



The Holy See

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

COMMEMORATIVE MESSAGE
OF HIS HOLINESS BENEDICT XVI
ON THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDATION
OF THE SHRINE OF CHRIST THE KING IN ALMADA

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

At this moment, I look across to the other bank of the Tagus, towards the imposing statue of Christ the King, as we approach the end of the celebrations of its fiftieth anniversary. While it has not been possible to visit the shrine, as Bishop Gilberto of Setúbal would have wished – I take the opportunity from here to point out to the younger generation the example of hope in God and fidelity to their vow that the Bishops and faithful Christians of that time left us in this sculpture, a sign of their love and gratitude for the preservation of peace in Portugal. The image of Christ extends his arms over the whole of Portugal, as if to remind it of the Cross on which Jesus obtained the peace of the world and showed himself to be both King and servant, since he is the true Saviour of mankind.

Let this shrine become ever more a place in which every member of the faithful can assess how deeply rooted the values of the Kingdom of Christ are in his life of baptismal consecration, for the building up of love, justice and peace through engagement in society in favour of the poor and oppressed, so as to focus the spirituality of Christian communities upon Christ, the Lord and Judge of history.

Upon all who work and serve in the Shrine of Christ the King, upon its pilgrims and upon all the faithful of the Diocese of Setúbal I invoke abundant heavenly blessings of hope and lasting peace

in the hearts of individuals, in families and in society.

BENEDICTUS PP. XVI

Copyright © Dicastero per la Comunicazione - Libreria Editrice Vaticana