

Pilgrimage to Fatima to Santiago

June 9 to June 20, 2025



Summary: The goal of this pilgrimage was to glorify God and honor the Blessed Virgin Mary and other saints through the Mass, Holy Hours, Rosaries, and other prayers. Also, Fr. Michael, the priest of the trip invited, first, those who belonged to Fatima Prayer Cells, so as to reward them for their dedication to the Fatima message.

Days before the trip, we prayed for good health, good weather, safe travel, and that all luggage would arrive. God heard our prayers! Overall, everyone had good health, travel was safe, the weather was fantastic overall, and all luggage arrived. Blessed be God!

June 9 (Mon). Departed the U.S. from Washington Dulles and headed to Lisbon.

June 10 (Tue). We arrived in Lisbon at about 10:30 a.m. and it took hours to get through customs. Here is our group:



Mass at the Church of the Holy Miracle in Santarem about 4:15 p.m. The Latin in the arch above translates into: *Truly the Lord is in this place.*



Praying from our hearts before, during, and after the Mass

Then we got to see the Eucharistic Miracle of the Church.

We then got on our bus and headed to the Domus Pacis Hotel for the evening to have dinner and attempt to get a good night sleep to be ready to tour the next day.

June 11 (Wed). We headed to St. Anthony Church in Fatima, Our Lady of the Nettles, and to the village of the three Fatima seers.



Cemetery of St. Anthony Church in Fatima



Our Lady of the Nettles (Nossa Senhora da Ortiga). We lit candles and offered prayers.





The Angel of Peace statue at the well in the back of Sister Lucia's childhood home



Backyard of the childhood home of Lucia



Preparing to pray the evening International Rosary



The International Rosary Procession



June 12 (Thu). We joined a concelebrated English Mass at the Capelinha (Chapel of Apparitions), walked the Stations of the Cross, visited the location where the Angel of Peace appeared to the three children, did a book study, and finished the day with the International Rosary.



The priests and Joshua before the English Mass



Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary



The Virgin Mary blessed Fr. Michael—he was selected to be the main celebrant and preacher.



We prayed at each altar, asking the Holy Souls who received any sacraments from a particular altar to pray for our intentions. We also prayed for the release of the Holy Souls in Purgatory.





We walked the Way of the Cross, enjoying the beautiful Hungarian Stations of the Cross.



Hungarian Chapel at the end of the Stations



Where Mary appeared on August 19, 1917



Place where the Angel of Peace giving the children Holy Communion

June 13 (Fri). We started the day by praying the Rosary at the Capelinha at 9 a.m. and then attended the large concelebrated Mass with one of the bishops of Portugal.



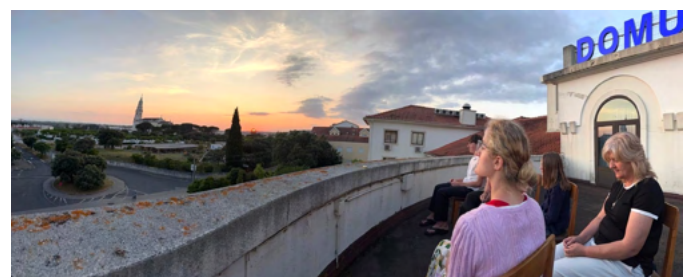
At the end of the concelebrated Mass, before the final procession, there was Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction.



Fr. Francisco Pereira presented a catechesis on Fatima at 6:30 p.m. in the Domus Pacis chapel.



Our Lady being processed back to the Capelinha at the end of Mass



Margaret and Ann enjoying some prayer time on the balcony of the Domus Pacis



June 14 (Sat). Our day: Latin Mass at the Domus Pacis; tours of the Batalha Monastery, Nazaré (Our Lady of Nazaré), the Alcobaca Monastery, and the nightly Rosary.



Sandy Ring led the Fourth Sorrowful Mystery at the International Rosary Procession.



Monastery of Batalha—Façade and Entrance



First impression



Main altar area. Monasterio de Santa Maria da Vitoria was built to commemorate the victory at the Battle of Aljubarrota in 1385. Construction began in 1386. St. Nuno is key to the story.



The courtyard



Ben, Allison, and Bethany. Little Bethany was so well behaved—she brought lots of joy!



Church of Our Lady of Nazaré



Nazaré is famous for its traditionally clad women who – at least according to local lore – wear skirts with seven petticoats.



Interior

We had lunch in Nazaré. It was difficult to visit the Church, as there was a wedding in progress.



We ate lunch at restaurants on this coast.



The waves at Nazaré can get over 90 feet tall.



Alcobaca Monastery



Sanctuary—Main Altar





Bethany and Josephine

June 15 (Sun). Our day: Enrollment in the brown Scapular in the hotel lobby; Latin Mass in the morning at the Domus Pacis; free time (some stayed in Fatima; others went to Lisbon); International Rosary procession with our men carrying Our Lady at 9:30 p.m.



Scapular Enrollment before our Latin Mass at the Domus Pacis



Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary façade, as people are preparing for the nightly Rosary



We had two Latin Masses in the Domus Pacis Roman chapel. Many did Holy Hours here.



We loved praying our Rosary in the nightly processions!



Beautiful mosaic of the Queenship of Mary



The "Excited Six" preparing to carry Our Lady



June 16 (Mon). We had Mass in Fatima, departed for Coimbra to see and pray in Sister Lucia's convent (St. Teresa Monastery), visited and prayed in the Cathedral in Braga, and had Mass at Bom Jesus in Braga Parque.



Joshua served and lectured at the 7 a.m. Mass at the Chapel of Apparitions.



Fr. Michael was excited to use the Roman Canon (Eucharistic Prayer I) while offering the Mass.



After Mass, we had to say “goodbye” to our beloved Domus Pacis Hotel. We enjoyed the stay, the staff, the food, and the simplicity.



Symbology from St. Teresa of Avila: The Seven Mansions of the Interior Castle to get closer to God through Jesus



We stopped at St. Teresa Convent where Sr. Lucia spent 57 years as a Carmelite nun. We spent about an hour here praying, including a Rosary. We asked the Holy Souls *from this altar* to pray for our intentions.



One side altar



Saint Mary Cathedral in Braga, Portugal



Main altar—side view



Main altar



One side altar

Then we departed for Bom Jesus.



Zigzag steps leading to Bom Jesus do Monte. One document reported 583 steps. There are also fountains. The steps (~penance, growth in virtue) and the fountains (~cleansing grace) are the way to the Heavenly Jerusalem—the Church.



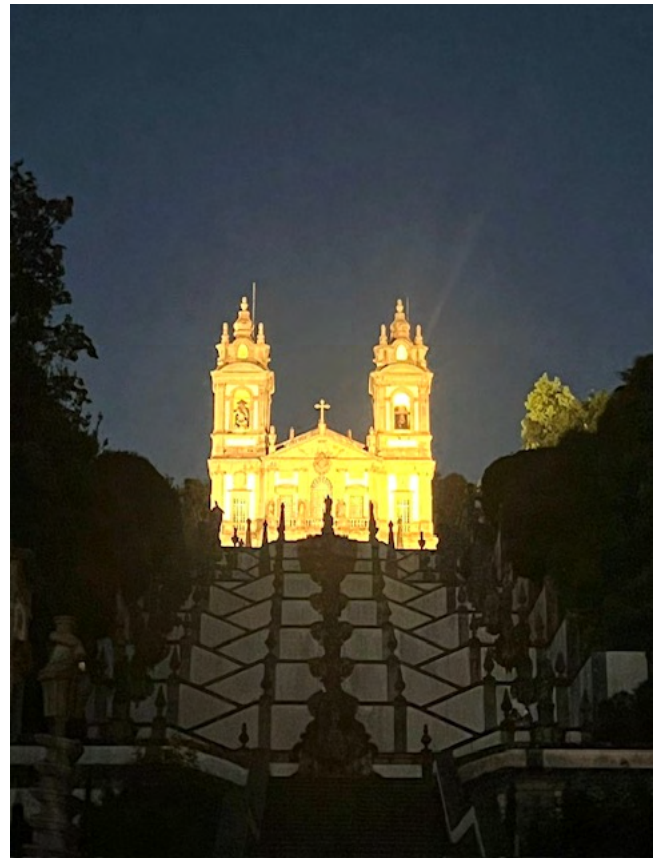
Joshua served and lectured at the Mass at Bom Jesus.



Remarkable life-size depiction of the crucifixion



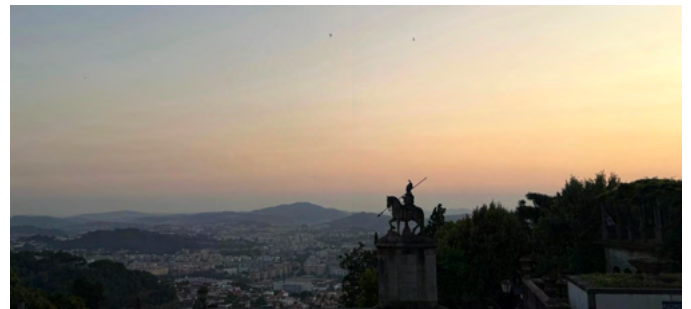
One of the side altars



The Church lit up at night



The gazebo and cave outside our hotel



Magnificent sunset at Bom Jesus

June 17 (Tue). We departed for Pontevedra, Portugal to visit and offer Mass at the former Convent of Lucia. Then we headed to our hotel in Santiago de Compostela.



Our Lady appeared to Sr. Lucia in her cell (this very spot) on December 10, 1925, telling Lucia about the First Five Saturday Devotion. Her cell has been converted into a chapel.



We took our time and prayed from our hearts at Mass here. Afterwards, as usual, we prayed our post-Mass prayer, including the novena to Our Lady of Fatima.



Statue of Mary appearing to give the First Five Saturday Devotion

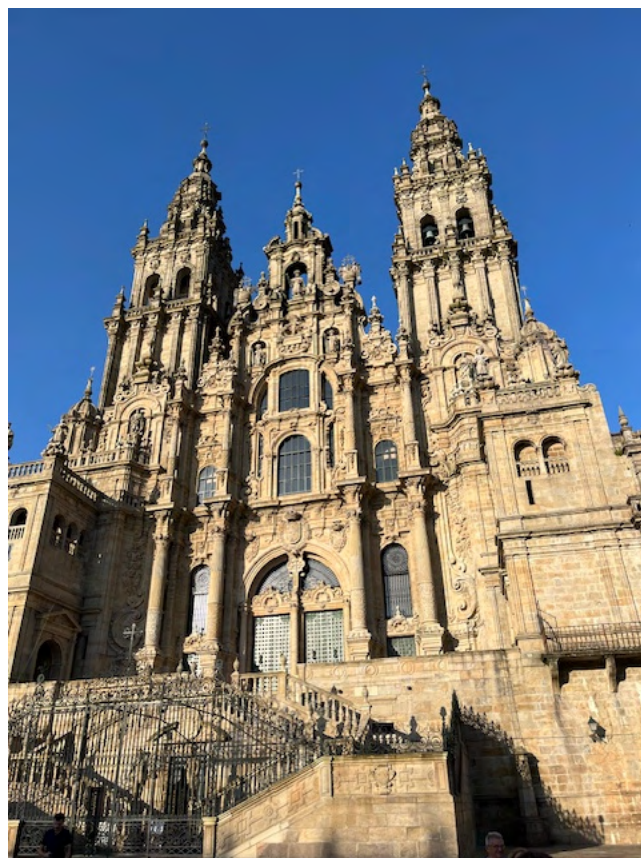


Image of the apparition

June 18 (Wed.). Our day: two Masses at the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela and a tour of the Cathedral area in between the two Masses.



Dorothy with one of the sisters



Statue of young Jesus, depicting His visit to Sr. Lucia in the convent enclosure

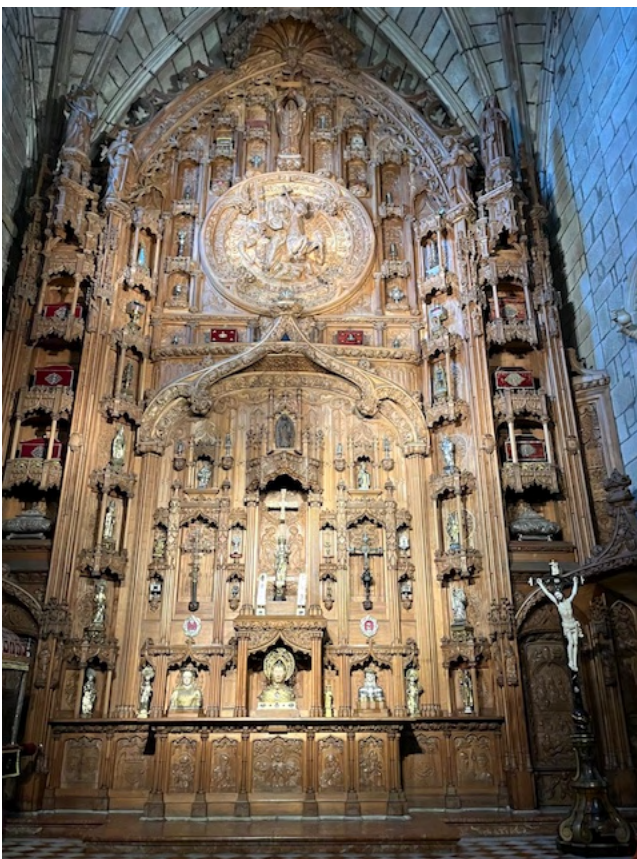




A close-up shot of the main sanctuary



At the end of the "Pilgrims' Mass" at 7 p.m., eight men came forward to swing the giant censer. See it above the votive candle stand on the right side of the picture. Just to the right of the censer is Fr. Michael in the background.



The Chapel of Relics in the Santiago de Compostela Cathedral houses a variety of relics, most notably the remains of Saint James the Greater, along with those of his disciples, Saint Athanasius and Saint Theodore. The chapel also contains a reliquary bust with the skull of Saint James the Lesser.



Joshua in the sacristy after the 9am Mass with a religious sister and a sacristan

June 19 (Thu). Our day: Guided tour of the house of Blessed Alexandrina Maria da Costa in Balasar, Portugal; Mass at her local church; lunch in this little town; head for Porto for the evening.



A religious sister summarizing of the life of Blessed Alexandrina, with Sandra translating



Blessed Alexandrina was baptized on April 2, 1904, in the Church of St. Eulalia.



Because of her paralysis, Blessed Alexandrina was bedridden from April 1925 until her death on October 13, 1955. She lived off the Eucharist the last 13 years and 7 months of her life. Initially, she asked for a miracle healing, but realized after a few years that suffering was her vocation. She said, *"Our Lady has given me an even greater grace. First resignation, then complete conformity to the will of God and, finally, the desire to suffer."*



We had Mass at 12:30 p.m. on the Solemnity of Corpus Christi.



Blessed Alexandrina's burial place in the Church. Words written on her tombstone at her request: "Sinners, if the dust of my body can be of help to save you, come close, walk over it, kick it around until it disappears. But never sin again: do not offend Jesus anymore! Sinners, how much I want to tell you.... Do not risk losing Jesus for all eternity, for He is so good. Enough with sin. Love Jesus, love Him!"



Eucharistic Procession in Porto



Many people were involved!



Lunch at one small, local café



Religious items being blessed before dinner on our last evening in Portugal