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## Sanctified in Christ

In late 2010, the Shrine of Fatima started the septenary of preparation and celebration of the Centenary of the Apparitions, which will take us to 2017. This is the fifth year of this journey and expedition. The starting point for defining the theme that guides the life of the Sanctuary, along this pastoral year 2014-2015, is the apparition of Our Lady in August 1917.

In this apparition, Our Lady addresses the following exhortation to the seers: “Pray, pray much and make sacrifices for sinners, for many souls go to hell because they have no one to sacrifice and pray for them.” In this advice and exhortation we perceive its most prominent theological core: the communion of saints.

In the shortest Creed, the so-called Apostles “Creed [or Symbol of the Apostles]” we assert that we believe in the communion of saints. When the Church speaks of the *Communion of Saints*, she makes allusion to the union or communion of all believers in Christ, “so that what each one does

or suffers in and for Christ bears fruit for all” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, n. 961). In this communion “the least of our acts done in charity redounds to the profit of all”, in a “solidarity with all men, living or dead, which is founded on the communion of saints”. On the contrary, “every sin harms this communion” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, n. 953).

Thus, the pastoral year 2014-2015 at the Fatima Shrine will have the expression “Sanctified in Christ” as its main topic. The holiness, as life of communion with God and in accordance with His will, is the vocation of every Christian. The theological core implied in this theme is the holiness of God, in which He makes us participate. The catechetical element to be developed is the Church as communion of saints.

The attitude of faith, aimed at being reinforced, is prayer, which opens to and makes us experience the communion of saints. This is the exhortation of Our Lady, in this apparition:



“Pray, pray very much”. The insistent call to prayer is one of the most characteristic features of the Fatima message: it is the first request of Our Lady to the Little Shepherds, and the petition more reiterated in all of the apparitions. Prayer is at the core of the Fatima message as an invitation and allurements to a strong experience of God.

*Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas*

## Organ of the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima under restoration

The pipe organ of the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, built by Fratelli Ruffatti firm and inaugurated in 1952, is now under restoration by the company of organ building Mascioni Organi of Azzio / Cuvio in Italy. This intervention has as horizon and purpose the celebration of the centenary of the Fatima Apparitions. The inaugural concert is scheduled for March 20, 2016, Palm Sunday.

The Ruffatti organ, though already for many years in an advanced state of deterioration, will supply a substantial part of the pipes to be used, but framed

and inserted into a new box, meeting the design and requirements of contemporary aesthetics. The project is the



result of a close collaboration between the organ builder and the architectural services of the Sanctuary of Fatima.

The composition of the instrument will include, as the previous one, 5 keyboards, albeit with a restructured arrangement, and count about 90 stops.

The whole process for the new great symphonic organ is controlled by experts in the areas of music and architecture of the Sanctuary, as well as guest personalities, external to the institution.

*Rector of the Shrine of Fatima*

***Inaugurated on November 29, the exhibit will be open until October 15, 2015***

## «In this valley of tears»

In the year the Sanctuary of Fatima reflects, in a special way, on the fourth Marian apparition in the Cova da Iria, which, according to the testimony of the seers, occurred in August 1917, the exhibition «In this valley of tears», adopting as maxim the words of the hymn 'Hail Holy Queen' [Salve Regina], presents to visitors a reflection on the political and ideological context that marked the country and the world, during the second decade of the 20th century.

Understanding the journey the three children of Aljustrel made to Ourém, in order to be interrogated, as a living metaphor of the events then taking place in Portugal and in the world, the visitor will find, at the core of the exhibition, a reflection on World War I and the First Republic. Both historical crises and circumstances set the stage of the Fatima apparitions; the first worldwide, the second at national scale.

In the first part, entitled «*And after this our exile ...*», the pilgrim is led from the Cova da Iria to Aljustrel, to the place of Valinhos where, as stated by the seers, the August apparition took place. Before getting there, he will come into contact with two versions of the same journey, both regarding those days of August 1917, one told through the eyes of a believer, and the other as watched and commented by anticlerical newspapers parodying and deriding Fatima. Thus the visitor will have the possibility of becoming acquainted with objects that, along this episode situated between the 13th and the 19th of August, were touched and handled by Francisco, Jacinta and Lucia.

This event, named by Lucia herself as “trip or imprisonment”, is the starting point of the explanative annotations that, in the second part, entitled “*Mourning and weeping*”, remember the great military conflicts of the 20th century (World War I, whose centennial of its beginning this exhibition also evokes, World War II and the Colonial War, i.e. an historical context particularly associated with the devout supplications deposited at the Sanctuary of Fatima by Portuguese people). Among the exhibition pieces some are prominent and conspicuous: “The Christ of the Trenches”, an army uniform of World War II, the sculpture of Clara Menéres “Jaz morto e arrefece o



menino de sua mãe” [*Lies dead and cools his mother's son*]; this last work, whose name alludes to a celebrated poem of Fernando Pessoa, is one of the most expressive aesthetic challenges to overseas war, even before it came to an end.

Under this same title are also displayed the contents related to the ideological clash over the religious issue of the First Republic, which, in Fatima, had again a symbolic moment with the bombing of the Chapel of the Apparitions in 1922.

In the third and final part of the exhibition, titled with the invocation traditionally used at the end of *Salve Regina* (“*Pray for us, Holy Mother of God*”), is proposed for consideration the way which, in accordance with the testimony of the seers, was indicated by the Virgin Mary to achieve peace: the recitation of the Rosary. Therefore, some Rosaries, from the collection of the Fatima Shrine Museum, integrate this exhibit as well;

among them, it's possible to see, for the first time, the Rosary offered to Our Lady of Fatima by Pope Francis, in October 2013, and the Rosary presented by Caxinas fishermen after the 2012 shipwreck.

The pieces in the presentation intend to raise and animate a contemplative enjoyment, accompanied by the improvisation of the pianist Leonor Leitão-Cadete, as “a musical Meditation on War and Peace, in the light of the Fatima message”.

The exhibition will be open to the public on the ground floor of the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity, at the Convivium of St Augustine, every day of the week, from 9:00 to 19:00; it aims at taking visitors to a reflection, brought about through historical-artistic patrimony belonging to the various institutions and private individuals which collaborated with the Shrine of Fatima Museum.

Taking as its motto and motif the drama lived by the Little Shepherds of Fatima, in mid-August 1917, “In this valley of tears” is a devout contemplation of the exiles and departures, the griefs and groans, pleas and supplications that embody the tragedies of our time, read in the light of hope irradiated from the message of Fatima.

Marco Daniel Duarte – Commissioner of the Exhibition

## Pray for us, Holy Mother of God

The call to pray the Rosary singles out in an indelible and transversal way the message that radiates from Fatima since 1917, as a key means of mankind, through this simple but powerful prayer, to promote peace in the world and in the hearts of all creatures.

The last stage of the exhibition “In this valley of tears”, entitled “Pray for us, Holy Mother of God”, highlights the importance of the recitation of the Rosary. Among the

many rosaries there exposed, some for the first time, is the rosary offered by Pope Francis in October 2013, when the Pilgrim Image of Our Lady of Fatima, venerated at the Chapel of the Apparitions, went to Vatican to attend the closing of the Marian Journey of the Year of Faith, having then become an icon of Marian devotion in the world.



L. S.



## *Movement of the Message of Fatima*

# Living and spreading the message of Fatima

*In this edition, impelled by the wish to know better the Movement of the Message of Fatima, we met Fr. Manuel Antunes, national assistant of this association, whose purpose is to live and spread the message of Fatima in Portugal.*

*Interview by  
Leopoldina Simões*

### **What is the Movement of the Message of Fatima?**

It is a canonical association of the faithful, erected by the Portuguese Episcopal Conference, for the purpose of personal formation and apostolate. It replaces and substitutes the Pious Union of the Crusaders of Fatima, canonically erected in 1934 by the Portuguese bishops. Its goal is to live and disseminate the message of Fatima. At present, we are about 100 000 members, assisted by secretariats at national, diocesan and parish level. At national level, the Secretariat, with its headquarters at the Shrine of Fatima, is confirmed and ratified by the general assistant, delegate of the Portuguese Episcopal Conference, who, according to the statutes, is the bishop of Leiria-Fatima; at the present time, His Excellency Antonio Augusto Santos Marto. All members are called messengers.

### **Who is the messenger?**

He's an associate, which can be a child, a young or less young, who assumes the obligation to live and carry the message of Fatima to the families of his parish and live according to the request of the Fatima message in his life.

### **How does the Movement fulfill its mission?**

According to the statutes, the Movement is active and operative in three pastoral fields: Prayer, Assisting the Sick and People with disabilities, and Pilgrimages. We have two sectors as well: Little Messengers and Youth.

In the field of Prayer, the Movement promotes and encourages the recitation of the Rosary, particularly in families; live experience of the Five First Saturdays devotion in response to the



request for reparation Our Lady made to the seer Sister Lucia, in Spain; and Eucharistic adoration for adults and, specially, for little messengers of Our Lady. Throughout the year we organize fifteen journeys of prayer and meditation, which follow a specific program; we apply them the epithet "Desert Days".

As to assistance to Sick, the Movement, in collaboration with Fatima Shrine, backs and helps in the Retreats for Sick and Handicapped, attending people before, during and after this period of retirement; every year, it schedules an average of 25 three days retreats, with the participation of about 2100 sick and disabled. The Movement also cooperates with the Sanctuary in Holidays for Parents with handicapped children in their charge; with a special program, in four shifts a year, a week for each.

In the apostolic field of Pilgrimages, we promote the National Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Fatima, the third week of July. We also pay particular attention to pilgrims who come on foot to Fatima in the great pilgrimages, with a team of representatives belonging respectively to the Movement of the Message of Fatima, the Order of Malta, the Red Cross, Firemen and Scouts. Besides, we plan and organize 15 two-days pilgrimages to the Shrine of Fatima for people age 65 and older, and 9 pilgrimages to Tuy and Pontevedra, Spain, where Sister Lucia lived.

### **What about the sectors of Children and Youth?**

We solicit from diocesan and parish leaders to help and support children and adolescents in their following the admonitions Our Lady transmitted to Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta. Young people have a specific personal formation, comprising various training meetings throughout the year; the little messengers also perform several programs with their own schemes, mainly the moments of Eucharistic Adoration in the way of the Little Shepherds, and the recitation of the Rosary, on the 13<sup>th</sup> of all months, 18:30, at the Chapel of the Apparitions.

### **How do you prepare the Centenary of the Apparitions?**

We decided to participate in the itinerary suggested by the Shrine of Fatima, which began in late 2010 and will reach its highest point in 2017. The Good News is the Word of God, and the message of Fatima is a recollection and remembrance of this Word, today so disregarded and misunderstood. For us, the preparation of the Centennial is as another opportunity to make known and promote the message of Fatima.

A symptom of the great crisis of our time is the absence or deficit of human and spiritual values. If today messengers are not willing to cultivate these values, how will they be able to live and bring to others the message of Fatima? Here is the source of our evangelization.

## Path of holiness



The pilgrim of Fatima comes to the Sanctuary after a long way that is, most often, an outward sign of an inner journey of faith. The extent and scope of the pilgrimage is in the center of life of the Sanctuary, which, as a celebrative place of faith, is more than just a space of arrival and departure, for it is also the place of a path, of a journey of holiness, made at the pace of God's people faith. Upon arrival at the Shrine of Fatima, the pilgrim is invited to begin another pilgrimage, and is proposed to him a journey of prayer, walking step by step, through the Sanctuary places.

During this pastoral year, the Sanctuary suggests a pilgrim's itinerary, that deepens and explores the motto adopted for this year, "Sanctified in Christ", in the light of one of the key phrases of the August apparition: "Pray, pray much and make sacrifices for sinners, for many souls go to hell because they have no one to sacrifice and pray for them". These words of the Lady of the Rosary stress two fundamental attitudes in the path of holiness: prayer, which opens us to and merges us into God's presence; and sacrifice, which is the inner disposition of one who offers his life as a gift on behalf of the brothers.

The pilgrim who wants to engage in this little tour of prayer prompted by the Sanctuary will have at his disposal, near the Crib in the Precinct, a leaflet outlining the prayerful course through the main sites of the Shrine of Cova da Iria. The steps along the precinct will afford evidence of the inner pilgrimage which intends to accept and implement the invitation to holiness present in the August apparition of the Virgin Mary at Fatima; in fact, it is an echo of the Gospel call to holiness: "Be holy because I

am holy" (1 Peter 1:16), and was welcomed as a commitment to life by seers Jacinta, Francisco and Lucia.

Starting from the crib, which evokes the incarnation of the Gift which sanctifies us, the first step, the pilgrim is invited to, consists in the worship and adoration in the Chapel of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

After having concentrated on the essential, on God's love that illuminates everyone's truth, the pilgrim is invited to enter into the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity, and on the way to, he may approach to the sacrament of Reconciliation, in the Chapel assigned to it. Once in the Basilica, the contemplation of the high altar panel and the evocation of the little shepherds experience will supply the ecclesial and eschatological context of the call to holiness, reiterated in Fatima. The itinerary leads, then, to the Chapel of the Apparitions, where the pilgrim is solicited to devote his life as a gift to God, through the hands of the Lady of Fatima, and to meditate on the life of Christ through the recitation of the Rosary. The circuit ends with a visit to the tomb of the seers, whose example of life will be a challenge to the pilgrim.

The call to holiness that the Gospel claims on us, and Fatima reminds us of, is the vocation of all the faithful. In the message of the Lady of the Rosary, this request is described with these two fundamental attitudes: the centralization of life in God through prayer, and the offer of one's life for the benefit of others, especially those most in need, by sacrifice.

*Pedro Gomes Valinho*

Executive Advisor to the Executive Service of the Apparitions Centenary

## Our Lady of Fatima at the University of Central Florida

Fatima message is also diffused and disseminated through initiatives that seem small to the human eyes, but we expect them to be accepted in the merciful heart of Mary as significant means to spread out the Message of Fatima in the world.

On January 19, at the University of Central Florida, USA, was held in the chapel of the university a small moment of reception and devout acceptance of a statue of Our Lady of Fatima, offered by a Portuguese student. The offering took place during Sunday Mass and the image was handed over to the priest and director of the Catholic Campus Ministry, the university chaplain Benjamin Berinti.

The gift was the initiative of the



student Francisco Cercas, born in Barreiro, the Portuguese Diocese of Setubal, who intends to earn the Master's degree in Hospitality and Tourism Management at that school.

When he realized that there was no image of Mary in the campus church, the student offered the university a small statue of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima – a form of apostolate of a young man that, far from home, bears witness and affords evidence of his devotion.

We hope that Our Lady of Fatima guide the studies and the lives of all who trust Her, in this university and throughout the world.



# Fatima message inspires the Sisters of Reparation of Our Lady of Fatima since nearly a century ago

"It's necessary to make reparation". This Mary's request was the stimulus for the foundation of the Congregation of the Sisters of Reparation of Our Lady of Fatima, one of the first to settle in the Cova da Iria. It was founded in 1926 by Fr. Manuel Nunes Formigão, apostle and promoter of the Fatima message, who gave rise to a movement of love and compassion for sinners, performed, since then, on a daily basis in small and large gestures, always marked by a spirituality of Eucharistic and Marian worship of reparation.

The Congregation has as its purpose to search the greater glory of God in all things and the salvation of mankind. Its inspiration flows from the message of Our Lady of Fatima, and the models are the Little Shepherds, Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta, who fully identified themselves with Christ in His surrender to the Father for the salvation of all.

At the Shrine of Fatima, the Congregation cooperates actively in prayer and encourages the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. In the late 1959, His Excellency Joao Pereira Venancio, then Bishop of Leiria, decided to put the sacrament of the Eucharist at the centre of the Fatima Shrine and created a space entirely dedicated and assigned to the worship of the Blessed Sacrament; the Congregation was invited for this goal and, thus, since January 1, 1960, the Sis-

ters of Reparation of Our Lady of Fatima committed themselves to adore the Blessed Sacrament solemnly exposed at the corresponding Chapel, which, from July 13, 2008, is located in the Zone of Reconciliation near the Most Holy Trinity Basilica.

The Congregation owns several houses in Portugal, where it provides

parish; they always seek to be available for any service required from them. As to social work, the Congregation, with the support of the diocesan bishop and donations, built a Kindergarten with the name of "Three Little Shepherds", an allusion to the three seers of Fatima; it's an institution that feeds and educates about 150 children from 2 to 6 years old.

On March 30, 2006, the Congregation accepted and assented to the project of establishing a new community in Benguela, Angola. On January 3, 2012, as a result of the dedication and financial effort of the Congregation, lay Reparators, school groups, catechism groups, nurseries and anonymous donors, the construction of the social building was finished, and were opened the doors of "The Little Shepherds Children's Centre". Presently, the Sisters exercise their educational

duty through various play activities, and feed about 150 children. At the Center is available, and open, a chapel for daily prayer and liturgical celebrations.

The mission in East Timor is also challenging. Since October 2011, in the diocese of Maliana, located in Suco Memo, near the border region with Indonesia, several projects are coming into being, dreamed of by the missionary Sisters of Reparation, now living there, and who sought to respond to the needs of local people.

*L.S.*



pastoral, educational, social and charitable assistance, but the Sisters of Reparation also are present in Africa and Timor, with their apostolic work.

In Lichinga, Mozambique, they are engaged in pastoral life and education in the new Parish of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, erected precisely with the effort and dedication of the Sisters, in 2001. Here, their evangelizing contribution consists in the formation of several catechism groups, the training of girls with a sense of vocation, and the organization of the administrative tasks of the

## Eucharist and Reconciliation in Fatima

One must pay heed, in Fatima, to the relevance and importance of both the Eucharist, as culmination of the pilgrimage, and penitence; both come, as from a source, from the very message of Fatima.

Fatima message has a profoundly Eucharistic dimension; it starts with a "Eucharistic prelude" in the cycle of apparitions of the Angel in 1916, and presents an "Eucharistic epilogue" in Tuy's apparition in 1929.

In this Eucharistic dimension come forth into view, in a special

way, the attitudes of adoration and reparation, as typical of the Eucharistic spirituality inherent to the Fatima message. Together with the Eucharist, the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance is also of fundamental importance in the life of the Shrine of Fatima.

Conversion, in the apparitions, has a key place. Of course, conversion is not limited to the Sacrament of Penance, but finds here its clearest expression and sacramental fulfillment.

*Carlos P. Cabecinhas*



## Great Novena of Fatima in Poland



The seventh year of the Great Novena of Fatima is the introduction to the last three preparatory years of the centennial anniversary of the Apparitions of Our Lady of the Rosary. These consecutive years of our prayer, work and apostolate intend to make “Mary more known and loved”, and fill the entire world with Her Message. Each enterprise that leads to the increment of devotion to Her Immaculate Heart, a devotion truly “wanted by God”, is for us a new joy. Thanks to God, these initiatives and undertakings are becoming more numerous in Poland; besides, the number of parishes in which this devotion is enhanced is also increasing; it has, by now, amounted to nearly a thousand parishes.

This seventh year of the Novena has as its motto “The Power of the Family. The Domestic Church against which the gates of hell will not prevail”, and focuses on family problems. Eighty years after the apparitions Sister Lucia wrote: “God chose to conclude the Message in Fatima, in October 1917, with three further apparitions which I regard as three more calls placed before us for our consideration, so that we may keep them in mind during our earthly pilgrimage. While the people were gazing in astonishment at the sun which had gone pale in the light of the presence of God, the three children saw, beside the sun, three distinct and, to us, significant apparitions. (...) The first was the apparition of the Holy Family: Our Lady, and the Child Jesus in the arms of St Joseph, blessing the people. In times such as the present, when the family often seems misunderstood in the form in which it was established by God, and is assailed by doctrines that are erroneous and contrary to the purposes for which the Divine Creator instituted it, surely God wished to address to us a reminder of the purpose for which He established the family in the world?” (*Calls from the Message of Fatima*, p. 162)

It is worth stressing that this year’s theme of the Great Novena joins, in time, and is in consonance with the Special Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, which, according to Pope Francis’ desire, brings into focus “the pastoral issues concerning the family in the context of evangelization”.

It is a great joy for us that, by decision of the Polish Episcopate, the devotion of the First Saturdays of the month be included into the program of the pastoral year 2014/15 in Poland, whose directive idea is: “Repent and believe in the Gospel”.

Recently, we have prompted a database of Polish parishes which organize the celebrations of the First Saturdays, and the list is published on the Secretariat’s website ([www.sekretariat-fatimski.pl](http://www.sekretariat-fatimski.pl)). Their number is always increasing.

Also rejoices us very much the report that the catechesis program, from 2014 onwards, will contain some approaches to the events and the cause of Fatima. In the guidebook of the third catechetical year are included summaries of the Message of Fatima and information about the practice of celebration of the First Saturdays.

The broadcast radio station ALEX ([www.radioalex.pl](http://www.radioalex.pl)), every first Saturday of the month, sends live and directly from the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Krzeptówki – Zakopane, a celebration of reparation (the Rosary, a 15 min Meditation and the Holy Mass). Thus the elderly and patients can join us in prayer to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

So, let us non give up and, with humility and love, let us endeavor to prepare the approaching Jubilee; may it be not only a commemoration of the Apparitions date, but the answer to the request, Mary is always making to us, Her children.

*Fr. Krzysztof Czapla SAC*

Director of the Secretariat of Fatima at the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fatima in Krzeptówki, Zakopane, Poland.



## Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima visits Portuguese dioceses

On February 2 ended the visit of the Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima to Contemplative Communities of Portugal.

This initiative aimed at involving contemplative communities in the celebration of the Centenary of the Apparitions, asking them to pray for abundant spiritual fruit for such celebration, especially the good result and tangible effect of the Pilgrim Image visit to the dioceses of Portugal, expected to begin next May.

This visit to contemplative communities had its starting point on May 12, 2014. During this period, were visited the 35 existing cloistered communities in Portugal; the Pilgrim Image stayed for a week in each community. In total, it traveled 3582 kilometers. At the Carmel of St. Teresa of Coimbra it was placed in the cell of Sister Lucia, seer of Our Lady of Fatima (photo).

The moments of reception and departure of the Image were lived with excitement and joy. The testimonies sent by communities to the Shrine of Fatima all reveal and make known feelings of great delight and gratitude for the opportunity granted.

The Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima will resume its tour in May 2015, and make a visit, which will last one year, to the Portuguese dioceses.



## Marian spirituality, source of the new evangelization in Italy

Between September 30 and October 13, 2014, was made a *peregrinatio Mariae* in the region of Sardinia, Italy, namely in the diocese of Cagliari, in the parishes of St. Pius X and St. Ignatius of Laconi.

These were some days of strong Marian spirituality, indeed, in the presence of representatives of the Movement of the Message of Fatima (MMF) of Livorno Diocese.

Fr. Pasquale Flore, the assistant parish priest, with the help of MMF, guided this initiative, which commenced and introduced into the evening of September 30, when, in the churchyard of St. Pius X Church, was received and greeted the precious Pilgrim Image of Our Lady of Fatima. Many people came from various districts of the city, to pray together, with a special intention for the families.

During the week, until Sunday, the afflux of faithful went on.

In the morning, there were moments dedicated to the recitation of the Rosary by meditating the Message of Fatima, in preparation for the Centenary of the Apparitions.

Every night, reflection meetings were held, with reading and recollection of the messages of the *White Lady*, and with times of worship; these events were an occasion to teach the prayers of the Angel of Portugal, because it was realized that many people do not know them. The Movement of the Message of Fatima is also an instrument for this learning.

These beautiful days were spent with the youth, children and scouts, who inspired and made alive some of the nights of this pilgrimage in honor of Our Lady. A strenuous effort was exerted to make known the devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, mainly the devotion of the Five First Saturdays, and many people accepted with joy the invitation to experience this practice, that comes directly from heaven. In this pilgrimage, the parish priest and the Vicar of the diocese of Cagliari, Fr. Giovanni Ligas, consecrated the parish to the



Immaculate Heart of Mary. It was, indeed, a very exciting time for everyone!

On October 5, the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima left for the city of Serramanna, Parish of St. Ignatius de Laconi, where it was greeted with much excitement by the entire community. A city, festive and joyous in disposition, with streets, terraces and gardens adorned with festoons; it was a truly wonderful reception of the Mother of God.

The parish priest, Fr. Pietro Mostallino, organized several processions through the city streets, with the recitation of the Rosary by meditating the mysteries with allusion to the Apparitions at Cova da Iria. On October 13, Bishop Arrigo Miglio consecrated the parish to the Immaculate Heart of Mary in the presence of hundreds of faithful. In this parish was also constituted a group of children, called "Gruppo Pastorelli di Fatima" (Little Shepherds of Fatima Group), that will meet, three times a month, to recite the Holy Rosary.

Alessandra Bimbi, M.M.F./Italy

## Marian Center of Fatima at Burkina Faso



Having made several pilgrimages to some shrines of Europe and Middle East, I collected and accumulated many memories of these shrines: Rue du Bac, Lourdes, Fatima, Rome, Pontmain, La Salette, Pellevoisin, Le Laus, Banneux, Baraing, Paray-le-Monial etc.

Afterwards, my bishop gave me permission to build a Center where these offers and memories were exposed for the ben-

efit of all; the Center was erected mainly with the help of benefactors of Alsace (France); and it was solemnly blessed by our bishop on December 8, 2001, and dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima, the apex of all Marian Apparitions. In the years 1982, 1987, 2013 and 2014, we received the visiting of the Pilgrim Image of Our Lady to places and families, in order to raise the awareness to the message of Fatima and incite to the consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

In 2000 began the Marian retreats called Cenacles of the Marian Movement of Priests (of which I am the national representative), and also the retreats for the Charismatic Renewal, retreats for priests, bishops, men and women religious. Every year, these retreats bring together thousands of faithful accompanied by their pastors (bishops and priests) from the four corners of Burkina Faso, Mali, Togo and Niger.

The Center has become a pilgrimage sanctuary. The teachings, here, are focused on the Word of God, the doctrine of the Church, the devotions, the messages that the Blessed Virgin Mary addresses to the Church and to the world – especially the Message of Fatima – for its total renovation, the triumph of her Immaculate Heart, and the Kingdom of Glorious Christ: kingdom of love and peace, of grace and holiness.

Extract from a message  
of Fr. Pierre Diallo – [www.msmbf.unblog.fr](http://www.msmbf.unblog.fr)

**February 20: Shrine of Fatima organizes a concert in Lisbon**

## National premiere of the musical piece *Three Little Shepherds of Fatima* written by Arvo Pärt



On February 20, Liturgical feast of Blessed Francisco and Jacinta Marto, the Fatima Shrine sponsors and furthers the realization of a concert in Lisbon recalling the three seers of Fatima. Its highest moment will be the national premiere of the musical piece *Drei Hirtenkinder aus Fatima* [Three Little Shepherds of Fatima], written by Arvo Pärt, an important Estonian composer in contemporary music.

The Patriarchal Cathedral of Lis-

bon welcomes this initiative, included into the official program of the Centenary of the Fatima Apparitions. The beginning of the concert, entitled “Without love no eyes can see”, a verse of the poem ‘Anathema’, by the Portuguese writer Miguel Torga, is scheduled for 21:00, with free entry.

The manuscript of Arvo Pärt’s composition, dated from May 19, 2014, was made known on October 13, 2014, under the heading “Reading, Listening to and Seeing Fatima”

in “*Fátima XXI - Revista Cultural do Santuário de Fátima*”, and it was the composer’s reply to an invitation to write a text-testimony about the experience of his visit to the Cova da Iria, performed some time ago; and the composer decided to offer to the Sanctuary the manuscript containing a brief piece for mixed choir *a cappella* composed on the text of a verse from Psalm 8.

The concert will consist of three parts – with a children’s choir, organ and choir – according to the following sequence: Children’s Choir of the Gregorian Institute of Lisbon; João Santos, titular organist of the Shrine of Fatima; Anonymus choir.

Manuel Lourenço Silva, executive producer of the musical program for the Centenary of the Apparitions, emphasizes that the meaning of Arvo Pärt’s piece is twofold: “first, the name of Fatima will be registered and included into the works catalogue of one of the greatest composers of our time; and second, the title and the text chosen for the musical composition, dedicated to the Little Shepherds, highlight the importance of children’s voices as messengers”. Manuel Lourenço Silva also adds that “perhaps the most important aspect of Arvo Pärt’s composition is the way he was touched by the spirituality and the message of Fatima.”

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### Fátima – Light and Peace

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