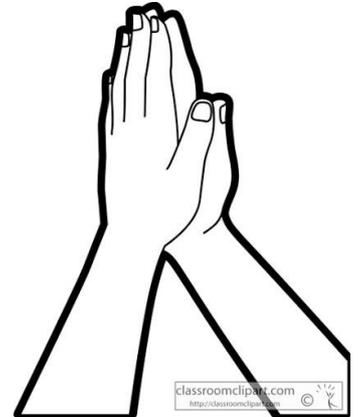


Our Lady, Mary, the Mother of God

Remember the reasons we honour Mary

1. Mary is Jesus' mother.
2. She is our mother.
3. She loves us more than we can ever imagine.
4. Mary helps us and brings our petitions to God



Our Lady loves us so much that she appeared many times throughout history to warn mankind about its actions and to ask us to pray more. Read the stories below about famous places where Our Lady appeared.

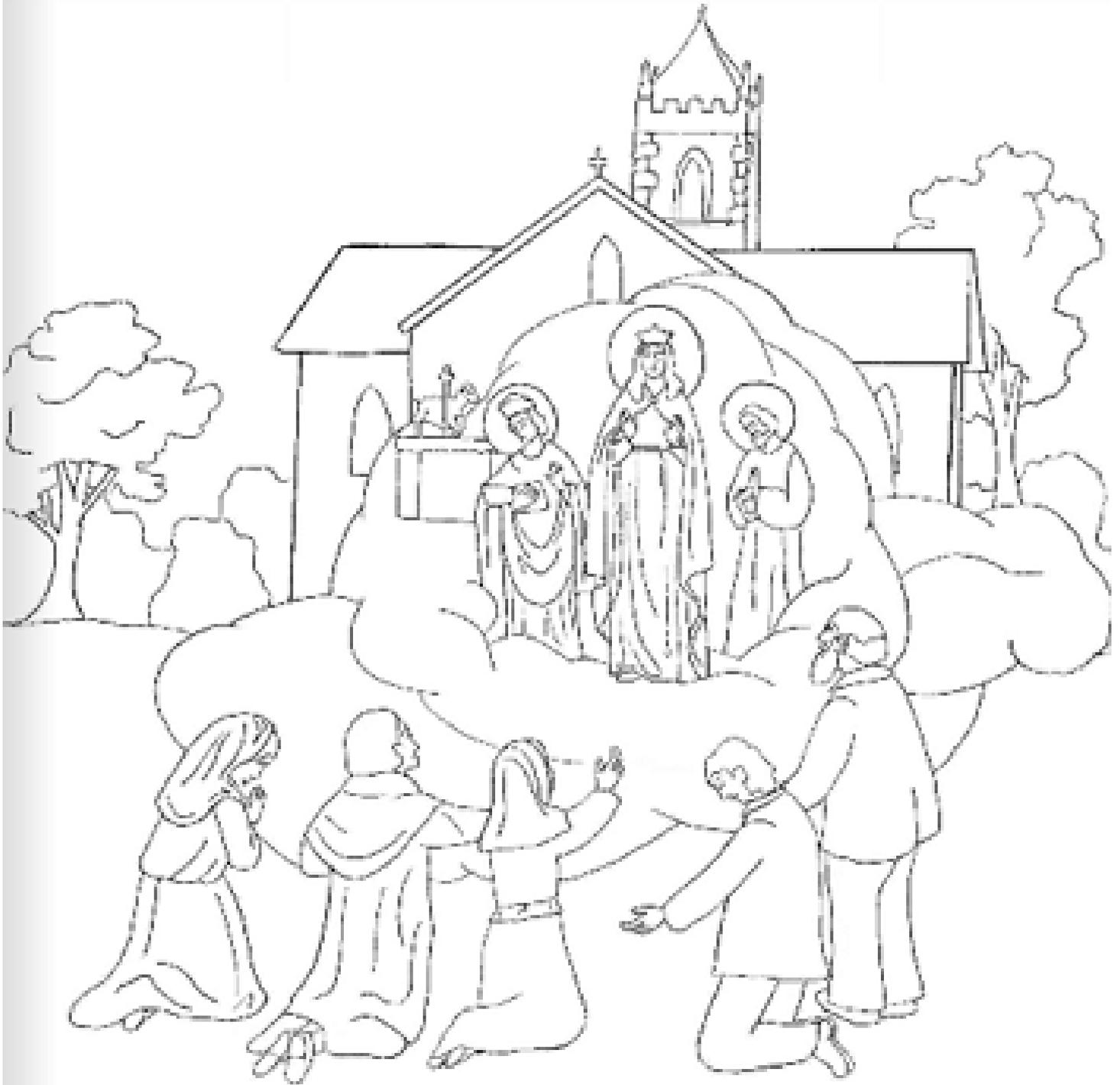
Ireland

On 21 August 1879, the Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph and Saint John the Evangelist appeared to two women outside a church in the village of Knock, County Mayo, Ireland.

They were joined by other witnesses, who also saw a cross and a lamb on a small altar behind the three figures. A witness further away described the scene as surrounded in golden light.

The apparition lasted for nearly two hours, during which the witnesses standing in the pouring rain - recited the rosary. Meanwhile, the ground around the apparition remained entirely dry.

- Our Lady of Knock -



Other famous places around the world are**Lourdes France**

On 11 February 1858, 'a petite damsel' spoke to 14-year-old Bernadette Soubirous in a grotto near the southern French town of Lourdes. The lady, who appeared on seventeen more occasions, told Bernadette she was Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception and asked that a chapel be built on that spot. The Virgin revealed a spring to Bernadette and directed pilgrims to drink from and wash in it. . Millions of pilgrims, many suffering from illnesses, travel to Lourdes each year. Lourdes now is a major pilgrimage site. Around 70 miraculous healings have been documented. Bernadette was canonized as a saint in 1933.

Fatima Portugal

Between 13 May and 13 October 1917, 'a lady more brilliant than the sun' appeared six times to three Portuguese shepherd children, Lúcia dos Santos and her cousins Francisco and Jacinta Marto.

The lady asked them to devote themselves to the Holy Trinity and to pray the Rosary every day; prayer would end the Great War. She also showed them a vision of hell and entrusted them with three secrets.

The children's visions drew thousands of visitors. The visions caused such controversy that the children were briefly jailed and ordered to reveal the secrets or admit that they had lied. The local administrator even threatened that he would boil them one by one in a pot of oil.

At the Virgin's last appearance, many of 100,000 visitors reported a 'Miracle of the Sun': multicoloured light and erratic movement from the sun. Others saw nothing out of the ordinary.

As predicted by the Virgin, Francisco and Jacinta died soon afterward, in the Spanish Flu pandemic that started in 1918. Lucia became a nun, and every now and then saw the Virgin again later in life, as well as Jesus. She died in 2005, aged 97.

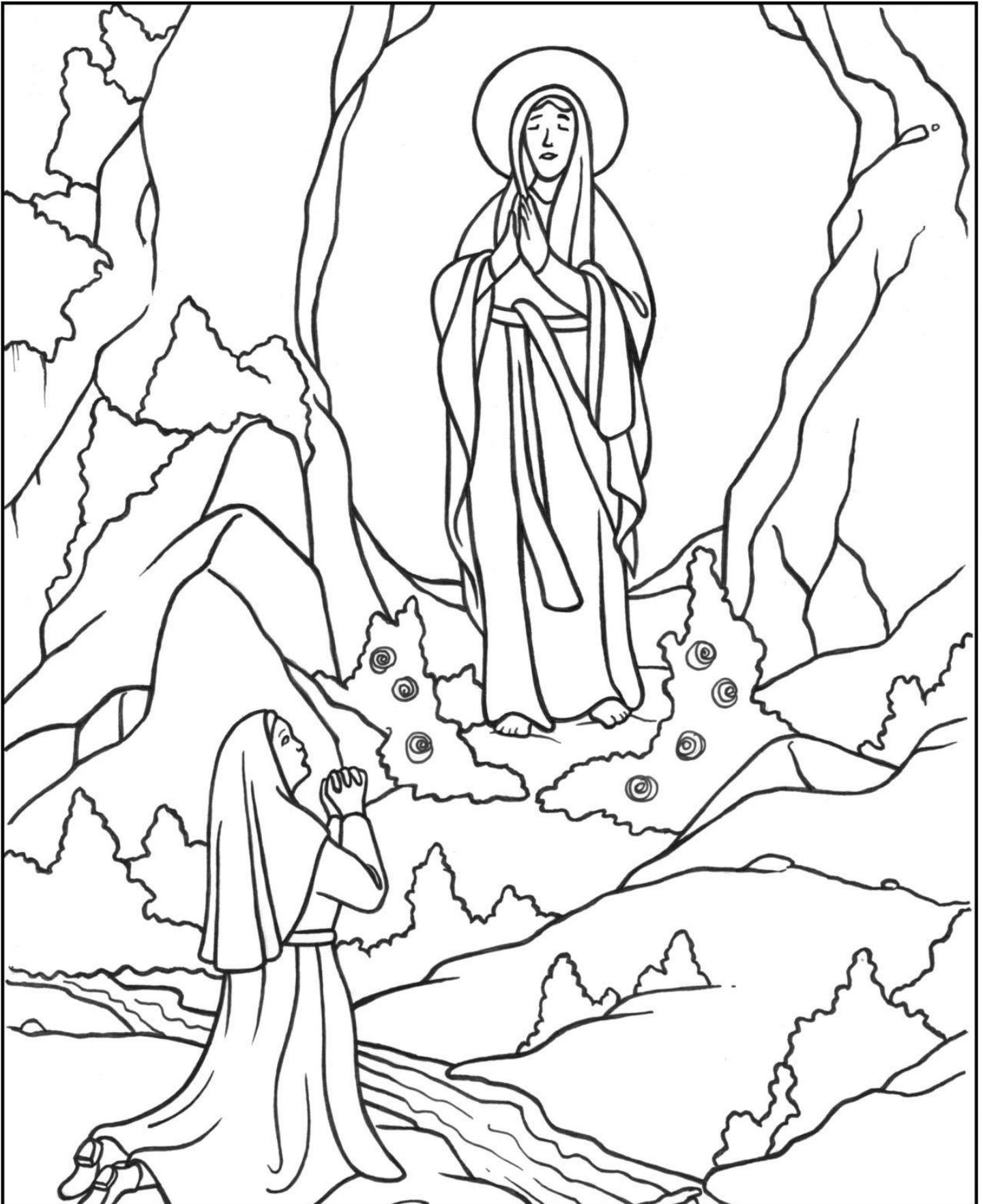
Fátima attracts millions of visitors each year. Pope John Paul II credited Our Lady of Fátima with saving his life when he was shot on the 13th May 1981 - the Feast of Our Lady of Fátima.

Medjugorje Bosnia and Herzegovina

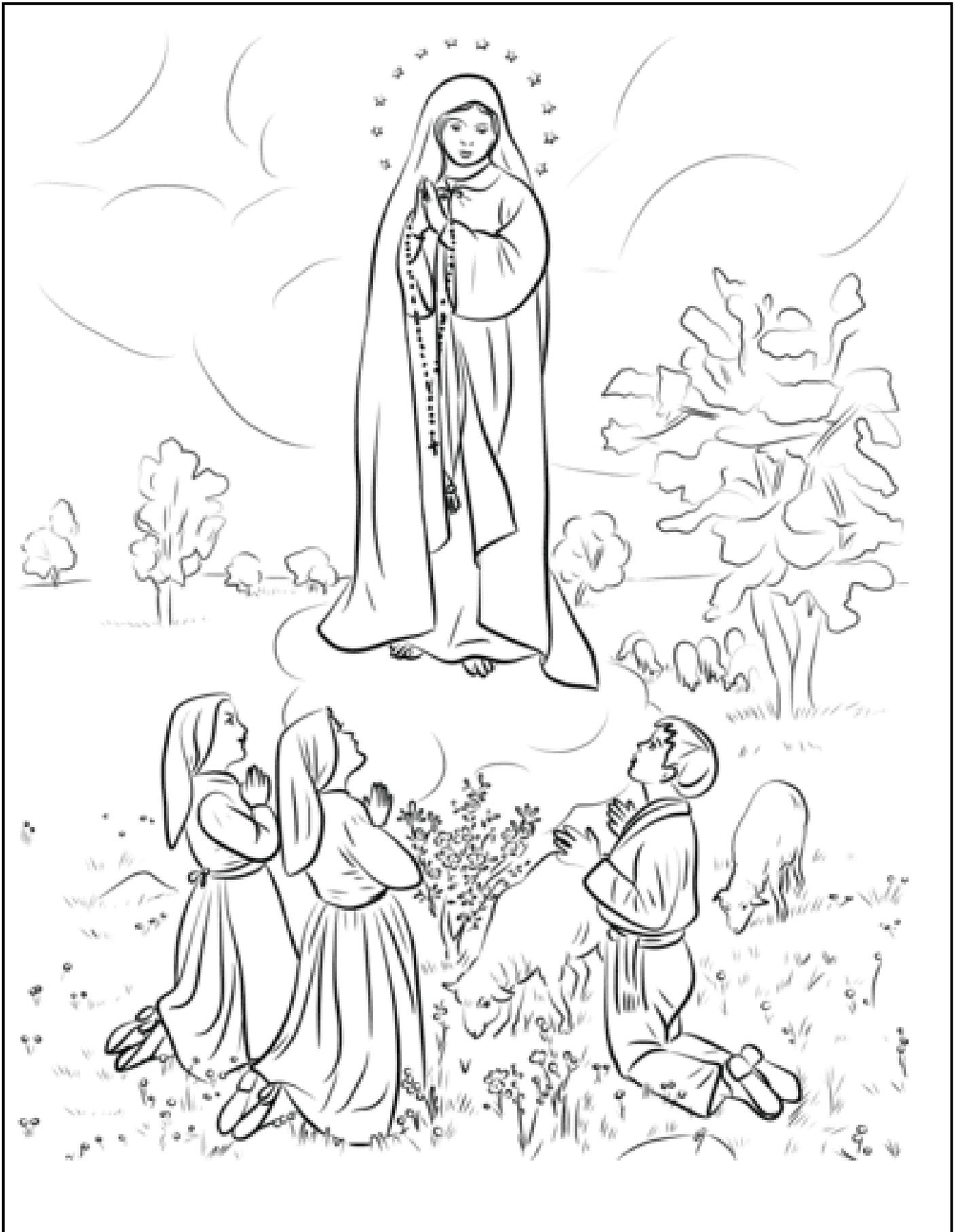
The story begins on June 24, 1981 when two teenagers reported seeing an apparition of the Virgin Mary. The following day, they and four others reported another vision. The teenagers claim that they saw an apparition on Podbrdo Hill. It was a young woman with an infant in her arms. Surprised and scared, they did not approach.

At the time of the first alleged apparition one of the teenagers was 16 years old. She claims to have prayed and talked with Our Lady and to have been given nine 'secrets'. Her 'prayer mission', given by the Blessed Virgin Mary, is to pray for the sick. While the Church is still investigating these apparitions, Medjugorje attracts more than a million people each year.

Lourdes France

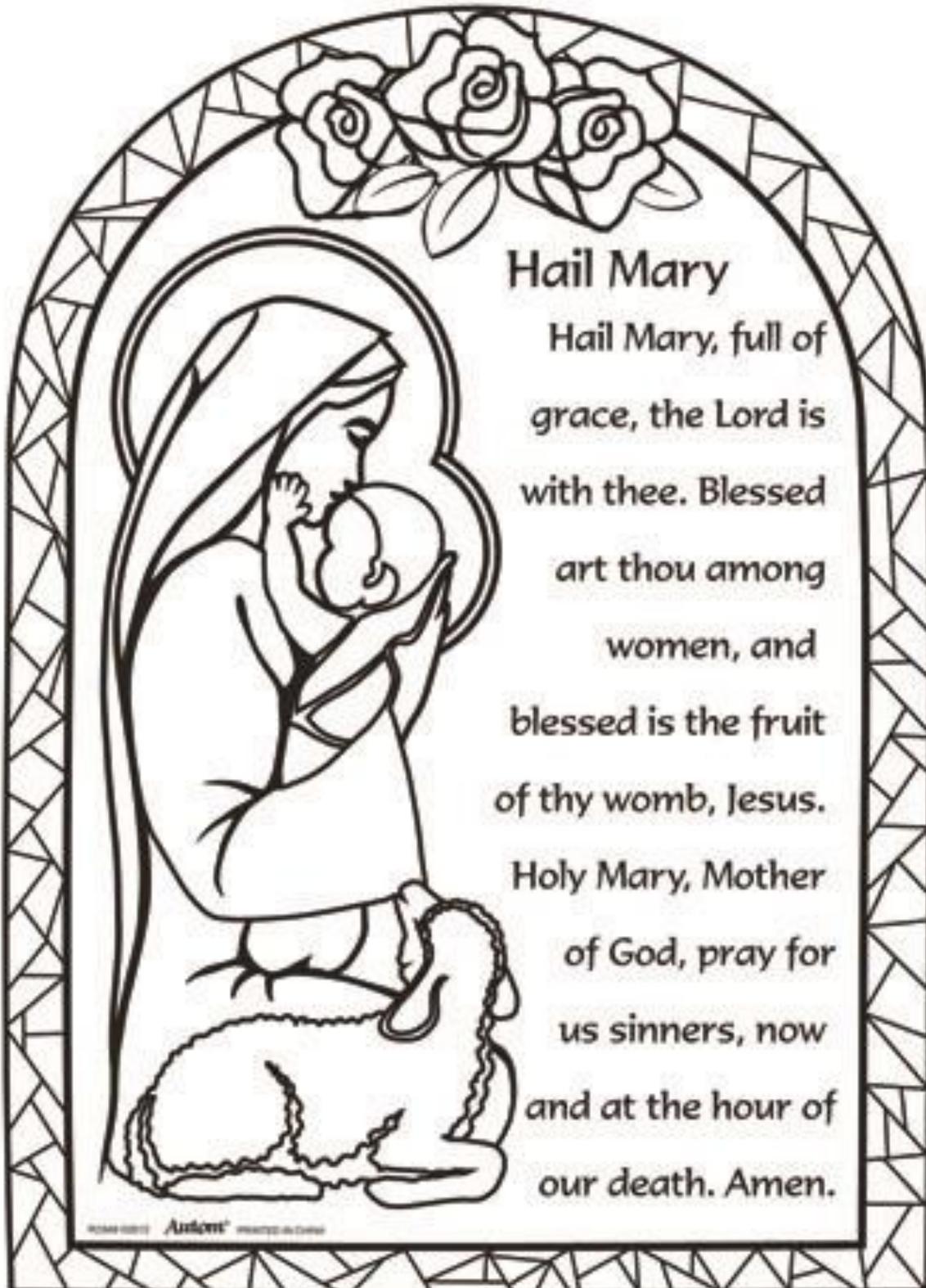


Fatima Portugal





Write a few lines to Our Lady



Say three Hail Mary's for your family
every night this week

Religion/Mr. Conlon

Student: _____