



The children pictured here lived in Portugal during a terrible war when people all over the world were very scared. Read the story to find out what the children did to help.

Over 100 years ago, when the world was at war and people were afraid, something amazing happened to three poor shepherd children, who lived in Portugal.

Their names were Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta. They were aged ten, nine and seven.

One day when the children were out in the fields, looking after the sheep, Mary, Jesus' mother, appeared to them.

Mary asked the children to pray the Rosary for peace in the world.

The children found it hard to pray, they wanted to play and run around instead, so Mary visited them often to encourage them.

The children kept on trying and soon they even helped the grownups to pray too. Thousands of people came from all over Portugal to pray with them.

A year later the war came to an end and people were happy again. But the children never stopped praying the Rosary. They knew how important their prayers were.



Today children around the world still pray for one another. Girls like Anna, who lives in Zambia, in Africa knows that her prayers matter.

When her parents died Anna was scared. But thanks to Mission Together, some Religious Sisters brought her to an orphanage.

Now Anna has a home and she can go to school. She has made friends with the other girls in the orphanage and is happy to be part of a family again.

Every day the girls pray with the Sisters. They thank God for all they have and ask him to look after children around the world who have less than them.

They pray the Rosary together and ask Mary to join their prayers to hers.

Maybe you can follow the children's example and pray the Rosary during May?

- Who can you ask to pray the Rosary with you?
- If you find it hard to pray, you can split the Rosary into parts.
- After you have prayed, colour in the cartoons of the children.

Mission Together Prayer

May all children
In the world
Share love
Share friendship and live
In the peace
Of God's love
Now and forever. **Amen.**



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Mission Together is the children's branch of Missio, the Pope's charity for world mission.
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