



FÁTIMA LUZ EPAZ

Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima

Director: Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas

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71

*Like Mary, bearers of joy and love:
Praise the Lord, who lifts up the poor*

A time of hope, that requires responsibility

/ Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas

The pilgrimage to the Shrine of Fatima on the 12 and 13 October 2021 was the first major pilgrimage during the pandemic, without restrictions on the number of participants, but still with some constraints. The pandemic is not yet over and still conditions our lives, but this pilgrimage has brought a time of reinforced hope for a progressive return to normal life.

During the previous months, we have witnessed the gradual return of pilgrims, first coming individually or in families, unorganised; progressively, thanks to vaccination and the improvement of the pandemic situation, and also to the end of restrictions on travel and journeys, we have seen the return of organized groups which for many months had been almost completely absent. Organised groups from outside Portugal were no longer coming to the Shrine since March 2020, and only started to come back from May 2021. During the summer months, many foreign groups were already present, but it was mainly in October that we were pleased to see a significant return of foreign organised groups.

The International Anniversary Pilgrimage has marked the return of the crowds to the Shrine, respecting distances and wearing masks, for the tranquillity and safety of all.

We are fully aware that the pandemic is not over and we have to continue being careful and act with great responsibility. Therefore we maintain some precautions and some protective measures, to ensure the safety of pilgrims and collaborators. However, there are no longer limitations to the number of people in the celebration spaces and in the places for encounters and activities, which allows us to welcome the groups again in a proper way. These new circumstances also allow us to return to our usual celebration places and to the schedules and programmes prior to March 2020.

The pandemic has led us to find creative ways in order to reach pilgrims who could not come to the Shrine, and we intend to maintain and increase them.

We are aware that the pandemic is not over, but we are encouraged by the hope that this return to the achievable normality will be consolidated.

Shrine offers spiritual itineraries based on the event and message of Fatima

Carmo Rodeia

The 15th edition of the Course on the Message of Fatima, directed by Sister Ângela Coelho, which was postponed in 2020 due to the pandemic, takes place at the Paulo VI Pastoral Center until November 14.

"The triumph of love in the dramas of History" is a training moment that is divided into several sessions, in which various themes are addressed, which deepen the event of Fatima and its message.

The program of the Course began on the 12th with a theological framework of the apparitions – the meaning of the Mariophanies – and continues with an approach on the importance and permanent meaning of Fatima. During the sessions, the teacher will make known the events and the protagonists of Fatima; she will underline the centrality and the Trinitarian face of God in the Message of Fatima and will speak about the importance of the Eucharistic adoration as an invitation to an attitude of oblation.

Students are also invited to reflect on Mary as intercessor and as an expression of the motherly presence of God, and on the importance of the

prayer of the rosary: the Immaculate Heart of Mary as an expression of God's compassion for the world; the pedagogy of the secret: from fear to hope; reparation as an invitation to participate in God's saving action; consecration as surrender and welcome.

The 1st edition of the Course on the Message of Fatima took place in June 2013.

The biography and spiritual profile of the seers of Fatima will also be addressed during the training.

The training proposal aims to make known, in a comprehensive and articulated way, the essentials of the Message of Fatima, from the perspective of its meaning of hope for all humankind, exposing the fundamental elements of the apparitions of Cova da Iria and systematizing thematic aspects, theologically framed, in a dialogical relationship with specific issues of Christian life.

The first edition of the Course on the Message of Fatima took place in June 2013.

Fatima in the light of Easter

Living the Easter Triduum with the message of Fatima

The intention this year, however, is that it be an initiative more widely welcomed and proposed as an integral part of the Shrine's program for the Easter Triduum.

14-17 April 2022

Spiritual retreats

The themes of these retreats will be defined in the horizon of the thematic axes that arise from the theme of the year.

28-30 January 2022

8-10 April 2022

24-26 June 2022

22-24 July 2022

23-25 September 2022

The Rosary

Evangelical itinerary of theological life

The shrine will re-edit, with some updates to the programme but maintaining the core and fundamental intention of this proposal, the itinerary on the Rosary (last held in 2018-2019). In this pastoral year, it will be the only spirituality itinerary to be held.

Joyful Mysteries in Advent

10-12 December 2021

Luminous Mysteries Ordinary Time

4-6 February 2022

Sorrowful Mysteries in Lent

11-13 de março de 2022

Glorious Mysteries in Easter Time

13-15 May 2022

Acolytes and readers

The challenge of living the mission beyond the service to the altar and to the word



"Being an altar server is a way of serving in the liturgy, contributing to the embellishment of the celebrations. In the Shrine of Fatima, it is to be able to do this with humility and dedication, at the 'Altar of the World', in the service of Our Lady. It is with great responsibility, honor and pride that I have been part of this group of volunteers since its beginning. The way we carry out the tasks may be modelled, whether it is correct or less correct."

LUÍS FERREIRA
Acolyte, 50 years old

On November 14, the Acolytes Group of the Shrine of Fatima (GASF) celebrates 36 years of existence. Founded in 1985, the GASF is currently made up of 38 altar servers, between 9 and 50 years old.

It is already a "long history of service and dedication to the liturgy", with a model deeply inspired by the spirituality of this place, of children, young people and adults, the overwhelming majority of whom come from Cova da Iria and the parishes of the Fatima area. After an initial training, they make their commitment – investiture – and officially become acolytes of the Shrine.

"Since I was a little boy I have faced this ministry with great responsibility. As time went by, I have been trying to know more about liturgy and wanting to help other young people in this beautiful ministry. An acolyte has to be a simple person: to assist with attitudes and gestures, to act at the right time, to be in harmony with the officiator and to be dedicated in serving Our Lady. Here, we have the pleasure of acolyting under the inspiration of Saint Francisco Marto."

CÉSAR VICENTE
Acolyte, 47 years old

Fr. Joaquim Ganhão, director of the Department of Liturgy, told the Voice of Fatima that "Without a doubt, the best training for the altar servers is their participation in the liturgy and the proper preparation". He notes that every year there is a course on training/updating.

Besides this course, the coordinating group tries, each year, to propose a program of activities which includes the monthly meeting with a view to spiritual and liturgical training, two activities of conviviality and a cultural outing, besides the general formations offered by the Shrine each year.

"The main emphasis regarding all the liturgical ministers should be that participation, above all, must be an interior attitude, of harmony with the Mystery that is being celebrated," Fr. Joaquim Ganhão says.

"The liturgy can never be reduced to an artificial 'show', but it is always a celebration of the Mystery of Christ, in which each one who participates must be in tune and identified so as to allow himself to be involved and inhabited by the grace that is offered to

him", he clarifies. Therefore, to the necessary exterior participation, "which is desired to be beautiful and worthy", there must necessarily correspond "a true inner participation".

"The liturgy must be a moment of Christian truth always up to date. We are inspired in this place by the testimony of St. Francisco Marto in his unceasing search for God and in the inner experience of the unprecedented mystery of His Eucharistic presence", he adds, without forgetting that St. Francisco Marto is the national patron of acolytes and in particular of the acolytes of the Shrine of Fatima.



Unlike the group of altar servers, the group of readers is larger, 58 members, but also with the highest average age, made up of volunteers between 42 and 78 years old.

To carry out his ministry, "the reader needs a serious preparation", adds the head of the Department of Liturgy. "It is necessary that, at the same time as he proclaims the Word of God to others, he knows how to welcome it into himself through docility to the Holy Spirit. He must meditate on it every day in order to attain an ever more lively and penetrating knowledge of it, but above all he must witness to the Lord Jesus with his own life", says Fr. Joaquim Ganhão. And he compares: "The reader must be a true spouse of the Word. When he leaves his place to proclaim the Word in the liturgy, he goes out to his beloved spouse to make her known, accepted, loved and lived by the whole assembly."

Without a doubt, "It is not enough to know how to read; it is necessary to grasp the spiritual meaning of the text, so as to be able to proclaim it in a way that penetrates the heart of each member of the assembly".

Acolytes and readers integrate the body of volunteers of the Department of Liturgy of the Shrine of Fatima which gathers more than 50% of the total number of volunteers in Cova da Iria. Of the 246 volunteers of this Department, almost one hundred make up the group of altar servers and readers. / Carmo Rodeia

Fatima is a Privileged Place of Pilgrimage and Celebration of Faith

The Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy states that “The time spent in the sanctuary constitutes the most important part of the pilgrimage and should be marked by a commitment to conversion, ratified by reception of the Sacrament of Penance; by private prayer of thanksgiving, supplication, or of intercession, in accordance with the nature of the shrine or the objectives of the



Institution in these ministries is still reserved for candidates for the diaconate and priesthood, although there has already been a recent pronouncement by the Pope on institution in these ministries.

“Since there is no ‘official institution’, there is, however, a discernment made on the part of those responsible and an acceptance of the various candidates in order to be

“Being a reader at the Shrine has a great meaning that I define in two words: service and gratitude. Serving the Word of God, the Church and each pilgrim who comes to the Shrine and participates in the Eucharist. Gratitude to the Shrine, for exercising the ministry of reader and being able to offer my voice to God, so that everyone can listen to His Word and because the Word of God “is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path” (Ps 119:105).”

JOAQUIM DIAS

Reader

pilgrimage; by celebration of the Holy Eucharist, which is the climax of the pilgrimage” (Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy, no. 287).

For a “worthy and fruitful” celebration of the faith on the part of pilgrims, “it is essential to promote the various liturgical ministries”. To this end, the liturgical pastoral of the Shrine has a group of about 236 volunteers in the different services/ministries of the liturgy – acolytes, singers, readers and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion.

The Shrine of Fatima, like most parishes, does not have instituted readers and acolytes.

taught and to carry out these ministries in the Shrine’s celebrations. To this discernment and acceptance also corresponds the availability for service and for permanent learning”, admits the person in charge of the Liturgy Department. “Any trustworthy person, with a proven Christian life, can apply for these services. The acceptance and incorporation in the group will depend on the capacities of each person in relation to the service that is proposed”, Fr. Joaquim Ganhão further emphasized, recognizing that “the proximity to the Shrine will make performance easier”.

“When we speak of imitating the saints, this does not mean copying their way of being and living holiness. (...) To become a saint is to become more fully yourself, the one God wanted to dream up and create, not a photocopy. Your life must be a prophetic stimulus that serves as an inspiration to others, that leaves a mark on this world, that unique mark that only you can leave.”

POPE FRANCIS

Message and blessing to the acolytes,
during the 25th National Pilgrimage of the acolytes in Fatima, May 1, 2021



October: first pilgrimage without restrictions

The Shrine of Fatima was once again filled with light on 12 October and pilgrims were able to attend without restrictions for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic on 12 and 13 October. The Archbishop of São Salvador da Bahia, Cardinal Sérgio da Rocha, who presided over the International Anniversary Pilgrimage, prayed for those suffering with the pandemic and noted the „dedication and generosity“ of health professionals. The Bishop of Leiria-Fatima, Cardinal António Marto, was moved by the return of pilgrims in greater numbers. / Carmo Rodeia

October shows “positive signs of a new normality”

“When we compare one million and 300 thousand (pilgrims) with the usual six million, we are very far from that number and that normality”, but “three and a half months from the end of the year, 2021 already registers some recovery compared to the numbers of 2020 [...] this year has already registered some recovery so far [...]. The road will be long, longer, but we are confident in the progressive recovery of the number of pilgrims”.



At the general audience Pope recalls October apparition in Fatima

“Today we remember the final apparition of Our Lady of Fatima. I entrust you all to the heavenly Mother of God. May she accompany you on your way and be of comfort in the trials of life.”

The 1st International Anniversary Pilgrimage, after almost two years of successive confinements, was experienced in person by tens of thousands of pilgrims without any constraints other than the use of the mask and the prudent physical distance to which we are all still obliged, especially in large gatherings such as the celebrations at Cova da Iria, on this date which evokes the 6th apparition of Our Lady to the Little Shepherds, in 1917, with particular emphasis on the so-called 'Miracle of the Sun'.

During the homily at the Eucharist on 13 October, the Archbishop of São Salvador da Bahia, Primate of Brazil, prayed for all those who have suffered and are suffering with the pandemic and asked pilgrims to take them into account in their prayers. "We bring everyone's prayers to the altar of the Lord, trusting in the motherly intercession of Our Lady of Fatima, praying for those who most suffer the consequences

of the pandemic and the whole world. We pray united to the patients with COVID-19 begging for the grace of recovering their health. We pray united to the bereaved families suffering from the loss of their loved ones," he said.

D. Sérgio da Rocha remembered the health professionals and their "dedication and generosity". "We pray, with special esteem and gratitude, for health professionals, for all those who care for the patients in hospitals and in homes with such dedication and generosity, and for those who are dedicated to hope-bearing vaccination," he stressed.

The Cardinal Primate of Brazil pleaded for "the grace to overcome the pandemic" and said it was necessary to "care for life and health with responsibility". "We acknowledge with praise to God and gratitude the steps that have been taken, but we need to continue to take care of life and health with responsibility," he declared.

The October pilgrimage was marked by

the mass return of pilgrims to the Shrine with the presence of 15 nationalities, in a total of 48 groups that registered at the Shrine's services, namely two groups from the American continent.

The Bishop of Leiria-Fatima, Cardinal António Marto, emotionally addressed them all, recalling the promise made in May 2020, when for the first time the Shrine celebrated behind closed doors, without pilgrims, that the return would be inevitable: "We shall return", he said at the time.

"Today I must say: you dear pilgrims have answered the call! In an admirable way!", said Cardinal Antonio Marto. "I thank you above all for your testimony of faith. You have come in multitudes, like children who want to feel tenderness and consolation once again, close to the Mother's lap and her tender and motherly heart. Your testimony of faith brings me great joy and comfort," he said gratefully.



World Youth Day remembered from Fatima

"In 2023, Fatima will be ready to receive the Holy Father, who will come to World Youth Day in Lisbon and to Fatima, as he has announced," said Father Carlos Cabecinhas in the press conference that preceded the beginning of the celebrations.

Bishop António Moiteiro challenged pilgrims to “walk together” and to privilege “welcoming and caring for others”

The Bishop of Aveiro presided over the celebrations of the International Anniversary Pilgrimage in Cova da Iria, last September.

Carmo Rodeia



The Bishop of Aveiro, D. António Moiteiro, underlined on September 13, in Fatima, that the concern for the needy, namely the welcoming of foreigners and refugees, has always been part of the duties of Christians and, therefore, challenged the pilgrims in Cova da Iria to keep this feature.

“Concern for the needy, attention to the sick, welcoming foreigners and refugees, assisting prisoners, caring for the smallest and weakest has always been part of Christian discipleship,” Bishop António Moiteiro said, during the celebration he presided over in the Prayer Area.

The president of the celebration explained that “there is no following of Jesus without a mission to accomplish” and those who are not interested in His liberating and saving mission, those who “are not concerned with the sufferings of the people”, with their religious hunger, “their thirst for God, their desire to learn, to pray, to commit themselves”, “are not true followers”.

“The centrality of love in the life of the communities of Jesus’ disciples gave rise [...] to very concrete forms of social aid,” said Bishop António Monteiro. “This personal relationship and the vital experience of the deeds of love [...] were for many the way to discover the truth of the Gospel and the initial motivation for the journey,” said the president of the Episcopal Commission for Christian Education and Doctrine of the Faith, who underlined the “dramatic situation” of the Afghans, which “must be a fac-

tor of interpellation”.

“Mary is the image of one who has entrusted herself fully to the love of God manifested and communicated in Jesus Christ”, Bishop António Moiteiro pointed out, noting that the apparitions and appeals of Our Lady in 1917 are “a sign and prolongation of the motherly solicitude of the One who exhorts to listen to and follow Jesus”.

Bishop António Moiteiro highlighted conversion and stressed that the call to conversion “is also found in the request that Our Lady made to the little shepherds”. “The invitation to conversion is at the heart of the message of Fatima, hence conversion and penance, as well as adoration, are funda-

mental elements of the change of life called for by the Gospel and here, in this place, by Our Lady,” he added.

The previous day, at the evening celebration, the prelate had invited the pilgrims to “walk together” towards others. “Pilgrimage, walking together, leads us to leave ourselves and to open ourselves to others, listening to them and sharing our own existence, with the missionary and synodal spirit that is expected of the Church today,” Bishop António Moiteiro said.

Four groups of foreign pilgrims were present at Cova da Iria: two from Spain, one from Malta and another one from Poland.

For a Church “without discrimination or exclusion”

Addressing the pilgrims at the end of September’s International Anniversary Pilgrimage, Cardinal António Marto said the Catholic Church must go to the “existential peripheries”, praising the example of Pope Francis, at the time travelling “in the heart” of Europe, and advocated a more welcoming Church. “The Pope, a pilgrim, symbol of the Church going outward, goes where his presence can bring solace and peace, open paths of reconciliation and hope,” he said.

“Mary is the image of the Church as a welcoming mother, who welcomes everyone, without discrimination or exclusion, with Her arms open, so that all may feel that they are Her beloved sons and daughters who are listened to and understood,” he told the pilgrims.

The bishop of Leiria-Fatima concluded the final greeting of the celebration by evoking the 20 years since the September 11 attacks in the USA, and the “drama of the refugees” from Afghanistan who “knock at the door of Europe”.

For Bishop António Marto, these are images of a world “wounded, divided and fragmented by the violence of evil”. “A wounded and suffering world which invokes and cries out for the mercy of the Most High, the only one capable of defeating the force of evil,” he concluded.

The Assumption is a message of “hope, consolation and joy”, Bishop António Marto said

The Cardinal presided over the Sunday Eucharist in the Prayer Hall, which was once again almost full, once more with the presence of foreign groups from Italy and Poland.

Carmo Rodeia

In the Assumption we understand that God's Heaven has a motherly heart that nurtures hope even in the face of evil and life's difficulties, Cardinal António Marto stated this morning, presiding over the Mass of the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in Fatima.

“The mystery of the Assumption is a mystery of hope, of consolation and of joy” the Bishop of Leiria-Fatima stated, underlining that this feast speaks of the present and of the future: it assures us that we will be at the side of the risen Jesus at the end of our heavenly life; but it invites us to believe in the power of Christ's resurrection, already at work in our lives, which makes us capable of bringing grace and good where there are stars of evil”.

“Let us not allow ourselves to be overcome by the power of evil”, Bishop António Marto appealed.

“Where the presence of God is recognised, the world becomes better and more beautiful; we become more fraternal and more human. Let us therefore have courage: Mary invites us to live with hope even in the darkest moments of life,” the Cardinal explained.

“Mary is with God and in God, in the fullness of life as our mother. And for this reason She is closer to us on happy days and difficult days: we are not alone, we are never alone! We have a mother who looks at us with love from Heaven, and serves us with Her motherly solicitude,” he said in the homily.

“Let us cling to Her and say from our hearts: mother, my dear mother or mommy, as a child says, Our Lady, gate of Heaven, pray for us now in the midst of our tribulations, at the hour of our death,” he said.

“We are men and women full of limits, faults, frailties and sins, but we have a mother from Heaven who never abandons us and who protects us with Her protective mantle; she helps us contemplate the Heaven of God,” he further said.

“Let us ask Her to be for us a door to Heaven, from right now.”

In this regard, the prelate recalled the example of the little shepherds who experienced the beauty and joy of Heaven, which Our Lady made manifest, and challenged

the assembly, which once again included three organized foreign groups from Italy and Poland, in addition to the Portuguese pilgrims, who in total occupied 90% of the Shrine's capacity during this time of pandemic: “Are we men and women of faith who trust that the love of God is stronger than the power of evil and death and are we aware that our life has a dimension of eternity that gives meaning to our actions on earth, from family to work?”

“This mystery of the Assumption invites us to lift our eyes to the heights and to see how precious we all are in God's eyes and that with God nothing of what we are and what we do is lost,” he concluded.

From the Liturgy proclaimed and with eyes fixed on the antiphon of the Liturgy of the Hours – “Today the Virgin Mary has been raised to Heaven, rejoice because She reigns with Christ forever” – he spoke of the “joy and beauty of the reciprocity” of motherhood.

“Mary begot in the flesh the Son of God made man; She is the Mother of the Saviour, the first who took Him in Her arms, who followed Him intimately from the cradle to the cross, who held His body in Her lap when He came down from the cross... We stand before the beauty of reciprocity, a communion of total love, in the relationship between Mother and Son. Mother and Son are inseparable in life and beyond death,” he said, challenging the pilgrims participating in this celebration to allow themselves to feel attracted by “the love and the light of God.”

The celebration in Fatima ended with a blessing in several languages.

The Catholic Church marks this Sunday the solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a dogma solemnly defined by Pope Pius XII on November 1, 1950 and celebrated for several centuries on a holiday in Portugal.

We “declare and define it to be a divinely revealed dogma: that the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of Her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory,” states the Apostolic Constitution defining the dogma of the Assumption in the Catholic faith, ‘Munificentissimus Deus’.



PILGRIMAGE OF AUGUST



Cardinal António Marto called for universal brotherhood to build a “future of justice and peace”

The Cardinal left a message for the migrants and refugees who took part in the International Pilgrimage of August, in Fatima. **Carmo Rodeia**

At the end of the International Pilgrimage of August, in Cova da Iria, the Bishop of Leiria-Fatima said that the experience of pilgrimage opens doors to a “universal brotherhood” and he appealed to the construction of a “future of justice and peace”.

“This pilgrimage of migrants, coming from different peoples, is a vivid, practical experience of universal, multi-coloured brotherhood, which we are all called to build through the exchange of the richness of peoples and cultures, in harmony and peace among all”, Bishop António Marto said at the end of the Mass on 13 August, from the altar of the Prayer Hall.

The Cardinal challenged the pilgrims to walk together and “together build a future of justice and peace” for the planet.

“Here, in the House of the Mother, we all feel like brothers and sisters, ‘fratelli tutti’, all brothers and sisters. It is beautiful to have this experience, here in the Shrine,” he added, evoking Pope Francis’ most recent encyclical on fraternity and social friendship.

Cardinal António Marto pointed out that the prayer of the Shrine of Fatima “is linked to the geography of the world, that is, to all the needs and problems of the peoples and countries from which all migrants and refugees depart or to which they arrive and are welcomed.”

“Our prayer is universal and that makes our heart universal, too,” he indicated.

The bishop of Leiria-Fatima confessed a special “delight, tenderness and emotion” for the presence of migrants and refugees who travel to Cova da Iria in this August international pilgrimage, still marked by the limitations of the pandemic.

The international pilgrimage traditionally dedicated to migrants was presided by Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich, Archbishop of Luxembourg and President of the Commission of the Bishops’ Conferences of the European Union, whom Cardinal António Marto thanked.



Mutual praise and defence of the role of migrants in the Church's mission

The Archbishop of Luxembourg, presiding for the second time over the August International Anniversary Pilgrimage, known as the 'pilgrimage of migrants', praised the contribution of migrants to the development of the countries that receive them and challenged the pilgrims at Cova da Iria to live in a "spirit of service".

"Dear friends, Portuguese, dear emigrants, dear refugees, with your hands, your work, the sweat of your face, your intelligence, the sacrifice of your families, you have helped to build the economic and cultural wealth of the countries that welcome you throughout the world," said Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich in his homily during the Mass of 13 August.

The president of the celebration evoked the example of Portuguese families and invited everyone to "extend this spirit of service".

"The truth is that faith without a spirit of service is just a feeling and feelings are fleeting," he warned, before the thousands of people who had gathered in the enclosure, following the security guidelines determined by the Shrine of Fatima, due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Archbishop of Luxembourg argued that this same attitude of service can be made "available to the Church", in catechesis, in parish work, in lay ministries or in solidarity.

"We need open people who favour the welcoming of refugees and migrants," he exemplified.

The Luxembourg Cardinal pointed out that the religiosity of migrants helps a Europe that "today lives far from God".

Already the previous evening, at the Celebration of the Word that followed the Candlelight Procession, the Luxembourg Cardinal had left a general praise for Portuguese religiosity and a call for a commitment for a "more just and more fraternal" world.

"As Christians, we are not passive in this world. The world is entrusted to us by God

the Creator, we must make it bear fruit. This can become a commitment to ecology, the commitment for a more just world, for a more fraternal world," said Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich, in his homily, in Portuguese, in the prayer area of Cova da Iria.

"The great commitments will be valid if they show their fruits of peace, justice and defence of the common good, in everyday real life," he added.

Cardinal Hollerich underlined the testimony of Lusophone women living in Luxembourg.

"Mary's character is similar to the character of many Portuguese, Cape Verdean and Brazilian women I know in Luxembourg. Like Mary they are strong women," he noted, stressing that they "keep their family together".

"They do it with their work. They want to ensure a future for their children. In the evening, tired, they still take care of the house and cook food that brings joy to the soul and body of their family," he continued.

The August pilgrimage began with the recitation of the Rosary on the 12th at 9.30 p.m. and the Procession of the Candles before the Celebration of the Word.

On the 13th, at 9 a.m., the Rosary was prayed again and at 10 a.m. Mass was celebrated, with the traditional Word to the Sick, which was given by the director of the Catholic Migration Work, Eugénia Quaresma; the pilgrimage ended with the Farewell Procession.

This pilgrimage was the high point of the 49th National Migration Week, with the theme "Towards an ever greater 'We'".

During Mass, the pilgrims prayed for the communities of Portuguese and people of Portuguese Descent, for those living the "dramatic consequences of the pandemic" and for political leaders, "so that they may avoid nationalism" and open their societies "to migrants and refugees".



Offering of wheat continues as August tradition

During the Mass of August 13, the traditional offering of wheat to Our Lady took place, a practice initiated by the parishioners of Leiria, of Ação Católica (Catholic Action), which completed its 81st anniversary this year.

During 2020, 10 963 pounds of wheat and about 1112 pounds of flour were offered; in 2784 Masses in the Shrine of Fatima, approximately, 7 thousand medium communion wafers, 50 large communion wafers, 371 300 particles and 30 particles for coeliacs were consumed.

Fall of the Berlin Wall evoked in Fatima

The pilgrims to the Shrine of Fatima evoked the fall of the Berlin Wall on the 13th, at evening.

Father Francisco Pereira, Chaplain of the institution, spoke of the importance of this celebratory moment that recalls "the dangers of selfishness and war".

"The love of Mary is stronger than the war of men," the priest said in a speech made public by the national shrine.

Those present at Cova da Iria saw a rosary made with pieces of the Berlin Wall, praying that "the walls that separate people will be torn down."

Cardinal António Marto presided over the prayer of the Rosary for Children at the Little Chapel of the Apparitions

The initiative “A million children praying the Rosary for Peace” of the ACN Foundation was supported by the Shrine.

Carmo Rodeia

Last October 18, at the Little Chapel of the Apparitions, Cardinal António Marto presided over the prayer of the Rosary for Children, an initiative promoted by the Foundation Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) with the support of the Shrine of Fatima.

The recitation of the Rosary, after the joyful mysteries, was entrusted to children resident in Fatima, joined by children of more than 140 different nationalities, whose first intention was to pray for Peace,

but also for the Synod which began yesterday, for the victims of the pandemic, for the health of the sick, for the Pope and for all creation.

“One sole church, on pilgrimage towards holiness” was the challenge launched at the end of the celebration, when each of the five children placed a flower representing the five continents.

The initiative “A million children praying the Rosary for Peace” was supported by the Shrine of Fatima, the Pope’s World-

wide Prayer Network, the World Apostolate of Fatima, the National Department of Christian Education, and “also many different groups and movements”.

Pope Francis has also expressed his appreciation for this initiative of the ACN Foundation on a global level.

“I encourage this beautiful event that involves children throughout the world, who will pray especially for critical situations caused by the pandemic,” Pope Francis timely stated.



“Difficult moments are always opportunities to discover new ways of organizing our personal and community life”, Bishop Manuel Felício says

The Shrine of Fatima recalled the fourth apparition of Our Lady to the Little Shepherds in Valinhos.

Cátia Filipe



The Shrine of Fatima recalled the fourth apparition of Our Lady to the Little Shepherds in Valinhos. During the celebration that took place this morning in the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity, presided by Bishop Manuel Felício, Bishop of the Diocese of Guarda, the pilgrims of that diocese, who in normal circumstances would make on this day their diocesan pilgrimage to the Cova da Iria, were also remembered.

On this day that evokes the fourth apparition of Our Lady to the Little Shepherds, Bishop Manuel Felício began by recalling the event, explaining that in the fourth apparition Our Lady asked Francisco, Jacinta and Lucia to return to Cova da Iria on the 13th, to continue praying the rosary every day and to make sacrifices for sinners.

The Prelate spoke of the importance of the pilgrimage to the Shrine of Fatima as a moment “to welcome the recommendation that Our Lady left here – prayer and penance – so that people and society may follow the path of good that God proposes to us.”

In this place, “we are pilgrims of Our Lady and of this Message that She left to the world, and on the horizon we have the preparation of the World Youth Day in 2023,” he said, addressing the young people.

“We are here aware of the difficulties and risks”, recalled Bishop Manuel Felício, considering that “these difficulties are far from over, but we have also learned to live with them and the return to community celebrations, faith formation programmes and other ecclesial events are being recognised for their good results”.

The Bishop of the Diocese of Guarda said that “difficult times are always opportunities to discover new ways of organising our personal and community life, and to be creative in finding new events that can replace the usual ones, which the crisis did not allow to develop, as was customary.”

“Like Mary, we want to keep on listening to all that God has to say to us in the new contexts in which we want to live and proclaim the faith,” the Prelate hopes, wishing that all may “keep and meditate on the word of God in their hearts, and underline the great sign of hope that Our Lady continues to be.”

That night, the Shrine of Fatima evoked the fourth apparition of Our Lady to the Little Shepherds in the Chapel of the Apparitions with the recitation of the Rosary, recalling the events of 1917.

“I am convinced that my life is a gift from God and that I must offer it for the good of others”, Cardinal António Marto says

Bishop of Leiria-Fátima celebrated his golden jubilee of priesthood on November 7 in Fátima and challenged Christians to be the “Good Samaritan of wounded humankind” by offering forgiveness and mercy.

Carmo Rodeia

Cardinal António Marto, Bishop of the diocese of Leiria-Fátima, celebrated last 7 November a thanksgiving Mass for the 50th anniversary of his priestly ordination, an occasion to “renew his yes to God’s gift” and to look “with hope” at the gift of vocations, even in the face of the difficulties in the world.

“The gift of priesthood is not only for the Church, but also for humankind, for the whole world,” stated the Portuguese

Cardinal in a few moving words at the end of the celebration to all the participants, mostly diocesan, friends and family, which filled the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity.

“Although we are living a dark, confused, hard and fatiguing moment of epochal turning point at the beginning of this millennium, for that very reason it is also an exciting and passionate time to be a priest, if we know how to be worthy

of this hour and its unprecedented challenges, with the brave witness and under the clear-sighted guidance of our beloved Pope Francis, whom I thank and reciprocate for his personal friendship, and witness the communion and ecclesial obedience,” the prelate said, marking his golden jubilee of priesthood on the same day that National Seminary Week ends.

“It is, first of all, about hope in the priesthood, despite immediate appearances. It is the hope that God will never cease to raise up in the heart of the Church the vocation to priesthood as a gift for his people and for humankind,” he further explained.

“If the people of God see in us this ability for thanksgiving, to be content and happy with the gift received, to always renew our commitment of dedication, then priesthood certainly has a future. The mystery of God who acts in the depths of our hearts also passes through the witness of thanksgiving, praise, joy, hope and renewal of his priests,” he concluded after expressing his gratitude for “the gift of vocation, the gift of ministry, the gift of perseverance, and the joy with which I have always lived it, for the thousand joys it has given me throughout my ministry.”

“I confess in all sincerity that I have lived fifty years of happy life as a priest and as bishop, living under the motto servants of your joy”. In this “joyful experience” of his ministry, Cardinal António Marto underlined “the tender and motherly protection of our Good Mother in Heaven, Our Lady of Fátima, and the little shepherd saints, whose comfort I felt, in a very close and vivid way, in moments of difficulty”.

“I am convinced that my life is a gift from God and that I must offer it for the good of others,” he concluded visibly moved.

Homily challenged Christians to be the “Good Samaritan” for a wounded humankind

In the homily of the Mass, which he concelebrated with a significant number of priests of the Diocese of Leiria-Fátima, including the Rector of the Shrine, Father Carlos Cabecinhas, and other fellow bishops, the Cardinal left the challenge for a greater dialogue and understanding between the Church and the world in order to combat a generalized indifference to the Gospel, which is then transformed into indifference towards others.

“Many of our contemporaries no longer know the message of the Gospel. Even its



vocabulary is no longer understood”, Archbishop Marto said.

“Have we returned to the early days of the Church when there were only small groups of Christians in a pagan and indifferent world? And is the world of today simply ignorant of the Christian faith? What can we do?”, he asked, immediately answering: “Let us begin by developing in ourselves a healthy awareness of our Christian identity. Without pretension or pride. It is simply a matter of being true”.

For the Portuguese Cardinal, born in Chaves, it is necessary that Christians dialogue more with the world, assuming the role of the “Good Samaritan”.

“Let us be the Good Samaritan to the wounded humankind,” he said, further urging Christians to continue to work for “fraternity and social friendship, for justice, solidarity and peace, to combat hunger and violence, to care for and save our planet as the common home of all.”

“We need the gift of speaking to our times, with firmness and commitment, but never in a tone of superiority and even less of contempt. We need the gift of speaking like Jesus,” he said, continuing: “Speaking to our contemporaries to serve and not to dominate, in a humble way, weaving relationships and bridges to unite the margins. The way of Jesus is one of closeness, compassion and tenderness.”

“If we are not this Church of closeness, with attitudes of compassion and tenderness, we will not be the Church of the Lord... a Church that does not separate itself from life, but cares for the frailties and poverties of our time, healing wounds and healing hearts with the balm of God,” Bishop António Marto recalled, quoting the words of Pope Francis.

The prelate also acknowledged that the world needs reconciliation and forgiveness.

“The world needs something more from us: reconciliation and forgiveness. Among ourselves and everywhere. Reengagement and reconciliation among all those of different colours, races and languages, but living together. Of course, respect for the law and for justice will always be necessary as a basis. But the world will only be viable and livable when the medicinal plant called reconciliation and forgiveness flourishes on the humus of law and justice,” he said.

“The men and women of our time need to become aware that man does not live by algorithms alone! He also lives by fraternity and social friendship, by the culture of encounter and reciprocal care, in reconciliation and peace of hearts, gifts of God”, he

stated.

“As Christians we must take part without hesitation in the culture of our time: in science, in its progress, in the fabulous development of new technologies, in art, in sensitivity. Without doubt, we will also need the gift of discernment. Not everything offered in the global market of our culture has

“There are so many things to look at in our days: the pandemic, economic and social crisis; our Church in turmoil in the sea of this troubled world; so many men and women living in material poverty and so many others in spiritual ill-being; all the seekers of happiness who do not find it. Well then, I repeat: let us put our eyes on



the same value. But how to discern, if we set ourselves apart?”, said Bishop António Marto, stressing that Christians must be able to present the face of the “living God” without fear.

“Christians live in this paradox: they are in the world, but not of the world. At certain moments, this is crucifying. As it was for Jesus: they put him on the cross between heaven and earth. “He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.” He loved the world, but the world did not love him. It is also our cross: to be suspended between heaven and earth. But it is in this position of being crucified that we bring to the world a power of resurrection.”

“How can we follow someone if he is only a fleeting shadow or a historical figure in a museum? Let us simply show ourselves as we are: disciples of the living Jesus Christ and bearers of the Gospel. Without complexes or arrogance. Let us be ourselves. This is allowed and even mandatory. (...) Proclaim and practise the Gospel in all its radicality. And above all not to make it a secret”, he stated.

Jesus!”, he said, calling for a greater love for the Church.

“Without a doubt, she bears the wrinkles of two thousand years of history. She is holy and sinful. But she is beautiful, she still carries within herself the beauty of the love of God and fraternity among brothers and sisters (...). Precisely because of this we also understand that the Church is in need of permanent purification and renewal”.

Cardinal António Marto was ordained priest in 1971, in Rome, by Cardinal António Ribeiro. He was born in Chaves, diocese of Vila Real, on May 5, 1947.

He exercised his priestly ministry as educator in the Seminary of Porto, professor of Theology and collaborator in the parish pastoral activity in that diocese, and was ordained bishop in 2001, exercising his episcopal ministry in Braga and Viseu.

Appointed to the Diocese of Leiria-Fátima, he began his mission in this particular Church on June 25, 2006. Having received Pope Francis on his pilgrimage to Fatima in May 2017, Bishop António Marto was created Cardinal by the Pope in 2018.

The Diocese of Santo André, in Brasília, has a new parish dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima

The declaration was read on October 10 by Diocesan Bishop Pedro Carlos Cipollini.



The Diocese of Santo André, in Brazil, has a new parish dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima. “The long-awaited day has come to celebrate the joy of the installation of this new parish in this beloved city of Ribeirão Pires,” said Diocesan Bishop Pedro Carlos Cipollini after the reading of the decree of creation of the church on Sunday, October 10.

The program began with a mass celebrated in the Mother Church of the city (São José Parish) – whose Chapel Our Lady of Fatima, when it was established, belonged to the territory of the principal church of Ribeirão Pires – followed by a procession with parishioners and pastoral members of the four communities. At the end of the Mass, a commemorative plaque recalling this unforgettable date for the whole community was unveiled by the Bishop and Fr. Mário Alécio da Silva, who was also made official as parish priest on the day the Diocese gained another parish.

The history of the new Parish of Our Lady of Fatima began in May 1972, with the inauguration of the chapel. With the elevation on May 13, 2018, the date of the celebration

of the patron saint, the celebration of Mass was offered to the community every weekday at 7pm (except Monday); Saturday at 5pm, and on Sunday at 10am and 5pm, until today. A little more than three years after, the parish is created to the happiness of the whole community.

The church is located at Praça Nossa Senhora de Fátima, 13 – Vila Sueli – Ribeirão Pires. It has four communities: Santo Antônio, in Jardim Mirante; Nossa Senhora Aparecida, in Vila Gomes; Nossa Senhora da Paz, in Parque Aliança; and Nossa Senhora das Graças, in Planalto Bela Vista.



The statue number 6 of the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima began a pilgrimage to Nicaragua in January 2020, in the Metropolitan Cathedral of Managua

After a period without activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the pilgrimage is now underway again.



Sisters inspired by St. Francisco Marto teach how to make rosaries

Initiative seeks to help needy people in poor neighbourhoods of Venezuela.

A group of religious sisters have started a project to design rosaries inspired by St. Francisco Marto, in an initiative that seeks to help needy people in poor neighbourhoods of Venezuela.

The project, which began in October this year, is particularly aimed at underprivileged women, needing help to support their families in the communities of El Encantado and Maca, in the poor district of Petare, considered the largest in Latin America.

"The 'Rosario Francisquito' aims to answer Our Lady's request to pray the rosary every day. Let us remember that the Virgin Mary promised Heaven to Lucia and Jacinta and also to Francisco, but told him that he had to pray many rosaries to go to Heaven," said one of the sisters behind the

project in statements to the media.

Luz Myriam Giraldo explained that the main objective is to "teach how to make rosaries" because "it will contribute to two things: first, to promote prayer and, second, to provide a means of subsistence for many women who because they have many children in their care cannot go out to work outside."

"They are starting to make rosaries and we will help them sell them and this can generate some income to cover their needs," she stressed.

Luz Myriam Giraldo explained that the project started with a group of people in El Encantado and another in Maca, but that in the future they will start learning to make rosaries in the locality of Pablo VI, also in the neighbourhood of Petare, east of Caracas.

"We hope that many buyers will come forward in order to promote the project in general," the sister said, insisting once again that the project is inspired by "Francisco Marto, of Fatima, and that is why it is called Francisquito Rosaries."

On the other hand, "in Venezuela there is much Marian devotion, but more is needed," citing as an example that "when we travel to Portugal one notices much more devotion to Our Lady of Fatima than here in Venezuela".

Rosa Contreras is one of the "teachers" of the handmade rosaries which are made in different colours and two models, one to hang around the neck, with 50 beads and a crucifix, and another of the bracelet type, with ten beads and a small hanging cross.

Shrine hosted the national premiere of the film Fatima

Rector highlights the “beauty of the aesthetic options” and underlines the “dignified and honest” approach to Fatima by director Marco Pontecorvo. **Cátia Filipe**



On October 5, at the Paul VI Pastoral Center, the national premiere of the film *Fatima*, by director Marco Pontecorvo, took place, with the assistance of the Shrine of Fatima.

Inspired by historical events and by Sister Lucia's Memoirs, Marco Pontecorvo's film premiered in Portugal on October 7.

After two postponements motivated by the pandemic context, “*Fatima*” will reach cinemas in Portugal, France and Brazil, and will be available in December in Spain, in two formats: big screen and DVD, with the possibility of watching the film dubbed or subtitled.

In his appreciation to the film “*Fatima*”, the Rector of the Shrine of Fatima points out that it is a fiction production, with “beautiful aesthetic options”, especially in terms of photography, and adds that the director “highlights, in a dignified and honest way, the behaviour of all those who were confronted with the event of Fatima”.

“The Shrine welcomes all independent

initiatives and projects that see in the history and message of Fatima a place for artistic creation.”

Fr Carlos Cabecinhas also pointed out that the film “shows how it is possible for humankind to believe in the continuous divine intervention in the contemporary world in which we live”.

In a statement to the media, the Bishop of Leiria-Fátima D. António Marto considers that this work “corresponds to the fundamentals of the account of Fatima”.

“It shows both positions, those who accept in faith, and naturally those who oppose”, explains the prelate, also stressing “the spectacular image”, so “I consider this film very good, worthy of being seen in a movie theatre”.

Over the years, there have been many productions on the Fatima theme. “In the film, both at the beginning and at the end, the theme of peace was addressed, and there is a mass reaction of the people to this message, and not only the message of peace in a calming sense, but also peace

in the hearts, and this touches, especially today, living in a world which has become the stage for a struggle for power and wealth, in a globalized, cold and insensitive indifference”, Cardinal António Marto declared.

The message of Fatima “is a message of great fraternity from faith, which touches people's hearts, and both believers and non-believers come here, and for this reason it is an oasis of spirituality for all those who want to rest and find inner peace.”

“*Fatima*” was filmed in several Portuguese locations, namely in Coimbra, Fatima, Tomar and the Hunting Grounds of Mafra.

The soundtrack *Gratia Plena* is by composer Paulo Buonvino, interpreted by tenor Andrea Bocelli.

With performances by Harvey Keitel, Sónia Braga, Goran Visnjic, Lúcia Moniz, Marco d'Almeida and Joaquim de Almeida, “*Fatima*” involved a total of 72 actors and 2500 extras.

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