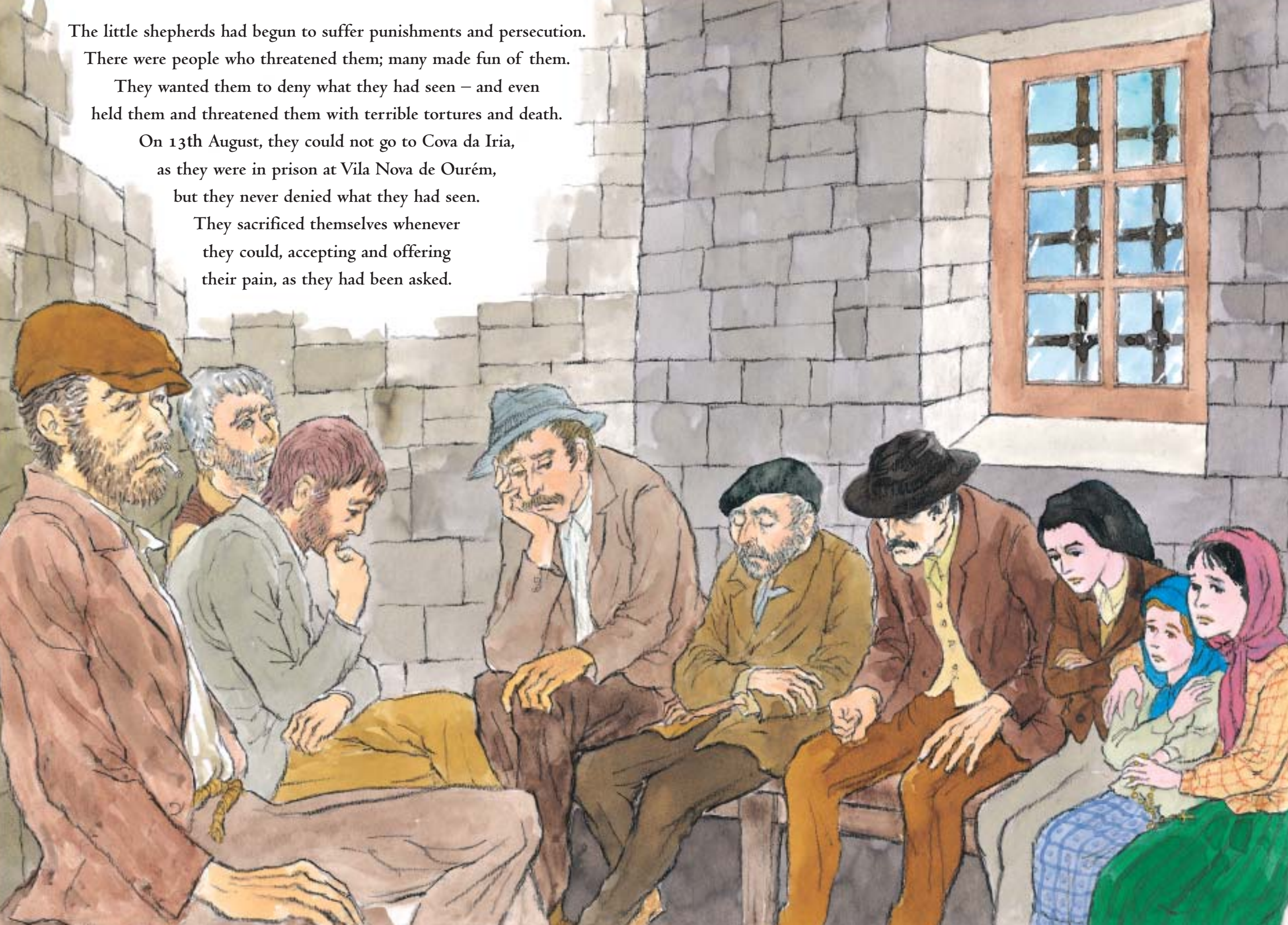
as they were in prison at Vila Nova de Ourém,

but they never denied what they had seen.

They sacrificed themselves whenever

they could, accepting and offering

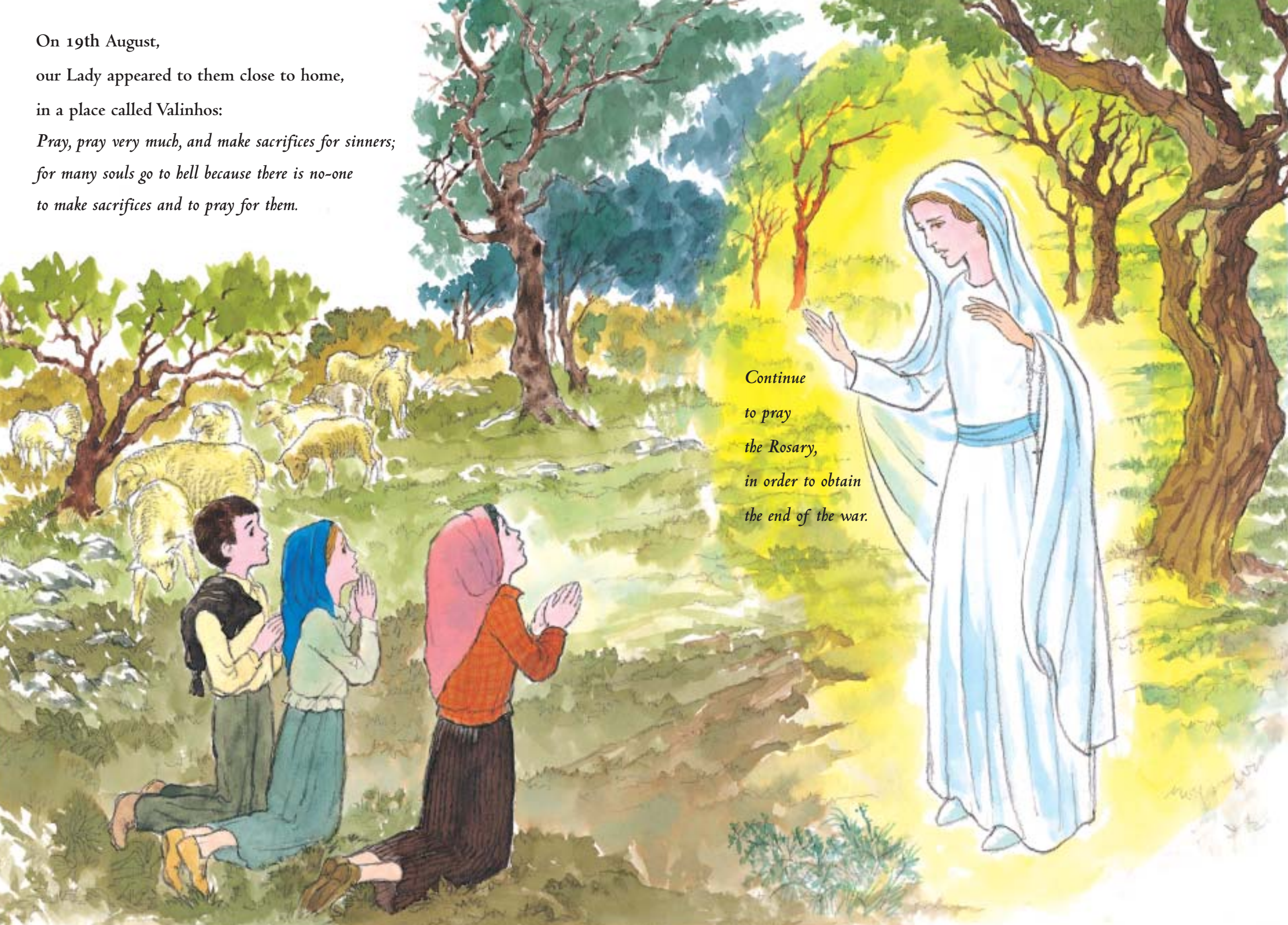
their pain, as they had been asked.





On 19th August,  
our Lady appeared to them close to home,  
in a place called Valinhos:  
*Pray, pray very much, and make sacrifices for sinners;  
for many souls go to hell because there is no-one  
to make sacrifices and to pray for them.*

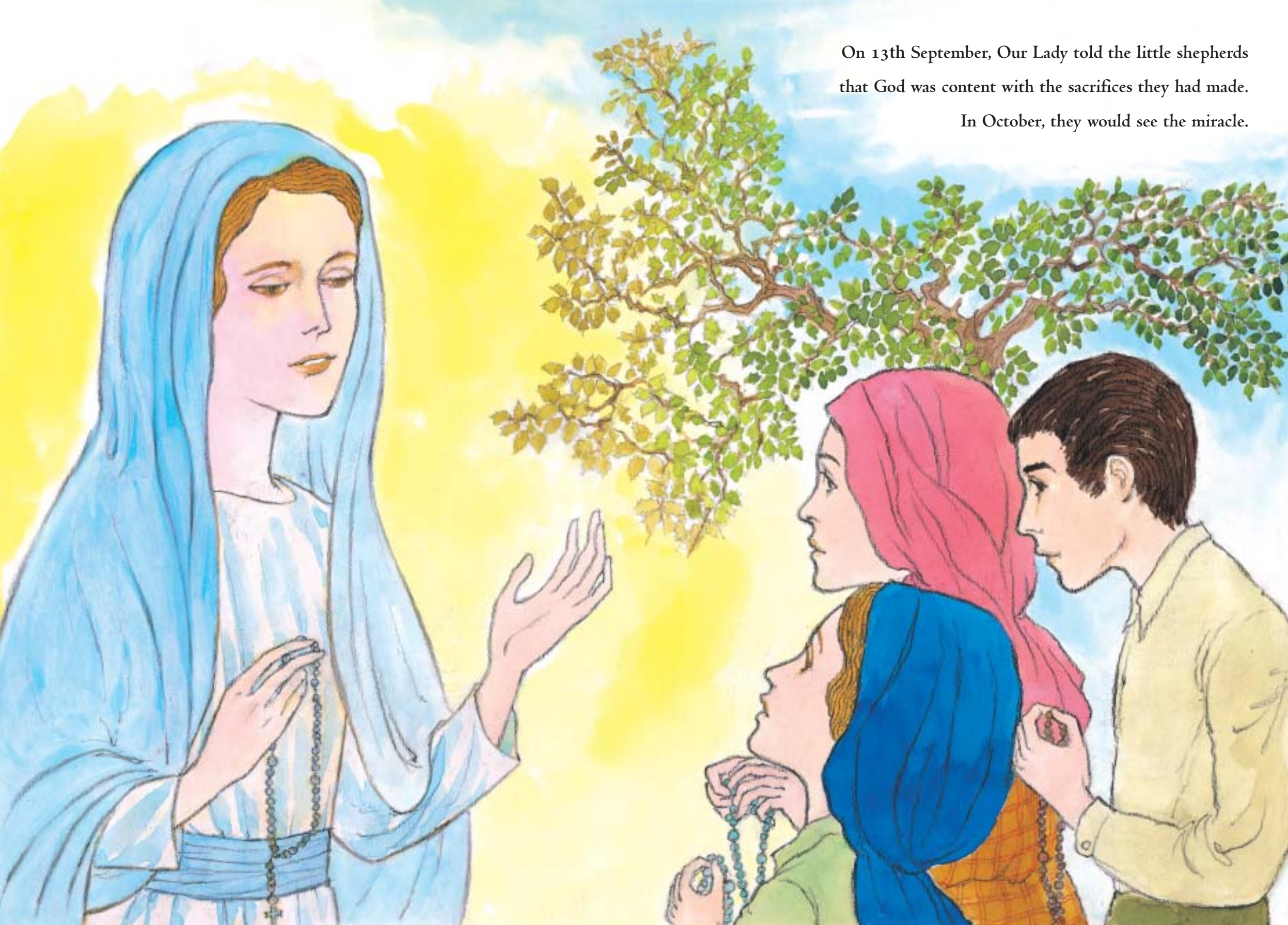
*Continue  
to pray  
the Rosary,  
in order to obtain  
the end of the war.*





On 13th September, Our Lady told the little shepherds  
that God was content with the sacrifices they had made.

In October, they would see the miracle.



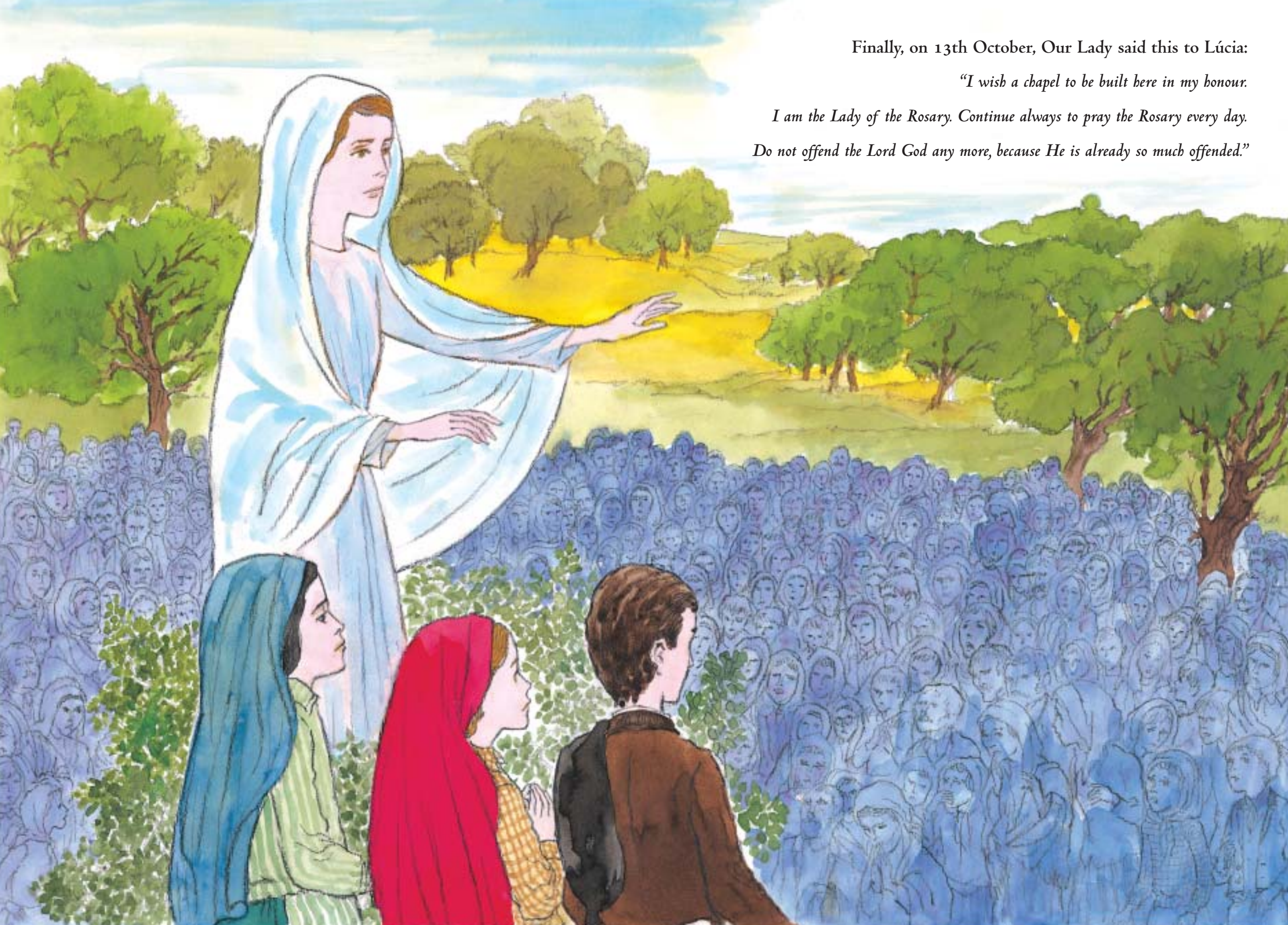


Finally, on 13th October, Our Lady said this to Lúcia:

*"I wish a chapel to be built here in my honour.*

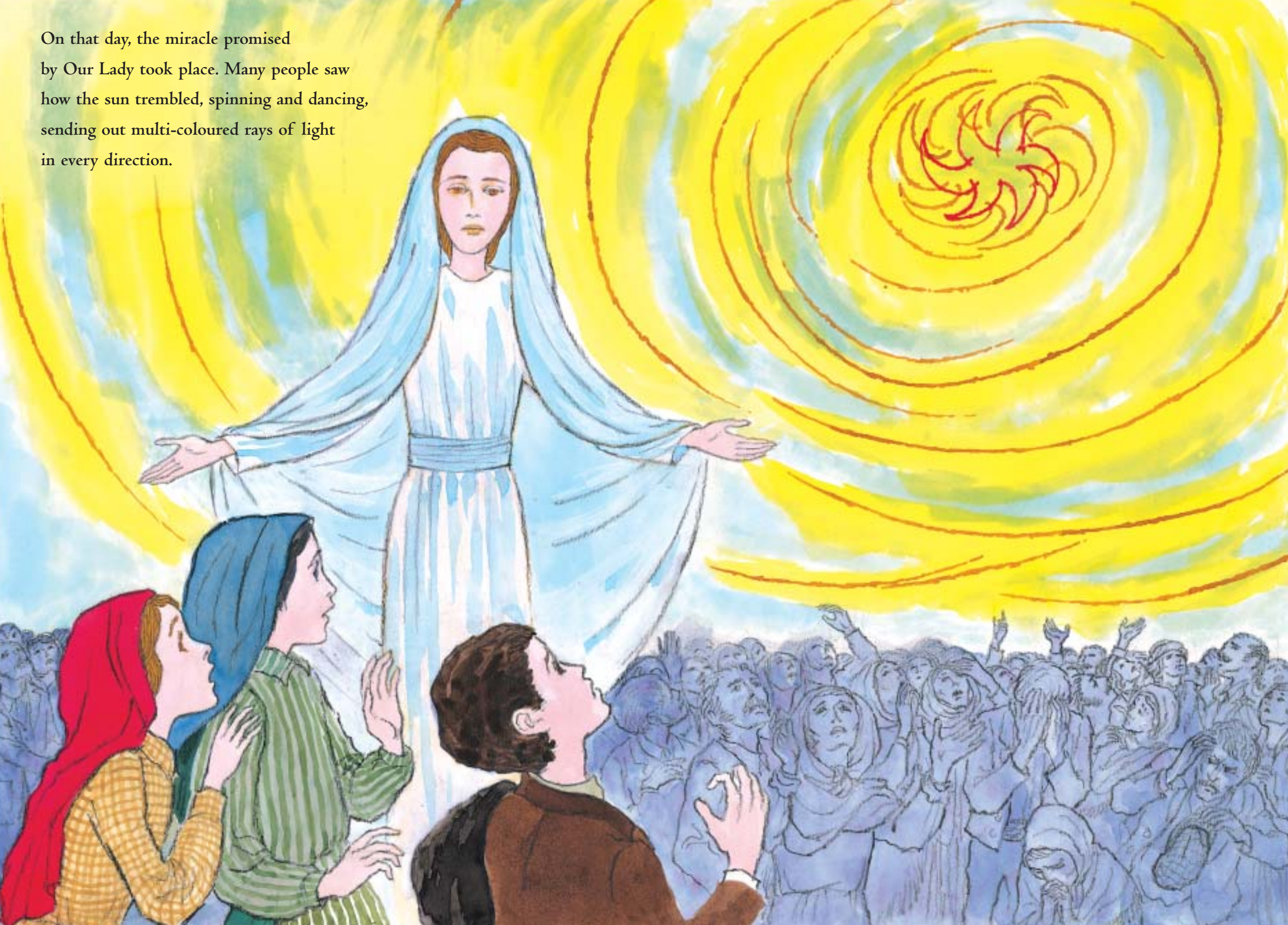
*I am the Lady of the Rosary. Continue always to pray the Rosary every day.*

*Do not offend the Lord God any more, because He is already so much offended."*





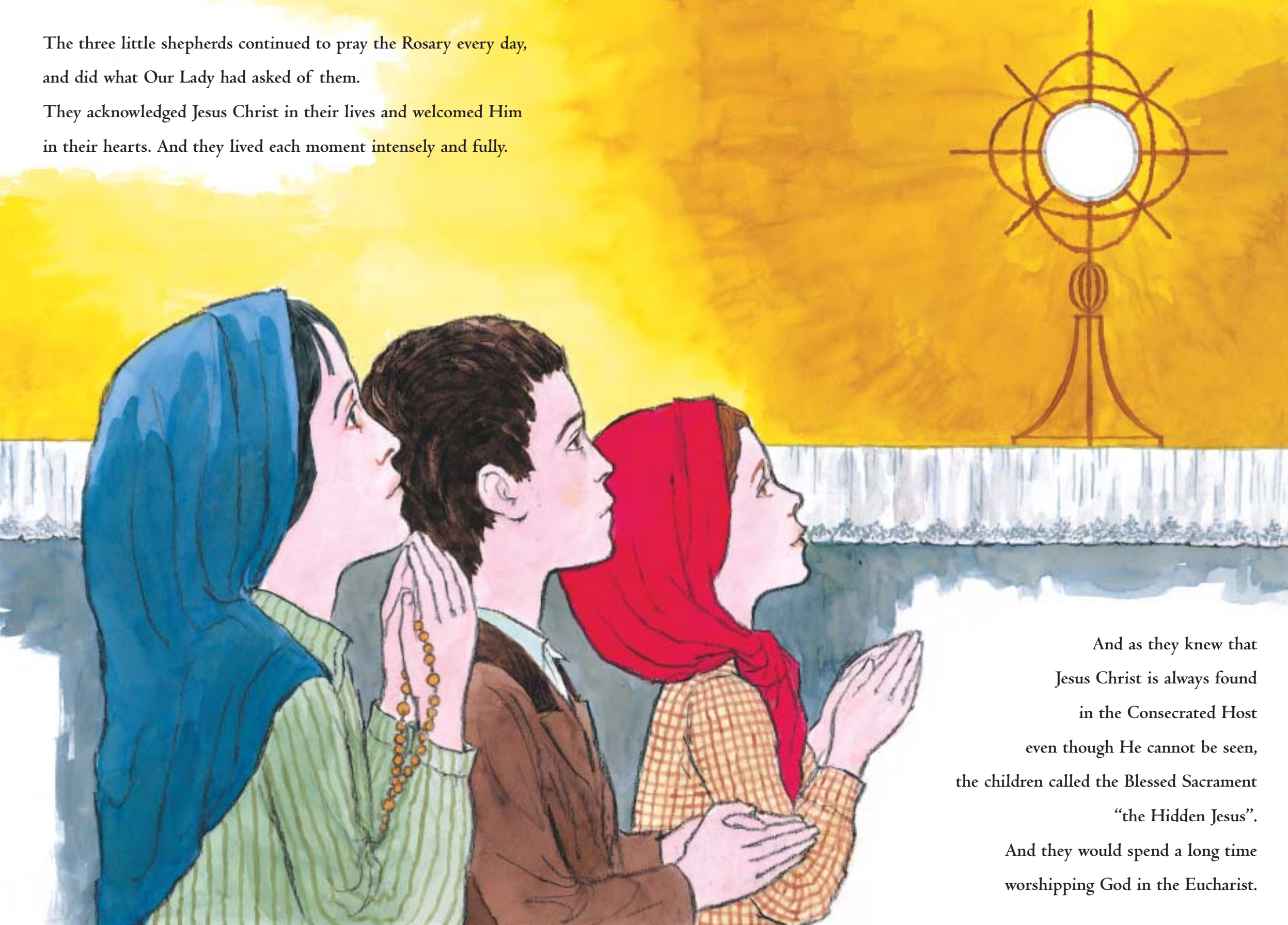
On that day, the miracle promised  
by Our Lady took place. Many people saw  
how the sun trembled, spinning and dancing,  
sending out multi-coloured rays of light  
in every direction.





The three little shepherds continued to pray the Rosary every day,  
and did what Our Lady had asked of them.

They acknowledged Jesus Christ in their lives and welcomed Him  
in their hearts. And they lived each moment intensely and fully.



And as they knew that  
Jesus Christ is always found  
in the Consecrated Host  
even though He cannot be seen,  
the children called the Blessed Sacrament  
“the Hidden Jesus”.  
And they would spend a long time  
worshipping God in the Eucharist.



It all happened nearly a hundred years ago, in Portugal.  
First, the Angel of Peace appeared to the Little Shepherds.  
He asked them to pray all that they could and taught them to worship God  
with love, faith and hope.

Later, Mary, the Mother of Jesus, appeared.  
Our Lady told them to pray the Rosary every day,  
for the conversion of sinners and for peace in the world.

The Message of Fatima is a call for prayer,  
penance, and permanent conversion  
made to each and everyone of us.  
It is for our time and all times.

