



Director: Fr. Luciano Guerra \* Proprietor: Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fátima (Portugal) \* Quarterly publication \* Year IV \* Nr. 16 \* 2008/02/13

## Eighth Commandment – Passion for Truth



Following the theme decided on in 2001, this year's topic, at the Shrine of Fatima, shall be the Eighth Commandment of the Law of God. The Catechism of the Catholic Church titles its explanation

with "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor" (Ex. 20, 16) and "You have heard the commandment imposed on your forefathers: «Do not take a false oath; rather make good to the Lord all your pledges»." (Matt. 5, 33)

These quotes presuppose five great stages of truth, which we list, starting from the end: 1) the action (fulfillment of the pledge) must honor what was pledged (the word given); 2) the word must conform itself with the decision of the will; 3) the will must conform itself with the affection (heart); 4) the heart must follow the reason (idea/conviction); 5) the idea must mirror reality. The problem is to always harmonize these five stages!

It is only through beauty that we can arrive at what we need in order to live. Well, the Eighth Commandment states that only is good and beautiful what is true. The need for truth is present in all the other needs, in all rights and obligations.

Do we possess the passion for a true Life? If so, error and lies will be our cross.

Truth became the greatest drama of the three Little Shepherds of Fatima. Sr. Lucy confesses that her mother impressed on her children, from their most tender age,

"the horror for lies". But her mother was not able to accept that her family could be worthy of an apparition of Our Lady. The passion for truth led her, therefore, to an extreme severity towards her daughter, accusing her of lying. This criticism and, above all, her mother's contempt will be, by far, the greatest test sent her by God. However, the seer couldn't reply but by restating the truth, due to the mother's insisting demand: "What I want is that you tell the truth!" Mother against daughter; both for truth's sake...

In Ourém's Jail, the civil authorities succeeded in convincing the three seers that they would be fried in boiling oil, in case they didn't reveal the 'secret' of the Lady of the Holm-oak. They resisted despite being certain of what awaited them: none other than martyrdom. For truth's sake.

Many are today's temptations. Truth is not only difficult, but also necessary.

The divine imperative of truth reached the highest light in Jesus Christ, when He exclaimed in a most essential statement: 'I am the Truth!' Jesus is the Truth!

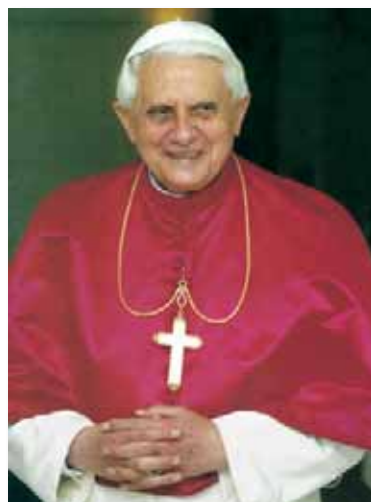
Of God! We can't live without God; therefore we can't live without the Truth.

*Fr. Luciano Guerra*

## Fatima School of Faith

At a meeting during the 'Ad Limina' visit of the Portuguese Bishops, on November 2007, His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI stated on Fatima:

**Beloved Bishops of Portugal, four weeks ago you were gathered at the Shrine of Fatima with the Cardinal Secretary of State, who I had sent there as my Special Envoy for the closing celebrations of the 90th anniversary of the Apparitions of Our Lady. I am pleased to think of Fatima as a school of faith with the Virgin Mary as the teacher; there she established her "chair" to teach the young visionaries, and then**



**the multitudes, the eternal truths and the art of praying, believing and loving. With the humble attitude of students who need to learn the lesson, entrust daily to the illustrious Teacher and the Mother of the whole Christ each one of you and your priests, your direct collaborators in the guidance of the flock, the consecrated men and women who anticipate Heaven on earth, and the faithful who model the earth on the image of Heaven. Imploring upon all, through the intercession of Nossa Senhora de Fátima, the light and power of the Spirit, I impart my Apostolic Blessing.**

# Rectors create Association of Portuguese Shrines

On January 14/15, 2008, at the House of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, in the Shrine of Fatima, the II Encounter of Rectors of Portuguese Shrines took place. Rectors or representatives of 29 shrines of twelve Portuguese dioceses were present.

This encounter's purpose was to reflect on the pastoral ministry of shrines in Portugal and their relationship to how the faith of the Portuguese Church is lived.

These were the main conclusions:

1) The pastoral ministry of shrines has an ever more important role in people's faith and in the life of the Church.

2) By creating a shrine network, the Portuguese shrines might be able to better serve the faithful and the Church itself.

a) In practical terms, in order to create this network, the rectors agreed on the creation of the Association of Portuguese Shrines as an organization which will establish a communion bond in order to set out a common pastoral ministry, which in turn will have in mind a reflection on evangelization and on topics related to the organizational aspects and to all the challenges facing the Portuguese shrines.

The Committee mandated to create the Association intends to study the proposed By-Laws to be presented to the whole group of shrines and to contact the diocesan bishops of Portugal and the Bishops Conference of Portugal, in order to strengthen this network.

b) Another practical thing to do before the next encounter is the creation of the official Internet page of Portuguese Shrines, which will be a privileged place for the Portuguese shrines

to make themselves widely known. On this page, each shrine will present the main aspects which identify it: geographical location, its history and spirituality, pictures and main festivities.

3) The III Encounter of the Shrines is scheduled for January 12/13, 2009, at the Shrine of Fatima. From amongst the various proposed themes, the rectors chose as theme for the next encounter this one: 'The Shrine as place for worship and devotional celebrations'.



# Rector and Chaplains of Lourdes in Fatima

Rector of French Shrine of Lourdes, Fr. Raymond Zambelli, and Chaplains of that Marian shrine made a spiritual retreat in Fatima on October 26 through 31, 2007.

During those days, besides the times dedicated to prayer and meditation, these priests visited several sites of the Portuguese shrine, Aljustrel, Valinhos and other localities in the region.

This retreat was part of a set of concrete acts of communion between the two shrines, much like what also happens with other shrines of Europe and the rest of the world.

The celebrations of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the apparitions of Lourdes began on December 8, 2007, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, with an international colloquium titled 'Message of



*Before their farewell, Lourdes group posing with Rector of Shrine of Fatima, Msgr. Luciano Guerra*

Lourdes, from yesterday to today, from today to tomorrow', in which took part

Msgr. Luciano Guerra, Rector of the Shrine of Fatima.

## Congress 'Fatima for the XXI Century' Future Memory

The Congress 'Fatima for the XXI Century', held in Fatima on the 9<sup>th</sup> through the 12<sup>th</sup> of October 2007, was a very important moment for becoming conscious of the seriousness of the Apparitions and of its acceptance by the Church, projecting the Shrine, as well as the spirituality and pastoral ministry which irradiate from it, into the future of the Church both in Portugal and in the whole world. The following points were particularly relevant:

1. The contribution expected from the Shrine to overcome the consequences of a certain type of secularization that can degenerate into secularism and laicization of society, by means of placing the emphasis on the essential of the message of the apparitions, which find in the theme of *reparation* – both in the Eucharist and in the adoration – their more important element.

2. The theme of reparation – as answer of love to the love, manifested in the *willingness of the Little Shepherds* to welcome the message (which translates into their readiness for *sacrifice*, both as *abnegation* and as *divine consolation*) – shows an image of a God Who lets Himself be affected by what man does or fails to do. That's why Fatima can contribute to the overcoming of today's conception of a Deism underlying today's Catholicism; or, in other words, a very important way of educating in the spirituality of incarnation, which expresses the Christian mystery as such.

3. Children's holiness and eschatological themes, specially in their apocalyptic aspects of *secret* – in what pertains to the vision of *Hell* – are very important elements for Christian pedagogy of responsibility and *freedom*, themes very absent today from the conscience of the average Christian and even from homilies.

4. The Shrine as manifestation of *popular* Catholicism, in the sense of multitude of believers (and not only of small spirituality groups), should be an important space not only of spirituality and devotion (aspects by themselves very important), but also a space where the pilgrim examines his conscience and comes to realize his coresponsibility in the construction of a more solidary and just world, specially by rediscovering the *secular* dimension of the vocation of laypeople in the Church, which means that they are leaven of gospel in the midst of the world, thus affecting the realities where ethics, economy and politics have their say. Pilgrims travel to Fatima in order to receive strength for the fight for the great causes – of life, society, solidarity, justice, etc. – in society. The place of laypeople in the Church is not only in the sacristy, but also in the world – of family, work, culture, politics.

*Fr. José Jacinto Ferreira de Farias, scj.  
President of the Scientific Committee*

## 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary remembered Prophetic Message of Mercy



On the night of December 31, 2007, in Most Holy Trinity Church, the Bishop of Leiria-Fatima presided over the Mass of Thanksgiving for the year just ended.

During the homily, Bishop António dos Santos Marto raised to the Lord a hymn of thanksgiving "for the numerous benefits granted to each one of us, to our families, to the Church and to Mankind".

Bishop António listed, in an attitude of hope, five events or initiatives of the Catholic Church during the past year.

Referring to the celebrations of the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima held in 2006/2007, Bishop António said that they constituted "an opportunity to revisit and deepen the timeliness and beauty of the prophetic message of mercy, consolation and hope which Our Lady brought from Heaven to the Church and to Mankind at a most dramatic time in their history".

In this going down memory lane through the year 2007, Bishop António also mentioned the road being traveled by the Diocese of Leiria-Fatima and the visit 'ad limina' of the Portuguese Bishops to the Vatican.

The prelate mentioned still the recent encyclical of Benedict XVI 'Saved in Hope', which he said it is "like a gift offered by the Pope to the Church and to Mankind; a true hymn to Hope".

In the ecumenical area, Bishop António mentioned the encounter promoted by the ecumenical community of Taizé, which brought about 40,000 youths to Geneva, Switzerland.

EXPOSIÇÃO  
**FÁTIMA**  
NO MUNDO

CENTRO PASTORAL BILDOVA  
SANTUÁRIO DE FÁTIMA  
8 DE OUTUBRO DE 2007

## 'Fatima in the World'

In the reception area of Paul VI Pastoral Center, the exhibition 'Fatima in the World' exhibits photographs of shrines, churches and chapels dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima in all five Continents.

This exhibition also shows to the public a road map of shrines and churches as seen from space (satellite images), courtesy of Google Earth, where you can notice some of the temples shown in the photos.

Many thanks to all those who sent us photos of places named after Our Lady of Fatima.

This exhibition is open to the public up until April 6, 2008. Admission is free.

## Parish in Argentina Renews Missionary Commitment

The Archdiocese of Salta lies in the Northeast of Argentina; it was founded in 1806. Today it includes part of the province of the same name and provides pastoral care to about 800,000 people.

The parish dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima was erected in 1960 in the City of Salta. Besides the parish church itself, it comprises also the Church of the Good Shepherd and the Vicariate of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, with a population altogether of about 25,000 people.

So that we may have an idea of the sacramental life of the Parish, the pastor informs us that, in 2006, there were celebrated 210 Baptisms, 55 Weddings, 105 Confirmations and 140 First Communions.

During the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Apparitions of the Virgin at Fatima (2007), this Parish renewed its missionary commitment, specially in the service of Catechesis and Charity. "We want to



intensify our education as disciples of Christ in order to strengthen the faith through catechesis and to rekindle the

conscience of God's Truth about families, through a faithful witnessing", those in charge state.

## Minas Gerais (Brazil) celebrates 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Apparitions



Several places in the world were spiritually united to Fatima during the closing celebrations of the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the apparitions of Fatima.

From Brazil, signed by Antônio T. M. Andrade, OFS, we received the following report and several pictures:

"(In October 2007) in Minas Gerais, in the City of Poços de Caldas, the (local) Shrine of Our

Lady of Fatima celebrated the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima with a 30-day Novena and a kermess raffle.

On October Saturdays and Sundays, the Capuchin Friars in charge of the Shrine, whose Rector is Frey Adilson Gonçalves Ferreira, organized the recitation of the Rosary in collaboration with the Secular Franciscan Order.

At 17h30, after the Rosary, they celebrated Mass before a large number of the faithful. The kermess raffle was very animated.

In the last week of October, the Franciscan Week for Peace was held, ending Saturday with the recitation of the Rosary for peace in the Shrine's Square".

## Statue of Our Lady in Italian Parish

On August 25, 2007, a statue of Our Lady of Fatima, brought from Fatima/Portugal, was placed in the Parish of St. John the Baptist, in the town of Calcinaia (PI), Italy. Fr. Roberto Fontana is the pastor.

Our Lady has arrived also in this town of approximately 6,000 inhabitants and we can be sure that She will spread Her many graces here, because wherever She arrives She always triumphs, and where Mary triumphs Her Son triumphs also.

Thanks, Mary, for Your presence in this place. The message of Fatima has arrived also here.

*Alessandra Bimbi,  
Italy*



# Pilgrim Statue in Italy

In the Italian regions of Lazio, Campania, Lombardy and Piedmont, the Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima was once more warmly received.

From April 14 to August 13, 2007 and later on from September 30 to October 31 of the same year the beloved statue traveled thousands of kilometers. This Marian peregrination was organized by the World Apostolate of Fatima of Italy and the Diocesan Service of Coordination of the Marian Mission of the Diocese of Sabina-Poggio-Mirteto.

In the documentation delivered to the Shrine of Fatima regarding this peregrination, the organizers express their sentiments of devotion and heartfelt gratitude to Holy

ary commitment and an ardent evangelic testimony, through the intercession of the Mother of the Redeemer and of the Blessed Francisco and Jacinta, the Little Shepherds of Fatima.

On April 14, 2007, the Statue arrived at the Airport of Rome-Fiumicino, after a short farewell ceremony in the Little Chapel of Apparitions, at the Shrine of Fatima. Already in Italy, it was first greeted in the Parish of Gesù Maestro (Jesus Teacher), in Tor Lupara di Fonte Nuova, in the Diocese of Sabina.

Before starting Her peregrination through the various towns and diocesan communities of the Italian regions, Our Lady received the flags of Italy and Europe. The rosary donated

lies and that the faithful may look at, adore and receive the Eucharist with the eyes and the heart of Our Lady.

The traveling between the different places was done by car, helicopter or on foot, with multitudes always following, accompanying or welcoming the Statue. The organized Marian Days were enriched with celebrations of the Word, Confessions, Masses, Marian vigils and the almost constant recitation of the Holy Rosary.

The organizers of the peregrination want that it may be remembered in the future that the processions of the Blessed Sacrament with the Pilgrim Virgin were particularly solemn, so much so that an atmosphere of prayer similar to that found at Cova da Iria was created.

A great Marian vigil was held on the night of May 12/13 in the Shrine of Our Lady of Divine Love (Madonna del Divino Amore), including the traditional night procession, lived in union with the celebrations being held on the same night at the Shrine of Fatima, in Portugal.

## III Day of the Pilgrim

Similar manifestation of faith was lived on May 13, 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first apparition at Fatima. Organized by Opera Romana Pellegrinagi, in collaboration with the organizers of the peregrination through Italy, the III Day of the Pilgrim was celebrated in St. Peter's Square, to coincide with the 26<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the attempt on the life of John Paul II in that same place. The Day ended in the Vatican Basilica with the celebration of Mass, presided over by the Vicar of His Holiness for the Diocese of Rome, Bishop Camilo Ruini.

After this great celebration, the Statue continued its peregrination, with many and rich moments of high spiritual meaning. The final concelebration was held in the Parish of St. Michael the Archangel, in Montopoli di Sabina, when the Act of Entrustment to Our Lady was recited.

Another peregrination of the Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady through Italy is planned for 2008.



*St. Peter's Square, May 13, 2007*

Father Benedict XVI for the message he sent them through Archbishop Leonardo Sandri, representing the Cardinal Secretary of State, in which he urges the faithful to pray to and to have an authentic devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, as well as a renewed mission-

by Pope John Paul II during the pilgrimage made in the Year of the Rosary was placed on the hands of the Pilgrim Virgin. Let us remind you that, through this donation, the former Pope asked Mary for the precious gift of peace in the world, holiness for fami-

## Schedule of Trips of Statues of Pilgrim Virgin – Year 2008

Upon request from the respective diocesan bishops, seven of the ten official statues of the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima will continue their peregrination through several parts of the world.

The Second Statue is traveling presently through the Portuguese Diocese of Algarve until October 2009.

The Fourth Statue will visit, in Portugal, the Parish of Batalha, Diocese of Leiria-Fatima, and the Archpriestship of Figueira Castelo Rodrigo, Diocese of Guarda. In Italy, it will visit Brescia and the Parish of St. Anthony Abbott, Ischia, Naples. Then it will move on to the Diocese of Ljubljana, Slovenia.

The Fifth Statue will visit the Archpriestship of Fundão, in

the Portuguese Diocese of Guarda, and then the Diocese of Beja, also in Portugal.

The Sixth Statue will travel to Brazil, during May and June, where it will visit the Dioceses of Guarujá and Fortaleza.

The Eighth Statue will visit the Diocese of Coimbra, Portugal, in May and September.

The Ninth and Tenth Statues will be in Italy in April through July.

The First Statue, enthroned in the Basilica of the Shrine of Fatima, from where it only goes out on special occasions, is not scheduled to travel this year.

# Shrines of Our Lady of Fatima in the World

## OCEANIA and rest of EUROPE

Following up what we have done in previous issues, we now present in this newsletter 'Fatima Luz e Paz', a new list of sacred places dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima and considered shrines, which are found in Oceania and the rest of Europe, listed alphabetically, as registered in the archives of SESDI (Department of Research and Information of the Shrine of Fatima).

In this issue we conclude naming the shrines dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima throughout the world. We ask the readers of this Newsletter the great favor of completing and/or correcting the data.

### REST OF EUROPE

Country	Diocese	Locality	Name
Luxembourg	Luxembourg	Wilz	Sanctuaire Notre Dame de Fatima
Malta	Malta	Gwardamangia	Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima
Poland	Czestochowa	Rybna	Sanktuarium Matki Bożej Fatimsskiej
Poland	Elbląg	Elbląg-Stagniewo	Sanktuarium Matki Bożej Fatimsskiej
Poland	Gdansk	Gdansk-Zabianka	Sanktuarium Matki Bożej Fatimsskiej
Poland	Katowice	Turza Slaska	Sanktuarium Matki Bożej Fatimsskiej
Poland	Kraków	Zakopane-Krzepiówki	Sanktuarium Matki Bożej Fatimsskiej
Poland	Rzeszów	Terliczka	Sanktuarium Matki Bożej Fatimsskiej
Poland	Sosnowiec	Sosnowiec-Zagórze	Sanktuarium Matki Bożej Fatimsskiej
Poland	Szczecin-Kamien	Osiedle Sloneczne	Sanktuarium Matki Bożej Fatimsskiej
Poland	Tarnów	Tarnów	Św. Józefa i Matki Bożej Fatimsskiej
Poland	Warmia	Olsztyn	Sanktuarium Matki Bożej Fatimsskiej
Poland	Warszawa	Mlochów (Warszawa)	Sanktuarium Matki Bożej Fatimsskiej
Poland	Warszawa	Warszawa (Ursus)	Sanktuarium Matki Bożej Fatimsskiej
Portugal	Bragança-Miranda	Cerejais	Santuário do Imaculado Coração de Maria
Portugal	Coimbra	Penacova	Santuário de Nossa Senhora de Fátima
Portugal	Guarda	Serra da Marofa	Santuário de Nossa Senhora de Fátima
Portugal	Lamego	Castanheiro do Sul	Santuário de Nossa Senhora de Fátima
Portugal	Leiria-Fátima	Cova da Iria	Santuário de Nossa Senhora do Rosário de Fátima
Portugal	Viana do Castelo	Cristoval	Santuário de Nossa Senhora de Fátima
Russia	Mãe de Deus em Moscovo	St. Petersburg	Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima - Immaculate Heart of Mary
San Marino	San Marino - Montefeltro	San Marino	Santuario Coure Immacolato di Maria
Switzerland	Lugano	Giova	Chiesa Nostra Signora di Fatima
Ukraine	Kyiv-Zhytomyr	Dowbysz	Sanktuarium Matki Bożej w Fatimie

### OCEANIA

Country	Diocese	Locality	Name
Marian Isles – Federated States of Micronesia	Chalan Kanoa	Chalan Kanoa Village	Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima
New Zealand	Auckland	Meadowbank	Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima
New Zealand	Palmerston	Wanganui	Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima
Hawai (USA)	Honolulu	Wailua	Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima

# Pray for us, Fr. KAO!

A great devotee of Our Lady of Fatima, Fr. Nicolau Kao died, at the age of 110, in an isle off Hong Kong.

In October 1977, Most Reverend Alberto Cosme do Amaral, then Bishop of Leiria-Fatima, traveled to the famous island which the Portuguese named Formosa and the Chinese Taiwan, while I tagged along. Our purpose was to take part in the celebrations of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Apparitions of Fatima. Since the plane arrived very late in Hong Kong, we were not able to fly to Formosa in time for the celebrations. Even so, we flew to the island, where we were treated to eight days of delightful trips, always in a most cordial atmosphere.

Since the beginning, we intended to visit Fr. KAO, who had several times contacted the Shrine of Fatima to let us know of his great devotion to Our Lady, Who appeared here in this place of Fatima/Portugal. There are Fatima 'secrets' throughout the world, which are locked in many hearts that never could travel to Portugal! A priest friend of ours took us to a ship and we sailed to the isle of Peng-Chau, under constant heavy rain, but in warm weather. Once there, we embarked in a small motor-boat, piloted by the happy face of a boatman,

who, for lack of a common language between us, captivated us with gestures and smiles.

I have imprinted in my memory – unfortunately not also in my notebook – a third very short trip in a row boat, which might have been owned by the Trappist monks and which took us finally to the place we were looking for. Our goal was indeed to visit Fr. KAO, who had sought there refuge from Communist China four or five years before. This priest had founded several places dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima, at least since 1945, before the Communists took over China.



On the little private dock were waiting for us the monastery's Prior, Fr. Nicolau and others. 17 monks total. During the short time we spent there, we were able to celebrate Mass and take some pictures, including one of the cell of Fr. Nicolau. Around 17h15 we embarked again in the small boat, after having driven down the hill, where the monks live, in a dirty jeep used in agriculture, one of three that looked like leftovers from World War II.

Conclusion taken from my notebook: "It was a beautiful visit, due to the appreciation that meant for Fr. Nicolau. I had the impression that a young Trappist monk, good looking and at ease with the English language, very much appreciated our gesture. As always, we imparted to the visit a Marian character by singing the 'Hail, Holy Queen' before the statue of Our Lady of Fatima, which couldn't fail to be in the cell (very poor) of Fr. Nicolau."

Pray for us, dearest Brother, that, in this season of Christmas, our faith in the Child God, Son of Mary Our Lady, to Whom you consecrated yourself, be rekindled.

*Msgr. Luciano Guerra*

## Fr. Kao founded six Shrines of Fatima in Orient

In the archives of SESDI (Department of Research and Information) of the Portuguese shrine are kept some letters which prove the ex-

change of correspondence between the Chinese priest Fr. Kao and the Shrine of Fatima.

One of the letters is addressed to the Bishop of Leiria-Fatima and has the date of December 16, 1977. In it the priest thanks the Bishop and the Rector for their trip to Lantao (October 1977) and lists the shrines dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima that he founded between 1945 and 1969.

The first one was founded in 1945 in Fuchow, continental China.

On October 13, 1949, Fr. Nicolau inaugurated the first Shrine of

Fatima of Taiwan, in Taipei.

Another one was built in Taiwan in 1967, when a small chapel was remodeled, enlarged and transformed into a large church in honor of Our Lady of Fatima, in the locality of Kaosiung.

The list also mentions a Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Sibul, Malaysia, inaugurated on October 13, 1969.

Later, in 1979, a Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima was built in Lantao. In 1980 another one in Tounan, Taiwan.

### Fátima – Light and Peace

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# Children pray in the Little Chapel to the world



Since several years ago, but with monthly regularity since 2006, more than 300 children from the nine centers of catechesis of the Parish of Fatima, Portugal, recite the Rosary in the Little Chapel of Apparitions, in Cova da Iria, once a month.

This Rosary is broadcast, throughout the year, Monday through Friday, by 'Rádio Renascença' ([www.rr.pt](http://www.rr.pt)) and by the television stations 'TV Canção Nova' ([www.cancaonova.com](http://www.cancaonova.com)) and 'Telepace' ([www.telepace.it](http://www.telepace.it)), always at 18h30 (Lisbon time).

Once a month, giving continuity to the catechesis work done by the Shrine of Fatima, in coordination with the Movement of the Message of Fatima (MMF) and with the great effort of the catechesis groups of the Parish, the Rosary is recited by Fatima's children. The children at home are invited to accompany their friends through the media.

"Our Lady asked the children to pray the Rosary. This request was not intended only for the Little Shepherds, but extensive to all children and to everybody. The message of Fatima must be announced to the whole world. That's why we planned this initiative", explains Fr. Manuel Antunes, national assistant of MNF.

In this program, titled 'Rosary with the Little Shepherds', the musical animation is also done by children, namely by the children's choir of the Shrine of Fatima 'Schola Cantorum Os Pastorinhos de Fatima'.

Next programs 'Rosary with the Little Shepherds': March 18, April 8 and May 14.

## All united for Darfur!

In Portugal, in the first week of December 2007, invited by Aid to the Suffering Church Foundation, the Auxiliary Bishop of Khartoum, Most Reverend Daniel Marko Kur Adwok, appealed to the international community to support the victims of conflicts in Sudan.

On the 9th of December, Bishop Daniel presided over the International Mass, in the Shrine of Fatima, when he again spoke out on the seriousness of the situation in Sudan:

**"The two civil wars that have ravaged my country, Sudan, are certainly the result of people not waiting to accept themselves. The war in southern Sudan which has come to an end since January 2005 is even still posing problems in the way of implementing the protocol that was agreed upon. The Darfur conflict still has not found the way that could lead to a genuine resolution. Darfur and southern Sudan are inhabited by people of African tribal ethnicities with the only difference that the people of Darfur are predominantly Muslims, but both share equal mistreatment at the**



**hands of the ruling elites, who are mostly Arabs or mainly coming from Arab origin"**, said the Auxiliary Bishop of Khartoum, at Fatima.

In a conference, on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December, the Prelate accused the Sudanese Government of "presenting always the same manifesto", "an agenda of islamization", which seeks, by the most diverse means, to eradicate the Catholic Church from Sudan. For Bishop Daniel, who thinks that "the international community is sometimes naïve or at least easy to let itself be misled",

if that agenda of islamization is successful, then the (Christian) people won't be able to accede to places of economical or political decision, and will continue to be persecuted.

The Sudanese Bishop emphasized also that the Bishops Conference of Sudan desires a peaceful and negotiated solution for the different conflicts and thanked the international civil organizations, as well as those of the Catholic Church, for the support given to the populations.