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“Mother, I come before you as a son”



On arrival at the Shrine of Fatima on May 12, in the afternoon, Holy Father Benedict XVI was welcomed by thousands of pilgrims from all over the world. Children of Fatima awaited him at the Little Chapel of Apparitions. The Pope placed at the feet of the Statue of Our Lady the Gold Rose; then prayed to Our Lady.

Our Lady,
Mother of all men and women,
I come before you as a son
visiting his Mother,
and I do so in the company
of a multitude of brothers and sisters.

As the Successor of Peter,
to whom was entrusted the mission
of presiding in the service
of charity in the Church of Christ
and of confirming all in faith and in hope,
I wish to present to your
Immaculate Heart
the joys and hopes
as well as the problems and sufferings
of each one of these sons and daughters of yours
who are gathered in Cova da Iria
or who are praying with us from afar.

Mother most gentle,
you know each one by name,
you know each one's face and personal history,
and you love them all
with maternal benevolence
that wells up from the very heart of Divine
Love.
I entrust and consecrate them all to you,
Mary Most Holy,
Mother of God and our Mother.

Venerable Pope John Paul II,
who visited you three times here in Fatima
and thanked the “unseen hand”
that rescued him from death
in the assassination attempt on 13 May
in Saint Peter's Square almost thirty years ago,
wanted to offer to the Shrine of Fatima

a bullet which gravely wounded him
and was placed in the crown of the Queen of
Peace.

It is a profound consolation
to know that you are crowned
not only with the silver
and gold of our joys and hopes,
but also with the “bullet”
of our anxieties and sufferings.

I thank you, beloved Mother,
for the prayers and sacrifices
that the shepherd-children
of Fatima offered for the Pope,
led by the sentiments
that you inspired in them in the apparitions.

I also thank all those who,
every day,
pray for the Successor of Peter
and for his intentions,
that the Pope may be strong in faith,
bold in hope and zealous in love.

Beloved Mother of us all,
here in your Shrine of Fatima I consign
the Gold Rose
that I have brought from Rome
as a homage of gratitude from the Pope
for the marvels that the Almighty
has worked through you
in the hearts of so many who come as pilgrims
to this your maternal home.

I am sure that the shepherd-children of Fatima,
Blesseds Francisco and Jacinta
and the Servant of God Lucia of Jesus,
are united with us at this hour of prayer and
jubilation.

Benedict XVI – Fátima, 12 May 2010

Pope recalls trip to Portugal

Dear brothers and sisters, my pilgrimage to Portugal has been a moving experience, rich with many spiritual gifts. While the memory of this unforgettable Journey, the warm, spontaneous welcome, the enthusiasm of the people remain fixed in my mind and heart, I give praise to the Lord for having opened to the world, through Mary's Apparitions to the three shepherd children, a privileged space in which to encounter the divine mercy that heals and saves. At Fatima, the Blessed Virgin invites everyone to consider the earth as the place where we make our pilgrimage towards the definitive homeland, which is Heaven. In reality we are all pilgrims, and we need our Mother to guide us. The theme of my Apostolic Journey to Portugal was, "With You We Walk in Hope: Wisdom and Mission". And at Fatima the Blessed Virgin Mary invites us to walk with great hope, letting ourselves be guided by the "wisdom from on high" manifest in Jesus, the wisdom of love, so that we might carry Christ's light and joy to the world. I therefore invite you to join me in prayer, asking the Lord to bless the efforts of those in that beloved Nation who dedicate themselves to the service of the Gospel and to the search for the true good of man, of every human being. Furthermore we pray that, through the intercession of Mary Most Holy, the Holy Spirit may make this Apostolic Trip fruitful, and may give life to the mission of the Church worldwide, instituted by Christ, to proclaim to all peoples the Gospel of truth, peace and love.

Benedict XVI
Saint Peter's Square,
19 May 2010

A Church united around her Universal Pastor



The Mass of May 13 was presided over by the Pope and concelebrated by 1442 priests, 77 bishops and 44 cardinals. Signed up for participation in this Mass were 214 groups of pilgrims from 40 countries. During this international pilgrimage of May 2010, 332 pilgrims were attended to at the First-Aid Station of the Shrine; 782 fulfilled their promises; and 5966 received the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

On arrival at the Shrine, on May 12, the Pope was greeted by the Rector of the Shrine, Fr. Virgílio Antunes.

The next day, the greeting was made by the diocesan bishop, Most Rev. António Marto, who received from Benedict XVI, before the start of Mass on the 13th, a chalice:

"I greet you and thank you, from the bottom of my heart, on my behalf and on behalf of all these people gathered here, in big numbers, at the Shrine of Fatima, as in an outdoor cenacle, where the maternal heart of Portugal palpitates. Welcome, Holy Father!"

"Many thanks for making possible for us this extraordinary experience of the beauty of communion, that is, the Church united around her Universal Pastor. Finally and in a special way, many thanks for coming to confirm us in faith, according to Your ministry of Successor of Peter. (...)

On this occasion I wish also to assure You, Holy Father, of the communion and sincere affection of our entire Catholic people for Your person and for Your ministry in the Church and in the world. Please count on our prayer, our obedience to faith and our filial affection".

Near the Cross is the Mother



During the Mass of May 13, as it is always the case in Fatima, the sick received

the Blessing of the Sick, this time from the hands of Pope Benedict XVI. 428 children and adults signed up to receive the blessing.

Here are some of the Pope's words at that moment:

"Dear friends who are sick, welcome the call of Jesus who will shortly pass among you in the Most Blessed Sacrament, and entrust to him every setback and pain that you face, so that they become - according to his design - a means of redemption for the whole world. You will be redeemers with the Redeemer, just as you are sons in the Son.

At the cross... stands the mother of Jesus, our mother".

A prayer for our human family

Dearly beloved brothers and sisters, I too have come as a pilgrim to Fatima, to this “home” from which Mary chose to speak to us in modern times. I have come to Fatima to rejoice in Mary’s presence and maternal protection. I have come to Fatima, because today the pilgrim Church, willed by her Son as the instrument of evangelization and the sacrament of salvation, converges upon this place. I have come to Fatima to pray, in union with Mary and so many pilgrims, for our human family, afflicted as it is by various ills and sufferings. Finally, I have come to Fatima with the same sentiments as those of Blessed Francisco and Jacinta, and the Servant of God Lúcia, in order to entrust to Our Lady the intimate confession that “I love” Jesus, that the Church and priests “love” him and desire to keep their gaze fixed upon him as this Year for Priests comes to its end, and in order to entrust to Mary’s maternal protection priests, consecrated men and women, missionaries and all those who by their good works make the House of God a place of welcome and charitable outreach.

In seven years you will return here to celebrate the centennial of the first visit

made by the Lady “come from heaven”, the Teacher who introduced the little seers to a deep knowledge of the Love of the Blessed Trinity and led them to savour God himself as the most beautiful reality of human existence. This experience of grace made them fall in love with God in Jesus, so much so that Jacinta could cry out: “How much I delight in telling Jesus that I love him! When I tell him this often, I feel as if I have a fire in my breast, yet it does not burn me”.

At a time when the human family was ready to sacrifice all that was most sacred on the altar of the petty and selfish interests of nations, races, ideologies, groups and individuals, our Blessed Mother came from heaven, offering to implant in the hearts of all those who trust in her the Love of God burning in her own heart. At that time it was only to three children, yet the example of their lives spread and multiplied, especially as a result of the travels of the Pilgrim Virgin, in countless groups throughout the world dedicated to the cause of fraternal solidarity. May the seven years which separate us from the centennial of the apparitions hasten the fulfilment of the prophecy of the triumph



of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, to the glory of the Most Holy Trinity.

Benedict XVI

From the homily of 13 May 2010

Pope receives and prays with the beads of the Shrine’s Official Rosary



Bishop António Marto, of Leiria-Fatima, presented Benedict XVI, on May 12, at the Little Chapel of Apparitions, before the recitation of the Rosary, the first copy of the Official Rosary of the Shrine of Fatima.

Everyone was able to watch, with great joy, as the Holy Father, as a sign of appreciation and in an impromptu gesture, used the donated Rosary to immediately pray with.

On his speech to the pilgrims he told them: “The devotion and affection of all of you, the faithful who have come here from all

around the world, is clear to me. I bring with me the worries and hopes of our times, the sufferings of our wounded humanity and the problems of the world, and I place them at the feet of Our Lady of Fatima: Virgin Mother of God and our own dear Mother, intercede for us before your Son, that the family of nations, both those called Christians and those who do not yet know the Saviour, may live in peace and harmony, in order that they come together as the one people of God, to the glory of the most holy and indivisible Trinity.”

Celebration of Vespers with priests, religious, seminarians and deacons

Dear brother priests, in this place, which Mary has made special, keep before your eyes her vocation as a faithful disciple of her Son Jesus from the moment of his conception to the Cross, and then beyond, along the path of the nascent Church, and consider the unheard-of grace of your priesthood. Fidelity to one's vocation requires courage and trust, but the Lord also wishes that you join forces: that you be concerned for one another and support one another fraternally. Moments of common prayer and study, and sharing in the demands of the priestly life and work, are a necessary part of your life. It is a fine thing when you welcome one another into your homes with the peace of Christ in your hearts! It is important to assist one another with prayer, helpful advice and discernment! Be especially attentive to those situations where there is a certain weakening of priestly ideals or dedication to activities not fully consonant with what is proper for a minister of Jesus Christ. Then is the time to take a firm stand, with an attitude of warm fraternal love, as brother assisting his brother to "remain on his feet".

Benedict XVI
Fátima, 12 May 2010



After the prayer of Vespers, Benedict XVI prayed to Our Lady, making an Act of Entrustment and Consecration of the Priesthood to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. "Our Mother for all time, do not tire of "visiting us", consoling us, sustaining us. Come to our aid and deliver us from every danger that threatens us. With this act of entrustment and consecration, we wish to welcome you more deeply, more radically, for ever and totally into our human and priestly lives.

Meeting with the bishops of Portugal



I thank God for giving me this occasion to meet all of you here at the Shrine of Fatima, the spiritual heart of Portugal, where multitudes of pilgrims from all over the world come looking to discover or to reinforce their certainty in the truths of Heaven. (...) I would like to ask you, in your role as leaders and ministers of charity in the Church, to rekindle, in yourselves as individuals and as a group, a sense of mercy and of compassion, in order to respond to grave social needs. New organizations must be established, and those already existing perfected, so that they can be capable of responding creatively to every form of poverty, including those experienced as a lack of the meaningfulness in life and the absence of hope. The efforts you are making to assist the Dioceses most in need, especially in Portuguese-speaking countries, is praiseworthy. May difficulties, which today are more deeply felt, not make you shrink from the logic of self-giving. Let there continue and flourish in this country, your witness as prophets of justice and peace, and defenders of the inalienable rights of the person. Join your voice to the voices of the least powerful, whom you have wisely helped to gain a voice of their own, without ever being afraid of raising your voice on behalf of the oppressed, the downtrodden and those who have been mistreated.

Benedict XVI
Fátima, 13 May 2010

Joy and Responsibility in Portugal

In the Message divulged by the Bishops Conference of Portugal regarding the Apostolic Visit of His Holiness Benedict XVI to Portugal titled "Joy and Responsibility", the Bishops of Portugal thank the Portuguese people for the response and mobilization to welcome the Pope and stress that "a current of deep and simple humanity ran through distances and gathered so many people in the search of truth and tranquility before the enormous apprehensions regarding the future".

The document dated May 19 goes on to say: "This visit of Holy Father Benedict XVI, true Easter ritual, left us with messages and guidelines. We wish to filially thank the richness of his gestures and words and follow them up when it comes to our pastoral projects. The challenges made to the various sectors of the pastoral life merit careful attention and will be taken into account when we rethink and restructure our Church: fervently innovating in the field of charity, valuing missionary activity, proposing a credible and convincing culture".

Meeting with Social Pastoral Care Organizations

During this meeting, held in Most Holy Trinity Church, Fatima, on the afternoon of May 13, the Holy Father blessed the model of the project for the construction of the Intensive Care Unit of the “Santa Casa da Misericórdia” (Holy Home of Mercy) of Fatima.

He was strongly applauded when he said: “I express my deep appreciation for all those social and pastoral initiatives aimed at combating the socio-economic and cultural mechanisms which lead to abortion, and are openly concerned to defend life and to promote the reconciliation and healing of those harmed by the tragedy of abortion. Initiatives aimed at protecting the essential and primary values of life, beginning at conception, and of the family based on the indissoluble marriage between a man and a woman, help to respond to some of today’s most insidious and dangerous threats to the common good. Such initiatives represent, alongside numerous other forms of commitment, essential elements in the building of the civilization of love. All this fits very closely with the message of Our Lady which resounds in this place: penance, prayer and forgiveness aimed at the conversion of hearts.”



Lisbon



On May 11 and on the morning of May 12, the Holy Father was in the Capital of Portugal and held several protocol meetings. He met people from the world of Culture, but the great event was the Mass in Terreiro do Paço (aka Commerce Square).

Before a great crowd and in unequalled scenery, the Pope spoke to the Portuguese people: “It is necessary to proclaim anew with vigour and joy the event of the death and resurrection of Christ, the heart of Christianity, the fulcrum and mainstay of our faith, the firm lever of our certainties, the strong wind that sweeps away all fear and indecision, all doubt and human calculation. The resurrection of Christ assures us that no adverse power will ever be able to destroy the Church”.

Porto

Benedict XVI left from Fatima on May 14, in the morning, towards Porto. In this historic city in the North of Portugal, the Pope celebrated Mass and said to the thousands present there: “We must overcome the temptation to restrict ourselves to what we already have, or think we have, safely in our possession: it would be sure death in terms of the Church’s presence in the world; the Church, for that matter, can only be missionary, in the outward movement of the Spirit. From its origins, the Christian people has clearly recognized the importance of communicating the Good News of Jesus to those who did not yet know him. In recent years the anthropological, cultural, social and religious framework of humanity has changed; today the Church is called to face new challenges and is ready to dialogue with different cultures and religions, in the search for ways of building, along with all people of good will, the peaceful coexistence of peoples.”



“Repent and believe the Gospel!”



“Repent and believe the Gospel!” was the message Pope Benedict XVI left us written in the Honor Book of the Shrine of Fatima.

Dated May 13 and written in Latin – “Convertimini et credite Evangelio. Benedictus PP. 13.V.2010” – was this the exhortation, using Jesus’ words at the beginning of his preaching, which the Pope wrote on the same Book used by John Paul II.

Repentance and conversion are the key words of the message of Fatima and a call to the Gospel; that is why the Shrine of Fatima, besides the joy of his presence as a pilgrim in the midst of pilgrims, also thanks him for the message of hope and trust in God that His Holiness left here in Fatima for the whole world.

At the Shrine of Fatima, we will continue – as we have been doing for years – to pray daily for the Pope. We will place in the maternal Heart of Our Lady of Fatima – as His Holiness Benedict XVI did it in the Little Chapel of Apparitions – “the afflictions and hopes of the entire human family”.

10th Anniversary of Beatification of Francisco and Jacinta Marto



The entire visit of the Pope to Portugal was always referred to by the Holy See as being in commemoration of the Tenth Anniversary of the Beatification of Francisco and Jacinta Marto.

In his pilgrimage to Fatima, after Mass on the 13th, during a particular moment of prayer which moved the faithful, the Holy Father prayed in silence, for a few moments, before the tombs of seers Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco, in the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima.

Feast of Blesseds Francisco and Jacinta celebrated in Italy

For some years now, the “Marian Movement Message of Fatima” of Italy, in straight collaboration with the Diocesan Liturgical Service of Sabina-Poggio Mirteto, scheduled for February 18 thru 20 solemn celebrations in honor of the Little Shepherds of Fatima, Blesseds Francisco and Jacinta Marto.

This year it fell upon the Cathedral of St. Mary Assumed, of Poggio Mirteto, to receive, on the 18th, the statues and the relics of the Blesseds, which were brought up in procession to the Cathedral.

The Feast, on February 20, tenth anniversary of the Beatification and also tenth anniversary of the Episcopal Ordination of our



Bishop Lino Fumagalli, was solemnly celebrated.

There were scheduled moments for prayer and Marian vigils led by groups from the parishes, by youths and by children of different school grades. Everyone had the opportunity to better know the life and the spirituality of the Little Shepherds.

The solemn celebration on the 20th, presided over by the Bishop of the Diocese and concelebrated by other bishops and priests, concluded the triduum and then, after the prayer to the Little Blesseds, the relics were kissed.

Marian Movement “Messaggio di Fatima”, Italy

Pilgrim Statue in Brazil

The Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, sent from Portugal, made a stop yesterday, May 15, in the Parish of Our Lady of Piedade (Compassion), in Cordeiro, a town in the interior of the State of Rio de Janeiro.

The parish belongs to the Diocese of Nova Friburgo. The Pastor was very happy for having received the visit of the Statue and some relics from the three Little Shepherds. Photo: Manoel Henrique

Uilque Lopes, Brazil



On May 13, Pilgrim Statue was in Rome

On May 13, 2010, the Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima was welcomed in the churchyard of the Basilica of the Holy Cross of Jerusalem, in Rome, by pilgrims of different nationalities, during the VI Day of the Pilgrim, organized by Opera Romana Pellegrinaggi in cooperation with the Movement of the Message of Fatima in Italy.

The White Lady was received by the Most Reverend Diego Bona, Bishop Emeritus of Saluzzo, Italy, Msgr. Liberio Andreatta and many other priests and pilgrims.

A procession was organized, from the Basilica of the Holy Cross of Jerusalem to the Cathedral of St. John Lateran, where Mass was concelebrated under the presidency of Bishop Diego Bona and an Act of Entrustment was recited, thus concluding the Day.

The Statue returned to Perugia, where it was awaited by the Bishop of Foligno, Most Rev. Gualtiero Sigismondi, who celebrated Mass before a multitude of faithful.

M. Moreno, Italy



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Fátima – Light and Peace

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

Fatima, Pope and Portuguese Communities

Month of May... This is the period of the year in which Portuguese Communities throughout the World live one of the strongest moments of communion, religiosity, volunteerism and solidarity. Thus, May will always be the month of Mary, Peace, Rosary and Message of Fatima!

We see groups committed to the Rosary in the family, in neighborhood chapels or in Cathedrals; Solemn Masses followed by street processions in parishes; statue carriers festooned with uncommon beauty and carried by strong men dressed for the occasion; processions of children dressed in white and others dressed like the three Little Shepherds; regional and national pilgrimages to local Marian Shrines, such as Lourdes, Banneaux, Tornquist, Einsendeln, Aparecida, Wiltz, Benoni, Lyon (to only mention a few), well prepared and spiritually animated by missionaries serving Portuguese or Portuguese-speaking Catholic communities.

Many of these Pilgrimages by the Por-

tuguese, thanks to the fidelity of Christian emigrants, come to be the greatest annual manifestation of Christians present in their dioceses, due to the size of the crowds, the shared cultural symbology and the beauty of popular religiosity! The presence of the priest or even of the bishop is so desired that, where there are none, or simply to



better solemnize the Feast of the Virgin of Fatima, priests or bishops are invited from Portugal or from Portuguese missions throughout the world. In general, the Lit-

urgy keeps on adapting to cultural sensibilities and local languages, with many of these feasts being already celebrated in several languages, besides the Portuguese.

This is Fatima turning patrimony of the Universal Church, thanks to the fidelity of emigrants moving through Europe and Portuguese-speaking Communities throughout the World. It is Fatima evangelizing, with affection, festivity, sentiments, fraternal bonds born of migrations and encounters of peoples, many families and communities that, disillusioned with secularism and relativism, are looking today for a new sense to their lives, their future, and show thirst for a transcendent being Who can free the soul and remind it of the beauty of life as a gift! The visit of another Pope to Fatima, the third one to do it, gives credibility to the message of Fatima, to the cultural signs and the popular religiosity of which emigrants have been heralds and witnesses throughout the world for almost a century.

Fr. Rui Pedro, Rome

Adoración Nocturna Española peregrinates to Fatima for 24th time



Some of the 3200 pilgrims – 61 buses – arrived in Fatima on April 29; most arrived on the 30th; they all got back home on Sunday May 2, in the afternoon.

There were celebrations in the three main worship places of the Shrine of Fatima. In the Basilica, Morning Prayer; in the Little Chapel, Mass and Reparation Rosary, broadcast through the Internet and by several television stations and entrusted exclusively, this year, to

Adoración Nocturna Española (Spanish Nocturne Adoration); in Most Holy Trinity Church, Mass, Nocturne Adoration and Eucharistic Procession.

Also during this pilgrimage, there were a conference retreat, led by Sister Ângela Coelho, Vice-Postulator for the Cause of Canonization of Francisco and Jacinta Marto, the traditional parade in the Esplanade (Prayer Area) and Vespers in the Little Chapel. The pilgrims also took part in all the celebrations scheduled in the Shrine's Official Program: Rosary, Candlelight Procession, procession towards the altar and farewell procession, after Sunday's Pilgrim Mass.

There were present many adorers, their family members and friends, from numerous dioceses of Spain. Presiding over the Pilgrimage were Bishops Carlos Menduïña and Pedro Garcia, respectively current President and

President Emeritus of Adoración Nocturna Española, as well as several directors of the National Council.

The usual response on the part of children and youths was this year joyfully matched by seminarians from the Seminary of Vigo, led by their Rector, Msgr. Ángel Marzoa, and other educators. The Major Seminary of Vigo celebrates this year (2010) its Golden Jubilee.

The entrance parade of this great Pilgrimage caught the attention of those present – the largest, since 1987, of all those arriving in Fatima from outside Portugal – with its flags and banners reading “Family that prays together stays together”, “Adored be the Blessed Sacrament”, “Ave Mary Most Pure”, and “O Come you all and let us go...with flowers to Mary”, the latter taken from a song of the month of flowers.

Such exterior signs help us, without a doubt, to enrich our interior spiritual life. During this pilgrimage, we always pray, besides other general and special intentions, for what is, from the beginning, fundamental: priests and vocations to the priesthood and to the consecrated life.

Rasconi, Spain