



Director: Fr. Luciano Guerra * Proprietor: Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fátima (Portugal) * Quarterly publication * Year III * Nr. 9 * 2006/5/13

Mgr. António Marto entrusts his pastoral work to the protection of the Virgin

Shrine of Fátima salutes Mgr. António Marto

The Rector of the Shrine of Fátima, Mgr. Luciano Guerra, on behalf of the Shrine, salutes the new Bishop of the Diocese of Leiria-Fátima, Mgr. António Marto.

“The Shrine of Fátima is very pleased with this nomination. Mgr. António Marto has shown, both before and after being nominated, that he is a man of solid doctrine, spirituality and pastoral care”, stated Mgr. Luciano Guerra as soon as he knew of the nomination.

“Both the Diocese and the Shrine of Fátima really expect that Mgr. António Marto can help them to face the current and future challenges, since the Church is going through a period we can call of incipient rejuvenation”, the Rector added.

Mgr. António Augusto dos Santos Marto was nominated by Benedict XVI to succeed Mgr. Serafim de Sousa Ferreira e Silva as head of government of the Diocese of Leiria-Fátima. The nomination was divulged on the morning of April 22nd.

Reiterating his great devotion to Our Lady, Mgr. António Marto entrusts the Diocese of Leiria-Fátima and his pastoral work to the protection of the Virgin. “Together with you, I entrust the Diocese and my pastoral mission to the protection of the Virgin Mary and to Her maternal love, to Whom I am deeply and tenderly devoted, and Who is so much venerated under the invocation of Our Lady of Fátima, Patron Saint of the Diocese. “The Lady more brilliant than the Sun”, with Her message of compassion, consolation and hope, invites and call us to



contemplate the Beauty of the profound and merciful Love of God towards mankind “which longs to rise up from the abyss”, said Mgr. António Marto in the written message of Salutation to the Diocese of Leiria-Fátima, made public immediately after his nomination to the Diocese of Leiria-Fátima was divulged.

Mgr. António Marto addressed his salutation to all the people of the Diocese “the Lord entrusted to him”. “This salutation leaves no one out. Therefore may no one feel excluded from the love and affection in it expressed and communicated. I’d like everyone to know that, in the love of the Lord Jesus, I love and will try to love ‘till the end this Church that He has entrusted to me, all those who are part of it and every person living within

its territory”, says the new Bishop of the Diocese of Leiria-Fátima, where the Shrine of Fátima is located.

The salutation was then extended in a particular way to his predecessor, Mgr. Serafim de Sousa Ferreira e Silva, to the Vicar General of the Diocese, to the Rector of the Shrine of Fátima, to the Canons, priests, religious, secular institutes, seminarians, parishes and lay groups and movements.

“No one will find it strange that the Bishop address a special word to his priests, his closest collaborators, with whom he forms one sole Presbyterate. So, to each and everyone of you, my dearest brothers in the only priesthood of Christ, I want to manifest my special esteem and my deep appreciation for the apostolic hard work you put into your ministry. To you I want to address a word of encouragement and hope in the midst of the inevitable difficulties and fatigue”, added Mgr. António Marto, who in the same message saluted also the civil, military, academic and administrative authorities of the territorial area of the Diocese of Leiria-Fátima.

Regarding pastoral work, Mgr. António presents as his first priority “the task of getting to know the venerable diocesan Church of Leiria-Fátima – which becomes also my Church – with its own spiritual and cultural physiognomy. I’m sure you will help me because there is nothing more precious than to know one another through dialogue and transparency”.

Encounter of the Presidencies of the Episcopal Conferences of Portugal and Spain

Iberian Bishops defend the right of the embryo to life

Meeting on April 18th and 19th in Fátima, the Presidencies of the Episcopal Conferences of Portugal (CEP) and Spain (CEE) reflected on the social and pastoral problems and projects of both countries. Common ground for both episcopates is the defense of the human embryo as a being with rights and not as an "object".

At the end of the Encounter, the General Secretary of the CEE, Fr. Juan António Martínez Camino, underlined the fact that the Church doesn't favor artificial human

reproduction because "it goes against the fundamental right to life". The Church doesn't agree with the idea of an embryo "as an object without inalienable rights".

While Portugal and Spain await for legislation in this subject, the Spokesman for the CEE considers the proposed rules being discussed "not thought out from the point of view of the children produced in the lab, but from the point of view of the labs".

"We are not dealing with a problem of sexual ethics, but with a problem of

intergenerational justice, of relationships between parents and children and between children and children", emphasizes Fr. Juan António Camino, underlining that what is at stake here is "a breakdown in the relations of paternity, maternity and fraternity", something that the Church can't accept. The Final Communiqué reports that during the Encounter in Fátima shared were documents and ethical arguments on this question, "in order to set limits and denounce unfair practices which such laws would allow".

The Shrine is planning for the month of June Study Days on institutionalized children

"Anyone waiting for me?"

Following the program for the celebration of the 90 years of the Apparitions of the Angel(2006) and of Our Lady of Fátima(2007), the Shrine is planning for June 2nd and 3rd, in Paul VI Pastoral Center, national study days on institutionalized children, under the motto "Anyone waiting for me?"

"The choice of this subject is motivated both by its great opportunity and the fact that children are the protagonists of the phenomenon of Fátima. In planning the Days for the beginning of June, we intended to associate them with the World Day of the Child and to the Children's National Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Fátima(June 9 & 10) and also to evoke the second apparition of the Angel in 1916, next to the well, which may have happened "at the peak of Summer" – in the words of Lucy –", explains the coordinator of the



program of the 90 years of the Apparitions of Fátima, Fr. Armindo Janeiro.

"The Shrine couldn't but give the children special attention, particularly those deprived of the most precious life gift: to be and to feel loved. Amidst the various initiatives directly or indirectly supported by the Shrine, stands out precisely the institution that welcomes children living under these circumstances. In this context, the current Days seek to study the drama of children who are taken into homes that shouldn't exist(Fragilized Lives), to unveil the motivations that led the Church to always give them special attention(The Love of God knows no limits) and to create a space for dialogue between all those taking part in this education space(We are going to fight for you!), states Fr. Armindo Janeiro.

Fátima is a Gift and a Responsibility



Fátima has something typical that other places don't have and provides a human experience that other places can't provide. Fátima is unique, but parallels other great

places where people gather that are marked by a strong dose of humanity in the fullest meaning of the term.

Because it provides an experience of the encounter of the human condition with itself, by means of interiorization and reflection, it constitutes an enormous possibility of pacification of the human being; because it favors the spiritual and supernatural dimension of life, it allows for an opening of horizons that daily life sometimes restricts; because it inspires sentiments of love and peace, which are rooted deeply in the hearts of human beings, it is a school of brotherhood, respect and get-together for everyone who arrives here full of good will; because it is a place of prayer and encounter with God, it develops the potential for the elevation of man to the purpose for which he was created: communion with other creatures and with God, in a continuous search for personal and cosmic harmony.

Fátima is a place of culture, if by culture we mean all that elevates the human spirit, namely: rest, contact with nature, the sharing of life, getting away temporarily from the daily routine of work and house chores, reflection, the pondering of joys and sorrows...

There aren't many places in the world which can match this one, accepted as a great gift to us and to the world, since there aren't many places that favor, in so complete a manner, the total human being.

That's why Fátima constitutes for us also a great responsibility: that of creating the conditions for offering to the world the only thing it can offer.

Welcoming whomever arrives is the primordial attitude for all of us here: people and institutions, whatever they are: Shrine, religious houses, public or private services. It is one of the most elementary forms of kindness: to welcome the traveler, the passerby, the new-arrival; it is a human virtue common to all peoples, races and nations, independently of the values adhered to or of the professed religion; from the point of view of the believer, it constitutes the first evangelizing gesture and first catechesis, which, more than by words, is made by the witnessing of one's life; from the civic point of view, it is a sign of education for the citizenry.

Fr. Virgílio Antunes
director do Serviço de Peregrinos

Messenger of Our Lady returns to Fátima

Body of Sr. Lucy now entombed in Basilica of Shrine

The casket containing the mortal remains of Sr. Lucy is now entombed next to that of Blessed Jacinta Marto, in the left side transept of the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary, in the Shrine of Fátima. In the tombstone one can read: "Maria Lúcia de Jesus e do Coração Imaculado – A quem Nossa Senhora apareceu (to whom Our Lady appeared)". Engraved on the same tombstone are also the dates of birth, death and translation of Sr. Lucy to the Basilica.

One hundred thousand pilgrims came to the Shrine of Fátima on February 19th in order to take part in the ceremonies of the translation of the body of Sr. Lúcia de Jesus e do Coração Imaculado, who passed away on the 13th of February of 2005, to the Basilica of the Shrine.

Bad weather – cold, wind and hail – didn't deter the faithful, who stood in the Prayer Area, some of them since early in the morning, until the end of the ceremonies late afternoon. "We wanted to come, despite the hardship, to Cova da Iria, in order to witness to and rekindle our faith", stated the Bishop of Leiria-Fátima to the pilgrims gathered for the ceremony.

Reported to SEPE(...) were sixty organized pilgrimages from twelve countries: Germany, Austria, Croatia, Spain, United States, Philippines, France, Ireland, Italy, Poland, United Kingdom and Portugal. Thousands of other pilgrims came on their own with family members to Fátima. Many others still followed the celebrations through the television stations RTP, TVI and SIC of Portugal and TVCN (Brazil), Telepace (Italy) and EWTN (USA), which broadcast live the ceremonies held in Coimbra and Fátima.

Lucy: a witness to faithfulness

The ceremonies, concelebrated by 250 priests and 18 bishops, were presided over by Mgr. Serafim de Sousa Ferreira e Silva, Bishop of Leiria-Fátima. Representing the Apostolic Nunciature in Portugal was Mgr. Jean François Lantheaume.

During the homily, shortened because of the bad weather being felt, Mgr. Serafim Ferreira e Silva underlined the universality of the Message that Sr. Lucy transmitted to us throughout her whole life, after the Apparitions of Our Lady in 1917.

Mgr. Serafim said that, following the Message of Fátima, "we must get together, even in an ecumenical and inter-religious

remains of the Religious. Overwhelming were the manifestations of esteem and love.

"We have among us a woman of faith. Still a child, she heard from the Mother of Jesus, in Cova da Iria, what was the root of the evils tormenting Europe, being then ravaged by war; asked by Our Lady to offer themselves for the conversion of sinners, this

sister of ours never hesitated a moment to offer her whole life", stated Mgr. Albino Cleto, Bishop of Coimbra, during Mass celebrated in the Cathedral of Coimbra, in the morning of February 19th.

The Carmelite convent of Saint Teresa saw the Religious departure to Fátima with sorrow and sadness. The Carmelite Nuns, who lived with Sr. Lucy for the last 57 years of her life, accepted the desire expressed by Sr. Lucy to be buried in Fátima. And this is what happened one year and one week after her death.

Visits to Basilica increase

The Basilica of Fátima opened as soon as the celebrations of the translation were over and, since that momentous day of February 19th, countless pilgrims, individually or in groups, have approached the tomb of Sr. Lucy. Although the Shrine hasn't been counting, a greater affluence to that space has been noticed since the body of Sr. Lucy was entombed there.

"The universal emotion about the funerals of Sr. Lucy and of Pope John Paul II, followed by massive peregrinations to their tombs, constitutes a historical mark, a good

news, surprising, strong and indelible, making it evident that change is in the air towards a new stage: we see it in the facial expressions, in the glances, in the interest, in the feelings and convictions of many, many millions of people throughout the world, believers and non-believers, people from all religions", wrote the Rector of the Shrine of Fátima, in the editorial of the official newspaper of the Shrine "Voz da Fátima" (Voice of Fátima), in the issue of March 13th.



dimension, in order to install (in the world) a kingdom of truth, justice, love and peace". In all the celebrations, both in Coimbra and in Fátima, underlined were the dedication of Lucy to the Church, her devotion to Our Lady and her (great) love for the Pope.

Coimbra paid farewell to Sr. Lucy with tears and white handkerchiefs and Fátima welcomed her the same way. In both cities, and during the trip from one to the other, was also heard a lot of applause as the funeral car went by, carrying the mortal

Devotion to Our Lady of the Rosary of Fátima throughout the world

The Shrine of Fátima is making a list of all the institutions dedicated to the cult of Our Lady of Fátima and of Her cult throughout the world. Amongst them are those called “Shrines”. In this Bulletin we show the records we have of the African Continent. We ask all readers of “Fátima Light and Peace” to correct what may be wrong or add what may be missing.

| País | Diocese | Paróquia | Localidade | Denominação |
|---------------------|--------------------|--|-----------------|---|
| Angola | Huambo | Nossa Senhora de Fátima | Huambo | Santuário de N ^a S ^a Fátima |
| Angola | Luanda | Nossa Senhora de Fátima | Luanda | Paróquia-Santuário de N ^a S ^a de Fátima |
| Angola | Novo Redondo | | Cela | Santuário da Rainha da Paz do Mundo (Fátima) |
| Angola | Novo Redondo | Kalulo | Kalulo (Libolo) | Santuário de N ^a S ^a de Fátima |
| Algerie | Oran | | Sidi Bel-Abbes | Sanctuaire N. D. Fatima |
| Cameroun | Yaoundé | | Nkoabang | Sanctuaire N. D. Fatima |
| Egypte | Le Caire | Cathédrale Chaldéenne Catholique | Le Caire | Sanctuaire N. D. Fatima |
| Ghana | Sekondi-Takoradi | | | Sanctuaire N. D. de Fatima |
| Ghana | Sunyani | | Sunyani | Sanctuaire N. D. de Fatima |
| Lesotho | Maseru | O. L. of Fatima Catholic Mission | Ramabantha | Shrine Our Lady of Fatima |
| Lesotho | Mohale's Hoek | | | Shrine Our Lady of Fatima |
| Madagascar | Mananjary | | Ranomafana | Sanctuaire N. D. de Fatima |
| Moçambique | Lichinga | Metangula | Lupilichi | Santuário N ^a S ^a de Fátima |
| Moçambique | Lichinga | Mecanhelas | Mecanhelas | Santuário N ^a S ^a de Fatima |
| Moçambique | Maputo | N ^a S ^a De Fátima | Namaacha | Santuário N ^a S ^a de Fatima |
| Moçambique | Pemba | Nangololo | Mwidumbe | Santuário N ^a S ^a de Fatima |
| Kenya | Nairobi | | Tandare | Shrine Our Lady of Fatima |
| Rep. Democr. Congo | Bukaru | | Bukaru | Sanctuaire N. D. de Fatima |
| Rep. Democr. Congo | Kinshasa | | Kinshasa | Sanctuaire N. D. de la Paix de Fatima |
| Rep. Democr. Congo | Mbujimayi | Paroisse N. D. de Fatima | Beena Kalongo | Sanctuaire N. D. de Fatima |
| São Tomé e Príncipe | S. Tomé e Príncipe | Paróquia da Trindade | Batefá | Santuário N ^a S ^a de Fátima |
| Tanzânia | Bukoba | Bukara | Bukara | Shrine Our Lady of Fatima |
| Tanzânia | Mbeya | | Mbeya | Shrine Our Lady of Fatima |
| Togo | Lomé | | Niamtougou | Sanctuaire N. D. de Fatima |
| Uganda | Kampala | Our Lady of Fatima Nnaakulabye Parish | Kampala | Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima |

Serviço de Estudos e Difusão (SESDI) do Santuário de Fátima

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Altar in honor of Our Lady of Fátima in Uganda

We were glad to receive this photograph, sent by Mgr. Cyprian Kizito Lwanga, Bishop of Kasana-Luweero. It is an altar in honor of Our Lady of Fátima, with an image of the Virgin and a picture representing the three Seers of Fátima. This altar is located in front of the Cathedral of the Diocese of Kasana-Luweero, in Uganda.



April 2nd, 2006

John Paul II remembered in Fátima

One year after the death of John Paul II, the Shrine of Fátima joined the many manifestations of love towards the former Supreme Pontiff.

At the start of the international Mass of April 2nd, when the Diocese of Leiria-Fátima held its 75th annual pilgrimage to the Shrine, it was announced that the Mass was also in celebration of the “departure of John Paul II to the house of the Father”.

Almost at the end of the celebration, in which 50,000 pilgrims took part, was evoked the figure of John Paul II, who, “although he could be seen going through a lot of suffering, never abandoned his cross”, thus giving testimony of his complete giving of himself to God, the Church and mankind.

The Rosary in the evening of April 2nd, in the Little Chapel of Apparitions, was also dedicated to the memory of John Paul. Led by the Rector of the Shrine of Fátima, Mgr. Luciano Guerra, this prayer emphasized, in each moment of reflection, the words and calls of the former Pope. More than 1500 people took part in this celebration, also prepared in response to the appeals made to the Shrine, asking for a special moment in which the memory of the former Supreme Pontiff could be evoked, he who honored

so much Fátima and Portugal with his visits on the 13th of May in 1982, 1991 and 2000.



Project of a hospice dedicated to Blesseds Francisco and Jacinta

“Piccola Fatima” (Little Fatima) in Italy

“Piccola Fatima” (Little Fatima) was built a few years ago to receive the thousands of pilgrims who arrive from all over Italy and also from abroad to honor the Lady of Fatima and take part in the religious celebrations held there which present the message and the charism of Fátima in Italy.

Situated next to the Shrine of Most Holy Mary Advocate, where is kept the miraculous image of Our Lady crowned 24 years ago by Holy Father John Paul II, of venerable memory, and administered by

the Benedictine Fathers of the Abbey of Cava, the structure is built over an area of about 40 thousand square meters in the woods in the valley of Cava di Tirreni (province of Salerno).

This structure was an attempt to reproduce what exists in Fatima, Portugal: the little chapel of apparitions, the chapel of adoration to the Blessed Sacrament, the monumental Way of the Cross in Carrara marble, 2 meters high, along the trails of the park, and the large building which seats 2500 people under cover, and other

adjacent spaces to receive pilgrims, which sometimes are found too small!

Every 13th of the month, in particular, is held a celebration, like in Fatima, in which take part thousands of faithful, to honor Our Lady in remembrance of the apparitions, including procession, penitential rites and hymns, just as in the Portuguese shrine.

This year in particular the celebrations were more solemn because of the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the arrival of the statue of Our Lady of Fatima, which was sculpted in Fatima, and of the start of the Marian cult (of O.L. of Fatima) in the province of Salerno and in the dioceses of Abbazia Territoriale della SS. Trinità di Cava dei Tirreni.

On October 13th, coinciding with the last apparition of the Virgin in Fatima, the diocesan Bishop decided to begin, in “Piccola Fatima” of Cava dei Tirreni, the First Diocesan Eucharistic Congress, carrying in procession through the streets the Blessed Sacrament together with the statue of the Virgin of Fatima much venerated in this place.

Right now we are thinking of building a hospice for handicapped children dedicated to Blesseds Francisco and Jacinta Marto.

*The Rector of the Shrine,
Fr. Gennaro Costabile Lo Schiavo, OSB*



Send us your News!

World Apostolate of Fatima approved by the Holy See

On the 3rd of February, 2006, in Rome, Archbishop Stanislaw Rylko, President of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, presented to Professor Americo Pablo Lopez-Ortiz, International President of the World Apostolate of Fatima, the Decree of erection of the World Apostolate of Fatima as an international public association of the faithful for the Universal Church. The decree, among other things, states that “the members of the World Apostolate of Fatima, spread throughout numerous countries of the world, commit themselves to become faithful witnesses of the Catholic faith in their own families, at work, in the parishes and communities, participating in this way in the New Evangelization”. The Decree was issued on the 7th of October, 2005, the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.

Present at the public ceremony at the *Aula Magna* of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, there were representatives of 14 countries. The Portuguese delegation was composed by His Excellency Bishop Serafim of Leiria-Fatima, Monsignor Luciano Guerra, Rector of the Shrine of Fatima, Fr. Luis Kondor, Vice-Postulator for



the cause of canonization of Jacinta and Francisco Marto, Fr. Manuel Antunes, National Assistant of the Movement of the Message of Fatima in Portugal and the Secretaries of the World Apostolate of Fatima, Nuno Prazeres and Ana Reis.

At his address to the Pontifical Council for the Laity, the President of the WAF, Prof. Americo Lopez-Ortiz, expressed his gratitude and joy for the decree of approval and underlined

that it is “a great blessing and at the same time a great responsibility to carry out with hope and excellence! Under the umbrella of the WAF, all associations and apostolic movements propagating the authentic message of Fatima may encounter an example of faithfulness and loyalty to the Holy Father and the Diocesan Bishops.” Professor Lopez-Ortiz then added: “The WAF will live its charisma of formation of lay people by transmitting the authentic message of Fatima and its profound spirituality”.

The President of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, Archbishop Stanislaw Rylko remarked: “It is with great joy that we celebrate this moment (...). Today a new stage is unfolding in the history of the World Apostolate of Fatima and you establish stronger ties with the See of Peter.”

During the days that preceded the ceremony, many members of the World Apostolate of Fatima met in Rome and participated in an international congress on the Message of Fatima, in the General Audience of the Holy Father and also in the Eucharist presided by the successor of Peter, on the 2nd of February, at St. Peter’s Basilica.

Nuno Prazeres e Ana Reis

Interview with Mgr. Diego Bona

Italy at the feet of Our Lady of Fátima



Mgr. Diego Bona, almost 80 years old, President of the World Apostolate of Fátima in Italy (WAF-Italy), has dedicated a lot of his

life to spreading the message left by Our Lady at Fátima.

He is the President of WAF-Italy and speaks with emotion about the work being done and underlines the commitment of his closest collaborators in the cause of the announcement of the message of the Virgin.

“In this work I had the opportunity of meeting Enzo Sorrentino, a blessing of Our Lady. He had in mind a “*Peregrinatio Mariae*”, made out the program and, with the blessing of the respective bishops, we were able to visit several dioceses”, reports Mgr. Diego Bona.

Looking back at the past, Mgr. Diego remembers with emotion the “Pilgrimage of Wonders”, when the then Cardinal of Bologna suggested a national pilgrimage through Italy in 1959 with the Pilgrim Image of Our Lady of Fátima. “A lot of people were involved in

this peregrination, which lasted 150 days and touched thousands of people. By then the war was over. During that pilgrimage the first consecration of Italy to the Immaculate Heart of Mary was made”.

With the approval by Pontifical Decree, at the beginning of the current year, of the World Apostolate of Fátima as an international public association of faithful, Mgr. Diego thinks that now is the right moment for the spreading of the movement and of the message of Fátima. With this purpose in mind, there are being already created in Italy groups responsible for the spreading of the WAF.

“Marian devotion is already widespread; all Italians know of Fátima. When the Peregrination is held, participation is great; thousands of pilgrims hasten to welcome Our Lady”, says the Prelate.

Pilgrim Image again at the Vatican

The Pilgrim Image of Our Lady of Fátima, within the program of “*Peregrinatio Mariae*”, is going to visit the Vatican once more. Mgr. Diego Bona confirms with joy that it is planned that the Image be brought once again to St. Peter’s Basilica, the same way it happened last year for the first time. The Image will be at the Vatican on June 24th, Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, after which it will be taken to the Shrine of Our Lady of Divine Love, in Roma, shrine that holds the tradition of a nocturnal pilgrimage on foot for a distance of 14 km. This year, on the night of the 24th to the 25th of June, the Statue of Fátima will take part in the procession.

Currently, on the occasion of each “*Peregrinatio Mariae*”, the WAF-Italy organizes Eucharistic celebrations and several periods of reflection and prayer. An exhibition of documents, photos and other images of the Virgin of Fátima always follows the steps of the Pilgrim Statue, so that the Italians may know or deepen what they already know of the history of the Apparitions and of the message of Our Lady of Fátima.



Adoración Nocturna Española (Spanish Nocturnal Adoration) The largest foreign pilgrimage to Fátima

Bishop José Cerviño y Cerviño was once more in Fátima for four days (28/4-1/5), accompanying the activities of the largest foreign pilgrimage – that of the “Adoración Nocturna Española” (ANE) which, since 1987 (making it this year the 20th edition), peregrinates to Cova da Iria, place of singular attraction and devotion.

In the three celebrations to which he presided (besides the Mass of the Pilgrim, where were present, amidst the thousands of people, many widows of the Hope and Life Movement (MEV in Portuguese), he underlined the need to rekindle, increase and live the Eucharistic worship, giving particular attention to how we should live Sunday, a day which must be for Catholics the central journey of prayer and communion with God. Speaking of the relationship of the Synod of the Bishops with the style and practice of Nocturnal Adoration (association founded in Paris in 1848, in Madrid/Spain in 1877 and in Portugal in 1981 – this country celebrates this year the 25th anniversary), he stated that “with this doctrine and these methods, we can



emphasize the spiritual fruits needed by the Church and, consequently, Society”.

Four thousand pilgrims, 71 buses, many children and youths, four solemn Masses, two Eucharistic processions, one walk of almost 3km, reciting the 20 mysteries of the Rosary were the religious celebrations held.

Pilgrims from 37 Spanish towns came accompanied by members of the National Council of ANE: Mr. Mendoza (president), Mr. Garrido, Mr. Ordóñez, Mr. Pulido, Mr. Caracuel, Mr. Aguilar and Mr. Lence (the latter one also in the capacity of general coordinator of the pilgrimage).

Fátima was “occupied” by the pilgrims of “Adoración Nocturna”: in the Shrine, in the streets and in the hotels. The media accompanied, more intensely than ever, this extraordinary event. An outstanding musical group, “Voces Baionesas”, enriched the moments of worship and of cultural events. Let us thank God through Holy Mary of Cova da Iria!

Peches, Espanha

Devotion to Our Lady of Fatima in Eastern Europe

In Slovakia, Church of St. Rita Cassia entrusted to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

«Dear Fr. Luciano, It is full of joy and also emotion that I write these two lines to tell and confide to you and everyone devoted to Our Lady of Fátima the story of a great gift Providence has willed to grant to me and to an Augustinian community in Kosice, Slovakia.

Ten years have passed since the Augustinian Order arrived in Slovakia. Thanks to the courage of an Italian priest (Fr. Angelo Lemme) and the commitment of a young Augustinian Slovak (Fr. Paul Benedik), today the

community has increased in the number of new priests and religious who, living the spirit of St. Augustine, give testimony of how it is beautiful “to have heart and soul turned only towards God” (see Augustinian rule).

The beginnings haven’t been easy and still today the community lives in a “kind” of a convent, where there is little space both for the interior life of the religious and for an apostolate of long distance.

Notwithstanding all this, or perhaps thanks to this lack of space and to financial difficulties, the Lord is providing and it is beautiful to see how so many people in general and so many young people in particular take part in the various initiatives put forward.

This year, to thank God for the ten years of their presence there (in Slovakia), I decided to confide to the Holy Virgin and more precisely to Her Immaculate Heart every desire of theirs and in particular the project of a little convent for the friars and that of a church, which will be named after St. Rita of Cassia.

Exactly on the fourth Thursday of preparation for the Feast of St. Rita (May 22nd), I brought and donated to the Community a beautiful statue of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, acquired in Fátima on the past 13th of October during my pilgrimage in that blessed land.

It was moving to see how during the celebration of the Divine Sacrifice it was difficult for everyone not to stare at the holy image and to hear so many praises and hymns after it was blessed. Now the image of Mary is in the only room available, where one lives moments of prayer, catechesis and also recreation, hoping that it won’t be long before one can give it a suitable placement in the new convent and later in the new church (perhaps within a few years).

I’m sure the Virgin of Fátima, Who has shown so much love towards Eastern Europe, so wounded by communism, will bless this new work and will look after the apostolic labors of my brothers of Kosice.

Fr. Ludovico Maria Centra

Fátima – Light and Peace

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Portugal: 5 € – **Abroad:** 10 €

The World in Fátima

The Shrine of Fátima (Portugal) continues to be in the heart of all the believers of the whole world as a place where pilgrims say they truly feel close to the love of God. So to this place, often called "Altar of the World", continue to come many thousands of people, who seek peace with themselves and their neighbor.

The Shrine of Fátima intends to always welcome better the pilgrims and visitors who yearly, for the most diverse reasons, come to Fátima. More than numbers, what is important are the people; but, in any case, the analysis of statistical data also contributes to the reflection needed to prepare and improve that same welcome.

In 2005 3,415,079 people attended the 2,544 official Masses celebrated in the Shrine of Fátima. 692,309 pilgrims also attended private Masses, celebrated at the request of different groups.

2,644,149 people took part in other official celebrations of the Shrine, such as the Rosary, the Candlelight Procession or the Way of the Cross, while 375,633 people took part in similar private celebrations organized by groups.

Regarding pilgrim groups from abroad, signed up with the Shrine's Pilgrim Service 2,090 groups from 70 countries from the five continents, with a total of 285,345.

A special mention for Spain, from where came 30,327 pilgrims in organized groups; for Italy, with 28,509; and the United States of



America, from where came 7,056 people. From Ireland came 6,433 pilgrims and from Poland 6,053.

Regarding Portuguese groups who signed up with SEPE (Pilgrim Service), these numbered 1,145, amounting to 391,248 people.

The records of SEPE show many other countries from where, in greater or smaller numbers, came people.

Looking now at the visits to museums owned by the Shrine of Fátima, 63,366 were the visitors to the Exhibition "Fátima Light and Peace", exposed in the Rectory building, where one can see a representative sample of the donations made to Our Lady of Fátima or Her Shrine, also a sample of donations made during the tours of the Image of the Pilgrim Virgin throughout the world. The year before (2004), this exhibition was visited by 50,864 people.

The House Museum of Aljustrel, right next to the house where Sr. Lucy was born and where one can revisit the daily family life and work at the time of the apparitions, was visited by 26,589 people.

To the sea of people from the most diverse countries and nationalities who visited Fátima in 2005 the Shrine of Fátima addresses a special salutation.

May the words spoken by Our Lady in Fátima, in October of 1917, stay engraved in the hearts of everyone: "I want that a chapel be made in My Honor; I am the Lady of the Rosary; please continue to pray the Rosary every day".

"Don't be afraid! I am the Angel of Peace"

Proceeding at a good pace are the preparations for the next Children's Pilgrimage, to be made, as usual, on the 9th and the 10th of June, whose background this year will be the theme of the Angels.

If we were to follow what was planned and what has been done up to now, we should proceed with the theme of the Ten Commandments. This year then it would be the 6th Commandment: "To keep chastity in words and actions". Occurring, however, this year the 90th Anniversary of the Apparitions of the Angel in "Loça do Cabeço" (hilltop grotto), the Shrine and Pilgrimage Committee thought it appropriate to take a pause of two years in the Commandments and give preference, this year of 2006, to the Apparitions of the Angel and, next year (2007), to the 90th anniversary of the Apparitions of Our Lady.



It is reasonable to proceed this way, given the importance of the events as being the reason for the great Event that Fátima is today, not only in Portugal but also in the whole world.

The theme of the Angels is being criteriously reflected upon, starting with the study of the presence of Angels in Holy Scripture, mainly in the life of Jesus, and also in the writings of the Holy Fathers.

Having this theme in the Children's Pilgrimage, they will (and why not all of us?) have a beautiful opportunity to know better these mysterious persons that are the Angels, who are for us providence, peace, protection... of God, Whom the children must know, desire and love evermore, in order to live their vocation of children of God called to intimacy with Him.

Ir. Maria Isolinda



National Contest on the Figure of the Angel of Fátima

Portuguese Children answer appeal

The children responded positively and with enthusiasm to the invitation by the Shrine of Fátima to take part in the National Contest on the figure of the Angel of Fátima, whose apparitions occurred 90 years ago.

56 elementary schools of Portugal, including those from the isles of Madeira and Azores, responded with 1,937 works. 1,837 of those works are drawings and 100 are texts.

The Shrine of Fátima, through the Coordinating Committee for the program of the 90 Years of the Apparitions of Fátima, thanks all groups of the country's schools, all education establishments and, specially, all boys and girls who dedicated a little of their time to prepare the beautiful works that are now ready for the contest. Thanks very, very much!

The best 30 works will be published in a book and, from amongst these, the three best ones will be put into posters, which will be placed next to the locations where the Apparitions of the Angel took place.