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The offering was made by Mgr. Antonio Marto who has received the Archbishop of Aracaju, José Lessa this afternoon.

The Bishop of Leiria-Fatima offered a statue of Our Lady of Fatima to the Archdiocese of Aracaju, in the Brazilian state of Sergipe, during a meeting this Wednesday evening, with its Archbishop, José Lessa.

During the meeting held at the House of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, with the presence of the rector of the Shrine and the parish priest of Our Lady of Fatima of Aracaju, two relics of Blessed Francisco and Jacinta were offered on behalf the Postulation.

"We hope that this statue carries the Message of Fatima which is the message of a mother who visits her children in the most painful moments of their lives and conveys to them the face of Jesus and his mercy," said Mgr. Antonio Marto in a few words of welcome.

The Archdiocese of Aracaju was created on January 3, 1910, the Bull "Divine disponente clementia" of Pope Pius X, following the dismemberment of the Archdiocese of São Salvador da Bahia.

Divided into four vicariates, which administer 89 parishes, mostly dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima, this archdiocese expresses "a great devotion to Our Lady of Fatima."

"Last year, when the Pilgrim Statue was in Brazil, we had the chance to receive her and it was a great feast that involved even the administrative, political and judicial local entities " said the Archbishop underlining that "her presence helped to renew hearts, to restore families in quarrel and promoted the reconciliation ", stressed Mgr. José Lessa who is the Archbishop of Aracaju since August 1998.

The rector of the Shrine, Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas, said it is "a pleasure" to receive Brazilian pilgrims, and stressed the "unity in this faith and devotion to Our Lady of Fatima." Additionally, he added "Brazil is at this time the country that has more devotees of Our Lady of Fatima."

The parish community of Our Lady of Fatima of Aracaju has scheduled a pilgrimage to Cova da Iria Shrine this year in November, and also to France and Italy.

During the meeting, the Bishop of Leiria-Fatima also made an appeal to the Diocesan of Aracaju to pray "for the canonization of the shepherds”.

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