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CELEBRATIONS OF THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE APPARITIONS

Anniversary Pilgrimage of October

Holy Father sends Cardinal Bertone as Pontifical Legate

It is with joy that we present in this issue the general program of the concluding ceremonies of the commemorations of the 90th anniversary of the Apparitions. We pray to Our Heavenly Mother that it be a time of Light and Peace for all.

Day 12 – Friday: 16h00 – Warm Greetings to the Pontifical Legate and pilgrims, in Little Chapel of Apparitions. 16h30 – Beginning of Dedication of the Church of the Most Holy Trinity; 17h00 – Rite of Dedication of CMHT, with Holy Mass. 21h30 – Blessing of candles, Rosary and Procession towards the Outdoor Altar. 22h45 – Outdoor Holy Mass

Day 13 – Saturday: 0.00 to 7h00 - Night Vigil in the Church of the Most Holy Trinity. 09h00 – Rosary in Little Chapel of Apparitions. 10h30 – Concelebrated Holy Mass, Blessing of the Sick, Farewell Procession. 15h00 – Oratorio ‘Fatima Sign of Hope for Mankind’ in Church of the Most Holy Trinity.

Day 14 – Sunday: 09h00 – Rosary in Little Chapel of Apparitions. 09h45 – Holy Mass in Church of the Most Holy Trinity. 11h00 – Angelus, in St. Peter’s Square, by the Holy Father, who will address a word to the pilgrims of Fatima. Live TV broadcasting.



We are about to inaugurate the Church of the Most Holy Trinity

In June of 1996, the Shrine of Fatima published a booklet of 133 pages titled ‘Large covered space for assemblies (GECA) and other spaces’. In it were explained the reasons and was launched the program for the large church whose construction is about to be completed, situated at the top end of the Prayer Area. Aware that the most decisive time for all things is that of their beginning and of their conclusion, we went about perfecting the program and adjusting the work according to the constant new knowledge proposed to or imposed on us by the real world.

Construction of the new church began on February 2, 2004, with the goal of completing it in time for its inauguration on May 13 of this year, the 90th anniversary of the first apparition of Our Lady. Delays of different sorts forced us to postpone it for October 13, when we conclude the anniversary celebrations.

We are greatly thankful to Holy Father

Benedict XVI for having deigned name, as his Legate to the ceremonies, the Cardinal Secretary of State. His total acceptance of the message of Cova da Iria has recently led His Eminence Tarcisio Cardinal Bertone to take an unheard of gesture of publishing a book about what he knows and really feels about the phenomenon of Fatima.

In the booklet above mentioned, on pag.84, we had already let it be known that our intention was to dedicate the new church to the Most Holy Trinity.

There we cited two reasons: “The first is that, although it won’t be finished by the year 2000, nevertheless GECA will mark in Fatima and in Portugal the passage into the new millennium. The Holy Father proposes that the mystery of the Most Holy Trinity and Its glorification constitute the goal of the celebrations of Jubilee 2000 (Apostolic Letter *Adveniente tertio millennio*, nr.55). This purpose matches the one expressed in the message of the ‘Angel of

Peace’ in the 1st and 3rd apparitions in Fatima, a message that could start to be more fervently lived in this passage into the new millennium. The affirmation of faith in God is, indeed, the essence of the message of the Angel”.

We are sorry to admit that, according to opinions already made known, the new church won’t succeed in pleasing all of the friends of this Shrine. We did several opinion polls prior to taking the final decision and, because of them, we believe that the new space will please most of them.

Grateful to the ones who are pleased with the new church and respectful of all the others, we ask everyone to accept the sincerity of this testimony of ours: in building this great church, the Shrine only had in mind the well-being of the pilgrims and the glory of the Most Holy Trinity.

*Fr. Luciano Guerra,
Rector of the Shrine of Fatima*



Congress 'Fatima for the XXI Century' You are invited to sign up now

We celebrate in 2006-07 the 90th anniversary of the Apparitions of the Angel and those of Our Lady of the Rosary to the three Little Shepherds of Aljuztreil.

The inauguration of the church dedicated to the Most Holy Trinity and the Congress 'Fatima for the XXI Century' plus some cultural events, amongst which are the exhibition of photography 'Fatima in the World' and the premiere of the Oratorio 'Fatima, Sign of Hope for Mankind' will be the culmination of the program of celebrations.

In fact, the revelation of the Message of Fatima begins (Apparitions of the Angel) and concludes (Vision of the Most Holy Trinity) with the announcement to men that God has over mankind, dilacerated by its errors and

sins, designs of Mercy. To bring that about, the 'Lady more brilliant than the Sun' came to ask – through chosen witnesses: three children – for 'conversion and prayer'.

The Congress seeks to deeply study, with the help of renowned scholars of the Message of Fatima, the particular mystique and spirituality of that place, taking into consideration the demands of the present time and the specific contribution of the Shrine in the service of the Gospel:

– on the first day (The Event), it intends to revisit the event, the context and the reactions that arose within and without the ecclesial circles;

– on the second day (The Message), it looks at the different cycles of the Message, it revisits its fundamental contents and analyses its phenomenal spreading throughout the world;

– on the third day (The Credibility), delves into the prophetic signs of the mystery of Fatima, which bring it credibility before the Church and the World, as well as into the living testimony of its protagonists, which brings it confirmation;

– on the fourth day (The Timeliness), it

shows the loving solicitude of Divine Mercy on the face of the sufferings of Mankind, and, looking at the spiritual life of the Little Shepherds, it proposes evangelic ways of renewal for the Church and the Society of our days.

According to what was already announced through the publication of the schedule of events, two cardinals make part of the list of speakers at the Congress.

His Eminence Stanislaw Cardinal Dziwisz, personal secretary of Pope John Paul II and current Archbishop of Krakow, will give a talk, on October 11, titled 'Testimony: May 13, 1981'.

On the following day, October 12, a Portuguese Cardinal, His Eminence José Saraiva Martins, Prefect of the Congregation for the Cause of Saints, will be the last speaker with a talk titled 'The Gift of the Little Shepherds to the Church and to the World, in the Context of the New Evangelization'.

For sign-up, please contact the Shrine of Fatima (for address, see pag. 7)

Or: 90anos@santuario-fatima.pt

Fatima is Calling us! Conferences Program

The schedule of events for October's Congress – Fatima for the XXI Century – is vast and is catching the attention of devotees of Our Lady, scholars and curious people.

The cultural and religious events surrounding the Congress are numerous and we have already given notice of most of them in this Newsletter. It will all reach a climax with the joyful great feast which will be the International Anniversary Pilgrimage of October 12/13 and the presence of the Cardinal sent by the Pope.

Now the time has come for the presentation of the schedule of talks and speakers at this Congress:

October 9: The Event

09h00 – Welcoming Remarks

09h30 – Congress Begins

Morning: Event and Context

10h45 – Event and Local and National Context/António Matos Ferreira

11h30 – Event and European and World Context/Fr. Jan Mikrut

Afternoon: Reactions

15h00 – Reaction of people and Hierarchy/Fr. David Sampaio

16h45 – Reaction of Ideological Circles and Politicians to the Events of Fatima/Fr. António Teixeira Fernandes

October 10: The Message

Morning: The three cycles

09h30 – Angelic cycle: Pedagogy of Adoration of Reparation/Fr. Paulo Coelho, scj



Cultural Calendar of International Congress 'Fatima for the XXI Century'

October 8:

Exhibition of Sacred Art 'Hail Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy' (Museum of Sacred Art and Ethnology of Fatima)

–16h00 – Talk on Marian Iconography in Fatima/Marco Daniel

–17h00 – Exhibition opens the doors

Exhibition of Photography 'Fatima in the World'

(Entrance Hall of Paul VI Pastoral Center)

–21h30 – Short talk by Fr. Luciano Cristino

– Exhibition closes the doors

October 9:

Stage Play 'Lucy's Memoirs'

– 21h30 – Amphitheater of Paul VI Pastoral Center (free admission)

10h15 . Marian cycle: Visitation of our Lady in Fatima –Prayer and Conversion/Fr. Manuel Morujão, sj

11h30 . Heart of Mary cycle: Marian Eschatology and Spirituality/Fr. Garcia Paredes, cm

Afternoon: Spreading of Message

15h00 – Dynamism of Message of Fatima/Fr. Luciano Cristino

16h45 – Fatima and Great Devotions/Fr. Augusto Pascoal

October 11: Credibility

Morning: The Promises

09h15 – Miracle of the Sun: Critical Interpretation of Documentation/ Eduardo Franco

10h00 – The Suns over Fatima and their Mystery/Günther Stolze

11h15 – The Apparitions and the Short Century (1917-1989)/Fr. Luciano Guerra

Afternoon: The Protagonists

14h30 – Holiness of Little Shepherds

16h15 – John Paul II and Secret of Fatima/Msgr. Angelo Amato

17h00 – Testimony: May 13, 1981/Msgr. Stanislaw Dziwisz

October 12: The Present Time

Morning: Conversion of Man to God

09h30 – Suffering and God's Interventions in History/Fr. Jacinto Farias, scj

11h15 – The Gift of the Little Shepherds to the Church and to the World, in the context of the New Evangelization/José Cardinal Saraiva Martins

October 10:

Presentation of translation of 'De Trinitate'

With participation by 'Chorus Auris' (Ourém)

– 21h30 – Shepherd Hall, Paul VI Pastoral Center

October 11:

Oratorio 'Fatima, Sign of Hope for Mankind' (Final Practice)

– 21h30 – Amphitheater of Paul VI Pastoral Center (free admission)

October 13:

Oratorio 'Fatima, Sign of Hope for Mankind' (Premiere)

– 15h00 – Church of Most Holy Trinity (free admission)

October 14:

Oratorio 'Fatima, Sign of Hope for Mankind'

– 15h00 – Church of Most Holy Trinity (free admission)

Dedication of Most Holy Trinity Church scheduled for October 12

It is with great joy that the Shrine of Fatima is preparing to receive His Eminence Tarcisio Cardinal Bertone, Secretary of State of the Vatican and Legate of Holy Father Benedict XVI, who is coming to preside over the International Anniversary Pilgrimage of October 12/13, when the dedication and inauguration of Most Holy Trinity Church will take place.

The dedication and inauguration of the new church of the Shrine of Fatima will take place on the afternoon of October 12, according to the schedule published on the first page of this newsletter.

Let us remind you that, in May of this year, Cardinal Bertone published, in collaboration with journalist and writer Giuseppe di Carli, an interview-book titled 'Last Seer of Fatima: my conversations with Sr. Lucy'.

The preface to the book is done by none other than Pope Benedict XVI himself. In it, His Holiness the Pope assures us that the so-called Secret of Fatima was fully divulged and adequately interpreted.

"...(The revelation of the last part of the

Secret entrusted by the Virgin to the three Little Shepherds of Fatima) was a time of light, not only because the message could thus be known by all, but also because the truth was revealed against the confus-



Cardinal Bertone presiding over the funeral ceremonies of Sr. Lucy on Feb. 15, 2005

ing backdrop of apocalyptic interpretations and speculations which proliferated within the Church and generated anxiety amongst the faithful instead of calling them to prayer and penance", the Holy Father writes; and he goes on to say, still regarding the revelation of the last part of the Secret: "However, one could, on the other hand, notice the comforting development of Marian devotion, authentic source of Christian life, around the imposing shrine erected in Fatima and also everywhere else throughout the world where the invocation of the Virgin, under the influence of the Apparitions of Fatima, is deeply rooted in the faith of the people, calling men and women to consecrate themselves to the Immaculate Heart of Mary".

Cardinal Bertone, who often met with Sr. Lucy and presided over the funeral ceremonies of the deceased nun, worked with then Cardinal Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict XVI, in the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Both collaborated with John Paul II in the publication of the third part of the Secret in the year 2000.

Artists from Several Countries Execute Iconographic Works

Artists of international renown from several countries have been entrusted with executing the main iconographic works for the Most Holy Trinity Church.

The Shrine of Fatima, since it is a place with international characteristics, where every year pilgrims from dozens of countries travel to, will have a new pastoral space capable of expressing, through iconographic works, that universality.

Here is the list of the main works and their respective authors:

* Main Entrance – Main Door – Side upper panels, in bronze. Author: Pedro Calapez (Portugal).

* Main Entrance - Main Door – Lower panels, in glass. Author: Kerry Joe Kelly (Canada)

* Sculpture at the Entrance Portico. Author: Maria Loizidou (Cyprus)

* Church's Interior Crucifix. Author: Catherine Green (Ireland)

* Statue of Our Lady of Fátima, in Sanctuary of the Church. Author: Benedetto Pietrogrande (Italy)

* Back wall of Church's Sanctuary. Author: Fr. Marko Ivan Rupnik (Slovenia)

* Painted Tile Panel in Atrium of Apos-

tales Peter and Paul. Author: Arch. Álvaro Siza Vieira (Portugal)

* Statue of Pope John Paul II, Outside the Church. Author: Czeslaw Dzwigaj (Poland)

* Tall Cross, Outside the Church. Author: Robert Schad (Germany)



Prototype of the Crucifix of the altar of Most Holy Trinity Church by Catherine Green, Ireland

Cardinal Sodano Visits Most Holy Trinity Church

On the afternoon of May 13, after the celebrations of the International Anniversary Pilgrimage, His Eminence Angelo Cardinal Sodano, Pontifical Legate to the celebrations,



visited the construction site of Most Holy Trinity Church being built at the Shrine of Fatima.

The Apostolic Nuncio in Spain, Msgr. Manuel Monteiro (a Portuguese citizen), Bishop António Marto, of Leiria-Fatima, and other bishops present, who concelebrated the Holy Mass on the anniversary of the first apparition of Our Lady, accompanied His Eminence in this visit, which was guided by Msgr. Luciano Guerra, Rector of the Shrine.

During the visit, Cardinal Sodano showed interest in knowing the technical and other details of the construction. He was also shown some iconographic blueprints.

At the end of the visit, Cardinal Sodano stated, regarding the construction work, that Most Holy Trinity Church "is a marvelous work of modern architecture" and concluded: "I hope to come and see it when it is finished".

October 2007 – Russian Catholics peregrinate to Fatima

Pilgrimage of thanksgiving for religious freedom

In an interview given to the Shrine of Fatima, right after the celebration of the 90th anniversary of the first apparition of Our Lady in Fatima (May 13), Archbishop Tadeusz Kondrusiewicz, of Moscow, talks about the Catholic Church in Russia in the light of the events and the message of Fatima.

“We, in Russia, are aware of our special connection with the Message of Fátima: in fact, the words of Our Lady uttered on July 13, 1917, make us rethink the extraordinary role, I dare to say mysterious role, of our country. (...) One thing, though, is sure: in the context of today’s nations, Russia is in a very particular way under the direct protection of the Mother of God, what allows us to entertain all kinds of hope”, the Archbishop of Moscow states.

Amongst the many historical facts mentioned in the interview that connect the country and the message of Fatima to the Russian people, the Archbishop evokes some special moments in which he reveals his own living experiences and his devotion to Our Lady of Fatima.

“We can truly call Russia ‘Land of Our Lady’. Most Russian churches – both Catholic and Orthodox (I also know of a Lutheran community which goes by the name of Most Holy Mary) – are consecrated in the name of the Virgin Mary. Marian devotion is widespread amongst Russian Christians. (...) I will never forget an episode of my childhood: I was reading a book on the Virgin in the home of our parish priest; suddenly a priest, guest of the pastor, comes in. Seeing the book in my hands, he said to me: ‘Never stop praying to the Mother of God and She will always help and protect you’”. I’m sure that all our faithful can confirm the truth of this statement; in fact, our people pray regularly to the Virgin with confidence in Her powerful intercession. Despite all persecutions against the faith and the Church, our faithful sought to find

as much information as possible about the Apparitions of Our Lady at Fátima, believing that one day Her prophecy and the hope placed on it would become reality. That was the hope that doesn’t confound you: we are



In Immaculate Conception Cathedral, Moscow, Oct.8, 2000: crowning the image of Our Lady of Fatima with crown blessed by John Paul II

witnesses of the fatidic but happy process of the rebirth of faith”, Archbishop Knodrusiewicz reminisces.

In October 2007, a delegation from Russia will be in Fatima to take part in the International Anniversary Pilgrimage, 90 years after the last apparition of the Virgin Who came to Fatima to call people to conversion and peace.

The Archbishop explains this way the initiatives scheduled by the Church in Russia: “there was a congress on May 12/13 in Moscow dedicated to the 90th anniversary of the Apparitions of the Blessed Virgin at Fátima. There took part in it approximately 200 Catholics from Russian parishes, priests and religious. We also provided lodging for the representatives of the (World) Apostolate of Fátima (former ‘Blue Army), of ‘Lucisull’Est’ and for Msgr. Raymond Zambelly, Rector of the Shrine of Lourdes. The main theme was: ‘Reform your lives and believe in the Gospel’. (...) Notwithstanding all the obstacles, we hope to succeed in going to Fátima (in October) in order to pray in the Shrine on behalf of all Russian Catholics. The group will be, so to speak, mixed: elderly people, who have survived the years of communist dictatorship, youths, that is, the future of our local Church. (...) The special intention is to thank Our Mother, the Blessed Virgin, for the gift of religious freedom. But we also intend to pray to Her for the authentic gift of true conversion and the rebirth of Russian society. We want to thank the Virgin Mary for the hope of conversion which was given to us during the period of persecution and also for today’s grace of religious rebirth. We hope that the jubilee year will promote the veneration of the Mother of God in our country and will help us promote the dialogue with the Russian Orthodox Church – the very thing Sr. Lucy asked me during our meeting in Coimbra in October 1991. Finally, we must have in mind the timeliness of the appeal of Mary to conversion and penance, which in our secularized age is timely indeed. I remember that in 1996, after the conclusion of the peregrination of the Image of Our Lady of Fátima, Sr. Lucy told our bishops that the word ‘Russia’ today means not only a specific country, but also the whole world, because all mankind is in need of conversion.

South Africa prays for peace at the feet of the Virgin of Fatima

Several Pilgrim Statues of Our Lady of Fatima have recently traveled extensively throughout the world. This time one of them was in Johannesburg, South Africa. During the months of May and June – as told to us by Fr. Carlos Gabriel, Rector of the Church of Our Lady of Fatima in Brentwood Park – the Statue of Our Lady was “the great attraction and star” in the East side of Johannesburg. During these two months, Holy Masses were celebrated, candlelight processions were held, besides many other moments of prayer and festivity.

In South Africa, Mother’s Day is celebrated on May 13. “Families came to celebrate Mother’s Day and spend a few moments with the mothers in the presence of the Virgin of Fatima. (...) it was an unforgettable day”, Fr. Gabriel records, and goes on to explain that, “according to the archives of the Church of Our Lady of Fatima of Brentwood Park, this was the third time the Pilgrim Virgin visited us. The first was during the dedication and



inauguration of the church, on November 16, 1948, by His Eminence Teodósio Cardinal Clemente de Gouveia, a citizen of Madeira Island, who was instrumental in having it built; the second was in 1998, after 50 years of life and parish growth, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the church; and, finally, the third visit took place in May 2007, to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Apparitions of Fatima”.

From Fr. Gabriel’s letter one can easily deduce the great devotion to Our Lady, specially amongst the members of the Portuguese community, to whom Our Lady is a source of inspiration and comfort in difficult times.

“In 1998, this country and the Portuguese community lived bitter moments of violence. At Her feet we prayed for peace, tranquility and harmony in this country. She heard our prayers and our community has noticed a reduction in crime. At Her feet we thank Her, this year, for that grace, although violence has not totally ceased”, Fr. Gabriel says.

To feel in Rome as if we were close to Fatima

I read with great joy issue #6 of your newsletter 'Fatima Luz e Paz' which you had the courtesy of sending to our Parish of Our Lady of Fatima, in Rome, and want to warmly praise you for your initiative and also thank you from the bottom of my heart.

To know, indeed, the different experiences of faith which, throughout the whole world, enliven the parishes with the title of this very special manifestation of the Virgin (Our Lady of Fatima) and to be informed of what is going on at the Shrine gives much encouragement and offers the splendid opportunity of praying, feeling happily united to the brethren who, in the most remote corners of the world, feel the same strong call to spread the devotion to Mary, Mother of My Master, as Pope John Paul II, of venerable memory, put it.

With the same joy with which I have read the different experiences reported by you, I intend to give you a summary of our most recent ones.

Our pastor, Msgr. Cristoforo Dudala, who has been with us for 3 years, already organized a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Fatima, and, immediately after, last year, offered us an unforgettable week during which we received the visit of the Pilgrim Virgin, we who didn't merit such an honor. Unforgettable moments of intense prayer which brought back to us many of our 'separated' brethren.

But what is more important, besides the extraordinary events for which we thank the Heavenly Father every day, it is in the ordinary daily occurrences that our pastor is spending his energies, trying to spread more and more the devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary (...).

And now our tireless pastor has announced that we are going to do our utmost, with the help of God, to take active part in the initiatives you have just proposed for the preparation of the 90th anniversary of the Apparitions at Fatima.

It is wonderful, dear brethren, to have this opportunity to feel close to Fatima, being in Rome.

For all of this, once again THANK YOU!

Grazia Servadei
Rome - Italy

In Argentina, Parish of Our Lady of Fatima commemorates May 13



The preparation for the celebration began months in advance. In April a notice was put out in the parish bulletin. In May the festivities began. First with a stage play by the children attending catechism classes. A few days later a choral concert was held and, before the 13th, a Novena was made.

"Holy Mass for the Sick was very special; they are the ones in most need of Mother and Son", Monica says and adds that "the great day (May 13) dawned radiant, with clear skies. The Statue of the Virgin was escorted by a convoy of cars as it proceeded from a parish close by, passing through the main av-

enue of the District of Belgrano, to a place near our church".

The statue was welcomed by people waving white and yellow handkerchiefs. After that, Holy Mass, presided over by the Vicar General of the Archdiocese, was celebrated. In the message sent to the Shrine of Fatima, this devotee of Our Lady mentions the fervor and love of the faithful and the festive and joyful atmosphere lived by all.

Monica's message concludes with a wish that we make ours too: "We wish that, during the celebration of the 90th anniversary of the Apparitions, Our Lord may grant us the grace of making us messengers of the message of Fatima to the world and people who dearly love and do reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary".

"Dear Brethren of Fatima: May Our Lady be in your hearts!" Thus begins a message received by the Shrine of Fatima via Internet. It comes from the Parish of Our Lady of Fatima, in the District of Belgrano, Argentina.

The message, signed by Monica Benetti, tells us that the community is very pleased to celebrate, in the year 2007, in union with the Shrine of Fatima in Portugal, the 90th anniversary of the Apparitions.

"To commemorate the event, our parish put on its best appearance and prepared, in a special way, for a new May 13", Monica writes and goes on to say that, on that day, the parish enthroned a new Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, brought from Fatima, Portugal.

Oratory – A Statue of Our Lady of Fatima Goes to India



Years ago, I brought to Germany, from Fatima, a statue of Our Lady about 50cm high. An oratory made of wood was expressly made for it, very solid and beautiful. The

front of the oratory was a glass door with a lock. The white statue stood out beautifully from the blue silk cloth covering the interior walls.

Then someone thought that the statue of the Mother of God could be used as a Pilgrim Virgin, going from house to house, from family to family. It was a good idea, but unfortunately that well-intentioned plan was never put into practice.

Some time later – many years later – we donated the statue, together with the oratory, to an Indian couple we knew, who lived in Germany. They were ecstatic! A little time later the statue was taken to India by an Indian nun departing for her homeland.

With great rejoicing and open arms, Mary was welcomed in South Parur, Kerala. It was placed in a beautiful and worthy place, a side altar in the Church of St. John the Baptist. In honor of Our Lady, the oratory, Her little home, was decorated with colorful lamps.

On September 12, 2002 (Feast of the Name of Mary), they celebrated there a great feast in honor of the Heavenly Mother.

His Eminence Varkey Cardinal Vithayathil, Archbishop of Ernakulam (Syriac-Malabar Rite), went there to bless the statue.

What a joy and, most of all, what a manifestation of fervent prayer! What a great love for Our Lady of Fatima these our Christian-brethren from India have! It is truly exemplary.

Unfortunately the Pastor at the time, Fr. Dr. Berchmans Kodackal, ended up being transferred to the Vicariate General.

Ursula Müller,
Düsseldorf, Germany

Shrines of Our Lady of Fatima

IN GERMANY, AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, SPAIN, FRANCE AND IRELAND

In the current issue of our newsletter 'Fatima Light and Peace', we publish a list of 27 holy places dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima - which are actually considered shrines – in six European countries. They are listed alphabetically and were found registered in the archives of SESDI (Department of Research and Information of the Shrine of Fatima).

According to the Code of Canon Law, canon 1230, *actual shrines* are 'churches or other holy places where the faithful peregrinate to in great numbers, out of devotion, with the approval of the Ordinary (Bishop) of the place'. We are not sure that the list is complete or that all these places actually are shrines. That's why we ask the readers of this newsletter to do us the favor of completing or correcting the data here divulged.

Country	Diocese	Locality	Name
Germany	Augsburg	Ziemetshausen	Wallfahrtskirche Maria Vesperbild – Fatimagrotte
Germany	Hamburg	Burh-Stargard	Fatima Kirche
Germany	Trier	Neunkirchen	Heiligtum Unserer Lieben Frau Von Fatima
Àustria	Linz	Fronwald	Fatima-Heiligtum In Fronwald - Schardenberg
Àustria	St. Polten	Dross	Wallfahrtskirche "Unsere Liebe Frau von Fatima"
Belgium	Brugge	La Panne	Église Notre-Dame - Sanctuaire de Fatima
Belgium	Malines - Bruxelles Mechelen-Brussel	Holsbeek Louvain	Sanctuaire de Notre-Dame de Fatima
Belgium	Malines - Bruxelles Mechelen-Brussel	Tremelo	Chapelle de Fatima
Belgium	Tournai Doornik	Pironchamps	Sanctuaire de Notre Dame de Fatima
Espanha	Astorga	Astorga	Santuario Nuestra Señora de Fátima
Spain	Astorga	Valdeorras	Santuario-Parroquia Nuestra Señora de Fátima
Spain	Coria-Cáceres	Alcuéscar	Santuario Nuestra Señora de Fátima
Spain	Granada	Lancha del Genil	Santuario Nuestra Señora de Fátima
Spain	Lugo	Chantada	Santuario Nuestra Señora de Fátima
Spain	Lugo	Fontex	Santuario Nuestra Señora de Fátima
Spain	Madrid	Pozuelo de Alarcón	Santuario Nuestra Señora de Fátima
Spain	Orense	Orense Ciudad	Santuario Nuestra Señora de Fátima
Spain	Santiago de Compostela	Pontevedra	Santuario Nuestra Señora de Fátima Casa de la Virgen
Spain	Solsona	Tárrega	Santuario Diocesano de la Virgen de Fátima
Spain	Tuy - Vigo	Pontevedra	Parroquia - Santuario Nuestra Señora de Fátima
France	Amiens	Saint-Riquier	Sanctuaire Notre Dame de Fatima
France	Metz	Holdbach	Sanctuaire Notre Dame de Fatima
France	Paris	Paris	Sanctuaire Notre Dame de Fatima Marie Mediatrix
France	Rodez	Berthoène (Aveyron)	Sanctuaire Notre Dame de Fatima
France	Vannes	Bieuzy-Lavaux (Morbihan)	Sanctuaire Notre Dame de Fatima
Irlanda	Dublin	West Cabra Emerald Island	Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima
Irlanda	Meath	Kingscourt	Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima

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Fatima Parish Center at Montevideo, Uruguay

Latin America is, like many others, a part of the world where the devotion to the Virgin of Fatima is very relevant.

Here is an example. In the center of Montevideo, capital of Uruguay, in General Brito del Pino Street, nr. 1344, there is a building compound – a very large parish church, where, every May and October, in a special way, solemn ceremonies in honor of Our Lady of Fatima take place and are very well attended; also a large prestigious school for both day students and boarders from all parts of the country.

Everything is run by the enthusiastic and very dear Clarettians: Missionary Community of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.



This information and pictures were given to us by an exemplary older Catholic couple, during a pleasant trip to Cova da Iria by Galician emigrants (District of Val Miñor), full-fledged members of that Uruguayan Catholic community.

The couple, Mr. and Mrs. Manuel Lorenzo and Esther Guntín, travels to Spain, since the 90's, when they both retired from work. They make the trip every two years; and their priority is always to peregrinate to the Shrine of Fatima, Portugal, "to give thanks - they emphasize – and pray for all the needs of their children and grandchildren, with whom (all were born there in Uruguay) they intend to make the trip to this Altar of the World, specially with their eight grandchildren.

Jorge Lence, Spain

Congress on Most Holy Trinity – Conclusions

From May 9 through 12, one more international congress was held at the Shrine of Fatima. During the commemoration of the 90th anniversary of the apparitions and inspired by the soon to be inaugurated new church of the Shrine, this congress proposed to reflect and meditate on the Most Holy Trinity, central and peculiar mystery of the Christian Faith. In it about 300 people took part in order to listen to and question various experts, both Portuguese and foreign (from Spain, France, Italy, Germany, Greece and Canada), about the beginning, development, timeliness and implications of faith in the Triune God.

The reflection centered both on studies of

Sacred Scripture and on current approaches to the Trinitarian Mystery (by theologians Karl Rahner and H.U. von Balthasar), running through the liturgical experience and language, the explanation and development of the profession of faith in Christianity of the first centuries (at war with Gnostic movements), the distinct but supplemental nuances between the Christian West and the East (mainly Orthodox). There was still time for a look at the current meaning of this important element of the Christian Faith and of the resulting implications for the way one looks at the Church, the World and Man as 'image and likeness of God'.

The Apparitions and Message of Fatima turned out to be particularly fruitful for the reflection this congress engaged in. Since it is difficult to approach the Trinity, one could indeed realize, in the course of the talks, how the experience of the encounter with God made by the Little Shepherds and their vocabulary, simple but full of 'joy and love of God', help in the effort Christians make to "give the reasons for their hope" (cf. 1Pt. 3, 15), thus gaining an ever newer light the exclamation of St. Augustine: "You truly see the Trinity if you see the Love".

Scientific Committee

President of Philippines visits Fatima

On the afternoon of June 4, President of the Philippines Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo made a private visit to the Shrine of Fatima, accompanied by a large group of members of the Philippine Government.

On the Honor Book of the Shrine of Fatima, Gloria Arroyo wrote in English: "It is a great honor to be in Fatima. We come on a pilgrimage to thank Our Lady for prayers granted and continue to pray through Her intercession".

She was welcomed to the Shrine of Fatima and greeted by its Rector, Msgr. Luciano Guerra, in the Rectory. Afterwards, she visited, in the company of her group and the Philippine journalists present, the exhibition 'Fatima Light and Peace'.

The whole group also walked up, then, to the 'tocheiro' (candle burning apparatus), where

Gloria Arroyo placed a lighted candle and stayed for a few moments in silent prayer. From there the group walked up to the Little Chapel of Apparitions, where a Mass celebrated in English was presided over by the Director of the Pilgrim Service Department of the Shrine of Fatima, who greeted the President and her accompanying group: "I would like to salute the Lady President of the Philippines and those who accompany her on her visit to this Sanctuary of Fatima. A word of welcome to all. I sincerely hope that your pilgrimage will establish a moment to deepen your faith and spiritual strengthening. In this Mass and in this place of great spiritual meaning for many millions of people, we pray for your country, the Philippines, so that it always be a country of fraternity and peace. We shall pray for the world in which we live, placing it in the hands of



God, through the intercession of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima", he said.

The group also visited the Basilica of the Shrine and the localities of Aljustrel and Valinhos. At the conclusion of Gloria Arroyo's pilgrimage, the Shrine of Fatima invited the whole group to have dinner at the Shrine.



Theme of Children's Pilgrimage 2007: "I'm from Heaven ... The Lady of the Rosary"

God counts on the children

The Children's International Pilgrimage brought to the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, Portugal, on the morning of June 10th, twenty-five thousand children from all over the country. For the first time, a group of foreign children, from Austria, took part in this pilgrimage of approximately 130,000 participants.

Bishop António Marto, of Leiria-Fatima, presided over this encounter of joy, prayer and festivity. Concelebrating were the Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Leiria-Fatima, Msgr. Serafim Ferreira e Silva, and several priests, including the Rector of the Shrine of Fatima.

Although the rain, at the beginning of the ceremonies, forced the children to take shelter under the Colonnades, by the time Holy Mass began the rain ceased and the children were able once again to regain the place assigned to them, the stairway to the Basilica. Many other children, specially babies, stayed with their families amidst the vast mass of people filling up the Prayer Area.

At the end, every child was given the traditional 'surprise', which this year was the book 'The Visit of the Lady of the Rosary',

published on purpose for this occasion.

This pilgrimage is different from all others held in the Shrine, since all its aspects are prepared and acted out thinking on the children.

The homily was also totally addressed to the younger ones. In it, Bishop António Marto evoked the apparitions of 1917 and invited the children to work with God. "Please notice that children are very important to God. (...) I want you to engrave in your mind and in your heart this: You are very important. God counts on you and expects a lot from you. He wants you to work with Him to make the world better: more beautiful, more fraternal, more just, holier, and therefore peaceful; a place where there won't be any divisions amongst men and amongst peoples. You are the tenderness of the world", Bishop António said.

In this year's pilgrimage, the children brought gifts to offer to Our Lady. Tens of Rosaries of all colors and the most varied materials were delivered to the Shrine from all parts of the country. Responding to the appeal made by the Shrine, old radiographs and used inkstands were also delivered and will be turned into money to help the needy.

Fátima – Light and Peace

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Holy Father, you can count on our prayer and affection

On May 13, 2007, after the prayer of *Regina Coeli* (which substitutes the *Angelus* during Easter time), His Holiness the Pope, who was in an apostolic trip to Brazil, evoked the 90th anniversary of the first apparition of Our Lady at Fatima:

“Today is the ninetieth anniversary of the Apparitions of Our Lady in Fátima. With Her vehement appeal to conversion and penance, this is, no doubt, the most prophetic of modern apparitions. Let us ask the Mother of the Church, She Who knows of the sufferings and hopes of mankind, to protect our homes and communities”.

On the morning of the same day, but at the Shrine of Fatima, Portugal, at the end of Mass, the bishop of Leiria-Fátima was reading the following message which would later be sent by fax to the Holy See:



“Your Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, At the time we are celebrating the ninetieth anniversary of the Apparitions of Our Lady of Fátima, on this 13th of May, under the presidency of the Legate of Your Holiness, His Eminence Angelo Cardinal Sodano, we want You, Holy Father, to know that we accompany You with our prayers in Your Pastoral Visit to Brazil, as well as to express our thanks of appreciation.

Thank You very much, Holy Father, for having sent us a Pontifical Legate as a sign of Your particular benevolence.

Thank You very much for Your spiritual presence amongst us.

Thank You very much for the Apostolic Blessing You have sent us.

For our part, I can assure You of my personal deep communion with and sincere love for, as well as those of all the people together with their pastors, Your person and Your ministry.

You can count on our prayers and affection. May the Lord, through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, give You strength, apostolic fecundity and long life!”

May Pilgrimage was a Time of Prayer for the Gift of Peace

The International Anniversary Pilgrimage of May 2007 commemorated the 90th anniversary of the first apparition of Our Lady at Fatima.

Half a million pilgrims were present in the ‘City of Peace’, where they lived one more unique moment in the history of this blessed place. Not everyone could enter the Prayer Area and, therefore, the whole area surrounding that large square was also filled up with people.

It was a solemn moment celebrated in close union with Holy Father Benedict XVI.

“(May 2007 Pilgrimage) was a moment with a unique enthusiasm in the history of the Church of our time, a moment of authentic faith. Jesus said: ‘Father, Lord of Heaven and Earth, to You I offer praise; for what You have hidden from the learned and the clever You have revealed to the merest children’ (Mt.11, 25). Here in Fatima is the triumph of the little ones”, Cardinal Sodano, Legate of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI to these celebrations, said before saying farewell.

“Gathered here in this blessed Shrine of Fatima, we want to ask Mary to grant to the whole world the sublime gift of peace. War ravages several parts of the world; conflicts



emerge between different ethnic groups and there are rivalries amongst numerous peoples”, Cardinal Sodano said during the homily of the Vigil Mass on the night of May 12. And he concluded saying that “the solution within our reach is to renew the Act of Entrustment of the whole world to Mary; let us do it with the words used here by the Servant of God John Paul II precisely on May 13, 1991: «Once more we address You, Mother of Christ and Mother of the Church (...): Monstra Te esse Matrem! Yes, continue to show that You are a Mother for all, because the world needs You! To You, with confidence, all of us consecrate ourselves. With You we want to follow Christ»”.

On the morning of the following day, May 13, during Holy Mass, which was concelebrated by the Cardinal Patriarch of Lisbon, thirty bishops and 360 priests, Cardinal Sodano evoked the apparition of May 13, 1917, and declared: “Thus began that Marian epic which would continue for five months up until the 13th of October of that same year and which would, thereafter, impose itself on the world, as it is typical of the works of God.

“Yes! Fatima triumphed over the incredulity of the world, the opposition of the civil authorities and the

hesitation of the Church. The (then) Patriarch of Lisbon, Cardinal Cerejeira was right when he stated: «It was not the Church that imposed Fatima, it was Fatima that imposed itself on the Church»”.

“It is precisely today the 90th anniversary of the beginning of the apparitions here in Cova da Iria and we want to ask Mary to show once more to the men and women of our time – sometimes tempted to forget God and to prostrate themselves at the feet of the ‘gold calf’ of this world’s vanities - all Her maternal solicitude. Mary knows that the eternal salvation of Her children runs risks and, therefore, repeats the call of Jesus: «Repent and believe in the Gospel»”.