



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

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).