



# FÁTIMA LUZ EPAZ

Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fátima

Director: Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas

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*Time of grace and mercy:  
giving thanks for our pilgrimage as Church*

## Shrine of Fatima invites pilgrims to “giving thanks for our pilgrimage as Church” / Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas

On 2 December 2018 we began at the Shrine of Fatima a new Pastoral Year that invites us to give thanks for our pilgrimage as Church. This is the second year of the current triennium, which we are living as “Time of grace and mercy”.

In 2019 there are two especially relevant centenaries: the centenary of the construction of the Little Chapel of the Apparitions and the centenary of the death of Saint Francisco Marto. The one hundred years of the construction of the Little Chapel is the inspiring event of this year’s theme. In the Apparition of October 13, Our Lady told the Seers: “I want to tell you that a chapel is to be built here”. This chapel was the beginning of the Shrine and nowadays it still remains its “core”. In a Christian context, the church building – in this case, the “chapel” – is always a symbol of a living stones Church that reunites to celebrate the presence of Jesus Christ.

The Message of Fatima highlights this ecclesial dimension expressed on the theme “giving thanks for our pilgrimage as Church”. This ecclesial dimension of the message becomes clear, in a very explicit way, in the so-called “Secret”, in the reference to the “Bishop dressed in white” and to the Church, both pilgrim and martyr. The awareness of being Church is experienced in Fatima in many ways: taking part at the sacramental celebrations, always an expression of the Church par excellence; at the believers’ assemblies gathered there to a shared expression of faith, to worship God, to give Him thanks and praise Him; in union and in communion with the Pope and in prayer for him, which is so characteristic of Fatima.

But the theme of the year aims to underline that the experience of being Church is dynamic: it’s a pilgrimage. The Church is aware of being a community on a journey. In this journey of the Church, the Apparitions of Fatima are God’s comfort offered to the members of His pilgrim Church; they’re a relief for the journey. In the lengthy pilgrimage of Her children, Mary presents her Immaculate Heart as a refuge and a way.

This Pastoral Year invites us to face the message of Fatima as a means to achieve a greater ecclesial awareness and an effective way to strengthen the sense of ecclesial belonging, namely through a shared experience of pilgrimage.

## The Statue of Our Lady of Fatima was pilgrim in Panama bringing peace and hope to the peripheries and the youth all over the world

Our Lady of Fatima made herself pilgrim in Panama: she was at the World Youth Day 2019 with the Pope, at a prison, a hospital and several churches. Everywhere she was welcomed and worshipped by thousands of people / Carmo Rodeia



The Pope and the Statue of the Pilgrim Virgin were the first two pilgrims registered in the WYD

Statue No. 1 of the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima participated for the first time in the World Youth Day, that took place between January 22 and 27 in Panama, where she brought peace and hope to youth from all over the world that went there on pilgrimage and also to the excluded that suffer from disease or imprisonment, in an atmosphere that “exceeded all expectations” whether “as manifestation of faith and devotion by the people of Panama”, whether as expression “of the acceptance of Mary’s example that invites us to follow Jesus”.

The review of this “celebration day” that in 2022 will take place in Lisbon, the city chosen and revealed by Pope Francis to host the next international edition of the World Youth Day, was made by the Rector of the Shrine of Fatima, who, together with a delegation from the Shrine of Fatima, accompanied the exceptional visit of the original Statue of the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima, that, since 2000, is enthroned in the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary in Fatima.

“The Statue’s reception was really enthusiastic; we were positively surprised because it exceeded our most optimistic expectations”,

highlighted the priest during the press conference with national and international journalists.

The Rector reminded that even though the Statue was integrated in the official program of the World Youth Day 2019 – something completely new –, she fulfilled a parallel program that took her to the peripheries, trying to achieve also one of the goals defined by the organizers of the WYD 2019, who have drawn attention for several times to the fact that the Church must not forget the peripheries.

It should be recalled that the Statue visited a women’s detention centre in Panama City, offering the prisoners a spiritual moment of prayer before the Statue of the Virgin, as well as visiting the patients of a cancer hospital in the Panamanian capital, and also being present in numberless moments of prayer that were shared with several poor communities in Panama City.

“The experience we have made was of great emotion for everyone’s feelings and the way they managed to live that moment within their frailty”, Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas enhanced.

# Pope asked the young people to follow the example of Our Lady

Before the Statue of the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima, Francis defied the young people to be the “now” of the Church, inspired by Mary and influencing the History of Mankind / Carmo Rodeia



Fotografia do Vaticano

The Pope prayed before the Virgin at the WYD Vigil, asking the young people to follow her as an example

The Pilgrim Statue of Fatima, the most travelled catholic sculpture of all times (in 10 years, between 1947 and 1957, the statue travelled through the five continents), was at St. John Paul II Field (Campo San Juan Pablo II), the main site of the WYD 2019, for several times and, before the Statue, Pope Francis challenged the young people to imitate the example of Mary, giving a generous and unreserved yes to God, being the true influence in the 21st century.

The Pope challenged the young people to use the new technologies' potential to be influencers, with their faith, just like the Virgin Mary.

“Obviously, the young woman of Nazareth was not part of the social networks of the time. She was not an “influencer” – a digital influencer –, but without wanting or trying to, She became the most influential woman in the history of mankind”, he urged during the speech at the Prayer Vigil, in St. John Paul II Field.

“Mary, the ‘influencer’ of God. With just a few words, she was able to say ‘yes’ and to trust in the love and promises of God, who is the only force capable of making all things new”, he added. “We are always struck by the strength of that young woman’s ‘yes’”, Francis continued. “It was the ‘yes’ of someone prepared to be committed

and take a risk. In this path, the first step is not being afraid to embrace life as it comes, with its imperfections and difficulties”.

Stressing the need to look into the tangible reality, the Pontiff emphasized that it’s “it is not enough to be connected all day long to feel acknowledged or loved”.

And he left a second challenge, in line with the first: “You, dear young people, are not the future. We like to say, ‘you are the future’. No, you are the present. You are not the future of God, you young people are the now of God”, he declared, in the homily of the Closing Mass of the WYD 2019.

“He invites you and calls you in your communities and cities to go out and find your grandparents, your elders; to stand up and with them to speak out and realize the dream that the Lord has dreamed for you. Not tomorrow, now!”

The Pope finished his two allocutions, always the same way, challenging the young people to be brave: “Do not be afraid to tell the Lord that you too want to be part of His love story in this world”.

## The world is not only for the strong

The Pope said to the multitude of young people gathered to follow him in the Vigil of the WYD, in the evening of January 26, in Panama, that “Saying ‘yes’ to the Lord means preparing to embrace life as it comes, with all its fragility, its simplicity, and often enough too, with its conflicts and annoyances. It means embracing our country, our families and our friends as they are, with all their weak points and their flaws.”

“Embracing life is also seen in accepting things that are not perfect, pure or ‘distilled’, yet no less worthy of love. Is a disabled or frail person not worthy of love? Is a person who happens to be a foreigner, a person who made a mistake, a person ill or in prison, not worthy of love?”

## Only what is loved can be saved

The Pope enhanced the importance of love in the story of salvation, in spite of all of men’s weaknesses.

“Only what is loved can be saved. Only what is embraced can be transformed. The Lord’s love is greater than all our contradictions, frailties and flaws. Yet it is precisely through our contradictions, frailties and flaws that He wants to write this love story”.

One of the great dramas of mankind today, said Francis, is precisely in those, including many young people, who don’t feel loved by God, many times because they don’t feel loved or acknowledged by their peers.

## A prayer for peace in Venezuela

At the Church of San Francisco de la Caleta, before the Statue of the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima, the Rector of the Shrine of Fatima requested a prayer for peace in Venezuela, less than 24 hours after the constitutional crisis hit the country: “We know we can ask everything to the Mother, and I would like to invite you to ask for peace. The Message of Fatima is a message of peace – Our Lady requested that we prayed for peace –, so during these days pray for peace in the world, pray for peace in Venezuela”, the priest said.



## Young people obtain plenary indulgence before the Statue of the Virgin of Fatima

All the pilgrims who took part in the World Youth Day (WYD) were able to obtain before the Statue of the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima a plenary indulgence, as long as they fulfilled the usual requirements in these circumstances: celebrating the sacrament of Reconciliation, participating in the Eucharist or praying before the Statue of the Pilgrim Virgin for the Holy Father’s intentions.

“It’s very interesting that the request for a plenary indulgence has come from the organisers who also, since the beginning, have requested the presence of the statue of the Pilgrim Virgin”, stated the Rector of the Shrine of Fatima, at his departure from Lisbon.

Therefore, “the true significance is to understand the Message of Fatima as a message of conversion and mercy”, Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas enlightened.

# Lisbon hosts World Youth Day in 2022: presence of the Virgin of Fatima will be “extremely important”

Pope Francis’ decision, announced in Panama, was applauded by the Church and the civil society / Carmo Rodeia



Portuguese Church and State assume organization of the World Youth Day 2022 in Lisbon

The Cardinal-Patriarch of Lisbon declared that Our Lady of Fatima “will have an extremely important role” in the next World Youth Day (WYD) in 2022, that will be hosted in the Portuguese capital, by Pope Francis’ decision, announced during the WYD of Panama, where the Statue of the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima has been for the first time in the history of these youth world encounters.

“It will be an extremely important role because it’s also interesting to verify that in this catholic juvenile movement we have identified in Portugal, the Marian devotion, the devotion to Our Lady of Fatima, is extremely important”, Cardinal Manuel Clemente, Patriarch of Lisbon, told the Catholic TV Channel EWTN.

In his statement to this US TV network, Cardinal Manuel Clem-

ente, president of the Portuguese Episcopal Conference, enhanced the link between Our Lady and the World Youth Day, an international event of “papal initiative”.

“In all the revelations and manifestations of Our Lady in History, Fatima is the one which is most linked to the Popes, the one which is more linked to the Pope’s ministry and to everything concerning the Pope”, explained the Cardinal-Patriarch of Lisbon.

According to Cardinal António Marto, Bishop of the Diocese of Leiria-Fatima, this Day will create momentum for “Church revitalisation, which will put families, youth groups, parishes and dioceses on the move and will test the dynamism of the Portuguese Church”.

“Our Lady is always present in this Church event; She has been present in this Panama Day, with the presence of Statue No. 1 of the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima, before which we have seen the Holy Father praying in a truly impressive way, and certainly Fatima, as a place, will attract the pilgrimage of many young people that will come to Lisbon”, stated Cardinal António Marto.

The Cardinal has no doubts that the Portuguese Church as well as the Portuguese State “will rise to the occasion” of this event that is also “a challenge and an opportunity to put in practice the hospitality trait of the Portuguese people” in an event “in which, once again, Portugal will open itself to other cultures, paying special attention to Lusophony (the Portuguese speaking world), to the Portuguese speaking peoples, especially those coming from Africa, which still hasn’t had the grace of receiving the organisation of a day such as this”.

According to the Rector of the Shrine of Fatima this is “a great joy and responsibility” for the Portuguese Church in general and for Fatima in particular, because many young people are expected at Cova da Iria during the World Youth Day.

“If we fill ourselves with joy for the Portuguese Church as a whole, we also feel the enormous responsibility so that Fatima knows how to welcome and embrace the young people who travel there”, the priest also said.

The President of the Republic Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, on his side, stresses the importance of this choice to the affirmation of Lusophony and enhances “the weight of Portugal, the weight of Fatima and the weight of the Portuguese Catholic People” to justify the Vatican’s choice.



Cardinal-Patriarch stresses the important role that the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima will have at Lisbon’s WYD

## The School of the Shrine fosters the deepening of the Rosary in four weekends

The Rosary is presented as an evangelical itinerary of theological life, tuning the different mysteries with the spirituality of the Advent, Ordinary Time, Lent and Easter / Carmo Rodeia



Itineraries work with a maximum of 40 participants

The School of the Shrine offers, for this pastoral year, a journey of experience, training and reflection on the Rosary to recover the awareness of its meaning, of its deep significance and topicality.

“The Rosary, evangelical itinerary of theological life” is the theme of this training workshop which will be carried out in four sessions. The first and the second were held between 15th and 20th of December and the 19th and 20th of January, which focused on the Joyful and Luminous Mysteries. The next encounter, the third of this itinerary of the Rosary, focusing on the Sorrowful Mysteries, will be carried out on March 16 and 17, during Lent, and the fourth encounter, focusing on the Glorious Mysteries, on May 18 and

19, during Easter. The offer of the itinerary as a whole is also foreseen, between May 27 and June 2, for which details will follow on April, when registrations shall be submitted.

The proposal to deepen the Rosary originates on the firm request that Our Lady delivered in Cova da Iria to the Little Shepherds for a daily prayer of the Rosary. Assuming itself as “School of the Rosary”, the Shrine offers now the possibility to rediscover this form of prayer, recovering the awareness of its significance, deepness and topicality.

The Itinerary is addressed to all, having particular interest to pastoral agents. The registration is free of charge but is required, and given that the itineraries

constitute a unit, priority will be given to those registrations made for the entire program.

Through this training proposal, which presents the Rosary as an evangelical itinerary of theological life, the Shrine of Fatima wishes to go further in this practice of Marian prayer, highlighting its evolution in the history of Christian spirituality; its Christocentric dimension; its significance on the Message of Fatima; the comprehension of its mystagogic role in the Christian life as theological existence and the recognition of its evangelical relevance in the spiritual life of the believers.

This is a proposal of the School of the Shrine that, since early 2018, through the itineraries that aim to deepen the spirituality on the Message of Fatima, has undertaken the mission of deepening and discovering the spirituality of the Message of Fatima reading it in a close relation with meaningful experiences of contemporaneity and through the recognition of its ecclesiality and pastoral relevance.

During last year, in the various itineraries that the School of the Shrine has promoted, it has welcomed around three hundred participants.

For the pastoral year of 2018-2019, the School of the Shrine offers three training proposals, in distinct formats and approaches: the Itineraries of Spirituality, a Course on the Message of Fatima and the Pastoral Workshops.



The groups are divided according to the mysteries

# Statue of the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima is again the Peace ambassador in 16 journeys

Statue No. 11 will visit Jordan in May / Carmo Rodeia

The Statue of the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima will make 16 journeys this year, along three continents, noteworthy among them a visit to Jordan, in May, invited by the *Catholic Center for Studies and Media* of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem. Statue No. 11 will be in Jordan between May 30 and June 3 and will remain in this research centre.

The Statue of the Pilgrim Virgin will also visit several countries of Latin America where the devotion to Our Lady is very significant, such as Panama, Brazil, Costa Rica and Colombia.

This January, exceptionally, Statue No. 1 has been in Panama for the World Youth Day, where Pope Francis was welcomed. Statue No. 10 has also visited the Archdiocese of San José, in Costa Rica, and, from May 1, Statue No. 3 will travel to São Paulo, Brazil, where it will remain until the end of the Month of Mary.

Italy will welcome once again the visit of four Statues of the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima, namely from April. Statue No. 4 will be on pilgrimage in several Italian dioceses, invited by the World Apostolate of Fatima; No. 5 will be in Brescia and Ferrara, between May 11 and 21. By the end of the year, statue No. 6 will be (from December 6) in Cagliari, after a visit to Florence, in May. Also during the month of May, Statue No. 7 will be on pilgrimage in Milan and other dioceses of the Italian region of Lombardy. Statue No. 13 will also visit several Italian dioceses between April 27 and June 2.

During this pastoral year at the Shrine, whose theme is “giving thanks for our pilgrimage as Church”, the Statue of the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima will also visit two dioceses in Spain – Santiago de Compostela and Alicante – and to Coimbra, in Portugal.

The main journey was, in fact, to Panama, to the World Youth Day, where the Pilgrim Virgin followed a specific program that took her to a prison and an oncological hospital.

In a message to the Christians of Panama, Father Carlos Cabecinhas, Rector of the Shrine of Fatima, spoke of the “great joy” it has been sending the “most important Pilgrim Virgin Statue” to this event.

“This Pilgrim Statue is unique, it’s the first and the original, the one that has crossed several continents, the one that has travelled around the world for sev-



Between 1947 and 2003 the No.1 statue of the Pilgrim Virgin travelled approximately 15 world tours, equivalent to 630 thousand kilometers.

eral times, and hasn’t left the Shrine since the year 2000. This Statue was enthroned in 2000 at the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima and it comes out only very exceptionally, on very important occasions. We believe that this is a very important moment that justifies therefore the coming of this Pilgrim Statue No. 1, the one that, as I was telling you, is for us the most important of all the Pilgrim Statues of Our Lady of Fatima”, the Rector of the Shrine explained, also justifying the World Youth Day 2019 as an “ecclesial event of primary importance”.

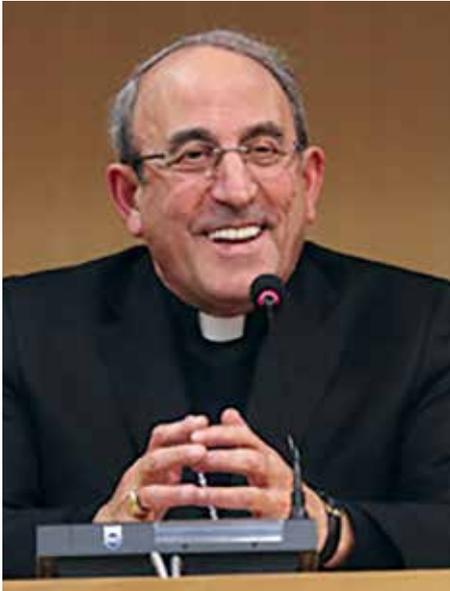
According to Father Carlos Cabecinhas, there is a “clear conscience of how impor-

tant it is for all the Church the presence of young people together with the Holy Father in prayer, in reflection, in conviviality, in celebration”.

On the other hand, “we know how much the devotion to Our Lady is linked with the World Youth Day ever since its origins. We know how much Pope Saint John Paul II was a devotee to Our Lady, and therefore, quite naturally, when he created the World Youth Day he gave it, since the beginning, a Marian slant; also, this was ample reason to send you such an important Statue”. Sending it “is a way to express union in prayer on this event”, he reaffirmed.

# Cardinal António Marto wants a Pilgrim Church in History calling to conversion

The Bishop of Leiria-Fatima presided over the Opening Day of the new Pastoral Year at the Shrine of Cova da Iria / Carmo Rodeia



Christians are called to the daily mission of evangelization

The Church is “pilgrim in History”, in permanent conversion, renewal, and hoping that “God gives as a gift”, toward a “definitive goal”.

The idea was put forward by the Bishop of Leiria-Fatima at the closing of the New Pastoral Year theme Presentation Day, “giving thanks for our pilgrimage as Church”, which was held at the Pastoral Centre of Paul VI, on December 1.

“Pilgrimage is a trait of the Church, which on Pentecost went forth to proclaim the Good News of Christ. Today, the Church is invited to continue its pilgrimage in the world while pilgrim in History; it’s called to grow in faith and in bearing witness, and it’s called to renew itself at a time when the dust of History falls over it”, said the prelate, noting that no one should become discouraged with the mission that, in Fatima and from Fatima, is guided by Our Lady.

“Here in Fatima, Our Lady asked for the conversion of the world and of the Church, a conversion that should be made on a daily basis”, he clarified, remembering the role of Our Lady as Pilgrim and Disciple of this Good News.

“She presented herself to the peoples of the Earth as a symbol of God’s mercy and tenderness”, Cardinal António Marto said, recalling some examples in which Mary revealed herself as pilgrim, from the Visitation to Elisabeth, her cousin, to the wedding feast of Cana, where she spoke of the need for new wine, and finally in Calvary, where she accompanied her son to the Cross.

“She set out on a journey as a woman and as a mother and today, for us, she serves as a guide”, he stated, reminding that this is the sign of hope of the Christian pilgrimage.

“Christ doesn’t want us to walk without a mother. She is present in such a way in the heart of the believers, she’s a sign of hope and consolation to this pilgrim people and she keeps telling the desolate and discouraged Mankind: in the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph”, he clarified.

Making an allusion to a more specific concept of pilgrimage, something inherent to the human condition, he enhanced that “the pilgrimage can be a beautiful and surprising experience of God; an experience of deep interiority” when it is “a journey with a goal to achieve”. Cardinal António Marto also alerted to the dangers of a “culture of outward appearances” and to the “frenzy of time”. Therefore, he reminded, it’s necessary to let “the Lord’s word be a compass for the way”; to share the bread; to let “the prayer and thought turn to God” to a true inner conversion for the change of each and everyone and of the world”.

## Shrine: a place of pilgrimage and of departure for the mission

The Shrine of Fatima is simultaneously a place of pilgrimage and an example of an outgoing missionary Church, the Deacon Rui Ruivo stated during the conference on the theme for the new Pastoral Year, “giving thanks for our pilgrimage as Church”.

“Fatima is the manifestation of the pilgrim Church that celebrates faith, that carries out its *diakonia* in fraternal service, that announces the Good News” and that “embraces the poor and the least”, offering “reconciliation and forgiveness” and providing a meaningful encounter with God.

“At the Shrine of Fatima we go on pilgrimage in Church not only at the great events, such as the coming of the Pope, when we easily see and feel ourselves as part of the Church, but also on the everyday life of this Shrine. In every circumstance, we are always pilgrims in Church”, he stated, reminding that the Shrine itself is a pilgrim “because it returns with the pilgrims that come here”.

“If, on the one hand, the Shrine opens its doors wide open and goes out, spreading itself a little all over the world, through its ever-present message of conversion and penance as an appeal to Peace”, on the other hand the Shrine “opens its doors and there are many who come to Cova da Iria as pilgrims, just like someone entering the intimacy of their bedroom, to ask, thank and pray, to listen, believe

and cry”, Rui Ruivo stated, enhancing that it has always been like this, from the moment that Our Lady asked for a chapel to be built here.

“I want to tell you that a chapel is to be built here’ makes us look at Fatima as a place where the Church becomes truly Catholic, universal, opening up to the world and embracing all”, he specified, emphasising another dimension of this eclesiality built on a feeling of friendship and fraternity, characteristic of pilgrimage.

The young deacon recalled the meaning of ‘going on a pilgrimage’, a kind of journey that always implies an openness to the other and to his pains, presenting the pilgrimage as “a place” where we experience the “fraternity in Church”, through which one looks for a meaning and a closeness to God.

“Whoever arrives in Fatima brings not only his pains, but also the pains of others. This is what going on a pilgrimage in Church means”, because ecclesial solicitude tells us that whenever “someone suffers I suffer too”.

“The experience of alterity is what Fatima gives us”, he clarified, stating that “the true meaning of life is not arriving alone, is not arriving first, but arriving together. To put ourselves in the others’ shoes is to open up to him”, he said.

“The one who goes on a pilgrimage in an artless itinerancy opens up to God and to the others in an enduring exodus where his heart and the heart of the others are transformed”, he also added.

“Therefore, Fatima becomes more and more the expression of this being to the others”, and telling a particular episode he lived during one of his numberless pilgrimages to Cova da Iria, he concluded: “In the experience of saying Fatima I have lived the example of this pilgrim and uneven Church, the Church of Heaven that embraces the injured hearts with the certainty that Mary embraces us all with her huge protective mantle” where the Chapel in which the image rests “is a mantle of a wide heart”.

The New Pastoral Year theme Presentation Day was preceded by the opening of the “Chapel-Mundi” exhibition, marking the celebration of the centenary of the construction of the Little Chapel of the Apparitions, that will be daily open to public until 15 October 2019, at the St Augustine’s Social Hall, in the lower floor of the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity.

In the New Pastoral Year theme Presentation Day there was also a performance by the choir of the Shrine of Fatima and the *Schola Cantorum* Little Shepherds of Fatima, who presented a repertoire centred on Fatima’s songs.

## The Apparitions of Fatima “are God’s comfort offered to the members of His pilgrim Church” Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas stated

The Shrine of Fatima presented the theme for the new Pastoral Year, which began on December 2 with the opening of the new Liturgical Year / Carmo Rodeia



Pilgrim Church is made of “living stones” that walk together, Rector says

The Shrine of Fatima began the new Pastoral year on December 2, during which it invites the pilgrims “giving thanks for our pilgrimage as Church,” a dimension of ecclesiality highlighted by the Message of Fatima.

“The Message of Fatima highlights this ecclesial dimension — the awareness of being the people of God — expressed on the theme “giving thanks for our pilgrimage as Church”. This ecclesial dimension becomes clear, in a very explicit way, in the so-called ‘Secret’, in the reference to the ‘Bishop dressed in white’ and to the Church, both pilgrim and martyr”, Father Carlos Cabecinhas stated on the New Pastoral Year theme Presentation Day, held at the Hall of the Good Shepherd, Paul VI Pastoral Centre, on December 1.

The Rector of the Shrine, the first speaker in the session presided over by Cardinal António Marto, emphasized that this awareness of being Church is experienced in Fatima in “many ways”: taking part at the sacramental celebrations; at the believers’ assemblies gathered here to a shared expression of faith, to worship God, to give Him thanks and praise Him; in union and in communion with the Pope and in prayer for him, which is so characteristic of Fatima.

But the theme of the year aims to underline, on the other hand, that this experience of being Church is dynamic: “it’s a pilgrimage”, the Rector of the Shrine added.

“In this journey of the Church, The Apparitions of Fatima are God’s comfort offered to the members of His pilgrim Church; they’re a relief for the journey. In the lengthy pilgrimage of Her children, Mary presents her Immaculate Heart as a refuge and a way”, he stated.

“This pastoral year will allow us to think about the meaning of the pilgrimage and the most characteristic traits of the pilgrimage to Fatima. It will allow us to think about the Shrine as a pilgrimage goal and a place of compelling experience in Church, being a place of intense

experience of God that congregates the Church and reunites His people”, Father Carlos Cabecinhas clarified.

Therefore, he concludes, “this Pastoral Year that now begins invites us to face the Message of Fatima as a means to achieve a greater ecclesial awareness and effective way to strengthen the sense of ecclesial belonging, namely through a shared experience of pilgrimage.

The new Pastoral Year will be the second of a triennium that initiates the second century of Fatima and which is being lived as “Time of Grace and Mercy”.

In 2019 the Shrine will live two centenaries especially relevant: the centenary of the construction of the Little Chapel of the Apparitions and the centenary of the death of Saint Francisco Marto. Indeed, the one hundred years of the construction of the Little Chapel is the inspiring event of this year’s theme, reminded the priest, recalling the account of the Apparition of October 13, in which Our Lady told the Seers: “I want to tell you that a chapel is to be built here”. This chapel was the beginning of the Shrine and nowadays it still remains its “core”.

“In a Christian context, the church building — in this case, the “chapel” — is always a symbol of a living stones Church that reunites to celebrate the presence of Jesus Christ. Saint Peter, in his first epistle, exhorts us to become aware of our condition of “living stones” that are part of the construction of a spiritual building, the Church, and concludes: “Now you are the people of God” (1 Peter 2, 10). It is this awareness of being the people of God that we wish to deepen.

The Rector of the Shrine also pointed out that the Shrine will pay special attention to young people, especially to that great event that was the World Youth Day in Panama, in January 2019, where the Pilgrim Statue No. 1 of the Virgin of Fatima travelled exceptionally, in view of the importance of the event but also of the Marian itinerary proposed by Pope

Francis, who chose Mary as the central theme of the journey of preparation for the World Youth Day 2019.

To live this new pastoral cycle of three years, and this particular pastoral year, the Shrine releases once again a monthly program which will be a reminder, all year round, of the theme that guides the life of the Shrine; a catechesis alluding to Saint Francisco Marto in the alleys of the Prayer Area and the offering of a prayerful itinerary proposed to all pilgrims.

On the other hand, concerning training and reflection, the School of the Shrine will propose several monthly initiatives, from Itineraries of Spirituality to Pastoral Workshops, a novelty which begins in February and is directed to a specific public. In the context of training and reflection there are still the yearly Theological-Pastoral Symposium and the Encounters in the Basilica.

On a cultural level, besides a diverse musical program, we highlight the Chapel-Mundi which can be visited daily until October 15 next year, at the St. Augustine Social Hall.

The Rector of the Shrine took the opportunity of the New Pastoral Year Presentation Day to review the previous year which “allowed to consolidate some practices” started during the centenary, but now obeying the “daily ordinary rhythms of life in the Shrine”.

“The journey made with careful attention to the celebrations”, the offering of “proposals for reflecting on and deepening the message of Fatima” and the cultural offer, “with its own languages to speak of Fatima” were a few of the examples pointed out by Father Carlos Cabecinhas to put in evidence the dynamics of the life at the Shrine of Fatima in this second century.

On the other hand, “the affluence of the pilgrims, even though not reaching the exceptional figures of 2017, is still quite big, with a meaningful growth of groups coming from unusual places until recently”, he declared.

# A Chapel to the entire world / Carmo Rodeia



The Core of the Shrine, in celebration, welcomes hundreds of faithful daily

**T**he Little Chapel of the Apparitions was built one hundred years ago and at the Shrine, from the first moment, it has always played a fundamental role, being the most visited space by those who go on pilgrimage to Cova da Iria. This year we celebrate the centenary of its construction.

The sentence “I want to tell you that a chapel is to be built here in my honour. I am the Lady of the Rosary. Continue always to pray the Rosary every day”, attributed to Our Lady by the three Seers during the sixth and last apparition of October 1917, is perhaps the expression of a celestial desire that in this desolate place in Serra de Aire a place of pilgrimage would be brought into existence.

One hundred years after, given the Little Chapel’s relevance as the most visited place in Cova da Iria, we can state that it has inspired the project for the construction of the Shrine. The Little Chapel, erected by the insistence and the contribute of the people, thus became the core of the Shrine of Fatima and one of the most emblematic places of all the Christian world, not only because it was built at the exact spot where five of the apparitions took place but also because this celestial intention resounded deeply among Christians. And even today it still is a mandatory stopping place where more than six million pilgrims from all over the world, including four Popes, standing at the feet of the Virgin of the Rosary, implore and thank Her for Her intercession.

Constructed between 28 April and 15 June 1919, The Little Chapel was afterwards blessed, and a Mass was celebrated there for the first time on 13 October 1921. After being dynamited at dawn on 6 March 1922, the Little Chapel was repaired in that same year and consecrated on 13 January 1923. The new building work included the construction of a porch, concluded in October 1924.

## A popular chapel

Although subject to slight changes, the Little Chapel of the Apparitions keeps the original and characteristic traits of a popular hermitage – a gable roof, a low wall around it, a single plain door and an adornment in blue tiles – always resisting the temptation of the ecclesiastic hierarchy, who, for many decades, tried to bring more artistic dignity to such an important place. Inside there is a small altar ornamented with a niche, where the Statue of our Lady sculpted by José Ferreira Thedim used to be.

It’s around the Little Chapel of the Apparitions that the numberless pilgrims visiting Cova da Iria congregate, and it’s in here that all processions start, with the Statue that be-

comes pilgrim, at the shrine and beyond. It is also here that promises are kept and where the ex-votos that materialize these promises are left.

Forty years later, in 1964, the ex-votos plates which covered the walls were taken away, but the big change was introduced in 1982, with the construction of a much bigger porch.

Built on time for the visit of the Pope Saint John Paul II, in 1982, the new porch gives more visibility to the Little Chapel and allowed better conditions for the various celebrations and mainly to welcome the pilgrims that gather there to pray before the Statue of Our Lady.

The current porch was inaugurated at the time of the first visit of Saint John Paul II to the Shrine of Fatima, on 12 and 13 May 1982. In 1988, Marian Year, the ceiling was lined with pine wood from the North of Siberia, chosen for its characteristics of lightness and durability. This porch was inspired in the idea of a ‘processional canopy’ that allows to provide shelter to hundreds of people, in a permanent liturgical space over which there is an entrance of natural light through a square opening.

The plinth where the Statue of Our Lady stands marks the exact spot of the little holm-oak above which the Lady of the Rosary appeared.

The organ of the Little Chapel was built by the organ-builder Gerhard Grenzing. It has twelve ranks, two manuals (keyboards) and a pedalboard. Dedicated almost exclusively to the accompaniment of the celebrations, it allows, thanks to its particularly accurate timbres, the performance of plays of the sacred repertoire in a liturgical context.

### Maria dos Santos Carreira

The Little Chapel was born of the popular will, led by Maria dos Santos Carreira, a woman from the people that since 13 June 1917 had been going to Cova da Iria, and that would be known as Maria of the Little Chapel. She soon started to embellish the site with flowers. Later, on October 1917, a wooden arch was built a sort of portico that marked the spot where Our Lady appeared. It's this woman that keeps and watches over the alms left by the people besides the holm-oak. The first alms were 30 réis (old Portuguese currency) and some fruit. But soon she had a cloth bag full of coins. In 1919, the alms kept by Maria Santos Carreira were already as much as 357 000 réis and forty litres of olive oil. She could now start building the chapel. There were attempts to replace the Little Chapel for a church with more dignity and designed by a famous architect but they didn't succeed. And today, except for the roof covering, the Little Chapel is still intact, keeping all its initial structure and configuration. Its smallness is still inversely proportional to its importance.

### The Statue of Our Lady

The Statue of Our Lady of Fatima was kept in a niche that still exists today. The Statue is now on the plinth, in the exact spot of the original holm-oak, made by José Ferreira Thedim, one of the saint makers of the *Casa de Arte Sacra Fânzeres*, to whom Gilberto Fernandes dos Santos, a fervent Catholic of Torres Novas, made an order in 1919, with the intention of replacing a crucifix that was at the spot. The instructions for the model of the Statue came from Father Manuel Formigão himself, who, having questioned Lúcia, Jacinta and Francisco, in 1917, leaves at *Casa Fânzeres* a description of the lady of the apparition just like the children had described her. In the beginning of May 1920 the Statue is ready. She is sent by train to Torres Novas and is transported through serra de Aire in an almost clandestine way for five hours. As soon as she arrives to Cova da Iria she's given to the Priest of Fatima, who keeps her in the church sacristy. Lúcia sees her there and gives her approval. On 13 June 1920 the Statue finally travels to the Chapel of Cova da Iria. The multitude accompanying her can be considered the first procession of Our Lady of Fatima. Since June 1920 that the devotion of the pilgrims by the Statue is enormous. Actually, it's as if that face was a reflection of their faith, as Father Carlos Cabecinhas says in a text written on No. 4 of Fatima XXI magazine: "the veneration of the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima is explained as a form of presence of Our Lady who is already in glory, near God, but keeps on accompanying her children who go on pilgrimage on Earth".

### The Ex-votos

It's around the Little Chapel that promises are kept and ex-votos that materialize these promises are left. Until 1964, the ex-votos plates that covered the walls of the Little Chapel were taken off and today there is only a spot to leave flowers and a mail spot where the messages of the pilgrims to Our Lady are placed. The 'mail to Our Lady' is daily and in the year of the Centenary it was almost nine hundred thousand letters.

### The Rosary

The celestial appeal left by Our Lady to the Little Shepherds so that they prayed the Rosary daily is fulfilled in the Little Chapel every day like in no other place in the World. At the "school of the Rosary" the Rosary is prayed in several languages each day.

To mark this meaningful anniversary, the Shrine of Fatima organised a temporary exhibition that is open to pilgrims at the St. Augustine Social Hall (lower floor of the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity) until next October 15.

The Chapel-Mundi exhibition will be open to the public until 15 October 2019, daily, between 9:00 am and 6:00 pm. Since January 2, the Museum of the Shrine of Fatima offers two daily guided visits, at 11:30 am and 3:30 pm. On the first Wednesday of each month, between May and October, there will be thematic visits, with an invited speaker, on May 1, June 5, July 3, August 7, September 4 and October 2.



Porch is inspired in the idea of a processional canopy that provides shelter to hundreds of pilgrims

## Cardinal António Marto stresses the link between Fatima and Santa Maria Sopra Minerva

The Bishop of Leiria-Fatima took possession of the Basilica attributed to him by Pope Francis on his cardinality creation / Carmo Rodeia



At the Basilica of Santa Maria sopra Minerva the Rosary is prayed every day, just like Our Lady requested to the Little Shepherds

Cardinal António Marto, Bishop of the Diocese of Leiria-Fatima, took possession of the Basilica of Santa Maria Sopra Minerva, in Rome, last November 25, Feast of Christ the King, and enhanced the close link between Fatima and this place of worship in Rome: “I can’t help but to mention this meaningful titularity that bonds me to Rome as well as Fatima. On the one hand, the bonds of affection for the Pope by the presence of the remains of Saint Catherine of Siena, patroness of Italy, so attached to the Pope, whom she called ‘sweet Christ on Earth’. On the other hand, the link to Fatima: the basilica is a point of reference for the faithful of Rome in their devotion to the Lady of the Rosary, as the statue at the entrance of the Church attests”.

The prelate of Fatima thus assumed the titularity of the Roman church assigned to him by Pope Francis in June, during the consistory. Along with the red beret and the ring, the assignment of a church in the Italian capital symbolises the “pastoral solicitude” of the new Cardinal towards the Pope.

The Bishop of Leiria-Fatima, who has been recently appointed by Pope Francis to take part in the work of the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life will now have his coat of arms displayed in this Roman church’s façade, which will keep on being directed by its current rector, Father Gian Matteo Serra. At the time, in a welcoming

word to the new Cardinal, he stated that this celebration was more than a formality and stressed the strong Marian devotion lived in the Church, especially the devotion to the Lady of the Rosary.

“We wish to live this moment as a stage of something that will be built over time. The Virgin of the Rosary, perhaps speaking to the Holy Father’s heart, sent him here, because this is your home”.

Cardinal António Marto entered symbolically in his titular church in the last Sunday of the liturgical year. During the homily, he reflected on the kingship of Jesus Christ and His kingdom of “truth and life, holiness and grace, a kingdom of justice, love and peace”.

“Christ, the king, does not impose Himself, He gives us freedom; doesn’t conquer us, but draws us to Himself with His love and His tenderness; doesn’t overpower us and doesn’t inspire fear; rather He knocks on the door of every one’s heart and mind, and wherever He goes in, He brings mercy, peace and joy! This is the way to the Kingdom of Christ! Dear brothers and sisters, we’re all called upon to embrace and take part in the construction of this kingdom in history”, the Bishop of Leiria-Fatima said.

“In this perspective, we might understand the manifestation of Our Lady in Fatima: She appeared in that place to proclaim the urgent call to embrace the kingdom of God in a historic moment when it

was refused, fought against, pursued by the totalitarian and atheist powers”, continued the Cardinal.

During the homily, Cardinal António Marto evoked the saint little shepherds – Francisco and Jacinta Marto – as “living examples” of the welcoming of this kingdom of “holiness and of grace” in their “absolute self-giving to God and in their love to the poor, the sick, the afflicted and the sinners”.

“We entrust the Church and all mankind to the intercession of Our Lady of the Rosary and the Saint Little Shepherds of Fatima, Francisco and Jacinta Marto, so that the love of God reigns in every heart and His plan of justice and peace is fulfilled”, he concluded.

António Augusto dos Santos Marto was born on the 5th of May 1947 in Tronco, municipality of Chaves, Diocese of Vila Real; he was ordained presbyter in Rome, in 1971, and on 10 November 2000 he was nominated auxiliary Bishop of Braga by Pope John Paul II; after a brief stint in the Diocese of Viseu he was chosen by Bento XVI, in 2006, as Bishop of Leiria-Fatima. He’s the fifth Portuguese Cardinal of the twenty-first century and the second to be designated during the current pontificate.

The Basilica of Santa Maria Sopra Minerva was given in the nineteenth century to Cardinal Guilherme Henriques de Carvalho, ninth Patriarch of Lisbon, and former bishop of Leiria.

# The Rector of the Shrine spoke, in Rome, about what young people find in Fatima

At the International Convention of Rectors and Pastoral Workers of Shrines, Father Carlos Cabecinhas spoke of the experience of young people at the Shrine of Fatima / Diogo Carvalho Alves

On the last day of an international convention that gathered in Rome, in November 2018, six hundred shrine rectors and pastoral workers, the Rector of the Shrine of Fatima, Father Carlos Cabecinhas, delivered a short testimony on the “experience of young people at the Shrine of Fatima”. The intervention occurred in the Regal Room of the Apostolic Palace, in the Vatican, moments before Pope Francis received in audience the participants.

At the highlight of a meeting guided by the theme: “The Shrine, an open door to the new evangelization”, the Rector of the Shrine presented the Message of Fatima as a “school of Mary”, which invites young people to follow Her example of faith.

In his speech, the priest started by relating the “customary and constant” presence of young people in Cova da Iria with the fact of the Shrine of Fatima being a “place of utmost experience of God, that offers to all those who go on pilgrimage the possibility to fulfil that experience through Mary”.

This attraction exerted on young people, who seek “experiencing a different place” from their community, brings responsibilities to the Shrine of Fatima in establishing “conditions for an utmost ex-



Shrine with eyes fixed on the Youth Ministry

perience of faith and encounter with God that may reconnect young people to their origin communities”, assumed the Rector, listing the different spots and the diverse pastoral proposals offered to the youth at Cova da Iria, namely the Pope Francis Youth Space, the House of Youth and the *Project SETE*.

“There is in all these initiatives the possibility of a strong experience of faith and contact with the faith of the other pilgrims who arrive here. More than activities for

the youth, they are initiatives that challenge them to become the protagonists, exhorting them to make their own journey of faith, guided by Mary”, he explained.

In this meeting that addressed the shrines as “an open door to the new evangelization”, the Rector of the Shrine of Fatima described Cova da Iria as a “privileged space” that speaks to young people “in an effective way, since it tries to do it from its own specific message, focusing its attention on that which is essential in the Christian faith and finding its topicality in the Gospel”.

Moments after this intervention, Pope Francis arrived for the hearing scheduled in the program of the congress. The Supreme Pontiff spoke to the 600 rectors and pastoral workers of shrines gathered there about these spaces as “irreplaceable” places “that keep popular piety alive, enriching it with catechetical training that sustains and strengthens faith and feeds the testimony of charity”.

The sessions of this first International Convention of Rectors and Pastoral Workers of Shrines, organised by the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization, took place in Rome, at the Pontifical Lateran University.



## Statue No. 1 of the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima object of study by experts of the School of Arts of the Catholic University

Shrine of Fatima wants to assure knowledge on the Statue’s preservation condition / Carmo Rodeia

The Museum of the Shrine of Fatima ordered a study about the materials that constitute the base and the surface of Statue No. 1 of the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima, dated from 1947, which travelled exceptionally to Panama in January.

In October last year the Statue remained for a period of fifteen days at the care of the Conservation and Restoration Center of the School of the Arts of the Portuguese Catholic University and was submitted to a profound study which will enable to understand the way José Ferreira Thedim created it, from the description of Sister Lúcia, the oldest of the three little shepherds.

On the initial assessment, in order to un-

derstand the state of preservation of the base and to detect previous conservation and restoration treatments, a team of experts took photographs with visible light and ultraviolet light and made digital radiography exams. Next, in order to study the number and thickness of the coats of paint, to identify pigments, varnishes and other materials used in the Statue, micro-samples were collected and analysed with the help of infrareds and X-rays.

The aim of this study is not only to understand the materials that constitute the Statue and the artist’s working techniques but also the need of the Shrine to have a profound notion of the Statue’s preservation condition.

## Pilgrim Virgin was in Colombia 63 years afterwards

The main purpose of this visit is leaving a message of peace / *María Cristina Vergara*

The pilgrimage of the Pilgrim Virgin through Colombia brought moments of many graces and blessings. Every pilgrim who manifested his faith felt the maternal hand of the Mother and left a trace of joy and gratitude for the moment he lived.

At the rhythm of the marimba, a typical instrument of the Pacific, the Statue of the Virgin of Fatima was carried in procession at a moment when several Colombian cities are under attack by guerrillas, paramilitary groups that the military and political authorities are not able to eradicate. The visit of the Pilgrim Statue to this country has the main objective to leave a message of peace.

This was also the last stage of Friar Said León Amaya as Provincial of the Dominicans; the Friar had the opportunity to accompany the pilgrimage in several celebratory moments.

At the Palace of Nariño, Ivan Duque Marquez, the president of Colombia, prayed before the Pilgrim Statue and attended the consecration of the country to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Jorge Mario Eastman, the secretary-general of the Presidency, and Friar José Gabriel Meza, Chaplain of the Presidency, were also present.



The Pilgrim Image of Fatima returns to Colombia this year

There was also the opportunity to live a very special moment at the Embassy of Portugal in Colombia, where

the ambassador Gabriela Soares da Albergaria manifested her devotion to the Virgin Mary.

## The Secretariat of Fatima in Poland promotes “Crusade of the Single Intention”

Initiative aims to give a new impulse to the Marian devotion in the second century of Fatima / *Krzysztof Czaplą – P. Andrzej Gtadysz*

The Secretariat of Fatima in Poland promotes “Crusade of the Single Intention” with the purpose of giving new impulse to the Marian devotion of Fatima in the new centenary of the Apparitions, which started after 2017, through a form of prayer different from the Great Novena of Fatima, but, at the same time, similar in its conception.

This initiative simultaneously recalls the meaning and significance

of the Message of Our Lady of Fatima. This Message has both a current and universal value, every person is summoned to diffuse the first five Saturdays devotion. Today’s world circumstances don’t let us be indifferent, because Our Lady makes world peace and the conversion of Russia depend upon the complete fulfilling of Her calling, which, so far, is not yet accomplished according to God’s will.

The Crusade has a special meaning for Poland since this country has been twice consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary (1946 and 2018). These two actions demand the observance of their consequences, as well as those of the Angel’s words: “Make of everything you can a sacrifice, and offer it to God as an act of reparation for the sins by which He is offended, and in supplication for the conversion of sinners”.

# Protagonists of Fatima

Father Luciano Coelho Cristino / Diogo Carvalho Alves

In the launch of the new column, the bulletin *Fatima Light and Peace* talked with Father Luciano Cristino, one of the protagonists of the development of the study of the History and Message of Fatima issues.

Father Luciano Coelho Cristino was born 80 years ago and started very early to deepen his interest in History. He researched the past of all the places where life has taken him: of the parish of Maceira, where he was born; of the Diocese of Leiria-Fatima, where he studied and started his way towards the priesthood; and of Fatima, where he has been serving his ministry as a chaplain since 1974.

He speaks of the first time he arrived in Cova da Iria by sharing an account told by his mother. On 13 May 1939, when he was just a newborn, he was carried by his parents to the same place he has been living in for 44 years.

He never thought he would reach such an advanced age, because three of his four brothers died when they were still young. He was the oldest. In spite of his age, his memory is still vivid, especially regarding the dates, which he remembers with enviable accuracy, during the chat with the team of the bulletin *Fatima Light and Peace*, in which he remembers his life story.

His interest in History was awakened because of some Roman ruins he passed by, during his way to Sunday School, as a child. He joined the Seminary at 11 years old by his own free will and by the influence of an uncle who was a priest.

On 15 August 1962 he was ordained as a priest and that same year he entered the Pontifical Gregorian University, in Rome. During the five years he lived in The Eternal City he graduated in Dogmatic Theology, in Church History, and he was able to watch closely the opening of the Second Vatican Council and the election of the Pope who would be the first to travel to Fatima. He came back to Portugal pre-



Former director of the Studies Department was honoured in 2017

cisely in the same year that Paul VI visited Cova da Iria and on 13 May 1967 he too was at the Shrine, next to the altar. He remembers the prayer area overflowing with people.

During the following years he graduated in History at the University of Coimbra, where he specialised also as librarian-archivist. At the same time he was a teacher at the Seminar of Leiria and also in the “city of students” (Coimbra).

By appointment of the Bishop of Leiria at the time, João Pereira Venâncio – who had already entrusted him to deepen the history of the Diocese –, he arrived at the Shrine in 1974 to work on the systematization of the critical history of the Apparitions and the Message of Fatima, in collaboration with father Joaquim Maria Alonso. Two years later, he was nominated Director of the Studies and Diffusion Department of the Shrine of Fatima. In the preparatory work for the Critical

Documentation of Fatima edition, which he held until 2013, he feels he must mention the “precious help” of those who worked with him.

Much of his 56 years of priesthood were dedicated to developing the study of the themes connected with the History and message that Our Lady left at Cova da Iria, making Father Luciano Cristino one of the most significant people in Fatima.

“Doctor Cristino, as he is known, is a living memory of half a century of life of the Shrine of Fatima”, said the Rector of the Shrine, Father Carlos Cabecinhas, in a tribute payed to Father Luciano Cristino during the 2nd Summer Course of the Shrine of Fatima, in 2017. At the time, the Bishop of Leiria-Fatima, António Marto, summarised in a praise all the dedication, commitment and sensibility that Father Luciano Cristino has put in everything he’s done: “He’s our historian, wholeheartedly and entirely”.

## The Archdiocese of Luxembourg will celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima and the liturgical memory of Saints Francisco and Jacinta Marto / Rui Pedro

Following the visit of the Statue of the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima, the Archbishop of Luxembourg, Jean Claude Hollerich, decreed that the

Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, celebrated on May 13, will be included in the Archdiocese of Luxembourg for an experimental period, in the Pastoral Year

of 2018-2019. Likewise, the Liturgical Memory of Saints Francisco and Jacinta Marto will be celebrated on February 20.

## “The Christian community and the human heart are the true temple where God inhabits, the place of encounter with God”

The Rector of the Shrine of Fatima celebrated Mass of the Monthly Pilgrimage of November, celebrating the Solemnity of the Dedication of the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity / *Catia Filipe*

Father Carlos Cabecinhas, Rector of the Shrine of Fatima, celebrated the Mass of the Monthly Pilgrimage of November, celebrating the Solemnity of the Dedication of the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity.

“The celebration of the Dedication of a Church is an invitation to become aware of what it means being Church, since it always guides us to the mystery of the living stones Church that reunites there”, said the priest, explaining that the relevance of this celebration is centred on the “importance of every one of us”.

“God doesn’t live in temples made by the hands of men, God lives in the community of believers, built by Christ as a living temple”, he alerted.

During a celebration in which several groups of pilgrims took part, Father Carlos Cabecinhas stated that “the Christian community and the human heart are the true temple where God lives, the place of encounter with God”.

“The feast the of Dedication of this Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity is also a moment of awareness of our union with the Holy Father, a visible sign of the Church unity”, he repeated, also saying that “the concession of the title of Basilica to this Church evidences the special communion link with the Church of Rome and the Pope”.

The Church of the Most Holy Trinity was dedicated on 12 October 2007 by Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, then Secretary of State of the Vatican and legate of Benedict XVI for the closing of the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady to the three little shepherd seers.



Pilgrims’ Mass begins with a procession from the Chapel of the Apparitions to the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity.



The Church of the Most Holy Trinity was dedicated on 12 October 2007

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## The Rector of the Shrine of Fatima recalled “thousands of pilgrims who daily trust Mary’s maternal lap”

Father Carlos Cabecinhas celebrated the mass of the monthly pilgrimage of December / *Catia Filipe*

The Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity, at the Shrine of Fatima, hosted the mass of the monthly pilgrimage of December, celebrated by the Rector, Father Carlos Cabecinhas.

In the last monthly pilgrimage of 2018, the priest spoke of the time of the Advent, as a period of “vigilant expectation” and of “conversion”.

The Advent is the “time to remove the obstacles which prevent us from embracing Jesus Christ in our life”, and it’s possible to find in Our Lady the “best model for living this time of Advent, precisely because she was the one who lived in a more intense way the first Advent, living like no one else the expectation of the birth of Jesus”.

“With Our Lady we are invited to learn and to prepare our heart to embrace Jesus, who, with His coming, transforms the small story of our life in a story of salvation”, Father Carlos Cabecinhas reminded us.

Along the history of the Church and of mankind, Mary always had a primordial place, and for that reason Christians have resorted and still resort “with trust to her help and protection, because she’s a Mother, she’s always attentive to our supplications and we resort to her trustfully in all difficulties”.



Mary is the “Mother always attentive to our pleas”, the Rector said

“Our Lady manifested that attention in a special way here at Fatima, a Mother who has all the attention in the presence of our difficulties, and for that reason thousands of pilgrims arrive here daily, to her maternal lap, to ask for help, to give

thanks”, the Rector of the Shrine of Fatima reminded.

This was the first monthly pilgrimage of this new Pastoral Year, which began on December 2, and whose theme is “giving thanks for our pilgrimage as Church”.



This was the last monthly pilgrimage of 2018

# Shrine promotes “CHAPEL-MUNDI” – Temporary exhibition celebrating the centenary of the construction of the Little Chapel of the Apparitions

The exhibition wishes to show the Little Chapel of the Apparitions as the core of the Shrine / Diogo Carvalho Alves



Exhibition proposes a dialogue between history and contemporaneity

The Little Chapel of the Apparitions will be 100 years old in 2019 and to celebrate this event the temporary exhibition of the Shrine, inaugurated last December, at the St. Augustine Social Hall, lower floor of the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity, is titled “Chapel-Mundi”- Temporary exhibition celebrating the centenary of the construction of the Little Chapel of the Apparitions.

The exhibition will be open to the public until October 15, daily, between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

This exhibition, composed of nine milestones, is based on an extensive historical research that wishes to show the Little Chapel of the Apparitions as one of the most important icons of the Shrine of Fatima.

The aim is to make the pilgrims go through this exhibition space while trying

to offer them keys to understand how a little white chapel could become the centre of attentions for a great part of mankind.

Because it was built from a will expressed by the Virgin Mary, according to the Little Shepherds, and by popular initiative, this small temple, in vernacular lines, is considered the core of the Shrine of Fatima, and the most intimate expressions of faith by the pilgrims of Cova da Iria occur around it.

Issues such as the physical construction of the chapel, the protagonists that are linked to it, the shattering in 1922 and its symbolicalness will be addressed through the museological language, displaying pieces of historical and artistic value not only from the Museum of the Shrine of Fatima’s collection as well as from other museological institutions, including Portuguese state-owned museums, librar-

ies and palaces as well as museums and archives of the Catholic Church. Several ecclesial organizations (parishes, religious congregations, confraternities and dioceses all over the country and from Spain) have also lent items for the exhibition, which will provide an experience intended to be both a learning experience and aesthetic fruition.

The seventh temporary exhibition organised by the Museum of the Shrine is curated by Marco Daniel Duarte, director of the Museum of the Shrine of Fatima, and has architectural design by Joana Delgado and design by Inês do Carmo.

The Museum of the Shrine of Fatima will offer guided tours on Saturdays 11:30 am and 3:15 pm. Every first Wednesday each month, between May and October, there will be thematic visits, with a guest speaker.