
THE CHILDREN'S CORNER

"Let the children come to me, do not hinder them," (Mk 10:14)

A Season of Saints!

Many of you will recognize the young boy featured in our "A Season of Saints!" page this week. He is Saint Francisco Marto from Fatima, Portugal, one of the three children, sometimes referred to as "the three little shepherds," who received visits from an Angel sent from Heaven in 1916. Then Jesus sent our beautiful Blessed Mother Mary to visit the children in 1917. I was reading about Saint Francisco in my *Magnificat* Mass booklet this week and want to share what it said about him: *"Francisco Marto was eight years old when an angel appeared to prepare him, his sister Saint Jacinta, and their cousin Venerable Lucia (Santos) for an important mission. About a year later, the Blessed Mother appeared to them as they tended the family flocks. She told them she was from heaven, later revealing herself as 'the Lady of the Rosary.' Francisco, however, was not able to see her immediately. Lucia informed him that he needed to pray the rosary first. He began at once and was soon rewarded. Though Francisco never heard the Lady speak, he humbly accepted her communications through his cousin Lucia. 'He will have to pray many rosaries,' Our Lady told Lucia. 'Oh, Our Lady,' Francisco responded, 'I will say all the rosaries you wish!' Mary asked the children for acts of reparation for sin to console God. For Francisco, this became an all-consuming desire. His rosaries went from hasty and abbreviated (short) to slow, reverent, and frequent. He began to spend hours before the Blessed Sacrament, even skipping school to do so. At age ten, he contracted the Spanish influenza then raging. As Francisco's death approached, his cousin Lucia gave him a number of intentions to take with him to heaven: 'You better ask Jacinta,' he replied, 'because I'm afraid of forgetting. When I see Jesus, I'm just going to want to comfort Him...'"*

Jean Prather - CatholicKids101.com
"We are kids telling kids about Jesus!"



Saint Francisco Marto

We know that Jesus is God, the all-powerful King of the Universe! When we look up at the big Crucifix in the Church, we can also remember that Jesus loves us with a human Heart. Sin hurts Jesus' Sacred Heart. Jesus' love is so great that He suffered and died a terrible death to save every single person from their sins! What must He feel when people reject His great gift of salvation? His Sacred Heart is sad when His merciful and tender love is rejected. Saint Francisco understood this. He understood that he could console Jesus, our Savior and our God, for those who do not love Him. *You* can console Jesus too! Just like Saint Francisco, let's console the Sacred Heart of Jesus by praying our Rosaries well and making visits with Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament often!