

PALAVRAS DE ACOLHIMENTO

Dear participants in the European Assembly of the Dominican Lay Fraternities:

The Portuguese Council of the Dominican Lay Fraternities of the Portuguese province greets you fraternally. Be welcome! God bless you for your presence that honors, rejoices and stimulates us. The Spirit of Jesus, intercession of Mary, our lady of the Rosary, and the sponsor of our Father Saint Dominic make these days celebrations of hope and joyful socialization. United in pray and fraternal communion, expecting to be together next Saturday,

In the behalf of the Portuguese Council,

Maria Filomena Piçarra, op (vice-presidente)

I would like to welcome all of you to our country and especially to Fátima, land of pray and pilgrimage for our brothers and sisters from all over the world.

In May 13, we had the special bless of having Pope Francis here, and had a unique moment when, with the sanctuary completely full, everybody joined Him in a long moment of silence full of faith and communion.

I would like to welcome all of you to this house. It is not just a hotel. It is the house of the Dominican Sisters of Saint Catherine of Siena, a Portuguese congregation, founded in the nineteenth century by Teresa de Saldanha. This is the house where the Dominican lay feel at home, where the Portuguese Dominican family gathers on special moments, as it will be next December, for the congress of the Dominican family where we will debate Justice, Peace and Ecology. This is the house were the Dominican sisters give us their love.

We are so pleased to have you here! For the practical details, I give the floor to Gabriel

Thank you very much!

APRESENTAÇÃO DA PROVINCIA PORTUGUESA DAS FRATERNIDADES LEIGAS

The portuguese province of dominican lay is composed of

13 Lay Dominican Fraternities in:

Porto, Ovar (2), Avanca, Pinheiro da Bemposta, Fátima, Macedo de Cavaleiros, Lisboa (2), Parede, Idanha-a-Nova, Elvas and Estremoz.

Active members: +/- 250 (two hundred and fifty)

Provincial Council – Elected July 2017

PROVINCIAL Initiatives:

- Easter Retreat;
- Day of Formation
- Participation Dominican Family activities
- Support for local Councils
- Edit and publish a bi-monthly magazine since 1970: LAICADO DOMINICANO
- Website: leigosdominicanos.org
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LOCAL ACTIVITIES:

- Monthly meeting of prayer and study
- others: (individually by members):
- Catechesis of young and adults,
- visiting sick people or old and alone;
- Helping parishes initiatives;
- participation Dominican Family activities

MAIN OVERVIEW PORTUGAL

Traditionally, a cultural catholic country but not anymore. New generations (under 50) stay apart from religion.

- **Demographic Winter:**
- 10 millions residents; (+ plus 3 millions outside)
- birth rate 1,2
- 20% plus 65 years old – 14% under 15 years
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