

# Reflections on the October 13, 2013 Marian Day

## Our Continued Need to Pray and Sacrifice and Petition for the Consecration of Russia

Pope Francis has not been shy about giving the world an example of devotion to the Mother of God, and in particular to Our Lady of Fatima. In the early morning of the first day after his election, he made an impromptu visit to the Basilica of St. Mary Major, where he made a special veneration of the ancient Icon of Our Lady, the *Salus Populi Romani*. Then within weeks of his election, he insisted (asking repeatedly!) that the Cardinal Archbishop of Lisbon – in whose jurisdiction the Fatima Shrine lies – consecrate the new pontificate to Our Lady of Fatima.

This consecration of Francis' pontificate took place at the Fatima Shrine on May 13, 2013, as part of the international pilgrimage commemorating the anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima's first apparition. All the bishops of Portugal participated in this consecration, giving it a striking resemblance to the Consecration which Our Lady requested – a joint episcopal act performed by order of the Pope.

Pope Francis is the first Pope ever to have consecrated his pontificate to Our Lady of Fatima, in the 96 years since Our Lady's apparitions of 1917. This gesture was even more dramatic in light of the recent efforts of Cardinals Sodano and Bertone (who served consecutively as Vatican Secretary of State) to bury the Message of Fatima, throughout a ruthless decade-long campaign. Between the years 2000 and 2010 the Secretariat of State acted as the zealous enforcement arm of a Party Line established in the Vatican's June 26, 2000 publication, *The Message of Fatima*:

“The decision of His Holiness Pope John Paul II to make public the third part of the ‘secret’ of Fatima *brings to an end* a period of history marked by tragic human lust for power and evil.... [T]he events to which the third part of the ‘secret’ of Fatima refers now seem *part of the past*.... Insofar as individual events are described, they *belong to the past*. ... [Only] Our Lady's call to conversion and penance ... remains timely and urgent today.”<sup>1</sup>

Not until Pope Benedict intervened did Cardinal Bertone abandon his campaign against all naysayers – a campaign that involved Vatican Radio, prime-time Italian television, and the publication of two books. At last, in his homily for the anniversary pilgrimage to Fatima on May 13, 2010, Pope Benedict put an end to the charade, declaring before the 500,000 pilgrims in attendance as well as millions of live-television viewers, “*He deceives himself*, who thinks that the prophetic mission of Fatima is concluded.”<sup>2</sup>

God bless Pope Benedict for his lead in publicly distancing himself from the Secretariat of State's Party Line, and God bless Pope Francis for putting the Church's advertence to Our Lady of Fatima so firmly back on the table.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc\\_con\\_cfaith\\_doc\\_20000626\\_message-fatima\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20000626_message-fatima_en.html), Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, *The Message of Fatima*, June 26, 2000. Emphasis added.

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/benedict\\_xvi/homilies/2010/documents/hf\\_ben-xvi\\_hom\\_20100513\\_fatima\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/homilies/2010/documents/hf_ben-xvi_hom_20100513_fatima_en.html). The Vatican's English translation weakened the Pope's statement dramatically, to read: “We would be mistaken to think that...” But the Pope's Italian original was very strong and quite clear. The next day's headline in *Il Corriere della Sera* read: “The Fatima Prophecy Is Not Accomplished: There will be wars and terrors.”

No longer is there such a fear of disapproval or of reprisal among those who recognize in the Message of Fatima our only hope for peace in the world. On May 30, 2013, Archbishop Weinsli of Miami, Florida joined the city's mayor, Tomás Regalado, in publicly consecrating Miami to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary! On June 8, the bishops of the Philippines solemnly consecrated their nation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Then on June 16, the bishops of Lebanon, together with all the Eastern Catholic Patriarchs of the Middle East, consecrated Lebanon and the entire Middle East to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. And on August 15, the Cardinal Primate of Ireland, acting in the name of all the bishops of Ireland, consecrated Ireland to the Immaculate Heart of Mary at the National Shrine of Our Lady at Knock!

Then on August 13<sup>th</sup>, Pope Francis announced that he would consecrate the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary in a solemn ceremony in Rome on Oct. 13, 2013 — the 96<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun! Bishop Slattery of Tulsa, Oklahoma and Bishop Davies of Shrewsbury, England organized ceremonies in their own cathedrals in which to solemnly consecrate their dioceses to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on the same day as the Pope's consecration of the world.

The door is indeed opening, but why this need for consecrations, and for yet another consecration of the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary? Which will be the Consecration that Our Lady of Fatima has been awaiting, and that will bring Her promised Triumph?

### **I. Our Lady of Fatima Asked for the Consecration of Russia**

Our Lady of Fatima never asked for a consecration of the world. She asked for the Consecration of Russia, and of no other nation.

On July 13, 1917, Our Lady announced (in the context of Her revelation of the Secret of Fatima) that She would one day return in order to make a formal request for the Consecration of Russia. And since the Secret is so important to our understanding of both the Fatima Message as a whole and our present situation, we should review the entire context.

Sister Lucia recalled Our Lady's revelation in her *Fourth Memoir*:

“Our Lady continued: ‘*Sacrifice yourselves for sinners, and say often, especially whenever you make a sacrifice: “O Jesus, it is for love of Thee, for the conversion of sinners, and in reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.”*’”

As Our Lady spoke these last words, She opened Her hands once more, as She had done during the two previous months. The rays of light seemed to penetrate the earth, and we saw as it were a sea of fire. Plunged in this fire were demons and souls in human form, like transparent burning embers, all blackened or burnished bronze, floating about in the conflagration, now raised into the air by the flames that issued from within themselves together with great clouds of smoke, now falling back on every side like sparks in huge fires, without weight or equilibrium, amid shrieks and groans of pain and despair, which horrified us and made us tremble with fear. (It must have been this sight which caused me to cry out, as people say they heard me). The demons could be distinguished by their terrifying and repellent likeness to frightful and unknown animals, black and transparent like burning coals. <That vision lasted only a moment, thanks to our Good Mother in Heaven, Who, at the first apparition, promised to bring us to Heaven. Without that, I think we would have died of terror

and fear.»<sup>3</sup> Terrified and as if to plead for succor, we looked up at Our Lady, who said to us, so kindly and so sadly:

*‘You have seen hell where the souls of poor sinners go. To save them, God wishes to establish in the world devotion to My Immaculate Heart. If what I say to you is done, many souls will be saved and there will be peace. The war is going to end; but if people do not cease offending God, a worse one will break out during the reign of Pius XI. When you see a night illumined by an unknown light, know that this is the great sign given you by God that He is about to punish the world for its crimes, by means of war, famine, and persecutions of the Church and of the Holy Father. **To prevent this, I shall come to ask for the consecration of Russia to My Immaculate Heart, and the Communion of Reparation on the First Saturdays.** If My requests are heeded, Russia will be converted, and there will be peace; if not, she will spread her errors throughout the world, causing wars and persecutions of the Church. The good will be martyred, the Holy Father will have much to suffer, various nations will be annihilated. In the end, My Immaculate Heart will triumph. The Holy Father will consecrate Russia to Me, and she will be converted, and a period of peace will be granted to the world.’*

«After the two parts [of the Secret] which I have already explained [i.e., the Vision of hell, and Our Lady’s accompanying words], at the left of Our Lady and a little above, we saw an Angel with a flaming sword in his left hand; flashing, it gave out flames that looked as though they would set the world on fire; but they died out in contact with the splendor that Our Lady radiated towards him from her right hand: pointing to the earth with his right hand, the Angel cried out in a loud voice: ‘Penance! Penance! Penance!’ And we saw in an immense light that is God: ‘something similar to how people appear in a mirror when they pass in front of it’ a Bishop dressed in White ‘we had the impression that it was the Holy Father.’ Other Bishops, Priests, men and women Religious going up a steep mountain, at the top of which there was a big Cross of rough-hewn trunks as of a cork-tree with the bark; before reaching there the Holy Father passed through a big city half in ruins and half trembling with halting step, afflicted with pain and sorrow, he prayed for the souls of the corpses he met on his way; having reached the top of the mountain, on his knees at the foot of the big Cross he was killed by a group of soldiers who fired bullets and arrows at him, and in the same way there died one after another the other Bishops, Priests, men and women Religious, and various lay people of different ranks and positions. Beneath the two arms of the Cross there were two Angels each with a crystal aspersion in his hand, in which they gathered up the blood of the Martyrs and with it sprinkled the souls that were making their way to God.»<sup>4</sup>

[Our Lady continued:]

1. *‘In Portugal the dogma of the Faith will always be preserved*
2. *etc ...*
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<sup>3</sup> Third Memoir; Fr. Louis Kondor (ed.), *Fatima in Lucia’s Own Words*, p 104.

<sup>4</sup> The Vatican’s June 26, 2000 publication, *The Message of Fatima*. See [http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc\\_con\\_cfaith\\_doc\\_20000626\\_message-fatima\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20000626_message-fatima_en.html)

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[The other twenty-four lines,  
by the express order of the Blessed Virgin,  
were to have been published in 1960.  
They remain, as yet, unpublished.]

*Do not tell this to anyone. Francisco, yes, you may tell him.*

*When you pray the Rosary, say after each mystery: O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fire of hell. Lead all souls to Heaven, especially those who are most in need.”<sup>5</sup>*

Our Lady returned eight years later, and then again after another four years, to make Her formal requests through Sister Lucia for these two particular devotions of Reparation to Her Immaculate Heart. On December 10, 1925, She appeared to Sister Lucia in her convent cell in Pontevedra, Spain, and asked for the promulgation of the Five First Saturdays devotion. Our Lady pleaded:

*“Look, My daughter, at My Heart, surrounded with thorns with which ungrateful men pierce Me at every moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude. Do you, at least, try to console Me. Announce in My name that I promise to assist at the moment of death, with all the graces necessary for salvation, all those who, on the first Saturday of five consecutive months shall confess, receive Holy Communion, recite five decades of the Rosary, and keep Me company for fifteen minutes while meditating on the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary, with the intention of making reparation to Me.”<sup>6</sup>*

Then on June 13, 1929, Our Lady appeared to Sister Lucia in her convent chapel in Tuy, Spain with the formal request and message that the time, even the moment, had at last come at which God Himself asks for the Consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary:

*“I had requested and obtained permission from my superiors and confessor to make the Holy Hour from 11:00 p.m. until midnight from Thursday to Friday.*

*Being alone one night, I knelt down before the Communion rail, in the middle of the chapel, to recite the prayers of the Angel, lying prostrate. Feeling tired, I got up and knelt,*

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<sup>5</sup> Fourth Memoir; Fr. Louis Kondor (ed.), *Fatima in Lucia's Own Words*, pp. 161-166.

<sup>6</sup> Frère Michel de la Sainte Trinité, *The Whole Truth About Fatima*, Vol. II, 1989, p. 247.

and continued to recite them with my arms in the form of a cross. The only light came from the sanctuary lamp.

Suddenly a supernatural light illumined the whole chapel and on the altar appeared a cross of light which reached the ceiling. In a brighter part, on the upper part of the Cross, could be seen the face of a man and His body to the waist; on His chest was an equally luminous dove; and nailed to the Cross, the body of another man. A little below the waist (of the latter), suspended in mid-air, could be seen a Chalice and a large Host, onto which fell some drops of Blood from the face of the Crucified One and from the wound in His breast. These drops ran down over the Host and fell into the Chalice.

Under the right arm of the Cross was Our Lady with Her Immaculate Heart in Her hand...(It was Our Lady of Fatima with Her Immaculate Heart...in Her left hand...without a sword or roses, but with a crown of thorns and flames...) Under the left arm [of the Cross], some large letters, as it were of crystal clear water flowing down over the Altar, formed these words: 'Grace and Mercy.'

I understood that it was the mystery of the Most Holy Trinity that was shown to me, and I received lights about this mystery which I am not permitted to reveal.

Then Our Lady said to me: *'The moment has come in which God asks the Holy Father to make, in union with all the bishops of the world, the consecration of Russia to My Immaculate Heart, promising to save it by this means. So numerous are the souls which the justice of God condemns for its sins committed against Me, that I come to ask for reparation. Sacrifice yourself for this intention and pray.'*<sup>7</sup>

This request is clarified yet more by an entry in Sister Lucia's hand-written journal, dated Nov. 6, 1929:

"Our Lady said, *'The moment has come in which God asks of the Holy Father to make, and to order that in union with him and at the same time, all the bishops of the world make the consecration of Russia to My Immaculate Heart,'* promising to convert it because of this day of prayer and worldwide reparation."<sup>8</sup>

And regarding the participation of all the bishops, Lucia clarified to Father Pierre Caillon (the head of the Blue Army in France),

"So that the bishops of the world be united to the Pope in this Consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the Pope must *either convoke all the bishops* to Rome, or to another place – to Tuy for example – *or else order the bishops of the entire world to organize, each in his own cathedral,* a solemn and public ceremony of Reparation and of Consecration of Russia to the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary."<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 463.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 555.

<sup>9</sup> Pierre Caillon, *La Consecration de la Russie aux Tres Saints Coeurs de Jesus et de Marie*, ed Tequi 1983, p. 31. Emphasis added.

This second solution (in which the Holy Father simply fixes the day and hour of the Consecration, without necessarily summoning all the bishops to physically join him) seemed to have the preference of Sister Lucia. Sister Lucia remarked that it would be easy for the bishops to accomplish this Consecration exactly at the same time all over the face of the earth. As she explained,

“It is certain that there are twenty-four time zones around the world, but certain bishops could make the Consecration at night during the course of a Vigil of Prayer.”<sup>10</sup>

## **II. At a Different Time and for a Different Purpose, Our Lord Asked for the Consecration of the World to the Immaculate Heart of Mary**

Neither of Our Lady’s above requests (for the First Saturday Communions of Reparation and for the Consecration of Russia) were acted upon in a timely way. In March of 1939, Our Lord urged Sister Lucia:

“Ask, ask again insistently for the promulgation of the Communion of Reparation in honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary on the First Saturdays. The time is coming when the rigor of My justice will punish the crimes of diverse nations. Some of them will be annihilated. At last the severity of My justice will fall severely on those who want to destroy My reign in souls.”<sup>11</sup>

Sister Lucia did ask again, but without success. We should thank Our Lord for His great mercy, that (perhaps anticipating these deadly delays, and desiring at the same to answer the many prayers and sacrifices that were being offered for the intention of these requests of Our Lady of Fatima) He provided another means of averting some of the rigor of His justice. This came through another Portuguese mystic, Alexandrina da Costa,<sup>12</sup> a contemporary of Sister Lucia.

As a young woman, Alexandrina had been attacked by several men. She jumped from a window in order to escape them, suffering a broken spine as a result of the fall, and she spent the remaining thirty years of her life confined to her bed. In the tenth year of this confinement, on August 1, 1935, Our Lord communicated to her a request for the consecration of the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, complementing the request which He had made some years earlier through yet another Portuguese mystic<sup>13</sup> for the consecration of the world to His Sacred Heart:

“Once I asked for the consecration of the human race to My Divine Heart. Now I ask for the same to the Immaculate Heart of My Most Holy Mother.”<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>11</sup> Père António Maria Martins, S.J., *Fatima, Documentos*, Porto, 1976, p. 465; Cf. Frère Michel, *The Whole Truth About Fatima*, Vol. II, p. 685.

<sup>12</sup> Alexandrina’s brief saintly life (1904-1955) was quickly succeeded by the process for her beatification, which was successfully concluded in 1973.

<sup>13</sup> Sr. Mary of the Divine Heart (†1899), a religious of the Good Shepherd and member of the Drost-zu-Vischering family. At her proposal, Pope Leo XIII solemnly consecrated all mankind to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 11, 1899, and referred to this event as “the great act” of his pontificate. Sr. Mary of the Divine Heart died just two days before this consecration, on the feast of the Sacred Heart.

<sup>14</sup> Fr. Joseph de Sainte Marie, OCD, *Réflexions sur un acte de consecration: Fatima, 13 mai 1982*, Marianum, 1982, p. 111. Cf. Frère Michel, *The Whole Truth About Fatima*, Vol. II, p. 682.

Sister Lucia's confessor (Don Manuel Ferreira, the Bishop of Gurza) knew that this request of Our Lord through Alexandrina da Costa was credibly and favorably looked upon in the Vatican, particularly by Pope Pius XII who (as Cardinal Pacelli) had been closely involved in its investigation. Bishop Ferreira knew Pope Pius XII personally, and he had worked for years to persuade the Pope to make the Consecration of Russia as requested by Our Lady of Fatima, without success. He judged that only by being modified did this request have any chance of being favorably received in Rome, and he therefore ordered Lucia to ask the Pope to consecrate the world, with a special mention of Russia, to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Sister Lucia was greatly disturbed by this order. Bound to obey her confessor, she also realized the inevitable confusion that would come from her own involvement in an initiative that seemed to modify the Message of Fatima. On October 24, 1940, at a loss for how to proceed, she spent two hours before Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, and at last received a special communication from Heaven. It was indeed God's will, she learned, that she ask the Pope for the consecration of the world. This consecration, however, was not to be confused with the Consecration sought by Our Lady of Fatima. Rather, Our Lord's object in His request for the consecration of the world was to shorten the duration of the Second World War:

“His Holiness will obtain *an abbreviation of these days of tribulation* if he takes heed of My wishes by promulgating the Act of Consecration of the whole world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, with a special mention of Russia.”<sup>15</sup>

The distinction between these two consecrations was further emphasized by another communication which Sister Lucia received from Our Lord two years later, after Pius XII had at last made that consecration of the world. Speaking to Lucia during a Thursday night holy-hour between 11 p.m. and midnight within the first few months after that consecration, Our Lord told Sister Lucia of the joy this consecration had brought to His Heart. He also renewed His promise to turn the course of the war in response to the Pope's act. But the conversion of Russia and the peace of the world would still await the fulfillment of Our Lady of Fatima's request for the Consecration of Russia. Sister Lucia wrote to her confessor,

“The Good Lord has already shown me His contentment with the act performed by the Holy Father and several bishops, although it was *incomplete according to His desire*. In return, He promises to *end the war* soon. The *conversion of Russia is not for now*.”<sup>16</sup>

Thus it was clear – and should still be clear, whenever someone tries to suggest that a consecration of the world would satisfy the Fatima request – that Heaven regards these two distinct requests without any confusion. They were different requests, for different ends. Our Lady of Fatima's request for the Consecration of Russia is Our Lord's inflexible will for His Church, without which He absolutely will not grant the conversion of Russia or peace in the world. Our Lord's request for the consecration of the world

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<sup>15</sup> Père António Maria Martins, S.J., *Fatima, Documentos*, Porto, 1976, p. 467; Cf. Frère Michel, *The Whole Truth About Fatima*, Vol. II, p. 732. Emphasis added.

<sup>16</sup> Letter of February 28, 1943 to Archbishop Don Manuel Ferreira, Bishop of Gurza. Père António Maria Martins, S.J., *Fatima e o Coração de Maria*, ed. Loyola, Sao Paulo, 1984, pp. 104-105; Cf. Frère Michel, *The Whole Truth About Fatima*, Vol. III: *The Third Secret*, Immaculate Heart Publications, New York, 2001, p. 18. Emphasis added.

was a distinct, interim measure by which the length (and possibly the projected outcome) of World War II was mercifully changed.

We can read in Winston Churchill's history of the Second World War, in his volume titled *The Hinge of Fate*, how Our Lord kept His promise. The war would go on for another two years, but Pope Pius XII's October 31, 1942 consecration of the world marked its clear turning point. Until that time, the Allies had been consistently losing its battles against the Axis powers, whereas after the consecration the Allies began consistently to win them. Churchill wrote,

“I have called this *The Hinge of Fate* because in it we turn from almost uninterrupted disaster to almost unbroken success. For the first six months of this story all went ill; for the last six months everything went well. And this agreeable change continued to the end of the struggle.”<sup>17</sup>

But as Lucia rightly feared, her involvement in the request for the consecration of *the world* was all too likely to lend weight to the inevitable confusion that immediately began to surround this point. She was interviewed by the eminent historian and author William Thomas Walsh on July 15, 1946, and he was very faithful to her wish to clarify Our Lady's request. He wrote,

“Lucia made it plain that Our Lady did not ask for the consecration of *the world* to Her Immaculate Heart. What She demanded specifically was the consecration of *Russia*.... She said more than once with deliberate emphasis: ‘What Our Lady wants is that the Pope and all the bishops in the world shall consecrate Russia to Her Immaculate Heart on one special day. If this is done, She will convert Russia and there will be peace. If it is not done, the errors of Russia will spread through every country in the world.’”

Professor Walsh asked Sister Lucia to what extent those errors of Russia would spread (barring Our Lady's intervention, when Her requests were granted). Did Lucy think that the whole world would be overrun by Communism? Sister Lucy said, flatly, “Yes.” Mr. Walsh thought that perhaps Lucy hadn't understood the question. Father Manuel Rocha, who served as Professor Walsh's translator, relates that Mr. Walsh asked him to repeat the question, this time asking her specifically if she meant to include the United States of America in her answer. Lucy said again simply, “Yes.”

Walsh: Does this mean, in your opinion, that every country, without exception, will be overcome by Communism?

Lucy: Yes.

Walsh: And does that mean the United States of America, too?

Lucy: Yes.<sup>18</sup>

One of Lucia's most emphatic attempts to clarify Our Lady's request for the Consecration of Russia and settle the confusion occasioned by Pius XII's recent consecration of the world, was recorded by the

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<sup>17</sup> Sir Winston Churchill, *The Second World War*, Vol. 4, Houghton Mifflin, 1950, p. 33.

<sup>18</sup> William Thomas Walsh, *Our Lady of Fatima*, MacMillan Co., New York, 1947, p. 226; and Louis Kaczmarek, *The Wonders She Performs*, Trinity Communications, 1986, p. 160. Emphasis in original.

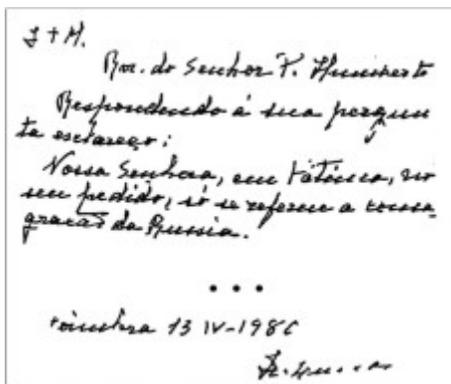
American sculptor who carved the statue of Our Lady on the great façade of the basilica at Fatima, Father Thomas McGlynn, O.P. In the course of his work on the statue, he had many opportunities to speak with Sister Lucia, and he wrote a book in 1949 about his visits with her. He notes that at one point in their discussions she interrupted him energetically to correct him about this very point. He had been reading aloud to her the text of the first two parts of the Secret, phrased as if Our Lady had said, “I ask for the consecration of the world...” She stopped him at once, saying, “*No! Not the world! Russia! Russia!*”<sup>19</sup>

Father Umberto Maria Pasquale, a Salesian priest who had been a confidant of Sister Lucia since 1939, was another to question her on this matter. In an interview of August 5, 1978, Sister Lucia told Father Umberto in no uncertain terms that Our Lady had not requested the consecration of the world in general, but of Russia specifically, and only Russia. Father Umberto writes:

“At a certain moment I said to her: ‘Sister, I should like to ask you a question. If you cannot answer me, let it be. But if you can answer it, I would be most grateful to you. ... Has Our Lady ever spoken to you about the consecration of *the world* to Her Immaculate Heart?’”

“*No, Father Umberto! Never! At the Cova da Iria in 1917, Our Lady had promised: ‘I shall come to ask for the consecration of Russia.’ ... In 1929, at Tuy, as She had promised, Our Lady came back to tell me that the moment had come to ask the Holy Father for the consecration of that country [Russia].*”<sup>20</sup>

After this conversation, Father Umberto asked Sister Lucy to put this clarification in writing. Her handwritten note was first published in a 1980 pamphlet produced by Cavaleiro da Imaculado, establishing beyond any doubt that the consecration of the world would not suffice to fulfill Our Lady’s request at Fatima. (The pertinent portion of this note is reproduced below, with a translation of its entirety below it.)



3 + H.  
Sr. do Senhor F. Pasquale  
Responderado à sua pergunta  
ta seguinte:  
Nossa Senhora, com a Virgem, não  
seu pedido, só se refere a coisa  
gracia da Rússia.  
...  
13 IV-1980  
F. Pasquale

Reverend Father Umberto,

In replying to your question, I will clarify: Our Lady of Fatima, in Her request, referred only to the consecration of Russia.

<sup>19</sup> Fr. Thomas McGlynn, O.P., *Vision of Fatima*, Little, Brown & Co., Boston, 1948, p. 213.

<sup>20</sup> Published in *L'Osservatore Romano*, Italian edition, May 12, 1982. Cf. Frère François de Marie des Anges, *Fatima: Tragedy and Triumph*, Immaculate Heart Publications, 1994, p. 218. Emphasis in original.

In the letter which I wrote to the Holy Father Pius XII — at the direction of my confessor — I asked for the consecration of the world with explicit mention of Russia.

Yours devotedly and in union of prayers. Coimbra, April 13, 1980.

(Signed by Sister Lucy)

Here Sister Lucy confirms to the whole Church, in her own handwriting, that the consecration of the world is extraneous to the Message of Fatima, and that it represents, at best, the suggestion of her confessor.

But in fact this distinction was confirmed most emphatically by Our Lady of Fatima Herself. Speaking to Sister Lucia in May of 1952 – almost ten years after Pope Pius XII’s 1942 consecration of the world – Our Lady gave her this message for the Pope: “Make it known to the Holy Father that I still await the *consecration of Russia* to My Immaculate Heart. *Without this consecration* Russia cannot be converted, nor can the world have peace.”<sup>21</sup>

### III. The Consecration Requested by Our Lady Has Not Been Performed

There have been many consecrations which appear to have been made in response to Our Lady of Fatima’s request. It might be a little tedious to discuss the shortcomings of each of them, but since (as Our Lady warned) our very lives depend on this Consecration to avert the punishments that will otherwise certainly overtake us, we should give this question some thorough and serious consideration. Here is an outline of what has been done:

#### 1942 (October 31), Pius XII

- **Text:** “To You, *to Your Immaculate Heart*, We as common father of the great Christian family, as Vicar of Him to Whom was given all power in Heaven and earth, and from Whom we receive the charge of so many souls redeemed by His Precious Blood and which people the whole earth; to You, to Your Immaculate Heart in this tragic hour of human history, we confide, *we consecrate*, we deliver, *not only Holy Church*, the Mystical Body of Your Jesus which bleeds and suffers in so many parts and is in so much tribulation, *but also the whole world*, torn by mortal discord, burning in the fire of hate, victim of its own iniquity. ... To peoples separated by error and discord, namely, those who profess to You singular devotion where there was no house that did not display Your holy icon, today hidden perhaps until better days, give them peace, and lead them again to the only flock of Christ under the true and only Shepherd!”<sup>22</sup>
- **Object of Consecration:** The world, to which was added a discrete but comprehensible reference to Russia.

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<sup>21</sup> Reported in the Italian bishops’ publication, *Il pellegrinaggio delle meraviglie*, 1960, p. 440. Cf. Frère Michel, *The Whole Truth About Fatima*, Vol. III, p. 327. Emphasis added.

<sup>22</sup> [http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/pius\\_xii/speeches/1942/documents/hf\\_p-xii\\_spe\\_19421031\\_immacolata\\_it.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/pius_xii/speeches/1942/documents/hf_p-xii_spe_19421031_immacolata_it.html), “Radio message to Portugal: Prayer for the Consecration of the Church and whole human race to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.” Emphasis added.

- **Manner:** Vatican Radio address (in Portuguese) to the entire nation of Portugal.
- **Defects:** Russia does not appear as the main object of the consecration; no public ceremony (thus no solemn act of reparation); no participation of the bishops.

#### 1942 (December 8), Pius XII

- A repetition of the above consecration, marking the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

#### 1952 (July 7), Pius XII

- **Text:** “We consecrate and in a most special manner We entrust *all the peoples of Russia* to this Immaculate Heart.”<sup>23</sup>
- **Object of Consecration:** Russia (!)
- **Manner:** Within an Apostolic Letter (*Sacro vergente anno*) to all Russians.
- **Defects:** No public ceremony (thus no solemn act of reparation); no participation of the bishops.

#### 1954 (October 11), Pius XII

- **Text:** “By Our Apostolic authority We decree and establish the feast of Mary’s Queenship, which is to be celebrated every year in the whole world on the 31st of May. We likewise ordain that on the same day the consecration of the human race to the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary be renewed.”<sup>24</sup>
- **Action:** In his encyclical letter *Ad coeli Reginam*, Pius XII instituted the feast of Our Lady, Virgin and Queen, to be celebrated on May 31, ordering also that in every parish in the world, the consecration of *the human race* to the Immaculate Heart of Mary be renewed each year on this date.
- **Effect:** In itself, not a consecration at all, but a directive for future renewals of his 1942 consecration of the world. “It was a pious and holy decision, of course, but it did not correspond to what the Blessed Virgin had requested. Moreover the order remained so vague that it almost passed unnoticed, and it remained a dead letter.”<sup>25</sup>

#### 1964 (November 21), Paul VI

- **Text:** “Our Predecessor Pius XII of venerated memory, not without inspiration from on high, solemnly consecrated the whole world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. We hold it fitting to remember this act of consecration today in particular. ... We entrust to our

<sup>23</sup> [http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/pius\\_xii/apost\\_letters/documents/hf\\_p-xii\\_apl\\_19520707\\_sacro-vergente-anno\\_it.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/pius_xii/apost_letters/documents/hf_p-xii_apl_19520707_sacro-vergente-anno_it.html), Apostolic Letter, *Sacro vergente anno*. Emphasis added.

<sup>24</sup> [http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/pius\\_xii/encyclicals/documents/hf\\_p-xii\\_enc\\_11101954\\_ad-caeli-reginam\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/pius_xii/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-xii_enc_11101954_ad-caeli-reginam_en.html), Encyclical Letter, *Ad coeli Reginam*, §47.

<sup>25</sup> Frère Michel, *The Whole Truth About Fatima*, Vol. III, p. 396.

*heavenly Mother the entire human family, with its problems, its anxieties, its legitimate aspirations and ardent hopes.*"<sup>26</sup>

- **Action:** A renewal of Pius XII's consecration of the human race. Though read aloud to the assembly of all of the world's bishops (many of whom desired to make this gathering the occasion of a collegial act of consecration as requested by Our Lady of Fatima) at the end of the third session of Vatican II, they were not invited or prepared to join in the Pope's act.
- **Defects:** No mention of Russia; no explicit consecration to the Immaculate Heart; no active participation of the bishops.

### **1981 (June 7), John Paul II**

- **Text:** "Mother of all individuals and peoples, you know all their sufferings and hopes. In your motherly heart you feel all the struggles between good and evil, between light and darkness, that convulse the world: accept the plea which we make in the Holy Spirit directly to *your heart*, and embrace with the love of the Mother and Handmaid of the Lord those who most await this embrace, and also *those whose act of entrustment you too await in a particular way*. Take under your motherly protection *the whole human family, which with affectionate love we entrust to you, O Mother.*"<sup>27</sup>
- **Object of Prayer:** The human race, with an admission that Our Blessed Mother is awaiting the consecration of a certain group of people.
- **Manner:** Hastening to make this act after the May 13<sup>th</sup> attempt on his life, the Pope had no opportunity for solemnity or planning, and was not even able to be present when his recorded speech was broadcast in the Basilica of Saint Mary Major. He had been released from the hospital just six days before, and was still weak with a CMV infection.
- **Defects:** No mention of Russia; no explicit consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary; no solemn act of reparation; no participation of bishops.

### **1981 (December 8), John Paul II**

- A repetition of the above act on this feast of the Immaculate Conception.

### **1982 (May 13), John Paul II**

- **Text:** "Forty years ago and again ten years later, your servant Pope Pius XII, having before his eyes the painful experience of the human family, entrusted and *consecrated to your Immaculate Heart the whole world*, especially the peoples for which you had

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<sup>26</sup> [http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/paul\\_vi/speeches/1964/documents/hf\\_p-vi\\_spe\\_19641121\\_conclusions-iii-sessions\\_it.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/paul_vi/speeches/1964/documents/hf_p-vi_spe_19641121_conclusions-iii-sessions_it.html), speech "At the conclusion of the Third Session of the Second Vatican Council." Emphasis added.

<sup>27</sup> [http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/john\\_paul\\_ii/speeches/1981/june/documents/hf\\_jp\\_ii\\_spe\\_19810607\\_costantinopoli-efeso\\_it.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/speeches/1981/june/documents/hf_jp_ii_spe_19810607_costantinopoli-efeso_it.html), radio message on the occasion of the 1600th anniversary of the first Council of Constantinople and 1550th anniversary of the Council of Ephesus, Solemnity of Pentecost, June 7, 1981. Emphasis added.

particular love and solicitude. This world of individuals and nations I too have before my eyes today, as *I renew the entrusting and consecration carried out by my Predecessor in the See of Peter: the world of the second millennium that is drawing to a close, the modern world, our world today!* ... And therefore, *O Mother of individuals and peoples*, you who ‘know all their sufferings and their hopes,’ you who have a mother’s awareness of all the struggles between good and evil, between light and darkness, which afflict the modern world, accept the cry which we, as though moved by the Holy Spirit, *address directly to your Heart*. Embrace, with the love of the Mother and Handmaid, *this human world of ours, which we entrust and consecrate to you*, for we are full of disquiet for the earthly and eternal destiny of individuals and peoples. In a special way we entrust and consecrate to you those individuals and nations which particularly need to be entrusted and consecrated.”<sup>28</sup>

- **Object of Consecration:** The world.
- **Defects:** No explicit mention of Russia; lacked the participation of all the bishops.

### 1983 (October 16), John Paul II

- **Text:** Same as above.
- **Object of Consecration:** The world.
- **Manner:** At the end of the 1983 Synod of Bishops, during the Mass of Sunday, October 16, the Holy Father, surrounded by numerous Cardinals and bishops from various parts of the world, renewed his Act of Consecration of the previous year, using the same prayer, with this introduction: “At that time, I asked all my brothers in the episcopate to be with me spiritually. Today, many of you, thanks to the Synod of Bishops, are here, and in your presence and in union with you, I wish to repeat what I said on 13 May 1982.”<sup>29</sup>
- **Defects:** No explicit mention of Russia; lacked the participation of all the bishops.

### 1984 (March 25), John Paul II

- **Text:** In St. Peter's Square, with the statue of Our Lady of Fatima brought from Fatima to Rome for this occasion, next to the main altar, the Holy Father said by way of introduction, “I will today entrust to her Immaculate Heart, in spiritual union with all the bishops of the world, all individuals and peoples, repeating in substance the act that I made at Fatima on May 13, 1982.”<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>28</sup> [http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/john\\_paul\\_ii/speeches/1982/may/documents/hf\\_jp-ii\\_spe\\_19820513\\_vergine-fatima\\_it.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/speeches/1982/may/documents/hf_jp-ii_spe_19820513_vergine-fatima_it.html), “Prayer of entrustment and consecration to the Virgin of Fatima,” translation by *L'Osservatore Romano*, Weekly Edition in English, 24 May 1982. Emphasis added.

<sup>29</sup> *L'Osservatore Romano*, English Edition, October 24, 1983, page 2.

<sup>30</sup> [http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/john\\_paul\\_ii/speeches/1984/march/documents/hf\\_jp-ii\\_spe\\_19840325\\_giubileo-famiglie\\_it.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/speeches/1984/march/documents/hf_jp-ii_spe_19840325_giubileo-famiglie_it.html), “To the Faithful Before the Mass for the Jubilee of Families.”

“We find ourselves united with all the pastors of the Church in a particular bond whereby we constitute a body and a college, just as by Christ’s wish the Apostles constituted a body and college with Peter. In the bond of this union, we utter the words of the present Act, in which we wish to include, once more, the Church’s hopes and anxieties for the modern world. Forty years ago and again ten years later, your servant Pope Pius XII, having before his eyes the painful experiences of the human family, entrusted and consecrated to your Immaculate Heart the whole world, especially the peoples for which by reason of their situation you have particular love and solicitude. This *world of individuals and nations* we too have before our eyes today: the *world of the second millennium* that is drawing to a close, the *modern world*, our *world!* ... And therefore, O Mother of individuals and peoples, you who know all their sufferings and their hopes, You who have a mother’s awareness of all the struggles between good and evil, between light and darkness, which afflict the modern world, accept the cry which we, moved by the Holy Spirit, address directly to your Heart. Embrace, with the love of the Mother and Handmaid of the Lord, *this human world* of ours, *which we entrust and consecrate to You*, for we are full of concern for the earthly and eternal destiny of individuals and peoples. In a special way we entrust and consecrate to you those individuals and *nations* [note the plural] which particularly need to be thus entrusted and consecrated.”<sup>31</sup>

- **Ad Libidum:** At a certain point (after having pronounced the above formula), the Pope departed from the prepared text and added a spontaneous reference to a people whose consecration the Blessed Virgin was still awaiting: “Mother of the Church! Enlighten especially the peoples of which *you await* our consecration and entrustment.”<sup>32</sup> This was the only reference to these peoples whose consecration Our Lady awaits, and it came well after the Pope’s listing of the objects of his consecration. These particular “peoples” are thus clearly distinguished from the various “men and nations” who had just been consecrated. Neither does any consecration of these waiting peoples follow – he merely prays in their regard that they be enlightened. Standing as he was, there before the statue of Our Lady of Fatima (Who had requested only the Consecration of *Russia*), this was an amply clear reference to that nation ... for whose consecration Our Lady must continue to wait!)
- **Object of Consecration:** The world.
- **Defects:** No mention of Russia. Lacked the participation of all the bishops (notwithstanding the textual claim to be a collegial act of all the pastors of the Church).

### 1991 (May 13), John Paul II

- **Text:** “Mother of Christ and of the Church, ... in collegial unity with the Bishops in communion with the whole People of God, scattered in every corner of the earth, I also

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<sup>31</sup> Translation by *L'Osservatore Romano*, Weekly English Edition, 2 April 1984, pp. 8-10. Emphasis added.

<sup>32</sup> Reported in *L'Osservatore Romano*, March 26-27, 1984.

renew to You today the filial entrustment of the *human race*. We all entrust ourselves to You with confidence.”<sup>33</sup>

- **Object of Prayer:** The human race.
- **Defects:** Not a consecration. No reference whatsoever to Russia or to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Lacked the participation of all the bishops.

### 2000 (October 8), John Paul II

- **Text:** “O Mother, ... we stand here before You to entrust to your maternal care ourselves, *the Church, the entire world*. ... We entrust to you *all people*, beginning with the weakest: the *babies yet unborn*, and *those born into poverty* and suffering, the *young in search of meaning*, the *unemployed*, and *those suffering hunger and disease*. We entrust to You *all troubled families*, the *elderly* with no one to help them, and *all who are alone* and without hope.”<sup>34</sup>
- **Objects of Prayer:** All people, including those with special temporal needs.
- **Defects:** Not a consecration. No reference whatsoever to Russia or to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Lacked the participation of all the bishops (although approximately 1500 bishops were in attendance at St. Peter’s Square for this ceremony).

### 2013 (October 13), Francis

- **Text:** Holy Mary, Virgin of Fatima, with renewed gratitude for your maternal presence we join our voice to that of all the generations who call you blessed. We celebrate in you the works of God, who never tires of looking down with mercy upon humanity, afflicted with the wound of sin, to heal it and save it. Accept with the benevolence of a Mother the act of consecration that we perform today with confidence, before this image of you that is so dear to us. We are certain that each of us is precious in your eyes and that nothing of all that lives in our hearts is unknown to you. We let ourselves be touched by your most sweet regard and we welcome the consoling caress of your smile. Hold our life in your arms: bless and strengthen every desire for good; revive and nourish faith; sustain and enlighten hope; awaken and animate charity; guide all of us along the path of holiness. Teach us your own preferential love for the little and the poor, for the excluded and the suffering, for sinners and the downhearted: bring everyone under your protection and entrust everyone to your beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus. Amen.<sup>35</sup>
- **Object of Prayer:** Unclear.

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<sup>33</sup> [http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/john\\_paul\\_ii/speeches/1991/may/documents/hf\\_jp-ii\\_spe\\_19910513\\_atto-affidamento-fatima\\_it.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/speeches/1991/may/documents/hf_jp-ii_spe_19910513_atto-affidamento-fatima_it.html), Apostolic Journey to Portugal, “Act of Entrustment to Our Lady of Fatima.”

<sup>34</sup> [http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/john\\_paul\\_ii/speeches/2000/oct-dec/documents/hf\\_jp-ii\\_spe\\_20001008\\_act-entrustment-mary\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/speeches/2000/oct-dec/documents/hf_jp-ii_spe_20001008_act-entrustment-mary_en.html), Jubilee of Bishops, Act of Entrustment to Mary, Sunday, 8 October 2000. Emphasis added.

<sup>35</sup> Translation by Joseph Trabbic for Zenit News Agency, <http://www.zenit.org/en/articles/prayer-of-consecration-to-the-blessed-virgin-mary>

- **Defects:** Although the Holy Father refers to his act as an entrustment, no consecration or entrustment is made. No mention whatsoever of Russia or the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Lacked the participation of all the bishops.

#### IV. Letting the Facts Speak for Themselves

God asked the Holy Father to make, in union with all the bishops of the world, the consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. It is evident from the above survey that no such Consecration has ever been performed. It is also quite instructive to consider what Sister Lucia and others have had to say about some of these consecrations:

##### 1942 (October 31), Pius XII

- **Sister Lucia:** “With anguish *I await His Holiness’s order to the bishops, and then the grace of peace for the poor world.*”<sup>36</sup>

##### 1942 (December 8), Pius XII

- **Sister Lucia:** “The Good Lord has already shown me His contentment with the act performed by the Holy Father and several bishops, *although it was incomplete according to His desire.* In return, He promises to end the war soon. *The conversion of Russia is not for now.*”<sup>37</sup>

##### Interim Events

- **Russian Catholics** (November 21-26, 1950): A group of nearly 100 Russian Catholics, both clergy and lay, from a variety of nations, made a pilgrimage to Rome to present to the Pope a moving letter containing their plea for the Consecration of Russia. Bishop Meletieff, the former Russian Orthodox Bishop of Archangelsk, who endured several years of imprisonment and great suffering for converting to Catholicism, was among the pilgrims. The Pope received them in audience after assisting with them at a Byzantine Rite Divine Liturgy celebrated by the Melchite Patriarch of Antioch and sixteen Eastern Rite bishops in St. Peter’s Basilica.<sup>38</sup>
- **Sister Lucia** (October 14, 1951): Bishop Meletieff, Father Gustavo Wetter, S.J. (Rector of the Russicum), and Pavel Bliznetsoff (a Russian seminarian) returned from the anniversary pilgrimage to the Fatima Shrine by way of Sister Lucia’s convent in Coimbra, Portugal, for an audience with the seer. During their visit, Sister Lucia asked, “Are you able to pass on to the Holy Father the message that *what Our Lady of Fatima*

<sup>36</sup> Letter of November 8, 1942, or shortly thereafter, to Archbishop Don Manuel Ferreira, Bishop of Gurza. Père António Martins, S.J., *Fatima e o Coração de Maria*, ed. Loyola, 1984, p. 104; Cf. Frère Michel, *The Whole Truth About Fatima*, Vol. III, p. 66. Emphasis added.

<sup>37</sup> Letter of February 28, 1943 to Archbishop Ferreira. Père António Martins, S.J., *Fatima e o Coração de Maria*, ed. Loyola, 1984, pp. 104-105; Cf. Frère Michel, *The Whole Truth About Fatima*, Vol. III, p. 18. Emphasis added.

<sup>38</sup> Cf. Frère Michel, *The Whole Truth About Fatima*, Vol. III, pp. 308-311.

*requested has not yet been done?*” Father Wetter promised to do so. (Another cleric of the Russicum later confirmed that Father Wetter kept his promise, sending this message through his fellow Jesuit, Father Leiber, who was serving as Pius XII’s private secretary.)<sup>39</sup>

- **Sister Lucia** (December 15, 1951): “*Our Lady’s request concerning Russia has not been done*. According to what XXXXX told me, the bishops of Russia sent a petition to the Holy Father asking for the consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, such as Our Lady requested it. May God grant that this actually be true and that everything comes to pass.”<sup>40</sup>
- **Our Lady of Fatima** (May 1952): On an unspecified date in this month, Our Lady said to Sister Lucia, “*Make it known to the Holy Father that I still await the consecration of Russia to My Immaculate Heart. Without this consecration Russia cannot be converted, nor can the world have peace.*”<sup>41</sup>

### 1952 (July 7), Pius XII

- **Father Joaquin Alonso** (the premier expert on the apparitions and message of Our Lady of Fatima, serving as the official archivist of all Fatima documentation for sixteen years): “Can it be said concerning *Sacro vergente anno*, that all the conditions requested by Heaven and communicated to Sister Lucy were fulfilled? *Historically, no!*”<sup>42</sup>
- **Sister Lucia**: “I remain grief-stricken that it still was not done in the way that Our Lady requested.”<sup>43</sup>

### Interim Events

- **Sister Lucia** (March 21, 1982): In an interview with Archbishop Sante Portalupi (the Apostolic Nuncio to Portugal, sent to Coimbra by John Paul II to discuss with Lucia precisely how the consecration planned for May 13 of that year should be carried out), “Sister Lucia explained,” as reported by Father Pierre Caillon, then head of the Blue Army in France, “that the Pope must choose a date upon which His Holiness commands the bishops of the entire world to make, each in his own Cathedral and at the same time as the Pope, a solemn and public ceremony of Reparation and Consecration of Russia.”<sup>44</sup>

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<sup>39</sup> Cf. Frère Michel, *The Whole Truth About Fatima*, Vol. III, pp. 323-324. Emphasis added.

<sup>40</sup> Letter to a friend, cited by Père António Martins, S.J., *Fatima e o Coração de Maria*, ed. Loyola, 1984, p. 111; Cf. Frère Michel, *The Whole Truth About Fatima*, Vol. III, p. 324. Emphasis added.

<sup>41</sup> Italian Bishops’ Conference, *Il pellegrinaggio delle meraviglie*, 1960, p. 440. Cf. Frère Michel, *The Whole Truth About Fatima*, Vol. III, p. 327.

<sup>42</sup> *Marie sous le symbole du Coeur*, Téqui, 1973, p. 56; Cf. Frère Michel, *The Whole Truth About Fatima*, Vol. III, p. 334. Emphasis in original.

<sup>43</sup> Letter written shortly after July 7, 1952, quoted by Fr. Alonso, *Marie sous le symbole du Coeur*, Téqui, 1973, p. 56; Cf. Fr. Alonso, *Fátima ante la Esfinge*, “Sol de Fatima” Press, Madrid, 1979, p. 120 and Frère Michel, *The Whole Truth About Fatima*, Vol. III, p. 337.

<sup>44</sup> Rev. Pierre Caillon, *Fidelite Catholique*, April 1983, B.P. 217-56402, Auray Cedex, France.

- Acting on the advice of Bishop Amaral of Fatima, who was also present at this interview, Archbishop Portalupi purposely neglected to tell the Pope of Our Lady's requirement that the world's bishops participate in the consecration. This admission was confided by Archbishop Portalupi to Dr. Lacerda, a third party present at this interview.
- The Holy Father learned of this omission only on the morning of May 13, meeting briefly with Sister Lucia before the ceremony.

### 1982 (May 13), John Paul II

- **Sister Lucia** (August 11, 1982): Although forbidden to speak publicly without the express permission of Rome, Lucia was able to make this observation in a personal letter: "*The Consecration of Russia, that which Our Lady has requested, has not yet been done.*"<sup>45</sup>
- **Sister Lucia** (March 19, 1983): Lucia's next opportunity to make a public statement came when Archbishop Portalupi was again sent to interview her about the 1982 consecration. He was accompanied in this meeting by the same Dr. Lacerda and Father Messias Coelho. (This time he did not invite Bishop Amaral.) Sister Lucia had prepared a text which was read aloud and on which she commented: "*In the Act of offering of May 13, 1982, Russia did not appear clearly as the object of the consecration. And each bishop did not organize in his own diocese a public and solemn ceremony of reparation and consecration of Russia. Pope John Paul II has simply renewed the consecration of the world made by Pope Pius XII on October 31, 1942. Of this consecration of the world one may hope for certain good effects, but not the conversion of Russia.*" Her prepared text ended with this statement, explaining her silence of the past ten months, while scandalous rumors to the contrary were circulated, some even as if emanating from Lucia herself: "*The Consecration of Russia has not been done as Our Lady has requested. I was not able to make this statement before because I did not have the permission of the Holy See.*"<sup>46</sup>

### Interim Events

- The Pope sought to make a proper Consecration of Russia, but was dissuaded from making a specific mention of Russia by his advisors.
- **Bishop Paul Josef Cordes**: "I recall that [Pope John Paul II] thought, sometime before [the 1984 consecration], of mentioning Russia in the prayer of benediction. But at the suggestion of his collaborators *he abandoned the idea*. He could not *risk such a direct provocation* of the Soviet leader. The Pope also decided not to mention Russia directly

<sup>45</sup> Letter to her cousin, Maria do Fetal, published by Fr. Pierre Caillon, *La Consecration de la Russie aux Tres Saints Coeurs de Jesus et de Marie*, ed. Tequi, 1983, pp. 45-46.

<sup>46</sup> Reported by Fr. Pierre Caillon in the monthly periodical *Fidelite Catholique*, B.P. 217-56402, Auray Cedex, France; English translation from *The Fatima Crusader*, Issue 13-14, (Oct.-Dec., 1983) p. 3.

out of *sensitivity to the Orthodox* bishops he had invited to join in the consecration prayer.”<sup>47</sup>

- **Cardinal Jozef Tomko** (one of John Paul II’s chief advisors): “[Russia was not named in the 1984 ceremony because] Rome fears that the Russian Orthodox might regard it as an ‘offense’ if Rome were to make specific mention of Russia in such a prayer, as if Russia especially is in need of help when the whole world, including the post-Christian West, faces profound problems. ... Let us beware of becoming too literal-minded.”<sup>48</sup>
- **Father Gabriel Amorth** (former chief exorcist of Rome): “In 1984 the Pope quite timidly attempted to consecrate Russia in Saint Peter’s Square. I was there, just a few feet away from him, because I was the organizer of the event in Saint Peter’s Square. It was March 25, 1984 and the Pope had the statue of Our Lady of Fatima come over from Fatima; it’s the statue that usually stays in the huge plaza of the Sanctuary, in Fatima, but for that occasion he wanted the statue there. Kneeling in front of that statue, he attempted the consecration, but all around him were some politicians who told him, ‘You can’t name Russia! You can’t!’” And he asked, “Can I name it?” And they said: “No, no, no!”<sup>49</sup>
- **Pope John Paul II:** The Pope nevertheless sought at least the involvement of the bishops in the consecration ceremony planned for 1984. On December 8, 1983 he sent to each bishop a copy of the text which he planned to use, and he gently suggested that they join him in again consecrating the world to the Immaculate Heart. “The words of the act of consecration and offering which I am sending you enclosed,” he wrote to the bishops, “is the same Act which I pronounced at Fatima on May 13, 1982 with some slight modifications [i.e., shortened by the omission of some sentences, and lengthened in other places by some added considerations such as regarding the Holy Year of Redemption]. ... I would be grateful if on that day you would join me in renewing this Act at the same time as myself, in a manner that each one of you judges the most suitable.”<sup>50</sup>
- **Sister Lucia:** Having been presented a copy of the text that the Holy Father would use, Lucia understood that this would not be the Consecration requested by Our Lady of Fatima, and she is known to have made a statement to this effect while visiting with an old friend and confidant, Maria Eugenia Pestana, on March 22, 1984, only three days before the 1984 ceremony. In answer to Mrs. Pestana’s question, “Then, Lucy, Sunday is the Consecration?”, Lucia replied: “That consecration cannot have a decisive character. ... *Russia does not appear in it as the sole object of the consecration.*”<sup>51</sup>

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<sup>47</sup> Fr. Andrew Apostoli, *Fatima for Today: The Urgent Marian Message of Hope*, Ignatius Press, San Francisco, 2010, p. 251; cited in Christopher Ferrara, *False Friends of Fatima*, Good Counsel Publications, New York, 2012, p. 47. Emphasis added.

<sup>48</sup> Interview published in *Inside the Vatican*, November 2000.

<sup>49</sup> “Our Lady Came Not to Announce Wars But to Prevent Them,” Interview published in *The Fatima Crusader*, Issue 104, Winter 2013, p. 22.

<sup>50</sup> *Documentation Catholique*, 1984, p. 286. This text was then published in *L’Osservatore Romano* on February 17, 1984.

<sup>51</sup> Frère François, *Fatima: Tragedy and Triumph*, pp. 167-168. Emphasis added. This reply was reported by Mrs. Pestana in a telephone conversation the next day to Fr. Caillon, who subsequently related the incident to Frère Michel in a letter dated March 30, 1984.

## 1984 (March 25), John Paul II

- **Pope John Paul II:** At the “*Adieu to Our Lady*” at 4:00 p.m. that same afternoon, at which time the pilgrims gathered once more (now in St. Peter’s Basilica) to bid goodbye to the statue of Our Lady of Fatima, the Holy Father again prayed, asking Our Lady to bless “those peoples for whom You Yourself *are awaiting* our act of consecration, the act which *will confide* them to You.” Thus, hours after the consecration ceremony (as witnessed by 10,000 pilgrims and reported by both *L’Osservatore Romano* and the Italian Catholic bishops’ newspaper *Avvenire*), the Pope acknowledged yet again that the Consecration requested by Our Lady of Fatima had not been performed. Also in this same prayer, he made another clear allusion to the inadequacy of that day’s consecration: “We have been able to do all this *according to our poor human possibilities* and the measure of human weakness, but with immense confidence in Your maternal love and immense confidence in Your maternal solicitude.”<sup>52</sup>
- Although the Pope had invited the bishops to join him in this consecration, only a small number acknowledge having done so. The vast majority seem to have given no advertence to the event. Certainly they did not trouble themselves to organize solemn public ceremonies in their own cathedrals to take place at the same time as the Pope’s ceremony. Cardinal Alfons Stickler, a close confidant of the Pope, said several years later that the Pope had been unable to perform a consecration as he would like to have, precisely because of this impediment, that “the bishops do not obey him.”<sup>53</sup>
- **Sister Lucia:** More than a year passed before Lucia was allowed to comment publicly on the 1984 ceremony. At last in September 1985, Spain’s chapter of the Blue Army published this interview in its official journal, *Sol de Fatima*:

Question: John Paul II had invited all the bishops to join in the consecration of Russia, which he was going to make at Fatima on May 13, 1982, and which he was to renew at the end of the Holy Year in Rome on March 25, 1984, before the original statue of Our Lady of Fatima. Has he not therefore done what was requested at Tuy?

Sister Lucia: *There was no participation of all the bishops and there was no mention of Russia.*

Question: So the consecration was not done as requested by Our Lady?

Sister Lucia: *No. Many bishops attached no importance to this act.*

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<sup>52</sup> *Avvenire*, March 27, 1984, p. 11; *L’Osservatore Romano*, March 26-27, 1984, Italian ed., p. 6. Emphasis added.

<sup>53</sup> Spoken to David Martin of Los Angeles at a private appointment on November 26, 1987. The Cardinal agreed to be “an instrument of transmission” of a letter to the Pope requesting the consecration of Russia, but expressed in these words his doubt that the Pope would be able to overcome the lack of support of his bishops. Cf. Fr. Nicholas Gruner, *World Enslavement or Peace...It’s Up to the Pope*, The Fatima Crusader Press, Fort Erie, Ontario, pp. 206-207.

## Interim Events

- Subsequent requests for the Consecration of Russia were no longer welcomed by leading Vatican officials.
- **Bishop Jerome Hastrich**, then U.S. President of the Blue Army: “We are rather to pray that members of the Blue Army would so pray and fast that they themselves might be thoroughly converted.... [T]o pray for the ‘conversion’ of Russia may seem like waving a red flag in front of a bull.... [A]nd so it might be more prudent to pray for peace in the world.... We might pray explicitly for Russia if we wish to do so, but in our public message we should ... avoid upsetting the delicate balance of international affairs which the Holy See is trying so hard to control and direct.”<sup>54</sup>
- **Fatima historian Frère François**: “[In 1988] an order came from the Vatican addressed to the authorities of Fatima, to Sister Lucy, to diverse ecclesiastics, including Father Messias Coelho, and a French priest very much devoted to Our Lady [evidently Father Pierre Caillon], ordering everyone to cease pestering the Holy Father with the Consecration of Russia.”<sup>55</sup>
- **Father Pierre Caillon**: “An order came from Rome, obliging everyone to say and think: ‘The Consecration is done. The Pope having done all that he can, Heaven has deigned to agree to this gesture.’”<sup>56</sup>

## V. Comparing Promises and Effects

When Our Lady formally requested the Consecration of Russia on June 13, 1929, She said that God promised to save Russia *by means of* that Consecration:

“The moment has come in which God asks the Holy Father to make, in union with all the bishops of the world, the consecration of Russia to My Immaculate Heart, promising to save it *by this means*.” [Emphasis added.]

Our Lord Himself reiterated and emphasized this promise in another revelation to Sister Lucia in 1936. After she had spent seven years trying to persuade the Holy Father to perform the Consecration of Russia as Our Lady of Fatima had requested, and seeing the futility of her efforts, Sister Lucia’s thoughts turned to the possibility of some other means of attaining the graces of conversion and peace promised by Our Lady. But Our Lord was inflexible. Sister Lucia recounts:

“Intimately I have spoken to Our Lord about the subject, and not too long ago I asked Him why He would not convert Russia without the Holy Father making that consecration? [He answered,] *‘Because I want My whole Church to acknowledge that consecration as a*

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<sup>54</sup> *Soul Magazine*, March-April 1984 issue.

<sup>55</sup> Frère François de Marie des Anges, *Fatima: Tragedy and Triumph*, Immaculate Heart Publications, 1994, p. 189-190.

<sup>56</sup> Cited by Frère François, *loc. cit.*, from his personal correspondence with Fr. Caillon of March 1990.

*triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary*, so that it may extend its cult later on, and put the devotion to this Immaculate Heart beside the devotion to My Sacred Heart.”<sup>57</sup>

Thus the Triumph of the Immaculate Heart, at which the entire world will marvel, will follow as an immediate result of the Consecration of Russia. The Consecration itself, in fact, will be universally acknowledged as a triumph of the Immaculate Heart, and the ensuing era of peace will come about “by this means.” The close and obvious connection, as cause and effect, manifest to the whole world, between the Consecration and the ensuing conversion of Russia, will induce the whole Church to hail both the conversion of Russia and the unparalleled era of world peace which follows, as an historic and miraculous Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

More than eleven years after the formal command for the Consecration of Russia had been given on June 13, 1929, a broken-hearted Lucia had to acknowledge that its fulfillment was nowhere in sight. But she affirmed, by Our Lord’s promise, that when at last it is accomplished, “it will *overflow in glory* for our good Lord and Our Beloved Mother in Heaven.”<sup>58</sup>

But what correlation can be found between these clear and specific promised effects of the Consecration of Russia, and the state of the world and the Church today? If, as Cardinal Bertone and others insist, the Consecration requested by Our Lady of Fatima was performed in 1984 (at least in such a way as to satisfy Our Lady’s wishes, even if not according to the specifications of Her request), then shouldn’t we be seeing the promised effects of that Consecration? *After thirty years?*

Our Lady promised in the plainest terms, “If My requests are heeded, *Russia will be converted, and there will be peace.*” Did John Paul II’s ceremony of 1984 occasion the miraculous conversion of the Russian nation and usher in a period of peace for the world? Is the world marveling at that ceremony as a Triumph of the Immaculate Heart? There are some who, pointing to the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the dissolution of the U.S.S.R. in 1991, would like to eviscerate Our Lady’s revelation of its obvious meaning, but the issue will not go away because the truth – so plain to so many – is not that Our Lady has failed to keep Her promises, but rather that modern-day churchmen have turned their backs on the Message of Fatima.

It is a mercy of Providence that we have on record a statement of Father Alonso, the premier expert on the Fatima revelations and documents, that cuts through one of the many lies and distortions opposing Our Lady of Fatima’s Message today, suggesting that Russia has experienced some sort of “moral” – or worse, political and economic – “conversion”:

“[W]e should affirm that Lucia always thought that the ‘conversion’ of Russia is not to be limited to the return of the Russian people to the Orthodox Christian religions, rejecting the

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<sup>57</sup> Letter of May 18, 1936 to Fr. José Gonçalves, S.J.; Pêre António Maria Martins, S.J., *Memórias e Cartas da Irmã Lúcia*, Porto, 1973, p. 415; cited in Frère Michel de la Sainte Trinité, *The Whole Truth About Fatima*, Vol. II: *The Secret and the Church*, Immaculate Heart Publications, New York, 1989, p. 631. Emphasis added.

<sup>58</sup> Letter of October 27, 1940 to Fr. José Gonçalves, S.J.; Pêre António Maria Martins, S.J., *Memórias e Cartas da Irmã Lúcia*, Porto, 1973, p. 429. Emphasis added.

Marxist atheism of the Soviets, but rather, it refers purely, plainly and simply to the total, integral conversion of Russia *to the one true Church of Christ, the Catholic Church.*”<sup>59</sup>

We do not need to study the texts of the various consecrations that have been made in order to realize that this request of Our Lady of Fatima remains unheeded. We can see the world around us. There has been no conversion of Russia, no period of peace given to the world, no Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary – three things that we know will follow the proper Consecration of Russia.

No, our time continues to grow progressively darker, notwithstanding the claims that Our Lady of Fatima’s request was satisfied by the consecrations of 1952 or 1984. Why should Catholics be so reluctant to admit that this decline in both Church and society will continue until Our Lady’s request is obeyed? Speaking to Father Augustin Fuentes in 1957, Sister Lucia said:

“Many times the Most Holy Virgin told my cousins Francisco and Jacinta, as well as myself, that *many nations will disappear from the face of the earth.* She said that Russia will be the instrument of chastisement chosen by Heaven to punish the whole world *if we do not beforehand obtain the conversion of that poor nation.*”<sup>60</sup>

Our Lady has told us very plainly that only She can help us<sup>61</sup> – that Her Fatima Message is necessary for the very survival of Christian civilization. She said on July 13, 1917, that if Her requests (for the Consecration of Russia to Her Immaculate Heart and for the Communion of Reparation on the First Saturdays) were not heeded, “*The good will be martyred, the Holy Father will have much to suffer, various nations will be annihilated.*”

The facts are as plain as they are desperate. No Consecration such as that specified in Our Lady’s request has ever taken place. Neither is there any serious or informed pretense that it has. What some people are saying, on the contrary, is: “We did the best we could. It will have to do.” That is an error (and a lie) that could cost us all our lives.

These are the facts of the matter, the truth about our situation, regardless of what is alleged by those who wish to relegate the Fatima prophecies to the past. No one, not even a high-ranking churchman, has any influence or authority over truth itself. And it is integral to the Christian life that we orient our minds to the truth – that we love the truth<sup>62</sup> and seek the truth – regardless of accepted opinions or even of threatened consequences for adhering to the truth.

And the worst of all the present-day “operations of error, to believe lying” that have followed from our failure to adhere to the truth is the blasphemy of claiming that the world today – drenched with innocent blood and careening toward ever more depraved and unnatural sins – corresponds in any way to the Triumph promised by God to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

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<sup>59</sup> *La Verdad sobre el Secreto de Fatima, Fatima sin mitos*, 2nd edition, Ejercito Azul, Madrid, 1988, p. 78; cf. Fr. Paul Kramer, *The Devil’s Final Battle*, Good Counsel Publications, 2010, pp. 136-137. Emphasis added.

<sup>60</sup> Fr. Joaquin Maria Alonso, C.M.F., *La Verdad sobre el Secreto de Fatima*, Centro Mariano, Madrid, 1976, p. 104. Cf. Frère Michel, *The Whole Truth About Fatima*, Vol. III, p. 505. Emphasis added.

<sup>61</sup> Our Lady’s first words in Her July 13, 1917 apparition were, “*I want you to come here on the 13th of next month, and to continue reciting the Rosary every day in honor of Our Lady of the Rosary in order to obtain peace in the world and the end of the war, because only She can help you.*”

<sup>62</sup> 2 Thess 2:10.