



# The Holy See

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APOSTOLIC JOURNEY OF POPE BENEDICT XVI  
TO PORTUGAL ON THE OCCASION OF THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE BEATIFICATION OF JACINTA AND FRANCISCO,  
YOUNG SHEPHERDS OF FÁTIMA

**VISIT TO THE CHAPEL OF APPARITIONS**

***PRAYER TO OUR LADY***

*Esplanade of the Shrine of Our Lady of Fátima*  
*Wednesday, 12 May 2010*

*Holy Father:*

Our Lady,  
Mother of all men and women,  
I come before you as a son  
visiting his Mother,  
and I do so in company  
with a multitude of brothers and sisters.  
As the Successor of Peter,  
to whom was entrusted the mission  
of presiding in the service  
of charity in the Church of Christ  
and of confirming all in faith and in hope,  
I wish to present to your  
Immaculate Heart  
the joys and hopes  
as well as the problems and sufferings  
of each one of these sons and daughters of yours  
who are gathered in the Cova di Iria  
or who are praying with us from afar.

Mother most gentle,  
you know each one by name,  
you know each one's face and personal history,  
and you love them all  
with maternal benevolence  
that wells up from the very heart of Divine Love.  
I entrust and consecrate them all to you,  
Mary Most Holy,  
Mother of God and our Mother.

*Cantors and Assembly:*

We sing to you and we praise you, O Mary (v. 1)

*Holy Father:*

The Venerable Pope John Paul II,  
who visited you three times here in Fatima  
and thanked the "unseen hand"  
that rescued him from death  
in the assassination attempt on 13 May  
in Saint Peter's Square almost thirty years ago,  
wanted to offer to the Shrine of Fatima  
a bullet which gravely wounded him  
and was placed in the crown of the *Queen of Peace*.  
It is a profound consolation  
to know that you are crowned  
not only with the silver  
and gold of our joys and hopes,  
but also with the "bullet"  
of our anxieties and sufferings.  
I thank you, beloved Mother,  
for the prayers and sacrifices  
that the shepherd-children  
of Fatima offered for the Pope,  
led by the sentiments  
that you inspired in them in the apparitions.  
I also thank all those who,  
every day,  
pray for the Successor of Peter  
and for his intentions,

that the Pope may be strong in faith,  
bold in hope and zealous in love.

*Cantors and Assembly:*

We sing to you and we praise you, O Mary (v. 2)

*Holy Father:*

Beloved Mother of us all,  
here in your Shrine at Fatima I consign  
the Golden Rose  
that I have brought from Rome  
as a homage of gratitude from the Pope  
for the marvels that the Almighty  
has worked through you  
in the hearts of so many who come as pilgrims  
to this your maternal home.  
I am sure that the shepherd-children of Fatima,  
Blessed Francisco and Jacinta  
and the Servant of God Lucia of Jesus,  
are united with us at this hour of prayer and jubilation.

*Cantors and Assembly:*

We sing to you and we praise you, O Mary (v. 5).