



Director: Fr. Luciano Guerra \* Proprietor: Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fátima (Portugal) \* Quarterly publication \* Year V \* Nr. 18 \* 2008/08/13

## I'd Rather Die!

What happened on that 13th of August 1917?

This was to be the month of the fourth apparition. Throughout Fatima and surrounding area the expectation was very high. After the July apparition the mystery had thickened: the children - was Jacinta naïve? – said that the Lady had entrusted them with a secret. For Lucia's mother things were raising her anxiety level. Her small house couldn't contain the crowds of people trying to have a word with her daughter, whom she didn't fathom as a seer. They all wanted to know the secret. Some even believed; but others warned the poor lady: someone might attempt to take her daughter's life if so much fuss ended up in nothing.

There were already thousands of people lined up, on that 13th of August, at Cova da Iria, waiting for the apparition, when the children were kidnapped on orders of the county administrator and taken to a place 12 kilometers away. Masonic, anti-clerical, convinced that the apparitions were contrived, but even more convinced that he could unmask the plot.

For three days the imprisoned children were kept at his disposal. Some of that time was spent amongst the inmates of the municipal jail.

Lucia recounts for us the essential of what went on. She uses discretion about how she felt, but tells us that Jacinta cried most of the time, feeling utterly lonely: "Neither your parents nor mine came to see us. They stopped caring about us!" Francisco, however, found solace in the faint hope that Our Lady might appear to them right there. But in vain!

Let's picture it. Unbelief on the part of the parish priest. Complete abandonment by the parents. Vehement opposition of Lucia's mother. Meanness on the part of the all-powerful administrator. Frivolous jail companions. Jacinta crying next to the window. Crying even when an inmate took her in his arms to amuse her with some dance steps. Lucia feeling 'responsible' for all that drama. She might even have recalled again the admonitions of the pastor: "What if all this were but a devil's trick?" Everybody urging them to confess that they had made it up! The three of them reduced to extreme vulnerability. How could they resist such irresistible clamor? "Hey you! – the inmates urged them – tell the administrator that secret. Who cares if that Lady doesn't want you to do it?"

"Oh no, I couldn't do that! – Jacinta promptly replied – I'd rather die!"



Ultimate trial: final judgment on the morning of day 3. Starting with Jacinta, the three seers were taken to a room where they "would be fried in olive oil." And all this in order not to betray a Lady more brilliant than the Sun! Unshakable conviction!

*Fr. Luciano Guerra*

## New Parish Church of Our Lady of Fatima in Italy



On the morning of May 31, 2008, in San Giorgio la Molara, province of Benevento, Italy, moments of intense emotion were lived at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima. The Dedication and Consecration of the altar was made by Msgr. Andrea Muglione, Archbishop of Benevento, diocese to which the parish belongs. The people joined the celebration and with great joy and faith saw come true a dream of many years.

Ardently desired by the deceased pastor and concluded by the current one, Fr. Luigi Ulano, the Shrine, which now substitutes the two former parishes of the town, is very beautiful, welcoming, luminous and very adequate for the celebrations to which is destined. There are three naves. On the one on the right side we find the altar of the Blessed Sacrament, above which there hangs a large statue of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. On the one on the left side we find the altar of St. George, Patron Saint of the City. In the sanctuary, behind the main altar, there is depicted on the wall a mosaic depicting the Miracle of the Sun which occurred on October 13, 1917, at Fatima. In it Our Lady protects with Her mantle the pilgrims present together with the three Little Shepherds, which means the constant protection of Mary over all Her children.

On the evening of that same day, a long procession with the Statue of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, restored and brought back to the city the previous evening, carried Mary through the streets of the town in order to bless the homes and its citizens, who have erected that temple in Her honor. The procession was concluded with the celebration of Holy Mass.

The Shrine of Fatima in Portugal was present to such a solemn act in the person of Chaplain Fr. Clement Dotti.

# A Call to Culture of Love

June's Anniversary Pilgrimage was, from beginning to end, a time of prayer and a call to brotherly love. The Most Rev. António Couto, Auxiliary Bishop of Braga, Portugal, touched the pilgrims' hearts with his excellent homilies.

Right away at the Pilgrimage's Opening Address, held in the Little Chapel of Apparitions, up until late afternoon on the 12<sup>th</sup>, the Prelate invited the pilgrims to prayer. He concluded his welcoming remarks with these words: "Bless, Mother, our brief years. Teach us how to live them all as you did yours, always under the gaze of God and looking after God. It is true! It is the great truth of Your life, Your golden secret. You always knew that God was looking after You, filling You with His grace. But You also knew how to look after God, because You knew that God is also little. Caressed by God, you lived caressing God. That's why all generations proclaim You 'Blessed'! Therefore, we greet You: 'Ave Maria...!'"

In the homily of the Mass of the 13<sup>th</sup>, while talking about the importance of love in today's society, Bishop António Couto emphasized that "Jesus teaches us that, when we kill a fellow human being, it is because love had already died in our hearts. When love - the true truth, that is, the maternal security, trust and confidence - dies, then we no longer look at ourselves as brothers, but as things to be gotten or to throw away, *means* to use for our own ends or *rivals* to eliminate".

Six thousand pilgrims took part in this Mass, which was concelebrated by 156 priests. Two thousand pilgrims received Holy Communion. Regarding organized groups, signed up at the Department of Service to the Pilgrims were 45 groups from the following countries: Germany, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Spain, USA, France, Ireland, Italy, Martinique, Poland, Portugal (only one group and that was from Toronto, Canada), Switzerland, United Kingdom, Reunion Island, Singapore and Viet Nam.



thanksgiving for the fact that Portugal didn't join World War II. The deceased Supreme Pontiff John Paul II donated the bullet which hit him during the attempt on his life which occurred at Rome, on May 13, 1981, in thanksgiving to the Virgin for having spared his life.

## 88<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Enthronement of Statue of Our Lady

The Statue of Our Lady venerated in the Little Chapel of Apparitions, heart and core of the Shrine of Fatima, was donated in 1920, three years after the apparitions, by Gilberto Fernandes dos Santos and enthroned on June 13 of that same year. It was made by sculptor José Ferreira Thedim and had earlier been blessed in the Parish Church of Fatima on May 13, 1920, but couldn't be enthroned in the Little Chapel of Apparitions until a month later, on June 13 – as mentioned above – because of opposition from the civil authorities.

It was crowned by the Pope's Legate, Cardinal Massela, on May 13, 1946.

The crown, which the Statue now only wears during the great celebrations, can be seen in the Shrine, at the Exhibition 'Fatima Light and Peace'. It is an only copy and it was made in Lisbon; 12 artists worked on it for three months and did it gratuitously. It weighs 1200 grams and it has been enriched by the addition of 313 pearls and 2679 precious stones. It was donated by the women of Portugal on October 13, 1942, in

## Fatima worth visiting

The night seems longer than usual. The few hours of sleep are interrupted by the deafening sound of the alarm clock. Yes, it is time... to take a shower, dress rapidly, have breakfast, check the luggage and depart to the bus depot. It is 6 o'clock in the morning and before they see daylight the bus begins the long trip with fifty people on board and as many desires to reach, as rapidly as possible, their final destination.

A little more than four hundred kilometers and approximately five hours separate these pilgrims from the Marian Shrine. Every year they follow the tradition, carrying in their hearts petitions and wishes of health, peace and happiness for all those left behind, believers, unbelievers and agnostics. These will all be present in their prayers and supplications at the Virgin's Shrine.

The trip seems to never end and fatigue is painted all over the faces of the travelers. Thank God, they finally arrive at the first mandatory stop in a rest area. They aren't alone; several buses are already waiting for other pilgrims taking their first coffee of the day, so that they can return to the road. They still have half of the way to travel in order to arrive at the center of the neighboring country, more or less at the same latitude as the province of Cáceres. Again in the bus, it is time for hymns, praises and prayers to the Virgin. The prayers are now a constant, which indicates that the trip is almost over.

A little after twelve noon they finally arrive to their destination. Purses and bags start to trot towards the hotels where they will lodge for a few days. Some of the pilgrims kneel down thanking God for being

able to be once again in this little Portuguese town, where the Virgin of Fatima welcomes thousands of believers from all over the world, who visit Her looking for comfort, thanksgiving, penance or simply to satisfy their curiosity.

Faith certainly moves mountains; the proof of that is that hundreds of people, after arriving in the Shrine, change their lives, overcoming an illness, becoming better persons, more charitable or simply living, from that moment on, a life more spiritual and dedicated to their neighbors. That is why it is worthwhile for anyone, whether believer or unbeliever, to visit the Marian Shrine of Fatima. The peace and tranquility one breathes in this place merit to be experienced by all.

José Manuel Pena  
Riveira – La Coruña, Spain



# International Anniversary Pilgrimage of May 2008

## Fatima, light of truth and hope for the world



12.05.2008

The Anniversary Pilgrimage of May 2008 was presided over by Portuguese Cardinal José Saraiva Martins, Prefect of the Pontifical Congregation for the Cause of Saints.

One of the great moments of communion was, as usual, the celebration of the International Mass of May 13, in which took part around 250,000 people from 32 countries. 24 bishops and 226 priests celebrated.

For the benefit of all those present and the thousands accompanying the celebration through the media, Cardinal Saraiva Martins recalled the non-negotiable Christian principles.

“In face of the loss of the meaning of values and the disorientation of consciences, Our Lady points out to us the non-negotiable principles, from which one must

inevitably start in order to found a correct civilian and Christian coexistence. Life; family; matrimony, as a stable and faithful union of one man and one woman and not in any other way; concrete charity; personal dignity, extended to all moments of life and to all dimensions of existence. This is the background and the atmosphere – human and Christian – in which the Message and the events of Cova da Iria are set.”, he said.

The Portuguese prelate also emphasized the vocation of Fatima as a ‘school of prayer: “Fatima is a school of Truth because it protects us from fables and teaches us how to face and interpret reality with the heart of God. It won’t stay silent over the ultimate destination of Man, it won’t belittle our responsibilities, but it points out to us the ways leading to the Mystery. Fatima is a school of prayer, the fundamental

way to penetrate the heart of God; a school of penance and generous donation of ourselves, according to the great tradition of the Church: the most beautiful fruits germinate and come to life only upon dying, in silence and away from the eyes of the world, in order to be born again according to the will of God.”.

Already before his arrival in Fatima, Cardinal Saraiva Martins had underlined, in an interview, over the phone, with the personnel of the Shrine’s Press Office, the importance of the mission of Fatima for the world. “To me, to go to Fatima is, in fact, to bring to mind one of the greatest ‘Marian Epics’, perhaps the greatest one of the past century, one of the greatest events which left a lasting mark on the history of the Church in Portugal and on many other countries in every continent; it is to relive a wonderful story, both ecclesial and social, which hasn’t come yet to an end, but instead continues throughout time”., the Prelate stated.

### Confessions are now held in the new church

Starting with the Anniversary Pilgrimage of May 2008, confessions at the Shrine of Fatima are now held in the Chapels of Reconciliation in Most Holy Trinity Church. The entrance to this space, the so-called Reconciliation Zone, can be made by the side ramps or the stairways. A greater number of people can be heard in Confession at the same time than previously, since there are more confessionals than before.



## President of the Ukraine visits Fatima

The President of the Ukraine visited Fatima on the morning of June 24. Victor Yushchenko, in the company of his wife, had prepared this trip to the Shrine of Fatima as part of the program of his presidential visit to Portugal which took place at the end of June.

On arrival to the Shrine, several groups of Ukrainians welcomed with emotion, at the Prayer Area, their Head of State.

The Shrine’s official reception then followed, headed by Fr. Virgílio Antunes, head of the Pilgrim Service Department of the Shrine, who accompanied and guided the numerous presidential entourage in a visit to several sites of the Shrine, namely the Little Chapel - where the couple

paused for a brief prayer – the Basilica and Most Holy Trinity Church.

The couple expressed much interest in everything pertaining to Fatima and revealed great knowledge of its history and message, namely the references to the conversion of Russia.

The President, at all times surrounded by strong security measures, placed a lighted candle on the candle stand area behind the Little Chapel of Apparitions.

On the Book of Honor of the Shrine the couple Victor and Katarina Yushchenko expressed wishes of God’s blessings for the world.

At the end of the visit, they donated to the Shrine an Icon of Our Lady.

## Children pray for Truth

Thousands of children from all over Portugal and also a little group from Austria took part, on June 9/10, in one of the most singular pilgrimages made to this Marian Shrine, namely the XXX Children's Pilgrimage.

The festive and prayerful atmosphere was the same as in previous pilgrimages, but this year there was a difference. It marked the beginning of the commemorations of the Centennial of the Birth of Francisco Marto and the theme chosen was a new one: 'Jesus, only You are the Truth'. In all moments of the pilgrimage, starting with the vigil of June 9, led by the Bishop of Leiria-Fatima, an effort was made to sensitize, through gestures, symbols and life examples, the importance of truth as a sign of love.

During the homily of Holy Mass on the 10<sup>th</sup>, presided over by Msgr. Luciano Guerra, Rector of the Shrine, the need and urgency to seek the truth was symbolically represented by a black wall – symbolizing the lie – being brought down. Within the wall, a large cross wrapped in black cloth – later removed – showed the beauty and strength with which one should seek the truth in one's life.

At that moment, Msgr. Guerra stated: "May the truth of the Cross of Christ be revealed! May the thick veils of the lie hiding the Cross of Christ be brought down! For loving the truth, Jesus was surrounded by hate and lies. The day we bring down the lie, the Cross of Christ will appear as a blooming cross, cross of truth, cross of love, cross of Life. May then the walls of lie which surround the Cross of Christ be brought down! Let there appear, instead, in all its beauty, the Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ! Deep down in our hearts, we proclaim here and now that we want to be

children of light; we want to love the truth which is found in the blooming cross of Jesus Christ."

At the end of Mass, the Bishop of Leiria-Fatima, Most Rev. António Marto, went up to the altar and urged his "little friends" – that's how he likes to call the children – to be witnesses to the truth. "Today Jesus asked me, bishop and successor of the apostles, to tell you: Jesus needs you the same way he needed little Francisco, the little shepherd of Fatima, so that, through you, he can spread the love of truth and the truth of love", he said and added with some emphasis that Jesus "doesn't forget any of you"

and that's why "he wants you to be great in the love of truth, in the love of one another and in the joy of life".

As usual in this Pilgrimage, the children present in Fatima received a souvenir for their participation. This year it was the book *Jesus, only You are the Truth*, a new publication with texts taken from the

Liturgical Lectionary of every Sunday up to June 11, 2009, when the Shrine of Fatima concludes the Commemorations of the Centennial of the Birth of Francisco Marto.

### Rector also receives gift!

At the end of Mass, Bishop António Marto went up to the altar and handed the Rector also a gift, much to his surprise: a unique book about the previous children's pilgrimages, from 1978 on. A few special words conclude the message of introduction of the Album-Book: "Portugal's children say to you: "Thanks very much, Dear Rector, for your love and everything you've done for us!"



On June 13, 2008, anniversary of the second apparition of Our Lady at Fatima and also anniversary of the enthronement of the statue of Our Lady in the Little Chapel of Apparitions, a Memorial to Jacinta, the little seer of Fatima who died on February 20, 1920, was blessed and inaugurated at the Cemetery of Ourém.

This gesture of homage to the Seer and

## Memorial to Jacinta erected in Ourém

Little Shepherd, who was beatified together with her brother Francisco by Pope John Paul II on May 13, 2000, was a joint initiative of the local government of Ourém and the Secretariat of the Little Shepherds, headed by Fr. Kondor, Vice-Postulator for the Cause of Canonization of Francisco and Jacinta Marto.

The Shrine of Fatima joined the initiative, in which took part representatives of Ourém's institutions, both secular and religious, as well as family members of the Little Seers of Fatima and of the Baron of Alvaiázere.

The monument will recall, for the people of Ourém and the devotees who will visit it, the place of rest for fifteen years of the mortal remains of Jacinta Marto until the day of their translation, on September 12, 1935, to the Cemetery of Fatima and, later on, to the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, in the Shrine of Fatima, on April 30, 1951.

It was a simple ceremony, just like the person being honored at that moment: Jacinta.

The Blessing and Inauguration were actually made, properly speaking, by the Bishop of Leiria-Fatima. Bishop António Marto reiterated the importance of this gesture of homage to the seer and of preservation of history. In his own words: "There is no history without memory and there is no memory without memorials". And then he thanked the local government officials for having joined the inauguration.

About the life and testimony of little Jacinta, the Prelate of Leiria-Fatima emphasized that "also the little and humble ones are capable of intervening in the history of mankind and in the history of salvation" and that holiness "is a spiritual beauty" and "the greatest contribution which Christians can offer to the history of mankind".

The author of the Memorial goes by the name of Master Soares Branco.



# Recife's Shrine exists since 1930



Regarding the devotion to Our Lady of Fatima in Recife, Brazil, more precisely at Nóbrega College, the Shrine of Fatima in Portugal possesses the text of a story sent by Fr. João de Miranda, SJ, which was published in the monthly newspaper 'Voz da Fátima' (Voice of Fatima), of August 13, 1931, reporting the inauguration of the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, held on August 13, 1930: "At 01h00 we held, in our Chapel, with the possible solemnity, the inauguration of the new Statue of Our

Lady of Fatima. The Chapel was literally full".

Fr. António Paulo Ciriaco Fernandes, SJ, writes in his book *Fátima Santuário Mundial* (Fatima World Shrine), ch. VI (Brazil wrapped in the protecting mantle of the Virgin of Fatima), p. 106, that "the largest and oldest center of this irradiation (of the devotion to Our Lady of Fatima, in Brazil), has surely been, I think, Nóbrega College, certainly since 1928 or perhaps even before that".

In the file of the devotion of Our Lady of Fatima in the world, the Shrine possesses a summary taken from that same book, which begins with these words: "Once again the infinite wisdom of God permitted that Portugal and Brazil became brothers in the great event which took place on March 19, 1917, when the Jesuit Fathers founded, in the City of Recife, Nóbrega College". That was less than two months before the first apparition of Our Lady at Fatima! That's no wonder that, a little after

the apparitions, the news about them had arrived in that town.

Afterwards we started receiving news about the blessing of the first stone of the new church, on October 15, 1933; about the start of the construction, in January 1934; about the solemn inauguration, on September 8, 1935, and so on and so on, up until today. The Shrine possesses another book which gives us the origins of that Shrine; it is written by Fr. Luís Gonzaga Cabral, SJ, *Inéditos e Dispersos* (Unpublished and Miscellaneous works) – VIII – Travel Letters (2<sup>nd</sup>), Braga, 1936, pp. 315-326. Worth mentioning is the large tower and the large dimension of the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima.

Many Portuguese Jesuit Priests, as well as others, were the first ones to spread the devotion of the 'Five First Saturdays' throughout Brazil, even before the official approval of the apparitions, with one stand-out: Fr. José Aparício, without whom someone said that it is not possible to write the history of Fatima.

*Fr. Luciano Cristino,  
Director of the Department of Research and  
Information of the Shrine of Fatima (SESDI)*

## Our Lady Triumphs in Casciana Terme, Tuscany

Once again Our Lady has triumphed on the hills of Tuscany!

One Statue of the Pilgrim Virgin was exposed to the faithful from May 11 to May 18 at the Parish of Our Lady of Assumption in the town of Casciana Terme (PI), Italy, whose pastor is Fr. Ernesto Testi.

The Statue was carried by the Fathers 'Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary', who animated the whole week with various initiatives: Days dedicated to the Parish, the Family, the Elderly and the Sick, Vocations, the Priesthood and finally a Day dedicated to the Youth, etc...

It was a week rich in spirituality, during which the Fathers passed on to all of us the message of Fatima, message of great opportunity, which touched the hearts of many faithful.

The church was always full of people and the affluence to the confessionals was great. Many came also from other parishes and towns.

Very beautiful were the two evenings with His Excellency Msgr. Fausto Tardelli, Bishop of the Diocese of St. Miniato. His homilies on Our Lady were excellent.

On May 17, Our Lady was carried in procession through the streets of town,

where the citizens had illuminated their homes in honor of the Queen of Heaven and Earth and where She must have surely left a sign in their hearts. At the end of the procession the Fathers entrusted the parishes and all present to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

On the last day, May 18, after the 17h00 Mass, the Pilgrim Virgin was accompanied on the way to departure by helicopter. There were present more than 2500 people and it was moving to watch the farewell to Mary with white handkerchiefs; I saw many people cry... their hearts had been touched by the Lady in white. In this town they will certainly remember this splendid week and this great Triumph of Our Lady!

The whole week was accompanied by hymns sung by the Sisters 'Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary', who, with their delicate and angelic voices, transmitted so much peace and tranquility.

I believe Our Lady came here to bring, through the Fathers, the message she left at Cova da Iria: the call to conversion, reconciliation, reparation and consecration.



I invite you all to consecrate yourselves to Her; you will feel protected and She will cover you with Her mantle and lead you to Her Son Jesus.

Thanks to Fr. Stefano, Fr. Paolo and Fr. Nicola for having brought us the messages of Our Lady, leading so many souls to know what happens, every 13<sup>th</sup> of May through October, at Fatima.

I specially thank my Heavenly Mother... where She goes, She always triumphs and where the Mother triumphs Jesus always triumphs too!

Thanks, Our Lady! Goodbye!

*Alessandra Bimbi, ITALY*



## Namaacha Receives Message from Bishop of Leiria-Fatima

On the occasion of another anniversary celebration of the Apparitions held at the Shrine of Cova da Iria, Portugal, the Archdiocese of Maputo and the rest of the dioceses of Mozambique also again celebrated the event, this year on the weekend of May 17/18. The various religious celebrations were marked by a high participation of pilgrims.

The main venue for the religious ceremonies was the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Namaacha, erected in order to commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Our Lady's apparitions at Fatima.

This year the pilgrims rejoiced upon hearing of the message sent by the Bishop of Leiria-Fatima.

Bishop António Marto wrote: "(This Shrine) echoes in Africa the private message of Our Lady for all mankind.

Mary manifests Herself as Mother of Mercy, when She makes Her own cry of sorrow and of love for mankind heard and mixes it with a message of consolation and hope. She keeps encouraging us at the beginning of this millennium: Be not afraid! Repent! Repent and convert your heart to the Merciful Love of God."

Bishop António concludes his message with a prayer: "Brothers and Sisters! Pilgrims! May Our Lady of Fatima be close to you and always accompany you with Her Maternal help, this is my prayer."

## Porto Alegre's VI Pilgrimage Speaks of Missionary Mission of Mary

In May 2008, thousands of people walked approximately four kilometers through the northern part of the Capital of Porto Alegre, Brazil, to pay homage to Our Lady of Fatima.

The devotees of Our Lady kept joining the VI Fatima Pilgrimage along the programmed course, which had its start at St. Rose of Lima Parish and ended, at 10h00, at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Porto Alegre. There, the Rector of the Shrine, Fr. José Luiz Schaedler, and other church officials celebrated an open air Mass in the front yard of the *Instituto de Educação São Francisco* (St. Francis Educational Institute). The Pilgrimage marked the end of the Novena that highlighted the maternal figure of Our Lady as disciple and missionary, by emphasizing her preoccupation with neighbor and with life in particular.

Besides the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, the pilgrims also carried the Statues of Little Shepherds Francisco and Jacinta and many signs proclaiming peace, health and safety. The VI Fatima Pilgrimage was made up of adults and children who prayed with much fervor and faith.

Thousands of people had earlier seen their prayers answered and now were there to thank Our Lady. Others came to seek health, employment and safety.

Most interesting enough was to see the large number of children and adolescents who came to pray to the Little Shepherds of Fatima. Every year this devotion increases. It shows the interest for life issues and for the Kingdom of God, according to one of the children shouldering the carrier of Blessed Jacinta.

At the Shrine of Fatima in Porto Alegre there is a Little Chapel of the **Little Shepherds of Fatima**, which is open daily to the public. The Statues of the Little Shepherds came from the Shrine of Fatima in Portugal, where they were blessed.

[santuariodefatima@institutosaofrancisco.com.br](mailto:santuariodefatima@institutosaofrancisco.com.br)



## Fatima in the Island of Jersey

Over ten thousand Portuguese live in the small island of Jersey. This is a place which has Queen Elizabeth of England as its sovereign, but maintains its own independent government. It is in the English Channel near the coast of France. There is one town in the middle of which is a Catholic Church, St. Thomas'. There we have a new chapel of Our Lady of Fatima.

With money raised from local people, a new "capela" was inaugurated in 2007. Portuguese tiles, imported from Lisbon and made by Viúva Lamego, a traditional firm, the statue of Our Lady of Fatima is enthroned in one wall. On the other wall the hand-painted tiles depict the apparition at Fatima, with Our Lady and the three children. This special chapel feels like visiting Portugal and Fatima for all who come here throughout the day or for Our Lady's special feasts and celebrations. Twice a year priests come from Portugal to celebrate the "Festa" on the Sunday nearest to 13 May and 13 October.

In the chapel there are votive candle stands together with a book for people to write their prayers and petitions. Throughout the day this is a place of prayer and devotion. Do come to our island and do visit this chapel.

*Msgr. Nicholas France*





# Pilgrims of Fatima help Darfur

The Shrine of Fatima seeks to develop activities of solidarity, such as gestures of human and Christian compassion.

Despite the fact that at Masses celebrated in the Shrine of Fatima there are no money collections at the Offertory, except those approved by the Bishops Conference and by the Diocese of Leiria-Fátima, for – Social Communication Catholic Media, Catholic University, Caritas, Penitential Contribution, Holy Places, Cathedra of St. Peter, Migrations, Seminary Day, Diocese Day – nevertheless the Shrine, whenever it can, supports other concrete projects and activities.

Lately, the Shrine has promoted special fundraisings for causes considered dire and urgent.

The last time this was done was on May 13, 2008, with the Offertory collection going to the victims of the conflict in Darfur. The sum collected, from the charitable pilgrims then in Fatima, came to \$69,100.63 Euros, with the Shrine of Fatima adding to it another \$5,000 Euros. The total sum was delivered to the Portuguese Caritas.



alized in the Pilgrimage of May of this year.

## Myanmar and China also receive help

Because it considers extremely serious another two current situations and the need to help urgent, the Shrine of Fatima decided to donate \$5,000 Euros to help the victims of Hurricane Nargis in Myanmar (former Burma) and the same amount for the victims of the earthquake in China, sums which were delivered to Caritas for those purposes.

# In Shrine of Fatima one prayer for the Church in China

The Shrine of Fatima also joined the initiative of ‘World Day for Prayer in China’, in response to the call made to the entire Catholic Church by Pope Benedict XVI.

On May 24, at all the official celebrations in the Shrine, the prayer composed by the Holy Father, addressed to Our Lady of Sheshan, was distributed and recited.

Also during the 11 o’clock International Mass, celebrated at Most Holy Trinity Church, the context for the call of the Pope was explained. The Rector of the Shrine, who concelebrated together with more than a dozen of other priests, showed that, with this initiative, the Holy Father wants to make known the difficult situation of many Catholics in China and, thus, call for prayers “for those who suffer that situation of silence and oppression”.

Msgr. Luciano Guerra recalled that Catholicism is in that country for five centuries now, after being brought there by the first missionaries and, although it is not the religion of the majority

of the people – because there are adverse “social, political and other” situations – nevertheless it still subsists today, despite difficulties, imprisonments and persecutions. That is why the Catholic Church in China, united to Rome and to the Holy Father, is known as the Church of Silence. The Rector recalled that these persecutions came about after the Communists took power in China.

“The great barrier of communism – The Berlin Wall – was brought down; however, in some places, materialism, the valorization of matter, still subsists. (...) When a regime is founded on atheistic materialism, that is, without God, there begins the persecution of religion” and also of the Catholics united to the Pope.

In the prayer written by Benedict XVI to our Lady of Sheshan, venerated in China, one can read: “Please help Catholics to always be credible witnesses of this love (for Christ) and keep them united to the rock of Peter, on which the Church is built”.

Sheshan



## Fátima – Light and Peace

**Director:** Mgr. Luciano Guerra  
**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@santuário-fatima.pt – www.santuário-fatima.pt  
**Printing:** Gráfica Almondina  
**Address:** Torres Novas  
**Legal Deposit:** 210 650/04  
**Registration:** ICS 124521  
**Annual subscription:**  
**Portugal:** 5 € – **Abroad:** 10 €

## FATIMA LIGHT AND PEACE – RENEWAL/NEW SUBSCRIPTION

**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION = 4 ISSUES**

Send your subscription request to: assinaturas@santuário-fatima.pt

Check out the idiom in which you wish to receive the issue:

German , Spanish , French , English , Italian , Polish , Portuguese

Renewal or new subscription: Portugal: 5 Euros – Abroad: 10 Euros

National Bank Transfer (Millennium BCP): NIB: 0033 0000 50032983248 05

International Bank Transfer: IBAN: PT50 0033 0000 5003 2983 2480 5

BIC/SWIFT: BCOMPTPL / Check or Postal Money Order: To the order of: Fátima Luz e Paz, Santuário de Nossa Senhora de Fátima, Apartado 31, 2496-908, Fatima, Portugal

Please help us spread the Message of Our Lady through ‘Fatima Light and Peace’!

## *On the Centennial of the Birth of Blessed Francisco Marto*

# Short biography of a life full of grace

Francisco Marto was born on June 11, 1908, in Aljustrel, parish of Fatima, and was baptized on June 20.

He was a child of Manuel Pedro Marto and Olímpia de Jesus, brother of Jacinta Marto (1910-1920) and cousin of Lúcia de Jesus (1907-2005), the three little shepherds, to whom, in the Spring, Summer and Fall of 1916, and Angel appeared in 'Loca do Cabeço' (hilltop grotto); also Our Lady of the Rosary on the 13th of May, June, July, September and October of 1917, in Cova da Iria (Iria's Hole) and on August 19, 1917, in the place of Valinhos.

He got ill on December 23, 1918, after having contracted the pneumonic flu, and died on April 4, 1919, after having gone to Confession and received Holy Communion. He was buried in Fatima's parochial cemetery on April 5. The local Pastor wrote on an attachment to the parochial process, dated April 18, ordered, in October 1917, by the Arch-

bishop of Mytilene and sent on April 28, 1919, to the Patriarchate of Lisbon: "Francisco – the seer – died at 22h00, this April 4th, victim of a prolonged 5-month illness of pneumonic flu, after having received the sacraments with great lucidity and devotion. He confirmed to have seen a Lady in Cova da Iria and Valinhos". His mortal remains were exhumed from his grave on February 17, 1952, and translated on March 13 of the same year to the Basilica of Fatima, where they were entombed on the right side of the transept.

His process of beatification, together with that of his sister Jacinta, was begun on April 30 of that same year of 1952. However only on August 3, 1979 it was sent to the Congregation for the Cause of Saints and opened on December 20th of the same year. In April 1981 their virtues were judged to have been heroic and, therefore, they could now be beatified and canonized, despite the fact that the children were not martyrs. The decree on the heroic



virtues of the two little shepherds was signed by Pope John Paul II on May 13, 1989 and the title of venerable granted to them.

On June 28, 1999, the decree of the Congregation for the Cause of the Saints regarding the miracle attributed to Francisco and Jacinta in favour of Maria Emilia Santos was promulgated in the presence of the Pope.

*Fr. Luciano Cristino*

## Way of Light Inaugurated in Fatima

The Catholic movement 'Testimoni del Risorto' (Witnesses to the Risen One), which makes part of the large Salesian Family, donated, this past May, to the Shrine of Fatima in Portugal a *Via Lucis* (Way of Light), whose author is the Italian artist Vanni Rinaldi.

The blessing and inauguration of the *Way of Light* were held on the morning of June 2, in the presence of a significant group of members of the Movement 'Testimoni del Risorto' and many other pilgrims.

The *Way of Light*, installed in the hall between the Chapel of the Resurrection and the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament, in the Reconciliation Zone of Most Holy Trinity Church, consists of fourteen pictures representing the Mystery of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the moment of Resurrection from death until the day of Pentecost, when the Risen One sends the Promised Spirit to the disciples.

The ceremony, held at the Basilica of the Shrine of Fatima, began with Holy Mass.

During the homily, Bishop António Marto, of Leiria-Fatima, spoke of the Resurrection of Jesus as "the great joy of the Gospel",



which brought about an enduring change in mankind.

"We all know of the Stations of the Cross, in which we contemplate and interi-

orize the mystery of the Passion and Death of Jesus. The *Via Lucis* will help us to interiorize all the beauty of the Stations of Light. These are the two faces of the same coin, that is, of the Mystery of the Resurrection of Christ", thus explained Bishop António, who went on to pray to the Risen Christ: "Risen Lord, God with Us, restitute to us confidence in life, in goodness, in the beauty of Life".

After the ceremonies of blessing and inauguration, Vanni Rinaldi spoke up to tell us that "it is an honor and a great privilege to have my works exposed at the Shrine of Fatima, a place recognized as the center of universal faith".

A booklet titled *Via Lucis*, showing the Stations of the Resurrection (*Via lucis*), was published by the Shrine of Fatima to come out in time for this event. The text was written by the artist himself, based on the text 'In Camino com il Risorto' (Waking along with the Risen One) by Fr. Sabino Palumbieri, who, besides being the founder of 'Testimoni del Risorto', is also Professor of Theological Anthropology at the Pontifical Salesian Athenaeum, in Rome.