



# FÁTIMA LUZ E PAZ

Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fátima

Director: Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas

Quarterly publication | Year XVIII | No. 68

*Like Mary, bearers of joy and love:  
Praise the Lord, who lifts up the poor*

**This is not a farewell issue: the bulletin will continue being available, in several languages, in digital format** / Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas

The Fatima, Light and Peace bulletin will have only digital format starting from the next issue. It doesn't say goodbye: it transforms, keeping up with the times and answering to new contexts and circumstances.

This publication was created with the objective of promoting the unity of the devotees of Our Lady of Fatima all over the world; with the mission of conveying the message of Fatima to the five continents; with the desire to be a link with the shrines, religious institutes, movements and parishes connected to Fatima. Hence the option of publishing the bulletin in seven languages: since it is not possible to publish in all languages, we opted for those with which the Shrine usually works. In this edition, we offer readers a list of the great events that marked the 68 issues of these 16 years of publication.

However, this is not a farewell issue: the bulletin stops its print edition but it is still available, in several languages, in digital format. The mission behind its creation continues, even with the change from the physical medium of printed paper to the virtual medium of digital publishing. This way, we aim to go even further and make available to a growing number of readers this means of union with the devotees of Fatima in all parts of the world. Since its creation in 2004, this publication has seen the number of readers progressively grow and we believe that this change can further boost this growth. For this, we obviously count on the dissemination that each of the current readers can make among their acquaintances, in order to make the echo of the message of Fatima reach even further.

We will keep asking our readers to send us information about the activities they promote related to Fatima, as this publication was and wants to continue to be a place for sharing initiatives. This sharing enriches us all and allows us to know the dynamics of the message of Fatima and its embodiment in a great variety of places.

## Fatima Light and Peace now has digital edition

Suspension of the paper edition poses new challenges to the international bulletin of the Shrine of Fatima / Carmo Rodeia



Fatima Light and peace available from May at [www.fatima.pt](http://www.fatima.pt)

The Fatima Light and Peace Bulletin, created by the Shrine of Fatima in 2004, will now be distributed only online, in digital format, in the seven official languages of the Shrine and with the same frequency.

The quarterly publication, with an average circulation of twelve thousand copies per edition, over these 16 years reached more than 150 countries, having undergone some changes in its history, namely in the number of pages and in the graphic aspect. (See page 2).

The suspension of the paper edition now raises new challenges for the Shrine of Fatima, which has sought through this publication to convey the message left by Our Lady to all continents, trying to be a living presence of Cova da Iria in each particular church.

"United in faith and committed to spreading the message of Fatima, we have been walking side by side" said the Rector of the Shrine of Fatima, Father Carlos Cabecinhas, and also director of the bulletin, in a letter sent to all subscribers.

"Today we are faced with new challenges that have to be measured according to the time we are living in", said the priest, recalling that the bulletin was free for subscribers and lived on donations that although generous were always insufficient to cover costs resulting from translation, pagination, printing and, above all, distribution.

The next edition, in May this year, will only be available online at [www.fatima.pt](http://www.fatima.pt).

We will continue to edit the bulletin in several languages and anyone, from anywhere in the world, will be able to access this publication.

In addition to interviews, reports and opinion pieces, this digital publication of the Shrine of Fatima will also include texts and reports about the cult of Our Lady of Fatima in the world, always in line with the editorial policy of the Shrine of Fatima.

Subscribers should contact [press@fatima.pt](mailto:press@fatima.pt) for any further information.

# Fatima Light and Peace united the message of Fatima and its history through the stories portrayed

Bulletin covered historical moments lived in Fatima and the world / Cátia Filipe



Bulletin was created with the objective of reflecting the cult of Our Lady of Fatima in the world.

The international bulletin Fatima Light and Peace is an informative organ of the Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima. Its first issue dates from May 13, 2004, and can now only be found on digital edition. Quarterly published in seven languages - Portuguese, German, Spanish, French, English, Italian and Polish -, Fatima Light and Peace is a communication channel and a connection axis between the Shrine of Fatima and the communities, movements and institutions linked to the Cult of Our Lady of Fatima in the World.

In the bulletin's first issue, Bishop Serafim Ferreira e Silva, then Bishop of the diocese of Leiria-Fatima, opened the editorial saying "I praise the initiative", with the expectation that "It will be an echo of the message. It commits on the Light. It communicates in peace." Also in this issue, the Church of the Holy Trinity was presented as a "work for the future". In the following edition, of August 13, 2004, it was made known that "phone calls, letters and e-mails came from many places in the world, confirming the receipt of the first issue of this bulletin", information illustrated with excerpts from letters from Brazil, Argentina, Italy, India, France, Germany.

Being a publication particularly interested in taking Fatima to the world and echoing Fatima in the world, it has always paid special attention to the first

protagonists of Fatima, Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta Marto. For this reason, it was with great joy that, in the third edition, it announced to the world the official opening of the canonical process for the canonization of the Little Shepherds of Fatima, on October 13, 2004. In this edition, it was already possible to report on the presence of the Pilgrim Virgin in the world, as well as several forms of worship to Our Lady of Fatima, something that has always been present throughout 16 years of paper-based publication.

The May 13, 2005 bulletin paid tribute to John Paul II, who died in April that year, and who was in Fatima three times.

The first graphic change appeared in the second year of its publication, in the

August 2005 edition. A new header and some graphic changes that dictated small adjustments in the layout of the printed Bulletin.

Acknowledging the international inclination that this publication had, the Shrine began to inventory the institutions dedicated to the cult of Our Lady of Fatima all over the world. On May 13, 2006, the first results of this study emerged and readers were asked to help them obtain more data and confirm the data already obtained.

Always trying to combine articles on the life and heritage of the Shrine with news about the cult of Our Lady of Fatima in the world, the first bulletin of the year 2007, edition of February 13, made it known that the holm oak of the Shrine of Fatima, an icon of the Apparitions, had been classified as "public interest by the directorate-general of forest resources in Portugal". However, in 2007 there was something special: the inauguration of the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity and its dedication in October 2007. For this reason, the August edition already included the entire program with an editorial by the then Rector Monsignor Luciano Guerra. Also this edition, page 4, featured a news report on the pilgrimage of Russian Catholics to Fatima, to thank for the "gift of religious freedom".

Fatima, "Shrine of the Holy Trinity", could be read on the front page of the November 13, 2007 edition, one month



The issue of Peace, being central to the message of Fatima, has always been highlighted in the bulletin



The journeys of the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima were emphasised in the pages of the Bulletin

after the inauguration of the celebratory space.

In 2008 the Rector of the Shrine changes, and becomes Father Virgílio Antunes, today Bishop of Coimbra, a fact that is highlighted in the publication as a way to introduce readers to the face of the new main speaker of the Shrine. Also in this issue, on page 3, there is information on the approval of the Vatican decree which allows the beginning of the Beatification process of Sister Lucia.

The year of 2009 marked the start of live broadcasts from the Little Chapel of the Apparitions on the official website of the Shrine of Fatima, information conveyed to the readers of Fatima Light and Peace on February 13, 2009.

2010 was marked by the visit of Benedict XVI to Portugal. The May edition of the Fatima Light and Peace bulletin, a special edition, giving all the details of this historic moment, came out exceptionally on May 31, 2010.

In the February 13, 2011 edition, the graphic image of the Centennial of the Apparitions was presented. On page 4 there was a story about Luis Urzúa, one of the 33 miners rescued on October 13, 2010, in Chile after 2 months buried, and who made a pilgrimage to Fatima.

On May 13, 2011, readers of the bulletin learned that Father Virgílio Antunes had been replaced by Father Carlos Cabecinhas, who was appointed Rector. In this issue, pilgrims were able to recall how the evocation of the angel's apparitions was experienced for the first time.

Meanwhile, the Caxinas Fishermen, saved after being adrift at sea for several days, offered a rosary to Our Lady of

Fatima. The news report was published in the February 13, 2012 issue.

A year and a half later, on November 13, 2013, the publication's main highlight was the trip to the Vatican of the Image of Our Lady of Fatima, in October of that year, at the request of Pope Francis.

On May 13, 2014, the Fatima Light and Peace bulletin noted the beginning of the Pilgrim Virgin's visit to the cloistered contemplative monasteries in Portugal. A year later, you could read "Pilgrim image of Fatima crosses Portugal".

On the eve of the Centennial, and already promoting this special moment, which could bring even greater blessings with the canonization of Blessed Francisco and Jacinta Marto, in the May 2015 edition, Bishop António Marto announced that the Holy Father wanted to come to Fatima. The Bishop of Leiria-Fatima had been with the Holy Father in a private audience in the Vatican on April 25, 2015.

That same year, the August highlight was for the editorial, entirely dedicated to the theme of peace, emphasizing the gesture of the Nuns of the Monastery of Qara, in Syria, who had, meanwhile, delivered to the Shrine of Fatima, 3 bullets and one scarf as a testimony to the martyrdom of three Christians.

In the year of the Centennial of the Apparitions of the Angel, the issue of May 13, 2016 reported on the celebrations of this important event. In that year, the publication underwent an important change, visible in the November 13, 2016 edition: the bulletin turns from 8 to 12 pages. In the February 2017 edition, the header underwent the first graphic

changes. This year was marked by the celebrations of the Centennial of the Apparitions. Pope Francis visited Fatima on 12 and 13 May. To portray every detail of this historic moment, the bulletin came out exceptionally on 13 June. In this edition, we also highlighted the 40th anniversary of the Hour of Reparation in The Little Chapel of the Apparitions, and in Panama, D. José Domingo Ulloa entrusted the World Youth Day 2019 to the Virgin of Fatima. In the November 13, 2017 edition, the Fatima Light and Peace bulletin presented a new layout. In the next issue, February 13, 2018, the bulletin now had 16 pages.

In June 2018, Bishop António Marto was ordained a Cardinal by Pope Francis. In the August edition of that year, pilgrims were able to read every detail of this important moment. Statue No. 1 of the Pilgrim Virgin was at the World Youth Day in 2019. The edition of February 13, 2019 echoed this historic moment.

On May 13, 2020, the bulletin reported an unprecedented situation experienced in the whole world and with repercussions in Fatima. For the first time in 102 years of history, the Shrine performed its celebrations without the physical presence of pilgrims, reaching the four corners of the world through the social networks.

In 2021, this publication will continue to give an account of the most important things that are happening in Fatima, and in the Marian cult in the world, but through the digital world, just a click away at [www.fatima.pt](http://www.fatima.pt).

**No. 1, May 13, 2004 - 4000 copies**

**No. 68, February 13, 2021 - 12,000 copies**

**The last printed edition was delivered in 169 countries**

**The countries with the most subscribers are Brazil, Italy, Portugal, United States of America and Spain**

**The continent with the most subscribers is Europe**

**The most widely read language is English**



## Shrine of Fatima tunes action for the next three years with the preparation of the World Youth Day in Lisbon

The new pastoral year, themed “Praise the Lord who lifts up the poor”, presents the message of Fatima as an expression of God’s concern for a suffering humankind. / Carmo Rodeia



Theme of the new pastoral year allows to experience the pandemic with a horizon of hope

The Shrine of Fatima will align the next three years of its pastoral action with the preparation of the World Youth Day (WYD), scheduled for 2023 in Lisbon, as an answer to the new pastoral challenges raised by the pandemic: “We are all aware that next year will still be deeply marked by the pandemic situation and that we will face many difficulties, at different levels. But we believe that the message of Fatima is a message of hope and encouragement”, Father Carlos Cabecinhas declared at the online presentation of the new Pastoral Year 2020/2021, which

took place on November 28. The Rector of the Marian Shrine noted that the “unforeseen situation, emerging from the pandemic”, constitutes a “profound pastoral challenge that asks to be globally considered in the life and action of the Shrine”. “It is also important to present the message of Fatima as an expression of God’s concern for humankind suffering. As the message of Fatima invites us to intensify the experience of encounter with God, it necessarily implies Christian witness and the availability to go on a mission”, he added.

“Like Mary, bearers of joy and love” is the theme of the new triennial at the Shrine of Fatima that “has as its horizon the holding of the World Youth Day of 2023” (WYD), an international event in Lisbon. “This theme includes the Marian element, characteristic of this Shrine, the dimension of mission, of departure, and joy and love as contents of the Gospel of Jesus”, the Rector said. Father Carlos Cabecinhas explained that the Shrine welcomed the themes proposed by Pope Francis for the years of preparation for WYD to be “fully attuned to the prepa-



ration itinerary”, but also because these themes allow us to reflect on “the characteristics of the present time, which urge us to face the years of this triennial, especially its first year, as configuring the pastoral options at the Shrine of Fatima”.

The Shrine defined five global objectives for the triennial, and the common horizon for all is “the attempt to discern the new challenges to the interpretation and proposal of the Fatima message emerging from the current cultural and

economic-social situation generated by the pandemic” and the “desire to tune in” the Shrine with the WYD preparation process.

Reinforcing the proposal of the message of Fatima “as an appeal to conversion” and perfecting the way to help pilgrims experience it; welcoming and presenting the message of Fatima as God’s Good News and making the Shrine the place to welcome pilgrims in a fragile situation or in suffering are the main objectives of a triennial which, in 2021, invites to an-

nounce and propose the meaningfulness which Christian faith, notably the message of Fatima, can offer to the experience of human fragility.

Therefore, Fatima offers itself “as a message and place of hope by providing meaningfulness to the experience of human frailty and suffering”, and the Holy Shepherds are shown “as exemplary images in the process of giving meaningfulness to suffering and in the solicitude for the other who is suffering”.

The theme for the new pastoral year arises from the biblical quote in the Gospel of Luke: “Young man, I say to you, get up!” (Lk 7:14), which refers to a horizon of hope, in spite of the troubled days, Father Carlos Cabecinhas also notes, underlining God’s presence and commitment to the history of every individual and the entire humankind.

“This theme is an invitation to welcome and express this certainty, rekindled by that horizon of hope that the event of Fatima reaffirms”, the priest says. On the other hand, he highlights Sister Lucia’s Memoirs, when, in the June apparition at Cova da Iria, Our Lady promised her She would never abandon her: «Are you suffering a great deal? Don’t lose heart. I will never forsake you. My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge» (Fourth Memoir).

For the experience of the new three-year pastoral cycle, and especially for this pastoral year, the Shrine has prepared several support elements, such as the poster and other graphic work which throughout the year will remind of the theme guiding the life at the Shrine, a catechesis regarding this theme written in the panels placed along the avenues of the Prayer Area, and a praying itinerary proposed to pilgrims, throughout the triennial, available from Easter.

As for training and meditation, we highlight the return of the Pastoral -Theological Symposium and the round of Meetings at the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary.

On a cultural level, the great organ of the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary will be valued, with several musical moments throughout the year.

There is also the temporary exhibition “The Faces of Fatima: images of a spiritual setting”, which has the particularity of displaying also some of the most meaningful works of the Shrine’s permanent exhibition.

## The exhibition “The Faces of Fatima: Images of a Spiritual Setting” can already be attended at the lower level of the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity

From the event and the Message that Our Lady left at Cova da Iria, the exhibition tells the history of Fatima through several faces / Cátia Filipe



History of the growth of the Shrine linked to the action of bishops and rectors

The new temporary exhibition of the Shrine of Fatima, “The Faces of Fatima: Images of a Spiritual Setting”, can already be attended at the St. Augustine’s Social Hall, in the lower level of the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity.

In this time of pandemic calling all humankind to reflect upon its own condition, the new exhibition shows its topicality by displaying a reflection on the theme of death and life, as bright moments of Man’s pilgrimage in the world.

In a distinctive moment in History, “we wished for this exhibition to be a sign of hope for those who come to visit it”, the exhibition curator, Marco Daniel Duarte, explains to the news bulletin *Fatima Light and Peace*. “In a time when

we all have our faces covered, we believe it is appropriate to look into the faces of Fatima: for they are, through different ways of acting and thinking, the face of a history of hope which has been encouraging the world for more than a century”, the director of the museum of the Shrine of Fatima explains.

From the event and the message which Our Lady left at Cova da Iria, the exhibition tells the history of Fatima in the several faces who made it and whose identity will drive to hope, in this time of insecurity, when masks cover human faces. Through the account of the real actions of the protagonists of Fatima, the work and the commitment they assumed in spreading the message that the Virgin of Fatima has conveyed to

the Little Shepherds is made known.

Presenting the Shrine as a place of pilgrimage, the display will therefore go through the faces who built Fatima from the point of view of faith, heritage and culture, without overlooking in a plurality of ways those who for years have protested as critics and opponents to Fatima.

The exhibition narrative is divided into two sections: “the first one, more factual, relating to the visible faces of Fatima, with the actual people who have built this place; the second one with the specific but spiritual faces, with the theological axes perceived from Fatima, offering a praying visit with a lot of questioning”, Marco Daniel Duarte explains.



Exhibition creates a connection between Fatima and the great issues of Humankind

In the first section, covering the first century of Fatima, the relevant faces of the history of Cova da Iria are made known, starting with the three Seers. The faces of Francisco, Jacinta and Lucia, caught near a wall of their home village – truly the first faces of Fatima –, open the exhibition; they are followed by the “heralds of the contents of a narrative which it was important to spread further beyond”, such as Avelino de Almeida, Judah Bento Ruah, Manuel Nunes Formigão, Luís Fischer, João de Marchi, John Paul II, Luís Kondor, among others. The visitor may also see the faces of the Bishops and Rectors who accompanied the history of this place over the course of a century.

The events at Cova da Iria were also marked by doubt and adversity. The faces of those who proved to be “adversaries”, such as Artur de Oliveira Santos or Tomaz da Fonseca, are also visible in this museum space.

José Galamba de Oliveira, Luciano Coelho Cristino or Joseph Ratzinger are some of the researchers portrayed in this exhibition, without forgetting also those who rendered the “aesthetic that conveys a message”, such as José Ferreira Thedim.

In the second section, the exhibition proposes a prayerful and faith-centred path, challenging the visitor to question himself about his human condition, in a kind of mirror game that confronts the concrete reality that we live with the desire to relate with transcendence. Pilgrims have a prominent place because “all pilgrims of Fatima have a face and a name”.

“The exhibition is the result of an in-depth investigation that required the reading of a lot of archival and bibliographic documentation to make the faces of Fatima appear. All of them deserve to have the thorough biographies that this exhibition intends to provide and, for this reason, the exhibition will bring something new”, says the exhibition’s curator, Marco Daniel Duarte.

The exhibition “The Faces of Fatima” complies with all the health safety rules required in this time of pandemic and fully respects the contingency plan in force at the Shrine of Fatima, resulting from a dialog between the guidelines of the Directorate General of Health for museological spaces and the guidelines of the Portuguese Episcopal Conference.

Most of the pieces on display belong to the collection of the Shrine of Fatima, and there are also pieces from the National Tile Museum, the Aveiro Museum and the Póvoa de Varzim Museum, in addition to private libraries and archives.

The exhibition will be open to the public until October 15, 2022 and can be visited free of charge over the course of these two years.



This exhibition will be open to the public until October 15, 2022

## The World Apostolate of Fatima in Panama streamlines *online* activities in order to reach out to devotees in times of pandemic

A replica of the Little Chapel of the Apparitions is under construction in this Latin American country / Youth Ministry of AMF Panamá



Every journey by the Pilgrim Virgin is a moment of hope for those welcoming her

The World Apostolate of Fatima in Panama (WAF Panama), dedicated to spreading the message of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, has been doing important work creating content on digital social networks, in order to reach the largest number of people, so that the message of Fatima is made known.

In our accounts on Instagram (@am-fatimapy) and Facebook (Apostolado de Fátima Panamá), in this time of pandemic we are able to unify the graphic line and create more regular posts that have become a centre for the release and transmission of the activities we develop.

Weekly we have the possibility to take part in a program on national Catholic television, FETV, called "A New Marian Pentecost", where we broadcast to viewers what Our Lady taught us in Her message, and how to put it into practice and thus lead a life of consecration

to Her, with a current perspective. As soon as the replica of the Little Chapel of the Apparitions of Fatima has been approved in our country, there will be the monthly program "Camino a la Capelina", explaining the process, history and construction of the chapel.

As a result of the global situation, the use of these technological and digital tools was enhanced, allowing us to expand the mechanisms for spreading the message of Fatima, which has led us to diversify our outreach on social networks, creating a Youtube channel (AMF Panamá TV) and a zoom account. Thanks to the conditions provided by these two platforms, we have achieved greater interactivity of our activities, preventing them from being affected by the circumstances of the pandemic.

A monthly calendar of catechesis transmitting the message of Fatima was established by members of the youth

ministry of the WAF. It is intended for young people and the general public, through live broadcasts in the Zoom and Youtube accounts (AMF Panamá TV).

We continue the Practice of the Saturday of Reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and Holy Hours for children and young people, broadcast live in our platforms, all with the support of our spiritual guide, Father Samuel Álvarez. In addition, the pastoral carries out activities together with other archdiocesan pastorals such as: Pastoral of Health, Pontifical Mission Societies, Missionary Childhood and Youth Ministry, sharing with them the prayer of the Holy Rosary and providing our platforms as a means of diffusion.

With all these initiatives and tools we have achieved a greater reach of the message of Our Lady as a beacon of hope in this time of pandemic.

# Pilgrim Statue of the Virgin of Fatima brings hope in times of pandemic

15 journeys are planned in Portugal, Spain, Italy, Nicaragua, Argentina, Brazil, Burkina Faso and Chile / Carmo Rodeia and Cátia Filipe

After several postponements and cancellations this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic, about 15 journeys of the Pilgrim Statue of the Virgin of Fatima are planned in Portugal, Spain, Italy, Nicaragua, Argentina, Brazil, Burkina Faso and Chile.

The novelty will be the visit of the Pilgrim Virgin Statue No. 8 to the Diocese of Kaya, Burkina Faso. This journey was scheduled in 2020, but due to the pandemic context it was postponed to January 2021.

Attentions also turned to Latin America.

Since January 2020, the Pilgrim Virgin Statue No. 6 has been in Nicaragua, for a journey that stops by nine dioceses in the country and around 360 parishes. This journey will continue throughout July 2021, even after the end of the Marian Jubilee in the country, decided by Pope Francis. This is one of the most significant journeys due to the war atmosphere in which the country has been successively immersed, and because it is the first time that a Statue of Fatima will be in this Central American country, although the first efforts in this direction date back to 1982. Issues external to the church prevented the journey at that time.

The Pilgrim Virgin Statue No. 7 has been in Argentina since April 2019. This tour continues in 2021 through several parishes of this Latin American country.

The Pilgrim Virgin Statue No. 2 will be in the parishes of Botão, Brasfemes, Sou-selas and Torre de Vilela, in the Diocese of Coimbra, from May 1 to June 10. The parish of Roliça, in the Diocese of Lisbon, will receive this Statue from June 15th to June 30th.

The Pilgrim Virgin Statue No. 3, will be in the Parish of Nossa Senhora do Rosário de Fátima, Sumaré, in São Paulo, Brazil, from May 1 to October 13.

Between the months of April and August, the Statue of the Pilgrim Virgin No. 4 will be in several dioceses in Italy, in a tour promoted by the Marian Movement Messaggio di Fátima in Italy.



Statue of the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima was carried by the young people of AMF Panamá, at the vigil of World Youth day 2019

The parishes of Alhandra and S. João dos Montes, diocese of Lisbon, will host the Pilgrim Virgin Statue No. 5, during the month of May. This Statue then goes to the parishes of Nossa Senhora das Dores, in Fortaleza, Brazil, from September 5 to September 15.

The Pilgrim Virgin Statue No. 9 will be in the Torrita di Siena and Montefollonico Parishes, Province of Tuscany, in the dioceses of Montepulciano-Chiusi-Pienza, in Italy, from May 1 to May 15. Also in Italy will be the Statue of the Pilgrim Virgin No. 10, in charge of the World Apostolate of Fatima in the Lombardy region, Milan, from Easter to the end of June.

The Pilgrim Virgin Statue No. 11 heads to the Arciprestado de Guadalupe, in Toledo, Spain, from May 1 to May 31.

The Pilgrim Virgin Statue No. 12 will go to Chile, but the date has not yet been confirmed.

The Pilgrim Virgin Statue No. 13, in charge of the Servants of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus and Mary, will be in Miami, United States of America, during the month of June.

This travel schedule for the different Pilgrim Statues of the Virgin of Fatima may change, given the events of the health emergency that the world is facing.

Made according to Sister Lucia's description, the first Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima was offered by the Bishop of Leiria and crowned solemnly by the Archbishop of Évora, on May 13, 1947. From that time on, the Statue has travelled the whole world on several occasions, carrying a message of peace and love.

In order to respond to the immense requests from all over the world, however, several replicas of the first Pilgrim Statue were made, in a total of thirteen.

## Rector of the Shrine of Fatima recalls that “in this context of pandemic, we are invited to pay special attention to human fragility”

Mass of the Monthly Pilgrimage of January in the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity was presided over by Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas / Cátia Filipe



First monthly pilgrimage in 2021 underlined the importance of Our Lady

The Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity hosted the Mass of the Monthly Pilgrimage of January, presided over by Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas, the Rector of the Shrine of Fatima.

Taking the liturgy as his starting point, the priest spoke of the exhortation to “trust in God” and invited “to seeing the message of Fatima as a testimony of God’s kindness towards us, and an invitation to contemplate Mary as the one we must imitate”.

“Mary is that woman covered with sun, glorified in Heaven, and Our Lady does not forget those who were entrusted to Her maternal care, She does not forget us, those who walk on Earth”, advised Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas, explaining that “even in the difficulties of the present time, She raises our hope and strengthens our confidence”.

The message from Fatima “is a strong invitation to trust, because God knows our fragility and is aware of our suffering and that is what Our Lady came here to assure”.

“In a world plunged in darkness, in one of the most dramatic moments in history, in 1917, Our Lady came to bring a message of hope and a strong appeal to trust, which were not only valid for that year, but are still valid, 100 years later”, recalled the Rector, at a time when “we are also experiencing difficult times today”.



Celebration took place during confinement due to the pandemic

“We started a new year with great apprehension and insecurity because of the pandemic that affects us and conditions us in a radical way and we are preparing for a new period of general confinement,” he said.

The year 2021 began marked “precisely by these strong constraints, and today, the Lady who is brighter than the sun comes to bring hope, comes to ensure that we are not alone, that God does not forget us or abandon us”.

Our Lady’s message “in this place is a message of hope and an appeal to trust even in the midst of difficulties, such as those we are now experiencing”.

Recalling the theme of this pastoral year - “Praise the Lord who lifts up the poor” - the priest spoke of the pandemic context, in which “we are invited to pay special attention to human fragility, to our fragile condition, but also to the fragility of those who are beside us, with an invitation to solidarity”.

“We strongly believe that God does not let us go in desperate loneliness through the suffering and pain that we experience,” he explained.

“We believe that God knows our fragility, knows our concerns and sufferings and accompanies us at all times, but above all during these most difficult times, and provides us with the strength to overcome them”, Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas considers.

## “This is what we lack so often, the joy of being Christians and the testimony of that joy”, warned the rector of the Shrine of Fatima

Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas presided over the December monthly pilgrimage / Cátia Filipe



The time of Advent “is marked by this joy of knowing that the Lord is near and makes Himself present”

The Rector of the Shrine of Fatima, Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas, presided over the Mass of the December Monthly Pilgrimage, at the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity. This celebration counted with the blessing of the images of the Child Jesus that the pilgrims brought with them and of the four images of the Child Jesus which were used for veneration at Christmas.

The priest, in the words he addressed to the pilgrims present there, spoke of the Advent Season as a time of “pious and joyful expectation” of the Lord’s coming, “especially in the liturgy of the third Sunday of Advent, in which this exhortation to joy becomes more explicit, because the Lord is near; joy because He comes into our life”. “This is the reason for our joy at the promise of Salvation present in the liturgy of this day; and the exhortation to joy accompanies the celebration of this day because it is the joy that springs from faith and trust in God, that springs from the certainty of the Lord’s closeness, because the horizon of this exhortation is the coming of the Lord”, he said, remembering also that this is why “we are invited to joy

and that the Lord is coming; He is close and does not abandon us in distress”.

According to Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas, the time of Advent “is marked by this joy of those who know that the Lord is near and that He is present, in many ways, in our lives, but as Christmas approaches this exhortation becomes more insistent”. “It may seem like a maladjusted exhortation, due to the

pandemic we are experiencing, we can talk about everything but joy, but it is especially at this moment that this invitation to joy is necessary and makes sense”, warned the Rector.

And it is in the midst of difficulty that this exhortation to joy “makes sense”, “not to ensure that everything runs smoothly for us, but because we know that God does not abandon us, especially in the moments when we are most tempted by discouragement”.

“Celebrating Christmas is just that, knowing that God is close to us, to our difficulties and anguish”, he stated.

“To prepare the ways of the Lord, to prepare to receive Him is also to remove everything that in our life does not point to Christ, does not bear witness to Him in our life; and it is important to bear witness to our joy for His presence in our lives. This is what is captivating and can touch the hearts of those who are with us and this is what we so often lack as Christians, the joy of being Christians and the testimony of that joy”, warned Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas.

This celebration was broadcast on the digital media at the Shrine of Fatima.



In the Sunday of Joy there is the blessing of the images of the Child Jesus

## The Rector of the Shrine presented the message of Fatima as a means of “awareness and strengthening of belonging to the Church”

In the monthly pilgrimage of November, which also celebrated the Solemnity of the Dedication of the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity, Father Carlos Cabecinhas reflected on the “mystery of the Church of living stones” and exhorted to closeness with the Holy Father, through prayer / Diogo Carvalho Alves



Pandemic reduces pilgrims' participation in the celebrations at Fatima

Last November 13, at the November monthly pilgrimage Mass homily, in which the Solemnity of the Dedication of the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity was also celebrated, the Rector of the Shrine of Fatima, Father Carlos Cabecinhas, described the message of Fatima as a means of “awareness and strengthening of belonging to the Church”, namely by the union and communion with the Pope.

Taking the opportunity of the celebration of the dedication of the most recent Basilica of Cova da Iria, the presider of the celebration started by deducing the meaning of the “mystery of the Church of living stones”, from references of the proclaimed Word.

From the idea that every Christian is a “temple and glory of God”, the Rector of the Shrine enlightened the dignity and responsibility that such awareness deserves: “Whether it is when we reunite as a community of believers, whether it is in the silence of our hearts, we are the place which God has chosen to inhabit, hence our dignity and responsibility to rejoice in His joys and suffer with the infidelity of His members”, he said. “Being Church means being in communion with

Pope Francis. The granting of the title of Basilica to this Church highlights the bond of communion with the Church of Rome and with the Holy Father, which here in Fatima is especially meaningful.”

Highlighting Peter’s apostolic primacy as the foundation of the Pope’s mission in the Church and His ministry as a service, the presider of the celebration exhorted to become close to the Holy Father, through prayer, and presented the message of Fatima as a means of “conscience and strengthening of the feeling of belonging to the Church”, namely through that same union and communion with the Pope: “The message of Fatima makes us aware that we are these living stones of

the Church of the Lord. For this reason, it strengthens our sense of belonging to the Church, namely through union with the Holy Father. (...) Celebrating the dedication of this Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity means taking on the commitment of union and communion with the Holy Father, the commitment to welcome his magisterium, the commitment to pray for him”, he concluded.

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



The message of Fatima makes us aware that we are living stones of the Church

## “This book is a mature, solid and current synthesis of the message of Fatima, which offers us a systematization of its contents”

*Inside the Light. Understanding the Message of Fatima* is the title of the book by Sister Angela Coelho / Cátia Filipe



Nun of the Alliance of Holy Mary organizes course on the message of Fatima

*Dentro da Luz. Um itinerário para compreender a mensagem de Fátima* [Inside the Light. Understanding the Message of Fatima] is the title of the book by Sister Angela de Fatima Coelho, of the Alliance of Holy Mary, presented last November 14th, in an online session, with the participation of the author and the Rector of the Shrine, Father Carlos Cabecinhas. “This work is the result of a reflection that has matured and deepened over the more than 20 years during which the author has dedicated herself to disseminating the message of Fatima, through conferences, courses and catechesis, both in Portugal and in other countries, such as the United States, Brazil, Spain or Italy”, began by explaining the priest, who also considers: “familiarity with the sources and published studies allows her to present a faithful and current view of the Message, in its various aspects”; through “the enthusiasm of her words shows the enormous devotion to Our Lady and the Holy Shepherds of Fatima, but also the great love for the holy and faithful people of God, to whom she seeks to transmit this devotion and the topicality of the message of Fatima, through a new and enchanting language and concrete proposals to realize it in this time

and in this world that are ours and that God has entrusted to us”.

Sister Angela’s book is, to a large extent, the fruit of her pastoral commitment of several decades, but particularly the result of tutoring the courses on the message of Fatima, an initiative with which the Shrine of Fatima marked the septennium of preparation for the Centennial of the Apparitions of Fatima and which still remains a privileged place for conveying the Message.

The proposed itinerary, in 12 chapters, “leads us from the content of the message to the testimony of the seers, gradually and progressively”.

“This book is a mature, solid and up-to-date synthesis of the message of Fatima, providing us with a systematization of its contents, enabling us to perceive the event of Fatima globally and making us aware of its relevance today”, considers the Rector.

The author herself clarifies in the opening note that the objective “is simply to make available a presentation, as accessible as possible, to a wide audience with an interest in knowing what Fatima can say to the Christian life today”, without the pretension of “a theological systematization” or a “text with the academic apparatus”.

“The text presented here results from a vast set of theological readings and a personal reflection which were the basis of many lectures and courses that I presented in the service of spreading the message of Fatima in the last twenty years”, clarifies Sister Angela Coelho, who begins this Introduction recounting the personal experience she had during the meetings with Sister Lucia, being the vice-postulator for her Cause of Beatification since 2014.

The book *Inside the Light* is for sale in bookstores and in the online store of the Shrine at <https://store.fatima.pt/>



Book presentation made through the digital media of the Shrine of Fatima

## “Suffering and death cannot be confined”

Eucharist for the victims of the pandemic brought together 21 bishops and national authorities in Fatima, recalling health professionals, researchers and caregivers. / Carmo Rodeia



President of the Republic recalled the model behaviour of the Church in accordance with the health authorities

The Portuguese bishops paid tribute to the victims of the pandemic on 14 November, in a celebration presided over by Bishop José Ornelas Carvalho, which took place in the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity, in Fatima.

The Eucharist recalled families, health professionals, researchers and caregivers, for all their “dedication, effort, intelligence and selflessness” and was a true manifesto in defense of life, which must be defended “unconditionally, with responsibility, generosity and competence”.

“If we learn from this epidemic how to take care of each other and of this world together, we will have done justice to and keep in memory those who have left and the efforts of those who accompanied them in the last stage of life on this earth”, added the Bishop of Setúbal. Bishop José Ornelas Carvalho, current president of the Portuguese Episcopal Conference, also referred that the crisis has shown that “suffering and death cannot be confined and that only together, with the effort and responsibility of all, we can build an acceptable world for all, in which we take care of each other”.

“The pandemic that is affecting the entire planet places us in front of the evidence of the precious gift of human life and all that we are capable of, but also of the fragility of our individual being, of our social, political, economic and social achievements, as well as of the world we inhabit”, he added.

The celebration was attended by 21

bishops, among them the Apostolic Nuncio to Portugal, the Rector of the Shrine of Fatima, the President of the Republic, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, the Prime Minister, António Costa, and several public entities who wanted to join this prayer in homage for the direct or indirect victims of the pandemic.



Celebration was the peak of the Plenary Session of the Portuguese Episcopal Conference in Fatima

## “The culture of care for others and for creation, which has its model in God, is the only way that can lead us to the peace we desire for the new year”

The Shrine of Fatima guaranteed the Christmas and New Year celebrations, respecting the safety rules set out in the contingency plan / Cátia Filipe and Diogo Carvalho Alves



Celebrations of the Time of Christmas marked by veneration of the Child Jesus

The Shrine of Fatima guaranteed the Christmas and New Year celebrations, respecting the safety rules set out, namely the need to maintain physical distance between pilgrims and the mandatory use of mask in all places of the Shrine.

At the Mass of the Nativity of the Lord, the Rector of the Shrine, Father Carlos Cabecinhas, underlined the expression of love present in the Incarnation of the Word and urged pilgrims to live this time with an attitude committed to the Christian fraternity.

“Christmas proclaims that we are the men and women loved by God,” he said, explaining, from the conception of a Christian thinker, the idea of the existence of two ways of showing someone our love: the offer of gifts and, a second one, “more demanding”, the offer of oneself.

“The gifts we offer express our love for those we cherish, our friends, those we love. Now, God, in creation, does this too: he offers us gifts, he gives us created things. At Christmas, God offers Himself as the great gift, the great gift that is given to us. Christmas proclaims that God became one of us, assumed our human condition, our fragility, to show us how much He loves us”, he explained.

“Celebrating Christmas commits us in

our relationship with each other, namely in caring for those by our side who need help. If, in Jesus Christ, God assumes our fragility, welcoming Him means overcoming indifference in the face of the sufferings of others and be willing to be the support and help for the fragility of those around us, whom we live with or contact”, he concluded.

At the end of the celebration, there was the traditional veneration of the Image of the Child Jesus, but without the traditional osculation, which was replaced by a bow.

“Today we celebrate the Solemnity of Saint Mary, Mother of God, the one who, saying “yes” to God’s plan, made the miracle of Christmas possible”, recalled the priest at the Mass on January 1, also stating that it is through Her “that we ask for God’s blessings for this new year 2021”.

Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas considers that the most important gift is peace, “Peace is the synthesis of all the gifts and blessings of God, and it is this gift that we are asking for especially on this first day of the new year”.

The Rector of the Shrine of Fatima said that peace is “our task, it is a mission entrusted to us”. Recalling the message left by Pope Francis at the World Day of Peace 2021, the priest spoke of the

challenge set out to the “culture of care” as a path to peace.

The pandemic that the world is going through “came to call into question some of our safeties, which we thought were unshakable, and has left behind a trail of suffering, either because of the loss of loved ones, or because of the forced isolation to which we are bound, and which affects so many elderly people, or due to economic difficulties, which drag people into situations of real need, and in view of that, it is important to react to the temptation of indifference”.

“Caring for one another” is precisely the path that the Pope points out for this new year.

“This culture of care manifests itself, above all, in the respect for the dignity of each person”, Father Carlos Cabecinhas ensured.

“This culture of care manifests itself in the search for the common good and reveals itself in solidarity”, explained the priest, setting “care” as a “challenge for this new year”.

The message of Fatima “is a message of peace, and guides us towards this culture of care, as shown in the life testimony of the Seers, always concerned with the good they wanted to do to others, always attentive to the poorest, but also always attentive to family members and neighbours, or to pilgrims who sought them out and asked them to intercede for their intentions”.

So “we are all challenged to live this year that now begins with the culture of care for others, and if in a year we could evaluate the year 2021, and evaluate it as the year of care for each other, it would be a good year, it would have been worth it, but it depends on us and our commitment”.

The offertory of this festive time is destined for the Diocese of Pemba in Mozambique, for the displaced people of Cabo Delgado, a northern part of Mozambique, where there is a serious humanitarian crisis due to the attacks perpetrated by Islamic fundamentalist militias, which resulted in more than 2000 deaths and 560,000 people displaced.

## Online store allows pilgrims from afar to purchase official products from the Shrine

In this time of pandemic, when pilgrims cannot travel to the Shrine, the purchase of their official products has been a form of presence / Cátia Filipe



On-line store started in 2018 and has been a way of Fatima being present among pilgrims all over the world



The on-line store sells all the official items of the Shrine

The online store at the Shrine of Fatima opened at the end of 2010, with the selection and description of the items intended to be sold on the internet, but in 2020 it experienced a great qualitative leap, with the increase in supply, a specific team to assist customers and new products on display.

This new dynamics began in 2018, when the online store built its own page and this new address gained an independent dynamics within the physical stores, in order to streamline processes and optimize shipping. The year 2020 brought another collaborator and the transition to a new space. At this moment, one of the objectives is to optimize the dynamics of the page, in sync with the main areas: items, bookstore and paramentaria.

Currently the most sold items are rosaries, books, images of Our Lady, images of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, images of the

Little Shepherds and some items in silver. The items of paramentaria have been registering a greater increase in demand, perhaps also because it was a novelty this year.

The overwhelming majority of customers who make their purchases directly on the website are Portuguese. However, the Shrine of Fatima online store also has customers from Brazil, Spain, France, United States of America, Poland, Italy, United Kingdom and Germany. There are also purchases made by email and telephone, when there is some specificity in what is sought. All of these orders are handled by the online store team and arrive mainly from Latin America (Chile, Mexico), Poland, China, Philippines and Mozambique.

With the pandemic and consequent circulation restrictions, there was an increase in demand for products online. Those who buy in this space available on the internet are 64% women and 36% men,

and mostly aged between 25 and 65 years.

In the official store of the Shrine of Fatima, available at [www.store.fatima.pt](http://www.store.fatima.pt), pilgrims can buy religious items, sculptures, books, paramentaria and other articles related to the event and the message of Fatima, available in a catalogue with more than a thousand articles, constantly updated.

In order to make a purchase, pilgrims must register by opening a customer account, free of charge, which will give them access to faster purchases, checking orders placed and updating the status of their orders. Alternatively, the order can be made by phone – 249 539 690 – or by email – [store@fatima.pt](mailto:store@fatima.pt) –, leaving instructions for delivery.

Online purchases of products sold at the Official Shrine Store are available on the Shrine website – [www.fatima.pt](http://www.fatima.pt) – and information on the procedures is available in the institution's seven official languages.

**FÁTIMA LUZ E PAZ** Editor: Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas \* **Proprietor, Publisher and Editor:** Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fátima \* **Social Security nr.** 500 746 699 \* **Address:** Santuário de Fátima – Rua de Santa Isabel, 360 2495-424 FÁTIMA \* Tel.: +351 249 539 600 \* Fax: +351 249 539 668 \* Email: [press@fatima.pt](mailto:press@fatima.pt) \* [www.fatima.pt](http://www.fatima.pt) \* **Printing:** Gráfica Almondina – Torres Novas \* **Legal Deposit:** 210 650/04 \* **ISSN:** 1647-2438 \* Isento de registo na E.R.C. ao abrigo do decreto regulamentar 8/99 de 9 de Junho – alínea a) do n.º 1 do Artigo 12.º

### FREE ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Send your subscription request to: [assinaturas@fatima.pt](mailto:assinaturas@fatima.pt)

Check out the language in which you wish to receive the issue: German, Spanish, French, English, Italian, Polish, Portuguese

Renewal or new subscription: National Bank Transfer (Millennium BCP): NIB: 0033 0000 50032983248 05

International Bank Transfer: IBAN: PT50 0033 0000 5003 2983 2480 5 BIC/SWIFT: BCOMPTPL

Check or Postal Money Order: To the order of: Fátima Luz e Paz,

Santuário de Nossa Senhora de Fátima, Rua de Santa Isabel, 360 – 2495-424, Fatima, Portugal

**Please help us spread the Message of Our Lady through 'Fatima Light and Peace'!**

*News in this bulletin may be reproduced, provided the source and the author, in case there is one, are shown.*