



FÁTIMA LUZ E PAZ

Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fátima

Director: Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas

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*My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge
and the way that will lead you to God*

*Jubilee Year of the Centennial
of the Apparitions*

The spirit of the Centennial extends beyond 2017 / Pe. Carlos Cabecinhas

Throughout these seven years (2010-2017), the Shrine of Fatima got intensely involved in the festive cycle of the celebration of the Centennial of the Apparitions. The participation in the various initiatives of the Shrine exceeded the expectations. However, what really matters is something that cannot be evaluated: the spiritual experience of the pilgrims and the lasting impact that remains in their lives.

We celebrate the centennial history of Fatima by making a memorial of that history, giving thanks to God for the gifts offered through the event of Fatima and by accepting the challenge to commit to its message. Now, at the end of this festive cycle, it's important to highlight, in the form of an evaluation, two dimensions that this celebration leaves as an impact for the future.

On one hand, the internationalization of Fatima was consolidated. The Centennial of the Apparitions underlined the worldwide dimension of Fatima. The variety of provenances of the pilgrims that come to Fatima every year confirms that this is, in fact, a global Shrine. And if this was clear in the past, it gained special evidence during the Centennial. In no other moment of the centennial history of Fatima has it been so clearly perceived the sense of the designation of this marian shrine as "Altar of the World".

On the other hand, the renewed study of the message of Fatima, which the celebrative cycle of the Centennial allowed, was specially significant and is an important heritage for the future study. It allowed us to identify the most meaningful themes of the message of Fatima and gave us reading keys that lead us to a renewed global vision of the message. The itinerary of the Centennial highlighted the two constitutive fundamental dimensions of the message of Fatima: the mystic dimension of the experience of faith and the prophetic dimension, dimensions that show the impact of the message in Christian life.

For the Shrine, closing this cycle gives us a new challenge: on December 3rd, beginning of the new pastoral year in the Shrine, we will initiate a new cycle of three years, with a proper thematic itinerary, which gives continuity to the celebration of the Centennial of the Apparitions.



Shrine enlarges its links through the world of internet

Echoes of the Message of Fatima amplified by social networks

Over a million and seven hundred thousand people reached by the facebook page of the Shrine of Fatima / Sandra Dantas

The international anniversary pilgrimage of October to the Shrine of Fatima reached over a million and seven hundred thousand people on the Shrine's facebook, people who between October 8th and 14th, interacted with the page.

During these days, 25 posts referring the several activities to be held or already undertaken were posted on the Shrine's facebook page, regarding the October Pilgrimage, which also included the video mapping and the closing session of the Centennial of the Apparitions celebrations.

The most visualized post on these days was the video message that Pope Francis sent to the pilgrims in Cova da Iria on the 13th in the end of the Eucharistic celebra-

tion, reaching a total of 1.105.132 people, with 10.714 shares. It's main audience were women between 35 and 54 years old.

It should be noted the posts referring the two main events that marked the celebrations closure, the video mapping and the closing session. These events were transmitted online on the Shrine's facebook page.

Posts about the video mapping were visualized 356 000 times.

The Shrine of Fatima facebook page was created in 2012 and, since then, has been growing in its dynamic and also in the number of followers, with an increase of over 100 000 followers between 2016 and 2017, counting, at the moment, a total of 853 222 followers.

Last International Pilgrimage of the Centennial underlines the importance of peace in the Message of Fatima

Monsignor Antonio Marto emphasized the importance of praying the rosary / Carmo Rodeia



Centennial reinforces internationalization of the Shrine of Fatima

The Bishop of Leiria-Fatima presided the last international pilgrimage of the Centennial of the Apparitions, leaving a message in favour of peace, in a world marked by the threat of a nuclear war.

“Tensions between great world powers persist, conflicts continue configuring a ‘third world war in episodes’, terrorism and nuclear threat are spreading”, stated Monsignor Antonio Marto, before tens of thousands of people gathered for the international anniversary pilgrimage of October, which evokes the sixth apparition of Our Lady to the Little Shepherds, under the theme “Mary, Star of Evangelization”.

The Bishop opened and closed the

pilgrimage with a special note regarding peace.

“Peace is a central theme of the message. By asking to pray the rosary for peace every day, Our Lady wants to launch, through prayer, a general mobilization of the catholic people that leads to an active commitment for the world’s peace”, said Mgr. Antonio Marto, who renewed the appeal Pope Paul VI made in 1967.

“In this time in which we live a certain religious indifference, a kind of eclipse, cultural concealment of God, Mary invites us today to discover the love and grace of God and his beauty, to proclaim God’s greatness”, he appealed.

Monsignor Antonio Marto projected challenges for the future of Fatima and Christian faith, how “to make God present” in Humanity.

“God’s mercy is more powerful than the force of evil”, he continued, reminding Pope Francis words last May in Cova da Iria: «Pope Francis repeated here twice: “We have Mother”! I take the liberty of adding: yes, we have Mother of tenderness and mercy, helpful and advocate of the poor, of those who suffer, of the humble and humiliated, of the oppressed, the lonely, the abandoned and rejected by the culture of indifference, of those who say: “What do I care? Everyone is on his own”».

The Bishop of the diocese of Leiria-Fatima emphasized, on the other hand, the importance of praying the rosary to “invoke the gift of peace to the world”.

“The rosary is a mean, given by the Virgin, to contemplate Jesus and, meditating on His life, to love and follow Him always faithfully”, he said.

Pilgrims from 45 foreign countries, aside from thousands of Portuguese people, came to Fatima for the final celebrations of the Centennial of the Apparitions, in a pilgrimage that evoked the so called “Miracle of the Sun”.

The total of foreign pilgrims groups, between May and October 2017, in Cova da Iria, was 4986, representing an increase of 285% regarding the same period in 2016 (1745 groups); the number of portuguese groups was 1191 (1092 in 2016).

Pope joins the Centennial of the Apparitions closure

The Pope’s message was displayed on screens dispersed on the Prayer Area / Carmo Rodeia

Pope Francis associated himself to the closure of the Centennial of the Apparitions in Fatima, with a broadcasted message to the pilgrims gathered in Cova da Iria, in the end of the International Mass on October 13th.

“I would like to give you an advice: Never quit the Rosary, Never quit the Rosary, pray the Rosary as She

asked to”, he said, conceding the blessing after showing the rosary he was carrying in his pocket.

The message was displayed to all who participated in the celebration of the October 13th international pilgrimage through screens dispersed on the Prayer Area.

“And never go away from the Mother: As a child, who is close to his moth-

er and feels safe, next to the Virgin, we also feel much secure. She is our guarantee”, the Pope requested.

Francis addressed to all who marked the “closure of the Centennial of the Apparitions of the Most Blessed Virgin in Fatima” in Spanish, and remembered his pilgrimage of last May.

“I still bring in my heart the memory of my journey and the blessings

The President of the Republic honours Fatima as a place of “projection of Portugal” in the world

Bishop of Leiria-Fatima underlines the permanent novelty of the message / Carmo Rodeia

The closing session of the Centennial of the Apparitions celebrations was held on last October 13th, with two speeches from the Bishop of Leiria-Fatima and the President of the Republic, both underlining the role of Fatima as a place of “projection” of Portugal in the world, complementing the message of peace and solidarity which has been spread here.

A concert was then held premiering two works of Eurico Carrapatoso and James McMillan, *Salve Regina* and *The Sun Danced*, respectively, interpreted by the Gulbenkian Choir and Orchestra, under the direction of conductor Joana Carneiro.

In a session which took place in the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, an iconic place of this Shrine, the Bishop of Leiria-Fatima highlighted the moment as “historic and unique to Fatima, to the Church and to the country”. Monsignor Antonio Marto spoke of the people who “found in Fatima a symbol of hope which fed their resilience”, in the last century. This scenario, he added, “touches the depths of mankind, the naked truth of the mystery of men”.

“Many are the paths leading to this place which guards the memory of the presence of God: pilgrims arrive from all over the world and from all corners of the human profundity”, emphasised Monsignor Antonio Marto.

The solemn session closed a seven years celebrative cycle, in response to the “challenge” launched on May 13th 2010, by



Mgr. António Marto and Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa underlined the centrality of the message of Fatima

Pope Benedict XVI: “May the seven years which separate us from the Centennial of the Apparitions hasten the fulfillment of the prophecy of the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, to the glory of the Most Holy Trinity”.

The Bishop of Leiria-Fatima spoke of a “festive itinerary”, during seven years, aiming at different audiences, and in a moment of thanksgiving for the geography of the name “Fatima”, which “has spread throughout the entire world, leaving a trail of light and hope”.

The President of the Republic also complemented the contribution of Fatima

to the projection of Portugal in the world and launched an appeal: “May the message of Fatima, message of peace, message of fraternity, message of solidarity, message of humanity, message of love in all its dimensions, may inspire us all, inspire the portuguese society, inspire mankind, in the present and in the future”.

To the President of the Republic, this Centennial “marks the presence of Fatima” in history of Portugal, “by the gathering, over these one hundred years, of millions of Portuguese men and women”.

Fatima’s jubilee year ends next November 26th.

and appeals to pilgrims to keep praying the Rosary

the Virgin wanted to give me and the Church, on that day”, he enhanced.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, as you celebrate today the closure of the Centennial of the Apparitions of the Most Blessed Virgin in Fatima, i would like to send you my blessing and greeting.

I still bring in my heart the memory of my journey and the blessings the Virgin wanted to give me and the Church, on that day.

Never be afraid; God is so much better than all our miseries! And He loves us so much!

Go ahead!

And never go away from the Mother; as a child, who is close to his mother and feels safe, next to the Virgin, we also feel much secure.

She is our guarantee.

And finally, I would like to give you an advice:

Never quit the Rosary, never quit the Rosary, pray the Rosary as She asked to.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

And pray for me too.

Thank you.

Pope Francis transcription, recorded on September 30th, during a private audience, in the Vatican, with the Bishop of the Diocese Leiria-Fatima and the Shrine of Fatima’s responsible.

Polish people offered custody with the silhouette of Our Lady's image to the Shrine of Fatima

The offering was done by the metropolitan archbishop of Krakow / **Cátia Filipe**

On September 24th, the Shrine of Fatima received from the hands of the metropolitan archbishop of Krakow, the most reverend Marek Jedraszewski, a custody with the silhouette of the image of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima.

The custody, "Woman of the Eucharist", prepared by the Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima in Zakopane, Poland, and by the Foundation of the Angels of Mercy, was a gift of the Polish people to the Shrine of Fatima, on the Centennial of the Apparitions.

«This custody is an expression of the commitment of the Polish people to the message of prayer and conversion for

peace, entrusted here one hundred years ago by Our Lady», said the metropolitan archbishop of Krakow.

The custody offered by the Polish people to the Shrine is made of gold and silver, with 12 meteorites and one stone brought from the Moon.

The custody made a pilgrimage throughout the Polish lands with the intention of peace and reconciliation, visiting 99 churches and Polish shrines. Then it arrived in Fatima (its hundredth stop), which will be its permanent home.

«May it be the bearer of Christ to all of pilgrims who come to this Shrine, may the peace reach the Polish lands and



Fatima and Zakopane linked through Mary

may the voice of Our Lady and her call be heard in the whole country», the metropolitan archbishop of Krakow added. During the act of entrusting of the custody, a typical Polish chant was intoned by ten musicians from this country.

Shrine of Fatima received the visit of the ambassador of Peru in Portugal

Crew of the BAP Union Naval School accompanied Maritza Puertas de Rodríguez / **Cátia Filipe**



Vice-rector welcomed 50 militaries and Maritza Puertas, Ambassador of Peru in Portugal

On August 31st, the Shrine of Fatima received the Peruvian ambassador in Portugal, Maritza Puertas de Rodríguez, the captain of the sailing ship of the BAP Union Naval School, Franz Bittrich, its chaplain, Fr. Jimmy Tello, and the crew of 50 cadets.

The reception was made by the vice-rector of the Shrine of Fatima, Fr. Vítor Coutinho, followed by a guided visit to the various places of the Shrine and a celebration in the Chapel of the Apparitions.

«A shrine is by definition a place of

hospitality, where everyone has a place, there are neither walls nor doors, it is opened to all sensibilities and it is a space where all can live their own understanding of faith, their spirituality», Fr. Vítor Coutinho reminded, not hiding his happiness for the visit.

Fr. Vítor left a special word for the 50 soldiers, whose main mission is «peace» and for that reason «soldiers have a very special place that is appreciated in the Shrine».

Peru and the Portuguese Republic established diplomatic relations on March 26th, 1853, with the signature of the Commercial and Navigation Treaty, having developed important bilateral and multilateral cooperation mechanisms. The last meeting of political consulting mechanism took place in Lima, on June 14th, this year.

The visit of BAP Unión had the goal of symbolizing the understandings and the potentiality of economic, commercial and political cooperation between Portugal, Peru and Latin America.



Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary reflected on the narrative of Fatima through seven different scenes

History of Fatima told through music and new technologies

Concert and multimedia projection marked the closure of the Centennial of the Apparitions celebrations / Carmo Rodeia

The Basilica of Our Lad of the Rosary of Fatima was lit up with a 14 minutes audio visual projection, “reconstructing the historical and spiritual fundamentals” of the apparitions of the Virgin Mary in Cova da Iria, held between October 12th and 14th.

Commissioned by the Shrine of Fátima, the multimedia projection “Fatima-Time of Light” combined a *videomapping* projection with 3D effects, luminous effects and original soundtrack.

The presentation was developed by ACCIONA Producciones y Diseño, a company from Spain, and it was seen on site by nearly 300 thousand people, reaching a total of over a million people, counting social networks.

The front of the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, with 140 meters wide and 58 meters high, was transformed in a 3100 square meters projection screen, becoming the narrative axis of a history which intends to symbolically project the light of Fatima in to the hearts of all believers.

The show evoked the experience of thousands of pilgrims, who visit the Shrine every year, throughout seven scenes: “The reflex of the light of God”; “The heart of Mary, immaculate and tri-



Gulbenkian's Choir and orchestra directed by Joana Carneiro, with the participation of Elisabete Matos

umphant, leads to God”; “The Church sings the message of Fatima”; “The Pilgrims Paths”; “In Fatima we hear a message of peace to the world”; “In Fatima we celebrate the God who is close to the human being” and “In Fatima we light our heart”.

Prior to the multimedia show, the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima

hosted the closing concert of the Centennial of the Apparitions celebrations, with the Gulbenkian Orchestra and Choir, directed by Joana Carneiro, with the soprano Elisabete Matos participation.

The first part of the program comprised the absolute premiere of the works *Salve Regina* and *The Sun Danced*, by Eurico Carrapatoso and James MacMillan.

Shrine of Fatima welcomes the relic of Saint John Paul II

Faithful venerated the relic in the Chapel of the Resurrection of Jesus for two days / **Cátia Filipe**

The Shrine of Fatima welcomed last October 21st and 22nd a relic of Saint John Paul II on the occasion of his liturgical memory on October 22nd.

The Shrine of Fatima remembered the date with a votive mass in the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, where were present some acolytes who assisted the Polish Pope at the time of his visits to Fatima in 1982, 1991 and 2000.

Mgr. António Carlos Cruz, Bishop of Caicó in Brazil, presided at the celebration.

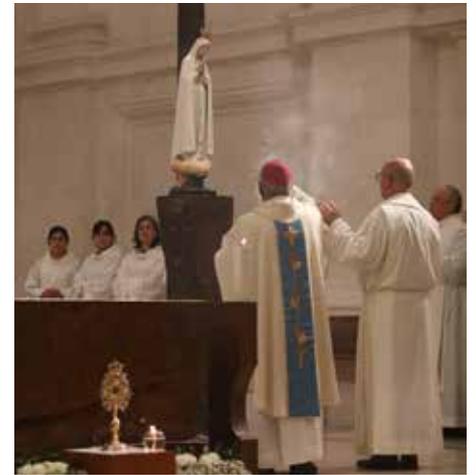
F. Sérgio Henriques reminded the pilgrims who filled the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of the “special dimension” of the welcome of the relic of Saint John Paul II, making a link to the “gift that this Pope had been for history and the world”.

F. Sérgio said that all human being must “participate in the life of Humanity, be Man among Men, value the beauty of the world”, for it is possible to “combine the political practice with the Gospel, as Saint John Paul II told us”.

The relic is a piece of cloth of the blood-stained cassock worn by the Pope during the assassination attempt, which almost kill him, May 13th, 1981, in Saint Peter’s Square. It was lent to the Shrine by the Postulation for the Cause of the Canonization of the Polish Pope.

The relic was welcomed in the Shrine of Fatima on Saturday morning, 21st. During the celebration, with the participation of many pilgrims who completely filled the Chapel of the Resurrection of Jesus, the third part of the secret was read from the Memoirs of Sister Lucia; a reflection on the meaning of a blood relic was made and the prayer Pope Saint John Paul II prayed in Fatima, on May 1982, was also repeated. It was his first visit to the Shrine and he consecrated all humanity to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The relic was exposed for the veneration of the faithful in the Chapel of the Resurrection of Jesus, on the lower floor of the Basilica of Most Holy Trinity.



Relic venerated for two days

The presence of this relic in Fatima is essentially due to the profound link existing between Saint John Paul II and Fatima, which the Shrine seeks to also underline in this Centennial year.

Winter schedule comes into effect on November 1st

Mass at 11:00 am is now celebrated in the Basilica of Most Holy Trinity / **Sandra Dantas**

From November 1st, the winter schedule comes into effect in the program of the celebration of the Shrine of Fatima.

The main changes are related to the foreign language masses. The official Italian mass at 08:00 am and the official English mass at 03:30 pm are no longer part of the daily program of the Shrine.

The mass at 11:00 am, on Sundays, celebrated during Summer schedule in the Prayer Area, will be now celebrated in the Basilica of Most Holy Trinity.

The different schedules of the celebrations are available on the official web page

of the Shrine of Fatima (www.fatima.pt).

The celebrations in the Chapel of the Apparitions are the following: from November to Easter

10:00 am – ROSARY, on Sunday and religious holydays.

12:00 pm – ROSARY, from Monday to Saturday.

12:30 pm – MASS.

02:00 pm – HOUR OF REPARATION to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, on Saturday and Sunday (except on Sundays during Lent time).

04:00 pm – ROSARY, on Sunday and religious holydays.

06:30 pm – ROSARY.

07:15 pm – MASS, in Spanish, on Saturday.

09:30 pm – ROSARY, followed by candlelight procession in the Prayer Area (the candlelight procession takes place every day until the beginning of Advent; from Advent to Easter, it takes place on Saturdays and 12th; on Thursdays, until the beginning of Advent, it is followed by the Eucharistic procession).

Shrine of Fatima joined the initiative “Rosary Without Borders”

Prayer for peace gathered hundreds of people in Lisbon / **Carmo Rodeia**

On October 7th, Lisbon received the initiative “Rosary Without Borders”, which gathered hundreds of people in a joint prayer for peace. The Shrine of Fatima also joined this initiative.

The initiative, by the ACN Foundation and the Presépio da Cidade (Crib of the City), an entity of the Patriarchate of Lisbon, surprised those who passed by the Monument of the Discoveries, also because of the beauty of the im-

age of Our Lady of Fatima that illuminated the place.

Bishop Nuno Brás, auxiliary bishop of the Patriarchate of Lisbon, presided the prayer and, at the end, insisted on underlining the importance of praying «for those who suffer».

The auxiliary bishop of the Patriarchate of Lisbon ended his intervention by calling attention to the migrants, those who have been arriving to our country in search of better life

conditions, wishing that all may be received in goodness and in a true Christian spirit: «May they also find believing communities, who are capable of talking to them about faith, capable of receiving them in the Christian community”.

This celebration took place in straight connection with the Church in Poland, with the support of 20 dioceses and more than 200 parishes, and of Catholics of Slovenia and Czech Republic.

Réseau Marial Européen had a meeting in the Shrine of Fatima

European Marian Network counted on the presence of 21 rectors of the member Shrines / **Cátia Filipe**



Rectors of Marian shrines were pilgrims in the Jubilee Year of the Centennial of the Apparitions of Fatima

From September 26th to 29th, the Shrine of Fatima received a meeting of the European Marian Network, which integrates 21 shrines.

The Réseau Marial Européen (European Marian Network) was founded by the bishops and rectors responsible for the Shrines of Loreto, Czestochowa, Lourdes, Altötting and Fatima.

The growth of the phenomenon of pilgrimages at the beginning of the so called Third Millennium, in all religions, the revitalization of borders and the sense of the need of working together for a spiritual Europe led to the creation of the Réseau Marial Européen. On the other hand, the providential role of Mary in new evange-

lization, the ecumenical dialogue and the inter-religious questions, and the very existence of structures of collaboration among shrines were other aspects that led to the constitution of the Réseau.

With a close theological and pastoral root, the various shrines aim at helping each other in the reflection and the initiatives that may allow them to accomplish the mission that God entrusted them.

In 2003, Lourdes received the first of these meetings, opening a real communication between the shrines.

Taking the jubilee year in Fatima into account and in order to mark the celebration of the 100 years of the Apparitions of Our Lady in Cova da Iria, the works of the annu-

al meeting of the Réseau Marial Européen took place in the Shrine of Fatima this year.

In the program of the meeting, there were moments of prayer, reflection, formation and socialization.

The 21 shrines that integrate the network are: Altötting (Germany), Banneux (Belgium), Brezje (Slovenia), Csíksomlyó (Romania), Czestochowa (Poland), Einsiedeln (Switzerland), Fátima (Portugal), Gibraltar, Knock (Republic of Ireland), Levoca (Slovakia), Loreto (Italy), Lourdes (France), Máriapócs (Hungary), Marizell (Austria), Marija Bistrica (Croatia), Malta, Vilnius (Lithuania), Walsingham (England), Saragoça (Spain), Zarvanyzia (Ukraine), Mátraverebély (Hungary).

Solitary navigator takes the image of Our Lady of Fatima to Aparecida

The initiative aims at uniting the Centennial of the Apparitions of Fatima to the 300 years of the Lady of Aparecida / **Carmo Rodeia**

On October 15th, the navigator Ricardo Diniz received an image of Our Lady of Fatima, which will accompany him in a journey to Brazil, a solitary journey of more than a month, with the aim of uniting the Centennial of the Apparitions of Fatima to the 300 years of the Lady of Aparecida.

The image was blessed at the end of the celebration of the dominical mass, in the Prayer Area of the Shrine; it is a replica of 70 centimeters' height, identical to the one in the Chapel of the Apparitions, offered by the Shrine of Fatima.

Before completing the more than 4000 nautical miles that separates the Portuguese coast from the 'brother country', Ricardo Diniz passed in Cova da Iria and went walking

from Fatima to Peniche, where the image was exposed in the Church of Saint Peter.

On the departure date, October 29th, the image went aboard the sail ship of Ricardo Diniz, covered with flowers, where it will be taken on boat until Salvador da Baía.

Arriving at the destination, estimated to the end of November, the Portuguese navigator will deliver the image to the local ecclesiastic authorities.

«In respect for the values of this mission», which the solitary navigator considers to be «the most important ever», in the place of the usual sponsors or logos which color the ship, Ricardo Diniz will put «the words 'fé, paz e amor», also translated in English, 'faith, peace, love'.



Ricardo Diniz left on October 29th

Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima was in South Korea in unprecedented visit

Throughout two months the image travelled 14 dioceses of the country / WAF South Korea

The Pilgrim Image of Our Lady of Fatima was in South Korea for two months, where it travelled 14 dioceses, in an unprecedented visit.

The initiative was a joint organization of the World Postulate of Fatima in that country of the Korean Peninsula and the local Catholic Church, and took place between August 22nd and October 13th.

The Shrine of the Peace of Fatima, located near the border between North Korea and South Korea, received, from the 22nd to the 30th of August, a novena for peace in the country.

After this period, the Pilgrim Virgin went through 10 dioceses: archdiocese of Seoul, diocese of Uijeongbu, diocese of Incheon, diocese of Wonju, diocese of Daejeon, diocese of Cheongju, diocese of Jeonju, diocese of Masan, archdiocese of Gwangju, diocese of Jeju; 5 parish churches in the archdiocese of Daegu, diocese of

Chuncheon, diocese of Uijeongbu; 6 religious orders; 2 prayer groups; and also the Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary of Namyang (diocese of Suwon).

On October 13th, the end of the visit, a mass was celebrated in Gangseo Gymnasium in Busan, presided by the most reverend Sam Seok, auxiliary bishop of Busan, where a last blessing was given. More than 7.000 people from all the dioceses of the whole Korea were present.

The Pilgrim Virgin of Our Lady of Fatima travelled throughout South Korea, visiting 14 of the 16 existing dioceses in that country. It is estimated that, during those 50 days, around 55.500 pilgrims accompanied the image of Our Lady.

The image of the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima had already been in South Korea in 1978, at the time of the pilgrimage around the world.

Pilgrim Virgin was enthroned in the National Shrine of Our Lady of Taper, in Cardigan

The ceremony took place on May 27th, 2017, during the National Pilgrimage of the Pilgrim Virgin Statue to England and Wales / Oliver Abasolo and Barry Pearlman



Pilgrim Virgin, ambassador of peace

The first time I heard of Fatima was in Texas, while a child, when I knew the book of William Thomas Walsh entitled *Our Lady of Fatima*.

I learned Portuguese to be able to learn the documents, but especially to be able to have a perception of the three little shepherds' minds.

Since then, my wife and I did various pilgrimages to Fatima, and we were very lucky to be able to talk to different witnesses who were present at the time of the apparitions, such as João Marto, brother of Francisco and Jacinta, and Francisco Rosa, of the family of Lucia. I can't explain how

moved I was when Mr. Francisco Rosa told us of the miracle of the Sun, saying: «The Sun came down, came down».

Fatima is a very special place. The intense spiritual atmosphere, the environment of peace and the sense of transcendence spread from this holy place, transforming it in another world. In Fatima, we are truly in the 'Altar of the World'. Therefore, though the circumstances did not allow us to make such trips in the last years, it is wonderful for us to have Our Lady visiting us.

The ceremony began with the recitation of the Rosary and the Holy Mass, followed by the welcoming words of Fr. Phillip Harries and prayers for Wales and England, and also different prayers of intercession. We were then invited to venerate the relics of Saint Francisco and Saint Jacinta and to participate in the celebrations.

Then, there was a presentation evoking the events and the message of Fatima, so that we were then able to participate in a moment of Adoration to the Most Holy Sacrament.

Temporary exhibition of the Shrine of Fatima can now be seen virtually

“The colors of the Sun: the light of Fatima in the contemporary world” can be visited through a *click* / Carmo Rodeia

Inaugurated in the Shrine of Fatima on November 26th, 2016 and open to the public until October 31st, 2018, the temporary exhibition “The colors of the Sun: the light of Fatima in the contemporary world”, which evokes the Miracle of Sun, gained a new expression since October 4th, when the on-line visit became available. The virtual access is done through the link <http://www.fatima.pt/en/pages/temporary-exhibitions>

The Shrine of Fatima intends that this exhibition, similarly to all other five temporary exhibitions developed in the itinerary of seven years, between 2010 and 2017, to be accessible to the biggest number of visitors possible for on-site visits and, now, via internet, in this month of October, in which the sixth apparition of the Virgin Mary is celebrated.

Taking as historic material the 13th of October 1917 and the direct and indirect reports on the Miracle of Sun, the exhibition intends to recreate, through the different sensorial mechanisms, scenarios related to the landscape of the day of the last apparition of the Virgin Mary in Fatima. From this memory, the visitor will realize that the Miracle of Sun was not the closing moment of the history of the apparitions, but the initial day of a history in which the pilgrim becomes the real protagonist.

The exhibition that will be open in the year of the centennial is the most ambitious that the Shrine of Fatima ever promoted, and counts with pieces borrowed by collectors and by ecclesiastic and civil institutions.

For those who are able to come to Cova da Iria, “The colors of the Sun: the light of Fatima in the contemporary world” will continue to be open to the public until the end of October next year, with free entrance, between 9:00 am and 7:00 pm, in the lower floor of the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity, in the *Convivium* of Saint Augustine. Until October 4th, the exhibition counted on 232.138 visitors.

Pilgrim Virgin was in the UN headquarters for a conference on the Centennial of Fatima

The main goal of this initiative was a reflection on peace / Fr. Roger J. Landry

On May 13th, when Pope Francis was landing in Portugal, something special was happening in the United Nations: a conference on the Centennial of Fatima and the relevance of its message of peace.

In front of 600 people, the guest of honor of this initiative was the Pilgrim Virgin blessed by Pope Pius XII on the thirtieth anniversary of the apparitions, in 1947. On December 8th, 1952, the statue arrived at the United Nations for the first time.

Before, during and after the conference, many were those who wanted to reach Our Lady to make their prayers.

Archbishop Bernardito Auza, papal nuncio to the UN, reminded and asked «prayers for peace», specially for the end of violence in Syria, Iraq, South Sudan, Somalia, Yemen, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, East Ukraine and North Korea. He also mentioned the scourge of «terrorism, religious, ethnical and racial persecution, totalitarian repressions, murderous drug cartels and organized crime, traffic of people and other forms of modern slavery, and different na-



Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima was in the UNO for the first time in 1952

tional insurgencies that stained the world with blood and hate».

The main goal of the event, however, was neither prayer nor veneration – which took place afterwards at the Holy Family Church, in front of UN, and in the following day at St. Patrick's Cathedral –, rather a reflection on a «peace plan».

Archbishop Auza said that the «peace plan» of Mary involved four «universal lessons». The first one is a need for conversion, «to turn around, to change the

way of thinking and living, of examining thoughts, words and actions». The second lesson is that «peace starts in the heart», something seen in the appeal of Mary for the consecration to the Immaculate Heart. The third universal lesson is that «prayer is an instrument of peace», not only because «prayer transforms the one who prays», but also because «it can change the world». The fourth and last lesson is about the need for implication of all in the work of pacification.

Czech Republic received the visit of the pilgrim image of Our Lady of Fatima

Image travelled about 3900 km for almost one month / Pavel Dokládál

On September 13th, the Shrine of Fatima delivered to the president of the Episcopal Conference of the Czech Republic an image of the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima, that travelled the country.

The image was delivered at the end of the anniversary international mass, in the Prayer Area, by the rector of the Shrine, Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas, who, in the name of the bishop of Leiria-Fatima, wished that the «great ambassador of the message of Fatima and of this Shrine» could be able to take «comfort to those who suffer; take strength to those who courageously witness their faith in an adverse environment; and open ways to God in the heart of those who will be in touch with her».

Also as sign of recognition for this «connection» between Fatima and the history of the Czech Republic, cardinal Dominik Duka offered to the Shrine an image of the Infant Jesus of Prague.

«In the first pilgrimage, here, we gave thanks for the regained freedom and, to-

day, we give thanks for the new generation that grew in this freedom: a generation that did not know the Nazi prison, the Communist prison, the outrage, the loss of freedom, the persecution for the exercise of religious faith. We gather here – men, women, mothers, fathers, children, religious men and women, priests and also bishops», said the responsible of the

Catholic Church in the Czech Republic.

During the last month, the image was followed for about 690 priests, bishops from various dioceses, and more than 36500 faithful, for a total of 3900 km. This itinerary was always accompanied by three children featuring Francisco, Jacinta and Lucia, and stimulated the devotee to pray the rosary.



Pilgrim Statue accompanied by 690 priests, several bishops and 36500 of faithful

Bishop Monsignor Bonanno announces the consecration of the San Marco Argentano-Scalea diocese to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

A statue of Our Lady, coming from Fatima, started, on September 8th at the Regional Shrine of Pettoruto, a pilgrimage which will run all the communities of the diocese / **Giovanni Celia**

On the occasion of the Centennial of the Apparitions of Our Lady in Fatima, the bishop of the San Marco Argentano-Scalea diocese, Monsignor Leonardo Bonanno, announced the intention to consecrate this diocese to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

For some time now, Monsignor Leonardo Bonanno nourished this idea: to live in a significant and specific way the centennial of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima in the diocese, in virtue of the twinning existing between the diocesan Shrine of Maria SS. del Pettoruto in San Sosti and the Portuguese Shrine.

For those reasons he decided to dedi-

cate the last part of the year to the fulfilment of some of the messages of Mary to the three little shepherds and encourage in the communities the consecration to Her Immaculate Heart, and so responding to a request the Virgin made in Cova da Iria to the whole world, particularly Russia.

In addition, the bishop, once obtained the approval from the Council of Priests for this initiative, instructed that from September 8th (Feast of the Nativity of Mary) until December 7th (Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception Vigil), priests, religious, deacons, seminarians and the faithful laypeople of the diocese to offer Our Lady the tribute of prayer, penitence

and charity along with the solemn consecration to her Immaculate Heart.

A statue of Our Lady, coming from Fatima, left the Regional Shrine of Pettoruto on September 8th, to visit all the diocese communities. This Marian pilgrimage will be concluded at the Cathedral Church, on the afternoon of December 7th with the presence of Cardinal Angelo Amato – Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints – who will make public the decree of Venerability of the Servant of God Monsignor Agostinho Ernesto Castrillo. In the end of the solemn rite the bishop will consecrate the diocese to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

New Archbishop of Milan consecrated his ministry to Our Lady of Fatima

A significant and important event, which occurs during the Centennial of the Apparitions and shows his devotion to the Most Holy Virgin / **Father Alberto Rocca, icms**

Located in Bisetrata di Pozzuolo Martesana (Milan) – Archdiocese of Milan, our community animates for some years the Spirituality Centre “Nostra Signora del Rosario di Fatima” (“Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima”), created by Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini, the then Archbishop of Milan, as a place of evangelization and diffusion of the Message of Fatima.

Last September 13th, our Centre was the stage of a very important event which I have the pleasure to share: the new Archbishop of Milan, His Excellency the most Reverend Monsignor Mario Delpini, few days after assuming office of the Ambrose Archdiocese (on September 9th), presided in Bisetrata at the usual celebrations which take place on the 13th of every month, from May to October and, in the end of the Mass, consecrated his pastor of the Church ministry in Milan to Our



Prelate made consecration to Our Lady on September 13th of this year

Lady of Fatima, before her statue. I think this is a significant and important event, because it happens in the Centennial of

the Apparitions and because it shows the new Milan's archbishop great devotion to Our Lady.

Lithuania and Bulgaria made their national pilgrimage to the Shrine of Fatima

Initiatives mark the Centennial of the Apparitions of Our Lady / **Cátia Filipe**



Around thousands of pilgrims from Eastern Europe came to Fatima as a sign of peace

The Shrine of Fatima welcomed, on October 20th and 23rd, the National Pilgrimage of Lithuania and Bulgaria, which brought to Cova da Iria hundreds of lay pilgrims, accompanied by bishops and priests.

The National Pilgrimage of Lithuania started with a celebration in the Chapel of the Death of Jesus, which gathered more than 600 pilgrims, 100 priests and eight bishops, and archbishop Gintaras Grusas, from the same country.

This pilgrimage was the result of the participation of more than 340 small groups from Lithuania, but also of some groups of Lithuanians living in Portugal.

The group went to Aljustrel, where it visited the houses of the little shepherds and the places of the apparitions of the An-

gel. The participation in the rosary and in the candlelight procession was also part of the celebrative program.

In 2013, on the occasion of the Year of Faith, the Jubilee of the 600 years of the Baptism of the Samogitians and the 20th anniversary of Pope John Paul II visit to Lithuania, a group of pilgrims travelled 4.400 Km, carrying a cross with 65 kilos, to participate in the International Pilgrimage of October that year.

In its turn, the National Pilgrimage of Bulgaria started with a greeting to Our Lady in the Chapel of the Apparitions, followed by a celebration in the Chapel of the Holy Angels.

The group, with nearly 210 pilgrims, was accompanied by 10 priests and Bishop

Christo Proykov.

This pilgrimage also took part in the Rosary and candlelight procession, on Saturday 21st, October. On Sunday, the program begun at 11.00 am with a mass in the Prayer Area.

Last July 1st, the Parish of Fatima in Pleven, a city in the north of Bulgaria, welcomed Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches, to, with Bulgarian Catholics, celebrate the Centennial of the Apparitions of Fatima.

The Shrine of Fatima in Pleven was born as a response to Bishop Petko Christov from Nicopoli, on the occasion of a pilgrimage with other Bulgarian catholic bishops to the Shrine of Fatima in 1996.

Our Lady of Fatima was crowned by the most reverend José F. Oliveros, bishop of the diocese of Malolos

Rector of the Shrine of Fatima sent a crown as a sign of "union" / **Jilson N. Tio**

On May 13th, the pilgrim image of Our Lady of Fatima received a crown during a celebration presided by the most reverend José F. Oliveros, bishop of the diocese of Malolos, Philippines, in a gesture that was witnessed by thousands of devotees and parish members.

At the beginning of this year, the rector of the Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas, sent a golden crown, affirming that, «with this offering, we express our union in the celebration of the Centennial of the Apparitions, sincerely wishing that this gift may intensify the devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary among you».

In order for the celebrations of the Centennial could go on, the transmission of the

events was guaranteed from May to October in the various archdioceses and dioceses in the country, through a live connection with the streaming of the official site of the Shrine of Fatima.

The message of Our Lady in Fatima echoes the need of prayer, especially the rosary, for peace; the need of conversion, especially in returning to the sacraments; the need of consecration, especially in the consecration of the nation and the families to Her Immaculate Heart; and the need of penance, especially offering daily sacrifices. It also emphasizes the evident importance of the Eucharist, in the final apparition of the Angel of Peace. Thus, the celebration counts on the mass and eucharistic adoration.

Pilgrim Image in Angola

According to the report of Fr. Luciano Cristiano, from the Shrine of Fatima, the Venerable Pilgrim Image of Fatima departed by sea on July 20th, 1948 from the port of Lisbon with the African continent as its destination.

It went through Funchal heading to S. Tomé and Príncipe and Angola, where it arrived on the 30th of the same month, to depart again only on September 30th, heading to Mozambique, where it remained until November 13th, ending this part of the journey in Lourenço Marques.

From there it followed to South Africa, and later it would go for a long journey by the land to Cairo (Egypt), passing by South Rhodesia, Transvaal, North Rhodesia, Zanzibar, Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Libya.

Centennial of Fatima:

A memory that opens up to hope / F. Vítor Coutinho

The designation of Fatima as a “mantle of Light that cover us”, used by Pope Francis is easily assimilated by those who were once part of the crowd who prays and sings, at the Shrine, with the lighted candles, which are multiplied in thousands of raised hands and light up the night in a space that seems always enormous for those who feel themselves as being a tiny part of humankind represented there. This image can be, in a certain way, the expression of experiences provided by the celebration pathway of the Centennial of the Apparitions of Fatima. The set of initiatives developed from 2010 to 2017 brought the spirituality of Fatima to a larger number of Christians and Christian communities, brought to Shrine a higher number of pilgrims, placed the Fatima phenomenon in a wider set of debate forums, allowed more diversified approaches to the different meanings and experiences, took even further the knowledge and multifaceted deepening of Fatima. It is easily documented, especially during 2017, the constant and intense presence of Fatima in the mass media, in social networks, in the pastoral plans of the dioceses and parishes.

As the Portuguese Bishops wrote, the Shrine became a place of welcome to those who look for it, a place that shows solidarity with the necessities and the anguishes of the world. Today, the Shrine is mainly a place of prayer but also of enthusiasm spot, an ecclesial center of theological reflection, from the events which occurred one hundred years ago, and from the challenges that those events continue to offer to the Church.

Since the beginning of the programme preparation it was designated as celebration and not a simple commemoration. The aim was never a set of ceremonies but rather occasions for celebration. The one who celebrates starts from the thankful memory, to live in the present, joyfully, the spiritual reality it evokes. The intention was not to have a festivities programme, but a spiritual itinerary which would allow everyone, in the diversity of places, to reach the threshold of

the mystery that Fatima announces. As a celebration event, this Centennial preserves the memory of an announcement that becomes current in the present, eloquent for men and women of our time and able to give a renewed strength to hope to those who believe in the tender love of God, who in His mercy, does not forsake humankind to the fate that it creates itself.

For all these reasons, the common thread of all the program was the Message of Fatima itself, whose fundamental core was the basis for a thematic itinerary which guided the celebrations plan structure: not only through countless study, further development and reflexion actions, but also as an inspiring element of each pilgrim's pilgrimage, of the prayers which were made available and the different devotional and meditative offers. The message centre of this place was sought through different paths: to meet the heart of God, assisted by the motherly care of the Virgin Mary. This is also the sense of the theme that the Shrine of Fatima chose to close the celebration cycle of seven years, taking up an affirmation of Our Lady, which became the reading key of the whole Message of Fatima: “My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and the way that will lead you to God”.

One of the most meaningful results of the Centennial pastoral plan was, probably, the development of this interaction between the Message of Fatima and the celebration, devotional, catechetical and cultural actions. This, in turn, led to the integration of several languages to tell this message today and promoted great creativity to deal with the theme of Fatima, using different forms of art or different pastoral and pedagogical methodologies.

One of the initiatives that brought the celebration of the Centennial of Fatima in a more substantial way to the different points of the country was the visit of the Pilgrim Statue to the dioceses of Portugal. She travelled approximately 22,000 km and gathered amazing crowds in every place where she went. Several European countries carried out similar initiatives, subsequently. Thus,

it was felt that the Blessed Virgin Mary, also pilgrim, becomes our companion in our pilgrimage, comes with us in the paths of life, encourages us in the pilgrimage for godliness and enlightens us with Her example, in our life of faith.

The highlight of the celebrations was, undeniably, Pope Francis' pilgrimage to Cova da Iria, on May 12th and 13th, with the canonization of Francisco and Jacinta Marto. The motto chosen for the Pope's visit pointed out, precisely, to his condition of pilgrim, which was how he chose to be there: “With Mary, pilgrim in peace and in hope”. It was a pilgrim Pope that in Fatima encouraged the pilgrims at each moment of an intense pilgrimage. With the canonization of the two children, the Pope confirms, for all Christians, that a life lived under the light of the spirituality of Fatima can lead to godliness.

The celebration of the Centennial of the Apparitions of Fatima was truly polyhedral, with activities of very diversified nature, stimulating approaches from different angles and promoting the access through many ways: popular and scholar, devotional and liturgical, cultural and festive, informative and reflective. It was comprehensive because it covered diversified audiences, it reached devout recipients and critics of Fatima, it involved unprecedented participants and gave place to new languages. Diversity was one of the strongest marks of the celebration programme.

The Centennial of Fatima helped us to live the joy of being visited by the love of God and to be welcomed by the Immaculate Heart of Mary, made us celebrate the mercy of our God, whose love is stronger than human wickedness, offered a wider and more updated reading of the Message of Fatima, invited believers and sceptics to look at Fatima, took the light of Fatima to more distant places. Pope Francis' demand still echoes: “Let us be guided by the Light which comes from Fatima. May the Immaculate Heart of Mary always be our refuge, our consolation and the path that leads to Christ”.

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Editor: Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas

Proprietor, Publisher and Editor: Shrine of

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Social Security nr. 500 746 699

Address: Santuário de Fátima – Apartado 31

2496-908 FÁTIMA (Portugal)

Tel.: +351 249 539 600 * Fax: +351 249 539 668

Email: comunicacao@fatima.pt

www.fatima.pt

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