



Director: Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas \* Proprietor: Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fátima (Portugal) \* Quarterly publication \* Year VIII \* Nr. 32 \* 2012/02/13

## “Are you willing to offer yourselves to God?”

On November 27, 2011, the Shrine began the second year of the seven-year itinerary of preparation and accompaniment of the celebration of the Centennial of the Apparitions of Fatima. In this new pastoral year we focus on the first apparition of Our Lady on May 13, 1917.

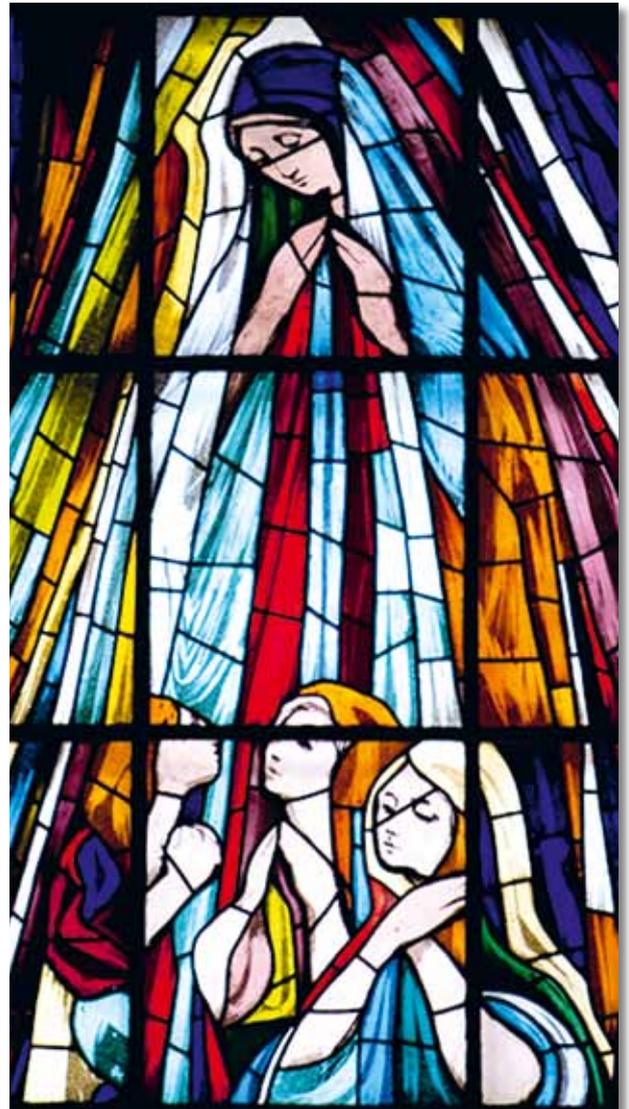
The inspiring sentence – and at the same time the theme of the year – is the question Our Lady addresses to the three seers: “Are you willing to offer yourselves to God?”

The reply of the Little Shepherds to the question posed by our Lady was prompt and without conditions or reservations: “Yes, we are!” This is the attitude of one’s offering of oneself to God, which they lived exemplarily and which we are invited, throughout this year, to imitate. Pope Benedict XVI, reminded us, here in Fatima, of that same thing: “The Little Shepherds are the example and the incentive of a life given to God and of sharing with others for the love of God”.

Both the theme of the year and the attitude of self-giving, as well as the example of the Little Shepherds, remind us of the exhortation of St. Paul: “And now, brothers, I beg you, through the mercy of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice holy and acceptable to God” (Rom 12, 1). The true sacrifice was Christ’s sacrifice, Who gave up His life for our sake. Like Christ’s, Christian living as a gift to God and to the brothers becomes “a sacrifice pleasing to God”. It is this attitude that Our Lady invites, in the first apparition, the Little Shepherds to have, and it is this attitude that She also expects of us throughout this year.

*Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas, Rector*

*Stained glass window in Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, allusive to the first apparition of Our Lady. Author: João de Sousa Araújo*



## Poster of the Year 2011-2012

The illustration of the poster for the second year of celebration of the Centennial of the Apparitions of Fatima, which also doubles as cover of the present publication, is fruit of the interpretation of the chosen sentence for the theme of pastoral year 2011-2012 at the Shrine

of Fatima: “Are you willing to offer yourselves to God?”

According to Joana Quental, designer who won the contest promoted by the Shrine for the creation of the poster of the year, the simple design of the hands, associated with various colors, intends to suggest unity in difference, respect for diversity, and has in common the positive response of believers to the question put, in 1917, by the Virgin Mary to the Little Shepherds and, consequently, to all of us today.

The way the hands are placed stresses, precisely, the attitude of self-giving and represents, symbolically, the intention of reaching out for God.

## *Rescued after three days lost at sea*

# Portuguese fishermen donate rosary to Our Lady

Five Portuguese and one Ukrainian fishermen visited the Shrine of Fatima in order to fulfill a promise they had made to thank Our Lady for saving their lives.

Their boat had left the fishing port of Caxinas, north of Porto, and sometime later took in water and sank on November 30, 2011. Sixty hours later, on December 2, the six fishermen were found inside a lifeboat near the beach of Figueira da Foz, about 150 kilometers south of Porto, and rescued by a Portuguese Air Force helicopter, which was on routine patrol.

The fishermen were in Fatima during the morning of January 7, 2012. They were accompanied by family members and friends, civil authorities of their region, their pastor and the two young Air Force pilots that rescued them. The large group of more than 500 people took part in the recitation of the Rosary and in the Mass at the Little Chapel of Apparitions.

At the end of the Rosary, the skipper of the boat “Virgem do Sameiro” (Virgin of Sameiro), Mr. José Coentrão, climbed the steps to the altar and handed over to the presiding priest, Fr. Manuel Santos José, the simple plastic rosary used by the fishermen to recite the Rosary during the approximately 60 hours they spent lost at sea. The rosary was inside a wooden box and was accompanied by a flower arrangement.



The pastor of Caxinas, Msgr. Domingos de Araújo, recalled that the fishermen “prayed to Our Lady holding on a rosary a crewman had hanging from his neck”. And he added: “We are here to show to the rescued fishermen our joy and to the Virgin Mother our thanks”.

During Mass, Fr. Manuel Santos José, who presided over the entire celebration, stressed the power of prayer, the sense of responsibility of the fishermen and their attachment to life.

During the homily, Fr. José spoke of the rosary donated to Our Lady: “...you took with you a powerful weapon, a weapon capable of winning all battles; you held on to it and in it found strength to stay united and to be able to live through those sorrowful hours in an admirable spirit of solidarity and fraternity: one for all and all for one”. And he went on: “You acted with a sense of responsibility. You did all you could do and hoped that God would do the rest. And so it happened. I repeat: to a Christian nothing happens by chance, but a Christian can’t either fail to do what he can. (...) I praise God for your faith. Mankind was enriched by your gesture” (...) “Let our country do what these brave fishermen did and it won’t sink either”.

*Leopoldina Simões*

## *International association of Catholic lay persons*

# Legion of Mary celebrates 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Fatima

The Legion of Mary is an international association of Catholic lay persons, under the protection of Our Lady, approved by the Church. It promotes, through prayer and active apostolic work, the sanctification of its members.

The Legion of Mary marked, in Portugal, the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding in Dublin, Ireland, on September 7, 1921, by organizing a pilgrimage to Fatima on October 30, 2011.

The Most Rev. Virgílio Antunes, Bishop of Coimbra, presided over the Mass. In his address to the pilgrims, he evoked Mary as image and model of the Church: “With Our Lady we learn the true method of evangelization: few words, just those strictly needed, and a holy life, that is, a strong testimony”.

In conclusion, he went on to say: “In evangelizing, it is not enough to have recourse to the logic of human reason or to proclaim the basic truths of Christianity. The message only

gets through when the words match the life and when little gestures are the standard of the testimony, which is what moves hearts. Evangelization and the transmission of Christian faith must be a gesture of charity and love”.



**“ARE YOU WILLING TO OFFER YOURSELVES TO GOD”**

# Shrine intends to rekindle the conscience of the richness and timeliness of the Message of Fatima

The exhibition “On the trail of light – the apparitions of Fatima”, open to the public at the “Convivium of Santo Agostinho” (St. Augustine’s Foyer), until the end of October 2012; a set of six lectures, which began in November, one per month until April 2012; and a theologico-pastoral symposium in June are some of the main activities proposed by the Shrine of Fatima for the current pastoral year.

Pilgrimages and several celebrations in the official program will also be marked by the recalling of the first apparition of Our Lady at Fatima on May 13, 1917.

The generic theme for this pastoral year, already visible in front of the Outdoor Altar of the Shrine, is: “Are you willing to offer yourselves to God?” – question addressed by Our Lady to the seers during the first apparition.

The theological core of this second cycle is “God the Savior” and the proposed believer’s attitude is “the offering of oneself”. During the session of presentation of the new pastoral year, held on December 1, in the Chapel of the Death of Jesus, in the Complex of Most Holy Trinity, Isabel Varanda, from the Portuguese Catholic University, and Fr. Manuel Morujão, SJ, made the theological presentation of the theme and gave clues on how to live the offering

of oneself, the proposed theme for this year.

In the alamedas (side streets) of the Prayer Area, on both the North and the South sides, thirteen panels recall the 13th of May 1917. There you see the people, the history and the Message of Fatima made known to pilgrims and visitors.

In his words to those taking part in the session of presentation of the itin-

of seven years be “an opportunity to spread and rekindle the conscience of the richness and timeliness of the Message of Fatima and to study its contents. This thematic itinerary intends to be, first and above all, a pastoral project, which privileges the spiritual aspect and the reflection on faith”.

In recalling the words of the Cardinal Patriarch of Lisbon, uttered during his intervention at the conclusion of the

session of presentation of the program of the Centennial on December 1, 2010 – when Cardinal José Policarpo said that “Fatima is a pastoral program” and wondered whether, in the thematic itinerary of the Centennial, wasn’t there already a true pastoral program for the Portuguese Church – the Rector recognized “the importance and the impact of the Shrine in the pastoral ministry of the Portuguese Church”.

“At the beginning of his speech addressed to the Bishops of Portugal, Pope Benedict XVI, on May 13, 2010, called the Shrine of Fatima ‘the spiritual

heart of Portugal’. The faithfulness to the Message of Fatima will be, therefore, the best contribution the Shrine can offer to the Portuguese Church. But we also feel responsible for developing this pastoral project of the Shrine in communion with the pastoral plan of the Diocese of Leiria-Fatima and with the one of the Bishops Conference of Portugal”, Fr. Cabecinhas said.

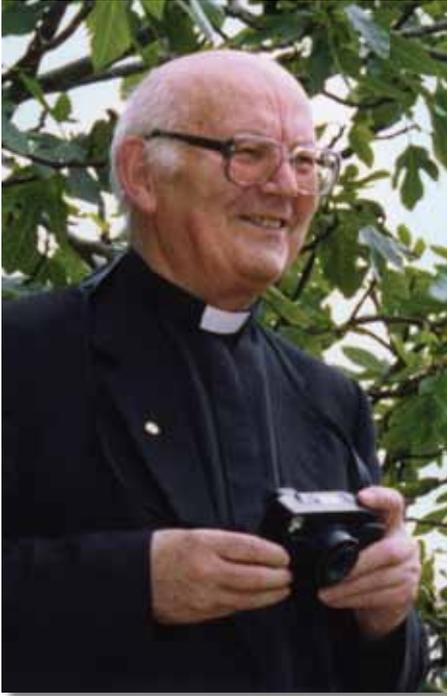
*Leopoldina Simões*



*Detail of the exhibition “On the trail of light – the apparitions of Fatima”*

ery for the current pastoral year, the Rector of the Shrine of Fatima stressed that the celebration of the Centennial of the Apparitions “doesn’t intend simply to mark a historical date, but rather to be a vehicle for evangelizing and a way to conversion and to the encounter with Christ”.

In the second year of the walk to 2017, Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas reiterated that the Shrine wishes that this cycle



## Fr. Louis Kondor remembered in Fatima

Lady of Fatima with the celebration of the Eucharist, presided over by Bishop António Marto, of Leiria-Fatima.

There followed the unveiling of a plaque in Louis Kondor Square, in the center of the City of Fatima, when the Ambassador of Hungary in Portugal read a message sent from Budapest by Zsolt Semjén, Vice-Prime Minister: “Fr. Kondor lived to spread this Message (of Fatima), received pilgrims looking for encouragement with an open heart and his happiness came from being able to offer help. His personality and his activity got Portugal and Hungary closer. He connected people who offered help and those looking for help. He was also willing to offer consolation and hope. At his post far from his country, he made known the loyalty of the Hungarian soul to its Christian roots”.

In the same message, the Vice-president writes that “since the apparitions of Fatima the world has changed a lot, but I believe that today people

need the Message of Fatima more than ever”.

There followed, in the hotel belonging to the Missionaries of the Divine Word, a session where, amongst other things, was posthumously presented the last book of Fr. Kondor: “Are you willing to offer yourselves to God? The Call to Reparation in the Message of Fatima”, a publication of the Secretariat of the Little Shepherds.

The work “Are you willing to offer yourselves to God? The Call to Reparation in the Message of Fatima”, according to Bishop Amândio Tomás, a personal friend of Fr. Kondor, “is mystic, is spiritual, is a fervent call by an author who isn’t neutral, isn’t cold, but is profoundly devoted to the Most Holy Virgin”.

On his turn, Bishop António Marto praised the initiative and stressed that the life of Fr. Louis Kondor “was connected to Fatima by bonds of deep love and communion”.

L. S.

Two years after his death, on October 28, 2009, the Secretariat of the Little Shepherds and the Missionaries of the Divine Word joined efforts to pay homage to Fr. Louis Kondor, Vice-Postulator for the Cause of Canonization of the Little Shepherds of Fatima until his death.

The program, held on November 10, 2011, began at the Basilica of Our

## Fatima is a message of faith, light and hope

It was a great honor for me to take part in the commemoration in honor of one of the most active messengers of Fatima, Fr. Louis Kondor. On November 10, 2011, the unveiling of the plaque in Louis Kondor Square, the solemn Mass and the presentation of his book made of this event in Fatima, Portugal, a true feast.

All those who knew him stressed that Fr. Louis Kondor believed sincerely in the Message and that he dedicated himself, body and soul, to the mission of spreading it. He welcomed pilgrims with open arms, gave them shelter, comfort, an encouraging word. He practiced and passed on to others the

teachings that the miracle of Fatima brought to us.

That is something that touches us deeply, since the mission of our Embassy is to provide help, shelter and even comfort to our citizens who are far way from home and in need.

He was Hungarian and Portuguese at the same time, mixing the best elements from both countries. He was sort of an ambassador who represented values and sort of a consul who helped with the practical things of life. He was a man of faith and spirituality and a model for coming generations.

Louis Kondor and his work represent what is best in mankind and what we must defend and preserve above all: faith, hope and goodness, which, in the darkest moments of History, have served as a beacon to all of us.

Norbert Konkoly  
Ambassador  
of Hungary in Portugal



## Shrines at the service of evangelization



“Shrines – Art and Patrimony at the service of evangelization” was the topic which gathered, on January 9/10, 2012, the Rectors of Portugal’s main shrines.

Organized by the Association of Rectors of Portugal’s Shrines, the VI Meeting of Rectors of Shrines was held at the House of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

Archbishop Jorge Ortiga, during the Mass at the end of this meeting, which was celebrated in the Little Chapel of Apparitions, stated: “When we go to a shrine – most of us, at least – either we go to ask or to thank for something; we should do it, then, as believers”.

In his address to the Rectors of Portuguese Shrines concelebrating with him, the Archbishop of Braga, President of the Bishops’ Committee for Social Pastoral Ministry and Human Mobility, pointed out that the main characteristic of a pilgrim of a shrine ought to be respect for the place: “If indeed we go to a shrine to ask or thank for something, we should do it with a lot of respect, a lot of dignity, having in mind that the place, the shrine, is a sacred place, unlike any other”.

Someone working at a shrine – as Rector or person in charge of receiving pilgrims – should do it “solicitously and without prejudging”. (...) It is a responsibility for both sides, because the life of a shrine is built by those who peregrinate to a shrine and by those who live there and there work and there seek to offer the love of God to whoever needs to be welcomed and understood”.

In a meeting in which the rectors reflected on the way shrines should work at the service of evangelization, Archbishop Ortiga pointed out that the “great responsibility of rectors is to be interpreters of the message that is important to pass on to all those visiting a shrine”.

On the other hand, pilgrims are invited to have a “listening” attitude, an attitude of welcoming the message of each shrine, understood “as a place to announce the word of the Lord”.

And he concluded: “When we approach a shrine, we should have the interior attitude of one who wants to receive a message and put it into practice in his life. (...) Each and every shrine is a very clear and explicit message, which each one of us ought to hear and keep in his heart”.

*Leopoldina Simões*

*In Minas Gerais, Brazil,  
to adore God like the Little Shepherds*

**On the mouth of children, O Lord,  
you placed the perfect praise!**

On the First Saturday of every month, we share the beauty of the experience of praying with a group of “Little Adorers” in the Church of Our Lady of Fatima, Parish of Aparecida, City of Três Pontas, Diocese of Campanha, Minas Gerais, Brazil.

This group is comprised of seven to thirteen year old children. We imitate the Little Shepherds of Fatima in adoring the Blessed Sacrament. We started doing this in September 2011. We are already in the fourth month and we notice that the group of little adorers is always increasing. We started with about 50 to 60 children. In the following month they were 70 to 80. In December we had 109 children. It came as a surprise, since the classes of catechesis had ended in the previous week and the children, therefore, came exclusively for the adoration.

We try that the children be the ones doing things, such as: readings, prayers and invocations. Present are always some catechists who accompany the children and, since this is done on a Saturday, some families also take part and show their happiness for taking part in this time of prayer. We hear that this activity is a topic of conversation in the parish and in the street and the comments are favorable.

Fr. Vânis, pastor of the Christian community where the Servants of Our Lady of Fatima live, had already requested this work a long time ago. The coming of the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima to this Parish made it pertinent to begin the adoration with children. He himself tries to take part in the prayer, whenever he can.



The topics which we have meditated up until now are: September – “Jesus our Friend”; October – “Jesus invites us to be His disciples and missionaries”; November – “Holiness”; December – “Let us adore Jesus, the Friend from Bethlehem”. We follow the road map of the Shrine of Fatima (Portugal), making the necessary adaptations to conform to the reality of Brazil.

The time of prayer is preceded by a preparation outside the place of prayer. The children walk, in silence as much as possible, towards the altar and there we serenely begin the time of adoration, like the Little Shepherds.

*Sister Maria de Jesus Santos, snsf, Brazil*  
www.servasnsfatima.org

## New Parish Church consecrated in González Catán, Argentina

More than thirty years have gone by since the Scalabrinian missionaries arrived in González Catán, in the suburbs of Buenos Aires.

When the Foundation of the Catholic Commission of Argentina for Migrations, organ dependent of the Bishops Conference of Argentina, started its work, the first thing to do was to find a place with a constant migration flow in order to provide it with pastoral care. At that time, González Catán was a poor suburb of the Capital, with a rapidly growing population. The Congregation thought it would be a good idea, in accordance with their charism, to found a community right there.

There was, in the town, a Portuguese community, which had purchased a plot of land and built in it a chapel dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima. This chapel soon became the center for pastoral care given to groups of Portuguese immigrants who had settled in the metropolitan area of Buenos Aires.

The Vicariate of Fatima, as it was called then, today a Parish, is still a place of reference for the Portuguese and their descendants. It is the national headquarters for the Chaplains of the Portuguese community in Argentina. However, since the beginning, a need was felt to extend this pastoral attention to other immigrants, in accordance with our charism of universality. Thus, this pastoral activity, begun at the Vicariate of Fatima, led to making the Vicariate also the national center for the pastoral care given to the Bolivian community. Its national Chaplain is another Scalabrinian missionary who, departing from the Parish founded by the Portuguese, visits the Bolivian communities scattered throughout the Buenos Aires Metropolis and throughout the entire country.

Besides that, the Vicariate of Fatima has expanded its mis-



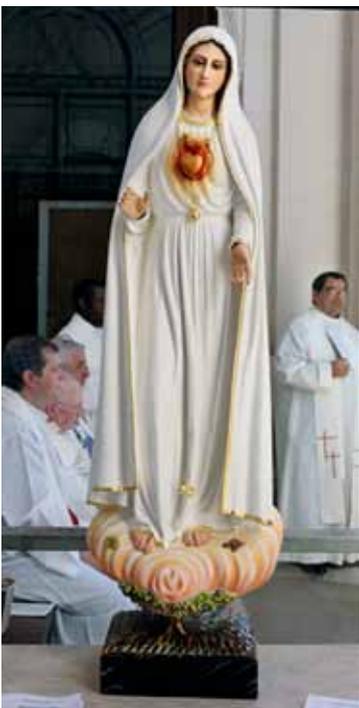
sonary activity to new districts within a radius of 17 kilometers, where several chapels were built by Christian families. Many of those districts are now parishes, which owe their origin specially to the Parish of Our Lady of Fatima of González Catán and to the zeal of its missionaries... a seed of faith launched by the Portuguese community.

On October 7, 2005, the Vicariate, by express will of the Diocese, was made a Parish. The pastoral care was thus limited to a certain territory, but witnessing, within it, a large migratory flow of families from within and from abroad, specially Paraguayans and Bolivians. The Parish continues to be, by express will of the Bishops Conference, a national reference for the Portuguese and Bolivian Communities.

Due to the rapid growth of the population, arose a need to expand the chapel and turn it into a temple of prayer, larger than the original chapel built by the Portuguese. After seven years of intermittent work – done only at the pace of the donations from generous donors – we lived with great joy the consecration of the renovated Church, on December 18, 2011 – International Day of the Migrant (UN). The celebration was presided over by the Bishop of the Diocese, Most Rev. Juan Horacio Suárez, and concelebrated by several priests, in the presence of several migrant communities.

The joy of having a place worthy of the celebration of the Eucharist and of the communion in faith leads us to extend the missionary commitment to all persons and to all immigrants. As our founder, Blessed John B. Scalabrini, used to say: “Where is the people that works and struggles, there the Church should be”.

*Fr. Juan A. Ramírez Moreno, C.S. – National Chaplain of the Portuguese Community in Argentina*



*Blessed in Fatima, destination Camabatela*

## Statue of Our Lady brought to Angola

On October 13, 2011, at the end of the international anniversary pilgrimage presided over by the Most Rev. Paolo Pezzi, Archbishop of Moscow, a statue of the Immaculate Heart of Mary was blessed, whose destination was the Catholic Mission of Camabatela, Angola.

The donation was made by Capuchin priest Friar Joaquim Ribeiro, missionary in Angola since 1990, who, after the death of his mother in May 1999, decided to purchase a statue

of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, to Whom she had great devotion, in order to donate it to that Mission. Friar Joaquim had another reason to do this. He knew of the need, in the Mission of Camabatela, of a statue of the Immaculate Heart of Mary for liturgical celebrations and popular devotions.

In a letter addressed to the Rectory of the Shrine of Fatima, Friar Joaquim recalls that Angola has, as Patroness, the Immaculate Heart of Mary, according to the express wish of the bishops of that country, who in 1985, during plain communist dictatorship, consecrated the Nation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary during a great outdoor liturgical celebration.

The decision to make this consecration – the priest stresses – was prompted by the Message of Fatima and a very ancient popular devotion of the Angolan people, who gives to Mary the title, in their local language, of “Mama Muxima” (Mother with a Heart).

We pray to God that Our Lady may take all Angolans into Her maternal Heart.

## Our Lady of Fatima in Solliciano jail – Italy



On August 6, 2011, First Saturday of the Month, a statue of Our Lady of Fatima, purchased at the Shrine of Fatima, Portugal, and blessed in the Little Chapel of Apparitions, was enthroned in the small church of the jail in Solliciano, Florence.

After waiting a few months for authorization from our Superior, we, laymen consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, left the center of the City of Scandicci in procession with the statue of Our Lady, praying the Rosary all the way to the entrance of the jail, where waiting for us was the Parish Priest Fr. Giulio Brunella, who was very moved.

Going through the entrance gate, under the attentive eye of the jail guards, our thought went to the Little Shepherds when, on August 13, 1917, they also were in jail.

By praying the Rosary, the Little Shepherds were an example to these souls who joined their prayer and converted.

Mass was celebrated by the pastor of St. Joseph of Pontedera, Fr. Giulio Giannini, who, in his homily before 1500 inmates, spoke about the Message of Fatima, the Reparation Communion of the First Five Saturdays of the Month and the Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

At the end of the celebration, it was very moving to see all the inmates line up and, one by one, pass in front of the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, making the Sign of the Cross and touching the dear Heavenly Mother. We were not allowed to take pictures, but this image will forever stay in our hearts.

During the visit, we offered to our jailed brothers the book “Memoirs of Sister Lucia”, rosaries and prayer books.

Appearing at Fatima, Our Lady said: “In the end, My Immaculate Heart will triumph”. We try to help Her by evangelizing, taking Her message everywhere. We are called to work for Her!

*Alessandra Bimbi, Italy*

## Queen of Portugal... Queen of Poland

Poland and Portugal, despite being located in opposite sides of the European Union, are close in the way they live their faith. In both countries, with a Catholic tradition, there is spread devotion to the Portuguese and Polish Blessed of the XX century: Francisco and Jacinta Marto and Pope John Paul II.

The Message of Fatima and devotion to the Portuguese Little Shepherds are spreading as fast as devotion to the Polish Supreme Pontiff in Portugal.

History reserves for us another phenomenon which unites Catholic devotion in both countries: the dedication of the people and of the country itself to Our Lady.

Mysteriously, a common intuition, in the XVII century, led the monarchs of Portugal and of Poland to donate their crowns to the Mother of God. Only 10 years after the crowning of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception at Her Shrine in Vila Viçosa, Polish King Jan Kazimierz followed the example of Portuguese King John IV, offering up his sign of power (the Crown) to Saint Mary. These royal acts were not forgotten by latter generations.

Nowadays, in the two European republics, the crowning of Our Lady is celebrated during religious feasts: in Portugal on December 8; in Poland on May 3.

*Marcin Zatyka, Polish journalist  
stationed in Portugal*

***At the beginning of a new  
year, we wish all our  
benefactors and friends  
a blessed 2012.***

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### Fátima – Light and Peace

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*Occasion for inauguration, in Angola, of chapel dedicated to Blesseds of Fatima*

## Bishop of Leiria-Fatima presides over solemn opening of 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Shrine of Fatima in Huambo

During his visit to Angola, Bishop António Marto visited, on January 9/10, the Diocese of Huambo, at the invitation of Bishop José Queiroz, the local ordinary.

Despite being of short duration, this visit gave Bishop António, Bishop of the Diocese of Leiria-Fatima, an opportunity to preside over the official and solemn opening of the 50 year Jubilee of the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, located in the City of Huambo.

Late afternoon on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Bishop António was welcomed by a crowd in festive mood which enthusiastically greeted him with hymns, hand clapping and dancing outside the temple. After entering the temple, the Rector of the local Shrine welcomed him and manifested the joy of the community for the opportunity to have in their midst, on this solemn moment, such a distinctive personality.

There followed some words by Bishop António about the Message of Fatima. He tried to place it in the historic moment we live and in the concrete reality of an Angola that left behind not long ago a cruel civil war. He appealed, therefore, to all to be open to the values needed for the creation of a better society and called on Christians to stand up front in living a life of solidarity, truth and justice.

At the end of his talk, some people were given the chance to ask Bishop António some questions. Then Bishop José Queiroz ended up this greeting ceremony by stressing the gratitude the Diocese felt for the presence of the Bishop of Fatima.

There followed the celebration of Mass, presided over by Bishop António and concelebrated by the Bishop of Huambo and a dozen priests. The large church was full of people in festive dress allusive to several Catholic movements of spirituality. Immediately after the initial rites, there took place the blessing



of a chapel inside the church-shrine, dedicated to Little Shepherds Francisco and Jacinta.

The Mass was celebrated in a festive atmosphere. At the moment of the offertory, Bishop António was offered, besides other symbols, two African statuettes and two doves. The choral group animated the celebration with hymns now in Portuguese now in Umbundo, while the assembly followed singing and clapping their hands, making the church vibrate with sound and joy.

After this short visit to Huambo, during which he was able to visit other places of this Diocese, Bishop António returned to Sumbe, main purpose of his pastoral trip to Angola and place where the Diocese of Leiria-Fatima has a mission house, “Ond-joyetu” (A Nossa Casa).

Bishop António still had the opportunity to visit the Parish of Our Lady of Fatima in the Town of Caála.

*Fr. Vítor Mira, priest of the Diocese of Leiria-Fatima, stationed in Angola*

*Shrine of Rio Grande do Sul to be headquarters for students' Parish of Porto Alegre*

## New shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Brazil

On December 18, 2011, in Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, the First Stone of the new Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima was blessed.

At the ceremony were present the Archbishop of Porto



Alegre, Most Rev. Dadeus Grings; the Rector of the Shrine, Fr. José Luiz Schaedler; and a large number of pilgrims, who thus see the dream of many years being slowly materialized.

It is a dream come true thanks to the collaboration of pilgrims devoted to Our Lady of Fatima, who took on, with much enthusiasm and faith, the project to build this Shrine.

The new shrine will also be headquarters for the first students' parish in Brazil and it will serve approximately 27,000 students, belonging to 26 schools in North Porto Alegre. It will try to offer these youths and adolescents common and healthy spaces for meetings, for deepening their faith and for faithful commitment in following their Teacher, Who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

All those wishing to know more about this project – how the community was organized, pictures and other information – can log on to the site of the Shrine: [www.santuariodefati-mars.com.br](http://www.santuariodefati-mars.com.br)

*Elias de Nardi, Coordinator of collaborating pilgrims*