



FÁTIMA LUZ E PAZ

Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima

Director: Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas

Quarterly publication

Ano 21

76

*Like Mary, bearers of joy and love:
Mary rose up and went with haste*

“Mary rose up and went with haste”

Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas

The guiding theme for the new pastoral year at the Shrine is the one already defined by the Pope for the World Youth Day, which will be held in Lisbon, in July: “Mary rose up and went with haste”.

The theme is a biblical quote of the evangelical episode of the Visitation (Luke 1:39). The greeting of the Angel still resounded in Mary when she set out for Isabel’s home, she became a pilgrim, moved by solicitude and joy. In Mary we discover the readiness for God and for His will: “She rose up and went with haste”. In the message addressed to young women and men for the World Youth Day in Lisbon, Pope Francis states that “a healthy haste drives us always upwards and towards others”. This theme exhorts us to imitate Mary in the urgency of seeking God and in the solicitous care for others. Mary also was the first bearer of Jesus Christ, becoming a model for all the disciples of Jesus, for all Christians.

To read the theme chosen by the Pope in the light of the message of Fatima, we turn to the words of Saint Jacinta Marto: “If I could only put into the hearts of all the fire that is burning within my own heart, and that makes me love the Hearts of Jesus and Mary so very much!” Like Mary, we too are challenged to rise up and go with haste to show our own faith, to put into the hearts of all the love of God, that fire that burned within Saint Jacinta’s own heart and made her “love the Hearts of Jesus and Mary so very much!”: a love which is also expressed in the solicitude for others, always so present in the little seer’s life. Reading the theme for this year in the light of the message of Fatima, we discover the intrinsic missionary dynamism which we are challenged to take on in our own lives.

The World Youth Day is an event of enormous ecclesial importance, with which the Shrine wants to be in tune. However, it is an event which does not only concern young women and men: it concerns the whole Church and its theme is relevant to all Christians. Thus, let us imitate Mary, who rose up and went with haste.

The World Youth Day “will mark the life of the Shrine throughout this new pastoral year, with the presence of the Pope in Fatima”

Father Carlos Cabecinhas presented the pastoral plan for 2023 at the Coordinamento Nazionale Pellegrinaggi Italiani (CNPI), in Rome.

Cátia Filipe

Father Carlos Cabecinhas, Rector of the Shrine of Fatima, spoke about the year of 2022 that “was marked by the return of organised groups of pilgrims to Fatima, at the meeting of the Coordinamento Nazionale Pellegrinaggi Italiani, in Rome.

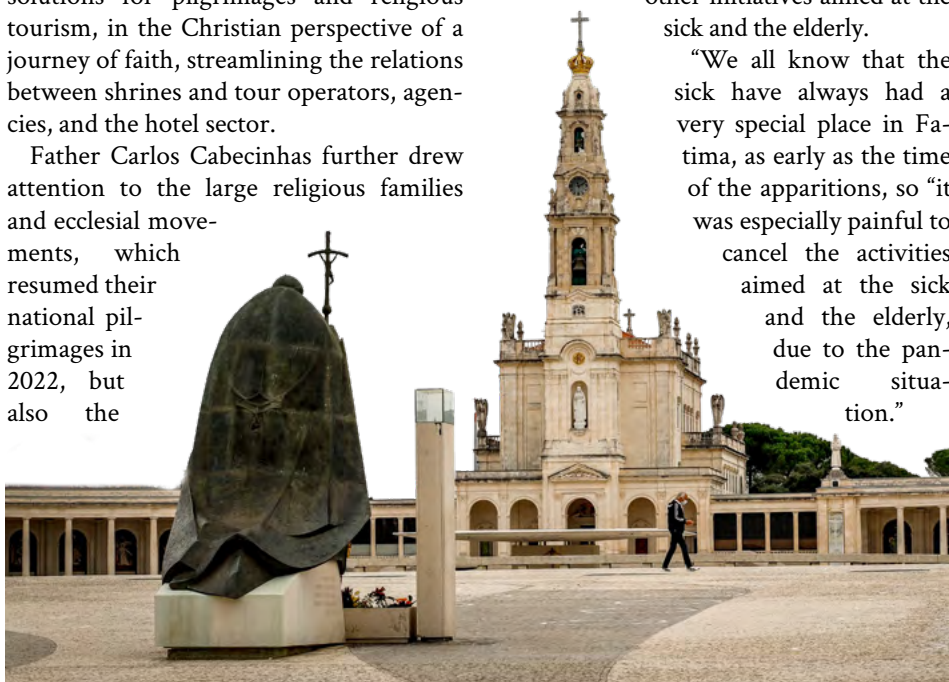
The CNPI brings together those responsible for Italian pilgrimages and all the institutions which organise pilgrimages in Italy. This pastoral organisation has specific commissions which analyse and propose solutions for pilgrimages and religious tourism, in the Christian perspective of a journey of faith, streamlining the relations between shrines and tour operators, agencies, and the hotel sector.

Father Carlos Cabecinhas further drew attention to the large religious families and ecclesial movements, which resumed their national pilgrimages in 2022, but also the

pilgrimages of the several Portuguese dioceses, to which we naturally add the foreign groups “which we have been able to welcome with joy”.

“We can say that, in the second half of 2022, the affluence to Fatima returned to the usual record, in terms of affluence of pilgrims, even surpassing, in some moments, our expectations”, reiterated Father Carlos Cabecinhas, also pointing out the resumption of retreats for the sick and other initiatives aimed at the sick and the elderly.

“We all know that the sick have always had a very special place in Fatima, as early as the time of the apparitions, so “it was especially painful to cancel the activities aimed at the sick and the elderly, due to the pandemic situation.”



The World Youth Day “will mark the life of the Shrine throughout this new pastoral year, with the presence of the Pope in Fatima”



At the end of 2020, the Shrine of Fatima began a pastoral triennium on the theme “Like Mary, bearers of joy and love”. From the beginning, this triennium has had on the horizon to hold the World Youth Day (WYD) in Lisbon, in August 2023.

If for the definition of the theme of the previous two years the choice was based on the themes presented by the Pope for the preparation of the Day, for the current year the theme chosen was the same of the World Youth Day: “Mary rose up and went with haste”.

“This theme exhorts us to imitate Mary in the urgency of seeking God and in the solicitous care for others”, considers the Rector of the Shrine of Fatima, also affirming that like Mary “we are challenged to rise up and go with haste to show our own faith”.

The Rector of the Shrine of Fatima announced that for the experience of this pastoral year, several supporting elements were prepared, such as the poster and other graphics that aim to recall, throughout the year, the theme that guides the life of the Shrine; a prayer itinerary will be maintained as a proposal to pilgrims, although a prayer itinerary is being prepared for the young women and men who come to

Fatima for the WYD 2023; an “Activity Programme” will also be available, only in digital format, but accessible to all the interested parties.

However, it will be the World Youth Day that “will mark the life of the Shrine throughout this new pastoral year, with the presence of the Pope in Fatima, something that makes us very happy”.

The Shrine is preparing to “welcome the many young women and men who, we believe, will visit us for the World Youth Day”.

Thus, integrated in the dynamics of the World Youth Day, “it has to offer, especially in the period preceding and following the WYD, a programme aimed at young women and men”.

“We want to emphasise the meaning of pilgrimage and therefore we created six ways to reach Fatima on foot, for the young women and men who want to make a pilgrimage on foot to Fatima, with distances varying between a maximum of 15 km and a minimum of 5 km”, explained Father Carlos Cabecinhas, adding that workshops and several proposals for reflexion and prayer are being prepared, in the form of a pilgrim’s itinerary, with schemes of prayer and spiritual experience of Fatima, which

will be aimed at all the young women and men who intend to visit Fatima during the period preceding and following the WYD in Lisbon.

“The organisation of the WYD asked the Shrine of Fatima to hold an exhibition for young women and men in the centre of Lisbon, in the context of the Youth Festival. “The objective is to make Fatima known and to provide, in some way, the experience of the Shrine. As an answer to this request, we are preparing an interactive exhibition, which can be visited during the days of the WYD, in downtown Lisbon”, added the Rector, recalling that in the next pilgrimage on the 12th and the 13th of May 2023, “we will count with the presence of the symbols of the WYD, which, being in the diocese of Leiria-Fátima, will be integrated in the celebrations in Cova da Iria”.

“It will be a moment to draw attention to this great world ecclesial event”, he said.

A “Youth Village” is also being prepared, in partnership with other entities, to welcome the groups and which will operate mainly in the period preceding the WYD, from the 27th of July onwards, and until the 11th of August, for the groups visiting only Cova da Iria after the closing of the WYD in Lisbon.

The Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Fatima will travel through Europe, America, and Africa

More than 100,000 kilometres will be travelled by the 12 pilgrim statues of Our Lady of Fatima during this year.

Diogo Carvalho Alves



In 2023, the 12 statues of the Pilgrim Virgin of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima will travel more than 100,000 kilometres through three continents, on a journey which will take this Marian icon to: Italy, France, Angola, Brazil, Colombia, and the United States of America.

For now, 15 trips are scheduled on the travel calendar of the Pilgrim Virgin for this year, with Italy being the country with the greatest number of requested pilgrimages to the Shrine of Fatima.

During Easter, Pilgrim Statue No. 4 will travel through several Italian dioceses, thus fulfilling a request which reached Cova da Iria through the Messaggio di Fatima Marian Movement. A stop in the Roman parish of San Roberto Bellarmino between the 13th and the 21st of May is scheduled. During the same liturgical period, Statue No. 10 will travel to Milan, an initiative of the World Apostolate of Fatima in the Lombardy region. In this transalpine country, Pilgrim Virgin No. 6 will also be present, from the 29th of April to the 15th of May, in the parish of Maria Santissima Immacolata in Scauri, in the Lazian region of Gaeta, and, six months later, from the

7th to the 15th of October, in the parish of San Sossio Levita e Martire. The parishes on the outskirts of Turin will be visited by Pilgrim Virgin No. 13 during the month of May, and, from the 28th of April to the 8th of May, Statue No. 7 will be in the city of Venice, in the Community of Saint Mark. Afterwards, and at the request of the Ecclesiale Famiglia del Cuore Immacolato di Maria Movement, the Statue will be in several Italian dioceses until October.

In Portugal, Pilgrim Virgin No. 2 will be in the parish of São João Batista in Runa, Torres Vedras, between the 10th and the 25th of April. For the month of July, in the period preceding the World Youth Day, the National Scout Corp (CNE) requested the presence of this Statue in Lisbon. During the week from the 25th to the 29th of September, and at the request of the Salvista Pastoral Unit of Gândara, this Statue will be in Coimbra.

Pilgrim Statue No. 2 of Our Lady of Fatima is scheduled to travel to the African continent during the month of May, period in which it will be in the parish of Our Lady of Fatima, in Luanda, to mark the 60th anniversary of the parish, as well as the 75th

anniversary of the presence of the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin in Angola.

On the other side of the Atlantic, Pilgrim Virgin No. 3 will be, between the 26th of April and the 5th of July, in the parish of Our Lady of Fatima, in Sumaré, São Paulo, Brazil, country where Statue No. 9 will also be, from the 28th to the 13th of June, this time further north, at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, in Rio de Janeiro.

Both Pilgrim Statues No. 8 and No. 11 will travel to North America, to Saint Mary's parish, in Paterson, and to the Archdiocese of Newark, respectively, both in the United States of America.

Currently underway are the trips of Pilgrim Virgin No. 5 to the diocese of Nanterre, in France, which began on the 1st of last October and will continue until the 31st of August 2023, as well as the tour to the dioceses of Colombia, which runs from May 2022 to May 2024.

In 2022, the Pilgrim Statues of Our Lady of Fatima made a similar number of trips, in a global pilgrimage which took them to: Portuguese parishes, Spain, France, Italy, Ukraine, the Caucasus, the United States of America, Nicaragua, Argentina, and Chile.

The Shrine of Fatima pays tribute to Benedict XVI and highlights the contributions of the German Pope for the interpretation and valorisation of the Message of Fatima



Besides the bells having rung three times on the day of his death and also on the day of his funeral, Fatima was represented at the funeral rites in Rome at the highest level, with Cardinal António Marto and the titular Bishop of the diocese, José Ornelas Carvalho.

Carmo Rodeia

The relevance given by the late Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI to Fatima and its Message was evoked by the various interlocutors of the Shrine, from the Rector to the Bishop of the diocese in the various interventions made after the death of the Germanic pontiff on December 31.

Joseph Ratzinger visited Fatima on different occasions, although only once as Pope Benedict XVI, but his “affection” and above all his theological reflection were “very important” for the affirmation of Fatima.

“In his pilgrimage to this Shrine, Benedict XVI recalled the prophetic mission of the message of Fatima: ‘Anyone who thought that the prophetic mission of Fatima is finished would be deceived’. In this way, the Pope underlined the topicality of the message of Fatima and called attention to the importance of Our Lady’s appeals in this place,” said the rector, in the homily of the

first Mass celebrated after the confirmation of the Pope emeritus’ death, as he recalled the presence of the Holy Father in Cova da Iria, in May 2010, and the focus he gave to the message of Fatima, at that time and on other occasions during his pontificate.

“Both on that pilgrimage and on other occasions, Benedict XVI mentioned Fatima several times as well as the importance of its message. He characterized Fatima as “school of faith” and as “Cenacle of faith”, in which “the Virgin Mary shows us the way for our pure and holy oblation into the hands of the Father”. Later, he would say that Fatima “is a school of faith and hope, because it is also a school of charity and service to our brothers and sisters.”

Father Carlos Cabecinhas gave thanks for the life of Benedict XVI, whom he described as “a man of enormous love for the Church, who spent himself in its service.”

“We give thanks to God for his witness and his life. And here, in Fatima, we also want to express our gratitude for the special affection he dedicated to this Shrine and the special attention he gave to the message of Fatima, both before his election as Pope and during his pontificate.”

Also in a message of sorrow addressed to all diocesans on the occasion of the death of the German Pope, the Bishop of the Diocese of Leiria-Fatima underlined the role of Benedict XVI in the projection of Fatima.

“The theological commentaries which he developed, while still Prefect of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, on the third part of the so-called Secret of Fatima, as well as his visits to the Shrine, were decisive for the balanced interpretation of the message of Fatima and for its credible diffusion, in the Church and in the world” stated Bishop José Ornelas Carvalho.

“He was well convinced that there is a path of faith in the message of Fatima [in the school of Mary], with consequences for the individual and social life of the disciples of Jesus,” the diocesan prelate further said, underlining “the gift he was for all of us and for the whole Church, during his service as eminent theologian and illuminator; for his search for ways and languages to speak of the faith in a credible way to the men and women of our times; for the dialogue between faith and culture he promoted; for his active participation in the Second Vatican Council and its correct implementation in the Church; for the ecumenical dialogue with the Christian churches, in search of ways of understanding and communion.”

On a more personal note, he recalled the mark that Ratzinger’s theological studies left on him during his youth and the personal relationship he had with him in Rome.

“From the first phase, I remember above all the admirable professor and credible teacher of the faith; from the second, I retain the cordial and friendly attitude with which he welcomed and talked with those who addressed him,” said Bishop José Ornelas Carvalho.

The bishop of Leiria-Fatima, who is also the president of the Portuguese Episcopal Conference, highlights the moment of resignation as an “example of coherent service” and “love for the Church”.

“In his faithfully considered decision (the resignation), Pope Benedict XVI shows to all those who exercise functions of responsibility, in the Church and society, that the most important thing is to serve, faithfully and generously, in the image of the Good Shepherd, without the pretension of personal protagonism and without privatizing positions, but with freedom, effort, and joy, knowing to step off when the time comes, so that others may continue the same service, in the vineyard of the Lord.

The funeral of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI took place in the Vatican on 5 January, in a solemn but sober manner, according to

his wish, six days after his death, in accordance with tradition, and was presided over by Pope Francis, which happened for the first time in the history of the Church in 600 years. In fact, in this interval of time, Benedict XVI was the first Pope to resign the pontificate having lived with his successor for 10 years. Between his death and burial, the body of Benedict XVI was exposed in St Peter’s Basilica until the day before the funeral. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, who has died aged 95, shook the Church when he resigned from the pontificate for health reasons on 11 February 2013, two months away from celebrating eight years in office.

Joseph Ratzinger was born in 1927 in Marktl am Inn, in the German diocese of Passau, and was Pope between 2005 and 2013. He became the first German to head the Catholic Church

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many centuries and a representative of the

Church’s most dogmatic line. The sexual abuse of minors by priests and “Vatileaks”, a case in which confidential documents of the pope were revealed, shook his pontificate. Benedict XVI ordered an inspection of the dioceses involved, branded the abuse a “heinous crime” and apologised to the victims. During his trip to Portugal in May 2010, Benedict XVI said that “forgiveness is no substitute for justice”.



Benedict XVI:

Joseph Ratzinger, proclaimed Cardinal in 1977 and appointed as Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in 1981, Dean of the College of Cardinals since 2002, was born in Marktl am Inn, in the territory of the Diocese of Passau (Germany), on 16 April 1927, into a modest family.

Carmo Rodeia

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His days of youth were far from easy. His faith and family upbringing prepared him, however, for the harsh experience of the problems connected with the Nazi regime: he remembered seeing his parish priest being beaten by the Nazis before celebrating Holy Mass, and experienced the fiercely hostile atmosphere towards the Catholic Church in Germany. But it was precisely in this complex situation that he discovered the beauty and truth of faith in Christ, and the role of his family was fundamental, which always continued to live as a crystal-clear witness of goodness and hope rooted in conscientious belonging to the Church, reads the official biography, published by the Vatican, of the Pope Emeritus, who died on 31 December last.

On 29 June 1951 he was ordained priest. A year later he began his teaching activity at the same Frisinga School where he had been a student. In 1953 he graduated in theology with a dissertation on the theme: "People and House of God in the Doctrine of the Church of St Augustine". After several years of teaching in various schools of theology, he began to publish texts and papers on theological reflection. His conference at the Catholic Academy of Bavaria on the theme: "Why am I still in the Church?" had a great resonance. On this occasion he declared with his usual clarity: "It is possible to be a Christian only in the Church and not alongside the Church".

On 24 March 1977 Pope Paul VI appointed him Archbishop of Munich and Freising. He was the first diocesan priest in 80 years to take on the pastoral governance of this large Bavarian Diocese. He chose

as his episcopal motto: "Fellow Worker in the Truth". Pope Montini proclaimed him Cardinal with the title of "St. Mary the Consoler at Tiburtino" in the Consistory of 27 June 1977.

He was General Rapporteur in the Fifth General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops (1980) on the theme of the Christian Family in the contemporary world.

On 25 November 1981 he was appointed by Pope John Paul II as Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. He also became President of the Biblical Commission and of the Pontifical International Theological Commission.

His service as Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith was tireless and it is almost impossible to list his work in the space of a biography. He was John Paul II's co-worker until the end.

"Follow me!" was the key word, the guiding idea of the homily that Cardinal Ratzinger addressed to the whole world during the funeral of the Holy Father. A word that narrates the mission of John Paul II and at the same time an exhortation that reaches out to all people.

Benedict XVI was not a consensual Pope, but from early on he was linked to Fatima and there will be little doubt that the jour-



Interpreter of the Secret of Fatima

ney that passed through Lisbon, Fatima and Porto, was essentially dedicated to the little shepherds of Fatima, since it was then ten years since Francisco and Jacinta were beatified.

“I am sure that the Little Shepherds of Fatima, Blessed Francisco and Jacinta and the Servant of God Lucia of Jesus accompany us in this hour of prayer and jubilation,” he said.

At the Mass of 13 May, Benedict XVI presented “that Light deep within the shepherd children, which comes from the future of God, is the same Light which was manifested in the fullness of time and came for us all”.

“We must cultivate an interior watchfulness of the heart which, for most of the time, we do not possess on account of the powerful pressure exerted by outside realities and the images and concerns which fill our soul”, the Holy Father warned, reiterating that those who think that “Fatima’s prophetic mission is complete” would be “mistaken”.

In his theological commentary to the third part of the Secret of Fatima, which speaks of a “Bishop dressed in white” who walks amidst ruins and corpses, an image associated with the attempt suffered by John Paul II on his life on May 13, 1981,

Benedict XVI stated that “in this vision of the Pope’s suffering it is possible to see, in the first instance, Pope John Paul II,” but also “realities of the future of the Church” that are “developing and showing themselves”.

“The important thing is that the message, the answer of Fatima, does not go substantially in the direction of particular devotions, but precisely in the fundamental answer, that is, permanent conversion, penance, prayer, and the three theological virtues: faith, hope and charity,” he maintained.

In Fatima, after several speeches and homilies, the striking image was a moment without words: the Pope in silence, eyes fixed on the image of Our Lady of Fatima in the Chapel of the Apparitions.

On the afternoon of May 12, 2010, Benedict XVI delivered a Golden Rose to the Shrine of Fatima, becoming the first Pope to do so in person on Portuguese land.

At the Mass of 13 May, Benedict XVI presented before hundreds of thousands of people the fruit of his decades-long reflection on the events of 1917: “God, who is more deeply present to me than I am to myself, has the power to come to us, particularly through our inner senses, so that the soul can receive the gentle touch of a reality which is beyond the senses and which enables us to reach what is not accessible or visible to the senses.”

“For this to happen, we must cultivate an interior watchfulness of the heart which, for most of the time, we do not possess on account of the powerful pressure exerted by outside realities and the images and concerns which fill our soul. Yes! God can come to us, and show himself to the eyes of our heart”, he concluded.

On the day of his death, members of the Church, society and politics praised his qualities as a person, intellectual, theologian and humanist, a man who knew how to think the world, especially Europe.



The Pope's words about Fatima: school of faith, hope and charity

"I would like finally to mention another key expression of the 'secret' which has become justly famous: 'My Immaculate Heart will triumph.' What does this mean? The Heart open to God, purified by contemplation of God, is stronger than guns and weapons of every kind. The 'fiat' of Mary, the word of her heart, has changed the history of the world, because it brought the Savior into the world—because, thanks to her 'Yes', God could become man in our world and remains so for all time. The Evil One has power in this world, as we see and experience continually, he has power because our freedom continually lets itself be led away from God. But since God himself took a human heart and has thus steered human freedom towards what is good, the freedom to choose evil no longer has the last word. From that time forth, the world that prevails is this: 'In the world you will have tribulation, but take heart; I have overcome the world' (Jn 16:33). The message of Fatima invites us to trust this promise."



CARDINAL JOSEPH RATZINGER

**THEOLOGICAL COMMENTARY
ON THE SECRET OF FATIMA**
June 26, 2000

"[...] I am pleased to think of Fatima as a school of faith with the Virgin Mary as the teacher; there she established her 'chair' to teach the young Seers, and then the multitudes, the eternal truths and the art of praying, believing and loving.

With the humble attitude of students who need to learn the lesson, entrust daily to the illustrious Teacher and the Mother of the whole Christ each one of you and your priests, your direct collaborators in the guidance of the flock, the consecrated men and women who anticipate Heaven on earth, and the faithful who model the earth on the image of Heaven. [...]"

BENEDICT XVI

10 November 2007

"[...] Before all else, I want to say how happy I am to be going to Fatima, to pray before Our Lady of Fatima. For us, Fatima is a sign of the presence of faith, of the fact that it is precisely from the little ones that faith gains new strength, one which is not limited to the little ones but has a message for the entire world

and touches history here and now, and sheds light on this history. [...] The important thing is that the message, the response of Fatima to the sufferings of humankind and the Church, in substance is not directed to particular devotions, but precisely to the fundamental response, that is, to ongoing conversion, penance, prayer, and the three theological virtues: faith, hope and charity. Thus we see here the true, fundamental response which the Church must give – which we, every one of us, must give in this situation. As for the new things which we can find in this message today, there is also the fact that attacks on the Pope and the Church come not only from without, but the sufferings of the Church come precisely from within the Church, from the sin existing within the Church. This too is something that we have always known, but today we are seeing it in a really terrifying way: that the greatest persecution of the Church comes not from her enemies without, but arises from sin within the Church, and that the Church thus has a deep need to relearn penance, to accept purification, to learn forgiveness on the one hand, but also the need for justice. Forgiveness does not replace justice. In a word, we need to relearn precisely this essential: conversion, prayer, penance and the theological virtues. This is our response, we are realists in expect-

ing that evil always attacks, attacks from within and without, yet that the forces of good are also ever present and that, in the end, the Lord is more powerful than evil and Our Lady is for us the visible, motherly guarantee of God's goodness, which is always the last word in history. [...]"

BENEDICT XVI

**REPLY TO JOURNALISTS
DURING THE FLIGHT TO PORTUGAL**
11 May 2010

"[...] All of you, standing together with lighted candles in your hands, seem like a sea of light around this simple chapel, lovingly built to the honour of the Mother of God and our mother, whose path from earth to heaven appeared to the shepherd children like a way of light. However, neither Mary nor we have a light of our own: we receive it from Jesus. His presence within us renews the mystery and the call of the burning bush which once drew Moses on Mount Sinai and still fascinates those aware of the light within us which burns without consuming us (cf. Ex 3:2-5). We are merely a bush, but one upon which the glory of God has now come down. To him therefore be every glory, and to us the humble confession of our nothingness and the unworthy adoration of the divine plan which will be fulfilled when "God

will be all in all" (cf. 1 Cor 15:28). The matchless servant of that plan was the Virgin full of grace: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord: let it be done to me according to your word" (Lk 1:38). [...] The devotion and affection of all of you, the faithful who have come here from all around the world, is clear to me. I bring with me the worries and hopes of our times, the sufferings of our wounded humanity and the problems of the world, and I place them at the feet of Our Lady of Fatima. [...]"

BENEDICT XVI

AT THE CANDLELIGHT PROCESSION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL ANNIVERSARY PILGRIMAGE

12 May 2010

"[...] Dearly beloved brothers and sisters, I too have come as a pilgrim to Fatima, to this «home» from which Mary chose to speak to us in modern times. I have come to Fatima to rejoice in Mary's presence and maternal protection. I have come to Fatima, because today the pilgrim Church, willed by her Son as the instrument of evangelization and the sacrament of salvation, converges upon this place. I have come to Fatima to pray, in union with Mary and so many pilgrims, for our human family, afflicted as it is by various ills and sufferings. Finally, I have come to Fatima with the same sentiments as those of Blessed Francisco and Jacinta, and the Servant of God Lúcia, in order to entrust to Our Lady the intimate confession that «I love» Jesus, that the Church and priests «love» him and desire to keep their gaze fixed upon him as this Year for Priests comes to its end, and in order to entrust to Mary's maternal protection priests, consecrated men and women, missionaries and all those who by their good works make the House of God a place of welcome and charitable outreach. [...] We would be mistaken to think that Fatima's prophetic mission is complete. [...] In sacred Scripture we often find that

God seeks righteous men and women in order to save the city of man and he does the same here, in Fatima, when Our Lady asks: «Do you want to offer yourselves to God, to endure all the sufferings which he will send you, in an act of reparation for the sins by which he is offended and of supplication for the conversion of sinners?» [...] At that time it was only to three children, yet the example of their lives spread and multiplied, especially as a result of the travels of the Pilgrim Virgin, in countless groups throughout the world dedicated to the cause of fraternal solidarity. May the seven years which separate us from the centenary of the apparitions hasten the fulfilment of the prophecy of the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, to the glory of the Most Holy Trinity."

BENEDICT XVI

HOMILY AT THE MASS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL ANNIVERSARY PILGRIMAGE

13 may 2010

"[...] "I am very happy to meet you in this holy place where God chose to remind mankind, through Mary, of his plan of merciful love. [...] History presently offers us a scenario of socio-economic, cultural and spiritual crisis, which highlights the need for a discernment guided by a creative proposal of the Church's social message. [...] All this fits very closely with the message of Our Lady which resounds in this place: penance, prayer and forgiveness aimed at the conversion of hearts. In this way you are building the civilization of love, whose seeds God has sown in the heart of every man and woman, to which faith in Christ the Saviour gives abundant growth."

BENEDICT XVI

SPEECH GIVEN AT THE MEETING WITH SOCIAL PASTORAL ORGANIZATIONS

13 may 2010

CHRONOLOGY OF AN AFFECTIVE AND THEOLOGICAL BOND

OCTOBER 14, 2007

After the recitation of the 'Angelus', Benedict XVI addresses the pilgrims of the Shrine of Fatima gathered in the newly dedicated Church of the Most Holy Trinity, recalling that in the Shrine of Fatima, "for ninety years, the calls of the Virgin Mother continue to echo, calling her children to live their own baptismal consecration in every moment of their existence."

NOVEMBER 10, 2007

In his address to the Portuguese bishops on their "Ad Limina Apostolorum" visit, Benedict XVI ends with a reference to "Fatima as a school of faith".

MAY 13, 2009

In a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, Benedict XVI recalled the apparitions of Fatima.

SEPTEMBER 24, 2009

Communiqué of the Secretary of State of the Vatican informing that on May 13, 2010 Benedict XVI will preside over the celebration of the anniversary of the first Marian apparition at Fatima.

MAY 12 AND 13, 2010

Benedict XVI presides over the May Anniversary Pilgrimage in Cova da Iria. Upon arrival at the Chapel of the Apparitions, he prays before the statue of Our Lady of Fatima, next to which he places the Golden Rose. That same day, after celebrating Vespers with priests, deacons, religious and seminarians, he presides over the recitation of the Rosary. On the 13th, Benedict XVI presides over the Mass in the prayer area of the Shrine of Fatima, addresses the agents of the Social Pastoral and meets with the bishops of the Portuguese Episcopal Conference. He bids farewell to the Shrine of Fatima on the morning of the 14th. Already in Rome, he recalls several times the pastoral visit to Portugal, namely during the general audience and the prayer of the Regina Caeli. On this last occasion, he says of the celebration of Fatima: "What did that great multitude on the square in front of the Shrine experience, where we were truly all of one heart and one soul? It was a renewed Pentecost."

OCTOBER 12, 2013

The statue of Our Lady of Fatima that is venerated in the Little Chapel arrives in Rome and is immediately taken to Benedict XVI, in the Mater Ecclesiae Monastery, where it was received by the Pope Emeritus, who led a brief prayer day.

MAY 21, 2016

Already after his resignation from the pontificate, Benedict XVI broke his silence to reaffirm that the publication of the so-called 'Secret of Fatima' was "complete after the disclosure of its third part, in the year 2000."

The Holy Laus perennis is being held in the Shrine of Fatima since January 1, 1960

The Holy Laus perennis is a chapel that has always been open for more than 60 years to those who want to open their hearts to the Lord. The hours are marked by a silent rhythm, of those who enter and leave, since January 1st, 1960.

Msgr. João Pereira Venâncio, Bishop of Leiria at the time, communicated to the pilgrims, on the 13th November 1959, that after the pontifical he would celebrate, on the turn of the year to 1960, he would take the Blessed Sacrament to the Chapel of Our Lady of Carmel, initiating the Holy Laus perennis, perpetual adoration, day and night, in solemn exhibition, which had been a desire of his predecessor.

After several places, on July 13, 2008, the Laus perennis began to take place in the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament, located in the Galilee of the Apostles St. Peter and St. Paul, on the lower floor of the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity.

The Our Lady of Fatima's Sisters of Reparation, present from the very beginning, accompanied the various places where Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament took place, thus putting into practice No. 5 of their constitution which states: "In the celebration of the Eucharist and in Eucharistic Adoration we receive the light and strength necessary to live our generous self-giving to God and to our neighbour".

Sister Amália Saraiva, Superior of the Community of Our Lady of Fatima's Sisters of Reparation of the House of Our Lady of

Sorrows, in Fatima, spends at least one hour in Eucharistic Adoration daily, usually during the morning period.

"This moment has a structuring weight and significance, in the way that Fr. Formigão said that the Eucharist is the most important moment of our day, and I would say that Adoration is an extension, towards thanksgiving, because there, in direct contact with God, my life is organized, not in the programmatic sense, but in the sense of gaining value and direction, serenity, and gaining the spirit with which to live the rest of the day", explains the nun, in an interview with the newspaper A Voz da Fatima (Voice of Fatima).

In a world full of challenges and demands, "the Laus perennis today means what is essential, that is, it stands for all that we lack, which is to stop, to be silent, to stand before God, but also before ourselves and from there give a deeper meaning to our life and our daily routine.

Sister Amalia considers that adoration helps her "organize and reorganize" life, "much through this space of silence, of encounter", and for this reason "we must make it possible for God to become a voice in us, and listen to Him, and adoration is to recognize this presence, and with so many demands of our routine it is easy to forget this presence, and hence the need to stop, to take a long time in the presence of God".

"It is necessary to allow God to enter us in this peaceful way, opposite to the revolution that we watch through the news, the social

networks", because "peace and serenity allow us to analyse things in a profound way, and in this sense, adoration and its meaning takes us back to what is essential, to what we need".

Sister Amalia believes that people who attend the Holy Laus perennis "seek that silence, that peace".

"How many times people come to us, hand us papers, asking us to pray for a certain intention, and what I read are revelations of worries, anguish, and the turbulence that they bring with them and that many times they are not able to verbalise there", she says.

Those who go to the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, without empirical data, are often "people who keep some restlessness in themselves, and many remain like us in silence, and others cry, I hear that crying, and that disturbs me, because adoration is not an intimate or self-centred moment, it is a moment that exposes us before God and takes us out of our comfort, because we do not go there just for us, we also go there for all those who fear being there".

"We don't know how far the influence of our adoration goes, it is not ours in a narrow and closed sense, it belongs to everyone," adds Sr Amália Saraiva, with the young people in mind.

Since Pope Francis announced that World Youth Day would take place in Portugal, "we are invited to pray



“The Laus perennis today stands for all that we lack, which is to stop, to be silent, to stand before God, but also before ourselves and from there give a deeper meaning to our life and our daily routine”.

Cátia Filipe

more intensely for all young people, and this is the best way to help them”.

“It is very difficult for the Church to communicate with young people, because we are not in the places they go to, whether physical or digital places, and we do not use the same kind of language,” laments the religious, who believes that the great challenge “is to create a pedagogy of communication, but we do not know how to do it.”

So every day Sister Amalia has young people in her intentions “in a loving and tender way”, because she says that “it is not easy to show that the intimate encounter with God could be good for them”.

“It is not easy to take them out of a world that is imposed on them, gradually God has been banished from societies, has been excluded from our language and our life,” she further warns.

The Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament is one of the most discreet and reserved places in the Shrine of Fatima. Paradoxical to the praying crowds, it is a place where silence and surrender come together, with the purpose of giving primordial place to God in the heart of everyone who goes there.

Ilda Menezes coordinates the group of volunteers who ensure adoration during the night, but she has been doing Eucharistic Adoration for more than 20 years.

She started with the 11pm to midnight shift, and the first time, “as an experience, I remember the inner touch I felt, it was something very decisive for me, as if it was an answer to a longing I had”.

Originally from Madeira Island, she has a happy background and has lived in Fatima for 24 years.

“To adore the Lord is necessary, since it is our duty towards Him, to put Him in the first place”, she considers, even saying that “this discovery of God in our life is a happy experience of intimacy with Him, and is indispensable to the life of anyone who calls himself Christian and wishes to know God”.

“No one can say they don’t have time, the Lord is exposed 24 hours a day, every day, and each person can be there as long as they can, as they feel, in a free way, no one is excluded,” she explains.

When asked who the volunteers that accompany the Lord during the night are, she says that they are “simple” people who want to “discover and have God in their life, and they carry this into their routine”.

“Sometimes it is difficult to begin, but by beginning slowly, the Lord captivates”, she concludes.

The director of the Department of Liturgy of the Shrine of Fatima, Fr Joaquim Ganhão, recalls that the message of Fatima has a “clearly Eucharistic mark from the beginning”.

“This dimension is very present in the whole spirituality of the Little Shepherds, contemplating God, consoling God, especial-

ly Francisco,” he says, explaining that in the life of the Shrine, Eucharistic adoration is a prolongation of the Eucharist.

The Shrine of Fatima has at least seven Eucharistic celebrations daily, and “we have the consequence of these moments, which is the real and continuous presence of the Lord”, and for this reason “from early on, the Permanent Praise was instituted, which is basically an invitation to keep the Lord company in prayer”.

This moment of prayer “is a way of concretizing spirituality, which Our Lady invited us to do here, because the whole life of the Church and of the world passes through here, and nothing that is present in the heart of man is foreign to the heart of God.”

“Eucharistic adoration is first of all an interior attitude,” the priest warned, explaining that “it is not enough to be silent, one must be attuned to prayerful silence, a silence surrendered to God.”

“There is often a physical silence that is not an interior silence, of those who want to impose their agenda on God”, in a world full of demands, “more serious than the external noise is the interior noise, of those who can no longer stop, and so the chapel of the Sacred Laus perennis can be a space of interior appeasement”.

This chapel has 200 seats and is accessible all day, from the Galilee of the Apostles Saint Peter and Saint Paul. The silver ostensory was made by the sculptor Zulmiro de Carvalho and dates from 1986.



Permanent exhibition of the Shrine reopens after refurbishment



The permanent exhibition of the Museum of the Shrine of Fatima has reopened its doors. Now, visitors will be able to admire the crown of Our Lady of Fatima from all perspectives, since the display where it is shown takes centre stage in the very first room. The signage and contextualization of the spaces were improved, with panels produced from the historical and photographic documentation of the Museum, and new works were integrated into the exhibition, namely the crozier that Cardinal António Marto offered Our Lady of Fatima, at the end of his mandate as bishop of Leiria-Fatima.

The oldest item in the Museum of the Shrine's collection – a chalice from 1610 – can also be seen in the renewed exhibition, which gathers only offerings left by pilgrims to Our Lady.

“Every item that is here represents a very special experience. We have the precious crown, the most important work in the exhibition, but also offerings from movements, dioceses, countries, we have some custodies, we have offerings from Popes, but we also have offerings from anonymous people, such as dresses, flags and banners,” said the rector of the Shrine, Father Carlos Cabecinhas, in welcoming the journalists, highlighting the added value of the exhibition in helping to perceive “the meaning of the event, but also the way many people lived it.

The rector of the Shrine also underlined

the “symbolic value and the meaning of each gift” that is displayed there and which are the expression of “an enormous set of experiences of each pilgrim”.

“The museum was born to preserve the memory of the events and protagonists, but also the memory of the pilgrims: all those who in this centenary memory have come here. This is one of the meaningful features of the museum, which collects the testimony and offerings of those who came here and who are known, such as the offerings of the Popes who visited this place, but also of anonymous people, which are significant for their symbolic power”, he added.

In 2019, before closing for refurbishment, the permanent exhibition was visited by more than 75,000 pilgrims, mainly by Portuguese, Italians, Spaniards and Poles.

The exhibition “Fatima Light and Peace” can be visited daily between 9am and 12.15pm and 2pm and 5.15pm, on the lower floor of the rectory building of the Shrine of Fatima.

The story of Fatima told through affection

One of the most iconic images of the three Little Shepherds opens the doors of the exhibition, which, following the remodelling it has undergone, is accompa-

nied by new panels with graphic information on the related themes.

The visitor is then led, through a restricted and winding path, to the scene of the First World War. From here the azimuth points to “the peace that Fatima brings to the history of humankind”, with a first reference to the Angel of Peace, who, in 1916, anticipates to the three seers the apparitions through which Our Lady confides to them the message of Fatima.

In a small auditorium where a short film is shown, the visitor is introduced to the narrative of the Apparitions, in a context that prepares him for the “exhibition of affections” that he will see.

“This exhibition is made up only of ex-votos – offerings that pilgrims leave to Our Lady. Some with more material value than others, but all with the same museological value”, says the museum director, Marco Daniel Duarte, who leads us through the exhibition.

Although all the offerings compete with the same importance, there is a key piece that takes pride of place in the exhibition: the crown of Our Lady of Fatima, also composed of valuable jewels offered by the Portuguese women, but also a brass bullet which, despite having no material value, has its immaterial value since it is the projectile that hit Pope John Paul II in the attack on 13 May 1981, in Rome.

“This bullet is an image of what this exhibition is: the gathering of several ob-

The exhibition “Fatima Light and Peace” was inaugurated 20 years ago, was closed during the pandemic and, after a remodelling that benefited the space, reopens with novelties.

Diogo Carvalho Alves

jects offered to Our Lady that materialise an immeasurable relationship”, summarises the person in charge.

Due to its importance, the precious crown takes centre stage in the first room, where the objects of apparel are also concentrated: custodies, chalices, crucifixes and the jewels of personal adornment that could already be seen in this exhibition.

Objects from the five continents are gathered together in the exhibition. The offerings are mainly made up of jewellery, textiles and handicrafts made of clay, wood, ivory and silver, which make up a vast collection that has not yet been fully studied.

After admiring precious pieces of gold, silver, gems and rock crystal, visitors are invited to see objects of intangible value, linked to the world of sport, arts and crafts or to more decisive stages of human life or those requiring more risk. A military uniform, a bullfighter’s costume and a traditional student’s outfit can be seen in one of the showcases, where one of the novelties of this remodelling is now on display: an accordion offered to Our Lady by the accordionist and composer Eugénia Lima, in the last moments of her life.

On the side of the corridor that leads to the next room, the Rosary made with pieces from the Berlin Wall is given greater prominence in this renewed exhibition.

“This is a work with a very strong spiritual message that pilgrims like to see,” explains Marco Daniel Duarte.

Marking the desire for the blessing of Our Lady for the moments of transition, christening dresses and wedding dresses can be seen in the collection of offerings.

A custody offered to Our Lady of Fatima by a community of Polish pilgrims in 2017 can be admired in the exhibition. The item consists of a sculpture of Our Lady who bears on her belly the place for exposing the Eucharistic host and, at her feet, in a lunar crescent, has encrusted a stone picked from the moon.

The travels of the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima around the world are presented in a room dedicated to this epic, where, at the sight of a map with exemplary photographs, which contextualize the beginning of the journey through the five

continents, some of the objects offered during this tour are shown giving an “idea of what the Fatima phenomenon has been throughout the last century”.

After a tour through the sphere of the anonymous pilgrims, the exhibition ends with a focus on the most emblematic pilgrims to Fatima: the diocesan bishops and the Popes. Liturgical implements, mitres, pectoral crosses and rings of those who governed the diocese of Leiria and, later, of Leiria-Fatima, may be seen in this gallery. Among the refurbished collection is a ring and a pectoral cross worn by Serafim de Sousa Ferreira e Silva and the crosier of Cardinal António Marto.

The cards with a blue background, where the jewels of personal adornment offered to Our Lady of Fatima are displayed, maintain the model of the exhibition for which they were constituted and that was held in St. George’s Castle,

in Lisbon, in the 50s of last century. The exhibit was promoted by Maria Teresa Pereira da Cunha, the great worker of the journeys of the Pilgrim Virgin throughout the world, also remembered in a graphic panel in the remodelled permanent exhibition of the Shrine of Fatima.

At the end, one may contemplate the objects offered to Our Lady by the Popes. From Paul VI: the golden rose; the pastoral crosier; some liturgical vestments; the rosary he placed at the feet of Our Lady of Fatima, on his visit to Cova da Iria; as well as the vestments he wore in the celebrations of the fiftieth anniversary of the Apparitions. From John Paul II: some liturgical vestments, the ring with the motto “Totus Tuus” that belonged to him; the three chasubles he used in the celebrations he presided over in the Shrine and a rosary with a handkerchief that, according to information obtained by the Shrine Museum, was with the Holy Father at the end of his life. From Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis, the golden roses that they offered to the Shrine of Fatima in 2010 and 2017, respectively.

After visiting the permanent exhibition of the Shrine of Fatima, in a journey of affections made between the darkness of war and the light of peace that the Message of Fatima offers to humankind, the visitor leaves with a clearer understanding of the event of 1917, of the extent of the projection that the Message that Our Lady bequeathed to the Little Shepherds has had in the world and of the close relationship of Fatima with the Popes.

“By showing the offerings that are deposited next to Our Lady, the exhibition shows the history of Fatima, marked by the anonymous pilgrims and the more well-known ones. The filial relationship established by both with the Virgin of Fatima is materialized in the objects that remain and that bear witness to it”, explains the director of the Museum of the Shrine of Fatima.

Although it has already been in existence for two decades, the exhibition, like the message of Fatima, maintains its relevance, especially in the themes of war and peace, perennial in the history of humankind.



Temporary exhibition of the Shrine contemplates the mysteries of the Rosary

The new exhibition was also thought for this occasion, in which thousands of young women and men will be in Portugal to meet the Pope.

Diogo Carvalho Alves



“Rosarium: Joy and Light, Pain and Glory” is the name of the exhibition, which can be visited at Saint Augustine’s Convivium, on the lower floor of the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity, until October 2024.

“For more than ten years, the Museum of the Shrine of Fatima has offered us temporary exhibitions which, as well as presenting the collection of the Shrine, allow us to contemplate many private works of art, leading us, through beauty, to the knowledge and deepening of Fatima. It is the case of this exhibition on the Rosary, a theme that is deeply rooted in Fatima, because it leads us to the very heart of the Message and has a topical depth, because peace is an inevitable theme in our days”, began by saying the Rector of the Shrine of Fatima, Father Carlos Cabecinhas, in his welcoming address, in which he thanked all those who collaborated in the exhibition.

The exhibition follows the four mysteries meditated on in the Rosary, through a narrative that invites us to contemplate this Marian prayer, which is “one of the

most structuring dimensions of the message of Fatima”. The itinerary starts, therefore, with the projection of the request that Our Lady of the Rosary made to the Little Shepherds to pray the Rosary every day to achieve peace.

“Since 1917, we haven’t stopped holding the beads in our hands with that purpose. Through these beads, made from the most diverse materials and linked by a chain finished by the cross, pass the joys and the lights, the sorrows and the glories of the mysteries of God and humankind”, reads the script of the exhibition. In its first section, the exhibition presents the Rosary as an instrument to recite the mysteries of Christ’s life, through a scheme which explains the method of this prayer, including the Aspiration that Our Lady taught the Little Shepherds in the Apparition of July 1917.

This pedagogical scheme is presented flanked by twenty Rosaries offered to Our Lady of Fatima by Popes Benedict XVI, Paul VI, John Paul II, and Francis, to those offered by other personalities such as Father

Pio of Pietrelcina, Mother Theresa of Calcutta, or the Rosary offered by the fishermen of Caxinas, after having survived a shipwreck where they recited the Marian prayer in their affliction.

The first section ends with a work of contemporary art which presents 150 Rosaries offered by anonymous pilgrims to Our Lady of Fatima. In the installation, by Ana Bonifácio, the white Rosaries are displayed in a web of threads that suspends the Rosaries up to a platform containing earth from Fatima, to “signify the prayers that rise from Earth to Heaven”.

“In addition to this polysemy of meanings is the fact that there are 150 Rosaries, symbolising the 150 Psalms in the origin of the Rosary. [...] This work evokes the stringed musical instrument used to pray the Psalms: the Psalter”, explains Marco Daniel Duarte, director of the Museum of the Shrine of Fatima and coordinator of the exhibition.

The second section of the exhibition interprets and contemplates the mysteries of the Rosary. The subsections which present

ROSARIUM

JOY AND LIGHT, PAIN AND GLORY

the mysteries of joy, light, pain, and glory, are displayed around a “monumental Rosary”, situated at the centre of the space and which serves as “support work” below which the visitors meditate on the beads of each mystery.

Each subsection presents a Rosary which belonged to the Little Shepherds of Fatima, and, against a panel showing detailed photographs of pilgrims’ hands praying the Rosary, a work of ancient art and a work of contemporary art are displayed, side by side, raising interpretations in the dialogue established between the two.

In the space dedicated to the mysteries of Joy, the exhibited works focus on the birth of Jesus: an oil painting on wood by Simão Rodrigues, “Adoration of the Shepherds”, dated 1605, and the installation “Signs of the Nativity Scene”, by Emília Nadal, from 2000. In the second subsection, which presents the mysteries of light, an 18th-century Eucharistic urn is displayed next to two 1986 stained windows by Rolando Sá Nogueira, from the chapel of the Angel of Peace in

the Shrine of Fatima. In the space dedicated to the mysteries of pain, under the colour red, the 18th-century wood sculpture “Ecce Homo” is presented in counterpoint to the 1973 sculpture by Clara Menéres, “Lies dead and turns cold, his Mother’s Boy”, which portrays the dead body of a soldier fatally wounded in battle. In the last subsection, dedicated to glory, a 17th-century sculpture of the resurrected Christ is displayed in the middle of a 2022 aluminium net installation, by Ana Lima-Netto, to recreate the Garden of Eden.

In the third section, entitled “Between Heaven and Earth”, the work “Suspension”, created by Joana de Vasconcelos for the centennial of the Apparitions of Fatima, and which features a monumental illuminated Rosary, in which the cross is placed over a reproduction of Leonardo da Vinci’s “Vitruvian Man”, is on display.

“Here the meaning is peace in suspension... That is: peace is possible if, in fact, we fulfil the Gospel of Christ and meditate on the mysteries of the Rosary, which are of

God, but also of Humankind. It is possible to achieve peace [...], but it depends on the human freedom in accepting the invitation from Heaven”, explains the responsible for the exhibition “Rosarium; Joy and Light, Pain and Glory”, which takes place on the 20th anniversary of the publication of Pope John Paul II’s Apostolic Letter on the Rosary.

The inauguration of the exhibition took place as part of the opening of the pastoral year at the Shrine of Fatima, which shares the same theme as the 2023 World Youth Day in Lisbon: “Mary rose up and went with haste.” The new exhibition was also thought for this occasion, in which thousands of young women and men will be in Portugal to meet the Pope.

The exhibition has free admission and can be visited at the Convivium of Saint Augustine, on the lower floor of the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity, from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm and from 2 pm to 5:30 pm. Guided tours of the exhibition will be available daily.



Shrine of Fatima celebrates World Day of the Poor and the anniversary of the Dedication of the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity

“We cannot look at the Church as if we were outside it marvelling at the beauty or scandalised by sins” says Father Joaquim Ganhão.

Cátia Filipe

The commemoration of the World Day of the Poor and the anniversary of the dedication of the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity, inaugurated in October 2007, marked the Mass that highlighted the November monthly pilgrimage, recalling the apparitions of the Virgin Mary to the three little shepherds, between May and October 1917.

“Today we celebrate with great joy the anniversary of the Dedication of this House of God” and “we pray in a special way that the poverty that kills may be overcome, as the Holy Father invites us in his message for this day, so that we may know how to meet the poor and put an end to so many inconsistent anxieties and fears, in order to focus on what really matters in life and that no one can rob us of: the real and freely given love, the concrete love for our brothers, beginning with the poorest”, Father Joaquim Ganhão stated.

The director of the Department of Liturgy presided over the celebration and reminded us, from the proclaimed liturgy which points us to the triumph of good over evil, that every Christian is a “living stone” where “God dwells” and therefore “we cannot look at the Church as if we were outside

it marvelling at the beauty or scandalised by sins”.

“We are stones of the same construction and responsible for the holiness that must inhabit us and for the testimony that we must all give. In the Church, mortared by the Spirit of God, we are a body united in the unity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,” the priest stressed.

“In this place we are called to walk in the presence of the Lord with all our hearts, because we know that the Lord here involves us with his love, listens to us, and grants us forgiveness,” he further emphasized.

In the homily of the mass in memory of the apparitions on November 13, the priest recalled that in the message of Fatima, since the apparitions of the Angel of Peace, the little shepherds let themselves be involved in this freely given love of God, expressed in the Most Holy Trinity to whom they prayed.

“More than a learned prayer, it was a lived experience, a true immersion in the Mystery of God that prepared them to welcome Our Lady’s message,” said Father Joaquim Ganhão as he challenged the pilgrims participating in this celebration to imitate the exam-

ple of St. Francisco and St. Jacinta.

“This Basilica, whose Solemnity of Dedication we celebrate today is, for us, the place where the encounter with God, the Holy Trinity, takes place, where we can feel enveloped by that same immense light that burns within our hearts, converts us to love, makes us capable of penance, conversion, intercession and praise and of that same restlessness that inhabited the heart of Saint Jacinta: may everyone have in their heart the fire of God’s love,” he said.

“Let us contemplate this extraordinary mosaic before us! Looking at it we see our future... we see the effects of Our Lady’s message in this place. There we find the Immolated and Victorious Lamb, the conqueror of sin and death, to which Mary leads the Church by the hand on the great pilgrimage of faith to the heart of God. Let us place ourselves there and let Mary lead us to the adorable heart of the Most Holy Trinity, where we shall feel the joy of salvation,” he concluded.

Several groups participated in this celebration, among them one from Portugal, five from Spain and two from Italy and Poland.

Advent is the time “to get rid of what distances us from God”, says the rector of the Shrine

Cátia Filipe

Mary is the “best model” for us to live Advent and prepare for Christmas, said the rector of the Shrine of Fatima, during his homily at the Mass of the December 13 Monthly Pilgrimage, which evokes the six apparitions of Our Lady during the summer, held in the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity.

“In this time of Advent, in which we prepare for the coming of the Lord, let us focus on Mary who is the best model to prepare

our hearts for the arrival of Jesus; it is with her that we learn how to live Advent well,” exhorted Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas, recalling that Mary was “the first” to prepare Advent with the arrival of her son and, therefore, “knows like no one else” what “we need to do.”

The rector of the Shrine recalled at the beginning of the celebration, broadcast by the social and digital media of Canção Nova and

the Shrine of Fatima, the death of the founder of Comunidade Canção Nova, which occurred in the early hours of the 13th.

“We send our condolences and we also join in the prayer of this community and especially of his evangelizing work throughout the world,” said Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas, who sent his condolences to the entire Canção Nova “community and family” in Portugal and throughout the world.

“Our Lady is an example of listening to and practicing the Word of God”

In the homily of the Mass of the first pilgrimage of 2023, the rector of the Shrine of Fatima presented Mary as an example of faith, in listening to and practicing the Word of God, and the Message of Fatima as the azimuth of this beatitude.

Cátia Filipe

In the homily of the pilgrimage Mass this 13 January, which evokes the apparitions of Our Lady in Cova da Iria, the rector of the Shrine of Fatima presented Mary as an example of faith in listening to and practicing the Word of God. In the celebration, which took place in the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity, Father Carlos Cabecinhas presented the event and the Message of Fatima as an exhortation to this beatitude.

“In Her apparitions at Fatima, the ‘Lady more brilliant than the sun’ presented Her Immaculate Heart as ‘refuge and path to God,’” the presider of the celebration began by recalling, establishing a parallel with the proclaimed Gospel, which also presented the Mother of God as the path that brings us closer to God.

“She is the believing woman, the woman of faith above all, the one whom Elizabeth, in the episode of the visitation, proclaimed happy because she believed in the Word of God, the woman who listens to and keeps the Word of God. A faith that then overflows and transfigures her life, in attitudes and choices. And this is why Jesus proclaims her joyful and blessed ..., showing us the way to happiness in communion with God,” the priest explained.

“The beatitude that Jesus proclaims towards Mary is the beatitude to the Cross with life, which challenges us to be attentive and ‘familiar’ with the Word of God and make an effort to live according to that Word”, he exhorted, pointing out this communion with God as the horizon that leads to human happiness, “even in the sufferings of life”.

At the end, Father Carlos Cabecinhas highlighted the event and the Message of Fatima as the azimuth of this beatitude.

“In her apparitions, in this place, Mary comes to exhort us to imitate her attitude of faith and to make room for God in our lives and try to live according to his will, listening to his Word and seeking to bring it to life. Imitating His example and listening to His exhortations, in this place, is the way to God,” he concluded.

The celebration, which began with a procession with the statue of Our Lady from the Chapel of the Apparitions to the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity, ended with the inverse route and the farewell procession, in which the pilgrims accompanied the statue in procession to the Chapel of the Apparitions.



The 8th edition of the Summer Courses of the Shrine of Fatima will discuss the theme of Pilgrimage

The initiative was announced at the end of the webinar “DeCoding Fatima”.

Cátia Filipe

The 2nd edition of the webinar “DeCoding Fatima” ended on a very positive balance. This initiative reached many participants spread over different regions of Portugal and abroad (Europe, Africa, and America), which, according to Marco Daniel Duarte, “allowed to take further the investigation which is being done at the Department of Studies of the Shrine of Fatima, whose mission is to investigate and disseminate the knowledge about Fatima, its history and message.”

In a statement to the Press Office of the Shrine of Fatima, the Director of the Department of Studies explained that very positive feedback has been received regarding the themes to be discussed, which are clearly of interest to researchers and different pastoral agents who, all over the world, are interested in Fatima: “This seminar tried to discuss the topics as syntheses, which lead to a great effort to work on the themes in order to didacticise their contents and, in some cases, to present new research specially made for this online seminar.”

In the last session, André Melícias, responsible for the team of the Archive and Library of the Department of Studies of the Shrine of Fatima, spoke about the Mail of Our Lady, which began to arrive consistently from the 1950s onwards, and is impressive for the multitude of formats in which it arrives.



Using the example of some of the first messages, André Melícias spoke about their meaning, the circuit they follow, and their content. They are mainly “requests for prayer, acknowledgment, venting, specific requests for intercession, which allow us to get to know the family and historical contexts of a particular time”, he clarified, regarding the content and the interest of those messages.

Next, Marco Daniel Duarte addressed the theme of the photographs of the Little Shepherds, explaining that the first portraits – 11 only in 1917 – will fixate the faces of Lúcia, Francisco and Jacinta Marto, in an initial phase until their beatification, and the reproductions made afterwards, photographs or paintings, added details which revealed an intentionality that stressed the importance of the Fatima phenomenon. “The figuration of the Virgin and the seers

was important for the affirmation of the Fatima event”, he added. The expression of the faces, the presence of candles, the Rosary in the hand and the typical clothes of their activity, as shepherds, reveal an intentionality in the figuration of the three seers, integrating them in a certain environment, but at the same time attributing to them elements which transport them to a relevant event.

Finally, Marco Daniel Duarte announced that between the 5th and the 7th of July the Department of Studies of the Shrine of Fatima will carry out the 8th edition of the Summer Courses of the Shrine of Fatima, on the theme of Pilgrimage, a key theme in the history of Cova da Iria.

The webinar “DeCoding Fatima” took place on Wednesdays in January and aimed to answer the many questions that Fatima raises among pilgrims and researchers, bringing the results of the scientific research on Fatima to different audiences in different geographies.

This 2nd edition invited us to reflect on the precious crown of the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima; the newspaper “Voice of Fatima”; the ritual of the night celebration in Fatima; the works of art in the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity; the Pilgrim Image of Our Lady of Fatima; the Museum of the Shrine of Fatima; the Mail of Our Lady of Fatima; and the photographs of Saints Francisco and Jacinta Marto.

**FÁTIMA
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Editor: Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas * **Proprietor, Publisher and Editor:** Fábrica do Santuário de Nossa Senhora do Rosário de Fátima * **Social Security nr.** 500 746 699 * **Address:** Santuário de Fátima – Rua de Santa Isabel, 360 2495-424 FÁTIMA * **Tel.:** +351 249 539 600 * **Fax:** +351 249 539 668 * **Email:** press@fatima.pt * **www.fatima.pt** **Legal Deposit no.** 210650/04 * **ISSN:** 1647-2438 * **Digital Edition** * **Register Number on ERC** 127627, 23/07/2021 * **Doctrinal Publicatio**

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