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## Centennial of the Apparitions of the Angel

The present year of 2016 is particularly significant to the Shrine of Fatima because it is the year that marks the centennial of the apparitions of the Angel to the three seers of Fatima. In her *Memoirs*, the seer Lucia reports three apparitions of an angelical figure, who introduced itself as the Angel of Peace.

We do not know the exact dates of these apparitions, but Sister Lucia tells us in her *IV Memoir*, that they happened in spring, summer and autumn of 1916. We know well the places: the first and the third took place in Loco do Cabeço, while the second apparition happened at Lucia's parents well.

The apparitions of the Angel are an authentic "portico" that eases the entrance in the Fatima event and in its message, suggesting explicitly or implicitly, its most important dimensions. There for, the centennial of the apparitions of the Angel presents itself as a challenge to deepen the content of these apparitions: first of all, the revelations of God, of the Holy Trinity, and of the unique place He has in the believer's life; the eucharistic devotion, that will awake in the little Shepherds a permanent desire to keep company, to adore and console the "hidden Jesus", as well as the will to repair the offences and indifferences that offend His eucharistic presence; the importance of praying, that will begin to shape the little Shepherds life; the reference to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, always referred together, because if it is the Son who delivers us Mary as Mother, on the other side it is this motherly heart that always leads to the Son... And we could go on the list of fundamental themes of the message of Fatima that we already find in the apparitions of the Angel.

Although these apparitions reached the public knowledge when Our Lady apparitions were already known for a long time, they were its preparation. As well as the angelic apparitions prepared the seers of Fatima to be able to choose the message of Our Lady, in the year after, it is also intended the passage of this centennial to be a preparation and introduction to the great jubilee year of 2017.

*Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas*

***National Children's Pilgrimage brought more than 200.000 people to the Shrine***

**The Bishop of Bragança-Miranda reminded the inseparable connection between the younger and the message of the apparitions in Cova da Iria**



Thousands of Portuguese children, coming from all dioceses, participated this year in the closure celebration of their national pilgrimage to Fatima, presided by Monsignor José Cordeiro, bishop of Bragança-Miranda, who highlighted the inseparable connection between the younger and the message of the apparitions in Cova da Iria: «Each one of us has a very special place in God's heart. He celebrates when a son regrets and returns to the family house of love, place of affections and sanctuary of life», said the prelate, in the celebration homily, held in a colour and party context.

«Francisco, Jacinta and Lucia, seeing the war and suffering in the world, listening to the Angel's voice, speaking with Maria, teach us a very simple way to help God to be happier with us – the prayer, sacrifices, forgiveness, adoration and good deeds», he explained.

The bishop of Bragança-Miranda reminded that the 10th of June also marks the Memory of the Guardian Angel of Portugal: «It is an old festivity, but it gained more importance since the apparitions here in Fatima. Does everyone knows the Guardian Angel prayer?», the bishop asked those present.

In the end of the celebration, and after the distribution of a balloon and a puzzle with the message of the Angel to the Little Shepherds to each child, more than 3000 colourful balloons were thrown in to the air.

The 38<sup>th</sup> Children Pilgrimage, under the theme "God is happy", started with the evocation of the Apparitions of the Angel, in a procession from the Chapel of the Apparitions to Valinhos, in Fatima, during which children prayed and meditate the rosary.

*Carmo Rodeia*

## Mercy is «new attitude» before mankind, cardinal Braz de Aviz defends

*Prefect of Religious Institutes of Consecrated Life and Apostolic Life Societies Congregation was in Fatima as president of the Anniversary Pilgrimage of June*



The Brazilian Cardinal sent by Pope Francis to the IV National Eucharistic Congress, that took place in Fatima, said to the Shrine Press Room that the connection to mercy, encouraged by the Pope, generates a “new attitude” in the Church.

«Mercy is a new attitude, ours, regarding men and women, however, it has been since ever the central attitude of God, because it is God’s being; God is mercy», pointed out the cardinal João Braz de Aviz, prefect of the Religious Institutes of Consecrated Life and Apos-

tolic Life Societies Congregation (Holy See), who also presided the international anniversary pilgrimage of June.

In this interview, the cardinal underlines the importance of discovering in the Eucharist “God’s capacity to be merciful” with all.

«In this Year of Mercy, to bring the Eucharist and Mercy together, as the Pope did, seems to me very interesting as a response to men and women comprehension, today», he highlights.

God loves “unconditionally” and this love “heals” people, within, he continued.

Monsignor João Braz de Aviz observes that today’s mankind has to “learn to adore Jesus in the Eucharist” to “understand” what each one is.

Monsignor João Braz de Aviz talks about Eucharistic as “a mystery” that implies “intimacy with God” and causes a “difficulty” in people’s acceptance, for being so different.

«We haunt ourselves a little, such is the presence of the Lord; we learn so much that it is almost impossible not to believe», he observes, appealing to a greater “existential sense” of the sacrament.

In this way, reminds the capacity of everyone to understand the Eucharist, in particular the simple ones: «The person meets the mystery as someone who learns, loves and discovers», he adds.

The Holy See responsible assures, on the other side, that the Pope “likes Fatima very much”.

«The Pope loves everyone and loves Fatima. He likes Fatima very much, and I have the feeling he will come, although I have no message from him on this regard. He is very open to go to the house of Mary; he has visited the Basilica of Saint Mary Major more than 30 times. So he will feel good in Fatima», said the cardinal.

*Carmo Rodeia*

## Senate hosted the Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima

*The Counsellor of the Portuguese Embassy in Brasilia pointed out the relationship between the Brazilian people and the Shrine of Cova da Iria*

The Senate of Brazil hosted the Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima along with the relics of Saint John Paul II.

According to an announcement posted on the webpage of the Brazilian Senate, this visit is part of a “special session of the Plenary to celebrate the missionaries of the pilgrim statue”. On the opening session of the solemnity, the Counsellor of the Portuguese Embassy in Brasilia, Florbela Alinho Paraíba, outlined the importance of the Statue’s stopover in the Senate.

“In a house like this, where laws are made, we keep from the model of Mary, the example of selfless and humble service. Every time we think of her, there is a relationship between the service and the intercession before God”, she stated.

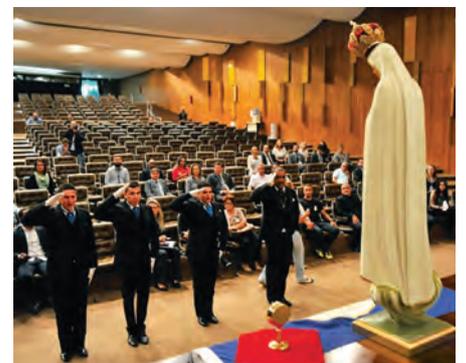
Florbela Paraíba then emphasized the fact that “many Brazilians who visit Portugal ... take the opportunity to go to the Shrine of Fatima”.

The Counsellor also mentioned “the Catholicism” as “a reference in the Lusitanian history” and as a religion “with notable impact in the life of the country”.

The Senator Hélio José, of the Brazilian Democratic Movement Party, described Mary as “a connecting element of humankind with God” and a “symbol of love and family”.

The politician also pointed out “the importance of Our Lady in life, in faith and in the culture of the Brazilian people”.

In 2017, Portugal and Brazil are going to live two special moments, with the celebration of the Centennial of the Apparitions of Our Lady at the Shrine of Fatima, and the celebration of 300 years of the discovery of the Statue of Our Lady of Aparecida, in the river Paraíba do Sul, in the countryside of São Paulo.



“They’re going to be two great moments for Brazil and for the world. When we consider the apparitions of Mary, in particular the ones in Fatima, we realise that there is a warning: that people turn to God”, emphasised father André Lima, of the Archdiocese of Brasilia.

*Carmo Rodeia  
with Agência Ecclesia*

*Multimedia course in Valinhos and Aljustrel,  
marked the Centennial of the Apparitions of the Angel.*

## “The Light of the Angel” show proposed a new experience of faith

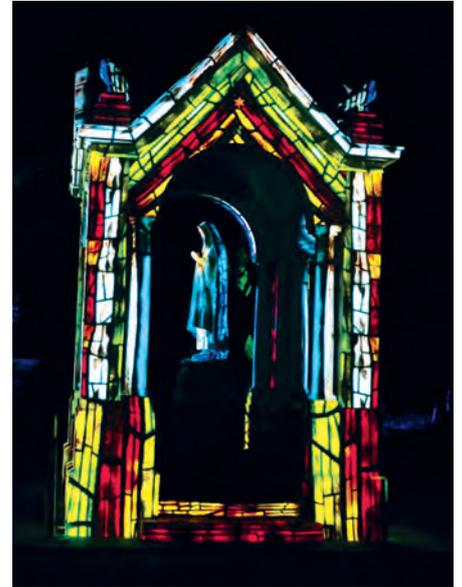
The Shrine of Fatima presented the multimedia show “The Light of the Angel”, with *video mapping* projections, in an immersive course, through which, new technologies were taken to Valinhos and Aljustrel between the 24<sup>th</sup> and the 26<sup>th</sup> of June.

The narrative guided us through the events that happened in these places, giving us knowledge on the life and spirituality of its protagonists, with an intimate and sensorial approach.

This multimedia immersive course is composed by video projections on the front of the seer’s houses, in the three apparitions’ locations – The Well of Arneiro and Loca do Cabeço – and in the monument of Valinhos. To complete this multimedia experience, there is a lighting *design* work adapted to the surrounding nature that involves the projections locations.

In an intermediate point of the course, building a bridge to the celebrations of the centennial of the apparitions of Our Lady, next year, a projection of the stained glasses of the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima in the monument that marks the marian apparition of August, in Valinhos, presented, in a luminous and graphically animated way, a synthesis of the apparitions of Our Lady of the Rosary.

The *Multimedia Immersive Course* “The Light of the Angel”, created by the Ocubo studio, is an event commissioned by the Shrine of Fatima for the celebration of the centennial of the apparitions of the Angel to the seers. This project that takes part in the Official Program of the Centennial of the Apparitions of Fatima sets to promote some of the places and itineraries that lead thousands of



pilgrims to visit the Shrine and surrounding region.

*Carmo Rodeia*

### *Fatima and the challenges of evangelization in debate*

## World Apostolate of Fatima organizes Second Congress of Fatima to Latin America and Caribbean

It was around the challenges that evangelization faces nowadays and the conviction that the message of Fatima offers itself as a response instrument to those challenges, that the World Apostolate of Fatima organized the Second Congress of Fatima to Latin America and Caribbean, in Rio de Piedras, Puerto Rico, from May 17 to 21, 2016.

The event gathered delegations of the World Apostolate of Fatima of around ten countries of Latin America and Caribbean and counted with the participation of the Apostolic Nuncio to the Dominican Republic and the Apostolic Delegate to Puerto Rico, Monsignor Jude Thaddeus Okolo and the Metropolitan Archbishop of San Juan, Monsignor Roberto González Nieves.

Invited to be represented and to collaborate into the participants’ reflection, the Shrine of Fatima sent Doctor Marco Daniel Duarte, director of

the Study and Diffusion Department, who presented a conference entitled “dressed as a pilgrim: the Virgin Mary travelling and message (1947-...)”, and Doctor Pedro Valinho Gomes, the Rector executive advisor, who presented “the apparitions of an Angel to three little shepherds, in 1916’s Fatima: three steps of an itinerary with God”.

From the intense reflection program, to which Puerto Rico, Argentina, Nigeria, Spain and Portugal speakers contributed, came highlighted some of the most relevant spirituality features of Fatima as contributions to the gospel announcement today: God’s centrality in history and the invitation to adoration, the compassion and mercy, the invitation to a eucharistic life, the pilgrim believer condition to the Pilgrim Statue of the Virgin.

The congress also seek out to take the message of Fatima to the local community.

In the end of each day, the congress stage was taken to a diocese parish of San Juan, where it was given, with warm from the parishioners, a thematic conference or a liturgical celebration.

The congress ended on the 21<sup>st</sup> of May, with a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Guánica, home base of the Dominican Sisters of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, in which is found a replica of the Chapel of the Apparitions of Fatima that hosts a plastic interpretation of the Fatima event in nine canvas, from João de Sousa Araújo.

To the organization of this pilgrimage and of the World Apostolate Congress of Fatima, has contributed the Portugal Consul in Puerto Rico, Dr. José Duarte da Silveira and his family.

*Pedro Valinho Gomes*

## Archbishop of Tegucigalpa praises the simplicity of the Message of Fatima



Honduran Cardinal Óscar Maradiaga, one of the closest advisers of Pope Francis and former Caritas Internationalis president, presided the Salesian Family National Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Fatima, which took place at the end of May in Cova da Iria.

«This place has something very special. It makes very emotional because many people converted here, people who begun to believe after this experience», the cardinal underlined, highlighting the caution and the incentive of the appeal to conversion.

It was the second time that Monsignor Maradiaga was in Fatima. The first was in 2009, when he presided the International Anniversary Pilgrimage of the 13<sup>th</sup> of May, centred in the theme “The pure of heart shall see God”.

«More than intellectual, faith is a personal encounter with Jesus who is the reincarnation, son of God, and if we want to understand Fatima we must see it like this: as most pilgrim’s and simple people», he highlighted pointing out the little shepherds example: «They lived this experience in a simple way, that is, in an existential way not intellectual or rationalist. Who comes to Fatima moved by intellectual motivations will never understand Fatima», because, «this is the story of incarnation of the love of a mother for her children, and only who lives it, understands it». Challenged to reflect about the Message, the cardinal refers to a message of confidence in God, and, for that, always current: «When we thought the catholic faith would disappear due to the treat of the communist regimes, the Virgin appeared and again,

brought a message of hope, of prayer and confidence in God».

« The Virgin appeared here for mercy to deliver a humble message: let us pray the holy rosary, which has a great strength, which is a profoundly Christological and naturally marian, so that the human being understands that without God it is not possible to build Peace, justice nor the understanding between people», emphasized the responsible of the Council of Cardinals.

Monsignor Óscar Maradiaga reminds that this is the understanding that lacks in the world: « I believe that it will always be necessary that the human being understands that the cross of Christ is not an adornment in life, but a reality and that penitence and adoration make the human being not proud and make him give God His rightful place, so that life can be better and more human». Monsignor Óscar Andrés Rodríguez Maradiaga is the current coordinator of the Council of Cardinals created by Pope Francis and also led the Caritas Internationalis for several years.

*Carmo Rodeia*

## The Message of Fatima shows how “it’s possible to change history from within”

### *The Auxiliary Bishop of Braga presided over the Anniversary Pilgrimage of July*

The International Anniversary Pilgrimage of July was presided by the Auxiliary Bishop of Braga, Nuno Almeida and it was centred on the subject “For with you is the fountain of life”. The main intention of this Pilgrimage was the prayer for peace in Syria.

In the opening Mass, reference was made to all the people who have suffered from violence and all the people persecuted for their faith, for their ideas of simply because of the colour of their skin.

According to the Auxiliary Bishop of Braga, the Message of Fatima presents itself as a challenge to read the events of history “bearing in mind that it’s possible to change history from within, with the power of love and prayer”.

Nuno Almeida pointed out that all Marian Apparitions in Fatima had as a principle “the guidance of humankind through the path of love and goodness”.

The Auxiliary Bishop of Braga left



two challenges to the pilgrims who were present: the first “Let yourselves be filled with the light of Christ, since it’s the only light that can open our hearts to love”; the second, more specific, be supportive of Caritas and of all the humanitarian aid organisations.

This light must captivate the “look and act” of men before society so that they have a “fraternal look and sharing hands”, highlighted Nuno Almeida and he concluded by saying that it was this approach of letting ourselves be touched that marked the life e deter-

mined the solicitude of Mary.

The Bishop of Leiria-Fatima, António Marto, who celebrated the Mass on the 13<sup>th</sup>, mentioned that the message of the third apparition of Our Lady in Cova da Iria is “a promise of solace and hope.”

“Today we evoke a promise of solace, of hope and courage that Our Lady left us: In the end, My Immaculate Heart will triumph.

The Immaculate Heart of Mary represents to us the assurance on earth that the last word is the triumph of life over death and the triumph of peace over war”, Said António Marto.

The International Anniversary Pilgrimage of the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of July emphasises the third apparition of Our Lady to the Shepherds Francisco, Jacinta and Lucia.

42 groups of pilgrims from 19 different countries (10 from Italy), signed up for the celebration of the 13<sup>th</sup>.

*Sandra Dantas*

## *To be a chaplain in the Shrine of Fatima*

# “the Mother gives to each one what he needs”



Fr. Héctor Alfonso Ramirez Sanz Cerrada is one of the chaplain who integrates the body of chaplains of the Shrine of Fatima. He is a Mexican priest who belongs to the diocese of Getafe, in Spain, and he's the chaplain in the Shrine of Fatima for the Spanish speaking pilgrims from 1 year and 4 months. He speaks four languages which allows him to help Italian, English and Portuguese speaking pilgrims.

“My work consists mainly in confessing and in ensuring the correct course of the Eucharist in Spanish language”, said Fr. Héctor Cerrada.

Addressed to the pilgrims who come here, the Shrine of Fatima provides a liturgical service which intends to go further than communal prayers, by promoting the personal encounter of each pilgrim with God, according to article 3 of the Shrine's statutes.

“The main mission of the Shrine of Fatima is to welcome the pilgrims and to propose them the experience of the Message of Fatima. This is a proposal of conversion, by the Word and the Sacraments, mostly Reconciliation and Eucharist, by penance, in order to lead men and women towards the recognition and adoration of God, Saint, Unique and Trinitarian”.

In order to make this possible, the Shrine has a body of chaplains consisting of 10 priests, among them the rector and the vice-rector of the Shrine. Other priests, from outside of the Shrine, also collaborate in ensuring the daily liturgical celebrations.

There is a big difference between working in a parish and working in



a Shrine, according to the experience of Fr. Héctor: “the shrine is a unique place; a parish has everything that a shrine has, but it hasn't the spiritual atmosphere that exists in a Shrine”.

As he doesn't have any executive or administrative responsibilities, his day is essentially orientated towards prayer, which he considers as “a treasure”. He stands in prayer for two hours before his breakfast, which he eats at 7:15 am, and prays again after lunch and dinner, which represents an average of 4 to 5 hours of prayer a day, almost the same time he spends confessing.

“I have arrived here with a doctorate to finish, but I dropped it, after a year of judgement, because I identifies myself a lot with Francisco, a contemplative”, has concluded Fr. Héctor.

Another thing that fascinates him in working at the Shrine is what he calls “a small Rome”: priests from all around the world have their lunches and dinners together, which shows the universality of the Church.

When he dedicates his time confessing those who come to the Shrine, what touches his heart the most is to realize that each person receives what he needs, that “the Mother gives to each one what he needs”.

Fr. Héctor Cerrada is confessing every day from 10:30 am to 1:00 am and from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm. The Chapel of Reconciliation of the Shrine is opened every day for confessions, from 7:30 am to 1:00 am and from 2:00 pm to 7:30 pm

## *Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Fatima in Slovenia from May 13<sup>th</sup> until October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016*

# The national pilgrimage of the Pilgrim Virgin Statue in Slovenia has begun on May 13<sup>th</sup>.



In addition to the Jubilee of Mercy, the Church of Slovenia is celebrating the pilgrimage of the statue of Our Lady of Fatima to their country that started last May 13<sup>th</sup>. This is the third time that the Pilgrim Virgin Statue visits Slovenia. The first visit was in 1997 and the second in 2008, and both had produced “pastoral fruits”, as the local church emphasizes.

The president of the Episcopal Con-

ference of Slovenia, Mgr. Andrej Glavan, recommended the priests to elaborate a preparation of prayer in order to welcome Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima. He suggested to carry out, during the months prior to her arrival, from January to May, the devotion of the first Saturdays, as in Fatima, and the prayer of the rosary.

The Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Fatima has initiated, on May 13<sup>th</sup>, a national

pilgrimage in Slovenia, on the same day that she had finished a national pilgrimage in Portugal, a coincidence that the rector of the Shrine of Fatima has underlined.

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas has handed the statue number 5 to a group of pilgrims, led by a bishop of the Episcopal Conference of Slovenia, in a meeting held in the Retreat House of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, where he expressed his joy about the “coincidence” between the beginning and the end of two national pilgrimages.

The Slovenian national pilgrimage, organized by the National Congress of the Families, has started on May 13<sup>th</sup> and will last until October 13<sup>th</sup>.

The Pilgrim Virgin Statue will visit all Slovenian dioceses, an opportunity to “spread the message of Fatima”, has also said the rector.

“I hope this pilgrimage goes well for it is always an opportunity to call many Christians to the message of Our Lady and this is important”, concluded Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas.

*Sandra Dantas*

## To know the story of the apparitions of Fatima from the origins of their intervenients

In order to know the events, it is fundamental to understand their origin. Therefore, the Shrine of Fatima has been improving the welcoming of the pilgrims in Aljustrel and Valinhos, location of the homes of the three shepherds, to whom the Angel appeared at first and then Our Lady appeared to them.

The houses of Francisco and Jacinta, and Lucia are opened every day and have extended opening hours from May until October – from 9:00 to 1:00 am and 2:30 to 6:30 pm. The admission is free.

The houses of the two brothers – Francisco and Jacinta – and the one of Lucia are approximately 2 kms away from the Shrine of Fatima.

The house of Francisco and Jacinta, built in 1888, was purchased by the Shrine of Fatima in November 1996, and



it was rebuilt later in 2000. In this house, one can see the bedroom where Francisco died, in April 4, 1919, and the bedroom where the two shepherds were born.

The house of Lucia, bordered by the shade of the fig trees, keeps inside a loom. The features of the small bedrooms, where Lucia was born and where she slept, remain the same of that time. In the

visitors’ room, a crucifix remembers the devotion of the three Shepherds. In the backyard, the Well of Arneiro invites us to contemplation and prayer. This house, dated 1885, was donated to the Shrine of Fatima and rebuilt.

Many pilgrims, individually or in group, wish to know the historical places that tell us the apparitions by means of the story of the three little shepherds. The humbleness and simplicity of the place impress the visitors in a complex way.

In 2015, there is an estimation of 671.324 pilgrims who had visited the houses of the Shepherds and the House-Museum of Aljustrel. The Shrine proposes guided tours to the seers’ homes.

People can go to Aljustrel by car or walking along the path called the Path of the Little Shepherds.

*Cátia Filipe*

## Luxembourg will welcome the Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima

The archbishop of Luxembourg, Jean-Claude Hollerich, has announced that the country will receive the visit of the Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima in May and June of 2017: « In the year we will celebrate the Centennial of the Apparitions of Fatima, and that we will also celebrate fifty years of this Shrine edification (*Op Bäessent*) here in Wiltz, the Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fátima comes to visit us. What a joy! ».

The coordinator of the Pastoral of Portuguese Language, Fr. Rui Pedro, contextualizes that the news of the visit of the Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima happened in the 49<sup>th</sup> national pilgrimage in honor of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, in Wiltz, in north Luxembourg, which was celebrated by the Bishop of Porto, Mgr. António Francisco dos Santos: «I knew it was a massive manifestation of faith, but I confess, I didn't expect to see so many people. It was a reality that impressed me», commented the Bishop of Porto.

On his first visit to the Grand Duchy, the Portuguese prelate pointed that Our Lady prepared the path for the Portuguese that went to Luxembourg and that today they are the ones who walk to worship her.

Speaking in Portuguese, Jean-Claude Hollerich explained that, as in the first visit of the Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima to Luxembourg, 70 years ago, the world lives difficult times.

The Luxembourg tour of the Pilgrim Statue of Fatima begins in the north of the Grand Duchy, in Wiltz, and then, during a month, the Statue will travel by all the parishes that have registered for it.

### Pilgrimage of Our Lady of Fatima in Wiltz

The 49<sup>th</sup> annual pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Wiltz, occurred on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May of 2016 in the presence of the Luxembourg archbishop, Jean-Claude Hollerich, and D. António Francisco dos Santos, bishop of Porto.

The Shrine *Op Bäessent* has its origin in a promise made by the



dean Monsignor Prosper Colling 70 years ago, in the Battle of the Bulge time. The monument with the Virgin Mary embossed, that lays her arms over the names of the 108 war victims which are engraved in granite, is a testimony of gratitude and remembrance to those heroes that fought to assure us peace and freedom.

In the middle of the last century with the arrival of numerous Portuguese speaking citizens whose economic situation forced to seek a better life in other countries, the Shrine of Wiltz has become to them a piece of land, symbol of their country. Many come to find peace and comfort beside the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima.

The monument with its open arcades in half a circle, invites us not to close in ourselves, but to live together in an open spirit, in a reconciliation and peace spirit. Today the Shrine *Op Bäessent* has become a place where people of different languages and cultures cross and meet to pray together.

## Shrine of Fatima's House of Youth reopens in a new space until mid September

Starting on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July until the second weekend of September, the House of Youth, located in the northern colonnade of the Shrine of Fatima is intended to be a space to welcome young people, always available to the ones who visit Cova da Iria.

With access through the Prayer Area, this area has a chapel, an audiovisual room and a social room – the Library cafe, with books, music and several activities, where young people can experience the typical atmosphere of a more reserved place as well as the openness to discover and share experiences and to deepen the message of Fatima.

“One of the purposes is that each young person can feel at home. It's a space within the Shrine of Fatima where you can simply go and visit or you can go and deepen the faith, you can find out more about Fatima or gather and chat with your friends”, says Sister Bernardete de Oliveira, of the Alliance of Saint Mary and coordinator of the House of Youth.

The person in charge for the Children's Pastoral and Youth in the Shrine of Fatima ensures that “It's not only a space for those who know everything about Fatima but it's mainly for those who know nothing about Fatima, because when we go to an unknown place, we look for a place where we're going to

feel comfortable and the House of the Youth is going to meet this need.”

The chapel of the Holy Family provides support to the House of the Youth “It has the constant presence of Jesus for individual or group adoration or even to pray with the help of prayer cards”, states Sister Bernardete, who says that the space has an immense light “ natural light and the Light of the Lord”.

In the scope of the celebrations of the Centennial of the Apparitions of Fatima, the space portrays the Valinhos landscape.

In order to stimulate the space, there will be every weekend a team of volunteers of several congregations and catholic movements: Alliance of Saint Mary, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Oblates of Mary Virgin of Fatima, Discalced /young Carmelites, Message of Fatima Movement – Youth sector.

“There is no age restriction, it's open to those who feel young and to those who want to gather with young people”, mentions the Sister of Alliance of Holy Mary.

The House of Youth is open on Saturdays and Sundays until the second weekend of September.

Opening Hours: 9:00am - 12:30am and 2:30pm - 7:00 pm

Cátia Filipe

## Pope Francis challenges Christians to live mercy from a reflection about the Message of Fatima



Pope Francis has challenged the IV Eucharistic Congress participants to seize the moment to reflect on mercy from the Message of Fatima and to prepare «a prime importance event», that is, «the celebration of the Centennial of the Apparitions of the Queen of Peace, in Fatima».

In the nomination letter of the special envoy for the event, that took place in Fatima, which was read by the Portuguese Episcopal Conference Secretary, Father Manuel Barbosa, Pope Francis, quoting the Encyclical *Laudato Si*, reminds that we live in a world marked «by misguided anthropocentrism».

The Holy Father wrote, that in front of this scenario «men have the need of true and humble adoration, made before the Most Holy Sacrament»: To men, troubled by so many and so great anguishes, the Church continuously shows the path of salvation and offers the souls the delicious bread and healthy drink, immortality remedy, established by the Lord in the Last Supper», highlighted, the Pope, adding that it is necessary to pray for mercy to the men of this century.

In the opening session of this Congress, which gathered more than 750 participants in the Pastoral Centre of Paul VI, the patriarch cardinal of Lisbon, Monsignor Manuel Clemente, emphasised that, in Fatima, Eucharist and Mercy are required reciprocally.

Persisting in the present days and in the importance of the Message of Fatima, given its evangelic content, Monsignor Manuel Clemente reminded the story of the Shepherds who «were invited to a full eucharistic participation, accessing Christ and His mercy to repair a humanity as alienated from God as from itself».

So, «the understanding of the message of Fatima will only occur when we place ourselves next to the divine mercy, following the Shepherds example: giving life, as Jesus, to the remission of sins».

The Patriarch affirmed that the connection between Fatima, Eucharist and Mercy is very wise and consists in relaunching the Message of Fatima in its second century.

Monsignor Manuel Clemente affirmed, in the closure session of the Congress that Fatima is Portugal's parish, and that debate about Eucharist and Mercy consists in a «relaunch of the message of Fatima in the Church and the world's life».

“To Live the Eucharist Fountain of Mercy” was the theme to the IV National Eucharistic Congress promoted by the Portuguese Episcopal Conference, with the collaboration of the Shrine of Fatima and of the Apostleship of Prayer.

*Cátia Filipe*

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### Fátima – Light and Peace

**Editor:** Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas  
**Proprietor, Publisher and Editor:** Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fátima  
**Social Security nr.** 500 746 699  
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 \* Email: comunicacaosocial@fatima.pt – www.fatima.pt  
**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 9 de Junho – alínea a) do n.º 1 do Artigo 12.º.

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