



Director: Fr. Virgílio Antunes * Proprietor: Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fátima (Portugal) * Quarterly publication * Year VI * Nr. 21 * 2009/05/13

The Church walks with Mary



In the Catholic world one cannot do without Mary. Her role started to be noticed already in the dawn of the Apostolic Church, it was consolidated throughout the long periods of discussions and of Christological and ecclesiological heresies, it stood firm during the crises that led to divisions in the Church.

From the Church Fathers to the great theologians of all times, Tradition and the Church's reflection offer us the best and more beautiful reasons to consider Mary as an integral part of the rich spiritual patrimony of the Church. At the same time, popular piety and the religiosity of the simple people of God never ceased to affirm, in their lives, that unequalled closeness of Mary to the Church, to Christians and, in some way, to all mankind.

Along the same line, the rich pontifical magisterium of long ago, as well as of not long ago and even of the present time, has produced all kinds of documents dealing with the Virgin Mary in the life of the Church and in the lives of her members. Today we are discovering more and more that the Marian way is the door and the way towards the Christian faith, since it favors a very simple and very pure spirituality, indispensable condition to accept the challenges addressed to the human heart by God.

It doesn't surprise us, then, that most great saints have been very devoted to Mary, and that the Church is able to resist all difficulties when her faithful are devoted to Mary. We must mention here the Little Shepherds of Fatima and John Paul II, as examples of persons strong in faith and in their life testimonies, who unabashedly proclaimed to be very devoted to Mary.

The Church, both in Portugal and throughout the world, cannot conceal this reality, for it is one of her most powerful means for the evangelization of peoples. We find the proof of this in the numerous Marian movements that populate the evangelizing space of the Church and in the many manifestations of devotion and Christian faith during this month of May.

The pilgrimage of May 12/13 to the Shrine of Fatima and the departure of the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima of the Little Chapel of Apparitions for the commemorations of the fiftieth anniversary of the Statue of Christ-King are two great moments of evangelization led by the hand of Our Lady. The Church will be more strengthened in her faith, which of course is based on Jesus Christ, Son of Mary.

*Father Virgílio Antunes,
Rector*

Francisco Marto, Patron of Altar Boys and Girls

At the end of the morning of May 1, during the Mass celebrated in Most Holy Trinity Church, the Most Rev. Anacleto Cordeiro Gonçalves Oliveira, Auxiliary Bishop of Lisbon and President of the Bishops Committee for the Liturgy, announced the good news to the thousands of altar boys and girls gathered there: Blessed Francisco Marto, little shepherd of Fatima, due to his great love for the Eucharist, will be proclaimed, by the Bishops Conference of Portugal, Patron of the Altar Boys and Girls of Portugal.

The numerous group – over four thousand five hundred boys and girls and their families taking part in the National Pilgrimage of Altar Boys and Girls to Fatima – erupted in a prolonged applause, showing that way the joy with which the news was received.

A holy card with the photo of the Little Shepherd and a prayer composed for this occasion was distributed to everyone. Then the prayer was read aloud by the group.

Let us recall that the Shrine of Fatima began on June 11, 2008, date of the 100th anniversary of the birth of the Blessed Little Shepherd, a Year of commemorations, in which we recall the life and testimony of Francisco Marto.

This Year will end in June 2009.



Statue of Our Lady will go to Lisbon & Almada

On May 16/17, 2009, the Statue of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima enthroned in the Little Chapel of Apparitions will leave the Shrine for the tenth time.

It will travel to Lisbon and Almada in order to be present at the Commemorations of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Shrine of Christ-King, erected at Almada, Diocese of Setúbal.

This will be the tenth time the Statue of the Little Chapel of Apparitions leaves the Shrine; the sixth took place precisely for the inaugural of the Monument to Christ-King, on May 17, 1959, when the consecration of Portugal to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary was made.

The Rector of the Shrine of Christ-King announced that the commemorations of next May will have a 'rich and varied' program, which will include a national contest – for children, youths and adults. This program also

includes sculpture, painting, photography and poetry on the topic of 'Jesus Christ: a Man of Peace'; also, amongst other things, the publication of two books on Christ-King.

Talking about the trip of the Statue of Fatima to the Shrine of Christ-King, Fr. Seznando Alberto informs us that "We are going to repeat the gesture of fifty years ago" and adds: "The statue arrives on May 16 in Lisbon, where there will be a Eucharistic concentration near Praça do Comércio (Commerce Square). On that afternoon, it will travel by boat to Almada, in a boat of the Portuguese Navy. There it will stay in the Parish Church, where there will be a Prayer Vigil. At the end of the morning of the 17th, it will be taken in procession to the Shrine of Christ-King, in order to be present at the celebrations of the Commemoration, at 16h00. The Portuguese Bishops will also be present".



This statue only leaves Little Chapel of Apparitions on very special occasions.

The first time the statue of Our Lady of Fatima left Little Chapel of Apparitions was on April 7 thru 13, in order to be present at the conclusion of a congress organized by the

Trips of the Statue of Our Lady

National Council of Catholic Young Women, held in Lisbon.

The second was in 1946, during the three-hundredth anniversary of the proclamation of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception as Queen of Portugal. The statue left the Shrine of Fatima on the morning of November 22 and returned on December 24, after traveling through the provinces of Estremadura and Ribatejo.

The third was in October 1947 thru January 1948. The statue peregrinated through Alentejo and Algarve, crossing twice the border between Portugal and Spain, namely at Elvas and at Vila Real de Santo António.

The fourth happened during the Marian Diocesan Congress of Madrid. The statue of Little Chapel of Apparitions traveled to Madrid, passing through other towns between May 22 and June 2, 1948.

The fifth trip occurred between June 9 and August 13, 1951, when the statue visited all the parishes of the Diocese of Leiria.

The sixth departure of the statue of Our Lady was during the inaugural of the Monument to Christ-King on May 17, 1959, when the statue visited once more Lisbon and also Almada.

The seventh was done at the request of Pope John Paul II, when the statue left on March 24, 1984, for Rome, where, a day later, in St. Peter's Square, during a Mass presided over by John Paul II, he made the consecra-

tion of the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. It was on that day, March 25, 1984, that John Paul II handed over to Msgr. Alberto Cosme do Amaral (deceased on October 7, 2005), then Bishop of Leiria-Fátima, the bullet that pierced him during the attempt on his life on May 13, 1981. The projectile was encrusted in the crown of the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima donated to the Virgin Mary by Portuguese women on October 13, 1942.

The eighth departure took place on October 8, 2000, when the statue traveled to the Vatican for the consecration, in St. Peter's Square, in the presence of 1500 bishops from all over the world and thousands of faithful and pilgrims, by His Holiness Pope John Paul II, in union with all the bishops in the whole world, of the new millennium to the Blessed Virgin, before this statue of Our Lady of Fatima.

The ninth trip of the Statue of the Virgin Mary that is enthroned in the Little Chapel of Apparitions was to Lisbon, on November 12, 2005, when the City Capital of Portugal was consecrated to Our Lady of Fatima. The Act of Consecration, after a candlelight procession with the statue, in which, according to official count, half a million people took part, was one of several initiatives included in the religious program of the International Congress for the New Evangelization, which was held in Lisbon on November 5 thru 13, 2005.

Relics of Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque in Portugal

Together with the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, also the Relics of Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, from the Monastery of Paray le Monial, France, will be present at the Commemorations of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Monument to Christ-King.

In their travels through the Portuguese dioceses, the Relics

will visit the Diocese of Leiria-Fátima. At the Shrine of Fatima, they will be exposed to the veneration of the faithful in the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary, on May 21/22.

The name of this French Saint – Margaret Mary Alacoque – is intimately linked to the fervorous devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

XXV Anniversary of Consecration of World to Immaculate Heart of Mary

To Your protection we fly, O Holy Mother of God!

Emotion and joy were written all over the faces of the pilgrims who on the morning of March 25, at Fatima, took part in the renewal of the Consecration of the World to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, precisely 25 years after the Statue of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima traveled to the Vatican, at the request of John Paul II, to be present when the Pope read the Act of Entrustment to Our Lady, in union with all the bishops of the entire world.

The renewal of the Act of Consecration took place at the Little Chapel of Apparitions, after Mass in Most Holy Trinity Church.

Bishop António Marto, Ordinary of Leiria-Fatima, who had presided over the Mass, in the company of the Most Reverend Serafim Ferreira da Silva, Bishop Emeritus of Leiria-Fatima, and of twenty priests, turned towards the Statue of Our Lady and, using the same words of John Paul II in 1984, consecrated Mankind to the Virgin Mother.

Priests and pilgrims present in the Little Chapel, at one



voice, joined the Bishop of Leiria-Fatima and all, kneeling, prayed to Our Lady by following the text found in a little leaflet distributed early in the morning for this purpose and as a souvenir of this day.

These are the last words found in the Consecration text that were uttered by John Paul II on March 25, 1984, in St. Peter's Square: "May the infinite saving power

of Redemption be revealed once more in the history of the world: the infinite force of Merciful Love! May it stop evil! May consciences be transformed! May the Light of Hope be made manifest for all in Your Immaculate Heart!"

After this moving and solemn moment, the hymn 'Totus Tuus, Maria' (All Yours, O Mary), the motto of John Paul II, echoed throughout the entire Prayer Area.

Leopoldina Simões

March 25, 1984

On March 25, 1984, at St. Peter's Square, in Rome, before the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, John Paul II consecrated the World to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. It was a gesture of enormous importance, a historic moment in the life of the Church and of the World.

We recall here the final part of the Letter of the Holy Father to all the Bishops of the Church, dated December 8, 1983, in which John Paul II urged the world's prelates to unite themselves to him in the Act of Consecration, explaining the importance of the gesture to be held in the following year, with the following words:

"I can't but be convinced that to repeat this Act during the Jubilee Year of our Redemption is a response to the expectations of many human hearts who desire to renew the testimony of their devo-

tion to the Blessed Virgin and to entrust to Her their own anxieties in face of the many evils of today, their apprehensions regarding future threats and their preoccupation with peace and justice in each nation and in the entire world".



A Visit to the Exhibitions of the Shrine of Fatima

The Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima in Portugal continues keen on offering to its pilgrims and visitors exhibitions where the religiosity and the culture connected with this place take a concrete shape.

In this issue, as a form of invitation, we travel through the Shrine's two permanent museological spaces and through the temporary exhibitions exposed in it.

Permanent Exhibitions

“FATIMA LIGHT AND PEACE”



Gifts which pilgrims in the course of time have been presenting to Our Lady are now on view, since the beginning of August 2002, under the title ‘Fatima Light and Peace’, in the rectory building of the Shrine of Fatima.

The articles exhibited are of the most varied order, from the crown of Our Lady to the gifts of Pope John Paul II, passing through wedding dresses, a bicycle, a football jersey or even some wax figure.

Truly significant is the fact that each article has a history that reflects the life history of the one who offered it and which is known only to himself and to God. This exhibition is the work of thousands and thousands of pilgrims who in Fatima and in its message seek and find a little Light and Peace which emanate from God and which Mary communicates here in Fatima.

“MUSEUM-HOUSE OF ALJUSTREL”



The primitive building where the museum is installed now, possibly goes back to the 17th century. In 1880, this rural house belonged to José Pedro Marto, who left it to his daughter, Maria Rosa, the godmother of seer Lúcia. Maria Rosa married José Henriques.

This simple and good-hearted farmer taught here many youths and adults to read and write, in his sparetime at night. Presently, the museum aims at showing what life in the village was like in the past. It was opened to the public on August 19, 1992.

Temporary Exhibitions

The temporary exhibitions of the Shrine of Fatima do not require an admission fee and are open at various zones in the underground space of the compound of Most Holy Trinity Church.

“FÁTIMA IN THE WORLD”

In an underground hall of the Most Holy Trinity Church compound, the exhibition ‘Fatima in the World’ exhibits photographs of shrines, churches and chapels dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima in all five Continents.

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



“FRANCISCO, FRIEND OF ‘HIDDEN JESUS’”

At the beginning of 2008, during the planning of the Children's Pilgrimage to Fatima, it was proposed that Portuguese children and adolescents attending catechism classes or holding leisure activities (ATL's) take part in a contest involving writing (by hand) a text or drawing a picture with the title ‘Francisco, the Friend of the Hidden Jesus’. Children from all over the country responded to the challenge, producing 984 works, mostly drawings. The best works are on exhibition in underground hall in Most Holy Trinity Church compound.



“VIA LUCIS”

Inaugurated on June 2, 2008, the exhibition ‘Via Lucis’ (Way of Light) was donated to the Shrine by the Italian Catholic lay group ‘Witnesses to the Risen One’ and was installed in the hall between the Chapel of the Resurrection and the Chapel of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, in the Reconciliation Zone of the Most Holy Trinity Church compound. It consists of fourteen pictures by Italian artist Vanni Rinaldi.



The pictures show the Mystery of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, from the moment of Resurrection to the day of Pentecost, when the Risen One sends to the disciples the promised Holy Spirit.

“KAROL WOJTYLA, FAITH, WAY, FRIENDSHIP – TRIPS WITH FRIENDS”

The photographic exhibition ‘Karol Wojtyla: faith, journey, friendship. Trips with Friends (1952-1954)’ was inaugurated by the Most Rev. António Marto, Bishop of Leiria-Fatima, and Lady Katarzyna Skórczynska, Ambassador of Poland in Portugal, on February 13, 2009.

The photographic exhibition is divided into four sections which show four types of walks of the group ‘Circle’, a prayer and reflection group to which Karol Wojtyla belonged when he was in charge of the pastoral ministry at the University of Krakow. The photographic documents are from the time of 1952 thru 1954.

The historic photographs belong to Jerzy Ciesielski and Stanislaw A. Rybicki. The exhibition was conceived by Michal and Anita Michalak.



Francisco and Jacinta Visit Shrine of O. L. of Fatima in St. Vittorino Romano, Italy



The liturgical Feast of the Fatima Blesseds (on February 20) was celebrated with great pomp and circumstance. It was preceded by a triduum during which the number of faithful kept growing.

The most significant moment occurred with the visit of the statues of Blessed Little Shepherds Francisco and Jacinta on Saturday, February 21, which were made available by the Diocesan Service of Coordination of Marian Missions of the Movement of the Message of Fatima, of the Diocese of Sabina and Poggio Mirteto. To them our heartfelt thanks! The two statues, welcomed by the Rector of the Shrine, were placed on a golden pedestal and entered at the same time the chapel reserved for them, for the prayer of welcome.

From there they departed, carried on the shoulders of four collaborators of the Shrine, in procession towards the Shrine, while the Nuns

Oblates of Mary Virgin and all the faithful sang the "On the 13th of May..."

Once in the Shrine they were placed at the feet of Our Lady. Then the case with the relics was opened amidst the enthusiastic applause of the moved assembly. The Rosary was prayed and a festive Mass celebrated. After Mass, the kissing of the relics of the Blesseds concluded the festivities.

On Sunday, February 22, a resplendent sun and a spring air welcomed everyone coming to attend Mass and to stay, after Mass, praying before Our Lady and Her beloved ones. At the end of the solemn afternoon celebration, the Vice-Rector, Fr. Vincenzo, blessed, with the sacred relics of the Blesseds, the numerous children present with their families, gathered next to the altar.

Afterwards, the whole multitude of people filling the Shrine returned, singing the Litany of Our Lady – like in the great occasions – in procession with the statues and the relics of Blesseds Francisco and Jacinta towards their chapel, where they had been welcomed on the previous day, in order to proceed to the farewell.

It was a short day, but very intense, in the company of the two beloved children of Mary, as short and intense was their lives on Earth.

We also, through these two children, Blesseds Francisco and Jacinta Marto, are today called anew by the Lady from Heaven to respond to Her invitation with our lives, so that the Message of Fatima remain, in the words of Pope John Paul II, "forever alive, in order to light the way for Mankind".

Fr. Giovanni Mannini, OMV

Rector of the Shrine of St. Vittorino Romano, Italy

After Easter, Luxembourg celebrates Feast of Fatima

Eighteen Portuguese speaking emigrant communities of the Grand Ducat of Luxembourg celebrated Easter 2009. From Palm Sunday to the Solemnity of Easter, the missionaries – priests, religious and laypeople – traveled from region to region, from the cities to the most remote villages, so that the emigrant families wouldn't miss Mass, Reconciliation and the Easter triduum in their maternal language.

It was a joy to see the Catholic communities – Portuguese, Brazilian and Cape Verdean – joined to listen to Scripture, celebrate Easter and grow in Faith and Charity: united in one tongue and unique fraternity. In some towns and cities, also the Italian, French and Luxembourgian communities joined in, producing a symphonic, intercultural and intercommunity liturgy – as they say – thus helping the parishes, the celebration of the differences that characterize them and that renew them in time and familiarity.

Now that Easter is over, the community is already mobilizing for another initiative of great proportions. We are talking about the largest religious event in the country, in terms of participation by both emigrants and Lux-

embourgers; with all the Portuguese joining in the faith, the feast and in the same cultural belonging; with everyone sharing despite the linguistic differences of the different Portuguese-speaking communities; with everyone, both Christian emigrants and Luxembourgers, gathering under the same banner, their Baptism.

The Portuguese, Cape Verdean and Brazilian communities, together with the local Church and the various associations, are readying the last-minute preparations for the great International Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Wiltz, Luxembourg, which happens to be, since almost forty years ago, on Ascension Holiday, which this year falls on May 21. In some Portuguese Catholic communities, the pilgrimage on foot, so dear to popular religiosity, grows from year to year.

It is very important to keep the country and the Church in Portugal informed about the many good things our emigrants accomplish throughout the world. Fatima is the force that helps and encourages them to get integrated into their new country.

Fr. Rui Pedro, c. s., Luxembourg

Our Lady has Shrine in Vallioor, India

"I am Fr. A. J. Camillus, Rector of the Shrine of Fatima in Vallioor, Southern India. There are about 500 families in this parish, where people are very devoted to Our Lady of Fatima". This was the first time Fr. Camillus contacted the Editorial Staff of the international quarterly newsletter 'Fátima Luz e Paz' (Fatima Light and Peace).

We replied to him and Fr. Camillus once again contacted us to let us know how Easter was celebrated in 2009 in that shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in India: "Happy Easter! The liturgical celebrations of Holy Week went well, with a great affluence of the faithful. In order to show their Christian charity, our parishioners prepared a large communitarian meal (*agape*), on Easter Sunday.

To know about the history of this shrine, the pastor invites us to visit his page in the Internet: www.attnavallioor.com, where you can read:

"Its history can be traced back to 1914. There was a small chapel in honor of St. Michael, the Archangel. In 1965 it was separated from Panagudi parish to Nanguneri parish to which Fr. Antony S. Fernando, of happy memory, was the missionary priest. His heart was burning with zeal and enthusiasm at the thought of Fatima message and had been exclusively promoting and preaching the message of Fatima. He inculcated the desire of propagating the Fatima message of peace in the hearts of the people. He started a novena to Our Lady of Fatima so that his dream may come true. Our Lady was so kind to answer his prayers. In 1965 the foundation stone was laid down for the Shrine at Vallioor by Msgr. Stepen Dias, the vicar general of Tuticorin Diocese. Before the project could be realized he had



to pass through great difficulties. Donations from good souls enable him to buy adjacent lands and at present the shrine stands 55 acres of land with shady trees".

Today, there are various pastoral activities, which are presented under the beautiful common designation: "Lived and Shared Faith".

The services offered range from liturgical and pastoral acts, yearly scheduled, to education activities.

Leopoldina Simões

Archbishop of Pisa (Italy) receives statue of Our Lady of Fatima

From September 28 to October 6, 2008, the Parish of St. Joseph in Pontedera (Pisa) celebrated its Feast in honor of Our Lady of Divine Help.

The festivities lasted a whole week, during which, every day, Mary was contemplated as the model of spouse and mother, as well as a woman who obeys, listens and announces; the woman of yes ('fiat'), of peace; the woman Who walks with us, specially at these times of lack of faith.

On the 28th of September, the Most Rev. Giovanni Paolo Benotto, Metropolitan Archbishop of Pisa, started the celebrations with a Mass dedicated to Our Lady.

On this occasion, after Holy Mass, a statue of Our Lady of Fatima, brought already blessed from the Shrine of Fatima, Portugal, was to His Excellency donated by a young woman consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and member of



the Movement 'Family of the Immaculate Heart of Mary'.

In the moment of the hand-over, there were also present: the Parish Priest, Fr. Giulio Giannini; Fr. Marco Formica, secretary of the Archbishop; and several seminarians.

It was a very moving moment. His Excellency showed his joy for having received a beautiful statue of Our Lady and showed his appreciation. He also let it be

known that he was greatly surprised at the reception of a statue from one of the greatest places of spirituality, where Our Lady came down from Heaven to ask Her children to pray the Holy Rosary, to do penance, to make sacrifices and to be devoted to Her Immaculate Heart.

On that night, Our Lady wanted to touch the hearts of Her children, wanted to

leave in their hearts a sign.

Heavenly Mother, always protect and look after Msgr. Benotto, with your maternal help, also the entire Diocese of Pisa and the Seminary. Prepare these young seminarians to become holy priests!

Our Lady always leaves a trace of light where She passes through.

Thanks, Our Lady!

*Alessandra Bimbi (FCIM),
Itália*

Yearly Pilgrimage to Shrine of Mont-Roland, France



"Like St. Paul, let us convert!" This was the motto chosen by the organizing committee of this great pilgrimage in honor and praise to Our Lady of Fatima, which, since 1966, is held yearly at the Shrine of Mont-Roland, near the city of Dole, France. This year it will be on May 9/10.

This religious event is celebrated every year on the second weekend of the month of May. (...) The history of this event dates back to 1966, when about 40 pilgrims went to Mont-Roland, on the second Sunday of the month of May, to venerate Our Lady of Fatima.

In 1968, when the number of pilgrims had already reached 400 people, Msgr. Flusin, then Bishop of St. Claude (Jura), came to the Shrine to bless the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima that is still there.

This pilgrimage is today one of the largest pilgrimages organized in France, with the number of pilgrims reaching up to between 16,000 and 20,000. They come from the Northeast of France, as well from the neighboring countries of Switzerland, Germany, Luxembourg and Belgium.

They come yearly to live moments of faith and love in the presence of Our Heavenly Mother, Our Mother, as well as to get together with their relatives and friends.

Joaquim da Costa Ferreira, Besançon, France

Our Lady of Fatima in Hammamet, Tunisia

A statue of Our Lady of Fatima, donated by Fr. Louis Kondor, Head of the Secretariat of the Little Shepherds, was enthroned and crowned on October 19, 2008, in a chapel built expressly for that purpose within the Parish Church of Hammamet, located in Hammamet, Tunisia.

Msgr. Maroun Lahham, Bishop of Tunis, presided over the moving ceremony, helped by Fr. Moise Koumakpai.

Besides the crowning and enthronement of the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, seven children made their First Communion, including a Tunisian child baptized on the previous day.

The Parish Church, which was previously in a bad state of repair, although always open for religious service to the numerous tourists visiting this beach and thermal resort, has been restored with much dignity and love.

This restoration was done thanks to the tenacity of the Bishop of Tunis and the Pastor of Hammamet, who made this work in a Muslim land, formerly the Christian Center of North Africa.

What remains is the hope that Our Lady will certainly do the rest.

Many Portuguese benefactors helped and continue to help this work of hope, which is reborn in this land of so many martyrs with the help, of course, of St. Augustine.

The number of children in Catechism classes is growing, a seed of great hope.

The Blessed Mother will certainly do miracles in this land of St. Augustine!

*Fr. Moise Koumakpai,
Pastor of Hammamet*



Children's Pilgrimage to Fatima

One of the most singular pilgrimages to the Shrine of Fatima in Portugal, the Children's Pilgrimage, which is always held on June 9/10, since 1978, has proposed for this year of 2009 the example of life of the little seer of Fatima Francisco Marto to the children of the whole world.

Based on the topic proposed this year by the Shrine of Fatima to its pilgrims 'The pure of heart shall see God', taken from the Sermon of the Mount on the Beatitudes and solidly founded on the 9th Commandment of the Law of God, was chosen the motto for this Pilgrimage: 'I WANT TO POSSESS A BEAUTIFUL HEART'.

This motto intends to combine the longing for a pure heart urged in that Beatitude and the life of Blessed Francisco Marto.



Fátima – Light and Peace

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24 Hours of Praise to the Lord in Fatima

Starting on Easter Sunday 2009, there will be Perpetual Adoration to the Blessed Sacrament in the Chapel with the same name, situated in the underground area of the compound of Most Holy Trinity Church, in the Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, Portugal.

In order to make more visible the connection between the Eucharist we adore and the Eucharist we celebrate, Holy Mass will be celebrated there once a week. It will take place on Thursday, day on which the Eucharist was instituted, at 18h30, followed by the renewal of the Host and a moment of communitarian adoration.

For this extension of the time of adoration, the Shrine of Fatima continues to count on the important help given by already existent voluntary groups and welcomes others which may be formed by parishes or religious movements. The Shrine of Fatima thanks also the many laypeople who, individually, want or intend to begin offering some of their time, day or night, to the Lord.

During the day, the adoration to the Blessed Sacrament will continue being



assured by the Reparation Sisters of Our Lady of Sorrows of Fatima, a Congregation founded by Canon Manuel Nunes Formigão, precisely in response to the requests for reparation made both by Our Lady and by the Angel to the Little Shepherds.

Fr. Virgílio Antunes, Rector of the Shrine of Fatima, who entrusts this initiative to Our Lady and Blesseds Francisco and Jacinta Marto, sees this extension as the fruit of renewed interest of and devotion to Perpetual Adoration, that is, continuous praise. This is what he says: "We hope that the time of adoration at the Shrine of Fatima be an occasion for the great renewal of the Christian faith we profess and live".

Free Subscriptions from 2009 on

Fatima Luz e Paz saw the light of the day on May 13, 2004, with the purpose of gathering, in an atmosphere of faith and dialogue, the many devotees of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima throughout the world.

Since the beginning, this international newsletter – published in Portuguese, German, Spanish, French, English, Italian and Polish – bore the costs of editing, printing and dispatching to all places in the world (shrines, churches, parishes, movements and others) bearing the name of Our Lady of Fatima. And many they are!

Immediately after the first issues, at the request of single pilgrim individuals, specially of those who came to know about the publication here at the Shrine of Fatima, a paid subscription was made available to them.

After almost five years, the Shrine of Fatima, as a way of thanking all the messages of encouragement and devotion received during this time, has decided that *Fatima Luz e Paz* will from now on be sent free of charge to all those who wish to receive it.

Nevertheless, we'll appreciate all donations sent to us for the purpose of offsetting the costs of this publication. We will send a Receipt of Donation – good for tax purposes – by postal mail to everyone who sends a donation for this purpose.

We'll keep in touch!

The "Fatima Light and Peace" team

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

On the Centennial of the Birth of Blessed Francisco Marto

Francisco Marto: Candle lighted by God

In her fourth Memoir, Sister Lucia wrote this about her cousin Francisco: "When, at 7 years of age, I began taking my flock to pasture, he seemed indifferent. It is true he would go, at the end of the day, with his little sister to await my arrival, but it seemed that it was more to please her than out of friendship. They would wait in the front yard of my parents' home. And, while Jacinta, hearing the bells, ran to meet me, he, on the other hand, waited for me, seated on the stone steps in front of the home. Then, he would go with us to the old threshing floor, to play, while we waited for Our Lady and the Angels to light Their candles. He would get all excited while counting their number, but nothing excited him like the sun rising and the sunset. While one could still see some ray of sunlight, he wouldn't look for lighted candles.

"No candle is as beautiful as Our Lord's candle" (Sun) - he would tell Jacinta, who preferred more Our Lady's candle (Moon), because - she would say - it doesn't hurt your eyes.

Excited, his eyes would follow all the sunrises, which, darting from windowpane to windowpane of the neighboring homes or from water drops spread over the trees and bushes in the mountains, made them shine as other so many stars a thousand times more beautiful, he thought, than those of the Angels (the real stars). (*Memoirs of Sister Lucia*, IV Memoir, 1941, I - Portrait of Francisco).



In the Sixth Memoir, we find another beautiful expression: at dusk, they would go "to wait for Our Lady and the Angels to light their candles and place them at the window of Heaven, in order to give us light" (VI Memoir, 1993, #29).

Holy Father John Paul II, in his homily of May 13, 2000, alluded to the two little shepherds whom he beatified, when he prayed this way: "I praise You, O Father, because You deigned to reveal these truths to the little ones". Jesus' praise takes today the solemn form of the beatification of little shepherds Francisco and Jacinta. The Church wants,

with this rite, to place on the candelabrum these two candles that God lighted in order to illuminate mankind in its somber and uneasy hours. May they shine over the roads of this numerous multitude of pilgrims and of those who accompany us by radio and television. May they be a friendly light illuminating the entire Portugal and, in a special way, this Diocese of Leiria-Fátima" (Homily of Pope John Paul II, May 13, 2000, #5).

Allow me just a little remark on the candle (oil-lamp) here on view: In 1958, Mr. Marques Gomes, a collector of oil-lamps, visited the house of little shepherds Francisco and Jacinta and acquired, from members of the family of Francisco and Jacinta, in exchange for a bronze oil-lamp, the oil-lamp that illuminated the birth of the two seers and the death of Francisco. On June 12, 2000, already after the beatification, Mrs. Maria de Lourdes Marques Gomes Bazenga, daughter of the collector, donated to the Shrine of Fatima the original oil-lamp and said: "I entrust this donation to Our Lady with the wish that the little shepherds, up there in Heaven, may obtain for us the light of God".

That is also what we ask for us from Blesseds Francisco and Jacinta Marto.

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Congress 'Francisco Marto - To Grow into the Gift'



The program of celebrations commemorating the birth of Blessed Francisco Marto will conclude with a congress to be held at the Shrine of Fatima, Portugal, between the 18th and the 20th of June. Its purpose is to study the figure and the testimony of this child, as well as some aspects related to the spirituality of children.

Francisco died before completing eleven years of age; nevertheless, he will always be linked to the history and to the message of Fatima, as a witness to the apparitions of Our Lady and as a faithful practitioner of the message of Mary.

Fr. Vítor Coutinho, a priest of the Diocese of Leiria-Fátima, who heads the executive committee of the congress, explains: "The celebration of this centennial is an occasion to hold a congress to study the figure of this child, through the understanding of the challenges it may pose to the living of the faith, and to open up for us new horizons to reflect on the role of childhood in the context of Christian spirituality".

And he goes on: "Besides the personality of Francisco Marto and the message of Fatima, several questions related to childhood will be dealt with: music, literature, spirituality, catechesis, juridical protection, theology, pastoral ministry".

Exhibition on Francisco Marto

The purpose of the exhibition "Francisco Marto: Candle Lighted by God" is to recall the Fatima boy to whom Our Lady appeared in 1917 and whom Pope John Paul beatified on May 13, 2000.

It is open to the public in the entrance hall of 'Convívium Santo Agostinho' (St. Augustine Reception Hall), in the underground floor of the compound of Most Holy Trinity Church, until June 30, 2009.

The articles exhibited are part of the collection of the Shrine of Fatima; others were kindly loaned by various religious institutions. Some are true relics, which have never been exhibited, among which there is a set of pieces related to the translation, in 1952, of the mortal remains of Francisco Marto, from the Cemetery of Fatima to the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary, at the Shrine of Fatima.

Capping the exhibition, another surprise: the autograph of Francisco Marto accompanying these words uttered by him in July 1917: "We were burning in that light that is God and were not consumed. How is God?! There are no words to describe Him! But this, yes, we can say it".

The inauguration of the exhibition took place on the morning of April 4, 2009, on the 90th anniversary of the death of Blessed Francisco Marto and it was presided over by the Most Rev. António Marto, Bishop of Leiria-Fátima.

