Portuguese dioceses consecrated to Our Lady of Fatima



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Bishops ask us to pray for a “fairer” society

The Consecration of the 21 Portuguese dioceses to Our Lady of Fatima was one highest and most significant moments of this International Anniversary Pilgrimage of May, on the day that marks 99 years of the first apparition of the Virgin to the little shepherds.

The consecration to the “Immaculate Heart of Mary” made by the Cardinal Patriarch was followed by a call for each person to pray “for peace, for solidarity and for a fairer society”

“Cheered up by your promise, we want to renew today, before your figure, the consecration of our dioceses to your Immaculate Heart, like the Portuguese bishops have done, for the first time, 85 years ago on this exact same day.” Said Manuel Clemente President of the Portuguese Episcopal Conference.

“We have recourse to your protection, Holy Mother of God”, and we consecrate to you

our dioceses and our country, that throughout the centuries had felt your protective presence.

“The prayer said by the Cardinal Patriarch of Lisbon was prayed by all the residential bishops of the 21 Portuguese dioceses.

“Intercede with your Son so that He pours light and wisdom of the Holy Spirit on the ones who rule our country, so that human dignity can be promoted, a fair and compassionate society can be built and peace and protection of life can be established” asked Manuel Clemente.

“Take heed the protection of the families, be present for them as a path to God, as a support with the distresses and help in times of need”, he underlined.

The consecration of the Dioceses of Portugal took place before the Farewell procession evoking the “protective presence” of Virgin Mary.

The bishops also prayed for the “weakest” of the society and mentioned, in particular, the poor and excluded, as well as the victims of all types of violence”

In the editorial of May edition of the newspaper “Voz da Fatima”, the Rector of the Shrine, Father Carlos Cabecinhas, states that the consecration of the Portuguese dioceses to Our Lady of Fatima is an “meaningful act that crowns a joyful and passionate pilgrimage, whose importance was recognized by The Portuguese Episcopal Conference”

The person in charge reviews the story of some acts of consecration throughout history. The great majority happened in Fatima or facing the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, in the Vatican, like it happened on the 25th March 1984 and on the 8th October 2000, and more recently in 2013.

“This act of consecration, in the context of the Centennial of the Apparitions is part of a long tradition and looks a long way into the future, entrusting Portugal to Mary, Lady of Fatima, because it can be found in her the path that leads to God”, the Rector concludes.

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