

The Little Shepherds: Francisco



Born: 11 June 1908; Aljustrel, Portugal
Baptised: 20 June in parish church, Fatima
Family: Brother of Jacinta; cousin of Lucia
Hobbies: Nature; games; playing the flute
Died: 4 April 1919
Beatified: By Pope John Paul II, 13 May 2000
Canonised: By Pope Francis, 13 May 2017

"I wish to console Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament..."

The words of the Angel of Peace, "Console your God" impressed Francisco very deeply and guided his life. He wanted to be the "**Consoler of Jesus**" primarily by praying the Rosary and adoring the **Hidden Jesus** in the Tabernacle of the parish church.

During the apparitions of the Angel of Peace and of Our Lady, Francisco could see everything but could hear nothing. Lucia and Jacinta told him what the Angel and Our Lady had said.

Francisco's desire was to keep Jesus company in his parish church. He understood that sin is the cause of God's sadness. "I love God so much!" he said, over and over again. "But He is so sad because of so many sins. We must never commit any"

From the homily of Pope John Paul II of May 13, 2000:

"What most impressed and absorbed Blessed Francisco was God in that immense light which penetrated the hearts of the three shepherds. **However only to him God revealed Himself 'so sad' as he used to say.**

One night his father heard him moaning and asked him why he was crying. The child replied: 'I was thinking about Jesus Who is so sad because of the sins committed against Him.' He lived motivated by only one desire – so expressive of how children think – to console Jesus and make Him happy. "

(Saint Pope John Paul II : Beatifications of the Little Shepherds of Fatima)