

Day 5: Living Mary's "Yes"

Prayer of the Angel of Portugal

"My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love you! I ask pardon of you for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love you"



Our day began as it ended last night - at a buffet feast for breakfast for the journey that lay ahead of us to Fatima. We were picked up by the driver and taken to the long-awaited 'Shepherd's Field.'

To prepare us for the day, Fr. Kelvin gave us a deeper dive along the way concerning St. Therese, most notable known as "The Little Flower," and the connection with roses, beyond the beauty and fragrance; indeed, the mystery of roses and the rosary. Therese said, "My mission is about to begin..." to make mortals love Him as much as she and a reason for her 'showering of roses' promised...from heaven. The spiritual meaning is not unsimilar to St. John of the Cross wherein his saying 'a thousand graces of God scattered and in one gaze cloth them in beauty' and a reminder of God's tender love for humanity.

In addition, that a rose is unique as each of God's people are unique in their person and represent a garden of God. In this garden, Fr. Kelvin told us, is contained varieties of Flowers with the uniqueness of each person as a flower having its own uniqueness. To Therese, if every flower wanted to be a rose we would be deprived of spring beauty but put together we reflect the beauty of God.



Message of Fatima

A great call to holiness for the Church of our time through Prayer and penance.

La Casa...

Upon arriving at the village of the Fatima children and the Shepherd's Field site we casually strolled down the main street and gazed upon the simple yet lovely stone homes, some preserved from the early 1900s and others now store fronts for souvenirs and/or food stops.

We first entered the home of Jacinta and Francisco and roamed about to see the main "living/dining rooms," where they slept, ate and lived. We exited the back of the house and took a lovely group photo taken by a most generous pilgrim priest as we then strolled down to see the site where the Fatima children were given instruction by the Angel of Portugal in 1916 and then the first apparition of Our Lady of Fatima in 1917.

A pair of the 'Servants of Our Lady' (this title may not be exact), were at the site and gave us a brief story of the Shepherd's (children of Fatima) story. One of these two volunteers had been doing this service for 40 years while the other about 13 years.



We walked back to our bus taking in the beauty of the countryside which included the living garden of God's people there - in their simplicity and uniqueness - in the village of the Fatima children as we then headed back to the Shrine of Fatima - Santuario de Fatima.

Here we were amazed at the size, grandeur and wonderment of what exactly would take place here just hours from our arrival. After a quick understanding of the area, we departed in separate directions; some to the Basilica, others to restaurant and shopping along the main street(s) of Fatima.

Our group gathered again at 4 p.m. at the pre-designated spot under the giant Cross and strolled down towards the Basilica to witness the cast of a thousand in the Eucharistic Procession scheduled for 5:30. The procession was incredibly touching as Our Lord processed down the main lane and alongside us and up towards the steps of the Basilica where there was a beautiful Benediction.



JOY IN SIMPLICITY

After the procession we bused back to Marinha Grande hotel and feasted once more as we talked about the day's journey...and much more and as we look forward to a good

night's sleep and day 2 of Fatima on the great solemnity of Our Lady of Fatima, 13th of May 1917.