



# 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

**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**

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