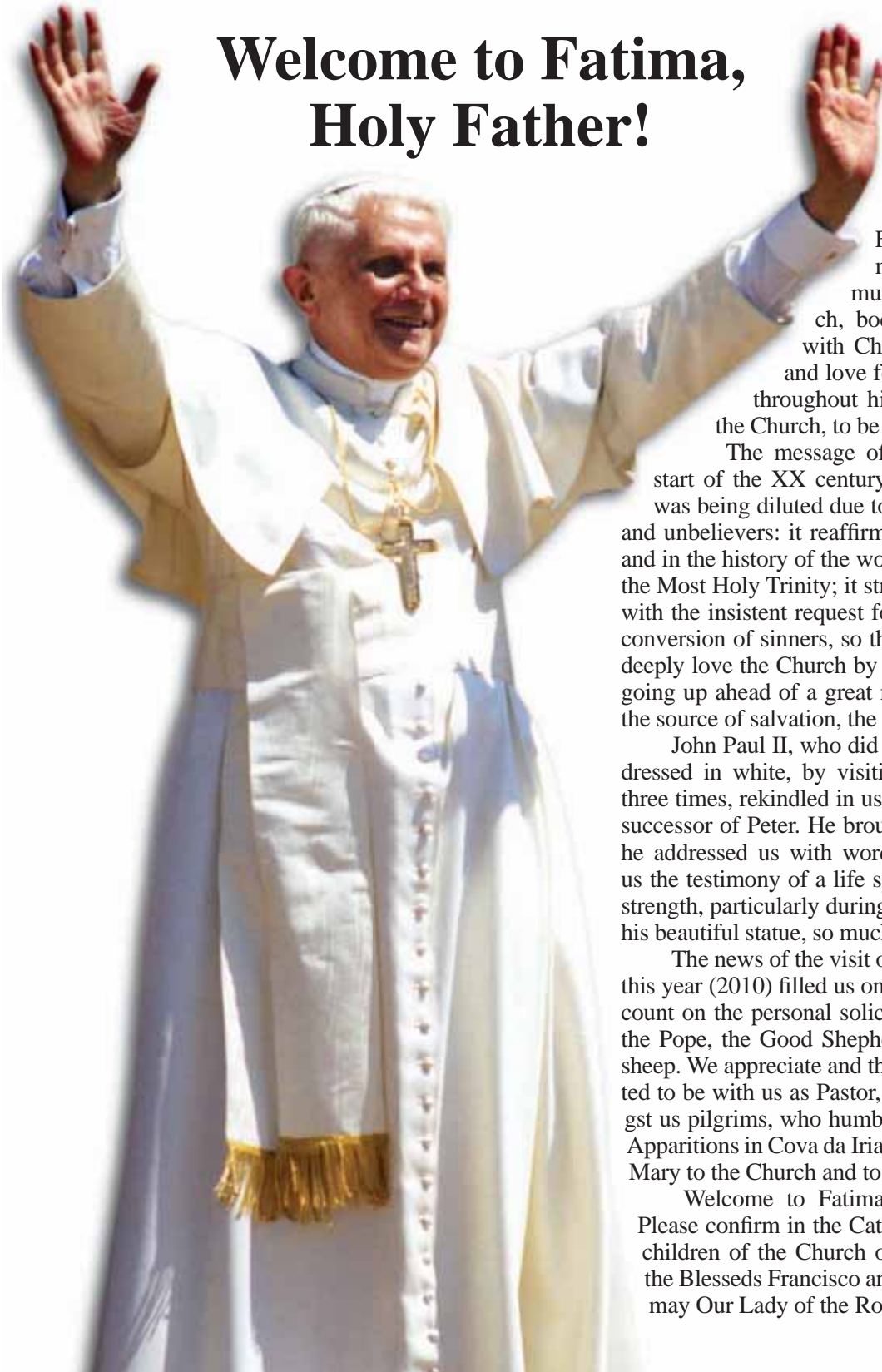




Director: Fr. Virgílio Antunes * Proprietor: Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fátima (Portugal) * Quarterly publication * Year VI * Nr. 24 * 2010/02/13

Welcome to Fatima, Holy Father!



The Portuguese Church has always lived and acted in strict union with the Pope, as the successor of Peter and guarantor of the unity of the faith. Faithfulness to the gospel always meant for the Portuguese communion with the Universal Church, body formed by many members with Christ as the Head. Our affection and love for the Pope have always meant, throughout history, that we want to be with the Church, to be with Christ.

The message of Fatima brought about, at the start of the XX century, a rebirth of a dimension that was being diluted due to the division between believers and unbelievers: it reaffirmed the place of God in the life and in the history of the world by inviting us to adore God, the Most Holy Trinity; it strengthened our love of mankind with the insistent request for prayers and sacrifices for the conversion of sinners, so that no one gets lost; urged us to deeply love the Church by loving the Holy Father, the one going up ahead of a great multitude of people looking for the source of salvation, the arms of the Cross.

John Paul II, who did recognize himself as the bishop dressed in white, by visiting the Portuguese and Fatima three times, rekindled in us the joy of communion with the successor of Peter. He brought us a new confidence, when he addressed us with words of encouragement and gave us the testimony of a life spent to the limit of his physical strength, particularly during his 2000 visit, immortalized in his beautiful statue, so much venerated by pilgrims.

The news of the visit of Pope Benedict XVI in May of this year (2010) filled us once again with joy. We can again count on the personal solicitude of Christ, in the figure of the Pope, the Good Shepherd Who gives His life for His sheep. We appreciate and thank the willingness he manifested to be with us as Pastor, but also to be a pilgrim, amongst us pilgrims, who humbly walks to the Little Chapel of Apparitions in Cova da Iria, willing to accept the appeals of Mary to the Church and to the World.

Welcome to Fatima, Holy Father Benedict XVI!
Please confirm in the Catholic and Apostolic faith all the children of the Church of this Portuguese Nation! May the Blesseds Francisco and Jacinta Marto protect you and may Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima guard you!

Fr. Virgílio Antunes
Rector of the Shrine of Fatima



Benedict XVI plans to visit tombs of seers

The program divulged to the media on December 7, 2009, regarding the papal visit, shows that Holy Father Benedict XVI plans to visit the two chapels of the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, where seers Jacinta Marto and Lucia de Jesus (chapel on the left) and Francisco Marto (chapel on the right) are entombed. The visit to the tombs of the seers chosen by God, through Our Lady, to receive and spread the message from Heaven, will take place after the celebrations of May 13, over which the Pope himself will preside.

On that day (May 13, 2010) exactly ten years will have passed since the great occasion, on May 13, 2000, of the beatification of seers Francisco and Jacinta by Pope Paul II during the celebration of Mass at the Shrine of Fatima. Let us recall some of

the words of John Paul II, uttered during his homily:

““Father, to you I offer praise, for you have

revealed these things to the merest children”. Today Jesus’ praise takes the solemn form of the beatification of the little shepherds, Francisco and Jacinta. With this rite the Church wishes to put on the candelabrum these two candles which God lit to illumine humanity in its dark and anxious hours. May they shine on the path of this immense multitude of pilgrims and of all who have accompanied us by radio and television. May Francisco and Jacinta be a friendly light that illumines all Portugal and, in special way, this Diocese of Leiria-Fátima.”

Specifically on the apparitions of Fatima, the former Pope, who visited this Shrine three times (1982, 1991, 2000), said this:

“In her motherly concern, the Blessed

Virgin came here to Fátima to ask men and women “to stop offending God, Our Lord, who is already very offended”. It is a mother’s sorrow that compels her to speak; the destiny of her children is at stake. For this reason she asks the little shepherds: “Pray, pray much and make sacrifices for sinners; many souls go to hell because they have no one to pray and make sacrifices for them”.”

In the same homily, Pope John Paul II urged children: “Ask your parents and teachers to enrol you in the “school” of Our Lady, so that she can teach you to be like the little shepherds, who tried to do whatever she asked them.”

As the Bishops Conference of Portugal (CEP) wrote in its Pastoral Note on the papal visit of 2000: “this beatification is the recognition (on the part of the Church) that also children can live heroically the Christian virtues and be an example to the members of the Church”.

L. S.

Portugal Awaits Pope!

Program for Visit of Holy Father Benedict XVI to Portugal – May 11-14 2010

Day 11:

- 11:00 – Arrival at Airport of Portela/Lisbon. Official Welcome.
- 12:45 – Welcoming ceremonies in Mosteiro dos Jerónimos. Short visit of the Monastery.
- 13:30 – Courtesy Visit to the President of the Republic, at Belém Palace.
- 18:15 – Holy Mass, in the City of Lisbon, at venue to be selected.

Day 12:

- 10h00 – Encounter with the world of culture, at Belém Cultural Center.
- 12:00 – Meeting with Prime Minister, at the Apostolic Nunciature.
- 16:40 – Departure by helicopter for Fatima.
- 17:30 – Visit to Little Chapel of Apparitions, at the Shrine of Fatima.
- 18:00 – Vespers with priests, religious, seminarians and deacons, in Most Holy Trinity Church.
- 21:30 – Recitation of the Rosary and blessing of candles, followed by celebration of Holy Mass, at the Prayer Area of the Shrine of Fatima, presided over by the Secretary of the Vatican His Eminence Tarcisio Cardinal Bertone.

Day 13:

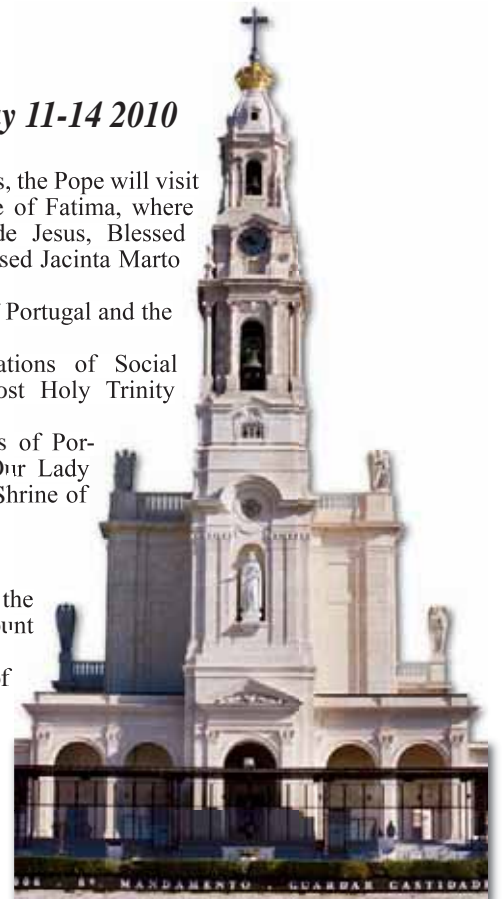
- 10:00 – Holy Mass at the Prayer Area of the Shrine of

Fatima. At the end of Mass, the Pope will visit the Basilica of the Shrine of Fatima, where Servant of God Lucia de Jesus, Blessed Francisco Marto and Blessed Jacinta Marto are entombed.

- 13:00 – Lunch with the bishops of Portugal and the papal entourage.
- 17:00 – Encounter with organizations of Social Pastoral Ministry, in Most Holy Trinity Church.
- 18:45 – Meeting with the bishops of Portugal, at the House of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, in the Shrine of Fatima.

Day 14:

- 08:00 – Farewell ceremony at the House of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.
- 09:30 – Arrival at the Heliport of Serra do Pilar, in Gaia (Porto Area).
- 10:15 – Holy Mass, at the Avenida dos Aliados.
- 13:30 – Farewell ceremony at the International Airport of Porto.
- 14:00 – Departure for Italy.



PILGRIM POPES OF FATIMA

Portugal is preparing, in an atmosphere of festivity and hope, to welcome Holy Father Benedict XVI to this country on May 11 thru 14 of this year. The Pope will visit Lisbon, Fatima and Porto.

In its first Pastoral Note on this visit, made public on October 6, 2009, the Bishops Conference of Portugal said that "the Holy Father comes, essentially, as a pilgrim of Fatima, where he will notice a living sample of all the churches of Portugal. (...) When the Pope turns pilgrim, as Pastor of the universal Church, it is the whole Church that peregrinates with him. That is why this pilgrimage embodies a great pastoral, doctrinal and spiritual significance".

Benedict XVI intends, as did his predecessors, to visit this Shrine in order to be a pilgrim amongst pilgrims, speak from here to the world. Let us recall some of the previous papal visits to the Shrine of Fatima.

"Men, be men!"



Paul VI was the first Pope ever to visit Portugal; he did it in May 1967, during the 50th anniversary of the Apparitions of Our Lady to seers Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta.

Two years earlier, on May 13, 1965, this Pope had sent to Fatima His Eminence Fernando Cardinal Cento, as his Pontifical Legate, in order to deliver to the Shrine the Gold Rose, as an expression of his particular appreciation for the service this Shrine has rendered to the Church.

On May 13, 1967, in Fatima, Paul VI declared to be "a humble and confident pilgrim" and announced the main intentions of his pilgrimage to be to pray "for the interior peace of One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church and for the world, peace in the world". From the homily of the Mass of the 13th we recall this exhortation: "Men, Be men! Men, be good, be sensible, be open to the consideration of the total good in the world! Men, be magnanimous!"

Thanking the Heavenly Mother

After the failed attempt on his life on May 13, 1981, John Paul II came to a deep conviction, of which he gave testimony with the following words: "I owe it to Our Lady of Fatima to be alive today". That is why, one year after the fateful date, the Pope of Fatima, as he will be remembered in history, peregrinated for the first time to this Portuguese Marian Shrine.

On the night of May 12, for the first time present in the Little Chapel of Apparitions, John Paul II declared the motive for visiting

this country, a declaration repeated in the homily of the following day and on many other occasions: "(...) immediately after the attempt on my life in St. Peter's Square a year ago, as soon as I regained conscience, my thoughts turned to this Shrine to place in the Heart of the Heavenly Mother my thanks for having saved me from danger".



Ten years after the attempt on his life, in

1991, the Pilgrim Pope would return to Fatima. But, in the meantime, in 1984, he requested that the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima enthroned in the Little Chapel be brought to him in Rome, so that he could make the consecration of the World (and Russia) to the Immaculate Heart of Mary before Her Statue.

On May 13, 1991, in Fatima, John Paul II stated: "Deeply moved and astonished in the face of the creative and salvific plan of God to accomplish in us the plenitude to which He called us, I, Pilgrim with you of this New Jerusalem, urge you, dear brothers and sisters, to accept the Grace and the Call that in this place one feels more tangible and penetrating, that is, the call for us to adjust our ways to God's ways. I salute all of you, beloved pilgrims of Our Lady of Fatima present here either physically or spiritually".

"The highest expression of the appreciation of Fatima by John Paul II was the beatification, on May 13, 2000, of the two youngest seers, Francisco and Jacinta, and the announcement of the publication of the Third Part of the Secret of Fatima", according to Msgr. Luciano Guerra, former Rector of the Shrine of Fatima, in article published in the "Encyclopedia of Fatima" (Principia Publishers, May 2007).

In that visit to Fatima, besides the donation of his precious jewel – the ring "Totus Tuus" (All Yours, Mary!) – this Pope requested that the Statue of Our Lady be brought once again to Rome for the close of the Holy Year to be done by consecrating the New Millennium to Our Mother.

Another unique gesture showing the connection of this Pope with Fatima took place when John Paul II offered to Our Lady of Fatima the bullet that wounded him in 1981. This bullet was encrusted in 1989 in the precious crown of Our Lady of Fatima that had been donated by the Portuguese women in 1942.

Leopoldina Simões



Exhibition recalls papal visits to Fatima

The Shrine of Fatima will open to the public on March 27, 2010, in one of the spaces of the Complex of Most Holy Trinity Church, a documental exhibition which will recall the papal visits to this Shrine. The initiative's purpose is to recall, in the year Pope Benedict XVI visits Fatima, the different visits in which the Roman Pontiffs turned pilgrims of Our Lady of Fatima.

Two giants of the message of Fatima have gone to the Father's house

Father Luís Kondor (1928-2009)

On October 30, 2009, the world said farewell to a herald of the message of Fatima, Fr. Luís Kondor, Vice-Postulator for the Cause of Canonization of the Little Shepherds of Fatima, who died at 81 years of age in his residence of Fatima.

The funeral service was held in Most Holy Trinity Church, at the Shrine of Fatima, and the funeral proceeded to Fatima's Parish Cemetery.

Mass was presided over by Bishop António Marto of Leiria-Fatima and concelebrated by the Bishop of Lamego and the Bishops Emeritus of Leiria-Fatima and Portalegre-Castelo Branco, as well as by more than 150 priests.

More than 3,000 people took part in the celebration; to these were united in spirit many others, who, not being able to be present, had previously manifested to the family members of Fr. Kondor, to the Diocese of Leiria-Fatima, to the Congregation of the Word of God, to the Shrine of Fatima and to the Postulation Office of the Seers how much they appreciated, loved and esteemed this priest.

During the homily, Bishop Marto said that Fr. Kondor, sent to Fatima as soon as Hungary was invaded by the Russians in 1956, knew better than most how to interpret the calls of the message and that's why he decided to spread them throughout the entire world. This is what he had to say:

"During the Apparitions in Fatima, Our Lady sounded anew precisely this message of the Magnificat, so that XX Century's mankind could hear it, a mankind in danger of sink-

ing into the hellish abyss of autodestruction, and also so that a Church so ferociously persecuted to the point of annihilation could also hear it. It was this beauty and greatness of the grace and mercy of God that fascinated the little seers, the little shepherds, and attracted them to the road to holiness. It was this message that Fr. Kondor, a man from the East, so clearly understood in its relevance and urgency for the Church, for the world and for Christian life. That is why he became one of the great heralds of the Message, with intimate, profound and total dedication. He promoted its universal spread with the publication of the 'Memoirs of Sister Lucia' and with the 'Bulletin of the Little Shepherds' in several languages and through his trips to several countries".

The Bishop of Leiria-Fatima also mentioned the great affection he had for the little shepherds; "he committed himself to the cause of their beatification and to the spread of their spirituality; he was deeply devoted to the Immaculate Heart of Mary; for all of this, our dear Fr. Kondor is indelibly linked to the history of Fatima".



Leopoldina Simões

Fr. Fernando Leite (1920-2009)



Fr. Fernando Leite, Jesuit, died in Braga, on December 2, 2009. He was born on February 25, 1920, day in which the mortal remains of Jacinta, the little seer of Fatima, were translated to the Cemetery of Ourém. One can well say that it was a beautiful passage of testimony this life of almost 90 years.

During the celebration of his priestly golden jubilee, on July 15, 2001, he recalled his parents, his 10 brothers, amongst whom Fr. José and Fr. António, also Jesuits, and his sister Maria das Dores, a religious of St. Dorothea, the only sibling still alive.

A confession of his: "My heart was won over by the message of Fatima (...) The Little Shepherds were for me what John Paul II said of them in Fatima during the homily of their beatification: "two candles lighted by God to illuminate mankind".

Starting in 1946, he wrote many books and leaflets on the message of Fatima, such as: biographies of Francisco and Jacinta; "The Apparitions of Fatima"; "If they do what I say, they'll have peace"; and many other writings, trans-

lated into several languages and with numerous editions. The library of the Shrine has a total of 77 monographies of his.

He collaborated in "Voz da Fátima" (Voice of Fatima), official monthly newspaper of the Shrine of Fatima, at least from 1958 until December 2006, with articles on the little shepherds of Fatima, on the history of the apparitions and on the message of Our Lady and on other current subjects. A total of 372 articles! It is a valuable patrimony which will certainly not be lost.

Fr. Leite is one of the founders of the national children's pilgrimage, which started on the 50th anniversary of the apparitions of the Angel in 1966.

In 2001, Msgr. Luciano Guerra, then Rector of the Shrine, sent him the following message: "The Shrine of Fatima feels an immense joy in being able to associate itself to the celebration of your priestly golden jubilee, also because of the many works you have published to spread the message of Fatima and to make known the life and spirituality of the little shepherds, because of the intense filial devotion you manifest towards Our Lady and because of the deep seriousness and humility of your priestly and religious life. As a token sign of our gratitude, the Shrine of Fatima asks you to accept official gold medal #7. May Our Lady of Fatima and Blessed Francisco and Jacinta Marto prolong your precious life for many and fruitful years to come, with much health and joy!"

Fr. Luciano Cristino

Our Lady of Fatima is name of maternity in East Timor

On December 8, 2009, representatives of the Portuguese Church delivered to the Diocese of Díli, in East Timor, the first Maternity-School of that country. The Maternity-School Our Lady of Fatima is a solidarity project, encouraged and supported by a group of institutions and personalities of the Portuguese Church, which took on the designation "Fundação Mater Timor" (Foundation Mother Timor) (FMT) and which has in its Council of Founders the Bishops Conference of Portugal, the Patriarchate of Lisbon, the Dioceses of Díli and Baucau (Timor), the Shrine of Fatima, Radio Renascença, the Portuguese Catholic Medical Association and the International Federation of Catholic Medical Associations.

Besides the monetary support for the execution of the project, amounting to \$380,000 Euros, the Shrine of Fatima donated to the institution a statue of Our Lady of Fatima.

The Foundation recalls: "The Portuguese Church wanted to offer a sign of hope and place a seed of life where before



death reigned, by helping the sister Church of Timor to offer to her people a service in the fight against death and disease amongst mothers and children. In doing so, it was materializing a wish of Pope John Paul II, who had encouraged local churches to celebrate the Jubilee with gestures of relevant social meaning and had expressed his support precisely to this project with a personal donation".

Fatima in the world... of health

This news item made us look into the Archives of the Devotion to Our Lady of Fatima in the World, in care of SESDI (Department of Research and Information of the Shrine of Fatima), to find out how frequent is the use, throughout the world, of the name "Our Lady of Fatima" in the title of institutions in the area of health, such as hospitals, clinics, maternities, health centers, sanatoriums, convalescent homes and pharmacies. We came up with over 90.

Leopoldina Simões

President of Colombia prays for his country

On Sunday November 29, 2009, the President of Colombia, Mr. Álvaro Uribe Vélez, visited the Shrine of Fatima.

The President, accompanied by Adviser Jaime Bermúdez, Ambassador of Colombia in Portugal Arturo Sarabia and Mr. Jerónimo Uribe, amongst others, was welcomed to the Shrine, on behalf of the Rector, by Fr. Ángel Antonio Alonso, chaplain of Spanish-speaking pilgrims.

Mr. Uribe Vélez visited the Little Chapel, where the apparitions took place, and, after praying for some time before the statue of Our Lady for his country Colombia, asked some questions about the message of Fatima, about what Our Lady said in Cova da Iria, as well as about the number of pilgrims who yearly visit the Shrine.

Afterwards, he visited the permanent exhibition of the Shrine of Fatima "Luz e Paz" (Light and Peace). He showed special interest in the crown of Our Lady, which has encrusted in it one of the bullets which wounded Pope John Paul II during the attempt on his life on May 13, 1981.

Visibly moved, the President thanked the Shrine for the way he was received and for the opportunity he was given to pray for his country before the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima.

Fr. Ángel Alonso

Archbishop of São Paulo in Fatima

The Archbishop of São Paulo, His Eminence Odilo Pedro Cardinal Scherer, accompanied by two of his auxiliary bishops, Most Rev. Joaquim Carreira and Most Rev. João Mamede Filho, visited Portugal and Spain on November 2 thru 7, 2009, on their way to Rome for their Ad Limina visit.

The first place they visited was the Shrine of Fatima, where they celebrated Mass in the Little Chapel of Apparitions, together with the Bishop of Leiria-Fatima, Most Rev. António Marto, and Bishop Emeritus of Fatima, Most Rev. Serafim Ferreira e Silva.

During an interview, Cardinal Scherer declared: "There is a syntony between Brazil

and Portugal, linked by the faith we both received. The Brazilian people is very devoted to Our Lady of Fatima. There is a



long established missionary cooperation between us that must be reinforced. In São Paulo I have many Portuguese priests and one of my auxiliary bishops, Bishop Joaquim Carreira, was born in Portugal. Portugal has received missionaries from Brazil. You have Canção Nova, the Shalom community, the Heralds of the Gospel, amongst others. There is an exchange of missionaries. We pray for the continuation of this effort during the coming years, so that Brazil, which received missionaries throughout the centuries, may return the favor not only to Portugal but also to other countries".

Before departing from Fatima, there was still time for a quick visit to Most Holy Trinity Church.

Little Chapel of Apparitions in Brazil – 1st phase inaugurated



Tuesday, October 13, 2009, saw the inauguration of the first phase of the construction of the Little Chapel of Apparitions in Recreio dos Bandeirantes, Rio de Janeiro.

The festivities, which counted with the presence of the group New Heart, began with the recitation of the Rosary, led by Mr. Berthaldo Soares. At 19h00, the Archbishop of Rio de Janeiro, Most Rev. Orani João Tempesta, presided over Holy Mass.

During the celebration he stated: “We know that God grants the most varied gifts so that the Name of Christ may be announced (...) That is what we wish happens here. In a place destined to have a replica of the Little Chapel of Apparitions it is clear that it will also be a place of evangelization...”

After Mass, there was a Candlelight Procession with protective cups brought directly from Fatima, Portugal, which moved everyone.

Berthaldo Soares, Brasil

Brazil – Statue of Our Lady receives new crown

On October 4, 2009, a radiant sunny Sunday in the *gaúcha* capital of Porto Alegre, Brazil, the Northern zone of the city celebrated, together with the pilgrims of Fatima, the 53rd Feast of its Patroness Our Lady of Fatima.

The construction of the new shrine was made official and Fr. Inácio Luiz Selbach was named assistant Rector of the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima. These were events of great relevance for the faithful and the pilgrims who, daily, follow the religious celebrations.



Sunday Mass had the fervent participation of many pilgrims and parishioners of Saint Rose de Lima Church, who came in procession with the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima up to the altar, for the outdoor Mass.

During Mass, the Rector, Fr. José Luiz Schaedler, recalled the important role of the faithful in the development of the project of construction of the new religious space, the new Shrine. Everyone was invited to make part of the committee of 100 pilgrims who

will take charge of the work needed to organize and develop the projects for the construction of the Shrine, with a lot of faith, hope and courage. Sometime during Mass there was a time for people to sign up for this committee.

Also during the celebration, there were important moments for confirming faith in and devotion to the Mother of Fatima, such a First Communion and Confirmation (Chrism) of several youths and adults who for some months prepared to receive these Sacraments.

From the Shrine of Fatima, Portugal, came a new crown and a rosary donated by a family of Porto Alegre, as a testimony of their devotion.

The Mass was honored with the presence of Auxiliary Bishop Remídio Bohn of Porto Alegre, Fr. José Luiz Schaedler, Rector of the Shrine, Fr. Inácio Luiz Selbach, Assistant Rector of the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, Fr. José António Heinzmann, Pastor of Saint Rose de Lima Church, Fr. Luiz Angst, Deacon João Carlos Caravetta and Deacon Leo Artur Eberhardt.

After the outdoor Mass, the faithful took part in the Feast of the patroness, by having a tasty lunch, followed by artistic presentations, games and a raffle. These festivities had the purpose of raising funds for the construction.

We reiterate here the invitation to all pilgrims of the Mother of Fatima to contribute to this difficult but not impossible mission of building a new Shrine for our prayers, celebrations, devotions, petitions and supplications to Her Who always helps, protects and blesses us: Our Lady of Fatima.

Rubens Melo, Porto Alegre – Brazil

Oratory to Our Lady in Spain

On September 12, 2009, Feast of the Holy Name of Mary, a chapel/oratory dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima was inaugurated in Alcorcón, Spain; in it were exposed the relics of Blessed Francisco and Jacinta Marto.

The blessing ceremony was presided over by the national president of the World Apostolate of Fatima, Fr. Carlos Lumberras, and by the diocesan president, Fr. Miguel Rivilla.

The diocesan delegation is very active working for the Kingdom of Christ and for the longed for triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Francisco Erustes Sánchez, Getafe, Spain



Brazil now has new Church of Our Lady of Fatima

On May 13, 2009, in the presence of Bishop Sebastião Bandeira, of Pastor Fr. Orlando Gonçalves Barbosa and of Fr. Hudson Ribeiro, a new church dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima was inaugurated in the district of Buritã, in Colony Antônio Aleixo, in Manaus, Amazonia, Brazil.

The district of Buritã is one of poorest ones and it has a population of 45,000. Many are children and adolescents. People from this district find it difficult to get a job in the city of Manaus, due to poor school preparation and also because the district was once a leper colony.

The inauguration was a great feast and all the people of Buritã took part in it. Children and adolescents contributed with wonderful songs and dances of thanksgiving.

There was already a small church dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima in the district, but it was small and was in a bad state of



repair. When there was a chance to use part of the "Fund of the Inheritance of Cesare Bellatorre", of Milan, in religious works, immediately the thought turned to the construction of a new church, bigger and more beautiful.

The project was worked out by Fr. Orlando Barbosa, with the support of a group of laypeople from the district, a very active

group that works with joy and enthusiasm.

The statue of Our Lady of Fatima was placed next to the altar. This statue, made exactly after the original, came from Fatima, Portugal, after being brought first to Milan by Mr. Isella Eracchio, from Valmadrera (Lecco), but destined to Brazil, in memory of his beloved wife. From Milan it was brought to Brazil by Fr. Hudson Ribeiro.

All the inhabitants contributed, each one with his meager resources, to the construction, which is due mainly to the laypeople under the leadership of Sister Severa Riva, a Consolata missionary in Brazil for the past 30 years.

Now the district of Buritã has its church due to the grace of God and to the generosity of those who believe in the work of evangelization, in human promotion, in charity and in love.

Italy has new Little Chapel dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima

Near the Parish of St. Joseph, in Pontedera (PI), Italy, whose Pastor is Fr. Giulio Giannini, a little chapel dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima, built in the sports field of the Parish, where the Scouts meet, was inaugurated on October 2, 2009, during the week of the Feast of Our Lady of Divine Help.

The statue was brought directly from Fatima at the time of the pilgrimage the Parish made to Fatima in July, 2009, at the request of the Scouts of the European Scouts Federation.

Why the Statue of Our Lady? Because, after several years of Scout activity, the 3rd "Bianca Femminile", the "fire" to which belong the girls 16 thru 21 years of age, the so-called Escorts, that is, Sentinels, began on May 13, 2003, during the visit of the Pilgrim Virgin.

It all began with Chiara, the first Sentinel, and, sometime in 2009, it was decided to build this little chapel in order to place under the protection of Our Lady and of Her Immaculate Heart the way the girls are going to walk together to live this wonderful experience. Moreover, the first meeting of

the Parish with the Scouts took place during the visit of Our Lady to the Church of St. Joseph!

On the evening of the inauguration were present the president of the Scouts, Mr. Marco Bocelli, and his wife, Mrs. Donatella, Fr. Giulio, the "Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary" from the Parish of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Cerretti (PI). We thank all those who helped build this Little Chapel, offering their time and materials, namely, mason Giuseppe Perillo, "father" of a Rover of ours; carpenter Antonio Spagnolo, grandfather of two Explorers; marble workers Peter and Nado Lazzerini, friends of the Scouts. A special thanks will come down from

Heaven for you and your families. Our Lady will certainly forever remember your gesture of great devotion to Her.

I ought to tell you that, when the Pilgrim Virgin arrives, She always brings with Her many gifts for Her children. After all, this is the first Little Chapel dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima in Pontedera!

Alessandra Bimbi



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Fatima, June 2009

Congress on Jacinta Marto



By a fortunate coincidence we'll have the Holy Father in Fatima in the year we celebrate the centennial of the birth of Jacinta Marto, the little shepherd seer who most expressed her dedication to the Pope and to the Church.

From amongst the events of Fatima, this is a most significant element, since it reveals a most relevant feature of the spirituality of little Jacinta.

It is in this context that the Shrine of Fatima, in order to mark these commemorations, is going to hold a congress on Jacinta Marto.

It will take place on June 4 thru 6, 2010, at Paul VI Pastoral Center, in the Shrine of Fatima, and it will be titled "Jacinta Marto: from encounter to compassion".

This occasion seems to us a good opportunity to approach the message of Fatima from the point of view of the spirituality of seer Jacinta. We'll seek, therefore, to know better the personality of this child as well as to

identify some relevant aspects of her interior attitude in order to use them as keys to open up for us both the message of Fatima and the Christian life.

The program includes conferences, talking panels, moments of prayer, a musical evening and time for dialogue, as it is customary in events of this type. This congress will count on the participation of experts on different areas, both Portuguese and foreign, who will deal with a wide range of topics. It is open to every person interested in the message of Fatima or in any of the topics that the vast program has to offer.

The category of compassion will be the starting point to understand the personality and spirituality of Jacinta. This reflection will also call us to make an effort to clarify theologically the concepts related to that dimension, such as reparation, sacrificial oblation, meaning of suffering, God's attitude towards evil, communion of the baptized. On the other hand, there will also be an opportunity to explain some implications of compassion in different aspects of life: education, healthcare, spirituality, morality, social commitment, amongst others. We'll see how this attitude of little Jacinta corresponds to a fundamental element of the message of Fatima, which places questions to the Church and society in general.

Fr. Vítor Coutinho
President of the Congress's Committee

EXHIBITION: "Jacinta Marto, Candle Lighted by God"

In the year when the Shrine of Fatima turns to the figure of Jacinta Marto and takes her as a special model, the Department of Art and Patrimony (part of SESDI – Department of Research and Information) is preparing an exhibition on this important figure of the history and message of Fatima. With this exhibition there concludes the project begun last year when various objects of the historical, artistic, documental and bibliographical patrimony on the figure of Blessed Francisco Marto were exhibited.

So, on March 11, 2010, the 100th anniversary of the birthday of Jacinta Marto, the Shrine of



Fatima is going to inaugurate, in the entrance hall of St. Augustine's Convivium (meeting hall), in Most Holy Trinity Church Complex, an exhibition titled "Jacinta Marto: candle lighted by God", in which the visitors may see various objects which once belonged to the youngest seer and some of the documents which made the history of Fatima, material specially tailored for museum in order to help to better understand the life and spirituality of Blessed Jacinta Marto, who, together with her brother, John Paul II called "candle lighted by God".

Marco Daniel Duarte