



Director: Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas * Proprietor: Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fátima (Portugal) * Quarterly publication * Year X * Nr. 40 * 2014/02/13

Enveloped in the love of God for the world

During the walk the Shrine of Fatima is taking to prepare the celebration of the Centennial of the Apparitions, this pastoral year is dedicated to the apparition of the month of July and has as theme the title “Enveloped in the love of God for the world”. Since it is an apparition rich in contents, we chose the love of God for the world as the unifying theme and the dimension which better allows us to approach the different contents of the Message of Fatima transmitted in this apparition.

The inspiration for the formulation of the theme came from the prayer itself that Our Lady taught to the Little Shepherds in July: «O Jesus, it is for the love of You...» This prayer makes it explicit what are the motifs of all the sacrifices the Little Shepherds made: «it is for the love of You». It is in response to the love of God, which the Little Shepherds strongly experienced, that they are willing to make sacrifices for the conversion of sinners and in reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. It was love that motivated them: the love of God, which Our Lady led them to know and experience and to which they tried to correspond.

July’s apparition is still marked by another prayer taught to the Little Shepherds by Our Lady: «O My Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of Hell and lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need!» But once again, what is behind this prayer is love: the love of God, Who wants that all souls be saved.

It is still in July’s apparition that Our Lady entrusts to the Little Shepherds the so-called ‘Secret’, which, once revealed, let us know the immense love of God for the world and shows us a God Who, because He loves us infinitely, will not allow that our history progresses towards the abyss.

The theme of this pastoral year brings us back, through the Message of Fatima, to the center of the Christian message: the revelation that God is Love: «God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him» (1Jn 4, 16). This theme is an invitation for us to be aware of the great love of God for us; but it also challenges us to practice that love for God and for neighbor, just like the Little Shepherds did.

Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas, Rector



Christmas Campaign funds will go towards Philippine People

Shrine thanks pilgrims for their generosity



The Shrine of Fatima has announced that the funds gathered by the Christmas Campaign of 2013 came to €19,539.93, which, as announced at the beginning of December 2013, will be sent by Caritas to the Philippines, in order to assist the people affected by Hurricane Haiyan, in November.

Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas, Rector of the Shrine of Fatima, appreciates from the bottom of his heart the generous participation of his pilgrims and visitors in this campaign of solidarity, which was held at the end of the official Masses of Christmas, New Year and Epiphany, at the moment of osculation of the Child Jesus, and thanks them for it, and wishes that the donation may help resolve some of the most urgent situations.

During the month of December, for the same cause, let it be said that the Shrine of Fatima also sent an early donation, through Caritas: the sum of €25,000, for a first aid to the most pressing needs.

Temporary Exhibition «Secret and Revelation»

Manuscript of Third Part of Secret of Fatima exhibited at Fatima



Taking as motif the apparition of July 1917, the Shrine of Fatima offers to its pilgrims a temporary exhibition, whose purpose is to present, by means of historical documentation and artistic pieces, one of the most important topics of Fatima: the Secret which from Cova da Iria leads to the contemplation of today's whole world.

Before walking through the sets exhibiting each of the three parts of the Secret, the visitor is placed in the ambiance of frenzy which, already in 1917, was felt around the subject. It is in this context that, in between frames looking like

windows covered with veils of different transparencies and opacities, we see the first documents where the word 'secret' is pinned.

Sets 1 and 2 are organized with Lucia's original manuscripts related to the first and second parts of the Secret, presented according to the way they are in the Third Memoir (Episcopal Archives of Leiria) and contain several works of art which lead the visitor to interpret each of these parts: «the vision of Hell» and «the Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary».

Before getting to the most emblematic piece of the exhibition, the visitor has to pause for a moment, while going through a corridor that, by means of two big chronologies (about the historic moments of the XX century and the Secret), clearly states that Fatima is really «the most prophetic of contemporaneous apparitions». This «long wait» flows into an auditorium where a screen shows the revelation of the Third Part of the Secret made by Cardinal Angelo Sodano, on May 13, 2000.

It is after this announcement that the pilgrim has access to the main document of the exhibition: the original manuscript (Archives of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, A.S.381) written by Sr. Lucia on January 3, 1944, and loaned to this exhibition by the Congregation that keeps it since 1957.

This document opens up a new chapter in the exhibition, dedicated to the con-

templation, by means of works of art and other strategies of representation, of the Third Part of the Secret. This last part, named «The Martyr Church», turns the literary images contained in the manuscript into visual images: the pope's white garment (cassock of John Paul II; NSF, inv.420-TEX.I.41) is placed on the axis of the cross (Reliquary of the Holy Cross; MSF, inv. 86-OUR.II.15) which presides over this whole space, marked by Stations of the Cross (models of IV and V stations of the Stations of the Cross of Valinhos, MSF; inv. 849-ESC.II.71/72) where are projected the faces of the popes who led the Church throughout the XX century, according to the interpretation of Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger in his theological commentary on the Secret of Fatima.

Open to the public in the lower floor of the Basilica of Most Holy Trinity, in St. Augustine's *Convivium*, every day of the week, between 09h00 and 19h00, this exhibition has already been visited, up to January 31, by 17 436 people, who thus were able to understand that «the Message of Fatima invites us to trust in the promise» contained in the Gospel: «You will suffer in the world. But take courage! I have overcome the world» (Jn 16, 33)» (Joseph Ratzinger, *Theological Commentary to the Secret of Fatima*).

Marco Daniel Duarte,
Exhibition's Curator



Manuscript of Third Part of Secret of Fatima written 70 years ago

The manuscript of the Third Part of the so-called Secret of Fatima was written by Sister Lucia on January 3, 1944, thus having completed 70 years at the beginning of the year. The manuscript, belonging to the Secret Archives of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, in the Vatican, is now, until the end of October 2014, at the Shrine of Fatima, where it can be seen in the temporary exhibition "Secret and Revelation". In the meantime, at the initiative of the Shrine of Fatima, there is being done a diplomatic and paleographic study of the document, by Maria José Azevedo Santos, Professor at the School of Literature of Coimbra University, a specialist in Diplomacy and Paleography.

Document's History

According to the Archives of the Department of Studies and Information (SESDI) of the Shrine of Fatima, the document containing the Third Part of the Secret, relative to the revelation of the Virgin Mary on July 13, 1917, was written by Sister Lucia in Tui, on January 3, 1944. Later on, it was sent, in a sealed envelope, to Bishop José Alves Correia da Silva, of Leiria.

From amongst the various vicissitudes the document went through until today, which can be known through the chronology shown in the exhibition "Secret and Revelation", SESDI highlights the hand-over of the Manuscript to the Apostolic Nunciature, in Lisbon, by Msgr. João Pereira Venâncio, Auxiliary Bishop of Leiria, on March 1, 1957.

The following month, on April 4, the Manuscript of the Third Part of the Secret of Fatima arrives in the Vatican, where it is now kept in the Secret Archives of the Holy Office, today's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

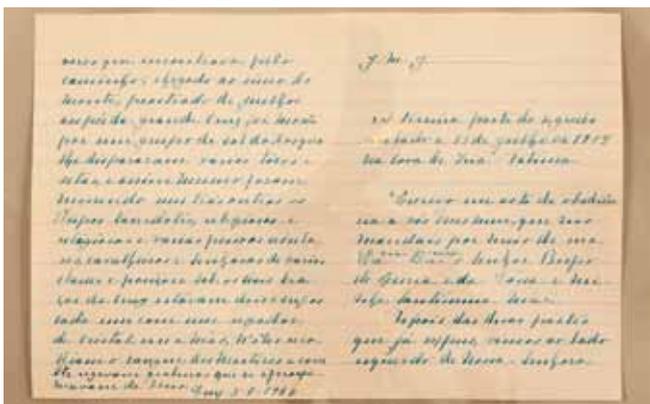
Two years later, on August 17, Pope John XXIII asks that the document be taken to him, but decides not to reveal what is in it.

On March 27, 1965, Pope Paul VI reads the document and that is how he comes to know the Third Part of the Secret of Fatima; but, after having read it, decides that it not be revealed.

Pope John Paul II would act the same way at first. Between July 18 and August 11 of 1981, a few months after the attempt on his life in Rome (May 13, 1981), the Pope reads the original text of the document, as well as the its translation into Italian, and decides to send it back to the Secret Archives of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

Only nineteen years later, still during the Pontificate of Pope John Paul II, on May 13, 2000, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, at the end of the celebration of the Beatification of Francisco and Jacinta Marto, held at the Shrine of Fatima, would reveal the content of the Third Part of the Secret.

Both the revelation and the interpretation of the Manuscript were done by the Church. On June 26, 2000, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith divulges the Third Part of the Secret of Fatima, during a press conference held at the Vatican, presided over by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, author of the theological commentary.



The study of the document



Maria José Azevedo Santos, Professor at the School of Literature of Coimbra University and specialist in Diplomacy and Paleography, was invited to analyze, in light of these two sciences, the Manuscript of the Third Part of the Secret of Fatima, which belongs to the Vatican and it is currently being exhibited to the public at the Shrine of Fatima.

The study is still going on, but the investigator, in an interview to the official newspaper of the Shrine of Fatima "Voz da Fátima" (issue of Jan.1, 2014), has advanced some conclusions and particulars of the document: we are dealing with the authentic document; it was written in letter paper without water mark and doesn't have the signature of Sister Lucia.

Maria José Azevedo Santos says: "The Church never doubted that the document was the original. If the Church asks a scientist to give an opinion, it is obvious that we could find some contradictory element, but that hasn't happened". And she goes further and confirms that "we are in the presence of an authentic and true document, which came from the hands of Sister Lucia".

Highlighting the main characteristics of the Manuscript, the investigator says that the most curious thing may not be not to have the signature of the author, Sister Lucia, but, she explains, the fact that "the absence of signature doesn't invalidate the authenticity of the document". And she goes on to say: "We were able to compare her handwriting with that of other manuscripts of Sister Lucia and come to the conclusion that this one, not signed, is from the same author. This is a scientific conclusion".

Maria José Azevedo Santos reiterates that "the document has a universal reach, because the interest in it is not limited to the Christian Catholic community" and she is of the opinion that "it is patrimony of mankind".

Authorized by the Archives of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, where the manuscript was deposited, Maria José Azevedo Santos, accompanied by Fr. Luciano Cristino, then Head of the Department of Studies and Information (SESDI) of the Shrine of Fatima, and by the Curator of the Museum of the Shrine of Fatima, Marco Daniel Duarte (current Head of SESDI), left for Rome at the beginning of September of 2013, where, for a week, collected the elements needed for the diplomatic and paleographic study of the document.

The first conclusions of the investigation may be announced still this year.

Leopoldina Simões

2014' Pilgrim's Itinerary

The Shrine of Fatima is proposing once again this year to its pilgrims and visitors a program of prayer and reflection materialized in a predefined course through several places of the Shrine. The Pilgrim's Itinerary recalls the apparition and message of July 13, 1917. The course is traveled on foot, but the intention is that the walk be an occasion for meditation.

Designed by Fr. Emanuel Matos Silva, this pastoral proposal begins next to the Rectory, in the direction of the Little Chapel, and then veers towards the Basilica of Most Holy Trinity, where it ends. The course can be made individually or in a group.

Fr. Emanuel Silva explains: «What truly matters is the message of the Heavenly Mother at Fatima and also the pilgrims and, through them, the entire mankind. Structures, texts, celebrations, different services, encounters, all these, in their time and in their way, are simply instruments».

To this priest, the itinerary the Shrine offers to the pilgrims «is one of those instruments that serves, basically, to help each Christian to 'see better' the apparitions of Fatima and to walk along its mystery of the revelation

of God's mercy in the midst of the world's and history's dramas».



Having as main guides Jesus, Mary and the Little Shepherds, the course proposes an individual test to one's capacity to love gratuitously and concludes with an invitation to a life converted to the love of God and guided by love and peace.

Fr. Silva goes on to say that «traveling through the Shrine, the 'Pilgrim's Itinerary' walks through, above all, the human and theological experience of pilgrimage, of indigence, of trust in God and Our Lady, of love and gratitude».

The purpose of this pastoral initiative, along with other activities of formation and information which the Shrine has accomplished the last few years, is to promote an approximation of the contents of the Message of Fatima, in order to better prepare and live the Centennial of the Apparitions in 2017.

Practically, the leaflets conceived as maps for the itinerary were published in seven versions, one for each language, because the foreign pilgrims are also invited to make this course of prayer and meditation.

Leopoldina Simões

Let us pray for peace in the world!

Syrian People consecrated to Our Lady



On the morning of December 1, His Excellency Samir Nassar, Maronite Archbishop of Damascus, visited Cova da Iria, where he consecrated the Syrian People to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. He did it on his knees, before the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, in the Little Chapel of Apparitions, at the end of the

recitation of the Holy Rosary, in which His Excellency took part.

He said: "I came to consecrate the people of Syria to Our Lady of Fatima and to ask you to pray for peace: peace in Syria, peace in the entire world".

During the prayer of the Rosary (His Excellency recited the last decade), the Archbishop of Damascus explained that he was consecrating Syria to Our Lady of Fatima, "our fighting companion" in the struggle the Syrian people is engaged in: "We are pilgrims on this Earth towards the Kingdom of God. Let us never forget that! I strongly ask you to pray for peace for the people of Syria".

After the prayer, the Archbishop concelebrated the 11h00 Mass in the Basilica of Most Holy Trinity. At the beginning of the celebration, Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas, Rector of the Shrine, appealed to those present, asking them to pray "for peace in the world, specially in Syria, for the Church in Syria and for the people suffering due the civil war raging there already for quite some time".

The Maronite Archbishop of Damascus visited Portugal at the invitation of the Foundation 'Help to the Church in Need', a public organization linked to the Holy See, which also brought to Portugal, on the same occasion, Msgr. Shlemon Warduni, Auxiliary Bishop of the Patriarchate of the Chaldeans of Babylon, Baghdad, Iraq.

The passage through Portugal of these two bishops was intended to provide a life testimony of the troubled times being lived by some Christians in the Middle East; it was also an occasion for prayer and hope. There were celebrations and talks held in Braga, Lisbon and Fatima.

The visit of these two prelates coincided with the launching of the Christmas Campaign of the Foundation 'Help to the Church in Need', whose main goal this year was to help the Syrian refugees in flight within their own country or housed in camps in neighboring countries, such as Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan.

Leopoldina Simões

Czech national center of the World Apostolate of Fatima for the Czech Republic Resolute in spreading the message of Mary and the Angel of Peace



On the first October weekend there was a special program for all, who are close to the WAF. We remembered 10 years from our Czech national pilgrimage to Fatima (13.9.2003), when our Bishop Conference welcomed the pilgrim statue of Our Lady from Fatima for her visit in our cathedrals. All the dioceses were consecrated to Her Immaculate Heart. The exhibition of Fatima Memorial was exactly 10 years ago as the main day of Middle European Catholic Program for the Czech Republic with the consecra-

tion of our country to Immaculate Heart of Mary. In the Year of faith, our center received the grace of the place of plenary indulgences. The regional centers, prayer groups and WAF regional leaders in our country decided to sponsor the project of the Statue of Angel of Peace with 3 little shepherds – copy from Cova d'Iria, as they wanted also to spread the message of the Angel, who teaches us the prayer of pardon, prayer of reparation, for conversion of poor sinners. There is also the message of Eucharistic reparation to be spread. The project was introduced 3.3.2013 and more than one year later, we have prepared a special place for the Angel of Czech Republic in Koclírov. It is such a special vocation for us – to teach people, they have their own Guardian Angel and also that Our Country has its Guardian Angel. And with this also we can spread all, what happened in Fatima 1916 as the preparation for Apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima. For many months we spread the prayers of the Angel in many leaflets around all our country.

At the time of dedication of the Angel of the Czech Republic at the 1st Marian Saturday we were very thankful for direct link from Puerto Rico and our International President of the WAF Prof. Américo

López. Due his injury, he could not come to Koclírov. He was giving his message for the bishop, priests and more than 3000 present WAF members and pilgrims. On this occasion we distributed 20,000 publications with Our Lady's message from Fatima, prayers of the Angel, who gave them to the world through small shepherd children. The publication contains all essential not only about the messages, but also small guide to international Fatima and contains a description of all the main sites and programs for pilgrims. A small confessional mirror is an invitation for anyone who encounters through authentic message of Fatima with the gift of God's Love and Mercy.

The presence of the Angel of Peace in our center is a special blessing for the WAF and for all our country. The statue was blessed by the diocesan bishop Mons. Jan Vokál (Diocese Hradec Kralove) on 1st Saturday 5.10.2013 and on 6.10.2013 cardinal Dominik Duka visited our center and after the prayer of Angel blessed the ministry of WAF in our country. This special occasion is another link between Fatima and our country. For all, who listen to the authentic message of Fatima.

Hana Frančáková
WAF Czech republic

Monument to Seers of Fatima At the headquarters of the largest Spanish pilgrimage to Fatima

Two images of Blessed Francisco and Jacinta have been placed in front of a statue of Our Lady of Fatima, in an estate where is located the office which today constitutes the headquarters of the largest foreign pilgrimage organization coming to Cova da Iria from one only country, the Pilgrimage of the *Adoración Nocturna Española* (Spanish Nocturne Adoration).

Located in Nigrán, province of Pontevedra/Galiza, with front to the street leading to the parish church – where, 10 years ago, there was solemnly enthroned a monument to the *Little Chapel of Apparitions of the Shrine of Fatima* (occasion when there were placed in circulation, to visit 240 rest homes, 8 “little chapels of Our Lady of Fatima”, just for the purpose of visiting homes) –

this monument, which also has an image of Sister Lucia, was blessed by the pastor, Fr. Constantino Estévez, and is visited by innumerable people who go there to pray. We leave you with a detail of this story. A group of friends of a young lady, Maria del Carmen (Carmita), a member of the organizing group of pilgrimages to Fatima, which, since 1987, are larger than from any other place other than Portugal, promoted this small monument, in order to petition to God, specially through the intercession of Blessed Francisco and Jacinta Marto, the healing of Carmita (*in photo*), who at the time of the blessing of the monument, done on May 13, 2013, was suffering from the operation made to her breasts because of cancer. Prayer, chemotherapy, radiotherapy... well...

“Let us sing at one voice: Francisco and Jacinta, pray for us!”

Maria Liliam de Jesús
From Paraguai, but residing in Spain



Statue of Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima visits Albania

In response to a request by the president of Albania's Bishops Conference, Bishop Angelo Massafra, OFM, one of the Pilgrim Statues of Our Lady of Fatima, visits Albania for the first time ever. This pilgrimage began on January 18, 2014, and will end in April. In an interview, Bishop Massafra states the main purposes and expectations of the visit.



What was the reason for this pilgrimage?

We need to offer to the people of God strong experiences, which may stimulate and help them to better carry out their journey of faith. We have just completed the Year of Faith and, thinking about Mary, the pilgrim of faith par excellence, we concluded that nobody better than She can help us make this pilgrimage with Her maternal protection and guidance.

Besides that, since Mary is the Queen of Peace, we want to place under Her protection the whole world and, particularly, Albania, a land and a people who suffered and continues to suffer so much, already not so much by Communism, but by "blood feuds", thus compelling many families to stay prisoners in their own homes.

We want to entrust to Mary all the weak, specially children, widows, the sick, the poor and the migrants in the entire world and, specially, the sanctification and reconciliation of families.

This initiative is going to finally fulfill a dream I've held in my heart for many years, after the rededication, in 1998, of the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Counsel, in Scutari: between September 19 and 26 of 1998, the Statue of Mary of Nazareth was received in Scutari and, in 1999-2000, there was the pilgrimage of the Icon of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Patron Saint of Scutari and Albania, through all parishes of the Diocese of Scutari and Sappa, to prepare for the Jubilee Year 2000.

What are your pastoral expectations for the presence of the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima in Albania?

First of all, the entrustment to Mary of the entire Albanian people.

Secondly, we hope that the Message of Fatima, with its strong messages, may strengthen the journey of faith of Albanian Christians, already somehow strengthened during

the Year of Faith, so that they may grow more and more in the testimony and the mission.

As to fruits, we hope that Mary's invitation to conversion may lead to a future of peace, through dialogue, mutual respect and understanding; that everybody may understand that it is more beautiful to give and forgive than to exact vengeance; to make possible to learn more about the history and the Message of Fatima, which is very timely here in Albania.

Please tell us briefly what is the devotion of the Albanian people to Mary.

The devotion to Our Lady in Albania has always been very strong and heartfelt. Let me remind you that, during Communism, after the destruction of the Shrine dedicated to Our Lady of Good Counsel, Patron Saint of Albania and, in particular, of Scutari, people still went to the place where before stood the Shrine. This is, after all, the only Shrine dedicated to the Mother of God, in Albania. During the month of May and other festivities, there are hundreds of people taking part in Holy Mass, which, given the large number of the faithful, is celebrated outside.

During the Communist regime in Albania, when was prohibited any exterior gesture of prayer and the Sign of the Cross was punishable, many families prayed the Rosary: a member of the family stayed in the street as a lookout, in order to avoid the intrusion of any suspicious element. I can assure you that the prayer of the Holy Rosary kept alive the Christian faith of the Albanians, during the persecution.

Is there in Albania devotion to Our Lady of Fatima? Are the history and the Message of Fatima known there? Is there any shrine, basilica or church dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima?

The history and the Message of Fatima were certainly known before Communism: looking at some old issues (1943) of the magazine of the Diocese of Scutari, suppressed by the Communist regime and now again published since 1992, *Kumbona e se Dieles (O Sino do Domingo)*, we find the prayer of consecration of Pope Pius XII (translated into Albanian) and the various consecrations to the Immaculate Heart of Mary from the Diocese of Scutari, Durazzo and some parishes.

The Devotion of the Five First Saturdays in honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary was also known and practiced, as we know from the book in Albanian «*Five Saturdays in honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary*», where the devotion is well presented and commented.

We also have in the Diocese of Scutari-Pult, precisely in Oblikë, a Pastoral Center dedicated to Blesseds Francisco and Jacinta and the church there is dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima.

It is interesting to note that, in Gramzë (Durazzo), the first church rebuilt after the fall of Communism was dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and that, in its façade, were written the words of Our Lady of Fatima: «My Immaculate Heart shall triumph!»

Interview conducted by *Leopoldina Simões*

President of Bishops Conference of Albania recalls beginning of pilgrimage

Reception of Pilgrim Statue «was moving and significant»

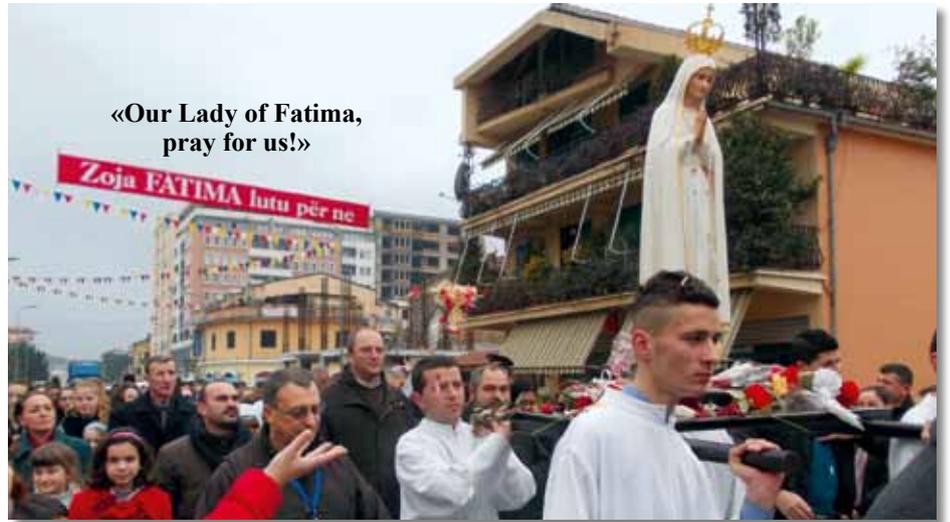
During this pilgrimage there will be important moments in all the dioceses which the Pilgrim Statue is visiting. I am now only mentioning the initiatives of the first day.

The arrival of the Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima at the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Counsel, in Scutari, on January 18, 2014, was a beautiful, joyful, moving and significant moment, with a great number of faithful and priests present.

After the official reception by the archbishop and the pastor, the priests led the recitation of the Rosary. Priests and faithful had their eyes fixed on the white Statue of the Pilgrim Virgin.

The Statue first stopped at the Shrine and then proceeded to the Cathedral, where it was received with enthusiasm by the children and the adolescents of Catechesis. These, together with the faithful from different parts of the Diocese, filled the Cathedral beyond all expectations.

Saturday night, January 18, the pastor of the Cathedral, Fr. Gjovalin Suka, invited the Sisters of several congregations in Scutari to the prayer of Vespers,



which was presided over by Archbishop Angelo Massafra, around the altar and the Pilgrim Virgin. We enjoyed a beautiful moment of faith and fraternity, thanking Mary for having come to Albania and asking Her for the gift of a greater commitment to evangelization. Afterwards, we continued the moment of fraternity by having dinner in the parish hall.

There was organized and scheduled

time for Eucharistic Adoration for Sunday 19 and Monday 20, from 17h00 to 07h00, with religious, priests and groups of youths taking turns. This was a very strong moment of faith with the presence of many faithful adoring Jesus solemnly exposed, in the company of the Pilgrim Virgin.

*Msgr. Angelo Massafra, OFM
Albania*

“Behold Your Mother!”

To us, seminarians of the Diocese of Livorno, Italy, welcoming the Statue of the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima was the perfect occasion to remind ourselves that the Lord chose us for a mission to be accomplished with Her, that is, with her maternal assistance and loving protection, in this land so needy of rediscovering that it is loved... a mission requiring a heart open to love, docile to the action of the Holy Spirit, similar to the Heart of Mary, and ready to give back to the brothers the gift received, without fearing anything, even death.

Our Lady at Fatima reminded mankind and the Church that love for Her Son can't be limited to words, but it has to be present in day to day life, to materialize in many deeds throughout each day, simple but meaningful deeds, capable of moving the hearts of Men and of imploring God's graces, according to His Heart, in a world where, it seems, indifference reigns.

The words of Jesus agonizing

on the Cross are addressed to the beloved disciple of the Teacher, leading him to follow Jesus courageously, the only one amongst the Apostles at the foot of the Cross. We reflect here on another aspect: without this deep felt love, without a personal encounter with Jesus, Face to face, we will never succeed in becoming instruments of the Teacher, but, instead, we'll end up running the risk of bringing to others only ourselves, with all our selfishness and our illusions.



Amongst the various moments spent together, the one that marked me most was the Eucharistic adoration: the silence of the night and being there in front of Him helped me to face the Truth, which is Christ, source of light for each Man. And the same may be said of each one of us, who can now continue our way with a greater awareness of our limitations but, above all, of the infinitely greater love He has for all of us.

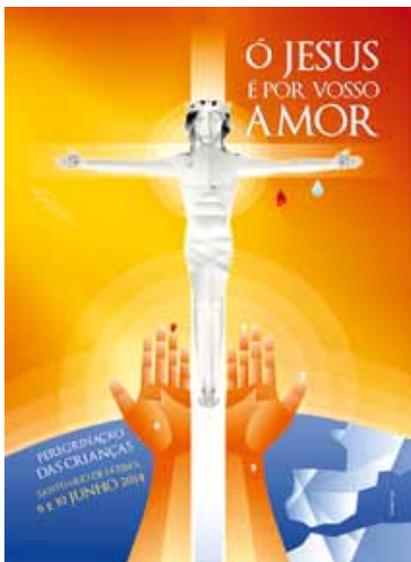
Finally, the spiritual communion with the seminarians of the Diocese of Coimbra contributed to enrich still more this experience and brought it a sense of universal fraternity, destined to last throughout time. A sincere thanks to our Bishop Simone Giusti, to Rev. Rector, Fr. Paolo Razzauti, to Rev. Vice-Rector, Fr. Rosario Esposito and, lastly but not least, to the “Movement of the Message of Fatima” of the Diocese of Livorno and to all those who made this event possible.

Andrea Salomone, seminarian

Children's Pilgrimage will stress redemptive love

As usual since about 30 years till today, the Shrine of Fatima will hold, next June 9 to 10, the Children's Pilgrimage.

The Prayer Area will once again get full of color and life with the presence of thousands of children, coming from all over Portugal to honor Our Lady, Who spoke here to the Little Shepherds, Who in turn passed the Message of the Lady on to us.



This year, according to the Shrine's pastoral project for the celebration of the Centennial of the Apparitions, the main event recalled shall be Our Lady's Apparition of July 1917. The inspiring sentence chosen for the Pilgrimage is part of the

prayer taught, in that third apparition, to the Little Shepherds for when they made a sacrifice: "O My Jesus, it is for the love of You!" It is around this intention proposed by Our Lady that all the other moments of the Pilgrimage will be built.

Everything will be done to awaken in children the reparation value of their deeds done and offered up to the Lord, for the love of Him, in the spirit of reparation and for the conversion of sinners, just like the Little Shepherds used to do. In another words, everything will be done to awaken in them the awareness that all of us can and should help, with our gestures and deeds of repairing love, to restore this world so wounded and disfigured by sin. Thus, even our sacrifices and hardships gain a new meaning, because they are our response to the love of God for us.

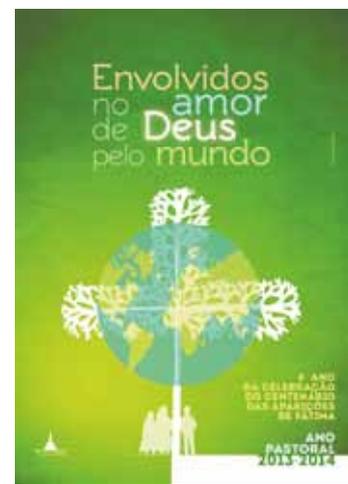
May's campaign, which will arrive in the parishes on time, will help the children to interiorize this sense of reparation and to better attend catechesis in Fatima, for those who come to the Pilgrimage.

Ir. Maria Isolinda

Shrine announces theological-pastoral symposium for 2014

The theme of the pastoral year at the Shrine of Fatima – "Enveloped in the love of God for the world" – is going to be thoroughly studied at a Theological-Pastoral Symposium to be held at Fatima, from May 30 thru June 1 of 2014. Included in the initiatives for the preparation of the celebration, in 2017, of the Centennial of the Apparitions and under the scientific coordination of the School of Theology of the Catholic University, the Theological-Pastoral Symposium is going to reflect on some themes related to Our Lady's apparition to the three Little Shepherds in July of 1917, such as: God's mystery in His Mercy and in His Justice; the question of God in today's world; Christian hope in the definitive encounter with God; love as the core of the experience of God and of Christian existence; today's challenges to the pastoral ministry of reconciliation; and Mary, icon of God's mercy.

The inaugural talk, by Franco Manzi, of Milan, looks at "The mystery of the love of God for the world in the Message of Fatima". Then, the Patriarch of Lisbon and President of the Bishops Conference of Portugal, His Excellency Manuel Clemente, concludes the Symposium with a study on "The Shrine of Fatima and the renewal of the Church in Portugal – a historical-pastoral interpretation". Bishop Claude Dagens, of Angoulême; Klaus Vechtel, a Jesuit of Frankfurt; Cettina Militello, Italian theologian; and Rey Garcia Paredes, well-known Spanish Mariologist, are the other foreign guests to talk at this Symposium. In the sessions, which are divided into thematic talks and panels, also take part João Manuel Duque, Alfredo Teixeira, José Henrique Pedrosa, Luís Miguel Figueiredo, Jorge Cunha, Carlos Cabecinhas, Carlos Paes, Guilherme d'Oliveira Martins, Acácio Catarino and Miguel Panão. The opening and closing sessions will be presided over by Bishop António Marto, of Leiria-Fatima, who also presides over the final Eucharistic celebration on June 1.



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Organizing Committee President*

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Fátima – Light and Peace

Editor: Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas
Proprietor, Publisher and Editor: Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fátima
Social Security nr. 500 746 699
Address: Santuário de Fátima – Apartado 31 – 2496-908 FÁTIMA (Portugal) * Telf.: +351.249.539.600 * Fax: +351.249.539.668 * E.mail: ccs@fatima.pt – www.fatima.pt
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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