



Director: Fr. Luciano Guerra * Proprietor: Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fátima (Portugal) * Quarterly publication * Year IV * Nr. 15 * 2007/11/13

NEVER FORGET THE POPE!

On the morning of October 14, a moment of great joy was had in the Shrine of Fatima, at the conclusion of the celebrations of the 90th anniversary of the apparitions, two days after the consecration of the new church of the Shrine to the Most Holy Trinity (October 12).



The International Mass in Most Holy Trinity Church was presided over by the Legate of His Holiness, His Eminence Tarcisio Cardinal Bertone, and celebrated in intimate union with Holy Father Benedict XVI.

Thousands of pilgrims, which the new church couldn't con-

tain despite its 9,000 seats, followed the ceremonies through television screens installed outside the new church. Inside there was also one T.V. screen waiting for the words of the Holy Father. At the end of Mass the faithful in the Shrine received with joy the television images, broadcast from St. Peter's Square, showing Holy Father Benedict XVI.

After the prayer of the 'Angelus', the Holy Father spoke in Portuguese: "This blessing of mine to those who prayed with me the prayer of the 'Angelus' – physically present or united through the mass media – I willingly extend to the pilgrims gathered at the Shrine of Fatima, in Portugal. There, since ninety years ago, the calls of the Virgin Mother continue to echo, calling her children to live their own baptismal consecration in all moments of their lives. Everything becomes possible and easier when one lives that entrustment to Mary which was done by Jesus Himself on the Cross, when He said: "Woman, behold Your son!" She is our refuge and the way leading us to God. One tangible sign of that entrustment is the daily prayer of the Rosary. While I greet the Legate, His Eminence Tarcisio Cardinal Bertone, His Excellency the Bishop of Leiria-Fatima and all the Portuguese Bishops, as well as all the other Bishops present and each one of the Fatima Pilgrims, I urge everyone to renew personally their own consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and to live this act of devotion with a life ever more according to the Divine Will and with a spirit of filial service and devout imitation of their Heavenly Queen. Never forget the Pope!"

YOU CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON OUR PRAYERS!

On 14 October, as a sign of gratitude for the message of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, the faithful broke out in applause, a gesture which restated the meaning of the written message sent to the Pope a day earlier:

"Gathered with Mary here in this cenacle which is the Shrine of Fatima, where the maternal heart of Portugal beats, we have just solemnly concluded the celebrations of the 90th Anniversary of the Apparitions of Our Lady under the presidency of Your Special Legate, His Eminence Tarcisio Cardinal Bertone.

With Mary we glorified the immense goodness of God, sang the Magnificat of praise to the Most Holy Trinity in dedicating the new church and thanked Him for the gifts of His Mercy throughout these ninety years.

In union of prayer with Your Holiness, we have entrusted to the Immaculate Heart of Mary the sufferings and hopes of Mankind in this crucial hour.

We thank You, Holy Father, for having joined us with a gesture of peculiar affection, by sending as Pontifical Legate your

most intimate collaborator and herald of the Message of Our Lady. Thanks for Your special Apostolic Blessing! From our part, I can assure You of the profound communion and sincere affection of all our people for Yourself in person and for Your Magisterium. You can always count on our prayer and our filial affection.

Finally, please allow me to express our hope that Your Holiness may visit us at the opportune time!", one can read in the message read by Most Reverend António Marto, Bishop of Leiria-Fatima, on behalf of the multitude of pilgrims gathered in this Shrine on October 13.



Fátima, Shrine of the Most Holy



Detail of the main door of the new church

The Ritual of Dedication of churches stipulates that one of the people in charge of the construction of the new sacred building must present it and hand it over, symbolically, to the representatives of the ecclesial Hierarchy.

During the celebration of the consecration of Most Holy Trinity Church on October 12, that gesture belonged to Msgr. Luciano Guerra, Rector of the Shrine of Fatima. Here are some of his words:

«The immediate purpose of this church was, is and we hope it will always be to serve the pilgrims, who don't stop coming to Fatima. The economic, cultural and social progress has been demanding that we provide the faithful with a comfort similar to the one they enjoy in their homes, that we spare them the discomfort of bad weather and of standing up, as it is, for that matter, the recommendation of Vatican II: "In building sacred edifices, great care must be shown that they be adequate for holding liturgies and allowing the active participation of

the faithful." (SC 124)

After long studies, we ended up choosing two areas: this space, where we are right now, and another one, underground, destined to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and to celebrations by smaller groups.

The determinant reason for the jury to adopt this proposal might have been the advantage it presented of being like a classroom where the diverse faithful could better feel their unity (See Eph. 4, 4-7). The same as in Cova da Iria, which Our Lady chose for Her home, this shell like space brings to mind the maternal lap, perfect image of the welcome we hope for. There are no architectonic barriers. We are all present to one another. Without visual obstacles. Without noises, be they

sounds, colors or volumes. All day long, the congregation is caressed by an abundant sunlight. The acoustics of the space favors the ear, the faith's door, so that it may concentrate on the Word of God and delight on the harmonious combination of voices, echoes and reverberations.

The Shrine of Fatima becomes from now on, in a more explicit way, Shrine of the Most Holy Trinity.

The thirteen doors of this church remind us of the Apostolic College, presided over by Jesus, the great revealer of God, One and Triune. To Him and to the Holy Trinity the main door is consecrated: a diffused creation, like the primordial waters in Genesis, over which the Spirit of God hovered (Gen. 1, 2); and still, from the same Portuguese artist, the 20 Mysteries of the Rosary, all engraved on large panels with Biblical quotes, in the different languages of our pilgrims, placed on glass by a Canadian author. From Cyprus arrived the musical Angels of the two main beams: they remind us of the Prayer of the Angel of Loca do

Cabeço (Hilltop Grotto), from where sprang our conviction that Fatima ought to promote the worship of the Most Holy Trinity.

When we enter the temple, we feel attracted towards the great panel of the sanctuary, work of a Slovenian artist, and towards the crucifix, work of an Irish artist. The Cross inside, as the Cross outside, is the great sign that we must always propose to the pilgrims, since without the love of the Cross they would cease being Christians. However, since the Cross is but the necessary way to glory, our glance rests, as if on the background of eternity, on the image of the Heavenly Jerusalem, where the Christian congregation hopes to live forever, in the glory of the Lamb of God, after having walked on Earth His ways.

There is more than enough justification for the white statue of Our Lady of Fatima. It was sculpted on Carrara marble by an Italian artist. Its open arms are a call by Mary for us to seek in Her Immaculate Heart the light and peace which She came here to offer to us.

I'll end with an attention call to the small grotto opened at the bottom of the altar. It is destined to receive a precious stone taken from the tomb of St. Peter. It is another gift from a grateful John Paul II. We offered it the best place - at the center, in front and at the bottom of the altar - so that it be an incentive to unity with the successor of Peter. At the front of the long and arduous procession of the Church throughout the whole XX century - the object of the last part of the Secret of Fatima - goes a Bishop, dressed in white, who painfully climbs towards a cross atop of a mountain. Having arrived there, he is the first one to undergo martyrdom at the hands of the soldiers of a city half in ruins which stayed behind. The Little Shepherds identified the Bishop dressed in white as being the Holy Father. Lucy would later say that that prophecy was fulfilled in John Paul II. Therefore, in this stone we breathe the faith of Peter and the perfume of the Pope who most got involved in the mystery of Fatima. (...)

Grateful to God and to so many brethren for so much help, we now invoke over everyone the intercession of Blesseds Francisco and Jacinta and the

Trinity

maternal love of Our Lady. May the Angels teach us the grandeur of God so that we may praise, now and forever, the Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen!»



Statue of John Paul II, outside the new church, object of much devotion

What is Fatima?

The Cardinal Legate of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI to the concluding celebrations of the 90th anniversary of the apparitions of Fatima, His Eminence Tarcisio Cardinal Bertone, during his homily in the international Mass of October 13th, at Fatima, answered the question subject of the title of this text, with the following words addressed to the multitude of pilgrims gathered in the Prayer Area of the Portuguese Shrine:

“Beloved brothers and sisters, Fatima is this: conversion, amendment of one’s life, to stop sinning, to do reparation for the offenses against God perpetrated in our brothers. This is Fatima! Not the signs – well, they are secondary: they go on, in order to give place to what they mean, that is, the new life of the risen. That’s why it would be senseless to continually ask for signs, without discerning them or giving them credit. We would incur on the warning of the Divine Master: “An eager and unfaithful age is eager for a sign! No sign will be given it but that of the Prophet Jonah. Just as Jonah spent three days and three nights in the belly of the whale, so will the Son of Man spend three days and three nights in the bowels of the Earth” (Mt. 12, 39-40). God’s sign is Christ’s Resurrection and ours. In fact, as we already heard a little while ago in the second reading, “He brought us to life with Christ when we were dead in sin. (...) Both with and in Jesus Christ He raised us up” (Eph. 2, 5-6). Therefore, “I declare and solemnly attest in that Lord that you must acquire (...) a fresh, spiritual way of thinking. You must put on that new man created in God’s image, whose justice and holiness are born of truth” (Eph. 4, 17. 23-24). Like Blessed Francisco, like Blessed Jacinta ... like so many others who entrusted themselves to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, refuge and way that leads to God.

In fact, Our Lady didn’t ask here to be admired, invoked, venerated... She wanted “entrusted” people; She asked that the hearts of individuals, nations and the entire mankind be ‘consecrated’ to Her. Here She unfurled Her banner, which is both a symbol and a program: Her Immaculate Heart. Here She manifested the Heart of the sweetest of mothers, asking everybody to unite their hearts to Hers, in order to give the Savior, Jesus Christ, to the world. In answer to Her call, groups formed everywhere, as well as communities which awoke from the apathy of yesteryear and now seek to show the world the true face of Christianity. Throughout the East and the West, the love of the Heart of Mary won a place in the hearts of peoples, giving them hope and consolation.

Bothers and sisters, you are the first fruits of that great harvest here today consecrated on this altar. When I direct my look towards this immense gathering, seeking to find its limits, I seem to catch a glimpse of them in that little cloud of Elijah (see 1 Kgs. 18, 44) which materialized perfectly in that humble Young Woman of Nazareth, Mary, full of grace, full of God”.



Europe’s Doctors Pilgrimage to Fatima

The Executive Committee of the European Federation of Catholic Doctors (FEAMC), before its meeting held in Lisbon on November 3, pilgrimaged to Fatima the day before, November 2. Amongst them there were doctors from 27 different countries and specialties. Their faith brought them to Fatima. “We are here because we belong to a group of Catholic Doctors. We want to give testimony of our faith and hope, because we believe in the salvation of the world through faith and because we all have to work to accomplish that”, declared Professor Laureano Santos, Portuguese and Vice-president of FEAMC.

The group was provided a guided visit to the Shrine, including a visit to Most Holy Trinity Church and was received by the Rector of the Shrine.

During their meeting in Lisbon, the group worked on the preparation of the international congress to be held in Gdansk, Poland, on September 11 through 14, on the topic of ‘Natural Law and Instituted Laws in Contemporaneous European Medicine’, when what is going on in several countries will be discussed and compared.

“We want to emphasize that men are getting away from natural law, which is not rational. It is irrational to think that mothers may destroy their children and that we may decree the end of life for the very old”, Laureano Santos said.

Relics of Francisco and Jacinta in French Shrine

After the restoration work in the Shrine of Our Lady at Fresneau, France, the Bishop of Valence, Most Reverend Jean-Christophe Lagleize, consecrated, on May 13, 2007, the new altar. "I consecrated this altar to God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - in honor of Our Lady, Who is venerated at this Shrine of Fresneau; and placed the relics of Blesseds Francisco and Jacinta Marto, seers of Fatima, beatified on May 13, 2000, at Fatima, by His Holiness Pope John Paul II", it is written on the official document signed by the Bishop of Valence.

The relics were donated by the Shrine of Fatima to Bishop Lagleize on April 12, 2007, at the time of the pilgrimage made by the Dioceses of Ardèche and Drôme to the Portuguese shrine.

In the act of consecration the bishop of Valence stated: "Brothers and Sisters, today, on the 90th anniversary of the first of six apparitions of the Virgin Mary at Fati-



ma, we are very pleased to seal on this altar the relics of Blesseds Francisco and Jacinta Marto, brother and sister, 9 and 7 years old respectively, who died from Spanish influenza shortly after the end of the apparitions; Francisco on April 4, 1919, almost 11 years old, and Jacinta on February 20, 1920, almost 10. Seven years ago today, John Paul II, in a pilgrimage to Fatima, beatified them in the presence of Sr. Lucy, cousin of theirs and the third witness of the apparitions of Fatima, who died on February 13, 2005. Besides the joy and the honor of having our Marian Shrine now associated in this manner to the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, we must listen to God's call transmitted to us through the lives of Francisco and Jacinta".

Bishop Lagleize concluded evoking the calls made by Our Lady at Fatima to prayer for peace, to conversion, to console Jesus and to love the Church.

Canon Nunes Formigão, Apostle of Fatima



In 2008, Servant of God Fr. Manuel Nunes Formigão will be the object of a merited ceremony honoring him for the

celebration of two important jubilees: that of his death on January 30, 1958, and that of his priestly ordination on April 4, 1908, in the Basilica of St. John Lateran, in Rome.

His connection with the Shrine of Fatima, to which, since 1917, year of the apparitions of Our Lady, he dedicated a large part of his life as its first chronicler, historian and theologian, demands that we associate ourselves to this double jubilee, thus expressing the most heartfelt gratitude for what he was and represents in the history of the Shrine and for his strong commitment in spreading the message of Our Lady of Fatima.

His devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and to Our Lady of Fatima were the poles of life of this priest and that's why we join, in this manner, the commemorations that the Congregation of Reparation Sisters of Fatima, founded by him, now taking place and which will conclude with a Colloquium open to everybody on April 4/5, 2008.

Correction



Shrine of Szczecin, Poland

In the May 13, 2007, issue of 'Fatima Light and Peace', the photo illustrating the text on pag. 5 "Keep sending us photos for the October Exhibition!" belongs to the Polish Shrine of *Szczecin* and not to the one mentioned in the caption.

We apologize for the lapse, now corrected.

Mozambique – Another Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima



Thanks, Heavenly Mother, Our Lady of Fatima, Our Dear Mother, for one more shrine You've placed at the disposition of men, so that they may have the privilege of obtaining graces from God.

For quite some time, the Church of Beira, Mozambique, has been planning a shrine where Christians could manifest their faith and devotion to Our Lady of Fatima. On precisely the 13th of May of this year, 90th anniversary of the first apparition, this dream came true. Oh! What a great gesture of love we have received from You, Our Heavenly Mother!

It is this beautiful news that I want to communicate to our dear friends in Fatima. Your prayers for the needs of the entire world have been answered by Our Dear Mother. So, let us intensify our prayer of the Rosary and then the world will be crowned with the maternal love of Mary.

The solemn institution, inauguration and consecration of Our Lady of Fatima of Murraça was a ceremony with which the Archdiocese of Beira celebrated the traditional Marian devotion in a different and special manner. The celebration was presided over by His Excellency Jaime Pedro Gonçalves, Archbishop of Beira,

and concelebrated by several diocesan and religious priests.

The event began on May 12 with various liturgical acts: candlelight procession, celebration of the Word, prayer vigil and solemn Mass. Meanwhile the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, donated by the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal and the Parish of Milheiros de Poiares, Diocese of Porto, also in Portugal, was enthroned.

Fr. Hugo, from Africa Missionaries, commonly known as White Fathers, was proposed for Rector of the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima of Murraça.

For all of this, we are sincerely grateful to the staff of the Shrine of Fatima in Portugal and to the entire parish community of Milheiros de Poiares. God bless you all. A big thank you goes to Our Heavenly Mother, to Whom we pray that She continue to pour out Her graces over the whole of mankind and over all the places on the face of the Earth.

Fr. Lourito António Chingore Cabeque
Fr. Cabeque served the Shrine of Fatima in Portugal as Confessor in the Summer of 2007.

XXI Pilgrimage of 'Adoración Nocturna' to Fatima



Thousands of Spaniards came to Fatima in October, for the XXI Pilgrimage of 'Adoración Nocturna' (Night Adoration), the largest foreign pilgrimage from only one country to this Portuguese shrine.

In the words of the Rector of the Shrine of Fatima, Msgr. Luciano Guerra, who received from the organizers of the pilgrimage the proper homage due to his recent priestly golden anniversary: "The joyful pilgrimage of 'Adoración Nocturna' has today the historic honor of celebrating, as if it were a new inauguration, in Most Holy Trinity Church".

Indeed, in the afternoon of the principal day of this Marian trip, Saturday, October 20, the new church, in midafternoon, was full, almost completely occupied by thousands of Spanish pilgrims and other visitors who attended the Holy Mass that preceded the all-night prayer vigil.

The desire of the organizers and participants is that all this be for the glory of God.

From amongst the unequalled processions with banners, the Mass, the Stations of the Cross, the cultural activity held in Paul VI Pastoral Center and all the other moments lived during this pilgrimage, we want to emphasize the attendance and the participation in the Sacrament of Confession.

M.^a Raquel Costas

May 13th in Vancouver, Canada

The Feast of Our Lady of Fatima is celebrated in Vancouver for some decades now, since the Portuguese Community grew to a significant number of people. As usual, the program for the celebrations of May 2007 was done according to the guidelines set by the pastor, Fr. Firmo Montovani, a Brazilian Scalabrinian Missionary. These priests are specially trained for religious assistance to migrants.

Fr. Virgílio Antunes, Chaplain of the Shrine of Fatima, was in charge of the animation and preaching. There was a triduum of preparation on May 9, 10 and 11, in which some basic themes of the Message of Fatima were aired. The church filled up for Mass during those three days and many people took advantage of the occasion to go to Confession.

A large crowd gathered for the Candlelight Procession and Holy Mass on the night of the 12th, a quite Portuguese way of honoring Our Lady as Mother of God and Patroness. This is always a moving moment, which brings to mind the best in life, but also the problems and afflictions which one entrusts to the loving hands of Mary.

On the 13th, early in the afternoon, there were Mass, procession and, at the very end, a moment of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, attended by a large number of faithful. The festivities were prolonged throughout the afternoon, in an atmosphere of encounter and get-together proper of these moments.

In the midst of a big city, marked by the variety of origins of her inhabitants, variety of religions and by the low practice of Christian life, the festive and public manifestations of faith, the signs of affirmation of the Supernatural have some impact, raise some questions and cause much admiration.

P. Virgílio Antunes



Shrines of Our Lady of Fatima

IN ITALY

As done in previous issues, we provide in this newsletter 'Fatima – Light and Peace' a list of holy places dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima, considered shrines, in Italy.

They are listed alphabetically, as found in the files of SESDI (Department of Research and Information of the Shrine of Fatima).

Country	Diocese	Locality	Name
Italy	Acireale	S. Tecla	Santuario Madonna de Fatima
Italy	Agrigento	Sciacca (AG)	Parrocchia - Santuario Madonna de Fatima
Italy	Aosta	Aosta	Santuario Cuore Immacolato di Maria
Italy	Ariano Irpino-Lacedonia	Ariano Irpino (AV)	Parrocchia - Santuario Madonna de Fatima
Italy	Bergamo	Brembo di Dalmine	Santuario Cuore Immacolato di Maria
Italy	Caltanissetta	Caltanissetta (AV)	Santuario Madonna de Fatima
Italy	Camerino - San Severino Marche	Serra S. Quirico-Stazione	Santuario Cuore Immacolato di Maria
Italy	Benevento	San Giorgio la Molare (BN)	Santuario Madonna de Fatima
Italy	Caserta	Marcianise (CE)	Parrocchia - Santuario Madonna de Fatima
Italy	Como	Gera Lario	Santuario Madonna de Fatima dei Pescatori
Italy	Concordia-Pordenone	Portogruaro (VE)	Santuario Madonna de Fatima (Fratelli Minori)
Italy	Cremona	Cremona	Santuario di Maria Pellegrina
Italy	Fidenza	Filippazzi	Santuario Madonna de Fatima
Italy	Genova	Monte Fasce	Santuario Madonna de Fatima
Italy	Gubbio	S. Girolamo Gubbio (PG)	Santuario Madonna de Fatima
Italy	Milano	Seveso	Santuario delle Aparizioni della Madonna de Fatima
Italy	Monreale	Carini	Santuario Madonna de Fatima
Italy	Nicosia	Nicosia (EN)	Santuario Madonna de Fatima al Calvario
Italy	Nocera Inferiore-Sarno	Pagani	Santuario Madonna de Fatima
Italy	Nuoro	La Caletta di Siniscola	Santuario Madonna de Fatima
Italy	Perugia - Città della Pieve	Città della Pieve (PG)	Santuario Madonna de Fatima
Italy	Pescara-Penne	Pescara	Santuario Cuore Immacolato di Maria
Italy	Potenza-Muro Lucano-Marsico Nuovo	Maratea (PZ)	Santuario Madonna de Fatima
Italy	Reggio Emilia-Guastalla	Campagnola	Santuario di Maria Pellegrina
Italy	Salerno-Campagna-Acerno	Badia di Cava	Santuario Piccola di Fatima
Italy	Susa	Sant'Ambrogio di Torino	Santuario Madonna de Fatima
Italy	Taranto	Talsano	Santuario Madonna de Fatima
Italy	Tivoli	San Vittorino (RM)	Santuario e Istituto N. S. di Fatima
Italy	Torino	Fioccardo	Santuario Madonna de Fatima
Italy	Trani-Barletta-Bisceglie	Trani (BA)	Santuario Madonna de Fatima
Italy	Trani-Barletta-Bisceglie	Barletta (BA)	Parrocchia - Santuario Cuore Immacolato di Maria
Italy	Treviso	Marteggia	Santuario Cuore Immacolato di Maria
Italy	Trieste	Trieste	Santuario Tempio Nazionale e Maria Madre Regina
Italy	Trivento	Barnoli del Trigno (IS)	Santuario Madonna de Fatima
Italy	Ugento-Santa Maria di Leuca	Tricase (LE)	Santuario Madonna de Fatima
Italy	Ventimiglia-San Remo	Coldirodi-San Remo	Santuario di Maria Pellegrina

40th Anniversary of Monument in Namaacha



On August 13, 2007 occurred the 40th Anniversary of the Inauguration of the Monument to the Immaculate Heart of Mary in the parish of Namaacha, Province of Maputo, Mozambique. This monument is erected right in front of the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in that town.

According to information supplied by Fr. Manuel Henriques da Silva, the first stone of the Monument to the Immaculate Heart of Mary was laid and blessed on May 13, 1967, by the former Archbishop of Lourenço Marques (now Maputo), Most Reverend Custódio Alvim Pereira, who has recently died at Rome.

This same Prelate is who solemnly inaugurated, three months later, on August 13, 1967, the monument, because the date fell on a Sunday. "(This monument) was an act of homage to the Virgin of Fatima, Who appeared at Cova da Iria 90 years ago", recounts Fr. Manuel Henriques da Silva, who, besides information on this monument, sent us also a photo of the same.

Fátima – Light and Peace

Director: Mgr. Luciano Guerra
Proprietor, Publisher and Editor: Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fátima
Social Security nr. 500 746 699
Address: Santuário de Fátima – Apartado 31 – 2496-908 FÁTIMA (Portugal) * Telf.: +351.249.539.600*Fax:+351.249.539.668*E.mail: ccs@santuário-fatima.pt – www.santuário-fatima.pt
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Luxembourg: Far away, but with heart and soul in Fatima

Approximately one thousand Christians took part in the XX Pilgrimage in honor of the Virgin of the Rosary of Fatima. The theme echoing through the streets of the Portuguese-Luxembourgian city of Esch-sur-Alzette was: 'Mary, Mother of the Family – Behold your Mother!'

This was an event organized by the Portuguese Language Catholic Community of Esch-sur-Alzette, in southern Luxembourg, and it was animated by the missionary amongst the Portuguese, Fr. Michael Dalla Vecchia. It was a very strong moment of ecclesial communion amongst Christians of different origins and a public testimony of Marian popular religiosity. This unity happened not only amongst the members of the Portuguese community, but also between this one and the Cape Verdean, Italian and Luxembourgian communities, since the city's parishes joined in the celebrations of the 90th Anniversary of the Message of Fatima. Far away, but always with heart and soul in Fatima!

Msr. Mathias Schiltz, Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Luxembourg, assisted by the missionaries of the different communities, presided over the Solemn Mass Celebration. It was he who, twenty years ago, together with Most Reverend Manuel Martins, Bishop Emeritus of Setúbal and former president of



the Episcopal Committee on Migration and Tourism, enthroned the first statue of Our Lady in the city.

To mark the 20th anniversary of the Procession/Pilgrimage and the 90th anniversary of the apparitions at Cova da Iria, a new statue of the Virgin, donated by a couple, was blessed. The old statue will be donated to a neighboring parish community. During the procession, solidary handkerchiefs alluding to this day, having the image of the White Virgin stamped on them, were distributed, with the proceeds being donated to a seminary in Cape Town, South Africa, where Scalabrinian missionaries are being educated to be later sent to work amongst migrants.

Fr. Rui Pedro

Argentina: Our Lady Queen of Peace and of the Family

Dear Brethren,

The Parish of Our Lady of Fatima in the City of Santa Fé, in the Archdiocese of Santa Fé and Vera Cruz (city seat), has just begun celebrating her Jubilee Year, since her Golden Anniversary occurs on October 5, 2008.

The beginning of the Jubilee Year, this past October 5th, started with a Mass presided by Archbishop José María Arancedo and attended by a large number of faithful, during which the community honored her Mother and Patroness, crowning Her as Queen of Peace and of the Family.

The crown was donated by the Shrine of Fatima in Portugal and brought here by a youth from the Parish. The crowning was done by the same Archbishop. It all ended with the projection of images of Mary, the shepherds witnesses of the apparitions, the miracle of the Sun, etc., while the choir of the Parish of St. Rock sang a repertoire of Marian hymns.

For the Jubilee Year, various reli-

gious, cultural and sporting activities are planned.

Fr. Hugo A Dalla Fontana, Pastor



Bishops Consecrate Europe to Our Lady



On October 6, 2007, the presidents of the Bishops Conferences of Europe, meeting in Fatima, consecrated the Church of Europe to Our Lady.

At the end of the Candlelight Procession, Archbishop Jorge Ortiga, president of the Bishops Conference of Portugal, explained to the pilgrims present in the Shrine that the Bishops of Europe were meeting in Fatima in order to reflect “on the realities of our European churches” and that, at this meeting, had particularly reflected on “the various dynamics which motivate the work of the Church at this hour of hope”.

Then the Bishops prayed to Mary, asking Her to look after the Church in Europe: “Mary, Our Mother, look after the Church in Europe. We entrust her to your maternal love, so that it be able to be open to the Good News, live in peace and harmony. Grant us the grace to welcome foreigners, to be generous towards the poor,

the homeless and the unemployed, so that we can announce with joy the Gospel of Hope”.

In that same prayer, the presidents of the Bishops Conferences of Europe entrusted families, the young, the elderly, the debilitated in body and mind, and the sick to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The Bishops concluded this prayer, written during the meeting in Fatima, by entrusting to Our Lady the Church in Europe so that “we may be testimonies of Holiness of life, guardians of God’s creation, carriers of peace and reconciliation as well as faithful servants of Jesus Christ, Who consecrated Himself to the Father, giving His Own life to wipe out our sins, thus opening the way to eternal life. Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for the entire Europe, pray for us”.

On the Honor Book of the Shrine of Fatima, the president of the Council of Bishops Conferences of Europe, His Eminence Peter Cardinal Erdő, Primate of Hungary, wrote these words: “During the Plenary Assembly of the Council of Bishops Conferences of Europe, we entrusted our Continent to the intercession of the Virgin of Fatima”.

Russian Icon enthroned in Little Chapel of Apparitions

The Russian Icon of Our Lady of Fatima, donated to the Shrine of Fatima during the May 13 pilgrimage, was enthroned in the Little Chapel of Apparitions at 09h00 of July 13.

At that time, the Chaplain of the Shrine and Director of the Pilgrim Department, Fr. Virgílio Antunes, after recounting the apparition of July 13, 1917, said this: “We can see, without a doubt, in the words of Our Lady (on July 1917), the manifestation of a loving solicitude for the entire Eastern Church, which the Pope called “the other lung of the Church”. It is for that reason that, 90 years later, we are enthroning in the Little Chapel of Apparitions the Eastern Icon of the ‘Most Holy Virgin of Fatima’. We ask Mary, Mother of all Christians, both of the East and the West, that She continue to look after us”.

The icon represents Our Lady with the Rosary in the right hand, while we can see written on the left hand the word ‘Heart’, surrounded by thorns.

Besides the traditional inscription ‘Divine Maternity of Mary’, there is still the following explanation: ‘Icon of the Most Holy Virgin of Fatima. In you, Unity’, which explains the ecumenical vocation of the art work.

The thought of making this icon came to mind during a trip to Moscow in the year 2000, but only at the end of 2000 the project took form due to the effort of a Russian Catholic priest and a Russian icon maker.

The icon is a symbol of the gratitude of Russia towards the Virgin of Fatima.

