

Opening of the Pilgrimage Anniversary of May 2018



Homilias e Mensagens

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Opening of the Anniversary Pilgrimage on May 12 and 13, 2018, by Cardinal John Tong.

Chapel of the Apparitions
12 de maio de 2018

† Cardinal John Tong

Your Excellency Bishop Antonio Marto, Reverend brother priests, dear brothers and sisters in the Lord, dear pilgrims,

First of all, I must express my sincere thanks to Your Excellency Bishop Marto, honorable Bishop of Leiria-Fátima, for having given me the kind invitation to preside over this international pilgrimage here at Fatima, in this very privileged place of our heavenly Mother. It is the first time that I have such an honor and I am very happy for it: I feel a great joy to be here a pilgrim as you and among you, but also as representative of all Chinese Catholics of Hong Kong, mainland China, Taiwan and of other places, to honor together the Virgin Mother.

We are now starting an international pilgrimage here at Fatima. Let us gather together with devotion around our heavenly Mother and, first of all, let us give thanks to our Lord Jesus for the gift of the apparitions of His Mother here in this sacred place. With it, He has given to the Church times of grace and mercy.

At the same time, let us humbly ask Mary to once again indicate to us what His Son, Jesus Christ, wants us to do in these new conditions of life of humanity. Although enjoying good economic and technical progress, with many communication facilities and life comforts, our world is still suffering from injustices, inequalities, conflicts and crimes. The Church, Jesus has founded, is still troubled internally with divisions and misunderstandings, and externally with oppression and attacks. Moreover, she must face challenges, raised by the new requests of human society. The Church still greatly needs light and guidance in order to provide an adequate answer to these challenges. And we, her members, coming from several nations of the world, find ourselves here at the feet of our

heavenly Mother, to raise our trustful prayers. Let us promise Her to try our best to implement all the invitations She has given during Her apparitions, namely, to undergo conversion, to pray the Holy Rosary, to do penance for the conversion of sinners and for peace in the world, but, at the same time, we must ask Her further light to better understand how we should behave in more adequate ways to the present situation of the world.

For this purpose, let us start our pilgrimage with humility and trust.

Dear Pilgrims, we have a Mother, a loving Mother: united with Her as devout children, let us follow Her with constant commitment: She will lead us to Jesus, source of salvation, forgiveness and peace for everyone!