



Director: Fr. Luciano Guerra * Proprietor: Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fátima (Portugal) * Quarterly publication * Year IV * Nr. 13 * 2007/05/13

May 13, 1917

The grace of God shall be your consolation

“The grace of God shall be your consolation”. These words, uttered by the Mother of God and addressed to the Little Shepherds of Fátima precisely 90 years ago, show the great love for the Three Seers of Fátima, which is later reflected in the immense love of God, the Merciful Love of the Lord for all mankind.

The light which radiated from the hands of Mary towards the whole world make us feel – all of us here at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fátima, Portugal – in heart and soul, this connection with all the places of devotion to Our Lady. A union in faith, in the Risen Lord and in His Blessed Mother.

It is with great joy that, on this so special day, 90 years after the first apparition of Our Lady in this blessed land, we send a special salutation to all places and all devout friends of Our Lady of Fátima in all the four corners of the world. May the grace of God be always your consolation.

“(…) – Do you wish to offer yourselves to God to endure all the sufferings He may choose to send to you, in reparation for the sins with which He is offended and in supplication for the conversion of sinners?

- Yes, we do.

- You are going, then, to suffer much, but the grace of God shall be your consolation.

When She pronounced these words (the grace of God, etc.) it was then that She first opened Her hands, thus transmitting to us a light so intense (sort of a reflex of light emanating from them) that penetrated our chests and the innermost part of our souls and made us see ourselves in God, Who actually was that light, more clearly than we see ourselves in a mirror. Then, moved by an inner impulse also communicated to us, we fell on our knees and repeated interiorly:

-Most Holy Trinity, I adore You. My God, My God, I love You in the Blessed Sacrament.

After these first moments, Our Lady added: - Pray the Rosary every day, in order to obtain peace for the world and the end of the war. (…)”



GOD IS MERCIFUL LOVE

His Eminence Angelo Cardinal Sodano in Fátima as Pontifical Legate

Welcome, Your Eminence, for yourself and for whom you represent! In this international anniversary pilgrimage, in which we celebrate God’s Merciful Love, Which, 90 years ago, sent to Fátima His and our Mother in order to transmit to the world a message of peace, we have the pleasure of having with us His Eminence Angelo Cardinal Sodano, who presides over the celebrations as Pontifical Legate, that is, he is in Fátima representing Holy Father Benedict XVI.



On March 30, the Bishop of the Diocese of Leiria-Fátima received from the Apostolic Nuncio in Portugal, Msgr. Alfio Rapisarda, a fax message, informing him that “on behalf of the Secretariat of State of His Holiness”, he was “honored and pleased to inform Your Excellency that Holy Father Benedict XVI thought it appropriate to name His Eminence Angelo Cardinal Sodano, dean of the College of Cardinals, as Pon-

tifical Legate to the solemn celebrations of the 90th anniversary of the Apparitions of Our Lady in Fátima, on the coming 13th of May”.

This news was welcomed with much joy in the Diocese and in the Shrine. “It is a gesture of particular meaning, signaling that the Pope wants to impart solemnity to the celebrations, wants to somehow be part of the 13th of May”, Bishop António Marto, of Leiria-Fátima, said to the journalists.

Cardinal Sodano, Secretary of State Emeritus of the Vatican, is currently connected with three Congregations of the Roman Curia: for the Doctrine of Faith, for the Eastern Churches and for the Bishops. He will be in Fátima for the second time, the first being in 2000, when he accompanied Pope John Paul II in his third and last visit to Fátima on May 13th of that year, still as acting Secretary of State of the Vatican. At that time, at the end of Mass on the 13th, after the beatification of Francisco and Jacinta Marto, Cardinal Sodano announced, in a summary way, at the behest of John Paul II, the meaning of what was contained in ‘the third part’ of the Secret of Fátima.

In that same fax of March 30, Msgr. Alfio Rapisarda also passes on the information that the “Holy Father also intends to name a Pontifical Legate to the celebrations planned for the coming 12/13th of October in Fátima”.

Catholic University renews consecration to Virgin Mary

Portuguese Catholic University (UCP) brought to the Shrine of Fátima, on March 23, approximately two thousand people. Represented were professors, students and alumni and also the staff personnel of the institution which commemorates this year 40 years of existence.

“The first purpose of this pilgrimage is to come and thank the Virgin Mary for all the help received from Her throughout our existence and to ask Her for continued assistance in this project”, stated, after Mass, the Rector of UCP, Prof. Manuel Braga da Cruz, who also underlined “the hope and enormous faith in Our Lady of Fátima shown in this pilgrimage”.

His Eminence José da Cruz Cardinal Policarpo, Patriarch of Lisbon and Chancellor of UCP, presided at Mass, celebrated in the Little Chapel of Apparitions and con-celebrated by twenty-five priests, most of them connected with the Catholic University. The hymns were sung by the choir of the Seminaries of Lisbon.

Since it was Lent, Cardinal Policarpo



said, after the initial greeting, that “the best way to please God and Mary is to prepare ourselves for Easter through conversion”. During the homily, the Patriarch of Lisbon, reflecting on the readings, explained what is the difference between being Christian and being impious.

“The impious doesn’t understand that God protects the just and that holiness has

its price”, he said, emphasizing that for the Christian “the meaning of his life is decided in God” and that, therefore, “Christians are different in the judgment they make of life and history”.

At the end of Mass, all present, at one voice and facing the image of Our Lady, consecrated themselves to Our Lady of Fátima, on their own personal behalf and on behalf of Portuguese Catholic University.

“Help us to consider intelligence a service, both humble and precious, to Truth, and science as a permanent willingness to reflect it on others and to approach it, seeing in it the ultimate measure of every thing. (...) Lady of Fátima, we wish to place before You our prayer of thanks for all the gifts received during these forty years of existence of the Catholic University”, reads somewhere the text of the prayer, where the gratitude to Our Lady and the hope of being able to keep on counting on divine help, specially to reach human excellence, are emphasized.

New Bishop of São Tomé and Príncipe ordained in Fátima



On the morning of February 17, Fr. Manuel António Mendes dos Santos, named for São Tomé and Príncipe, was ordained bishop. The bishop presiding at the ordination was His Eminence José Cardinal Saraiva Martins.

Msr. Giovanni Angelo Becciu, Apostolic Nuncio in Luanda (Angola), and Msr. Damião António Franklin, Archbishop of Luanda and president of the Bishops Conference of Angola and São Tomé and Príncipe, were the other two ordaining bishops. At the ordination there were present almost all the Portuguese bishops, including the president of the Bishops Conference of Portugal, and dozens of priests. The ordination of the new Bishop of São Tomé, held in Paul VI

Pastoral Center, in the Shrine of Fátima, was witnessed by more than two thousand people.

During the homily, Cardinal Saraiva Martins explained the three functions of the bishop – to teach, govern and sanctify – and asked Bishop Manuel António dos Santos to work “for the good of the Church, specially of the Church of São Tomé and Príncipe, where the Missionaries of the Heart of Mary have dedicated themselves, already for eight decades, to the evangelization of this people”.

Another characteristic “extremely important in the work of the bishop”, underlined by Cardinal Saraiva Martins, is the missionary aspect. “A church which didn’t feel missionary, apostolic and evangelizer wouldn’t be the Church of Christ”, he said.

Solidarity of Portuguese Children

Children’s National Pilgrimage, one of the most expressive pilgrimages held in the Shrine of Fátima, will take place, as usual, on June 9/10, with a peculiarity this year: it makes part of the commemorative activities of the 90th anniversary of the Apparitions of Our Lady in Fátima.

In letter sent to catechists and parish priests of Portugal, children were invited to say the Rosary or part of it daily, specially during the month of May, in groups if possible, for the intentions presented to the three little shepherds by Our Lady.

As symbol of the prayer said, each time a child or group of children pray for the intentions of Our Lady, they may make a ‘bead’ in card paper or other material, so as to make a ‘Rosary’, which the children will bring with them at the time of the Pilgrimage.

Besides the invitation to prayer, the children of Portugal

were also invited to gather used printer inkstands and radiographs to turn them into money that will be donated to poor children, thus showing solidarity with them.

“We are convinced that, with this proposal, we are promoting the education of children not only in what pertains to prayer, but also solidarity with the big problems of mankind, with which Our Lady also showed solidarity, when She came with Her maternal solicitude to ask for our collaboration.

Let us cooperate with Her and She will reward us”, said Fr. Baptista, from the organizing Committee of pilgrimage.



Lúcia de Jesus, living memory of apparitions in Fátima

The Shrine of Fátima commemorated, on March 28, the centenary of the birth of Sr. Lucy, with a special program which included the presentation of a few biographical notes on the religious sister and the celebration of Holy Mass, both held in the Basilica, where the mortal remains of the three seers are entombed. The program ended in the Little Chapel of Apparitions, site where Our Lady appeared in 1917, with the recitation of the Rosary.

The Basilica was full for Holy Mass. Some people could only participate in the Mass by standing at the entrance. Almost 700 faithful received Holy Communion.

Presided over by Bishop António Marto, of Leiria Fátima, the Mass was concelebrated by 33 priests and another bishop, Bishop Serafim Ferreira e Silva, Bishop Emeritus of Leiria-Fátima.

Amongst the concelebrants was the Superior General of the Carmelites, Fr. Pedro Ferreira, the Vice-Postulator for the cause of canonization of Francisco and Jacinta, Fr. Luís Kondor, and the Rector of the Shrine of Fátima, Msgr. Luciano Guerra.

The Bishop of Leiria-Fátima said that Lucy was “receiver, transmitter and living memory throughout the XX century – as Our Lady had told her – of the message of Fátima, in truth, humility and discretion and helping out to find its deep understanding.

“We start, then, with the first reading, taken from the Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians, in which he invites us, in a moving and passionate way, to contemplate, in awe, the boundless love of God, Who bets it all in the Death and Resurrection of Christ in order to reconcile with Him a divided mankind, to restore a wounded or broken



relationship, to offer pardon and peace to broken hearts, to recreate a new heart and a new mankind.

We are all called to the service of this mystery of reconciliation in the world. Sr. Lucy was charged, in a particular way, with the mission of receiving and transmitting to the Church and the world an impressive message from the Most High God, through Mary, Mother of Jesus: a message both of admonition and of promise of reconciliation and peace.

While two world wars dove the XX century into fire and blood, while the peoples of Europe were involved in a never seen or imagined process of mutual annihilation and death, thus bringing Hell to Earth, behold God showing signs of His Mercy through the Mother of His Son, inviting men not to resign themselves to the banalization of evil and awakening up hope through a wide spiritual renaissance of fervor, prayer and deep conversion of hearts”, declared Bishop António Marto.

To remember her (Sr. Lucy) today is, therefore, an invitation to recognize at this time, a time of uncertainty, fear and attempts on the life of human beings, the immense power of the Love of God, so that we may entrust ourselves to His Mercy, which is salvation for mankind”, further declared the prelate.

A symbolic moment was had, after Communion and before the final blessing, when three children placed three vases of white and pink flowers, one each next to the tombs of Blessed Francisco and Jacinta and also next to the tomb of Sr. Lucy. These vases with flowers were part of the offertory and had been placed earlier before the altar.

40th Anniversary of first papal visit

‘Men, Be Men!’

In a message which shows its urgency still today, His Holiness Pope Paul VI, explained in Rome, on May 3, 1967, the motives behind his coming trip to Fátima on the 13th of the same month: “The purpose of Our coming pilgrimage to Fátima is to honor the Blessed Mother and invoke Her intercession for peace in the Church and in the modern World. But the spiritual meaning of this trip is to pray once more for peace, with more humility and more fervor. We have recourse to Her Who, for the salvation of this our modern World, revealed to the little ones and the poor the radiant sweetness of Her maternal face and recommended prayer and penance as sovereign remedies”.

It was precisely this that Paul VI did in Fátima, on the first day of the commemorations of the 50th Anniversary of the Apparitions of Our Lady. “Yes, peace is a gift from God, which supposes the intervention of an act of His extremely good, merciful and mysterious. But it is not always a miraculous gift; it is a gift which accomplishes its wonders in the secret of the heart of man; a gift which, therefore, needs our free acceptance, our free cooperation. And now Our prayer, after being addressed to Heaven, turns to the men and women of the whole world: Men, be men – We say at this

particular time – men, seek to be worthy of the divine gift of peace. Men, be men! Men, be good, be sensible, be open to think about the entire good of the World. Men, be magnanimous. Men, try to see your prestige and your interest not as contrary to the prestige and interest of others, but as compatible with them. Men, don’t think about projects of destruction and death, of revolution and violence. Think, instead, about the seriousness and greatness of this hour, which can be decisive for the history of this and future generations; and start to get closer to one another with the intention of building a new world; yes, a world of true men, which is not possible to be built but with the sun of God on the horizon. Men, listen to the vibrant echo of Christ’s Word which comes to you through Our Humble and trembling voice: ‘Blest are the lowly; they shall inherit the land. Blest are the peacemakers; they shall be called sons of God’”, declared Pope Paul VI during his homily in the Shrine of Fátima.

Arriving in Rome, after his trip to Portugal, the Holy Father said: “I found in Portugal a good and pious people. It was a marvelous experience which showed the way for rebuilding the World according to Our desires – by means of prayer, humility, harmony and goodwill”.



Later that year, on September 27, a delegation of about 600 Portuguese people traveled to Rome to thank the Pope and repay his visit to Fátima in May.

“Dear children of Portugal: you came to Rome, to the Vatican, to the home of the Pope, as pilgrims of peace, bringing with you your filial and devout gratitude for our visit to Fátima. We warmly welcome your pilgrimage, We appreciate your sentiments and take advantage of this new opportunity to express to you Our eternal gratitude for the warm reception you gave Us in Portugal, at the time of Our Pilgrimage to Fátima. May Our Lady of Fátima guide you, protect you and bless you”. These were the words of Paul VI to the Portuguese pilgrims in Rome.

190,317 confessions in 2006 at Fátima

“The Sacrament of Penance, which is of great importance in the life of the Christian, actualizes the redeeming efficacy of the paschal Mystery of Christ”, as stated by Pope Benedict XVI in his speech to the Penitentiaries of the Roman Papal Basilicas on February 19, 2007.

In the Chapel of Reconciliation of the Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fátima, the experience of every day leads us to verify the truth of those words of the Pope when he spoke to the confessors and which he addresses also to all of us.

The numbers reveal that the Sacrament of Reconciliation is always more and more sought as an encounter with God Who saves us in Christ Jesus and “manifests the immeasurable renovating power of Divine Love, Love which gives life back. Therefore, confession becomes a spiritual rebirth, which transforms the penitent into a new creature. Only God can perform this miracle of grace, and does it through the words and gestures of the priest”.

Throughout the year 2006 there were 190,317 confessions, 2,195 more than the previous year. Of these 33,604 were made by foreigners, 1,043 more than in 2005.

The Holy Father goes on to say: “Experiencing the love and pardon of the Lord, the penitent is thus more inclined to recognize the seriousness of sin, more determined to avoid it, in order to remain and grow in the reestablished friendship with Him”.

We are sorry, and thus apologize to the many penitents who have to wait in line for long time before being able to be attended.

All of us are aware of the shortage of priests. The Shrine of Fátima isn't immune to this crisis; so we continuously ask priests from the outside, who are endowed with



true priestly spirit and a sensitive heart, to come and donate a few days to attend the pilgrims of Our Lady.

Still in the same speech, the Holy Father says: “Esteemed priests, this ministry of yours is mainly a spiritual service. Therefore, to human wisdom, to theological preparation, one must add a deep spiritual disposition, kindled by a prayerful contact with Christ, Teacher and Redeemer. In order to perform this task, we must, first of all, interiorize this message of Salvation and let Him transform us deeply. We cannot preach pardon and reconciliation to others, unless we ourselves are deeply imbued with them”.

*Fr. Clemente Dotti,
Chaplain of the Shrine of Fátima*

Francisco and Jacinta models of humility and sacrifice

During the Eucharistic celebration of the liturgical Feast of Blesseds Francisco and Jacinta Marto, held on February 20, anniversary of the death of Jacinta, the Rector of the Shrine of Fátima, who presided, emphasized the life of humility and sacrifice of the two Seers.

“This life (of Francisco and Jacinta) looks very strange to us, since we are very allergic to suffering and death”, said Msgr. Luciano Guerra, who reminded us that the Blesseds “listened to the voice of the Lord and welcomed the call to prayer”; “they were real children who said yes to God's call”.



Father, what is Your Will?

Four thousand five hundred faithful - from Portugal, Brazil, Slovakia, Spain and USA – attended, on March 13, the Mass of the Monthly Pilgrimage, which was presided over by Bishop Emeritus Augusto César, of Portalegre-Castelo Branco, and celebrated by nine priests.

In his homily, Bishop August César called Catholics to fulfil God's Will. Can we then bargain for the sacraments, since they are a free gift of His Love, or substitute Holy Mass for a vow, even if fulfilled with difficulty? Let us not allow secularism to give us lessons of faith and be transformed into 'state' religion. Laicism is different, provided it respects people's faith and their spiritual values. But temptation puts our testimony to the test and may even lead us to forget to ask, at every moment: 'Father, what is Your Will?' Well, this was the rule in the Holy Family of Nazareth and ought to be for Christians”, he said.

Inviting the pilgrims to “turn their



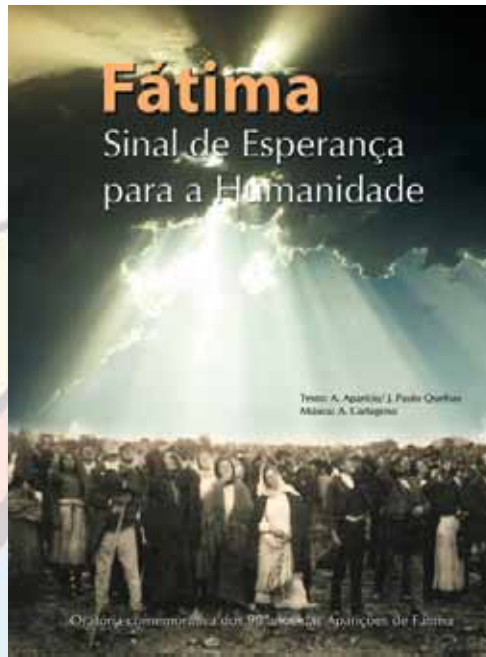
look to Calvary”, where Jesus surrendered Himself the hands of the Father, the prelate criticized the use of arguments which “convey the cynicism of our time”, as in the questions of life and death. “Let me remind you of the example of Pope John Paul II, in the final days of his life, of how he manifested his faith, when facing death. It was the best response to our economic society, which rejects the aged and the sick, with calculator in hand. Speeches of that kind we hear them every day”, declared Bishop Augusto César.

'Fátima, Sign of Hope for Mankind'

The Shrine of Fátima is going to stage on October 11 of this year the Oratorio 'Fátima, a Sign of Hope for Mankind', one more cultural initiative included in the celebrations of the 90th anniversary of the Apparitions in Fátima. The second concert is scheduled for the afternoon of October 13, day of the inauguration of the Church of the Most Holy Trinity and of the 90th anniversary of the last apparition of the Virgin Mary in Fátima.

With a text written by A. Aparício and J. Paulo Quelhas, based on the 'Memoirs of Sr. Lucy', and music by Fr. António Cartageno, two hundred-fifty voices of eleven choirs of Portugal are going to give voice to some of the moments which left a mark in the history of the apparitions of Fátima. The orchestra will be 'Filarmonia das Beiras', from Aveiro (Portugal).

We interviewed composer Fr. António Cartageno, who holds a diploma in Gregorian Chant and Sacred Composition from the Pontifical Institute for Sacred Music, Rome, and is also member



of the National Service of Sacred Music. Here are his replies to our questions:

-Why the title 'Fátima, a Sign of Hope for Mankind'?

- This is the title of the 4th and last part of the Oratorio, but it was also chosen for the overall title of the work, because it seems to summarize well the whole content: in a world where man (at the time of the apparitions in 1917) wanted 'to build a city without God', the Heavenly Virgin Mother comes to Fátima to call Her children to conversion. Today the story is the same. However, despite the deviations of contemporary man, God goes on being patient and merciful and, through Mary, keeps calling us to conversion.

-What do you expect from this work?

- I expect and wish that this work, whenever is staged, be a great moment for spreading the message of Fátima, that the lyrics and music with which I dressed it really touch the heart of people and that it may help them to have an encounter with God. Because Our Lady is the best way to God: 'Per Mariam ad Jesum'.

Keep sending photos for the October exhibition

The appeal made to the shrines in the last issue of 'Fátima Light and Peace' (Feb.2007) asking people to send photos for the realization of the exhibition of photography titled 'Fátima in the World' was well received and the present words intend to be already a first Thank You.

Up to the end of March, about one hundred replies containing a lot of photos of shrines dedicated to the Virgin of Fátima had arrived in the Shrine of Fátima, Portugal. A warm Thank You to everyone!

We remind you that this exhibition will be inaugurated during the international congress 'Fátima for the XXI Century' and its purpose is to make known the many shrines dedicated to Our Lady of Fátima in all five continents.



Shrine of Our Lady of Fátima in Wrocław, Poland

The appeal goes out once more to those who have not yet sent their photos, which must focus the following aspects: exterior and interior of the shrine, principal venerated image or any other aspect deemed important.

The Shrine of Fátima thanks everyone for their cooperation.

For more information contact: Shrine of Fátima, SESDI (Department of Research and Information); Apartado 31; 2496-908 Fátima, Portugal.

Trinitarian Iconography on Display

An exhibition of Trinitarian iconography titled 'Most Holy Trinity...we adore You profoundly' is on display until September 2, in Fátima, in the Museum of Sacred Art and Ethnology, owned by the Consolata Missionaries.

The sample is included in the program of artistic manifestations promoted by the Shrine of Fátima in order to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the Apparitions of Our Lady.

The exhibition is composed of twenty-two different pieces representing the Most Holy Trinity, coming from various places in the Diocese of Leiria-Fátima, and it will be completed with several photographic reproductions of stained glass panels, glazed tile and bas-reliefs, always under the theme of the Most Holy Trinity.

Let us remember that, at the time of the international theological congress 'Figures of the Angel Revisited' in October of 2006, the same museum received, from October 2006 to March 2007, an exhibition of angelic iconography titled 'I am the Angel of Peace'. This sample was visited by 3275 people.



'The Tree of Life', Owner: Divine Word Missionaries, Fátima

Shrines of Our Lady of Fátima

IN BRAZIL

In the Bulletin 'Fátima Light and Peace' of February 13, 2007, we published a short list of devotional places in Central and South America considered *shrines*.

Brazil was intentionally left for this issue, since it is a country with a high number of shrines dedicated to Our Lady of Fátima, not counting some parishes (which are not shrines), churches, schools and other institutions with the same title.

We list 36 shrines registered in the Brazil file of SESDI (Department of Research and Information). One of them is dedicated to Blessed Francisco and Jacinta Marto and is situated in the city of Patos de Minas.

We are not sure the list is complete and we do not have in our possession the postal address of all of them. We ask those in charge of these shrines and the readers of this Bulletin the big favor of sending to us this information.

According to the Code of Canon Law, canon 1230, shrines are 'churches or other sacred places where the faithful, out of devotion, go to in pilgrimage, in great numbers, with the approval of the Ordinary (Bishop) of the locality'.

Country	Diocese	Locality	Name
Brasil	Bauru	Bauru	Santuário N.ª S.ª de Fátima
Brasil	Belém	Belém, Pará	Paróquia - Santuário N.ª S.ª de Fátima
Brasil	Brasília	Brasília, DF	Santuário N.ª S.ª de Fátima
Brasil	Caçador	Fraiburgo	Santuário N.ª S.ª de Fátima - Mãe dos Pobres
Brasil	Campanha	São Lourenço	Santuário N.ª S.ª de Fátima
Brasil	Curitiba	Tarumã	Santuário N.ª S.ª de Fátima
Brasil	Erexim	Erexim	Santuário N.ª S.ª de Fátima
Brasil	Florianópolis	Florianópolis	Santuário N.ª S.ª de Fátima
Brasil	Jaboticabal	Bebedouro, SP	Santuário N.ª S.ª de Fátima
Brasil	Lins	Lins, SP	Santuário N.ª S.ª de Fátima
Brasil	Maringá, PR	Maringá, PR	Santuário N.ª S.ª de Fátima
Brasil	Miracema de Tocantis	Palmas	Santuário N.ª S.ª de Fátima
Brasil	Palmas - Francisco Beltrão	Palmas, PR	Santuário N.ª S.ª de Fátima
Brasil	Paraíba	Araruna	Santuário N.ª S.ª de Fátima
Brasil	Patos de Minas	Patos de Minas	Santuário Dedicado aos Beatos, Francisco e Jacinta
Brasil	Pelotas	Pelotas	Paróquia - Santuário N.ª S.ª de Fátima
Brasil	Porto Alegre	Porto Alegre - RS	Paróquia - Santuário N.ª S.ª de Fátima
Brasil	Porto Velho	Porto Velho	Paróquia - Santuário Imaculado Coração de Maria de Fátima
Brasil	Pouso Alegre	Poços das Caldas	Santuário N.ª S.ª de Fátima
Brasil	Propriá	Propriá	Santuário N.ª S.ª do Rosário de Fátima
Brasil	Rio Grande	Rio Grande, RS	Paróquia - Santuário N.ª S.ª de Fátima
Brasil	S. José dos Campos	S. José dos Campos	Santuário N.ª S.ª de Fátima
Brasil	S. José dos Campos	S. José dos Campos	Santuário N.ª S.ª de Fátima
Brasil	S. Luís de Cáceres	Araputanga	Santuário - Paróquia de N.ª S.ª do Rosário de Fátima
Brasil	S. Paulo	S. Paulo	Santuário N.ª S.ª de Fátima
Brasil	S. Paulo	Sapopemba	Santuário N.ª S.ª de Fátima
Brasil	S. Salvador da Bahia	S. Salvador da Bahia	Santuário N.ª S.ª de Fátima
Brasil	S. Sebastião do Rio de Janeiro	Alto da Boa Vista	Santuário N.ª S.ª de Fátima
Brasil	S. Sebastião do Rio de Janeiro	Rio de Janeiro	Santuário N.ª S.ª de Fátima
Brasil	S. Sebastião do Rio de Janeiro	Rio de Janeiro Ilha do Governador	Santuário N.ª S.ª de Fátima (Paróquia de S. José Operário)
Brasil	Santo Amaro	Santo Amaro	Santuário N.ª S.ª de Fátima
Brasil	Santos	Bairro de S. Maria na Cidade de Santos	Santuário S.ª Maria do Rosário de Fátima
Brasil	São José do Rio Preto	S. José do Rio Preto	Santuário N.ª S.ª de Fátima
Brasil	São Paulo	São Paulo	Santuário e Paróquia N.ª S.ª do Rosário de Fátima
Brasil	Uberaba	Araxá	Santuário N.ª S.ª de Fátima
Brasil	Vitória, ES	Serra	Santuário N.ª S.ª de Fátima

History of Parish of Our Lady of Fátima in Siberia

On May 14 of 2006, the parishioners of the Parish of Our Lady of Fátima in Nizjne, Siberia, commemorated, together with their Bishop, Msgr. Joseph Werth, and also other people and priests from the Diocese, from Poland and the Ukraine, the official registration, ten years ago, of the parish. (...)

In 1966 the first local parish was officially registered and Fr. Mitzjak was named its pastor. They had no other venue for the worship than the Youth House.

On January 18 of 1997 the image of Our Lady of Fátima arrived. Nobody knew yet then that, with the help of Bishop Werth, people would be able to meet, thanks to its benefactor, the 'Renovabis' organization, in the temporary chapel (Youth House) on May 13! (...). Nevertheless the place got packed.

In August of 1997 Polish Vincentian priests arrived in order to serve in the parish and, thus, the Bishop was able to consecrate the church on October 5 of the same year.

In the Jubilee year some Polish Vincentian Sisters also arrived. In 2002 we finished the construction of the rectory. In 2003 Fr. Anthony Obtar was named pastor. Three Vincentian Sisters worked for 'Caritas', organizing a club for children and visiting the elderly.

The Parish of Our Lady of Fátima numbers now sixty parishioners and Holy Mass is said daily in our church.

The history of our parish is similar to that of some other twenty in this territory, which started being built in the last years of the XX century.

N.B. – Brief summary of an article published in the June 2006 issue of the monthly bulletin of the Diocese of Novosibirsk, Siberia, by Anja Kalimasoba

Fátima – Light and Peace

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To Honor Our Lady of Fátima in France



Image blessed by the Bishop of the Diocese of St. Claude on May 12, 1968.

The Committee in charge is going to make, on the 12/13th of May, 2007, the 40th pilgrimage to the Shrine of Mont-Roland, Dole, France, in praise and honor to Our Lady of Fátima, under the motto 'Christ Light of the World'. (...)

The religious ceremonies will begin on May 12 with a Mass celebrated by Fr. António Múrias, for the intention for all those who worked for the realization of this pilgrimage and have already left this world, followed by the traditional candlelight procession. Sunday, May 13, at 10h30, the celebration of the Mass will be presided over by Msgr. Lucien Daloz, Archbishop Emeritus of Besançon and concelebrated by Fr. Maurice Boisson, Rector of the Shrine, by Fr. António Múrias, a Portuguese residing in Switzerland, and other priests from various regions (of France).

At 15h00 the Holy Rosary will be prayed, followed by the Procession of Farewell to the Virgin Mary, a moment of great emotion in this pilgrimage.

Joaquim da Costa Ferreira, France

Our Lady of Fátima in São Tomé and Príncipe

São Tomé and Príncipe is an example of a country where evangelization took place under the invocation of Mary.

A church built in the locality of Bom Bom, in São Tomé and Príncipe, and dedicated to Our Lady of Fátima (see photo) was inaugurated on August 15 of 1965. The parish had been created in July of 1963.

On May 27 of 1971, Msgr. Manuel Nunes Gabriel, Archbishop of Luanda and Apostolic Administrator of São Tomé and Príncipe elevated the mentioned church to parish church, naming Our Lady of Fátima as its Patroness and title. Thus the church is since then called 'Parish of Our Lady of Fátima of Bom Bom'.

However, the veneration of Mary was already well spread before this date.

The first church, built in 1493 and elevated to cathedral, had the title of 'Our Lady of Grace'. Since then and for five centuries many churches were dedicated to Our Lady.

After the apparitions of 1917 in Fátima, missionaries brought to and cultivated the devotion to Our Lady of Fátima in those islands.

The first image of Our Lady of Fátima venerated in São Tomé was brought from Portugal in 1932 for the Parish of St. Amaro. In 1936 another one arrived for the Chapel of Good Jesus of Bouças, within the Cathedral Parish, and in 1944 a third one arrived

for the Chapel of Água-Izé, in the southwest of the island of São Tomé.

In the same year of 1944 an image of the Immaculate Heart of Mary was blessed and enthroned in the Cathedral of São Tomé by Cardinal Cerejeira, Patriarch of Lisbon, when he was in his way to Lourenço Marques (Maputo), Mozambique, to inaugurate the new cathedral there.

It is worth mentioning that in 1946 arrived in Africa from Cova da Iria the Pilgrim Image of Fátima. In its peregrination through African lands, the image made a stopover in São Tomé and Príncipe on July 28. It was welcomed by a large crowd of people.



We took the Shrine of Fátima to India

It all began with an invitation by the Catholic Bishops Conference of India to the Rector of the Shrine of Fátima to go to Bangalore to give a talk at a congress on shrines and pilgrimages. Bangalore is situated almost at the end of the triangle which makes of the whole southern tip of India sort of a large peninsula between the Arabic Sea to the West and the Straight of Bengal to the East. Vasco da Gama took ten months to get there; the two priests made it in less than a whole day.

Arrived on Sunday, March 11, and warmly received, we went and visited, on the afternoon of that same day, the Parish of Our Lady of Fátima, in the suburbs of the city. Waiting for us were about one thousand of our brethren in the faith. After having said Mass, we walked the church yard praying the Rosary amidst hymns and lights, under the look of two large images of Our Lady of Fátima, beautifully framed in arches of light. There was still time for the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and a good moment of adoration, in the manner of the Angel of Loka do Cabeço (hilltop grotto) with the Little Shepherds. At the end, the whole mass of people walked in front of the Rector of the Shrine in order to receive a more personal blessing.

The Congress enjoyed the constant presence of Cardinal Martini, who is in charge of migrations and tourism for the Holy See, and of a Cardinal and several bishops from India.

We later departed, on the 14th, towards the Marian shrine of Vailankanni, in the East coast. We had no idea we would find a place so big, so magnificent, so white, so endowed with pastoral structures, so decorated with gardens, so marked by the works of the Portuguese Patrimony of the Orient. Countless Christians and Hindus arrive there, who, as in other visited places (also in Bangalore), visit the Christian Marian shrines to express their devotion. Only God knows what motivates them.

Already on the way back, we spent a whole afternoon in Trichy, city of a few million inhabitants, but far from the nine million of Chennai. India is publicizing her 1,100,000 inhabitants! To explain what is the sacred complex of Trichy, with a perimeter of a few kilometres, is an impossible



task, even for someone with more time than the few hours we spent there.

Reason enough for us to imagine the enormous task awaiting the upcoming generations of Christians, trying to dialogue with that multitude of people, molded by thousands of years of a religious culture so strong as the persistence of its majestic temples.

But it was there that, according to tradition, God first sowed Christianity through St. Thomas, Apostle; it was there that the Portuguese transmitted their faith after the discovery of the sea route to the Orient;

there they left a lot of proper names, written still today as we do. It was there that Our Lady sent us to tell the story of Her apparitions in Fátima.

In Trichy we took the train to Madras/Chennai. We visited the tomb of the founding Apostle. Going through one of those streets with indescribable traffic, we came across the pictures of the Little Shepherds occupying the side wall of a parish center. We entered the interior of the patio, where Mass was about to be said, talked with the parish priest, brought souvenirs, left contacts.

Then we left for Goa. Eight hundred people still speak Portuguese at home; homes which remind us and make us long for the urbanistic purity of the Azores Islands. We celebrated Mass, with emotion, on the tomb of St. Francis Xavier. The statues and portraits in the Museum of Old Goa charmed us: a monumental collection which is Patrimony of Humanity. Everything there reminds us of the five centuries of our missionary work. Even the image of Our Lady of Fátima, which on the night of October 13 is carried to the mother church of Pangim. In everything, even in the landscape, Goa remains much different from the rest of the country.

Our trip ended in Mumbai (former Bombay): Eighteen million people, and English colonial architectonic center of neo-gothic lines, worthy of the best found in London, less the history which is shorter, and 50,000 taxicabs from about fifty years ago, which move rapidly around, one on top of the other, without smiles, but without collisions or visible irritation...

A sorrow remained, though, with us. We were not able to go and visit the church and headquarters of a congregation of Sisters of Our Lady of Fátima. However we hope to compensate that with them visiting us, perhaps this year of the 90th anniversary.

Conclusion: human beings are all a big family; the Christian faith is very much alive in India, and is even appreciated, specially because of its dedication to education, health and social development; the inter-religious dialogue is the only way for future evangelization; Our Lady of Fátima is a live and maternal presence of Christianity.

Thematic Space 'Life of Christ' in Fátima

The thematic space 'Life of Christ' was blessed and inaugurated in Fátima on April 13. It is a project by a group of private entrepreneurs which dates back to 1990 and which began being built in November 2004 and now is ready to be of much value for the city of Fátima.

At the time of the inauguration and blessing of the space by the Vicar General of Leiria-Fátima, Msgr. Luciano Guerra, Rector of the Shrine of Fátima, rejoiced

with the initiative and declared that it is 'an essential addition to the soul of this town'.

The museum exhibits 210 ceramic figures, distributed by 33 scenes, as many as the years lived by Jesus. The scenes portray some of the more important moments of the life of Christ, such as His Birth, Wedding at Cana, Last Supper, Condemnation and Passion of Christ, among others. The *trip*, where the presence of Mary is also an important

element, concludes with the Ascension of Christ.

The proprietors are of opinion that their thematic space "is a timeless space which will contribute to diminish the seasonal factor of Fátima".

At the time of the inauguration, the Portuguese Undersecretary of Tourism, Mr. Bernardo Trindade, stated that the Portuguese Government "can not show indifference to what is going on in Fátima".