

What will be the big celebration for Catholics in October 2017?

The 500th anniversary of the Reformation? Not so much.

The 100th anniversary of the Marian apparitions to three children in Fatima, Portugal. Yes!

Between May 13 and October 13, 1917, a series of Marian visions and miracles appeared first to three shepherd children and then to others.

The final miracle at Fatima on October 13, 1917, called the Miracle of the Sun, was seen by a crowd of 30,000 or more. It happened like this: As the clouds broke after a rainstorm, the sun appeared as an opaque, spinning disk in the sky. Then it plunged earthward, drying the crowd before returning to the sky.

Recent popes have emphasized their devotion to Our Lady of Fatima.

On May 13, 1981, Pope John Paul II was shot in St. Peter's Square. He credited the Virgin with diverting the bullet to save his life. He later placed the bullet in the crown of her statue and beatified two (then deceased) of the three children of the 1917 revelations.

On October 13, 2013, Pope Francis consecrated the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. He performed the consecration before the statue of Our Lady of Fatima in St. Peter's Square. He has announced he will travel to Fatima in 2017 for the centennial celebrations of the Shrine.



To be sure, in October 2017 Lutherans and Catholics together will “remember” the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. But **the big celebration** for Catholics will be the 100th anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima.