



Director: Fr. Virgílio Antunes * Proprietor: Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fátima (Portugal) * Quarterly publication * Year VI * Nr. 22 * 2009/08/13

From every people and nation

In the Creed we profess that the Church is catholic or universal. Jesus Christ and the Apostles announced the Good News of the Kingdom to the four corners of the world, with words and wonders, which awakened acceptance.

In Pentecost there was a great manifestation of the Church, enlivened by the Holy Spirit, which showed itself to be constituted by peoples from all places around Jerusalem. That image of great assembly of people who speak their own languages, praise the same God and feel united had a large impact in the growth of the Church.

Shrines are today one of those vis-



ible faces of the Catholic Church, which make possible the new Pentecost. They gather faithful from all over, are places where the grace of God acts, give testimony of miraculous conversions, lead

to the sources of the Eucharist, of the forgiveness and of the Gospel. They attract men and women who in their lives are searching for something, and they (the shrines) take on the attitude of Jesus, the One Who attracted all who were tired, oppressed and searching for meaning in their lives.

The Shrine of Fatima, specially in Summer time, is a face of the Catholic or Universal Church. It feels it has the vocation and recognizes the challenge to attract and receive Our Lady's pilgrims, so that they may encounter in Christ the way of their lives.

Fr. Virgílio Antunes

On May 13, in Bethlehem, Holy Father mentions Fatima

In Bethlehem, during his trip to the Holy Land, when visiting the Caritas Baby Hospital, on May 13, Holy Father Benedict XVI recalled the Apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima with these words:

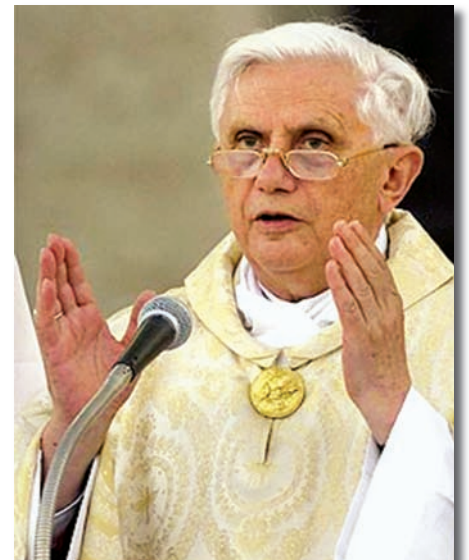
« On this Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, I would like to conclude by invoking Mary's intercession as I impart my Apostolic Blessing to the children and all of you. Let us pray: *Mary, Health of the Sick, Refuge of Sinners, Mother of the Redeemer: we join the many generations who have called you "Blessed". Listen to your children as we call upon your name. You promised the three children of Fatima that "in the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph". May it be so! May love triumph over hatred, solidarity over division, and peace over every form of violence! May the love*

you bore your Son teach us to love God with all our heart, strength and soul. May the Almighty show us his mercy, strengthen us with his power, and fill us with every good thing (cf. Lk 1:46-56). We ask your Son Jesus to bless these children and all children who suffer throughout the world. May they receive health of body, strength of mind, and peace of soul. But most of all, may they know that they are loved with a love which knows no bounds or limits: the love of Christ which surpasses all understanding (cf. Eph 3:19). Amen.»

Moments earlier, after greeting the administrators and employees of the hospital, Benedict XVI addressed the children and young patients and also their families:

«the Pope is with you"! Today he is with you in person, but he spiritually

accompanies you each and every day in his thoughts and prayers, asking the Almighty to watch over you with his tender care.»



Children are invited to be kind and to share



The Children's Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Fatima in Portugal, on June 9/10, once again filled the Shrine of Fatima with joy and hope.

The Most Rev. Tomaz Silva Nunes, President of the Bishops Committee for Christian Education and Auxiliary Bishop of Lisbon, presided over this Feast/Pilgrimage, which is being held here already for the past 31 years, and, during the homily, invited the children to take a look at the example given by Mary, Who, by Her own actions, showed to be

“a person with a good heart”, willing to help out, prudent and full of faith.

Also the first disciples and the first Christians were shown to the children as examples of people with a good heart, for they gave testimony of the Risen Jesus and shared their goods with the needy.

In the month concluding the Year commemorative of the centennial of the birth of Blessed Francisco Marto (June 11, 1908), all boys and girls were also invited to imitate the little seer, by dedi-

cating part of their time to prayer and to help the needy.

Let us listen to the Bishop's own words: “But the heart of Francisco wasn't united only to Jesus and Our Lady. From that love was born in him a sensitivity to the problems and difficulties of others and a special love for the sick, for whom he prayed and to whom he always addressed a word of encouragement and hope. The heart of Francisco was a beautiful heart, because, despite all the threats and sufferings he had to endure, he was always courageous and faithful to the love of God and neighbor”.

More than 25,000 children, out of a total of approximately 250,000 people, took part in the Mass celebrated on the 10th.

At the end of Mass, the children, after having brought their own gifts for Francisco Marto (flutes, rosaries, etc.), they in turn received from the Shrine a book on the life of the Blessed and a slice of cake.

On the afternoon of the 9th and on the morning of the 10th, the children followed a beautiful tradition and offered a lot of flowers to Our Lady of Fatima: a very moving and symbolic gesture, as was this whole pilgrimage of joy and hope.

LeopolDina Simões

One Thousand Flutes for Jesus

Certainly more than one thousand and one children responded to this proposal of the Shrine of Fatima for the 2009 Children's Pilgrimage. With the children as artists as well as spectators, together with their family members and catechists, Most Holy Trinity Church filled up twice, once on the morning and again on the afternoon of the 10th of June.

The short children's cantata “One Thousand Flutes for Jesus” had its inspiration in the fact that Francisco loved to play the flute. The children, therefore, were invited to bring their own flutes in order to participate. The response was great, it was a feast!

First Encounter of Children's Choirs



On June 14, Most Holy Trinity Church was again the stage for a beautiful show, for both the little and the big ones, when the children shone once more.

It was the first National Encounter of Children's Choirs at the Shrine of Fatima, in which seven Portuguese choirs took part.

For this musical initiative the Shrine of Fatima was able to count on the collaboration of composer and maestro Paulo Lameiro, who, later in the month of June, on the evening of the 19th, presented and directed, as part of the scheduled program of the Congress ‘Francisco Marto: To grow into the Gift’, his own work ‘Te Deum’.

The performance was by the children of the Children's Choir of the Shrine of Fatima, the *Schola Cantorum Pastorinhos de Fátima (Schola Cantorum Little Shepherds of Fatima)*.

May Pilgrimage at the Shrine of Fatima/Portugal

Mary, Star of the New Evangelization

On the Feast Day of Our Lady of Fatima, May 13, His Eminence Oscar Rodriguez Cardinal Maradiaga, who presided over the Anniversary Pilgrimage, recalled, during his homily, the apparition of Our Lady at Cova da Iria, on May 13, 1917, and pointed to the figure of Mary as inspiring many communities since the beginning of evangelization.

“The Virgin belongs to us; we feel Her as mother and sister. The history of most shrines throughout the world witnesses to the special love of Mary for the little and insignificant ones of this world. The Marian devotion, with its multiple cultural expressions, tells us that the Gospel has been inculturated: proof of that is the fact that the Virgin presents Herself with White, Indian, Creole, Negro and Mestizo faces, thus revealing the compassionate and maternal face of God towards His People”, he said.

From the place many consider to be “the Altar of the World”, Cardinal Maradiaga, President of Caritas International, spoke to today’s world:



“Also now our world finds itself sunk in deep crises of faith, ethics, humanity, and seems to have lost the moral direction. It no longer recognizes the border between good and evil. One may possess a prosperous purse of valuables, but without value. The financial crisis we are going through is simply a sign of this very thing. The invisible hand which supposedly should guide the market has become a dishonest and greedy hand. Also today, with the example and help of the Virgin, the Christian communities continue the mission of leading the people to encounter Christ and that’s why we invoke Her again as Star of the New Evangelization”.

A prayer for the sick

For May’s Pilgrimage there were signed up to receive the blessing of the sick, held after Mass on the 13th, 13,427 people. In his words to our sick brethren, which precedes the blessing itself, Fr. Francisco Serra Coelho, from Évora (Portugal), imparted to them a message of trust in the Lord:

“Let Him look at you, because His Heart belongs to you. You are with Him the Cross which keeps saving the world. He is with you. Appreciate Him as your companion of pilgrimage, now made spiritual food in the Eucharistic Bread”.

This Mass of the 13th was concelebrated by 21 bishops and 360 priests.

Approximately 200,000 people took part in it and approximately 34,000 pilgrims received Holy Communion. 129 organized groups from 25 countries officially reported their presence to the Department of Pilgrim Service of the Shrine.

Leopoldina Simões

Suggestions for Fatima’s Pilgrims

‘A Day during pilgrimage’

This is an initiative planned by the Reception and Information Section of the Department of Pilgrim Service, and it is held during the time period of July 16 thru September 15, Monday thru Saturday, except on August 12, 13, 15 and September 12, 13.

Not needing reservation, “A Day during Pilgrimage” is being held at the Shrine of Fatima again this year.

It begins at the ‘heart’ of the Shrine of Fatima – the Little Chapel of Apparitions – and it is an invitation to pilgrims who want to know, thru a guide, the sites, history and message of Fatima.

This project, besides the viewing of videos and the visit to the main sites related to the apparitions, includes also some moments for prayer.



‘Day of the Elderly’

In order to provide a closer and more special reception to groups of elderly which visit the Shrine of Fatima, the Shrine offers a special program for all those wishing to participate, individually or in group. “The Day of the Elderly”, for people 65 or more years of age, took off in April 2009, and it will go on from Easter to the end of October, always on Wednesdays.

The program starts at 10h00 with a moment of adoration, followed by a visit to Most Holy Trinity Church, the recitation of the Rosary at the Little Chapel and the celebration of Holy Mass.

To receive the elderly is not a new initiative at this institution. For several years now, thru the services of the Associations (SEAS) and of the Sick (SEAD) of the Shrine and organized by the Movement of the Message of Fatima, several groups of elderly from all the dioceses of Portugal have been participating in a program organized for them.

Christ-King and Our Lady of Fatima – Alliance of the Two Hearts

The idea came from Cardinal Cerejeira, in the year 1934, and slowly took shape during the following years. Gathered at the Shrine of Fatima on April 20, 1940, the Portuguese Bishops made a vow: "If Portugal were spared from the War, they would erect a monument to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, a visible sign of how God, in His Love, desires to attract to Himself the whole of mankind".

In the aftermath of World War II, the vow began to be fulfilled. On December 18, 1949, the first stone of the monument was blessed.

Ten years later, on May 17, 1959, Pentecost Sunday, before a crowd of about 300,000 pilgrims and all the Portuguese Bishops, the new monument was dedicated by the same Cardinal Patriarch of Lisbon, in the presence of the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, expressly brought in from the Little Chapel of Apparitions.

Fifty years later, now on Sunday, May 17, 2009, another large crowd gathered at the monument to commemorate that event. The crowd accompanied the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima in Her glorious trip, on Saturday and Sunday, through Lisbon, across the Tagus River and into Almada, to meet Her Son, represented in the majestic statue at the top of the monument.

After the Act of Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Virgin Mary was also invoked: "Most Holy Mary, sure way to Jesus, we consecrate our hearts to Your Immaculate Heart of Mother of Christ and Mother of the Church, of each and every Christian that here invoke You as *Our Lady of*



Peace. With devotion and filial love, we contemplate the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, Who opens for us Her Heart of Most Beloved Mother. To You, Who were the first tabernacle of Jesus on Earth and have always lived consecrated to Him, we have recourse to Your intercession, so that the Church may be holier and more united, more apostolic and more missionary and thus the world may believe that God is Love and the Merciful Father of all mankind".

Fr. Luciano Cristino

Poland: Spiritual Union through Prayer

The Parish of the Immaculate Heart of the Most Holy Virgin Mary in Zory Rowien, Poland, with its Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, thinks it has a special bond with Our Lady of Fatima, Who shows Her Immaculate Heart surrounded with thorns. This is why this parish intends to create a spiritual union with the Shrine of Fatima.

Since 2004 our community venerates the relics of Blesseds Francisco and Jacinta, which were brought here from Fatima; and we celebrate solemnly the Liturgical Feast of the Blesseds (on February 20).

The parish group *Children of Fatima* promotes the spirituality of the Blessed Little Shepherds.

In 2007, the parish celebrated the 90th anniversary of the Apparitions of Our Lady, with Fatima celebrations always on the 13th of the month, May through October; and also processions with the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima brought from Fatima, Portugal.

Jolanta Potempa, Poland

Spain's 'Nocturnal Adoration' prays at Fatima for the family

The Pilgrimage of Spain's 'NOCTURNAL ADORATION' (ANE *in Spanish*) returned to Fatima, uninterruptedly for the 23rd time, on May 21 thru 24. It is the largest foreign pilgrimage from a sole country – Spain – to Cova da Iria. This year of 2009 it enlisted about 3500 pilgrims.

The Eucharistic celebrations were presided over by several bishops accompanying the group, with 50 priests celebrating.

The new National President of ANE, Mr. Carlos Mendiña, greeted the pilgrims. Present was the new Rector of the Shrine of Fatima, Fr. Virgilio Antunes.

The all-night great vigil of adoration, from the 22nd to the 23rd, had Bishop António Marto, of Leiria-Fatima, presiding over the 22h30 Mass.

As in previous occasions, this pilgrimage maintained, as a yearly special intention, a prayer for priests and priestly vocations as well as for the consecrated life and, consequently, intends to bring to Fatima seminarians from the major seminary of Ourense (Spain).

Special intention just for this year was a prayer for the family.

Racosni Costas, Spain

2009/2017 – Great Fatima Novena in Poland



In 2017 we are going to celebrate the centennial of the Apparitions of Fatima. The Secretariat of Fatima - one of the important centres of research and spread of the message of the Virgin Mary of *Cova da Iria*, with its office at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Zakopane/Poland - has, therefore, invited the clergy and faithful of the Catholic Church of Poland to prepare together for this important event by means of a Great Novena of 9 years, which began on May 13, 2009, and will conclude on May 13, 2017.

The idea of the Novena got the blessing of His Eminence Stanislaw Cardinal Dziwisz, Metropolitan Archbishop of Krakow, and the approval of the Shrine of Fatima (Portugal) and of the Marian Institute of Regensburg/Germany. Practically all the dioceses of Poland accepted the idea and are extending to their parishes the invitation to take part in the Great

Fatima Novena. The priests and faithful of Canada, United States, Norway and Hungary have also joined in.

Each year will be consecrated to one of the fundamental contents of the message of Fatima. During the Novena the idea is to reflect on the most urgent appeals of God addressed to all of us through the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The Great Fatima Novena - full of prayer, reflection and catechesis - ought to be a help in the search of the way that leads to a "new and better world" (John Paul II); to a personal conversion; and to the promised triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Those in charge of organizing the Novena ask all Christians making the Novena to pray with words based on the Act of Consecration of Russia and the World to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, addressed by Pope John Paul II to Our Lady on March 25, 1984, Feast of the Annunciation. Sister Lucia said: "this was the first triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary"! The Pope's prayer had the force to move Heaven. Therefore, while we prepare for the centennial of the Apparitions, we want to remind to Our Lady the words of the Holy Father, for they were efficacious and did miracles. Thus should be our prayer and the whole Great Fatima Novena.

To conclude, we present the Prayer of Entrustment of the Novena, which alludes to the speech of Pope John Paul II made on the prayer vigil, at Fatima, on May 12, 1991: "Receive, O Mother of God and my Mother, this Great Fatima

Novena, prayed in Your honour and for the glory of the Most Holy Trinity, Light without sunset, which our steps seek with anxiety and often with uncertainty. Virgin of Fatima, walk with me! Lead me to Your Son! Lead me to the Port of Salvation! Pray for me, a sinner, now and at the hour of my death! Amen!"

Beata Kozakiewicz
(Work done based on the materials of the Secretariat of Fatima of the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Zakopane.)

Yearly Themes of the Great Novena:

- 2009: Confident in the victory**
– *The confrontation with the civilization of death*
- 2010: Safe as time approaches**
– *Always at Mary's side*
- 2011: More than the temporal**
– *There is Heaven, Hell and Purgatory*
- 2012: We do not live only for ourselves** – *Reparation for the sins of the world*
- 2013: The Eucharistic key**
– *The miracle of miracles which changes everything*
- 2014: Invited to Heaven** – *And even the rosary, the scapular, the penance rope*
- 2015: The power of the family** – *The Domestic Church, unconquerable by the Gates of Hell*
- 2016: God is Merciful** – *God's is the last word, and He is Love*
- 2017: The way through the heart** – *The Alliance of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary with ours*

From the Archdiocese of Beira (Mozambique), a fraternal hug

It was with great joy and reverence that, through the media (RTP), I was able to pray with the Pilgrims of Fatima, during the Anniversary Pilgrimage of May 2009.

I have been working in Mozambique, as a missionary, for the last thirteen years, but I had never been able to follow the celebrations through the media, because I am almost always in the countryside where that is not possible.

Thanks to the media and to all those who dedicate their time trying to spread the Message of the Gospel to those who

are far away, in order for Jesus to become known and loved by all peoples!

Fatima in the Archdiocese of Beira

The Archdiocese of Beira has as Patron Our Lady of the Rosary. It has a Shrine, a Parish and several communities dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima.

The people of Mozambique are very devoted to Our Lady. Therefore, on the 12th of the month, we made a Candlelight procession in the City of Beira and in other communities, in which a lot of people took part, praying the Rosary and singing

hymns to Mary, Our Mother. It feels good to be in communion with the Pilgrims of Fatima, for we are all pilgrims in this world. May Our Lady continue to walk with us and lead us to Her Son Jesus Christ, through Whom we go to the Father.

I keep receiving 'Voz da Fátima' (official monthly newspaper of the Shrine of Fatima published only in Portuguese). Thanks for all the good you do!

A fraternal hug from this friend in Jesus and Mary,

Sister Dolores Silva Costa

Erected in thanksgiving to God for sparing John Paul II's life

Diocese of Warsaw has Shrine of Fatima

In letter addressed to the Rector of the Shrine of Fatima in Portugal, Fr. Virgílio Antunes, the Rector of the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Ursus, Poland, Fr. Roch Walczak, recalls the main moments of this place of Mary in Polish lands.

The Church, and eventually the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, in a suburb of Warsaw called Ursus, was built by the faithful of the parish dedicated to Our Lady Who appeared at Fatima, in thanksgiving for the miracle of salvation of the life of Holy Father John Paul II during the attempt on his life which occurred on May 13, 1981. It is the only erected in the Archdiocese of Warsaw under this invocation and with this intention.

On June 25, 1982 (more than a year after the attempt), His Eminence Józef Primate Cardinal Glemp ordered me to work on the construction of a new pastoral center with house for the priests and also a church, intending to convert it later into a shrine.

Even before the start of the construction, on July 25, 1982, I had the privilege to receive a personal blessing from His Holiness John Paul II. The solemn consecration of the church was done by Cardinal Glemp on October 5, 1997, shortly before the 80th anniversary of the last apparition of Our Lady at Fatima.

For 15 years the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima visited all the families of the parish.

From June 13, 1989, until today, every day the faithful, led by a priest, pray the Rosary.

In the Year of the Eucharist, it was prayed always before the Blessed Sacrament exposed. The tradition has 20 years.

Every First Saturday, after the evening Mass and until 21h00, there is a 15 minute meditation on one of the mysteries of the Rosary, followed by the recitation of the Rosary before the Blessed Sacrament exposed.

Since 1984, every 13th of the month, from May through October – during the anniversaries of the different apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima – the crowds take part in the moments of reflection and prayer, as well as in a Solemn Mass with the homily dedicated to the topic of Fatima.

After Mass, there is a Rosary Procession with the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima and the Relics of the Blessed Little Shepherds Jacinta and Francisco. The Procession stops at every one of the 5 altars, which we call 'Stations of the Rosary'.

The Statue of Our Lady of Fatima that stands next to the altar of the church was blessed by Holy Father John Paul II on June 9, 1991, during the Mass in Warsaw, when the Pope visited his country for the fourth time.

The little chapel next to the church was built according to the

model of the Marian Movement of Fatima and is the first one outside Portugal.

During the Great Jubilee our Parish Church enjoyed the privilege of the Jubilee indulgence. In the year 2000 we were visited by groups of faithful of several Polish cities, to name but a few: Brzeg Opolski, (in Silesia – a Polish southern region); Sandomierz; and several others.

The 13th of the Month Celebrations

On the 13th of each month there come devotees from: Pruszków, Otwock, Piastów, Kutno, Piaseczno, Milanówek, Lomianki, Grodzisk, Mazowiecki, Sandomierz, Marki, several parishes from Warsaw (St. Lwarence, St. Joseph, district of Kolo, St. Adalbert, St. Lukas, district of Golabki), as well as from many other parishes and cities. The church has been visited by groups of pilgrims from Portugal. We have also received two pilgrimages from Belarus, which came by bus.

On October 13, 2002, 85th anniversary of the last apparition

at Fatima, our parish lived moments of great joy, upon the solemn arrival of the relics of Blesseds Jacinta and Francisco Marto, witnesses of the apparitions, who were beatified on May 13, 2000. The ceremonies were presided over by Bishop Marian Dus.

In the interior of the Shrine there are representations of all the mysteries of the Rosary: two parts represented in



sculptures, other two in stained glass in the windows.

On the 2nd of each month, at 21h00, Mass is celebrated for the intention of the rapid beatification of the Servant of God John Paul II.

By decree of May 13, 2006, Cardinal Glemp granted to the church the title of shrine.

On September 13, 2008, the new Archbishop of Warsaw, Most Rev. Kazimierz Nycz, in the presence of Cardinal Glemp and Bishop Marian Dus, Vicar General of our Archdiocese, crowned the Statue of our Lady of Fatima.

Only one generation was enough to build the church, which later became shrine, and now the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima of this shrine has been crowned. (...)

We would like to have our Shrine – erected to thank God for sparing the life of Holy Father John Paul II - become a place really holy in Warsaw, the heart of Poland. It is also our desire to spread the message of Our Lady and the Great Fatima Novena in Polish lands.

May God bless you!

Fr. Roch Walczak, www.smbfat.pl

Montignoso-Fatima...A great spiritual union

The Work of Our Lady of Fatima, in Montignoso (Gambassi Terme), FI, Italy, in the hills of the Diocese of Volterra, gathers every year thousands of people from Tuscany and other Regions. The 'Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary' have here their mission and look after this place blessed by Heaven.

Here they spread the message that Our Lady left at *Cova da Iria*. From May through October a lot of pilgrims show up, specially on the 12th and the 13th. On the 12th there is a procession with the Blessed Sacrament in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges and indifferences towards Jesus in the Eucharist. This is precisely what the message calls for: reparation, prayer and consecration. On the 13th there is always a marvelous fiesta in honor of Our Lady,

with the recitation of the meditated Rosary and the reading of the message. Then there follows the procession with the Statue of



Our Lady of Fatima, which travels through the woods surrounding the place where there is usually celebrated a Mass always

presided over by a bishop. At the end of the ceremony we assist to a marvelous waving of white handkerchiefs while the Farewell to Fatima is sung. The hymns sung by the angelic voices of the sisters 'Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary' really touch the hearts of everyone present.

For this place was also planned a Little Chapel with a glass enclosure for the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima made in Fatima (Portugal), which Bishop Mansueto Bianchi, then Bishop of the Diocese of Volterra, blessed on July 13, 2004. In front of the Little Chapel couldn't be missing the Angel of Portugal with the three Little Shepherds and two stones where we find engraved the prayers taught to the children.

Alessandra Bimbi (FCIM), Italy

Relics of St. Margaret Alacoque visit Fatima

In their trip through the Portuguese dioceses, the Relics of St. Margaret Alacoque, from the Monastery of Paray le Monial (France), visited also the Diocese of Leiria-Fatima, including the Monastery of the Visitation Nuns in Batalha, the Shrine and the Parish of Fatima.

At the Shrine of Fatima, they were exposed to the veneration of the faithful in the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary, on May 21/22, but they spent the vigil of

the 21st in the Parish Church of Fatima.

Bishop Antonio Marto, of Leiria-Fatima, presided over the Mass of welcome to the Relics, moment he said was "of thanksgiving to God for the mystical experience of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque" and also "for the fruit of the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which St. Margaret Mary, enkindled by this love, brought into the Church and into the world".

Bishop Antonio wished that the visit and the veneration of the Relics, intimately linked to the fervorous devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, be a call "to the renewal of our faith through this mystery of love". He went on to say: "God's love is not a love of declaration, abstract, of vague feelings, of a God up there in Heaven; it is the love of a God Who becomes flesh of our flesh, Who acquires a human heart through His Son".

Free Subscriptions from 2009 on

Fatima Luz e Paz saw the light of the day on May 13, 2004, with the purpose of gathering, in an atmosphere of faith and dialogue, the many devotees of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima throughout the world.

Since the beginning, this international newsletter – published in Portuguese, German, Spanish, French, English, Italian and Polish – bore the costs of editing, printing and dispatching to all places in the world

(shrines, churches, parishes, movements and others) bearing the name of Our Lady of Fatima. And many they are!

Immediately after the first issues, at the request of single pilgrim individuals, specially of those who came to know about the publication here at the Shrine of Fatima, a paid subscription was made available to them.

After almost five years, the Shrine of Fatima, as a way of thanking all the messages of encouragement and devotion received during

this time, has decided that *Fatima Luz e Paz* will from now on be sent free of charge to all those who wish to receive it.

Nevertheless, we'll appreciate all donations sent to us for the purpose of offsetting the costs of this publication. We will send a Receipt of Donation – good for tax purposes - by postal mail to everyone who sends a donation for this purpose.

We'll keep in touch!

The "Fatima Light and Peace" team

Fátima – Light and Peace

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Please help us spread the Message of Our Lady through 'Fatima Light and Peace'!

Schools of India Under the Protection of Our Lady Of Fatima

Gujarat State is situated on the west coast of India and Bhavnagar is a district of Gujarat. In the early 50's Rev. Fr. John Palau S.J., a Spaniard Jesuit Missionary, was the Parish Priest of St. Xavier's Church in Bhavnagar. At this time there wasn't any English Medium School in Bhavnagar. The Government Officials requested Fr. Palau to begin an English Medium School. He immediately set to work, wrote a number of letters to Religious Congregations both in India and Abroad inviting them for this apostolate. But all his efforts were in vain. Once he shared his desire and disappointment with another visiting Jesuit, who told him about the Congregation of the Carmelites of Charity of Vedruna in Spain (Founded by St. Joaquina de Vedruna) whose main apostolate was Education. But this Priest made Father Palau to make a promise that, if he succeeded in getting a Congregation of Nuns to work in Bhavnagar, he would place the Institution under the protection of Our Lady of Fatima. Devout and Holy Father Palau had no difficulty in making this promise as He had a deep and filial devotion to Mother Mary. He wrote a letter to the Superior General of the Congregation and prompt came the affirmative reply. In keeping with their Foundress' desire: 'I want my daughters to go to any part of the world and they will not refuse' in February 1953, five enthusiastic and dynamic missionaries set foot on the the unknown soil of Bhavnagar. They faced all the difficulties, inconveniences, especially the scorching summer heat of India. Once they put their hand to the plough, there was no turning back. In July 1953, with of a handful of tiny kids, Fatima Convent School was established at Jail Road, Bhavnagar.

As years passed, the demand for admissions to the School increased and the number of students was more than could be contained. Hence due to lack of space, in the year 1985, a new building was constructed at Merubaug, Bhavnagar - 4 kms away from the original school in order to accommodate the higher classes that is from class 8 to class 12. In this way there are two schools run by the Carmelites of Charity of Vedruna, dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima: 1. Fatima Convent Primary School at Jail Road, Bhavnagar and 2. Fatima Convent Higher Secondary School at Merubaug, Bhavnagar. (This is where I work as the director of the School).

There is a statue of Our Lady of Fatima on the top of both the school buildings, protecting and loving all the children. October 13, we celebrate as the School Day, and every year we narrate the story of the Apparitions and how the school came to be named Fatima Convent. Almost 98% of our students are Non-Christians, the majority being Hindus. But the prayer of the Angel: 'My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love you. I ask pardon for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love you' is the favorite prayer of the children.

Sr. Fatima Borges, India

Adoración Nocturna donates statue of Our Lady to Parish of Fatima in Benin, Africa



Every year, the largest foreign pilgrimage to Fatima is organized by *Adoración Nocturna Española* (Spain's Nocturnal Adoration). This is mentioned in page #4 of this issue. From amongst many other positive gestures, the pilgrims of this group always donate valuable things to the Shrine of Fatima and to mission lands.

This year's pilgrimage was the time to respond positively to the request coming from Tanguieta, Saint Michel-Cotonou, Republic of Benin, Africa (French-speaking country), from a then not known priest, Fr. Kikkin, now a friend. This request was addressed to Bishop Alfonso Fernández Galiana, honor Prelate of the Pope, Counselor in the Diocese of Tui-Vigo (Spain), place from where the first of these pilgrimages to Fatima first departed (1987).

This dear, wise and holy Galician priest contacted the Organization of the Pilgrimages of *Adoración Nocturna* and, a few days after the receipt of the request made by this parish of Tanguieta with the name of Fatima, a beautiful statue was already on its way and, by now, they may already be praying in front of it. This statue is, in size and everything else, the same as the one in the Little Chapel of Apparitions in Fatima, Portugal.

On June 3 (Feast of St. Thomas, Apostle), in Fatima (Portugal), at the end of the Spanish Mass, which every day is celebrated in the Little Chapel and always participated by many faithful and concelebrated by several priests, Fr. Angel Alonso Ramirez, a priest from Valladolid, who is a Chaplain at the Shrine of Fatima and in charge of looking after the Spanish-speaking pilgrims, blessed, in a solemn and moving ceremony, the above-mentioned statue. Present were also several organizers of this great pilgrimage, who accompanied the journalist and former banker, Professor Jorge Lence, who, until now, has coordinated the organization of the so far 23 pilgrimages of *Adoración Nocturna* to the Shrine of *Cova da Iria*.

M. Raquel C. N., Spain

Greetings to you!

I am so happy to see the photo of our church along with the description about the shrine of Fatima at Vallioor. Thank you very much for the publication.

We celebrated the feast of Our Lady of Fatima on 13th May 2009 and twelve priests concelebrated the feast mass. There was a procession with the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima (with illumination) 12th May 2009 with the recitation of Holy Rosary and hymns in honour of Our Lady.

The first Saturday devotion on 6th June 2009 was very inspiring. In spite of heavy rain, many devotees from far and near expressed their faith with gratitude to Our Lady. (...)

And I again thank you and request your continued prayer and help.

Yours lovingly in Christ

Fr. A. J. Camillus