



Director: Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas * Proprietor: Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fátima (Portugal) * Quarterly publication * Year X * Nr. 38 * 2013/08/13

“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations”



World Youth Day, recently held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, had, as theme, the words of Jesus: “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations” (Mt 28, 19). Well, WYD not only had a ‘Marian’ mark, but this missionary command may also be seen in light of the example of Our Lady. Youths, and all Christians for that matter, during this great feast of faith, were called to be heralds of Jesus Christ and to make disciples “with” and “like” Mary, the first evangelizer.

Our Lady is the model of all the evangelizing activity of the Church, both as the first disciple and as our teacher. Like Her, we are challenged to be evangelizers; with Her we learn to lead others to Jesus.

John Paul II, in presenting Mary as the first evangelizer, re-

calls the episode of Her Visitation to Saint Elizabeth and stresses the precedence of Mary over the disciples: after the Annunciation, Mary immediately becomes an evangelizer, leading others to Christ. However, the most classic text to stress the evangelizing mission of Mary is the narration of Pentecost, which highlights the fact that “She presided over the prayer at the beginning of the evangelization, under the action of the Holy Spirit” (Paul VI).

Mary leads us to Jesus Christ; teaches us to be His disciples; and thrusts us forth, to announce Him. With Her and like Her, let us listen to the call which guided the youths in this Word Youth Day: “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations”.

Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas

Statue of Our Lady of Fatima at the Shrine of Christ the Redeemer

On the occasion of World Youth Day recently held in Brazil, Portuguese youths brought from Portugal a replica of the official Statue of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima to donate to the Shrine of Christ the Redeemer.

At the end of Holy Mass, the Statue was blessed and brought in procession, at the sound of hymns from Fatima, by Portuguese and Brazilian youths, to the interior of the Chapel of the Shrine.

The Statue, after being enthroned side by side with Our Lady of Aparecida, was immediately the object of devotion on the part of hundreds of faithful, who wanted to get close to it.



Hugo Martins

To You, O Mary, we entrust Pope Francis!

The International Anniversary Pilgrimage of May 12/13 was this year marked by the entrustment of Pope Francis and the consecration of World Youth Day (WYD) to Our Lady of Fatima.

The consecration of WYD was made, at the conclusion of the homily of the Vigil Mass of May 12 at the Outdoor Altar of the Prayer Area, by the president of the pilgrimage, Archbishop Orani João Tempesta, of St. Sebastian of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: "We beg Thee, Our Queen, to see that World

Youth Day is an extraordinary experience for youths to meet Your Beloved Son and an occasion for the love of each one of them for Christ to increase; He Who is the only one capable of giving meaning to their lives, by making them disciples and missionaries in a changing society".

The entrustment of Pope Francis and of his ministry to Our Lady of Fatima was the highlight of all the celebrations of the pilgrimage. It was made at the end of the International Mass of May 13 by Cardinal José Policarpo, then

still Patriarch of Lisbon, now Emeritus Archbishop of Lisbon.

At the Outdoor Altar of the Prayer Area, standing before the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, precisely two months after the election of Pope Francis (on March 13), Cardinal José Policarpo, in the presence of Portuguese Bishops, echoed the voice of thousands of pilgrims present, thus fulfilling the request the Pope had made for his pontificate to be entrusted to Our Lady of Fatima.

Leopoldina Simões

Consecration of Pope Francis

Most Holy Virgin,

We, the Bishops of Portugal and this multitude of pilgrims, are at Your feet in this Cova da Iria, on this 96th anniversary of Your first apparition to the Little Shepherds, in order to fulfill the desire of Pope Francis, clearly expressed, to consecrate to You, Virgin of Fatima, his Ministry of Bishop of Rome and Universal Pastor. Thus, we consecrate to You, Our Lady, You Who are the Mother of the Church, the Ministry of the new Pope; please fill his heart with the tenderness of God, which like no one else You Yourself experienced, so that he may embrace all men and women of our time with the love of Your Son Jesus Christ. Today's mankind needs to feel loved by God and by the Church. Only feeling loved she will overcome the temptation of violence, of materialism, of forgetting God, of losing the direction towards a new world, where love will reign. Please grant Pope Francis the gift of discernment in order to be able to identify the ways to renew the Church; give him courage to follow, without hesitation, the ways suggested by the Holy Spirit; support him during the difficult hours of suffering; help him overcome, in charity, the trials he'll encounter while renewing the Church. Please always be at his side, whispering to his ear those words well known to You: "I am the Handmaid of the Lord; be it done unto Me according to Thy Word!"

The ways of renewing the Church lead us to the rediscovery of the timelessness of the Message You left with the Little Shepherds: the demand that we convert to God, Who has been so much offended, because we have forgotten Him. Conversion is always a return to the Love of God. God forgives because He loves us. That is why His love is called mercy. The Church, protected by



Your maternal solicitude and guided by this Pastor, ought to stand up evermore as a place of conversion and pardon, because in her the truth is always expressed in charity.

You have pointed out prayer as the decisive way towards conversion. Please teach the Church, of which You are a member and the model, to be, more and more, a people praying in union with the Holy Father - the first of this people to pray - and also in union with the former Pope, His Holiness Benedict XVI, who chose the way of silent prayer, challenging the Church to embrace the ways of prayer.

In Your Message to the Little Shepherds here at Cova da Iria, You highlighted the Ministry of the Pope, the "Bishop dressed in white". Three of the last Popes came as pilgrims to Your

Shrine. Only You, Our Lady, in Your maternal love for the entire Church, can put into the heart of Pope Francis the desire to come to this Shrine as a pilgrim. This is not something one can ask for other reasons; only the silent complicity between You and him will make him feel attracted to this pilgrimage, being certain that he will be in the company of millions of believers willing to hear once again Your Message.

Here, on this Altar of the World, he will be able to bless all mankind and make today's world feel that God loves all the men and women of our time, that the Church also loves them and that You, Mother of the Redeemer, lead them with tenderness through the ways of Salvation.

Fátima, May 13, 2013
+ JOSÉ, Cardinal-Patriarch

In October, at the Vatican, Pope Francis will consecrate the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Statue of Our Lady of Fatima being brought to Marian Day

In response to the desire of Holy Father Francis, the Statue of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, venerated in the Little Chapel of Apparitions, will be brought to Rome on October 12/13 to be present at the Marian Day promoted by the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization. On October 13, next to the Statue of Our Lady, Pope Francis will make the Consecration of the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Marian Day is one of the great pontifical events marked down on the calendar of celebrations of the Year of Faith which will bring to Rome hundreds of movements and institutions connoted with Marian devotion.

In a letter addressed to Bishop Antonio Marto, of Leiria-Fátima, the President of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization, Cardinal Rino Fisichella, informs that “all ecclesial entities of Marian spirituality” are invited to take part in this Marian day, a gathering which includes, on the 12th, a pilgrimage to the tomb of Apostle St. Peter and other moments of prayer and meditation and, on the 13th, a Mass presided over by Pope Francis, in St. Peter’s Square.

In that letter, Cardinal Fisichella wrote: “The Holy Father strongly de-

sires that the Marian Day may have present, as a special *sign*, one of the most significant Marian icons for Christians throughout the world and, for that reason, we thought of the beloved original Statue of Our Lady of Fatima”.

Therefore, the Statue of Our Lady will depart from the Shrine of Fatima

on the morning of October 12 and return on the afternoon of October 13. Scheduled to take its place in the Little Chapel of Apparitions is the first Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, which is enthroned in the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary since December 8, 2003.

Leopoldina Simões



Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone presides over the October 12/13 Pilgrimage



The Shrine of Fatima is pleased to announce that Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Secretary of State of the Vatican, will preside, at Fatima, over the International Anniversary Pilgrimage of October 12/13.

In the invitation letter he sent, on July 12, to all Portuguese Bishops, announcing the coming to Fatima of Cardinal Bertone, Bishop Antonio Marto, of Leiria-Fátima, says that “the presence of the Cardinal Secretary of State will highlight the communion with the Holy Father, so characteristic of the Message of Fatima”.

Let us remind you that, at the closing of the commemorations of the 90 years of the Apparitions of Fatima in October 2007, Cardinal Bertone, as Secretary of State and as Legate of Holy Father Benedict XVI, presided over the International Anniversary Pilgrimage of October 12/13, when the newly built Church of Most Holy Trinity (now Basilica) was dedicated and inaugurated on the afternoon of the 12th.

L.S.

Responding to the call of Pope Francis, Fatima was in prayer

“Stay with us, O Lord!”

In between the certainty of death and the hope of resurrection, the Church meets at the Eucharist and feeds on... the Bread of eternal life... because bread of love... because love is always eternal.

It was before the mystery of the Eucharist, real presence of Jesus, that Pope Francis challenged all Christians to gather on the day of the Body and Blood of Christ.

The Shrine of Fatima accepted the invitation and threw the challenge to the pilgrims, inviting them to gather, on the afternoon of the day of the Body and Blood of Christ, in the Little Chapel of Apparitions, for a time of prayer and adoration in union with the Holy Father and the entire Church.

Around the Blessed Sacrament, exposed on the altar of the Little Chapel of Apparitions, there gathered a small crowd to pray for the Church spread throughout the world, for all those who, in the different corners of the world, suffer new forms of slavery, for the victims of wars, of the traffic of people, of the drug traffic and of slave labor; for children and women victims of all types of violence.

The time of prayer began by greeting Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, in the monstrance on the altar, but also in those little monstrances, which are the personal life stories of each one of us. Jesus the Blessed Sacrament continues to expose Himself, stays with us and walks with all mankind. He exposes Himself because He lets Himself be seen loving, forgiving, greeting, healing... as He has always done.



Alternating moments of listening to the Gospel with moments of silent prayer and reflection, moments of invocation and singing, the time of prayer and adoration kept advancing until the recitation of the Rosary. Pope John Paul II used to say that the Rosary, looked at it in its deep biblical and Christocentric sense, could be a particularly adapted way to

contemplate the Eucharist, in the company and the school of Mary, Our Heavenly Mother. And this is what happened. During the Rosary, the Christians present were called to look at Jesus with the eyes of the Heavenly Mother (Mother of Jesus and Our Mother too), Who always leads us to Jesus Himself; Who makes us understand His life; Who makes us interiorize the secret of love and of the capacity to love.

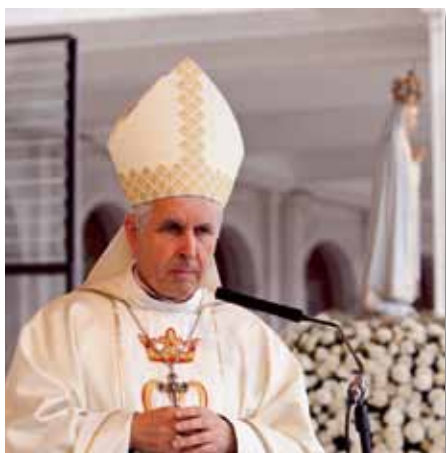
The Heavenly Mother always presents us the mysteries of the life of Her Son as a fount of prayer. During the Rosary, the pilgrims present were called to look at the love Blessed Francisco and Jacinta Marto had for the Eucharist, the ‘Hidden Jesus’.

After the recitation of the Rosary, there followed a Eucharistic procession through the entire Prayer Area, ending up at the Outdoor Altar, before which the crowd gathered for Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

It was an afternoon of prayer. To contemplate the Eucharist – because it is to contemplate Jesus - makes us learn once again detachment, makes us learn again how to love. At the end of this prayer, that was what was felt.

Fr. Emmanuel Silva

Bishop of Tuy-Vigo presides over the July 12/13 Pilgrimage



Bishop Luís Quintero Fiuza, of Tuy-Vigo, Spain, presided over the International Anniversary Pilgrimage of July 12/13, at the Shrine of Fatima, Portugal. He urged Christians to live more in community and to be more collaborative, as a response to the “crisis of

values, of purpose, of work and jobs” which current society is going through. He stressed, as principal project for Christian communities, the “urgent need of the sacraments” and of the “renewal of the families”.

During the Vigil Mass of July 12, Bishop Fiuza reminded the pilgrims of the timeliness of the Message of Fatima. He said that, if 96 years ago Europe needed the message of prayer and conversion Mary left us at Fatima, today the world equally needs someone to witness to the love of God: “Today’s world, dear brothers and sisters, is in need of devotees of the Virgin, who may experience in their lives the tender love of God, His grace and mercy, and take them to the whole world; who may be a balm which heals wounds, the many wounds in our world”.

Group from Gabon in Fatima



Between July 10 and 14, the Shrine of Fatima welcomed, amongst many other pilgrim groups, a group of 43 pilgrims from Gabon. The group visited Fatima in the company of Fr. Patrick Nguema Edou, who celebrated on July 12 his tenth anniversary as a priest (*Libreville, Gabon, 2003*). These pilgrims took part in the official celebrations of the July 12/13 pilgrimage as well as in other private celebrations held in the Shrine.

In the photo, the group with the bishop of Tuy-Vigo, Spain.

Statue of Our Lady being studied scientifically



Aware of the need to pay attention to its historical, artistic and cultural patrimony - starting with the most precious one, the one being kept since the beginning – the Museum of the Shrine of Fatima decided to order a scientific study of the Statue of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, by José Ferreira Thedim, made in 1920 to be venerated in the Little Chapel of Apparitions.

Thus, to the studies done in the areas of History in general and of the History of the Art in particular, the Shrine intends to add the work of researchers of specific areas of the Sciences of Conservation of Works of Art. To that end, a protocol was celebrated with the Polytechnic

Institute of Tomar, in order to determine the state of conservation of said sculpture and to bring new elements into the historical investigation already done.

The project will end up in a publication that will summarize what is known about this sculpture, which is one of the most important symbols of today's Catholic world.

The main purpose of the Shrine of Fatima is not only to study a work of art, which alone would justify the effort; it is, above all, to respond to the love of thousands of pilgrims for this sculpture, in which they see the image of the Mother of God. This "emotional affection" felt by pilgrims towards this sculpture is joined by what we could call "scientific affection".

In going ahead with a rigorous survey of its state of conservation, in order to be able to better study how to preserve it for future generations, the Shrine of Fatima has in mind the pilgrims from all over the world: those of today and those of future generations, so that they may venerate this statue, which last April completed 93 years of existence.

In conclusion, this study ought to be construed as a one more gentle gesture not only towards a sculpture – one of the most important ones in the world – but also towards those who are, for reasons of faith, affectionately attached to the Statue of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima.

The said sculpture was in the premises of the Polytechnic Institute of Tomar, Portugal, between June 3 and 4, where it was analyzed in accordance with the most modern techniques. The first tests done confirm that the statue is in a good state of conservation.

Marco Daniel Duarte,
Museum of the Shrine of Fatima

Trani receives relics

On the morning of July 10, in the Little Chapel of Apparitions, at the Shrine of Fatima, Portugal, during the celebration of Mass in Italian, Sister Angela Coelho, Postulator of the Cause of Canonization of Francisco and Jacinta Marto, handed over to a group of people from the Italian community of Trani, in the person of their pastor, the relics of Blessed Little Shepherds of Fatima Francisco and Jacinta Marto.

Addressing the pilgrims, Sister Angela spoke of the responsibility of taking possession of the relics, which were removed from the original coffins of the seers, and urged them to imitate the life of the two children. She also made an appeal to prayer for the canonization of the two little seers of Fatima.

In Trani, a community in the region of Puglia, Province of Bari, there has been erected one of the first places in Italy dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima, which was elevated to Diocesan Shrine on July 16, 1958.

Bishop of Tarbes-Lourdes on pilgrimage to Fatima

Bishop Nicolas Brouwet, Bishop of the French Diocese of Tarbes-Lourdes, where the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes is located, was on pilgrimage to Fatima in July, in the company of a group of youths. On the afternoon of July 18, during the Mass over which he presided in the Little Chapel of Apparitions, Bishop Brouwet spoke of the similarities between the two Marian shrines: "As She did in Lourdes, Mary visited this place (Fatima) to speak to the poor, to the little ones, to those who do not have a place in this world, to those who have no power; and, through them, She spoke to all of us".



During the homily in the same Mass, the French bishop highlighted the Message of Fatima as a message "of conversion", by which Mary, through Her "solicitude", makes Herself present to mankind, in order to accompany us: "Mary visited the three Little Shepherds in this poor region as if to show that everybody is capable, to show that there isn't anybody so poor that he can't know the Gospel".

As an answer to the doubts and interrogations many pilgrims bring with them in their pilgrimages to Fatima, often related to great difficulties, Bishop Brouwet spoke of the need for one to entrust himself to God, in an attitude of "gentleness", that gentleness which, in the face of violence, "overcomes everything", and of "humility of heart", like Jesus.

Leopoldina Simões

Bishop of Coria-Cáceres on pilgrimage to Fatima

The Bishop of Coria-Cáceres was on pilgrimage to Fatima with nuns of St. Clare (Poor Clares) and nuns of St. Jerome, on July 13. Once there, he presided over Mass concelebrated, at 19h15, in Spanish, in the Little Chapel of Apparitions, where he later, at 21h30, also presided over the international prayer of the Rosary, which every day is followed by the traditional candlelight procession.

"The Virgin looks after us...I want you to know that I am Your Mother" was the topic chosen by Bishop Francisco Cerro for his homily.

Message of Fatima to the young students of 'CRISPI'

The love of our young people for the Pilgrim Virgin has no limits. On May 15, the entire School Center 'Francesco Crispi', of Ragusa, wanted to take a picture with the Venerable Statue from the Shrine of Fatima, after the youths welcomed Her in the school's auditorium with shouts of joy and hymns prepared for the occasion. For the picture with all the three hundred fifty students, they needed to move to the gymnasium. In the first row we see Maria Grazia Carfi, Principal of the School, and the Head of the Diocesan Center for the Pastoral Ministry of Health, Fr. Giorgio Occhipinti, who spoke to the youths about the Message of Fatima and the need for everyone, specially the younger ones, to rediscover some values, such as the value of being together: "We all use the new multimedia tools – Fr. Occhipinti said – from *Facebook* to *Internet* and other similar thngs. But everything de-

pends on the use we make of them. Above all, we need to free ourselves from the isolation very common today amongst the new generations".

Fr. Occhipinti spoke, therefore, specially to high school students, about the need not to close themselves up, but to speak up about the difficulties of their lives and, above all, to dialogue with others, parents and teachers, about problems such as marginalization and intimidation.

The Pilgrim Virgin was welcomed, afterwards, by the Carmelite Sisters and, in the presence of the elementary school students, the prayer to Our Lady of Pompei was recited.

*Fr. Giorgio Occhipinti,
Head of the Pastoral Ministry of Health*



Soldiers visit Shrine of Fatima in Namaacha

Major Paz Lopes and Captain José Barradas, soldiers of Technico-Military Cooperation (CTM), belonging to Project 8 – School of Sergeants of the Armed Forces of Mozambique, visited the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Namaacha, a town of the Province of Maputo in southern Mozambique.

Shrine and Church of Namaacha, dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima, were built between 1942 and 1944, and consecrated on August 29, 1944, by Cardinal Manuel Gonçalves Cerejeira, Patriarch of Lisbon. This was the first church dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima outside Portugal.

Today, the Parish of Our Lady of Fatima in Namaacha is led by four priests from the religious congregation of Mariannhil (2 from Mozambique, 1 from Switzerland and 1 from Zambia), one deacon from Mozambique, two diocesan Mozambican priests from the Archdiocese of Maputo, attached to the Sacred Heart of Jesus Center for Pastoral Formation and Spirituality, and two Salesian priests of Dom Bosco, one from Congo and one from Brazil, these in charge of the formation of Salesian personnel and civic and Christian formation of youths from the district.

The Shrine tries to serve, with pastoral zeal, the more than twenty communities spread throughout the vast territory of the district of Namaacha. It welcomes individuals and some groups that come to

the Shrine as pilgrims in order to pray to the Mother Virgin Mary of Fatima. The Shrine organizes also all the activities proper of a parish, namely evangelization and catechesis, liturgy and celebration of the Sacraments.

There are held several religious events at this Shrine, the most important being the annual pilgrimage of May 13, dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima, which gathers thousands of pilgrims from the 42 parishes of the Archdiocese of Maputo, as well from other provinces of Mozambique, namely from Gaza and Inhambane, and from the neighboring countries of Swaziland and South Africa. There are also other pilgrimages organized by different Catholic groups belonging to several parishes of the Archdiocese of Maputo, which also come to venerate Our Lady of Fatima.

The Catholic Church in Mozambique is determined to renovate the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Namaacha, in order to improve the conditions of reception of the thousands of faithful who, moved by their faith, every year visit it, but lack of financial resources have so far slowed this work.

*Luís Lopes,
School of Sergeants of the Defense
Armed Forces of Mozambique
In collaboration with
Fr. Luiz Gonzaga Piccoli*



Portraits of Marian pilgrimages through Italy

Several statues of the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima are currently on pilgrimage through Italy. We report here on three of them. Let us all pray that Jesus Christ may be taken to the world through the presence of the venerable pilgrim statues of His Mother.

Our Lady of Fatima in Rome's Pantheon

As soon as the Beautiful Lady of Fatima appeared, carried by two collaborators of the Marian Movement Message of Fatima of the Suburbicarian Diocese of Sabina-Poggio-Mirteto, from the crowd a long and sustained applause was heard, only interrupted by the welcome prayer of Bishop Ernesto Mandara, Ordinary of said Diocese and National President of the Marian Movement Message of Fatima in Italy.

In the midst of the general commotion, the long procession traveled towards the Basilica, singing out loud the hymn "13th of May". Before entering the Basilica, the Statue of Our Lady was crowned in the midst of acclamations and the waving of white handkerchiefs.

Once inside the Basilica, Vespers were prayed, followed by Solemn Mass, concelebrated by the Canons and Bishop Daniele Micheletti. Thus began a week rich in religious rites.

Every day the Basilica was full of faithful and tourists.



This visit of Our Lady of Fatima was much needed in order to rekindle the religious fervor and lead people to manifest their faith in a tangible way.

The Pilgrim Statue of Fatima was in the Pantheon until Sunday May 19. Then in the evening it left for the Basilica-Parish of St. Pancras, in Rome.

Pilgrim Statue in Rome

After saying farewell to the Pantheon of Rome and traveling through the streets of the Old Rome – a scenario full of history and unique in the world – the Pilgrim Lady from the Shrine of Fatima, on pilgrimage through Italy, left to the Basilica-Parish of St. Pancras, in Rome.

Waiting for the Sacred Statue were the Superiors of the Order of the Carmelite Discalced, in charge of the Parish, as well the Pastor, Fr. Ernest Zielonka, representatives from the



Carabinieri (Police) and many religious from several parts of the Capital.

After a welcome prayer and the crowning (of the Statue) made by the Provincial of the Order, children dressed for their First Communion and representatives of the families and of the elderly read some welcoming remarks.

Escorted by the Carabinieri, the Statue was led in procession towards the Basilica, where it received the precious Holy Rosary of Blessed John Paul II. There followed the enthronement and Holy Mass, accompanied by the choir 'Virgo Fidelis' (Faithful Virgin) of the General Command of the Carabinieri.

In the historic center of Naples

The Statue of the Pilgrim Virgin from the Portuguese Shrine of Fatima arrived at the Basilica of St. Francis de Paula, in the Historic Center of Naples, Plebiscite Square, where it was received by this community with the prayer of the Rosary and the celebration of Holy Mass. It then stayed, from June 16 to 23, in the Parish of *San Marco di Palazzo* – Basilica of St. Mary of the Angeles, in Pizzofalcone, Naples, whose Pastor is Fr. Mario D'Orlando, from the Archdiocese of Naples, and the Archbishop is His Excellency Lucio Lemmo.



Rector of Shrine of Fatima in Portugal presides over commemorative feast

Zakopane, a Shrine of Fatima in Poland

This Shrine, located in Southern Poland, was built between 1987 and 1994. On June 7, 1997, First Saturday of the Month and liturgical memory of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Blessed John Paul II dedicated it during one of his visits to Poland.

After being courteously invited, the Rector of the Portuguese Shrine of Fatima presided over the commemorative feast of the dedication, held this past June 16. After a procession, during which the Rosary was prayed, there followed the Solemn Mass of Our Lady of Fatima. Addressing the faithful during his homily, Fr. Cabecinhas said:

“We have gathered here at this Shrine dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima to praise the Lord for giving us His Mother, Who continues to pour Her graces over us. Through Mary, the Lord continues to guide History and to make us experience His love and mercy. The

apparitions of Fatima give testimony of this immense goodness of God and bequeath to us a message of hope, in a world without hope, and a strong appeal



to trusting prayer, penance and conversion, in order for us to place God at the center of our lives. Blessed John Paul II (...) is also a link uniting this Shrine of Zakopane with the Shrine of Fatima, Portugal. That is why it gives me great joy to be able to live with you this pil-

grimage, I who also am a pilgrim with you. (...) During the apparition of June, which at the Shrine of Fatima gave origin to the theme of this pastoral year,

Our Lady says to seer Lucia: ‘Don’t lose heart. I shall never forsake you. My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and the way that will lead you to God’. Thence the challenge to trust: ‘Be not afraid!’ (...) It is not enough that our Marian devotion be marked by trust; it is also necessary that we take Her example as a permanent challenge. Let us, then, entrust to Our Lady our worries, difficulties, sorrows and joys; also those we love and carry in our hearts; let us place in Her maternal hands those who have recommended themselves to our prayers. But let us not forget to keep our eyes on Mary, as an example to imitate.”

Fr. Luciano Cristino

Bishop of Rubiataba-Mozarlândia on pilgrimage to Fatima

Bishop Adair José Guimarães, of the Brazilian Diocese of Rubiataba-Mozarlândia, State of Goiás, peregrinated to the Shrine of Fatima on June 17 thru 19 with a group of 30 pilgrims organized by ‘Obra de Maria’ (Mary’s Work).

Bishop Adair celebrated Mass in the Little Chapel of Apparitions on the afternoon of June 18, at the beginning of which he announced the intentions he

was bringing for this pilgrimage: “we are praying for Brazil, for peace, for World Youth Day, for all the Brazilian pilgrims present here and for our country to be freed from the plague of abortion and from so much immorality imposed on the people with so much authoritarianism, so that our country, which was born at the foot of the Cross, may grow in the defense of the family”.



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Fátima – Light and Peace

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Proprietor, Publisher and Editor: Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fátima

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Printing: Gráfica Almondina – Torres Novas

Legal Deposit: 210 650/04

ISSN: 1647-2438

Isento de registo na E.R.C. ao abrigo do decreto regulamentar 8/99 de 09 de Junho – alínea a) do nº 1 do Artigo 12º.

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