

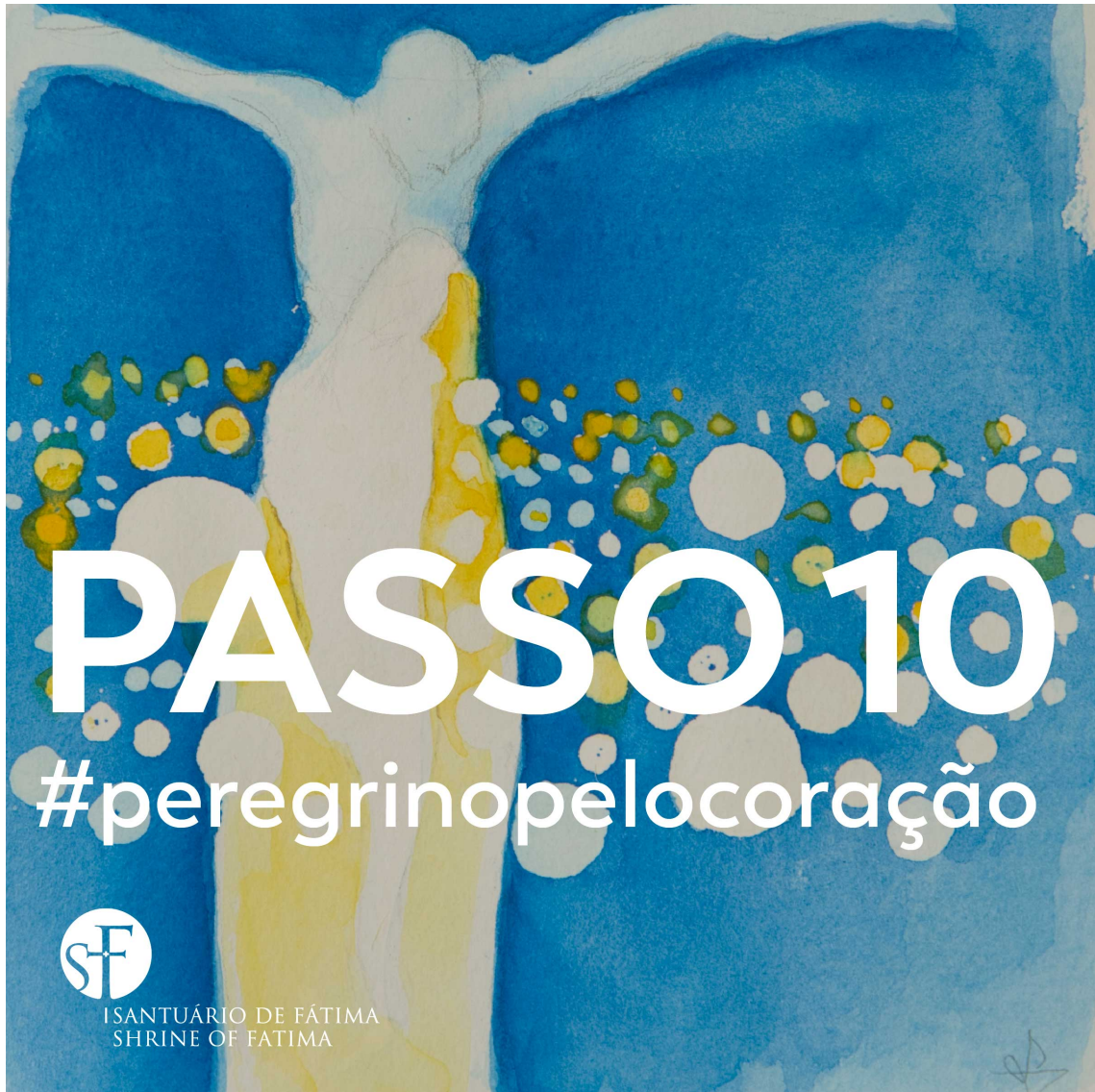


DAILY STEPS

#pilgrimbytheheart



SANTUÁRIO DE FÁTIMA
SHRINE OF FATIMA



10.

The rosary every day
for world peace

This May, Fatima challenges you to go on a more essential pilgrimage: an inner path that may take you far away within yourself, towards the shrine in your innermost where God is present for you. Making yourself a pilgrim by the heart is trying to live inwardly what the pilgrimage experience causes and fulfils. Fatima is calling you. Despite not being able to come to the Shrine this May, come with us on this inner pilgrimage, day by day. And place a lit candle by your window every night.

Recalling Lucia's account of the May apparition, we shall find out how much God respects the freedom of man and which is the way He chooses to reveal Himself. Today, open up yourself to the novelty of the Rosary.

This May, Fatima invites you to be a Pilgrim by the heart. Today, like Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta, embrace world peace into your heart.

The thirteenth of May in Cova da Iria, appeared, oh so, brilliant, the Virgin Maria. Ave Maria!

To the three Little shepherds our Lady appeared; the light of her grace to Her Son souls endeared. Ave Maria!

The Virgin Maria encircled with light our own dearest Mother and heaven's delight. Ave Maria!

May 13, Fatima.

Pilgrim by the heart, contemplate the Lady of the light resembling sparkling water, when the rays of the burning sun shine through it. Get close to the full of grace who reflects the light which is God, and drink, by the silence, the light from Her hands. The light which is God reflects in them and communicates itself to you intimately and enlightens you from within, allowing you to see yourself in God and, therefore, recognise yourself as His son. And you are the son of the Mother of Jesus, the Woman with the immaculate heart, the servant of peace, Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima.

It is through the silence that the experience of this light is offered to you. Go deep down into your heart and silence, bring to silence. In your silence as a pilgrim by the heart you may experience the joy of this day, in which, 103 years ago, Our Lady appeared in Cova da Iria to Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta, the three little shepherds of Aljustrel, who didn't know how to read

or write, they only played, prayed and kept watch over their flocks, but they saw Our Lady.

You couldn't come to Fatima, this closed May, but through the silence your heart opens to the real joy that Fatima offers: the joy of the encounter with the One who loves us and calls us to conversion, by Mary's voice.

Listen to how Lucia recounts the last moments of the May apparition:



Then, moved by an interior impulse that was also communicated to us, we fell on our knees, repeating in our hearts :

– O most Holy Trinity, I adore You! My God, my God, I love You in the most Blessed Sacrament.

After a few moments, Our Lady spoke again:

– Pray the Rosary every day, in order to obtain peace for the world, and the end of the war.

Then she began to rise serenely, going up towards the east, until she disappeared in the immensity of space.

The light that surrounded her seemed to open up a path before her in the firmament, and for this reason we sometimes said that we saw heaven opening.»

Listen to a quote from the Gospel of John | 19,25-27:



²⁵Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother". And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.»

We have a Mother. We have a Mother! Thus Pope Francis said and repeated when he came to Fatima on May 13 2017, to mark the 100th anniversary of the apparitions and for the rite of canonization of blessed Francisco and Jacinta, «[...] two candles which God lit to illumine humanity in its dark and anxious hours», as Saint John Paul II said in their beatification.

In this dark and restless time for humankind, the request to pray the Rosary in order to bring peace to the world assumes a particular meaning. Peace, in a biblical and theological sense, is not only the absence of war. It is the fullness of God's blessings, His blessing. When a pandemic such as the world is experiencing now brings along the increase in poverty and misery in a local and global level, as is being announced, history teaches that the convergence of these facts boosts the conflicts between men, between nations and inside nations, within societies as well as families, and within the hearts themselves.

It is time to pray the Rosary, to achieve world peace. The One who asks it is Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, whom we have already contemplated along this pilgrimage by the heart, when we dared to cross the thresholds of the mystery of the suffering, of the sufferings of man and God; we have contemplated Her as the Mother who drank the words of the meaning from the mouth of her innocent and agonising son, standing by the Cross, as in Fatima feeling sorry for the humankind at war. The practice of the Rosary to which Fatima invites us is the one that, from repeating on and on the Hail-Mary-Holy-Mary of the time before the apparitions, evolves to praying the Rosary based on the silent contemplation of the mysteries of Christ, of which the preference for lonely prayer by Francisco is an example, even for the Rosary. And in addition the writings of Lucia, over the years, began justifying this option. She writes in the book "How I see the message through the times and events":



Thus, as the heavenly Messenger rose to Heaven, She asked us to pray the rosary every day [...]. to choose the prayer of the rosary [...], which leads us soon after its beginning to be absorbed in it and to live the principal mysteries of God and His redemptive work, carried out by Jesus Christ, our Savior.»



My God, You inhabit the innermost of my heart
and You call me to open this closed May, to become a pilgrim by
the heart
and to meet You there.
Most Blessed Trinity, I deeply adore You.
My God, my God I love You in the Holy Sacrament.

Give me the prayer of silence, the prayer of the silent heart.
Give me the prayer of the simple and little ones.
O Trinity, O Bread from the Heaven, You are my source and my
way. I adore You. I love You.
My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love You.
I ask pardon of You for those who do not believe, do not adore,
do not hope and do not love You.
Lead me every day, pilgrim by the heart that I am and I wish to
be every day,
by the practice of silence, to worship and love; strengthen my
faith and my hope.
I am a pilgrim by the heart and I make myself contemplative of
the mysteries of the Rosary to bring peace to the world.
Pilgrim by the heart, I contemplate your mother's heart, mother
of mine, Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima.
Each day I wish to honour the name She introduced herself with
in Cova da Iria
And pray the Rosary, contemplating in the silence of the heart
The mysteries of life, death and resurrection of Jesus and of His
Mother in Him.
I will pray in Her heart, because in Her immaculate heart,
full of the grace of Your presence, is where You
offer Yourself more deeply to my heart.
And this May, away from the Little Chapel, forever pilgrim by
the heart:
I know that in Mother's immaculate heart
I shall always listen to the merciful beating of Your heart. Amen.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed are you
among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at
the hour of our death. Amen.

Mother of Heaven, be attentive to the supplications of a world
facing tribulation. Answer the cry of the poor and the sick,
give comfort and hope to all those who suffer, give strength
and compassion to all those who care for and work. Bring
peace to the world. In your immaculate heart, be for all your
children a refuge and a way to God.

Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, pray for us.
Saints Francisco and Jacinta Marto, pray for us.

This May 13, at the end of this pilgrimage by the heart, the Shrine of Fatima invites you to a brief reflection: the limits of this closed May have forced you, this year, to be a pilgrim by the heart and there may be a temptation to think that this option, dictated by circumstances, is merely an alternative, a remedy to substitute pilgrimage rendered impossible in the usual way. This pilgrimage by the heart is not instead of the normal pilgrimage, the one that is made, more or less distant, during more or less days, walking with our own feet the roads of Portugal and crossing the country's cities, exposed to the dangers of the way and the inclemencies of weather. No. This pilgrimage by the heart is the inner side of that pilgrimaging experience, done in group or solitary. Every pilgrimage becomes in fact a pilgrimage if it has, animating the inside of the itinerary travelled, the attitude of the pilgrim by the heart which, this year, you have been brought to deepen, without access to the physical and territorial dimension.

This quest – to be a pilgrim by the heart – which is essential in any pilgrimage, may be lost, or become difficult, when you physically go on a pilgrimage in space, if you don't protect yourself from the distractions of the way, the companions talking, the excessive tiredness, without concentrating your heart in the search for God, in the quest to listen to him, walking in His presence by the silence of the heart. Maybe this strange May, in which it is impossible to go on a pilgrimage the same way as before, will bring us the great gift of discovering and valuing again what is essential in the act of pilgrimaging: that every pilgrim should be a pilgrim by the heart. Even if it's not possible to set on a journey, you can always be a pilgrim by the heart, and pilgrimage is fulfilled as such. On the contrary, you may set on a journey and tire yourself walking, without trying to be a pilgrim by the heart; in that case, you didn't really fulfil a pilgrimage.

The closed days of this unimaginable May have given you the opportunity to live perhaps the most extraordinary May of your life, the most interior, maybe the more deeply reflected, maybe the most prayerful, who knows, maybe the most authentic! It may have been that you have gone further in the awareness of what it means to really go on a pilgrimage. It may happen that from now on you wish to start going on a pilgrimage trying to plunge deeper into the spiritual experience of the pilgrimage. It might happen that you want, then, to go further in perfecting your condition of pilgrim by the heart when you come to Fatima on foot, or not on foot, in May, or whenever. By that time, the Shrine, which this year has called for

you and accompanied you along ten days this May – after all, a May of grace – in this inner pilgrimage, will be available to help you in every possible way so that every pilgrimage you make to Fatima is truly the experience of pilgrimaging as a pilgrim by the heart.

Just like we were saying yesterday, Our Lady watches over you and leads your thirst to the fountain, your quest to the way, the worship and the love to God, in the light reflected in Her hands enveloping you and communicating intimately. Pilgrim by the heart, pray the Rosary every day to achieve world peace. Until we meet again.