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## Penance! Penance! Penance!

On October 13 we initiated the commemoration of the 90 years of the Apparitions of Our Lady in Cova da Iria. Our theme will be the Mercy of the Lord.

From the Mercy of the Lord towards us we will take courage to also be merciful towards our brothers. In that we will only succeed with sacrifices, at times heroic ones!

The main penance asked of us by the Angel and the Mother of the Lord in Fátima is the sorrow of those God calls us to understand, to pardon, to heal the wounds: of revolt, of ingratitude, of hate.

Rereading the third part of the Secret of Fátima, I wonder why God permitted that that revelation was only made known on the threshold of the third millennium. And why an Angel with a fiery sword in his hand. Why that triple warning with a menacing tone: Penance! Penance! Penance!

The cry of the Angel is certainly meant, first of all, for Christians. For the Christians of this XXI century. So that we take the redemptive initiative of penance. So that we accept the penance the Lord sends our way, all of it at the service of the commandment of love. Only love justifies penance, be-



cause only love can give meaning to human suffering.

Our Lady, in the first apparition, asked the three seers this question: "Do you want to offer yourselves to God to accept all the sufferings He may want to send your way?"

Being merciful towards the brothers who cause us suffering will be the best way of uniting our lives to the Cross of the Lord Jesus. For we thus complete, in our flesh, according to the exhortation of St. Paul, what is missing to His Passion (Col.1,24).

If God wanted that the third part of the Secret to be known only now, could it be because the men and women of our time are better equipped to understand it? If that is the case, let us then read again all that third part. And please let us pray that God may open our minds to its understanding.

The penance we practice in being merciful and forgiving is like the blood of the martyrs which runs down the Cross of Our Savior. Amidst the materialism – which the last Popes have so much lamented –, amidst the loneliness and hate born of them, our penance will be as necessary as the blood of martyrs. In order "to water the souls getting close to God".

Fr. Luciano Guerra

## Statutes of the Shrine of Fátima Approved

On September 13, 2006, the Pontifical Congregation for the Clergy approved the Statutes of the Shrine of Our Lady of Fátima/Portugal, which 'by the express will of the Apostolic See', after additional approval by the Portuguese Episcopal Conference, officially becomes a 'national shrine'.

The 'National Council for the Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fátima', instituted by Pius XII, by Decree of the Congregation of the Council dated July 21, 1958, was maintained. According to it, the members of the 'National Council are: the President of the Portuguese Episcopal

Conference, the three Portuguese Metropolitan Archbishops (Patriarch of Lisbon, Primate of Braga and Archbishop of Évora), the Bishop of Leiria-Fátima and the Rector of the Shrine of Fátima.

According to the document, "the main mission of the Shrine of Fátima is to welcome the pilgrims and propose to them that they live the Message of Fátima. This is a proposal of conversion, by means of the Word of God and the Sacraments, specially those of Reconciliation and Eucharist, in order to lead men and women to recognize and adore Holy God, One and Triune".

"The welcome and the service rendered to the Catholic pilgrims constitute the principal purpose of the Shrine. The pilgrimage is an important moment for evangelizing and deepening the faith', it is said in the Statutes, which go on to say that, since members of non-Catholic Christian Confessions show an ever-increasing interest in Fátima, the "Shrine thus becomes an ecumenical point of encounter", a reason why it should try to find "the most appropriate way to announce to these pilgrims the essential of the Message, from the point of view of the place of Our Lady in the History of Salvation".

## Bishops from Portuguese-Speaking Countries meet in Fátima

From the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> of October, the VII Encounter of Presidents of the Episcopal Conferences of the Portuguese-speaking countries was held in Fátima.

Fourteen prelates attended the Encounter: from Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, São Tomé and Príncipe, Macau and East-Timor. Their participation in these meetings was a first for Macau and São Tomé and Príncipe.

Holy Father Benedict XVI associated himself to this Encounter with a message of affection and spiritual closeness, which was read by the Nuncio, who attended the opening session and presided over it.

Also attending this encounter in Fátima were the Executive President of the Evangelization and Culture Foundation (Portugal) and the Episcopal Vicar in charge of the pastoral ministry of Macau's Portuguese-speaking community.

"The awareness that it is urgent to re-evangelize the believers, giving the family new pastoral orientations and investing in the education of catechist families for the

Christian communities was an object of utmost concern. The inter-religious dialogue has intensified in several countries and has become a strategy for pastoral and social intervention, capable of overcoming differences and of awakening in the citizens a greater awareness of and capacity for fighting for their human, social and religious rights", say the bishops in the statement released at the end of the encounter.

On the morning of October 12, the participants traveled to Lisbon for an audience with the President of the Portuguese Republic. "The meeting (with the President) was held in a warm atmosphere and on October 12/13 the delegates took part in the usual celebrations of

the Pilgrimage to Fátima. That was precisely the motive why, last year in Mozambique, the bishops chose this date for holding in Portugal the VII Encounter of the Portuguese-speaking Churches", declare the bishops.

The VIII Encounter will be held in Macau, from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 14 of October 2008.



*These bishops, who stayed longer in Fatima after the closure of the Meeting, visited the works of the Church of the Holy Trinity, accompanied by the Rector of the Sanctuary*

## Council of Episcopal Conferences of Europe meets in Fátima on October 2007



Fátima has been chosen to host, between the 4<sup>th</sup> and the 7<sup>th</sup> of October 2007, a meeting of the Council of Episcopal Conferences of Europe, which congregates the hierarchies of the Catholic Church of 34 countries.

The announcement was made on October 14, in Fátima, by the President of the Portuguese Episcopal Conference, Archbishop Jorge Ortiga, at the conclusion of the VII Encounter of the Portuguese-speaking Churches.

This meeting of the Episcopal Conferences of Europe will take place a few days before the closing ceremonies of the commemorations of the 90 years of the Apparitions of Fátima and the inauguration of the new Church of the Most Holy Trinity.

## Course on Today's Importance of the Message of Fátima

In the month of October, in the Shrine of Fátima, a course on "Today's Importance of the Message of Fátima" began, taught by the Rector of the Shrine, Msgr. Luciano Guerra, and for which more than 260 people signed up.

It is a fact: the message of Fátima continues to attract people's attention; in this case, educated people and people from the most diverse professions.

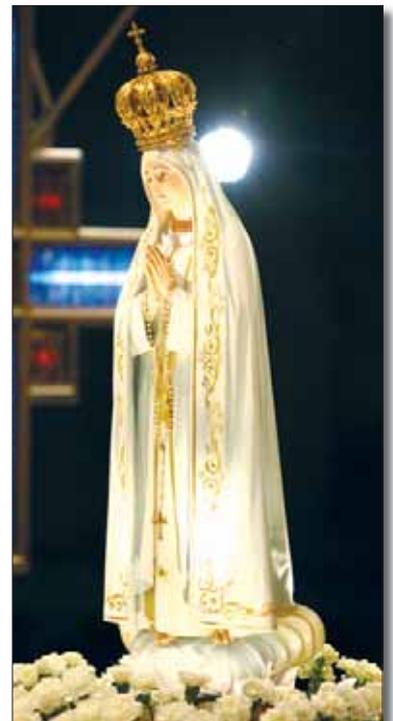
From religious to factory workers we find merchants and businessmen, hairdressers and hairstylists, journalists, truck drivers, carpenters, receptionists, lawyers, bankers, students and retired people, engineers, typographers, nurses, teachers, seamstresses – amongst other professions – who make part of the 'students' of the Rector. While most of the participants are from the central zone of Portugal, nearest to the Shrine, there are, however, four students who come purposely, during the week, from Galicia, Spain, to hear Msgr. Luciano Guerra.

Rector of the Shrine of Fátima since February 13, 1973, Msgr. Luciano Guerra says that his greatest joy is 'to study and to think' and is of the opinion that the participation in this course 'can lead us to further love Fátima'.

The Rector intends to study and invite to reflect on what is the essential of Fátima. The course will be divided into several chapters and runs to January 4, 2007, meeting on Thursdays, from 21h00 to 23h00. The apparitions, the signs, the seers and their family members, the religious and civil authorities, at the time of the apparitions and today, these will be some of the topics.

Other topics meriting analysis are the phenomenon of pilgrimage, the sites of the apparitions and the images of Our Lady, of the Angel and of the Little Shepherds.

In the chapters 'Spreading of the Message of Fátima throughout the World' and 'Today's Importance of the Message of Fátima', the Rector intends to speak on the more controversial topics.



## Hungarians Renovate in Fátima Consecration to Our Lady

On the morning of October 19, in the Little Chapel of Apparitions, in the Shrine of Fátima, Catholics from Hungary consecrated their country to Our Lady. They prayed for Hungary, for the world, for peace.

Preceding the final blessing at the end of Mass, celebrated in Hungarian, the Cardinal who presides over the Hungarian Episcopal Conference, His Eminence Péter Erdo, addressed, in Italian, those who do not understand Hungarian: "Many thanks to all those present here who are not from Hungary. A great solemnity took place here for all the Catholics of Hungary, for the whole Hungarian People. All the bishops of Hungary celebrated with us the renovation of the dedication of the Hungarian People to the Sacred Heart of Mary. We are this way celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the 1956 revolution. The Hungarian People built here the Stations of the Cross (inaugurated in 1964 in Valinhos, Fátima), where everyday people from all nations come to pray. Let us all pray for the Hungarian Nation, for the world and for peace, through the intercession of the Virgin Mary of Fátima".

The Hungarian Nation was represented in this celebration by two Cardinals, including Péter Cardinal Erdo, Archbishop Primate of Esztergom-Budapest and president of Episcopal Conference, fifteen bishops, eighty priests and several hundred lay people. The group arrived in Fátima on October 17, accompanied by journalists of eight press organizations of Hungary.

The present Bishop of Leiria-Fátima, Bishop António Marto, and the current Bishop Emeritus, Bishop Serafim Ferreira

e Silva, joined the morning's celebration.

At the end of Mass Bishop António Marto expressed his emotion: "It was a moving experience. Although I don't understand Hungarian, I nevertheless captured the deep faith of a people who felt they were guided by the presence of Mary in the liberation of their country. It was the first time I took part in a celebration together with an East European people, to whom the message of Fátima was particularly addressed", he said.

Upon their arrival in Portugal, the pil-



grims were welcomed by the secretary of the Apostolic Nuncio and by the Ambassador of Hungary in Portugal. A representative of the Portuguese Minister of Foreign Affairs was also present to welcome them.

Fr. Luís Kondor, Vice-Postulator for the Cause of Canonization of Francisco and Jacinta Marto, left Fátima and went to Lisbon to also welcome the group. "Our Lady is our hope. Our Lady is the hope of Hungary. We hope for a true conversion of the country after 45 years of atheistic commu-

nism. We hope for the renewal of faith in Hungary" – stated Fr. Kondor, a native of Hungary, who holds Hungarian, Austrian and Portuguese passports and resides in Fátima for the past 52 years.

Fr. Kondor reminded us still that three years ago Bishop Péter Erdo was in Fátima, where he consecrated his diocese to Our Lady.

"Now, as president of the Episcopal Conference, he decided to extend the consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary to all the dioceses of the country, after almost a whole year – since January of 2006 – dedicated to prayer and reflection, towards the renewal of Hungary and as preparation for this entrustment of the country to Our Lady".

Hungary claims to be a 'Marian Kingdom', and has Our Lady as patroness. "It is important to underline that Saint Stephen was the first king in the entire world who, in 1038, offered up his own crown to Our Lady", explains Fr. Kondor. He further added that this pilgrimage has the same program as the one held on August 12/13, 1971, when 650 Hungarian Catholics from throughout the world, in representation of their country, commemorated in Fátima the thousandth anniversary of the birth of St. Stephen.

Another great event that united Fátima to Hungary occurred in 1972 when Cardinal Midszenty, at the time 80 years old and Primate of Hungary, presided at the Anniversary Pilgrimage of October 12/13. At that time, the pilgrims also walked the Way of the Cross all the way to the Hungarian Calvary and Chapel of St. Stephen, both built in Valinhos, Fátima, with donations from the Hungarian People.

## Holy Father Blesses Image of Our Lady destined to an Italian parish

A couple, Lorenzo and Assunta Foglia, from Montore Inferiore/Italy, after returning from a pilgrimage to Fátima, donated to the Parish of *Maria SS. Del Carmine*, in thanksgiving to the Virgin, an image of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fátima they had bought.

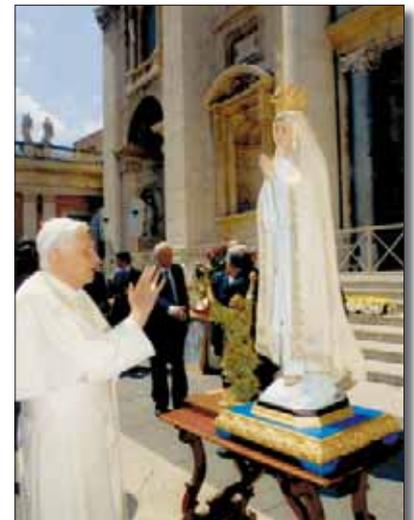
On the 19<sup>th</sup> of April the image was brought to a General Audience in St. Peter's, Rome, during a parish pilgrimage led by the parish priest.

At the end of the Audience Holy Father

Benedict XVI blessed and crowned the image of the Virgin of Fátima.

At the initiative of the Parish, the statue visited the families. Groups gathered in different districts of the city to recite the Rosary and to attend Mass. All ended with the consecration of the families to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the commitment to the devotion of the First Five Saturdays of the month, as asked by the Virgin.

Msgr. Donato De Mattia  
Pastor in Montore Inferiore/Italy



# Congress 'Figures of the Angel Revisited'

Organized by the Committee for the 90 years of the Apparitions of Fátima, the international theological congress on the 'Figures of the Angel Revisited' was held in Fátima, from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 12 of October, and was attended by about 300 people.

Afterwards, the conclusions, written up by the president of the Scientific Committee, Prof. João Duque, from the School of Theology of the Portuguese Catholic University, were presented.

"The reference by human beings to angelic figures is not new nor is it something specifically Christian. Practically all cultures and, specifically, all religions mention something like that. Judaism and Christianity themselves got from those cultures and religions inspiration to accept, in their midst, the idea of angels as heavenly beings, who dwell next to God and become messengers to humans, be it carrying words of God Himself, be it by just making themselves present, as spiritual beings who adore God or as protectors of individuals or nations.

In the history of Western civilization, we come across a particular cultural phase, which we usually call modernity and which tried to reduce our world to the dimension of what can be seen and explained, thus pretending to end all references to God and, by extension, to angels. Paradoxically, these past years, we have noticed that, although we are still under the effects of that modernity, the interest by people, specially the young, for angelic figures has greatly increased. It is obvious that this return of the angels to our cultural imaginary world presents many facets and demands a care-

ful analysis, since it can just be a return to the irrational, which will always include violent elements, even if it is often hidden under a peaceful appearance.

Therefore, if theology and the Church itself, decades ago, could relegate this matter to lower priority – since it was not uppermost in people's minds, except in certain circles of popular religiosity –, at this time they can't ignore the subject. Moreover, given the complexity and even confusion of the current practices related to angels – and devils -, we face a hard challenge in what pertains to its clarification.

Therefore, 90 years after the apparitions of the Angel in Fátima, the topic of angels seems to be more alive than ever, and not only nor perhaps mainly in Fátima. Since Fátima doesn't intend to look at itself, but rather at the women and the men that populate our world and to whom the message given here is addressed, the Rectory of this Shrine decided to challenge scientists, thinkers, theologians and artists, besides all those also interested, to embark in the adventure of rethinking the angelic figures and their enigmas.

The idea of this congress was to suggest some ideas in order to accomplish

that kind of work. To that end, it didn't limit itself to the Christian tradition regarding the angels, but tried to fit it into today's culture, specially starting with sociological analyses and the study of several current artistic manifestations. The participants in this congress manifested enthusiasm for the reflective and pragmatic potential that a topic like this may contain for the present time. They think they donated, with the studies presented here and others to be done in the future, a humble but important contribution to the critical interpretation of our social life, both in Portugal and abroad. The minutes, to be published in book form, could become a text of reference for those seeking to understand this subject matter".



*On the occasion of the congress "Figures of the Angel Re-Visited" two exhibitions about the Angels have been inaugurated. The photo, above, shows one of the winning entries of the national contest, promoted by the Sanctuary, which can be seen at the Exhibition "Loving and Sublime Presence" at the Paul VI Center until the 7th of January 2007. This is the work done by Sandra Isabel Mota.*

## May 2007 International Congress on the Most Holy Trinity

From the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> of May 2007, just before the anniversary pilgrimage commemorative of the 90 years of the first apparition of Our Lady in Fátima, an international theological congress will be held in the Shrine of Fátima, this time on "Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit..."

Presiding over the Scientific Committee will be Mr. Noronha Galvão; the other members of the committee will be Fr. João Beato, Mr. José Rosa and Fr. Armindo Janeiro.

Within the study of the Most Holy Trinity there will be some specific approaches: 'Revelation and Doxology', 'Source of love, light and life' and 'Believe so that you may understand'.

The program is available in [www.santuاريو.pt](http://www.santuاريو.pt) or you may request it from the Secretariat of the 90 years of the Apparitions of Fátima (contact the Shrine of Fátima).

## Pray, Pray a Lot

From amongst the initiatives promoted for the celebration of the 90 years of the Apparitions of Fátima, whose purpose is to offer to all pilgrims special times of prayer and meditation on the merciful love of God the Father, six retreats stand out. They will be held in the House of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, in the Shrine of Fátima, one every month until April of next year, always scheduled around the date of the pilgrimage of the month.

"Cova da Iria holds something that touches us, attracts us and invites us to recollection. On arriving here one feels attracted to keep quiet and to say: 'Speak, Lord: your servant is listening'. Or to ask Mary: 'Blessed Mother, what do You want from me?' But today people turn their glance towards the world outside of them, live dissipated lives. (...) Some enter the Shrine talking to each other, as if they had arrived to the esplanade of some beach; talking on the cell phone or wandering all over the place. They may be few, but enough to disturb the silence and the prayer of many who come here to pray. Thus the prayer, which is the greatest treasure of this place, runs the risk of being lost. One of the greatest challenges for those in charge of the Shrine is to keep the atmosphere conducive to prayer and meditation. It is an urgent task, lest the noise waves take over the place!", declared Fr. Santos José, from 'Mary Mother of Hope Foundation', the spiritual director of the first retreat, held from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> of November.

The Shrine has also organized six vigils, which will always start in the Little Chapel of Apparitions, during the nights of 12/13 of the month, between November 2006 and April 2007.

"It will be a time, as Sr. Lucy would say, to sing and taste the secrets of the love of God. We invite all Christians to celebrate the great mercy of the Lord", say the Rector of the Shrine and Fr. Armindo Janeiro of the Organizing Committee for the program of the 90 years of the Apparitions.

## ANNIVERSARY PILGRIMAGES OF AUGUST, SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2006

# Latin and Byzantine Rites United during the August Pilgrimage

About 120,000 pilgrims attended the main Mass of the International Anniversary Pilgrimage of August 13. Bishop Dennis Lachovicz, the representative of the Greco-Catholic Church in charge of the Ukrainian Communities Abroad, presided over the Pilgrimage. He was in Fátima as delegate of His Eminence Lubomyr Cardinal Husar, Patriarch of the Greco-Catholic Church of Ukraine, who was unable to preside over the Pilgrimage for health reasons. The Mass was celebrated according to the Latin and Eastern Rites.

During the homily, Bishop Lachovicz talked about the causes of migration and some problems facing the immigrant communities, specially those from Eastern European countries. "When the walls fell and the iron curtains were torn down, the entire world realized the evil perpetrated by the soviet system on people and on society, not to mention the total failure of its economic

system. In those regions appeared then other heads of the evil serpent... The bankruptcy of the soviet system generated new structures of death. (...).

How is one to solve the great problems of an immigration that resulted from an unjust and criminal system? How does one recuperate the meaning of life, family, chastity, purity, in a context saturated with sorrow, separation and very strong temptations of infidelity? Is it possible to be honest in a world of lies and exploitation? Is it still possible to live a culture of life within the context of the culture of death?

Humanly speaking, it looks impossible, despite all the efforts spent by Governments and Society, by the Church and its charitable organizations", declared Bishop Lachovicz.

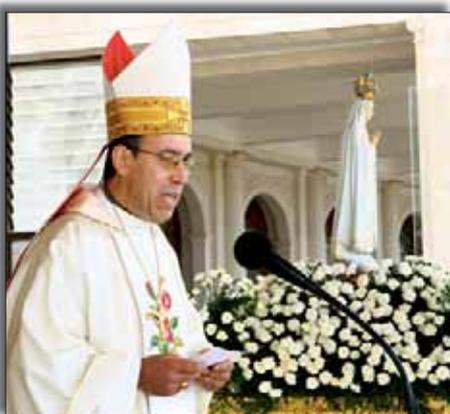


## The World Needs to be Faithful to the Love of Mary

"Thou shall not commit adultery". This was the theme of the International Anniversary Pilgrimage of September in the Shrine of Fátima. Bishop Ilídio Leandro, of Viseu/Portugal, ordained bishop last July 13, presided over the Pilgrimage.

On the 13<sup>th</sup>, the Bishop of Viseu, speaking to the pilgrims, emphasized that the world needs the beautiful love that we get from Mary. How everything would be different if the world read and understood history under the light of the Beautiful Love taught by its Mother...

Certainly it would not worry so much about needles or about having them exchanged or about injection rooms...but, rather, about people's life and health and about the needed solutions for concrete problems... Certainly not so much about the death of terrorists, giving continuation to the work begun, immortalizing the black points in history, but rather about the millions and millions of victims suffering the consequences... Certainly not so much about condoms and safe sex, but rather about truth, responsibility and the formation of a good conscience, so one can appreciate the beauty of love and life... Certainly not so much about making divorce an easy thing, but rather about defending the couple, the family... If the



world read and understood history, the media would not fill up its pages or its hours with existing problems; but it would, rather, try to find, see and show to the world the solutions and the people seeking and living them, loving and committing themselves to them...", stated Bishop Leandro.

## Our Lady of Fátima accompanies Holy Father to Turkey



At the opening of the International Anniversary Pilgrimage of October, 2006, on October 12, Bishop António dos Santos Marto, Bishop of Leiria-Fátima, presiding over this pilgrimage, declared that "*To peregrinate to Fátima is to peregrinate to the regenerating springs of life. The spiritual life mirrors the life of a musician: one needs to make the notes inspire one's body, one needs to free the spirit, to practice listening, to exercise the art of silence without which no note may reveal itself.*"

In form of prayer, Bishop António Marto asked Our Lady to accompany the Holy Father in his apostolic trip to Turkey, at the invitation of the President of Turkey, to be made on November 28 through December 1: "*Our Lady, Mother of Mercy, Our Heavenly Patroness, look at us pilgrims, in this great struggle in history and accompany us with Your intercession. Accompany Pope Benedict XVI in his ministry and particularly in his pilgrimage to Turkey. Make us always feel the love of the Eternal Father. Strengthen our hearts in the Faith and fill them with the Hope that doesn't disappoint. Amen!*"

About one hundred forty pilgrims took part in the Mass of October 13, which was presided over by Bishop António Marto and concelebrated by 430 priests, 51 bishops and 2 cardinals: Geraldo Cardinal Majella Agnelo and José Cardinal Policarpo. About thirty-four thousand pilgrims received Holy Communion during this Mass commemorative of the 89 years of the last apparition of Our Lady in Fátima. The theme of this year's pilgrimage was: "*I don't condemn you either; go and don't sin again!*"

According to information received from the Association of Servites of Our Lady of Fátima, 340 people were admitted for the Blessing of the Sick, held during the Mass of October 13; from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> of October, 330 pilgrims were received in the First-Aid Station of the Shrine of Fátima. To take part in this pilgrimage, 356 pilgrims walked all the way to Cova da Iria and were received in the 'Foot-Washing' Station. 1,781 people honored their promises and 3,347 received the sacrament of Reconciliation.

# Sanctuaries of Our Lady of Fatima

## CANADA, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND MEXICO

In the Newsletter “Fatima Light and Peace”, dated August 13, 2006, we showed a short list of places of worship considered as Sanctuaries in the Asian continent.

Now we present to you a list of 36 sanctuaries in Canada, U.S.A. and Mexico at our Service of Studies and Diffusion (SESDI)

We are not sure if the list is complet and we do not have the complete address of all the sanctuaries.

We request those who are responsible of these sanctuaries and all readers of this Newsletter the favour to complete these datas.

According to the Code of Canon Law, can. 1230, Sanctuaries are “churches or others sacred places where the faithful, for pious motives, go on pilgrimage, in great numbers, with the approval of the Ordinary (Bishop) of those places.”

Country	Diocese	Locality	Name
Canadá	Kamloops	Cache Creek	Immaculate Heart of Mary Shrine Centre
Canadá	Nicolet	Warwick	Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima
Canadá	Saint - Hyacinthe	Girouard Ouest	Sanctuaire de Fatima
Canadá	Saint John's Newfoundland	St. John's	Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima
Canadá	Sainte-anne	La Pocatière	Sanctuaire de Notre-Dame de Fatima
Canadá	Victoria	Victoria	Our Lady of Fatima Shrine
EUA	Birmingham	Cullman, AL	Our Lady of Fatima Shrine (representação em miniatura do Santuário de Fátima)
EUA	Boston	Brigton, MA	Shrine Our Lady of Fatima
EUA	Boston	Holliston, MA	Our Lady of Fatima Shrine
EUA	Bufalo	Lewiston, NY	Our Lady of Fatima Shrine
EUA	Covington	Brooksville, FL	Shrine of Our Lady of The Rosary of Fatima
EUA	Evansville	Ferdinand, IN	Our Lady of Fatima Shrine
EUA	Fresno	Laton, CA	Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima
EUA	Honolulu	Maui - Hawai Island	Our Lady of Fatima Shrine
EUA	Kansas city	Kansas City, MO	Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima
EUA	Metuchen	Washington, WA	National Blue Army Shrine of The Immaculate Heart of Mary
EUA	Milwaukee	Milwaukee, WI	Shrine Our Lady of Fatima
EUA	New orleans	Metairie, Jefferson, LA	Shrine of Our Lady of The Holy Rosary of Fatima
EUA	New orleans	New Orleans, LA	Shrine Our Lady of Fatima
EUA	New york	New York City, NY	Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima
EUA	New york	Yonkers, NY	Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima
EUA	Oklahoma	Bison, OK	Our Lady of Fatima Shrine
EUA	Philadelphia	Torresdale, PA	Shrine Our Lady of Fatima
EUA	Providence	West Providence, PA	Shrine Our Lady of Fatima
EUA	Rochester	Rochester, NY	Shrine Our Lady of the Rosary
EUA	San bernardino	Lake Arrowhead, CA	Fatima Shrine
EUA	Sioux falls	Alexandria, SD	Fatima-Family Shrine
EUA	Sioux falls	Redfield, SD	Sorrow and Immaculate Heart of Mary Shrine
EUA	Springfield - Cape Girardeau	Carthage, MO	Shrine of Immaculate Heart of Mary
EUA	St. Paul	Coon Rapids, MN	Fatima Shrine of The Epiphany
EUA	Steubenville	Ironton, OH	Our Lady of Fatima Shrine
EUA	Toledo	Lima, OH	Our Lady of Fatima Shrine
EUA	Washington	Barnesville, MD	St. Mary Church and Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima
México	Hermosillo	Hermosilla	Parroquia-Santuário N. S.ª de Fatima
México	Monterrey	Colonia del Valle	Santuário Diocesano de Nuestra Señora de Fatima
México	Zacatecas	Zacatecas	Santuário-Parroquia N. S. de Fátima



The editor of “Fatima Light and Peace” wishes you a Blessed and Holy Christmas, in the light of the Child Jesus.



## Two Hugs from Argentina

The *flag* shown here was donated to Our Lady of Fátima by the children of the Parish Community of the Most Holy Trinity, to which the small Chapel of Our Lady of Fátima in Villa Maria, Córdoba/Argentina belongs.

The boys and girls who donated to Our Lady this flag made by them live in a poor suburb of the city of Villa Maria and attend catechesis and receive help with their school work at the Chapel of Our Lady of Fátima. At the end of these activities, they are offered a light meal.



“We recommend our brothers to Our Mother of Fátima, asking Her to intercede next to the Lord Jesus for one and all”, one reads in the letter accompanying the flag donated to the Shrine of Fátima during the month of September.

“It is with joy that I send to *Fátima Luz e Paz* a picture of sixteen children who made their First Communion on October 15, 2006, in the Chapel of Our Lady of Fátima in Bocayuva, small town in the district of Pellegrini, Argentina.



We celebrated the feast of the Virgin on a beautiful day, with Procession and Mass, followed by the traditional ‘chocolate’ in honor of the First Communion children and their families.

Pictured with the children are: the catechist, who is also the person in charge of the Chapel, Mrs. Nélide, and the priest writing this message.

Bocayuva is situated 12 kilometers from the city of Pellegrini, which has Our Lady of Mount Carmel as its Patroness.

Fr. Juan Carlos Maturana, pastor

## Good News from Italy

On February 24, a crown of pearls, acquired in Fátima on the day of the translation of the mortal remains of Sister Lucy to the Basilica of the Shrine of Fátima (February 19, 2006), was donated and placed on the image of Our Lady, in the Parish of San Donato, Livizzano, Italy.

The ceremony in San Donato was very beautiful, rich of emotion, with approximately one hundred faithful taking part in it.

Our Heavenly Mother is, for sure, pleased with this gift; and we here in San Donato, together with Fr. Maria Boreti, want to salute and thank Her”.

Alexandra Bimbi,  
San Donato, Italy



The largest Italian cruise liner – 290 meter long, 52 meter high and with capacity for 3700 passengers – has an image of Our Lady of Fátima at the entrance of the chapel.

Baptism and inauguration of the ‘Costa Concordia’ took place in early July of this year, in Civitavecchia/Rome, in the presence of Msgr. Stephen Fumio Hamao, president of the Pontifical Council for the pastoral care of Migrants and Itinerants.



### Fátima – Light and Peace

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### I Owe My Vocation to Our Lady of Fátima

“I was born in an island called *Santa Maria (Portugal)*. I’m proud of that. When someone asks me where I am from, I say that I am from the Azores and immediately add ‘from the Island of Santa Maria’. I find it to be a beautiful name and an honor to be from Santa Maria. I try to transmit the idea that I am not only from Santa Maria, but also of Santa Maria, of Our Lady.

I lived my infancy in an atmosphere profoundly Marian. (...) Every night the whole family gathered for the prayer of the Rosary, even when some of us were ready to fall asleep. There were problems and faults, but Sunday Mass and the Rosary were sacred. The month of May with the recitation of the Rosary in the Church marked

my youth; people would return home, in groups, singing, on the way, the songs of Fátima. (...)

I recognize that I owe my vocation to Our Lady of Fátima, when Her *pilgrim* image visited my island in 1948 (July 5); I was then six years old.

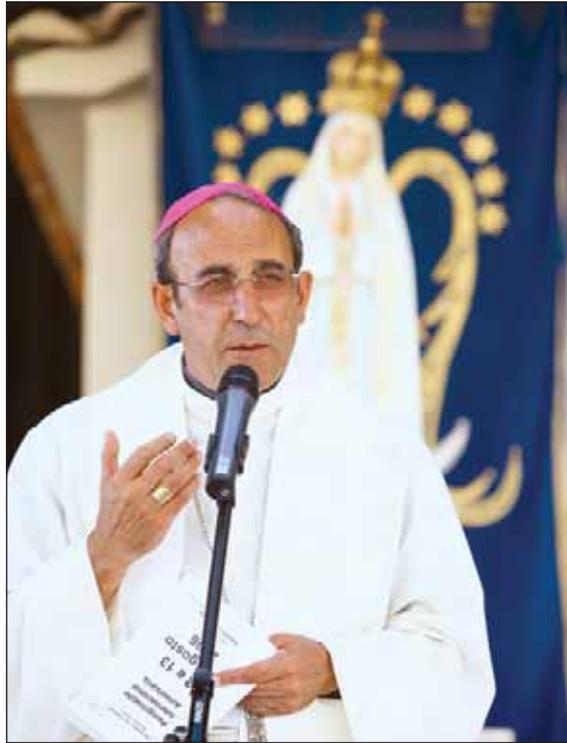
I find it also interesting that I celebrated my First Mass, in the presence of my mother and the whole family, on July 5, 1970, precisely 22 years after that fatidic 5<sup>th</sup> of July, 1948. On a 5<sup>th</sup> of July my earthly mother had presented me, a child, to my Heavenly Mother and on a 5<sup>th</sup> of July My Heavenly Mother would present me, a priest, to my earthly mother!”

Fr. João Chaves, Rome

## From Fátima, a prayer for peace in the Middle East

At the end of the afternoon of August 12, in the Little Chapel of Apparitions, during the official opening of the Pilgrimage of August 12/13, dedicated to the migrant and the refugee, the Bishop of Leiria-Fátima asked all Christians to pray for peace in the Middle East.

“The world lives under a cloud of possible deadly war, a war that, as Our Lady said here in Fátima, is similar to Hell. How many hells will men be able to set ablaze? (...) To the waves of war we must reply with waves of mercy; therefore, we want to make this pilgrimage with that intention in mind (peace)”, declared Bishop António Marto, who asked all Christians to pray “for a cease-fire in the land where the his-



tory of our Salvation took place”.

“Our weapons are different from the weapons of the powerful, ours are called prayer”, a universal force which turns into “a cry for peace”.

Bishop António Marto had already made reference to the current war scenario in the press conference held in the Shrine that afternoon.

On that occasion the Bishop showed his solidarity with all those who suffer due to the conflict in the Middle East, in an international scenario which – he said – “cannot leave us indifferent”.

“In union with the Holy Father and the whole world”, Bishop António Marto asked “for an immediate ceasefire”.

## Prayer for Life in Fátima

On October 8, the World Apostolate of Fátima promoted, for the second consecutive time, the World Day of Prayer for Human Life. On that day Catholics and members of other religions prayed together for respect for human life, thus creating a world chain of prayer. Thousands of prayers were registered on the international site of the World Apostolate of Fátima.

From all over the world, specially from several centers of the Apostolate, news on the extraordinary response to this call to prayer for life and for peace in the world kept coming in.

In the Shrine of Fátima, thousands of people attended Mass and entrusted to Mary, Mother of Life, all the intentions related to the defense of life from conception to natural death.

Also as preparation for this Day, an International Congress of Prayer for Life was held in Fátima, from the 4<sup>th</sup> through the 8<sup>th</sup> of October. Important names connected to the pro-life

movement and to Fátima attended, the most important being Msgr. Karl Josef Romer, secretary of the Pontifical Council for the Family.

The congress welcomed about five hundred people from more than 35 countries and brought to Fátima a profound reflection on the attacks on hu-

man life and issued a strong call for the fearless promotion of the culture of life, using, to that end, the power of prayer and sacrifice as a way of conversion and reparation.

Nuno Prazeres and Ana Reis,  
World Apostolate of Fátima

