



SANTUÁRIO DE FÁTIMA
SHRINE OF FATIMA

EN PILGRIM ITINERARY ALJUSTREL AND VALINHOS 2023-2024

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PRAYING WITH YOUR FEET

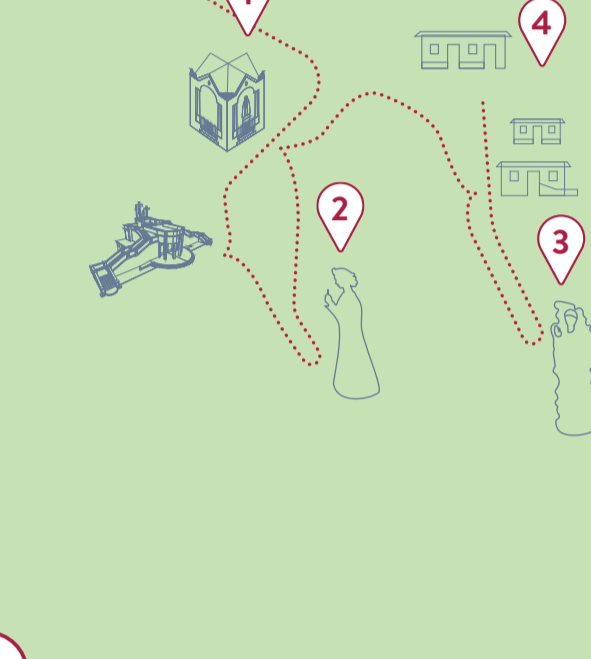
Following the route usually taken by Jacinta, Francisco and Lucia between their village and Cova da Iria, the Way of the Cross on the Way of the Little Shepherds proposes that I, too, take the road in the footsteps of those children — the footsteps of those who have tuned their lives entirely to the heart of Christ. On this journey, to follow in their footsteps is to walk with my own feet in the footsteps of Christ's passion, which the stations of the Way of the Cross that mark the route to the Hungarian Calvary allow me to contemplate. Now or at a more opportune moment, I am invited to «pray with my feet» the mystery of salvation that the steps of the Way of the Cross remind me of.

1 **MONUMENT OF VALINHOS**

2 **LOCA DO CABEÇO**

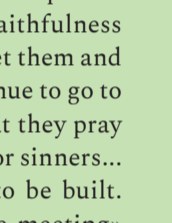
3 **THE WELL OF ARNEIRO**

4 **HOUSES OF THE SEERS**



1

MONUMENT OF VALINHOS



In the month of August, in a different place and on an unexpected day, Our Lady reaffirms her solicitude and faithfulness towards the three little shepherds, surprisingly coming to meet them and reinforcing the requests made until then: that they continue to go to Cova da Iria on the 13th day of the following months, that they pray the Rosary daily, that they live in self-offering, for love, for sinners... reference is also made, for the first time, to a chapel to be built. Absent from the «place of meeting» on the «day of the meeting» — held in Ourém on the 13th and therefore unable to go to Cova da Iria on the arranged day —, the Little Shepherds feared that Our Lady would not return. It was therefore with redoubled joy that they received her visitation, so much desired, on that 19th day, in Valinhos.

Just like a hundred years ago for the Little Shepherds, today it is I who am invited to have complete trust in God's faithfulness, which the attentive presence of Mary expresses so well. I too am called to persevere, even in the midst of tribulations, in that intimate and constant encounter which nourishes my friendship with Him.

If appropriate, I'll say a Hail Mary here.

2

LOCA DO CABEÇO



In this place, in which the first and third apparitions of the Angel took place, the Little Shepherds were introduced to the intimacy of their encounter with God, learning to believe, adore, hope and love more deeply. Guided by the Angel, Jacinta, Francisco and Lucia were ready to offer themselves in sacrifice for the good of all, particularly for those who were far from the love of God. The Lord asks of me this same readiness to the gift of myself; I can make it happen in the most diverse ways in my life, in big gestures as well as in small things.

I am challenged to learn from the Angel, just like the Little Shepherds, adoration, that way of living, which is also a way of praying, that better expresses the humble, available and grateful attitude that I am called to assume before God. Thus I recognize myself, just like them, invited to enter into a profound heart to heart relationship with God. And because this relationship cannot fail to give rise to loving care for others, I can pray, with them and like them: «My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love you. I ask pardon of you for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love you.»

3

THE WELL OF ARNEIRO



The Angel came to invite those children, whose eyes were beginning to fill with God, to offer Him their lives continually as a loving gift, to offer them in a fruitful and transfiguring sacrifice for the good of others.

Today I too am earnestly asked to pray and to offer myself lovingly as a gift to God and for the sake of those who do not love Him. I can, in the very words of the Little Shepherds, offer in this way what I am and what I do: «O Jesus, it is for the love of You, for the conversion of sinners and in reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary!»

Like Saint Jacinta — who, in this place, had a vision of the Holy Father crying and praying, on his knees, in a large house —, I also make my own the intentions and needs of the Pope and of the Church, of which I am a part, and I take them up in my prayer.

4

HOUSES OF THE SEERS



For Jacinta, Francisco and Lucia, the family was the first place of encounter with God. In building family and community relationships founded on faith, hope and charity, and living to the rhythm of prayer and the relationship with God, the little shepherds grew opening their lives to others and to God. From this fruitful family environment, their hearts learned to dispose themselves to the divine action in their lives. The encounter with God, offered through the mediation of the Angel and Our Lady, engraved itself so deeply on their hearts that it never ceased to bear fruit in their lives and, through their witness of self-giving to God, in the lives of many others.

I too am invited to welcome God's grace, the first and overflowing love, which will generate the fruits of abundant life in me and in others.

If I haven't yet had the opportunity to walk the steps of Christ's passion, of which the stations of the Way of the Cross on the Shepherds' Way are a memorial, I am now invited to pray this path that speaks to me of God's desire for salvation for all of humankind.



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