



Voz da Verdade

In Mafra: Cardinal Tolentino presides over the papal coronation

23.07.2023



Pope Francis has appointed Bishop José Tolentino de Mendonça, Prefect of the Dicastery for Culture and Education, as special envoy for the canonical coronation of the statue of Our Lady of Solitude, which is venerated in the Royal Basilica of Mafra. Cardinal Portuguese will preside at the solemn vespers in the late afternoon of Saturday, September 16, and at the Mass of the papal coronation the following day.

This will be the third image in Portugal to receive the privilege of being crowned in the name and with the authority of the Pope, the two previous ones being Our Lady of Sameiro, in Braga, in 1904, and Our Lady of Fatima, in 1946. "This

concession is the recognition, by the Holy See, of the devotion to the Blessed Virgin present in the venerable image of the Solitude of the Basilica of Mafra, with the purpose of extending to the entire Catholic world, the importance of this Marian title and its cult. In this way, Christian piety is strengthened in its most diverse expressions, with the Basilica of Mafra being an integral part of the cultural site called the Royal Building of Mafra, classified as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO", points out a statement from the Royal and Venerable Brotherhood of the Blessed Sacrament of Mafra. For the judge of this brotherhood, Francisco Simões do Paço, this concession "constitutes a renewed incentive in the increase of the cult of the Blessed Virgin Mary, to whom the Basilica of Mafra was dedicated in 1730".

The religious ceremonies will close the program of the IV Pan-European Forum of Brotherhoods, which takes place that weekend and for the first time is held in Portugal, and which has the High Patronage of the Presidency of the Republic, the Dicastery for Evangelization, the Council of European Episcopal Conferences, and the support of the Municipality of Mafra, the School of Arms and the National Palace of Mafra.