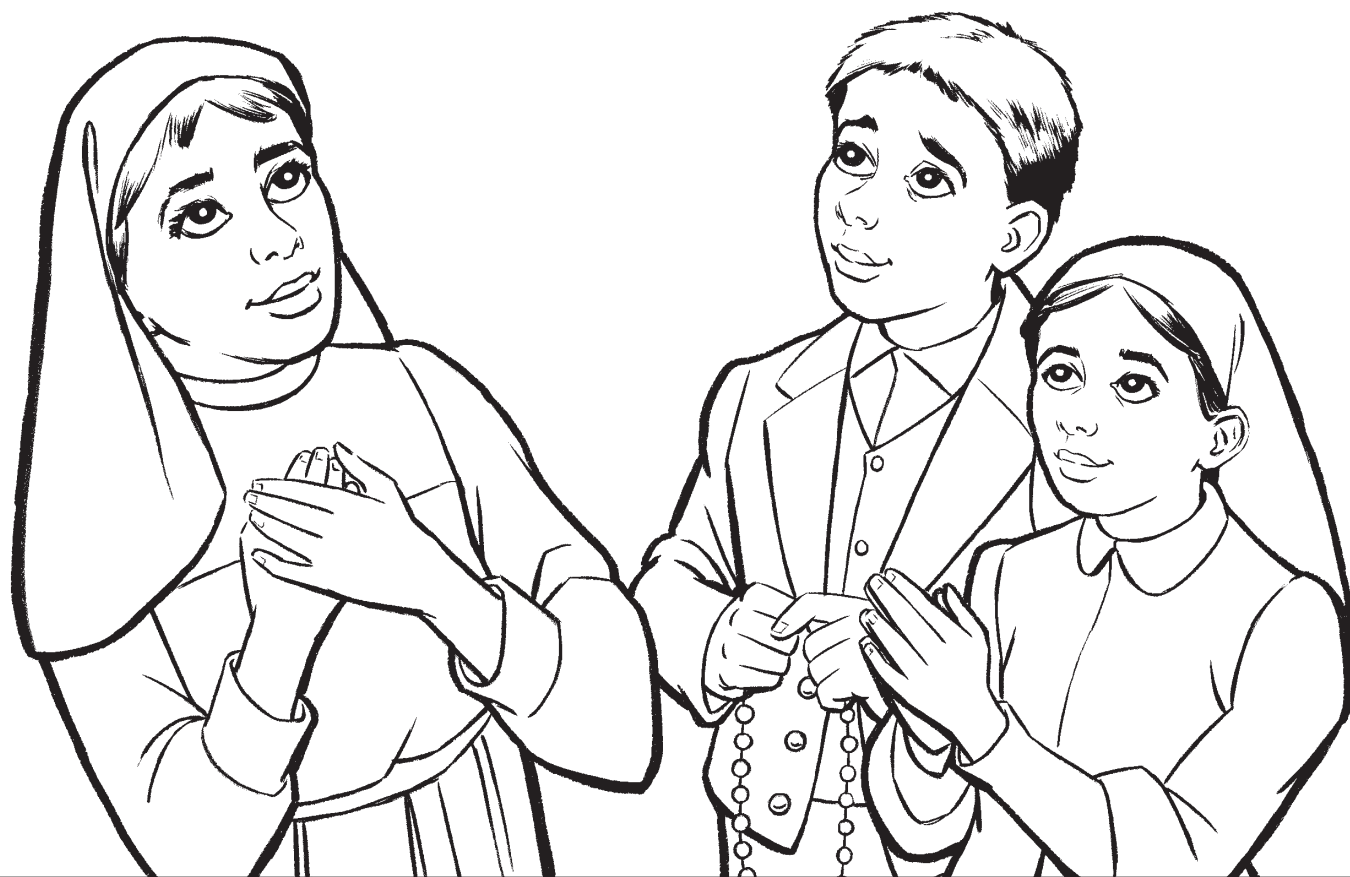




Secrets from Heaven

The Story of the Children of Fatima



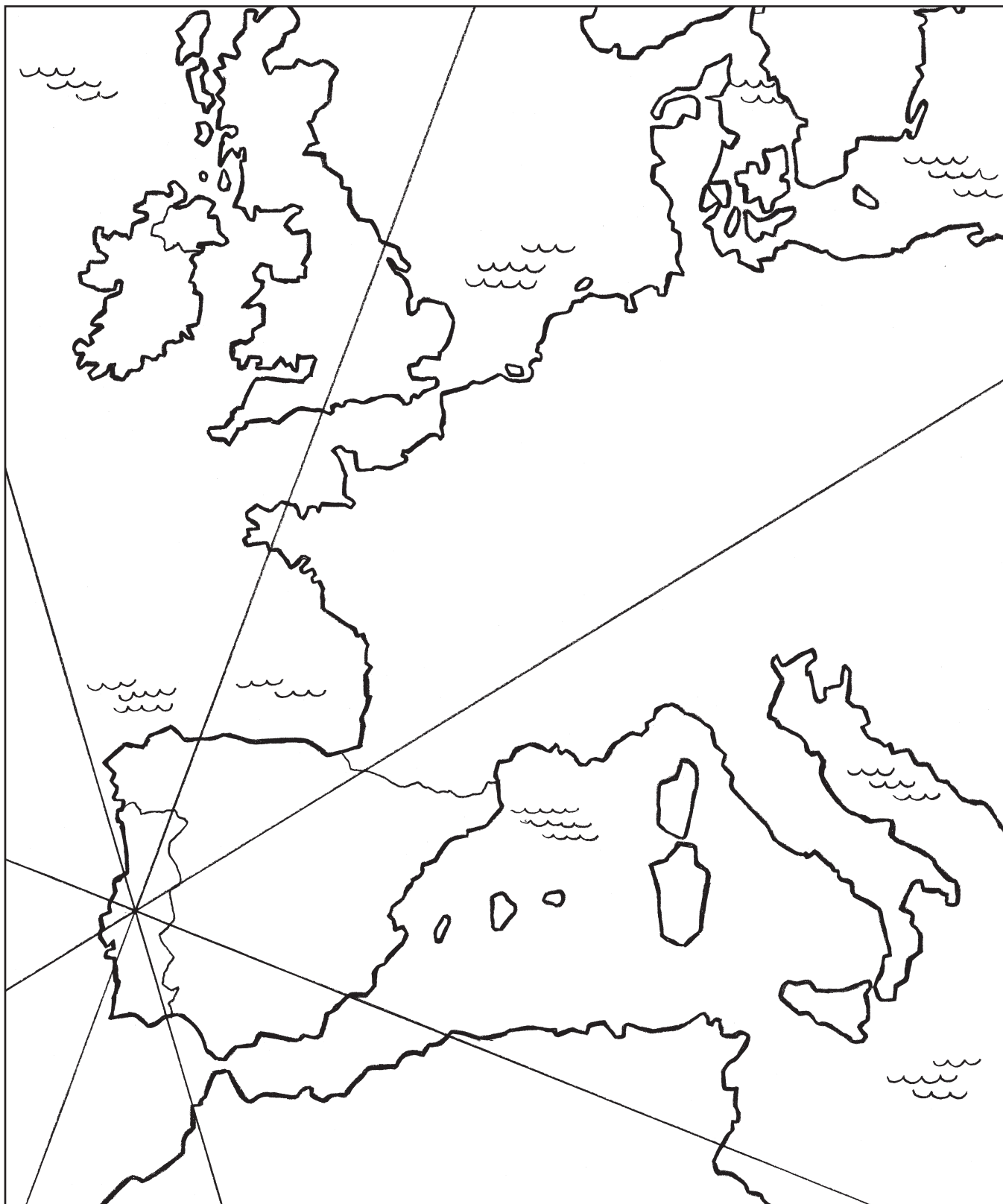
"Follow-along



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Companion Coloring Pages

For Glory Stories® Volume 13 Audio CD



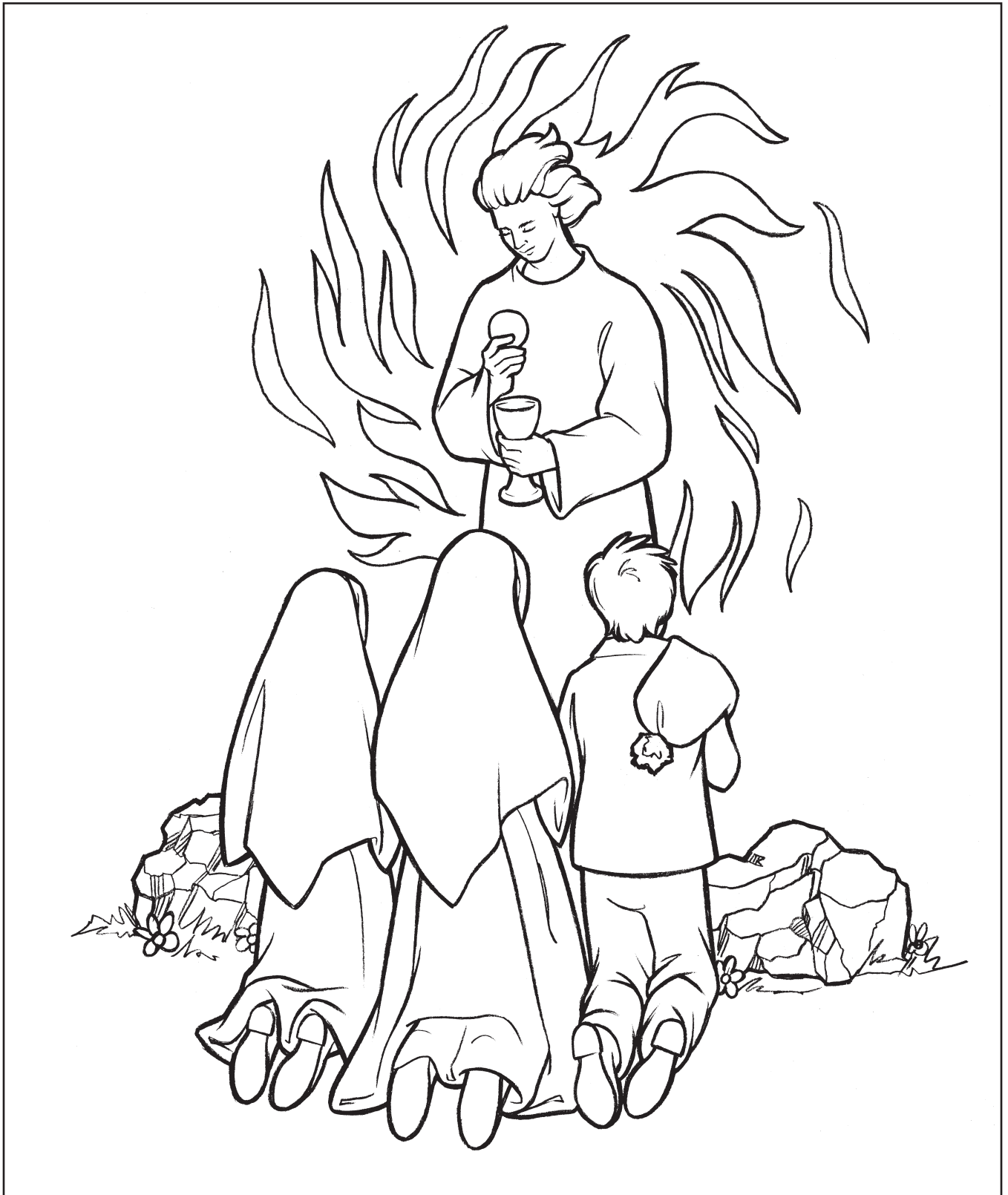
Lucia and her cousins Francisco and Jacinta, lived in a town called Fatima in the country of Portugal. During the early 20th century, World War I was raging in Europe, and the Portuguese government persecuted Catholics. However, these cousins received some very special visitors from Heaven to encourage them and Catholics everywhere during this difficult time!



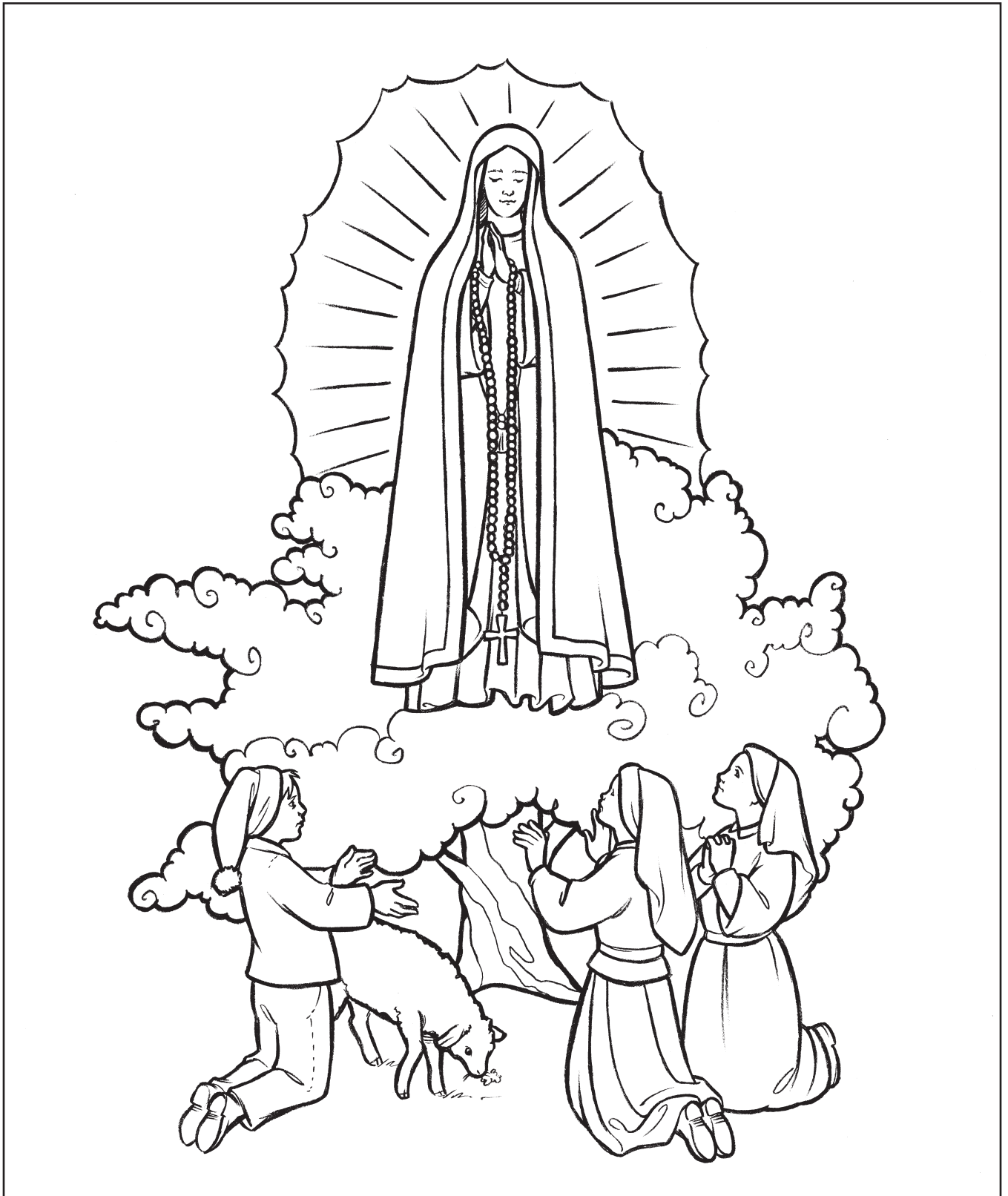
Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta would meet every day to pasture their family's sheep. They loved to play games and sing songs while watching the sheep. They would also pray a rosary together in the afternoon.



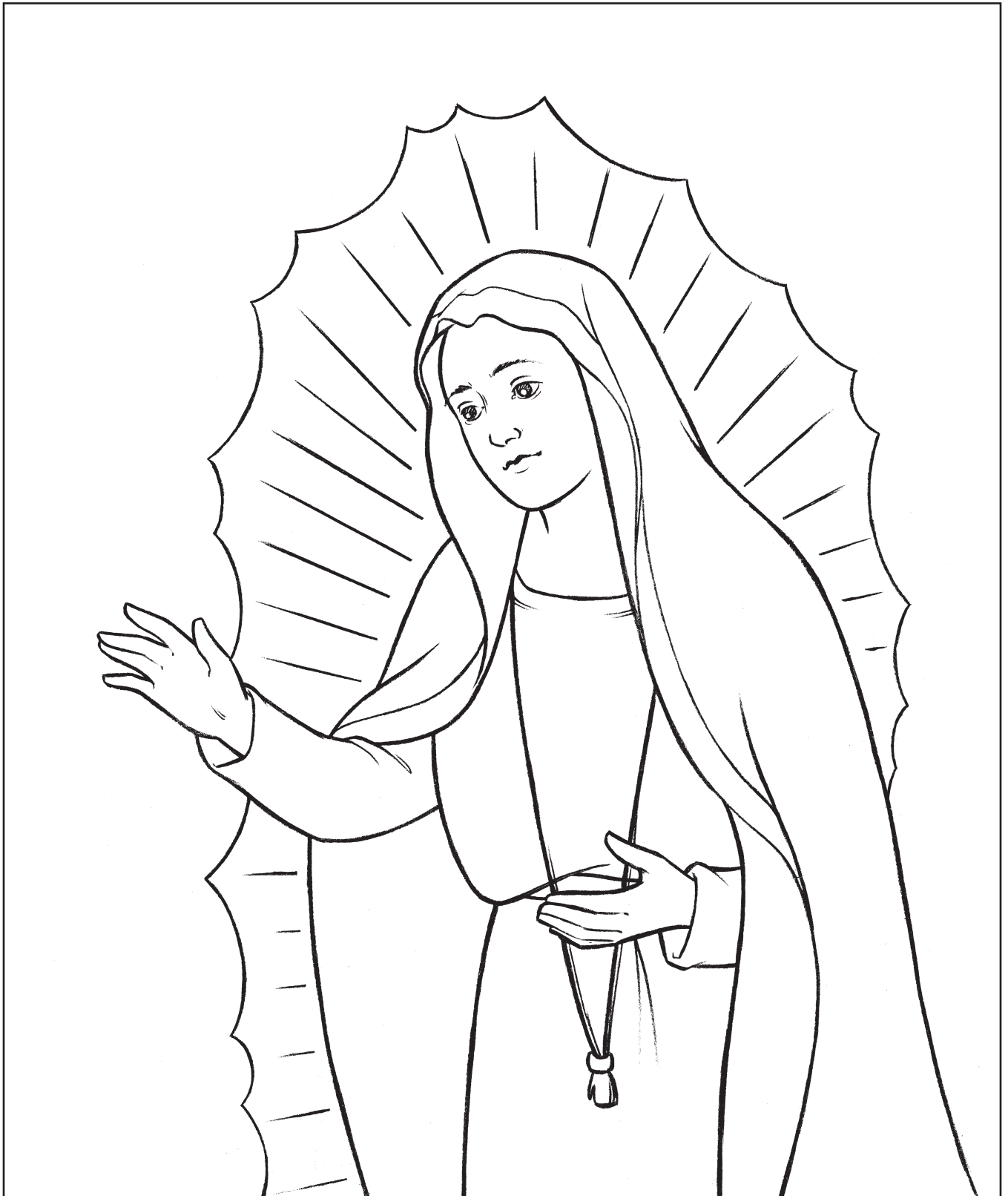
One day, the cousins were watching their family's sheep together and saw a young man coming down from the sky. The young man told them that he was the Angel of Peace and asked them to pray with him.



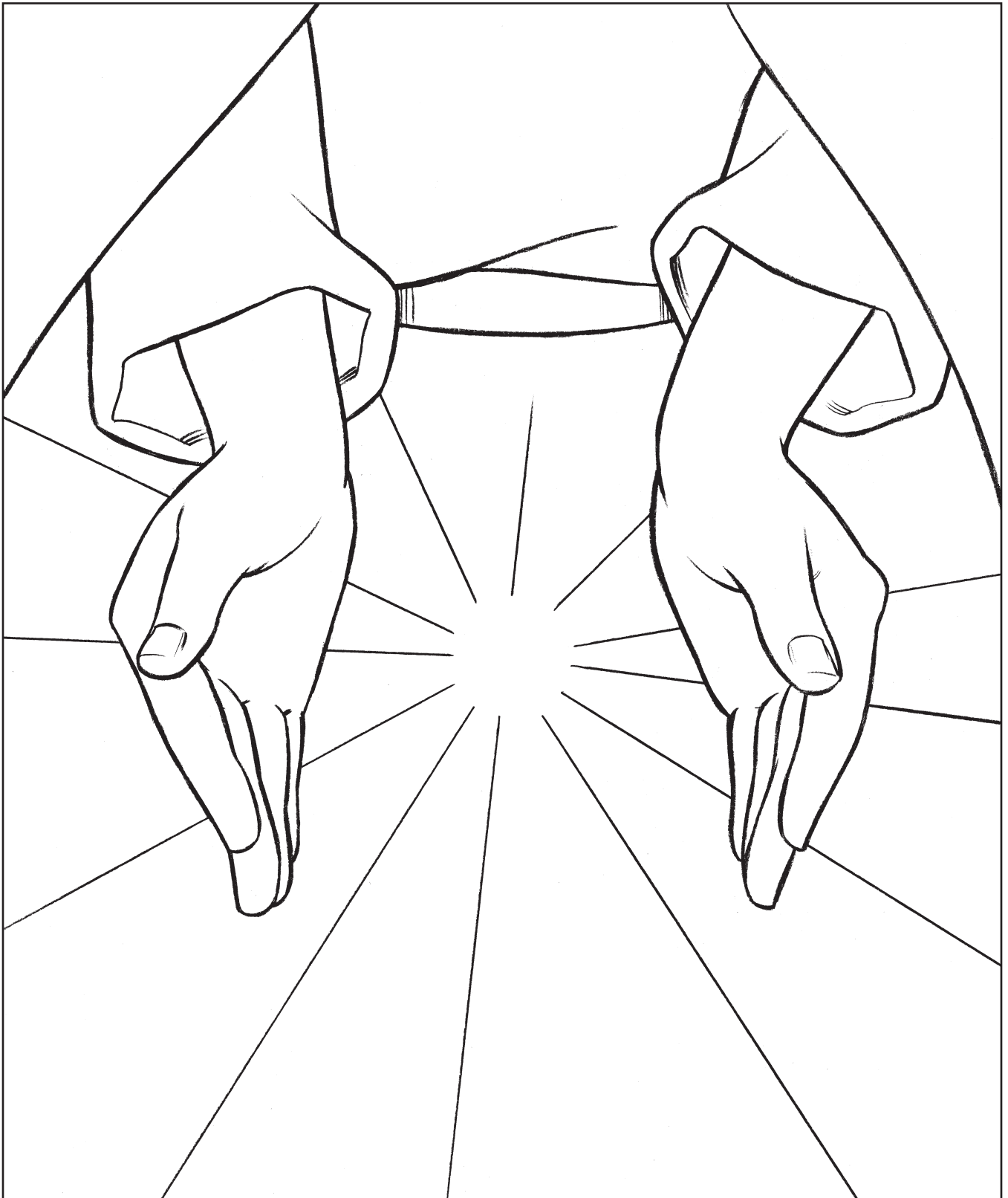
The Angel of Peace appeared to the children two more times. The second time he appeared to them, he told them to pray often and make sacrifices for sinners. The third time the Angel appeared to them, he gave all the children Holy Communion, even though Francisco and Jacinta had not yet made their First Holy Communion.



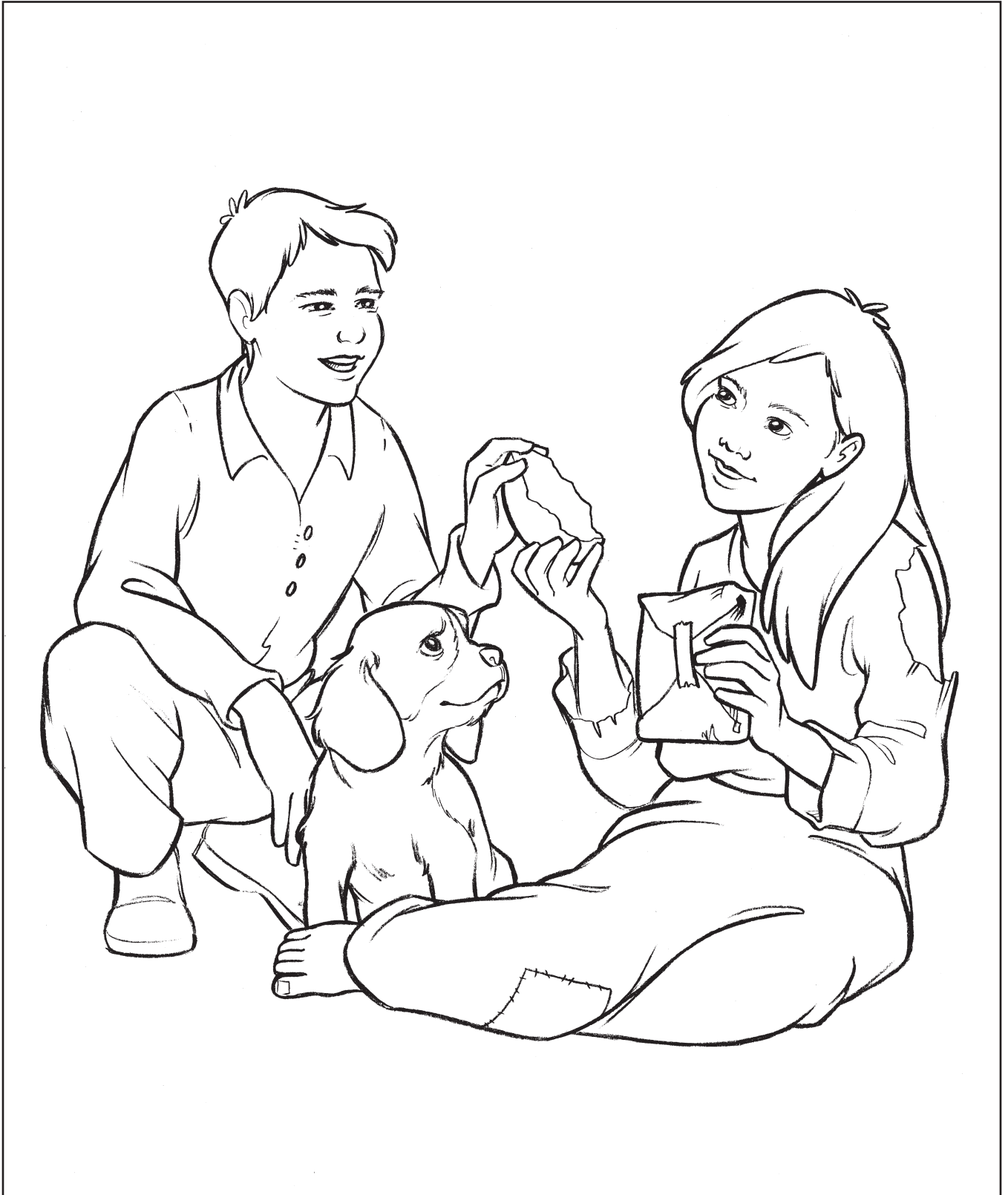
The Angel appeared to the children in order to prepare them for some even greater heavenly visions. The next year, on May 13th, while the children were watching their sheep and playing, they saw a large flash of lightning. A few minutes later, the children saw a beautiful lady all dressed in white, standing on the holmoak tree.



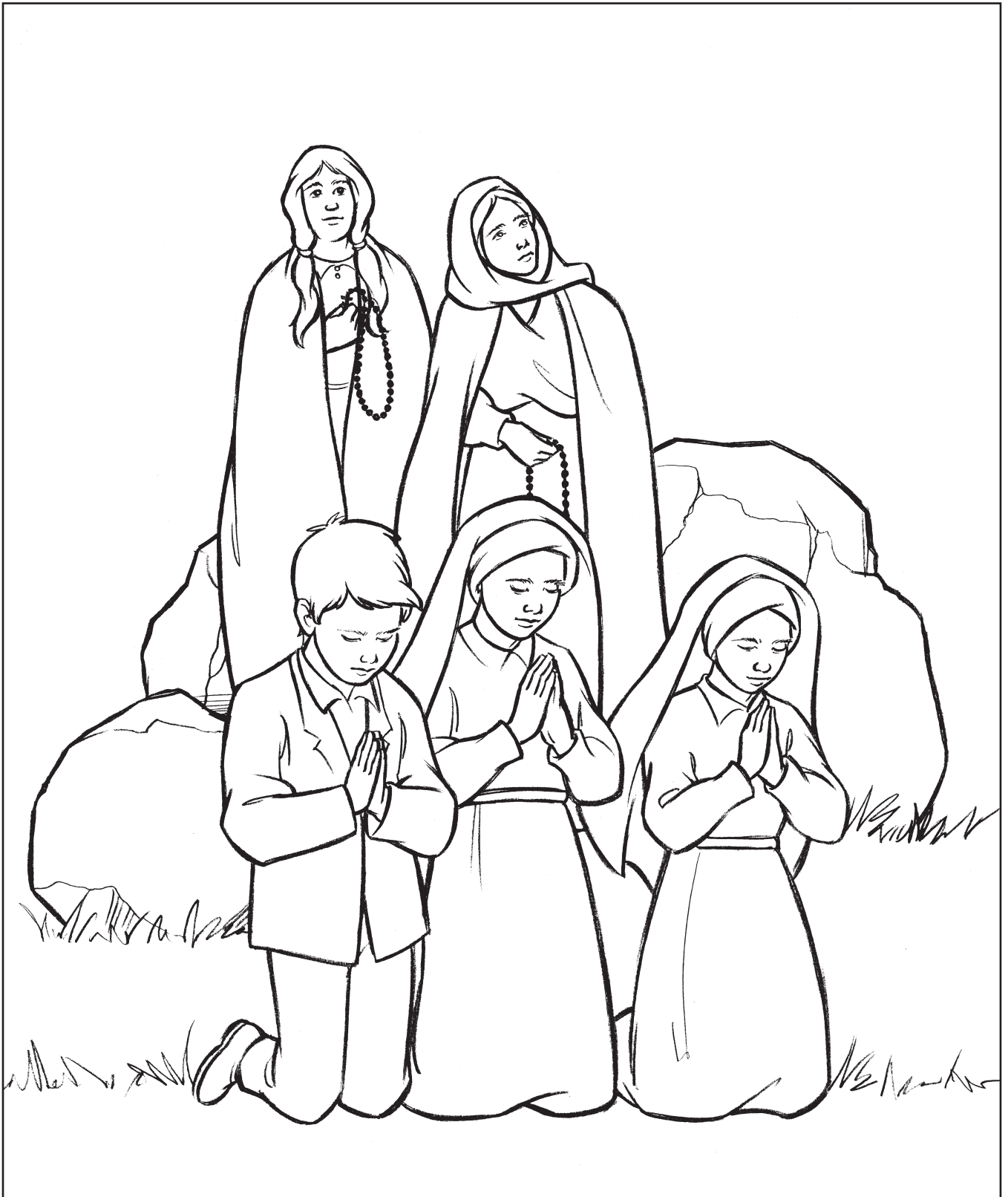
Lucia asked the Lady who she was. The Lady responded that she was from Heaven. She told the children that she wanted them to come to the same place, which was called the Cova de Iria, six months in a row on the 13th day of the month.



The Lady also asked if the children were willing to bear all the sufferings God would send them to make reparation for sins and for the conversion of sinners. Lucia said they were willing. The Lady then spread out her hands and rays of light streamed from them and touched the children, as if she was giving them a special blessing.



The three children were inspired by their heavenly vision to pray more and to make sacrifices for the conversion of sinners. They even started giving their lunches to poor beggar children from their village as a sacrifice.



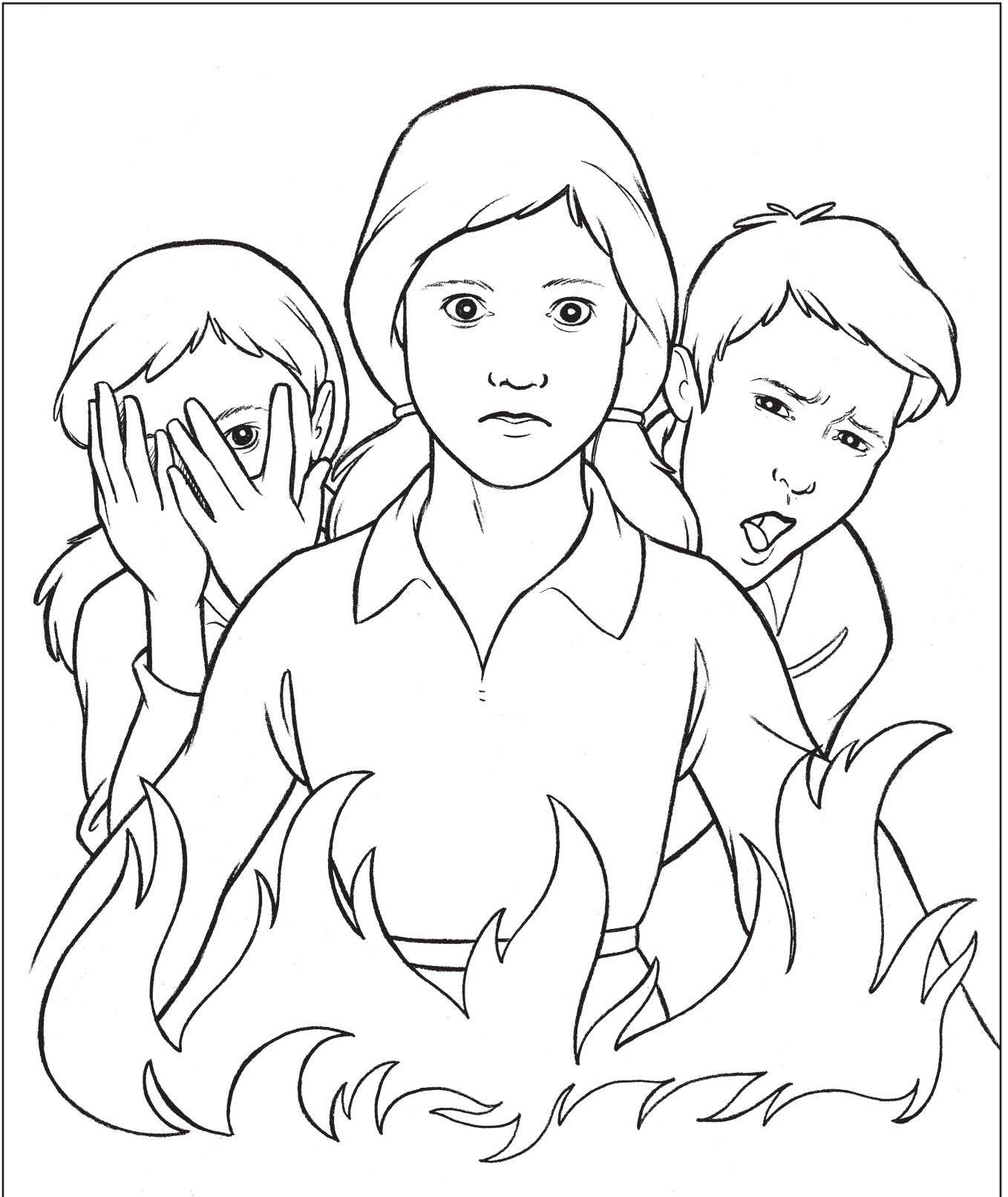
Some of the townspeople believed the children had truly had a miraculous vision, but others thought the children were lying. However, Lucia, her cousins, and a small crowd of townspeople still went to the Cova de Iria on June 13 when the beautiful lady had said she would come again.



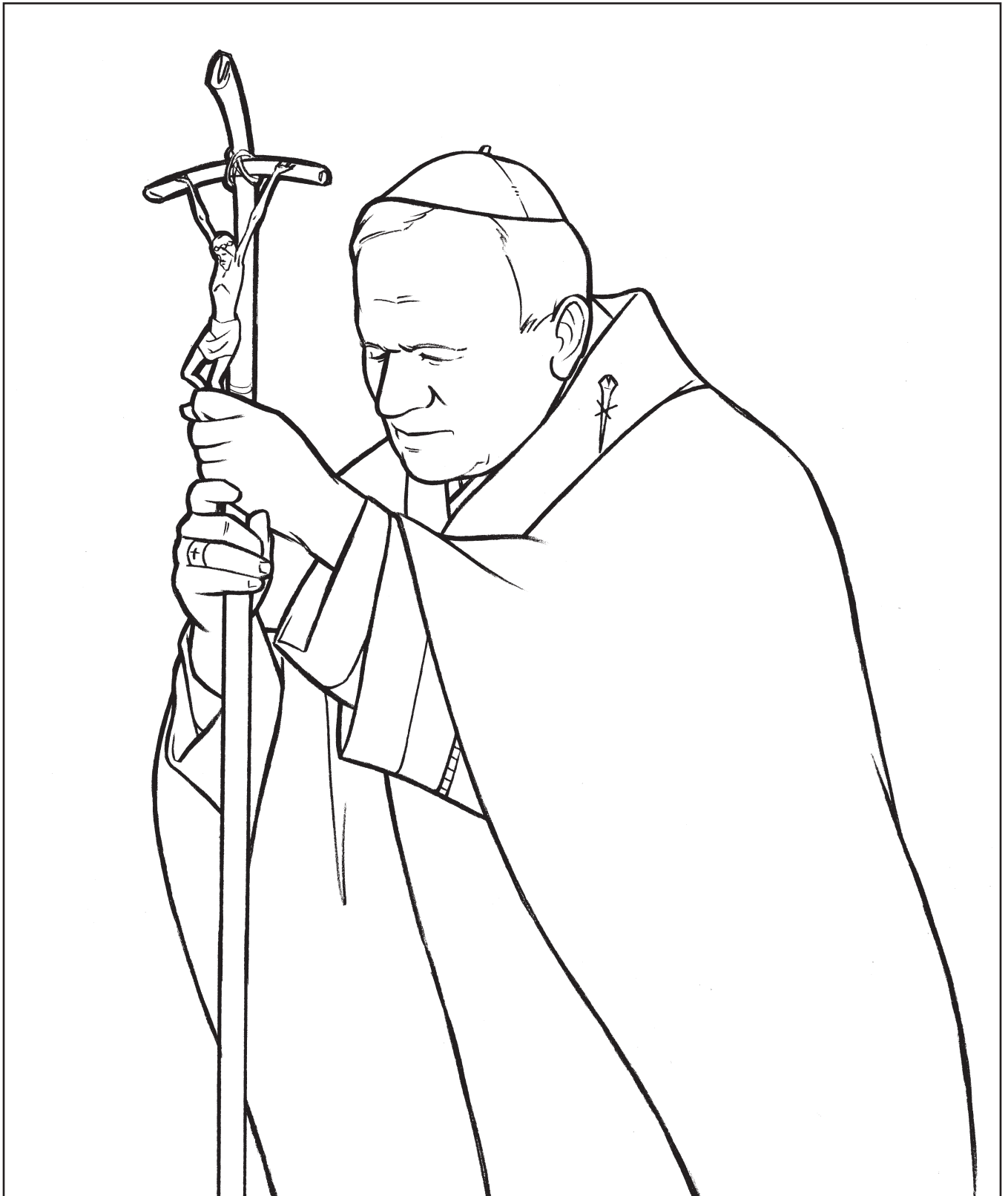
At the apparition, the Lady showed the children a heart pierced with thorns. The children knew that this was the Immaculate Heart of Mary, which is called Immaculate because her love for God was perfect. The thorns around her heart symbolized the sins committed against her and against her Son.



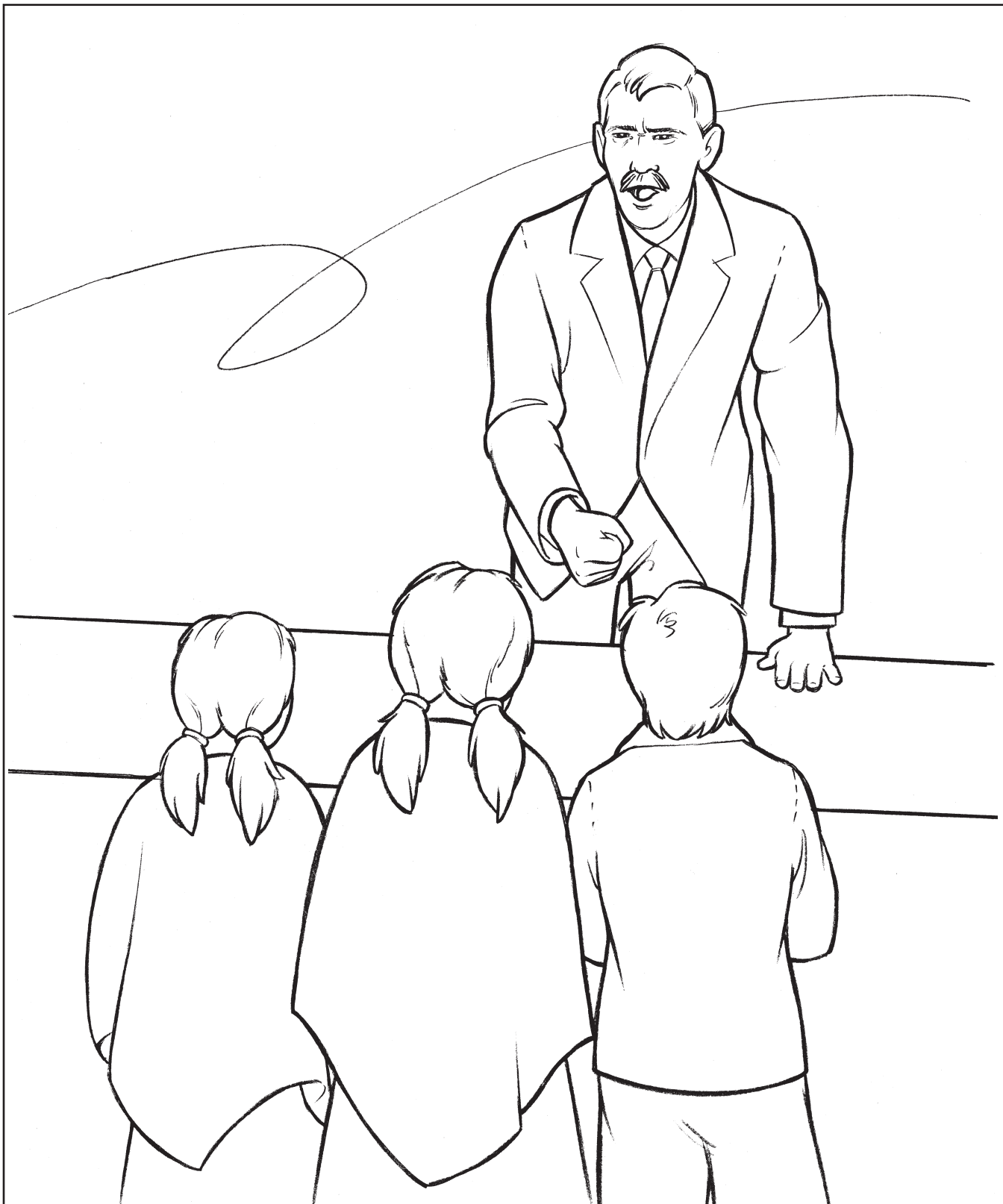
The parish priest interviewed Lucia, and told her that he thought the children's vision was from the Devil. Lucia's mother also did not believe that her daughter had really seen the Lady. This made Lucia very sad. Her cousins tried to comfort her.



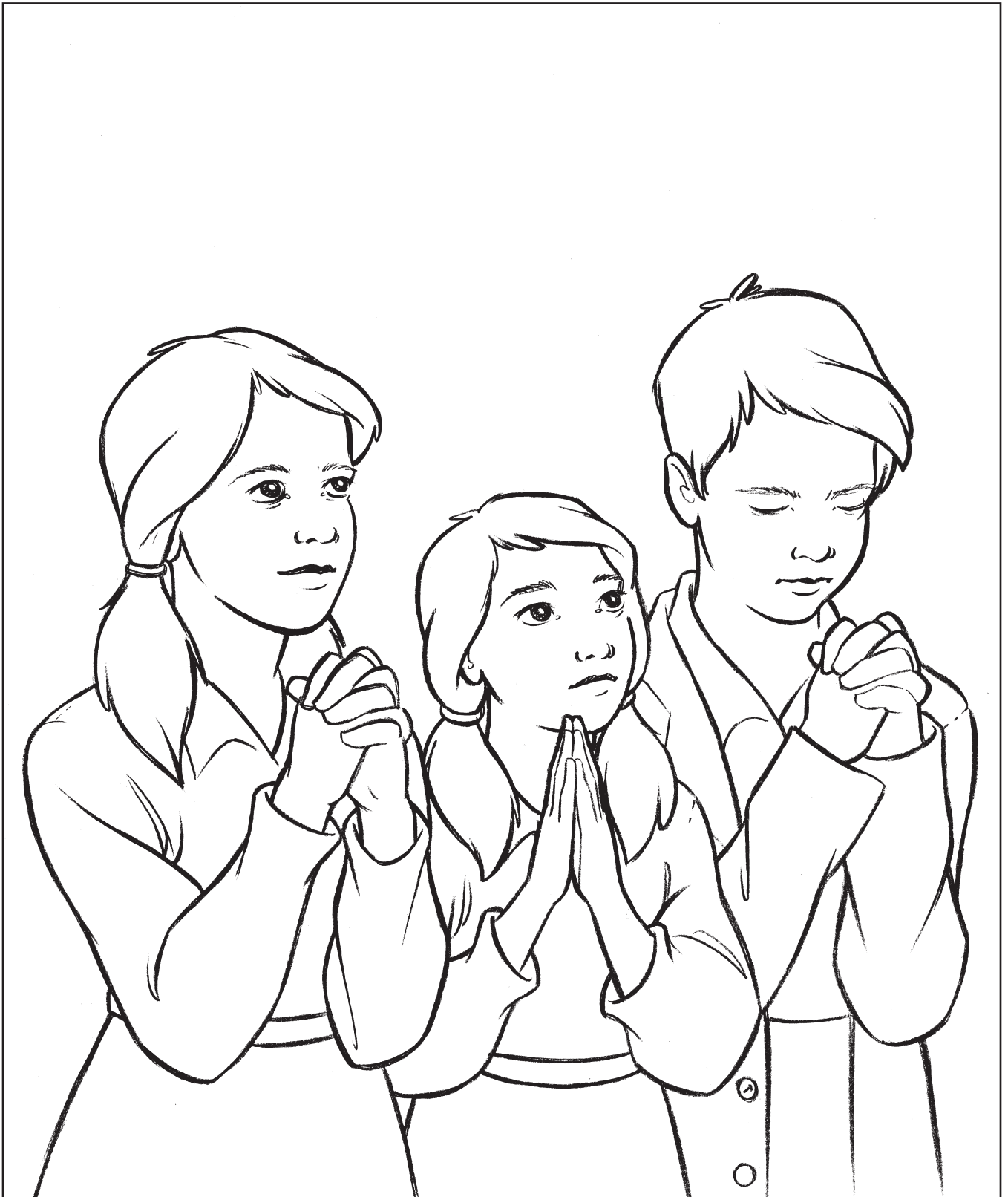
The Lady appeared to the children for the third time on July 13. She showed the children “three secrets.” The first secret was a vision of Hell where the souls of great sinners go. This vision prompted the children to pray and sacrifice for sinners even more fervently so that they would be saved from Hell.



The Second Secret was that God wished to establish world devotion and the consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The Third Secret was the vision of the future sufferings of the Church and the Pope. The Lady told the children not to reveal these secrets to anyone.



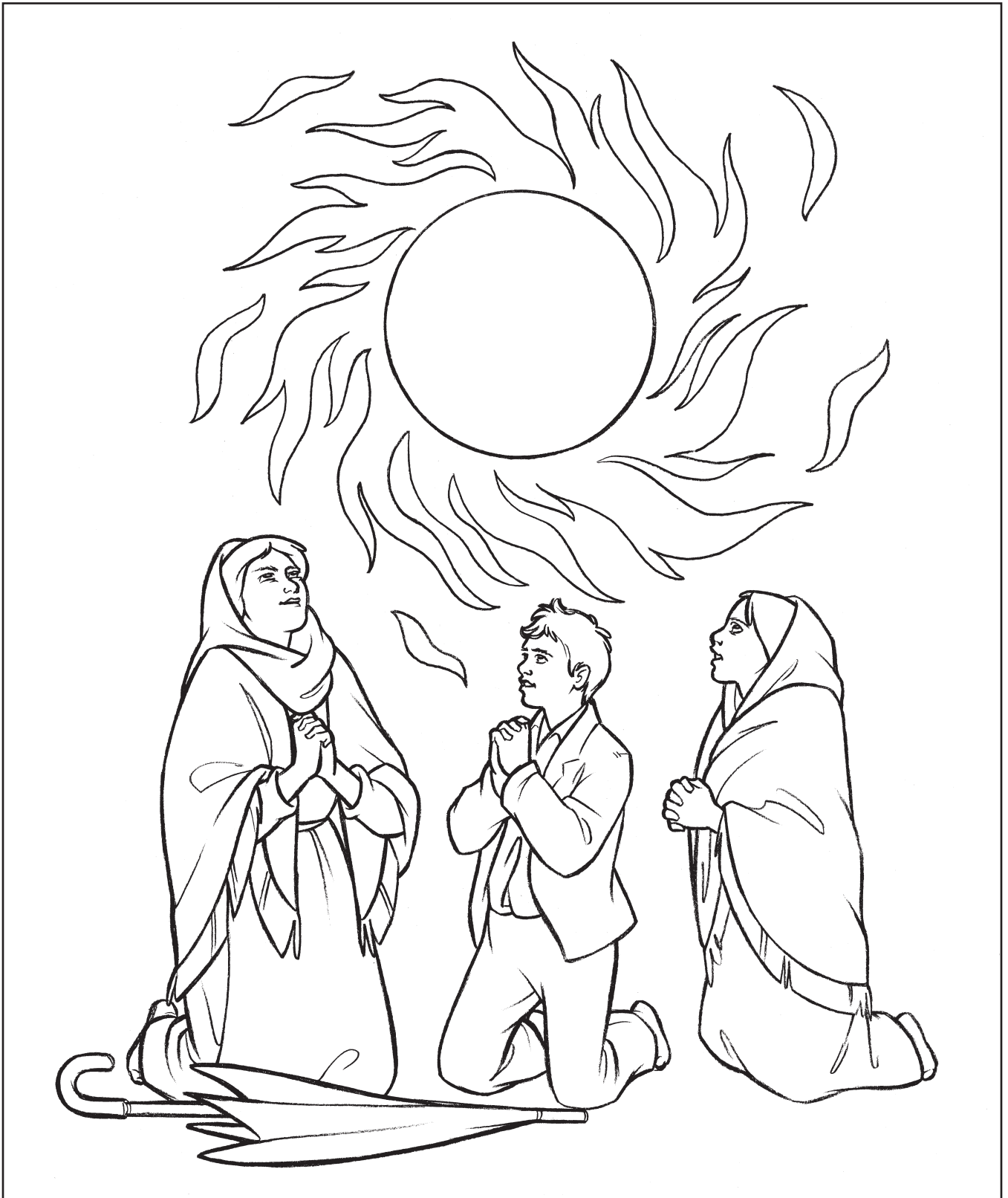
A government official summoned the children on the day of the fourth apparition, August 13. After they came to see him, he would not let them go and threatened to kill them if they did not tell him what the Lady had told them. The children were scared, but they did not tell him anything. However, the Administrator was lying and set the children free after he realized they would not tell them anything.



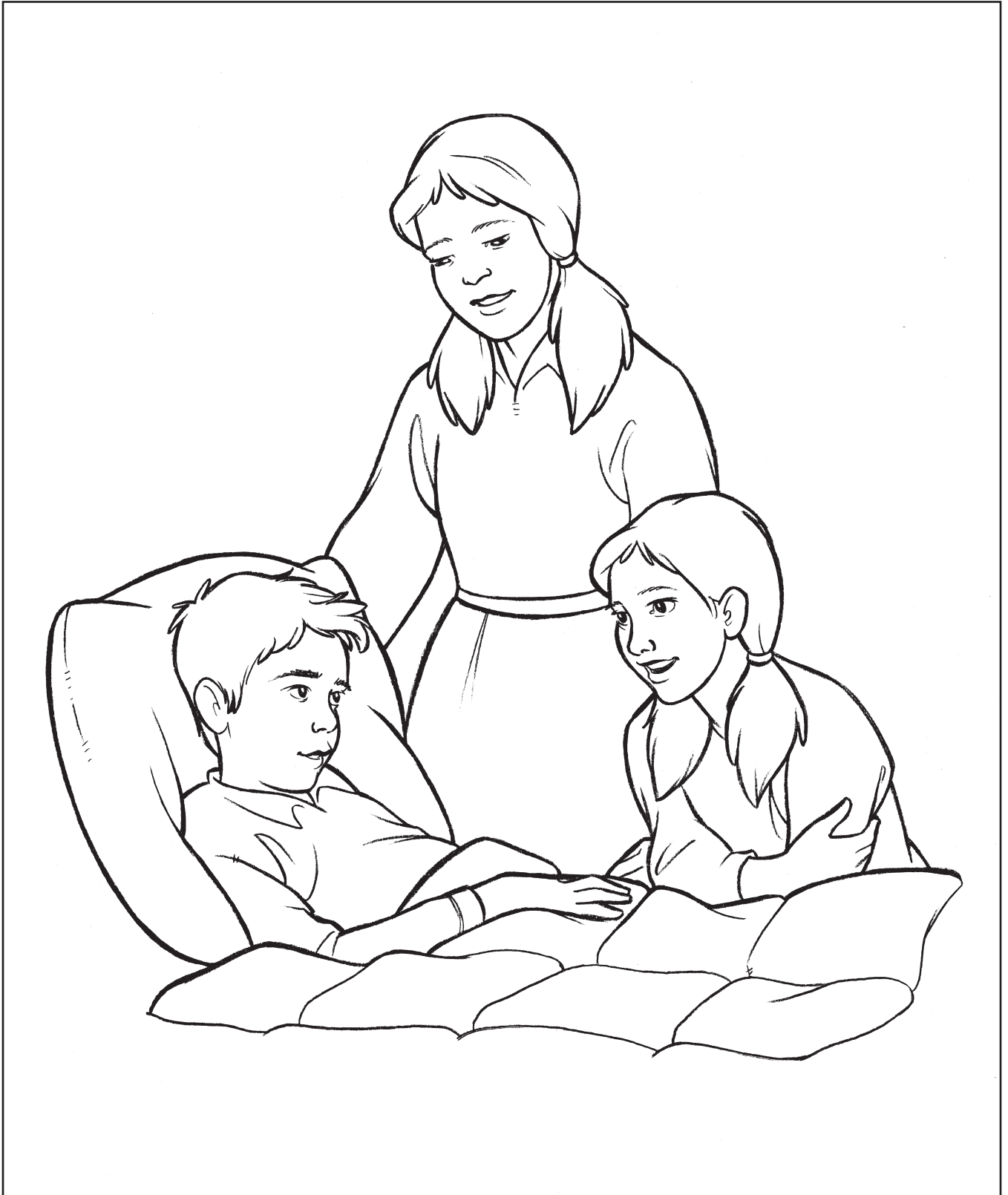
The children were relieved to be safe, but very sad that they had missed their meeting with the Lady. However, she appeared to them a few days later! When she appeared to them again on September 13, she told them she would come one more time on October 13 and work a miracle for all to see.



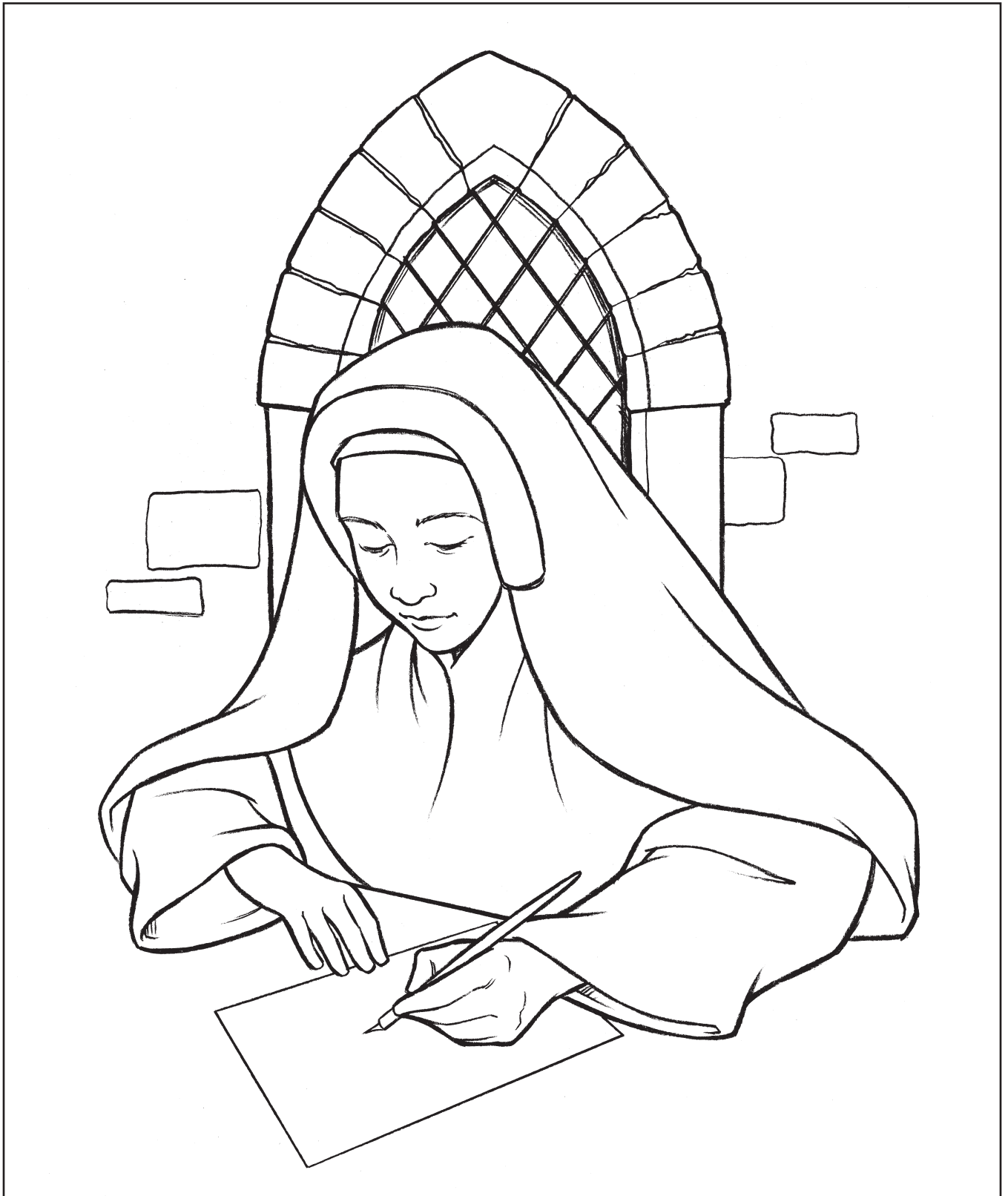
Lucia, Francisco, Jacinta, and their parents set out early the morning of October 13th. It was raining hard, completely drenching the masses of people who were at the Cova de Iria. Lucia led the huge crowd in the Rosary. Then, the Lady appeared. The Lady told Lucia that she was the “Lady of the Rosary”—the Mother of God. She told the children to have a chapel built here in her honor and to pray the Rosary everyday.



Then, the Lady opened her arms and reflected her own light into the sun. The sun began to rapidly spin in the sky and looked like it was going to fall onto the crowd! Suddenly, the sun returned to its place in the sky, just as if nothing had happened! However, the whole crowd and Cova were completely dry, although it had been heavily raining just a few minutes before.



Francisco and Jacinta became very sick a few years after Our Lady appeared to them. However, they offered up their sufferings for the conversion of sinners and to console Jesus for the sins committed against Him. Francisco died in 1919, and Jacinta died the year after. Lucia missed her cousins terribly, but she hoped to see them in Heaven again.



Lucia became a religious sister and wrote down the story of the Fatima apparitions. She spent her life spreading the message of Fatima through her writings; she wanted everyone to pray the Rosary daily, to offer up prayer and sacrifices for the conversion of sinners, and to honor the Immaculate Heart of Mary and Sacred Heart of Jesus. She wants you to do these things, too!