



Director: Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas * Proprietor: Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fátima (Portugal) * Quarterly publication * Year IX * Nr. 36 * 2013/02/13

“Be not afraid!”



On December 2, the Shrine began a new pastoral year, the third of the seven-year itinerary of preparation and celebration of the Centennial of the Apparitions of Fatima. This year is dedicated to the apparition of June. The theme – “Be not afraid!” – intends to express, synthetically, the exhortation to trust that Our Lady addresses to Lucia during the apparition of June.

The exhortation “Be not afraid!” has deep biblical roots. Throughout the entire Old and New Testament, this is the exhortation that God addresses to men when He gets closer to them: an invitation to trust in that God Who makes Himself known, Who accompanies mankind with His protection, Who never forsakes those who trust in Him. From this exhortation not to be afraid is confidence born in him who recognizes the active presence of God in history and in him who becomes aware of His salvific love towards every man and woman.

The same exhortation is present in the events of Fatima since the beginning. Already in the first apparition of the Angel in 1916, the heavenly messenger says: “Be not afraid! I am the Angel of Peace”. And, in the first apparition of Our Lady in May 1917, She begins by saying: “Be not afraid!” In the apparition of June, this “Be not afraid!” is expressed in a longer exhortation to hope and trust: “Do not lose heart. I will never forsake you. My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and the way that will lead you to God”.

The Message of Fatima is basically a message of hope and, therefore, a call to trust. At Fatima, Our Lady came to call the little seers – and us – to recognize the presence of God in our world and our lives; She comes to assure us that we are not alone in our life’s difficulties, for God never forsakes us.

Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas,
Rector of the Shrine of Fatima

NÃO TENHAIS MEDO

No tengáis medo Do not be afraid N'avez pas peur Habt keine Angst Non abbiate paura Nie lekajcie się

November 13, 2012

Shrine of Fatima celebrates, for the first time, Solemnity of Dedication of Basilica of Most Holy Trinity

The Shrine of Fatima celebrated on November 13, for the first time, the Solemnity of the Dedication of the Basilica of Most Holy Trinity. In the main Mass of the day, celebrated at 11h00, in the Basilica of Most Holy Trinity, the Rector of the Shrine of Fatima highlighted the fact that the granting of the title of basilica stresses the “bond of special communion with the Church of Rome and the Pope” and the “love the Pope has for Fatima”, something –

as usual, the apparitions of Our Lady at Cova da Iria, the Rector recalled the seers, the Little Shepherds, to say that, after the apparitions, they always showed that union with the Holy father, specially through prayer.

And he said: “Since then, to pray for the Holy Father and his intentions became an integral part of the message itself and also of the daily practice of the Shrine.”

In his words to the pilgrims, in a Mass

Himself in His Trinitarian mystery, thus stirring up in us a generous response of adoration, of giving ourselves to Him, of reparation. It is God, Most Holy Trinity, that is the focus of the whole message of Our Lady, in this place.”

The Rector concluded by saying that the “most relevant” moments of this Trinitarian revelation were “the apparitions of the Angel of Peace, in 1916, the apparitions of Our Lady, specially those of May and June 1917, and the grandi-



he said – that characterizes “the attitude of several Roman Pontiffs (towards Fatima) since the time of the apparitions”.

He went on to say that “the title granted to the Church of Most Holy Trinity, together with the same title already previously granted to the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, highlights an aspect of the Message of Fatima: union with the Holy Father.” On that day, Nov. 13, during which the Shrine of Fatima commemorates,

attended by more than three thousand people, Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas stressed the spiritual meaning of the dedication of the temple to Most Holy Trinity: “in fact – he said – at the core of the Message of Fatima is the revelation of the centrality of God, Most Holy Trinity. (...) The Message of Fatima doesn’t intend to innovate or satisfy our curiosity about God, but to lead us to a strong experience of God, Most Holy Trinity.”

“In gestures and words, both of the Angel and of Our Lady, God reveals

ose vision Lucia had in 1929, in Tuy”.

Let us remind you that, by decree of June 19, 2012, signed by the Prefect for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments, António Canizares Cardinal Llovera, the Church of Most Holy Trinity received the title of Minor Basilica. The decree indicated November 13 as the date for the annual Liturgical Celebration of the Dedication of the Basilica of Most Holy Trinity.

Leopoldina Simões

Shrine of Fatima presents itinerary for new Pastoral Year

“Be not afraid!”

On the afternoon of November 24, 2012, the Shrine of Fatima presented the itinerary for the new pastoral year 2012-2013.

This new year – the third one of the preparatory walk towards the Centennial of the Apparitions (2017) – recalls, in a special way, the second apparition of Our Lady at Fatima, on June 13, 1917. The event took place in Good Shepherd Hall (Salão do Bom Pastor), in Paul VI Pastoral Center.

This is what the Rector of the Shrine of Fatima had to say right at the start of his presentation: “This year’s theme is the exhortation ‘Be not afraid!’ The inspiration for this theme came from the promise of Our Lady to seer Lucia, during the second apparition: «My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and the way that will lead you to God». We decided to use a synthetic formula in order to inspire an attitude of trust – Be not afraid! – exhortation which is frequently found in biblical texts”.

Two talks, one by José Eduardo Borges de Pinho and the other by Juan Ambrosio, both from Portuguese Catholic University, presented, respectively, the theme and the believer’s attitude proposed for this new year.

Here is some of what José Eduardo Borges de Pinho had to say: “In the circumstances of our life, threatened by frailties and several risks and marked by the basic experience of not

being able to control our future, we fear that injustice and death may have the last word about our human existence. That being so, it is possible “not to fear”, that is, to truly hope for victory over evil and death, to face life with courage and determination only if the face of God shines on us and if we see, in the signs left by other believers, signs which give testimony to what it means and how it is worth to trust in the God of yesterday, today and always, to entrust our hearts to the One Who sustains our being, our living, our dying”.

On his turn, Juan Ambrosio stressed that “also each one of us believers is asked (as Mary was) to live according to what we believe in and according to the One in Whom we believe. We can’t, then, just stand there and be passive, in the hope that the promise made to each and every one of us may one day become reality. No; we have to act so that that promised future may, already today, begin to be lived”.

Bishop António Marto, of Leiria-Fatima, closed the solemn session



This is the poster signaling the initiatives of Pastoral Year 2012-2013: “Be not afraid!”

stressing, “in times of change”, the appeal enclosed in the Shrine’s proposal: “Looking at the new situation of the world and of the Church as a challenge, let us face it with the hope that gives us confidence and audacity... a hope not based only on worldly criteria, but also on trust in God and on His Word, on the God Who promises us a new life, the faithful God, the same of yesterday, today and tomorrow”.

L.S.

Children adore the ‘Hidden Jesus’

Blessed Francisco Marto, whenever he could, *used to flee* to the Parish Church of Fatima in order to pray to the ‘Hidden Jesus’. Now, imitating little Francisco, the children attending catechesis at the Parish of Our Lady of Fatima, Fatima, Portugal, they too adore the Blessed Sacrament.

This prayer initiative, gladly welcomed by the Shrine of Fatima, has been held now for quite a few years and is always well attended. It is organized by the Movement of the Message of Fatima, a Portuguese Catholic Association with by-laws approved by the Bishops Conference of Portugal, and receives help from the Parish of Fatima.

In 2013 there are already scheduled four occasions for children to adore the Blessed Sacrament: Mornings (starting at 10h00) of March 9, May 25, June 22 and November 9.

We pray to God and Our Lady of Fatima to bless all

these children, their loved ones and their catechists and teachers.



November 24, 2012, at Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary: “Love one another”

“To be, the secret of the Heart”

Temporary exhibition recalling the apparition of June 1917



“In the Heart of Mary” is one of three pieces purposely created for this exhibition. It is the work of Cristina Rocha Leiria

In the third year of the celebration of the Centennial of the Apparitions of Fatima, the Shrine of Fatima inaugurated, on Saturday November 24, an exhibition recalling the apparition of June 1917. This exhibition, titled “To be, the secret of the Heart”, will stay open to the public until October 31, 2013.

It is composed of six sets of documents and works of art, which lead the visitor to an experience both physical and mental of the different themes related to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. These themes are treated in their historical and theological and spiritual aspects by means of the above mentioned documents and works of art.

Three artists (Cristina Leiria, Helena Langrouva and Ricardo Campos) were purposely invited to create works of art to be shown at this exhibition, together with the historico-artistic collection of the Shrine’s Museum, the collection of the Archives of the Diocese of Leiria-Fatima and pieces from private collections and collections from several religious and cultural institutions.

Amongst the most symbolic pieces, we find a sculpture of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, conceived by José Ferreira Thedim according to indications given by seer Lucia, which, for the first time, left the Carmelite Convent of St. Teresa of Coimbra, where it has remained since it was sculptured in 1948. It is also here that, for the first time, the original manuscripts of the Memoirs of Sister Lucia are being exhibited, open in the pages referring the apparition of June 1917. These pages contain the narration which makes known one of the most important chapters of the Message of Fatima, namely the first part of the Secret related to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. “To be, the secret of the Heart” intends to give a contribution to the reflection on this Marian devotion, which, although it was already known by the faithful since the XVII century, gains a universal and contemporaneous scope at Fatima.

Marco Daniel Duarte
Person in charge of the exhibition

House-Museum of Aljustrel completed 20 years in 2012

The Shrine of Fatima inaugurated its first permanent museum, the House-Museum of Aljustrel, on the 19th of August 1992.

It is installed in the old home of Maria Rosa, godmother of Sister Lucia. There you can look at four different sections representing the daily life of the local people at the time of the apparitions.

The collection, spread over four sections, actually belongs to the Iconographic Collection and the Collection of Furniture, Home and Work of the Museum of the Shrine of Fatima: Section of Trades (exhibition of work tools and instruments), Section of the Cycle of Bread (exhibition of agricultural tools and instruments), Section of the Cycle of Life (Exhibition of clothes) and the Section of the ‘Habitat’ (the home of a family of Aljustrel).

This exhibition, already visited by more than four hundred thousand people, seeks to supplement the pilgrimage experience so that pilgrims may better understand the Message of Fatima through cultural means.

Marco Daniel Duarte
Museum of Shrine
of Fatima



World Apostolate of Fatima meets in Portugal

The World Apostolate of Fatima (WAF) held its general meeting on November 11 thru 17, 2012, in Fatima, Portugal. This was the first meeting of this kind since the definite approval of the organization's by-laws by the Vatican on October 7, 2010.

The event gathered about one hundred participants: bishops, priests and lay people, all devoted to Our Lady of Fatima, from the four corners of the world, representing twenty-four countries. The meeting was dedicated to the memory and spiritual legacy of Sister Lucia de Jesus.

On this occasion, Cardinal Stanislaw Rylko, President of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, wrote to the International President of WAF, Mr. Americo Lopez Ortiz, urging him "...to assist the delegates in seeking ways of using the Eucharist, the Rosary and the consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary as paths for people far from God to encounter Christ and the Church, and for awakening a spirit of conversion, prayer, penance and reparation among your members in the light of the needs of the New Evangelization".

Msgr. Rino Passigato, Apostolic Nuncio in Portugal, also challenged everyone to "grow in personal sanctification. Imitating Sister Lucia de Jesus and her two cousins, Blesseds Fran-



cisco and Jacinta, rooted in faith, hope and charity, let us bring God into the world, so that it may be transformed by the spirit of the Gospel, the spirit of the Beatitudes, thus bringing into our history the reality of a New Spring".

The International President, in his opening remarks, stressed that "the elements of the Message of Fatima are the same as those needed for the New Evangelization. We need, however, to find a new language and new methods to announce with more vitality and efficacy the Gospel of Christ and its echo, the Message of Fatima".

Amongst the several guests who provided formation, there was Bishop António Marto, of Leiria-Fatima, who gave a beautiful talk on the Immaculate Heart of Mary. He said: "the authentic Marian spirituality of the Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary is ex-

citely timely. Mary, the messenger of God at Fatima, presents Herself as the spiritual Mother of the Church and of mankind, Who speaks, through the symbol of Her Immaculate Heart, to Her children using the language of heart to heart".

The General Meeting ended with a pilgrimage to the Carmelite Convent of Saint Teresa, in Coimbra.

Amongst the conclusions coming out of the meeting, stands out the commitment to invest more and more on

formation, starting already by following the spiritual and pastoral itinerary proposed by the Shrine of Fatima in preparation for the Centennial of the Apparitions. At the same time, it was resolved to continue with the programs of Eucharistic Adoration for children and youths; to organize visits by the Pilgrim Statue to several countries; to promote the devotion of the First Five Saturdays of the Month throughout the world; and to develop more closely the pastoral ministry of the family.

The World Apostolate of Fatima (www.worldfatima.com) is an international association whose charism is to live and spread the Message of Our Lady of Fatima throughout the whole world.

Nuno Prazeres,
Director of the International
Secretariat of W.A.F.

September 2013

Switzerland holds European Congress on Message of Fatima



The Swiss town of Einsiedeln, famous for being a place of pilgrimages in honor of the Virgin Mary, welcomes, in September 2013, the European Congress on the Message of Fatima, being organized and sponsored by the World Apostolate of Fatima (WAF). This is the second edition of the Congress and its purpose is "to point to the Message of Fatima as an efficacious means to advance the

New Evangelization and to set guidelines for action in what pertains to the rekindling of faith in this Continent". The theme calling all participants to action will be: "The New Evangelization of Europe under the sign of Mary".

The sessions will be held in the conference hall of the Hotel 'Drei Könige' (Three Kings) on September 21 thru 26.

Parish of Fatima in Tanzania celebrates 80 years in 2013

Nandembo Mission was founded by the Benedictine Missionaries of Ndanda in the early 1920's. At that time, it was known as a missionary camp, where missionaries from Ndanda used to rest, for it was too complicated a journey from Ndanda to Peramiho, due to the poor condition of the road. Later, it was raised to Outstation of Matimira (today Matimira is a parish in the Archdiocese of Songea). Slowly it developed into a complete parish.



Health Centre, a vocational training centre, a Kindergarten, a Hostel for girls in secondary school, all owned by the Parish. Apart from these, there are also primary schools in almost every village, two secondary schools and one trade school, all owned and run by the government.

It was in 1933 that it was raised to parish status in the Diocese of Nachingwea and dedicated to Our Lady Blessed Virgin of Fatima. Fr. Edward Wildhaber, OSB, was the first Parish Priest. In 1986, two dioceses were formed: TUNDURU-Masasi and Lindi. Nandembo was made part of the Diocese of TUNDURU-Masasi.

The Parish is the third oldest of all the parishes of TUNDURU-Masasi. According to the statistics, the parish has a population of 36,501 people, 3903 of which are Catholic, forming only 9% of the population. 90% are Muslims. Christians are scattered throughout 18 villages around the parish. There is a church building, a Priests' residence, a Sisters' residence, a

Health Centre, a vocational training centre, a Kindergarten, a Hostel for girls in secondary school, all owned by the Parish. Apart from these, there are also primary schools in almost every village, two secondary schools and one trade school, all owned and run by the government.

As a Parish priest, I feel it is my duty to make sure the community grows spiritually. Although the Parish is about 80 years old and dedicated to Our Lady, little has been done as it regards Marian devotion.

As we are in the Year of Faith, I think it is an opportunity for me to, with the help of God, build and introduce Marian devotion, starting by praying the Rosary with the communities around the Parish Church and, later on, extending this to the outstations, villages and small Christian communities. I hope this is a challenge as well to non-believers around us. I visit the sick and the elderly every Thursday to bring them Holy Communion. I plan to improve this, by including the prayer of the Rosary.

Fr. Makarius Komba
Parish Priest

“A Million Roses for the World” delivered at Fátima

On the 15th of December, during the recitation of the Rosary at the Chapel of the Apparitions, at Fatima, Portugal, for the so-called “Reparation Hour”, Fr. James Phalan CSC, director of Family Rosary International, offered “to the Holy Trinity, through the intercession of Our Lady of Fatima, prayers for Peace of more than one million people in the Philippines and around the world”.

He made an offering, on behalf of the Filipino people: a book of names of more than 200,000 devotees who formally adhered to the 200-day rosary campaign which ran from October 7, 2011 to May 31, 2012.

The campaign was called “A Million Roses for the World”: praying the Rosary for peace in the world, one country at a time, praying for its people. Fr. James, who has been director of the association for almost six years now, felt such a great privilege to celebrate the Sacrifice of the Mass at the same Chapel in the morning and in the afternoon, hand over to the Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary, through one of the chaplains of the Shrine, Fr. Manuel Silva, the names of those who, with great fervour and trust, have offered the much-loved prayer of the Rosary to Our Blessed Mother.

At the end of the Rosary, he proffered words of praise and thanksgiving (in Portuguese) for the good outcome of the campaign which brought to the hearts of many a great desire to start or continue the Rosary

devotion, which Our Blessed Mother, here, in Fatima, had highly recommended to the shepherd children in 1917.

A small group of Filipinos headed by the consul-general of the Philippine Embassy in Lisbon, Ms. Josefina Estrada, participated during the Rosary recitation and presented the offering to Our Lady. With much gratitude for the marvellous graces and blessings which our Blessed Mother continues to obtain for Her children, we pray that the devotion of the Rosary be practised more devoutly and faithfully not just here in Portugal but throughout the whole world.

Sr. Maria Leopolda Ledesma,
Oblate of the Virgin Mary of Fatima



Poland 2013

Fiftieth year of Great Novena of Fatima



Today one of the most important elements of the Message of Fatima is the daily memory of the role of Holy Communion, pointed out by Mary as a particular means of expiating sins, blasphemies and insults hurled to Divine Love precisely in the Eucharist. This is very important because he who forgets the Eucharistic aspect of the Message of the Lady of Fatima changes its true meaning. It is impossible to separate the Eucharist from Fatima; therefore, this fiftieth year of the Great Novena of Fatima focuses on the theme: “Eucharistic key – Miracle of miracles that transforms everything”.

When Bishop Venâncio Pereira was asked to sum up the Message of Fatima, he said: “Fatima is expiation; and expiation is, above, all, the Eucharist and expiatory Holy Communion”. He went on to say that Eucharist and expiatory Communion also mean the visitation and the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and, before everything else, Holy Mass. The source and sustainment of daily conversion and penance are found in the Eucharist, because in it is made present the sacrifice of Christ, which reconciled us with God.

In the year 2012, the fourth year of the Great Novena of Fatima, we concentrated on the problem of reparation of sins. God wants to establish in the world the devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and to manifest His mercy through the Immaculate Heart. The Lady from Heaven reminds us that God is very offended and asks: “Please do not keep on offending God, for He is already much offended”. At the core of the devotion of reparation is the Eucharist.

“Mary’s Day” will be celebrated on October 13

We are currently celebrating the Year of Faith which ends on November 24, 2013.

The Day of Mary is scheduled to be celebrated on October 13, 2013. This date is very meaningful because it coincides with the day, the 13th of October 1917, when the apparitions concluded with the ‘miracle of the Sun’.

Pope Benedict stresses that the Year of Faith ought to contribute to the conversion to Jesus and to the discovery of faith, so that all members of the Church may become faithful and joyful witnesses of the Risen Christ and may also acquire the capacity to be a sign to those looking for “the door to faith”.

We wish that the fiftieth year of the Great Novena of Fatima, since it is a good opportunity to meditate on the mystery of the Eucharist, may contribute to rekindle our faith, to strengthen us spiritually with the Most Precious Body and Blood of Christ the Lord and to understand more deeply the Message of Fatima which God, through Mary, offered to man in 1917. May it fructify, by making each one of us move from words to action, following the indications given by Our Mother, transforming the world sunk into sin and suffering and recuperating our sight so that we can see God in everything.

Fr. Krzysztof Czapla SAC

Director of the Secretariat of Fatima in Zakopane, Poland

Christmas Message from Shrine of Zakopane

In Poland, the message of Christmas was addressed from the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, in Zakopane, during the Christmas Vigil, to tens of thousands of Poles living abroad. The Shrine’s church was chosen for the broadcast of the Christmas Vigil Mass by Polish public television station TVP.

Thousands of faithful prayed, through the television, with numerous Polish TV watchers throughout the world. Fr. Marian Mucha, Rector of the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, of Zakopane, declared: “Today, Poles living between Kazakhstan and the United States of America join us in prayer”.

He also called attention, during the homily, to the complicated situation in today’s Bethlehem. He stressed that the Christian message of peace can overcome conflicts not only in the town where Jesus was born, but also in all nations throughout the world, in societies and in the hearts of every man: “Every wall still standing today will end up falling sooner or later. Love is able to bring down all walls”, Fr. Mucha said.



Marcin Zatyka

His Eminence John Olorunfemi Onaiyekan on pilgrimage to Fatima



Cardinal Onaiyekan visited Fatima at the end of November.

Recently nominated Cardinal, on November 24, 2012, Cardinal Onaiyekan, Archbishop of Abuja, Nigeria, was on pilgrimage to Cova da Iria, between November 26 and 28, accompanied by a group of 121 Nigerian pilgrims.

On August 15, 2013 Renewal of the act of entrustment of Slovenia to Mary

We, Bishops of Slovenia, support the proposal of the Association of Consecrated Persons to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, having in mind an intense spiritual preparation – throughout the entire Slovenia – for the renewal of the Act of Entrustment to Mary on August 15, 2013.

To all priests, those in charge of Shrines (places of pilgrimage) and all the faithful we recommend a preparation be done prior to August 15, including the practice of the First Five Saturdays of the Month, in accordance with the Message of Fatima, and a proper spiritual program for the two Sundays preceding the day of August 15 (August 4 & 11), as well as for the day of the Feast of the Assumption.

This spiritual preparation is related to the Year of Faith (for the Universal Church) and to the 70th Anniversary of the Consecration to the Immaculate Heart (in Slovenia). I ask all priests to organize, during meetings of Archpriestships, the celebrations of the First Saturdays and to help each other, specially in what regards Confessions; and all archpriests to place on their calendars the meeting of December 2012 as well as the devotion of reparation of the First Saturdays.

Msgr. Anton Stres,
President of the Bishops Conference of Slovenia



First Lady of Colombia visits Fatima

While in Portugal accompanying her husband in a State visit, Maria Clementina Santos, First Lady of Colombia, visited the Shrine of Fatima on the morning of November 15.

The official reception, in the Prayer Area, was made by the Rector of the Shrine of Fatima, Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas.

The First Lady spent a few moments in the Little Chapel of Apparitions and afterwards walked up to the 'Tocheiro' (candle burning apparatus) to light a candle to Our Lady.



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