



SANTUÁRIO DE FÁTIMA
SHRINE OF FATIMA

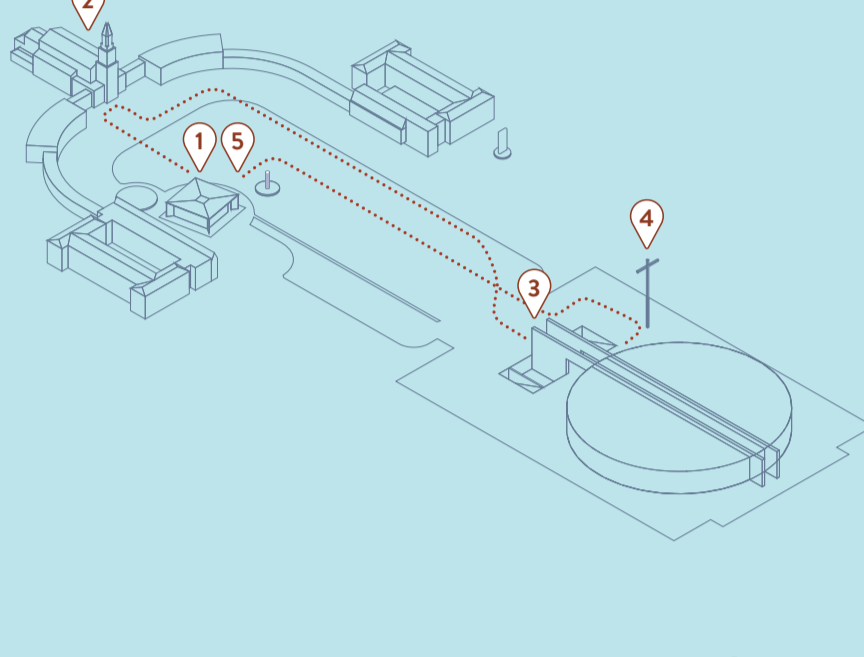
EN PILGRIM ITINERARY SHRINE

2023-2024

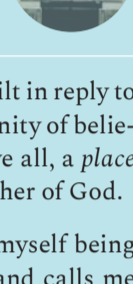
0 PREPARING THE HEART

As we head towards the Holy Year 2025, which will bring the whole Church together for a festive occasion, I too am invited to prepare my heart and my life for this jubilee event, welcoming Pope Francis' call for us to live 2024 as a «symphony of prayer». I am reminded that my vocation is to live always in the presence of the Lord (cf. Ps 23:6), in a close, friendly relationship with Him, responding to the gift of His love with gratitude and commitment. In my faithful encounter with God, which prayer makes concrete and nourishes, I am also sent out to meet others. Together, we are called to live as a community of brothers and sisters.

- 1 LITTLE CHAPEL OF THE APPARITIONS
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- 5 LITTLE CHAPEL OF THE APPARITIONS



1 LITTLE CHAPEL OF THE APPARITIONS



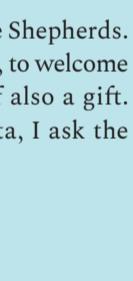
I find myself in the «heart» of the Shrine, in this place built in reply to the request that a chapel be built here, where the community of believers gathers in the name of the Lord (cf. Mt 18:20), above all, a *place of encounter*, open and welcoming like the lap of the Mother of God.

I look at the sculpture of the Blessed Mother and I see myself being looked at: through Mary's gaze, God is looking at me and calls me to become, with Her and like Her, a disciple of his Son. In this place, I contemplate the gaze of the Lady who came to speak to the little shepherds and to each one of us of God's love and of His suffering because of the sorrows of humankind. Filled with God, Mary's gaze is the gaze of a heart that is compassionate, like that of God. The divine grace and mercy which are lovingly poured out upon humankind and the world shine forth in it, and from it comes the invitation to join this love: «Do you wish to offer yourselves to God...?»

The question was put to Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta and underpinned those six meetings which took place, almost all of them, right here, in 1917, marked precisely by the free and generous answer they gave with their lips and with their lives: «Yes, we do.» The question is also addressed to me: I can too, like the Little Shepherds, freely and conscientiously answer «Yes, I do» and enter into that dynamic of love and salvation.

If appropriate, in this place where the Little Shepherds and Our Lady have met several times, I pray a Hail Mary.

2 BASILICA OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY OF FATIMA

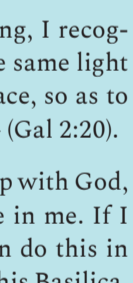


Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta made the experience of encountering God, to which the Angel and Our Lady of the Rosary had initiated them, radically bear fruit in their lives. They grew so much in friendship and intimacy with God that they fully achieved what they were called to do: to open the centre of their lives to God and to place themselves at the service of His mercy and salvation for all, taking Jesus himself as their example and giving expression to the desire that God «may be all in all» (1 Cor 15:28).

I am invited to pause before the tomb of each of the Little Shepherds. Called by their witness of faith, I feel called, just like them, to welcome the gift of God and of others in my life, making myself also a gift. Through the intercession of St. Francisco and St. Jacinta, I ask the Lord for the strength to grow in this inner readiness.

Saint Francisco Marto, pray for us!
Saint Jacinta Marto, pray for us!
Children called by Jesus Christ, pray for us!
Children called to contemplate God in Heaven, pray for us!
Little ones to whom the Father reveals the mysteries of the Kingdom, pray for us!
Little ones privileged of the Father, pray for us!
Perfect praise of the wonders of God, pray for us!

3 BASILICA OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

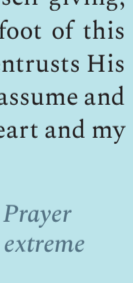


Surrounded by the grandeur of this temple, I contemplate the luminous representation of the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of God in which those who have allowed themselves to be clothed by Him in baptismal whiteness dwell. It is this whiteness which also pervades the beautiful image of Mary, whose heart transpires the clarity of God's light and grace. The Little Shepherds, too, let their hearts and their lives be immersed in this rebuilding light.

From the space size to the interiority of my inmost being, I recognize myself as called to let myself be transformed by the same light that comes from on high, by the same transfiguring grace, so as to be able to say with St Paul: «It is Christ who lives in me» (Gal 2:20).

The Sacrament of Reconciliation nourishes my friendship with God, helps me to live in Him and enables me to let Him live in me. If I feel called to do so, I go to a priest for confession; I can do this in the Reconciliation Chapels in the underground floor of this Basilica. Eucharistic adoration also deepens this friendship; I can meet the «hidden Jesus» in the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament, on the same underground floor.

4 HIGH CROSS



«Then Jesus, seeing His mother and the disciple whom He loved standing there, said to the mother, «Woman, behold your son!» Then He said to the disciple, «Behold your mother!»» (Jn 19:26-27). The High Cross presides over the place where the mother of Jesus came to speak to humankind of God's love and of his desire for salvation for all, that salvation which the Son offered with the total gift of His life, out of love, to the extreme, even to the cross.

At Fatima, sacrifice speaks to us of this adhesion to Jesus' way of living: in fact, it is an expression of love for God and for one's neighbour, lived in total self-giving. Love is the sole reason for the sacrifice, just as it was the sole reason for the salvation accomplished by Christ and in Christ. We are thus attuned to His self-giving, participating in the same redemptive mission. At the foot of this Cross, I recognize myself as called to whom Jesus entrusted His mother, to whom He entrusted me as son. I am called to assume and live this commitment as disciple and son, likening my heart and my love to theirs.

I spend a few minutes in silence. I look at this Cross and the Prayer Area: there I contemplate the pilgrim humankind and God's extreme love for me and for everyone.

5 LITTLE CHAPEL OF THE APPARITIONS



I return to this place where the encounter between Mary and the Little Shepherds took place. The mother of Jesus, who appeared here, invites me to look at her Son, whose mysteries dwell in Her immaculate heart filling it with Easter light. It is this light of Christ, represented in the candle which I contemplate here, which each night is diffused into the hands of every pilgrim who takes part in the prayer of the Rosary and the procession of candles, illuminating him or her from within, right down to the heart.

I too am called to let this light descend into my heart, making it like that of Christ. In this way I will become, as His disciple, «salt of the earth» and «light of the world» (Mt 5:13-14).



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