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## PILGRIM IMAGE VISITS

### CONTEMPLATIVE COMMUNITIES OF PORTUGAL

Last May, the Pilgrim Image of Our Lady was solemnly received into the Carmel of St. Joseph, Fatima; and, at the present moment, it already has made the tour of more than a dozen contemplative religious communities, staying for a week in each of them. Thus, we brought about the beginning of an initiative particularly dear to the Shrine of Fatima: the pilgrimage of the so-called Pilgrim Image of Our Lady of Fatima to the contemplative communities of Portugal.

The commonly named “Images of the Pilgrim Virgin” travel around the world, at the request of the devotees of Our Lady of Fatima. The Image n.1, the oldest and most valuable, made several tours throughout the globe, since the 40’s, and no longer left the Sanctuary, being enthroned at the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary. However, the importance of this initiative proved to be reasonable our choice of the most valuable of these images for this pil-

grimage and visit to the contemplative communities of Portugal.

With this initiative, we intend to engage and involve directly the contemplative communities in the preparation and celebration of the Centenary of the Apparitions of Fatima, and ask them for their prayers for the good fruit and results of our activities and projects. Truly, we believe that the support of these communities prayer is not a thing of secondary or subordinate importance, but of fundamental value and meaning.

The joy and enthusiasm with which the proposal was accepted by these communities were remarkable. The way they have lived this special pilgrimage is a challenge for all of us, because it displays the vital place of prayer in the Church’s life. And prayer is the most insistent request of Our Lady of Fatima.

*Carlos P. Cabecinhas*



## Marian Conference in Florida – Marian Eucharistic Conference



The Ave Maria University in Naples, Florida, U.S., organizes at the end of each school year a Marian and Eucharistic conference. This is a university founded in 2003 by Tom Monaghan, as a contribution to the New Evangelization, recognized as Catholic university by the diocesan bishop, who is also the chairman of its Governing Council.

This year the Conference focused the theme “Fatima and the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary”, and ran from 16-18 May. It was organized in collaboration with the World Apostolate of Fatima in the U.S., and had the participation of speakers from the United States, Portugal and Ireland. The Portuguese delegation was joined by Fr Francisco Pereira, representative of the Shrine of Fatima.

On the first day, the international Secretary of the World Apostolate of Fatima, Nuno Prazeres, native of Fatima, Portugal, recalled the testimony of his grandfather who, aged 13, witnessed the miracle of the sun at the Cova da Iria on October 13, 1917, and gave notice of this special event and of the Message of Fatima to his family. Starting from human and personal experience, Nuno Prazeres helped participants to discover the relevance and importance of the Message of Fatima for people today, especially in the familiar environment of prayer, communal living and sharing.

In the second lecture Fr. Andrew Apostoli, CFR (Franciscan Friars of the Renewal), spoke about the connection of the twentieth century Popes to Our Lady of Fatima, and also reminded about the message that God by the intervention of Mary has left to mankind through the little shepherds.

The day ended with the recitation of the Rosary along the “campus” and also with a moment of Eucharistic adoration in the University church.

On the second day Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC (Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception), from the National Shrine of Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, presented a lecture on the Divine Mercy and the Apparitions to Sr. Faustina; and besides adducing its connection with the Message of Fatima, a message of conversion and hope

for humanity of today, he also elucidated the consecration to Our Lady. Before lunch, the Irish theologian and journalist Tony Thomas explained the importance of Fatima in the light of the writings that several popes produced on the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima.

During the afternoon, Fr. Michael

world the devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the *Five First Saturdays* devotion as a means of *reparation* and the promises of Our Lady.

One of the issues that still arises much interest in relation to Fatima is called the Secret of Fatima, which was clearly explained, in the evening, by Tony Thomas, who demystified the prejudices and misconceptions about the contents of the three parts of the Secret.

The last conference was in charge of Sister Angela Coelho, postulator of the cause of canonization of Francisco and Jacinta Marto, who spoke about the life and holiness of the little shepherds. She gave a particular prominence to the five loves which were the very center and focus of the three Seers’ lives: God, Jesus in the Eucharist, Our Lady, the Pope and the poor sinners. Her enthusiastic way of speaking about the little shepherds and the Message of Fatima was the best conclusion for a delightful day.

This event came to an end on Sunday, April 18, with a lecture by theo-



*Delegation of Fatima accompanied by David Carollo, Executive Director of the World Apostolate of Fatima in the United States, right*

Gaitley spoke about the importance of living the works of mercy as a form of mystical life, ie, connected to God, and threw a strong light upon the increasing significance of the *apostolate of smile* in our society. He argued and made clear that “life finds its meaning in selfless love.” Fr. Andrew Apostoli reinforced the importance of the Rosary as a weapon to defeat evil in the world. Afterwards, took place the presentation of the mission of the World Apostolate of Fatima: to spread throughout the

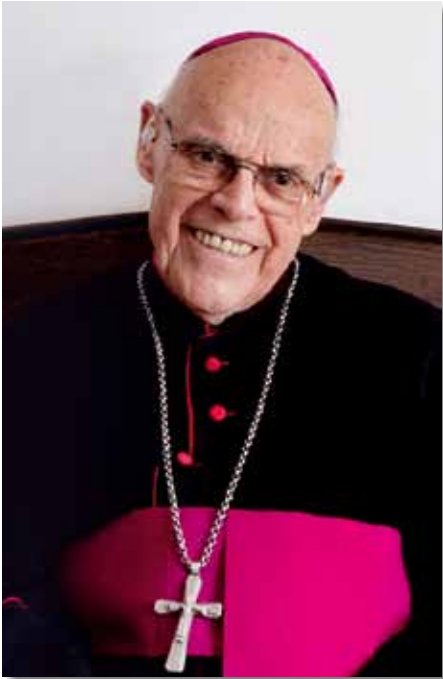
logian Vinny Flinn, about the importance of the sacrament of Confession, expounded as a wealth to help people in their journey of conversion. The closing lecture was given by Sister Angela Coelho, who helped the 250 participants to become fully aware of the way of living today the Message of Fatima, according to the example of the little shepherds, models of holiness for our age.

*Fr. Francisco Pereira*



## Interview with Archbishop Emeritus of Mercedes-Luján

# For the Pope, Fatima has become a center of Marian spirituality



His Excellency Rubén Hector di Monti, Archbishop Emeritus of Mercedes-Luján, now 82 years old, has been relentless in his efforts to promote the Message of Fatima in his native Argentina. He had a responsible position and role in organizing the four journeys of the Pilgrim Image of Fatima to Argentina; in a short interview, last May, on the occasion of a new pilgrimage to Fatima, he makes some reflections on the Message of Fatima, on the world and also on his friend Archbishop Jorge Bergoglio, now Pope Francis.

### What is the *Familia Misionera de Nuestra Señora de Fatima* (Missionary Family of Our Lady of Fatima)?

Missionary Family of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, founded in 1986, is integrated by and includes priests and members of the laity, religious of active or contemplative life and also consecrated laymen. It was founded by me personally and Sister Alba Maria Martinez, a native of Uruguay, which has lived more years in Argentina than in her motherland. Today, she is sick, but even bedridden, continues to bear witness to the Message of Fatima. We have a monastery of contemplative life visited by a lot of people, and where we make known the Message of Fatima. But we also go from place to place in the country to impart and announce what Our Lady asked us to fulfill: penance and prayer. We want to extend the devotion to Our Lady of Fatima and try to be very loyal to Her message. We have a “Fatimovel” [“Fatimobile”] which tours the country – it is already the second one, because we

have driven thousands of kilometers – distributing a lot of informative stuff: posters, calendars, flyers, pins, etc. We never charge anything for materials; everything is offered and free of cost.

### Do you feel, then, that the Message of Fatima still needs to be known?

Yes, yes indeed. The most important is prayer and penance. The rosary is also of chief relevance; the First Five Saturdays Devotion is, too, very widespread in Argentina. Our intent is to promote and encourage the knowledge and love to Our Lady, to induce the world to accept this Virgin’s message, and to inspire a change of today’s mankind, completely demented with so much sin and corruption. Besides, we make publicly known the messages of the apparitions at La Salette and Lourdes, showing the inter-relationship that exists between these messages.

### Current data indicate a growth of Catholicism in Latin America. How do you interpret them?

Certainly Catholic religion persists and endures. It is also true that the presence, now, of Pope Francis, the fact that he is a native of Latin America – because he does not belong only to Argentina – strongly stimulates the growth of faith; so does also his way of being Pope, a very special, simple and humble way, allowing to be seen much of our Latin-American lifestyle. Latin America is not a very rich continent, is a continent of manifold needs, and Pope Francis gives and sets an example of this style – He makes people feel very well. The Pope does not draw attention by luxury, does not have, so to speak, a Renaissance presence, his is a humble and simple presence.

### How was it working with Jorge Bergoglio?

He always had a good relationship with the poor and the needy. We visited together the “villas”, an expression we use for places like the “favelas” [slums] in Brazil; he was a very constant presence in the poor places, in the *villas* of misery. Today, if the Pope, speaking to priests about the meaning of poverty, tells them not to drive luxury cars, it is because he also used public buses, as anybody else; he does not just talk, but leads by example, and waits to see if we follow his example.

### What about interreligious dialogue?

His search for connection and partnership with other religious denominations does not surprise me. The Pope always had a good relationship with other religions, but now, of course, he feels such a

bond and association as a compelling and urgent necessity.

### Pope’s devotion to Our Lady is not something just obvious and palpable; he himself affords evidence of it. Did you always know him well?

He always had a great devotion to Mary, but since his election as Pope on March 13, last year, Fatima has become for him a center of Marian spirituality. So he asked the bishops of Portugal to consecrate his pontificate to Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, and soon afterwards, on October 13, he made the consecration of the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

We are waiting to see what the Holy Father will make as to the Centenary of the Apparitions of Our Lady. Personally, I think he will come to this Shrine, will visit the Portuguese people and honor the Virgin; without question, he discerns very clearly and fully understands the thought of Pope Emeritus, pope Benedict, according to whom “Fatima is the most extraordinary that, today, exists in the world.”

When the Image of Fatima was brought to Argentina by Bishop Serafim [Ferreira e Silva, at the time bishop of Leiria-Fatima], Pope Francis celebrated Mass with me and other bishops; and in his first Angelus, you see, he made an allusion to Fatima!

### Has Jorge Bergoglio now, as Pope, changed? Is he happy?

He became different and changed a lot. He was more reserved and self-restrained, always with a sense of humor, but now he manifests it increasingly.

The Pope is happy and joyful because he knows he is doing God’s will, knows that the Lord manifests through him the design and plan to save the world and, specifically, by Mary’s intercession; but he is suffering greatly. Who knows him and, then, sees him on television, apprehends clearly a face of suffering, of pain, due to the problems inside and outside the Church. We all do know. We can mention here the message of La Salette, by which it was announced that the Church would undergo a dreadful crisis. We all are suffering; presently, the world is suffering!

### Do you not see a change? What is missing?

The problem is the fight against the evil spirit; as Pope Ratzinger said “the devil hates us because he knows we are saved, and so he wants to destroy all the work of the Church.” In his homilies at Casa Santa Marta, Pope Francis often alludes to the demon and the struggle against him. Prayer is the only sure and efficient weapon we have; the other one is penance.

LeopolDina Simões

## *Bishop of Angoulême in interview at Fatima*

# *These are hard times, but favorable to a renewed proclamation of the Gospel*

Interview with His Excellency Claude Dagens, Bishop of Angoulême and member of the French Academy, at the end of the Theological-Pastoral Symposium held in Fatima, 30 May-1 June, and in which he presented a conference.

Interview conducted by  
*Leopoldina Simões.*

**Bishop Dagens, I would like to ask you to say a few words about your visit to Fatima. Is it the first time you come to Fatima?**

Not at all. I already came here over ten years ago. I knew the bishop of Coimbra, His Excellency João Alves – whom I had met in Rome – and I invited him in the first place to visit my diocese of Angoulême, where a large number of Portuguese live. Bishop João Alves came for a week and I became acquainted with him thanks to this reception in my diocese, where he had the opportunity to meet several Portuguese from different diocesan regions. Then he invited me, and maybe a year later I came to Coimbra. He had just decided and required the translation into Portuguese of the three small volumes I had written for French bishops: *Proposing the Faith in the Present Society*, whose third volume entitled “Letter to the Catholics of France” intended to explain that the present times were hard, but favorable to a renewed proclamation of the Gospel. From Coimbra we came to Fatima, with two priest friends. It was in the month of August and I concelebrated in the Precinct. It was very hot and I was impressed with such a sunny day!

**Is modern Fatima, you are visiting now, still the same?**

No, this time I found many changes. Indeed, then I had only seen the Precinct and the place of the apparitions. Now I could walk, move hither and thither and participate in the symposium and, too, in the Eucharistic celebration. Yesterday, late afternoon, I was profoundly touched because I presided at Mass and celebrated it in Portuguese and also made the homily in Portuguese; and today [Sunday] morning, I concelebrated with Bishop Antonio Marto, whose hospitality, generosity and kindness I very much appreciated. At the table, during mealtime, we talked a lot about the Church throughout the world, the synod which is being prepared, and we also reflected on the work of Pope Francis. Friendship, trust, and



dialogue with other pastoral actors are essential.

Besides, in my exploration of this space, of changed places, the first thing I noticed was heaven with its sparkling blue, also gave me pleasure the excellent and lively landscape with pine trees, the land’s location and the concavity of the mountain; I was impressed by the size of the Precinct. Last time, I had not seen it. Finally, I was pleasantly surprised by the new buildings, the new Basilica and its adjacent areas, including this place where we are now. Fatima allies and connects very well what happened in 1917 and modernity, and especially the modernity of the architecture.

**Is Fatima’s message still pertinent?**

As I said yesterday, at the beginning of my speech, about Christ’s love, about His charity in the center of Christian existence, God manifests himself in the history of Men, and the Virgin Mary is like an intermediate echo of God’s manifestation inside our history. The Virgin Mary appears to the little Shepherds in May 1917, i.e., during the war. God manifests himself in the midst of violent events of mankind’s history. Now this appears to me to be a very important contribution to our understanding and acceptance of God’s Word. God speaks. God made his way through the Virgin Mary. Jesus discloses himself through his Mother, on the occasion of a terrible war that ravages Europe; and that is the precise moment when God, through the little Shepherds of Fatima, calls and summons to conversion to Christ and His Gospel. “Re-

pent”. In Lourdes, the Virgin Mary said the same thing: “Come to the fountain to wash you.” The Virgin of Fatima tells Francisco, Jacinta and Lucia to impart and communicate this message to men: “Repent.” And we are in 1917, just two months after the terrible events that occurred in Russia, in St Petersburg with the seizure of power by the Soviets and the imposition of Lenin’s command and control. And precisely at that moment the Holy Virgin shows herself, not to make a political act, but to call Christians to be Christian in the midst of troublesome, difficult, and unsettling circumstances of history. Yesterday I saw something that caused a strong impression on me. It was a fragment of the Berlin Wall. Separating the Russian side from the western part, the Berlin Wall was the visible and noisy sign of the Soviet system’s collapse in central Berlin. Well, in the crumble of this Wall I saw in some way the opening and an answer to what the Virgin Mary had promised.

**And is the journey over?**

Today Europe is in a state of precarious balance. And maybe we were not always aware of this marked imbalance. The great and good news in the world today is Pope Francis, because he was given by God to call the whole Church, in Portugal, as in France, to conversion to Christ; and this is good news, indeed. Let us answer the Pope’s appeal when he asks: “Pray for me, pray for me.” We have to understand that his mission is very difficult.



## Fatima and Aparecida – Centenaries of Blessings

On 17 and 18 May, the Shrines of Fatima and Aparecida [Brazil] were particularly joined together in common prayer and devotion to Our Lady. His Excellency, Antonio Marto, Bishop of Leiria-Fatima, accompanied by a small delegation of the Sanctuary of Fatima, went to Aparecida in order to offer and present to that National Shrine of Brazil an image of Our Lady of Fatima. This image was solemnly enthroned and settled for the veneration of the many faithful who flock there. This gesture was the first in a series of joint actions between the two Shrines that, in 2017, will celebrate important anniversaries: the centenary of the apparitions in Fatima, and the tercentenary of the discovery of the image of Our Lady of Conception on the Paraíba River, in Aparecida.

As we are dealing with two of the most important Marian shrines in the world and, besides, two brother peoples, united by history and language, but also by the same faith and great devotion to Our Lady, we see as our duty the joint and shared commemoration of such jubilees and festivities.

One could say even the dates of the liturgical celebration connect both Sanctuaries: on May 13 is the feast day for many devotees of Our Lady of Fatima throughout Brazil; and October 12, commemorative and festive occasion of Our Lady of Aparecida, is the starting day of a great pilgrimage in Fatima.

Up to 2017 there will be other steps which aim to express this joint commemoration of both sanctuaries: the visit to Fatima by Cardinal Raymundo Damasceno Assis, Archbishop of Aparecida, to preside at a grand celebration and, in addition, to offer the image of Our Lady

of Conception, venerated at that Brazilian sanctuary; the simultaneous recitation of the rosary, telecasted from both places, on some occasions in the years 2014, 2015 and 2016.



*From Aparecida reach us some reports that the resident Portuguese community and other associated devotees come together regularly close to the image of Our Lady of Fatima, in particular the 13th of each month, to pray the rosary.*

In 2017, in order to solemnize and extol these “centenaries of blessings”, His Excellency Cardinal Raymundo Damasceno will come to Fatima to preside at one of the great celebrations, and in October the Bishop of Fatima, António Marto,

will superintend a major celebration in Aparecida. These are small gestures indeed, but of great significance.

Such is the plan and schedule for both jubilees, and so is overtly manifested the deep union of these two shrines in the celebration of respectively the Centenary and Tercentenary.

The visit to Aparecida for the offering and enthronement of the image of Our Lady of Fatima indicated, for now, the beginning of this joint celebration and will be impressed in our memory by the testimony of deep devotion the Brazilian people have to Our Lady, by the touching confidence in Her protection, but also by the kindly and warm reception we had and that made us feel at home, in our “Mother’s House”.

The experience of encounter, common celebration and sharing the same faith enables us to feel the universality of Fatima and reanimates the awareness of our responsibility, for we were graciously visited by the Mother of God. Here, in Fatima, She leaves us a message of repentance and conversion, of hope and mercy; it is a message that summons us to pray and worship, to give and assign to God, the Trinity, the central place He must have in our lives; it is also a deeply evangelical message, that we are called to spread.

The celebration of these “Centenaries of Blessings” is also a time of thanksgiving, of gratitude for the countless favors and benefits God is pouring over us through Mary, which we invoke with the title of Fatima or Aparecida. May Our Lady, of Fatima and Aparecida, accompany and assist with her maternal protection the pilgrims and devotees of both Shrines!

P. C

## XII Fatima Pilgrimage in Porto Alegre, Brazil, brought together thousands of faithful

On Sunday, the 18th May, took place in Porto Alegre, Brazil, the XII Fatima Pilgrimage. Not even cloudy weather followed by cold temperature hindered the pilgrims from participating in the religious procession that lasted about an hour.

Encouraged by the pastor of the Church of St. Rose of Lima, Fr. Carlos Sebastiani, the pilgrims, adults, youth and children, sang and prayed to Our Lady of Fatima, thanking and making to Her their requests and petitions.

The main mass was celebrated by the general director of the St. Francis Schools Network and Rector of the Fatima Shrine in Porto Alegre, Fr. José Luiz Schaedler. In addition, participated as joint celebrants the auxiliary vicar of the Sanctuary, Fr. Inácio Selbach, and the pastor of the Church of Divine Mercy, Fr. Flávio Lunkes, with the assistance of deacons Luciano Pereira and Carlos.

In his homily, Fr. José Luiz Schaedler highlighted Mary’s mission in saying YES to the Angel Gabriel, and the pledge of love and fidelity that binds all Christians to Our Lady. He also said the new sanctuary, now under construction, will be the new home of Our Lady of Fatima in Porto Alegre.

“In this XII Fatima Pilgrimage we pray for all people, and so I ask two minutes of silence, while the professor Cesar plays a meditative



music; let’s remember of those we love, and so make, for them, a special request to Our Lady”, he proclaimed.

At the end of the celebration, all the faithful were given a small Image of Our Lady of Fatima and rosaries made with wood and fluorescent stuff.

In the afternoon, was celebrated the “Missa de envio” [Farewell Mass] with the participation of many believers.

Rubens Melo – Porto Alegre, Brazil

## Hail Mary prayed in prison



Deprived of freedom, but free to unite Heaven and Earth through Maria

A few weeks ago, a prisoner of the Maputo Central Penitentiary asked me if we could start praying the rosary in prison. I accepted with joy his request and suggested him the organization of prayer, asking the other inmates if they were interested in this initiative. On May 7, Wednesday, at 10:30 am, we met in the garage, where the Catholic community of prisoners is accustomed to pray and around a small and beautiful image of Our Lady of Fatima, offered by the Sanctuary of Fatima, we began to pray with a group of 17 inmates.

Thanks to a small amount of rosaries, we had received as a gift from Italy, each prisoner holds in his hands this "chain of salvation", that unites heaven and earth. I explained to them some of the features of the old devotion of the rosary and, afterwards, we "threw ourselves" into the arms of Mary, with songs in Portuguese and Ronga, the dialect of southern Mozambique.

As we prayed, I looked at the garage

ceiling, poor and simple, at the table on which was placed a small and humble image, at my prayer partners, some of whom are poorly dressed... but the beauty of that Virgin Mary's image and the spiritual light emanating from her filled everything and everyone!

Mary seemed to smile at me, happy as any mother to see her children crowded together around her, and that garage... truly appeared to me as the Little Chapel of Fatima!

The recitation of the Rosary is going on, every Wednesday, at 11:30 am. The number of prisoners who join us slowly increases. Each new member receives the blessed rosary, and the choir of Mary's children grows with new voices... to invoke ... "Our Lady of Fatima": Hail Mary!

Father Antonio Perretta  
[antonioperretta.missionando.org](http://antonioperretta.missionando.org)  
 Missionary Community of Villaregia  
 Maputo, Mozambique

Father Antonio Perretta, after traveling in 2013 from Italy to the Mission of Mozambique, spent a few weeks in Fatima, where he learned Portuguese. Nowadays, his pastoral care and ministry is focused in four prisons: one in Maputo and three in other districts.

It is August, and by the connection between the account of this blog's text and a text of Sister Lucia's *Memoirs*, we are transported to what also happened in the prison of Ourém, in the same month of 1917.

The three Little Shepherds were held in jail and therefore hindered of being at the Cova da Iria on the 13<sup>th</sup> August of the same year, but they determined as a way of communicating with the Mother of Heaven to pray the rosary, according to Sister Lucia's statement. «Next, we decided to say our Rosary. Jacinta took off a medal that she was wearing round her neck, and asked a prisoner to hang it up for her on a nail in the wall. Kneeling before this medal, we began to pray. The prisoners prayed with us, that is if they knew how to pray, but at least they were down on their knees.» (*Fatima in Lucia's own words. Sister Lucia's memoirs*, 2007, p. 53).

When acclaimed and invoked with faith by those who are held in custody, Mary brings them God's mercy and consolation, and becomes to them a source of hope for a dignified and fully renewed life in Christ.

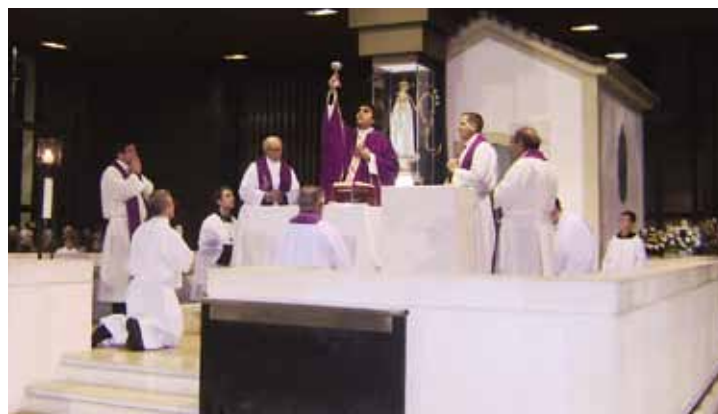
## Devotees of the diocese of Getafe on pilgrimage to Fatima

On March 27, 28, 29 and 30 we made once again our pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, and this already is our fourth journey; this year we give thanks to Our Blessed Mother because we had to hire and add another bus to get at Fatima, due to the large group of pilgrims which reached the number of two hundred. We were accompanied and assisted by four priests and a religious sister.

It was a pilgrimage we started with great joy, for we were going to see again our beloved Mother, the Virgin of Fatima.

We must also enhance the

cultural and religious visit to Lisbon held on Saturday, April 29, during which we



celebrated the Holy Mass at the Shrine of Christ the King, and where we can kiss the relic of St. Anthony of Lisbon [Padua].

At the end of the journey, during the time that pilgrims who had joined us express their sentiments, all of them, in their own words, felt themselves filled with love of the Blessed Virgin, and were seized by a great spiritual grace; and consequently they were not doubtful about the plan of returning to Fatima next year, if that should be God's will.

Antonio Huerta Bustos  
 Getafe, Spain



## Symposium explored and reflected on *Experience of God and human responsibility*

The reflection on the message of Fatima has again been highlighted in the Theological Pastoral Symposium organized and sponsored by the Sanctuary of Fatima, held May 30 through June 1, under the scientific coordination of the Faculty of Theology of the Portuguese Catholic University. The number of those who personally participated amounted to 340; the sessions and presentations, live broadcasted, were followed online by 486 netizens or internauts on the first day, by 216 on the second and by 93 on the third.

After a word of welcome by the Rector of the Sanctuary of Fatima, Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas, symposiac activities, undertaken in the Good Shepherd Hall, at Paul VI Pastoral Center, were inaugurated on Friday morning, with the opening speech of the Bishop of Leiria-Fatima, Antonio Marto. His Excellency emphasized that the title and theme of the symposium - *"Involved in God's love for the world." Experience of God and human responsibility* - epitomized very well the message left by Our Lady at Fatima in the apparition on June 13, 1917. According to him, this is "the most important of the six apparitions"; through it was revealed the so-called "Secret of Fatima" that "in its three parts is an expression of God's love to the world in a perilous moment that threatened to sink mankind into the abyss of distress and ruin": the First World War.

In his reflection, the bishop of Leiria-Fatima presented Mary as messenger

and icon of God's love for the world, and urged the Church to look at people and the world with such a look of love and mercy and, in accordance with Pope Francis' exhortation, to implement "the revolution of tenderness in existential peripheries". He also pointed out that just at this moment in the history of mankind "the Church is called to look at people and the world through the eyes of love and compassion, to tenderly care for hu-

gens, Bishop of Angoulême, Klaus Vechtel, Jesuit of Frankfurt, Cettina Militello, Italian theologian, Rey Garcia Paredes, Spanish mariologist, and all of them tried to clarify and give an answer to three essential themes: "In what God do we believe?", "Love as the core of God's existence in Christian experience" and "Mary, icon of the saving mercy of God".

The Patriarch of Lisbon and president of the Portuguese Episcopal Conference, Bishop Manuel Clemente, closed the activities with a reflection on "The Sanctuary of Fatima and the renewal of the Church in Portugal – a historical-pastoral reading." He said: "Fatima played a structuring role in this last century, in which we live, and it still continues to be constructive and structural, because here lies basically the life of the twenty Portuguese diocesan Churches, and also through this place flows the life of the entire and global Church". In addition, he asserted that the message of Fatima "strengthened and unified the Marian trait and

quality of Christianity, which is general indeed, and particularly distinguishable among us". And he also affirmed: "Expressing in a preliminary way, attending to and transposing the mariological reflection of Vatican Council II, the Portuguese marianism, so to speak, is as constant as our own history. (...) This Marian token precedes and shapes over several centuries the Portuguese becoming and development."

*Leopoldina Simões*



manity, to be a Church in friendly partnership with men: she is called to come near to them with a generous and deep sense of humanity that welcomes, listens to, understands and takes upon herself the joys and hopes, the sorrows and anxieties of others.

The inaugural lecture was given by Franco Manzi, Milan, and its subject was "The mystery of God's love for the world in the message of Fatima". Were also speakers His Excellency Claude Da-

### "Secret and Revelation" now also with virtual tours

Installed and initiated in the Sanctuary of Fatima, in late November 2013, and open to the public until October 31, 2014, the exhibition *Secret and Revelation*, which displays for the first time the manuscript of the Third Part of the Secret of Fatima, got a new expression since the 13<sup>th</sup> July, and it is now possible to visit it online. The virtual access is through the

link <http://segredoerevelacao.fatima.pt>

"Taking as motto the apparition of July 1917, the Sanctuary of Fatima shows through historical documentation and artistic legacy one of the most important themes of Fatima: the Secret, that starting at the Cova da Iria leads to the contemplation of an entire contemporary world", explains Marco Daniel Duarte,

Director of the SESDI [Service of Studies and Diffusion] of Fatima Shrine and curator of the exhibit.

*Secret and Revelation* will be open to the public until late October, with free entries between 09:00 and 19:00, all days of the week, on the lower level of the Basilica of the Holy Trinity. The number of visitors up to July 13 amounts to 107,057.

# Fatima XXI – Cultural Journal of the Sanctuary of Fatima

On May 30, at the opening session of the Theologico-pastoral Symposium held until June 1 at the Fatima Shrine, and attended by 330 people, was presented the latest cultural project of the institution: the periodical publication “Fatima XXI – Revista Cultural do Santuário de Fatima”, already made known to journalists at the press conference held on May 12.

The first issue, with 145 pages, is now available for sale at the Shrine of Fatima bookshop for 9 euros per copy (livraria@fatima.pt).

This journal, in Portuguese language, was projected and outlined in the context of the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Fatima apparitions; it will have a semiannual character and will be available in May and October. In the words of Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas, Rector of the Sanctuary of Fatima, its aim is to be “a journal of cultural nature, which seeks precisely to echo and reflect the cultural dimension of Fatima”, thus joining the other periodic informative projects of the institution: “Voz de Fátima” [Voice of Fatima], the monthly publication in Portuguese, and the international quarterly bulletin “Fátima Luz e Paz” [Fatima Light and Peace] in seven languages.

In addition, this project intends to “be a space for reflection on topics related to the history, culture and message of Fatima, through readings and interpretations that will be multidisciplinary, involving different but complementary perspectives.”

“The Centenary supplies us the favorable occasion for trying new ways that enrich and enhance the reflection about Fatima and propose a renewed language, both in the forms of interpreting and in the patterns of exposing such interpretations”, as we see in this publication, explains the Rector of the Sanctuary, and the Director of the journal as well.

At the time of presentation, Daniel Marco Duarte, assistant

director of the new periodical, gave notice of its main headings and sections and specified the themes for the first issue. He said:

«This inaugural number contains important testimonies of known figures of the national and ecclesial cultural landscape; and so we can hear Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi saying that ‘Fatima is a maternal place of European civilization’; and we also can listen to Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone stating that Fatima is ‘a calling to community and humanity’; and we too are told by Adriano Moreira that Fatima is truly ‘one of the most inspirational places in the world’.»

According to the assistant director, the pages of the new Journal “intersect and combine different viewpoints and understandings, embracing remarkable ideas of the protagonists of Fatima but, above all, fostering renewed approaches to this inexhaustible subject, read in a polyhedral way.”

“The first edition of *Fatima XXI* would have to select as subject of its Thematic Cahier one of the biggest topics of this place and, therefore, dedicated its first special issue to the Secret of Fatima”, said Daniel Marco Duarte; besides, he stressed that on this topic “different researchers developed diverse views and conceptions coming from history, theology, linguistics, diplomatics, and fine arts... Our goal was to make an accurate approach, not so much academic, but above all cultural.”

In the pages of the first issue we find yet several flashes related to the Centenary of the Apparitions, and through photography and text is remembered the most special event of the past year: the visit to Rome of the Image of the Little Chapel.

All numbers will have a heading entitled “Fragments of History” which, in the first issue, exhibits a very special document: the manuscript of the celebrated “Ave Maria of Fatima”, written in 1929 by the poet Afonso Lopes Vieira.

L. S.



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