

100 YEARS OF THE COLLEGE OF LOURDES

The College of Lourdes, located about 2 km from the town of Santo Tirso, is a private educational institution, owned and run by the Portuguese Region of the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady.

The pedagogic action of this institution seeks to base its educational style on the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Franciscan spirit with kindergarten, primary and secondary school children.

The College welcomes children from all social backgrounds, in a pleasant setting that helps its students to **"grow"** on a human, cultural, social and religious level - **"it educates children and young people in sharing, justice..."**.

Thus, this House of the Portuguese Region of the FMND has as its general educational objective the integral formation of the students, starting from the principle that knowledge is not something sealed and definitively consolidated, but something that everyone must build from actively and persistently through personal and social experiences while living the Christian faith. For this reason, she affirms that **"educating integrally is her motto, demanding and accompanying is her command"**.

On October 1, 2022, in the sanctuary of Our Lady of the Assumption, a Eucharistic celebration presided over by the Reverend Father Fernando Torres took place to solemnly open the centenary year of the College of Lourdes. Sisters, teachers, students, families, friends and collaborators of the works of the PPFMNS joined to mark, as an educational community, this very significant date in the history of this College.

This moment filled the hearts and souls of all who witnessed it and made us think that it is worth **"celebrating"**, praying and singing, as a collegial community.

On this special day, the educational community and the educational management have invited the Mayor of Santo Tirso, Dr. Alberto Costa, and the Educational Advisor, Ms. Silvia Tavares, to be present. They, therefore, joined in the celebration, emphasizing the educational mission of the school in the municipality of Santo Tirso.

It is true that the College of Lourdes has been working for 100 years (1923-2023) to ensure that its students grow up in a truly human perspective, by cultivating values such as fraternity, tolerance, respect and sharing. This premise will make the difference between **"living well or simply living"** and that is why it is a space **"where those who seek it grow, learning to study and play, respecting the values that endure"**.

As the Director of Education, Pedro Reis, said in his welcome address to the celebration, quoting Mother Louise Mabile: **"It is not enough to have started, you have to continue"**.

Congratulations to the College of Lourdes!