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Beginning of my itinerary in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

«IN THE GOSPEL, WE HEAR JESUS SAY TO HIS DISCIPLE: “HERE IS YOUR MOTHER”. WE HAVE A MOTHER!».

Pope Francis' homily in Mass with canonization rite of Francisco and Jacinta Marto, on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2017

### HIGH CROSS

In this Shrine, the Cross is the signal that raises higher, as the mark of the Crucified who attracts everyone to Him. From here on I am invited to look at this place as the beloved son/daughter whom is given a Mother and a house that is the arriving point of the weariness of the journey as well as always renewed starting point.

As Lucia, in the Tuy apparition in 1929, I pray before Jesus Crucified:

*Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore you profoundly.*

In some moments of silence, I gaze at the Cross of Jesus and bring my history to my thoughts and prayer, I recall my inner wounds and willingly prepare my heart to listen, like John:

*..... (I say my name), here is your Mother! (Jo 19, 27)*

Jesus entrust me to the Immaculate Heart of Mary as a haven where I find peace. While walking to the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary, I walk by the image of St. John Paul II, the Pope whose motto was based on that delivery to Mary – *Totus Tuus* – which encourages me to feel the same trust. Further ahead, the piece of the Berlin Wall reminds me that, through Mary, God can bring down all walls: those of indifference, of contention, of sin, of death, all of them can be brought down.



SANTUÁRIO DE FÁTIMA

TIME OF GRACE AND MERCY

2017-2020

# ITINERARY OF THE PILGRIM

# Shrine

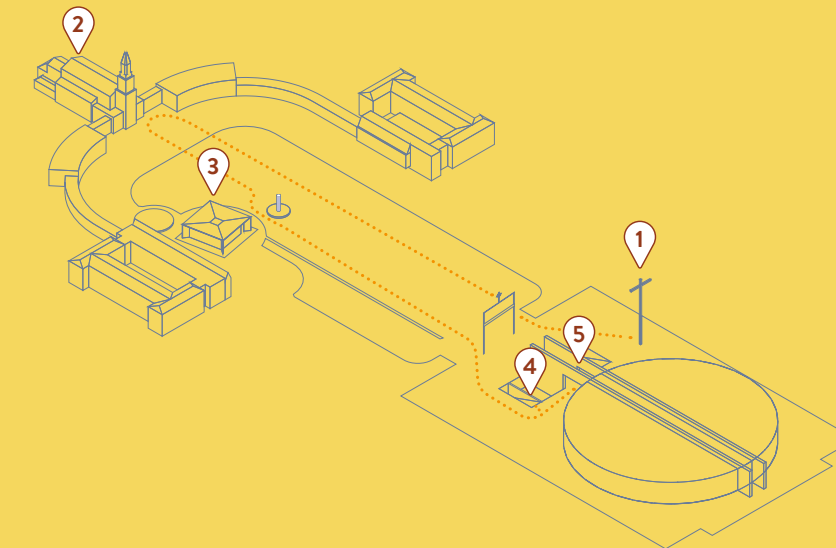
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# ITINERARY OF THE PILGRIM

2017-2020

### Route stations

- 1 HIGH CROSS
- 2 BASILICA OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY
- 3 CHAPEL OF THE APPARITIONS
- 4 CHAPEL OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
- 5 MAIN DOOR OF THE BASILICA OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY



2

«HIGH UP ON THE SLOPE IN THE COVA DA IRIA, I WAS PLAYING WITH JACINTA AND FRANCISCO AT BUILDING A LITTLE STONE WALL AROUND A CLUMP OF FURZE. SUDDENLY WE SAW WHAT SEEMED TO BE A FLASH OF LIGHTNING».

*Sister Lucia, description of 13th May 1917*

### BASILICA OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

The three little shepherds, before the apparition on 13th May 1917, were on that place building a “small wall”. Years later this Basilica would be built, besides the chapel built in the apparition site, responding to one of Our Lady of Fatima’s requests: «I want to tell you that a chapel is to be built here in my honour».

I recall before the altar, the Church, my parish community, my family and all who somehow helped me to be born by the Spirit. Next to the cross, the pilgrim image of the Virgin who has travelled through countries and people of all over the world, encourages me to gradually build this pilgrim-Church, acknowledging that it is Him who really builds it.

In a thanksgiving attitude I am willing to be part of that construction and simultaneously to look after the inner home, of that heart-space where God wants to live in.

Based on some expressions of Benedict XVI, on 13th May 2010, I ask Saints Francisco and Jacinta Marto:

*Francisco and Jacinta,  
who made a donation to God of your life  
and sharing it with others,  
help me to open my heart to love universality,  
thus, building a civilization of Love and Peace.  
Intercede for me so that the Mother may transplant  
in my heart the Love of God that burns in Hers  
and speed up the Triumph of Her Immaculate Heart.*

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory

3

«OUR LADY COMMUNICATED TO US SUCH AN INTENSE LIGHT, MAKING US SEE OURSELVES IN GOD, WO WAS THAT LIGHT».

*Sister Lucia on the apparition of 13th May*

### CHAPEL OF THE APPARITIONS

In the Chapel I find myself in the centre of the Mystery that fills up this Shrine. Here is where Our Lady appeared full of Light and spoke to Mankind about God. «Fatima is more than anything this mantle of Light that protect us...» (Pope Francis, 13th May 2017). The Light conveyed here pierces through the heart, that is, it invites you to let God be the Light clears all darkness and that despondency, sadness and anguish may never have the final word.

Before the image of Our Lady, crowned with the gold from Portuguese women and with the bullet that wounded John Paul II, I deliver all the joy and hope, worries and suffering, all the uncertainties and insecurities, quite sure that nothing in my life is indifferent to Her.

The Lady shrouded in Light assured Lucia here, as She assures me: «I will never forsake you. My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and the way that will lead you to God».

Under this hope, I remain praying, protected by Her maternal mantle and entrust to Her all my intentions, through the prayer that She asked us for more: the Rosary. The little shepherds waited for each apparition while praying the rosary as if preparing for a special meeting. I now let the Rosary be the environment where the Mother can ask and lead to Jesus.

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«LOOK: GO TO THE CHURCH AND GIVE MY LOVE TO THE HIDDEN JESUS».

*Francisco Marto*

### CHAPEL OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

I find Hidden Jesus in the white Host. I come before Jesus as God-with us, like a close friend present in the Sacrament of Eucharist. I am invited to worship Him; through my worshipping I profess my faith, my hope and my love, committing to place Him in the centre of my life and confess to Him the weakness of my humanity. With a willing and thankful heart, I want to increasingly immerse myself deeply in that relationship of God’s friends that is re-learned in Fatima.

Francisco, already sick, would say to young Lucia:

«– Look: go to the Church and give my love to the hidden Jesus: What hurts me most is that I cannot go there myself and stay awhile with the hidden Jesus».

I come to the source of Grace and Mercy to ask the Lord to insert me in this attitude of those who accept the invitation of Our Lady – «do you want to offer yourselves to God? » –, to turn your whole life a «well-pleasing gift to the Lord» (Rm 12, 1). Only in that generous and joyful offer of myself to God and to my fellow men I can fully accomplish my condition of man or woman created by God. We are «of the race of God», «we are of His breed» (Acts 17, 28-29), therefore, our life path is to follow the same steps as Him.

My prayer transforms itself here into the desire of God and commitment towards Him and I am invited to prepare some specific purposes deriving from this meeting with Jesus:

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«BE HOLY YOURSELVES».

*1Pt 1, 15*

### MAIN DOOR OF THE BASILICA OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

The Spirit hovered over the water at the beginning of creation as suggested in the figures in that door. That is the same Spirit that we receive through Baptism and which sanctifies us today as It sanctified Francisco and Jacinta one hundred years ago, the Spirit that lives in the heart of those who become pilgrims towards the heavenly homeland. Godliness becomes a beautiful and possible path which will turn me into a true gift for humankind. I have in my thoughts all men and women that need my surrender and my prayer today and I pray so that the grace of Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit are with them all (2Cor 13, 13), offering like the little shepherds: «Oh my Jesus, this is for love of You, for the conversion of the sinners, for the Holy Father and in reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary».

I become aware of this great hope that opens a horizon of endless sense to life and which justifies all the weariness of the way.

«Like an anchor, let us fix our hope in that humanity seated in heaven at the right hand of the Father (Eph 2, 6). May this hope guide our lives! It is a hope that sustains us always, to our dying breath. Confirmed in this hope, we are gathered here to give thanks for the countless graces bestowed over these past hundred years, beneath the mantle of Light that Our Lady has spread over the four corners of the earth, beginning with this land of Portugal, so rich in hope».

*Pope Francis’ Homily in the mass with canonization rite of Francisco and Jacinta Marto, on 13th May 2017*