

Dear Fatima Family:

Thanks be to God for His Divine Providence as He guides us through life with His Grace and Mercy!

The World Apostolate of Fatima Conference, "FATIMA, MORE IMPORTANT NOW THAN EVER", held at Domus Pacis, Fátima, Portugal, from March 23-30, 2011 was a complete success. More than 150 participants from nine nations received a very strong formation in the New Evangelization through the Message of Fatima. It was truly a spiritual retreat abundant with very interesting talks, meditative prayer, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, liturgies, candlelight processions, guided tours to the holy places, group discussions and films helped understand the need and urgency of the authentic Message of Fatima to be proclaimed to the whole world to achieve a renewal of the Church and the world through a new Marian Pentecost.

The WAF ecclesiastical nature was proven by the participation in this conference of the Most Reverend Bishop Antonio Marto, Bishop of Leiria-Fátima, the Most Reverend Bishop Serafim Silva, Bishop Emeritus of Leiria-Fátima, Rev. Fr. Virgilio Antunes, Rector of the Fatima Shrine, Msgr. Luciano Guerra, Rector Emeritus of the Fatima Shrine and Sister Angela Coelho, Vice Postulator for the Canonization of Blessed Jacinta and Francisco, offering lovely conferences that immersed their audience into the Fatima Message, a Message of Hope and Peace for our contemporary world.

From America, Rev. Fr. Andrew Apostoli, CFR, author of the new Fatima book: "Fatima for Today" excelled in his presentations on the Message as he reviewed his book to the audience. Mr. Dave Carollo, National President of the WAF-USA, offered a welcome address as well as his experiences as speaker at the dedication of the Catholic Church in Kazan, Russia and the link between the WAF and the famous Russia Icon of Our Lady of Kazan, a sign of unity among the Catholic, Orthodox and Moslem traditions. Mr. Mike LaCorte, Executive Director of the WAF-USA, who organized the March Conference, moderated the Programme and offered some of the most important Fatima films available, reviewing their contents and values as tools to understand today's reality, the modern moral, spiritual and religious crisis we are all facing and the solutions offered by the Fatima Message. Rev. Fr. Richard McNally, Vicar General of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts, residing in Rome, offered the origin and story of the Sacred Heart Enthronement and its relation with the devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

From Portugal, Mr. Nuno Prazeres and Mrs. Ana Reis, from the WAF International Secretariat, shared their family stories from Fatima to the world as well as conducted a heart touching historical interview with Mrs. Maria dos Anjos, the eldest niece of Sister Lucia and Mrs. Maria Rosa, cousin of Jacinta and Francisco Marto, as they offered the story of Fatima as told by the witnesses.

Tour guides, like Teresa Prazeres Torres, were a real asset for the participants as they shared in the spirituality of Fatima with reverence and charity to all pilgrims.

The International President, Prof. Américo Pablo López-Ortiz, offered an Opening Message to focus on the central topic and objective of the conference: The formation of our lay people, our families, our priests, in the New Evangelization through the authentic Message of Fatima. Consecration to God, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, is the soul of the Fatima Message, as it offers the Spirituality by which we share in the life of the Most Holy Trinity revealed at Fatima through her Heart opened to the children of Fatima. Prof. López stressed on the importance of the Youth Apostolate and the Children of the Eucharist Programme as the future of the WAF, as two out of seven youngsters from St. Paul, Minnesota shared their experiences with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Ten priests participated at the Conference.

Congratulations to all for making possible this wonderful spiritual experience, truly a once in a lifetime experience. Special congratulaton to Mike LaCorte and Dave Carrolo and their excellent staff of the WAF-USA. Special compliments to Mr. Carlos Saraiva, General Manager of Domus Pacis, and the hotel staff, for their excellent contribution to the welfare of the pilgrims. Many blessings for Nuno and Ana, for their great contributions and coordinations through the Secretariat.

This March Conference at Domus Pacis was a great way to celebrate the PERMANET APPROVAL OF THE WAF BY THE HOLY SEE. As of the 7th of October, 2010, the Pontifical Council for the Laity approved "ad perpetuam" the international statutes of the International World Apostolate of Fatima as an international public association of the faithful of pontifical right devoted to promote the authentic Message of Fatima in the name of the Church as a predilected instrument of the New Evangelization, the major task of the Church for the third millenium of Chistianity!

For this, the International President of the WAF proposed at the end of this "Most Important Fatima Conference of Our Times" the celebration of a new Conference, at the earliest possible date, to invite all Marian Apostolates approved by the Pontifical Council for the Laity, to come to Domus Pacis, Fátima and share the formaton programme and spirituality of the authentic Message of Fatima and its instrument, the World Apostolate of Fatima. In this way, the WAF will share its charism with other Marian Apostolates, so that they will enrich their spirituality and charisms and will participate in the call from the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, to make known and live the Fatima Message in all Christian Communities of the World, as we prepare ourselves in this period of seven years, beginning in 2011, for the 100th Anniversary of the Fatima Apparitions in 2017. For the implementation of this idea, we have the total support of the Fatima Shrine and the PCPL. By these efforts, we will be anticipating, enhancing, promoting and prompting the definitive triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, announced at Fatima, a new springtime for the Church, a new Marian Pentecost, that will renew our societies into a civilization of love! The House of Domus Pacis is a perfect instrument for this purpose and we should use it more often as a formation tool to achieve our mission and develop our charism as a gift to the Universal Church! Grace and Mercy to all!

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