REPORT ON THE FATIMA CENTER’S HISTORIC MOSCOW CONFERENCE

After nearly a year of preparatory meetings, searching for ways through barriers (perhaps some imagined but others very real) and a preparatory journey to Moscow by this reporter in June to meet with the people who were assisting with tentative preparations in order to make a final decision on the feasibility of having a conference – Our Lady’s Apostolate, The Fatima Center, finally arrived in Moscow on November 2 to host our first conference and begin the work of reaching out specifically to the people of Russia with Our Lady’s Fatima Message and its importance for that nation. It was a truly historic event.

SUMMARY BY JOANNA SWORDS
Armed with nine of our Fatima Center publications recently translated and printed in Russian and a statue blessed by Father Gruner, we had the basics and there was an air of disbelief yet wonderment that finally Father Gruner’s dream was being realized.

Once we arrived, there were preparations to be made – quietly and privately setting up a room for Mass in this country with a long anti-Catholic history that even now barely tolerates Catholicism – and other obstacles to overcome such as language and a different alphabet, just to name a few.

And there were introductions to be made – Catholics from the West and the East, and others in between – since speakers, translators, and workers were coming from different places, including Canada, the United States, Lithuania, Czechoslovakia, Switzerland and, of course, Russia (mainly Moscow and St. Petersburg.)

Both days of the conference were opened with the praying of the Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, followed by the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass offered by His Excellency Bishop Bernard Fellay.

Each day had to be limited to three talks, and after the second day’s last talk Bishop Fellay offered some brief closing remarks. The reasons for only three talks per day were the language barrier and the decision to use successive, rather than simultaneous, translation.
With simultaneous translation (used at The Fatima Center’s past conferences in Rome, Spain and Portugal), translation booths are needed for the translators and special head-phones for those attending the con-ference who do not speak the lan-guage of the speakers. The translation booths and the head-phones need to be rented, but gener-ally there is a catch, which is, in order to rent the equipment needed, we have to accept the translators that are sent by the rental company. That is, generally we cannot pick our own translators. Having translators who do not know the Catholic Faith or the Message of Fatima is not a good idea. And in a country whose popula-tion is barely 1% Catholic, it is likely the translators provided would be dis-sastrous.

The big advantage to successive translation is the ability to pick traditional Catholics – familiar with the Faith and the Fatima Message – to do the translating. The drawback is it adds to the length of the time for the conference talks. But the really big advantage to successive translation is that the talks are then available on DVD in both languages. So the talks from the Moscow conference will be available in Russian as well as En-glish, thus helping us to continue reaching out to the approximately 144,000,000 citizens of Russia.

Now for the talks:

**HIS EXCELLENCY BISHOP BERNARD FELLAY**

Superior General of the Priestly Soci-ety of St. Pius X (FSSPX) – His lecture title was “Fatima and the Current State of the Crisis in the Church”.

That His Excellency understands the importance of the Fatima Message for the salvation of souls and world peace there can be no doubt. Here is a short excerpt from his talk:

“The Blessed Virgin Mary tells us we are in a hard time, and the exterior elements which are rough – like wars, like this time of Communism, like now this time of extreme liberal-ism. Well, all this, what we have in front of us, these things which we can see, which we can experience, they’re like a little mirror of the improtance, which is what’s happening with our soul. And they are catastro-phes which are much more danger-ous than the catastrophes of the world. For example, the catastrophe of the Church.

“And so, for this time, Heaven wants to give us a secure means, a safe way to go through this. And it is the devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, with these two ele-ments which are easy for every-body – prayer and penance. And especially prayer, the easy prayer of the Rosary, and then of course, sacrifices.
“We find also in Father Fuentes’ conference that the Blessed Virgin Mary has given a special efficacy to the Rosary, She says, in such a way that there is not one problem that cannot be solved with the Rosary. It is like a universal means and with a special efficacy given by the Blessed Virgin Mary for now, our time. Fatima is really a whole world because it’s a summary of the whole Catholic Faith, belief, and practice. You have everything, really, everything in Fatima. We could say it’s a practical Catechism for our time and especially in this crisis of the Church.”

FATHER ISAAC RELYEA

A traditional Franciscan priest – He gave a powerful talk called “Our Lady of Fatima has warned us HELL is REAL!!”

Explaining the vision of hell, the first part of the Secret given by Our Lady during the July apparition, Father recalled how Our Lord spoke about hell many times in the Gospels, and how Fatima reiterates the importance of meditating on the Four Last Things (Death, Judgment, Heaven and hell) in our lives as Catholics.

Father Isaac also explained the necessity and importance of the Consecration of Russia, mentioned by the Blessed Virgin, just after the vision of hell. Russia must be consecrated to the Immaculate Heart, not only because it was Heaven’s command, but because of the nation’s countless sins, especially mass murder and the persecution of the One True Church, outside of which there is no salvation. The conversion of Russia will mean explicit conversion to the Catholic Faith, and submission to the Roman Pontiff. Father went on to say that while only the Pope can perform the Consecration of Russia (along with all the Catholic bishops of the world) we must consecrate ourselves, and our children, to the Immaculate Heart, and cooperate with God’s grace if we want to save our souls in these times.
CHRISTOPHER FERRARA, ESQ.

Our emcee and the first speaker of the conference. A long-time friend, speaker and writer for Our Lady’s Apostolate, he began writing for The Fatima Center website approximately 16 years ago, Fatima Perspectives – articles pointing out the errors in the Church, and the world and the relation of these errors to the Fatima Message.

Mr. Ferrara’s lecture title was “Introduction to Fatima” – speaking on the basics of the Fatima Message. A talk absolutely necessary in a country with so few Catholics and where the Catholic Faith has been unwelcome for centuries.

ELENA CHUDINOVA

Russian philologist and historian by education. She is the author of a number of poetical and prose works about the 1918 – 1920 Civil War in Russia, Russian and French history, and the French Chouan royalist movement. Mrs. Chudinova became famous due to her acutely polemical dystopian novel The Mosque of the Notre Dame. The book has been translated and published in France, USA, Germany, Poland, Serbia, Bulgaria, and even Turkey (a pirated edition).

Her lecture topic was: “100 Years After the October Revolution”. In her talk she discussed whether or not the evil, the calamity of the 1917 revolution is still present in Russia, or has it finally been crushed? She says the answer is two-fold. As a state system Communism has been defeated – but it has not been defeated as an evil ideology that corrupts the souls of men and it remains a dire issue of today.

MICHAL SEMIN

From the Czech Republic. Active in underground Church activities during the Soviet era. Many times interrogated by the secret police, briefly jailed and expelled from university studies. He was the leader of the anticommunist student strike in 1989. Teacher at the first Czech private high school and founder of the Czech home-school movement. Former Director of the currently defunct St. Joseph Institute, publisher of a Catholic magazine Te Deum. Politically active (pro-life activities, organizing anti-EU and anti-globalist events), but no party affiliation. Currently working as a chairman of the foundation Mávlast (My Country).
His lecture topic was: “Russia’s Role in the Divine Plan and What She Has to Gain by the Consecration”. He delivered the first few sentences of his talk in Russian. When asked about his ability to speak Russian, Michal said when he was in school it was obligatory in both elementary and high school to learn the language of the “invader” – i.e. to learn Russian (at the time there were Soviet soldiers present in Czechoslovakia since the “Prague spring” in 1968). He admitted he was not happy about being forced to learn it.

Mr. Semin spoke of his personal experiences living under Communism and explained that Communism is not defeated yet. He further explained that the liberal reforms that came after the political changes of 1989 have Marxist roots. The attack on the family, the rearranging of the political arena in Europe, the integration process, and the push toward global governance are all elements that were part of the Communist plan for conquering the world. He discussed the “errors of Russia” that Our Lady of Fatima spoke about and explained that these errors were indeed spread from Russia to the rest of the world – BUT these errors were not born in Russia. They were born in the West and were exported to Russia! And Russia was the vehicle for spreading these errors. He also discussed that this same nation will be the instrument of blessing for the world once the Consecration is done.

STANISLAV PROTASENKO

A former history and political science lecturer at the St. Petersburg State University (Russia) and the current coordinator of the SSPX mission in St. Petersburg. He has a thorough background in Russian, Spanish, Portuguese, and Latin American History. He reads and speaks English, Spanish, Portuguese and French, as well as his native Russian. His knowledge of Russian, Spanish and Portuguese history has significantly aided his research into the history of the apparitions and messages of Our Lady of Fatima.

His lecture topic was: “The Fatima Epoch: Has it Finished?” Mr. Protasenko spoke of some of the important events in world history – in Russia and in other countries – which occurred after the Fatima apparitions and on the “Fatima dates” – i.e. the 13th day of the month from May to October, excluding August, which was the 19th – and how these events demonstrate or prove Our Lady’s words regarding the spread of the “errors of Russia” to the world. Some of the events are widely known and others are not.
APOSTOLATE LITERATURE
TRANSLATED INTO RUSSIAN FOR THE CONFERENCE

The following Literature of The Fatima Center was translated into Russian and printed for the conference:

**BOOKS**
*The True Story of Fatima*
*The Magnificent Promise for the Five First Saturdays* (Issue 49 of *The Fatima Crusader*)

**BOOKLETS**
*Our Lady’s Garment, The Brown Scapular: A Sign of Salvation and Protection*
*A World View Based on Fatima.*

**LEAFLETS**
*Attach Great Importance to Your Brown Scapular*
*A Short Explanation of the Five First Saturdays*  
*Do You Know?*
*Modesty in Dress*
*Heaven Opened by the Practice of the Three Hail Marys.*

A program booklet in Russian was distributed to conference attendees, which contained the prayers and mysteries of the Rosary and instructions on how to pray the Rosary.

Michael Longval registering conference attendees

Fatima Center literature translated into Russian
Though we hoped for more attendees, we actually didn’t expect high numbers. For our first time in Russia, we were advised through certain channels not to advertise the way we ordinarily would in North America or Europe, but rather through less conspicuous channels to avoid any problems with the Russian Orthodox and others.

What we accomplished, by the grace of God, was that introduction through the doorway – that first necessary link to getting started and hopefully one that will lead to a much larger scale of outreach. In addition to the speakers, the translators and the workers, there were approximately 22 other attendees. Most of the attendees were Catholic, but on the first day of the conference there were three attendees whose religious status was unknown (though we were advised that at least one of them was a freemason).

After the first day of the conference, one of the Russian translators, Dmitry Puchkin, approached me and thanked us for what The Fatima Center is trying to do. He said other groups have come saying they will help and they do not. “But you are actually doing something and I thank you very much.”

Another Russian worker who helped with the conference, Artimy Glushaev, also thanked Our Lady’s Apostolate for the conference and what we are trying to do in bringing the Fatima Message to the Russian people.

After I returned home, I received an email from a priest in Lithuania who helped a great deal with conference preparations, getting translations done, etc. He forwarded to me the following email that he received from Dmitry:

“Many times I have heard a lot of beautiful words that the Catholics in the West are praying for the conversion of Russia etc. Thanks for those who really did that, let God bless them. Somebody could abuse your good will, and your money will go in the pockets of frauds. I had heard some stories about the dishonest collecting money ‘for the mission in Russia.’ Of course I am not a professional investigator; I am not able to check the veracity of these rumors and write a list of good and bad organizations. But I did not see so much good results for Russia. I can recommend to support The Fatima Center. They did some real work on the Russian territory. I was a witness of it.”

... Dmitry Puchkin (Russian translator for the November 2017 Moscow conference sponsored by The Fatima Center).