



Director: Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas * Proprietor: Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fátima (Portugal) * Quarterly publication * Year XI * Nr. 48 * 2016/02/13

“I came that they may have life, and may have it abundantly”

The year 2016 is particularly significant to the Shrine of Fatima: it is the penultimate year of the septenary of the Apparitions Centennial celebration, and coincides with the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy; moreover, it is also the year that marks the centenary of the Angel apparitions to the three seers of Fatima.

The theme of this pastoral year – “I came that they may have life” – was chosen springing from the apparition of Our Lady in September 1917. The theme formulation is the statement of Jesus who, presenting himself as the Gate and the good Shepherd of the sheep, assures us: “I came that they may have life and may have it abundantly” (Jn 10, 10). On that same occasion, Jesus says that he gives his life for his sheep; that his life is a life offered that we may have full and abundant life.

In the September apparition, Our Lady tells the Little Shepherds that God is pleased with their sacrifices. Participation in the abundant life of God requires the surrender of oneself to God. The Little Shepherds of Fatima agree to doing their lives a permanent offering to God and, therefore, accept the resulting suffering and sacrifices. They experienced in this way the “fullness of life” that only God can give and afford.

Like the Shepherd children, we are challenged to discover the life God offers us through the offering of ourselves. This is also the way to experience the true Christian joy. On the other hand, the Christian attitude we intend to motivate, during this pastoral year, is celebration as a constitutive dimension of the

faith experience: celebration of faith, above all in the Liturgy, is the form par excellence of participation, from now on, in the fullness of life that God offers us in Jesus Christ.

The Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy will enhance and increase the deepening of the Fatima message in general and of this year theme in particular. God’s mercy makes us discover in him the fullness of life. And just as Jesus Christ is par excellence the face of Father’s mercy, so too in Him is offered to us this life in abundance and overflow: “I came that they may have life and may have it abundantly”.

Finally, through this pastoral year, we will celebrate the centenary of the Angel apparitions, which occurred in 1916. These angelic apparitions, a true Trinitarian revelation of God, also help us discovering the merciful face of God, in whom resides the fullness of life.

Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas



Year theme, inspired in the Apparition of September 1917

“Open the gates of righteousness, we’ll enter into them to praise and give thanks to the Lord”

With these words, his Excellency António Marto, Bishop of Leiria-Fatima, has opened the Holy Door of Mercy, at the Shrine of Fatima, on December 8, remembering that Our Lady should be an example for all Christians.

In the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity was chosen the St. Thomas door, for the apostle is the protagonist of the gospel proclaimed on Mercy Sunday. Bishop Antonio Marto, in the course of the liturgical rite, said this performance and commemoration is the “prelude to a profound experience of grace and reconciliation.”

During the celebration of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Bishop of Leiria-Fatima greeted those present, stressing the meaning and importance of this festivity for the Christian people, and declared that “the Mother of Mercy helps us entering the Year of Mercy”.

He also stated that “in Mary, God welcomes his people and all humanity.



Gate of St. Thomas, in the Sanctuary of Fatima, open to God’s mercy

Mary invites us to delight and rejoice in the merciful love”.

The bishop of Leiria-Fatima reiterated the importance of mercy in everyday life, because it is “more powerful than our sin.”

“There is no situation irretrievably lost, for the reason that God’s love has no limits; He loves us always and forever, even when we frustrate and fail to fulfil his desire”, said the prelate.

“The Holy Year of Mercy is a prophetic act, due to the fact that we live in a cynical world, on account of the globalization of indifference! We live in a culture that discards and rejects those who are a burden or discomfort”, stressed António Marto, who hopes and wishes that this Holy Year of Mercy bring many blessings to meet the challenges of everyday life.

For this pilgrimage were announced 31 groups, coming from 4 countries.

CF

Sanctuary of Fatima records and determines the beginning of a new pastoral year

The event that officially indicates the beginning of a new pastoral year, the sixth of the septenary celebrating the Apparitions Centenary, and focused on the theme “I came that they may have life”, occurred at the Shrine of Fatima last November.

The journey began with the opening of the temporary exhibition *Earth and Heaven: saints and pilgrims of Fatima*; it is an evocation of the September 1917 apparition, and was followed by a presentation session of the topic and of the many initiatives programmed and designed for this pastoral year.

The rector of the Shrine of Fatima brought before an audience of more than 400 people the theme and subject of the pastoral year, centered on the experience of the Jubilee of Mercy, and he stated that “we find the keyword to interpret the Fatima message in the mercy of God.”

Besides, Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas presented several initiatives that will happen within this sixth year of the Apparitions Centennial celebration, among which

stands out a rich music programming, conferences and courses.

The presentation of the year theme, “I came that they may have life”, was committed to his Excellency Virgílio Antunes Nascimento, former rector of the Shrine of Fatima and the current Bishop of Coimbra, who stressed that “the Fatima event, as an event of faith, is at the service of salvation that God offers to man. [...] The God who saves humanity is the same God who created it and offers us an earthly path open to the horizons



Good Shepherd Hall received the presentation session of the Pastoral Year Theme “I came that they may have life”

of eternity.” He also added that “God is truly the source of life, because He is the Creator and is its fountain and origin”.

Bishop Virgílio Antunes also recognizes that one of the main objectives of the Fatima event is the “growth of faith”, and he offers for consideration the example of the Little Shepherds, who surrendered themselves to the message of Our Lady, “in which was perceived the power of the Gospel of God”.

In the end, as a conclusion, he emphasized that God “accepts his children and the path they follow, sincerely, even with many weaknesses and sins.”

The presentation ceremony of the annual theme included also a musical note provided by Fatima Shrine Choir.

The final word was left to his Excellency Antonio Marto, Bishop of Leiria-Fatima, who highlighted the importance of the Holy Year of Mercy for our ‘broken world’, where people are in need of a “healing of mercy” to not become victims of cynicism.

CF

Holiness as a Way

“Standing firm on their feet, because they journeyed about the Earth, Fatima pilgrims look up to heaven. Between the earth and the sky, so many names that once experienced Fatima as a place of holiness.”

The evocative temporary exhibition of the September 1917 apparition, *Earth and Heaven: pilgrims and saints of Fatima*, is open at the St. Augustine Convivium, on the ground floor of the Most Holy Trinity Basilica, daily from 9:00 to 19:00 until 31 October 2016, with free entry.

The exhibition consists of six nuclei that narrate the story of Fatima as “a place of experience of holiness throughout the century,” says to *Fátima Luz e Paz* [Fatima Light and Peace] the exhibition’s Commissioner, Marco Daniel Duarte.

At the entrance, the visitor comes face to face with the Christ of Mont’Irás and, accompanied by chords of the song “Light of Christ”, is invited to experience a path similar to the Christ’s way – likewise the first nucleus is entitled “Christ, Beginning and End of the Road” – although the pilgrimage “for many is not the end”, as stressed the overseer of the exhibition who is also the director of the Research and Diffusion Department of Fatima Shrine.

In the I nucleus, baptism is remembered as the initiation of that path in Christ. It’s possible to see a baptismal font, candles and the first book of bap-

tisms records at the Shrine of Fatima; the first record goes back to 12 May 1941.

“The Light of Christ we receive in baptism, and that extends over all life is remembered daily in Fatima”; it’s an evocation presented in this nucleus by the presence of candles the pilgrims use in processions, emphasizes the exhibition commissioner.

In the II nucleus, “Peregrinating feet”, the visitor is confronted with the story of the September 1917 apparition. Sister Lucia’s pen describes “all the miseries of poor humanity” attested and apparent in the faces and in the requests of many pilgrims arriving at the Cova da Iria. The text allows the parallel between the pain and suffering of journey and the joy of arrival. It’s possible to see, in this nucleus, the work *Via* [Path] of Ana Sobal and Margarida Gil, several staffs of pilgrims, and the Pastoral Crosier of Paul VI and António Marto, Bishop of Leiria-Fatima.

In the III nucleus, “The journey food: word and bread shared”, stand out pictures of the attention and solicitude devoted to Fatima pilgrims through the washing of feet, the reception and assistance. This act of mercy is “the new commandment of love [...] in the actual works of the everyday action”, as written on the panel illustrating this step and moment of the visit.

In the IV and V nuclei (IV - “Ascending to Heaven from Fatima: the Saints of the Sanctuary Colonnade”, and V - “The Saints of the Cova da Iria: Fatima, a place of Holiness”), the Saints are proposed as

an example in their devotion and dedication to the Gospel. It’s possible to see various relics of Saints who were also pilgrims and devotees of Fatima, for instance Alexandrina de Balasar, John Paul II, Francisco and Jacinta Marto, John XXIII, Padre Pio, among others.

In the VI and last nucleus, “Christ, prize and crown of life”, you can see the secondary crown of Our Lady of Fatima. As indicated by the script of the visit, in the Christian reading of the Bible, the crown symbolizes the “fullness of life in God”, and this is the goal of the way toward holiness.

“*Earth and Heaven* is a permanent connection to Christ as a reading key to the Fatima message,” says Marco Daniel Duarte.

As a prominent place on the path of holiness, proposed to the contemporary world by the Church, Fatima is described, in this exhibition, as a place of eternity.

CF



Exhibition on the ground floor of the Most Holy Trinity Basilica reconstructs and retraces Fatima history



Loca do Cabeço, one of the places of the Angel's apparition, is visited annually by thousands of pilgrims

The similarities between the Angel's apparitions, which took place one year before the manifestation of Our Lady of Fatima, and Gabriel's apparition in the episode of the Annunciation, foretelling Mary's motherhood, are conspicuous, told *Fatima Light and Peace* the Sanctuary Fatima chaplain, Luciano Cristino, in the context of the centenary celebrations of the Angel's three apparitions, in the month of March; its climax will be the processional vigil heading for the apparitions place that, this year, will receive particular attention.

The priest, a member of the Pontifical International Marian Academy in Rome, recalls that after the apparitions to Lucia in 1915, the apparitions in 1916 – first in Loca do Cabeço and then in Poço do Arneiro – “foretell what later would happen to the seers» in 1917.

“Despite initial obstacles, hindering a more systematic, clear and objective approach” to this subject, in fact “this is, today, absolutely consensual”, for just like Our Lady's Message “so the Angel's

Sanctuary of Fatima registers the Centenary of the Angel's Apparitions

apparitions, a very Trinitarian revelation of God, help us discovering the merciful face of God, in whom resides the fullness of life.”

From the beginning, when reading Lucia's memoirs, “we understand clearly that silence was requested about these apparitions, especially those of 1915, because they could cause some embarrassment to the Fatima message.” “Even Fr. Manuel Nunes Formigão saw the apparitions as a difficulty troubling Our Lady's message”, says Luciano Cristino; and he goes on stressing that even “the Pastoral Letter of the Bishop of Leiria, his Excellency José Alves Correia da Silva, 13 October 1930, in which he declared as credible the children visions at the Cova da Iria, parish of Fatima, of this diocese, on 13 May to October 1917, and officially allowed the worship of Our Lady of Fatima, made no reference to Angel's apparitions».

However, “fortunately, with the successive investigations into Lucia's memoirs, today all these issues are properly documented and studied», said again the theologian, noting that “not only is there no disagreement, but the truth of Fatima is fully accepted as well”.

For Luciano Cristino, this is a main effect upon the message actuality and opportunity “in the Eucharistic aspects and reparation”, but also with regard to “the extraordinary message of prayer, of conversion, of proposed change of life that,

afterwards, Our Lady would eventually materialize in the following year”.

A little over a month from the apparitions centenary, it is important to enhance its history, even if we do not know the exact dates of such apparitions. It is known, from Sister Lucia's *Memoirs*, that the first apparition took place in Loca do Cabeço, a piece of land owned by the seers family in Valinhos, and then the Angel introduced himself as the Angel of Peace and asked them to pray; Lucia relates in her memoirs: “the Hearts of Jesus and Mary are attentive to the voice of your supplications.”

The second time, already summer, when they were playing at the Poço do Arneiro, the appearing Angel presents himself as the guardian Angel of Portugal, reiterates his call for prayer and, in addition, asks the little shepherds for offering sacrifices and accepting the toils and pain sent to them by God.

The third apparition occurred also in Valinhos, when the little shepherds were in prayer. The children saw the Angel with a cup in his hand and a host suspended over it, from which fell some drops of blood. The Angel teaches them the prayer to the Most Holy Trinity and gives the host to Lucia and the blood of the chalice to Francisco and Jacinta.

The Fatima Shrine celebrates the Angel's apparitions on March 21.

CR

Beatification Process of Sister Lucia will “further dignify” the Fatima Message

The instruction of the process of beatification of Sister Lucia de Jesus, one of the three seers of Fatima, is still in its diocesan phase, and will be completed by the end of this year, said to *Fátima Luz e Paz* [Fatima Light and Peace] the vice-postulator of the cause of the Little Shepherds, Sister Angela Coelho, on the occasion of an interview about the Course on the Fatima Message, which took place in January in the House of Our Lady of Sorrows at the Shrine of Cova da Iria.

“This year we will bring to completion the process, and then it will be translated into Italian, according to a requirement of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints”, said the same Sister; she also declared that, in addition to the analysis of Lucia's correspondence, will be examined and questioned the witnesses of the process, the people who knew her and with whom she lived.

“There are over 70,000 letters received

and answered by Sister Lucia from the 80's onwards, from all parts of the world and from the most varied backgrounds, from private citizens to Popes, and without leaving aside cardinals, ambassadors and many others”, recalls the postulator: “It is a complex process, even in virtue of the times she lived in – two world wars; the Spanish Civil War; the rise and fall of the former USSR – and by the reason of the implicated concerns and affairs”, stresses Sister A. Coelho.

“I believe that this religious woman, in her cell, carried all the pain of the XXth century world, in addition to her own personal suffering and distress”; so “all the attention we can pay to and the seriousness and thoughtfulness with which we approach this work are decisive”, emphasizes again Sister Angela Coelho.

“The time we spend bringing to an end the process favours Lucia, but the Fatima

Message benefits as well”, concludes the Vice Postulator.

CR



Canonization of the seers Francisco and Jacinta Marto may be announced during the Centenary

Fatima Shrine programming focused on the Centenary celebration

The reopening for worship of the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary and the pipe organ inaugural concert in the same Basilica are highlights of this program.

Through this pastoral year 2015-2016, as is the case since 2010, the Shrine of Fatima has scheduled a series of celebratory events intended for helping the pilgrims prepare to live the apparitions centenary, inspired by the year theme *I came that they may have life*.

The Sanctuary aims at reaching more people, of all ages; that is obvious and manifest in the broad program that is in preparation, ranging from conferences to concerts, and also including the dance and photography.

From 8 December 2015 until 13 October 2016 is taking place the *Prémio Fotografia Centenário das Aparições* [Photography Prize Centenary of the Apparitions], and the Sanctuary invites professional and non-professional photographers to participate, according to the regulation previously defined that can be consulted at fotografia.fatima.pt.

It should be mentioned the 6th Lecture Series, which presents a variety of topics and speakers; it has the purpose of helping enter deeply into and better live the year theme. This cycle began on 13 December 2015 and will end on 10 April 2016.

On 20 February 2016 will take place the *II Evocative Concert of the Three Shepherd children of Fatima: Ex ore infantium*, at 21:00, at the Parish Church of Fatima, by the *Coro Vox Aetherea*, under

the direction of Alberto Medina de Seíça.

On 20 March 2016 will take place the Organ Inauguration Concert of the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, at 15.30, by Olivier Latry, internationally renowned organist, holder of the Notre Dame organ, Paris, and organ teacher at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris, which will play a piece commissioned by the Shrine of Fatima to the widely-winning composer João Pedro Oliveira, in world premiere.

On 3 April 2016, premiere of the work *Troparion for a shepherdness of tame sheep. Cycle for choir, piano and accordion on fragments of Sister Lucia's Memoirs*, at the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary, at 15.30.

On 8 May, will begin at the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary, by 15.30, the *Organ Cycle*, organized into five thematic concerts, starting with German music, passing through contemporary music, the sacred music and the Marian melodies, and ending in French music.

On 11, 13 and 15 May the Sanctuary welcomes, at the Paul VI Center, the contemporary dance show - *The day the sun danced* - a work produced by *Vortice Dance Company*, commissioned by the Sanctuary Fatima, to celebrate the Apparitions Centenary.

As it is usual, also through this year will take place the Creative Musical Workshops, divided in three editions: the first, on April 1, 2016, for children from 3 to 5 years old; the second from 14 to 17 July for children from 8 to 10 years, and

the third from 21 to 24 July for children from 11 to 14 years.

For children, but not only for them, will occur the *VIII Meeting of Children's Choirs* of the Sanctuary of Fatima, April 25, at the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary.

From 24 to 26 June, takes place in the Hall of the Good Shepherd, at the Paul VI Pastoral Center, the *Theological Pastoral Symposium "I came that they may have life"*, with the participation of important theologians who will reflect on the year's theme under many different viewpoints.

On 9 September, as part of the cultural program of the International Mariological Congress, will take place the concert *A praise to Mary*, by the *Grupo Vocal Ançã-Ble*, directed by Fr. Pedro Miranda, at the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary at 21.00.

On 21 October the Fatima Shrine hosts the *Third National Pilgrimage of Catholic Schools*. Inserted into this pilgrimage will be held the cultural session *Through Art to Mary*, where will be presented the winning works of the national competition developed throughout the school year of 2015-2016.

On 18 December 2016 takes place the Christmas Concert at the Paul VI Pastoral Center, by the Symphony Orchestra and the Choir of the Oporto Conservatory of Music, with the world premiere of a work commissioned by the Shrine of Fatima to the composer Fernando Valente.

SD

Fatima Shrine launches a photography contest

As part of the centenary celebrations of the Apparitions, the Shrine of Fatima invites photography enthusiasts and amateurs to participate in the Photography Prize "Centenary of the Fatima Apparitions". The initiative, aimed at Portuguese and foreign photographers, takes into account the close relationship of photography with Fatima, yesterday as today, and the importance of this art to contemporary culture.

The deadline for collecting entries starts on December 8, this year, and extends until October 13, 2016. The contest categories are "Human Portrait", "Landscape", "Spirituality and Message: practices and rituals" and "photo narrative". The prize is worth 1,000 euros each. On the best photo presented, in all the categories analyzed, will still be bestowed the prize "Photography of the Apparitions Centenary", and its value amounts to 2,500 euros.



Photo contest open until 31 October 2016

The panel of judges of this Photography Prize will be composed of the recognized photographers Fernando Guerra, Rui Ochoa, Inês d'Orey, Paul Catrica, and Joseph Soudo, the director of the Fa-

tima Shrine Museum, Marco Daniel Duarte, and the Rector of the Shrine of Fatima, Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas, who chairs the jury.

Authors can compete with up to two photographic items by category. Entries must be submitted in digital format and handed over to the Rectory of the Shrine or sent by mail until October 31, 2016.

The photographs submitted to the Prize must respect the prohibitions of the Sanctuary for capturing images and can not be subject to manipulation, except for the normal treatment, framing, color balance, density and contrast.

The jury's decision will be made known on November 26, 2016, through the official website of the Sanctuary of Fatima, and the best photographic pieces may, by the panel's decision, still be part of an exhibition and object liable to publication. The complete rules can be found at fotografia.fatima.pt

CF

Pilgrim Image of Our Lady in the Sanctuary of Fatima in San Vittorino (Rome)



Italian pilgrims accompanying the Virgin's image

the encounter with the Virgin and, through Her, with the Most Holy Trinity, to which she always leads us.

Several moments were prominent in this visit, often accompanied by rain, but that occurrence did not stop us from living the proposed celebrations.

On Wednesday tonight, the Pilgrim Image of Our Lady was welcomed at the Shrine, and we recited the Rosary, preparing ourselves for the Eucharistic celebration, solemnly animated by the diocesan choir.

On Thursday morning, it was for us a cause of gladness the visit of about 200 children, from Catholic schools of the Tivoli Diocese. These children, as said one of the oblate priests, formed a beautiful *crown* around Maria, teaching and encouraging us to become simple and pure like them, because we can also be *crown* of Mary.

On Thursday tonight, many young people gathered in the "Poligono" (a place which is 2 km from the Sanctu-

The Image of the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima Shrine, in Portugal, ended its journey in the National Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fatima, in San Vittorino, Rome, Italy.

The short time of its stay, from 23 to 27 September, did not diminish or impair the intensity of



Pilgrim Virgin went through the main streets of San Vittorino, accompanied by young people

ary) to *live* and experience the pilgrimage to the Sanctuary.

The Jubilee Cross, carried in turns by young people, opened the procession, during which we recited the rosary, meditating on the apparitions of Our Lady.

Each group provided their own gifts: young people of the Tor Vergata University prepared the meditations on the mysteries of the Rosary, those of the San Romano parish animated the songs, and the volunteers took pains to get all things made at their best.

The persistent rain did not discourage or dissuade young people from the commitment to this path that led us to the feet of the Mother of Heaven, to whom the intentions of each one were entrusted. The same is true for many pilgrims who went up to the shrine to pray, to surrender to Our Lady, to take refuge under her mantle, to be accompanied by her to the "throne" of Mercy: the Cross of Jesus, who redeems us by His Sacrifice.

On Saturday afternoon, we celebrated the Holy Eucharist, remembering all our sick brothers. On Sunday morning, our Philippine brothers arrived in large numbers and delighted us with their presence. The afternoon Eucharistic adoration, the procession made towards the village of San Vittorino, restoring to life a tradition already fallen into disuse, preceded the solemn Mass presided at by Bishop Mauro Parmegiani and animated by the diocesan choir.

In spite of raining, we welcome the Pilgrim Virgin, offering to Her our lives, our families, our Church and the whole world telling her our "Farewell" and committing ourselves to live what She, with much sadness, has asked in Fatima.

Ir. Giovanna Boer – OMFV

Pilgrim Image of Our Lady of Fatima visits Angra diocese in a climate of great feast and celebration

The Pilgrim Image n.2 of Our Lady of Fatima began on January 7 a visit to the Angra diocese, which will keep on and endure until next February 28, fulfilling the longest pilgrimage of Portuguese dioceses, in the context of the Centennial celebration of the Fatima apparitions.

It is the third time the Pilgrim Image moves to the archipelago (the first was in 1948 and the second in 1996), and it will travel over the Azores islands, including the smallest of them all, the Corvo island, in a total of 16 pious and heartfelt receptions.

"It is a moment of grace we must knowingly seize and take advantage of it", said the diocesan bishop, António de Sousa Braga, in a statement to *Voz da Fátima* [Voice of Fatima], at the arrival of the Image to his home island, Santa Maria, the first to welcome the statue of the Holy Virgin Mary.

"In our simplicity and greatness as faithful people, we are invited to grow in love to Jesus and Our Lady, following the example of the three shepherd children",

the prelate said with emphasis, and at the same time asked the Diocesan Church for welcoming this pilgrimage as "the image of a church that meets its sons and daughters in all peripheries in order to bring them the proclamation of Jesus Christ as the only Savior." The Image entered the diocese on the Santa Maria island, the first to be discovered and populated, and which has among its churches the one acknowledged as the first chapel built and dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima, after the Chapel of the Apparitions in Cova da Iria opened as place of worship in 1928.

After Santa Maria, come next the islands of São Miguel, Flores, Corvo, Faial, Pico, São Jorge and Graciosa. The visit ends on Terceira island on February 28, with a final big celebration in Angra Cathedral, seat of the diocese. It will be presided over by the Bishop of Angra, with the presence of the coadjutor bishop of Angra, who formally arrived in the Azores, last November 29, to accompany the pilgrimage of the Image of Our Lady during the nearly two months.

The Rector of the Shrine of Fatima, Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas, joined the journey, and in a declaration to *Voz da Fátima* recalled that this pilgrimage "is a manifestation of faith before Our Lady", involving "all the faithful in the Apparitions Centenary; at the same time, it reflects "a true thanksgiving of Fatima for the commitment in spreading this message." CR



Main Church of Vila do Porto transformed into a "sanctuary" for three days

Lausperene at Fatina Shrine and in Leiria diocese

In the pilgrimage of 13 November 1959, at the Shrine of Fatima, before the Farewell procession, João Pereira Venancio, Bishop of Leiria, told the pilgrims that he, after the pontifical mass to be celebrated in the year transition to 1960, would convey the Blessed Sacrament to the Chapel of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, in the New Hospital, setting in operation the Sacred Lausperene, i.e., perpetual adoration, day and night, in solemn exposition. This had been a desire of his predecessor, His Excellency bishop Jose Alves Correia da Silva. After all the work was completed in the Chapel of the Hospital of Our Lady of Sorrows (Old Hospital), perpetual adoration would there be inducted and put into effect. Worship was entrusted to the Sisters of Reparation of Our Lady of Sorrows of Fatima, residing at Cova da Iria. At the right time the perpetual adoration would be transferred to the Basilica of the Rosary.

He spoke again, in a circular letter to parish priests and superiors of religious communities in the Cova da Iria, on December 28: "It will be a thanksgiving celebration for all the benefits dispensed to our Diocese during this year, already close to its end; that's my special desire, in an attitude of intimate and intense gratitude for all Fatima has represented for us, for our country and the world [...] in these 42 years of its wonderful history." He announced, straight way, that he would institute the Lausperene throughout the diocese, requesting the collaboration of all the parishes and religious communities. "Each parish should choose one or more days, according to the possibilities, to spend in front of the Blessed Sacrament, solemnly exposed, in reparation for the sins committed against God, Our Lord. In fact, the Blessed Virgin, in a breathtaking vision, had showed the Little Shepherds of Fatima Him as "very offended" and "sad" for the sins of men, sins that simultaneously embitter and wound the Immaculate Heart of His Mother".

Fr. Francisco Vieira da Rosa wrote in the newspaper *A Voz do Domingo* [Sunday Voice] that his Excellency Bishop Joao Venancio spent the 31 December

1959 in a flurry: first, he went to visit the Carmel of Saint Theresa in Coimbra, especially to talk to Sister Lucia, who took great pleasure in the initiative of the Leiria Bishop; then, he returned to Leiria where, in the Cathedral, he presided over the "Te Deum" of thanksgiving, and finally, at the Shrine of Fatima, he set going the Lausperene or perpetual Eucharistic adoration.

A reparation sister describes, in *Voz da Fátima* [Voice of Fatima], the altar



Sanctuary maintains a daily and permanent Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

of Lausperene: "An oak balustrade separates the body of the chapel from the altar immediate proximity, where were placed two kneelers for the religious women, officially charged with perpetual adoration. The reverend Mother Superior and general vicar of the Congregation of the Sisters of Reparation of Our Lady of Sorrows of Fatima, with white veils that involve them completely, spend the first hour in worship; it is the first link in the chain that, hour by hour, in front of the Altar of the World will be formed by the daughters of this humble Institute. But this chain is also formed by all worshipping souls which yesterday, today, tomorrow, without breaks, without interruption, will bow in fervent adoration in front of the holy monstrance, at the Sanctuary of Fatima,

until the end of time! May Heaven bless this last vote '.

The newspaper *A Voz do Domingo* concludes a report about this event: "a little after 2.30, all was over. At Cova da Iria complete silence fell again. But since that night, the Diocese and Portugal got richer with the perpetual adoration center settled there. Only God knows how many graces and blessings will flow from what was accomplished that night and from the institution born there, and also the resonance that it will find in national life, being in need of people who adore and make reparation to the Lord. Maybe in heaven had an addition and increase of joy and glory the souls of the two seers and of the great Bishop José Alves Correia da Silva, whose remains sleep in the main chapel of the basilica their final sleep, and in whose heart was born and has always lived a burning desire of this day. God bless the Bishop Joao for the joy he gave us all!"

Once completed, the so-called "Chapel of the Sun", with the stained-glass window representing the "miracle of the sun", and with the painting of the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in the Old Hospital (later Patients Hostel), became the new place of the Lausperene. The idea of preparing a special place in the Rosary Basilica for perpetual adoration was abandoned, and the installation was transferred, on 1 January 1987, to the Chapel at the bottom of the south colonnade (now the Angel of Peace Chapel), with a silver monstrance, designed by the sculptor Zulmiro de Carvalho. There continued the Lausperene until the installation of the Blessed Sacrament chapel, in the porch of St. Peter and Paul, on the ground floor of the Most Holy Trinity Basilica.

The Reparation Sisters of Our Lady of Fatima keep on ensuring the day service of the permanent adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Overnight, the worship service is rendered by the Movement of the Message of Fatima, which organizes adoration by turns among its members, on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights.

Luciano Cristino

Europe, Africa and South America itinerary of the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima



Image of Our Lady of Fatima attracts thousands of pilgrims in three continents

As we come near to the apparitions centenary, there has been an increase of requests for sending the Pilgrim Image of Our Lady of Fatima. For this year 2016, are projected the visits to several countries in Europe, Africa and South America.

The Pilgrim Image n.1 continues its travel through the Portuguese dioceses, which began on 13 May 2015 and will end on 13 May 2016. This year 2016, the pilgrimage comprises the dioceses of Santarém (from 3 to 17 January), Lisbon (from 17 January to 7 February), Funchal (from 13 February to 6 March), Aveiro (from 18 March to 10 April), Oporto (from 10 April to 1 May) and Leiria-Fatima (from 1 to 13 May). Once completed this great event, the image will return to the presbitery of the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary, where it was enthroned on 8 December 2003.

Also in the context of the journey through the dioceses of Portugal, the

visit to the Angra Diocese will be made by the Pilgrim Image n.2, in order to allow the visit to all the Azorean islands, which runs from 7 January to 28 February. Are also planned two more visits, with the same Image, to the parishes of Alvorger, Degracias, Lagarteira, Santiago da Guarda and Torre de Vale Todos, in the Diocese of Coimbra, from 1 May to 10 June, and to the Christian communities of the Loures municipality, in the months from October to December. This journey is associated with the celebration of the three centuries of the rise of Lisbon Diocese to Patriarchate and with the close relationship of Santo Antonio do Tojal to the first Patriarch, Tomás de Almeida, who made many improvements in the Archbishops Palace.

The Pilgrim Image n.3 makes a journey to Brazil for a pilgrimage through the state of São Paulo, from 1 May to 31 October.

Italy is the destination of the Image n.4, which will travel through various dioceses. This *Peregrinatio Mariae* runs from April to September, under the responsibility of the Marian Movement Message of Fatima, Italy. The purpose is to promote the Message of Fatima, and the motive or reason is found in the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy and in the centenary of the Angel's apparitions.

Slovenia will receive the visit of the Pilgrim Image n.5, from 13 May to 13 October. The request was submitted by the Slovenian Bishops Conference, in order to have the Image presence at the National Congress of Family and as preparation, in that country, for the centennial celebration of the Fatima apparitions.

The Image n.6 goes to Italy in April for a journey that will run until the end of 2017, carried out under the coordina-

tion of the World Apostolate of Fatima. The Image n.7 will have two destinations: first, it will make a visit to the Viseu diocese, from 27 March to 23 July 23, and then will travel to Brazil for a pilgrimage through the Diocese of Campos dos Goytacazes, from 1 September to 30 November.

UNITALSI, an institution dedicated to the promotion of pilgrimages of patients to the Shrine of Lourdes and to other international sanctuaries, requested an Image to conduct a Marian mission throughout Italy all along the year 2016. This mission aims at preparing a great national pilgrimage of that country to the Shrine of Fatima, and it will occur in 2017. For this visit was reserved the Image n.8.

Although still to be confirmed, the Image n.9 was requested for a pilgrimage through the diocese of Port-Gentil and Libreville, Gabon, in March and April. Later on, it will also visit the parishes of Boelhe, Cabeça Santa and Peroselo, in the Oporto diocese, from 25 September to 16 October.

Image n.10 will remain in the Sanctuary, in the event of the pressing substitution of another image, perhaps in need of some intervention for repair and maintenance.

Image n.11, though staying permanently in Fatima, will take part in a procession from the Sanctuary to the Parish Church, on 22 May, during a pilgrimage of handicapped people, organized by both the Parish of Fatima and the Private Institutions of social Solidarity of Fatima and Ourem.

Image n.12 is in Brazil since May 2013, where it will remain until the end of October 2017. Under the coordination of the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Rio de Janeiro, the Image is ready and available to visit the Brazilian dioceses; and the goal is the centennial celebration of the Fatima apparitions.

Since several years already the Archbishop of Evora makes his pastoral visit to all the parishes in company with a Pilgrim Image of Our Lady of Fatima. The 2016 visit will have as destination the Vicariate of Reguengos de Monsaraz and will take place from 13 February to 29 May. For this mission was reserved the image n. 13 of the Pilgrim Virgin.

António Valinho

The National Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima tours Southwark Parishes

The World Apostolate of Fatima England and Wales is the custodian of the National Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, and the second class relics of Blessed Jacinta & Francisco, which help to promote the cause of their canonisation. In September 2015 the visitation of the Statue and relics to the parishes of Southwark Archdiocese commenced, after Archbishop Peter Smith gave his blessing and approval. The purpose of the visitation is to foster devotion to Our Lady of Fatima and encourage the faithful to comply with her requests for prayer, especially the daily recitation of the Rosary; the offering of penance and sacrifices in reparation for sin; and the Five First Saturdays devotion of confession and communion in reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The parish visitation in Southwark culminates at St. George's Cathedral where his Grace the Archbishop, will receive, bless and crown the National Pilgrim Statue on 13 May 2017, the 100th anniversary of Our Lady's first apparition at Fatima. The Statue with the Relics of Blessed Jacinta & Francisco has visited the following parishes: St. Joseph, New Malden; Our Lady of Reparation, West Croydon; Shrine of Our Lady & St. Simon Stock, Aylesford, during the 4th Annual Filipino Marian event; Our Lady Immaculate, Tolworth; St. Osmond's, Barnes; St. Pius X, Norbiton; and St. Thomas a Becket, Wandsworth.

The welcome ceremony differs from

one parish to another. What is common is the reception ceremony that happens before the start of Holy Mass. During this, the parish priest blesses and crowns the National Pilgrim Statue and an Act of Consecration is recited, thus consecrating the whole parish to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. In this act of consecration, we entrust to Our Lady our intention to live with her and



Pilgrim Image in West Croydon

through her all the obligations assumed by our baptism in order to bring about in ourselves that interior conversion so urgently demanded by the Gospel and the New Evangelisation, which was echoed at Fatima on 13 October 1917. On that occasion, Our Lady said "Do not offend the Lord our God anymore, because He is already so much offended."

The recitation of the Rosary is done either before or after the Mass together with the prayers taught by the Angel of Peace in 1916 and Our Lady of Fatima in 1917. At Our Lady Immaculate, Tol-

worth with Fr. Edward Perrera, the rosary was prayed in different languages showing our universality in our love and devotion to Mary. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, a Holy Hour, Adoration and Benediction all take place in the various parishes, and the sacrament of Reconciliation is also available. Indeed, true devotion to Our Lady will always lead us to Jesus.

There is also information about the message of Fatima and the work of the World Apostolate of Fatima (WAF) as a Public International association of the faithful with Pontifical Right; plus, a film show on the message of Fatima to show the lay faithful that it remains just as relevant as ever. In fact, the mission of the WAF is to extend her invitation throughout the Church to comply with her requests, trusting in her promise that "in the end my Immaculate Heart will triumph and a pe-

riod of peace will be granted to the world." The parishes in Southwark that have booked a visitation of the Statue and the Relics are as follows: 12-13 December, Our Lady & St. Peter, Wimbledon Common; 6-7 February 2016, St. Joseph, Roehampton; 13-14 February, St. Mary Magdalen, Mortlake; 20-21 February, Holy Redeemer, Oval. Similar Fatima events are planned in 2016-2017 in the other Dioceses of England & Wales, working closely with the local Bishops.

Oliver Abasolo

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Social Security nr. 500 746 699
Address: Santuário de Fátima – Apartado 31 – 2496-908 FÁTIMA (Portugal) * Telf.: +351 249 539 600 * Fax: +351 249 539 668
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