



# FÁTIMA LUZ E PAZ

Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima

Director: Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas

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

## “Called to Meet”

Father Carlos Cabecinhas

The year 2025 will be a Holy Year for the Church, the ordinary Jubilee, celebrated every 25 years. So, as it looks ahead to a new pastoral cycle, the Shrine of Fatima has adopted the Holy Jubilee Year as its horizon, in harmony with this event towards which the life of the Church will organize over the next two years. This opens a biennium rooted in the themes determined by Pope Francis for the experience of this Jubilee: prayer in 2024, the year preceding the Jubilee, and “Pilgrims of Hope”, the theme of the Holy Year. The overall theme that gives unity to this pastoral biennium is: “Meeting Hope”.

So, prayer will be the theme of the next pastoral year, which begins on the 3rd of December, with the formulation “Called to Meet”. St Paul’s exhortation to the Thessalonian community to “pray without ceasing” (1 Thess 5:17) serves as a biblical foundation: it is an invitation to immerse the whole human life in the awareness of God’s presence, making every circumstance of daily life a reason for prayer, that is, for an encounter with God and, in Him, for communion with everyone and all the Creation.

The insistent call to prayer is one of the most characteristic features of the message of Fatima. We shall interpret this year’s theme in the light of the Angel of Peace’s exhortation in the spring of 1916: “Pray with me”. The Angel’s invitation to the little seers is an invitation to let themselves be led into an intimate, contemplative and profound encounter with God, in whom they profess their faith and place their hope, whom they love and adore. Prayer, as a space for an intimate meeting with God, becomes part of the three children’s daily lives and, little by little, transforms that daily life, turning it into a familiar space for a relationship with God and the manifestation of His action.

In Fatima, the “teacher” of the prayerful attitude is Our Lady, in whom we find the perfect example of prayer. Her prayer was one of praise, gratitude and thanksgiving, as in the Magnificat, but it was also one of supplication and intercession, as in Cana. Her prayer is personal, in the depths of her heart, but also communal, with the nascent Church in the Cenacle. It was at this “school” that the Little Shepherds learnt to make prayer their greatest strength.

## “Everyone fits in a mother’s heart,” Says Cardinal Américo Aguiar in Fatima

The new bishop of Setúbal presided over the last International Anniversary Pilgrimage of the year in Fatima and recalled those who are “fleeing war”.

Carmo Rodeia



For the second time presiding over an anniversary international pilgrimage, and after being made a cardinal of the Roman Church, Bishop Américo Aguiar went to Cova da Iria to remind the 300,000 or so pilgrims who had come to commemorate the 13th of October that peace requires “continuous and consistent” prayer for the countless innocent victims who lose their lives every day in Ukraine, the Middle East or in the Mediterranean Sea.

“At this very moment, when we here feel more or less calm, content and happy, there are children, men, women, old people, who are fleeing from the land of Jesus, from war, from death, from violence,” said the new Portuguese Cardinal in his homily at the closing Mass of the October celebrations in Cova da Iria.

The president of the WYD Lisbon 2023 Foundation, Bishop of Setúbal, said that “everything is not fine”, contrasting with the slogan heard during the pandemic, “everything will be fine”.

The Portuguese Cardinal asked the thousands of pilgrims present in the Prayer Area

to pray: “let us cry out to the Mother of Heaven that we want peace.” “May peace come from our mouths, from our words, but also from our hearts. Now that the Mother of Heaven has heard our cry for peace, let us also be builders of that same peace,” he added.

In the context of this call for peace, Bishop Américo Aguiar added that one cannot “forget” the Mediterranean Sea, recalling the Pope’s recent visit to Marseille at the end of September. “There are men and women who dream of building their lives in this Europe, which is a new dream for them. May we be able to transform this cemetery into a motorway of love that allows dreams, families, joy and happiness to be built in this old Europe that we are,” he said, choosing Fatima as a model for the Church and the world.

“In Fatima there are no foreigners, no borders,” he said. “I don’t see a crowd of people, but countless men, women, young people and children who bear witness to an unshakeable faith,” he told to the pilgrims, among whom were 114 groups from 32 countries.

“Dear pilgrims, Fatima is you,” said Bishop Américo Aguiar in his homily, explaining that today Jesus is not handing over “the key to the Kingdom of Heaven”, but a password. “The password to the Kingdom of Heaven is ‘love’. Poor and homeless people in Rome were asked what they expected from the Synod, from the Church; they replied: ‘more love’. That’s what we want: let’s be love,” he added. At the end of his reflection, the President of the International Pilgrimage on 13th of October reiterated his request for prayers for peace: “May we be peace, each and every one of us.”

# “Everyone always fits in the heart of the Mother” - Monsignor Américo Aguiar

On the evening of the 12th, the President of the International Anniversary Pilgrimage addressed the pilgrims, who had come to Fatima with their joys and sorrows, united as “children” to meet a Mother who “always opens her arms to them, in her Shrine”.

Carmo Rodeia



In front of thousands of people gathered in the Prayer Area of the Shrine, the recently ordained Portuguese Cardinal recalled the experience of World Youth Day, which took place in Lisbon from 1 to 6 August under the patronage of Pope Francis.

Mgr. Américo Aguiar thanked the national dioceses, the young people of Portugal, who “have done so much” in recent years to make World Youth Day a success: “Thank you very much to all the young people and all the dioceses of our country,” he said, in a part of his homily that was greeted by the crowd with applause. The Bishop of Setúbal emphasized that the Shrine of Fatima and its Rector were “unsurpassable” in their support for WYD. “Many thanks to each and every one of you for your commitment and the sacrifices you have made,” he said. The cardinal evoked the experience of the Synod, currently underway in the Vatican, to ask that it be “a night of prayer and a night of listening”.

**Mgr. Américo Aguiar offers crosier and Cardinal’s ring to Our Lady, asking for “Her very special intercession for peace”**

“This crosier was given to me by Caritas

Jerusalem in Bethlehem on the occasion of my visit last July for WYD Lisbon 2023. I offer it to the Blessed Mother, asking for her very special intercession for peace in the land of Jesus, in Ukraine and in so many other places and hearts,” said Mgr. Américo Aguiar.

Américo Aguiar, President of the WYD Lisbon 2023 Foundation, which coordinated the first international edition of World Youth Day in Portugal, in addition to the crosier, also bequeathed “the episcopal WYD cross and his cardinal’s ring” to the Mother of Heaven. “I do this as a sign of gratitude for Our Lady’s unconditional support for what WYD was: preparation and experience, and for what must continue to happen in the hearts of the young pilgrims,” said the Portuguese Cardinal, who also left the headscarf and the white scarf he wore in the Farewell Procession.

**“War is never justified” - Bishop Américo Aguiar**

Speaking to journalists at the end of the October celebrations, Portuguese Cardinal Américo Aguiar said that the war between Israel and Palestine had come at a “strange” moment and called for an end to the violence that was threatening people.

“War is never justified. Violence and death

are never justified,” the new Bishop of Setúbal told reporters. Once again quoting the Pope, he denounces the “globalization of indifference” in the face of various wars.

“We are already more or less indifferent to Ukraine, Sudan, the Central African Republic and so many other conflicts, which, as Pope Francis says, are a third world war in pieces,” he warned.

The Portuguese official considered that the new conflict between Israel and Palestine serves “other scenarios”. “This is what I thought and what I felt. The certainty I have is that, in the end, it’s the same people who will bear the brunt of it: the children, the weak, the last, who unfortunately are on the run at this time,” he said.

“The situation is not accidental,” he added, without wanting to point the finger at Russia, yet adding that “peace cannot be built against anyone”.

“The history of the Holy Land goes back thousands of years, with disproportionate reactions over the centuries,” he acknowledged.

Mgr. Américo Aguiar stressed that “everyone is working” for peace, from the Pope to the diplomacy of the Holy See, while admitting that the situation “is not simple”.

“I have direct knowledge that everything is being done, at many levels, in many places, so that peace can come about. Unfortunately, we also know that war is useful for many,” he concluded.

# Bishop of Angra Said that Peace “Cannot be built with fine words and great speeches”

Mgr. Armando Esteves Domingues asked for peace for Ukraine “and all the countries at war”, for the victims of the earthquake in Morocco and the floods in Libya..

Carmo Rodeia



The Bishop of Angra said in Fatima, during the International Anniversary Pilgrimage in September, that “peace cannot be built with fine words and great speeches” uttered by important people, and he called for peace for countries at war and countries suffering from natural disasters.

“Peace cannot be built with fine words and great speeches uttered by important people before illustrious masters of the world. Peace is like a seed that germinates in the new man, growing up in prayer and in the light of the Gospel,” said Mgr. Armando Esteves Domingues, in his homily during the Vigil of the 12th of September, during which the account of the 5th apparition was read.

“Fatima is an altar of the world and of peace, a place of pure love, like the love of the three Little Shepherds, a factory of saints

because it rises from within; here we have a place, and we have a Mother! Chosen from the most fragile, to remember that, with the prayer of the Rosary, every cross can be illuminated by faith. Like Mary, who silently clung to the cross of her Son on Calvary, we can realise that the bigger our cross, the closer we are to heaven,” the diocesan bishop added.

D. Armando Esteves Domingues stressed that “only from a heart that loves” can come a peace that “flows like a river and floods the cities of men, the homes of families, the people who suffer,” and he encouraged the pilgrims and the faithful to ask for “peace for Ukraine and all the countries at war”, peace for the victims of the earthquake in Morocco and the floods in Libya.

“Let us pray for peace for all troubled

hearts,” the prelate added.

The president of the CEP’s Episcopal Commission for Mission and the New Evangelisation also reflected on the importance of light in the message of Fatima, pointing out that “with a rosary and a candle you can change the world.”

“We often hear that the Church must always ‘go out in mission’, be a light in the midst of this cold and dark world, but many immediately think of the institutional Church, priests, religious, bishops, community leaders. But to be part of this going out, to go out to meet others, to walk together, to be a gift to others without expecting anything in return, should be the motto of every baptised person,” he said.

Amongst others, 40 groups from 14 countries took part in this pilgrimage.

# Pilgrims Challenged To Persevere in Faith in the Face of Life's Doubts

In his homily on 13 August, the Archbishop of Luanda encouraged the assembly gathered in Cova da Iria to “subordinate doubt to the truth of faith”, citing the example of Mary’s unconditional surrender.

Diogo Carvalho Alves



In his homily at the International Anniversary Mass on the 13th of August, Archbishop Filomeno do Nascimento Dias reflected on the dichotomy of doubt and trust experienced by believers. Drawing on the “perfect metaphor about faith” of the Gospel episode of Jesus walking on water, the Archbishop of Luanda encouraged the pilgrims gathered in the Prayer Area to “subordinate doubt to the truth of faith”, presenting Mary’s unconditional surrender to God’s designs as a model.

“Only in the beauty of grace are we able to subordinate doubt to the truth of faith. This truth shapes our entire earthly journey when we allow ourselves to be moulded like Mary, the Virgin of Fatima who, without fully understanding, accepted the divine plan as a fiat. (...) We too make this discipleship; we enter this school of life,

which consists of an active and living faith. We enter the school of this woman, poor and simple, who is happy because she believed,” said the prelate, presenting Fatima as a place that “speaks of this presence of God in our history, in our lives, in the rough waters of the oceans and in the dark hours of life.”

“It is good to be here, in this place of peace, of love, where we feel welcomed and enjoy the unique opportunity to be in dialogue with ourselves, to go through our history and reorient our paths... A place of gratitude, of praise, where we feel like God’s family,” said Bishop Filomeno do Nascimento Dias at the beginning of his homily, in which he presented faith as “a progressive challenge” and “an act of trust that allows us to continue on the path of life”.

## “The complex phenomenon of migration” must be monitored

On 13 August, the National Pilgrimage for Migrants was also held in Cova da Iria, as the culmination of the 51st National Migration Week - which this year took place under the theme “Free to choose whether to stay or emigrate”. In his homily at the International Mass, the Archbishop of Luanda analysed migration as “a complex phenomenon”, recalling, in particular, the reality of the Mediterranean Sea.

Quoting the Holy Father’s message for the Day of Migrants and Refugees, the Archbishop of Luanda stressed the importance of framing migration as “the fruit of a free choice”, in a global effort to better

accompany and manage migratory flows, “constructing bridges and not walls”, through “a community ready to welcome, protect, promote and integrate everyone, without distinctions and without excluding anyone”.

On the evening of the 12th of August, in his homily for the celebration of the Word, Bishop Filomeno do Nascimento Dias invited the pilgrims gathered in the Prayer Area of the Shrine of Fatima to “conceive Jesus spiritually”, by listening to the Word and proclaiming the new life in Christ, following the “excellent” example of the Mother of God.

“God’s work is never static, in God we are never stand still. When God truly encounters us, he moves us, and we set out

on the road, on pilgrimage, in action, to be useful to our brothers and sisters, so that they in turn may see God’s blessing in us, recognise that a great work of God is being fulfilled in us, just as it was in Our Lady,” said the prelate, assuring us of God’s faithfulness and providence in human history.

Drawing on the story of the Visitation, proclaimed in the Gospel, Mgr. Filomeno do Nascimento Dias presented the Blessed Virgin and Saint Elizabeth as a “pre-figuration of the believing community,” in which “Mary has a double role: that of motherhood, which is exclusive to her; and that of believer, which makes her a disciple.”

Highlighting Mary’s “diligence, care, attention and enthusiasm” in the episode of

the Visitation, the Archbishop of Luanda recalled Pope Francis’ call to young people for Christian missionary action on the occasion of World Youth Day, the call to “live to bring the One we love to others, (...) to show the world what sustains and strengthens us”.

“In the same way that Mary precedes us in the community of disciples, we must also enter into her exclusivity; that is, we must conceive Jesus spiritually, to the point of placing all our availability and all our faith in the mystery of Christ,” encouraged the President of the Pilgrimage, presenting Fatima as “a place of discovery of the Lord of Life”, through the action of the Holy Spirit, who projects us into the mission of proclaiming the Good News.



## Bishop of Leiria-Fatima Calls for Better Conditions and Welcome for Migrants

In his final address, the Bishop of Leiria-Fatima focused on the theme of human mobility and migration, which traditionally sets the tone for the International Anniversary Pilgrimage in August, warning against the “misery, conflicts and lack of dignity” that characterise this reality.

“Mary, whom we venerate in this Shrine, was God’s pilgrim in the world, and the Church is a pilgrim, among all the peoples of the earth, on its way to the homeland of heaven. May the Mother of God accompany the emigrants who leave their homeland in search of better living conditions, especially those who, on their way, are put to the test, abused, exploited and sometimes meet suffering and death. May she give the coun-

tries to which they go an open heart to welcome those who arrive and to recognise the contribution they make to the societies that know how to receive them,” asked Bishop José Ornelas.

The prelate gave thanks to God for World Youth Day, seeing the global gathering of young people as a practical example of communion in diversity, and a proclamation of “the faith and the universality of God’s love, which transforms the world”.

Mgr. José Ornelas thanked Archbishop Filomeno do Nascimento Dias for his presence and for his words. He said that he brought with him “the grateful and inspiring memory of the Church in Angola, in its youth and in its missionary spirit”.



# “Fatima is a monumental artistic ensemble that brings together the best of Portugal’s creative history and artistic work,” says historian Vítor Serrão

Professor Emeritus of the University of Lisbon presented the book “Fatima e a criação artística: o Santuário e a Iconografia”, by Marco Daniel Duarte, which will be part of the Art and Heritage Collection, published by the Shrine of Fatima.

Carmo Rodeia



The Shrine of Fatima has just published and made available in its shops the book “Fatima e a criação artística: o Santuário e a Iconografia”, by Marco Daniel Duarte, which is part of the Art and Heritage Collection. The two volumes that make up this work, the fruit of two decades of research by the author, deal with art at the service of the Message in the Shrine of Fatima.

At the presentation of the work, Vítor Serrão, Professor at the University of Lisbon, who wrote the book’s afterword, stressed that: “The book, in its two volumes, is an inexhaustible source, a working laboratory just like Fatima is.”

The art historian defended the Shrine’s candidacy for the UNESCO World Heritage List because of the quality of its monumental and artistic ensemble. “For all its aesthetic, spiritual, hierophanic and artistic values, it is an ensemble that competes for a candidacy for World Heritage, which it fully deserves,” thanks to the “various con-

tributions of the best artistic work in the country and also of some foreign artists.”

The Professor Emeritus of the Faculty of Letters of the University of Lisbon stressed that there is “an unexpected unity” in Fatima. “It was something completely new for me: I discovered that what I thought was a patchwork of objects of greater or lesser quality, for which I was more or less passionate, together acquired a unity that is undeniable.”

This “revelation” came about through the thesis that gave rise to the book presented on Wednesday, developed from the basic research of the doctoral thesis of Marco Daniel Duarte, current Director of the Department of Studies of the Shrine of Fatima and also responsible for the Shrine Museum, and completed after its presentation and defence.

Vítor Serrão, who was a member of the jury for Marco Daniel Duarte’s doctoral thesis, described the publication now being

presented in Fatima as “a monumental work” that “tells the artistic history of Fatima as it has never been told before.”

“The best of Portuguese art history, the best of Portuguese artists were involved in Fatima. Believers and non-believers alike,” he emphasized.

According to the art historian “the quality of the architecture, paintings, sculptures, stained-glass windows, liturgical furnishings and other works of art” turned Fatima into “more than just a place of worship, hierophanies and great pilgrimage.”

The site “offers a heritage and artistic ensemble that is generally downplayed, or at least not showcased to its true value, and needs to be seen in a different light,” he said.

Contributors include names such as António Teixeira Lopes, Irene Vilar, Lagoa Henriques, Zulmiro de Carvalho, Clara Menéres, José Aurélio, Marko Rupnik, Jorge Barradas, Eduardo Nery, Pedro Ca-

lapez, Catherine Greene, Robert Schad, Fernanda Fragateiro, among others, in a “cast of artists of the highest calibre,” added Vítor Serrão.

In Fatima, you will find “an outstanding chapter of Portuguese art.”

“And when I talk about Portugal, I’m talking on a global scale,” he said.

The Shrine has followed “the curves of the artistic avant-garde in the world”, choosing “the best craftsmen, the best artists in each genre, active in each period.”

The Rector of the Shrine, Father Carlos Cabecinhas, who opened the session, recalled that “the language of art and the way of beauty are an indispensable path

The second volume deals with the organization of the artistic reflection, based on the creation of new figures that emerge in Fatima - the construction of the images of Our Lady of Fatima and the images of the Angel of Fatima, of the Little Shepherds themselves and even of the pilgrim, the author also told the Shrine’s press room.

“This work shows that the Shrine has always followed the guidelines of the great artistic manifestations of each era, whether in the oldest works of art, [...] or in those that have already marked the 20th century [...], up to the minimalist postmodern lines of the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity,” summarized Marco Daniel Duarte.



in Christianity”, and that the “message of Fatima has been a source of inspiration for artistic language for a hundred years and continues to be so today.”

The Bishop of Leiria-Fatima, Mgr. José Ornelas Carvalho, also spoke of the true “artistic pilgrimage of beauty in Fatima,” which allows us to “understand the journey of faith” in this place. “Artistic creations are the best expression of faith,” he emphasized.

The author, for his part, explained the path of his research, which began in 2001 at the Shrine, which is also a “true alma mater” for him, where the paths of his professional, academic, personal, and spiritual journey converge.

“To this day, no one in charge of the Shrine has failed to call upon art and artists, enabling artists and pilgrims to engage in dialogue,” said Marco Daniel Duarte, who dedicated this work “to the pilgrims of beauty”.

The first volume focuses on the structuring of the Shrine of Fatima over the course of a century, with its physical constructions - from the arch that marked the place of the Marian apparitions to the construction of the Chapel of the Apparitions and the basilicas, the square and the colonnade.

“What we can conclude from this work is that the best artists have in fact been at work in this place, producing works of art of and about Fatima. All the people who have administered this place since the beginning have always been very concerned about beauty, and this has led them to carry out work to serve those who come here on pilgrimage,” said the author.

The work is prefaced by Regina Anacleto, retired professor at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, who, at the beginning of the book, emphasizes the “solidity of the research as the decisive contribution of this work, both for the analytical fixation of the history of the Shrine and for the evolution of that history and its projection into the future”.

Marco Daniel Duarte holds a degree and doctorate in Art History from the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Coimbra. He is the Director of the Museum and of the Department of Studies of the Shrine of Fatima. He is an Academician of the Portuguese Academy of History and a Correspondent of the National Academy of Fine Arts. He is also a member of the Portuguese Association of Art Historians and of the Cultural Heritage Department of the Diocese of Leiria-Fatima.

## Image of Our Lady of Fatima to Remain in Quito

The Image that will accompany the 53rd International Eucharistic Congress, was offered by the Shrine of Fatima and handed over by the national delegate from Portugal, Mgr. José Cordeiro .

Carmo Rodeia



The Image of Our Lady of Fatima offered by the Shrine was handed over to the Metropolitan Archbishop of Quito and Primate of Ecuador, Alfredo José Espinoza Mateus, on the 13th of September by the Archbishop of Braga, José Cordeiro, who is President of CELE and National Delegate for the Eucharistic Congresses.

The Image, which was accompanied by a rosary and the book of the Memoirs of Sister Lucia in Spanish, also offered by the Shrine of Fatima, will be present during the period of preparation and realization of the 53rd International Eucharistic Congress to be held in Quito, Ecuador, from 8 to 15 September, with the theme “Fraternidade para curar o mundo. ‘Todos vós sois irmãos’ (Mt 23,8)”.

According to a note sent to the Press Room, “it was with pleasant surprise and true joy that the Archbishop of Quito received this gift, in the certainty that the Virgin Mary, ‘Eucharistic Woman’, will accompany this diocese in the preparation and experience of the 53rd International Eucharistic Congress.”

The patron saint of Ecuador is the Immaculate Heart of Mary and that of the Archdiocese of Quito is the Virgin of El Quinche.

# Replica of the Little Chapel of the Apparitions Built in Czech Republic Was Dedicated in September

The place of worship is located in Koclírov, in the southern Moravian region of the Czech Republic, and aims to “strengthen the bond with the shrine of Fatima”.

Cátia Filipe



A replica of the Little Chapel of the Apparitions of Fatima was dedicated on the 2nd of September in Koclírov, Czech Republic, on the initiative of the World Apostolate of Fatima, an international public association of the faithful.

“This replica of the Little Chapel of Fatima is intended to strengthen ties with the Shrine of Fatima and to help the faithful of Eastern and Central Europe who visit the site to grow in their Marian devotion, especially through the Rosary and devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary,” the World Apostolate of Fatima says on its official website.

There are replicas of the Little Chapel of Fatima in Brazil, the United States, Puerto Rico and the Philippines, and similar projects are under construction in Panama and on the island of Samoa.

“This replica and the Spirituality Centre that houses it are being built on the site of a former monastery that was severely persecuted by the communist regime, they are intended to be a major reference point in the country for pilgrimage and prayer, particularly for Christians from neighbouring countries who have a spe-

cial devotion to Our Lady of Fatima,” states the official website of the World Apostolate of Fatima.

In an address to the pilgrims, Carlos Cabecinhas, Rector of the Shrine of Fatima, spoke of the importance of the Chapel of the Apparitions, “a symbol of the Shrine itself, a symbol of Our Lady’s apparitions, a symbol of Marian devotion and of the message of ‘the Lady who shines brighter than the sun.’”

In a Christian context, “the edifice dedicated to Christian worship is always a symbol of the Church of living stones, which gathers there to celebrate the presence of Jesus Christ,” therefore, by asking for a chapel to be built, “Our Lady emphasizes this dimension of communion in the Church which permeates the entire message of Fatima”.

This is an “ecclesial place, here we experience what it means to be the Church in Prayer, gathered together to adore God, to give Him thanks, to praise him and to ask for His help and protection.”

This new Chapel of the Apparitions marks “a deep bond of communion that links this place to the Shrine of Fatima

and connects the pilgrims who gather here to pray to the millions of pilgrims who pray at Cova da Iria every year”.

“On behalf of the Shrine of Fatima, I congratulate you on this initiative and thank you for all your efforts to spread the message of Fatima,” concluded Father Carlos Cabecinhas.

Carlos Cabecinhas also presented a paper on peace at the symposium “Fatima - Our Hope”, held in Koclírov, Czech Republic.

“I would like to speak to you about Fatima as a message of peace and hope, a subject that has become very topical since the Russian invasion of Ukraine, which has brought the issue of peace to the forefront of current events,” the priest began.

The theme of peace accompanies the entire history and message of Fatima “from the first moment to the last, as a transversal element that is at the heart of the message itself,” the priest explained, adding that the Angel and then the Virgin, “do not speak of war, but of peace and of prayer to achieve peace”.

“Peace characterises the life and practices of the Shrine,” he stressed, recalling



the constant prayer for peace, “an intention that is always present in Fatima, especially in the prayer of the Rosary, made according to the call of the Blessed Virgin”.

“We regularly give greater visibility to this intention on the 1st January, the World Day of Peace, but also occasionally, by associating ourselves with national or international moments of prayer for peace,” said Father Carlos Cabecinhas, recalling the act of consecration of Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, performed on the 25th of March 2022, in Rome, by the Holy Father, Pope Francis, and in Fatima, by the Papal Legate, Cardinal Konrad Krajewski. “This act of consecration, which took place one month after the beginning of the war in Ukraine, was not only an intense moment of faith, it was a cry of hope, it was an expression of unwavering trust in the power of prayer, it was an affirmation of peace as the only solution, and it was also a particularly significant moment for Fatima,” the priest reiterated.

According to the Rector, praying for peace is “the first and most important contribution of the Shrine for peace, but its action for peace does not end there”, because if “we pray daily for peace in Ukraine, we also welcome refugees and send aid to Ukraine, for example”.

Father Carlos Cabecinhas spoke about the sending of the Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima: “The Pilgrim Virgin stayed there for several months and, when she returned to the Shrine, we offered a statue to remain permanently in the Cathedral of Lviv.”

“Prayer is fundamental, but we mustn’t forget that the message of Fatima is also a strong appeal to overcome indifference to the suffering of the victims of war and violence,” he warned.

From the message of Fatima, “we learn hope that does not disappoint, because it is founded on the promises of God, who has designs of mercy for us, and we learn not to lose heart in the face of difficulties and not to fear in the face of threats, because God does not forget his promises.”

“God does not leave us alone and comes to our aid through the Immaculate Heart of Mary,” he concluded.

Replicas of the Little Chapel of Fatima can be found around the world, in Brazil, the United States, Puerto Rico and the Philippines, and similar projects are under construction in Panama and on the island of Samoa.

## The Church’s Authority Derives from the “Authenticity and Coherence of the Testimonies” of its Members, Says Father Carlos Cabecinhas

The Rector of the Shrine of Fatima took part in a round table discussion at the 32nd Economic Forum, which took place in Karpacz, Poland.

Cátia Filipe

The Rector of the Shrine of Fatima, Father Carlos Cabecinhas, took part for the first time in the Economic Forum held in Karpacz, Poland. At a round table discussion on the role of religion in the lives of young people, he stressed that the crisis in the relationship between the Church and young people stems more from a poor relationship with the institutional Church than from a loss of faith on the part of young people.

“Young people haven’t abandoned religion, nor have they stopped counting on God, the crisis is much more about the relationship with the mediator that is the religious institution, the Church.”

The Rector of the Shrine of Fatima recalled the recent experience of the visit of more than a million young people to Fatima, in the context of World Youth Day, where “they all came in search of something, they all came to meet the Blessed Mother.”

“They didn’t just visit Fatima, they prayed, they went to various places that evoke the memory of the event and refer to the message of Fatima, they took part in workshops organized by us on the key words of this message - adoration, prayer, sacrifice, conversion - and, above all, they celebrated,” he added, speaking of the echoes on social media, where young people expressly said that “they felt at home and that going to Fatima was going to meet the Mother.”

The priest also spoke about a study carried out by the Portuguese Catholic University - Young People, Faith and the Future - published in Portugal at the end of July this year, which reveals that 56 per cent of young Portuguese say they are believers; around half of young Portuguese (49 per cent) between the ages of 14 and 30 are Catholics; a third of young people who say they are religious are

also practising their faith: they pray regularly, take part in religious celebrations or are part of groups in their religious community. The others, although believers, say they do not practise, mainly because they lack the time, but also, they admit, because of a lack of commitment, or because they do not agree with certain rules of religious practice.

Again, “young people don’t reject God and they do give importance to the spiritual dimension of their lives, the difficulties are above all with the institution,” he reiterated, considering that “it is the Church that must ask itself how it can reach out to young people and regain a significant role as mediator in leading them to God.”

The Rector of the Shrine of Fatima also stressed that “the authority that the Church should seek must emanate from its witness, its coherence and its authenticity, because today’s young people reject authority figures and external impositions.”

The priest referred to the example of Pope Francis who, in Fatima on the 5th of August, showed that “to get closer to young people, to reach them, we need to speak a language that is characterised by three elements: brevity, simplicity and authenticity.”

The Economic Forum is the largest economic and political conference in Central and Eastern Europe. It is an event that has brought together participants from Poland, Europe, and the world for over 30 years. This year, around sixty countries were represented in an edition with the theme: “New Values of the Old Continent - Europe on the Threshold of Change,” that gathered more than 5,000 participants.

The 32nd Economic Forum took place from 5 to 7 September 2023 at the Gołębiewski Hotel in Karpacz, Poland.

# Pilgrim Virgin Welcomed by Thousands in Luanda

The Angolan people received their “beloved Mama” with emotion.

Diogo Carvalho Alves



Thousands of people accompanied the Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima No. 2 during her visit to the Archdiocese of Luanda, Angola, last May.

The climax of the pilgrimage was the candlelight procession on the 12th of May, attended by thousands of faithful, followed by a prayer vigil that lasted until the following day, “to the rhythm of music and songs”.

Another moment highlighted in the press release sent to the Shrine of Fatima was the visit of the Statue to the Convent of the Poor Clares, where it was received with great emotion.

“Amidst cheers and flowers, with tears in their eyes and smiles in their souls, with their hearts beating, the Angolan people paid the most expressive homage

to the venerable image of Our Lady of Fatima, greeting her as their Queen, acclaiming her as their beloved Mama, as they sang and loved to proclaim,” the press release said.

Several members of the government took part, including the President of the Assembly of the Republic of Angola, Carolina Cerqueira, the Vice-President of the Angolan Government, Esperança da Costa, and the Governor of the Luanda district, Nádia Neto.

At the end of the pilgrimage, during which 2,500 rosaries were given to the children, António Mucharreira, Servite of Fatima and promoter of the pilgrimage, expressed his happiness and gratitude for the success of the initiative.

“The presence of the statue of Our Lady

in the midst of these people was reflected in the hearts of all the children, present and absent, who so much needed the warmth of the humble woman who wanted to come and meet them,” said the visit information note.

At the Pilgrim Statue’s farewell, António Brito Soares, who was the liaison between the Servite and the Friars Minor Capuchin, spoke of a visit that, “like the rising sun, nourishes a better future”.

“Our sorrows are alleviated because the Mother of Jesus Christ sat with us and listened to our worries and laments. I’ve never seen so many flowers and fresh roses as I did for Our Lady of Fatima,” said António Brito Soares at the end of the visit, expressing his desire for the statue to return.

**FÁTIMA  
LUZ  
E PAZ**

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