Liturgical Living: The Miracle of the Sun



In 1917, Mary appeared to three shepherd children in a field in Fatima, Portugal. Our Lady asked the children to tell the people to pray the Rosary, go to Reconciliation, and turn their lives back towards God, who loves them and wants them to have happy lives.

To prove that the apparitions were true, Mary promised the children that during the last of her six appearances she would provide a "sign" so people would believe in the apparitions and in her message.

News of these apparitions began to spread throughout the region. While many people believed the children had actually seen Mary, many others subjected them to much ridicule. Even the mayor of the town put the children in jail at one point.

In the sixth month, on October 13, a large crowd joined the children to witness the miracle promised by the Mother of God. Though the region had been drenched with three days of heavy rain, nearly 70,000 people journeyed through the rain and mud. Many were unbelievers whose intent was to discredit the children's stories.

Suddenly, the "clouds separated…and the sun appeared between them in the clear blue, like a disk of white fire." The people could look directly at the sun and while they gazed at it, the huge ball began to "dance". The sun whirled rapidly, flinging out all sorts of brilliant colors. It continued to move in this manner three times, then seemed to tremble and shudder, and plunge in a mighty zigzag course toward the earth. The crowd was terrified, fearing this was the end of the world. However, the sun reversed course and returned to its normal place in the heavens. All of this transpired in approximately ten minutes.

After realizing they were not doomed, the crowd began ecstatically laughing, crying, shouting and weeping. Many discovered their previously drenched clothing to be perfectly dry. This is known as the Miracle of the Sun, and it is a well-documented historical occurrence.

For a fun art activity, your kids might like this guided drawing of the dancing sun. An alternate craft is this spinning sun pinwheel.

Today, try making these mini Portuguese orange cakes. They look like little suns!

My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love Thee. I beg pardon for all those that do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love Thee. Amen.