



FÁTIMA LUZ EPAZ

Fatima is a safe place and there are plenty of good reasons to come to the Shrine

/ Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas

The pandemic that has struck us and which we are learning to live with, has radically changed our behaviour and has deeply altered our life. After months with a very few pilgrims at the Shrine of Fatima, now we see their gradual return.

We have enforced the necessary safety measures in the context of the pandemic, because for the Shrine the safety of pilgrims as well of the Shrine's collaborators, is fundamental. Because Fatima is a safe place, we invite you to come to the Shrine, a place of prayer and of significant faith experience; a place of communal celebration and intense meaning of Church; a place of worship and celebration of Reconciliation. For the security and peace of mind of us all, we have chosen large celebratory spaces, but groups with a common language may also require other celebratory spaces.

We invite pilgrims to visit the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima and pray before the tombs of Saint Francisco and Saint Jacinta, and the Servant of God Lucia de Jesus.

In the year we are celebrating the centenary of the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, worshipped at the Little Chapel of the Apparitions, we have prepared everything to welcome safely the pilgrims who wish to visit the temporary exhibition "Dressed in White", at the lower floor of the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity, with an explanatory leaflet in several languages. We were equally careful regarding the permanent exhibition "Fatima, Light and Peace", in which we may contemplate the most diversified offerings to Our Lady and the precious crown of the Statue of the Little Chapel.

We also invite pilgrims to visit the House of the Little Shepherds, in the village of Aljustrel, in order to better know the seers of Fatima, their lives and their family reality. The experience of the Way of the Cross in the "Path of the Little Shepherds", ending at the Hungarian Calvary and the chapel of St. Stephen, is another intense spiritual experience for pilgrims. Along this path, the pilgrim also has the possibility to pray at the site of the August apparition and the Angel apparitions.

Fatima is a safe place and there are plenty of good reasons to come to the Shrine! We are waiting for all of you.

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*

Shrine invites pilgrims to return to Cova da Iria complying with the health regulations

Celebrations with the faithful resumed May 30. Rector saluted the first pilgrims and says only they complete and give meaning to Fatima / Carmo Rodeia



Two and a half months after the last celebration with pilgrims, the Shrine reopened the celebrations with a mass at 7h30 at the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity

The Rector of the Shrine of Fatima makes an appeal to the gradual participation of the pilgrims in the celebrations of Cova da Iria with trust and without fear: "We have resumed the celebrations trustfully and in security so that the arriving pilgrims feel safe, but we must also be aware that we did everything with responsibility in order to preserve the health conditions of people", Father Carlos Cabecinhas stated during the first Mass celebrated with the presence of pilgrims in two months, on May 30.

"This is not an excessive concern; this is a concern with the health of those who come here; we do not want them to feel the Shrine as a threat to themselves", he explained, underlining that "it is a question of responsibility that impacts all areas of life, and religion is not an exception".

"We have followed a series of measures to guarantee safety; this is not fear but prudence, which has to do with responsibility, and the Shrine tries to be always attentive to the greatest good for pilgrims, that is, their health", highlighted the head of the Shrine of Fatima.

On May 30, the Shrine resumed its usual summer programme, celebrating seven masses daily – from Monday to Sunday at the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity (except the 12h30 mass, from Monday to Friday, which is celebrated at the Little Chapel of the Apparitions, and the 11h00 mass, on Saturdays and Sundays, celebra-

ted at the Prayer Area) –, and reciting five rosaries, at the Little Chapel of the Apparitions.

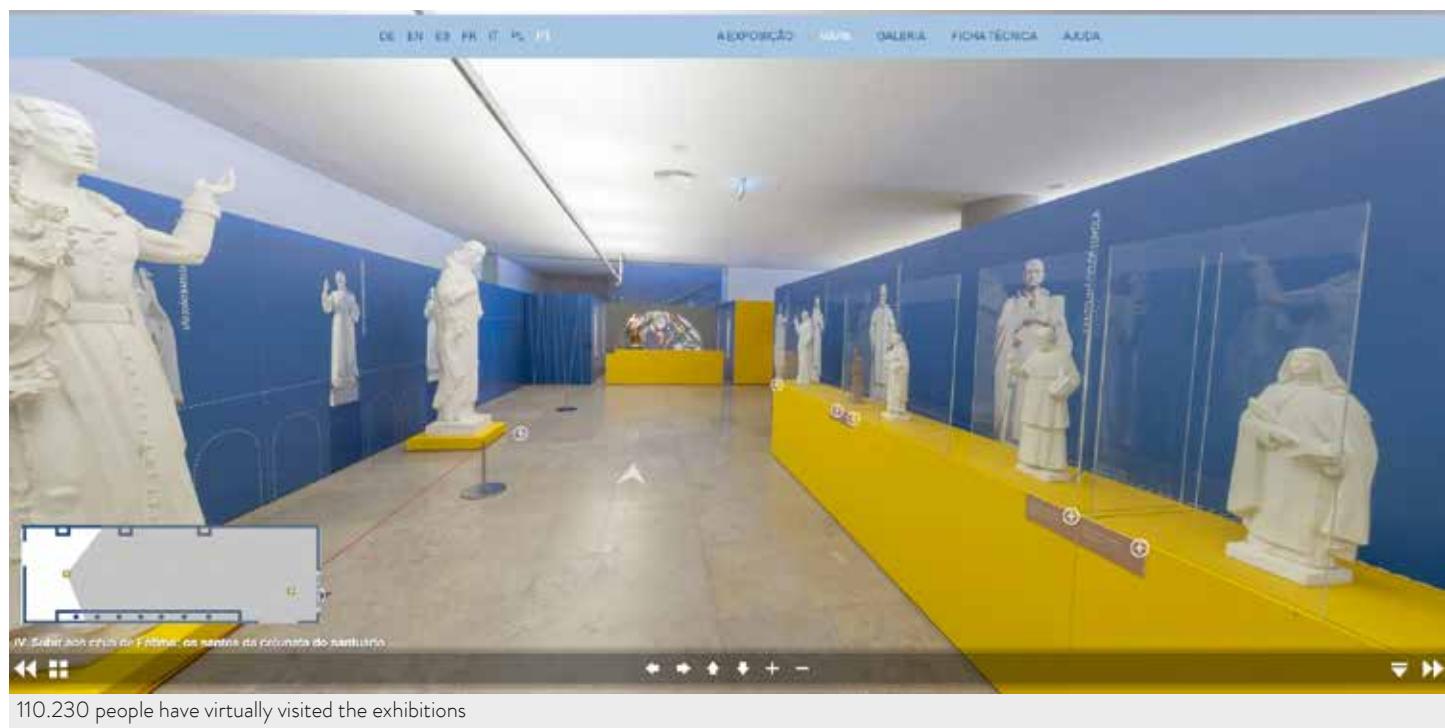
For this period of progressive deconfinement the Shrine adopted a set of safety measures that include the mandatory wearing of a mask inside closed places and during the celebrations at the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity and at the Little Chapel of the Apparitions; the use of disinfectant solution available at the entrance of the different spaces; marked routes inside the spaces of celebration with distinct areas of entry and exit, accurately marked; teams of hosts and information boards on the security measures adopted. There is also audible information at the Prayer Area about the security measures.

"For those who celebrate at the Prayer Area, the scattering of the assembly may cause some strangeness but at this moment strangeness is a feeling that goes hand in hand with the responsibility", the Rector concludes.

On the first day that marked the return of the pilgrims to celebrations, there was a moment during the afternoon which was especially important, when the Shrine joined the praying of the Rosary from Rome by Pope Francis. This prayer was marked by the references to the direct and indirect victims of the pandemic as well as the families and professionals that were on the front line defending life.

Shrine of Fatima offers virtual tours to temporary exhibitions

Information available in the seven official languages, allowing to go through all the exhibition areas / Cátia Filipe



110.230 people have virtually visited the exhibitions

The Shrine of Fatima offers virtual tours to five temporary exhibitions.

The director of the Museum of the Shrine of Fatima, Marco Daniel Duarte, explains that this initiative, implemented a few years ago and covering almost all the exhibitions presented since 2010, has mainly two goals: making the exhibition available to people that somehow – often because they do not live in Portugal – are not able to travel to the Shrine of Fatima, and saving the information that an ephemeral visit like this gathers, since it is hardly possible to reunite those works of art and historical documents again in the same room and with the same specific museological narrative.

Tours are available in the seven official languages of the Shrine of Fatima, and they have several menus, allowing to go through all the exhibition nucleus, also giving the possibility to open photographs and captions of each object. These tours can be experienced while listening to the same musical theme that visitors heard at the time the exhibitions opened to the public, inspired in the theme of every exhibition.

Being, the secret of the Heart was the temporary exhibition evoking the apparition of June 1917. It was scheduled to run from 24 November 2012 to 31 October 2013 and welcomed about 233 856 visitors. This museum space has been virtually visited for 10 720 times.

Secret and revelation was open from 30 November 2013 to 31 October 2014 and was the temporary exhibition evoking the apparition of July 1917. This exhibition was visited by about 227 921 people. Virtually it has received about 86 643 visitors.

In this valley of tears was the temporary exhibition evoking the apparition of August 1917 and was scheduled to run from 29 November 2014 to 31 October 2015, having welcomed about 315 378 visitors. *In this valley of tears* received about 3 591 virtual visits.

The temporary exhibition evoking the apparition of September 1917, *Earth and Heaven: pilgrims and saints of Fatima*, was open to the public from 28 November 2015 to 31 October 2016. This exhibition has been virtually visited by about 3 272 people. *Earth and Heaven: pilgrims and saints of Fatima* welcomed 257 963 visitors while it was open to the public.

The colours of the Sun: the light of Fatima in the contemporary world was the temporary exhibition evoking the apparition of October 1917, scheduled to run from 26 November 2016 to 31 October 2018, during the more intense period of the celebration of the Centenary of the Fatima Apparitions. This was the most ambitious exhibition that the Shrine of Fatima has ever promoted and included items lent by private collectors and ecclesial and civil institutions. *The colours of the Sun: the light of Fatima in the contemporary world* has been

visited by about 493 484 people. The virtual visitors were 6 004.

The temporary exhibition celebrating the centenary of the construction of the Little Chapel of the Apparitions was scheduled to run from 1 December 2018 to 15 October 2019. The exhibition on the Little Chapel of the Apparitions, *Capela-Mundi*, doesn't have a virtual tour yet, but an exhibition catalogue has been published in the collection *Coleção Arte e Património* no. 3. While it was open to the public, it welcomed 304 910 visitors.

Presently the Shrine of Fatima is promoting the exhibition *Dressed in White*, celebrating the centenary of the first sculpture of Our Lady of Fatima.

Pilgrims can visit "Dressed in White" – Temporary exhibition about the first Statue of our Lady of Fatima

Exhibition gathers the most beautiful statues of the Virgin Mary, on a reflection about the relation between art and devotion.

After a period of confinement, a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, the temporary exhibition of the Shrine – "Dressed in White", reopened to the public, on the year we are celebrating the centenary of the creation of the first sculpture of Our Lady of Fatima, a sample that gathers the most beautiful statues of the Virgin Mary, on a reflection on the relation between art and devotion. The exhibition, held at St. Augustine Social



Exhibition celebrating the Centenary of the Statue worshipped at the Little Chapple of the Apparitions has been visited by 66 198 pilgrims

Hall, at the lower floor of the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity, is scheduled to run until 15 October, and can be visited between 9:00 am and 12:45 pm (last entrance), and 2:00 pm and 5:45 pm (last entrance), from Tuesday to Sunday.

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 July 8 1924, in which the seer, answering the question about "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. This displaying section emphasizes the female beauty canons established by the artists in each representation of the Virgin Mary.

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: several significant contemporary Portuguese artists were challenged 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. This section also includes artworks that were not accepted by the faithful because of their aesthetic options, expressing the tension between creation and reception of the sacred artwork.

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. This section exhibits the first prayer card which circulated among the crowd in Cova da Iria, on October 13, 1917, in which the Apparition is represented by a photo of the Statue of Our Lady of the Conception, from the See of Leiria, which is also exhibited there.

In the fifth section there is a glass case exhibiting a real-size picture of the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima that is worshipped at the Little Chapel of the Apparitions. On this site, in July 13, 2020, during the afternoon, the day the Statue arrives at the

Shrine, visitors shall have the opportunity to admire up close the sculpture that constitutes one of the most significant contemporary Marian icons of Catholicism.

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. The conservation practices for the sculpture are shown here, and it is demonstrated that the strength of the sculpture created in 1920 lies mainly in the effectiveness of making significant images happen for the world, among which are the nuptial image, royalty, motherly protection and peace.

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 uttered in the homily at Cova da Iria on May 13 2017 that Fatima is a "mantle of Light", through the projection of the face in the mantle of the maquette.

For this reopening, the Shrine of Fatima has defined strict measures to prevent contagion of COVID-19, with indications and recommendations regarding sanitation of spaces, personal hygiene, respiratory etiquette, physical distancing, monitoring of the symptoms and individual protection, for the employees and in the information spots available to pilgrims.

Presidencies of the last three International Anniversary Pilgrimages adapted to the context of the pandemic

Only the October pilgrimage will be presided over by an international prelate / Carmo Rodeia

The closing of borders and the cancellation of regular international flights forced the Shrine to review the presidencies of the international anniversary pilgrimages that this year will all be Portuguese except for the last pilgrimage of October, which will be assured by the Archbishop of Panama, José Domingo Ulloa.

The Archbishop of Panama has a strong connection to Fatima, as do all the prelates of the countries of Central and South America, where the Marian cult has a very significant expression.

This leads, for example, not only to the regular travelling of the image of the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima to this continent, but also to the always significant presence of American groups in Cova da Iria. In addition, Archbishop José Domingo Ulloa was largely responsible for the visit of Statue no 1 of the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima to the World Youth Day in Panama, carrying out its own program, having visited the most peripheral places of Panamanian society such as a prison, a slum and a hospital, among others.

In August and September the international anniversary pilgrimages will be presided over by Portuguese prelates, namely the Bishop of Santarém José Augusto Traquina and the Bishop Emeritus of Santarém Manuel Pelino Domingues. In addition to the physical proximity to Fatima, the current diocesan Bishop, who will preside in August, is also the President of the Episcopal Commission for Human Mobility, which annually promotes, through the Catholic Work for Migration in Portugal, the National Pilgrimage of Migrants, this month.

Fatima joins the Holy Father praying the Rosary for the success in the fight against Covid-19

Marian shrines all over the world prayed together with Pope Francis / Carmo Rodeia



Rosary in Rome ended with the Ave of Fatima sung by the Vatican Choir

Fatima was one of the Marian shrines scattered across the five continents that last May 30 joined Pope Francis in praying the Rosary to mark the month of

Mary and ask for the consolation of Our Lady to face the pandemics caused by Covid-19.

"Dear Pilgrims, the Holy Father, Pope Francis, invited us to unite, today, in a moment of prayer: thus we are together, united with Pope Francis, who in Rome, in the Vatican gardens, by the image of Our Lady of Lourdes, presides over praying the rosary; but we are also united with the shrines and the families from all over the world" the rector of the Shrine of Fatima stated at the beginning of the recitation of the Rosary, this afternoon, at the Little Chapel of the Apparitions.

During this Rosary, the Pope was in the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes, in the Vatican Gardens, and the Shrine of Fatima, the Shrine of Lourdes (France), the Shrine of Aparecida (Brazil) and the Shrine of Guadalupe (Mexico), among others, joined the TV broadcast all over the world.

This initiative of Pope Francis to which the Shrine of Fatima has associated with is especially symbolic. The communion with the Holy Father, for whose intentions we daily pray at Fatima, is marked this Saturday in a special way because this day the communitarian celebrations are resumed, with the participation of pilgrims in Cova da Iria.

The recitation of the Rosary ended all around the world with the singing of the song Ave of Fatima.

World Apostolate of Fatima in Panama proposes program that aims to deepen knowledge of the Message of Fatima

/ WAF Panamá

The World Apostolate of Fatima in Panama (WAF) has proposed to the young people and all parishes of the Church of Panama a program of prayer and catechesis to deepen the knowledge of the spirituality and message that Our Lady left in Fatima.

This program includes the practice of the Reparation of the first Saturdays to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, catechetical lectures on the third Saturday of the month,

carried out by the young people of the WAF, and Eucharistic Adoration for children and young people that will take place on the last Thursday of every month.

A first stage of this program of prayer and catechesis was prepared until October 13, 2020, the celebration of the sixth apparition of the Virgin of Fatima to the Little Shepherds and the miracle of the sun, with the consecration of all participants to the

Immaculate Heart of Mary. We continue with the inclusion of new members in the following stages, which already foresees a second stage that will run from October 13, 2020 to May 13, 2021.

Due to the current pandemic situation and movement restrictions in Panama during this period of health quarantine, this program is being implemented for now through the digital media of the Apostolate.

Statue of our Lady of Fatima celebrates one hundred years and Shrine marks this anniversary with an exhibition entitled “Dressed in White”

Temporary exhibition can be visited until October 15 / Carmo Rodeia



Shrine marked the event allowing a greater closeness between the Statue and the pilgrims

The sculpture of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, worshipped at the Little Chapel of the Apparitions, is one hundred years old and to mark this centenary the Shrine of Fatima is holding an exhibition entitled “Dressed in White”, which on the 13th included this Statue for a few hours.

The sculpture, which became one of the most well-known and replicated Marian icons all over the world, was commissioned in 1919 by a devotee from Torres Novas, Gilberto Fernandes dos Santos, to Casa Fânzeres, in Braga.

Sculpted by the saint maker José Ferreira Thedim, inspired by a statue of Our Lady of Lapa, worshipped in Ponte de Lima, the Statue was modelled and carved according to the account of the seers, just as it was transmitted by Canon Manuel Formigão.

The statue is 1.04 meters high and is made of Brazilian cedar. Casa Teixeira Fânzeres, from Braga, applied the polychromy and gilt. The eyes are made of glass and the garments and mantle are embedded with rock crystals, glass and diamonds.

The golden crown, worn by the statue only on days of great pilgrimages, was offered by the women of Portugal, on 13 October 1942; it weighs 1.2 kg and has 313 pearls and 2 679 precious stones. In 1989 the bullet extracted from the body of John Paul II, after the attempted assassination in Rome, was engraved in the crown.

The Statue, still without the crown, arrived in Fatima on May 1920 and was consecrated on May 13 1920 by the priest of Fatima, Fr. Manuel Marques Ferreira, at the Parish Church, having been taken to the Little Chapel of the Apparitions only

one month later, because at the time the religious demonstrations were forbidden by the Republican Regime.

Every night the Statue was taken away by the keeper Maria Carreira – known as Maria of the Little Chapel – and for this reason it escaped safe and sound to the bomb attack of March 6 1922, which partially destroyed the Little Chapel.

From May 1982, with the renovation of the Little Chapel of the Apparitions in time for the first visit of John Paul II, the

Statue stands outside the Little Chapel in a plinth, in the exact spot of the original holm-oak (gone by now, due to the action of the faithful) above which Our Lady appeared to the three Little Shepherds.

This Statue usually doesn't leave the Little Chapel on August 15 and December 8, as well as the night of the 12 and 13 of the great international anniversary pilgrimages, from May to October, although the Statue has already left the Shrine 12 times, most of the times at the request of several Popes.

“This Statue became the great Fatima symbol. When we speak of Fatima, we look at this Statue. When we see this Statue anywhere in the world, it is connected to Fatima. It is the great symbol of this message, the great symbol of the Fatima event”, the Rector highlighted, enhancing the significance of the mediator importance of this type of representations in a Christian context.

“Pilgrims coming to this place do not worship the Statue. Their veneration is directed towards Our Lady, represented by the Statue. It is a mediation which helps the pilgrim of Fatima to live the experience of faith, to understand Our Lady represented there as the one connecting to Jesus Christ, Her son. In fact, the Shrine's geography on that level is very expressive”, Father Carlos Cabecinhas referred.



For six hours the statue was “closer” to the pilgrims

Saint John Paul II and the Virgin of Fatima

Master of Liturgical Celebrations of Pope Saint John Paul II / *Piero Marini



Bond between the Popes and the Statue helped it to gain projection

On May 18, 2020, the centenary of the birth of Pope Saint John Paul II was celebrated. The celebration took place shortly before another centennial event: the enthronement, in June 1920, of the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima at the Little Chapel of the apparitions. [...] During the years I was responsible for preparing and overseeing the Pope's celebrations, I had the opportunity not only to understand but also to share with the Pope his Marian spirituality, his filial relationship with the Lord's Mother [...].

The bond between Saint John Paul II and the Virgin Mary was surely very intense and is characterised by a maternal-filial feeling: the Lord's Mother is also, truly, our mother in the order of grace or of supernatural life [...].

This close bond with the Virgin Mary was expressed at the beginning of his pontificate, choosing for his coat-of-arms, with the letter M, the presence of Mary by the cross [...]. His trust in Mary was not episodic, but accompanied him each day, since sunrise to

sunset, and in every significant action of his pontificate.

There are several ways in which John Paul II manifested his constant devotion to the Virgin. First of all, daily personal prayer: on several occasions his Marian devotion took the form of a pilgrimage, a fasting, a specific prayer, public gestures that everybody could see, such as the coronation of a Statue of the Virgin, a gesture that the Pope made hundreds of times, and private gestures which only God knows of [...].

In the life and in the pastoral of John Paul II, Marian shrines have always been an "important chapter". It is known that on his apostolic journeys the Pope invariably visited the most important shrine of the country or territory he visited. In the encyclical *Redemptoris Mater*, John Paul II coined the expression "geography of shrines" to indicate its existence in every diocese and to mark their role as symbols of the active presence of the Virgin in the life of the Church [...].

In Fatima, John Paul II felt at home [...].

The Pope's first pilgrimage, on May 13, 1982, had a special motif, since the Supreme Pontiff attributed the Virgin of Fatima a specific protection on the occasion of the attempted assassination he endured exactly on May 13, 1981: if a hand pulled the pistol's trigger, another «motherly hand guided the bullet trajectory», the hand of the Virgin «allowing the agonizing Pope to stop at death's door».

The Pope himself said that his pilgrimage to Fatima, in 1982, was due to the Virgin's protection: «I come here today because last year, this same day, at St Peter's Square in Rome, an attempted assassination of the Pope took place, mysteriously coinciding with the anniversary of the first apparition in Fatima, which occurred on May 13, 1917. These dates met in such a way that I seemed to recognise in them a special call to come here. And so here I am today. I came to thank the Divine Providence, in this place that the Mother of God seems to have significantly embraced» (Homily, Fatima, May 13, 1982)-

On that occasion, the Virgin of Fatima was truly for the Pope the mother who saved his life. On that pilgrimage, the Pope confirmed also to the whole Church the message of Fatima: «How does John Paul II, Peter's successor [...] and special heir of the Second Vatican Council, present himself today before the Holy Mother of the Son of God, at Her Shrine of Fatima? He presents himself anxiously rereading that motherly call to penance and conversion, that ardent call from the Heart of Mary which resounded here in Fatima 65 years ago» (Homily, Fatima, May 13, 1982).

[...] From the two pilgrimages of the Pope in which I took part (1991 and 2000), the most vivid memories are from the second journey. I am pleased to note here a few events which bound even more the Marian devotion of Saint John Paul II to Fatima.

The first memory refers to Saturday, May 13, 2000, before the Mass celebration. In the sacristy I was present during a part of the encounter between John Paul II and Sister Lucia. I remember that Sister Lucia was wearing glasses with very thick lenses. The Bishop of Leiria-Fatima, Serafim de Sousa Ferreira e Silva, was the interlocutor between the Pope and Sister Lucia. He explained aloud to Sister Lucia the Pope's questions and, when necessary, he explained to the Pope the answers given by Sister Lucia. This encounter is one of the memories linked to Fatima which I cannot forget.

The second memory is the Rite of Beatification of two of the Little Shepherds presided over by the Pope [...].

The third strong memory is made of the words expressed by Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Secretary of State, on the Third Part of the Secret of Fatima: «According to



Statue venerated at the Little Chapel has been three times in the Vatican

the interpretation of the «Little shepherds», confirmed also recently by Sister Lucia, the “Bishop dressed in white” who prays for all the faithful is the Pope. Wearily walking to the cross between the corpses of those martyred (bishops, priests, men and women Religious and various lay people), he fell dead to the ground, under the blows of the firearm.»

[...]

Saint John Paul II not only travelled to Fatima to venerate the Virgin Mary, but He also wanted the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima to visit him in Rome. I recall two visits of the Statue of the Virgin to Rome: on March 25, 1984, and on October 7, 2000, on the occasion of the Jubilee of Bishops. Precisely on those occasions, John Paul II had the possibility of expressing particularly his filial love for the Lady of Fatima. For the

Pope, it didn't seem like the visit of a Statue, but rather the visit of a living and loved person, familiar to him, almost a person one could hug, kiss, a person to talk to, a person to apologize to, a person who walked, who travelled to several places:

«Our Lady of Fatima, of whom we are so devoted and grateful, also in the most intimate and personal sense, you wished to visit us here in Rome on this very important day. How thankful we are! How grateful we are! What a great grace you have given us with your presence, almost personal... we are all grateful, all Romans, especially the Bishop of Rome. We are so grateful for this stay of the Statue of Fatima here in our environment: first in the Vatican Pauline Chapel, afterwards in my private chapel, later in Saint Peter Square during the great celebration [families jubilee], and finally on this Basilica. Now, Our Lady of Fatima con-

cludes her visit in this Basilica, and to be still present in Rome, will afterwards go to the Cathedral of the Bishop of Rome, in Saint John Lateran and later also in the shrine of Divine Love. Excuse us, o Lady, excuse us o Mother of Jesus, for meeting you in several places, in several locations in Rome. We must open, we wish to open the grace of your presence to the different environments of this great city and diocese of the Pope... I kiss your feet, because you wanted to direct your steps to us. Let me be allowed, o Mary, Our Lady of Fatima, in Your presence, to send a blessing to all those present here and to all the Church of Rome» (Good-bye Invocation to the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, Vatican Basilica, Sunday March 25, 1984).

The Pope's love and appreciation for the Lady of Fatima have become evident in some expressions full of tenderness that John Paul II wanted to say to the Lady in 1984 and 1991: «I kiss your feet»; «You wanted to direct your steps to us»; «Embraces with the love of a Mother and Servant of the Lord, this human world of ours»; «My Mother, since always and particularly that May 13, 1981, in which I felt by my side your helping presence»; «Mary embraces with her new motherhood in the Spirit each and every one in the Church»; «Beloved Mother»; «For the second time I stand before you in this shrine to kiss your hands».

In his manifestations of devotion there was no place for calculation or diplomacy [...]. The profound contemplation in which he extensively prayed before the Icon of the Virgin, has always touched me deeply: it seemed as if he was in an intimate dialogue with Her to trust Her with the destinies of the Church and Humankind.

*This text was edited by the editorial staff of the newspaper *Fátima Luz e Paz*

Catholic Church of the Czech Republic united in prayer with Fatima and consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary / Hana Francáková – WAF Czech Republic

The Czech Republic was one of the 22 countries joining Portugal and Spain in the consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, on March 25, in an initiative promoted in Fatima by the Portuguese Bishops, joined by the Spanish Bishops and the Episcopal Conferences of more 22 countries all over the world.

The celebration of the consecration was presided over by Cardinal António Marto, Bishop of the Diocese of Leiria-Fatima and took place at the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima.

On the Czech Republic the celebration was accompanied by the Archbishop of Prague and Czech Primate Dominik Jaroslav Duka, OP, before a replica of the Statue of the

Virgin of Fatima, joined by many parishes and homes all over the country through the social networks.

The consecration of the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, particularly of Russia, is one of the central axes of the so-called Secret of Fatima. The Heart of Mary presented itself to Lucia from the very beginning, at the second apparition, as a refuge and a path that leads to God. Again, in July, after the vision of hell, Mary reaffirms it by proposing consecration to Her Immaculate Heart as a means of conversion and reparation. Devotion to the Heart of Mary becomes, namely with the request for the consecration of Russia and all that it would symbolize, an expression of the presence of God that accompanies

the drama of human history, inviting the faithful to a different view of history, projected on an eschatological dimension. In Pontevedra and Tuy, in the visions that close the event of Fatima, the call for consecration is renewed, associated with the reparatory communion of the first Saturdays.

The Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, located in the chapel of the Archbishop's Palace, and before which we have prayed in this time of confinement, was delivered by Cardinal Josef Beran in 1967, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the apparition of the Virgin Mary in Fatima. The statue destined to the former Czechoslovakia was offered by the delegation of the World Apostolate of Fatima in the USA.

From the Altar of the Church to the heart of the faithful: Little Shepherds take the message of Fatima throughout the world

The requests for relics are constantly growing, and the emergence of many places of worship and prayer named after them show how this devotion is expanding / Carmo Rodeia



The two lamps enlightening humankind have taken on a life of their own from the altars of the Church

Devotion to the little shepherds Francisco and Jacinta Marto became universal on May 13, 2017, after their canonization. We didn't know these two children could have such an important and decisive role today, and in an immediate way, in the actual lives of so many faithful, young and old, their devotees, constantly asking for their intercession.

One hundred years after their deaths – Francisco died one hundred and one years ago and Jacinta died precisely a hundred years ago –, both of them are an object of study, and their physical life, short but strong from a spiritual point of view, inspires meetings and congresses all over the Catholic world to reflect upon and study these two siblings to whom the Church attributes the miracle of healing

a paralytic woman in 1987 and saving a Brazilian child who had suffered a severe brain injury with loss of brain material, in 2013.

Since 2017 until today, about six dozens of graces obtained by the intercession of the child saints, according to the interpretation of the faithful, have been reported to the Francisco and Jacinta Marto Foundation, which absorbed the Postulation Office, that ended with the canonization of the Marto siblings and today ensures the devotion to the Little Shepherds all over the world. The majority of the graces are related to health issues and are overwhelmingly sent by Portuguese faithful.

The number of requests for relics of the two saints and seers is constantly growing, and since 2017 until now, more than 2200

relics have been sent by the Foundation all over the world, especially Brazil, Poland and now also Spain. The year with more registered requests was 2019, year of the centenary of the death of Saint Francisco Marto, who recorded a total of 1113 requests, mostly from Brazil and Poland.

Regarding the number of churches whose main devotion is connected to these two children, it should be noted that on May 13, 2017, the parish of Isidro Casanova, in Quesada, Buenos Aires (Argentina), was established as Parish of Nuestra Señora de Fátima y de los Santos Pastores Francisco y Jacinta. On May 13, 2018, Saints Francisco and Jacinta Marto were declared co-patrons of the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Iturama, Minas Gerais (Brazil). On February 11, 2019, a munici-

pal religious holiday was established for February 20, the "Day of the Little Shepherds and Saints Francisco and Jacinta Marto", in Juranda, Paraná (Brazil), the town where the young man who experienced a miracle was living at the time of the miracle. One year before, the parish of Los Pastorcitos de Fátima, in Pavas, la Cumbre (Colombia) had been established.

The Francisco and Jacinta Marto Foundation that manages Casa das Candeias, a museum area evoking the little Shepherds of Fatima, promotes, along the year, culture and spirituality encounters alluding to the two young saints, named "Entre Luz". This year they had to be interrupted due to the pandemic context we are living.

Francisco was born in 1908 and Jacinta two years later, into a humble family. They died during childhood, victims of pneumonic fever, after having suffered some ordeals which included interrogations, hunger and flagellation, without ever retreating from their version regarding the apparitions.

The Church's recognition of the apparitions as a divine phenomenon, in 1930, resulted from a long canonical process that began precisely with extensive and repeated interrogations of the three children, conducted especially by Father Manuel Nunes Formigão, a priest born in Tomar and appointed by the former Bishop of Leiria to the Canonical Commission that studied the events of Fatima.

"I still have a lot of life in the corner of my heart that keeps the most beautiful memories, May 13, 2017. I recall the voice of Pope Francis who proclaimed Francisco and Jacinta saints and the joy of the partying crowd, who rejoiced in this wonderful gift of God to his Church. But something is beginning to change in the way I see them. I never considered the Little Shepherds to be 'just' two fragile children, as are all children, in need of everything, as is typical of childhood. Their spiritual maturity has always fascinated me. However, as time passes, and seeing the impact of their lives on the hearts of the people with whom I have been in contact, throughout this world, they appear to me as those 'coming out of the great tribulation. [...]. Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple' (Rev. 7, 14-15). Yes, I see them serving God, like our brothers in faith, who are with the Lord Jesus and the Lady clothed with the sun and tell them of us. I see them standing, with the 'lamps burning' (Lk 12, 35), indicating to a tired and oppressed world the hope that is Christ. And the gratitude doesn't stop growing".

Sister Ângela Coelho (Alliance of Holy Mary), former postulator for the Cause of Canonization of Saints Francisco and Jacinta Marto. She is currently the president of the Francisco and Jacinta Marto Foundation, responsible, among other things, for diffusing the devotion to the Saints Little Shepherds in the World.

Shrine launches replica of the sculpture of Saint Francisco Marto

The piece, identical to the sculpture of Saint Jacinta, launched in February, will be sold from July 13 and is an official product of the Shrine / Carmo Rodeia



The Shrine of Fatima will launch on July 13 a replica of the sculpture of Saint Francisco Marto with affordable size and cost, which will be available on the Shrine of Fatima Official Stores and on the [Online Store](#).

The item, measuring 17,5 cm and weighing 45 g, is a faithful reproduction of the official sculpture of Saint Francisco Marto, from the sculptor Sílvia Patrício, and comes from a partnership between the Shrine of Fatima and Farup, a local company of religious items. It was developed with the author's artistic assessment, and involved a set of other companies from Ourém, Leiria and Marinha Grande.

Just like the sculpture of Saint Jacinta, launched last February 20, on the occasion of the Centenary of her death, this sculpture has the official seal of the Shrine, and its creation intends to dignify the sculpture representation of the Saints Little Shepherds of Fatima, bringing closer and spreading their charisma alongside every pilgrim visiting the Shrine and, on the other hand, enabling their sculptural representation to accompany the pilgrims at home, therefore extending the experience of faith lived at the Shrine.

Furthermore, there is a concern by the Shrine with dignifying the economical activity around the phenomenon of Fatima, and with this in mind, the same replica will be made available to the wider market at a later stage.

More information on
<https://www.store.fatima.pt/>

“We shall be back, yes, we shall be back!”, promised Cardinal António Marto in a May 13 marked by the pandemic

For 24 hours, for the first time in its history, pilgrims could not enter the Shrine of Fatima / Carmo Rodeia



Minimalist celebration was only attended by the Shrine collaborators

The Bishop of Leiria-Fatima, António Marto, stated in the pilgrimage Mass of May 13 that the COVID-19 pandemic forces humankind to rethink ways of living and economic models, and he left a message of hope in the future: “We shall be back, yes, we shall be back! That is our confidence and our commitment. We shall be back here together, giving grace”, he said, at the end of the homily, by the altar of the prayer area, in Cova da Iria, which this year welcomed an unprecedented celebration, without the presence of pilgrims.

Little more than fifty people – Bishops, Chaplains and Shrine staff members – ensured the celebrations of the first grand pilgrimage of this year, which evokes the apparition of May 13, 1917.

The Portuguese Cardinal, Vice President of the Episcopal Conference, enhanced the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. “It is an unprecedented dramatic and tragical situation which invites us to reflect about life and, in the first place, to focus on the essential, which many times we forget when life is good”, he stressed during a celebration broadcast on TV and digital platforms.

“Maybe we are all learning how a pilgrimage in its pure sense is like, to do the pilgrimage with the heart, the inner pil-

grimage in the most intimate journey of our life”, he added.

The Bishop of Leiria-Fatima spoke of a time of responsibility and solidarity facing the “terrible economic, social and labour consequences” of COVID-19, leaving a “cry of alarm” in view of “a more painful pandemic, that of the increase of poverty, hunger and social exclusion, exacerbated by the culture of indifference” and individualism.

The Catholic prelate advocated a paradigm shift in contemporary society, less centred in the “technical-scientific power, in the economical-financial power” or in consumerism, with new habits and more centred in spirituality: “We cannot live just to produce and consume, to possess and show up”, he pointed out.

“A better life in our common house, in peace with the creatures, with others and with God, a life full of sense requires con-



For the first time since 1917, the devout pilgrims were absent from the Shrine



Cardinal repeats gesture of the Washing of the Feet, just like on Holy Thursday



Bishop of Leiria-Fatima couldn't hide “the sadness on his soul”

version! Let us wonder if we have time for God, if we give Him the place He deserves in our heart and in our life”, he furthermore stressed.

On that foggy morning, the celebration was attended by representatives of doctors, nurses, operations assistants, firemen and charity care homes for the elderly, as a way of “acknowledging and thanking” them for their work.

Participants prayed for all those who “all over the world face the consequences of the current pandemic”, for those who dedicate themselves to easing their sufferings and for all pilgrims who have joined the celebration via media channels.

Before the Mass on the Solemnity of Our Lady of Fatima a Rosary was prayed at the Little Chapel of the Apparitions, after two children brought a bouquet of flowers, the “spiritual bunch” offered by the World Apostolate of Fatima, which was placed by the statue of Our Lady, representing also the emigrants and the pilgrims from different continents of the world.

Pope joins the May 13 celebration in Fatima and urges to pray for peace and the end of the pandemic

Pope Francis marked the pilgrimage of May 13 this year addressing a letter to the Shrine of Fatima, in which he evoked the victims of COVID-19 pandemic, which led

to the unprecedented closing of the Shrine prayer area for 24 hours. “I ask of you a specific prayer – while assuring that I will add mine as well - for the countless victims of this covid-19 pandemic and for all the deceased; for all who were alone when crossing over to eternity, I know that Our Good Mother in Heaven made them company until reaching God”, mentioned the text read by Cardinal António Marto.

“She entrusts each and every one of us to God, from the guardians of the Shrine of Fatima, who today personify and represent all of us at the feet of Our Lady, like the apostle John in the Calvary – ‘Woman, here is your Son!’ (Jo 19, 26) and into Her house came all the world”, he continued.

Francis saluted the “beloved pilgrims of Fatima” and referred to the circumstances that this year prevent the “usual pilgrimage to Cova da Iria”, where spiritually “the sick, poor and abandoned, not forgetting the professionals and volunteers committed to assist them” arrive.

“However, I know that you will be there as usual although only with your heart and your soul. And for a simple reason! A son or a daughter cannot stay away from the mother and cries out to her; the trust that She inspires is so much that it is enough to have Her company to cease all their fears and concerns, falling into a calm sleep as soon as they lay on Her lap”, he wrote.

“With these words I just want to reas-

sure you about the company of Our Heavenly Mother. Today we can have that connection to the Virgin Mary through our heart and soul, and we are limited! So limited, so small that an unexpected virus was able to upset everything and everybody...”

The Pope evoked Mary as an example of faith and trust in God: “Now, glorious in body and soul, She is a maternal heart occupied and concerned in re-establishing Her connection with us and our connection to God”, he added.

The pontifical message quoted the June 13, 1917 apparition: “My Immaculate Heart shall be your refuge and the way that will lead you to God.”

“God bless you and may Our Lady of Fatima keep you safe and protect you”, Francis concluded.

Also from Rome, at the general audience, that same day, the Pope strengthened his calls for peace, for conversion and for the struggle against the pandemic.

“Today I would like to get close with my heart to the Diocese of Leiria-Fatima, to the Shrine of Our Lady: I salute the pilgrims praying there, I salute the Cardinal-Bishop, I salute everyone, all united with Our Lady, who accompanies us in this journey of daily conversion to Jesus. May God Bless you”, he said during the live-streamed general audience taking place behind closed doors in the library of the Apostolic Palace.



Physically absent from Cova da Iria, the pilgrims were the most present element in the celebration

Fatima celebrated return of the pilgrims with a request: “We shall all have to relearn the grammar of hospitality”, the Auxiliary Bishop of Lisbon states

Bishop Américo Aguiar presided over the Anniversary International Pilgrimage of June, the first of the grand pilgrimages this year with the presence of pilgrims after deconfinement, following the COVID-19 pandemic / Carmo Rodeia



Auxiliary Bishop of Lisbon presides over an International Anniversary Pilgrimage at Cova da Iria for the first time

The appeal to relearn the concept of hospitality and a greater attention to the poorest, so as no one is left behind after the COVID-19 pandemic, marked the International Anniversary Pilgrimage of June, the first grand summer pilgrimage which was attended by pilgrims in all celebrations.

“One of the major lessons humankind has learned with COVID-19 is that our smallest actions can have a consequence, not only regarding those who are close but also a communal and even universal consequence. With this in mind, we will all have to learn the ‘grammar of hospitality’”, Bishop Américo Aguiar stated in the homily of the International Anniversary Pilgrimage of June celebration, celebrating the second apparition of Our Lady to the Little Shepherds.

This pilgrimage gathered once more at the Shrine of Fatima the pilgrims who, thanks to the pandemic and the liturgical celebrations restrictions, could not take part in the May pilgrimage.

“And here we are, today... Coming back, returning... deconfining... filling with our prayers this Altar of the world, and we turn our gaze to the statue of Our Lady of Fatima”, these were Bishop Américo’s words. The Auxiliary Bishop of Lisbon spoke of hospitality as an “enduring rational act of welcoming the other”, that urges at this moment: “Our European Union will have to understand that it is not

enough to be the former economic and political community, but it must take the next step: to be a true human community, more welcoming, determined in the solidarity fight to the economic and social consequences of this pandemic, committed to welcome all and focused on the respect for the common home we all inhabit”, he underlined. The prelate wishes for European solidarity to be not a pandemic urgency but a result of the European project identity: “Let the help between European peoples and countries be not a result of fear caused by a virus but rather of humanism and the Christian matrix which informs

the Old Continent. Only by that determination do we ensure our future and that of the coming generations, made increasingly of the encounter between peoples, cultures and religions.”

The celebrant asked for a “new stage of humankind, post-globalization”, born from the certainty that holiness, “which is for everybody”, “means to embrace with hospitality the other, a victim of the socio-economic effect” of the pandemic: “Let us not allow to be divided into young and old, poor and rich, black and white, northern and southern, blue or red, or any other colours... let us not allow our old Europe wanting to forget, wanting to pull itself out of its roots... up to now we have come, this way, to the pandemic”, he underlined. In this context, “maybe we can better understand the urgency of a new economy, of Francis, which does not kill”, he stressed.

Bishop Américo Aguiar said he was touched about returning to the Shrine and presiding the celebration of the restart, years after he had taken part, as a seminarist, in the program “a day as a pilgrim”: “the whole world is celebrating here with us this Eucharist, hand in hand with Mary”, he underlined.

The Auxiliary Bishop of Lisbon wanted to remind in the celebration the “State authorities, mayors, health professionals, elderly care institutions and charities professionals, families and informal carers”, people who “in the frontline and anonymously” take care of their brothers, and also the “fellow citizens who passed away”.



Thousands of pilgrims were present at the Prayer Area, complying with the social distancing protocol imposed at this time

“The message of Fatima reminds us of the challenge that history and humankind keep forgetting: we need each other”, Bishop Vitorino Soares stated

President of the International Anniversary Pilgrimage of July speaks of the “triumph” of Good, promised in the 1917 Apparitions / Carmo Rodeia



This was the second International Anniversary Pilgrimage of the year to be celebrated with the Area open to pilgrims

The Auxiliary Bishop of Porto, Bishop Vitorino Soares, said on the 13th in the morning that the pandemic reminded humankind that we all need each other, underlining the message of “triumph” of Good, conveyed in Cova da Iria, in 1917, by Our Lady to the three Little Shepherds.

“Still under the pandemic cloud, which has concealed us and brought uncertainty and concern, and which is still concealing us, the message of Fatima reminds us of the challenge that history and humankind keep forgetting: we need each other. We need each other”, said the President of the International Anniversary pilgrimage of July.

During the homily of the International Mass, which Bishop Vitorino Soares presided over at the altar of the Prayer Area, he emphasised the requests of Our Lady of Fatima in the third apparition, in July 1917.

“Do we want to sacrifice ourselves for the sake of others? Do we want to be offering and offer, one for the other? This is not the sacrifice of a victim, or a scapegoat, but of brothers who offer themselves one another through love, in the small everyday gestures”, he explained.

The auxiliary Bishop of Porto also underlined the promise left in Fatima of the definitive victory of the “heart of Peace,



“We all need You, Mother, Lady of Fatima, because we all are and want to be your children, listening to your appeals and answering your invitations”

of Good, of Kindness”.

“Today You also want to say it to each one of us: ‘My Immaculate Heart will triumph, my Immaculate Heart will triumph’. In the midst of this pandemic, in the midst of our uncertainties; in the mist of our sufferings; in the mist of our workplace issues and financial difficulties; in the mist of our insecurities and fears. You, Lady of Fatima, keep telling us: ‘My Immaculate Heart will triumph’”.

“We all need You, Mother, Lady of Fatima, because we all are and want to be your children, listening to your appeals and answering your invitations”, he concluded, stressing that “Today, here, in this Shrine, Mary, our Mother, also wants to help us to be disciples of Jesus. To listen to Him. To meet Him. To follow Him. To put His message into practice.”

The Auxiliary Bishop of Porto, who had already presided over the vigil celebration on the night of the 12th, also evoked at that time the questions and sufferings generated by the current pandemic.

“We too question today, in the context of the pandemic we are living an which affects us all: situations of uncertainties, insecurities, mistrust, unemployment, financial difficulties, isolation... we also ask, when is this going to end, how will the future be like?”, Bishop Vitorino Soares said during the reflection he presented to hundreds of pilgrims reunited at Cova da Iria, this night, reminding that we must trust.

“The Word of God will not stop generating life in the people of God an in every one of us. The most important is that the Word of God finds good ground, a good heart. Not an insensitive an indifferent heart, not an inconstant and superficial heart. Not a heart fulfilled only with material things, with richness. But a good heart, which gives good fruits”.

During the celebrations, participants prayed for the victims of the pandemic of Covid-19, “so that the grace and mercy of God is their hope and their comfort” and they also prayed “for the people dependent of care and for their carers”.

This was the second pilgrimage of the year to be celebrated with the Area open to the participation of pilgrims, after the confinement period imposed by the pandemic, following a briefer format, which suspended the Vigil Mass and the Vigil itself during dawn.

Piece of Berlin Wall donated to Poland on the centenary of the birth of Pope John Paul II

/ Beata Kozakiewicz



Every August 13, the Shrine always promotes a moment of prayer near the monument

On the day the centenary of the birth of the Polish Pope is celebrated, a piece of the Berlin Wall was donated to the John Paul II and Primate Stefan Wyszyński Museum, in Warsaw. The document formalising the donation was handed over to the Polish Government representatives by the German ambassador to Poland, Rolf Wilhelm Nikel.

During the ceremony in front of the Temple of Divine Providence, ambassador Nikel stated: "By handing over this original piece of the Berlin Wall, we wish to thank Saint John Paul II for his contribution to its fall. His words: 'Fear not!' have been giving us all hope and fortitude until today."

The diplomat considers John Paul II a symbol of freedom: "Without him surely the 1989 peaceful revolution would not have been possible. Without him, European freedom and reconciliation, between our nations too, would not have evolved in such a positive way. All Europeans and undoubtedly all Germans owe him a deep debt of gratitude." Referring to the centenary of the birth of the Holy Father, celebrated May 18, 2020, the ambassador also stated: "Today we pay homage to one of the most prominent Poles in history. A man of the century!"

In the words of Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki: "John Paul II has changed the history of the world.

All witnesses of those days agree that the 'Solidarity' independent labour union was formed thanks to the great work of John Paul II. He always believed that all nations were destined for freedom." Quoting the lyrics of a famous Polish song of the time of the fight against Communism, the head of Government added: "In the 80's we sang 'The walls must tumble, tumble, tumble...', but not all of us believed that we would see the real tumble of the wall in our lifetime."

This valuable piece will stay at the John Paul II and Primate Stefan Wyszyński Museum in the Temple of Divine Providence, Warsaw. The temple's construction and its history dates back to more than 200 years ago, being associated to the Constitution of May 3, 1791.

The original piece, weighing 3,5 tons, belonged to the Berlin Wall. Now it will be placed at the museum, which is located 26 m high, in a ring around the dome of the Temple of Divine Providence. The museum covers an area of 2 000 square meters and its official opening was in October 16, 2019.

The biggest piece of the Berlin Wall (outside this German city) can be found in Poland, in a small village called Sosnówka (in the Lower Silesia region). It consists of more than 20 segments of concrete painted with graffiti. Several other pieces of the

wall are found in quite surprising places. The Central intelligence Agency (CIA) commissioned three decorated Wall segments for a recently built installation in Langley, Virginia (USA). The others can be seen at the House of the History of the Federal Republic of Germany, in Bonn, at the Mémorial de Caen in the French city of Caen, at the Imperial War Museum in London or at the Vatican Gardens, where pieces of the wall with images of Saint Michael's Church in Berlin can be seen.

Let us also remember that, in one of the entrances for the Shrine of Fatima, whose message is intimately connected to the mistakes of Communism, there is a piece of the Berlin Wall. The monument inaugurated in August 13, 1994, contains a segment of the wall which was erected on the night of August 13 to 14, 1961. The Wall divided the city of Berlin during almost thirty years, and was demolished in November 1989. The piece weighs 2,6 tons and measures 3,6 meters high by 1,2 meters wide, and was offered by a Portuguese man living in Germany.

The symbolic words spoken by the Holy Father John Paul II during his second pilgrimage to Fatima, in 1991, are engraved on a plate beside the monument: "Thank you, Celestial Shepherdess, for guiding the peoples to freedom with maternal kindness!"

Diocese of Pyongyang will be consecrated to Our Lady of Fatima

Initiative of South Korean Cardinal Andrew Yeom was announced in a celebration last June 25 / [Carmo Rodeia](#)



The South Korean Cardinal presided over the International Anniversary Pilgrimage of October, in 2019

The diocese of Pyongyang, in the capital of North Korea, will be consecrated to Our Lady of Fatima. Cardinal Andrew Yeom, Archbishop of Seoul, made the announcement in a ceremony at the Myeongdong Cathedral, in Seul, on June 25, during which he recalled the beginning of the Korean War, 70 years ago, and prayed for the reconciliation of the Korean people.

Quoted in a note of the AIS Foundation |ACN Portugal, Andrew Yeom Soo-jung emphasised the importance of peace and harmony in the Korean Peninsula, recalling the nearly 3 million dead caused by the war which broke out on June 25, 1950, in addition to the tragedy that has befallen the refugees, the drama of separated families and the persecution of Christians by the North Korean regime.

According to the Cardinal, the Catholic Church has been especially committed in the peace process in the Korean Peninsula. An indication of this is the celebration of a daily mass for peace in South Korea since December last year until next November 28.

Two hundred and thirty worshippers attended the mass in Seul, respecting the safety measures to prevent the contagion of Covid-19. Cardinal Yeom Soo-jung urged all parties to forgive: "When the policy of forgiveness spreads, justice becomes more humane and peace lasts." The archbishop of

Seoul prayed that all political leaders "may go beyond personal, party and national interests" and commit to peace, acting for the common good of North and South Korea.

In a recent message on the occasion of this anniversary, Bishop Lee Ki-heon, the head of the Committee for the Reconciliation of the Episcopal Conference of Korea,

asked again for a peace treaty to definitively end the war, one of the bloodiest conflicts in history after the two world wars, and for the complete denuclearization of the peninsula. This treaty seemed to be close after the "Panmunjom Declaration" signed in April 2018 by South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, but at the present moment it seems like a distant goal. "After seventy years, the time has come to overcome the ideological hatred that opposed the parties and prevented both countries from growing and developing freely," writes the Prelate, calling for the re-establishment of regular links between both countries, such as "the inter-Korean railway".

South Korean Cardinal Andrew Yeom presided over the International Anniversary Pilgrimage of October 2019, in Cova da Iria, two years after the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima spent two months in South Korea.

The Shrine of the Peace of Fatima, located near the border between North Korea and South Korea, held a novena for peace on the Peninsula from August 22 to 30, 2017. After this period, the Pilgrim Virgin passed through 13 more dioceses. It is estimated that, during these 50 days in which the statue of the Lady of Fatima was in the country, about 55.500 pilgrims have accompanied Her. The image of the Pilgrim Virgin had already been to South Korea in 1978, during the pilgrimage around the world.



South Korea is one of the countries of the Asian continent which brings more groups to Fatima

Program of the Celebrations

Time	Celebration	Place Monday to Friday	Place Saturday	Place Sunday
7:30	Mass	Basilica of the Holy Trinity	Basilica of the Holy Trinity	Basilica of the Holy Trinity
9:00	Mass	Basilica of the Holy Trinity	Basilica of the Holy Trinity	Basilica of the Holy Trinity
10:00	Rosary	-----	Chapel of the Apparitions	Chapel of the Apparitions
11:00	Mass	Basilica of the Holy Trinity	Prayer Area	Prayer Area
12:00	Rosary	Chapel of the Apparitions	-----	-----
12:30	Mass	Chapel of the Apparitions	Basilica of the Holy Trinity	Basilica of the Holy Trinity
14:00	Rosary	Chapel of the Apparitions	Chapel of the Apparitions	Chapel of the Apparitions
15:00	Mass	Basilica of the Holy Trinity	Basilica of the Holy Trinity	Basilica of the Holy Trinity
16:30	Mass	Basilica of the Holy Trinity	Basilica of the Holy Trinity	Basilica of the Holy Trinity
18:30	Rosary	Chapel of the Apparitions	Chapel of the Apparitions	Chapel of the Apparitions
18:30	Mass	Basilica of the Holy Trinity	Basilica of the Holy Trinity	Basilica of the Holy Trinity
21:30	Rosary	Chapel of the Apparitions	Chapel of the Apparitions	Chapel of the Apparitions

General Recommendations

- Keep silence;
- Keep social distance;
- Do not share your objects;
- Use a mask in closed spaces with multiple people present;
- Comply with the proposed places occupation;
- For the Holy Communion we recommend that you comply with the single line keeping the established distance and receiving it in your own hand;
- Follow the recommendations provided by the Shrine workers.

*Priests who wish to concelebrate at the Sanctuary of Fátima are asked to bring their own alb and cincture and to wear a mask. Due to the measures required to prevent the spread of the new coronavirus, the Shrine does not provide albs to the concelebrants.

Opening Times of the Museological Places

House of Saint Francisco and Saint Jacinta Marto

Opening times

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Closed on Mondays, on December 25 and on January 1st.

House of Sister Lucia

Opening times

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Closed on Mondays, on December 25 and on January 1st.

Fatima Light and Peace

Opening times

Tuesday to Saturday: 9 to 12 a.m. and 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. (last entrance).

Sundays, religious holiday and national holiday: 9 to 12 a.m. and 2:30 to 4:30 a.m. (last admission).

Closed on Monday, on the 13th in the morning (from May to October); on December 24 in the afternoon; on December 25; on January 1st.

House Museum of Aljustrel

Opening times

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Closed on Mondays, on December 25 and on January 1st.

Dressed in White

From 30 November to 15 October 2020

Opening times

Tuesday to Sunday: 9:00 to 12:45 a.m. (last entry) and 2:00 to 5:45 p.m. (last entry). Closed on Monday.

Opening times of the places of cult

Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary • from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Basilica of the Holy Trinity • from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament • from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Chapel of Reconciliation (with confessions) • from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.

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