



FÁTIMA LUZ E PAZ

Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fátima

Director: Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas

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*Time of grace and mercy:
to give thanks for living in God*

Time of grace and mercy: to give thanks for living in God / Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas

The centenary of the death of Saint Jacinta Marto, the youngest of the Fatima seers, marks the life in the Shrine in the current year, whose theme is holiness understood as “living in God”. Saint Jacinta died in Lisbon on 20 February 1920. Every year, on the day of her death, we solemnly celebrate the liturgical feast of Saint Jacinta and Saint Francisco Marto.

The little seer, after the apparitions, made her own brief life a continuous effort to “do the same as Our Lord”. She felt that the holiness she was being called to was imitating and following Jesus Christ: she imitated Him in the compassion for others, mainly the poor and the sinners... and she imitated Him until her death, all alone, with her side (literally) open.

Saint Jacinta assumed compassion as her vocation. That is why she shared her snacks with the poor, offering her fasting for the conversion of sinners. She deprived herself of drinking water and offered the sacrifice of thirst for the sinners. That is why she welcomed the suffering of those who asked her to intercede before God for them and their family, and she would kneel and pray with them. That is why she offered God every suffering, every annoyance, every desolation, for the poor sinners and for the Holy Father, for whom she had a very special fondness.

Once, her cousin Lúcia, seeing her thoughtful and sad, tried to cheer her up, reminding her she would go to Heaven, as Our Lady had promised. Jacinta answered: «Yes, I am... but I want all those people to go there too» (Third Memoir). This is the best inner portrait of little Jacinta: she wished that everyone could enjoy, and be thankful for, the presence and the joy of God's heart. The concern for the salvation of the others was always guiding her.

Thus we learn, with Saint Jacinta, what “living in God” means, what being a saint means. In her we see how Fatima is a “school of holiness”: it is so in the message and also in the example of her brief life and in the life of her brother, Saint Francisco, whose death centenary we have celebrated last year.

100 years of the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima / Diogo Carvalho Alves



Temporary exhibition proposes a reflection on the iconographic representations of the Virgin Mary

“Dressed in White” is the title of the temporary exhibition at the Shrine celebrating the Centenary of the sculpture of Our Lady of Fatima, venerated at the Little Chapel of the Apparitions. This exhibition proposes a reflection on the relation between art and devotion, considering the most beautiful statues of the Virgin Mary. It will be held at St. Augustine Social Hall, at the lower floor of the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity, between 9:00 am and 6:00 pm daily, and runs until 15 October 2020.

The title of the new exhibition has its origin in the description of Our Lady made by Lúcia de Jesus to Fr. Manuel Nunes Formigão and Fr. Manuel Marques dos Santos, on 8 July 1924, in which the seer, answering the question “how was the Lady dressed”, says “She was dressed in white”. This interrogatory, as well as the idea of a world-scale icon that the first sculpture of Our Lady of Fatima would become, open the preamble of the exhibition and are the points of departure for the other seven sections that constitute it.

In the first section, eight sculptures of Our Lady, carved in Portugal and ranging from the 16th century to the present-day, provide a synthesis of the Virgin Mary's representations during that period of time.

In the following section, the story of the image of the Mother of God is shown through the representation in artworks of the most significant spaces and places of Her life, since Her birth to Her death and Glory, in Heaven. The Cross of Christ becomes the central interpretative code of this story.

The third section is focused on present-day plasticity; through a protocol with the National Society of Fine Arts, several significant contemporary Portuguese artists were challenged by the Shrine to interpret, from their personal aesthetics, the symbols of the Virgin Mother.

“The shapes and colours of new iconographies” from the fourth section highlight the aesthetical innovation by which Mary was perceived over the years, through sculptures of Our Lady by artists such as Clara Menéres and António Manuel Soares dos Reis.

From the fifth section, the exhibition centres on the Statue of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, presenting a journey which begins in its iconographic creation, passing through the commission and settling of the model, its diffusion all over the world and its interpretation by the artists.

The next section presents, through different representations of the Virgin Mary, the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima as the paradigm of the discussion about the dialogue between ancient art and contemporary art.

In the conclusion, the myths, challenges and heritage of the Statue are revealed.

In the last display of the exhibition, before a maquette of the sculpture of Our Lady of the Shepherds, the visitor is invited to experiment sensorially Pope Francis' statement in the homily at Cova da Iria on 13 May 2017 that Fatima is a “mantle of Light”, through the projection of the face in the mantle of the maquette.

Admission to the exhibition is free.

A new pastoral year has begun in Fatima

The Bishop of Leiria-Fatima presided over the Presentation Day of the New Pastoral Year Theme: “To Give Thanks for Living in God”, and challenged Christians to be “more enthusiastic” when talking about God / Carmo Rodeia



Fatima challenges to inward conversion, Canon João Aguiar states

Fatima pilgrims were invited by Cardinal António Marto to give “importance to the invisible life”, following the example of the life of the seers of Fatima, Saints Francisco and Jacinta Marto.

“The invisible life, the life that is out of the limelight, is one of the major gifts of holiness”, the prelate stated, reminding that neither Francisco nor Jacinta “have known the social networks reality or fame”, but they were “saints of the small gestures, of the small details springing from the heart”.

The Bishop of Leiria-Fatima enhanced that talking about holiness “is not popular and does not guarantee an audience these days, nor deserves the best press headlines”, but it “is a significant theme nowadays”, “it can be reached by everyone and not only by a few chosen ones” and it is expressed on daily life.

“The community that keeps the smallest details of love to share them together is a place of holiness: a gesture of tenderness, a generous help, a kind word, a smile, a sign of affection, sharing material or spiritual gifts are all small and insignificant gestures perhaps, but eternal and holy in the eyes of God”, Cardinal António Marto said.

The theme of holiness, and, in particu-

lar, the way we can live this holiness today, is the central invitation of the Shrine for this pastoral year which began in the First Sunday of Advent, on December 1.

“The current pastoral year intends to help pilgrims gain awareness of their vocation to holiness while life in God; of the need of conversion as recentering life in God; of experiencing God’s mercy as an invitation to live in God” Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas said during the same session, underlining that pilgrims are invited to discover Fatima as ‘school of holiness’, both in the Christian spirituality offered by the message of Fatima and in the life of the Little Shepherd Saints, who exemplarily embodied this spirituality.

The Rector of the Shrine recalled, on the other hand, that the year’s pastoral dynamics has as reference, in addition to the event of the centenary of Saint Jacinta’s death, the centenaries of the first sculpture of Our Lady of Fatima and of the episcopal ordination of Bishop José Alves Correia da Silva – the first Bishop of the newly restored (at that time) Diocese of Leiria –, also designated the first great Bishop of Fatima.

The theme of the year was introduced

by Fr. João Aguiar Campos, former Director of the National Secretariat for Church Media. The priest enhanced that “Fatima is inwardness” and “a school in which Mary is a teacher of the centrality of God”.

“Fatima is inwardness, a path that goes from within to the outside: from personal conversion to the transformation of the world” and is “school of prayer in the adoring and contemplative prayer of Francisco; in the generous, compassionate and self-forgetful prayer of Jacinta; in the assertion of the merciful presence of God in history, that Lúcia always proclaimed”, he stated.

“The three seers have shown a heart devoted to understanding and doing the will of God learned at the school of Mary. Fatima is the maternal home where action and contemplation are conjugated”, he specified.

The priest commenced his lecture with a sort of meditation proposing a previous journey through the “everyday holy places”, seeing them as “acceptation places of the mercy and the commitment to praise”.

Father João Aguiar Campos said that the deepening of the baptismal dimension of the message and of the models of holiness challenge Christians to “plunge into the experience of Church People who live in God, in the Communion of the Saints”, seeing every single day as a time of grace and mercy” and “living daily in God with a thankful heart and the lips singing His praise”.

The Pastoral Year Presentation Day, preceded by the opening of the exhibition celebrating the centenary of the first sculpture of Our Lady of Fatima, entitled “Dressed in White”, had something new this year: the volunteers of the Shrine of Fatima were invited to assume or renew the Volunteer Compromise, maximum expression of this life in God, in the willingness to help others.



The Pastoral Year theme presentation day took place last November 30

Shrine of Fatima will mark the centenary of the death of Saint Jacinta

In the celebration programme there are moments of prayer in Fatima and Lisbon / *Cátia Filipe*

The Shrine of Fatima is preparing a celebratory programme to mark the centenary of the death of Saint Jacinta Marto.

Celebrations start on February 16 with the VI Evocative Concert of the Three Little Shepherds of Fatima in the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima. On February 19, at 9h30 pm, there will be a prayer vigil, with rosary, procession and veneration of the tombs, at the Little Chapel of the Apparitions and the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima.

The Liturgical feast of Saints Francisco and Jacinta Marto will be celebrated on February 20, at 10 am, with a rosary at the Little Chapel of the Apparitions, followed by a procession with the icons of Saints Francisco and Jacinta to the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity, where a mass will take place at 11 am. Between 2 pm and 4 pm, there will be several activities for children. At 5:30 pm there will be a Vespers service at the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary.

In Lisbon, the centenary of the death of Jacinta Marto will be marked on this same day with a conference at 3 pm at Hospital D. Estefânia, where the Little Shepherdess died. In that same place, by 4:30 pm, there will be a mass presided over by the Cardinal-Patriarch Manuel Clemente.

Jacinta de Jesus Marto died at the age of 9 on 20 February 1920. The youngest daughter of Manuel Pedro Marto and his wife Olímpia de Jesus dos Santos, Jacinta was baptised at the Parish Church of Fatima on 19 March 1910. She was beatified by Pope John Paul II on 13 May 2000 and canonised by Pope Francis on 13 May 2017.

During her short life, she felt impressed by the suffering of sinners. In her daily life, prayer and sacrifice for conversion, for peace in the world and for the Holy Father were recurrent.

The attitude of compassion was also a distinctive sign of Jacinta, who dedicated her whole existence to the mission that the Lady from Heaven entrusted her: "If I could only put into the hearts of all the fire that is burning within my own heart, and that makes me love the Hearts of Jesus and Mary so very much!"

The love for Our Lady and this desire for her existence to conform with the Heart of Jesus made Jacinta wish to follow Him, walking the same pathway as



The person of the Holy Father, a constant in the life of the Shrine, was very dear to little Jacinta

the Master. And not even in the solitude of the disease, when she was denied the Communion or when the wound penetrating her chest made her suffer, did she lose the serenity characteristic of those who trust and love, in Mary's way, her teacher in the School of Holiness, as Pope Saint John Paul II declared. During her imprisonment in Ourém, when Lúcia asks her to choose an intention for which to offer her sacrifices – the poor sinners, the Holy Father or in reparation for the Immaculate Heart of Mary –, Jacinta does not hesitate to answer: "I'm making the offering for all the intentions, because I love them all".

"Time of Grace and Mercy: to give thanks for living in God" is the theme of the new pastoral year at the Shrine of Fatima, the last one of the first post-Centenary cycle of the Apparitions. The Shrine has prepared this pastoral year centred in that universal call to holiness stated in the documents of the Magisterium and that, in Cova da Iria, materializes in a call to life in God, according to the example of the seers of Fatima, especially Saints Francisco and Jacinta Marto. This year's pastoral dynamics has as reference the centenaries of the first sculpture of Our Lady of Fatima and of the episcopal ordination of Bishop José Alves Correia

da Silva – the first Bishop of the newly restored (at that time) Diocese of Leiria, as well as the event of the centenary of Saint Jacinta's death.



The centenary of the death of the seer reinforces the importance of prayer

In 2019 Fatima was a gift for the Church and for humankind

At the end of 2019, we look back at the significant moments of the pastoral year of 2018/19 in the Shrine, where we gave thanks to go on pilgrimage in Church / Diogo Carvalho Alves



Thousands of pilgrims took part in the Shrine's celebrations; the candlelight procession is always one of the most attended moments

In 2019, the Shrine of Fatima proposed "To give thanks to go on pilgrimage in Church". In the second year of a triennium which has been a "Time of Grace and Mercy", the diverse pastoral dynamics and proposals enhanced the ecclesial dimension of the gift that Fatima is for the Church and for humankind.

The **centenary of the construction of the Little Chapel of the Apparitions** was the inspiring event of the year's theme, and had particular emphasis in the temporary exhibition "Capela Múndi", which unveiled the keys to read this important icon of the Shrine of Fatima. Opened on the 15 October 2018, the exhibition had more than 300 thousand visitors and registered more than 12 thousand guided tours. From May to October, the six thematic tours covered issues such as the Marian iconography, The Mail to

Our Lady and the ex-votos to the Virgin of Fatima.

The **death of Francisco Marto** was another centenary that marked the year 2019; therefore the **4th edition of the Summer Courses** of the Shrine of Fatima was entirely dedicated to extend the biography and the historical context of the saint and seer of Fatima. The 4th April 1919 was evoked 100 years later with a special programme that included celebrations and a commemorative concert.

Saint Francisco Marto and his spirituality was also the theme of one of the **Encounters at the Basilica**, which also reflected on Fatima as: Church experience and pilgrimage destination, place of welcoming, of celebration, and a way of living faith and frailty.

Envisaging the message of Fatima as a means to a greater ecclesial awareness

and effective way to strengthen the ecclesial sense of belonging, the Shrine has offered, in different ways, a number of formative proposals to deepen the Message addressed by Our Lady to the Little Shepherds in Cova da Iria, in 1917; one of the proposals was the **Course on the Message of Fatima**, 14th edition, under the theme "The triumph of love in History's dramas", which deepened the spirituality of Fatima, making the biography and spiritual profile of the Little Shepherds known.

At the beginning of the year, in the Presentation Day of the New Pastoral Year, Cardinal António Marto, Bishop of Leiria-Fatima, presented Fatima as a place where the "awareness of being Church is experienced" also through the "assemblies of faithful which are reunited here for the common expression of faith, to wor-

ship God". Multitudes of believers arrived mainly for the two **great anniversary pilgrimages of May and October, presided over by prelates from Asia**: the Archbishop of Manila, Luís Antonio Tagle, and the Archbishop of Seoul, Andrew Yeom Soo-jung, respectively.

The beginning of 2019 was marked by the presence of the **first Statue of the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima on the World Youth Day**, which took place in Panama City, where the Statue of the Pilgrim Virgin fulfilled a parallel program that took her to a Women's Detention Centre and a Cancer Hospital. The result of this striking presence was the announcement, last October, by the Metropolitan Archbishop of Panama, José Domingo Ulloa Mendieta, of the creation of a shrine dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima in Panama City, whose core will be a replica of The Little Chapel of the Apparitions.

In February, the **Jornadas de Biblioteca** of the Shrine of Fatima have congregated more than a hundred participants coming from all over the country and from different areas of knowledge, around the reflection on the role of the ecclesiastical libraries as tools to know God, the human being and the world.

In the beginning of May, Wayne Marshall, Chief Conductor of the WDR Radio Orchestra Cologne, Germany, directed the closing concert of the second season of the **Cycle of Organ of the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima**. The famous organist went back to Cova da Iria at the end of the same month in order to record his new album at the pipe organ of the Basilica.

In the beginning of Summer, Fatima was a place of encounter for researchers from several national and foreign academies, who, in the scope of the **sympo-**

sium "Fatima, Today: What Paths to Follow?", have meditated on the challenges inherent to the condition of pilgrim, as well as on the act of pilgrimaging to Fatima and the act of pilgrimaging in Church.

The **School of the Shrine** continued, in 2019, its mission to deepen and discover the spirituality of the Message of Fatima, through courses, retreats and itineraries of spirituality, where hundreds of senior and young pilgrims participated, having the opportunity to reflect on themes related to prayer, suffering, reparation or adoration. "Fatima in the Light of Easter" was one of the new initiatives through which the School of the Shrine invited pilgrims to live the Easter Triduum, contemplating, through encounters of spirituality, the profoundness of the Mystery of the mercy of Fatima in the events of Passion, Death and Resurrection of Christ.

Regular volunteering was a constant all over last year, whether through renewed possibilities of collaboration, whether through the offering of formative moments to those who every year voluntarily collaborate with the Shrine. The presence of the youth as volunteers in Cova da Iria was especially expressive in 2019, with their participation in proposals such as **Project SETE** – welcoming pilgrims and immersion in the Message of Fatima –, and the week **"Come to the Middle"**, through which the Shrine offered summer holidays to people with disabilities and their parents. The partnership established between the Shrine of Fatima and Colégio de São Miguel also brought to Cova da Iria many young students from that institution to help welcoming pilgrims.

In June, the Department of Studies of the Shrine of Fatima, together with the

Cátedra do Camiño de Santiago e das Peregrinacións, of the University of Santiago de Compostela, and the Centre for the Study of Migration and Intercultural Relations, of the Universidade Aberta, have promoted the **Seminar "Caminho de Peregrinações"**, in Lisbon. One month before, in the Universidade Católica, a colloquium reflected on the poetics of Fatima, in a joint initiative between the Shrine of Fatima and the Chair of Poetry and Transcendence of the Oporto Regional Center of the Universidade Católica.

During the year 2019, the Shrine continued **focusing on digital communications**, through its institutional webpage, and also through its social media channels. The number of followers of the Shrine's Facebook page followed the trend to increase, and the number of followers of the Shrine picture gallery on Instagram has doubled from 30 thousand to almost 70 thousand.

In social networks and in the institutional webpage, **focus on image and especially on video** was clear in 2019, with an increase of contents and of live broadcasts of the celebrations. Video was the chosen theme for the **II Jornada de Comunicação do Santuário**, which brought to Fatima media professionals and students to reflect on the challenges of the new digital tools of communication.

According to preliminary data of October, in the first nine months of 2019 the Shrine welcomed about **4,5 million pilgrims** in 7.658 official and private celebrations. The figures maintain the trend of 2018, with a growth of groups from Asia, with a more effective presence of pilgrims from Africa and the usual presence of pilgrims from Latin America.



The International Anniversary Pilgrimages and the Children's Pilgrimage are lively moments at Cova da Iria

Making Peace “is a responsibility before God”, Bishop Wilmar Santin declares / Carmo Rodeia



The Brazilian Bishop regularly visits the Shrine of Fatima, where he feels “at home”

The Prelate from the Diocese of Itaituba, state of Pará, Brazil, was in Fatima on his way to Brazil, after taking part in the Synod on the Pan-Amazon Region, in Rome. Bishop Wilmar Santin is a Carmelite, a Doctor in History of the Church, and he was ordained a Bishop by Pope Benedictus XVI. In an interview to *Voz da Fátima* (Voice of Fatima), he spoke of the challenges that the Message conveyed by Our Lady places today, of the expectations regarding the post-synodal exhortation and of the divisive issues that marked the meeting in the Vatican, in which the Pope took part in all plenary sessions.

Peace is a very central issue in Fatima. What can the message of Fatima bring to the world in the integral ecology promoted by the Pope?

In order to define that ecology we always have to start from our faith and what our faith tells us; when we profess it, we “believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth...”. If we believe He is the creator and that we see the World and, specifically, planet Earth as a creation of God, left to us in heritage, we must take care of it. We have to make sure that what we are leaving the future generations is at least as good as it was left to us, if not better. This is our obligation.

But that is not what we have done, namely in the Amazon region, where you come from...

Yes... we are behaving more like the prodigal son and we squander our inheritance. We must be able to do better than

squander our inheritance. Our motto must be preserving and therefore helping to nurture our consciousness of having a duty towards the others in general. We have a responsibility before God: making Peace. And peace doesn't have to be simply the absence of war.

What is happening, then, that is preventing us, who call ourselves Christians, from doing nothing of what we say in the profession of faith?

We are letting ourselves get carried away by a wrong vision of life, by a progress that became a victim of itself. What is this progress which doesn't preserve nature, which destroys man and makes him a slave of his options?

Are we behaving as owners instead of administrators?

Yes, undoubtedly.

Fatima has alerted us and is alerting us to the danger of man's arrogance through his condition of sinner...

Undoubtedly, the Message of Peace which resounded from here to the whole world one hundred years ago is still relevant today. Our Lady appeared at the end of the war; She asked us to pray for Peace. The Church has to be capable again of teaching how to pray for Peace. And Peace doesn't have to be only the absence of war, in a warlike sense. This is not something that is beyond us. Everyone needs peace, and as far as we are able to be capable of attaining peace individually, we shall be able to share that same peace with others. When the conversion of the heart happens, each person is an agent and instrument of change of the nearest person, and so on. If there is peace in each person there will be a gradual pacification of the world: first within the family, then in society and then peace among countries... Let us pray the Rosary; this is very important and the Pope has been insisting on it.

Bishop Santin, you arrived from Rome, where you took part in the Works of the Synod. What do you expect from the post-synodal apostolic exhortation?

There will be nothing particularly new, but it will point out a way that began with the preparation of the Synod, and there is no way back. We will have to change the Church in the Amazon region. Creating a more ministerial Church. We can no longer be focused only in the bishop and the priest. Amazonia is a good place to put into practice what was decided by the Second Vatican Council. The Catholic Church has a structure which is too centralized in the priest. The evangelical churches have another flexibility and therefore always arrive at the places first than us. We need to change in order to better fulfil the mission that Jesus entrusted us: spread the Good News to the ends of the earth. We are not making it because we have a very heavy and hierarchized structure. We must create a process which guarantees greatest agility when taking decisions, which decentralizes the decision of the priest and, on the other hand, which guarantees greater mobility.

What does that mean exactly?

For instance, in the Amazon region we want to have the possibility to ordain married men. This is not abolishing the rule of celibacy or allowing priests to marry. What was asked for and suggested to Pope Francis was the possibility of each Diocese to explore what Canon Law already allows: in remote communities where there are proven difficulties of the impossibility of regular displacement of a priest, married men may replace him and celebrate all sacraments. But in order to do that, they must be ordained. Now the criteria will be established by the Pope.

Does this also include women?

That is more complicated... Because even though there is record of deaconesses in the past, in the primitive Church, the truth is we still haven't reached a conclusion about the way they were ordained, or if they indeed were ordained, namely if there was the imposition of hands. While

this is not proven, I think the question will remain unsolved. On that subject the synod proposed the Pope the need for more studies on the matter. But reality shows us that women are already at the service. In practice, and going back to the etymology of the word, women are already exercising the Diaconate and even, let me say, a power from the Gospel when Jesus says that the greatest is the one who serves. Women are the greatest servants of Church and of the people of God, whether as catechists or as community leaders.

They have the power of influence, but not the power of decision, nor do they have access to the Sacrament of Holy Orders. In fact, there are no women instituted in the ministries of acolyte or lector...

Yes, but, you see, it is not like this in Brazil. Look at the reality: in most universities women lead at the Academy; they are in greater number and occupy important positions; being more qualified, they have more important places. In civil society women are assuming protagonism; in some dioceses, such as mine, for example, more than 70% of the governance of the diocese is already in the hands of women. It is a matter of time. I come from the South of Brazil and have a more accelerated rhythm than that of the people I serve in the Amazon. And they tell me that the river always runs at the same speed. Why should we want to introduce changes at a different speed? The longest road is the one that goes from the head to the heart; to change the head and deliver to the heart takes much more time but it doesn't mean that it will not get there.



In Amazonia, the Church has to be "more ministerial", Bishop Wilmar Santin says

Vice-Rector of the Shrine presented Fatima as a place that gathers the living Church

November monthly pilgrimage mass, presided over by Fr. Vítor Coutinho, celebrated the solemnity of dedication of the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity / *Cátia Filipe*



"The true Church is the people of God", Fr. Vítor Coutinho says

In the homily of the November monthly pilgrimage mass, which celebrated the solemnity of the dedication of the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity, the Vice-Rector of the Shrine of Fatima, Fr. Vítor Coutinho, reflected on the ecclesial conscience from the edified church, presenting the Shrine of Fatima as a place that gathers the living Church through the experience of prayer, celebration and pilgrimage.

"What we are celebrating today is not the architectural achievement of a construction or the anniversary of this building. We are celebrating the dedication of this Church because it is the expression of the true Church, which is us; because this place gives us the possibility of building ourselves as Church, of feeling like brothers and sisters in faith, coming from different places, and because this place allows us to experience the presence of Jesus amongst us."

Recalling the genesis of the Shrine of Fatima, in Our Lady's request for a chapel to be built in the spot of the Apparitions, the priest presented the edified space in Cova da Iria as a place where it is possible to live this experience of a "praying, celebrating and pilgrim" Church.

The Church of the Most Holy Trinity was dedicated in 12 October 2007 by Cardinal Tarcísio Bertone, then Secretary of State of the Vatican and papal legate of Pope Benedictus XVI, for the closing of the 90th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady to the three little shepherd seers.



The celebration was marked by Portuguese pilgrimages coming from several parishes

Rector of the Shrine of Fatima recalled the 50th anniversary of the ordination to the priesthood of the Holy Father

Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas presided over the December monthly pilgrimage mass, at the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity / *Cátia Filipe*



The rain did not stop the pilgrimage of thousands of pilgrims

The December monthly pilgrimage mass took place at the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity, at the Shrine of Fatima, presided over by the Rector, Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas. The priest recalled the 50th anniversary of the ordination to the priesthood of Pope Francis.

In the homily, Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas presented a reflection on the time of the Advent, as time for “the vigilant wait and the desire for God, time for conversion, time to remove the obstacles that prevent us from welcoming Jesus Christ that is arriving”.

At this particular moment of the liturgical time, Mary is presented as “best model for living this time of the Advent, precisely because She was the one who lived more intensely the first Advent, living more than anyone else the expectation of the birth of Jesus”.

In Fatima, Our Lady left a message which appeals to the “attention to God and to His will”, and in this sense the Advent “is a time of conversion and preparation for the coming of the Lord, it is also the confrontation of our life with the Word of God which reveals to us what needs conversion, what, in our life, needs to be reoriented towards God”.

The Little Shepherds “knew how to imitate these attitudes from the Mother of Heaven in listening to the Word of God, in the conversion and willingness to the will of God and in the most diligent and intense prayer”.

This was the first monthly pilgrimage of the new Pastoral Year, which began on the

1st December, and whose theme is “Time of Grace and Mercy: to give thanks for living in God”.

Shrine of Fatima sent salutations to Pope Francis on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood

The aim of this message signed by Cardinal António Marto, Bishop of the Diocese of Leiria-Fátima, was to share the “joy of this celebration, giving thanks for the gift

of these 50 years of service to God and His People”.

“I recall, Holy Father, that in the Shrine of Fatima, in faithfulness to the specific message of this place, daily we pray for the Successor of Peter and his intentions”, the prelate reminds.

In the message, the prelate declared to trust “the person and the mission of Your Holiness to Our Lady of Fatima’s protection, especially asking for you to continue being the prophetic expression of divine mercy for today’s world”.

Pope Francis visited the Shrine of Fatima on the 12 and 13 May 2017.



The December pilgrimage inaugurated the new pastoral year pilgrimages

Fatima “is a cry against apathy” because it renders us sensible to God’s love which frees “humankind from its evilness”, states the Vice-Rector of the Shrine

Father Vítor Coutinho presided over the votive mass of Our Lady, which recalls the 1917 Apparitions at Cova da Iria on day 13 every month, between May and October / Carmo Rodeia

The Vice-Rector of the Shrine, Father Vítor Coutinho, said that Fatima “is a reaffirmation of God’s tenderness” which results in a renovated will so that Christians compromise to being agents of change in a world marked by evilness and conflict.

“The multitudes of faithful with lighted candles which form an immense flame, a symbol of faith that enlightens; the multitudes who pray, sing and strengthen faith and renew hope reveal Fatima to be a reaffirmation of God’s tenderness, and this leads to a renovated will to give tangible expression to that which encourages us”, the priest stated in the homily of the votive mass of Our Lady, last January 13, in which the Shrine recalls in a special way the days 13 when the Virgin visited Cova da Iria and embraced three children in God’s love, saints Francisco and Jacinta Marto and the servant of God Lúcia de Jesus.

“Whoever feels touched is led to compromise and whoever is attentive to the signs of God’s presence does not lose hope and does not give up on doing his share so that this world can be a little more like God wishes”, Father Vítor Coutinho stated, enhancing that today “self-indulgence, natural selfishness, the complexity of the world we live in, the fear of the unknown,

lack of faith, disillusionment with the political and religious leaders” may result in “apathy” that sometimes “stops us from giving our best”.

Therefore, the Vice-Rector challenged pilgrims to be attentive to the Little Shepherds’ example who in “faith have accepted to compromise unreservedly and without knowing all the demands of that compromise”.

“Even though they were very young, these children have shown that it is possible to embrace great causes and to live entirely for them” he enhanced, pointing out that Fatima is a “voice against banality” and “apathy” in which we live so many times.

“Fatima denounces the superficiality of our choices when we face children choosing what is decisive and profound. With the example of the Little Shepherds we learn that we must spend our life in what is really worth it. They realised the evil in Humankind, they knew they were little but that didn’t stop them from assuming a compromise, because they were certain of something more important, which was God’s love”, he said.

Therefore, “Fatima is an invitation for us to live with a full heart because we are certain to have a place in God’s heart. Fatima is a cry against apathy because it



The Vice-Rector warned about “self-indulgence and apathy” in faith

renders us sensible to what God does for us, towards our salvation”.

“Through the voice of Our Lady we have heard ‘I will never leave you’, so Fatima is a message of hope which tells us that humankind might save itself from its evilness and conflicts. In Fatima we learn that God doesn’t give up on humankind and that hells can be overcome”, he concluded.

In the votive mass of Our Lady there were several prayer groups, among them *Amigos de Maria* (Mary’s Friends), from the Diocese of Coimbra.



The pilgrims prayed the Rosary and took part in the procession to the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity

Metropolitan Archbishop of Panama announced the creation of a shrine dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima in Panama City

The World Youth Day – Panama 2019 took place one year ago / Cátia Filipe



Catholics of Panama are devoted to Our Lady of the Rosary

The World Youth Day – Panama 2019 took place one year ago, but left a legacy for young people and an example to the world. Statue no.1 of the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima took part in a World Youth Day for the first time. The Marian icon conveyed peace and hope to the young people from all over the world that were there on pilgrimage but also to the excluded that suffer from disease or in prison, in an atmosphere that exceeded all expectations.

Last 13 October the Metropolitan Archbishop of Panama, José Domingo Ulloa Mendieta, announced the creation of a shrine dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima in Panama City, whose core will be a replica of The Little Chapel of the Apparitions. The decision to build this shrine is justified by the Metropolitan Archbishop of Panama by the “many blessings and great pastoral fruits” that resulted from the two visits made by the Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima to Panama, in 2017, to visit the Panama dioceses, and at the beginning of 2019, during the World Youth Day (WYD), that took place in this country.

“With this chapel we aspire to give pilgrims in Panama and the world an evangelizing welcome, worthy and filled with the Lord’s love and His Mother’s spirituality, from the Message that She conveyed at Cova da Iria and that nowadays is more alive than ever in the heart of the Panamanians”, Archbishop José Do-

mingo Ulloa Mendieta writes in the letter in which he asks the Shrine of Fatima for permission to undertake the new project.

In the answer, the Rector of the Shrine, Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas, speaks of a “sign of communion with the entire Nation of Panama”, and wishes that the edification of the replica of the Little Chapel of the Apparitions “intensifies even more the Marian devotion of all the faithful, namely the devotion of the Rosary and the First Five Saturdays”.

“The reception of the Statue was extremely warm; we were pleasantly surprised because it exceeded the more optimistic expectations”, the Rector of the Shrine of Fatima, Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas,

declared. He reminded that the Statue, although having been integrated in the official programme of the WYD 2019, which was an absolute novelty, fulfilled a complimentary programme that took her to the peripheries. The Pilgrim Statue visited the Female Penitentiary Centre of Panama City, offering the prisoners a spiritual moment of prayer, as well as the patients of the National Oncologic Institute of the capital of Panama, and was also present in numberless moments of prayer that were offered to several poor communities in Panama City.

The Pilgrim Statue of Fatima was also in the Campo San Juan Pablo II, the main area of the WYD 2019, for the Prayer Vigil in which Pope Francis challenged young people to imitate Mary’s example, saying ‘yes’ generously and unconditionally to God, protagonising the true influence in the 21st century.

At the end of the *Missa de Envio* (closing mass), the Holy Father announced that in 2022 the World Youth Day will take place in Lisbon. The chosen theme was a passage from the Gospel of St. Luke “Mary arose and went with haste”.

Insisting on a Marian theme is for the Rector of the Shrine of Fatima “good news” and “a big challenge” and, consequently, the Shrine of Fatima is focused on the youth pastoral having in mind this time frame, consubstantiating the importance of Mary as a role model for young people.



Panama City will have a replica of The Little Chapel of the Apparitions

Pilgrim Statue no. 3 of Our Lady of Fatima visited the Vicariate Lisbon III

‘Mary, Queen of Missions’ was the motto of the visit which lasted from 29th September to 3rd November 2019 / Cátia Filipe c/ Jornal Voz da Verdade



Celebrations helped to spread the Message of Fatima

The Cardinal-Patriarch challenged Christians to let themselves be interpellated by the “look” of Our Lady in the celebration marking the end of the visit of the Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima to the Vicariate Lisbon III. At the *Mosteiro dos Jerónimos*, the Cardinal-Patriarch Manuel Clemente wished that the “contagion” resulting from the look of Mary should be consequent in everyone’s mission.

‘Mary, Queen of Missions’ was the motto of the visit of the Pilgrim Statue no. 3 of Our Lady of Fatima to the Vicariate Lisbon III. From 29th September to 3rd November, the Pilgrim Statue no. 3 visited the 11 parishes of the vicariate, and, according to the vicar, Fr. Valter Malaquias, also went to “the peripheries of the parishes”. “Since this was the missionary month [October] and the closing month of the Missionary Year, the theme ‘Mary, Queen of Missions’ also had the objective of making us look at the missionary dimension of Our Lady”, stated the priest to the newspaper VOZ DA VERDADE, enhancing the strong adhesion of the people to all the celebratory moments. “It is always surprising the attraction Our Lady exerts in peoples’ lives. Everybody emphasizes that. The people welcomed Our Lady and this was felt in every parish she has been to, in processions and in the

crowds that arrived”, Father Valter notes.

As for fruits for the parishes that compose the Vicariate Lisbon III (Ajuda, Alcântara, Belém, Lapa, Prazeres, Santa Isabel, Santo Condestável, Santos-o-Velho, São Francisco de Paula, São Francisco Xavier, São Mamede), the vicar believes that organizing this event enhanced the need for all parishes to “learn to work close together”.

The idea to bring the Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima was born in the parish of Alcântara. The ‘Equipa da Boa Vontade’ challenged the parish priest,

Fr. Miguel Pereira, to repeat, just like 25 years ago, the presence of the Pilgrim Statue, so as to mark the event. The challenge was later extended to the other parishes of Vicariate Lisbon III. “The Statue hadn’t been at the vicariate for some time. So we thought it would make sense, also as a sign of unity, to welcome the Statue in all the parishes”, the vicar explained.

The President of the Republic, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, was present at the celebration in Jerónimos, which closed the visit of the Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima to the Vicariate Lisbon III.



Mosteiro dos Jerónimos welcomed the farewell celebration to the Statue of Fatima

Shrine of Fatima was present at the Festival du Livre et des Médias chrétiens

The event's fourth edition took place in Toulon, France / Carmo Rodeia



The fourth edition of the Festival in Toulon included a delegation from the Shrine of Fatima

Last November 16, the Shrine of Fatima was present at the fourth edition of the Christian book festival "Festival du Livre et des Médias chrétiens", which

took place in Toulon, France, promoted by the "Association Les Amis de la Cathédrale Notre-Dame de la Sed's", of Toulon.

Following the invitation of Father

Alexis Wiehe, Archpriest of the Cathedral of Toulon, this edition was dedicated to the theme of the Marian Pilgrimage, and several Marian shrines were present; some of them from that same region, such as the Shrine of Laghet, or national, such as the Shrine of La Salette, or other bigger shrines, such as the Shrine of Fatima.

Monsignor Patrick Chauvet, Rector-Archpriest of the Notre-Dame de Paris Cathedral, was the guest of honour. He made a conference reporting the situation of the reconstruction works in the cathedral and presenting his latest book, "Notre-Dame d'espérance" (Our Lady of hope).

Literary prizes were awarded to accredited authors, but also to a young audience, with the intention of encouraging young people to read and write. The theme for the young people was pilgrimage. One of the youths wrote a story about a pilgrimage to Fatima.

This book fair aims to make known several authors, as well as mass media, of Christian inspiration.

The Shrine of Fatima sent a salutation to Pope Francis on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood

The message signed by Cardinal António Marto recalls "faithfulness" to the message of Fatima / Cátia Filipe

The Shrine of Fatima sent a salutation to Pope Francis on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

The aim of this message signed by Cardinal António Marto, Bishop of the Diocese of Leiria-Fatima, is to share the "joy of this celebration, giving thanks for the gift of these 50 years of service to God and His People".

"I recall, Holy Father, that in the Shrine of Fatima, in faithfulness to the specific message of this place, daily we pray for the Successor of Peter and his intentions", the prelate reminds.

In the message, the prelate declared to trust "the person and the mission of Your Holiness to Our Lady of Fatima's protection, especially asking for you to continue being the prophetic expression of divine mercy for today's world".

In the December monthly pilgrimage, the Rector of the Shrine of Fatima, Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas, recalled the event at the December monthly pilgrimage mass, exhorting the pilgrims to pray in a special way for



Pope Francis was the fourth Pope to visit Fatima

the Holy Father that day.

Pope Francis visited the Shrine of Fatima on the 12 and 13 May 2017. A journey of 22 hours to Cova da Iria, during the Centenary of the Apparitions of Our Lady, where he

presided over the canonization of the little shepherds Jacinta and Francisco Marto.

Francis was the fourth Supreme Pontiff to visit Fatima. Prayers for the Holy Father and his intentions are daily.

The Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima visited the prison of San Martín

Pilgrim Statue no. 10 is travelling through Argentina / Cátia Filipe c/ Acidigital



Prisoners took part in Marian celebration in prison

The Pilgrim Statue no. 10 of the Virgin of Fatima is on pilgrimage in Argentina and has visited on November 1 the prison unit 48 of the Buenos Aires Penitentiary Service, in the Diocese of San Isidro.

According to the account of Damián Donnelly, one of the founders of the *Espartanos* organization, a group of men who play rugby and pray the Rosary with the prisoners, the visit was “a feast for the Virgin”.

“The Virgin of Fatima arrived at a very difficult moment. This week very serious acts of violence took place on the premises”, Damián Donnelly declared.

“However the Statue visited all the pavilions”, the former prisoner stressed. “Each one welcomed her in a different way, according to the charisma and the spontaneity of each moment. In all the pavilions they were praying for the ‘engomados’ (those punished and locked in a cell for several days)”.

In pavilion 7, “the Statue was welcomed amid applause and singing, with great admiration and respect; everyone was able to come near, touch her, look her in the eyes and pray inwardly”, Damián Donnelly added. Then the prisoners prayed together a decade of the Rosary, a moment recorded on film that became viral on social networks.

Arriving in pavilion 8, “more singing, more devotion, more admiration for that faith which the presence of such a beautiful statue awakens. We prayed another decade. Then it was time for pavilion 9 and even though every pavilion is different, the Virgin renews all things”, Donnelly stated.

“After leaving pavilion 9, as we passed by the door of pavilion 10, which was closed,

we heard the boys ‘engomados’ praying the rosary in their cells”, the founder of *Espartanos* told us.

In pavilion 11, “we prayed a decade; we were there for quite a while, and then it rang for us to go to the 12, on which there was the same effusiveness, singing and applause”. Donnelly qualified this moment as “a feast for the Virgin”. But he added: “it was incomplete because of the boys from the 10”. After asking for the favour of allowing the Statue to enter, the Penitentiary Service complied to open the doors to a few prisoners: “It was the intervention of the Virgin Mary. It was impressive”, he stated.

“Each cell, intended for two people, was occupied by four or five and was locked with a padlock. The Statue passed through the corridor and stopped at every door so that the boys might have a moment to touch her, ask and pray. From the observation and ventilation window they could only reach out their hands or arms, touching the Statue with great respect, affection and fondness. It was a scene from Dante. The souls of purgatory asking at least to touch the Virgin. Those tattooed arms that came out were searching for solace, freedom and love. And they found it for a few instants. We prayed the five rosary mysteries and we could feel an atmosphere in that pavilion that had never been felt before. There was solace, joy, peace, love. All the fruits of the rosary were falling abundantly over that pavilion. The prayers in the other pavilions, the immense grace flowing from the Shrine of Fatima, everything, everything was conjugating in an atmosphere of motherly care”.

The founder of *Espartanos* continued: “Where there is more pain, where there is more violence, more despair and abandonment, that is where grace pours out the most. And we have witnessed this. We were speechless. How else can the Virgin Mary show us that the rosary is the prayer for peace? We have seen this an infinity of times, but never like this time. Never”, said the director of the foundation that every week prays the rosary with the prisoners.

Damián Donnelly finished his statement: “Once again the Virgin Mary had transformed ‘a cave of animals’ into a home for Jesus, with a few rags and a mountain of tenderness, just like Pope Francis once said. We are grateful for being able to enjoy this moment in the front row”.



The Statue of Fatima brought “solace” to prisoners

More than one million people follow the Shrine of Fatima in the social networks

In 2019, the Facebook and Instagram pages of the Shrine of Fatima were a privileged form of contact with pilgrims. The post with more interactions reached 11,7 millions of people / Diogo Carvalho Alves



In 2019, the Shrine of Fatima continued being active in the social networks, especially Facebook and Instagram, where the number of followers maintained the growing trend. On Facebook, the symbolic number of 1 million followers was reached. On Instagram, the number of followers doubled last year, from 30 thousand followers in January to 68 thousand followers at the end of December.

The presence of the Shrine in the social networks consisted mainly of image, especially video, on which the Shrine has been focusing since the beginning of 2019. Last year, video contents have been the most successful, with an average reach of 170 thousand people per post, followed by the photos, which have reached an average of 50 thousand people per share.

The shared contents in Facebook were diverse and reflected the daily life of the Shrine of Fatima, one of the most important Marian shrines in the world. Most of the posted contents were news summaries, information, events and presentation of the shrine's areas, always including photos or videos.

In 2019, the number of followers of the Shrine of Fatima's Facebook page registered an increase of 12%, rising from

890 thousand to 1 million, mostly Portuguese and Brazilian (80%). Every month, about 12 thousand new people started following the page.

Approximately 560 shared posts in Facebook have reached more than 80 million views. The most viewed post was a one minute video showing the atmosphere of the candlelight procession of 12 May 2019. It was shared by 11,7 million users of this social network, generating more than 16 thousand hours of visualization and almost 2 million interactions.

From time to time, celebrations were broadcast live on the Facebook page of the Shrine, and these moments resulted in thousands of instantaneous interactions by followers and reaching new audiences.

Facebook was also a means used by pilgrims to send requests for information, prayers, and expressions of praise and thanks. In 2019, the Shrine has received an average of 13 messages daily this way. Many pilgrims have also left an assessment of their experience on the Shrine's page. In the overall 27 thousand evaluations posted, the Shrine has a mark of 4,8 in 5, which is an unmistakable proof of a strongly positive experience in Cova da Iria.

On the Shrine of Fatima's Instagram

page, we continued with our option for an accurate gallery of photos of the Shrine's areas and dynamics. The considerable growth that the presence in this social network has registered in the last two years has been reflected in the number of interactions, which today amount to an average of 10 thousand per post. In 2019, about 400 posts were shared on the Shrine of Fatima's Instagram page, among photos and videos.

This year, the social networks of the Shrine of Fatima will continue to be a place for pilgrim contact and welcome, and to divulge the Message of Fatima in the digital media, continuing with a type of communication which privileges the information contents on video.

Most viewed post

A one minute video of the candlelight procession of May 12 was the post that reached more people in 2019, approximately 11,7 million.

Range: 11,7 millions
Viewed minutes: 1,1 million
Interactions: 1,8 millions
Comments: 76 mil
Shares: 111 mil

 **Santuário de Fátima**
Publicado 13 de maio de 2019 · 🌐

Avé, Virgem Santa,
Estrela que nos guia,
Avé, Mãe da Igreja,
Oh! Virgem Maria! 🎵 ...



Fatima “is one of the most significant projections of Portugal in the World”, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa states

Exhibition “Pilgrim Popes of Fatima” by Rui Ochoa inaugurated in Rome by the President of the Republic / Carmo Rodeia

“Pilgrim Popes of Fatima” is the title of the photography exhibition by Rui Ochoa, displayed at the Gallery of Istituto Portoghese di Sant’Antonio in Roma, organised both by this Institute and the Embassy of Portugal to the Holy See.

Eighty black and white photos, two of them belonging to the Photographic Archive of the Shrine of Fatima, are a materialization of the photographer’s view of Fatima, since 1982, when he first travelled to Cova da Iria, as a reporter during the first visit of Pope Saint John Paul II. The two photos from the Archive of the Shrine document the only papal visit which he didn’t cover with his objective: the visit of Saint Paul VI in 1967, during the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Apparitions.

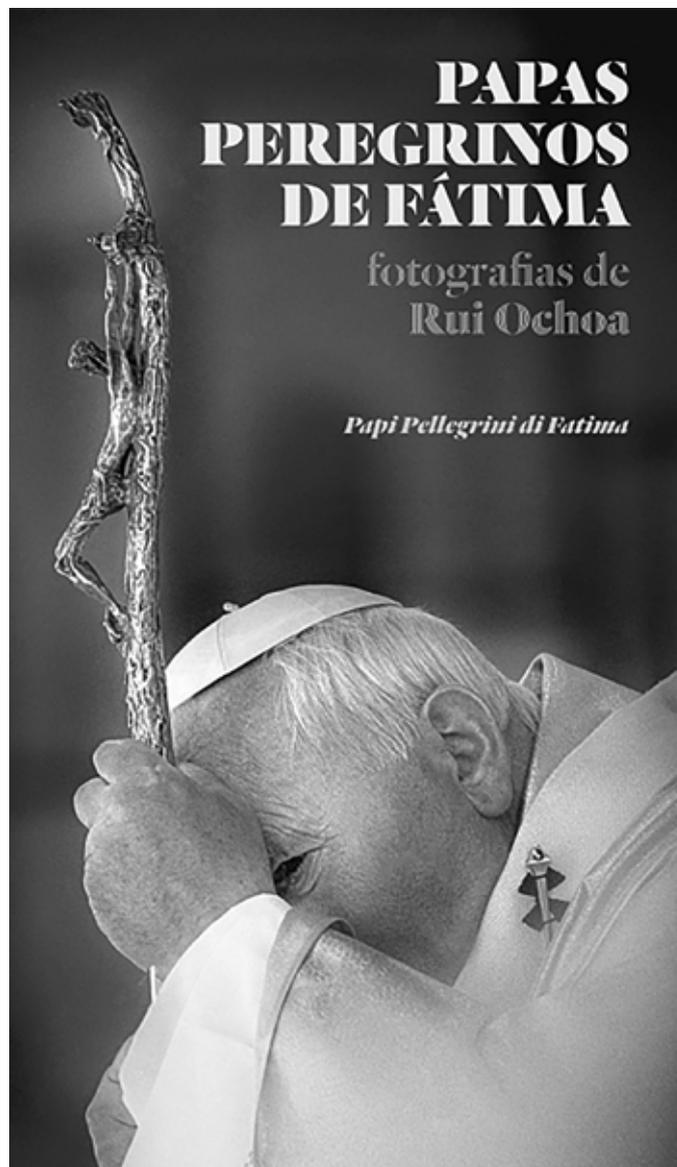
This exhibition originated from the initiative of Ambassador António de Almeida Lima and was promptly cherished by the President of the Republic Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa; it was also enthusiastically supported by the Shrine of Fatima and Cardinal António Marto, as well as by the Istituto Portoghese di Sant’Antonio in Roma, which hosts the exhibition in Rome.

In a text published in the exhibition catalogue, entitled *Going to Fatima*, the author states that this exhibition is more than a display of photographs depicting the papal visits. “It portrays the places in which the six apparitions occurred along the year of 1917; the people, their expressions of faith, the joy and pain of those who travel there, sometimes arriving from very far away countries, to manifest their gratefulness to the Virgin”.

“Going to Fatima is, indeed, a very enriching human experience. Everything looks the same year after year, and yet everything is different, whether there is rain or sunshine”, says Rui Ochoa, press photographer in *Jornal de Notícias*, where he initiated his career, director of photography and editor in *Expresso* and nowadays the official photographer of the President of the Republic.

At the opening of the exhibition there were, as well as the promoters, the President of the Republic Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa and the Rector of the Shrine of Fatima.

At the event, the Head of State enhanced the universality of Fatima: “Fatima as a phenomenon of faith, Fatima as a sociological phenomenon, Fatima as a national reality as well as Fatima as a bond, whose origin is in the beginnings of nationality, between Portugal, the King of Portugal, at the time, and the Holy See”, he explained, recalling the Bull “Manifestis Probatum”, issued on 23rd May 1179, in which Pope Alexander III acknowledges Portugal.



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