



# FÁTIMA LUZ EPAZ

Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima

Director: Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas

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*Like Mary, bearers of joy and love:**Get up! You are a testimony to what you have seen*

## Grateful to Cardinal D. António Marto, the Sanctuary of Fatima welcomes D. José Ornelas de Carvalho

Pe. Carlos Cabecinhas

The Holy Father has accepted the request for resignation of the Bishop of the Diocese of Leiria-Fatima, Cardinal D. António Marto, and has appointed as future Bishop of the Diocese Mgr. José Ornelas Carvalho, who will become, from March 13, the main person responsible for the Shrine of Fatima. The Shrine is expressing its gratitude to Cardinal D. António Marto and welcomes D. José Ornelas.

The Shrine of Fatima is, by express will of the Holy See, a national shrine and, therefore, "the Portuguese Episcopal Conference is responsible, in a collegial way with the Bishop of Leiria-Fatima, for the accompaniment of the pastoral care of the Shrine of Fatima," states the Statutes of the Shrine of Fatima (Art. 9, n. 1). Usually, such accompaniment of the life of the Shrine by the Episcopal Conference is performed through the National Council, of which the Bishop of Leiria-Fatima, who has jurisdiction over the Shrine, is a member.

During 16 years, as Bishop of Leiria-Fatima, Cardinal D. António Marto dedicated a special attention and great pastoral solicitude to the pilgrims of Fatima, always showing real proximity and a special sensitivity to their problems and difficulties. Besides, he bequeathed to us a solid corpus of theological and pastoral reflections on the message of Fatima. On behalf of the Shrine, I can only express my profound gratitude for the pastoral ministry of Cardinal António Marto in what concerns Fatima.

By appointment of the Holy Father, Pope Francis, from next March 13, Bishop José Ornelas Carvalho will assume the pastoral office of the Diocese of Leiria-Fatima and, consequently, the responsibility for the Shrine. D. José Ornelas knows the Shrine well, notably because he is already president of the National Council for the Shrine, as President of the Portuguese Episcopal Conference. Because we believe in the power of prayer and accepting the insistent request of Our Lady of the Rosary, we ask, through the intercession of Our Lady and the Little Shepherds, that the Lord assist Mgr José Ornelas in his new mission, and we wish him a fruitful pastoral work.

## Diocese of Leiria-Fatima Has a New bishop: Bishop José Ornelas

The rector of the Shrine welcomed the new prelate and thanked Bishop Marto for his "pastoral solicitude".

Carmo Rodeia



The diocese of Leiria-Fatima, where the Shrine is territorially located, has a new bishop since January 28, Bishop José Ornelas. The latter was appointed by Pope Francis who accepted the resignation request of Cardinal António Marto.

"It is with true emotion, joy and hope that I greet the entire Church of Leiria-Fatima, beginning with Cardinal D. António Marto, to whom I am bound by a grateful fraternal friendship, born in the shadow of the Gospel and in the service of the Church," said the new prelate, who will take his functions in the diocese on March 13, in a message addressed to the diocesans of Leiria-Fatima and also of Setúbal. "To all the brothers and sisters who live, commit themselves to and prove their faith, in so many ways, I extend my fraternal embrace, in the name of the Lord who sends me among you as bishop. Together we will try to listen to the call of God to the whole Church, a Church that is called to a synodal journey of listening, participative communion and mission," he said, addressing a special greeting to the Shrine of Fatima. "To Carlos

Cabecinhas, rector of the Shrine of Fatima, and to all those who serve with him in this special place of reference for the Church and the world, I extend my friendly greeting, with much joy and hope. When I began my episcopal ministry in Setúbal, I travelled through the diocese with the Pilgrim Virgin Image of Our Lady of Fatima, who was visiting us. She was my first guide in the mission that God entrusted to me. Now I ask her to accompany me in this new mission in Leiria-Fatima," stressed the prelate in a message in which he did not forget to invoke the protection of Our Lady. "May she teach us all to be a Church modelled on her behaviour as a loving Mother, attentive to the Word of God. Let us learn to be a Church that cares for everyone, especially the youngest and most fragile – as she did with the little shepherds, to whom she revealed herself, consoled, strengthened and gave hope – to overcome countless difficulties, such as the pandemic, illness, war and death itself," he emphasized in his message, at the end of which he asks for Our Lady's protection.

## Notícia de capa (continuação)



The rector of the Shrine, Father Carlos Cabecinhas, reacted to this appointment by welcoming the new prelate, and he thanked the “pastoral solicitude” of Cardinal D. António Marto, who himself appointed him rector of the Shrine in 2011. “Now, I want to thank Cardinal D. António Marto for all the dedication he has shown for the Shrine of Fatima and for its pilgrims. I have no doubt that he will remain in the hearts of Fatima’s pilgrims both for his closeness and for the depth of his reflection on Fatima and its message, as well as for his pastoral solicitude,” Father Carlos underlined.

“I also wish to welcome José Ornelas Carvalho, who will now assume this new mission,” added the rector, underlining that the new prelate has already a deep knowledge of the Institution “because he has already presided over celebrations here, has collaborated with the Shrine, has come many times to Fatima, but above all because he presided and still presides over the National Council of the Episcopal Conference for the Shrine of Fatima”.

“As the new ministry entrusted to him is at its starting point, the Shrine wishes him all the best and assures him that the pilgrims will pray for the Lord to accompany him in his new ministry with the blessings of the Mother of Heaven,” concluded the rector.

D. António Marto then spoke and thanked the entire diocese. “The pastoral achievements are the fruit of the effort and generosity of all”. “I have loved and will continue to love with all my soul this Church of Leiria-Fatima and its faithful, as I have felt loved by so many of you. I have felt myself among you in family, as a brother bishop among brothers. God knows that I did not seek honours or applause. But I take with me a treasure that I would not exchange for all the gold in the world: a heart full of names and faces, which are yours, especially those of ‘my little friends’. And I shall take with me the most honourable title: that of Bishop Emeritus of Leiria-Fatima! And I will always carry with me, engraved in my soul and heart, the image of Our Lady of Fatima, dear and tender Mother, and of the holy Shepherds, from whom I have received so much tenderness and so many graces,” he further emphasized.

## “We bring to this shrine our own pains and those of humanity, asking for light and strength,” Said the New Head of the Shrine

“Fatima resounds in our ears and in our hearts, here in Portugal and in the world, as a very special place and as a reference of a presence of God in a situation which is also dramatic, like the one we are living through. [...] Mary, loving Mother of the little ones, is the image of the Church that we want to be, as messengers in this world”. These were the first words of Mgr. José Ornelas shortly after he was appointed bishop of the diocese of Leiria-Fatima, on last January 28. The role of Mary and the challenges of Christians, considered from Fatima - from its event and its message -, have been a factor for Bishop Ornelas’ questioning. “In Fatima, Mary reveals the maternal dimension of the Church and continues to be an appeal to the humanization of a wounded humanity,” he stated in the podcast #fatimanoséculoXXI, recorded at the Shrine on July 13, 2020, shortly after he was elected president of the Portuguese Episcopal Conference, a podcast in which he also stated that Fatima “is unavoidable” in the reality “not only of the Church, but of the country” and, whatever one thinks of this place, of this event and of this message, it will always be present in the life of Portugal, whether for believers or for non-believers.

“The confrontation with Fatima in the journey of faith of thousands and thousands of Christians is unavoidable,” the new diocesan prelate of Leiria-Fatima then said about the place that, from the moment he takes office, on March 13, he will lead as the person responsible for this National Shrine and as president of its National Council.

“The situation of people who say ‘I go to Fatima, but I don’t go to Church’ has to be dismantled and studied like all religious questions. In fact, Fatima is appealing and this says a lot about the thirst for spirituality that exists in today’s world and about what this maternal dimension of the Church continues to be as a call to the humanization of Humanity that emerges throughout the Gospel, in which Mary is a present, challenging and inspiring icon,” said Bishop José Ornelas.

“One hundred years ago, when Mary appeared to the Little Shepherds, she did so at a difficult time, in the context of a pandemic

that even killed two of them. Today, Mary is revealing herself again as a model,” he added as he underlined that “since the time of Jesus, She emerges as the new Humanity”. “She is the first, the woman of courage, of the new Humanity, who reinvents her agenda and her project, letting herself be guided by God and the spirit, reinventing the path of life. She perceives that something new is coming to life; She does not know what it is, but she dedicates herself to this whole project that is challenging the whole of life,” he said. “This is not a pious question; it is the archetype of the Church,” he clarified, adding that “when we look at this time, with the Church with so many constraints, but doing what it should - respecting life - we are contributing to something new, which is no longer the same as yesterday”.

In that same year, 2020, on 12 and 13 October, during one of the most difficult international anniversary pilgrimages to the Shrine ever, in the middle of the pandemic, with a limited number of participants to the celebrations, he recalled some of these themes. The then Bishop of Setúbal presented to the pilgrims in Cova da Iria, on the evening of October 12, the figure of the Virgin Mary as “the image of closeness, in the care of the weakest and most abandoned, of the courage to share the fate of the condemned, the excluded, the not-welcome”.

“Jesus intends the Church, which he thus founds, to assume Mary’s behaviour: in faithfulness to God and to his covenant with Israel throughout history; in faithfulness to the suffering, excluded and condemned man; in mercy to welcome without fear the scandal of pain, injustice, exclusion,” helping to “find ways to overcome crises and even death,” Bishop José Ornelas said on the 12th.

“This is the Church we want; it is the model that can save us! The world needs this ever-renewed key of interpretation,” and Fatima “reminds us of this every day,” he added.

“We bring to this Shrine our pains and those of humanity, asking for light and strength to overcome this pandemic” declared the president of the Portuguese Episcopal Conference (CEP) on October 13, 2020.



D. José Ornelas Carvalho is the new bishop of Leiria-Fátima. He will become the head of the diocese on March 13, the day on which the apparitions of Our Lady to the Little Shepherds are commemorated. In the last two years, he has spoken on four different occasions about the role of Fátima in the Church and in the world to stress the value of holiness and the role of Mary and the little shepherds as a model of surrender to God's plan for humanity. In the message he addressed to the diocesans of Setúbal and Leiria-Fátima on the day of his appointment, he recalled that he travelled for the first time through the diocese of Setúbal with the Pilgrim Virgin Image of Fátima

**Carmo Rodeia**



D. José Ornelas stressed that shrines and churches, parishes and communities should be “places of relationship and communion”, as “God’s houses in the midst of society”.

D. José Ornelas also attended the Theological-Pastoral Symposium “Fátima, today: thinking about Holiness”, promoted by the Shrine in June last year.

Since 2020, as president of CEP, he is president of the National Council of the Shrine of Fátima.

D. José Ornelas Carvalho was born on January 5, 1954, in Porto da Cruz, Madeira Island. He was a student at the Funchal Diocesan Minor Seminary between 1964 and 1967. Wishing to be a missionary, he applied to enter the Missionary College of the Congregation of the Priests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (Dehonians) in Funchal (1967-1969), after which he continued his studies at the Missionary Institute in Coimbra (1969-

1971).

After a year of novitiate, he made his first religious profession in Aveiro, on September 29, 1972. After two years of philosophical studies, he spent another two years in the missions of the Congregation in Mozambique (1974-1976), and then returned to Lisbon where he completed his licentiate in Theology at the Catholic University of Portugal (1979). He specialized in Biblical Sciences in Rome and Jerusalem, concluding his canonical degree at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome. He was ordained priest in his hometown, Porto da Cruz, on August 9, 1981. Having returned to Portugal in 1983, he was an assistant professor and secretary of the Faculty of Theology in Lisbon, an activity he interrupted to prepare his doctorate in Rome and Germany (1992-1996), and obtained his doctor degree in Biblical Theology at the Catholic University of Portugal on July

14, 1997. At the same university, he resumed his teaching activities until 2003. In his Congregation he was a lecturer in the Seminary of Alfragide in parallel with his teaching activity, and assumed other functions within the Portuguese Province of the Dehonians of which he became Provincial Superior on July 1, 2000. At the General Chapter of the Congregation he was elected Superior General of the Dehonians on May 27, 2003, a position he held until June 6, 2015. On August 24, 2015, he was appointed Bishop of the Diocese of Setúbal by Pope Francis, succeeding Bishop Gilberto Canavarro. On 25 October of the same year he was ordained bishop in the Cathedral of Setúbal, where he took office.

In June 2020 he was elected president of the Portuguese Episcopal Conference for the triennial 2020-2023, in Plenary Assembly. On 13 March, he will take office in the diocese of Leiria-Fátima.

# D. António Marto

## Theologian of the Affects

“I will be a pastor with tenderness” and “a devotee of Our Lady”, said the cardinal when he arrived in the diocese in 2006. At the time of his farewell, without seeking “honours or applause”, he assures that the pastoral achievements “are the fruit of the effort and generosity of all” and that he will not forget “in his soul and heart” the image of Our Lady of Fatima and that of the Little Shepherds. And he asks for the new bishop “the same generous hospitality with which he has been received” 16 years ago.

Carmo Rodeia



The message of Fatima is, “after the Scriptures”, the “strongest and most impressive denunciation of the sin of the world that invites the whole Church and the world to a serious examination of conscience,” said in 2016 the bishop of Leiria-Fatima in the *Lectio Magistralis* he delivered at the academic session held in the Cardinal Medeiros Auditorium, as part of the commemorations of the National Day of the Catholic University of Portugal. He had then been bishop of the diocese for 10 years and was in the middle of the celebration of the Centennial of the Apparitions of Fatima, one of the moments that catapulted Fatima as a national and international place, with the canonization of the Little Shepherds saints, Francisco and Jacinta Marto.

Entitled “Fatima, a message of mercy and hope for the world”, the Prelate’s *Lectio Magistralis* underlined the importance and actuality of the message of Fatima in the light of today’s world, and was one of the most profound and reflective texts on the Message and its actuality, along with many other documents, homilies and interviews he produced, in which he reflected on the event that took place a hundred years ago, always seeking to focus on the message through its Christological dimension.

“What strikes one and causes one to be amazed is that neither the context nor the content of the message are restricted to the personal journey of faith of the little seers, nor to a particular circumstance in their country, nor to a particular truth of the faith,” he said, while underlining that, from the event and the message, was originating a major and unavoidable way of interpreting the history of the Church and the history of humanity, valid 100 years ago and still valid today.

For the current Apostolic Administrator, position he is occupying since his successor was appointed, the message of Fatima considers “with lucidity and bitterness this tumultuous and dramatic historical vicissitude”, and “only those who have a strong sense of the dignity of Man before God, of his eternal destiny,

can understand how great is the tragedy of sin and how the loss of the sense of sin is, in the deepest sense, the loss of the sense of all that is truly human”.

Faced with this situation of “wounded humanity”, the message of Fatima is the “amplifier of the clamour of the victims” and becomes an “invitation to read History from the point of view of the victims, to pause and consider the mystery of Man before the mystery of God,” said Mgr. António Marto, concluding: “The message of Fatima is a very serious warning and, at the same time, a consolation of theological hope: evil is overcome by the Trinitarian love revealed in the cross and resurrection of Jesus, by Mary’s love for us, and by our conversion”.

The heart of the message lies, therefore, in this “pressing invitation to bring back to the centre of Christian life and of the world the adoration of God, Lord of history, the recognition of his primacy, the adherence to his will that can save us, the invitation to enkindle the desire to love God and to stimulate the practice of healing love. Everything else has here its centre of unity and irradiation”.

Just as the Little Shepherds “are called from the periphery to intervene in history for peace with another kind of force, another kind of power, other means, apparently useless and ineffective to human eyes: the power of the prayer of the just, said with fervour, perseverance in prayer to obtain the gift of peace through adoration, of healing devotion, of conversion and of self-sacrifice according to the pious customs of the time”, Christians too are summoned to intervene, aware that “the Immaculate Heart of Mary will triumph and a period of peace will be granted to the world,” he also said in another address on the subject.

“We are living through a change of era [...] We are living in a world torn apart,” which “is witnessing a kind of cultural eclipse of God and his presence, in consciences, in families, in society and in cultural life,” he said two years later in the first podcast of the Shrine #fatimanos-





eculoXXI, in December 2018. "It is no longer militant atheism but religious indifference of the kind 'I live well without God' or even the 'paganization' of life, in which the true God is replaced by other gods such as money, consumerism [...]. There is here an actuality of the Fatima message that invites us to a theological experience, that is, to open the human heart to God, to the mystery of his love. It is God who comes to meet humanity and each person in particular [...]. Prayer, which is so important in Fatima, is a vehicle that allows the human heart to be educated for God [...]. The figure of Our Lady is the tender image of God; and this tenderness means closeness, welcome, listening, dialogue, understanding, accompaniment, journey and sharing".

Asked what Fatima has to say to the Church and the world, the prelate was always clear: "Holiness and the Church going forth". "Today, more than ever, the Church is called to reflect in itself the holiness of God, the beauty of love that transforms the hearts and the lives of people," he says. And this "is a popular holiness which is not for the elites, but for all the people. This is Fatima".

"One of the most effective concept to understand Fatima in the XXI century is mercy," and "where there is no peace between religions, there will be no universal peace between men," he frequently affirmed.

A pastor of great simplicity, Bishop António Marto, who turns 75 in May, had resigned a year earlier because of health problems. Born in Tronco, Chaves, on May

5, 1947, he studied in the seminaries of Vila Real and Maior do Porto and was ordained priest in Rome on November 7, 1971. A specialist in Systematic Theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University, he completed his doctorate in 1977 with a dissertation on *The Christian Hope and the Future of Man. Eschatological Doctrine of the Second Vatican Council*.

After having taught at the Maior do Porto Seminary and at the Catholic University, he was appointed auxiliary bishop of Braga on November 10, 2000 (the episcopal ordination took place in Vila Real on February 11, 2001), then bishop of Viseu on April 22, 2004 and bishop of Leiria-Fatima on April 22, 2006.

As head of the diocese of Leiria-Fatima,

he welcomed Pope Benedict XVI in 2010, and Pope Francis in 2017, at the Sanctuary of Cova da Iria, in the context of the celebration of the Centenary of the Apparitions of Fatima and the canonization of the seers Francisco and Jacinta Marto.

At the moment of farewell, he quotes the novel "Diary of a Country Priest", by Georges Bernanos, to affirm that everything was accomplished under the primacy of grace: "All that we have lived and accomplished in common, walking together during these sixteen years, was above all the work of God. [...] The pastoral achievements are the fruit of the effort and generosity of all [...] As long as I have health and strength, I will continue to work at the service of the Gospel in everything I can. I have loved and will continue to love with all my soul this Church of Leiria-Fatima and its faithful, as I have felt loved by so many of you.

I have felt myself among you in family, as a brother bishop among brothers. God knows that I did not seek honours or applause. But I take with me a treasure that I would not exchange for all the gold in the world: a heart full of names and faces, which are yours, especially those of 'my little friends'. And I shall take with me the most honourable title: that of Bishop Emeritus of Leiria-Fatima! And I will always carry with me, engraved in my soul and heart, the image of Our Lady of Fatima, dear and tender Mother, and of the holy Shepherds, from whom I have received so much tenderness and so many graces".



# Sanctuary Expects to Receive More Pilgrims in 2022

To give shape to this objective, the pastoral proposals and the structures of the Shrine as a place of welcome for pilgrims in situations of fragility or suffering, the development of pastoral dynamisms that empower the Shrine as a place to experience God as well as the Improvement of processes of integration and participation of young people in the life and mission of the Shrine are among the targets for the new pastoral year that now begins in Fatima and whose theme "Get up! You are a witness of what you have seen" is a direct invitation to Christians.

At the opening day of the pastoral year, the rector of the Shrine of Fatima stated that "the vaccination and the extra care" that are being requested by the health authorities will allow, soon, "a progressive resumption of activity that comes close to the usual presence of pilgrims" before the pandemic.

On the horizon for this pastoral year is the resumption of some initiatives that have been suspended, such as the retreats for the sick or more frequent activities of the School of the Shrine, moments of reflection and musical enjoyment, the Summer Course for researchers and a series of varied proposals for formation and spiritual experience, at the School of the Shrine: "if conditions allow, we want to resume organizing retreats for the sick and other initiatives aimed at the sick and elderly. From the time of the apparitions, the sick have always had a very special place in Fatima. It was therefore especially painful that we had to cancel the activities with the sick and elderly due to the pandemic situation. As soon as it is safe - and we believe it will be soon - we will restart these retreats and activities", said the rector of the Shrine.

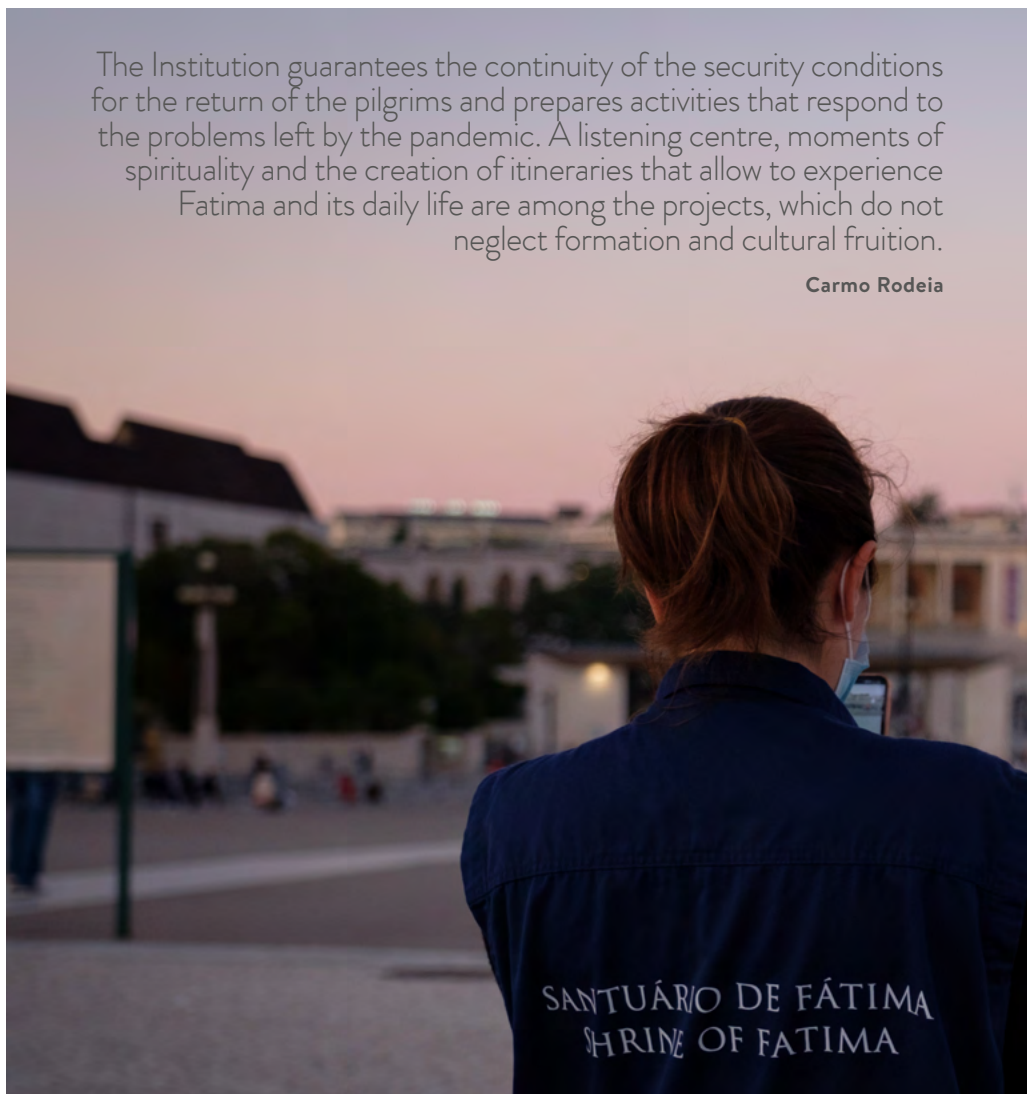
The year will also be marked by the celebrations of the centennial of the Voz da Fátima (Voice of Fatima) newspaper, which will continue until October 2022.

## Mural exhibition Voice of Fatima: First Pages, Prayer Area

In the context of the centennial of the official newspaper of the Shrine, Voz da Fátima, a wall exhibition will display the first pages of the first year of the publication, as well as the most emblematic pages and the most relevant issues that span the 100 years of this monthly bulletin,

The Institution guarantees the continuity of the security conditions for the return of the pilgrims and prepares activities that respond to the problems left by the pandemic. A listening centre, moments of spirituality and the creation of itineraries that allow to experience Fatima and its daily life are among the projects, which do not neglect formation and cultural fruition.

Carmo Rodeia



which mirrors the growth of the Shrine of Fatima itself.

In the 24 panels that make up the exhibition, along with its most emblematic moments, some historical curiosities that were shared in the publication (which, on October 13, 2022, will celebrate its hundredth issue) are also recalled.

"Over the last hundred years, the publication Voz da Fátima has given voice to many voices and has served the greatest cause: disseminating the cult of Our Lady of Fatima. [...] Whoever reads the first pages of its first year of life will feel being brought back to the beginnings of the Fatima phenomenon. Whoever looks at the earliest pages of its long life will grasp the most important events of Fatima, of the Church, of the Country and also of the world", reads the introductory panel of the mural exhibition, which will be on display during the present pastoral

year, in the space that runs along the Prayer Area between the High Cross and the Rectory building and the avenue that extends from the top of the Area to the Chapel of Apparitions.

Each panel is accompanied by a hyperlink and a QR code which, read with an application on any mobile device, redirects to the edition shown on the panel in a digital format.

In the exhibition, the great moments that took place during the century of existence of the monthly bulletin are presented by major themes: the owners, directors and administrators who coordinated the publication; the progression of the number of printed copies and pages of the newspaper; the aesthetic evolution of the header; the supplements and foreign editions that accompanied it; the relationship between the publication and the Movement of the Message of Fatima and other associations





of the faithful; advertising; the graces and cures published in the bulletin; the editorials and the various rubrics; the prominent information regarding the great pilgrimages; the presence of music; the growth in the number of subscribers and the references to the Popes and the cult of Our Lady.

"The visitor to this exhibition will have access to what we considered fundamental to understand this newspaper as an instrument for the promotion of Fatima which, from the very first hour, also serves to give credibility to the events in Cova da Iria", says Marco Daniel Duarte, director of the Department of Studies of the Shrine of Fatima.

Besides the exhibition, which will remain in the prayer area until mid-October 2022, the centenary of the newspaper will also serve as a pretext for the Shrine to promote, in April, the

meeting "The World seen from Fatima - Communication Days in the context of the centenary of the newspaper Voz da Fátima", which will bring together experts in various fields and leaders of the press of Christian inspiration, who will reflect on the role of Catholic journalism in the construction of modern Portugal", said the rector, adding that the June edition "will be entirely dedicated to the youngest, who have always had an effective presence in the newspaper with the rubric 'Fatima for the little ones'. This edition will have the particularity of being written, edited and published by children from public schools and Catholic schools from all over the country.

To close the centennial, a scientific publication about the newspaper will also be edited, with the contribution of researchers from different Portuguese universities. It will be coor-

inated by the director of the Department of Studies of the Shrine, which will also contribute with texts produced by its own researchers.

Throughout this year of centennial commemoration, the newspaper will go from 12 to 16 pages, with more opinions from readers, the Movement of the Message of Fatima and from young people through a monthly collaboration of schools.

## Meetings in the Basilica

The proposal that the Shrine began to develop in the context of the celebration of the centennial of the Apparitions will take place again during this new pastoral year. With a total of five conferences per year, these meetings have the purpose of presenting Fatima as a place that invites to a life in God, approaching themes such as the call to conversion, the message of Fatima as a proclamation of the Good News of joy and love, and Cova da Iria as a place of acceptance of fragility, where it is possible to experience a true encounter with God.

## The Rosary, an evangelical itinerary of theological life

In 2021-2022, the School of the Shrine will propose again this itinerary of spirituality organized over four weekends, each of them dedicated to one of the sets of mysteries of the Rosary, within the liturgical season with which each set is especially in tune. The meetings will begin on Friday evening and will be concluded upon the Sunday 3 pm Mass in the Shrine. The purpose of this itinerary is to go deeper into the meaning of the Rosary as a Christocentric Marian prayer practice; the importance of the Rosary in the message of Fatima; the evolution of the Rosary in the history of Christian spirituality; anthropological and theological reflection on the Rosary; the understanding of the mystagogical role of the Rosary in the Christian life experienced as theological existence; the recognition of the evangelical value of the Rosary in the spiritual life of believers; the appreciation of the Rosary in the life of communities; the discovery of old and new ways of praying the Rosary and the practice of the Rosary as a prayer of the Church in the world.

# Opening Day of Pastoral Year Marked by Hope in The Return of Pilgrims and Criticism of a Culture Indifferent to God

Rector of the Shrine and Diocesan Bishop recall that the theme of the pastoral year in Fatima is an invitation to live the Message.

Carmo Rodeia



On November 27, the Shrine of Fatima promoted the opening day of the new pastoral year 2021/2022, whose theme is “Get up! You are a witness of what you have seen”, and the rector declared that this moment “signifies hope in the future”: “If we program a new pastoral year, recovering many of the activities that we had to drop, that we had to postpone or cancel, it is because we believe in the gradual return to a possible normality”, said Father Carlos Cabecinhas, in the Good Shepherd Hall, at the Paul VI Pastoral Centre. “We are all clearly aware of the difficult times we are going through, but we all also have hope for the future,” the priest said, acknowledging that “the pastoral year now ending was deeply marked by lockdowns and many constraints on people’s mobility,” which “greatly limited the coming of pilgrims to the Shrine.” “Throughout these two years of the pandemic, we have tried new ways of reaching pilgrims, which we hope to maintain and strengthen. We are also looking for new answers to the needs that the pandemic has revealed. It is in this context that the creation of a listening centre should be understood - it was already a need we were conscious of, but the pandemic has made it even more urgent”, said the rector, adding that the new pastoral year is part of the triennial 2020-2023, which has as its horizon the celebration of World Youth Day (WYD) in August 2023.

The opening day, presided by Cardinal D. António Marto, was also a moment of reasser-

tion of the actuality of the message of Fatima for today. “The message of Fatima is a very serious exhortation that warned the world that was living in ruins and the Church itself that was running the risk of being annihilated,” said the prelate, inviting Christians to live, as the Little Shepherds lived, “a mystical experience of God”.

“The Angel of Peace brought the adoration of God to the centre of the life of the Church and the world. The first experience the Lady offered the Little Shepherds was the experience of God, through His light,” he emphasized, stressing that this call to the presence of God, passes through “its reception” and through “commitment”.

“This ‘Get up, see and witness’ is directed to us”, he concluded, stressing that it “is the triumph of love over the dramas of history”.

D. António Marto recalled in this regard that one of the problems of humanity is indifference to God: “The great sickness of our time is the forgetfulness of God, of the meaning and beauty of the mystery of the Incarnation, of God with us, who wants to build, with us, a history of salvation and not a lost world”, stated the Bishop of Leiria-Fátima. “This forgetfulness results from indifference to the mystery of God, a kind of cultural eclipse in families, in society and in culture. God is dispensed with and dispensable,” he clarified. “We feel the material difficulties, but we fail to feel the lack of God, and the problem is that

this indifference then contaminates others,” he added, stressing that the “only thing that matters is the well-being of each individual.” He continued: “Europe is experiencing a cultural fatigue which is contagious to Christian communities that are experiencing a fatigue of faith or are experiencing a faith that is anaesthetized and asleep”.

D. António Marto closed the opening day of the pastoral year in the Shrine, whose theme was meditated upon by Cátia Tuna, professor, historian and theologian. The young professor of the Catholic University of Portugal paused on the verbs ‘to get up’ - the most “revealing” and “expressive” of God’s love for man - and ‘to see’.

“Even in the face of the fall, of the senseless, of affliction, Jesus tells us to get up,” because the desire “to see us raised and lifted up is much more inflexible than our fears and weaknesses,” she said. “To see is very important, to know how to look and to learn from that look”, but it is “a deep spiritual life that makes us experts in that look”, she stressed, recalling that prayer can be a good school of learning.

The opening day also included a musical performance by the Choir of the Shrine of Fatima, and the presentation session of the year’s theme was preceded by the inauguration of the commemorative mural exhibition of the centennial of the newspaper Voz da Fátima (Voice of Fatima).



# The Pilgrim Virgin Will Keep Disseminating the Message of Fatima in the course of 14 journeys scheduled for 2022

The program includes visits to Portugal, the United States, France, Nicaragua, Argentina, Italy, Chile, countries of the Caucasus, Spain and Colombia.

Cátia Filipe

After several postponements and cancellations due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Pilgrim Virgin of Our Lady of Fatima will travel in Portugal and to the United States of America, France, Nicaragua, Argentina, Italy, Chile, Caucasus countries, Spain and Colombia, in the course of 14 journeys.

The Image Number 1, enthroned in the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, only travels on very special occasions. No visit is scheduled for 2022.

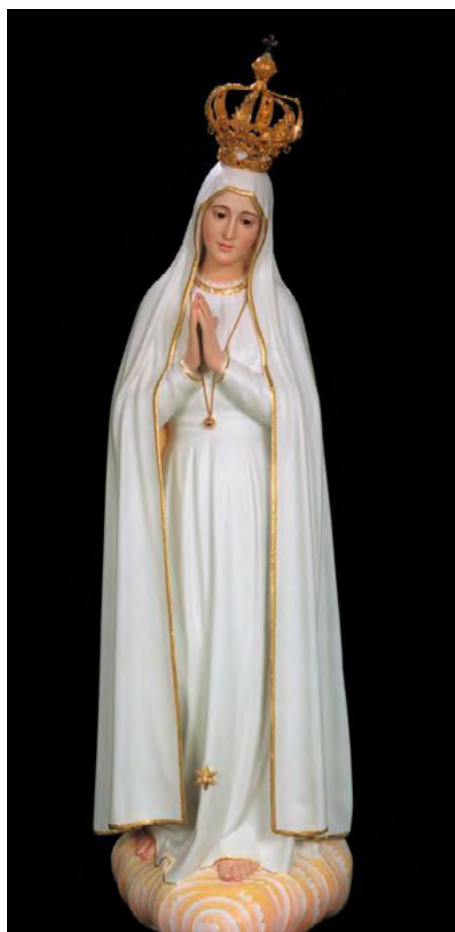
Regarding Image number 2, from May 16 to 23 she will be at the Colégio Conciliar de Maria Imaculada, in Leiria. This visit will take place in the context of the 80 years of existence that the institution will celebrate in 2022.

In October, this Statue will be in the parish of Santo António do Monte, Archpriestry of Estarreja-Murtosa, Diocese of Aveiro, in the context of the celebration of the 90th anniversary of its creation. During the month of November, it is scheduled that she will visit the parishes of Santíssimo Salvador and Nossa Senhora do Castelo, Aljustrel, diocese de Beja, for the 75th anniversary of the visit of the Statue of our lady of Fatima that is venerated in the Chapel of the Apparition.

From September 30 to November 5, the Pilgrim Virgin Image number 3 will be present in a congress to be held in Miami, USA, organized by the Servants of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus and Mary. This visit was scheduled for 2020, but, due to the pandemic, it has been postponed, first to 2021 and then to 2022. The theme of the congress, which alludes directly to the message of Fatima, is what Our Lady said in the June apparition: "Be not afraid, my Immaculate Heart will be your refuge". According to Archbishop Thomas Wenski of Miami, the intention is still to take the Pilgrim Virgin Image to several parishes of the diocese.

The Diocese of Nanterre, France, will host the Pilgrim Virgin Image number 5 from October 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023, in preparation for World Youth Day 2023 in Portugal.

The Pilgrim Virgin Image number 6 has been in Nicaragua since January 22, 2020.



Her return to the Shrine of Fatima was initially scheduled for August 2021, but due to various interruptions of the visit due to the pandemic, the end of the pilgrimage was postponed, and is now scheduled for August 2022.

The Pilgrim Virgin Image number 7 has also been on pilgrimage in Argentina since 1 April 2019, visiting all the dioceses of the country. The visit began with Pilgrim Virgin Image number 10, but since it was necessary to carry out a restoration repair, it was replaced by Statue number 7 on February 9, 2020. Due to the pandemic, there were several requests to extend the visit, and it is now expected that the return to Portugal will take place at the end of March 2022.

The Pilgrim Virgin Image number 8 will be in the Parish of Santa Maria la Nueva, Diocese of Aversa, Italy, during the month of May, to live the month of Mary more intensely. During the month of October,

this statue will be in the same diocese, but in the parishes of St. Joseph and St. Euphemia. The request, which was presented by the Diocesan Bishop Angelo Spinillo, was born from the desire of many faithful particularly devoted to Our Lady of Fatima to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the foundation of the parish.

The parishes of Astomil and Rebordosa, Paredes, diocese of Porto, will host the Pilgrim Virgin Image number 9 during the months of September and October.

The World Apostolate of Fatima of the Lombardy Region has been promoting the visits of the Pilgrim Virgin of Our Lady of Fatima in northern Italy for some years now. After several cancellations in 2020 and 2021, the intention is to eventually organize them in 2022, with the presence of Pilgrim Virgin Image number 10.

The Pilgrim Virgin Image number 11 has been on pilgrimage in Chile since September 2019. Due to the pandemic, the end of the pilgrimage has been delayed, and it is now planned that the return to the Shrine of Fatima will take place in January 2022.

As far as the Caucasus countries (Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan) are concerned, this pilgrimage was scheduled for 2021, but due to the pandemic, it has been postponed to 2022, with no date yet set.

Also the Parish of Saint Sebastian Martyr of Mentrída, diocese of Toledo, Spain, will host one of the Pilgrim Virgin Image, with dates yet to be set, as well as several dioceses of Colombia, in South America.

This schedule of dislocations of the different Pilgrim Statues of Fatima may change, depending on the events linked to the health emergency context that the world is facing.

Made according to the indications of Sister Lucia, the first Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima was offered by the Bishop of Leiria and solemnly crowned by the Archbishop of Evora on May 13, 1947. From that date onwards, the Statue has travelled the world several times, taking with her a message of peace and love.

In order to respond to the many requests from all over the world, various replicas of the first Pilgrim Statue, a total of thirteen, have since been made.

# Fatima on the Route of the Nobel Peace Prize winners

From the 1980s until today, Cova da Iria has been an altar for several Nobel Peace Prize winners, including the Dalai Lama, who visited the Shrine of Fatima.

Carmo Rodeia

It is common to hear from pilgrims that in Fatima one is at peace; an individual peace that is sought for, but also a peace requested for the world, from the apparitions until today, as it clearly appears in the account of the dialogues between Sister Lucia and Our Lady. Therefore, it is impossible to think about Fatima without considering the theme of Peace, even though it may seem strange to us that Our Lady should have entrusted the cause of peace to three poor and humble children from Cova da Iria. Furthermore, it is of utmost importance to adopt a totally new perspective, which acquires an ethical-social dimension, since the message is presented not only as an individual construction, but as a construction addressed to the whole of humanity and to every aspect of its existence. By presenting an itinerary of prayer, sacrifice and conversion, through which peace, as individual and social harmony, is possible, Fatima anticipates what was to become a new mentality in the Church, brought about by the Second Vatican Council.

If Russia is converted, there will be peace; if they stop offending God, the war will end; eventually, “my immaculate heart will triumph”; all are expressions of this dimension of peace that must be taken into account in Fatima.

On his way back to the Vatican, after having been to Fatima, Pope Francis answered a question posed by journalist Fátima Campos Ferreira from RTP: “Fatima conveys, without a doubt, a message of peace; it is communicated to humanity through three great communicators who were less than thirteen years old. This is interesting [...] What can the world expect? - Peace. And what am I going to talk about, from now on, with everyone? - Peace [...] And I wanted to tell a story that touched my heart. A few hours before boarding, I received some scientists of various religions who were doing research at the Vatican Observatory at Castel Gandolfo; including agnostics and atheists. And one atheist said to me: ‘I am an atheist. - he didn’t tell me what ethnicity he was, or where he came from; and he spoke in English so I couldn’t find out, and I didn’t ask him - I ask you a favour: tell the Christians to love the Muslims more’. This is a message of peace,” he concluded.

Every day, people pray at the Shrine for the Pope and for peace in the world. The prayer of the Shrine of Fatima is linked to the geography of the world, that is, to all the needs and problems of peoples and countries, and when

our prayer is universal, our heart also becomes universal, recalled Bishop António Marto, on the subject of the universality of peace.

It is perhaps the reason why this Shrine has been a reference point for several Nobel Peace Prize winners. In this edition we recall the essential of what they said and did in Fatima.

## Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Made two trips to Fatima:  
on October 1, 1982  
and on September 23, 1987



“[...] Visiting the Vatican, Mother Teresa of Calcutta was received by Pope John Paul II who told her to go and pray in Fatima. And so she did. On October 1st, the nun, winner of the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize, came in pilgrimage to Fatima where she prayed Our Lady with the greatest fervour for peace, for the triumph of charity and love and for the union of families [...] Mother Teresa of Calcutta arrived at the Chapel of the Apparitions at about 2 p.m. There she was welcomed by D. Manuel de Almeida Trindade, President of the Portuguese Episcopal Conference (in his name and in the name of the Bishop of Leiria, who could not be present), by the Rector Dr. Luciano Guerra, and by many priests and religious men and women, including a large group of young Franciscans [...]. Mother Teresa addressed everyone in a style of great simplicity, stressing the importance of Mary in the life of the Church: ‘In a world which suffers so much, Mary came to us at Fatima to show us her tenderness and her love. Let us take her to our families, because a family that prays together stays together, and so its members love one another. The

poor are a testimony and a sign of love’, the nun affirmed [...]”, *Voz da Fátima Newspaper*, November 13, 1982.

“On the morning of September 23, Mother Teresa of Calcutta went to the Shrine of Fatima to pray, just before leaving Portugal, which she visited for the second time [...]. The deep recollection of Mother Teresa contrasting with the movement of pilgrims was the most salient note of her visit to the ‘altar of the world’. The helicopter which brought Mother Teresa from Setúbal flew her to Tancos, from where she proceeded by car to Fatima; later on, the same helicopter of the Portuguese Air Force picked her up at the playing field of Fatima at 10:15 a.m. to take her to Lisbon, where she was to take the flight to Milan (Italy) at 11 a.m.”, *Voz da Fátima Newspaper*, October 13, 1987.

## Lech Walesa

former president of Poland, visited the Shrine on May 13, 1993

“A very special presence on May 13, in Cova da Iria, was that of the President of Poland Lech Walesa. Coming by helicopter, he arrived in Fatima at eight o’clock in the morning, accompanied by his wife and Polish entourage. He immediately went to the Hungarian Calvary, where he attended the Mass celebrated by his military chaplain. At the Shrine, he was received by the Bishop of Leiria-Fatima, Bishop Serafim Ferreira e Silva, in a reception room of the House of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. After a short speech, Lech Walesa offered the Shrine a crystal vase and signed the book of honour, adding the following message: I ask that all the wishes of Our Lady of Fatima be fulfilled. I am grateful to her for the salvation of the Holy Father. He then went to the Chapel of the Apparitions, where he prayed the Rosary. Lech Walesa and his wife knelt with great devotion before the image of Our Lady, and the President himself prayed the fourth decade of the Rosary, in his own language [...]”, *Voz da Fátima Newspaper*, June 13, 1993.

In an article entitled “Fatima Prophecy fulfilled - finally Russia is converting”, Father Manuel Vieira explained how he read with “great emotion, the news of the presence in Fatima of Lech Walesa, on the pilgrimage of May 13. He, too, is a clear and tangible symbol of the triumph prophesied



in Fatima about Russia. Like Shevardnadze (former President of Georgia), Lech Walesa is a convert to the Catholic faith [...]. In his initial struggles against the communist regime, he made his country's government shudder, and by extension Russia itself. In him, too, the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary took place in an extraordinary way. His presence at Fatima on May 13 bears witness to this. Indeed, there are now signs that Russia is being converted. The prophecy of Fatima is increasingly becoming a light to enlighten every man and woman of good will", *Voz da Fátima Newspaper*, June 13, 1993.

### Dalai Lama

Buddhist spiritual leader,  
visited the Shrine on  
November 27, 2001



"The Shrine of Fatima also received, during the month of November, two other special pilgrims due to their roles, either in the Church or in the international community [...]. The second was the leader of Tibetan Buddhism and Nobel Peace Prize winner, Dalai Lama, who wanted to pass through Fatima, as a pilgrim, on November 27, to get to know this central place of Portuguese religiosity [...]", *Voz da Fátima Newspaper*, December 13, 2001.

"Many years ago, I began my visits as a pilgrim on pilgrimage through different countries with different traditions [...] it is this same spirit that brought me to Fatima," he told Portuguese journalists at the time, explaining that he had previously visited other Catholic religious sites, such as Jerusalem, in Israel (twice), and the Shrine of Lourdes, in France. Dalai Lama stayed overnight at the Shrine of Fatima and met with the Portuguese bishops, having also visited the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima and meditated in the Chapel of Apparitions.

### D. Ximenes Belo

was the Nobel Peace Prize winner  
who most visited the Shrine,  
five times in total: May 21, 1995;  
May 13, 1997; September 19, 1999;  
April 21, 2002 and July 26, 2008

"On his first visit to the Shrine, Bishop Carlos Ximenes Belo presided the Pilgrimage of the Salesian Family [...] In his homily, before more than 35 thousand pilgrims, and echoing the voice of all the pilgrims, Bishop Ximenes Belo did not fail to manifest his joy at being reunited in this place of prayer and penance, the altar of the world, the Shrine of Fatima! 'We want to get closer to God, we feel attracted by the figure of Mary, and we want to be docile to the invitation of our heavenly Mother, opening our hearts to mercy and grace', Bishop Belo added. The Bishop of Timor also referred to the theme of the Shrine - Women, Spouses and Mothers, like Mary -, with an invitation to think, reflect and pray for women. D. Ximenes exhorted all women to bear witness to the death and resurrection of Jesus in their families, in their lands and in their environment or workplace, and to progressively introduce in the society the leaven of the Gospel, because only in this way are they keeping with their vocation as women [...]", *Voz da Fátima Newspaper*, June 13, 1995.

"Ximenes Belo came to Fatima last September 19 to pray for the universal Church, and in particular for the people of Timor and the diocese of Dili, which at this hour is broken and has its sheep scattered and its shepherd outside the territory [...] In his homily, the Bishop of Dili recalled the drama of the people of Timor Loro Sae, the destruction of their home, now turned into ashes, the stoning, the shooting, the flight from the territories... He also remembered the whole Church of Timor which, although poor, is above all rich in faith, love and devotion to Our Lady of Fatima. Ximenes Belo explained that in every corner of Timor there are caves and chapels dedicated to Our Lady [...]", *Voz da Fátima Newspaper*, October 13, 1999.

"The Queen of Peace left for Timor Loro Sae. The two Nobel Peace Prize winners, D. Ximenes Belo and Dr. Ramos Horta, welcomed one of the Pilgrim Virgin Image of Our Lady of Fatima, the Messenger of Peace, who in 1917, in Cova da Iria, promised peace to the world, provided that it would convert to God [...] This replica will tour, next May, all the

districts of Timor Loro Sae and will be present at the Mass of the Independence, a religious celebration commemorating the birth of the youngest State in the World. The initiative to promote the journey of the Pilgrim Virgin Image of Our Lady of Fátima to Timor Loro Sae came from the Timorese Government, which, along with other events it is preparing (cultural, sport, etc.), has not neglected the Christian and Catholic roots of its people. For Dr. Ramos Horta, the visit of the Statue to Timor 'is a sign of hope and peace for tens of thousands of Timorese'", *Voz da Fátima Newspaper*, May 13, 2002.

### Ramos Horta

visited the Shrine of Fatima twice:  
on April 21, 2002  
and on July 26, 2008



"The Shrine of Fatima welcomed on the morning of July 26 the President of the Republic of Timor and Nobel Peace Prize winner, Dr. Ramos Horta [...] 'It is with emotion that I come to Fatima on a pilgrimage of thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin for the life she gives me to continue serving my people and humanity'. At 10:30 a.m., the President of Timor was received, at the House of Our Lady of Sorrows, by the Rector of the Shrine of Fatima [...]. Ximenes Belo, also a Nobel Peace Prize winner, said in the occasion: 'First of all I greet our Heavenly Mother, Our Lady of Fatima, who is the mother of the Timorese', and then explained that his presence in Fatima on this day was a manifestation of solidarity with Ramos Horta and also a gesture of prayer 'so that Our Lady may protect him, so that (Ramos Horta) may go on with his mission of peace'", *Voz da Fátima Newspaper*, August 13, 2008.

## “In these difficult times for the Church, such celebration reminds us to pray for the unity of the Church and the conversion of its members”

Father Carlos Cabecinhas presided the November monthly pilgrimage mass, which celebrates the solemnity of the Dedication of the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity.

Cátia Filipe



Father Carlos Cabecinhas, rector of the Shrine of Fatima, presided the November monthly pilgrimage mass, in which the solemnity of the Dedication of the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity is celebrated. “The celebration of the Dedication of a church is an invitation to become aware of what it means to be Church, because it always points towards the mystery of the Church of the living stones that gathers in the celebratory spaces,” the priest explained, adding that the Church is not made up by its walls, “it is us”.

“The Christian community and the human heart are the true temple where God dwells, the very place of encounter with God,” the rector of the Shrine of Fatima stated in his homily. “We rejoice in the joys of its members, but we also suffer from their infidelities and, in these difficult times for the Church, this celebration reminds us that we must pray for the unity of the Church and for the conversion of its members,” he reiterated.

This awareness of being Church “points to our communion with the Holy Father, the visible sign of the Church’s unity; and the granting of the title of basilica to this church by the Holy Father highlights, above everything else, this bond of special communion with the Pope.”

The basilica “constantly recalls the strong call of the message of Fatima to give God a place in our lives, living according to His will, devoting time to prayer, discovering the signs of His presence in others and in the events that surround us.”

The Church of the Most Holy Trinity was dedicated on October 12, 2007, by Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, then Secretary-of-State for the Vatican and legate to Pope Benedict XVI, on the occasion of the closing ceremony of the 90th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady to the three little seers.

In 2012, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments sent word that the church would be elevated to the status of basilica. This title, granted by the Decree of June 19, 2012, highlighted its pastoral relevance and, above all, the special bond of communion with the Holy Father – a particularly important dimension of the message of Fatima – and, simultaneously, the affection that the Pope bears for Fatima.



## **“With Mary we learn to be available to God, to give Him a central position that so often takes second place after so many other occupations”**

Father Carlos Cabecinhas presided the December monthly pilgrimage mass in the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity.

Cátia Filipe

Father Carlos Cabecinhas, rector of the Shrine of Fatima, presided the December monthly pilgrimage mass in the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity. In the reflection he shared with the pilgrims, the priest spoke of Advent as “a time to remove all obstacles that prevent us from welcoming Jesus into our lives”, and he acknowledged in Mary “the best example for living this time of Advent”. “It is Mary who guides us and takes us by the hand, so that we can prepare our hearts to welcome the Lord who is coming,” he added, speaking of the Gospel proclaimed, which depicts Mary next to the Cross of her Son, “it is at that moment of supreme surrender of his life for us that Jesus entrusts his disciples to the maternal care, but it is also at that moment that Jesus entrusts his mother to us.”

Because she is a mother, “Mary is always attentive to our difficulties and to our supplications, and it is for this very reason that we turn to her in any moment of distress. It is this maternal comfort that we find here in Fatima, this comfort of those who know that their mother will always listen to them and will always be attentive to their prayers and supplications.”

In fact, in Mary “we find the best model for the experience of this time, because it was she who first experienced the preparation for the Lord’s Advent, and lived this time intensely, welcoming him as a mother in her womb.”

The rector explained that with Mary “we learn to be available to God, to give Him a central position that so often takes second place after so many other occupations”.

“We are invited to make this time of Advent a time of more attentive and assiduous listening to the Word of God, but also a time of more intense prayer,” he further said, recalling that in Fatima it is this message of conversion that Our Lady comes to bring, and “availability to God is at the heart of the message of Fatima and is also reflected in the time we dedicate to prayer.”

This monthly pilgrimage was the first of the pastoral year 2021/2022 whose theme is “Get up! You are a witness of what you have seen”. The new pastoral year is the second of the triennial 2020-2023, which has as its general theme, Like Mary, bearers of joy and love.



# Hope and Kindness: An Answer to the Difficulties of the Present Time

Homilies at Fatima during the Christmas season take a hopeful look at the present time in the light of the love of the Mystery of the Incarnation.

Cátia Filipe e Diogo Carvalho Alves



In Fatima, the homilies of the celebrations of this Christmas season have been considering the Word in the light of the pandemic times we are living, presenting the Mystery of the Incarnation as hope for the current crisis, keeping in mind the theme that will guide the pastoral action of the Shrine during the year that is now beginning.

"We are loved by God and the entire mystery celebrated at Christmas focuses on this love of God for us, this love that is expressed in a unique way in the Christmas Crib," the Rector of the Shrine began by recalling on the occasion of the Mass of the Birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ celebrated on the night of the 24th. He presented the welcoming of God through baby Jesus in the Crib as a way to make "trust sprout in these difficult times we are going through, because He assumes our fragility, identifies with our sufferings and comes to our aid."

In the celebration of the following day, the priest reflected on the "celebration of life" that the Christmas feast embodies, and which gives its "full meaning" to human existence, especially in the present moment.

"It is in the Child of the Crib that we can find the abundance of life, for He comes into our world and shares our history so that the pains and sorrows we experience do not extinguish in us the hope of a life without end, a life fully realized," he stated, as he put this dynamism of faith in the light of the theme set for the present pastoral year at the Shrine of Fatima: "Get up! You are a witness of what you have seen".

"Celebrating Christmas is to give testimony of joy and trust in God" (...) in a dynamism of faith based essentially in "experiencing, seeing and hearing; getting up and going forth to testify with words and deeds the love that became flesh".

In his homily at the Mass of Thanksgiving for the past year, celebrated in the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity on the last day of the year, Cardinal António Marto also took a hopeful look at the present time, looking at it as an opportunity for change towards the essentials of life and presenting the "miracle of kindness" as a way and answer to the current crisis.

"Nowadays, one rarely finds the time and energy to take time to treat oth-

ers well, to say 'excuse me', 'sorry', 'thank you'. Yet, occasionally, there is the miracle of a kind person who puts aside his or her concerns and urgencies to pay attention, to offer a smile, to say a word of encouragement, to make possible a space for listening in the midst of so much indifference. This effort, lived day by day, is capable of creating that healthy coexistence that overcomes misunderstandings and avoids conflicts," the prelate explained.

During the first celebration of 2022, on the day the Church celebrated the solemnity of Holy Mary, Mother of God, the rector of the Shrine exhorted pilgrims to take Our Lady's example and to begin the changes of life necessary to be instruments of peace in the world.

"It is through her that we receive God's supreme gift: His Son Jesus Christ, who became man and who is our peace (...) Like Mary, we are invited to welcome God's blessings and learn what it means to have an open heart so that God may pour out his blessings on us at the beginning of this new year," he concluded.



# The Message of Fatima exhorts us “to be attentive to God and Our World”, reflects Fr Carlos Cabecinhas

The Rector of the Shrine of Fatima presided the mass of the monthly pilgrimage of January in the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity.

Cátia Fllipe



Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas, rector of the Shrine of Fatima presided at the mass for the monthly pilgrimage of January in the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity.

On such a day, the word of God “exhorts us to imitate Mary, and to imitate her fundamentally in her attention to God”, on a path that is described in the liturgy as “a path of joy and happiness, which is a true beatitude, to which we too are called”.

In her apparitions in this place Our Lady offered “her Immaculate Heart as a refuge, but also as a path to God, and it is this second aspect which is highlighted in the Gospel proclaimed today”.

“Jesus seems to refuse the praise that is given to His mother, but He pays her the best of compliments”, that is, “Mary was the one who best knew how to listen to the word of God and to put His words into practice in life”.

“No one knew how to be attentive to the voice of God better than Mary”, added Father Carlos Cabecinhas, explaining that in fact “this is how the Gospels speak of Mary, as the one who listens to the word and meditates on it, the one who keeps the word of God in her heart, the one who allows herself to be guided by that word, which after being listened to

and meditated upon, guides her life and attitudes, determines her options and choices, and it is for that reason that Jesus proclaims Her blessed”.

Beatitude is “within our reach”, the priest asserted.

In praising those who listen to the word of God and put it into practice, “Jesus indicates this path to beatitude that we too may experience, and this is the ‘great challenge’ present-

ed to each one of us”.

The Message of Fatima “leads us along the path of this beatitude”, for Our Lady in her message exhorts us “to be attentive to God and to our world”.

Mary today “leads us to God” and “fills us with hope”, recalls the rector of the Shrine of Fatima.

This celebration was broadcast live on the digital media of the Shrine of Fatima.



# The Sanctuary of Penha Welcomed the Pilgrim Virgin Image of Our Lady of Fatima for almost two Months

The pilgrimage culminated on the day of the 128th Great Pilgrimage to Penha, on September 12, 2021.

Cátia Filipe

The Pilgrim Virgin Image of Our Lady of Fatima was received with great emotion in Guimarães on July 18, 2021. Dozens of people came out to the streets to applaud, cheer, sing and welcome the Statue with joy and tears. The emotion of this reception was shared by the devotees and the tourists, who were not indifferent to the faith of the people. Upon arrival, the procession carrying the Pilgrim Virgin walked through the streets of the city to the church of Our Lady of the Olive Tree, in a vehicle of the Guimarães Volunteer Fire Brigade, under a warm welcome from the faithful.

The emotion began to swell as soon as the bells of the Basilica of Toural rang out the chords of 11:30 a.m. and the rumbling of the fire station alarm was heard. Shortly afterwards, the steps leading up to the church were too small to accommodate the many people who made a point of expressing gestures of gratitude and singing with conviction "here we come, dear Mother, to consecrate our love to you," amid smiles and tears. The statue of the "Queen and Mother of Portugal" followed at a slow pace, while the people overflowed with applause and prayers as she passed by.

"It is a great joy to have this meeting and an honour to welcome the image of Our Lady of Fatima here. And you may also go up to Penha to rest and receive her strength, blessing and protection as a Mother, placing at her feet your anxieties and difficulties, asking her to help us get closer to each other, sharing joys and sorrows, because together we will be better," said the parish priest Paulino Carvalho, during the celebration that brought together in the Igreja da Oliveira the representatives of the various civil, military and religious entities of the city.

The event full of symbolism took place on the 70th anniversary of the annual pilgrimage of the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima to Penha.

This visit culminated in the 128th Great Pilgrimage to Penha, on 12 September, still held in a format slightly different from the traditional one, fully adapted to the rules defined by the health authorities due to the pandemic context.

"Penha was also the Altar of the World



which bade farewell to the beautiful image of Our Lady of Fatima, with particular emotion, because we are always very close to her Motherly face, the most beautiful of pilgrim humanity which summons us to hope, love and peace. Therefore, together, we will all be able to carry out another grandiose day of devotion and love for the Mother of Heaven," said Judge of the Penha Fraternity, Roriz Mendes.

Instead of the traditional procession, that annually starts in the city and climbs the Penha Mountain, the statue of Our Lady of Penha was transported from the Church of Nossa Senhora da Oliveira through the

streets of the city and of the parish of Costa by the Guimarães Volunteer Firemen in their vehicle, allowing the people to greet its passage along the way and from home. Upon arriving at Penha, the procession of Our Lady of Penha was carried on shoulders from Largo do Cruzeiro to the altar of the Shrine, where the solemn Eucharist was presided by the Archbishop Primate, D. Jorge Ortiga.

And to mark the occasion even more, this Wednesday, 8 December 2021, the Penha Shrine received and blessed a new statue of Our Lady of Fatima during the Eucharist of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

This new statue of Our Lady of Fatima celebrates the 70th anniversary of the first presence of the Pilgrim Virgin in the annual Great Pilgrimage to Penha in 1951 and comes after the statue had been returned to the Shrine for almost two months. The new statue, sculpted according to the first representation of Our Lady of Fatima, is also a gesture of understanding and retribution from the Brotherhood to all the pilgrims who had requested a more permanent possibility of encounter, comfort and encouragement in the face and lap of the Mother of God.

"We want to celebrate one more historic and symbolic moment at the Sanctuary of Penha. After having been, this year, the altar of the world and after having celebrated the 70th anniversary of the first presence of the Pilgrim Virgin among us, we also wish to express to all the pilgrims our communion with the desire that they have themselves expressed: to be able to have the image of Our Lady of Fatima permanently on our altars. We are sure that this image will continue to teach everyone the immensity that sweetness and love operate in us," explains the Judge of the Penha Fraternity, Roriz Mendes.

The new statue is a work of José Neves Ferreira, sculptor of the Casa de Arte Sacra Fânzeres. It is a carved sculpture, one metre and 20 centimetres high, oil painted and gilded in gold. Another detail is that both the image and the crown that decorates it were made this year, when the Pilgrim Virgin Image came to the Sanctuary of Penha.



# Cardinal Celestino Aós Encourages Commitment Through Prayer During Farewell to the Virgin of Fatima

The Archbishop of Santiago explained that “the Virgin Mary is our mother and our intercessor”.

Giselle Vargas com Aciprensa



On 18 January 2022, at the farewell Mass celebrated for the Image of the Pilgrim Virgin of Our Lady of Fatima, the Archbishop of Santiago, Chile, Cardinal Celestino Aós, encouraged the faithful to make a commitment to continue praying to the Virgin to intercede for others before God.

The Image arrived in Chile on 16 September 2019. As a consequence of the pandemic, its tour was extended.

The faithful and devotees gathered at the metropolitan cathedral to give thanks for all the places she visited and for reviving faith in the hundreds of Masses, prayer vigils and Eucharistic adorations held along her itinerary of 4,300 kilometres, and also on Easter Island, located some 3,600 kilometres from the mainland.

“At the feet of the image of the Virgin of Fatima today we must leave as an offering, as a gift for her visit, our commitment to pray and pray and pray,” Cardinal Aós said in his homily.

“May she help us not to get tired, to give thanks when we don’t see the fruits, when

it seems we have achieved nothing,” he added.

The Archbishop of Santiago explained that “the Virgin Mary is our mother and our intercessor”.

And just as the Church “in all its members, in all Christians, has the mission to practice intercession,” “we must all pray for one another”.

Cardinal Aós recalled that in the message of Fatima, the Virgin said: “Pray, pray the Rosary every day, receive communion, bear suffering in reparation for sins and in reparation for sinners”.

The Pilgrim Virgin Image of Our Lady of Fatima returned to Fatima on 20 January 2022, two years after its arrival in Chile.



Image of the Pilgrim Virgin welcomed by children on Easter Island, in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.



# Father Thomas de Beyer Wrote a Song in Honour of Fatima and World Youth Day 2023

The song “Brighter Than the Sun” is a reflection on the encounter of the three little shepherds with Our Lady of Fatima.

Cátia Filipe

Fr Thomas de Beyer wrote a song in honour of the Fatima apparitions. This new melody was released in preparation for World Youth Day 2023. The song “Brighter Than the Sun” is a reflection on the first moment of the meeting between the three little shepherds and Our Lady. The song was recorded by Darija Ramljak, finalist of the 2019 season of The Voice Croatia.

The idea came after the announcement of the 2023 World Youth Day in Lisbon, and given the proximity to Fatima, the priest felt challenged to write this new song. In a press release, Fr Thomas de Beyer explained that “Fatima shows that God exists and that he is not indifferent. On the contrary, heaven is highly interested in the life and salvation of all. Our

Lady expressed towards the children an attitude of maternal love of such intensity that at certain moments they were filled with this love that came from Mary’s heart. We all need the light of faith that connects us to the source of life and leads us on a good path.”

The song is performed by 22-year-old singer Darija Ramljak.



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