



Director: Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas \* Proprietor: Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fátima (Portugal) \* Quarterly publication \* Year XI \* Nr. 45 \* 2015/05/13

## PILGRIM IMAGE OF FATIMA CROSSES OVER PORTUGAL

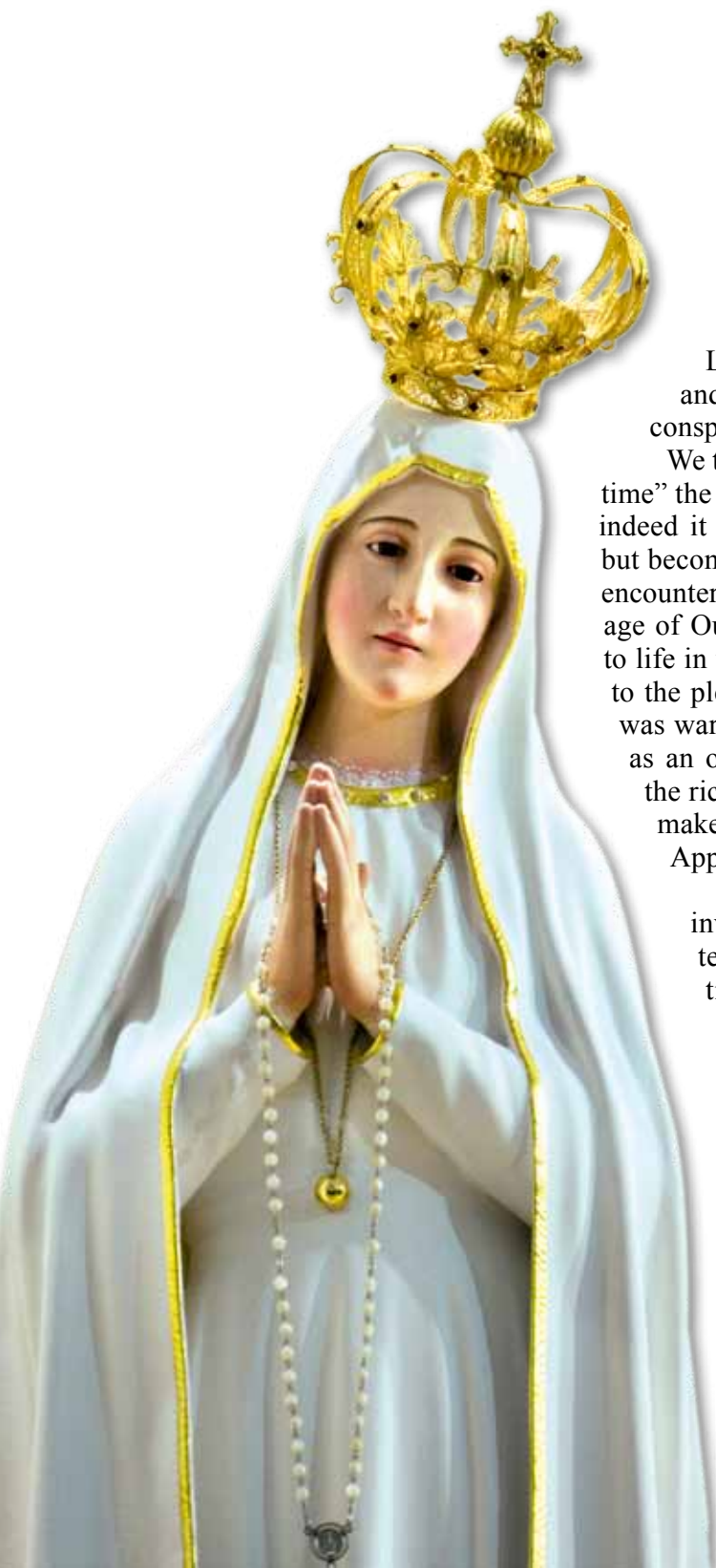
From May 2015 to May 2016, the Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady will pass across all the dioceses of Portugal, on a large and festive pilgrimage, whose aim is to single out and make conspicuous the Centenary of the Apparitions.

We think that this celebration of the Centenary is an “acceptable time” the Lord gives us to live and reanimate our experience of faith; indeed it does not intend simply to indicate a historic anniversary, but become a vehicle of evangelization and a path to conversion and encounter with Christ, through Mary. The initiative of the pilgrimage of Our Lady of Fatima through the Portuguese dioceses comes to life in this context. The proposal was presented, in a general way, to the plenary session of the Portuguese Episcopal Conference and was warmly welcomed by the Portuguese bishops, who regarded it as an opportunity to disseminate and stimulate the awareness of the richness and relevance of the Fatima message and, besides, to make communities sensitive to the important celebration of the Apparitions Centenary.

With this project and plan, we have in mind not only to involve all Portuguese dioceses in the celebration of the Centenary of the apparitions, but also to help ecclesial communities to live the message and the spirituality of Fatima. We are aware of the great impact such an initiative will have both by the number of faithful it brings together, and the opportunity it offers to proclaim Jesus Christ, to whom the Virgin Mary always leads us. In order to attain the desired ends and have a significant impact, we propose to each diocese moments of prayer and celebration and, in addition, catechetical meetings and training sessions aimed at developing the seeds of God’s Word the hearts are sprinkled with.

Our wish and hope is that this great pilgrimage of the image of Our Lady may be a strong experience of faith, by the means of celebrations, moments of prayer and expressions of popular piety; our desire is that all age groups could be inwardly influenced and everyone has the opportunity to deepen the knowledge and experience of the Fatima message.

*Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas*



## Pilgrim Image of Our Lady of Fatima Visits the Dioceses of Portugal

On May 13, 2015, during the celebrations of the 98<sup>th</sup> international pilgrimage remembering the first apparition, the Pilgrim Image of Our Lady of Fatima will start a pilgrimage to the Portuguese dioceses until May 2016. This religious journey will be performed by the first Pilgrim Image of Fatima that, in the 50's, traveled around the world and, later, was enthroned at the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary in 2003.

According to the desire of the Institution, and in the words of the Rector of the Shrine of Fatima, Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas, this "great" pilgrimage ought to be "a vigorous experience of faith, with the help of celebrations, moments of prayer and expressions of popular piety"; it ought to be an action that touches "all ages" and a time in which "everyone has the opportunity to deepen the knowledge and experience of the Fatima message."

The national pilgrimage project, also understood as a way of alerting and drawing attention to the Centenary of the Apparitions in 2017, was presented to the Portuguese bishops who welcomed it enthusiastically.

Gathered at Fatima in general assembly in April, they defined this national pilgrimage, in a Pastoral Note of the Portuguese Episcopal Conference (CEP), as "a moment of evangelizing mission", and consequently they invite to the mobilization of people for a "warm welcome, inspired with the joy of receiving, in faith, the icon of Mary,



Mother of God and Mother of Men."

"We take advantage of this moment of grace to invite the People of God to merge deeper and deeper into the celebration of their faith, particularly through the participation in the Eucharist, the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance and the Anointing of the Sick; then, to encourage to the prayer of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, so characteristic of the Fatima spirituality; and finally to revive the habit of reciting

the Marian prayer of Rosary in Christian families, accompanied by biblical meditations and contemplative silence", declares the Pastoral Note.

In the same document, dated from April 16, the Portuguese bishops recall to the mind the strongly Marian sense that always has characterized the Portuguese people, and in a precise allusion to Fatima, they point out that "the Marian message and spirituality of Fatima predispose, indeed, many hearts to welcome the Church's evangelizing action."

Therefore, they also hope that this event, "of great ecclesial meaning and resonance," "leaves very positive marks in Christian communities, helping to reanimate the joy of holding closely to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and renewing the excitement of living in the Church."

In practical terms, in order to implement this project, the Sanctuary of Fatima prepared a script with various materials sent off to the dioceses, for a

better preparation and execution of the different moments of the Image visit. After leaving the Shrine of Fatima, the Pilgrim Image will take the following route through Portugal: Viseu, Braga, Viana do Castelo, Vila Real, Bragança-Miranda, Lamego, Coimbra, Guarda, Portalegre-Castelo Branco, Setúbal, Évora, Beja, Algarve, Santarém, Lisbon, Funchal, Aveiro, Angra do Heroísmo, Oporto, Leiria-Fatima.

*Leopoldina Simões*

## Pilgrim Images of Fatima keep on traveling around the World

In February this year the Rectory of Fatima Shrine acquired a new Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, to join the group of images at its disposal for the pilgrimages in Portugal and in the world. This decision was taken to make easier the response to the growing number of requests that are emerging, as we approach the centenary of the apparitions;

these solicitations come from everywhere, especially from Portugal, Italy, Brazil and Spain. Thus, it was reached the replica n. 13; this number is supposed as a maximum concerning the copies of the image of the Pilgrim Virgin.

This Pilgrim Image n. 13 was blessed on March 4, in the Chapel of the Apparitions, at the end of the official Mass

12:30, when Fr. Benevenuto Santiago Morgado invoked God's favor and benefit upon the religious objects.

The next day, March 5, the Image left for Italy, for its first pilgrimage, made in Sicily, under the responsibility of World Apostolate of Fatima of the Sicilian Region.

*António Valinho*

## The Holy Father wants to come to Fatima!

In private audience, held on April 25 at the Vatican, Pope Francis confirmed to the Bishop of Leiria-Fatima, António Marto, that “if God grants him life and health” he wants to be at the Cova da Iria to preside at the celebration of the Centenary of Fatima apparitions.

After having received several invitations, this was the first time the Pope Francis expressed very precisely the desire for visiting Fatima, and permitted the public disclosure of his intention.

The news was received with “great joy” at the Shrine of Fatima. Speaking to journalists, the Rector, Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas, said: “To the Sanctuary of Fatima, which is deeply connected to the Pope, in virtue of the message whose it is depositary, this is wonderful news. Surely, we had the hope of his presence on the occasion of the centennial celebration, but it is very important to have this confirmation from the mouth of Pope Francis himself.”

“If we, at the Shrine of Fatima, already pray daily for the Holy Father, this information is a further challenge to pray that the Lord give him life, health and strength for his mission!”, added the Rector.

Once the information was made known by the official media of the Diocese of Leiria-Fátima and the Fatima



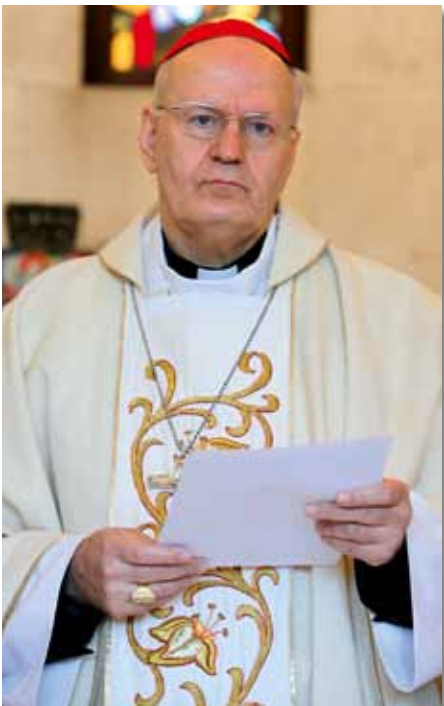
Shrine was great the interest of the journalists on the subject, with wide repercussions in the Portuguese and foreign media. The impact of the news was also immediately perceptible on the Facebook page of the Sanctuary of Fatima, and the followers of this communication platform expressed their joy at the good news and shared it in other pages.

In the same audience, Bishop António Marto gave the Pope a money contribution from the Shrine of Fatima, intended to help and support the actions in behalf of his poor. In the

words of our Bishop, Pope Francis was especially moved by this gesture of sharing with the indigent and poverty-stricken.

The Bishop of Leiria-Fátima was the first Portuguese bishop to meet in a private audience with Pope Francis; during the encounter there was still opportunity to pay attention to various aspects of the pastoral renewal that Pope seeks to implement. His Excellency António Marto gave thanks to the Holy Father for the new stage of joy and freshness that his pontificate has brought to the Church.

## Witness to the love of the Hungarian Nation for the Virgin Mother



After the defeat of the 1956 revolution in Hungary, many people in the emigration and even in Hungary began to feel and perceive that we could put our trust only in the help of the Patroness of the Hungarians, the Virgin Mary. But the maternal love of the Virgin and her Holy Son is not a fragile protection; it is rather a gentle, but irresistible, force that can change the course of history. Who would believe that, after so much sacrifice of bloodshed, after only a few decades, our desires were fulfilled in a peaceful way?

Who would also believe today that, in the midst of so many threatening and incomprehensible hatred, of wars between brothers, of waves of violence and persecution of Christians in many parts of the world, the Virgin Mary, whose Son still here on Earth could stop the storm, keeps on looking for us, for our Church, for our Hungarian people and for all mankind?

We must have a feeling of special gratitude to Fr. Luis Kondor for having made us conscious of the secret of Fatima. He helped us to consecrate our Archdiocese of Esztergom-Budapest to the Virgin Mother during our pilgrimage in 2003 and again, after three years, on the fiftieth anniversary of the 1956 revolution and on the commemoration of the 550 years of our victory in Nándorfehérvár, when the entire Hungarian nation was dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of the Virgin of Fatima.

Then, in 2007, together with the European bishops, we consecrated to the protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in front of her statue, our entire Continent.

*His Eminence Péter Erdő*  
Cardinal Primate of Hungary

[Extract from his message conveyed on the celebration of the 50 years of the Hungarian Calvary in Fatima, and also in honor of Fr. Luis Kondor, on the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2015]

## Fatima has the dimensions of the world

*His Eminence Raymundo Damasceno Assis, cardinal archbishop of Aparecida, presides at the anniversary international pilgrimage to Fatima in May 2015. In this occasion, just at the opening of the pilgrimage, will be enthroned in the Shrine of Fatima an image of Our Lady of Aparecida. In an interview held in March, this year, Bishop Raymundo Assis ponders over the Fatima-Aparecida connection, and also about his coming to the Cova da Iria.*

*Interview by Leopoldina Simões*

**How is being experienced and met with the preparation for the enthronement of the image of Our Lady of the Conception of Aparecida in Fatima?**

The image of Our Lady of Aparecida, staying among us, hands clasped in prayer, through nearly 300 years, became very dear to the Brazilian people, since its blessed discovery in the waters of the Paraíba do Sul river. It's a providential occurrence that also Fatima celebrates, at the same time, its centenary jubilee. Thus, it is an unexpected grace to have a replica of the image of Mother Aparecida officially enthroned at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima. We are happy and strengthened with her presence in our lives. And we presage that such an enthronement at Fatima will redound in "appearance" and disclosure, in its irruption into the hearts and lives of so many brothers and sisters of ours. In the manifold and varied provenance of its pilgrims, Fatima has the dimensions of the world. May this Image in Fatima stretch out in all directions, and to the last frontiers of the earth, the magnitude of the "network" of human hearts to which Our Lady wants bring light to open the way for Her and our only Saviour, Jesus Christ!

**Are the history and message of Fatima known to the Brazilian people?**

At least in most significant points, the history and message of Fatima are known and familiar to the Brazilian people. The Virgin, here, or as Our Lady of the Conception of Aparecida, calls her sons and daughters to

prayer. In the two places, she appears with hands in supplication, but in association with penance. So she seems to be disposed to welcome us next to herself, but aims at something deeper. Being near to her means to discover or rediscover God or strengthen these vital ties with Him. She welcomes us, but since her heart is centered on God through prayer, actually we are led by Her to God. And once converted to Him, to His fatherly heart, let us come back, renewed, to our brothers, in order to build, together with them, a world of brotherhood, justice, peace, in the light of the gospel.

**As a message to the world, what is the main core of the spirituality commonly experienced and fostered both in Fatima and Aparecida?**

As a sign that "appears" in heaven, or sent and aimed at us by heaven, either Fatima or Aparecida uncovers the divine predilection for the little ones of this world, on which you can count (Mt 11.25-26). In Fatima, she calls three poor little shepherds and "appears" to them. In Aparecida, three fishermen, equally poor, find her image entangled in the meshes and, in this way, she manifests herself to those hearts and lives, duly ready and alert. In both images, the Virgin Mary, with hands clasped in prayer, tells us that the spiritual attitude of supplication guides us towards God, because He alone can satisfy us fully. And Aparecida, as an image of a pregnant mother, once again shows us that she, and all of us, her sons and daughters, must follow and imitate Jesus, the



Son and Saviour who, on the strength of the Spirit, leads us to the Father.

**What message will you bring to Fatima on May 12 and 13?**

We wish the pilgrims, coming from all sides of the earth and representing the whole world, to taste the maternal and cheerful welcome of this unique Mother of each and every one of them. We wish that, under the radiance of these two different Images, representative of two nations, Portugal and Brazil feel associated in a fraternal way in virtue of the same mother; and that both nations represent the whole of humanity, for Mary received all human beings as her children from the lips of her dying Son on the cross. We wish that Fatima and Aparecida strengthen and scatter to the four winds the universal dimension of her message and proposal. She has a strong desire to be mother and sister of humanity, disciple-model in the following and imitation of the Redeemer! She wants to fulfill her unique mission: to bring God from heaven and make Him happen and disclose himself in the hearts and lives of all of us humans! Besides, she wants make of us, her pilgrims, true missionary disciples and carriers of this very experience to our national places and communities!

## Theological-Pastoral Symposium 2015 deepens the theme of Holiness

One of the primary concerns and purposes of the Shrine of Fatima is to preserve the memory of its founding event and to deepen the message provided by the Virgin of the Rosary to the three children of Aljustrel. Such message “contains a truth and a call that in its fundamental contents - as St. John Paul II saw well and stressed - is the truth and demand of the Gospel itself. “Therefore, Fatima Shrine has the task of reflecting on the theological strands and pastoral demands included in the message of the Lady of the Rosary.

The Theological-Pastoral Sympo-



sium, annually organized by the Sanctuary, is a good contribution to this mission, and is committed to the reflection about the main points of the theme assigned to the pastoral year. Consequently, it is one of the guiding events marking the rhythm and pace of the septenary that prepares the festive celebration of the Centenary of Fatima Apparitions.

In this pastoral year, centred on the theme “Sanctified in Christ,” the Theological-Pastoral Symposium takes place on June 19-21 at the Paul VI Pastoral Center; and it proposes to

the reflection of the participants three structural and configurative dimensions of Christian holiness: holiness as *gift of God*, enabling ways of Christian fidelity and radicalism; holiness as *human response*, that seeks to receive and welcome the calls from God; holiness as commitment to the *world transformation*, horizon of all Christian action open to God’s saving plan for humanity.

The first day of the Symposium, dedicated to the dimension of holiness as God’s gift, opens with a glance at the proposal of a pedagogy of holiness in the message and experience of Fatima (*Vincenzo Battaglia*) and goes on with a biblical (*Armando Vaz*) and christological (*Alexandre Palma*) perspective of holiness, to conclude with a study of the holiness paradigms throughout history (*Marco Daniel Duarte*). On the second day, centred on holiness as a human response, the symposium reflects on the signs and tokens of this response: from the concrete sense of the confession of faith in the sanctity of the Church (*Joseph Famerée*) to the meaning of the universal call to holiness, and also to the existential questionings present in everyday life. The presentation of Mary’s holiness in the theological and spiritual vision of the Orthodox Churches (*Christophe Daloisio*) opens the way, already on the third day revolving on the commitment to the transformation of the world, for the final two conferences (*Peter Schallenberg* and *Maria Clara Bingemer*), which connect the experience of holiness with the search for a true humanity, both at a personal level and in the world building processes. Are also speakers at the symposium *Manuel Barbosa, João Aguiar Campos, João Miguel Tavares, Antonio Matos Ferreira, José Manuel Pereira de Almeida and Marina Jesus Amaro*.

*Pedro Gomes Valinho*  
Executive Assistant to the  
Centenary of the Apparitions

## Pray, pray much



The Pilgrimage of the Children to the Sanctuary of Fatima has already become a landmark event for many people, as confirmed by the large number of children and also adults who, especially on June 10, every year, fill the Precinct of the Shrine.

In 2015, the fifth cycle of the preparation for the Centenary of Fatima Apparitions, the great theme of the pilgrimage, 9 and 10 June, has as central point of attention the apparition of Our Lady in August, in Valinhos. In this apparition, Our Lady insists and claims: *pray, pray much and make sacrifices ... for many souls go to hell because they have no one to sacrifice and pray for them*.

In these words of Our Lady, we catch a glimpse of the need and the power of intercession of those who, in solidarity for the salvation of their brothers, pray and sacrifice themselves for them; this intercession has its roots in the mystery of the Communion of Saints, i.e. a solidarity, that unites the members of the mystical Body of Christ which is the Church, because we are “one body” (Eph 4: 4).

When reflecting on this mystery of the Communion of Saints, that makes us intercessors for each other, we highlight as motto for the Children’s Pilgrimage of this year the words of Our Lady, which are an appeal and summon: Pray, pray much. We stress, therefore, the mystery of our intercession before God in behalf of others.

*S. Maria Isolinda*  
Member of the Organizing Committee

*Until 2017, the Portuguese statue travels through the largest country of South America*

## Pilgrim Image of Fatima prepares Brazil for the Centenary of the Apparitions



Along more than 20,000 km through Brazil, the Pilgrim Image of Our Lady of Fatima, coming from Portugal, already gave a new hope and inspired love to thousands of Brazilian families. This journey of faith, organized by the Archdiocesan Association “Tarde com Maria” [Afternoon with Mary] aims at bringing the message of the Blessed Virgin to all corners of the country until the Centenary of the Apparitions.

Up to now, the Portuguese Pilgrim Image journeyed over several places, including hospitals, parishes and communities. Several Brazilian dioceses already have received the Pilgrim Image, which, sparging faith and joy, is a sign of the Fatima message in so many different realities.

According to the tutor of the image of Fatima, Fr. Antonio Geraldo da Silva, fmdp, member of the “Tarde com Maria” Association, the tour has the scope of inciting and inducing all to pray for the families, for the souls of the faithful who suffer in Purgatory, and for the Holy Father. “In virtue of this feeling of faith and confidence in the Virgin of Fatima, the Brazilian people have the privilege of inflaming in their life the Apparitions message and of relying more on their prayers”.

His Excellency Edson de Castro Homem, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Rio de Janeiro and rector of the Sanctuary of Fatima in the same city, stressed that the pilgrimage plays an important role in evangelization:

“When Our Lady appeared to the Little Shepherds in 1917, asked them to pray the Holy Rosary for world peace, and to disseminate her message. Today we extend that petition of the Virgin of Fatima to all Brazilians, through this pilgrimage.”

By the means of the pilgrimage, Brazilians have the opportunity to strengthen the Marian vocation and to prepare themselves intensely for the Centenary of the Apparitions. In all the places the Image visited or passes through, the faithful welcome it with love and devotion. There is also a very warm receptivity on the part of bishops and priests; for instance, in the Juiz de Fora archdiocese, located in Minas Gerais state, in which the Metropolitan Archbishop, His Excellency Gil Antonio Moreira, celebrated his 15 years of episcopal ordination.

On this occasion, the bishop Gil Moreira expressed his joy of welcoming the Portuguese statue in the Minas archdiocese: “This image is the presence of Our Lady in our midst; it is a Marian moment of great happiness, and particularly because it coincides with the date of my birthday”.

As stated by the founder-president of the “Tarde com Maria” Association, Berthaldo Soares, the main purpose of the pilgrimage is to revive the message of Fatima in Brazil, and to celebrate the Centenary of the Apparitions of Our Lady, along with Portugal. “The seer Sister Lucia said in his writ-

ings that God wishes to establish in the world the devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. And if we do so, He will save many souls and these souls will have peace”, pointed Berthaldo, emphasizing that “our greatest inspiration is to transmit the message of Fatima to everyone.”

Marcia Ilá, coordinator of the national pilgrimage, explains how the plan for the pilgrimages is arranged: “We make advance booking with the bishop. Often, the diocese contacts and solicits the visit of the Image. We receive many requests and already have a full schedule till the end of the year.”

From north to south, the Portuguese statue of the Mother of Jesus has traveled over 20,000 km, and visited remote and humble places as the coastal city of Cameté, located in Pará State, north of the country, three thousand miles away from the Chapel of Apparitions of Rio de Janeiro; also big urban centers, such as Paranaguá, the main coastal city of Paraná, 884 km away from Rio.

In each diocese, thousands of people participate in the events with the presence of the pilgrim image, which brings hope and comfort to those who suffer, besides spreading the Christian values and the joy of those who follow the Virgin of Fatima.

*Rita Vasconcelos*

Photos: Nathan Paroli,  
Marcia Ilá, Josery Pantoja



## Two churches in Portugal dedicated to the Little Shepherds of Fatima

On February 20 and 22 were dedicated to the Little Shepherds of Fatima in Portugal two new churches, one in the Bairro of Areia, in the parish of Our Lady of the Conception of Montijo, Diocese of Setubal, and another in Quinta do Alçada, in the parish of São Tiago de Marrazes, diocese of Leiria, Fatima.

According to the Rector of the Shrine of Fatima, the month of

February was “the month of the Little Shepherds”: first, it was the month of the liturgical feast of Blessed Francisco and Jacinta Marto, celebrated on the 20th, and second, because this year there has been a special evocation of Sister Lucia’s life and testimony, on the tenth anniversary of her death on February 13; and another reason is the dedication of new churches to the Little Shepherds of Fatima.

“The choice of the two little sheers of Fatima as titular patrons of new churches is significant because it shows not only confidence in their intercession, but also a desire to imitate the attitude of these two *Candles that God lit* – thus referred to by John Paul II in the Cova da Iria 2000 – to illuminate the darkness around us”, said Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas.

In an interview to the Press Room of the Shrine of Fatima, Sister Angela Coelho, postulator of the Cause of the Canonization of Francisco and Jacin-



ta Marto, and vice-postulator of the Cause of Beatification of Lúcia de Jesus e do Imaculado Coração, acknowledges the increased attention concerning the two Blessed of Fatima: “Yes, it seems clear to me that there is an increasing interest about the life and holiness message left by Francisco and Jacinta. The dedication of churches to the youngest Blessed of history is a challenge that invites this community to uphold the Christian lifestyle of the two little shepherds in a modeling and conforming dynamism with Christ.”

For the Rector of the Sanctuary, choosing the Little Shepherds of Fatima as titular patrons of new churches means and presents to their respective communities “a challenge to understand better and live more intensely the message of Fatima.

What novelty can lives of Francisco and Jacinta bring into the existence and spirituality of the faithful? According to Sister Angela Coelho,

“the transformation arisen in the lives of the two sheers, after the experience of God’s love through the Light they received from the hands of the Lady of the Rosary, has been a growing source of inspiration for many believers. The message of their lives, in virtue of the simplicity and acceptance of God’s saving plan, is a sign of hope for all those who wish to walk the path of holiness.” “

Prayer for the canonization of Francisco and Jacinta is now a pastoral commitment of these new communities, but Sister Angela Coelho has knowledge of other groups, more or less formal, in Portugal and in the world, which engaged themselves “with enthusiasm in the effort to pray for the canonization of the Little Shepherds “.

“This fills me with joy and confidence: the canonization of Francisco and Jacinta, which we long for, will always be a gift from God and a grace of His love,” she says.

The work for the cause and the Postulation of Francisco and Jacinta Marto, even in the absence of a miracle that, through their intercession, may lead to their canonization, will always be to “spread the example of life and to raise people’s confidence in friendship with God experienced by these two children of Fatima.”

L.S.

## New Cardinal of Mozambique in Fatima

On February 18, His Eminence Júlio Duarte Langa, created cardinal in the last consistory by Pope Francis, was in Fatima on pilgrimage. At 12:30, the second cardinal in the history of Mozambique, emeritus Bishop of Xai - Xai, presided at the Eucharist, which was celebrated by seven priests, in the Chapel of the Apparitions.



*Vice-postulator for the cause of Canonization of Francisco and Jacinta interviewed*

## Still missing a miracle for the canonization of the Blessed

*On the 20<sup>th</sup> of February, we celebrate the Liturgical Feast of Blessed Francisco and Jacinta Marto. Sister Ângela Coelho, vice-postulator for the cause of Canonization of the Blessed children, gave us an interview through which we can better understand the meaning of this Feast.*

*Interview by Sandra Dantas*

### **What is the meaning of this Festivity for the Church and for the World?**

To celebrate the holiness of a servant of God is to celebrate, first, the holiness of God, the all-holy who sanctifies each woman and each man ready to receive the gift of his grace. In the specific case of the liturgical celebration of Francisco and Jacinta, we thank God for the very particular way they lived their vocation to holiness. Seeing the life of these two children today, we are able to perceive that they lived the appeals with which Our Lady challenged them, so that looking at them is to look at an embodiment of the message of Fatima.

### **The message of Fatima is not circumscribed to a particular time in history?**

If Fatima does nothing else than highlighting the good news of the Gospel – and we can recognise many gospel traces in the message of Fatima: prayer, conversion, theological living, adoration and conformation of life with God... – it is, therefore, expectable that its message be for ever and ever. No one would dare disqualifying the importance of the message of Fatima

when what it highlights is the call to convert to the love of God and to be committed to it.

### **In the apparitions, Our Lady asks the Little Shepherds to do sacrifices for the sinners. Does this request still make sense in our time?**

Today we are afraid of the word «sacrifice», which disturbs us and seems to be strange. And, meanwhile, sacrifice is the dynamic through which life is given. It is enough to recall the moment of birth of a human life to understand that the gift of life implicates sacrifice for the other.

Sacrificing oneself for sinners is nothing other than being ready to offer ones' life for those who went astray from the love of God. It is accepting to participate in the redemptive mission of Jesus, of congregating everything and everyone in the house of God.

### **What is the point of situation of the Process of Canonization of Sister Lucia? And of Francisco and Jacinta?**

The process of beatification of Lucia is now in the diocesan phase. This phase



*“Still, if we wanted to find the word that better defines each one of the little shepherds, I would risk to say that Jacinta is defined by «compassion», Francisco by «contemplation» and Lucia by «faithfulness»”.*

is comprised of a demanding study on the life of Lucia, on her writings, on the testimonies which were gathered, so that she may be proposed as an example of a mature Christian faith. We continue to work on this process. Regarding the process of canonization of Blessed Francisco and Jacinta, we are only expecting a miracle through their intercession. Meanwhile, our work is to spread their example of life and arise in people the confidence in the friendship with God of these children of Fatima.

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