



# 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:  
Praise the Lord, who lifts up the poor*

## The tourist who can be a pilgrim

Father Carlos Cabecinhas

The Church has been emphasising, in recent years, the evangelizing ability of the experience of pilgrimage and of visits to shrines. This is also the experience of the Shrine of Fatima.

Many Christians, even those who are called “non-practicing” or occasional participants in the celebrations, find in the pilgrimage and visit to the Shrine a strong experience of faith. It is among these Christians that interest in pilgrimage as a meaningful experience, which makes them feel they are still believers, has grown the most. Pilgrims, even if they have little ecclesial commitment, find in personal prayer and in the community celebrations at the Shrine a better form to experience God.

Thus, the evangelising opportunity that pilgrimage provides is obvious, not only because it can be a vehicle for transmitting the content of the Christian faith, but above all because of the evangelising ability of pilgrimage, with its specific dynamics. Pilgrimage is an image of the life of faith and, with its own dynamics, has an effective evangelising ability.

But tourism also offers opportunities for evangelisation. The Shrine wishes that those who visit us as tourists have the spiritual experience of pilgrims. The most effective way to prevent tourists from seeing the Shrine only as a monument is to involve them in the celebrations. Obviously, this is only possible when there is already a religious predisposition that allows the one who enters as a tourist to be in the shrine as a pilgrim.

For both the Shrine and the pilgrims, the great challenge to overcome is the prejudice that tends to see the tourist as a nuisance, as someone who disturbs the atmosphere of the place. The important thing is to transform the visit to the Shrine into a possibility for evangelization. Here the celebrative quality of the Shrine gains importance: the fascination of a celebration can make the tourist change from an attitude of spectator to one of participant; it can transform the tourist into a pilgrim.

On the other hand, the message of Fatima itself has an enormous evangelizing capacity, both for pilgrims and for tourists.

## Bishop of Fall River presides over August Pilgrimage

Emigrants return to Fatima after two years of intermittence because of the pandemic and restrictions on movement.

Carmo Rodeia



After having been scheduled to preside at Fatima in 2020, Bishop Edgar Cunha, bishop of Fall River, in the US state of Massachusetts, will preside over the August International Anniversary Pilgrimage in Fatima, also known as the ‘Migrant Pilgrimage’.

For the 12th and 13th, 10 groups are registered from Germany (2); Austria (1), Spain (2), Ireland (1), Israel (1), Italy (1) and Poland (2). During the month of August 120 groups are registered – 36 Portuguese and 84 foreign groups from 21 countries, namely: Germany, Austria, Brazil, Burkina Faso, China, Croatia, Slovenia, Spain, USA, Philippines, Hungary, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Mexico, Poland, Sri Lanka, Venezuela and Vietnam.

The Bishop of Fall River was born in the state of Bahia, Brazil, and was the first prelate of the United States born in Brazil. At this moment he presides over one of the most important and significant Portuguese communities in the United States, where a large Azorean community lives, either born or descended from the Azores, particularly São Miguel, and very devoted to the Holy Spirit. After he leaves Fatima, he will

preside over the Great Feast of the Holy Ghost of New England, which takes place at Kennedy Park in Fall River, on the penultimate weekend of August.

D. Edgar Moreira da Cunha was ordained priest on March 27, 1982, at St. Michael’s Church in Newark, in the US state of New Jersey, where an important Portuguese community also resides, mainly from northern and central Portugal, and ordained bishop on September 3, 2003, at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark.

D. Edgar da Cunha is the second foreign prelate to preside at Fatima this year, since the remaining pilgrimages until October will be presided over by Portuguese bishops.

This pilgrimage marks the fourth apparition of Our Lady to the three little shepherds, the only one that did not take place in the Cova da Iria, since Francisco, Jacinta and Lucia were outside Fatima under the care of the Administrator of Ourém, who wanted to question them. According to the account of the Apparitions, Our Lady would appear to them six days later in Valinhos, near Aljustrel, the village where they lived.

# Migrations Week, with Ukraine in its sights

The 50th National Week of Migrations will take place from 8 to 14 August, culminating with the National Pilgrimage to Fatima on 12 and 13 August, welcoming the challenge of the Holy Father to pray and build the future with migrants and refugees.

Carmo Rodeia

On August 12, the press conference for the presentation of the National Pilgrimage, promoted by the Episcopal Commission for Social Pastoral and Human Mobility, together with the Shrine of Fatima, will take place at 4 p.m. in the press room of the Shrine of Fatima.

“Together we build a greater We: one human family” is this week’s motto, marking also the 60th anniversary of the Portuguese Catholic Migration Work.

“These two anniversaries raise in us a whole set of feelings and good intentions: feelings of thanksgiving to the Lord for

these blessed and fruitful years, full of vitality; feelings of gratitude to those who have served and are serving this Work with dedication, making it a visible face of the care of the bishops in Portugal for this great and challenging reality of migration; intentions of an ever greater commitment to reflect on this vast world, in the light of the Gospel, for an opportune, coordinated and effective intervention”, says Bishop Daniel Batalha, member of the Episcopal Commission for the Pastoral Care of Human Mobility.

During the pilgrimage to Cova da Iria, a prayer vigil will be held again, led by the

diocesan secretariats of migration, Catholic communities of the diaspora and the Ukrainian national chaplaincy.

“In the 50 years of the National Week of Migrations, namely with the Pilgrimage of Immigrants to Fatima, we will have the opportunity to place at the feet of the Virgin all our work and resolutions, uniting our prayer to the prayer of our Migrant and Refugee brothers and sisters. Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us”, concludes Bishop D. Daniel Batalha.

On Sunday, August 14, a day of solidarity with human mobility will take place.

## August, the month of wheat in Fatima

A characteristic token in the offertory of the Eucharist of the pilgrimage of August 13 is the offering of wheat by the pilgrims.

This token takes place this year for the 82nd time.

On August 13, 1940, a group of young people from the Catholic Agrarian Youth, from 17 parishes of the Diocese of Leiria, offered 30 bushels of wheat, destined for the production of wafers to be consumed in the Shrine of Fatima. Since that year, the pilgrims, not only from Leiria but also from other dioceses of the country, and even from abroad, have been giving continuity, year after year, to this offering.

## Berlin Wall

On the evening of the 13th, after the Rosary, there is a prayer at the memorial to the Berlin Wall. This year the intention gains new strength because of the war at the heart of Europe, involving Russia and Ukraine, with repercussions throughout the world.

A piece of the Berlin Wall, torn down in 1989, remains in the Shrine of Fatima to celebrate peace, 30 years after an event that reconfigured Europe and changed the course of world history. This piece of the Wall, offered by a Portuguese emigrant living in Germany, is a symbol of religious freedom for a world of peace.

Pope John Paul II, when he came to Fatima in 1991, clearly stated that Fatima is umbilically linked to the collapse of that Soviet empire which had the pillar of atheism as its reading of History. The monument alluding to the Berlin Wall includes a tombstone with words uttered by John Paul II, on his second visit to Fatima, in 1991: “Thank you, heavenly shepherdess, for having lovingly guided the peoples to freedom”.





## FOURTH APPARITION

August 19, 1917  
Valinhos

People present (on the 13th): 15000 to 18000, although some writings speak of only 5000

“

– What do you want of me?

– I want you to continue going to the Cova da Iria on the 13th, and to continue praying the Rosary every day. In the last month, I will perform a miracle so that all may believe. [If you did not come back with them to the Village, it would be the best-known Miracle. St Joseph was to come with the Child Jesus, to give peace to the world, and also our Lord would come to bless the people. our Lady of the Rosary would come with an angel on each side, and Our Lady, surrounded with an arch of flowers.]

– What do you want done with the money that the people leave in the Cova da Iria?

– Have two litters made. One is to be carried by you and Jacinta and two other girls dressed in white. the other one is to be carried by Francisco and three other boys. The money from the litters is for the “festa” of Our Lady of the Rosary, and what is left over will help towards the construction of a chapel that is to be built here.

– I would like to ask you to cure some sick persons.

– Yes, I will cure some of them during the year.

Then, looking very sad, Our Lady said:

– Pray, pray very much, and make sacrifices for sinners. for many souls go to hell, because there are none to sacrifice themselves and to pray for them.”

Fatima in Lucia's Own Words. 16th ed. Fatima: Secretariado dos Pastorinhos, 2007, pp. 179–180 (IV Memoir)

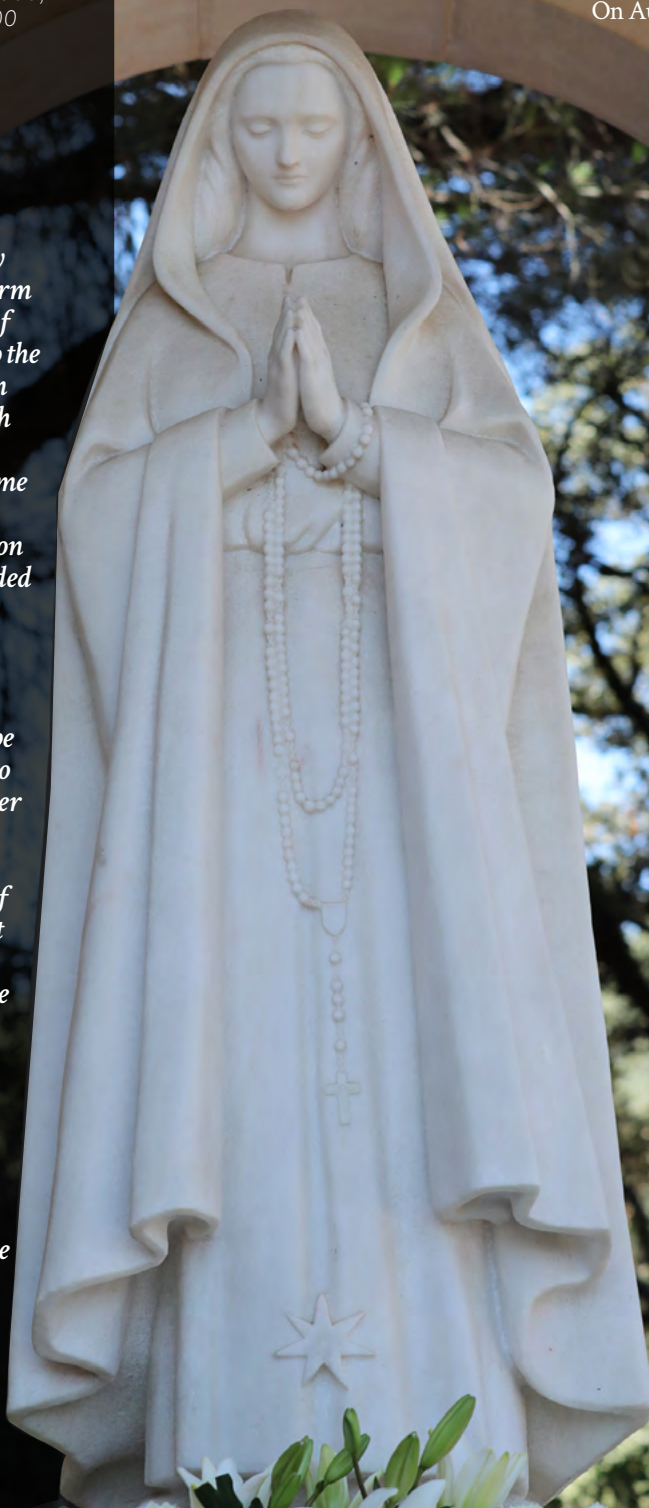
## Valinhos, site of the August Apparition

The place where the fourth apparition of Our Lady took place, on 19 August 1917, lays between the 8th and 9th stations of the Way of the Cross, on the Shepherds' Way.

The monument marking the event was built with offers from Hungarian Catholics.

The image was sculpted by Maria Amélia Carvalheira da Silva and the niche where it stands was designed by António Lino.

On August 19 the Rosary and Evocation of the Apparition of Our Lady in Valinhos will be celebrated.





# Fatima regains large crowds in the first pilgrimage of May after the health crisis



On the evening of 12 May, the Prayer Area was again filled with people as it had not been for a long time, due to the restrictions imposed by the pandemic: 124 groups, mostly foreigners, from the five continents; thousands of pilgrims on foot – more than five hundred – assisted at the Aid Station and the Foot Washing – and an even more emotional celebration, with the war in Ukraine as a backdrop.

“The fall of restrictions does not mean less responsibility on our part. We are happy to be able to celebrate this way, but we continue to suggest that pilgrims wear masks, especially in crowded places. There is no longer any obligation, but the mask is not forbidden”, reminded Father Carlos Cabecinhas, Rector of the Shrine of Fatima, when announcing to journalists that, after all, the number of pilgrim groups exceeded all expectations.

“Starting in March, we witnessed the arrival of organized groups (dioceses, parishes and others), which had practically disappeared in the two previous years, as well as groups of foreign pilgrims; and, especially after Easter, a significant number of pilgrims arrived at the Shrine on foot. I must confess that, since there were so many who anticipated their arrival, we didn’t expect such a significant presence on days 12 and 13. And we were wrong,” he said.

One of the highlights of this pilgrimage was the blessing of a Statue of the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima, which was offered by the Shrine to the Metropolitan Archbishop of Lviv, the Greek Catholic prelate of Ukraine, who requested the visit of the Pilgrim Virgin to the country.

The blessing of the new Statue was done on the 13th, at the end of the Mass in the Prayer Area, by the Bishop of Leiria-Fatima, D. José Ornelas, who was present at this pilgrimage as titular bishop of the diocese for the first time.

“There are many similarities between today and the time of the apparitions,” he recalled: “A pandemic situation – the Spanish flu – which even claimed the lives of two of the little shepherds, and a war situation. Therefore, it is nothing new. Fatima is a place in the world, which has its own dimension of beauty and tragedy”, he said.

This international anniversary pilgrimage, which took place exactly 40 years after the first visit of Pope John Paul II to Fatima, was presided over by Archbishop Edgar Peña Parra, substitute of the Secretary of State of the Vatican.

In his homily on the 12th, after the candlelight procession, the prelate, a career diplomat, placed the theme of war on the ‘altar of the world’: “on the table of our world, at the banquet of humankind, the wine of fraternity and peace is missing, while selfishness and rancour often explode, as, in this time of ours, in the atrocious and barbaric [inhuman] violence of war, where there are neither victors nor vanquished, but only tears like those of the Mother of God, which, as Pope Francis reminded us, are also a sign of God’s weeping for the victims of the war that destroys not only Ukraine; [...] it destroys all the peoples involved in the war. All! For war does not only destroy the defeated people, no, it also destroys the victor; it destroys even those who observe it, with superficial news, to see who is the victor, who is the vanquished.”

The following day, and after a dawn vigil, which ended with the return of the early morning Eucharistic procession, before the Rosary, this May, at the Chapel of the Apparitions, Archbishop Edgar Peña Parra challenged the Fatima pilgrims to transform the “welcoming listening to Mary” into “charity” in the family, at work and in daily life, in order to overcome the “narrow paths of contemporary history”, marked by so

A sea of people once again filled the Prayer Area on the two days of the pilgrimage. 124 groups announced themselves at the services of the Shrine, with particular emphasis on pilgrims on foot.

Carmo Rodeia



many conflicts, that “only dialogue” allows to overcome.

The Prelate stressed the need for constructive dialogue based on listening, as a way to overcome conflicts: “Let us think how important it would be to listen to the other’s reasons and give priority to dialogue and negotiation, the only paths to a stable and lasting peace, instead of undertaking actions inspired by the greedy and hurried search for one’s own interests,” he said in the homily of the international Mass that closed the May pilgrimage.

The participants prayed this way at the celebration: “For world peace, especially for the victims of the conflict in Ukraine, that the Lord may open the hearts of political decision-makers and lead them to the discernment that only in peace is it possible for us all to be brothers and sisters.”

“The listening, made of silence that opens the heart, helps to calm resentments and rancour and to rediscover the path of peace”. “To this Fatima invites us”, he said stressing that being in Fatima “means above all responding to a call to prayer, to place in the Immaculate Heart the world wounded and torn by the lack of peace.”

“Today we have the temptation to manage everything, including faith, according to the unstable emotions of the moment. On the contrary, Mary shows us that concretization and perseverance are necessary” said the Substitute of the Secretariat of State.

The prelate warned the thousands of participants in this celebration, which again filled the Prayer Area for the second day, against the danger of “a sterile activism, which does not leave the primacy to God, to prayer, to contemplation.”

“The Virgin Mary, who gave first place to listening to the Word, came to Fatima to remind us of what is essential, inviting us to conversion, to place God above our self,” he said, explaining the harmful devaluation of listening “in the family, at work, in daily life.”

“Dear brothers and sisters, to be here on May 13 also means to desire that the message of Fatima is not only something relevant from a religious and historical point of view, but that it is translated into practice, personally, in our daily lives,” he added, stressing that we are all invited to be its collaborators.

“Dear pilgrims to Fatima, let us get up and go in haste to meet those around us: let us dream with them and, with God’s help, let us never tire of building a Church with a young and beautiful face, which shines when it is missionary, welcoming, free, faithful, poor in means and rich in love”, he exhorted.

Two cardinals, 28 bishops and 318 priests participated in this international Mass, coming from the most diverse places; many of them came to Cova da Iria, accompanying some of the 124 groups of pilgrims from more than 20 nationalities that registered at the services of the Shrine.

On this day, 13th May, which commemorates the first Apparition of the Virgin of Fatima, the fifth anniversary of the canonization of Saints Francisco and Jacinta Marto by Pope Francis on the centennial of the Apparitions was also remembered.



# “A humankind with a mother’s heart works tirelessly for justice”, says Bishop of Coimbra

D. Virgílio Antunes presided over the June pilgrimage and warned of the need for Christians, and the Church in particular, to have a “mother’s” heart like that of Mary.

Carmo Rodeia



The Bishop of Coimbra said in his homily during the Mass of the June 13th pilgrimage that the Immaculate Heart of Mary “is deeply inspiring” for humankind, “often disoriented and lost in its choices.” “A humankind with a mother’s heart works tirelessly for justice, it brings brothers and sisters together so that they may dialogue, respect each other and find in their condition as a family the paths to peace,” Bishop Virgílio Antunes said, explaining that the “lowering of arms” on the part of persons, institutions, nations and world organizations “never corresponds to the maternal sense of love, which goes to the very end.

“The Immaculate Heart of Mary, which we celebrate in this pilgrimage, is deeply inspiring for the humankind that we are, often disoriented and lost in its choices, in the paths of warlike confrontation that set brothers against brothers, in the attempts against one’s own life or the life of others, in the multiple injustices perpetrated against all the most fragile”, he further explained.

According to D. Virgílio Antunes, a humankind with a mother’s heart “cannot allow” anyone to despair “in the face of difficulties, illness, poverty or solitude”. “A society with a mother’s heart does not give up,

because a society that gives up on someone or stops standing by those on the verge of despair is a bankrupt society,” said the bishop of Coimbra, who was Rector of the Shrine of Fatima before his episcopal ordination on July 3, 2011, in the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity.

“A humankind with a mother’s heart is especially attentive to the weakest and the most exposed to all kinds of exploitation: children, women, the sick, the elderly,” he said.

Bishop Virgílio Antunes recalled that the pilgrimage calls for a “personal commitment of faith and life”, and that, as Christians, as Church, we are “called to go with full availability in order to carry out the great project of God” proclaimed by the Virgin Mary: “To give heart to the Church, to give heart to our world”.

“The Church, pilgrim on this earth, finds in the Virgin Mary the inspiration and model for the achievement of Her mission to go out, to reach out to all those who long to encounter the God of Life,” he explained in the homily of the celebration that included the blessing of the sick and ended with the farewell procession.



**D. José Ornelas invited pilgrims to be “attentive to the millions of people affected by war”**

“This solidarity needs to be attentive not only to the concrete dramas of war, but also to its consequences, which we are all feeling now in our country and throughout the world,” Bishop José Ornelas said on June 13 at the end of the June Anniversary Pilgrimage.

The Bishop of Leiria-Fátima pointed out that the consequences of war generate “hunger, misery, difficulties” of all kinds and “throughout the world”: “Let us ask the Lord and be attentive to collaborate, alleviate the difficulties and obtain the gift of justice and peace”, he added. In this context, he asked those present in the prayer area to “in prayer and in an active attitude of solidarity” to “be attentive to the millions of people affected by war, especially in Ukraine”, asking the intercession of Mary, Queen of Peace, “for the solution of armed conflicts in the world”.

In the International Anniversary Pilgrimage of June 13, 25 groups participated, from 13 countries as well as from Portugal. The diocesan bishop, in his greeting to the Spanish, Italian and English pilgrims, pointed out the need to overcome the virus, which “still causes difficulties in the world”, remembering the victims of the pandemic and the “terrible war”, encouraging them to ask for justice and peace for the world.

# Return of the National Pilgrimage of Children is a “moment of joy”, Rector says

New bishop of the Diocese of Leiria-Fatima presides children's pilgrimage and stresses that the “courage and confidence of the little shepherds” are an example for the whole world.

Carmo Rodeia

The Bishop of Leiria-Fatima, D. José Ornelas, presided on June 10 the Children's Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Fatima, the first in three years, and highlighted the “courage and trust” of the little shepherds as an example for the younger ones.

The little shepherds “had courage and always said what they had seen and what they had understood. The adults took more time to understand, but, in view of their strength and truth, the adults also ended up accepting what they were saying. And the little shepherds realized that, having Jesus close by, even the most difficult things are possible”, said the Bishop of Leiria-Fatima in his homily.

D. José Ornelas referred to the “trust in Jesus” that the little shepherds had as an example for the children.

“This is the first word that the little shepherds leave us this day: look with love and trust at Jesus, as Mary teaches us, because He always accompanies our lives, gives us joy, gives us courage, gives us understanding of

things and teaches us to love other people as He loves us,” he said.

The Bishop of Leiria-Fatima also asked for “special attention” to the children of Ukraine, who are living “a cruel war”, so that all may be “able to help and encourage to overcome difficulties”.

Rector of the Shrine of Fatima wishes that children make a commitment to “build a better world”.

Father Carlos Cabecinhas said that the in-person return of the Children's National Pilgrimage to the Shrine is a “moment of joy”, and he wishes them to take the “commitment to make a better world”.

“For us this Children's Pilgrimage is meaningful. Over the years, the National Children's Pilgrimage has become the second largest pilgrimage to the Shrine and so it is a moment of joy for us to take it up again. We know that the number of children is small, but nevertheless it is a good sign, it gives us courage and shows that we are returning to normality as much as pos-

sible,” he said.

This year the souvenir given to the participating children was a heart. “This heart has a very specific meaning which is to invite the children to welcome God in their hearts, but also that they feel they are in God's heart and, therefore, it is not only a heart, but has a mirror, where they see themselves present in God's heart,” explained Father Carlos Cabecinhas.

The Rector said that at this time, with so many difficulties that also affect children, “whether it be the pandemic, war or the reality of abuse”, it is important to transmit this message of “trust in God”.

“Let them take this message of trust in God, who accompanies them at all times and helps them overcome difficulties; and I would like them to take the commitment to build a better world,” he concluded.





# Peace is one of the “most urgent problems of the culture of our times” and a “responsibility of all men”

D. João Lavrador presided over the July International Anniversary Pilgrimage in Fatima.

Carmo Rodeia



The Bishop of Viana do Castelo said in his homily at the July International Anniversary Pilgrimage Mass, in Fatima, that peace “demands the participation of all men” because it is one of the “most urgent problems of the culture of our times.”

“As if nothing had changed in a century, humankind continues to live in a permanent threat of war, conflict, violence, and destruction,” said Bishop João Lavrador, during the Eucharist he presided over in the Prayer Area in Cova da Iria on July 13.

The prelate noted that the refinement of the possibilities of destruction, provided by war technology, “places humankind before the possibility of its self-destruction.”

July’s International Anniversary Pilgrimage evokes the third apparition of Our Lady to the Little Shepherds in 1917, one of the central moments that “became known as the secret of Fatima.”

The president of the celebration pointed out that all are “called to build peace”, and following the challenges that Our Lady laid down, “and at present lays down”, from Cova da Iria, they are “called to be heralds and builders of peace”.

D. João Lavrador stressed that if peace “demands” the participation of all men, “Christians have a particular responsibility”, and recalled that the Second Vatican Council affirms that all Christians are “urgently called to unite with those who are truly

peacemakers to implore peace by practising truth in charity.”

“Our Lady in this place, with words very much her own, appealed to conversion, to prayer, and to sacrifice, in order to achieve peace: a strong appeal that will have to resound today as an appeal to the conversion of the heart of every person, of every community, society, people and nation, to the conversion of the mind and will of those who have the duty to guide peoples along the paths of peace.”

According to the Bishop of Viana do Castelo, if peace at world level is a concern, “it is no less important” to recognise and act “in the contexts of life”, namely, in neighbours, associations, companies, schools and universities.

“In political and civic participation, peace is a gift and a task,” he emphasised.

For the president of the July Anniversary Pilgrimage to Cova da Iria, a “renewal in the education of mentalities and public opinion” is also necessary, and those who dedicate themselves to these two areas should “seek to form the mentalities of all towards new peaceful feelings”.

D. João Lavrador concluded his homily imploring from Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima a blessing for “all peoples afflicted by war, namely the brotherly people of Ukraine”, and that all may awake to be “missionaries of hope and joy”.

Among the prayers of the pilgrims during the Mass were the themes of peace-building, solidarity, the pandemic and fires.

“For world peace, especially for the victims in Ukraine, may the Lord teach the world to love peace, to build it and defend it,” was read in English.

The pilgrims were invited to pray for the victims of the fires “that ravage the country and other regions in the world,” and for all the people engaged “in fighting them” – the firefighters, civil protection and volunteers – so that they “feel the support” of solidarity and prayer, and that all may “act responsibly in preventing fires.”

At the beginning of the celebration, due to the “very hot forecast”, the Shrine of Fatima asked pilgrims to seek shade and drink water, indicating that the fountains near the image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, in the centre of the enclosure, would be available to all.

Already on the 12th, when the Pilgrimage of July began in Fatima, thousands of firemen from the municipalities of Leiria and Ourem were struggling against large fires that threatened the neighbouring populations of Fatima. Several access roads to the Shrine were closed, and the fires forced the traffic on the A1 highway to be cut off in both directions, between Pombal and Fatima. Traffic on the IC 2, in Leiria, and the IC8, between Pombal and Ansião, was also cut off.

During the celebration, pilgrims were invited to pray for the victims of the fires, the firefighters, civil protection and volunteers fighting the fires.

“We already have a long history of atrocities and scourges that should lead us to recognize that the paths that humankind has taken, the fruit of a culture of death, away from God and from communion with the other, as a brother, have led to suffering and despair,” said D. João Lavrador, during the celebration of the Word at the Vigil. He presided for the first time in Fatima as Bishop of Viana do Castelo, where he took office on November 27 last year, after leaving Angra, in the Azores, where he had been titular bishop for six years.





## Patients invited to experience closeness, tenderness and compassion through the “simplicity of silence”

During the moment of Eucharistic adoration, the sick were exhorted to “experience the gaze of closeness, tenderness and compassion” through the “simplicity of silence”, in the words of Father Daniel Mendes, chaplain of the Shrine of Fatima and national assistant of the Fatima Message Movement.

“In this moment of suffering and pain, may Jesus make Himself present, may He draw near to you, to comfort and encourage you and say to you: ‘Come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest’(…) Today, here and now, and especially in moments of hopelessness, do not hesitate or fear to reach out to Him, because Jesus also does not cease to say to you: ‘Get up and walk!’”.

The priest encouraged mutual support in suffering, which he pointed out as a sign of God’s mercy.



## Pilgrims challenged to “look at the world through the eyes of God”

At the end of the Pilgrimage, the Bishop of Leiria-Fatima invited the pilgrims to consecrate themselves, in silence, to Mary, “assuming the will to make God’s Word and project a reality in the world”.

In his final words, Bishop José Ornelas Carvalho addressed the Portuguese and foreign pilgrims, whom he challenged to “catch hold of all the worries, joys and projects they brought there, particularly because of the pandemic, the war and the fires, entrusting them to Mary’s affection and to God’s protection and Word listened to”, highlighting the importance of prayer in this devotional attitude.

“To pray means to look at all these realities with the eyes of God, asking for His protection, His strength and His Love”, he specified, taking the Virgin of Fatima as “a model to build a better, synodal Church, in which all participate, like Her, to transform this world and reaching out to those most in need”.

27 organized groups from Vietnam, Spain, Poland, Ireland, United Kingdom, United States of America, France, Italy, Germany, Ivory Coast, Brazil, Croatia, Hungary and Portugal were announced in this pilgrimage.





# Fatima prayed with the Pope for end of war

Prayer of #rosaryforpeace joined shrines from around the world.

Carmo Rodeia

The #rosaryforpeace initiative, promoted by the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization, by decision of Pope Francis, united on May 31, in a zoom session, thousands of pilgrims around the world, including Fatima, with the request for peace.

"This evening, at the end of the month especially consecrated to You, here we are again before You, Queen of Peace, to beseech You: grant us the great gift of Peace, bring a quick end to war which has been raging for decades now in various parts of the world, and which has now invaded the European continent as well", stated Pope Francis at the beginning of the Prayer of the Rosary which in Fatima began precisely with the words of the Holy Father, read by the Rector of the Shrine.

"We are aware that peace cannot be the result of negotiations alone nor a consequence of political agreements alone, but it is above

all an Easter gift of the Holy Spirit", Francis said to all the pilgrims of the world whom he addressed through digital media.

"We consecrate to Your Immaculate Heart the nations at war and we ask for the great gift of the conversion of hearts", he further said, stressing that "with the weapons of prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and with the gift of Your grace, the hearts of men and the fortunes of the whole world can be changed."

"Today we raise our hearts to You, Queen of Peace: intercede for us with Your Son, reconcile hearts filled with violence and vengeance, straighten thoughts blinded by the desire for easy enrichment, and on all the earth may Your Peace reign everlasting," Pope Francis prayed.

In addition to Cova da Iria, in this prayer with the Holy Father and families from around the world, the international initia-

tive has passed through shrines in Ukraine, Iraq, Syria, Bahrain, South Korea, Lourdes (France), Czestochowa (Poland), Loreto (Italy), Guadalupe (Mexico) or Knock (Ireland), among others.

"Under your protection, O Queen of Peace, we seek refuge and we entrust to the Lord, through your hands, the whole of humankind, sorely tried by wars and armed conflicts," it was said in Fatima.

The Rosary for Peace, prayed from the sorrowful mysteries in the seven official languages of the Shrine, to which Arabic and Ukrainian have been added, thus concludes the month of May, specially dedicated to Mary.

This is the third time in these two years marked by the pandemic that the Shrine has been asked by the Vatican to participate in a Rosary for Peace led by Pope Francis.





# Shrine of Fatima continues to serve peace

Political leaders participating in the UN Ocean Conference visit Fatima.

Carmo Rodeia

The message of peace that emanates from the Shrine of Fatima continues to attract political leaders from all over the world who, whenever they come to Portugal, do not reject the possibility of making a pilgrimage to Fatima.

During the Ocean Conference, promoted by the UN, which took place between 27 and 30 June in Lisbon, several political personalities came to Fatima to visit the Shrine and participate in some of its celebrations.

Highlight for the visit of the President of Colombia, Iván Duque Márquez; the Vice-President of Tanzania, Philip Mpango and the President of Equatorial Guinea, Teodoro Obiang, who visited the Shrine as pilgrims.

In terms of protocol, they were received by two chaplains, Father Joaquim Ganhão and Father Francisco Pereira, who stressed the need for peace, development and respect for human rights throughout the world and in every nation.



The President of Colombia, Iván Duque Márquez, visiting the temporary exhibition Faces of Fatima.



International Anniversary Pilgrimage of June 13, 2022

# The Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima will make 28 journeys until the end of the year

Ambassador of peace will travel through Europe and Latin America. The journey to Colombia, which began in June, will continue until 2024.

Carmo Rodeia

With the end of the pandemic in sight and some conflicts still very much alive, in Europe and in several parts of the world, the Statue of the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima, commonly venerated as the great ambassador of peace, returns to its pilgrimages, heading to 13 countries until the end of this year.

The two journeys that will continue beyond 2022 will be to Colombia, until 2024, and to Ukraine, until the end of the war, although, in this case, Statue No. 13, which has been in Lviv since March, may return to Fatima as soon as it is possible, in order to be exchanged for the one that the Shrine offered to the Greek-Catholic Archbishopric of Lviv, permanently. In fact, if that happens, the statue travelling to the Caucasus – Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia – will be number 13, and it will remain in these countries between September 27 and October 30.

With the exception of Statue No. 1, which is enthroned in the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima since 2003, leaving only in absolutely exceptional situations, all the other statues will be outside the Shrine, in pilgrimages through Portugal and the rest of the world, with particular emphasis on dioceses in Italy, Spain, Chile, Brazil and Argentina.

As for the countries of the Caucasus (Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan), this pilgrimage was scheduled for 2021, but due to the pandemic, it was postponed to 2022.

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 toured the entire world several times, carrying with it a message of peace and love.

The Pilgrim Virgin Statue in particular, in its pilgrimages throughout the world, making several rounds and stopping in every continent, has fulfilled that journey to the existential peripheries of which Pope Francis speaks so much, visiting countries at war, but also institutions where the most fragile, weak and excluded are found.

This epic journey of the Pilgrim Statue of Fatima was essentially due to a lay initiati-



ve, born within the scope of the Feminine Catholic Youth of Portuguese Catholic Action, by the hands of Maria Teresa Pereira da Cunha, who was the first to begin taking steps with the Episcopal Conferences of Europe to make the first journey to Maastricht, Holland, on May 13, 1947.

According to the Director of the Department of Studies of the Shrine of Fatima, Marco Daniel Duarte, between 1947 and 2003, the year in which the Pilgrim Statue No. 1 was enthroned in the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary, leaving the Shrine of Fatima only exceptionally, there were approximately 630 thousand kilometres travelled on the five continents, approximately 15 times around the world, taking as reference the equatorial perimeter. The only exception to the exit of Statue No. 1 was its presence at World Youth Day in Panama, from 23 to 27 January, 2019.

## The Blessing and Coronation of the Pilgrim Statue

“Immediately afterwards, the procession was organized for the return of the litter of Our Lady to the Chapel of the Apparitions. The acclamations of the first procession were repeated, prayers and songs were heard again, and thousands upon thousands of handkerchiefs rose up again, many of them moistened with tears, with emotion and with joy.

The Archbishop of Evora crowns the statue of Our Lady of Fatima, which will travel the roads of Spain, France, Belgium, Holland, etc. Three princesses from Italy, France, and Portugal deliver the crown to the Archbishop of Evora. For a few moments, the enthusiasm of the pilgrims reaches delirium. The Pilgrim Statue left before sunset from Cova da Iria in the carriage that was made some time ago specifically to take to Lisbon the Statue that is venerated in the Chapel of the Apparitions. The moment of departure was full of faith and devotion. Numerous prominent personalities accompanied the Statue. The procession of cars was endless. Along the roads, men and women kneeled and wept with emotion. In the villages through which it passed, a shower of flowers fell upon it from the windows adorned with silk bedspreads or with pure white linen towels.

Our Lady of Fatima, pilgrim of Europe, thus began her triumphal journey of blessing and glory, taking her message of prayer and penance to other countries and pouring out upon them the most precious graces of her heart as mother of God and mother of humankind.

Ambadress of most faithful Portugal!!!, the heavenly Queen of Fatima, brighter than the sun, goes forth into the world, carrying to other nations her message of prayer and penance and kindling everywhere the fire of light and love, of faith and piety, which burns without ceasing, like an immense bonfire, in Cova da Iria, the place of the prayers and miracles of the Virgin”.





## Ukraine receives a visit from the Pilgrim Statue of Fatima

Since March 17, 2022, Statue No 13 of the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima has been in Ukraine, more specifically in Lviv, under the care of the Greek-Catholic Metropolitan Archbishop of the cultural capital of Ukraine.

This Statue should return to Fatima soon, being replaced permanently by a similar one offered by the Shrine last May.

The Rector of the Shrine, Father Carlos Cabecinhas, explained the meaning of this offer, saying that it comes in response to a request for the definitive transfer of the current statue that is in Ukraine, which may travel to other dioceses that request it.

"May the Queen of Peace bring peace to Ukraine," Father Carlos Cabecinhas wished.

"United in the same spirit of prayer, the Shrine of Fatima is pleased to respond positively to the request to send a statue of the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima", mentioned the letter sent by the Shrine to the Archbishop and Metropolitan of the Greek-Catholic Church of Lviv, Ihor Vozniak.

In this letter it was explained that the visit of this Statue to the Ukrainian territory, which happens for the first time, "is due to this pastoral effort of prayer for peace in the world, especially in Ukraine".

Statue No. 13 is a replica of Statue No. 1. This is the first time that the Pilgrim Statue of Fatima is in Ukraine, but the connection and devotion to Our Lady goes back a long time. On November 13, 1936, the Voice of Fatima reported on the holding of the "First Marian Congress in honour of Our Lady of Fatima in the Ukraine."

The congress, held in Tlumacz, Ukraine, formerly under the rule of Southern Russia, with the support of the Bishop of Stanislawow, included the presence of a Statue of Our Lady of Fatima blessed by the Bishop of Leiria. Besides the "conferences and preaching at the Congress", there were "many communions and a procession with the Statue of Our Lady."



## Statue no. 13 of the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima will be in Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia in September and October

*The visit was planned last year, but was postponed due to the health emergency resulting from the pandemic.*

The Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Fatima will travel to the Caucasus, between September 27 and October 30, to visit Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia. This is a symbolic journey to the cradle of Christianity that was scheduled last year, but was cancelled due to the pandemic.

The previously scheduled journey would have included a tour of the parishes and Catholic communities of the three countries, where preparations were already underway, with catechesis and celebrations alluding to the message of Fatima, with a specific intention "of reconciliation and peace", in an area where several conflicts, some reactivated during the past year, remain frozen, threatening the stability and security of the entire region.

This journey is also very important for the Shrine of Fatima, since this is a region of the European continent that has been ravaged for many years by wars and major political crises.

In a letter written to the Shrine of Fatima, the Apostolic Nuncio to Georgia and Armenia, Archbishop José Bettencourt, proposed that Statue No. 13 of the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima should be in Georgia from September 27 to October 14, in Azerbaijan from October 15 to 20 and in Armenia from October 21 to 30.

According to the Pope's diplomatic representative, this will be the first time the statue visits these territories of the former Soviet Union.

Armenia, the first country to proclaim Christianity as its religion in the distant year of 301, has been involved in a war with neighbouring Azerbaijan since 1989, and these two countries need peace and a reconciliation that is slow in coming.

The calls for peace and conversion that come from Fatima are especially timely in this region, which is still unstable and with open wounds caused by the most recent border conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, which opposes Christian Armenia and Muslim Azerbaijan. And the same can be said of Georgia, majority Orthodox, struggling with independence revolts in the regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

In March 2021, D. José Bettencourt, in declarations to the Voice of Fatima, stated: "Catholics in the Caucasus rejoice at the news of the visit of the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima to the region."

# The starting point for the 7th edition of the Summer Courses of the Shrine of Fatima was the “awareness that there is still much to study and deepen regarding Fatima”



The 7th edition of the Summer Courses of the Shrine of Fatima, held between July 6 and 8, sought to deepen the biography and the historical context of Saint Jacinta Marto.

At the opening session, the Rector of the Shrine of Fatima, Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas, recalled that “the attention to the main characters of Fatima is an approach that we believe can open productive and fruitful horizons of approach to the Fatima phenomenon”.

In these summer courses “the theme is always approached in a multidisciplinary way, and always seeks to give different complementary perspectives to enrich the range of knowledge, and to open paths of investigation, because we are aware that there is still much to study and deepen regarding Fatima”.

“The fact that this is the seventh edition is significant, since it shows the interest of both researchers and trainees”, the priest also said.

Marco Daniel Duarte, director of the Department of Studies of the Shrine of Fatima, made a presentation of this formative days to the approximately 130 participants, and explained that besides approaches on national and local history, there will also be an analysis of the religious and social context of the early 1900s.

Students in the areas of History, Art History, Pastoral Care, Theology, Museology,

Conservation and Restoration, Archivistics, Librarianship, Anthropology, Geography, Journalism, Education, Religious Sciences, Tourism, Translation, Management, Administration, Medicine, Psychology, Mathematics, Nursing, Social Communication, Music, Fine Arts, Marketing, Law, Linguistics, Agronomy and Civil Engineering, among others, were present.

The first day’s programme began with an approach to the historical period between the birth and death of the youngest Seer, focusing on the religious question at the time of the First Republic, in a presentation by Paulo Fontes, from the Centre for Religious History Studies of the Catholic University of Portugal. Before lunch, Nuno Severiano Teixeira, from the Portuguese Institute of International Relations from the NOVA University Lisbon, presented a contextualisation of Portugal’s participation in the First World War.

In the afternoon, local history specialist José Poças das Neves characterized the municipality of Ourém at the time of the apparitions, followed by a presentation on the devotional sensitivity of the Fatima narrative, in the light of thought and spirituality during the Modern and Contemporary Ages, by José Eduardo Franco, from the Centre of Global Studies of Universidade Aberta. The day ended with a visit to Casa das Candeias, the museum centre of the Francisco and Jacinta Marto Foundation.

The second day of the courses began with a reflection on the place of the child in Portuguese society, in the modern and contemporary periods, by Maria de Fátima Reis, of the Centre of History of the University of Lisbon School of Arts and Humanities, followed by a presentation, by Sónia Vazão, of the Department of Studies of the Shrine of Fatima, on the religious congregations inspired by the Message of Fatima.

Researcher Agripina Vieira, of Techn&Art, of the Polytechnic Institute of Tomar, drew, in the early afternoon, a portrait of Jacinta Marto from the sources of Fatima, a presentation that extended until the proposal that ended the afternoon: a visit to the house of Saint Francisco and Saint Jacinta Marto.

The third and last day of the courses began with “The Spiritual Portraits of Saint Jacinta Marto”, by Father Carlos Cabecinhas, Rector of the Shrine of Fatima, who began by clarifying that “the spiritual portraits of Francisco and Jacinta Marto are different”.

“When we think of Saint Jacinta, we don’t exactly think of a convert, but this is a fundamental dimension of her spiritual experience”, he said, affirming also that “Jacinta was not born a saint”.

Since the apparitions, “the lives of the little shepherds have been transformed, allowing God to live in them, to act in them through His Spirit”.

“Without conversion there is no journey of faith, no theological life, no progress on the path to holiness”, added the priest, recalling that the message of Fatima “contains a vehement call to conversion, materialized in the repeated request that men should no longer offend God, in the sadness of Our Lady as an expression of non-indifference towards the sins committed, in the call to prayer and sacrifices for sinners, but also in the testimony of Saints Francisco and Jacinta Marto”.

For Jacinta, “the love for Jesus Christ and configuration with Him was inseparable from the love for Mary and Her Immaculate Heart”.



About 130 students from different academic areas attended the meeting held at the Paul VI Pastoral Centre in Fatima.

Cátia Filipe

“The canonization was the most important pontifical pronouncement on Fatima and on the holiness of two protagonists of the Fatima event”, considers Father Carlos Cabecinhas, recalling that Jacinta and Francisco “show to the whole Church that holiness is not incompatible with childhood”.

Marco Daniel Duarte, director of the Department of Studies of the Shrine of Fatima, addressed the portraits of Jacinta Marto in artistic representations (photography and iconography). After lunch, Sónia Vazão recalled “The days of Jacinta Marto in Lisbon” and Marco Daniel Duarte finished the course with the outline of a biography of Saint Jacinta Marto.

In a statement to *Voz da Fátima*, Marco Daniel Duarte, Director of the Department of Studies of the Shrine of Fatima, explained that this educational moment “surpassed the expectations we had, namely regarding the number of participants, who came in greater numbers than we expected, as well as the variety of backgrounds, experiences and scientific areas, which ends up being very challenging both for those who direct and coordinate this work and for each of the teachers who have to capture the attention of the trainees with their different points of departure, regarding the knowledge they have about Fatima”.

“We also see that more and more people have more information about Fatima and this is very important”, added the historian.

The trainees “are not initiates in the subject, they already bring with them a lot of content, and this is also due to the courses that the Shrine of Fatima is carrying out, which are very important because they are consolidating their knowledge”.

Among the 130 participants, there were trainees from Spain, the Czech Republic and Brazil.

The Summer Courses of the Shrine of Fatima have been promoted annually by the Department of Studies of the Shrine of Fatima for researchers who intend to study the Fatima phenomenon. In 2021, the meeting focused on the “visible and invisible faces” of the Fatima phenomenon.



## Proceedings of the Symposium “Fatima, today: thinking about holiness” are available

At the closing of the 7th edition of the Summer Courses of the Shrine of Fatima, on July 8, the Acts of the Theological-Pastoral Symposium “Fatima, today: thinking about holiness”, which took place in June 2021, at the Paul VI Pastoral Center, in Fatima, were released.

The book released begins with a presentation by Marco Daniel Duarte, President of the Scientific and Organizing Committee of the Symposium.

In the first part, with the theme “Be holy, for I, Yahweh, your God, am holy” (Lev 19, 2), the texts are by Crispino Valenziano, Jerónimo Trigo, Teresa Messias and Amália Saraiva.

In the second part, with the theme “Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?” (1Cor 3, 16), the texts are by José Ornelas de Carvalho, Fabien Revol, João José Marques Eleutério and Joaquim Ganhão.

In the third and last part, with the theme “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life...” (Jn 14:6), the texts are by Carmelo Pellegrino and Gonzalo Fernández Sanz.

“Fatima, today: thinking about Holiness” was the theme of the Theological-Pastoral Symposium held in June 2021, at the Paul VI Pastoral Centre, in Fatima.

In the opening session, Cardinal D. António Marto, Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Leiria-Fatima, stated that holiness must be seen in today’s light and cannot be understood as “a patrimony of the past”.

“The future of the Church is also the history of holiness”, he said, recalling that without the saints “society is forced to suffer a dramatic shortage of friendship and harmony, as well as an excess of hatred and opposition”.

The initiative was attended by about 220 participants.

# Community in Diocese of Campos inaugurates replica of the Chapel of the Apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima

The Church of Saint John the Baptist, in the locality of Funil, Municipality of Cambuci, (RJ) Diocese of Campos, inaugurated on the day of Our Lady of Fatima, a replica of the Chapel of the Apparitions.

Ricardo Gomes | Diocese de Campos

The Church of Saint John the Baptist, in the Funil community, Cambuci municipality, inaugurated on May 13, a replica of the Little Chapel of the Apparitions in Portugal. The ceremony was presided over by Father Valdemir do Amaral who presided over the solemn mass in honour of the Mother of God, Mary Most Holy. The replica will be a place of reverence and prayer for the faithful who consecrate themselves to life and community.

A devoção e fé em Nossa Senhora de Fátima une todas as gerações que consagram

as suas vidas e a comunidade a intercessão da Mãe de Deus, e este ano a festa teve um sentido muito especial. Com o avanço da vacinação contra o Covid 19 e a redução dos casos de infectados foi possível realizar a procissão e a missa festiva com um número maior de fiéis e o momento mais emocionante foi a inauguração da réplica da Capelinha das Aparições.

The devotion and faith in Our Lady of Fatima unites all the generations who consecrate their lives and the community to the intercession of the Mother of God, and this

year the feast had a very special meaning. With the progress of vaccination against Covid 19 and the reduction in the number of infected cases, it was possible to hold the procession and the festive Mass with a greater number of faithful, and the most touching moment was the inauguration of the replica of the Little Chapel of the Apparitions.

The construction of the replica of the Little Chapel of the Apparitions is for the community a place and a landmark to revive the faith.





# Shrine expresses “gratitude and sorrow” for death of Cardinal Angelo Sodano

Dean of the College of Cardinals died of complications caused by Covid 19.

Carmo Rodeia

The Shrine of Fatima expresses “its sorrow” for the death of Cardinal Angelo Sodano and an “enormous gratitude” for the connection and attention that he always dedicated to this place and to the Message that was left here.

The Cardinal, former Vatican Secretary of State who revealed to the world the third part of the secret of Fatima, died at the age of 94, in Rome, victim of Covid-19.

An outstanding figure in the pontificates of John Paul II and Benedict XVI, the dean of the college of cardinals became closely linked to Fatima by having visited this Shrine several times, but above all because, in the performance of the particular mission entrusted to him by the Pope through his voice, the pilgrims to Cova da Iria had access, for the first time, to the contents of the third part of the Secret of Fatima.

On the solemn occasion of his visit to Fatima in May 2000, the Supreme Pontiff charged him with communicating the meaning of the third part of the Secret of Fatima.

“The vision of Fatima concerns above all the struggle of atheistic systems against the Church and Christians and describes the immense suffering of the witnesses to the faith in the last century of the second millennium. It is an endless Way of the Cross, guided by the Popes of the 20th century”, he stated in his address at Fatima, at the end of the Mass.



According to the interpretation of the Little Shepherds, confirmed by Sister Lucia, the “Bishop dressed in white” who prays for all the faithful is the Pope. He too, walking with great difficulty towards the Cross among the corpses of the martyred (bishops, priests, men and women religious and various lay people), falls to the ground as if dead from gunfire.

“After the assassination attempt of May 13, 1981, it seemed clear to His Holiness

that it was “a mother’s hand that guided the bullet’s path”, allowing the “dying Pope” to stop “at the threshold of death”, he further stated.

The diplomat, a specialist in Theology and Canon Law, has often stated his firm conviction that the message of Fatima has a relevant historical importance since it is part of “the struggle of atheistic systems against the Church”, assuring that “Our Lady of Fatima brought a message of hope which is also for families today” by “reminding them of God’s love for humankind.”

In an interview with the Shrine’s cultural magazine “Fatima in the 21st Century” in October 2015, the cardinal stated that the words of Our Lady of Fatima left in Cova da Iria – “Finally my Immaculate Heart will triumph” – “were of great Comfort” especially “in the last years of the tragic period of the latest world war, between 1943 and 1945.”

“The Lady of Fatima brought a message of hope which is also for today’s families, reminding them of God’s great love for humankind.”

Angelo Sodano was Secretary of State to Popes John Paul II, who appointed him in 1991, and to Benedict XVI, who accepted his resignation in September 2006.

On May 13, 2000, Sodano – at the request of John Paul II – revealed to the world the third part of the Secret of Fatima.



During John Paul II’s last visit to Fatima, in May 2000, the Supreme Pontiff commissioned Angelo Sodano to reveal the third part of the Secret of Fatima. In the photo, the Bishop of Leiria-Fatima asks the Holy Father for the beatification of Francisco and Jacinta Marto.

# The Paulo VI Pastoral Centre hosted the X edition of the International Religious Tourism Workshop

140 Hosted buyers, 130 Suppliers and 70 Exhibitors participated in this initiative, all of them belonging to the Tourism sector and coming from 48 countries.

Cátia Filipe



The Paulo VI Pastoral Centre, in Fátima, hosted on June 23rd and 24th the X International Workshop on Religious Tourism promoted by the Ourém-Fátima Business Association, in collaboration with the Municipality of Ourém, the Municipality of Guarda and the Shrine of Fátima.

Carlos Cabecinhas, rector of the Shrine of Fátima, addressed a word of welcome to all participants, considering that “over 10 years the attention to religious tourism has borne fruit, and today we can say that it has received an increasing attention, and much is due to this initiative”.

“We registered in 2017, the year of the Centenary of the Apparitions, 9 million

pilgrims; in 2018 about 7 million pilgrims attended the celebrations; in the year 2019 there were 6 million pilgrims,” the priest recalled, to elucidate those present of the “huge drop”, a consequence of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

“In the year 2020, only 1.4 million pilgrims were registered, and in 2021 2.5 million pilgrims, numbers below those previously noted,” he said.

The year 2022 will be a period of “clear recovery, because in May we had already surpassed the 2020 figures”.

“Some restrictions ended in 2021, but only now are we actually feeling the consequences, and as an example the international pilgrimage in May with the significant

presence of groups coming from Portugal and abroad”, reiterated Fr Carlos Cabecinhas.

The longevity of this activity “shows that it responds to an effective need”, especially due to the high number of participants.

“In the context of religious tourism, Fátima is an increasingly global reality, as was verified in the Centennial of the Apparitions and as will be evidenced in the World Youth Day in 2023”, the rector of the Shrine of Fátima reckons.

Being a world meeting “constitutes a unique opportunity to welcome young people, leaving them with the desire to return to Fátima”, he left the challenge, explaining that the pastoral orientation of the Shrine of Fátima is already turned to this event.

Msr Américo Aguiar, Auxiliary Bishop of Lisbon and President of the WYD Lisbon 2023 Foundation, spoke of some practical aspects of this world meeting of youth and reminded those present at the X International Workshop on Religious Tourism that many young people will have the experience of Fátima, including the Pope, who has several times expressed his desire to return to Cova da Iria.

The main objectives of the International Religious Tourism Workshop are to promote a list of business contacts between participants, to promote Portugal internationally as a privileged destination for Religious Tourism and to reinforce the importance of Religious Tourism in the context of the world tourism sector.

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