



FÁTIMA LUZ EPAZ

Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fátima

Director: Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas

Quarterly publication | Year XVI | Nr. 61

*Time of grace and mercy:
giving thanks for our pilgrimage as Church*

Centennial of the death of St. Francisco Marto / Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas

The centennial of Saint Francisco Marto's death, the little shepherd to whom Our Lady appeared, was celebrated last April 4th. However, instead of centennial of the death, we should be saying centennial of the birth to a full life near God: of saints, the church celebrates the *dies natalis*, the day of the birth into Heaven. This jubilee date is the proper occasion to rediscover St. Francisco Marto's discreet but rich figure.

Of the three seers of Fatima, St. Francisco Marto is the most contemplative one. This little contemplative boy searched for silence in order to be with God, to pray. Faithful to Our Lady's request, in the first apparition, he became inseparable from his rosary. Years later, it was that same rosary which allowed his father to identify his mortal remains.

St. Francisco Marto is also the consoler of God: he discovers God's sadness due to the sins of men and takes as his own mission to console Him and bring Him joy; he commits to never sin and embraces reparation and the consolation of God as his life's greatest purpose. Since the apparitions, he lives with horizons of eternity, wishing to be next to God, consoling and comforting.

These horizons of eternity are the explanation to his detachment, his life completely dedicated to God and to those who reached him. St. Francisco Marto lives in the "logical of gift": the centre of his life is not in his personal interests or in what he may receive; for the contrary, he gives and gives himself, not expecting nor demanding nothing in return. Transformed by his adoration to the hidden Jesus, he knew how to imitate his Friend, who had made His life a gift in extreme, giving us a full life.

His modesty and simplicity were contagious: with his simple and humble way of being, he touched those who reached him.

Much more could be said about St. Francisco Marto's life. However, it is important that we keep searching to know better his example and let ourselves be touched by it, in the centennial of his entrance in the eternal contemplation of God.

Statue of the Pilgrim Virgin No. 10 will visit 26 dioceses in Argentina until 2020

The program of this journey includes a visit
to 26 dioceses over a year / Cátia Filipe



Departure of the Pilgrim Statue of Fatima marked by prayer for Peace and for the Holy Father

The Statue of the Pilgrim Virgin No. 10 left for Argentina on April 1. In the Chapel of the Apparitions, in the Shrine of Fatima, a small departure ceremony took place.

"It is always an occasion to give thanks and of blessings, this presence of the Mother of Heaven, who brings a tangible message for the men and women of today, of prayer, conversion, and above all, of peace. A universal message for all peoples and for all nations", said Fr. José Andrade, one of the chaplains of the Shrine, to those pilgrims present.

The initiative to take the Pilgrim Statue to Argentina came from a group of people, and later the request was made by Fr. Jorge Piñol, Superior General of the Cristo Rei Institute, of the Archdiocese of Rosário. Later a group of laymen were organized to coordinate the visit, which they named "Mission Fatima Argentina 2019".

The pilgrimage of the Pilgrim Virgin No. 10 in Argentina extends until the middle of 2020. So far, the visit to 26 dioceses is confirmed: Venado Tuerto, Villa de la Concepción del Rio Cuarto, La Plata, Villa María, Rosario, San Isidro, Santo Domingo en Nueve de Julio, Formosa, Nicolás de los Arroyos, San Francisco, Chascomús, Oberá, Mar del Plata, Morón, Azul, Gregorio de Laferrere, Paraná, Mercedes-Luján, Salta Corrientes, Buenos Aires, San Luis, Santa Fé da Vera, La Rioja, Quilmes, Tucumán.

During the departure ceremony, in addition

to the prayers for peace in the world, the pilgrims prayed for the Holy Father. Pope Francis, after learning of this visit, urged the people of Argentina to welcome with affection the Mother who will visit them and asked them to pray to Our Lady for him.

The portal ACIPRENSA released a video where Pope Francisco appeals to the Argentines to receive the Pilgrim Statue No. 10 "with affection".

In a video of about two minutes, the Holy Father exhorted the various dioceses that the statue will visit to "receive with affection the mother" who will visit them, remembering that "She does not come alone, she brings a special gift, because her whole life was to give something, to make something possible: to bring Jesus."

"Not being absolute, and as any other mother, She unites, organizes, and is present in the life of each one of us to lead us to Jesus", adds the Holy Father, stating that "it is Mary who makes possible the descent of Jesus to us, and it is this mother who will visit you, and when you visit Her, thank Her for bringing Jesus."

"Pray to Our Lady for me", the Holy Father concluded.

This is the first time that the Pilgrim Statue No. 10 will be in Argentina. Previously, there was record of the visit of the Pilgrim Statue No. 2 in 2003 and 2004; the Pilgrim Statue No. 5 in the year 2010; and the Pilgrim Statue No. 6 in 2009 and 2011.

“Innocence” of the Saints Little Shepherds enhanced in their Liturgical Feast day

Shrine of Fatima will mark the centennial of the death of St. Francisco Marto / Cátia Filipe



Antonio Marto presented in an emotional way the example of Saint Francisco and Saint Jacinta Marto to humanity

The Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity, in the Shrine of Fatima, hosted the mass of the Liturgical Feast day of Saints Francisco and Jacinta Marto, presided by Cardinal António Marto, bishop of the Diocese of Leiria-Fátima.

The prelate expressed his joy to be experiencing this time of celebration and shared a moment lived with Pope Francis on 30 September 2017 during a private meeting, when he went to Rome to thank Francis for his visit to the Shrine of Fatima. On that occasion, he informed the Holy Father that the number of visits to the tombs of the Little Shepherds had tripled since their canonization, to which he replied in a very simple manner: “You know, in a wounded world, people need to seek the innocence”.

“This wounded world mentioned by the Pope is shown to us on the television screens and newspaper headlines, and we are called to contemplate almost every day as a media spectacle the vastness of the evil in the world and the destructive power of the world’s sin”, he explained, also talking about the consequences that leave “the mark of the suffering and the wounds in people, in their bodies and souls, and in consciences so often fragile, to the point of no longer being able to distinguish good from evil, in the broken families, sometimes concealing the violence inside, in a society marked by indifference, individualism and selfishness, in the tragedies of wars and the plight of the refugees who are fleeing from death, misery and starvation”.

The saints Little Shepherds “allow us to contemplate the children’s innocence when they are happy and feel loved”, but they are also “the voice of innocence in the sad faces with tears in the eyes, in the caravans of refugees, often by themselves, often trying to escape without a father or a mother”.

This year, for the first time, the ‘Little Shepherds Francisco and Jacinta Marto Day’ was celebrated as a local public holiday in Juranda, municipality of the Diocese of Campo Mourão, in the Brazilian state of Paraná. This is the birthplace of Lucas, the child that was the protagonist of the miracle that paved the way for the canonization of Francisco and Jacinta Marto on 13 May 2017, in Fatima, by Pope Francis.



Fatima and Brazil celebrate on the same day the memory of the Saints Shepherds

Cardinals from Asia preside International Anniversary Pilgrimages of May and October

The main celebrants of the pilgrimages of 2019 are already known / Cátia Filipe



The Shrine of Fatima turned towards the Asian Continent

The Shrine of Fatima announced the names of the main celebrants of the International Anniversary Pilgrimages for this year.

In June 2018, Cardinal António Marto, Bishop of Leiria-Fatima, announced that the International Pilgrimage of May 2019 would be presided by the Cardinal of Manila, Luis Antonio Tagle, as a sign of attention to Asia.

Luis Antonio Tagle, Archbishop of Manila, Philippines, has been the current president of Caritas Internationalis since 2011. He was created Cardinal by Pope Benedict XVI in November 2012.

The Children's Pilgrimage, on June 10, will be presided by Armando Esteves Domingues, Auxiliary Bishop of Porto since December 2018. The prelate was Vicar General of the Diocese of Viseu since 2015.

António Luciano dos Santos Costa, Bishop of Viseu, will take the presidency of the International Anniversary Pilgrimage in June. He was appointed Bishop of Viseu by Pope Francis on May 3, 2018. He took possession on July 22, 2018, at the Cathedral of Viseu.

Daniel Batalha Henriques, the Auxiliary Bishop of Lisbon, since October 2018, presides at the International Anniversary Pilgrimage of the month of July. Born in Ribamar, in the municipality of Mafra, he was ordained a priest on July 1, 1990, at the Monastery of Jerónimos, in Lisbon.

Rui Manuel Sousa Valério, Bishop of the Armed Forces and Security, will preside at the International Anniversary Pilgrimage in September. Between 1992 and 1993 he was a military chaplain at the Navy Hospital, and also at the Naval School from 2008 to 2011. Pope Francis appointed him Bishop of the Armed Forces and the Security Forces in Portugal in October 2018, succeeding to Manuel Linda, current Bishop of Porto.

The last International Anniversary Pilgrimage of 2019, on October 12 and 13, will be presided by Cardinal Andrew Yeom Soo-Jung, Archbishop of Seoul, and a member of the Permanent Council and of the Commission for Missions. On January 12, 2014, the appointment as Cardinal of Andrew Yeom Soo-Jung was announced; the investiture was effected in the first ordinary consistory of Pope Francis on February 22, 2014.

The Shrine welcomed seven million pilgrims in 2018

“Fatima does not only belong to the Church, does not only belong to Portugal, Fatima belongs to the whole world” declared Cardinal António Marto / Carmo Rodeia



During the first year after the Centennial, Fatima confirmed as “Altar of the World”

The fact that the Shrine of Fatima “belongs to the whole world” has been demonstrated by the seven million pilgrims who visited Cova da Iria in 2018, best year ever just after 2012, with the exception of the year of the Centennial of the Apparitions that coincided with the visit of Pope Francis and the canonisation of Saints Francisco and Jacinta Marto.

“This figure of seven million is surprising, it is really significant. A universal family that refers to one Mother with Her protective mantle that can cover the whole world”, said António Marto during the 41st Meeting of Hoteliers that took place in the Shrine on the 8th of February.

“Fatima does not only belong to the Church, does not only belong to Portugal, Fatima belongs to the whole world”, emphasized Cardinal António Marto.

The Portuguese cardinal also added that Fatima “is more and more international”, that is why the Shrine has “been vigilant” to this “worldwide” dimension and to the “new groups of pilgrims coming from continents that are not customary, like Asia”.

Statistical data for 2018 showed that

481 organised pilgrimages came from the Asian continent, mainly from South Korea, Philippines, India and Indonesia, and China sent 31 groups to the Portuguese shrine; and there are “other important countries” that the statistics revealed: Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam and Japan.

António Marto underlined the importance of the Message of Fatima as a “Message of Peace” recalling the agreement concluded between the Republic of China and the Holy See after the emeritus bishop of Hong Kong visited the Shrine in 2018, or the peaceful climate that is prevailing in the Korean peninsula after the journey of one of the Pilgrim Virgin Statue in South Korea, during which she visited the Shrine of the Peace of Fatima, close to the border with North Korea, and 14 dioceses, between the 22 of August and the 13 of October 2017.

“Is there a link? I think so, such things do not happen by chance”, observed the Portuguese cardinal.

This year, the Cardinal of Manila (Philippines) and President of Caritas Internationalis, António Luis Tagle, will preside

the anniversary international pilgrimage of May, during this pastoral year that will include two centennials: the building of the Chapel of the Apparitions and the death of Saint Francisco Marto. In October, the presidency will be assumed by the South Korean cardinal, Andrew Yeom Soo-Jung, Archbishop of Seoul.

In his address in the course of the 41st Meeting of Hoteliers, the Bishop of Leiria-Fátima underlined that hospitality “is not just simple politeness”, and he appealed for “closeness and solidarity”.

The Rector of the Shrine of Fatima then emphasized that this meeting of hoteliers was also an “opportunity for gathering and sharing”.

“It was our wish that the dynamics that enlivened the Shrine of Fatima during 7 years give permanent fruits in what is the day-to-day programme of this place. We consolidated some practices that have now become part of the daily life of this site”, said Father Carlos Cabecinhas to the 140 hoteliers regarding the year 2018, in the course of his speech in the Pastoral Centre Paul VI.

Figures that make history for the first post-centennial year



The candlelight procession is one of the most touching moment of the celebration of the Shrine

The Shrine remains one of the most sought-after site by Christians. Nine out of the ten countries that concentrate more than 55 % of the Catholics of the world go on pilgrimage to Cova da Iria every year.

And if it is still early for the Shrine of Fatima to approach the second century of the Apparitions, regarding its key reading, but the truth is that the number of pilgrims during this first post-centennial year confirms that Fatima remains one of the favourite sites for pilgrimage of the Christian world.

In 2018, first year of a cycle designated as a Time of Grace and Mercy, the Shrine of Fatima welcomed seven million pilgrims, slightly more than its previous best year ever, 2012, during the last decade, when 6.8 million pilgrims visited Fatima. With the obvious exception of 2017 – year of the Centennial, of the visit of Pope Francis and of the canonisation of Francisco and Jacinta Marto – during which 9.4 million pilgrims came to Fatima, though, according to the global prevailing trend, the number of pilgrims was expected to decrease.

In 2018 came to Cova da Iria 4,387 orga-

nized groups which have been announced to the administration of the Shrine. 2,785 foreign groups and 1,602 Portuguese groups, representing 679,577 pilgrims coming from 79 countries.

Among the ten countries that concentrate 55.9% of all the Christians of the world (i.e. 727 out of the 1.3 billion), nine are countries that send pilgrims annually to Fatima, namely: Brazil, Mexico, Philippines, the United States, Italy, France, Columbia, Spain, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Argentina. And among the countries that send most visitors to Cova da Iria stand out Spain (34,178 pilgrims), Poland (11,928 pilgrims) and Italy (11,477 pilgrims).

From Asia, continent to which the Shrine has been giving a specific attention lately – which was materialized through the invitation of Asian prelates to preside the anniversary international pilgrimages – came 481 groups, mainly from Korea (125 groups), Philippines (93 groups), India (61 groups), Indonesia (48 groups), and a specific emphasis is to be put on China (31 groups).

The Chapel of the Apparitions welcomed 2.9 million pilgrims, the Prayer enclosure 2.4 million, the Basilica of the Holy Trinity 1.1 million and the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary 280,673.

In Aljustrel, native town of the Seers of Fatima, the House of Francisco and Jacinta was visited by around 392 thousand pilgrims, the House of Lucia by 347 thousand and the House Museum by 17,653.

Regarding the Shrine exhibition spaces, we can underline the success of the Saint Augustine *Convivium*, in the lower level of the Basilica of the Holy Trinity, where are usually organised the temporary exhibitions of the Shrine. In 2018, the temporary exhibition “The Colours of the Sun” was visited by 225,252 pilgrims and the permanent exhibition “Fatima Light and Peace” welcomed 78,862 visitors.

Total of celebrations	9,929
Total of concelebrants	35,293
Total of communicants	1.2 million



The Pilgrim Virgin “took the light of Fatima to the world and now lights it in Portugal for all the world”, the Archbishop of Panama declares

The Archbishop José Domingo Ulloa has been to Fatima last 29 March, on his way to Porto. He prayed in the Little Chapel and spoke with the Department of Communication about the World Youth Day in Panama and the significance of the Pilgrim Virgin’s presence among young people from 150 countries, “which was very moving” / Carmo Rodeia



The presence of the Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Fatima in the WYD was God’s deed

How did the invitation for the presence of the statue of the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima in the World Youth Day in Panama come up?

As soon as the choice of Panama was announced as the place to host World Youth Day 2019, and considering that the Panamanians have a strong Marian devotion, and that the Virgin of Fatima was (and is!) so deeply rooted in the heart of this people, we immediately thought it necessary to put this journey in Mary’s hands.

How did the whole process take place?

On July 31, 2016, the Pope announced this choice and on August 3, I was at the general audience and told him that the great gift he could give us, the people of Panama and all the Latin American people, would be the Marian invocation for this journey. To understand it better, remember that there are several reasons for these choices: we are the first diocese in mainland with Marian invocation,

specifically in Santa Maria de la Antigua. But we are Marianists with a special devotion to Our Lady of Fatima. We must also remember that we were on the eve of the Centennial year (2017), when we had the visit of the Pilgrim Virgin to Panama.

And it was a moment of great devotion and enthusiasm...

This was one of the visits that most deeply touched the hearts of the people of Panama and when it was finished we felt that we had to ask Fatima to be present again at this special moment for Panama, for the youth of Panama, which would be the World Youth Day.

On February 11, 2018, the day of Our Lady of Lourdes, the Pope enrolled in the World Youth Day and at noon that day we received the communication of the Shrine confirming the presence of the Pilgrim Virgin. It was God’s work! They had to be pilgrims

number 1 and number 2 of the World Youth Day.

How was the entire preparation?

The World Youth Day always took into consideration young people and the role of women. We are convinced that the church cannot be thought of - and this is a perspective from Latin America - without the effective involvement and presence of women in the Church and following Mary, this eternal young woman who was able to say yes; we invoke her from a vocational point of view.

Mary has always been linked to the World Youth Day, but this year in a very special way...

For the WYD everything was prepared according to Mary. And even the Youth Synod helped us in this preparation of a youth-oriented church from the example of Mary, a young woman who said yes without reservations. We were also greatly assisted by

the World Apostolate of Fatima, a dedicated group that for a year and a half did the most to help this great Marian journey, fostering from the very beginning the first Saturday devotion.

How did you feel when you saw the Holy Father before the Pilgrim Virgin?

I felt a very strong feeling: Mother, this work that is Yours is moving the world. And seeing the Holy Father praying, in profound silence, before the statue of the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima, was something very touching. It was the confirmation that this momentum in the Church, committed to this project with the youth, is in the hands of Mary, the great Influencer of youth.

In Panama we feel, in the emotion of the youth, that Mary has conquered their hearts. The candlelight procession, on the night of the Vigil, after the Pope had been in front of the Statue, without candles and with mobile phones, accompanying the statue of the Pilgrim Virgin, was an ocean of light. I was very touched: to see the Holy Father praying before the Virgin, but above all to see the joy of the young people before Our Lady of Fatima and to see in their eyes and their expressions the way the Mother filled their hearts... it was extraordinary. The Virgin of Fatima is always a theme that must be emphasized when we talk about the World Youth Day and, above all, this one in particular.

This moment was probably the confirmation that the options for the presence of the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima were the right ones...

There are no coincidences. We did everything without knowing that Portugal would host the next World Youth Day. So when we talked about this matter it was another motive of great joy: the Mother that we took to the world youth in Panama is the same Mother who will bring the cross of the World Youth Day to her new home. That is, Mary became present on the other side of the world, to return with all her children to Fatima and Portugal.

Which role is reserved for the Virgin of Fatima in the next World Youth Day?

Mary has always occupied a central place in the World Youth Day. But in 2022 this role will be even more significant. This whole organization is unthinkable without the presence of Our Lady of Fatima. She is the Mother who protects and embraces us. In Lisbon, she will only confirm this role. She took the light of Fatima to the World and now she lights it in Portugal for the whole world.

The preparations for World Youth Day are very demanding. What stands out from the experience of Panama?

The best strategy for organizing such an event is to place it in the hands of God and ask for the intercession of Mary. We have to do everything that is possible from the human point of view, but it is the providence that protects us. That is why we



The Pilgrim Virgin Statue travelled the peripheries of Panama City

need to ask Mary and through her intercession to wait for the help of God. The World Youth Day, like everything in our life, is His work.

We began this brief conversation regarding the importance of Fatima in the World. Would you like to go further into the matter?

One of the great contents of the Message of Fatima is conversion. Fatima invites us to recreate the need and desire for change so that the word we hear invades our heart and nourishes our gestures. There must be harmony between the word we announce and the gestures of our life. And this is the root of the Message of Fatima that brings us to an enduring invitation to conversion, to being close to God. Starting with the hierarchy of the Church, we must be in constant discernment facing the signs of the times.

Is this why we often say that the Message of Fatima remains current?

It is a very current message that is addressed to all bishops, priests, lay people, young people and not so young people because at the core there is the invitation to conversion. With other ingredients that bring us back to childhood, to humility, to the awareness for the smallest, the weakest, the oppressed, the poor at heart. Then it leads the way: prayer. We have to pray a lot for our hearts to be converted so that we can help others to convert.

Prayer as a path to greater intimacy with God...

The Message of Fatima is this: an invitation to prayer, to speaking and listening to God, in the greatest intimacy. Therefore, it's an itinerary that helps us release our heart from all that doesn't matter and liberate ourselves giving God the place of God.

Besides, it invites us to pray for Peace...

The Message of Fatima is always current because it alerts us to a wounded world, a world that is wounded because we are wounded. And each of us has to convert because each of us has this mission. Therefore, facing the real world of today, the Message of Fatima helps us purify men's hearts. And this is the third element I would like to highlight: mercy. In Fatima, through this motherly presence of Our Lady, we feel that there is always a big heart that embraces us, no matter how bad the evils of the world are.

The Church is preparing to live the Synod on the Pan-Amazon Region. How do you see this opportunity?

The Amazonia is an important place, but it's just a place. It's a message that God sends us: from martyred peoples, the Lord speaks to the whole world. From here the light will emerge for the whole world on the necessity to gain awareness that we all have the obligation to take care of this common home.

First pilgrim statue of Fatima present during WYD 2019

A testimony of the World Apostolate of Fatima in Panama / AMF Panamá

On the occasion of the WYD in Panama, in January 2019, the Archbishop of Panama, José Domingo Ulloa, requested the presence of the First Pilgrim Statue of Fatima (FPSF), a request which was well received by the Rector of the Shrine, Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas.

Thereafter, Archbishop José Domingo Ulloa entrusted The World Apostolate of Fatima in Panama (WAFP) with the task of organising the presence of the FPSF. WAFP's staff, consisting of families, adults, young people and children, worked hard in the planning and pastoral and logistics execution of this visit. We've received this gesture with mixed feelings of joy and fear for the great responsibility that we've been asked, to be facilitators of "a blessing from heaven" that would arrive in Panama, to the youth of the world. In every moment we've lived through God's Providence, in a daily miracle, with the means that Our Lady offered us every day so that we could accomplish this mission.

The FPSF arrived in Panama on January 21, accompanied by Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas and delegation, and began an extensive and intense 9-day pilgrimage program, in which we were able to observe the pilgrims between tears and admiration, venerating Our Lady: praying the Holy Rosary, repairing and consecrating themselves to her Immaculate Heart, adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, practices so necessary nowadays; and gaining the Plenary Indulgence, a grace miraculously granted by the presence of the FPSF in WYD.

All the members of the apostolate had several and very special personal experiences throughout the pilgrimage. The climax of all these moments happened during the Vigil of WYD, in which Pope Francis, before the FPSF, entrusted to Mary all the young people of the world, to accompany them throughout their journey of faith. The historic and moving event was a spiritual milestone for all of us, as it certainly was for everyone present. A mystical moment, the amazing silence of 600 thousand young people from all over the world spread out on the grounds, before the profound contemplation of the Holy Father. An occasion overflowing with Our Lady's love, filled with the peace that we always feel wherever She is present. Accompanying her in procession and walking the entire grounds, escorted by so many pilgrims moved by Her presence, with songs, prayers and deep reverence, is a moment that we will keep in our heart for the rest of our lives.

We are not able to assimilate in our imagination what we have experienced, and to realize the great pastoral and spiritual fruits that will flourish with this "New Marian Pentecost", established with the presence of the FPSF in our country during this journey. This mission marked our lives forever, with the commitment to continue to grow in the spirituality of Fatima, united as families in the service to which Our Mother called us and that we are prepared to proceed with.

Ave Maria!



World Apostolate of Fatima in Panama organized the visit of the Pilgrim Statue of Fatima

The Rector of the Shrine of Fatima called for pilgrims to “imitate Mary in Their Behaviour and Words”

Father Carlos Cabecinhas presided the celebrations of the monthly pilgrimage of March / *Cátia Filipe*

The recitation of the Rosary in the Chapel of the Apparitions, in the morning, launched the celebrations of the Pilgrimage of the 13th of March, to which participated pilgrims from Portugal, Spain, Italy, France, Poland, Slovakia, Brazil and the United States, who joined the procession that preceded the Votive Mass of Our Lady of Fatima, celebrated afterwards in the Basilica of the Holy Trinity. Father Carlos Cabecinhas, Rector of the Shrine of Fatima, presided the celebration.

“We know we were entrusted to the motherly care of Mary, but, on the other hand, Jesus takes care to tell us that we were invited to welcome Mary in our home, imitating Her behaviour, welcoming Her words”.

Focusing on the call for conversion which is part of the Message of Fatima, the president of the celebration referred to the commitment assumed by Saint Francisco



Sicks participated festively in the pilgrimage of March

Marto in order “not to sadden God with sins”, taking him as a practical example.

“Welcoming Mary in our home means accepting to respond to the strong call for conversion that She expresses in the Message

of Fatima, following those three paths that the Church offers us”, concluded the priest calling on the pilgrims to “strengthen their trust in Mary as a shelter” and to respect the commitment to welcome Her in their lives.

Rector of the Shrine presented Our Lady as refuge and example for Christians

In the homily of April’s Monthly Pilgrimage Mass, Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas exhorted pilgrims to embrace the appeal to conversion that Our Lady made at Cova da Iria / *Diogo Carvalho Alves*



Conversion was the core of the pilgrimage of April in the Shrine

From the Gospel of Saint John (19, 25-27), in which Mary is presented by the cross, the priest began by inviting the pilgrims to contemplate Mary’s “special participation” in the Passion of Her Son, taking this participation as an example for a Christian living experience.

“The disciples ran away in fear, but Mary doesn’t run away! With the courage, the loyalty and the kindness of a Mother, she accompanies Her Son during that last hour, on the way to Calvary and during the agony, by the cross, thereby proving that She is the first great disciple of Her son... If we wish to understand

what it means to be a disciple of Christ, we must contemplate Mary and Her actions”, stated the main celebrant of the celebration.

While evoking the account of the events of the Passion, death and resurrection of Jesus, by the evangelist Saint John, who presents this complete surrender as “an extreme manifestation of God’s love for us, in Jesus Christ”, the priest recalled that “Jesus trusts us to the maternal care of His Mother”, and that, therefore, Christians of all times have sought Him for protection, asking for His intercession and entrusting Him their “sorrows, difficulties and troubles”.

The rector of the Shrine later explained this “Mary’s motherly care for us” as the Immaculate Heart which Our Lady presented as a refuge, in the Apparitions of Fatima.

“It is this motherly comfort that we can find in Fatima, near Her... So we come here, confident, to present our prayers and ask for help for our life and support in our troubles”, said the priest, warning us that the surrender of Jesus implies us also in the opposite direction.

“Jesus said to the disciple: ‘Behold your Mother’ and the evangelist completes the message, writing that ‘from then on, the disciple received Mary in his home’. Just like the disciple, we are invited to receive Mary in our home, accepting Her in our lives, imitating Her attitudes and embracing Her message and exhortations”, warned the rector of the Shrine, while presenting the “vehement call to conversion” that Our Lady leaves at Fatima as a real opportunity to welcome Mary.

“The exhortation to conversion crosses the entire message of Fatima and is evident in the request, so often repeated by Our Lady, that men stop offending God, and in the appeal to prayer and sacrifices for sinners”, he concluded, giving the example of the desire and effort to “stop offending God” that St. Francisco Marto demonstrated.

25 groups of pilgrims from 9 countries take part in the celebrations of the monthly pilgrimage of April.

Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima visited 45 dioceses in Colombia

Mission Fatima Colombia also carried the Statue of the Virgin of Fatima to Peru and Ecuador, countries consecrated by their bishops to Our Lady / Carmo Rodeia

When the three friends – sisters Carolina and Cristina Vergara, and Joana Rodriguez – from the Archdiocese of Barranquilla, in Colombia, decided to write to the Shrine of Fatima asking for the presence of the statue of the Pilgrim Virgin in their country, inspired by the documentary “Fatima The Ultimate Mystery”, which they saw at the cinema, in October 2017, they were far from imagining the proportions that such a ‘mission’ would take. Especially because it was not easy to fulfil immediately all the formal requirements, starting with the signature of a bishop or of a congregation, required by the Shrine to authorize the release of one of the 13 statues of the Pilgrim Virgin.

But “this was the moment ‘She’ wanted to visit us, in the very moment Colombia most needed her, and everything went along in a natural and almost unforeseen way”, Carolina Vergara told *Fatima Light and Peace Bulletin*, since she made a point of accompanying the delivery of the Statue at the Shrine one year after she had arrived to take it with her.

“The idea was for the Statue to stay between May and August 2018 but it stayed for almost a year”, she says with tears in her eyes, announcing a farewell that will be no more than a “see you soon”.

“We have no words to describe all that we’ve experienced: marvellous, exceptional, the experience of love we’ve lived before the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The

most beautiful thing was to see the devotion of the Colombian people to the Virgin Mary. In many places the priests and nuns told us: ‘Never did so many people come to a procession. Never did so many people enter this Cathedral.’ The bishop of a diocese told me that it was the first time that more than 5,000 people entered his Cathedral, that he had to go and give communion on the street because the space was small for such a great number of faithful”, said Carolina Vergara, who accompanied the pilgrimage of the Statue all the way through. “The Virgin surprised us every day, in all things.”

The statue arrived in Colombia on April 28, the day of St. Louis-Marie Grignion de Monfort, “a happy coincidence”, she adds. The pilgrimage began in the Diocese of Fontibón, which is near Bogotá, after which the statue completed a journey that would take her to 45 dioceses. These included the neighbouring countries of Peru, where she spent 20 days, visiting seven dioceses, and Ecuador, where she spent 12 days, visiting three dioceses.

In the front line there were always the peripheries.

“Fr. Said León Amaya (Dominican Provincial who addressed the request to the Shrine) told us: ‘Let us go to the peripheries, let us go to the poorest, let us go to the neediest’. But we would ask him: ‘But how are we going? We don’t have the money. How can we do it?’ My sister and I started

using our credit cards to buy the tickets that allowed us to travel. But then everything was amazing. People began supporting us and sending donations so that we could reach all these places. They sent us boxes with rosaries, so that we took them to those places. And so, the first places the Virgin visited were those that Frei León so much wished: the poorer, the peripheries. From here on, the Virgin has never stopped”, Carolina Vergara said, stressing “the devotional love” to the Virgin of Fatima of the South American people in general, and of the Colombian people in particular.

“The Message of Fatima is a simple but clear and profound message. It speaks of conversion, of peace, of love, but above all it speaks of Jesus Christ, of Eucharistic adoration. It is a message very easy to understand, but at the same time it is a strong message because it speaks to us of conversion, of heaven, of purgatory, of hell. But above all, it tells us about the love of the Lord Jesus Christ”, she says, referring to the relevance of the little shepherds.

“I was deeply impressed when reading about these three children. After they had seen all that the Virgin showed them, they did so much to save souls! So, I ask myself: what will be our mission? What does she call us to do?”, she points out, recalling that today “it’s clear that everything that happened in Colombia was through the intercession of Our Lady”.



“We have no words to describe the experience of love we’ve lived before the Blessed Virgin Mary”



Promoters of the Pilgrimage brought the "Mother" back home

The stories that nurture a devotion

"We have several testimonies to present which we will document, but the most beautiful testimonies are those that have to do with the conversion of people", Carolina Vergara says.

"What impressed me the most were the priests. A diocesan priest called me, started crying, and told me: 'My daughter, I want to confess something to you. I was about to leave the priesthood, but the Virgin came to renew my love for Jesus, she comforted my heart.' I don't know what was going on with him at the moment, but it seemed a very difficult situation, and the Virgin renewed his priesthood." And then the bishop; we had to insist that the Virgin could also go to his city, and he told us later: 'I've never received so many people in my Cathedral. What moved me the most was to see the faithful crying before the statue. One cannot stand before this statue without crying.' And a priest who accompanied this visit said that this bishop had changed after this visit of the Pilgrim Virgin. That the Virgin had transformed him with her tenderness."

And there was another bishop, "very special, whom I call 'the bishop of Our Lady', that impressed me a lot. It was he who carried her, who put her on the processional stretcher. Very beautiful things happened", she concludes, also highlighting the story of a missionary of the Sisters of the Holy Family, who was a sales technician in a company, and who had never before thought of becoming a nun, and later she joined a monastery in Barranquilla.

"When the Virgin visited this town, I wanted Her to visit this monastery so that She could meet her. Because in my heart I felt she was in that monastery because of Our Lady. And we went there. And when she came near Our Lady she was crying a lot. And I told her: 'I know who you are, and I know why you are here. It has everything to do with Our Lady...' And she said: 'Yes it has...' And she told me that when she was looking at Our Lady, She spoke to her and she felt Her voice. The Virgin wanted her to be consecrated. And that was why she joined the monastery."

Fr. Said León Amaya, Dominican, was one of the clergymen who from the very beginning supported the Fatima-Colombia-Fatima mission. He was in Fatima with Carolina Vergara to deliver the Statue last April 5. Speaking to *Fatima Light and Peace*, he said: "I believe that faith opens many doors, the doors of God's love. And when a community has faith, when people have faith, the simple people manifest this faith and God performs His deeds. These deeds manifest themselves in inner peace, in conversion, in special things that God accomplishes for His people, as in these things that Carolina was telling about. Through the Virgin Mary we receive all this love from God, because she makes the mysteries of God more understandable, she makes them closer, so that we can understand how God loves us. It is a love so great that through the Virgin we feel it as a very motherly love. In Latin America there is a great love for the Virgin Mary. When the first evangelizers arrived, the preaching with a very special presence of the Virgin Mary was easily spread among the indigenous peoples. Let us recall, for example, how the Virgin Mary manifests Herself in Guadalupe, Mexico, and from there, a great love for Our Lady began in all these peoples. This we have learned from the early evangelizers, Dominicans and Franciscans. For the native peoples things were gentler, in the preaching of the gospel, with this presence of the Virgin Mary. I believe that the love our peoples have always expressed for Our Lady, and particularly for Our Lady of Fatima, is also due to Pope John Paul II. This Holy Father opened many horizons through Our Lady of Fatima. He was always very close to the Shrine of Fatima, because he used to say that it was the Virgin who had saved him from the attack he had suffered. All this had a great impact, because Pope John Paul II was also a Pope very close to Latin America. And for this reason, many people came to Fatima on pilgrimage, watched documentaries, and devotion to the Lady of Fatima in Colombia has grown a lot. This led to the heart of America opening up to the heart of Our Lady."

The Archbishop of Krakow considers Our Lady “Mother of all who reborn to life”

Archbishop Marek Jędraszewski was in Fatima / Cátia Filipe

On February 24, Marek Jędraszewski, Archbishop of Krakow, Poland, presided the Sunday Eucharist in the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity, at the Shrine of Fatima.

The vice-president of the Polish Episcopal Conference reflected upon the “origins of existence”, raising some questions: “Who am I? Where do I come from? Where am I going? What is the meaning of my life?”

According to the Archbishop Marek Jędraszewski, “the human being gets enchanted by the discovery that he is part of the world and that he interacts with other similar beings with whom he shares a destiny”, because “Man is entirely different from the other beings created by God, because he has an immortal soul and therefore Man cannot be seen only in terms of materialism”.

Mary “is the Mother of all who reborn to life”, he declared, “she is, in fact, the Mother of life that makes all men live, and in conceiving this life, she somehow regenerates all those who would live in her”.

Archbishop Marek Jędraszewski considers that the Apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima “are the fruit of motherly love for the Church of Christ”.

“Her monthly manifestations to the three Little Shepherds, the promises to take them to Heaven and, above all, her fervent requests and appeals, show how Our Lady of the Rosary dwells on each Man with her motherly love, aiming at his salvation”, he concluded.



Polish bishop spoke about the example of Mary for today's world

Cardinal Farrell

The responsible for the

? / Carmo Rodeia

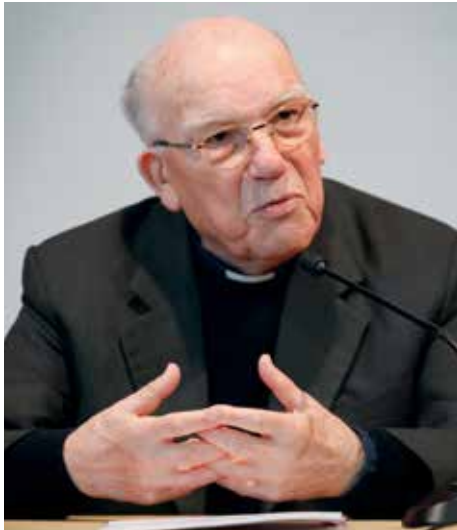


The Pope prayed before the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima

“Of course we will highlight the Virgin of Fatima. She has always been in the project and will be a very important factor. When you visit Portugal, you can not think of not going to Fatima,” said Cardinal Kevin Farrell, who is in charge of the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life, together with the bishop of Leiria-Fatima, Cardinal António Marto. Cardinal Farrell’s statements were published on March 14 following an interview with Rome Reports about the World Youth Day of 2022 in Lisbon and also on World Youth Day in Panama, who had as pilgrim the first Image of Our Lady of Fatima.

Key Protagonists of Fatima

Monsignor Luciano Guerra / Diogo Carvalho Alves



Fr. Luciano Guerra led the Shrine of Fatima during 35 years

Rector during 35 years, Monsignor Luciano Guerra renovated the Shrine of Fatima during the last quarter of the 20th century, restructuring its pastoral action and creating new spaces to welcome the pilgrims, always focusing on their needs.

Monsignor Luciano Gomes Paulo Guerra was born on the last day of August 1932, in Calvaria de Cima, municipality of Porto de Mós. There, he spent his childhood in his parents' house "very close to the church square". He and his four brothers grew up in a "Christian atmosphere, but not very fervent as far as practice was concerned" because his parents "always had a lot to do" in the family's bakery.

He came to Fatima for the first time at the age of 9, with the young people of his parish, for a pilgrimage of which he kept the vivid memory of chanting a Marian canticle asking for the war to end on the

"muddy ground" that surrounded the Chapel of the Apparitions.

The path that would mark the materialisation of his priestly vocation began to take shape two years after this first experience in Cova da Iria, when he entered the Seminary.

As a seminarian, he used to often visit the Shrine on the 13th day of the summer months to sing with the choir. It is as such that he witnessed the inauguration of the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary.

Illness also brought him closer to Fatima when, yet a teenager, weakened by pleurisy, the Bishop sent him for a few months to Cova da Iria to "breathe fresh air", period during which he became an intimate of the Canon Amílcar Fontes, then Rector of the Shrine.

He recovered and, when he came back to the Seminary, he was sent to Rome, where he spent seven years studying philosophy and theology, a syllabus that he completed in Salamanca, Spain, before his priestly ordination on the 21st of September 1957.

When he came back to Leiria, he worked for the Shrine as a chaplain in order to coordinate the Servites, and he set up a group of acolytes. But the moment had not come yet for him to stay definitively in Fatima as, two years later, the Bishop asked him to administrate a diocesan day school in Marinha Grande, where he stayed for three years.

While the Church was clarifying some ideas in the context of the Second Vatican Council, he left for the City of lights. In Paris, he worked in three different parishes, the last one happened to be a community neighbouring the Sorbonne University, which gathered a lot of students, from which he was a close witness of the 1968 student revolts, and where he organized a

weekly informal meeting that used to bring together representatives of the different Abrahamic religions.

When he returned to Portugal, he administrated for five more years the Marinha Grande day school while presiding the celebration of the Sunday Mass of the Shrine of Fatima, of which he became the Rector on the 13th of February 1973.

The work and commitment implied by the function did not scare him and he rapidly started to plan the renovation project he had previously discussed with his bishop. After having gathered the opinions of the chaplains and some collaborators, he restructured the action of the Shrine based on departments and advisory committees, and he started to build new spaces to welcome the pilgrims. Through the whole process he constantly took into account the advices of the people around him, particularly regarding the programming of bigger works, like for the Pastoral Centre Paul VI or for the Church of the Holy Trinity, for which he also publicly consulted the pilgrims.

Among the other works he planned or realized stand out the construction of the roof that covers the Chapel of the Apparitions, the refurbishment of the retreat houses and the creation of several spaces to welcome the pilgrims.

The final objective of his whole work was always pastoral: "so that pilgrims can comply with the two things essential to a Christian life: prayer and penance", he says putting into perspective the 35 years he spent as Rector of the Shrine of Fatima.

Outcome of a long mandate focused on the attention to be given to the others and on their needs, he is still receiving today daily "manifestations of friendship". After all, as he says: "To be in this Shrine, it is essential to like people".

The Shrine of Fatima recalled the Apparitions of the Angel to the Little Shepherds

The initiative visited the sites of the angelic apparitions of 1916 / Cátia Filipe

The Shrine of Fatima recalled the Apparitions of the Angel of 1916 with a special programme. Pilgrims were invited to join a procession that walked along the Little Shepherds' Path, through Loca do Cabeço and Poço do Arneiro.

During the walk people could hear prayer "for the life and the fundamental rights of the human person", for "all the children suffering from social injustice, family breakdown and violence", and also for "all those who are excluded from society".



Association of the Devotees of the Virgin of Fatima held its IX pilgrimage to the Shrine of Fatima / António Huerta Bustos – President of the Association of the Devotees of the Virgin of Fatima

For the ninth consecutive year we carried out the yearly Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, organised by our Association, between 23 and 26 March. 154 pilgrims attended the pilgrimage, most of them regular pilgrims, but also many that visited our Heavenly Mother, the Lady of Fatima, for the first time.

We were accompanied by the parish priest of San Nicasio de Leganés, Fr. José Ramón; the parish priest of Santa Catalina de Alejandría of Villamanta, Fr. Orlando; the vicar of Nuestra Señora de Buenavista of Getafe, Fr. Tomás, and also the religionist Inmaculada, of the Fundación Jesús y San Martín.

We have lived this pilgrimage with great joy and hope for visiting once again our beloved Mother, the Virgin Mary, invoked here as Lady of Fatima.

We experienced several moments during these four days, among which we highlight the daily prayer of the Holy Rosary, as requested by

the Virgin Mary at Fatima to the three little shepherds; the celebration of the Holy Mass at the Chapel of the Apparitions on the 23, 24 and 25, and on the 26 the Mass at 6.30 a.m., at the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary.

On Saturday, 23, at 10.00 p.m., and on Sunday, 24, at 4.00 p.m., we prayed the Way of the Cross; the Holy Hour was experienced on Monday, 25, at 5.00 p.m., in the Chapel of the Resurrection of Jesus.

On Monday, 25, we visited the Parish of Fatima in the morning, where we prayed the Rosary, and then we went to Aljustrel to visit the houses where the little shepherds lived.

We were also entrusted with the prayer of



Spanish pilgrims celebrate in Valinhos

the second mystery in Spanish, on Monday, 25, at 9.30 pm.

On their way back pilgrims expressed that they were filled with the love of the Most Holy Virgin, and hoped to return to Fatima in the following year should God and the Virgin Mary allow it.

Pilgrimage of the World Apostolate of Fatima from Getafe and Cartagena to Fatima / Francisco Erustes Sánchez -Diocesan Delegate of the World Apostolate of Fatima in Spain, Delegation of Getafe

The World Apostolate of Fatima in Spain, Diocesan Delegation of Getafe and Local Delegation of Cartagena, held its XXXII Pilgrimage to Fatima last 21 and 24 March.

The group consisted of 60 pilgrims, headed by Fr. Gustavo Gutierrez Gil and the Diocesan Delegate, Mr. Francisco Erustes Sánchez. These days were devoted to praying and deepening the Message of Fatima.

They visited the Parish of Fatima, where the three little Shepherds were baptised and where Saint Francisco Marto spent many hours keeping company and “comforting” the “hidden” Jesus, kneeling before the Tabernacle, which is still the same nowadays.

Later they visited Aljustrel, the birthplace of the three Little Shepherds, the house of Sister Lucia, the Well of Arneiro and the house of Saint Jacinta and Saint Francisco Marto.

There they prayed the Way of the Cross, both day and night, with a mandatory stop at Valinhos, the place where Our Lady appeared to the Little Shepherds in August 1917, after they were released from the jail of Ourém.

Saturday, 23, was a very special day; they went

to Lisbon, and they were able to celebrate the Eucharist, presided by Fr. Gustavo, in the Convent of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, of the Poor Clare Sisters, and visit the room of the former Orphanage where Saint Jacinta Marto lived, from the end of January until February 2, 1920. There you will find the little white metal bed and the same chair Jacinta asked her godmother not to sit in, because “Our Lady had been seated there”.

This was the “most moving” moment of the

entire Pilgrimage. All the participants were visibly moved, because they had the privilege of being in this “holy” place.

On Sunday, 24, after the celebration of the Eucharist, they went to the Little Chapel to say goodbye and ask for the blessing of Our Lady of Fatima.

We give infinite thanks to Our Lady for allowing us, once again, to visit her and show her our filial and faithful love.



Spanish pilgrims are still the most numerous in Cova da Iria

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Fátima Light and Peace

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Proprietor, Publisher and Editor: Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fátima

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Email: press@fatima.pt

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Printing: Gráfica Almondina – Torres Novas

Legal Deposit: 210 650/04

ISSN: 1647-2438

Isento de registo na E.R.C. ao abrigo do decreto regulamentar 8/99 de 9 de Junho – alínea a) do n.º 1 do Artigo 12.º

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Please help us spread the Message of Our Lady through 'Fatima Light and Peace'!

The Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima travelled to Peru

The visit's main objective was to impart the pillars of the Message of Fatima / The Fatima-Peru Mission

The Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima travelled to Peru where she visited the parishes of Lima, Callao, Chimbote, Chiclayo, Cañete and Tarma.

Welcomed in the Jorge Chávez international airport on the 1st of January 2019 by the Episcopal Vicar of Pastoral and Evangelisation of the Archbishopric of Lima, Father Luis Gaspar, the Image had been expected since October 2018, when the Rector of the Shrine of Fatima, Father Carlos Cabecinhas, accepted the request sent by the Archdiocese of Lima through the Fatima-Peru Mission.

The visit's main objective was to emphasize the fundamentals of the Message of Fatima: prayer (in particular The Rosary and the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament), reparation through the conversion of sinners with the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, through whom the peace in the world and the eternal salvation were promised.

The Archdiocese of Lima received the Pilgrim Statue from the 14th to the 20th of January. On this occasion, she visited the Gladys residential home (which offers a home to pregnant women victim of abuse or abandoned by their family) and the Madre Teresa de Calcutá residential home.

On the 18th of January, an anniversary date of Pope Francis' visit to Peru, the Statue was welcomed in the Apostolic Nunciature by the Nuncio Nicola Girasoli, by the Cardinal Juan Luis Cipriani, and by the young people who participated to the World Youth Day in Panama. On the next day, 19th of January, she went to the São Miguel Arcanjo Parish where she attended a mass with sick people. Then she visited the Brotherhood of the Lord of Miracles in Nazarenas, followed by the Shrine of the Holy Heart in Surco. Eventually, she also attended a prayer vigil in the Chapel of the Eucharistic Adoration of the Shrine of the Holy Heart of Barranco.

On Sunday, the 20th of January, the Statue's last day in the country, a celebration presided by the Cardinal Juan Luis Cipriani Thorne took place in the Cathedral of Lima, where several ecclesial



Bishops of Peru consecrate to Our Lady

movements gathered in order to bid farewell to the Pilgrim Statue. After the Eucharist, a valedictory procession took place during which the Virgin walked along several streets of the town going through the San Sebastián Parish to end her journey in the Jorge Chávez international airport.

III Asian Congress of the world apostolate of fatima

Dr. Celcio Dias – Chairman of the World Apostolate of Fatima in India

The third Asian Congress of the World Apostolate of Fatima was held in the city of Calcutta, India, from the 3rd to the 5th of February of 2019. The chosen theme for this event was taken from Our Lady's words in her apparition of July 13th, 1917 in Fatima: "God wishes to establish in the world devotion to My Immaculate Heart", having as subtheme: "Into the abode of the Immaculate Heart of Mary with Saint Teresa of Calcutta". The purpose of the meeting was to gather the leaders of the Apostolate of Fatima from the Asian nations to deepen the contents of the message of Fatima and set common strategies to carry more effectively the work of evangelization in Asia.

The majority of the delegates and observers arrived in Calcutta on the 2nd of February, first Saturday of the month and Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. In the evening, there was a candlelight procession from Don Bosco's Nitika, with the recitation of the Rosary and the celebration of the Eucharist presided by the Archbishop of Calcutta, Most Rev Thomas D' Souza. Among the participants, there were Prof. Americo Pablo Lopez Ortiz, International President of the association, from Puerto Rico and Nuno Prazeres, Director of the International Secre-

tariat in Fatima, Portugal and also guests from Sri Lanka, Philippines, South Korea and Oman. From India, there were almost 100 participants, including 17 priests and some religious sisters from various dioceses. Four bishops have also attended the Congress at different timings.

On Sunday, the 3rd of February, after the Morning Prayer, the delegates were transferred by bus to the Basilica of the Most Holy Rosary, in Bandel, for the annual celebration of the first Sunday of February, which gathers thousands of people on this date, every year. The traditional Rosary procession, long more than 4 km, carrying the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, was taken out from Bandel Railway station, through the busy streets of the town, to the Basilica. Archbishop Thomas D' Souza, the main celebrant, referred in his homily that "Fatima, in Portugal and Bandel, in India are connected by Mary, our Mother, who gives Jesus to us. We are all called for a change of heart from sin to holiness." After the homily, the Apostolate Pledge to Our Lady of Fatima was renewed and the consecration of the State of West Bengal to the Immaculate Heart of Mary was solemnly performed before the statue of Our Lady of Fatima.

On the following day, the working sessions of the congress started at the Seva Kendra place whose facilities are run by the archdiocese of Calcutta. Before the first talk, the statue of Our Lady of Fatima was crowned and a Rosary was placed in her hands by the Archbishop. Then, as a sign of hospitality, an *Utheron* (fine shoulder shawl) was presented to all and the traditional lamp was lit, proclaiming Jesus as the light of the world.

Although the Congress ended officially in Calcutta, a delegation of people travelled to the city of Goa, for a special Fatima program in the Basilica of Bom Jesus, where Saint Francis Xavier, the Jesuit missionary is buried. The celebration, organized by the local World Apostolate of Fatima, was joined by the Legion of Mary and had Archbishop Patriarch Filipe Neri Ferrao, from Goa, participating and celebrating Holy Mass.

The World Apostolate of Fatima is established in India for many decades and this historic Asian Congress showed the vitality of the Fatima movement in the country and opened new horizons on the Message of Fatima, its theology and spirituality, for the benefit of the local Church and the whole region of Asia.



World Apostolate of Fatima towards Asia

Bishop of Leiria-Fátima invokes the intercession of St. Francisco Marto to repair the World and Church “shaken by corruption”

Cardinal António Marto presided the celebration that marked the centennial of the death of Saint Francisco Marto, on the 4th of April / Carmo Rodeia

The bishop of Leiria-Fatima asked for the intercession of St. Francisco Marto “to heal the wounds of humanity, ‘torn apart by so many forms of violence’, and to repair the Church ‘so painfully shaken by corruption and scandals.’”

“Go Francis and repair my Church,” recalled the prelate, citing St. Francis of Assisi, and continued: “We also invoke St. Francisco Marto for this painful hour of the Church. Help us to be Christians more faithful to the Gospel and to Jesus; to discover the enchantment of the beauty of God, to unite ourselves more and more to Jesus in the Eucharist and to be his collaborators in reparation for the sins of the world and of the Church.”

The bishop, who gave a homily focused on the life story of Francisco Marto, referred to the seer of Fatima as “an example of great timeliness”, especially for adults in the world of today.

In his speech he also referred to “the contemplative and reparative dimensions of St. Francisco Marto, who knew how to cultivate a relationship of great complicity with God through the Eucharist.”

“Francisco reminds us of Eucharistic devotion as the place where we feed our faith and

then reminds us of the actuality of the reparative mission to heal the wounds of the world and of humanity, torn by so many forms of violence and to repair the Church of the Lord, today so painfully shaken by the corruption of some scandals of those responsible that hurt our soul and the quality of our faith and the image and trust in the Church,” he said.

“It is necessary to repair the damage to rebuild”: “to repair the damage caused by the scandals and to bring up communities that are faithful to the Gospel, with the confidence that in the darkest hours of history, for which the church has passed, the Lord has never forsaken us.”

“He is very current for adults: to console God, to give joy to God and to unite in great affection for Him through hidden Jesus in the Eucharist,” said António Marto.

The Shrine of Fatima marked the centennial of the death of St. Francisco Marto, two years after his canonization, with a special program that began on Wednesday evening with the Rosary followed by a vigil with veneration of his tomb in the Basilica of the Rosary.

During this year, in the house of Francisco, in the village of Aljustrel, where he was born, a



Veneration of tomb marked the celebration

page a commemorative card of the centennial of the death of Francisco Marto will be distributed, invoking the date.

