



# FÁTIMA LUZ E PAZ

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 Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fátima
 

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 Director: Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas
 

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*Time of Grace and Mercy: to give thanks for the gift of Fatima*

## Pilgrim Statue meets the youth

/ Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas

The Shrine of Fatima will attend the next World Youth Day that will take place in Panama in January 2019 in a very special way: accompanied by the original Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, which we refer to as statue n.º1.

The chosen theme for this World Youth Day of Panama, in 2019, is an explicit Marian theme: "I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word" (Lk 1:38). The preparation itinerary for this event is likewise explicitly Marian: Pope Francis has chosen Mary as core theme of the preparation path for the World Youth Day of 2019.

The Pilgrim Virgin of Our Lady of Fatima, present at the World Youth Day, is the first and the original: having covered all the continents and travelled several times around the world, the statue was enthroned in the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima in 2000 and goes out of the Shrine only in special occasions. Since it is an ecclesial event of major importance, since young people are in the core of the pastoral concerns of the Church and the theme chosen by the Holy Father for this Day has a Marian feature, we considered essential that the Shrine of Fatima should mark its presence in a very significant way: by making an exception and by going with the Pilgrim Virgin of Our Lady of Fatima.

We want then to underline that, in Fatima and in its message, young people can see in Mary "the way" to God and "the refuge" from the storms of life and the doubts that each one carries.

The great devotion of the Christians of Panama had likewise weighed our decision to be represented in the World Youth Day with the Pilgrim Virgin Statue n.º1.

The Church will gather in October the Synod of Bishops in order to reflect on young people and their place in the Church. In January, young people will festively meet Pope Francis in Panama. These two intentions will be in the life and the prayer of the Shrine of Fatima as preparation for these major events and as a specific contribution from this place where Our Lady came to ask for prayer.

## Pilgrim Virgin Statue to be at World Youth Day in Panama

Visitation from January 23rd to 27th, 2019, with Pope Francis / Cátia Filipe

The Shrine of Fatima will send the Pilgrim Virgin Statue n.º1 to the World Youth Day in Panama scheduled from January 23rd to 27th, 2019, with the presence of Pope Francis.

This world encounter of youth will be held in Panama City and for the first time in Central America. Its theme was chosen by Pope Francis "I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word" (Lk 1:38).

The director of the Holy See press office, Greg Burke, announced last July in a statement: "On the occasion of the next World Youth Day which will take place in Panama, and accepting the invitation of the Panamanian government and bishops, His Holiness Pope Francis will travel to Panama from January 23rd to 27th, 2019".

Panama will be the ninth Latin-American country the Pope Francis visit, after having travelled to Brazil in 2013, Bolivia, Ecuador, Paraguay and Cuba in 2015, Mexico in 2016, Chile and Peru in 2018.

Archbishop of Panama José Domingo Ulloa trusted the World Youth Day (WYD) 2019 Panama to the Virgin of Fatima in the year of the Centennial of the Apparitions when the Pilgrim Statue n.º 2 was visiting the country.

"Let us pray for this World Youth Day. Let us pray especially for children, young people and families. May this message Our Lady delivered in Cova da Iria be renewed today by each Panamanians", stated Archbishop.

During the homily of the Mass, at the arrival of the Pilgrim Statue to the Church of El Chorillo, Archbishop Ulloa expressed his gratitude to God for the "historic moment" of veneration and considered the presence of the Mother of God a privilege, "today we can all say that it was like if we were in Fatima".

The logo of the WYD also refers to Our Lady. It is represented the isthmus of the country, Panama Canal, the pilgrim cross and the image of Our Lady with a crown of five points referring to the five continents; all in a heart shape.

The statue n.º 1 of the Pilgrim Virgin of the Rosary of Fatima, made according to the instructions of Sister Lucia, was offered by the Bishop of Leiria and solemnly crowned by the archbishop of Évora on May 13th, 1947. From that day on, the statue travelled the world several times.

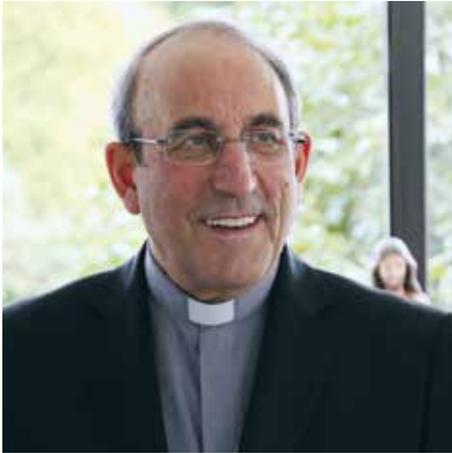
The origin of this journey goes back to 1945, shortly after the end of World War II, when a priest from Berlin suggested that a statue of Our Lady of Fatima travel to all the capitals and episcopal cities of Europe to the border with Russia. The idea was taken up in April 1946 by a Luxembourg representative of the International Council of Women's Catholic Youth and the following year, in the exact day of her coronation, the first travel began. After more than half a century of pilgrimage, in which the Statue visited 64 countries of various continents, some of them more than once, the Rector of the Shrine of Fatima decided that the Statue shouldn't leave the Shrine, unless on very special occasion.

After travelling Brazil for the commemoration of the 500 years of the arrival of Pedro Alvares Cabral, the statue was placed in May 2000 in the exhibition Fatima Light and Peace, where it was venerated by tens of thousands of visitors. After three years, more precisely on December 8th, 2003, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the Statue was enthroned inside the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima on the top of a column next to the main altar. The Statue travelled again on May 12th, 2014, first to visit the contemplative religious communities in Portugal until February 2nd, 2015, and then from May 13th, 2015 to 2016 to visit all the Portuguese dioceses. The Statue went to the Shrine of San Giovanni Rotondo, in Italy, and to the Patriarchate of Lisbon for the initiative Alive Rosary in 2003.

Currently there are 13 statues of the Pilgrim Virgin, a number symbolically chosen. In this year 2018, besides the visits in Portugal of the dioceses of Évora, Lisbon, Aveiro, Leiria-Fatima and Santarém, the statue of Our Lady went to Spain, Italy, Canada, United States and Benin. The statue n.º 8 has a trip scheduled to Paterson, in the United States, in October; from last May 1st, the statue n.º12 has been travelling the different dioceses of Colombia; Campus, in Brazil, still venerates the statue n.º 3 until the end of October; statue n.º 4 will finish its travel to the different Italian dioceses, started in November 2016, under the responsibility of the Marian Movement Messaggio di Fatima.

## Mgr. Antonio Augusto dos Santos Marto is already a cardinal

Diocesan pastor of Leiria-Fatima received from Pope Francis' hands the insignia of cardinals / Cátia Filipe



Bishop António Marto was given the title of the Church Santa Maria sopra Minerva

Last June 28th, around 3:40 pm (Lisbon time), Pope Francis announced the name of the Bishop of Leiria-Fatima, Bishop Antonio Marto, as new cardinal of Catholic Church in the Basilica of Saint Peter.

Francis said to the new cardinals: "Conversion from our sins and from selfishness will never be an end in itself, but is always a means of growing in fidelity and willingness to embrace the mission. At the moment of truth, especially when we see the distress of our brothers and sisters, we will be completely prepared to accompany and embrace them, one and all. In this way, we avoid becoming effective "roadblocks", whether because of our short-sightedness or our useless wrangling about who is most important".

"When we forget the mission, when we lose sight of the real faces of our brothers

and sisters, our life gets locked up in the pursuit of our own interests and securities", warned Pope Francis who explained that "resentment then begins to grow, together with sadness and revulsion. Gradually we have less and less room for others, for the Church community, for the poor, for hearing the Lord's voice".

The Supreme Pontiff talked about the invitation the Lord makes: "It is the Lord's invitation not to forget that the Church's authority grows with this ability to defend the dignity of others, to anoint them and to heal their wounds and their frequently dashed hopes".

"The Lord walks ahead of us, to keep reminding us that the only credible form of authority is born of sitting at the feet of others in order to serve Christ", he said to the new cardinals.

Francis called the attention to what he considers "the highest honor that we can receive, the greatest promotion that can be awarded us: to serve Christ in God's faithful people. In those who are hungry, neglected, imprisoned, sick, suffering, addicted to drugs, cast aside. In real people, each with his or her own life story and experiences, hopes and disappointments, hurts and wounds. Only in this way, can the authority of the Shepherd have the flavor of Gospel".

"None of us must feel "superior" to anyone. None of us should look down at others from above. The only time we can look at a person in this way is when we are helping them to stand up".

After his homily, the Pope read the for-

mula for the creation and proclaimed in Latin in the names of the cardinals to unite them with "a closer bond" to their mission.

Then the profession of faith was heard and the oath of the new cardinals, an oath of fidelity and obedience to the Pope and his successors.

Each of the 14 cardinals kneeled to receive the cardinal's berretta according to their order of creation; Bishop Antonio Marto was the seventh.

Bishop Antonio Marto was created cardinal priest and given the title of Santa Maria sopra Minerva, a church already assigned in the 19th century to cardinal Guilherme Henriques de Carvalho, 9th patriarch of Lisbon and Bishop of Leiria.

Santa Maria sopra Minerva is a minor basilica and one of the main Dominican churches in Rome.

The bells of the carillon of the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima rang in the Shrine of Fatima to mark the elevation of the pastor of the diocese of Leiria-Fatima to cardinal.

In a statement to the press, after the celebration, the rector of the Shrine of Fatima, F. Carlos Cabecinhas, expressed his happiness about the elevation of Bishop Antonio Marto to cardinal but underlined the great responsibility of the mission.

"The bond to the Pope is in the DNA of Fatima", said the rector explaining that "this is indeed a personal choice, but, for Bishop Antonio is Bishop of Leiria-Fatima, it eventually link us more to the Holy Father and to our daily prayer for him in Fatima".



New Cardinals greeted Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI



Francis said that the Cardinalate of Bishop António was a "caress from Our Lady"

## Bishop Antonio Marto reiterated his availability to the mission Pope Francis would give him

Only a few hours away from being created cardinal, Bishop of Leiria-Fatima spoke with Sala Stampa from the Vatican / *Cátia Filipe*



Bishop António Marto gave interviews to international press

The Bishop of Leiria-Fatima, Mgr. Antonio Marto, just a few hours away from being created cardinal by Pope Francis, arrived at the press room of the Holy See to speak to journalists coming from different countries.

When questioned on the contribution he expects to give to Portugal with this nomination, Bishop Antonio Marto remembered that “a cardinal is an advisor, a close collaborator of the Pope and does what the Pope asks him to do”.

“I am a Bishop of a diocese and my contri-

bution will be within the Conference of the Bishops, together with the other bishops”, he reiterated.

Mgr. Antonio Marto was auxiliary Bishop of Braga from 2001 to 2004 and Bishop of Viseu from 2004 to April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2006, when he was appointed Bishop of Leiria-Fatima. He joined the diocese of Leiria-Fatima on June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

The cardinal expects to continue in his diocese: “nothing was said, I didn’t receive any sign indicating otherwise”, he clarified remembering that there are “so many cardinals who stay in their diocese”. Mgr. Antonio Marto considers that the cardinalate constitutes an evidence of his work carried out in Fatima.

“The commemorations of the Centennial of the Apparitions of Fatima gave me the opportunity to have two private audiences with the Holy Father for the purpose of preparing his pilgrimage to Fatima and of course of talking about the strong points of his pontificate from his apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*”, recalled the prelate. He also confessed that during those audiences was felt “a very profound affinity between the Bishop of Leiria-Fatima and the Pope, in this deep reform of the Church Francis is carrying out, according to the points of that document, in order to get a more evangelical, more merciful and closer Church”.

It is important for Bishop Antonio Marto “to have the conviction that people must be effectively heard, attended, that the Church must go out of itself and meet and build bridges and dialogue with all the peoples, at a time when humanity is deeply fragmented”.

“The Pope has thus been playing a unique role at this moment of history. He was in Fatima and, unlike Benedict XVI who studied thoroughly Fatima, Francis, in a short time, felt profoundly the value of what the Church lives, the universal projection of the Message of Fatima and its importance for the Church”, he explained.

“The celebration of the Centennial was also a reason for my nomination; it is indeed a personal choice, but I think that this event also helped in the decision, because in his letter he said that the nomination of cardinals represents the universality of the Church and a close bond between the Chair of Peter and the dioceses”, explained the pastor of the diocese of Leiria-Fatima.

“As you know all people flow into Fatima as well as all types of expression of our Catholicism, from the simplest to the elite; we welcome everyone the same way”, explained the future cardinal.

Mgr. Antonio Marto, known for his sim-

ple manners, says he likes the “simplicity in the presentation”.

“The Pope presents himself in a simple and restrained way; I hope that one day all could present themselves that way, without these exaggerated vestments. Although symbolic, they are from other times”, explained the prelate.

Following the conversation on the nomination and new tasks, Mgr. Antonio Marto openly assured an attitude of complete availability to any task Pope Francis would give him.

“I really wouldn’t like the expectations to be high. I am part of the Conference of Bishops, which has a president and where each Bishop has a voice, and we work the problems of the Church in Portugal together”, he concluded.



Prelate of Leiria-Fatima assures simplicity

# Pope Francis remembered in Fatima in the first International Anniversary Pilgrimage of 2018

Mgr. John Tong, Bishop Emeritus of Hong Kong, asked the pilgrims for prayers for China / Cátia Filipe



Peace, main point of the message of Bishop John Tong

The Shrine of Fatima welcomed the first post-centennial International Anniversary Pilgrimage. 148 organized groups from 26 countries have registered from all the continents. From Asia there are around 350

pilgrims registered, organized in 10 groups. The pilgrims on foot who arrived at Cova da Iria were more than 37 thousand according to the numbers revealed by the Movement of the Message of Fatima.

“We are living a delicate and promising moment between the Holy See and China, regarding a dialogue that can pave the way for the recognition of the Catholic Church in that country”, said Mgr. Antonio Marto, Bishop of Leiria-Fatima, in the traditional press conference that precede the celebrations of the first anniversary pilgrimage.

Still on the Asian continent, the prelate remembered the present political situation of the Korean Peninsula, where “a spark of hope was lit in order for nuclear disarmament to happen”. In this regard, the Bishop Antonio Marto recalled the visit to South Korea made by the Pilgrim Statue, during which the statue passed by a church dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima, located on the border with North Korea.

Within the subject of peace, the Bishop Antonio Marto recalled also the “absurd war that goes on for eight years” in Syria, in particular the fatalities of this conflict – the displaced people and the refugees –, and evoked, as an encouragement for the end of

all wars, the proximity with the 100 years of the end of the First World War, conflict “so present” in the Message of Fatima.

The Bishop Emeritus of Hong Kong, Mgr. John Tong, expressed his gratitude for the invitation to preside over the first International Anniversary Pilgrimage of 2018, considering his presence as an “opportunity to reflect upon the devotion of the Chinese to Our Lady of Fatima”.

The Bishop Emeritus of Hong Kong also mentioned the celebrations associated with the devotion of Our Lady of Fatima that took place in Hong Long and Taiwan, in particular those that happened during the year of the Centennial of the Apparitions, which was celebrated with joy in countless parishes.

In contextualizing the Marian devotion in that part of the globe, Mgr. John Tong has described the “difficult situation” that the Catholic Church lives in China.

Pope Francis didn’t forget the first post-Centennial pilgrimage and joined the celebrations with a message posted in his social media account on Twitter.

“Blessed Virgin of Fatima, turn your gaze upon us, upon our families, our country, and the world”.



Bishop emeritus of Hong Kong was the first Asian to preside over an Anniversary Pilgrimage in Fatima

# International Anniversary Pilgrimage of June: Bishop Manuel Pelino indicated “Mother of Mercy” as example and foundation for hope

/ Diogo Carvalho Alves

The theme of the International Anniversary Pilgrimage of June 12th and 13th was “Time of grace and mercy: to give thanks for the gift of Fatima” and it was presided over by bishop emeritus of Santarem, Mgr. Manuel Pelino

The opening of the Pilgrimage, on June 12th, coincided with the peace talk between the United States of America and North Korea, a moment evoked by the bishop of Leiria-Fatima in his initial greeting to Our Lady.

At the mass vigil of the evening, bishop emeritus of Santarem underlined the need for an “urgent pastoral conversion” attentive mainly to those who are out of the Church.

“Our practice is more prepared to assist those in our community rather than going out looking for those who are away. We are too much absorbed in ours and unavailable to look outside the sheepfold; and ours are old”, said Mgr. Manuel Pelino, underlining the urgency of a change “in pastoral attitude” which should have as “normative reference the God of Mercy” and should, above all, look for those who are away.

As the Good Shepherd, the prelate remembered the Christians that they are called to the mission to “look for the sheep” lost by disappointment, attitudes and words, irregular situations, loneliness and oblivion, challenging them to “return to the sources of faith”.

In his homily of June 13th, Mgr. Manuel Pelino exhorted the pilgrims ecclesial communion through the merciful love of Jesus, indicating the Virgin Mary as example.

“When faith is lived as encounter and union with Christ, believers discover they are not alone and abandoned; they sustain their life in the love of God; they find encouragement to love, reason to trust, encouragement to build the Kingdom of God and, at the final moment, serenity and peace to leave to the light of the Lord”, said the prelate underlining the example a Christian should give as testimony of “hope, joy and charity”.

“God had crowned the life of Our Lady with grace and mercy, which are source of hope of being accompanied and protected by Her maternal love. That is what happened in the Wedding at Cana and in Fatima... This is now, today, with those who believe in Him and follow Him, like Mary, His Mother”.



Bishop emeritus of Santarém enhanced the importance of the Message of Fatima in present day



Bishop Manuel Pelino challenged the pilgrims to go on mission

# Pilgrimage of July appeals against “resignation and indifference” in facing the “faces of evil” in the world

Shrine of Fatima shall continue to be a place of hope, support auxiliary bishop of Porto, Bishop António Augusto Azevedo / Carmo Rodeia



Bishop António Azevedo considers Fatima as a “window of hope”

The International Pilgrimage of July to the Shrine of Fatima, presided over by auxiliary bishop of Porto, Bishop António Augusto Azevedo, appealed against the “resignation and indifference” in facing the “faces of evil” of today’s world.

In the homily of the pilgrimage closing Eucharist, in the morning of July 13th, the prelate underlined the role of Fatima as “window of hope that God left opened to humanity” and impelled the Shrine to preserve its capacity to be a place from where “hope shines” and a message that is increasingly necessary in a society that suffered in the flesh the “dramatic consequences” of the war, terrorism, poverty and religious or ethnic discrimination.

For the auxiliary bishop of Porto, who presided over the celebrations at Cova da Iria, it is a “paradox” that in a context where Men, today, “has a so great diversity of means at his disposal”, so many “signs of destruction and despair” still “abound”.

He asked then the pilgrims present in the Prayer Area and all the Catholic communities to continue through their “action” and “prayer” to be signs of the love and the mercy that God wants to convey to all humanity despite their “faithlessness”.

“We cannot fall into resignation, indif-

ference, let alone into the trivialization of evil”, stated Bishop António Augusto Azevedo in his homily that strengthened the message delivered Thursday night, July 12th, after the usual candlelight procession.

Bishop António Augusto Azevedo stressed that today “wise and competent leaders” are needed, leaders who, in Portugal and the world, would go to meet the “deprivation” and the “emptiness” that affect so many men and women.

Leaders who are “capable of gathering groups, peoples and institutions in search of common good, with respect for the freedom and the dignity of the human person”.

He also encouraged the pilgrims who come to the Shrine of Fatima to pursue their path of faith “in a courageous, illuminating, creative and confident way”.

It is fundamental for them to be “more conscious of their Christian mission and their mission of being the characters of today’s story”, completed auxiliary bishop of Porto who had the chance to mark and thank at the altar of Fatima his 32nd anniversary of priestly ordination.

At the end of the International Pilgrimage of July 12th and 13th, Bishop António Marto, bishop of Leiria-Fatima and new cardinal of Catholic Church in Portugal, said a few words as he usually does conveying his “esteem” and “heartfelt greeting” to all the pilgrims who participated in these two-day celebrations, with particular attention to the sick and children.

Bishop António Marto greeted the pilgrims of other language who were present in the Shrine, coming from Spain, Italy, Germany, France, England, Poland, Belgium, Ivory Coast, Slovakia, United States, Gabon, the Netherlands, Hungary, Ireland, Israel and Brazil.

According to officials numbers 41 organised groups were present and were urged as well to pray for peace in the Middle East.

In the first pilgrimage after his creation as cardinal, Bishop António Marto appealed to prayer for the Peace in the world: “We want to implore the gift of peace upon the martyred Middle East, above all upon Syria and our Christian brothers and sisters, who are persecuted and martyred”. In his opening greeting, in the Chapel of the Apparitions, the Portuguese cardinal considered that the pilgrimage to Fatima is “a privileged moment to experience the kindness and mercy of the Mother of the Church”.

“To make a pilgrimage is much more than just tourism or sport”, told the cardinal specifying that a pilgrimage is “a journey that is undertaken by walking, not only on foot, through the roads of the world, but also making an inner path”.

“The pilgrimage is a holy journey, a spiritual experience of prayer, of inner silence, of search of the light and truth, of purity of heart, of reconciliation, of conversion and the peace within us, with God and the others”.



Auxiliary Bishop appealed to the need of “wise and competent leaders” in today’s world

## Cova da Iria filled again with little pilgrims for the Pilgrimage of Children

Auxiliary bishop of Braga asks all the children to remember that besides a mother on earth they also have a “close and tender” Mother in Heaven / Carmo Rodeia

The Prayer Area of the Shrine of Fatima was once again filled with thousands of “messengers” coming from all the dioceses of the country to participate in the Children Pilgrimage to thank Jesus for giving us a Mother.

The theme of this year is rooted in Pope Francis’ affirmation in Cova da Iria, in 2017 – “We have a Mother!”.

Auxiliary bishop of Braga, Mgr. Nuno Almeida, president of this pilgrimage, using a simple language addressed to the little pilgrims and despite the heavy rain during the celebrations, established a parallelism between mothers and Our Lady in order to explain that Her love for humanity “is a close and merciful love”, just like a mother to her child from the moment of conception to death.

“Our Lady appeared hundred years ago to the Little Shepherds Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta here in Fatima to lead all to God, covering us with her light and merciful mantle, and She accompanies us with her mother love”.

Therefore “when we pray Hail Mary, we let ourselves be touched by her caress and we let that her gaze turns ours to Jesus”.

During the Eucharist, concelebrated by 6 bishops and 61 priests, a small staging was performed in which a postman delivered four times a letter to the altar. The children also posted their coloured post card, they made during May, in the letterbox.

The Pilgrimage recreated the idea of the “Mail to Our Lady” just as it already exists in the Shrine of Fatima, namely at the Chapel of the Apparitions where pilgrims can leave a message to the Lady of the Rosary of Fatima.

To follow that idea the present this year to the children was a letter, addressed to each one of them, with a cardboard oratory inside. The oratory reproduces the Chapel of the Apparitions and by opening it, the representation of the statue of Our Lady and the official representation of Francisco



A letter to Our Lady, a challenge posed by the Shrine to the little ones



“The mother of Heaven never fails”, said Bishop Nuno Almeida

and Jacinta Marto. On the back of the triptych there is a message of Our Lady to the children remembering them the

importance of prayer: “to pray is to talk with our Lord is Heaven; don’t ever forget to be with Him”.

## Parliamentary delegation from Iran visits Fatima and is received by the Vice-Rector of the Shrine

F. Vitor Coutinho underlines common motivation between the two religions for the construction of Peace / Carmo Rodeia



As pilgrims for peace, Iranians underlined the esteem for Our Lady

Christians and Muslims are united by two aspects which are Pilgrimage and Peace, said this afternoon the Vice-Rector of the Shrine of Fatima, F. Vitor Coutinho, during an audience with the six deputies of the Iranian Parliament, led by the Chairman of the Committee for Foreign Policy and National Security, the deputy Alaeddin Boroujerdi.

“As Christians and Muslims we are pilgrims peoples by the nature of our faith”, had referred the priest recalling that Islam is “a religion of peace”.

“There is in that sense something stronger that unites us: the motivation for being constructors of Peace”, said the Vice-Rector making a clear allusion to the Message of Fatima in which the strong appeal for Peace is present.

“I hope that you feel this ambiance of Peace and that you can feel here a strong appeal for Peace for the entire world; in my prayers, I will pray for the Peace in your country, for your people and the whole region”, he added.

“In the name of God I am very pleased to be here and to be able to make this visit”, answered the Iranian parliamentary underlining the “heavenly” feature of both religions which “brings them together in what is essential”.

Alaeddin Boroujerdi, who lives in a region of the country where there is a holy city visited by 20 million people per year, recalled that the name Fatima is very im-

portant to the Muslims because it was the name of the “favourite daughter of the prophet” and the Koran itself, the Islamic sacred book, has verses dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

At the end of the audience, attended also by the ambassador of Iran to Portugal and the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Sérgio Sousa Pinto, there was the usual exchange of gifts. The Shrine of Fatima offered the Medal of the Centennial to the Parliamentary delegation.

Prior to this visit, the Vice-Rector had received Madam Ambassador of Ukraine to Portugal with the Ukrainian delegation for the Eurovision Song Contest, which will take place on the 12th in Lisbon, at the same moment of the Candlelight Procession in Cova da Iria.

The Vice-Rector also underlined the “kind relation” the Shrine has with Eastern countries “because of the history of the events and the Message of Fatima”, especially with the Ukrainian community, one of the first immigrants community in the country “with which strong bonds were tied”. Two Ukrainian priests assist the Shrine of Fatima to welcome, in a permanent way, this community, who visit very often Cova da Iria.



Parliamentary delegation in Fatima to visit the Shrine

## Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima in Washington / Fr. Francisco Pereira



F. Francisco Pereira of the Shrine of Fatima collaborated on the celebration of the sacraments in the Shrine of Washington

The Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima in Washington, New Jersey, welcomed, during the second fortnight of May, F. Francisco Pereira, chaplain of the Shrine of Fatima, who dedicated part of his holydays to exercise his priestly ministry near the pilgrims who come every day to this Shrine in the United States, which is both

the headquarters of the World Apostolate of Fatima in the United States and the place where the movement started.

During this time F. Francisco collaborated on the celebration of the sacraments in the Shrine, especially in administering the sacrament of reconciliation to the penants.

His participation in the Portuguese Memorial Day Pilgrimage on May 28th, presided over by the bishop emeritus of Santarém, Bishop Manuel Pelino Domingues, was an important moment of the time he spent in this Shrine. This pilgrimage gathered thousands of Catholics coming mainly from the parishes of the diocese of Newark, eastern coast of the United States, including nearly 400 people, mostly young people, who travelled 79 km during two days from Elizabeth, NJ, to the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Washington, NJ.

The day before F. Francisco presided over the Sunday mass in the parishes of Santa Cruz, Hamilton, and of Our Lady, in Elizabeth, an opportunity to talk about the sanctity of the Shepherds of Fatima, Francisco and Jacinta Marto, as example of life and sanctity, reminding Pope Francis' proposals in the apostolic exhortation on the holiness in today's world "Rejoice and be glad".

## Church of Our Lady of Fatima in Brasilia commemorated its 60 years

F. José Nuno Silva, chaplain of the Shrine of Fatima, witnessed the "dimension of Fatima in the world" / Fr. José Nuno Silva



Statue of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima is one of the most venerated by the Brazilian Catholics

The Little Church of the 307/308 South district or Church of Our Lady of Fatima was the first temple to be built in Brasilia and was consecrated on June 28th, 1958.

After the laying of the first stone on October 26th, 1957, the church was built in one hundred days, so the First Lady Sarah Kubitschek could fulfil a promise of the cure of her daughter.

Despite the artistic value of the place, the little church doesn't lose its simplicity. It gathers two spiritualities: the Marian, from its construction and its size, with the simplicity of Mary, and the Franciscan spirituality, also characterized by simplicity.

This 60th anniversary was carried out throughout the year but more intensively on June.

Brasilia is a city built in the 20th cen-

ture, with a view to being a capital of the new century, where the temple is, which is the second most visited monument of Brasilia. This proves the dimension of Fatima in the world, because Fatima is a great apparition also of the 20th century and the first church to be built in this city is precisely one dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima.

"As chaplain of the Shrine of Fatima, I presided over one of the celebrations, I concelebrated others and discovered in these moments the Brazilian way of devotion to Our Lady, a very beautiful, warm and kind way. I could also observe the profound availability of people with a great thirst for knowledge in the Message of Fatima, more deeply; it was only planned to participate in liturgical moments and I ended up participating in a conference. I took with me a statue of the same size of the one of the Chapel of the Apparitions to be enthroned, together with the relics of the Shepherds of Fatima canonized in 2017. It was the first time that these relics are exposed in Brasilia".

# Pilgrimage of Fatima and book launch mark the first anniversary of the new Shrine of Fatima

The schools of the municipalities and public, that belong to the student parish, had the joy to receive the Pilgrim Statue / Rubens Monteiro



Brazil underlined the devotion to Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima

Devotees of Our Lady of Fatima traveled all the north of Porto Alegre on Sunday, May 20th, to pay homage to the Mother of Fatima. With posters and pictures of the Holy Shepherds Jacinta and Francisco, the pilgrims left the Church of Santa Rosa de Lima, in Rubem Berta, towards the new Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, inaugurated a year ago.

Arriving at the Shrine, the Statue was welcomed with a great feast by the pilgrims and celebrants. The rector of the Shrine, F. José Luiz Schaedler, welcomed Her and remembered the nine days of great faith that were lived in this Shrine and in the Church of Santa Rosa de Lima. The core theme of the 16th Pilgrimage calls the attention to the great vocation of laymen and laywomen in the Church to be witnesses of Jesus Christ in society. "Whoever belongs to Christ must be joyful, despite troubles and anguishes". Let the laypeople be salt of the earth and light of the world. F. Schaedler stressed the importance of letting Mother Mary participate in our life, come into our home, so that we may have a happier and more fraternal world. "Mary is always attentive to her children and their needs". And it is in this faith that we celebrate this day, by placing at the feet of the Mother our anguishes, concerns and sorrows so She can enlighten and guide each pilgrim.

The Mass was presided over by F. Cesar Leandro Padilha, executive secretary of the Conference of Bishop of Brazil, South region 3, and concelebrated by the rector of the Shrine, F. José Luiz Schaedler, the parish priest of the Church of Santa Rosa de Lima, F. Carlos Sebastiany, the auxiliary vicar of the Shrine, F. Ignatius Selbach, Fr Patrick, of the diocese of Luz, Minas Gerais,

and with the presence of the deacon Léo Eberhardt.

The nine days before the great Feast of the Pilgrimage were full of devotion and prayer, with daily Masses at 9:00 a.m., 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., with the presence of thousands of children, teenagers and young people who belong to the schools of São Francisco and the student parish. In each celebrations, the joy of having different celebrants offered rich moments of reflection, prayer and spirituality.

The municipal and public schools, that belong to the student parish, also had the pleasure to receive the Pilgrim Statue in their structures, providing students, teachers and staff with moments of prayer, thanksgiving and reflection, guided by the coordinator, F. Carlos Sebastiany.

May 13th was celebrated with great enthusiasm in the 1st year of the New Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, in the northern part of Porto Alegre. That day, Masses, prayers, confessions, blessings and the book launch – «Archdiocese of Porto Alegre, on the road to the Shrine of Fatima – Portugal» took place.

With great joy and emotion, on the day of Our Lady of Fatima, the writer Iranélici Padilha launched the book "Archdiocese of Porto Alegre, on the road to the Shrine of Fatima – Portugal". The album book tells the story of the apparitions, the celebrations of Cursillos in the context of the centennial of the Apparitions in Fatima, Portugal. The third chapter of the book tells the story of the construction of the new Shrine of Fatima, in Porto Alegre, Brazil, rich in texts and pictures, depicting the result of a temple built thanks to the efforts of many devotees. The book also narrates the pilgrimage of the Statue from the Shrine of Portugal to the archdiocese of Porto Alegre, through F. José Luiz Schaedler, rector of the Shrine of Fatima.

In the month dedicated to Mary, our Mother, Our Lady of Fatima, numerous graces have been received and the joys are uncountable, strength and faith renewed in each one who entered this Shrine. Renewed by the love of Christ and by the protection of the Mother of Fatima, laypeople assume the mission of being salt of the earth and light of the world.



Marian celebration in Porto Alegre, Brazil

# Italy entrusts to the Pilgrim Virgin the synod of the bishops with the theme “Young people, the faith and vocational discernment”

Marian itinerary occurred from April 7th to July 31st, 2018 / Mgr. Ernesto Mandara



Pilgrim Virgin continues journey in Italy

The Pilgrim Virgin of Our Lady of Fatima visited several diocesan communities in Italy between April 7<sup>th</sup> and July 31, 2018, for the aim of reminding the Centennial of the Apparitions of Fatima and the Synod of the Bishops with the theme “Young people, the faith and vocational discernment”.

The Pilgrim Virgin was firstly greeted in the Suburbicarian Diocese of Sabina-Poggio Mirteto, in the Parish of Gesù Maestro in Fonte Nuova (Rome), on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018, welcomed and greeted by religious, civil and military authorities, and by the local clergy with a celebration presided over by F. Mauro Meacci, Abbot Ordinary of Subiaco. Prior to the celebration, the crown offered by Pope Saint John Paul II was placed on the head of the Pilgrim Virgin.

Before leaving towards the different Italian dioceses, at the end of the Eucharistic celebration presided over by cardinal Giovanni Battista, titular of Sabina, the flags of both Italy and Europe were placed at the feet of the Heavenly Visitor, as a sign of continual prayer to the Virgin for the peoples of the old evangelization.

The national itinerary of this year was prepared and agreed with the priests of the different communities of the parishes who welcomed the White Lady of Fatima in order to relive the same moments of celebration widely experienced by the people in the prior itinerary and to trust to the Virgin Mary the next Synod of Bishops on the theme “Young people, the faith and vocational discernment”. “It will be a moment of grace and commitment to a much more conversion to God”, by accepting Pope’s exhortation to be missionary of joy, which begins in God and does not betray.

The fruits of grace conceded by the Lord



Italians prayed for peace in front of the Pilgrim Statue

are always abundant in these occasions, in which many faithful gathered around the Virgin Mary, who helps everyone to rediscover “that the Mercy of God knows no bounds and reaches all without excluding anyone”.

While sojourning, many gatherings have occurred, adoration to the Blessed Sacrament, Marian and Eucharistic vigils, penitential celebrations, *via crucis* and candlelight processions, so as to breathe the same spirituality one breathes at the Shrine of Fatima. Many other gatherings and moments of prayer were organised with families, young people and children, engaged people and spouses who renewed their matrimonial vows.

The Basilica of S. Andrea delle Fratte –

Shrine of Madonna del Miracolo, in Rome, hosted the concluding celebration of the national pilgrimage of the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima on Sunday, July 29<sup>th</sup>.

Ecclesiastical, civil and military authorities were present at the farewell celebration, as well as the priests of the Marian Movement of the Message of Fatima, the priests who welcomed the Pilgrim Virgin of Our Lady in their parishes, religious orders and laypeople linked to Marian Coordination Service. After the solemn Consecration Act to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, with the song *Ave of Fatima* and the traditional wave of white handkerchief, we said goodbye to the Heavenly Pilgrim, who left Italy to return to the Shrine of Fatima.

## Approximately 45,000 joined in this historic witness of faith

Approximately 45,000 joined in this historic witness of faith / Oliver Abassolo



Relics of the Shepherds went with the Pilgrim Virgin

The World Apostolate of Fatima of England and Wales brought the National Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima and the Relics of Saints Jacinta and Francisco Marto in Poole, Dorset, United Kingdom on April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018, at 3:00 pm to pray the Rosary on the coast in communion with all Catholics gathered around the British Isles around England, Wales, Scotland for faith, life and peace. Bishop John Keenan, the episcopal leader for the *Rosary on the Coast* said: “We gather here conscious that we are united with tens of thousands of our fellow Catholics and friends in Christ, spread across 400 locations in every corner of our lands and in the far-off Islands.”

Approximately 45,000 joined in this historic witness of faith in the Rosary on the Coast which was well supported by the Bishops of Scotland, Wales and England. His Holiness, Pope Francis imparted his Apostolic Blessing to all those who participated in the Rosary on the Coast “as a pledge of abundant graces from heaven while placing them under the protection of Our Blessed Lady, Mary, Mother of the Church.”

The request of the daily recitation of rosary has been repeated six times by our Lady of Fatima from May to October 1917. She declared on October 13<sup>th</sup>: “I am the Lady of the Rosary”.

## Pilgrim Virgin Statue visited Micronesia

Marian journey included 26 parishes and 14 Catholic schools

/ Krystal Paco

The statue of the Pilgrim Virgin of Our Lady of Fatima concluded a journey of three weeks in the Island of Guam, in Micronesia (Marian Islands, western Pacific Ocean).

Approximately 15 thousands of local Catholics gathered in prayer. The statue of the Pilgrim Virgin concluded her journey in the island in the beginning of February 2018, her final stop being the Parish of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Toto, one of the nineteen cities of Guam.

The journey of Our Lady included 26 parishes, 14 Catholic schools, governmental agencies including the Department of Youth Affairs, the Guam Memorial Hospital as well as non-profit organization such as Sanctuary Incorporated.

## “Annual Fatima Pilgrimage” has attracted thousands of faithful in South Africa

The predominantly Catholic Portuguese community is one of the largest immigrant communities in South Africa / Manny de Freitas, Coordinator of the Pilgrimage of Fatima



The statue of Our Lady of Fatima before the beginning of the pilgrimage

The annual Fatima pilgrimage which took place last May 12<sup>th</sup> proved to be a great success with a continuing number of pilgrims participating year after year. This year the pilgrimage was over 500 meters in length with an average of 5 pilgrims walking shoulder to shoulder. This large crowd was present at the Church of the Blessed Sacrament in Malvern East, in Johannesburg, where the pilgrimage started. The over 2000 pilgrims were also present at the Mass at Schoenstatt where the pilgrimage concluded. This pilgrimage continues to be the largest of its kind in South Africa. The predominantly Catholic Portuguese community is one of the largest immigrant communities in South Africa.

This pilgrimage is the twelfth that has taken place in succession. The first pilgrimage took place in 1991 with only around 50 pilgrims led by the parish youth group at the time. The pilgrimage on foot celebrates the apparitions of Our Lady to three shepherd children from the months of May to October.

This pilgrimage started at the Blessed Sacrament Church and ended, after a four kilometre pilgrimage on foot in which the rosary was prayed, with the Holy Mass at the Schoenstatt Shrine in Bedfordview, Ekurhuleni.

It was announced during the initiative that the Fatima five Saturdays will again be instituted, now for the fifth year running.

# Congregation for the Causes of Saints recognized the heroic virtues of the Founder of the Servants of Our Lady of Fatima

The Decree on her Virtues was read in the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity at the beginning of the celebration / Maria Fernanda Tavares (SNSF)

The Congregation of the Servants of Our Lady of Fatima, profoundly linked to the Shrine of Fatima, promoted last April 25th in Fatima the thanksgiving celebration for the recognition of the heroic virtues of Luiza Andaluz, its Founder.

The Eucharistic celebration was presided over by the bishop of Santarem and concelebrated by many diocesan priests. Among the concelebrants was the Postulator of the Cause of the Venerable Luiza, who came specially from Rome.

Before a large assembly that almost filled the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity and at the beginning of the celebration, the Vice-Postulator, Sister Inês Vasconcelos, read the decree of the heroic virtues of the Venerable Luiza Andaluz, approved by Pope Francis on December 19th, 2017.

As it is impossible to make all the text of the decree, as it came from Rome, known here, we just outlined some parts:

“Sweet program of life: be here doing the good as the Divine Master, to make those around us happy”.

This was the project that characterized the life and the spirituality of the Servant of God Luiza Maria Langstroth Figueira de Sousa Vadre Santa Marta Mesquita e Melo, commonly called Luiza Andaluz. Among the many material and spiritual goods received from her noble family, the treasure of faith stood out.

In imitation of Jesus Christ Our Lord, she made her own life a gift and, forgetting herself, she benefited a lot from her assets, but mainly from her virtues.

The Servant of God, child of Antonio Julio, Viscount of Andaluz, and Anna Langstroth, was born on February 12th, 1877, in Santarem, patriarchate of Lisbon.

On her mother's side, she was a cousin of Saint Katharine Mary Drexel, founder in the United States of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored People. Luiza was baptized on March 15th, 1877, and received her Confirmation in 1885 and First Communion in 1889.

In her youth, the participation in the social life of her class didn't distract her heart from the pursuit of God's will and from the commitment to personal sanctification.

Strong, clever and welcoming woman, she could improve her simple gifts of nature with an accurate education. Her spiritual greatness consisted in knowing how to put these qualities at the disposal of the will of God, who manifested the urgency to help the lowliest of society.

The young Luiza had indeed always had a compassionate predilection for the needy, in which she recognized the face of Christ.

As an adolescent, she helped and supported the Capuchin Poor Clares in Santarem in her work for poor children.

The Servant of God continued her caritative work in favour of the children when the convent was suppressed.

Portugal was then dominated by an anticlerical political mentality. At the same time the Mother of God appeared in Fatima addressing a comforting heavenly message, which had profoundly marked the popular piety and the spirituality of the Church.

Luiza's life was affected by these two contrasting poles: she suffered humiliations, calumnies, adversities because of the works of social charity she carried out. However she managed to find strength and hope to continue with determination and welcoming the maternal invitation of the Virgin Mary to build a civilization of love.

In order to respond to evangelization needs and to continue her social works of human promotion, she decided to found a religious congregation which would be contemplative in the action and characterized by a profound prayer spirit. Luiza had revealed herself to be prudent, temperate, obedient and full of hope in this path of discernment. With the authorization of the archbishop of Evora, on May 13th, 1923, the Servant of God, together with twelve companions, spoke to the Shrine of Fatima in order to consecrate to the Virgin and begin the Project. The “Work of God” then started on October 15th in the Palace of Andaluz in Santarem, but had to act in secrecy in the first years.

On April 19th, 1939, there was the final approval of the Congregation of the Servants of Our Lady of Fatima. On October 11th, 1939, Luiza Andaluz, together with 24 sisters, made the first profession.

In all these personal and founding events, the Servant of God shines by a heroic trust in Providence, to whom she abandoned totally herself and guided constantly her daughters: “I never get tired of writing the word trust in golden ink: the Lord always assists those who trust in Him!”.

In Fatima, from May to October, she worked for the diffusion of the message that the Lady delivered to the three Little



Sister Luiza Andaluz was born on February 12th, 1877

Shepherds and founded the service of information to the pilgrims. She spent the last years of her life in the motherhouse in Largo de São Mamede, in Lisbon.

During that time she didn't lose her joy and her kindness in spite of the sufferings caused by a tumour and a femur fracture.

She died peacefully on August 20th, 1973, at the age of 96. Her mortal remains were transferred to Santarem.

After the undersigned Cardinal Prefect reported to Pope Francis an accurate account of all the above mentioned phases, His Holiness accepted and ratified the decision of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, and declared on this date: It is established that the theological virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity towards both God and neighbor as well as the cardinal virtues of Prudence, Justice, Temperance and Fortitude, and other associated virtues, were practiced to a heroic degree by the Servant of God Luiza Maria Andaluz Langstroth Figueira de Sousa Vadre S. Marta Mesquita e Melo (v.d. Luiza Andaluz), Founder of the Congregation of the Servants of Our Lady of Fatima, in the cause and for the effect under discussion”.

The Holy Father has ordered this decree to be published and be entered in the files of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

Given at Rome, on December 18th, in the Year of the Lord 2017

ANGELUS Card. AMATO, S. D. B. Prefect. MARCELLUS BARTOLUCCI Titular Archbishop of Bevagna, Secretary.

# Father Manuel Nunes Formigão's way to beatification is opened

The "Apostle of Fatima" was declared Venerable last April 14th. The Shrine of Fatima expressed its joy and jubilation / Carmo Rodeia



F. Formigão went to Cova da Iria the first time on September 13th, 1917

The Shrine of Fatima received with "great joy and jubilation" the recognition of the heroic virtues of Father Formigão from Pope Francis last April 14th.

"We are very happy with this recognition" that, on the one hand, "reveals that Father Formigão was indeed a great apostle of Fatima" and, on the other hand, "it also reveals Church's recognition of the exemplary way he lived and conducted his life", said the rector of the Shrine of Fatima, F. Carlos Cabecinhas.

This recognition "characterizes once more Fatima as a school of sanctity".

The rector of the Shrine congratulates the Congregation of the Sisters of the

Reparation of Our Lady of Fatima, founded by Father Formigão who was a key figure in the investigation on the apparitions in Cova da Iria.

Francis approved the publication of the decree that recognizes the heroic virtues of Father Formigão after an audience conceded to the Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints (Holy See), cardinal Angelo Amato.

This is an significant step in the process by which a Catholic faithful is proclaimed blessed, the last but one step to the declaration of sanctity; beatification requires the recognition of a miracle attributed to the intercession of the Venerable Father Formigão.

Manuel Nunes Formigão was born in Tomar, on January 1st, 1883; at the age of 12, he entered the Patriarchal Seminary in Santarem, where he completed his ecclesiastical studies.

After his studies and "considering his intellectual sagacity and piety life, he was sent to Rome in order to obtain the academic degree of doctor in Theology and Canon Law by the Pontifical Gregorian University".

He went to Cova da Iria the first time on September 13th, 1917, as a simple on-looker and as a "deep sceptic in relation to the facts that apparently were happening".

Yet he returned to Fatima, more precisely to Aljustrel, on the 27th of that same month, for the purpose of questioning the three seers separately.

In the weeks since this date, other interviews followed, and one in particular that occurred on October 13th, a few

hours after the last apparition and after being a witness, together with more than 60 thousand people, of the astonishing solar phenomenon the people called "Miracle of the Sun".

Father Formigão, now Venerable of the Church, died in Fatima on January 30th, 1958. The Portuguese Conference of Bishops gave in 2000 its consent for the introduction of the cause of Beatification and Canonization of the Apostle of Fatima.

In January 2017, the mortal remains of the Father Formigão was transferred from the local cemetery to a mausoleum built in the House of Our Lady of the Sorrows that belongs to the Sisters of Reparation of Our Lady of Fatima.

The bishop of Leiria-Fatima highlighted a figure who "surrendered himself to the mystery and the revelation of the love of God, of the beauty of His sanctity like it had shone to the Little Shepherds of Fatima", a priest who "understood in an admirable way for his time the dimension of reparation of the experience of faith so underlined in the message of Fatima".

"Without him, Fatima wouldn't be what it is today", said Bishop Antonio Marto, by reproducing the words of the former the patriarch of Lisbon Bishop Antonio Ribeiro.

"Undoubtedly, we owe him the guarantee of the authenticity of the events and the accounts, of the genuineness of the seers and the truth of their declarations, the diffusion of the message through writings, the foundation of the journal *Voz da Fátima* and association of the Servants of Our Lady", referred Bishop Antonio Marto.

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# World Apostolate of Fatima bets on training

Ana Reis / Nuno Prazeres, International Secretariat of the W.A.F.



Pastoral testimony of each participant is important in this initiative

The *Domus Pacis*, the international headquarters of the World Apostolate of Fatima, welcomed 150 members and persons in charge of the association, coming from 33 countries, from June 25<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018, for a training encounter on the contents of the Message of Fatima and on the pastoral priorities of the movement in the beginning of the second centenary of Fatima.

The encounter, under the theme “Grace and Mercy – the gift of Fatima”, gathered many delegations coming from all over the world, from South Korea, to the Philippines, Panama, Mexico, Ghana, Nigeria, Spain, Ireland, among others, showing in this way the universality of Fatima.

At the opening session of the seminar, Bishop Antonio Marto, bishop of Leiria-Fatima, addressed a few words of encouragement and thanked the participants for bearing witness to the gift of Fatima around the world. Prof. Américo López-Ortiz, International President of the World Apostolate of Fatima, emphasized the attention the Movement has been given to the training of its pastoral agents, adding that it is within this line of continuity of training that we should consider this international seminar. It opens a new cycle of study and reflection which allows to discover in the Message of Fatima a way of sanctity and evangelization.

The Shrine of Fatima, that had collaborated in the program of the first days, was represented by Doctor Marco Daniel Duarte, who is director of the Department of Studies of the Shrine of Fatima. In his conference, and on behalf the Rector of the Shrine, Marco Daniel Duarte manifested gratitude for the diffusion of the Message of Fatima developed by the World Apostolate of Fatima and renewed the availabil-

ity of the Shrine to continue supporting initiatives that aim at deepening the reading of the event of Fatima.

The speakers of the Shrine of Fatima, throughout the first two days, guided the audience through an thematic itinerary that started with the centrality of God in the Message of Fatima, then the secret of Fatima, the relation between the Rosary and Peace, and finally some elements on the sanctity of the seers Francisco and Jacinta Marto. The questions raised during the time of dialogue clearly revealed the good reception of these themes.

The last three days, thoughts and debate focused mainly on the identity and the mission of the World Apostolate of Fatima. A time

for group works was therefore given in order to discuss topics such as the Eucharistic adoration program for children, consecrated life according to the charism of Fatima, the visits of the Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady, finances and fund collect, and the missionary dimension inherent of the movement itself. It was also possible to hear the testimony of pastoral work developed in some countries and the presentation of the activities of the international secretariat, liaison with all the persons in charge of the movement.

Keeping the spirit of training that the seminar aimed for, other conferences were heard on the apparitions of Pontevedra and Tuy, on the link between the Message of Fatima and the pastoral of the family and on the scatologic sense of Fatima in a ecclesiological perspective, showing the urgency of Our Lady’s requests for our times.

The program included, in addition to these moments, different liturgical celebration in the Shrine of Fatima and the chapels of the *Domus Pacis*. A plaque was unveiled in the library of the house in memory of the Reverend Father Joaquín María Alonso, C.M.F., deceased in 1981, who was a historian and scholar on the events of Fatima.

On the last day, the participants made a pilgrimage to the cathedral of Leiria to mark the centennial of the restauration of the diocese. The works officially concluded with the certificate giving ceremony, followed by the missionary mandate, inviting all to announce to the world the joy and the beauty of God’s mercy, lived in a special way during this seminar.

The World Apostolate of Fatima is a Public International Association of faithful, with the mission to learn, live and spread the Message of Fatima in the entire world.



Opening session in the presence of Bishop António Marto

# Theological Pastoral Symposium discusses the sense of Fatima in today's world

Initiative took place during three day gathering with 300 participants / Cátia Filipe

The Shrine of Fatima promoted on June 22nd to 24th, in the Good Shepherd Hall, Paul VI Pastoral Centre, the Theological Pastoral Symposium with the theme “Fatima today: what sense?”. The main purpose of this meeting is to be a privileged contribution to the experience of the theme proposed by the Shrine for this pastoral year: “To give thanks for the gift of Fatima” integrated into the three year cycle 2017-2020 “Time of Grace and Mercy”.

The Message of Fatima was the core reflexion of this three-day program with a program revolving around the verbs: to receive and to live, on the first day; to live and to announce, on the second day; and finally to reflect. Researchers from different national and foreign academies reflected on human existence based on Fatima's sources and protagonists.

In addition to being “a trophy to memory collection”, Fatima has a theological and pastoral charism that the Church must know how to listen to spread around the world, said the bishop of Leiria-Fatima at the opening of works.



Sister Ângela Coelho was one of the speakers in this moment of training

Fatima is “not a simple dated story that we keep as a trophy in the memory collection of the Church. As a gift of God, Fatima offers us a mystagogy for the heart of the good news, every time incarnates faith pedagogy to bring hope to believer's life and a prophecy that brings transcendent light to the vision of history and of human condi-

tion”, has said bishop Antonio Marto underlining that “if it is a gift, it is an ecclesial responsibility” and hence the Church must “listen, question, let itself be questioned and take to the world”.

“That sense is surely sought in places where human fragilities are present, in the walls that establish the physical and spiritual barriers of despair, in the modern Babel tours we built to deify personal desire, in the boats filled the oceans of our time sailing our lack of hospitality and the insensibility of our cosy lives”, he underlined.

For the Rector of the Shrine, F. Carlos Cabecinhas, this is the moment for “a reflective thorough examination” on the event that, even if it happened hundred years ago, “continues to question the world, humanity and the Church”.

Marco Daniel Duarte, president of the Symposium organising committee, emphasised the need to understand “the different ways of thinking and questioning the sense of Fatima” hundred years after the Apparitions of Our Lady in Cova da Iria and after the celebration that evoked that event.



Vale do Sousa Choir, under the direction of Silvio Cortez, performed at the Theological and Pastoral Symposium

## Quotation:

“Fatima converted into a laboratory of humanity, a delta where the sufferings and the pains of humanity flow. It is an acoustic shell to listen to our questions, even the most dramatic ones” – José Tolentino Mendonça, priest and director of the Faculty of the Portuguese Catholic University

“The Church as ‘field hospital’ can offer the most effective therapy through the challenge of knowing how to look beyond oneself, allowing one to regain the openness to the other and the way necessary to give meaning to the existence of each one” – Mgr. Rino Fisichella, President of the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization

“The life of the Little Shepherds is a good synthesis of what the Church is called to be, for their faithfulness” – Pedro Valinho Gomes, theologian and director of the Department for the Welcome of the Pilgrims of the Shrine of Fatima.