



The “logo” for the Teams of Our Lady’s International Gathering is a symbol that identifies us in time and space and conveys the spirit of our Movement.

The colours immediately reveal the identification of the Zones where the Movement exists, that are united in a Love, symbolized by a heart in these colours that surrounds the Virgin and Christ...

After analysing the different propositions, the International Leading Team chose this particular logo, not just because of its pretty design, but because the lines clearly reflect the place where the Gathering will take place, and also because it combines the Team of Our Lady’s mystic with that of Fatima, where Peace is a strong and essential sign in families’ lives.

Thus, we share Our Lady of Fatima’s Love with Christ for Peace in the family and in the world, and so that this peace reaches the heart of humanity.

Pope Francis’s words in his recent exhortation “*Amoris Laetitia*” say the same thing, when they refer to the fact that the miracle of Christ’s Love is realised in the sacrament of marriage, that pushes us to never give up and claims that the family is not an abstract ideal, but an “*artisanal task*” (cf. AL 16), that is expressed with tenderness (cf. AL 28). Then, “*the word of God is not a series of abstract ideas but rather a source of comfort and companionship for every family that experiences difficulties or suffering. For it shows them the goal of their journey...*” (AL 22).

These are the logo symbols:

The Cross of Christ from the Holy Trinity Basilica;

The Image of Our Lady of Fatima welcoming in the Immaculate Heart with the rosary in hand;

The White Doves in the Heavens showing us Peace;

The Miracle of the Sun from the story of the Fatima Apparitions.



The Cross of Christ

Without the Cross, there is no Jesus Christ. Likewise, there can be no Christian experience without the Cross. Why was Jesus nailed thus to the Cross? Because He died for us.

But the Cross is not the last word. God's last Word relative to Christ is, as we all know, the Resurrection, which runs through and marks all of Christ's life. It is the Word of Life.

"The Cross, not as a final destination but as a promise of God's last word, is the word of the fullness of life, for existence and for mankind's history."

(Juan Ambrósio, theologian)

The Image of Our Lady of Fatima

During the 1st Apparition (13 May 1917), Our Lady asked us,

"Do you want to offer yourself to God?"

That request of Our Lady of Fatima constantly resonates in each of us. It is a daily call to Holiness. It entails living love with all its consequences, which means totally giving ourselves up to God. It means assuming Jesus's project with Mary as our model and reference.

"The sculpture of Our Lady of Fatima, venerated in the small Apparitions Chapel is the most significant symbol of Fatima (...) In the Christian celebratory and devotional context, images are not a decorative element (...) It is as a veneration symbol that images reach their highest importance in the Christian context."

(Father C. Cabecinhas, Rector of the Fatima Sanctuary).



The Rosary in Our Lady's Hands:

In all of Our Lady's apparitions, the recommendation to say and pray the Rosary has been a constant. In Fatima's message, saying the Rosary daily is one of the very significant elements. Our Lady always presented herself with the Rosary in hand in order to show us to the prayer's beauty, "Ave Maria" or during the Annunciation, when angel Gabriel addressed her, "Hail Mary, full of grace", and when we, men and women of faith, finish by asking the Virgin Mary's protection... "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us..."

On the LOGO, the drawing of the Rosary in Our Lady's hands contains each Our Father bead; it is the perfect prayer...encouraging us to behave as God's children who love, request and give their forgiveness in order to be merciful, just as He is.

The Precious Crown

The crown, given by Portuguese women, was designed to give thanks because Portugal was able to live in peace during the terrible World War II in Europe. In 1989, the crown was enhanced with a historic sign of Love, the bullet that hit the Pope John Paul II during the "coincidence" assassination attempt on May 13th, 1981, in St Peter's Square.

The Immaculate Heart of Mary

This is the symbol of unconditional love.

The Heart of Mary reflects the image of each of us, pilgrim men and women on the path of life that leads us to God. The Heart of Mary reminds us all that it is possible to find the image of God's merciful love for all the mankind in Mary.

Every pilgrim Team member will be able to experience this with Our Lady of the Rosary, by placing themselves in front of Her Heart and by seeing her face in this universal symbol of the image of Love.



The White Doves

Since December 1946, Our Lady of Fatima's apparitions have always been accompanied by a both mysterious and charming phenomenon: white doves always appear around Our Lady's image during religious events.

The dove also is the messenger of peace, which appeared after the Bible Flood, coming back with an olive branch in its beak. It is a symbol of Peace.

The Miracle of the Sun

During the 6th Apparition, October 13th 1917, (Sister Lucia's Memoirs):

(...) We saw the reflection of the light and then Our Lady on the oak.

(...) Do not offend God Our Lord anymore, because He is already very offended!

And opening Her hands they were reflected on the sun. As She was elevated, the reflection of Her own light was projected on the sun.

"It's in this context that Fatima, its sanctuary and places, are culturally relevant and even prophetic. With the mental representations they had, the little shepherds saw beyond what we normally see because they were touched by an unusual form of supernatural manifestation"

(D. Manuel

Clemente, Patriarch of Lisbon)

Finally, **Fatima 2018** indicates the place and date of the Gathering, with the number 8 "drawn" as a symbol of the couple's union, represented by two wedding rings.

"This is the path travelled with 'the Other person' that commits every couple to having an attitude that listens, dialogues and forgives, thereby becoming a source of Peace and Mercy."

Tó and José Moura Soares, Responsible Couple for the International Teams of Our Lady