



# FÁTIMA LUZ EPAZ

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 Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fátima
 

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 Director: Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas
 

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

## Time of grace and mercy: giving thanks for our pilgrimage as Church / Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas

To conclude, as we are now in November, the second of the three-year pastoral period that is guiding the life of the Shrine, it is important to try to assess its outcome. It is not an easy exercise, since the main fruits of a pastoral year are of a spiritual nature.

With a focus on the centenary of the construction of the Little Chapel of the Apparitions, this pastoral year sought to highlight the ecclesial dimension of Fátima and to present the message of Fátima as a means to achieve a greater awareness of what it signifies to be a Church and as an effective way to strengthen our sense of belonging to this Church. For the Shrine, this year was also characterized by a reflection on the meaning of pilgrimage and on the Shrine as a goal of pilgrimage and as a place of strong experience of the Church.

Another important feature of this year's itinerary was the celebration of the centenary of the death of Saint Francis Marto, through a series of initiatives that sought to make this saint, as discreet as he was captivating, known more intimately.

In January took place an equally important event: the Pilgrim Image visited Panama on the occasion of World Youth Day. One of the images of this year that will be remembered is that of Pope Francis standing in prayerful silence before the Pilgrim Image of Our Lady of Fátima, on the night of the prayer vigil of the World Youth Day, before thousands of young people. Furthermore, one of the fruits of this journey was announced in October by the Archbishop of Panama: the construction of a shrine dedicated to Our Lady of Fátima in Panama City.

Increasing the training activities was one of the commitments of this year, whether through the "School of the Shrine", in which we sought to diversify the proposals with a spiritual purpose and those aiming at investigating deeper the message of Fátima; or through initiatives aimed at promoting the studies on Fátima; or even through partnerships that allowed us to take the reflection on Fátima beyond the space of the Shrine.

Another aspect to be mentioned is our concern to make the Shrine an ever more welcoming place for fragility, in line with what Pope Francis has been defending, both in terms of attention given to the most fragile pilgrims and in terms of favouring inclusive welcoming initiatives.

We have reasons to continue to give thanks: in the next pastoral year, for living in God.

## Living Holiness in Today's World

Taking the example of the Saints "at the door", Francisco and Jacinta Marto, the Shrine invites pilgrims to "Give thanks for living in God", highlighting the existence of a Christian model of happiness, alternative to the selfishness and indifference of the present time / Carmo Rodeia

The Shrine of Fatima will propose to pilgrims, during the next pastoral year, which will begin on December 1, the experience of the Call to holiness, taking the example of the Holy Shepherds, who let themselves be contaminated by the light of God.

Based on the first epistle of Saint Peter, in which all the baptized are called to holiness, the last year of the three-year post-centenary period, generically called "Time of grace and mercy", will focus on the challenge of "Giving thanks for living in God".

Starting from the event of Fatima, the life of its protagonists and the message left by Our Lady to which they responded with dedication and no hesitation, the Shrine will seek to be a space where each pilgrim feels this call, incarnating it in the present context, with its risks, challenges and opportunities.

Therefore, in a program full of pastoral initiatives and supports, some itineraries will be proposed and be the object of a reflection for each pilgrim; among which: the baptismal vocation to holiness; the Christian life as a life in God, Conversion as a re-focusing of life on God; holiness for today, the dimensions of a Christian spirituality in the light of the Message of Fatima; the experience of grace as an experience of God's holiness, or the Shrine as a space of encounter with God and His mercy.

Holiness, which the Catholic Church has always emphasized, is one of the central themes of Pope Francis' pontificate, which proposes a Christian model of happiness as an alternative to consumerism, haste and indifference towards others.

If we are not "able to cultivate a certain simplicity of life, resisting the feverish demands of a consumer society", we will be left "impoverished and unsatisfied, anxious to have it all now", he says in the document entitled "Gaudete et Exsultate" (Rejoice and be glad), written and published in 2018.

The exhortation was presented at the time as a renewed "call" to holiness, a radi-



The daily prayer of the Rosary is one of the requests to which the Holy Shepherds said yes

cal proposal of life to which the holy little shepherds adhered and which therefore today constitute a model of holiness.

"The Lord asks everything of us, and in return he offers us true life, the happiness for which we were created. He wants us to be saints and not to settle for a bland and mediocre existence," Francis emphasized in this exhortation.

This pastoral year, which begins with a preparatory day on November 30, presided by Cardinal António Marto, bishop of the diocese of Leiria-Fátima, and with the inauguration of the new exhibition commemorating the centenary of the Image of Our Lady of Fatima of the Chapel of the Apparitions, which is celebrated in 2020 – "Dressed in White: An Exhibition Commemorating the Centenary of the First Sculpture of Our Lady of Fatima" – will also mark the centenary of the death of Saint Jacinta Marto and the beginning of the Pastoral Magisterium of José Alves Correia da Silva, bishop of the diocese of Leiria between 1920 and 1957.

## The Shrine Has Filed More Than 7.3 Million Messages Sent through “Our Lady’s Mail”

On the fourth thematic visit to the exhibition “Capela-Múndi”, the coordinator of the Archives and Library Service of the Department of Studies of the Shrine of Fatima spoke about this “very rich documentary series” / Diogo Carvalho Alves



Collected messages are carefully archived by the Oblate Sisters of the Virgin Mary of Fatima

During the fourth thematic visit to the temporary exhibition “Capela-Múndi”, André Melícias, coordinator of the Archives and Library Service of the Department of Studies of the Shrine of Fatima, brought to light various aspects of the “Correio de Nossa Senhora” (“Our Lady’s Mail”).

The speaker began by presenting some figures about this series of documents that he got organized in the archives of the Shrine. Since the beginning of the century, more than 7,300,000 messages and prayers have been left by pilgrims to Our Lady in the Chapel of the Apparitions. These messages are organised in 1,948 units of installation, ordered on 350 linear meters of shelving, in an organization that can be seen in one of the thematic nucleus of the exhibition.

Regarding the meaning of the messages, the coordinator of the Archives and Library Service of the Department of Studies of the Shrine of Fatima emphasized the fact that they are a “materialization of the prayers, perpetuating it in time” and that they represent a way “to overcome the physical distance” that often separates the faithful from the Blessed Virgin.

The speaker then explained that the messages written by the faithful - which can be delivered directly to the guards who are present in the Shrine or can arrive by regular mail or by email - after having been deposited on the pedestal on which stands the Statue of Our Lady, in the Chapel of the Apparitions, are filed by the Oblate Sisters Mary Virgin of Fatima. They mainly deal with “requests for prayer, thanksgiving, effusion, concrete re-

quests for intercession; and all that can help us understand the family and historical context of a specific period of time,” he added with regard to the content and interest of these requests.

“We are convinced that the choice made by the Shrine of Fatima to collect and archive these messages in order to study them is legitimate and is a way of prizing the devotion and faith of those who encouraged it. This documentation is very rich from an informational point of view... It can bring new perspectives to better understand the historical processes of the last century, at the national as well as at the international level,” concluded the coordinator of the Archives and Library Service of the Department of Studies of the Shrine of Fatima.

# Pilgrimage to Brazil Ends with Numerous Messages Sent to Our Lady by The Devotees

Image n° 3 of the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima ends her six-month pilgrimage / Carmo Rodeia

The image n° 3 of the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima ended her 2019 journey to Brazil after a 6-month pilgrimage organized by the Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima in São Paulo.

The Pilgrimage began on May 1 in the Metropolitan Cathedral of São Paulo, in a celebration presided by the Archbishop, Cardinal Odilo Scherer, and ended in the Marian Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, principal responsible for the pilgrimage of this image, which has been taking place since 2004, and which this time took her to the interior of the State of São Paulo, but also to other states such as Paraná or Rio de Janeiro, where she attended the funeral of the Luso-Brazilian singer Roberto Loyal, in September.

The image n° 3 of the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima visited several hospitals, schools, parishes, senior homes and workplaces, where she was always welcomed by mani-

festations of great popular devotion, including the remittance of messages addressed to Our Lady of Fatima, which were sent to the Shrine.

The pilgrimages of the image in Brazil were already regular but, since the Centenary, they became biennial, and the image has already been booked for the same period in 2021 and 2023, between May and October, months during which Fatima celebrates the six apparitions of Our Lady to the Little Shepherds.

The organization of the pilgrimage, coordinated by Friar Alain Hevin, is promoted by the Third Franciscan Order in Brazil, whose Provincial is Friar Agostinho Odorizzi. It is the latter who presided the celebration of the Farewell on 13 October.

Since 2004, the image has been regularly travelling to Brazil. The first time she remained there during the month of May;

in 2007 she stayed between May and June; and, from 2010 until 2014, May was again the only month she was there. But in 2015 and 2017, the pilgrimage took place between May and October, and it is in this format that it will continue to take place in 2021 and 2023.

There are also records of the passage of an image of the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima through the archdiocese of São Paulo, or through other dioceses of the state of São Paulo, in 1953, 1991 and 1998, with the presence of the Pilgrim Image n° 1, and in 1996 with the Pilgrim Image n° 2.

The Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, in Sumaré, began to be built in 1932. That year, the first mass was celebrated in a temporary chapel. The first stone for the construction of the current building was blessed on May 13, 1935. The parish was erected in 1940 and its first priest was Friar Ignatius Gau.



A suitcase containing more than 20 kilos of messages of prayer addressed to Our Lady, in the form of a bouquet, coming from Brazil and sent to the Shrine

## Peace as a Condition of Life Unites Fatima to Korea

Cardinal of Seoul presided the October pilgrimage and recalled the “miracle of the sun” as a symbol of the “fight against evil” / Carmo Rodeia



Cardinal presented himself as a pilgrim among thousands of pilgrims

In Fatima, last October 13th, South Korean Cardinal Andrew Yeom Soo-jung, Archbishop of Seoul, recalled the “miracle of the Sun” that occurred during the last apparition of 1917 in Cova da Iria, and presented it as a symbol of the “fight against evil”.

“Such a miracle shows that our Lord is the God of the universe and that he is beyond the laws of nature. God decided to intervene in the laws of nature and to fight against evil,” he said in his homily at the

International Anniversary Mass on October 13.

The celebrations, which put an end to the great anniversary pilgrimages of this pastoral year, evoked the sixth apparition to the three seers of Fatima, in the presence of thousands of people, when “after a period of rain, the dark clouds opened and the sun appeared in the sky like a multi-coloured rotating disc,” recalled the Cardinal of Seoul.

“The miracle was another sign and con-

firmation from God that Our Lady had appeared to the three children,” he added, on a day when the rain also accompanied the pilgrims in Cova da Iria, who all listened to the calls for prayer, conversion and peace uttered by the various speakers.

Besides, the international pilgrimage of October was also marked by several calls for reconciliation in the Korean Peninsula.

“I ask you to remember the people of Korea, who have to face their own challenges to achieve peace and reconciliation. Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us,” Cardinal Andrew Yeom Soo-jung asked.

The South Korean official underlined that in life there are always difficulties to overcome, “even in times when everything seems to be fine”.

“The teachings of the Bible and the apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima tell us that despite the difficulties we are never alone. We have learned that if difficulties exist, Our Lord and Our Lady will be there to help us in our needs,” he continued.

“Let us not forget that in our Holy Mother we find the help and support necessary to face the many challenges that we inevitably face as human beings,” he then contextualized.

The president of the celebration defended the point that Catholics should be able to “turn around and give thanks to God”, and he presented prayer, the Eucharist and the Evangelisation as expressions of gratitude for the “gift of salvation”.

## Rector Highlights the Visit of the Pilgrim Virgin to Panama as One of the Key Moments of the Pastoral Dynamics of the Shrine in 2018-2019

/ Diogo Carvalho Alves

During the press conference preceding the International Pilgrimage Anniversary of October, Carlos Cabecinhas, Rector of the Shrine of Fatima, recalled the visit of the Pilgrim Virgin to Panama for the World Youth Day in January of this year.

“One of the fruits of this visit will be the construction of a shrine dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima, in Panama City,” revealed the Rector of the Shrine of Fatima as he announced that the nucleus of this shrine will consist of a replica of the Little Chapel of the Apparitions.

The archdiocese of Panama occupies an area of 13,275 square kilometres divided into 93 parishes. An estimated 633,705 Catholics live in the country.



Panama will build a replica of the Little Chapel of the Apparitions.

**The homily also highlighted the organisation in Lisbon of the next international edition of the World Youth Day, scheduled for 2022. “I send you my warmest congratulations and encourage you to participate in these Youth Days. They are an opportunity to give young people a vision of a better world and to encourage them to incarnate Christ in our time, when we have to face so many challenges to achieve peace and harmony, for which we have to pray and work, as Our Lady of Fatima asked,” said Archbishop Andrew Yeom Soo-jung.**

Peace was an unavoidable theme of this pilgrimage. In the homily of the Vigil Mass on the evening of the 12th, the South Korean Prelate, who is also the apostolic administrator of Pyongyang, a place he has never visited due to lack of authorization from the North Korean government, asked for prayers “for reconciliation and peace in the Korean Peninsula”.

“I ask for your prayers for peace and reconciliation in the Korean Peninsula,

for your brothers and sisters in faith, geographically distant but united by the presence of God. Pray with us for an end to the conflicts and divisions in the peninsula,” he said.

“I believe that Our Lady of Fatima, who appeared 100 years ago, would urge us today to work and pray for peace in our century,” he added.

The Archbishop of Seoul recalled the history of the country, marked by “ordeals” throughout the 20th century, first because of Japanese colonialism until 1945, and then because of the war and the division between North and South.

“The combination of Japanese colonialism and neighbouring communism in Russia and China marked Korea’s entry in a turbulent era of foreign domination,” he underlined.

Cardinal Andrew Yeom Soo-jung also recalled the three years of war between 1950 and 1953, which “brought an even deeper division and mutual hostility between North and South.”

“Seven decades later, since 1950, the nation is still divided and reconciliation seems out of reach,” said the Archbishop of Seoul.

“Let us pray for politicians and legislators, let us also pray for our politicians to work more closely together on peace-building,” concluded Cardinal Andrew Yeom Soo-jung.

During the year of the Centenary of the Apparitions, one of the Pilgrim Images of Our Lady of Fatima went to South Korea from 22 August to 13 October, visiting 14 dioceses in an unprecedented journey.

At the same time, the Shrine of the

Peace of Fatima, located near the border between North and South Korea, was organising a novena for peace in the country, which took place from 22 to 30 August.

In 2018, of the 481 groups of pilgrims from Asia who participated in the official celebrations of the Shrine, 135 were South Koreans.

### **Fatima Is a Comfort for the Korean People**

At the end of the October celebrations, the Bishop of Leiria-Fatima, Cardinal Antonio Marto, highlighted in his last words the “attention that the Shrine of Fatima devotes to peace and to pilgrims” in and from Asia, who are coming to Cova da Iria “in ever-increasing numbers”.

The Portuguese official evoked the “wars, persecutions and martyrdom” that marked the history of the Catholic Church in South Korea, where today there is “a great devotion to Our Lady of Fatima”.

“In the midst of its ordeal, the Christian people of Korea found support, help and comfort in the Holy Heavenly Mother and in the Message of Fatima.”

“It’s a very beautiful testimony,” he added.

The International Anniversary Mass of October, which closes the cycle of the great pilgrimages of 2019, was concelebrated by 2 cardinals, 11 bishops and 232 priests.



The rain did not discourage the thousands of pilgrims who participated in the celebrations

## “The Vocation of Human Being Is Not Perdition, But Salvation” Said Bishop Rui Valério on the Occasion of the Anniversary International Pilgrimage of September

The Bishop of the Armed and Security Forces warned about “affective and even spiritual consumerism” and asked pilgrims to make Fatima “a place of life” / Diogo Carvalho Alves and Carmo Rodeia

The Bishop of the Armed and Security Forces, presiding the Anniversary International Pilgrimage of September, declared, in the homily of the mass of the 13th, that Jesus “never gives up” people and then, he asked the pilgrims to be able to “show the experience of life with Christ” as a “proposal for the world”.

“Let all those who observe the way we live ask themselves about its deeper meaning and be attracted and fascinated by the Christian life that transpires in the Church,” explained Bishop Rui Valério.

During the homily of the Eucharist that concluded the Anniversary Pilgrimage of September 12 and 13, which marks the fifth apparition of Our Lady to the Little Shepherds, the Bishop of the Ordinariato Castrense stated that it will be in their “life of communion with Christ” that many “will find the impulsion and encouragement” to live the experience of “union with the Lord”.

Referring to the Gospel and the miracle of the wedding in Cana, Rui Valério warned that the human being “is terrified by the emptiness” and, therefore, tries to

fill it with “the inebriation of consumption that today includes not only material goods, but also immaterial goods”. “We are devoured by an affective and even spiritual consumerism in an unbridled search for more and more innovative and radical experiences,” he added.

According to the president of the celebration, one “is not saved through the ephemeral things” that he or she possesses or experiences and, today, the situation of many “can still be illustrated by the image of the empty jars”. “Only love can save us and fill us, building and rebuilding a redeemed life from the ruins in which we so often find ourselves. Salvation lies in the both simple and complex fact of being loved and loving,” he stressed. “Only Christ can save humanity and the world from the tragedy of the scarcity of love,” he further explained.

In this context, he underlined that the Gospel “points to a path, a journey to salvation” and he listed its various stages: “to welcome Mary into our lives, to listen to the Word of the Lord and, putting it into practice, to bring about the wine of joy.”

The Bishop of the Armed and Security Forces emphasized that Jesus “never gives up” people, “nor does he stop tearing the horizons of humanity with the light of hope.” “Never ever will He allow evil to command the designs of History. He is a living God who knows and experiences the sweet taste of joy, of joy that breaks out whenever the human being allows himself to be redeemed and then saved,” he said.

Bishop Rui Valério further explained that Our Lady “came as the Mother of joy” at the wedding of Cana, and observed that “emptiness” is a sign of sadness and that “nothing empties the human heart as much as the scarcity of love.”

87 groups of pilgrims had registered for this pilgrimage and they came from 23 countries: Portugal, Germany, Australia, Brazil, Cape Verde, South Korea, Slovakia, Spain, USA, France, Netherlands, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Singapore, Burkina Faso, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Philippines, South Africa and United Kingdom. 115 priests, 5 bishops and 1 cardinal concelebrated the event.



Bishop of the Armed and Security Forces says Fatima restores the light of hope to humanity

# The Message of Peace of Fatima “Remains More Relevant Than Ever”

The Prefect of the Congregation for the Clergy presided the Anniversary international pilgrimage of August / Diogo Carvalho Alves and Carmo Rodeia



The blessing of the sick, with a special word, preceded the end of the celebrations

The Prefect of the Congregation for the Clergy, who presided the Anniversary international pilgrimage of August, emphasised that the message of Fatima “is and continues to be Peace” and that it “remains more relevant than ever, because heavy clouds are hanging over the planet and we do not know what tomorrow holds for us.”

“Though the Holy Father is multiplying the initiatives and is assuming the defence of the most vulnerable in the cause of peace, namely through the promotion of an integral human ecology, there are many political leaders who are closing themselves more and more to dialogue, compassion and peace,” regretted Cardinal Marc Ouellet.

In the homily of the mass of the 13th, the Canadian Cardinal explained that being “contemporary with the First World War and its revolutionary epilogue in Russia,” the Message of Fatima “remains more relevant than ever,” that “it is and continues to be Peace, the guarantee of peace, and prayer and penance for peace in the world.”

This celebration was part of the National Pilgrimage for Migrants and Refugees of 2019 and the Cardinal Marc Ouellet pointed out that, on their journey, the people of God bring “their joys and their sorrows, and are in solidarity with all humanity in Christ” and that, in Fatima, they also learn how to “extend their intentions of prayer”.

“Today, we think particularly of all the

migrants and refugees who travel the roads of our planet in search of a better earthly homeland, but also in search of the homeland that God is preparing for us in the heavenly Jerusalem, whose gates Christ has opened in order to accommodate there the whole human family, redeemed by his blood”, he developed.

The day before, the Prefect of the Con-

gregation for the Clergy had already mentioned the human and social calamity that is underway, due to the crisis of migrants and refugees knocking at the door of Portugal, Europe and the most varied regions of the world, and that generates “caravans of migrants” that “have never been so numerous”.

The Bishop of Leiria-Fatima said on August 13, at the closing of the Anniversary international pilgrimage, focused on the issues linked to the migrants, that he could not fail to express “recognition, praise and gratitude” to the Guarda Nacional Republicana police force which “in recent weeks has rescued more than a hundred refugees and migrants” in the Mediterranean Sea.

“It is a very beautiful gesture and sign of humanity, solidarity and courage that honours the mission of our national Republican Guards and deserves our warm applause,” said Bishop António Marto.

On this pilgrimage, in addition to the Lusophone pilgrims, there were also groups of faithful coming from countries such as Vietnam, Syria, Senegal, Sweden, Poland, Malaysia, France, United Kingdom, Sri Lanka, USA, Malta, Belgium, Brazil, Germany, Italy, Ivory Coast, Ireland, Indonesia, Spain and a group of Sinhalese and Indians from France.

The International Pilgrimage of August 12 and 13 to the Shrine of Fatima celebrates the fourth apparition of Our Lady to the Little Shepherds in Cova da Iria, and integrates the Pilgrimage for the Migrants and the Refugees in the context of the 47th National Week of Migrations, whose theme this year was “They are not only migrants”.



Marc Ouellet underlined that peace was essential in the message of Fatima

# Shrine of Santa Teresa of Calcutta in Tijuana, Mexico, Welcomes the Image of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Father Carlos Cabecinhas and Sister Angela Coelho participated in the preparation of this great event / Fr. Brian Kolodiejchuk, M.C.

The Shrine of Santa Teresa of Calcutta in Tijuana, Mexico, experienced a great moment of joy at the arrival of a picture of the Immaculate Heart of Mary on August 3. In order to welcome her, a great number of faithful were present, not only those of the local community, but also others coming from different places, who also wanted to welcome the Mother of Heaven.



Rector strengthens the links between the Marian sanctuaries

To better enjoy this grace, there was a previous preparation with a visit of Father



For 33 days, the pilgrims prepared for the arrival of the Image

Carlos Cabecinhas, Rector of the Shrine of Fatima, and Sister Angela Coelho, Vice-Postulator for the Cause of Beatification of Sister Lucia.

All this preparation was intended to highlight the importance of the union of Mother Teresa's charisma with the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Fatima.

The image that now arrives in Tijuana will remain permanently in this Shrine.

After receiving the news of the arrival of the Blessed Mother, a great number of devotees underwent a preparation during 33 days in a row, including meditation and prayer in a daily and intense way.

All the necessary diligences for crossing

the border, in the opposite direction to the flow of migrants, who were happy to see Our Lady so close by, were approved. The message visible on the caravan that carried the image was: "Where others make walls, she is a bridge", in a clear call for peace between peoples.

This 3rd of August will ever remain in the hearts of all the faithful who came to welcome the Heavenly Mother. This Shrine continues to be a well for the thirsty, a roof for those who are out, and a refuge for the bereaved, a place where, 24 hours a day, one can have an encounter with Jesus during the Eucharist; all of that under the protection of our Blessed Mother.

## Four New Chaplains at The Service of the Shrine of Fatima for Next Pastoral Year / Cátia Filipe

Since September, the Shrine of Fatima has had three new Portuguese-speaking chaplains at its service. Joaquim Augusto Nunes Ganhão, from the diocese of Santarém, has assumed the direction of the Department of the Liturgy.

In the same department, Jorge Alberto da Silva Seixas, a priest from the diocese of Viseu, coordinates the Sacred Music Service. And Ronaldo Santos Araújo, of the diocese of Manaus, Brazil, after being a confessor in the Shrine for a while, now assumes a chaplaincy.

Since the beginning of 2019, Friar Clemens Maria Henkel has been appointed to assist the German-speaking pilgrims.

The Shrine of Fatima currently has 13 priests working in the various services.

# The Image of Our Lady of Fatima Went on Pilgrimage to Chile

The Pilgrim Virgin was welcomed by a crowd of faithful at her arrival and then started her pilgrimage that, for eight months, will take the Message of Fatima to various parts of that South American country / Diogo Carvalho Alves

The Pilgrim Virgin of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima will be on pilgrimage in Chile from September 16 to May 18, 2020. This eight-month pilgrimage aims to spread the Message of Fatima in that South American country, under the motto of the prophetic promise that Our Lady left to the Little Shepherds in the apparition of July 13: "Eventually my Immaculate Heart will triumph."

"The mission of this pilgrimage is to pass to the greatest number of Chileans the Message that the Virgin Mary left us in Fatima, in order to achieve peace, the conversion of sinners and establish devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary," reads the organization's website, the Fatima Mission Chile, which also indicates the itinerary of the Image through various dioceses, from north to south of the country, in a program that includes moments of prayer, recitation of the Rosary, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, nocturnal vigils and processions.

The first stop was the capital, Santiago de Chile, where the Pilgrim Virgin was welcomed with a Mass celebrated in the church of San Francisco, in the centre of the metropolis. The Archbishop of Santiago de Chile, Celestino Aós, emphasized the importance of this visit.

"The Christians of Chile are very aware of the importance of Mary in the history of salvation. It is not possible to understand the Evangelisation of America and its religiosity without the Virgin Mary, and it is beautiful to meet this multitude of faithful, moved by love and the Holy Spirit, wel-



On her arrival at the Santiago Airport, the Image was welcomed with traditional dances

coming her, the Blessed among all women," said the Prelate at the end of the celebration.

The arrival of the Pilgrim Virgin at the airport of the capital, hours before, is recorded on the page of the organization, in a video where you can see a crowd of faithful welcoming the statue of Our Lady with bright white handkerchiefs, traditional dances and the singing of the Hail of Fatima. At the airport's arrival terminal, a

dramatization of the July 1917 Apparition was also presented, which sets the tone for the pilgrimage (photo above).

Juan Ignacio González, bishop of the diocese of San Bernardo, at the moment of the consecration of the Chilean people to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, at the airport, appealed: "May this pilgrimage be full of spiritual fruits of peace, mutual love and fraternity, and help us specially to put the person of Jesus Christ in the centre of our faith".

The pilgrim image of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima that will travel through the Chilean territory is the image number 12, acquired by the Shrine in 2013, coincidentally, also to go on a pilgrimage in a South American country, Brazil, between May 12 and October 13, 2017. Later, this same Pilgrim Image was sent for another visit, still in Latin America, this time in Colombia, between May 1, 2018 and March 15, 2019, being now, since September 16, in Chile, where she will remain until May 18, 2020.

According to the records of the Shrine of Fatima, this is the second pilgrimage of the Pilgrim Virgin to Chile; the other took place between June 1954 and December 1955, when the Image made a tour of several South American countries.



Her last pilgrimage to Chile dates back to 1954-55

# Holy Father Sends Apostolic Blessing for the Pilgrimage of the Image of Our Lady to Italy

/ Fr. Ezio Casella, ofm and Enzo Sorretino



The Image of Fatima is a constant presence in Italy

Last August 4 marked the end of the pilgrimage of an Image of Our Lady of Fatima to various dioceses and places of Italy.

The image left the parish community of Leonessa to go to the city of Rieri-Piazza Sestilio Mattiocco, where she was welcomed by Monsignor Domenico Pompili, Bishop of Rieti, the civil and military authorities and the priests and faithful coming from various places of the diocese of Rieti.

The celebrations reached their highest point with the renewal of the consecration of Italy to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The national pilgrimage began last April in the context of the centenary of the death of San Francisco Marto and of the 60th anniversary of the consecration of Italy to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The Holy Father Francis sent, through the Secretariat of State, a message to greet the initiative and an apostolic blessing.

# Centenary of Saint Francisco Marto - at the hour of sadness for the Church! / Dragica Cepar



Five First Saturdays devotion is increasingly widespread all over the world

The example of the great “repairer and consoler of Jesus” led us “in this hour of sorrow for the Church” (His Eminence Antonio Marto homily 4. April 2019) to organize the devotion to the reparation of the first five Saturdays, as requested Our Lady in Fatima.

We carried out this initiative in the oldest parish of Ljubljana, dedicated to St. Peter, and in Maribor Cathedral, dedicated to Saint John the Baptist, from January to May 2019.

This period also served as a preparation for the renewal of the consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Sacred Heart of Jesus on the first Saturday of May. The consecration took place after the communion. Those who consecrated themselves for the first time received an image of remembrance with the date and place of the consecration.

Every first five Saturdays, the participants gathered in prayer about an hour before the Holy Mass. The hour of prayer was preceded by an explanation of the five conditions necessary to celebrate this devotion, and the desire of Our Lady to invite to confession all the persons present. After the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and the recitation of the Holy Rosary followed meditations on the word of God and the messages of Our Lady at Fatima, interspersed with songs and pauses of silence designed to be in company with the Immaculate Heart of Mary for 15 minutes.

They adapted the initiative to some circumstances, and the first five Saturdays were also celebrated in some houses for the elderly, and Saint Francisco Marto was presented as an example of the resistance of pain and illness in accepting suffering.

## Russia Will Erect Its First Shrine Dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima

This shrine will be of the Byzantine Catholic rite, but it will be open to the celebrations of the Latin Catholic rite or other rites, and plans to receive pilgrims and devotees from all the Christian communities / *Cátia Filipe with ACIPRENSA*

One of the fruits obtained thanks to the audience granted by Pope Francis to the Catholic Bishops of Eastern Rites was the approval of the project of the first Shrine dedicated to the Virgin of Fatima in Russia.

“Orthodox confessions are not opposed to this project. Many Russians manifest a great devotion to the Virgin of Fatima, who intervened for the conversion of Russia,” said Father Alejandro Burgos, a priest from Valladolid, Spain, to Confidential Religion, and he added: “The fact that a sanctuary in honour of Our Lady of Fatima is being built is very logical. John Paul II consecrated Russia to the Virgin of Fatima and on May 15, 2017, the Russian bishops consecrated their country also to the icon of the Virgin of Fatima.”

In order to represent this joint devotion of the Christian communities to the Mother of God under the invocation of Our Lady of Fatima, Father Burgos entrusted to other priests an icon of this devotion with the phrase “In her unity”. The shrine will be of the Byzantine Catholic rite, but it will be open to the celebrations of the Latin Catholic rite or other rites, and plans to receive pilgrims and devotees from all the Christian communities.



The close link between the message of Fatima and Russia will be materialized through the construction of a church

## The Rector of the Shrine of Fatima challenged the military students of the Higher Command and Staff Course of the Columbian War College to be peace-builders / *Carmo Rodeia*



Military pray to Our Lady of Fatima for peace in the world

Thirty-five Colombian soldiers, led by General Juan Carlos Ramirez Trujillo, went on a pilgrimage to Fatima on September 28, where they were received by Father Carlos Cabecinhas in the Retreat House of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

The Head of the Shrine explained to the group the event and key content of the Message of Fatima and underlined the importance of peace for the Shrine.

“Fatima tells us that peace is a mission that requests concrete acts to be promoted. Here we will continue to pray for you, for the peace in your country and for the peace in the world.”

The group attended a private celebration in the Chapel of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, presided by Monsignor Amaury Medina, and continued its pilgrimage with a guided tour of the main spaces of the Shrine.

## Congregation of Our Lady of Fatima's Sisters of Reparation / Ir. Paula – Superiora Geral

We joyfully celebrate the canonical approval of the Congregation of Our Lady of Fatima's Sisters of Reparation, which took place precisely 70 years ago. On 15 August 1949, the Bishop of Leiria, José Alves Correia da Silva, canonically established the Congregation founded by Venerable Father Manuel Nunes Formigão, whose Constitutions had been approved in Rome on 11 April 1949.

This Congregation finds its historical origin in the apparitions of Our Lady in Fatima in 1917 and was founded in 1926, in Lisbon, by the venerable Father Manuel Nunes Formigão, Apostle and disseminator of the Message of Fatima, with the purpose of giving a form to the reparatory spirit requested by Our Lady to the three seers, in Cova da Iria.

The spiritual charisma of the Congregation focuses on the reparation of evil/sin, Eucharistic adoration and the Marian devotion.

*There must be who makes reparation.*" This specific call of Our Lady, transmitted by the seer Jacinta, spoke to the ears and heart of venerable Fr. Formigão and gave rise to the foundation of the Congregation whose jubilee we celebrate. In its theological essence, the life of reparation of the members of the Institute is an insistent call to live the gospel of mercy and compassion, offering all the existential acts as an oblation of love, relief and reparation for the evil of humanity, just like the Little Shepherds who identified themselves fully with Christ in their dedication to God for the salvation of sinners.

The spirituality of reparation finds its consistency and support in the Eucharist, as stated in the Congregation's Constitution n° 5: *"In the celebration of the Eucharist and in the Eucharistic Adoration we receive the light and strength necessary to live our*

*generous dedication to God and to our neighbour."* Making the Eucharist the centre of their spirituality, the sisters of reparation practise the daily adoration of the Blessed Sacrament solemnly exposed in their communities and, since 1960, they perpetuate the Eucharistic adoration in the Shrine of Fatima, in the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament and in the places where we are to be repaired and loved.

In gratitude to God, we want to remember our Founder and the Sisters who accompanied him from 1926 to 1949 in doubt and uncertainty, but in a founded hope that nothing and no one was able to remove. It was their profound conviction that they were fulfilling God's plan that brought us today, for them and for the Founder, to chant a "Magnificat" just as they did then. It is praise and gratitude that we want to bring to the Heart of God with the offering of our lives.



Congregation founded by Fr. Manuel Nunes Formigão celebrated 70 years of canonical approval

# A Small Village of the Serra de Aire e Candeeiros Welcomes the Image of Our Lady of Fatima

A recess built in 2001, hosts the annual celebration / Cátia Filipe



Bishop of the Armed and Security Forces presided a celebration in the centre of the village of Barrenta

On the weekend of 17 and 18 August, Barrenta, in the parish of Alvados, Portugal, organised a celebration in honour of Our Lady of Fatima.

The recess, built in 2001, shelters a statue of Our Lady of Fatima realized by Manuel Thedim in 2000.

The village has about 38 inhabitants and is known in the region for its group of accordionists; by that time of the year, it welcomes many emigrants and friends who come to praise altogether the Mother of Heaven. The mass was presided by the bishop of the armed and security forces, Bishop Rui Valério, at the invitation of the parish priest, Father Luís Ferreira. The prelate congratulated the community for the almost 20 years of celebrations in honour of Our Lady. In his homily, he highlighted that “the heavenly Mother teaches each of us to have faith” and he gave examples of this same faith

in extreme situations lived and witnessed by the armed forces and security during their missions.

The procession along the streets of the village is a “sign that Our Lady wants to be with each one of us daily, in the trivial situations of life, and in its greatest moments.”

“But there is a difference: today we are the ones who carry Our Lady on her pedestal, while, throughout the year, she is carrying us along the roads and paths of life,” the Bishop added, and he recalled the request made in Cova da Iria, the request for the daily prayer of the Rosary, which “is not only a prayer that brings people together, but also a journey to peace.”

The recess was built by the local population in order to show their devotion to the graces received from Our Lady of Fatima.



Our Lady of Fatima worshiped in Barrenta

## Archbishop of Bombay visited Fatima / Carmo Rodeia



Cardinal Oswald Gracias joins Pope Francis' Council of Cardinals

The Rector of the Shrine of Fatima, Father Carlos Cabecinhas, received on September 27, a delegation of Indian prelates led by Cardinal Oswald Gracias, Archbishop of Bombay, one of the Pope's special advisors and a member of the Council of Cardinals.

The Cardinal and the five Catholic bishops - the titular bishop of the diocese of Nagpur, and four auxiliary bishops of the Archdiocese of Bombay - concelebrated a Mass in English in the Chapel of the Apparitions and visited the Fatima Luz e

Paz Exhibition in the Museum of the Shrine of Fatima.

India is one of the countries outside the European continent that send the largest number of pilgrims annually in Fatima.

## Winter Schedule

From November 1, the winter schedule for the celebration program of the Shrine of Fatima comes into effect, with changes that will last until Easter.

During this period, the 11:00 a.m. mass will be celebrated from Monday to Friday in the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, and on Saturday and Sunday in the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity.

With the new schedule, the Sunday Mass in the Little Chapel of the Apparitions is changed to 12:30 a.m., and the hour of reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, also in the Little Chapel of the Apparitions, is now held only on Saturdays and Sundays, at 2:00 p.m. No official celebrations in other languages are scheduled, but it remains possible to organize it on specific occasions.

Regarding the candlelight procession, please note that, from the beginning of Christmas Advent until Lent, it will take place only on Saturdays and the 12th of each month.

For more detailed information, please consult [www.fatima.pt](http://www.fatima.pt)



The frequency of the celebrations changes with the arrival winter

# Temporary Exhibition Capela-Mundi Was the More Visited Ever

304,840 Persons Visited the Museum / Cátia Filipe

The temporary exhibition Capela-Mundi was visited by more than 304,840 visitors, which makes this museum space the most visited temporary exhibition ever in Cova da Iria. About 12,912 guided tours were organised and 20,255 persons participated.

This figure represents an increase of 23% in the number of visitors compared to the last exhibition, which evoked the Miracle of the Sun and which was on display between December 2016 and December 2018.

“We think that this number reflects the growing interest shown by pilgrims in the beauty and the museum spaces are very favourable for the exhibition of this type of contents,” said Marco Daniel Duarte, director of the Museum of the Shrine of Fatima and commissioner of the exhibition, and he added that: “It was a challenge to make an exhibition from a structure with so small a collection, and, at the same time, with so much to tell.”

The commissioner of the exhibition underlines that the visitors were above all “surprised by the narrative that tells about one of the most important places of Catholicism today, and mixes historical elements with poetic language.”

“The exhibition Capela-Mundi surpassed the expectations that the Shrine of Fatima had about how museology could communicate with the different types of public that visit us, and was also very well accepted by the scientific and academic community, who considered it a successful example in the domain of Religious Museology,” added Marco Daniel Duarte in a declaration to the bulletin *Fatima Luz e Paz*.

It should be remembered that this exhibition was associated with a cultural and scientific program that sought to: “Address very important themes for the Shrine of Fatima and for the religious culture, especially based on the thematic visits that took place on the



Through the replica the visitors are symbolically stepping in the Little Chapel

first Wednesday of each month, between the months of May and October. As in other initiatives of the Shrine of Fatima, this exhibition has also been a place for reflection and transmission from the most authoritative voices, in the different areas of knowledge.”

“The visits that we proposed every day to pilgrims, through the investment that the Shrine made at the level of the Educational Services team, led to the exhibition being decoded, which allowed the contents presented there to contribute to the spiritual well-being of the visitors to Fatima,” concluded the director of the Museum of the Shrine of Fatima.

The exhibition included nine thematic nuclei, based on a historical research that

sought to read the Little Chapel of the Apparitions as one of the most important icons of the Shrine of Fatima. The objective was to take the pilgrims through the exhibition space, trying to give them reading keys on how a small white chapel can become the centre of attention of a good part of humanity.

For having been built based on a wish that the Little Shepherds of Fatima assure to have been transmitted by the Virgin Mary and through a popular initiative, this small vernacular-shaped temple is considered to be the heart of the Shrine of Fatima and it is around it that the most intimate manifestations of faith of the pilgrims of Cova da Iria take place.

## “Dressed in White: An Exhibition Commemorating the Centenary of the First Sculpture of Our Lady of Fatima”

Is the title of the next temporary exhibition that will be inaugurated on November 30

The most important sculpture of contemporary Catholicism was created in Portugal, based on the narrative of the Apparitions of Fatima. The centenary of its creation is a time for reflection on the

relationship between art and devotion and the opportunity to contemplate the most beautiful images of the Virgin Mary, the Woman “dressed in white”.

The exhibition, which will be open to pil-

grims until October 15, 2020, includes daily guided tours from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 a.m. and from 3:30 p.m. to 4:15 p.m., with a thematic visit every first Wednesday of the month, between May and October 2020.

# An Official Image of the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima Went for The First Time to Nicaragua in January 2020

Marian devotion is great in this country that has never received a visit from any image of the Shrine / Carmo Rodeia



Pilgrim Image "brings" peace to Nicaragua

The Image n° 6 of the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima will make a pilgrimage to the diocese of Jinotega, Nicaragua, starting in January 2020, at the request of Carlos Enrique Herrera, Bishop of Jinotega. This will be a first and historic visit. Though, according to the March 1984 edition of *Voz da Fátima*, on the pilgrimage of February 13 of that year, there is a record of an offering and blessing by Alberto Cosme do Amaral, then Bishop of Leiria-Fátima, of an Image of Our Lady of Fatima that was to be sent to Nicaragua, the visit scheduled for January next year will, in fact, be the first journey of an image of the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima to this country of Central America; she will

remain in the country for a while and then return to the Shrine.

The diocese of Jinotega was created in 1891. It is divided into four pastoral districts and includes 14 parishes, 4 curates, 30 priests and, among the approximately 460,000 inhabitants, 65% are Catholic and, of these, 74% live in rural areas.

"The faithful of our diocese manifest a great love and devotion to the Virgin of Fatima and to the Marian apparitions," says the letter that the prelate sent to the Shrine of Fatima to request the visit.

"It would therefore be of a great spiritual fruitfulness to welcome the image", further indicates the letter, underlining also that this pilgrimage could assume a national dimension.

"We are going to heighten the whole Episcopal Conference of Nicaragua awareness so as to mobilize them with regard to this visit," he concluded.

The Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima has paid constant visits to the American continent since 1947; in fact, the various images successively peregrinated to various countries of this continent, and especially in South America.

As a matter of fact, earlier this year, in January, the Image n° 1 was, by way of exception, present in Panama for the World Youth Day; the Image n° 10 visited the Archdiocese of San José, Costa Rica, and, in May, the Image n° 3 was sent to São Paulo, where she remained until the end of the month of Mary.

During this pastoral year of the Shrine, the theme of which is "Giving thanks for our pilgrimage as Church", the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima will also visit two dioceses in Spain - Santiago de Compostela and Alicante - and Coimbra in Portugal, and then she will visit several dioceses in other European countries, especially Italy.

Sculpted according to the instructions of Sister Lucia, the first image of Our Lady of Fatima was offered by the Bishop of Leiria and solemnly crowned by the Archbishop of Évora on May 13, 1947. From that date on, the image has travelled around the world several times, carrying with her a message of peace and love.

The genesis of this journey takes us back to 1945, shortly after the end of World War II, when a parish priest in Berlin proposed that an image of Our Lady of Fatima should travel through all the episcopal capitals and cities of Europe, to the border with Russia. The idea was taken up again in April 1946 by a representative of Luxembourg at the International Catholic Society for Girls, and, the following year, on the very day of her coronation, her first journey began. After more than half a century of pilgrimage, during which the Image visited 64 countries on the different continents, some of them on several occasions, the Rectorate of the Shrine of Fatima came to the conclusion that she should not leave this place anymore, except on extraordinary circumstances.

In order to respond to the huge number of requests coming from all over the world, thirteen replicas of the first Pilgrim Image were made.

From all sides come extraordinary stories of the presence of the Pilgrim Image. Stories of crowds who flock to her passage, of unprecedented participation in the various celebrations, of a great number of penitents who get closer to the sacrament of reconciliation, of the influx of all kinds of people: children, young, adults and elderly people, of different social contexts and even from different religious denominations; in short, of significant pastoral fruits and of abundant graces obtained.

**FÁTIMA  
LUZ  
EPAZ**

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