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***Blessed Paul VI, pray for us!***

## «Men, be men»

On October 19, in St. Peter's Square, Pope Paul VI, the first pope who, as pilgrim, came to the Sanctuary of Fatima, was beatified. The event was experienced at the Shrine of Fatima in an atmosphere of joy and thanksgiving; and in the prayer precinct re-echoed and sounded again the new Blessed's words on the occasion of his visit to the Cova da Iria: "Men, be men. Men, be good".

Paul VI was the great architect who went on with the work of the Vatican II and, laboriously, intended and undertook the application of its documents and guidelines to the life of the Church. But, at present, what pleases me most is to stress his connection to Fatima.

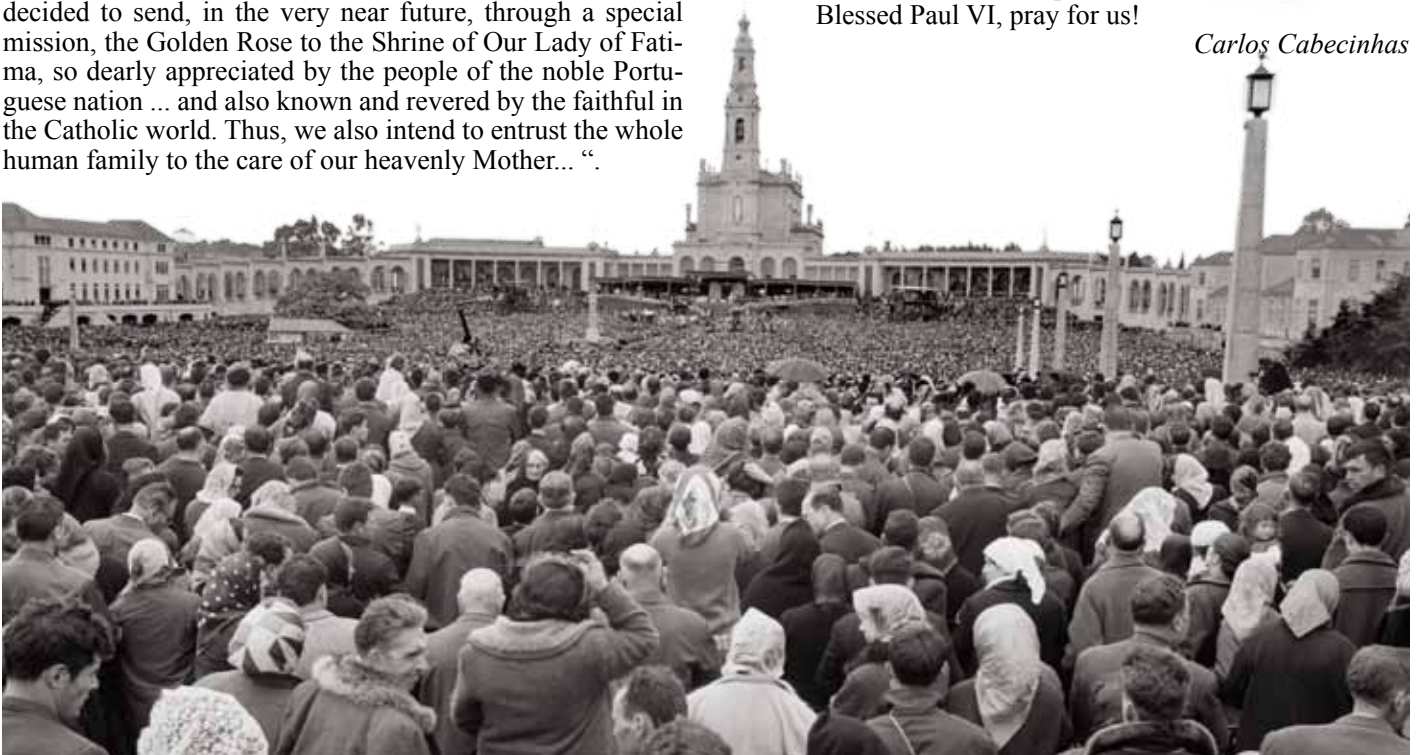
Paul VI came to this Sanctuary in 1967, on the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Apparitions. But his relationship with Fatima reached back to an earlier period. At the close of the third session of the Council, on November 21, 1964, pope Paul VI invited the bishops of the most important Marian shrines to concelebrate with him at St. Peter Basilica. And on the same day, after having promulgated the Constitution on the Church and the decrees on the Eastern Churches and ecumenism, the Pope proclaimed Our Lady "Mother of the Church". Besides, he announced the offer of the Golden Rose to the Shrine of Fatima, with the following words: "We decided to send, in the very near future, through a special mission, the Golden Rose to the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, so dearly appreciated by the people of the noble Portuguese nation ... and also known and revered by the faithful in the Catholic world. Thus, we also intend to entrust the whole human family to the care of our heavenly Mother...".



And on the day he began his journey to Fatima, on May 13, 1967, he issued a Pastoral Exhortation *Signum Magnum* on the cult of the Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church and model of all virtues; such Exhortation concludes with the explicit request to all Christians "to personally renew their own consecration to the Immaculate Heart of the Mother of the Church", the central aspect of the Fatima message. On April 24, 1970, in a speech at the Shrine of Our Lady of Bonaria (Italy), the now Blessed pope Paul VI stated: "It is impossible to be a Christian, without being Marian." And his papal teaching was prodigal in displaying a Marian piety that animated him and also explains his connection to Fatima.

Blessed Paul VI, pray for us!

*Carlos Cabecinhas*



## Arvo Pärt composes music dedicated to the Little Shepherds of Fatima



Arvo Pärt, famous and important composer in the field of contemporary music, created a musical piece dedicated to the Little Shepherds of Fatima, whose manuscript will be published in the October issue of Fatima XXI - Cultural Journal

of the Sanctuary of Fatima.

In a press conference held on October 12, the Rector of the Fatima Shrine, Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas, announced that the piece will be presented in a concert on February 20, 2015, in Lisbon Cathedral.

At the invitation of the Sanctuary and in the context of the Centenary Celebration of the Fatima Apparitions, the Estonian composer visited Fatima in May 2012, accompanied by his wife, Nora. Subsequently challenged to present a text-testimony about the ex-

perience of his coming to the Cova da Iria, for publication in this latest editorial project of the Sanctuary of Fatima, Arvo Pärt made us a surprise and offered to the Sanctuary the manuscript of a musical composition, dated from May 19, 2014, dedicated to the Little Shepherds and entitled *Drei Hirtenkinder aus Fatima* [Three Little Shepherds of Fatima]. This is a brief piece for mixed choir *a cappella* composed on the text of a verse from Psalm 8.

L.S.

## Do something!

The international pilgrimage on September 12 and 13 was presided over by the Bishop of the Armed Forces and Security of Portugal, His Excellency Manuel Rodrigues Linda, who, in his homily at the Mass of the 13th, called for an end of the “horrible genocide” in various places of conflict in the world. Coming from different countries, thousands of pilgrims were these days in the Cova da Iria. At the Pilgrim Service Department of the Sanctuary were registered and announced to take part in prayer and the pilgrimage program 55 groups, from 15 countries. In the night celebrations of the 12th participated 12 000; and in the morning celebrations of the 13th the number of participants amounted to 45 000.

The Bishop, speaking from the Sanctuary of Fatima, made an appeal that joined many other voices of the Church and society: “We urge those on power and in a responsible position, particularly the UN, to do something to stop



this abominable genocide, a true crime against humanity “, without forgetting “what is happening to the Christians of Iraq, Syria, Eritrea and elsewhere in the world.”

The prelate reminded pilgrims of the consequences of a world that lives without God: “A man left to himself, without reference to God, has difficulty in dignifying and elevating himself; and he is liable to the basest and most savage conduct.”

The bishop of the Military Ordinate also mentioned the lack of attention governments pay to the suffering of many human groups all over the world: “And the rulers remain impassive and undisturbed, as if this extreme barbarism did not concern them. No! If a world allows such atrocities, it is because it consociates with them or even likes them. But we feel stricken with horror and outraged.”

L. S.

## Polish Rectors visiting Fatima

On the afternoon of October 13, the Rector of the Sanctuary of Fatima welcomed at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Retreat House a group of Heads of higher education institutions of Poland. In performing this act of salutation, he told them of the message of Fatima, and of the growing number of Polish pilgrims who come to this Sanctuary.

It was the visit of KRPUT, the conference of Heads of Polish technical universities,

a group which represents the polytechnic institutions of Poland. The KRPUT delegation consists of 35 elements; it arrived at Portugal on Oc-



tober 11 to participate in the II international forum Coordinating Council of Polytechnic Institutes of Portugal (CCISP) / KRPUT, in order to discuss future projects of collaboration between the technological universities and the polytechnic institutes of both countries. After the reception by the Rector, the group, through a guided tour, was informed of the main spaces of pilgrimage to the Shrine of Fatima.

## *Patriarch of the East Indies in interview*

# Devotion to Our Lady of Fatima is very popular in India

*His Excellency Filipe Néri Ferrão presided at the international pilgrimage to Fatima on October 12 and 13. A few days before the start of the pilgrimage, the Archbishop of Goa and Daman, current Patriarch of the East Indies, Primate of India, in a brief interview to the Press Room of the Sanctuary of Fatima, clearly indicated the scope of his coming to the Cova da Iria and reflected on the actual circumstances of his country and of the World.*

– How did you receive the invitation to preside over the international pilgrimage of October? I accepted it with great pleasure! For I saw it as the opportunity to pay, in public, my personal homage and tribute to the Virgin of Fatima I have learned to venerate in my childhood. This is my second visit to Fatima indeed. The first took place some 12 years ago, when I was the Auxiliary Bishop of my Archdiocese. Taking advantage of my visit to Rome, I got the occasion for making a detour to Portugal, with the only purpose of visiting Fatima. It was the 29<sup>th</sup> June, and I had the great pleasure of concelebrating in a solemn Mass presided by Bishop Serafim, bishop emeritus of Leiria-Fatima.

– What message will you transmit to the pilgrims?

My message is not new. It's the eloquent and emblematic message of Mary to mankind of all times: Whatsoever He, my Son, says unto you, do it. As she did. But as a means of accomplishing that, we have to walk with Jesus and mature in His friendship and intimacy, having Him as the center of our lives. We must build with Jesus and upon Jesus, the cornerstone: we must build society, the Church, the family. And, finally, we have to pro-



*“Bless each of your sons and daughters, make them firm in hope and charity, protect them from all dangers, temporal, moral and spiritual, help them building their nation in a spirit of cooperation and brotherhood, and living in peace with each other and with the family of nations scattered over the face of the whole earth.”*

*Archbishop Filipe Néri Ferrão  
Fatima, October 12, 2014*

claim Christ and live his Gospel values in our social, economic, political, and cultural life

– Will any of your prayer intentions recall to the mind your own people?

At the close of the Synod for Asia, John Paul II said: “The third millennium belongs to Asia.” My prayer is that this Church, which owes its existence, in large part, to the great evangelizing action of the European missionaries of past centuries, may become now an evangelizing church, irradiating and disseminating Christ, sharing Him with the other Eastern peoples. May it also contribute to the re-evangelization of the West, giving back to Europe the

great gift India received from it: Christian Faith

– What kind of reflection do you make about today's world, particularly about the situation in the Middle East and Africa, with the persecution of religious minorities?

It is extremely painful to observe the intensity and insanity of violence that is ravaging entire populations, persecuted and decimated in the name of religion. This passion that drives a person to eliminate others in the name of God is purely diabolic. No religion professes a belief in a God who loves war and violence. And yet, unfortunately, these outbursts of collective intolerance are spreading and unfolding in our society. Let us pray that members of all religions open themselves to divine inspiration and seek the way of peace, the respect for the person and the common good, turning themselves into agents of dialogue and reconciliation.

– How would you describe the experience of the Christian faith in your archdiocese and in your country? Do Indian Christians know the message of Fatima?

I give thanks to God, for the experience of the Christian faith, both in my diocese and in all of India, is very promising. Although we, Catholics, are less than 3% of the total population, our number amounts to over 20 million, and 95% are churchgoers. Our seminars have not been closed and our priests are giving support and assistance to many churches in Europe and the Americas. In my own diocese, work almost 800 diocesan and religious priests and I perform about 30-35 ordinations per year. Devotion to Our Lady of Fatima is very popular. On October 13 many parishes organize a open-air Solemn Mass, followed by procession of candles, which sometimes covers the whole village.

*Interview conducted by  
Leopoldina Simões*

## MMF of the Diocese of Livorno makes the Second Yearly National Pilgrimage

From 09 through 16 July, in the company of our Bishop and President, mons. Simone Giusti, we made the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Pilgrimage of the Movement of the Message of Fatima (MMF). Joined this group pilgrims from various dioceses of Tuscany and Campania and also, with great joy, 16 seminarists of "G. Gavi" Seminary, Livorno, which came, for the first time, accompanied by the Rector, the Vicar, and the Vice-Rector.

Those days were days of profound spirituality, mainly on the vigil and nocturnal devotion of the 12<sup>th</sup> as preparation for the celebration of the July 13.

On the morning of the 10<sup>th</sup>, we were accompanied by the Sisters Oblates of the Virgin Mary of Fatima to the places where the Little Shepherds lived, and we saw the spot where the Angel of Portugal appeared, and also the place where Our Lady of Fatima revealed Herself on the apparition of August 19, 1917. It was very interesting to visit the permanent exhibit "Fatima Light and Peace"; here, we could see the precious crown of the main Image



of Our Lady; we also visited the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary, the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity and the Temporary Exhibition "Secret and Revelation".

On the 11<sup>th</sup>, we experienced a moment of great spirituality, when our seminarists revived and took part in the Via Crucis, at the places the Little Shepherds roamed through, herding, tending, and leading the sheep to the Cova da Iria. On the 13<sup>th</sup>, we participated in the celebration of the third apparition of Our Lady of Fatima to the three children. It was very important to remember, in this apparition, the vision of Hell, the Com-

munion of reparation on the first Saturdays of each month and the Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. At the end of the celebration, His Excellency Antonio Marto, Bishop of Leiria-Fatima, greeted fondly our Bishop, the Seminary and the Italian Movement of the Message of Fatima, which has its roots in the correlative Portuguese Movement of the Message of Fatima. We had a very interesting meeting with Bishop Antonio Marto, who reported and told us how the *Peregrinatio Mariae* was born.

On July 14, we traveled to Coimbra and paid a visit to the Carmel of Santa Teresa, where Sister Lucia lived, and then we celebrated the Eucharist. This visit to the Memorial of Sister Lucia was very good and interesting. We also came into personal acquaintance, in a very familiar way, with the Bishop of Coimbra, Virgílio Antunes.

We give thanks to Our Lady of Fatima, with full confidence and certainty that this pilgrimage will bear fruit.

*Alessandra and Silvia M.M.F*

### Seminarists of Livorno in Fatima

It is good, for the seminarists of the Livorno diocese, to try a description of this trip, we lived soberly, but also with intensity and depth. We made it as pilgrims to Fatima, and were accompanied by our Bishop Simone Giusti, between 9 and 16 July. Fatima is undoubtedly an opportunity of feeling ourselves loved by a Mother, who embraces us and gives us the strength and the courage to resume the path of life, with a supplement of vigor: a path we face on our knees, following the example of so many pilgrims as a sign of penance and worship, but also standing on our feet, as the ability to understand the dignity of being children of God, members of one family, through Mary. In order to experience the love of Jesus it is important to get ready for communion with God, to prepare ourselves for an encounter which enlightens the heart and instructs us; so it is of much significance that we take up an attitude of simplicity and humility, in an environment of recollection, which is, after all, a feature and a distinctive mark of Fatima.

We know that the Lord speaks in the silence; we know that silence, in this place, through the testimony of the three



Little Shepherds, becomes reality and encourages the self-surrender, increasing our faith in Divine Providence. Our world needs peace, and each of us can be an instrument of reconciliation, to the extent that we subdue ourselves to God's will. An experience like this teaches us how meaningful our contribution to the dis-

semination of the value of universal solidarity is indeed. To make less distressing the contrast between the injustices daily occurring in society and the wish for joy written on the human heart, we have to remember the benefits of God. Finally, it is important to seek a fair and moderate retirement in order to value the recitation of the Holy Rosary; that prayer will help us to contemplate the mysteries of God's saving work.

This is our description of Fatima; we know it as an indescribable place, and only walking and roaming personally through the places of the apparitions we will understand, in a more fruitful way, the message that here flows for all people of good will.

*Seminarists of Livorno diocese*

## President of Hungary visits the Fatima Shrine

On September 30, the President of the Republic of Hungary, Janos Áder, visited the Fatima Shrine, accompanied by his wife and a delegation of the Hungarian presidency. The coming to Portugal was related to the participation in a meeting of Heads of State of the Arraiolos Group, in Braga; this group comprises the chief public representatives of Portugal, Germany, Latvia, Finland, Italy, Austria, Poland, Hungary and Slovenia.

Upon arrival at the Sanctuary, the President and the delegation were received by Fr. Victor Coutinho, chaplain of the Shrine, who, on behalf of the Rector, welcomed the whole group, recalling the great connection of Fatima message with the history of Eastern countries.

Knowledgeable as he appeared to be of the major events in Fatima, the Hungarian President evoked mainly the figure of Fr. Luis Kondor, a priest of the Society of The Divine Word, and a native of Hungary, who lived and resided in Fatima for most of his life as one of the great promoters of Fatima message and of closer relations with the Christian peoples of Eastern Europe; in the words of Fr. Victor Coutinho, he also was a personality much admired and cherished by the Sanctuary of Fatima and by the Portuguese.

In the Book of Honor of the Sanctuary, János Áder, in this first visit to Fatima, wrote: “May Fatima always keep the



memory of Fr. Kondor and have many faithful servants as he was.”

After the official reception at the Rectory building, the delegation visited some of the iconic places of Fatima: the group went to the Little Chapel of the Apparitions, then, visited the museum space “Casa das Candeias” [House of Candles], property of Francisco and Jacinta Marto Foundation; and, in Valinhos, it visited the Hungarian Calvary.

*L.S.*

## Chapel of St. Stephen of Hungary inaugurated 50 years ago



In the Cova da Iria, the Way of the Cross, beginning at the ‘Rotunda de Santa Teresa de Ourém’ (South Rotunda), and following the trail used by the Little Shepherds, ends at the Chapel of St. Stephen (the first king of Hungary), a place commonly known as Hungarian Calvary.

The 14 Stations and the Chapel, donated by Hungarian Catholics who took refuge in the West, according to the idea of Hungarian Fr. Elias Kardos, were designed by the Hungar-

ian architect Ladislav Marec. The first stone of the Via Crucis was blessed on June 21, 1959, and the foundation stone of the Chapel on August 11, 1962; both the Stations of the Cross and the Chapel were blessed on May 12, 1964, having consequently completed this year, 2014, the 50th anniversary of their opening.

The XV Station of the Cross, blessed and inaugurated on October 13, 1992, was donated as a gesture and token of gratitude, by the Hungarian parish of Lajosmizse, represented at the inauguration by its pastor, Fr. József Asztalos, and a group of parishioners. There were also present two Hungarian bishops and the Ambassador of that country in Portugal.

In the chapel, the panels of the Stations, in bas-relief, and the statue of Our Lady Patroness of Hungary are the work of Maria Amélia da Silva Carvalheira, and the figures in the Calvary are a product and creation of the sculptor Domingos Soares Branco.

The 11 stained-glass windows of the chapel, by Hungarian painter Peter Prokop, portray Hungarian Saints. Two large mosaics on the ceiling (1994) depict, respectively, the apparition of Our Lady to the three Little Shepherds and the delivery of the Crown of Hungary, by King St. Stephen, to Our Lady. These mosaics, also by Peter Prokop, were made in Rome with small pieces of marble from all over the world.



## Polish city of Świdnik consecrated to Our Lady of Fatima

The Polish city of Świdnik renewed its consecration to Our Lady of Fatima.

“According to a longstanding tradition, when in moments of a particular danger the Polish Nation implores the assistance of the compassionate Mother of God, and so following the noble example of King John Casimir, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński and Pope John Paul II, we, town councillors, wish to entrust the city of Świdnik to Our Lady of Fatima”.

In this act of consecration, the population and the city of Świdnik were entrusted to the maternal protection of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima. The official document containing the text of the prayer of consecration, written in English and in Polish, was delivered to the Shrine of Fatima by the vice-president of the Polish municipality. Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas, Rector of the Sanctuary of Fatima, received the Mayor, Tomasz Szydło, in the late afternoon of October 5, at the Rectory.



“Oh Immaculate Heart, help us to overcome the danger of evil, that so easily roots in hearts of the modern society – it is an evil that in its immeasurable effects casts a shadow over the present and seems to stand in the way to the future. Mother of the Church, incite and encourage the inhabitants of Świdnik and all people of God on the paths of the faith, hope and love! Help us by the power of the Holy Spirit to

overcome every kind of sin: personal sins and the sin of the world, whatever form of sin”.

In virtue of this act, a token of a “profound faith”, performed by both the Chairman of the Town Board and the Chairman of the Town Council, they will, surely, receive “in the future the motherly assistance of Mary.”

And as an additional effective step towards the promotion of the devotion and Fatima message in Świdnik, the Most Reverend Adam Balabuch, Auxiliary Bishop of Świdnik took part in the international Eucharist celebrated at 11:00 on October 12. At the end of the celebration, an image of Our Lady of Fatima, intended and destined for Świdnik diocese, was blessed by the Rector of the Sanctuary; this image, in the context of the preparation for the Centenary of the Apparitions, will travel over all parishes in the diocese.

L.S.

## Fatima, centre point of a pilgrimage from Tzaneen diocese

Fatima was a centre point of a Marian pilgrimage dedicated to prayer for the sainthood cause of Benedict Daswa, a South African man who was killed by a mob in 1990 after having refused to participate in a witchcraft ritual.

The pilgrimage, which also included Marian sites such as Lourdes, Zaragoza and Rue de Bac, in Paris, was under the spiritual direction of Bishop João Rodrigues, of Tzaneen diocese, in northern South Africa, which is leading the cause for Benedict Daswa. It was organized by The Southern Cross, South Africa’s national Catholic weekly. Its editor, Günther Simmermacher, led the pilgrimage.

The group was especially blessed when it was invited to supply one member to lead the English part of the rosary before the candlelight procession, on September 27. Pilgrim Mary Nembambula, who knew Benedict Daswa personally, was chosen

to do so. The group also visited the homes of Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta in Aljustrel, drawing them closer to their mediation of Our Lady’s message.

Benedict Daswa was a school principal and lay leader of the Church in a rural area. He built the local church in his village, evangelized widely and shared the food he grew in his garden with the poor. Because he justified his refusal to take part in a witch hunt, for which he was killed, on grounds of his Catholic faith, the postulants of his cause believe that he died a martyr.

A few days after the pilgrimage ended in Paris, the consultant theologians of the Congregation of Sainthood Causes had their first meeting to formulate their

recommendation to the pope on the Benedict Daswa cause.

Bishop Rodrigues, who was born in Cape Town of a family from Madeira, said he was confident that the group’s prayers to Our Lady for the cause will lead to the eventual beatification of Benedict Daswa, which would be a first for the young Church of South Africa.

Günther Simmermacher



## World Eucharistic Adoration with children

On October 3, the World Apostolate of Fatima celebrated an international moment of prayer and Eucharistic Adoration with children and adolescents. This initiative, undertaken annually, is now in its 12<sup>th</sup> edition. Its aim is to grant and offer to these young people the opportunity of an intimate and close encounter with the person of Jesus in the Eucharist, praying for the Holy Father, for the families and world peace.

The Sanctuary of Fatima, in Portugal, adopted eagerly this program and, in collaboration with its prosecutors, led on that day afternoon a solemn moment of Eucharistic adoration and recitation of the Rosary in the Chapel of the Apparitions, presided over by the Rector of the Shrine, Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas. The liturgical animation was assigned to the choir *Schola Cantorum Pastorinhos de Fátima* [Schola Cantorum Little Shepherds of Fatima].

A significant group of school children of Fatima, accompanied by their teachers and catechists, participated actively and gladly in the celebration, imitating the three Little Shepherds. In order to enhance this historic link, always alive, three children were chosen and dressed as the little shepherds Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta, and they stayed, during the entire celebration, near the image of Our Lady of Fatima and of the Blessed Sacrament exposed on the altar.

Shrine's Rector, addressing the children, invited them to reflect on Jesus and his family, telling them: "although He was God and came from heaven, He was obedient to his parents"; and in ad-



dition he also said: "Do we seek, in our family, obey with gentleness, love tenderly, and help with joy? Are we good children? Do we love and respect our parents and older people, as Jesus did?"

Afterwards, he advised them to reflect on these questions and try to answer them, in silence and prayer, repeating the words the Angel taught to the Little Shepherds: "My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love You. I ask pardon of You for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love You!"

Simultaneously with this moment of prayer in Fatima, a large group of children was also gathered in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, USA. And according to information collected by our international Secretariat, many other children in the Philippines, India, Cameroon, Australia, Botswana, the Czech Republic, among other countries, associated themselves with this

occurrence of joint devotion and adoration; and so became much stronger this global prayer chain, whose protagonists were children and young people of all over the world.

The celebrations in Washington and Fatima were broadcast by the US Catholic Television Network EWTN to 140 countries. From Fatima, other Catholic television channels, namely TV Canção Nova and Telepace, also transmitted this event, thereby inducing thousands of other children and their families to participate in this action.

The president of the World Apostolate of Fatima, Américo López Ortiz, traveled to this Sanctuary to join in the celebration and, symbolically, bring together and aggregate all places where this initiative was being accomplished. In his greeting message, he encouraged the parishes, schools and apostolic movements to "make a constant endeavor to help children and young people to pray and to worship Jesus in the Eucharist. The children prayer is powerful! Let us introduce them into the Mary's school, causing them to become "missionaries of Her Immaculate Heart! Let them help Our Lady of Fatima to illuminate and transform our world, accelerating the promised triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary."

The World Apostolate of Fatima is an association of the Catholic Church, and already has several national centers in the entire world. For more information [www.worldfatima.com](http://www.worldfatima.com)

*Nuno Prazeres*

World Apostolate of Fatima

## Fatima and Aparecida united in prayer

On October 10, the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fatima, Portugal, and the Shrine of Our Lady of Conception, Aparecida, Brazil, were united in prayer through the recitation of the Rosary; the event was broadcast by television and transmitted by several Catholic stations in the world. The main intent of this occasion and moment of devotion, presided over by both António Marto, Bishop of Leiria-Fatima, and Darci Nicioli, Auxiliary Bishop of Aparecida, was to pray for the "Holy Father Francis, the Church, the Extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the Family and the ecclesial communities".

The initiative, which attracted many pilgrims to the two shrines, had no preceding instance, and was inserted in the celebration of the Centenary of the Apparitions of Fatima and of the Tercentenary of the finding of the image of Our Lady of Conception in Aparecida. At that time, the Rector of the Sanctuary of Fatima announced that the yearly pilgrimage of May 2015 will be presided over by His Excellency Raymundo Assis, Archbishop of Aparecida.





The Archdiocese of Portland (Oregon) was the first diocese in the United States to make its consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Holy Virgin of Fatima, which took place on June 28, 2014, in the course of a solemn Mass in the Cathedral.

Archbishop Alexander Sample, in the letter he wrote to the priests of Portland, to notify and call them for this consecration, explains that, like Pope Francis, and in the face of the contemporary challenges, especially the threats to marriage and the

family, it's not enough to rely exclusively on human efforts, but we need to ask God's help. Mary's intercession, through the consecration of the diocese to her Immaculate Heart, will foment the protection and strength of marriages and families. In the same letter the archbishop exhorted the priests to organize in their parishes the Five First Saturdays devotion.

The Cathedral Church of Portland was too small to accommodate about 1,200 Catholics who, coming in from across the diocese and representing its multicultural population, wanted to join Archbishop Sample in this consecration, made before the Pilgrim Image of Our Lady of Fatima. This image was blessed by Pope Francis on October 13, 2013, and is in the care of the World Apostolate of Fatima in its National Shrine in New Jersey.

In the homily at Mass Archbishop Sample adduced and stressed the importance of Consecration to Mary, and urged those

present to dedicate themselves to Her, to carry out the First Five Saturdays, and pray the Rosary every day to achieve the triumph of God's design for men: «Marriage and family life are in a real crisis. We make this consecration to her to watch over our families and marriages. Families need Our Lady's love and protection».

The Shrine of Fatima was represented in this celebration by chaplain Fr. Francisco Pereira and also attended the leaders and heads of World Apostolate of Fatima in USA.

In the following Sunday, this consecration was made in each parish.

The good fruits of this Consecration are already being felt: among the 120 parishes of Portland Archdiocese (Oregon), there are already 55 parishes where is practiced and embraced the First Five Saturdays devotion, with enough priests providing further time for the sacrament of reconciliation; it's a response to the growth of faithful who want to live their consecration to Our Lady through such devotion.

*Fr. Francisco Pereira*

## The Pilgrim Image of Our Lady of Fatima visits Brazil

Lit only by candles, the Pilgrim Image of Our Lady of Fatima was received at the Center of Evangelization João Hipólito de Moraes, headquarters of the community Canção Nova [New Song], in Cachoeira Paulista, São Paulo, Brazil.

On August 12, excitement and emotion inspired and set the tone of the evening. The program, which followed the tradition of international visits, consisted of the blessing of the candles, the meditated Rosary, the Holy Mass and the Farewell procession (the latter on the 13<sup>th</sup>). During the two days the Image remained at the Canção Nova headquarters, the number of faithful increased on

site, in addition to the audience through the television station, which brought the entire event live to all Brazil and six more foreign countries, including Portugal. One of the most intense moments was the Mass celebrated by Bishop Jonas Abib, founder of the Nova Canção Community, when he remembered the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of TV

Canção Nova. On this occasion was also renewed the consecration of the station to Our Lady of Fatima; the act of such dedication occurred in 2005 in this country.

The leave-taking and departure of the Image, in the Farewell procession, aroused intimately the Brazilian faithful and even the Portuguese who now live in Brazil, as is the case of the missionary Célia Dias: "To be Portuguese is to feel myself as daughter of Our Lady of Fatima. To be Canção Nova is to be the daughter of Our Lady, and I feel at home, because here it is also Mary's home.

*Renata Vasconcelos*

TV journalist in Nova Canção



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