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Statue of Our Lady of Fatima sign of devotion to Mary



October 12 and 13 of 2013 were important days for Fatima, not only because the large International Anniversary Pilgrimage gathered in the Shrine of Fatima a numerous crowd, but also because the Statue of Our Lady venerated in the Little Chapel of Apparitions made a memorable pilgrimage to Rome in order to take part in the Marian Day in the Year of Faith. The common thread uniting both pilgrimages was the enormous devotion to Our Lady of Fatima.

Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, who presided over the large pilgrimage of October at the Shrine of Fatima, two days later, upon discharging the office of Secretary of State of the Vatican, said that the most beautiful image he retains from the Pontificate of Benedict XVI and from that of Pope Francis – the two Pontiffs whom he served in that capacity – was that of both Popes praying before the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima: the first in 2010, in his pilgrimage to Fatima, and the second in Rome, during Marian Day.

That is also the most beautiful image the Shrine's delegation, which ac-

companied the Statue of Our Lady to Rome, keeps from Marian Day: Pope Francis, in St. Peter's Square, receiving the statue venerated in the Little Chapel of Apparitions, presiding over the Marian prayer in the afternoon of October 12, 2013, and making the consecration of the World to Our Lady the following day; Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI greeting warmly the Statue on May 12, 2010, and having a moment of prayer before the same statue, in the chapel of the monastery where he had retired to. In one and the other, the same filial trust in the intercession of Mary for Her children; in one and the other, the same prayer for the Church and for the World.

The warm love with which both received the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima is only matched by the emotion of the faithful greeting Her. The emotional reaction of the crowd of faithful to Her passage through St. Peter's Square revealed a profound devotion and love to Our Lady of Fatima.

Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas,
Rector of the Shrine of Fatima

Statue of Our Lady has new rosary

Two days before the trip to the Vatican, on October 12/13, a new rosary was placed in the hands of the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima venerated in the Little Chapel of Apparitions.

Since the rosary of the Statue, placed there in the 70's, had deteriorated, the Rector of the Shrine decided to place on it now the Shrine's official rosary, whose first copy was donated to Pope Benedict XVI, who used it while praying during the Vigil of May 12, 2010, at the time of his pilgrimage to Fatima. The new rosary of the Statue of the Little Chapel, because it is an important sign reminding the faithful looking at it of the mysteries of salvation, was blessed by

the Rector of the Shrine, in a short celebration, minutes before being placed on the sculpture.

The rosary now placed on the Statue is unique, for it was purposely made for the sculpture with gold donated by Our Lady's pilgrims. The beads of the Hail Mary's of the rosary – in everything equal to what the Shrine holds as official – are made not of topaz (blue color), but of rock crystal (transparent), thus expressing that the rosary of the Statue of Our Lady is an echo of the ancient narratives that speak of the Virgin Mary appearing enveloped in light.

Marco Daniel Duarte



Marian Day – October 12

Dawn of October 12: Statue leaves Fatima for the 12th time



The Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, venerated in the Little Chapel of Apparitions, departed in an atmosphere of prayer, early morning October 12, from Fatima to the Airport of Lisbon, escorted and in the presence of hundreds of people, in order to catch a regular flight on TAP, with Rome as its destination. It would return to Cova da Iria 40 hours later, at

the end of the day on October 13, after participating in Marian Day. In its place, in the Little Chapel of Apparitions, was placed the First Statue of the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima enthroned in the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima on December 8, 2003.

This trip to Rome was the 12th time this Statue left the Shrine of Fatima and the 3rd time it had the Vatican as its destination, in this case always at the request of the Pope.

Let us recall that, in 1984, at the request of Pope John Paul II,

the Statue made its seventh pilgrimage. It was taken, on March 24, 1984, to Rome, where, one day later, in St. Peter's Square, during the celebration of Mass presided over by John Paul II, the consecration of the World to the Immaculate Heart of Mary was made.

The Venerable Statue would once again return to St. Peter's Square, in the Vatican, for its eighth departure from Fatima, on October 8, 2000, where, in the presence of approximately 1500 bishops from throughout the world and thousands of faithful and pilgrims, Pope John Paul II consecrated the New Millennium to the Most Holy Virgin.

Now, this October 12/13 was the first time the Statue was absent from Cova da Iria during an International Anniversary Pilgrimage. But – to quote Bishop Antonio Marto – “to the Holy Father one can't say no”, and the participation of the Shrine of Fatima in this Day of “worldwide importance”, one of the last events on the calendar of celebrations of the Year of Faith, was, therefore, a must.

Leopoldina Simões

Morning of October 12: Alone with Benedict XVI

Upon arrival at the heliport of the Vatican, a procession was already formed to lead the Statue to the Monastery Mater Ecclesiae, where Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI resides. After entering the gate of the little Monastery, at the top of the stairway leading to the chapel there was Benedict XVI with his entourage to receive the Statue from Cova da Iria. The roles had been reversed since his visit to Fatima. Now it was the Statue of the Virgin of Fatima that was visiting him.

Upon entering the Monastery, the Pope greeted the Statue with a reverent nod and, after placed in the center of the chapel, presided over the Marian prayer, made up of hymns of praise, whose chant the Pope would initiate, and by two prayers that he himself had once written: one at the conclusion of his Encyclical “Deus Caritas Est” and the other one, a prayer he used in his pastoral visit to the Shrine of Loreto, in 2007.

At the end of prayer, Benedict XVI approached the Statue to touch and kiss it; but, because his cassock didn't let him kiss it, the Pope Emeritus decided, instead, to touch the sculpture with both hands in a very touching way. The sculpture continued on procession to St. Martha's House, where it remained exposed to the veneration of the faithful in the Pope's chapel. From there it would leave for St. Peter's Square, thus beginning its official program within that of the Marian Day for the conclusion of the Year of Faith.

Marco Daniel Duarte



Afternoon of October 12: The first meeting with Pope Francis



The great encounter of the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima with Pope Francis and the pilgrims, who, from all over the world, had traveled to Rome, was scheduled for the afternoon of October 12, at St. Peter's Square.

The pilgrims' love for the Pope and Our Lady was quite obvious, shown by an immense joy, often to the point of tears. Thousands of faithful shouted ‘Long live Mary! Long live the Pope’ at the passage of the white Statue of Our Lady of Fatima carried in procession.

As the Statue processed through St. Peter's Square towards the altar, it stopped precisely at the spot where Pope John Paul II was shot, on May 13, 1981.

There a Hail Mary was said. The hymns of Fatima, sometimes in Portuguese, heard there and the thousands of the white handkerchiefs being waved reminded us of Cova da Iria, where, practically at the same time, had begun October's International Anniversary Pilgrimage, presided over by Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, then still Secretary of State of the Vatican.

On arrival at St. Peter's Square, Holy Father Francis placed a rosary at the feet of the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima. After-

wards, while still next to the Statue, he made his catechesis. He began by placing the celebration being held there within the Year of Faith: “This encounter during the Year of Faith is dedicated to Mary, Mother of Christ and of the Church, Our Mother. Her Statue, brought from Fatima, helps us feel Her presence here in our midst”.

Concluded his Marian Catechesis, Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas, Rector of the Shrine of Fatima, greeted Pope Francis and offered him the official rosary of the Shrine of Fatima.

Sister Ângela Coelho, Postulator for the Cause of Canonization of Francisco and Jacinta Marto, also was able to greet the Pope and offer him relics of the Little Shepherds, Blessed Francisco and Jacinta Marto, and a fragment of the holmoak (azinheira) over which Our Lady appeared to them in August 1917, at Valinhos, Aljustrel.

L.S.



October 12/13 of 2013

Afternoon/Evening of October 12: Vigil of Praise at the Shrine of Divine Love

The program for the trip of the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima that is venerated in the Little Chapel of Apparitions to take part in Marian Day, on October 12/13, included a prayer vigil at the Shrine of Our Lady of Divine Love.

After the Marian Catechesis at St. Peter's Square, the Statue was taken by helicopter to the Shrine of Divine Love. Upon arrival, a prayerful procession proceeded to the temple where the Statue would stay for veneration of the faithful; there followed the recitation of the Rosary, which was broadcast live in unison with several shrines throughout the world. During the night there was organized a program of praise to Mary, which included music, prayer and silent pauses, followed by the celebration of Mass at 05h00 of October 13. The image we retain from this shrine is a long line (lasting a few hours) of faithful, not mentioning the long line of cars along the road to the shrine and of buses taking people to the place: faithful of all ages and social

status wanting to file past the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima.

The Statue returned to the Vatican immediately after Mass, in order to be present at the celebrations being held in St. Peter's Square.

L.S.



Mass of October 13, St. Peter's Square: Act of Entrustment of the World to Our Lady of Fatima

Marian Day, an initiative of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization included in the program of celebrations of the Year of Faith, gathered in Rome, on October 12/13, approximately 800 ecclesial organizations connected with Marian devotion.

The Statue of Our Lady of Fatima venerated in the Little

Chapel of Apparitions was brought to Rome at the request of Pope Benedict XVI, later on reiterated, after his renunciation, by Pope Francis, in order to be, during those days, the 'icon' of Marian Day.

At the end of Mass, celebrated in St. Peter's Square, on October 13, Pope Francis read the Act of Entrustment to Our Lady of Fatima:



Blessed Virgin Mary of Fatima, with renewed gratitude for your motherly presence we join in the voice of all generations that call you blessed.

We celebrate in you the great works of God, who never tires of lowering himself in mercy over humanity, afflicted by evil and wounded by sin, to heal and to save it.

Accept with the benevolence of a Mother this act of entrustment that we make in faith today, before this your image, beloved to us.

We are certain that each one of us is precious in your eyes and that nothing in our hearts has estranged you.

May that we allow your sweet gaze to reach us and the perpetual warmth of your smile.

Guard our life with your embrace: bless and strengthen every desire for good; give new life and nourishment to faith; sustain and enlighten hope; awaken and animate charity; guide us all on the path to holiness.

Teach us your own special love for the little and the poor, for the excluded and the suffering, for sinners and the wounded of heart: gather all people under your protection and give us all to your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus.

Amen.

Marian Day – October 12/13 of 2013

October 13: At the end of day Statue of Our Lady returns to Fatima



The day was almost over when, on October 13, the Statue of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima returned to Her Shrine in Cova da Iria. At the Little Chapel of Apparitions were waiting for Her the Bishop of Leiria-Fatima, several priests and hundreds of pilgrims.

After the Statue was put back on Her pedestal, Bishop

António Marto repeated the prayer of entrustment said by Pope Francisco during the morning of that day, in Rome. It was a time of praise to God for the graces received during this pilgrimage. Bishop Marto: “The presence of the Statue in Rome means the presence of Our Lady in the entire Universal Church as a Mother Who solicitous follows the pilgrim people, specially during the most difficult times of their lives; that is why the Holy Father wanted the original statue present, statue of Her Who came here, from Heaven to Earth, with a message of consolation at a difficult time both for the Church and Mankind”.

Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas, Rector of the Shrine of Fatima, who headed a delegation of nine people accompanying the Statue, showed to those present the rosary the Holy Father had placed at the feet of the Statue, in St. Peter’s Square. He stressed that it was a “particularly significant” gift, for it was “an authentic program of life, since the most insistent request Our Lady made was that we pray the Rosary”.

L.S.

October 12/13 of 2013 at the Shrine of Fatima

Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone presides over International Pilgrimage

In Portugal, the International Anniversary Pilgrimage of October 12/13 to the Shrine of Fatima, celebrating of the sixth apparition of Our Lady to Seers Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta (October 13, 1917), was presided over by Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Secretary of State of the Vatican.

On the afternoon of October 12, upon arriving in the Little Chapel of Apparitions, Cardinal Bertone presented himself as a pilgrim amongst pilgrims: “I come here to adore with you the Holy Trinity in Its omnipotence and mercy; to thank for the divine comfort and consolation given to the suffering Church; to profess our common faith; to raise the arms in supplication for the future of all mankind; and, finally, to renew, with all of you, the consecration of the World to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, in union with Pope Francis”.

Since the Statue venerated there had been taken to Rome for Marian Day, in its place was placed the First Statue of the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima.

From Holy Father Francis, the Cardinal Secretary of State brought a special message: “Pope Francis sends you his Blessing and in turn asks for your prayers”. And he added: “It impresses me to see how, in this place, the heart of the three Little Shepherds beats in unison with the heart of the Church; how they love the Pope, whose sufferings they had foreseen in that mysterious walk of the so-called Secret of Fatima!”.

During the Mass of the Vigil of October 12, celebrated in the Prayer Area (esplanade), the Italian Cardinal recalled the 60th anniversary of the Dedication of the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary and appealed to charity: “Dear pilgrims, this Shrine calls us to be solidary with everyone,

like live stones which support one another in the edifice built on the corner stone, which is Christ. It wouldn’t be worth to us to go to church if that didn’t lead us to live the communion, the mission and the service to the poorest of the poor and the excluded from society”.

The following morning, during Mass in the Prayer Area in which may have taken part more than 220,000 pilgrims, Cardinal Bertone commented on the theme proposed for this pastoral year at the Shrine of Fatima: “Be not afraid!”: “Without imagining or pretending that the Mystery of God operates according to our interests, measures and criteria, we know, nevertheless, that we can and should trust in the powerful love of God, which, in ways He only knows, touches people’s hearts, is present in the events of history and is capable of writing straight through crooked lines which men drew and continue to draw”.

When it was time to say ‘Goodbye!’, Cardinal Bertone, in a message left in the Guest Book of the Shrine of Fatima, said that he was “touched and happy for being able to represent Pope Francis” during this pilgrimage to Fatima. And he added: “With the Pope’s blessing, I wish that His Excellency the Bishop of Leiria-Fatima and all the Shrine’s employees continue to spread a robust and confident faith in God, Who can do all things, through the intercession of Mary”.

Two days later, on October 15, Cardinal Bertone would leave the office of Secretary of State. When was time to say farewell before the Pope and the employees of the Secretariat of State, Cardinal Bertone stated that the devotion to Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima unites Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis”.

Leopoldina Simões



‘Avé Fatima’ – Hymns of the Shrine of Fatima



The Shrine of Fatima launched, on October 12, the CD ‘Avé Fatima’, a collection of 17 hymns connected with the Shrine, sung by the *Schola Cantorum Little Shepherds of Fatima*. All the hymns, some of popular origin, were recorded in the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima.

One of the hymns is the Hymn of the Centennial of the Apparitions. Paulo Lameiro directed this musical work, assisted by Rita Pereira. João Santos took care of the organ work. It was co-produced by Logomedia and JADE.

The *Schola Cantorum Little Shepherds of Fatima*, the choir of the Shrine of Fatima, constituted in 2003 with the purpose of animating the celebrations dedicated to children at the Shrine, comprises today of 42 singers, between 6 and 18 years of age.

Manuscript of Third Part of Secret of Fatima on display in Fatima

On November 30, on the underground floor of the Basilica of Most Holy Trinity, the Shrine of Fatima will inaugurate a new temporary exhibition, to be named ‘Secret and Revelation’. Amongst the more symbolic pieces, there will be displayed the manuscript of the Third Part of the Secret of Fatima, which has never before been exposed to the public and which will be brought from the Vatican just for this purpose.

The announcement was made at the end of October by the Curator of the Museum of the Shrine of Fatima and Commissary of the exhibition, Mr. Marco Daniel Duarte: “Amongst the pieces being exhibited there will be the manuscript of the Third Part of the Secret of Fatima, which was revealed on May 13, 2000”.

Mr. Duarte added: “Since it was considered one of the fundamental pieces for the museological discourse of the exhibition that will deal with the three parts of the Secret of Fatima, the Shrine decided to ask the Holy See to loan it. The request was made by Bishop Antonio Marto and the loan authorized by Pope Francis on June 10, 2013”.

The manuscript belongs to the Secret Archives of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, where it has been since April 4, 1957.

In declarations to the Shrine of Fatima, Mr. Duarte reminded that “the manuscript rarely left the Secret Archives of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith: once, at the request of Pope John Paul II, after the attempt on his life on May 13, 1981; and also in the year 2000, when the Prefect of this Congregation was sent by the Pope to Coimbra to have Lucia recognize the said manuscript”.

L.S.



Temporary Exhibition of the Shrine of Fatima can now be viewed online

The exhibition “To be, the secret of the heart”, inaugurated at the Shrine of Fatima at the beginning of this pastoral year and open to the public in the underground Complex of the Basilica of Most Holy Trinity until the end of this October, gained a new dimension by being able to be viewed through the Internet.

The six nuclei of the exhibition course, which intend to recall the June 1917 apparition of Our Lady and specially bring out the themes and the message related to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, can now be viewed online through the page <http://serosegredocoracao.fatima.pt>.

From its inauguration, on Nov.24, 2012, to its closing, on October 31, 2013, the exhibition was visited by 233,656 people.

After its closing, Mr. Duarte, curator of the Shrine’s Museum,

says that “it would be very difficult to once again gather all these pieces now being exhibited, since some of them do not belong to the Museum of the Shrine”, and that is why we say that this new context of the visit online is so pertinent.

It is available in the seven languages used by the Shrine of Fatima and covers all the corners of the exhibition, all the pieces, as well as all the written texts shown, not

neglecting the sound track that goes with the ‘in loco’ visit.

To Mr. Duarte, although this type of visit is no substitute for the experience of the direct contact with the treasure trove found in the exhibition itself, the initiative offers some advantages. “To be able to appreciate objects and historical documents in the comfort and tranquility of one’s home and as one finds time available” is one of them.

Mr. Duarte explains further: “The online visitor may amplify objects, see some in an interactive way, by rotating the pieces and appreciating, in the case of sculptures, not only the main view but also the view from the side and from the back; he may also revisit each core and he will dispose of a final gallery where he can view, one by one, all the pieces in the exhibition”.

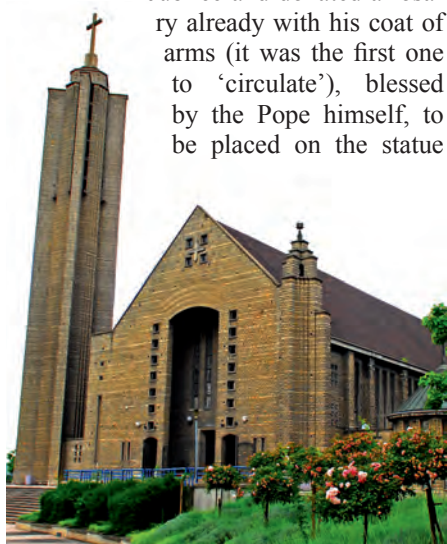
Leopoldina Simões



Paris Shrine of Fatima celebrates Silver Jubilee

The Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Paris was created by decree of Cardinal Lustiger, Archbishop of Paris, on May 13, 1988, in the Church of Our Lady Mediatrix of All Graces, until then abandoned and destined to be torn down. While in Fatima, for the August's Pilgrimage over which he presided, the Cardinal thought of entrusting this church to the Portuguese community under the title of Our Lady of Fatima.

For the celebrations of the Silver Jubilee, the Holy Father granted a Plenary Indulgence during the celebrations of the Jubilee and donated a rosary already with his coat of arms (it was the first one to 'circulate'), blessed by the Pope himself, to be placed on the statue



of Our Lady. It was Cardinal Monteiro de Castro, then Grand Penitentiary, that brought it over to Paris, on the occasion of the May celebrations presided over by him. The Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima visited the new shrine from May 1 to 13.

June's pilgrimage was presided over by the Apostolic Nuncio in Paris, in order to express the profound connection of the Message of Fatima to the ministry of the Successor of Peter. Invited were groups of Parisian youths going to World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro (besides ours) and we also had the visit of a replica of the Statue of the Christ Redeemer of Corcovado. The Archbishop of Rio de Janeiro, who hosted WYD, was so kind as to send a message addressed to the Parisian youths as well as to the Portuguese-French youths. In it, he also recalled the consecration he made, in Fatima, of WYD to Our Lady, on the occasion of the International Anniversary Pilgrimage of May 12/13, in Cova da Iria, over which he presided.

July's pilgrimage was dedicated to married couples, who, while renewing their matrimonial commitment, invoked Our Lady as Support of Faith.

September's pilgrimage was dedicated to the return to school and to work, asking the Lord, through the intercession of the

Virgin Mary, for His grace and wisdom for the families and their student children.

On October 12, we received the visit of the current Archbishop of Paris, Cardinal André Vingt-Trois, who came accompanied by one of his auxiliary bishops. During the Vigil, the Shrine and the lower church (now a crypt) were packed. The celebration concluded with a candlelight procession. The Jubilee ended on the 13th with the celebration of Holy Mass – during which the Chrism was administered by the Bishop's Vicar for foreign communities – followed by the Farewell to the Virgin. Both celebrations were participated by many youths and children, most of them under our pastoral care.

Until December, on every 13th of the month, the Jubilee will continue to be celebrated, according to the Message of the Angel and of Our Lady, with an afternoon of prayer and adoration, during a Novena of nine months, begun in April, in collaboration with the *Association des Pèlerins de Fatima* (Association of Pilgrims of Fatima). This Novena has been well attended.

Let us trust in the Lord, through the intercession of His Mother, that the seed thrown to the earth of our hearts may produce abundant fruits of new life.

Fr. Nuno Aurélio,

Rector of the Shrine of Fatima in Paris

President of Republic of East-Timor pilgrim of Fatima

On the morning of September 21, Mr. Taur Matan Ruak, President of the Republic of East-Timor, visited the Shrine of Fatima.

In the company of his spouse and an entourage of several people, including the Ambassadors of East-Timor in Lisbon and the Ambassador of Portugal in Dili, the Chief of State declared, in declarations to journalists, that his coming to Fatima was due to his desire "to thank Our Lady for having blessed his people and his country" and to "ask Her to support the development" of East-Timor.

Mr. Ruak came to participate in the Eucharist in the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary. Upon arriving, he was received by Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas, Rector of the Shrine of Fatima, who

showed his joy and honor in greeting in Fatima the Chief of State of East-Timor.

Afterwards, in the sacristy of the Basilica, the Chief of State signed the Guest Book of the Shrine, where he wrote down: "It is an honor for me to visit the Shrine of Fatima. East-Timor benefited from the Mercy of the Lord. Thanks, Merciful Lord! Thanks a lot!"

Still talking to journalists, Mr. Ruak said that "the majority of the people of East-Timor is Catholic and everybody prays to God to continue helping the country".

He also declared that this was his second visit to the Shrine of Fatima. "The first was in 1999, shortly after the end of the war".

Leopoldina Simões



Irish Monstrance donated to Shrine of Fatima on pilgrimage to Ireland

The Irish Monstrance, donated to the Shrine of Fatima in 1949, was on pilgrimage to Ireland on October 9 thru 15, traveling through the main places of Catholic worship in the country. Accompanied by the Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima on its first trip out of the Shrine of Fatima, the Irish Monstrance was in Dublin on October 9 and 10; in Kilmurray and Ballina on the 11th; at the Shrine of Knock on the 12th; in Galway on the 13th, from where it returned to Dublin on October 14 and 15; and from there to Fatima on the 16th.

This initiative, named 'Peace and Thanksgiving Pilgrimage', was organized by Grainne Conroy, daughter of the devotee of Our Lady who promoted the campaign which would give origin to this donation, full of symbolism, from the Irish people.

At the moment chosen for the Monstrance and the Statue to depart from the Shrine of Fatima, the Curator of the Museum of the Shrine, on behalf of the Rector, Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas, showed his satisfaction with this pilgrimage and prayed for its pastoral spiritual success and also asked prayers from the pilgrims of the Shrine of Fatima.

Upon returning, Grainne Conroy recounted, to the Rector of the Shrine of Fatima, the great spiritual benefits of the pilgrimage. She said she was greatly touched by the fact that the Irish Monstrance and the Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima entered the Shrine of Knock, the country's major Marian Shrine, on the precise moment when the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima was being received by Pope Francis in St. Peter's Square, on the afternoon of October 12.

Let us recall that, this year, on the afternoon of August 15, Solemnity of the Assumption of Our Lady, Ireland's Bishops consecrated the country to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This consecration was made in the Shrine of Knock. In the afternoon of that same day, at the Shrine of Fatima, before the recitation of the Rosary in the Little Chapel of Apparitions, the same prayer of consecration (of Ireland) was recited by a pilgrim, Mr. William A. Thomas.



Note. – The Irish Monstrance is 105cm high and weighs 8 kg. At its base is St. Patrick, the Patron Saint of Ireland, followed by the Image of Our Lady of Fatima. Around a large circle, representing the Sun and recalling the Miracle of the Sun on October 13, 1917, are small circles in silver, representing images of Our Lady's last apparition in October 13, 1917: Our Lady with the Little Shepherds, the Holy Family, Our Lady of Sorrows and Our Lady of Mount Carmel. From the large circle radiate 150 rays, each ending in a little precious stone, thus forming a precious rosary.

Diocesan pilgrimage of Czech seminarians to Fatima

Diocesan Bishop Msgr. Jan Vokal, while attending last November's General Assembly of the World Apostolate of Fatima, came up with a special idea. As he feels specially blessed by Our Lady, he decided to bring to Fatima his seminarians, for them to feel great confidence in the Mother of God, in Her Maternal intercession; as well as to experience the Marian spirituality of this place, so that they could apply it in preparing for their priestly life and ministry.

Mr. Libor Havlik also joined, with his family, the pilgrimage of the seminarians, as a representative of the Kolping movement in the Czech Republic, with which the Czech Republic works closely with the World Apostolate of Fatima. With the support of the Kolping movement and of the World Apostolate of Fatima in the Czech Republic and also with the help of Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas, Rector of the Shrine of Fatima, for the transportation,



and the generous consent of Bishop Antonio Marto, of Leiria-Fatima, we made this pilgrimage actually as an exercise of the initial motto: The Virgin Mary has captivated our hearts.

All the seminarians were in Fatima for the first time. The apparitions of Fatima were unknown to them and some of them prayed the Rosary together for the first time. The intense program of the pilgrimage consisted of prayer and visiting the sites of Fatima and Aljustrel, but we also visited the exhibition 'Fatima light and Peace', and had a very special meeting with Bishop Marto and Fr. Cabecinhas. Nuno Prazeres and Ana Reis shared with the seminarians the history of their families and provided information about the World Apostolate of Fatima and the Message of Fatima.

Hana Frančáková,
Apostolado Mundial de Fátima na República Checa

Pilgrims from Zambia visit Fatima – ‘Zikomo!’

Amongst the many groups on pilgrimage to the Shrine of Fatima on the occasion of the International Anniversary Pilgrimage of October 12/13, there was a group from Zambia.

In a written testimony sent by Colombian Fr. Carlos Alberto Nunes to the Shrine of Fatima, there are mentioned the motives that brought these pilgrims to Cova da Iria between October 11 and 16: “We came in order to fulfill the wish of Cardinal Mazombwe, who died last August and always wanted to come with us. We want to give thanks for the gift of his life and service to the Missionary Church. We want to give thanks for being part of his friends and to have had this opportunity. We give thanks because, despite all the sacrifices, we made it here!”

The group participated, in Fatima, in the scheduled official celebrations of the International Anniversary Pilgrimage. That was the highlight of their stay in Fatima: “We have never seen anything like this!... we wish we could do this in Zambia...”, these were some of the comments made by these pilgrims and witnessed by Fr. Nunes in his written testimony, which he titled “Zambia came to Fatima”.

“(during the celebrations of the 13th)

They raised their banners and dressed in the color of their nation’s flag... it was a Eucharistic Feast. They got emotional with everyone during the Farewell Procession. In the afternoon they met a group of friends and family members of the Missionaries who had spent time in Zambia. They felt the friendship of the Missionary Family”, recalls the priest.

Fr. Nunes accompanied this group of pilgrims, who were lodged in Fatima all week, in the Retreat House of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

‘Zikomo!... This is a word in Ciniyanja, which means ‘Thank you!’ That is how they all felt and expressed themselves... Thanks to God for this opportunity to be here in Fatima! Thanks to Mother for the marvelous experience of faith and communion between peoples. Thanks for being well received by the Portuguese people!” - explains the priest.

And the priest concludes: “Everything went well. They left happy and we stayed happy. This is a two-way mission. We received those who for many years have been receiving us in their country, their homes, their hearts. ‘Zikomo’ for having come to us!

Leopoldina Simões

First-Lady of Dominican Republic visits Fatima



On the afternoon of September 20, Mrs. Candida Montilla de Medina, spouse of the President of the Dominican Republic, Mr. Danilo Medina, was at the Shrine of Fatima, where she was received, in the Rectory Building, by Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas, Rector of the Shrine. Afterwards she was taken on a guided tour of the Shrine.

According to information given by Mr. Rafael Ovalles, Assistant Director of Press for the Presidency of the Dominican Republic, this visit to Portugal was aimed at signing an agreement of exchange and cooperation between the ‘Center Differences’ and *Centro de Atención Integral para la Discapacidad* (CAID) of Santo Domingo.



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Fátima – Light and Peace

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Proprietor, Publisher and Editor: Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fátima

Social Security nr. 500 746 699

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Printing: Gráfica Almondina – Torres Novas

Legal Deposit: 210 650/04

ISSN: 1647-2438

Isento de registo na E.R.C. ao abrigo do decreto regulamentar 8/99 de 09 de Junho – alínea a) do nº 1 do Artigo 12º.

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