



## **Jubilee of Priesthood of Father António Martins Pereira**

**FATIMA, Portugal** - The Montfortian Delegation of Portugal shares the joy for the 50 years of priestly consecration of Fr. António Martins Pereira, SMM.

Fr. António who was born in the north of Portugal, received Priestly Ordination on June 29, 1969. A huge crowd including Montfortians and their friends, the concelebrants and lay people from many villages around Fátima and other places throughout Portugal gathered to thank and celebrate this beautiful event with great joy.

On June 29, 2019, a solemn celebration was held at the Basilica of Fatima and was presided over by Mgr. Manuel Pelino, the Bishop Emeritus of Santarém. It was also concelebrated by another 3 bishops and many priests. In his homily, Father Pereira gave a brief summary of his life. The words: 'thanksgiving for the gift received', 'simplicity and proximity' and 'serving all those whom God puts into my life' were the most recurrent.

After the Eucharistic celebration, a commission of lay people and friends prepared an interesting moment of homage which included a film on various moments of the priestly and religious life of Fr. Pereira, noting his dynamism in his pastoral and social actions. The evening ended with a convivial gathering in which various groups linked to Father Pereira participated. We give thanks to God for our beloved confrere.

*Fr. Luis Manuel Rodrigues Ferreira, SMM*