



# The Fatima Timeline



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## Introduction

What follows is a timeline that relates, in condensed fashion, key events in the long saga that began with the apparitions of the Mother of God at Fatima in 1917, when She confided to three shepherd children—Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco—a profound message, a dire warning, and a glorious promise to the Church and all of humanity. The saga of Fatima continues today, and now appears to be entering its final chapter.

But why, one might ask, should anyone care about this so-called “private apparition?” The answer is that it is not private, but rather concerns every man, woman and child on the face of the earth. As Pope John Paul II told us, the Message of Fatima “is addressed to every human being.” (Homily at Fatima, May 13, 1982). Speaking also at Fatima, Pope Benedict XVI declared in 2010: “He deceives himself who thinks that the prophetic mission of Fatima is concluded.”

And what is this prophetic mission? Nothing less than the salvation of millions of souls and the avoidance of a worldwide divine chastisement whose results are seen in that part of the Third Secret of Fatima the Vatican published in 2000: the vision of a future Pope being executed on a hill outside a devastated city filled with corpses.

“If My requests are heeded, Russia will be converted, and there will be peace.” So the Blessed Virgin promised at Fatima if the Pope and the bishops would consecrate that nation to Her Immaculate Heart. But, nearly a hundred years later, this has yet to be done, and we face the consequences of failing to heed the Virgin’s request: “if not, she [Russia] 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.*”

Various nations will be annihilated! Not merely conquered or ravaged by war, which is bad enough, but rather *wiped off the face of the earth.*

Let no one think that the end of World War II meant the end of world war. “Even today, after the second failure of another world war,” said Pope Francis a year ago, “perhaps one can speak of a third war, one fought

piecemeal, with crimes, massacres, destruction.”

But not even this constitutes the annihilation of nations, and many—even non-believers—have recognized that the world seems to be on the brink of just such a catastrophe.

Why should anyone care about the Message of Fatima? Pope John Paul II, speaking at Fatima in 1982, gave the definitive answer to that question:

“Our Lady’s message at Fatima remains ever relevant. It is still more relevant than it was 65 years ago. *It is still more urgent.*”

“The successor of Peter presents himself here also as a witness to the immensity of human suffering, *a witness to the almost apocalyptic menaces looming over the nations and mankind as a whole.*”

If you care about the fate of the world, your nation, your community, your family, and yourself, then what follows is essential reading. As the Mother of God herself declared at Fatima, it is only by heeding

Her request that the glorious promise She made to the Church and the world will be fulfilled:

“In the end, My Immaculate Heart will triumph. The Holy Father will consecrate Russia to Me, and she shall be converted, and a period of peace will be granted to the world.”

In the end, yes, Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart will triumph. But whether the world avoids the great chastisement of the annihilation of nations depends upon when Her request for the Consecration of Russia is heeded in time.

He does indeed deceive himself who thinks the prophetic mission of Fatima is concluded.



**“Make it known to My ministers that given they follow the example of the King of France in delaying the execution of My request, they will follow him into misfortune. It will never be too late to have recourse to Jesus and Mary.”**

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## (1916 - 2015)

### **1916:** Heaven Prepares the Three Seers for the Apparitions of Our Lady.

- The three shepherd children of Fatima—Lucia dos Santos and her two cousins, Francisco and Jacinta Marto—are visited three times by the Angel of Portugal, also identified as St. Michael, the “Angel of Peace.”

### **1917:** The Apparitions, including the Great Secret and Our Lady’s Request for the Consecration of Russia.

- **May 13:** Our Lady appears to the three children at the Cova da Iria, a large open field outside the village of Fatima, to ask that they return for five months in succession, on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of each month, at the same hour. At each apparition, Our Lady requested that the Rosary be prayed every day to obtain peace in the world.
- **June 13:** Our Lady tells the children that God wishes to establish in the world devotion to Her Immaculate Heart. About fifty people are present at the Cova da Iria at the time of this apparition.
- **July 13:** Our Lady, with approximately 5,000 people present in the Cova, confides to the children a Great Secret in three parts:
  - The first part is a vision of hell: “You have seen Hell, where the souls of poor sinners go. To save them, God wills to establish in the world devotion to My Immaculate Heart.”
  - The second part is a detailed prophecy of events that will occur if the Pope and the bishops of the world do not perform a public and solemn ceremony of the Consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart. Our Lady promises to return at a future date to request this Act of Consecration and the Communion of Reparation to Her Immaculate Heart.
  - The prophesied events include: the Second World War (which Our Lady warns will erupt during the reign of Pius XI, who had

not yet been elected), the spread of Russia's errors throughout the world (including communism, which had not yet been imposed by the Bolsheviks), persecutions of the Church, the martyrdom of the good, the suffering of the Holy Father, and ultimately the annihilation of "various nations."

- Our Lady promises, however, that if Her request is granted Russia will be converted, many souls will be saved, "and a period of peace will be granted to the world." Ultimately, She further promises, "the Holy Father will consecrate Russia to Me" and "My Immaculate Heart will triumph."
- The third part, commonly known as the Third Secret, involves the vision of a post-apocalyptic world in which a future Pope is executed on a hill before a cross outside a devastated city along with priests, bishops, religious and members of the laity. [The text concerning the vision would be published on June 26, 2000, but the words of the Virgin explaining its precise meaning (as She had explained the vision of Hell) and its historical context have yet to be revealed. Sister Lucia's Fourth memoir, however, will reveal that the Virgin's explanation begins with the words: "In Portugal the dogma of the Faith will always be preserved," to which Lucia added "etc" in order to indicate the rest of a yet-to-be-revealed prophecy concerning a crisis of Faith in the Church outside of Portugal accompanied by the apocalyptic outcome depicted in the vision.]
- On this occasion Our Lady promises Lucia that She will return in October and, in answer to Lucia's request, will perform a public miracle in order to demonstrate the veracity of Her apparitions.
- **October 13:** After Her apparitions in August and September, Our Lady returns to produce the promised miracle, along with this warning: "**People must amend their lives and ask pardon for their sins. They must not offend Our Lord any more for He is already too much offended.**" She tells us to continue to pray the Rosary every day. Some 70,000 people, gathered in the Cova during a driving rain, witness the Miracle of the Sun: the rain suddenly stops; the clouds disappear; and then the sun twirls in the sky, throws off vivid colors, and plunges toward the terrified crowd, instantly drying soaked clothing and the ankle deep mud covering the ground. Many were cured of diseases on the spot, many more converted to the



**A photograph of part of the 70,000 witnesses as they are actually observing the Miracle of the Sun at Fatima on October 13, 1917.**

Catholic Faith. Even atheists and anticlerical news reporters, present to scoff at the event, admit that the miracle occurred. Nothing like this miracle, announced in advance, has ever occurred in the history of the world.

## **1925: Our Lady Returns to Announce the Five First Saturdays**

- **December 10:** The Blessed Virgin Mary fulfills Her promise to Lucia and returns in an apparition to Lucia in her convent cell and requested the Communion of Reparation of the First Saturdays. Our Lady said:

“... 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.”

- At the same time, the Child Jesus accompanies the Blessed Virgin and pleads for us to make reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.





**Our Lady returned to Sister Lucy at Pontevedra on December 10, 1925 as She promised at Fatima that She would. She came to ask for the Communion of Reparation on the Five First Saturdays. She promised eternal salvation for Catholics who fulfill Her Five First Saturday requests.**



## 1926: A New Apparition of the Child Jesus

- **February 15:** While emptying a garbage can outside the convent garden, Lucia sees the Child Jesus. Once she recognized that it was Jesus, she said to Him:

“My Jesus! You know what my confessor said to me in the letter I read You. He said that this vision had to be repeated; there had to be facts permitting us to believe it, and that the Mother Superior alone could not spread this devotion.”

***“It is true that the Mother Superior alone can do nothing, but with My grace, she can do everything. It is enough that your confessor gives you permission, and that your superior announce this for it to be believed by the people, even if they do not know to whom it was revealed.”***

“But my confessor said in his letter that this devotion already exists in the world, because many souls receive You every first Saturday of the month in honor of Our Lady and recite the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary.”

***“It is true, My daughter, that many souls begin, but few persevere to the very end, and those who persevere do it to receive the graces promised. The souls who make the Five First Saturdays with fervor and to make Reparation to the Heart of your Heavenly Mother, please Me more than those who make fifteen, but are lukewarm and indifferent.”***

“My Jesus! Many souls find it difficult to confess on Saturday. Will You allow a confession within eight days to be valid?”

***“Yes. It can even be made later on, provided that the souls are in the state of grace when they receive Me on the***

*first Saturday, and that they have the intention of making Reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.”*

“My Jesus! And those who forget to form this intention?”

*“They can form it at the next confession, taking advantage of their first opportunity to go to confession.”*

### **1929: Our Lady Returns to Request the Consecration of Russia**

- **June 13**, in fulfillment of Her promise during the apparition of July 13, 1917, Our Lady of Fatima appears to Sister Lucy at Tuy, Spain, along with the visible presence of the Most Holy Trinity, and tells Lucia: “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.

### **1931: Our Lord warns of the consequences of failing to perform the Consecration.**

- **August:** Jesus speaks to Sister Lucia and issues this warning to the Church’s hierarchy regarding failure to perform the Consecration of Russia that God Himself commanded through the Blessed Virgin Mary two years earlier: “Make it known to My ministers, given that they follow the example of the King of France in delaying the execution of My command, they will follow him into misfortune.” Our Lord here refers to the execution of Louis XVI by the soldiers of the French Revolution, following the century-long failure of the French kings to heed His request (to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque) for the Consecration of France to His Sacred Heart. Our Lord thus warns of a fate like the one depicted by the vision that will be published in 2000 (but without the explanatory words of the Virgin) in which a Pope, bishops, priests, religious and lay people are likewise executed outside the devastated city.

### **1941: Sister Lucia records the Great Secret, including the**



**The Vision of Tuy, June 13, 1929**

**beginning of the third part (Third Secret) in her Memoirs.**

- **August 31:** In Lucia's Third Memoir she records the first two parts of the Great Secret.
- **December 8:** In Lucia's Fourth Memoir, the first two parts are recorded again, with the addition of Our Lady's mysterious interrupted reference to Portugal and the dogma of the Faith, after which Lucia writes, "Here begins the Third Secret."

**1942:** Pius XII attempts to comply with Our Lady's request for the Consecration.

- **October 31:** Pope Pius XII, acting alone and on the basis of inaccurate information about what Our Lady requested, consecrates

the world, but not Russia specifically, to the Immaculate Heart. The bishops do not participate.

- **December 8:** Pius XII repeats the same ceremony, again without the participation of the bishops. Our Lord tells Sister Lucy that because of this World War II will be shortened, but that world peace will not result as Russia has not been consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and consequently converted. World peace is reserved only to the proper Consecration of Russia.

### **1943: The Bishop of Fatima commands Lucia to write down the Third Secret.**

- **October:** After a month of prayer and reflection, the Bishop of Fatima, His Excellency José da Silva, gives Sister Lucy a formal, written order to write down the Third Secret. Sister Lucy tries to obey immediately, but for over two months is mysteriously unable to do so, evidently because the contents are so terrifying that she cannot bear to commit them to paper.

### **1944: Our Lady directs Lucia to obey the Bishop's command to reveal the Secret.**

- **January 2:** Our Lady appears to Sister Lucy in the convent infirmary and bids her to write down the Third Secret. Our Lady expressly orders that the Secret be revealed to the world not later than 1960. When later asked why 1960, Sister Lucy states: "Because the Blessed Virgin wishes it so," and "It will be clearer then."
- **January 3:** Our Lady speaks to Sister Lucia in the convent chapel and directs her to write down part of the Secret on this day because Sister Lucia did not know where to start. For more information about this intervention of Our Lady, see the entry for August 17, 2014 on page 44.
- **January 9:** Sister Lucy commits two related texts of the Third Secret to paper by this date. One text, spanning 62 lines on four pages of notebook paper, presents the vision the Vatican will publish in 2000. The other, comprising 25 lines on a single page, as attested by Bishop Dom João Venancio, and much later by Cardinal Ottaviani, has yet to be revealed. The Secret *in toto* is contained in two sealed envelopes of differing dimensions, on each of which

Sister Lucia writes: “By express order of Our Lady, this envelope can only be opened in 1960 by the Cardinal Patriarch of Lisbon or the Bishop of Leiria.”

- **June 17:** The entire Third Secret is personally delivered by Sister Lucy to her confessor, the Bishop of Gurza, Dom Manuel Maria Ferreira da Silva, as she would not let anyone but a fellow bishop deliver it to the Bishop of Fatima. Bishop Ferreira da Silva delivers the Third Secret on that same day to the Bishop of Fatima, Dom José Correia da Silva.

### **1949: The Whole World Awaits the Third Secret**

- **January 3:** A photograph of Bishop José da Silva posing in front of the 25-line text of the Third Secret, which is enclosed in the bishop’s own outer envelope, appears in *Life* magazine.

### **1952: Our Lady is Still Awaiting the Consecration; Pius XII tries again.**

- **May:** Our Lady appears to Sister Lucy saying: “Make it known to the Holy Father that I am always awaiting the Consecration of Russia to My Immaculate Heart. Without the Consecration, Russia will not be able to convert, nor will the world have peace.”
- **July 7:** Pope Pius XII consecrates Russia specifically in an apostolic letter called *Sacro vergente anno*, but only as a written exhortation. He does not ask for all the bishops to join him in keeping with Our Lady’s request for a public ceremony conducted by the Pope in union with all the Catholic bishops of the whole world.

### **1952: Pius XII’s emissary reveals the Secret has two parts.**

- **September 2: Pius XII sends** Father Joseph Schweigl to Coimbra, Portugal to interrogate Sister Lucy concerning the Third Secret. Father Schweigl later confides to one of his colleagues: “I cannot reveal anything of what I learned at Fatima concerning the Third Secret, but I can say that it has two parts: *one concerns the Pope*. The other, logically—although I must say nothing—would have to be the continuation of the words: *In Portugal the dogma of the Faith will always be preserved.*” The

vision published in 2000 concerns the Pope, but it contains no continuation of the Virgin's words, nor any words of the Virgin at all. Her words must, therefore, be found in the other text of 25 lines, which has yet to be published.

### **1957: Further revelations concerning the contents of the Secret.**

- **March:** Just before the Third Secret is transmitted to the Vatican from Portugal on the orders of the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (the Holy Office), Bishop John Venancio holds up to a strong light the outer envelope of Bishop da Silva (photographed for *Life* magazine in 1949) containing an inner envelope of Sister Lucy, inside of which he sees the paper upon which is written the Third Secret. He carefully notes that the Secret is *about 25 lines long and is written on a single sheet of paper with 3/4 centimeter margins on both sides.*
- **April 4:** According to the “official” account published in 2000, one of the texts pertaining to the Third Secret, the 62-line text describing the vision of the “Bishop dressed in White,” is delivered to the Vatican and kept in the Holy Office archives.
- **April 16:** The 25-line text of the Third Secret, sealed with wax in its own original envelope within the Bishop of Fatima's outer envelope, is received at the Vatican, but this date of reception is not noted in the “official” account. It is, however, reported by Fatima scholar Frère Michel de la Sainte Trinité in *The Whole Truth About Fatima*. This second text is placed in a wooden safe in the papal apartments (not in the Holy Office) as later shown by a photograph published in the world-renowned magazine *Paris-Match* and confirmed in the accompanying article by Robert Serrou quoting the testimony of the Pope's household manager, Mother Pasqualina, who states that the Third Secret is inside the safe.
- **December 26:** Father Fuentes, Postulator of the Cause for Beatification of Jacinta and Francisco Marto, interviews Sister Lucy. In an allusion to the contents of the Third Secret, she tells him of many nations disappearing from the face of the earth, the crisis in the priesthood, and of many souls going to hell as a result of ignoring Our Lady's Fatima Message. The interview is published with the Imprimatur of Archbishop Sanchez of Veracruz, Mexico



and with the approval of the Bishop of Leiria, John Venancio (it was published in English by Father Ryan in *Fatima Findings* in June 1959), is read widely, and no one questions its authenticity. It will survive later attempts to discredit it.

**1959: Pope John XXIII reads the text of the Secret kept in the papal apartment.**

- **August 17:** Pope John XXIII reads the 25-line text of the Third Secret, which is now kept in an antique writing desk (called “Barbarigo”) in his bedroom. He directs his personal secretary, Msgr. Loris Capovilla, to write on the outer envelope the names of the curial officials who have also read it and his decision to “leave it to others to comment or decide.” This envelope has never been produced by the Vatican.

**1960: John XXIII suppresses the Third Secret.**

- **February 8:** As the world anxiously awaits the full revelation of the Third Secret in 1960, as Our Lady had directed, an unnamed person close to the Pope authorizes the Portuguese press agency A.N.I. to report that John XXIII has decided that the Third Secret will not be revealed in 1960 and “would probably remain, forever, under absolute seal.”
- Sister Lucy is officially forbidden to speak about the Third Secret and not allowed to receive any visitors except close relatives and people she has known for a long time. Her own confessor of many years returns from Brazil and even he is not allowed to see her.
- Pope John XXIII reads the 62-line text of the vision of the Third Secret, contained in another sealed envelope. Unlike the first text, which he had read in 1959 but could not comprehend without an Italian translation because of its difficult Portuguese idioms, this text posed no difficulty for the Pope and he was able to read it in its original Portuguese.

**1962: The Vatican-Moscow Agreement silences the Second Vatican Council regarding the evil of Communism.**

- **October:** Just prior to the Council, the Vatican Secretariat of



State agrees with Moscow that the Council will not condemn Soviet Russia or communism, in exchange for which two Russian Orthodox observers attend the Council. This agreement launches the policy of *Ostpolitik* (“policy towards the East”), under which the Vatican adopts a conciliatory stance toward communist regimes.

**1963: Paul VI reads the text of the Secret lodged in the papal apartments.**

- **June 27:** Less than a week after becoming pope, Paul VI reads the text of the Third Secret kept in the papal apartment after the Substitute Secretary of State Msgr. Angelo Dell’Acqua telephones Msgr. Capovilla, personal secretary to Pope John XXIII, to inquire as to where to find it. Capovilla testifies to this fact in his “certified note” of May 17, 1967. It is this text—the one that contains Our Lady’s words—that is later identified by Cardinal Ottaviani as being 25 lines in length.

**1964: Paul VI consecrates the world, not Russia, to the Immaculate Heart.**

- **November 21:** On the last day of the third session of the Second Vatican Council, Pope Paul VI consecrates the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary with no mention of Russia. The bishops look on but do not join in the act. The silence concerning Russia is in keeping with the Vatican-Moscow Agreement.

**1965: Paul VI reads the other text of the Third Secret.**

- **March 27:** Pope Paul VI reads the other text of the Third Secret—the 62-line text of the vision. The “official” account will claim that Paul VI read the Secret (meaning the vision only) on this date. As Archbishop Capovilla’s “certified note” attests, however, Paul VI read a text pertaining to the Third Secret on June 27, 1963, two years earlier than the date given in the “official” account.

**1967: Paul VI makes a pilgrimage to Fatima, refuses to speak privately with Lucia, but hints at the contents of the Third Secret.**

- Sister Lucy's memoirs are published, in which she reveals to the public Our Lady's 1929 request for the Consecration of Russia.
- **May 13:** Sister Lucy meets Pope Paul VI during his pilgrimage to Fatima, but he refuses to speak with her privately regarding the Third Secret, telling her to speak to her bishop instead. During his sermon at Fatima, however, Pope Paul alludes to an unprecedented crisis in the Church threatening "a dissolution of her traditional and constitutive unity" on account of a new theology "detached from the norms of the faith"—that is, a dogmatic crisis like that referred to by the Virgin in Her mysterious reference to the preservation of dogma in Portugal.
- **May 13:** On the very day of his sermon at Fatima, Pope Paul's apostolic exhortation *Signum Magnum* is published, wherein the Pope links the Fatima message to the Book of the Apocalypse, and especially to Chapter 12, verse 1—the Woman clothed with the sun.

**1975: Father Alonso's revealing volumes on Fatima are censored.**

- Father Alonso, the official Fatima archivist, completes and readies for publication a massive compendium of Fatima-related documents, comprising 24 volumes of approximately 800 pages each and containing 5,396 distinct documents. But the presses are literally stopped by the new Bishop of Fatima, Dom Alberto Cosme do Amaral, preventing Father Alonso's ten years of research from seeing the light of day. At least 11 of these 24 volumes are still under censorship as of September 2014, and the 13 volumes thus far published have been heavily edited. Each of the first 8 volumes that has been published is only half its original size.
- In the same year Father Alonso, based upon his study of the Fatima archives he compiled, publicly declares that Father Fuentes' 1957 interview of Sister Lucy is a true and accurate report of the seer's description of what is contained in the Third

Secret, thus rehabilitating Father Fuentes and his explosive account concerning the Secret.

**1978: John Paul II reads a text of the Third Secret.**

- **October 16:** Pope John Paul II is elected Pope, and within days of his election reads a text of the Third Secret—the same 25-line text that lodged in the papal apartments during the reigns of Pius XII, John XXIII and Paul VI. This will be confirmed by papal spokesman, Joaquin Navarro-Valls in May 2000 (as reported by Associated Press), only to be denied by Archbishop Bertone, whose “official” account maintains that John Paul II never read the Secret until July 18, 1981. Tellingly, Navarro-Valls never retracts his statement that the Pope read a text of the Secret three years earlier, nor does Bertone ever address that statement.

**1981: John Paul II reads another text of the Secret and attempts to honor Our Lady’s request for the Consecration of Russia.**

- **May 13:** Pope John Paul II is nearly killed by an assassin.
- **June 7:** The Pope consecrates the world, but not Russia, to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.
- **July 18:** According to Archbishop (now Cardinal) Bertone in his document *The Message of Fatima* published on June 26, 2000, Pope John Paul II reads the Third Secret for the first time, but the text he reads is the 62-line text of the vision kept in the Holy Office archives, not the one that has been kept in the writing desk called “Barbarigo” in the papal apartments since the time of Pius XII.

**1982: Sister Lucia denies that the Consecration has been accomplished; John Paul II tries again.**

- **March 21:** Sister Lucy informs the Papal Nuncio to Portugal, Archbishop Portalupi, of the requirements for a valid Consecration of Russia according to the request of Our Lady of Fatima. Sister Lucy’s informational commentary is not accurately transmitted to the Pope. Following the suggestion of Bishop Dom Alberto Cosme Amaral of Fatima, the Nuncio omits the requirement that

the world's bishops participate in the ceremony.

- **May 12:** *L'Osservatore Romano* publishes an article by Father Umberto Maria Pasquale, S.D.B., a prominent Salesian priest who has known Sister Lucy since 1939 and had received over 150 letters from her. The article reveals that Sister Lucy clearly and emphatically told him that Our Lady of Fatima never asked for the consecration of the world but *only* the consecration of Russia. Father Umberto also publishes a photographically-reproduced copy of a handwritten note by Sister Lucy attesting to her conversation with Father Pasquale on this point.
- **May 13:** Pope John Paul II yet again consecrates the world, but not Russia, at Fatima. The bishops of the world do not participate.

**1983: Sister Lucia again denies that the Consecration has been done.**

- **March 19:** Sister Lucy meets with the Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Portalupi, again and confirms that the Consecration of Russia was not effected because Russia was not clearly the object of the consecration and the Catholic bishops of the world did not participate.

**1984: John Paul II tries yet again to perform the Consecration; further revelations concerning the explosive contents of the Third Secret.**

- **March 25:** Before 250,000 people in Rome, John Paul II performs yet another consecration of the world to the Immaculate Heart. Immediately after he pronounces the words of consecration, however, he departs from his prepared text and addresses Our Lady with this petition: "Enlighten especially the peoples of which You Yourself *are awaiting* our consecration and confiding." The Pope thus publicly acknowledges that Our Lady of Fatima still awaits the Consecration of Russia.
- **March 26:** The Pope's own newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, reports the exact words spoken by the Holy Father the day before.
- **March 27:** The Italian Catholic bishops' newspaper *Avvenire* reports that the Holy Father, on March 25 at 4:00 in the afternoon, *three hours after* he consecrated the world, prays at St. Peter's





**Pope John Paul II, kneeling before the statue of Our Lady of Fatima, consecrates the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This statue was brought for the occasion to Rome by the Bishop of Fatima himself.**

that Our Lady will bless “those peoples for whom You Yourself *are awaiting* our act of consecration and entrusting,” thus once again acknowledging that he had not fulfilled that request on March 25. The same remarks were reported in the Italian edition of *L’Osservatore Romano* on March 26-27.

- **September 10:** Bishop Alberto Cosme do Amaral, the Bishop of Fatima, declares during a question and answer session at Technical University of Vienna, Austria: “Its [the Third Secret’s] content concerns only our faith. To identify the Secret with catastrophic announcements or with a nuclear holocaust is to deform the meaning of the message. The loss of faith of a continent is worse than the annihilation of a nation; and it is true that faith is continually diminishing in Europe.”
- **November 11:** *Jesus* magazine publishes an interview with Cardinal Ratzinger entitled “Here is Why the Faith is in Crisis,” published with the Cardinal’s explicit permission. Cardinal Ratzinger reveals that he has read the Third Secret and that it refers to “dangers threatening the faith and the life of the Christian and therefore [the life] of the world.” The Cardinal states in the

same interview that the Secret also refers to “the importance of the *Novissimi* [the Last Times]” and “the absolute importance of history” and that “the things contained in this “Third Secret” correspond to what has been announced in Scripture and has been said again and again in many other Marian apparitions, first of all that of Fatima ...”

**1985: Sister Lucia once more denies that the Consecration has been done.**

- **September:** In an interview in *Sol de Fatima* magazine, a publication of friends of the Spanish Blue Army, Sister Lucy affirms that the Consecration of Russia still has not been done correctly because Russia was not the object of the 1984 ceremony and because all the Catholic bishops of the world did not participate.

**1987: Sister Lucia continues to insist that the Consecration remains undone.**

- **July 20:** Interviewed outside her convent while in the process of obeying the command of her superiors to vote in the election then taking place, Sister Lucy confirms to journalist Enrico Romero that the Consecration of Russia has not been done.

**1989-90: Vatican functionaries demand that Lucia and others affirm that Russia has been consecrated; spurious typewritten “letters from Lucia” appear.**

- **July (1989):** Father Messias Coelho reveals that Sister Lucy and others have received an anonymous “instruction” from unidentified persons in the Vatican stating that she and they must now affirm that the Consecration of Russia was accomplished on March 25, 1984.
- **August - November (1989):** Three computer-generated and typewritten notes and letters supposedly signed by Sister Lucy, who has handwritten all her previous correspondence, suddenly appear. These texts, purportedly contradicting her previous statements that the Consecration of Russia has not been done, are quickly proven to be fakes in analyses published throughout

the Catholic world by the Fatima Center. Two more fake letters appear between January and July 1990.

- **October 11 (1990):** Sister Lucy’s sister, Carolina, reveals that Sister Lucy does not even know how to type and advises not to pay attention to these bogus typed letters.

**1991:** **John Paul II travels to Fatima to meet with Sister Lucia, who does not change her testimony regarding the failure to consecrate Russia.**

- **May 13:** Pope John Paul II visits Fatima and meets with Sister Lucia for thirty minutes. Tellingly, after the meeting neither she nor the Pope makes any statement concerning the Consecration of Russia, despite the ongoing controversy over whether or not it has been accomplished.

**1992:** **The Fatima Center exposes the forgery of the “letters from Lucia” regarding the Consecration of Russia; the accused fail to respond to the evidence.**

- **October:** The Fatima Center holds a Bishops Conference in Fatima attended by 65 bishops.
- **October:** The Rector of the Fatima Shrine, Father Luciano Guerra, holds his own competing conference at which Frère Francois de Marie des Anges presents himself to declare that the five spurious letters attributed to Sister Lucy in 1989 and 1990 are blatant fakes. Furthermore, he accuses in public before many witnesses Father Robert Fox, Father Luis Kondor and Father Luciano Guerra of being all knowingly complicit in the creation and/or circulation of these fake forged letters attributed to Sister Lucy. Not one of them denies these accusations.

**1995:** **Another revelation concerning the Third Secret: apostasy “at the top.”**

- In a personal communication to Professor Baumgartner in Salzburg, Austria, Cardinal Mario Luigi Ciappi—the personal theologian of John Paul II (and of the four popes before him)—reveals that “In the Third Secret it is foretold, among other things, that the great apostasy in the Church will begin at the top.”

**1998: Cardinal Ratzinger reveals the content of the Third Secret: A divine chastisement of the Church and the world as also foretold at Akita.**

- Howard Dee, former Philippine ambassador to the Vatican, reveals in an interview with *Inside the Vatican* magazine that “Bishop John Shojiro Ito now deceased, of the diocese of Niigata [where Akita is located] was certain Akita was an extension of Fatima, and Cardinal Ratzinger personally confirmed to me that these two messages, of Fatima and Akita, are essentially the same.”
- At Akita, on October 13, 1973—the anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun at Fatima—Our Lady warned that if men do not repent and better themselves there would be a worldwide chastisement for sins in which a great part of humanity would perish and that those who survive would envy the dead. The chastisement involves fire raining down from heaven, which is precisely what is depicted in the vision of the Third Secret that will be published two years later, but without the accompanying words of the Virgin which explains its meaning and historical context.

**2000: The vision of the Third Secret is published, but without the Virgin’s explanation; Russia is declared “consecrated,” but without mention of Russia.**

- **May 13:** At the beatification ceremony of Jacinta and Francisco Marto at Fatima, then Vatican Secretary of State, Cardinal Sodano, announces that the Third Secret of Fatima will be revealed, forty years after its suppression by John XXIII. He also announces what Antonio Socci has called the “preventative interpretation,” according to which the future Pope who is executed by soldiers in the vision falls “apparently dead,” so that Sodano can later claim that the vision merely depicts 20th Century events culminating in the failed attempt on the life of John Paul II in 1981.
- **June 26:** At a press conference, the Vatican publishes the 62-line text of the vision of the “Bishop dressed in White.” The accompanying commentary by Archbishop Bertone and Cardinal Ratzinger, then Secretary and Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, respectively, presents the vision as the entirety of the Secret, and follows Sodano’s “interpretation” that

the vision merely depicts the 1981 assassination attempt. The text of the vision standing alone contains *none* of the elements of the Third Secret described by Cardinal Ratzinger in his 1984 interview in *Jesus* magazine or by any of the other witnesses noted above. It is obviously incomplete.

- Regarding the “Bishop dressed in White,” Sister Lucia’s text of the vision states that the seers only “had the impression it was the Holy Father” with that phrase appearing between internal quotation marks as if Sister Lucia were quoting from another source. (While bishops in India, the Philippines and other tropical countries wear white cassocks, no one would have the “impression” that any of them is the Pope.) The same text, however, later unambiguously refers to “the Holy Father” as the one who is *executed* by a band of soldiers.
- Is Our Lady, then, referring to two different people: a bishop in white who only appears to be the Pope and another, the Holy Father, who is definitely executed? If the “Bishop dressed in White” is certainly the Pope, why would Sister Lucia write that the seers merely had the “impression” it was the Pope? The only reasonable conclusion is that the Blessed Virgin answered these questions *in the related source from which Lucia appears to be quoting*, which is *not* the text of the vision itself.
- During the press conference at which the vision is published, Archbishop Bertone also claims the Consecration of Russia has been done. But, as proof of this assertion, he offers *solely* a quotation from one of the five computer-generated letters from 1989-90, long since exposed as fakes, even though Sister Lucia herself is available to testify directly on the matter. Tellingly, Lucia is not even asked to authenticate the letter falsely attributed to her.
- **October 8:** With 1,500 bishops in St. Peter’s Square, Pope John Paul II mentions the world, but not Russia, in an “entrustment” of the world to Mary, failing yet again to consecrate Russia.
- **November 30:** A Cardinal described as “one of the Pope’s closest advisors” (Cardinal Tomko) admits to the editor of *Inside the Vatican* magazine (Robert Moynihan) that he advised Pope

John Paul II not to mention Russia in any consecration ceremony because it would offend the Russian Orthodox. *Inside the Vatican* publishes this revelation in its issue of the same date.

**2001: Facing growing skepticism regarding full disclosure of the Third Secret and the Consecration of Russia, the Secretary of State begins a “damage control” campaign.**

- **May 16:** Reflecting the growing skepticism of millions of Catholics, Mother Angelica states on her live television show that she does not believe the Vatican has revealed the entirety of the Third Secret: “As for the Secret, well *I happen to be one of those individuals who thinks we didn’t get the whole thing*. I told ya! I mean, you have the right to your own opinion, don’t you, Father? There, you know, that’s my opinion. *Because I think it’s scary*.” “Mother Angelica Live” as a live program is taken off the air forever by December 2001.
- **October 25:** Cardinal Ratzinger admits to a “*destabilizing [of] the internal equilibrium of the Roman Curia*” due to reports (following the September 11th terrorist attack on New York and the invasion of Afghanistan) of a recent letter from Sister Lucy to the Pope concerning the Third Secret and dangers to the world and the person of the Pope. Cardinal Ratzinger does not explicitly deny the existence of this letter. This admission indicates that widespread skepticism over the Vatican’s Fatima disclosures apparently extends even into the Curia itself.
- **November 17:** Archbishop Bertone (later to become Cardinal Bertone, Vatican Secretary of State) travels from Rome to Coimbra, purportedly to interview Sister Lucy about the Third Secret and the Consecration of Russia.
- **December 20:** *L’Osservatore Romano* publishes the November 17 “interview,” which is merely a communiqué about an alleged conversation between Bertone and the seer. The communiqué claims that Bertone interviewed Lucia for two hours, yet only a few inconclusive phrases, totaling 44 words, are said to have been uttered by her concerning the very subjects of the two-hour interview (the Secret and the Consecration). There is no audio or video recording, no transcript showing the context of the isolated phrases, and no verification by any independent



witness. Sister Lucia's purported signature appears at the end of the communiqué, but it is published only in Italian, which Sister Lucia does not speak. No Portuguese version, signed or unsigned, is ever published. It does not even appear that Lucia had the benefit of a translator during the alleged "interview."

**2005: The death of Sister Lucia.**

- **February 13:** Sister Lucy of Fatima dies less than two months short of her 98<sup>th</sup> birthday. She is never allowed by the Vatican to address the world directly in her own words concerning the Consecration of Russia or the Third Secret. Access to the seer is strictly limited until her death, and immediately thereafter her cell in the convent at Coimbra is sealed off in the manner of a crime scene. Two months later John Paul II dies on April 2, 2005.



## **2006: Antonio Socci accuses the Vatican of a cover-up of the Third Secret.**

- **November 22:** Renowned Italian Catholic commentator and journalist Antonio Socci publishes his book, *The Fourth Secret of Fatima*, which accuses Cardinal Bertone of covering up a companion text of the vision published in 2000, wherein the Virgin explains its meaning in Her own words.
- *Fourth Secret* cites the testimony of Archbishop Capovilla in July 2006, to Fatima researcher Solideo Paolini, that there are two different texts and two different envelopes pertaining to the Third Secret, and that one of the envelopes with its contents is the “Capovilla envelope,” whose exterior bears the names of those who had read the contents and a notation of the decision of Pope John XXIII to avoid rendering any judgment thereon.
- The “Capovilla envelope” was lodged in the papal apartment in an antique writing desk called “Barbarigo” by Pope John’s bed, not in the archives of the former Holy Office where the text of the vision was lodged.
- Capovilla confirms that Paul VI read the contents the “Capovilla envelope” on June 27, 1963, after retrieving it from the writing desk—two years before the “official account” claims Paul VI read the text of the vision (March 27, 1965).
- Following Socci’s publication of Capovilla’s testimony, the Vatican offers no denial of the existence of the “Capovilla envelope,” nor does it ever produce the envelope and its contents.

## **2007: The cover-up begins to unravel.**

- **May 10:** Attempting to discredit Socci, Cardinal Bertone publishes his own book, *The Last Visionary of Fatima*, written in the form of an interview by a Vatican affairs reporter, Giuseppe De Carli, who poses no challenging questions but rather avoids all of the issues Socci has raised, especially Msgr. Capovilla’s explosive testimony regarding the never-produced “Capovilla envelope” containing a text of the Third Secret.
- **May 12:** Socci declares publicly (in the Italian journal *Liberio*) that his own book has been vindicated by the Cardinal’s complete failure to answer it, which Socci calls a disturbing development

as it means that there is indeed an ongoing cover-up on the part of the Vatican Secretary of State.

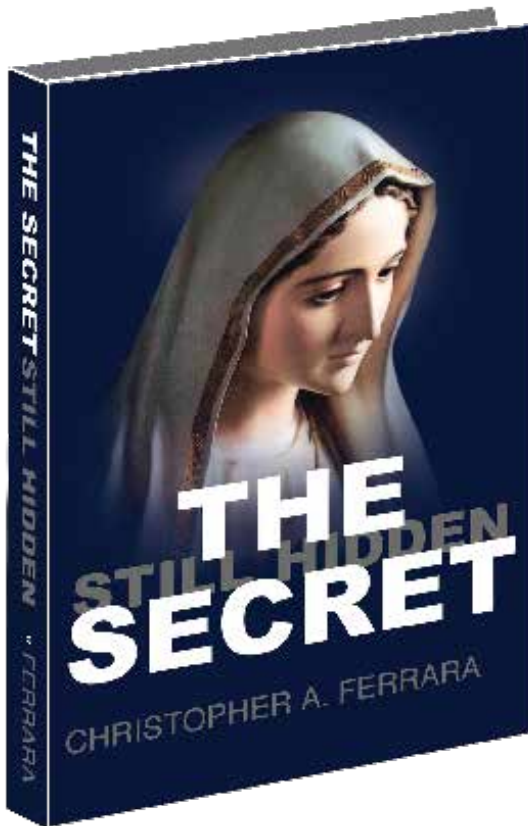
- **May 31:** In a further attempt at damage control, Cardinal Bertone appears by remote live feed on the very popular Italian TV talk show *Porta a Porta*, purportedly to respond to Socci. The title of the show is “The Fourth Secret Does Not Exist”—a clear reference to the title of Socci’s book. But Socci is not invited to participate, and the Cardinal’s appearance is conditioned on his not being challenged by Socci.
  - During this telecast Bertone displays not only the original text of the vision on one sheet of paper but also two separate sealed envelopes prepared by Sister Lucy, each bearing the explicit statement in Sister Lucy’s own handwriting that “By express order of Our Lady, this envelope can be opened in 1960 only by the Cardinal Patriarch of Lisbon or the Bishop of Leiria.” Bertone thus destroys his own credibility by revealing the falsity of his claim, over the previous seven years, that Sister Lucia had “confessed” to him that the Virgin never linked disclosure of the Secret to 1960, but rather Lucia had chosen that date herself.
  - The two sealed envelopes, and other revelations by Cardinal Bertone during the telecast, further confirm the existence of two texts comprising the Third Secret in its entirety.
  - Among these other revelations is that the dimensions of the envelope containing the text of the vision, which Bertone states on camera, do not match the dimensions of the envelope containing the text of the Secret that Bishop da Silva examined under the light and carefully measured before it was transmitted to the Vatican in 1957.
  - Bertone also confirms the “categorical” testimony of Cardinal Ottaviani that the text of the Secret that Ottaviani read spanned only 25 lines, as opposed to the 62 lines of the vision published in 2000. Bertone offers a ludicrous “attempt at an explanation” to the effect that Cardinal Ottaviani must have counted the lines on only the first and fourth pages of the vision, which in any event total 32 lines, not 25.
  - During the telecast Bertone fails even to mention, much less refute, the testimony of Archbishop Capovilla regarding the

envelope containing a text of the Secret lodged in the papal apartment, which Bertone has failed to produce despite the undeniable evidence of its existence.

- **June 2:** Following the May 31 telecast, from which Socci was excluded, Socci publishes his response in the daily paper *Liberio*. He declares that Bertone has not only failed to “give even one answer” to Socci’s book, but “On the contrary, he did more: He offered the proof that I am right” and “that as a matter of fact the explosive part of the ‘Third Secret of Fatima’ exists yet is well hidden ...”
- **September 21:** In the face of his own failure to quell the controversy over the apparent Vatican cover-up, Bertone stages a second extraordinary television appearance, this time on the Vatican Telepace TV station. The pretext for this event is the supposed launching of his book-interview *Last Visionary*, which, however, was already launched in May.
  - The press are invited to attend and Socci, in his capacity as a journalist, appears at the telecast location to question Cardinal Bertone. Bertone avoids Socci by entering the auditorium through a service entrance, while Socci is forcibly removed from the premises by security guards, along with Solideo Paolini, the witness to Archbishop Capovilla’s revelation concerning the never-produced “Capovilla envelope.”
  - Before his expulsion from the building, Socci plays for the reporters assembled outside the auditorium an audio recording obtained by Paolini in which Capovilla personally admits that there was an “attachment” to the vision published in 2000, which “attachment” has never been produced.
  - During the Telepace telecast Bertone once again avoids any discussion of the issues. Instead, he presents a heavily-edited videotape of an interview of Archbishop Capovilla conducted by Giuseppe De Carli, a partisan of Cardinal Bertone, in which the Archbishop not only fails to deny or even mention the testimony he gave to Paolini about the “Capovilla envelope,” but rather fully confirms its existence and location in the papal apartment, and the reading of its contents by Paul VI in 1963,

not 1965 as the Bertone “official account” had claimed.

- **September 22:** The Italian daily *Il Giornale* reports that before the guards removed Socci from the location of the telecast of September 21, he was able to play the audiotape of Capovilla’s statements to Paolini regarding the “attachment” to the vision published in 2000. On the tape Capovilla is heard to state: “Besides the four pages [of the vision of the “Bishop dressed in white”] there was also something else, an attachment, yes.” As the reporter from *Il Giornale* concludes, Capovilla’s statement “would confirm the thesis of the existence of a second sheet with the interpretation of the Secret”—namely, the words of the Virgin following the “etc” in the Fourth Memoir.
- **September 23:** Socci again responds to Cardinal Bertone in his



column in *Libero*, renewing his public accusation that Bertone is concealing an integral part of the Third Secret wherein the Virgin explains the significance of the vision that Bertone and Sodano have purported to “interpret” for the Church and the world.

**2008:** A major exposé of the Vatican cover-up appears.

- **January 25:** Christopher A. Ferrara’s book, *The Secret Still Hidden*, goes to press; 100,000 copies are printed. In this book, the author gives the history of the Third Secret up to that time. Developing the points raised by Socci and marshaling a vast quantity of additional evidence, Ferrara demonstrates that there is a second text, still hidden by the Vatican bureaucrats, which contains the words of Our Lady following “In Portugal the dogma of the will always be preserved etc.”
- The Italian-language version of Ferrara’s book is sent to 12,000 Italian priests in June 2008. Cardinal Bertone receives a copy by August 2008. He acknowledges receipt of the book but refuses to respond to Ferrara’s arguments.
- Ferrara’s expose will be read, and later endorsed by, the Papal Nuncio to the United States, the late Archbishop Pietro Sambi, whose endorsement will be published in *Inside the Vatican* magazine after Sambi’s death.



**2010:** Pope Benedict negates the Secretary of State’s version of the Third Secret, following major revelations during the Fatima Center’s conference in Rome.

- **May 4:** Vatican journalist Giuseppe De Carli (in apparent good health), co-author with Cardinal Bertone of *The Last Visionary*



of *Fatima*, addresses the Fatima Center's "Fatima Challenge" conference at the Ergife Hotel in Rome.

- The appearance is extraordinary, given the Fatima Center's prominent role presenting the evidence of a Vatican cover-up of the Third Secret, orchestrated by Bertone.
- The ostensible purpose of the address is to introduce a second edition of *The Last Visionary of Fatima*, now entitled *The Last Secret of Fatima*. This second edition contains revisions clearly designed to attempt to repair the damage Bertone has inflicted on the official account with his previous evasions and inadvertent admissions and disclosures.
- After his presentation of *Last Secret*, De Carli unexpectedly takes questions from the audience, despite having earlier indicated that there would not be time for a Q & A.
- Fielding questions from Father Gruner and attorneys Christopher Ferrara and John Salza for more than an hour, De Carli is able to offer only grasping and futile explanations for the many inconsistencies in the Secretary of State's "official account."
- Especially devastating is De Carli's admission under questioning that in *Last Secret*, he and Bertone altered the purported testimony of Sister Lucy, as recounted in *Last Visionary*, during the undocumented November 17, 2001 interview with Bertone. In *Last Visionary*, Lucy is said to have confirmed the authenticity of the *pages* of the Third Secret presented before her: "Yes, these are my *sheets (fogli)* of paper.... They are the *sheets (fogli)* that I used ..." But in *Last Secret* the affirmation is revised to read: "Yes, yes, this is my *paper*."
- This adjustment was obviously made to agree with Bertone's revelation during the May 2007 telecast that the text of the vision was written on a *single sheet* of paper folded over to make four sides. Yet, according to Bertone's account seven years earlier, Lucia had "authenticated" *sheets* of paper.

- In spite of this manipulation of the seer’s testimony, however, the truth that the Third Secret involves *multiple sheets* of paper remains glaringly evident even in the second edition of Bertone’s book, since the generic letter of introduction written by Pope Benedict (who avoids all elements of the controversy) states that the Pope had prayed and meditated over “words of the third part of the Secret of Fatima, contained in the *sheets [fogli!]* written by Sister Lucia.”
- De Carli further admits that “they [the Vatican] could have tricked me” regarding the Capovilla envelope, which has never been produced, and that he had used his own personal photographer, not the Vatican’s, to photograph the outer envelope Bertone had displayed on camera (which was not the Capovilla envelope) because *he did not trust* the Vatican photographer.
- The Fatima Center’s technical team detects Internet monitoring of the conference proceedings from an IP address within the Vatican. Hope mounts that the Pope himself will finally respond to the mounting evidence that Cardinal Bertone’s “official account” has been demolished.
- **May 11:** Exactly one week after De Carli’s televised appearance at the “Fatima Challenge Conference,” Pope Benedict XVI, during an unexpected pilgrimage to the Fatima Shrine in Portugal, stuns the press and the Catholic world by distancing himself from Bertone’s now thoroughly discredited “official account.”
  - During the flight to Portugal the Pope answers a question concerning the content of the Third Secret, which he selected before the flight as one he particularly wished to address. His answer is explosive: the Secret, he reveals, refers to things “*beyond* this great vision of the suffering of the Pope,” namely “*future realities of the Church which are little by little developing and revealing themselves ...*” The “official account” relegating the Secret to a mere description of past events is thus explicitly rejected by the Pope himself.
  - Continuing with his answer, Benedict makes the further explosive revelation that “*beyond the moment indicated in the vision, it is spoken, it is seen, the necessity of a passion*

of the Church,” which he describes in a manner not depicted in the vision alone: *“attacks on the Pope and the Church do not come only from outside, but the sufferings of the Church come precisely from within the Church, from sins that exist in the Church. This has always been known, but today we see it in a really terrifying way: that the greatest persecution of the Church does not come from enemies outside, but arises from sin in the Church.”* It is still to come.

- The Pope’s answer reveals elements of the Secret not seen in the vision, standing alone, and thus must be found in the companion text whose existence has already been demonstrated, wherein the Virgin explains the meaning and historical context of the vision in Her own words.
- **May 13:** Before 500,000 pilgrims, the Pope delivers a further hammer blow to the “official account” when he declares that “He who thinks that the prophetic mission of Fatima is concluded *deceives himself.*”



- **May 13:** On the same day as the Pope’s revelations, Antonio Socci publishes a column under the provocative title “Why the Pope Refutes Bertone.” “The Pope,” he writes “is engaged in a great Operation Truth on Fatima, *at the cost of contradicting the version of the Secretaries of State.*” Noting that the Secretary of State has ignored the import of that warning while pretending that the Secret “belongs to the past,” Socci calls this “only one of so many anomalies in this fifty-year-old story that, unfortunately, *is filled with lies and silences*, twisted interpretations and omissions (as I have shown in my book).” The Pope himself, writes Socci, has “reopened the file [on the Third Secret] in a way so precise and dramatic that those who in recent years have paid homage to the Curial version find themselves in a panic ...” Socci concludes that the Pope “knows more than us and holds that this [pedophilia] scandal is only the tip of the iceberg in the Church ... and he is thinking of the great sin of *apostasy in the Church.*”
- **July 13:** Giuseppe De Carli, at the age of 57, dies unexpectedly from throat cancer. It is the 93<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the very day Our Lady of Fatima imparted the Third Secret to the three shepherd children.
- **July 16:** Antonio Socci publishes a second extraordinary article, noting that the Pope has stated “the exact antithesis” of Bertone’s account, that Bertone and his supporters in the press are now engaged in “tragicomic backpedalling (without a mea culpa),” and that Bertone would profit from “prayer and meditation on the warnings and the maternal solicitude of the Queen of Heaven.”

**2011: An American lawyer’s book-length investigation of the Third Secret cover-up is republished in Italian, receiving the endorsement of a Papal Nuncio.**

- **May 11:** A second edition of Christopher Ferrara’s *The Secret Still Hidden* is published in Italian (bringing the number of copies in print in Italian to well over 20,000), citing Giuseppe De Carli’s statements from the year before and addressing the second edition of De Carli’s/Bertone’s book. The evidence presented in this exhaustive study demonstrates conclusively that Bertone is concealing the companion text of vision published eleven years earlier.

- **August - September:** *Inside the Vatican* magazine reveals recently deceased Archbishop Pietro Sambi, who was Papal Nuncio to the United States and thus a key attaché of the Vatican Secretariat of State under Cardinal Bertone, had read and praised Ferrara's book. The endorsement came during a conversation reported by the editor, Robert Moynihan, a personal friend of Sambi's:

We [Sambi and Moynihan] were discussing the Third Secret of Fatima, the allegations that the Vatican has not published the entire text of the Third Secret as revealed to Sister Lucia, and the response of Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, the Vatican Secretary of State, in a book where Bertone states that there is nothing more to be revealed.

Archbishop Sambi said, "Excuse me." He got up, went out of the room, and came back with a book. "Here," he said. "Do you know this book? You should read it." It was Christopher Ferrara's *The Secret Still Hidden*. "Wait," I said. "You are the Pope's representative in the US, *and you are urging me to read a book that questions what the Secretary of State wrote?*"

Sambi replied: "All I am saying is that there are interesting things worth reading in this book. And in the end, *we are all after the truth, aren't we? The truth is the important thing ...*"

## **2012: European politicians respond to the urgency of the Fatima Message.**

- **October 23:** Father Nicholas Gruner and Christopher Ferrara address the international press corps of the European Union Parliament in Strasbourg, France, in support of a motion sponsored by two Members of Parliament, the Honorable Mario Borghezio and the Honorable Lorenzo Fontana, for a declaration by the EU Parliament formally requesting that "His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI... fulfill the will of the Queen of Heaven" by performing the Consecration of Russia in order to address the

threat of “great danger at the present time to world peace and the serenity of all European peoples.”

- The Parliament is informed that “the Blessed Virgin Mary has promised a long period of prosperity and peace, if and only if, the Holy Father will consecrate Russia in a solemn and public manner, as precisely specified by Her in the Message of Fatima.” Father Gruner’s remarks conclude: “I urge the Members of Parliament and I urge the members of the Press to bring this motion of the Parliament to the Pope, because he wants to do this but he has many pressures against him not to do the Consecration. He needs public support for doing the Consecration of Russia in time, before it’s too late for all of us.”
- The petition for this parliamentary motion is subsequently approved by the Petitions Committee for presentation before the full legislative body.

### **2013: Pope Benedict “resigns” the Papacy, but with a curious qualification.**

- **February 11:** In the wake of a rumored death threat (made public in November by an Italian Cardinal) against Pope Benedict XVI and amid concerns that, contrary to true justice, he will be forced by secular powers to be brought to trial before the International Criminal Court, Pope Benedict makes the stunning announcement that he will abdicate from the Throne of Peter: “I declare that I renounce the ministry of Bishop of Rome, Successor of Saint Peter, entrusted to me by the Cardinals on 19 April 2005, in such a way, that as from 28 February 2013, at 20:00 hours, the See of Rome, the See of Saint Peter, will be vacant and a Conclave to elect the new Supreme Pontiff will have to be convoked by those whose competence it is.”
- The Pope’s stated rationale for his abdication is that “in order to govern the barque of Saint Peter and proclaim the Gospel, both strength of mind and body are necessary, strength which in the last few months, has deteriorated in me to the extent that I have had to recognize my incapacity to adequately

fulfill the ministry entrusted to me.” In subsequent months, however, the Pope will reveal that he is in full possession of his mental faculties, including the ability to deliver complex extemporaneous addresses and that he is under no serious physical disability.

- Various canonists, scholars, and Vatican officials express the expectation that—in keeping with the rare historical precedents for papal resignation—Benedict will once again take the name Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, as well as the black cassock and the coat of arms that he used as a Cardinal, and that he will leave the Vatican to reside in Bavaria or in a cloistered monastery, because (as one spokesman puts it) “Otherwise, it will get very confusing and I would imagine it will become troublesome.”
- **February 14:** The Pope tells the parish priests of Rome that upon his resignation becoming effective he will remain “hidden from the world.” In fact, he will not remain hidden from the world but will continue to reside in the Vatican and will begin appearing at public events alongside Pope Francis.
- **February 26:** To the amazement of canonists, the press, and Catholics in general, two days before his resignation takes effect, Pope Benedict announces that despite his “resignation” he will retain the name “Pope Benedict XVI” (Emeritus), the title “His Holiness,” the white papal cassock, the papal coat of arms bearing the Keys of Peter, and that he will continue to live within the Vatican. Canonists and commentators express the concern that Benedict risks creating the impression that he will remain Pope in some sense after the coming conclave, for which there is no precedent in Church history.
- **February 27:** In his last public papal audience, Pope Benedict announces: “I will no longer vest the power of the office for the government of the Church, but ... I am not returning to private life ... [T]here is no return to the private sphere. My decision to forgo the exercise of active ministry does not revoke this fact.” In other words, Benedict suggests that under a certain (passive) aspect he will remain Pope and that he has not renounced this aspect of the papacy. This less-than-total renunciation of the papacy likewise has no precedent in the entire history of the Church.



- **March - April:** In the following months, Pope Benedict does indeed continue to wear the white papal cassock (though without the symbols of active government such as the pallium and the papal ring), and he often leaves his residence next to St. Peter's in order to meet with Pope Francis, to receive guests, and to participate in ceremonies. Speculation gathers apace as to what Pope Benedict truly meant in his resignation speech: "I have come to the certainty that my strengths, due to an advanced age, are no longer suited to an adequate exercise of the Petrine ministry. ... For this reason, and well aware of the seriousness of this act, with full freedom I declare that I renounce the ministry of Bishop of Rome."
  - While initially offering the incredible explanation that he retained the white papal cassock because there was nothing else for him to wear, Benedict soon lets it be known through both his Secretary, Georg Gänswein, and Pope Francis himself, that he considers himself to be a "Pope Emeritus." This is something the Church has never seen before, but Francis will declare it to be a new "institution" in the Church.
  - Contrary to the prior explanation the he had resigned due to mental and physical infirmity, Benedict will make various appearances at public events conducted by Francis and will continue to give addresses and receive people in audience.
- **May 13:** Exactly two months after Pope Francis' election, at the Pope's repeated and insistent request, his pontificate is consecrated to Our Lady of Fatima by Cardinal José Policarpo, the Patriarch of Lisbon, at the Fatima Shrine in a collegial act in union with all the bishops of Portugal.
- **July 28:** During an impromptu press conference on the flight returning to Rome from his visit to Brazil, Francis reveals that in discussing with Benedict the "Vatileaks" scandal, arising from leaks to the press concerning rampant corruption in the Vatican bureaucracy, Benedict presented him with a large box and envelope containing the investigative material and report on the scandal. Francis notes that Benedict "had it all in his head! What intelligence! *Everything memorized, everything!* But no, it didn't frighten me, no. No, no. Though it is a big problem." Aside from revealing the extent of the scandal, Francis here

also reveals Benedict's full possession of his remarkable mental faculties, thus calling into question the "official" explanation for his unprecedented "renunciation" of the "active ministry" of the papacy on grounds of weakness of mind as well as body.

- **August 13:** Pope Francis announces that he has invited the Catholic bishops to accompany him in consecrating the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary in a solemn ceremony in Rome on the coming October 13, 2013.
- **October 11:** Father Gruner is in Rome preparing for the ceremonies, particularly by organizing the distribution of 200,000 copies of a 12-page newspaper explaining the true Message of Fatima and Our Lady's request for the Consecration of **Russia** to Her Immaculate Heart by the Pope in union with all of the Catholic bishops of the world. A similar four-page supplement is also published in *Il Tempo*, the third largest daily newspaper in Rome, with a readership of 225,000.
- **October 12:** While in the Vatican, the day before the ceremony announced by Francis, Father Gruner is repeatedly detained and harassed by Vatican Security officers, including Dr. Dominic Giani, the head of Vatican Security. Though Giani admits to Father Gruner that he does not believe Father poses any threat to the Pope's security, he is singled out and forbidden to approach the Pope.
- **October 13:** Pope Francis officiates at the announced ceremony with an uncharacteristic dour expression, as if he were annoyed at the way the proceedings had been arranged. The promised consecration to the Immaculate Heart turns out to be nothing more than yet another vague act of "entrustment" in which nothing is consecrated, not even the world is mentioned, there is no reference at all to the Immaculate Heart. This represents the weakest effort yet to carry out Our Lady's specific request for Russia's consecration.

**2014:** "Two Popes?"; the alarming "Francis effect"; the world on the brink; yet another revelation concerning the Third Secret.

- **February 20:** At an "Extraordinary Consistory on the Family" convened by Pope Francis, Cardinal Walter Kasper, with

the Pope's prior approval, proposes to permit divorced and "remarried" Catholics to receive Holy Communion without any commitment to cease their adulterous relations. The implications for Catholic moral teaching are staggering, and numerous Cardinals express their opposition.

- Kasper's "revolutionary" proposal comes at the end of Francis's first year as Pope, during which the promising signs of Marian piety and respect for the Message of Fatima have given way to a "Francis effect" consisting of an astonishing series of radically progressive and theologically dubious pronouncements made at press conferences and during interviews with various newspapers and magazines, beginning with his infamous "Who am I to judge?" regarding homosexuals in the priesthood.
- By the beginning of 2014, Pope Francis has already been hailed as a "revolutionary Pope" by all the world's major media outlets. In an unprecedented display of praise for a Roman Pontiff by the hostile organs of world opinion, Francis is named "Person of the Year" by *Time* magazine, which features him on its cover, is also featured on the cover of *Rolling Stone* magazine (the leading journal of degenerate "rock culture"), which hails the Pope's "gentle revolution," and is even lauded as "Person of the Year" by the *Advocate*, a magazine dedicated to militant homosexuality and the "gay lifestyle," whose cover is likewise devoted to Francis.
- **March:** Russia accepts the will of 96% of the Crimean people to rejoin Russia, and the threat of war with Ukraine looms large as Russian-speaking eastern Ukrainians were fearing the non-elected leader and policies of the Ukraine who takes over after the coup d'état of February 21, 2014.
- **May 28:** The renowned "Vaticanist" Vittorio Messori joins other prominent journalists, including Antonio Socci (author of *The Fourth Secret of Fatima*) and Robert Moynihan (Editor of *Inside the Vatican*), in recognizing a totally new situation in the history arising from the curiously nuanced "resignation" by Pope Benedict and his retention of the papal title as Pope Emeritus, the papal garb, and the signs of the papal office.

- Messori contends that there are presently, in effect, two Popes acting in communion with and in recognition of each other, having even co-authored an encyclical together, *Lumen Fidei*, published the previous July.
- Messori cites as the theological basis for this “diarchy” the recently published opinion of canonist Stefano Violi, a renowned Professor of Canon Law at the Faculty of Theology in Bologna and Lugano, who concludes that “Benedict XVI divested himself of all the power of government and command inherent in his office, without however, abandoning his service to the Church: this continues through the exercise of the spiritual dimension of the pontifical *munus* entrusted to him. *This he did not intend to renounce. He renounced not his duties, ... but the concrete execution of them.*”
- Messori notes that “In the formula [of “resignation”] employed by Benedict... there is a distinction between the *munus* (the papal office) and the execution, that is the active exercise of the office itself. ... *Benedict XVI did not intend to renounce the munus ... [but] only the ministerium*, which is the exercise and concrete administration of that office.”
- Other Catholics, however, recognize that this is a false distinction. Regardless of what Pope Benedict may have meant by his words, not even a Pope has the power or authority to change the constitution of the Church established by Christ. There can only be one Pope; the office, and the task of exercising the duties of that office, can reside only in one and the same person.
- This utterly unprecedented situation calls to mind the vision of the Third Secret, regarding which Lucia writes of the “Bishop dressed in white” that “we had the *impression* it was the Holy Father.”
- **July 8:** Israel launches “Operation Protective Edge,” unleashing devastating force against the Gaza strip and killing thousands of Palestinians. Only days earlier Pope Francis had conducted a patently useless and scandalous interreligious ceremony in the Vatican gardens to “pray for peace” with Jewish and Muslim representatives, including the planting of an olive tree. A Muslim Imam intones a prayer calling for the defeat of the “infidels” (i.e., all non-Muslims, which would include Francis himself) which

Vatican Radio censors from the transcript. This useless publicity stunt is followed almost immediately by the worst outbreak of violence in the Holy Land in many years.

- **July-August:** Muslim fanatics of the Islamic State organization (ISIS) begin violent persecution of Christians in Iraq, including beheadings, rapes, enslavement and the destruction of Christian churches and shrines. Tens of thousands of Christians flee for their lives.
- **August 17:** In an explosive column in *Il Libero*, Antonio Socci reports that a new biography of Sister Lucia, prepared by the nuns at the Carmelite Convent in Coimbra, reveals that during the famous apparition of Our Lady in the convent chapel to Sister Lucia on January 3, 1944, during which Our Lady directed her how to write down the Secret, the Virgin said: “Be at peace, and write what I have commanded you, *but not, however, that which has been given to you to understand its meaning,*” that is, the meaning of the vision published in 2000.
  - That is, even after the first writing on January 3, a portion of the Secret had yet to be committed to paper; but it obviously would be at some point, as it would be nonsensical for Our Lady to direct the seer to write down part of the Secret but then hide forever the other part in which She explains its meaning.
  - Accordingly, while the text of the vision was written and dated January 3, 1944, it was not until January 9, 1944 that Lucia wrote to her bishop to inform him that she had finally committed the Third Secret to paper as he had commanded her. Lucia evidently wrote a separate text giving the Virgin’s explanation of the vision’s meaning (which, following the Virgin’s instructions, Lucia had *not* written down on January 3).
  - This new revelation, Socci notes, is yet another “confirmation of the historical reconstruction according to which the Third Secret is composed of two parts: one, the vision, was written and sent first [to the Vatican], while the other—that which, in the words of the Virgin, is “the meaning” of the vision—*was written and sent later.*”
  - Socci concludes that this later text is evidently “the famous and

mysterious ‘attachment’ of which Capovilla hinted” in the audio tape Socci played for his fellow reporters during Bertone’s television event from which he was expelled in 2007. It is in this text, “as yet unpublished,” writes Socci, “where presumably resides the part that most frightened Sister Lucia. The same part that frightened John XXIII (but also, before him, Pius XII) and which Roncalli decided not to make public because—according to him—it could be only a thought of Sister Lucia’s that did not have a supernatural origin. And a part so explosive that its existence continues officially to be denied. And the opening by Benedict XVI in 2010 [see above], which led as well to the publication of this volume, is today reopened.”

- **September 13:** Pope Francis declares that the Third World War has already begun “piecemeal,” although he gives no sign that he will take the measure Our Lady of Fatima prescribed as the only means to avoid it: the Consecration of Russia to Her Immaculate Heart.
- **September 20:** With tensions between the United States and Russia over the situation in Ukraine at crisis levels, Russian military planes enter United States airspace, and Air Force jets “scramble” to intercept them. This is the latest incident in a series of such incursions over the past five years, with Air Force jets intercepting at least 50 Russian bombers in U.S. airspace.
- **April 10, 2015:** Faithful Catholics are increasingly aware of how dire the situation in the Church and the world has become. While the Church is disturbed and even scandalized by the words and deeds of a “revolutionary Pope” like no other before him, international crises threaten to spark a global conflagration at any time.



“Let no one have illusions that he can achieve military superiority over Russia. We will never allow it. ... We realize all this and know what we need to do.”

# The Consequences We Face

“[W]e 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.*”

—Sister Lucy, describing the vision part of the Secret

The Blessed Virgin’s explanation of that vision was not yet even released by the Vatican—that is the 25-line writing of Sister Lucia giving Our Lady’s words which explain the above vision was not given yet. But to understand better what the Third Secret is about, let us recall here below what Our Lady said in the second part of the Secret.

“[God] 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.*”

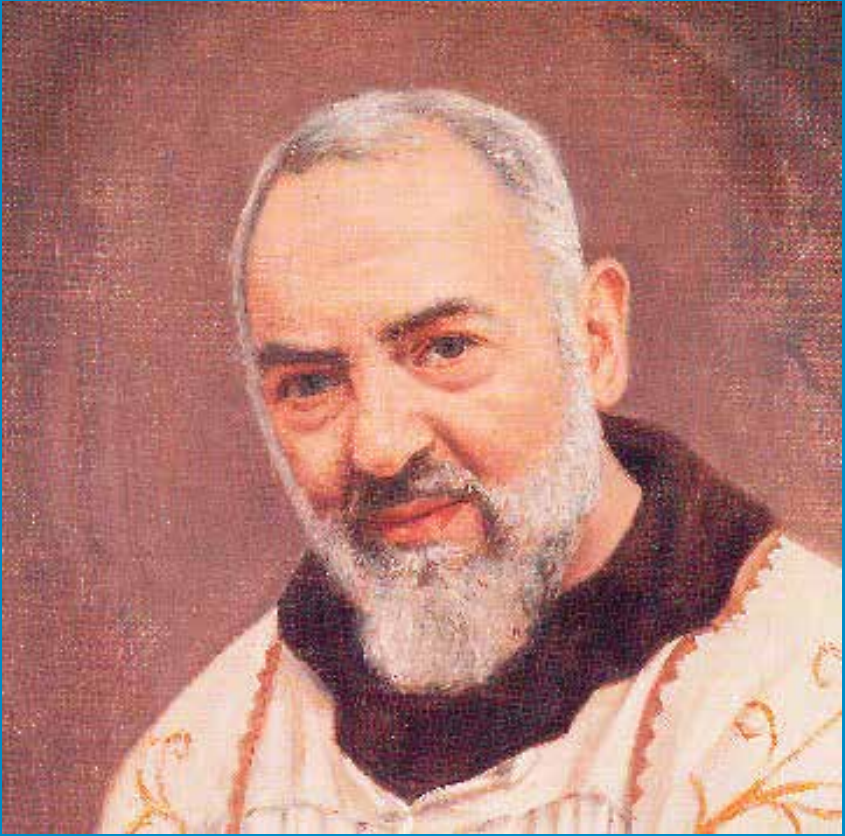
—Our Lady of Fatima, July 13, 1917



“As I told you, if men do not repent and better themselves, the Father will inflict a terrible punishment on all humanity. *It will be a punishment greater than the deluge, such as one will never have seen before. Fire will fall from the sky and will wipe out a great part of humanity, the good as well as the bad, sparing neither priests nor faithful. The survivors will find themselves so desolate that they will envy the dead.* The only arms which will remain for you will be the Rosary and the Sign left by My Son. Each day recite the prayers of the Rosary. With the Rosary, pray for the Pope, the bishops and priests.

— Our Lady of Akita, October 13, 1973





## **Saint Padre Pio**

**When enough of the lay Catholic faithful do what the Mother of God asked at Fatima, then God will give the graces for the Pope and the bishops to make the Consecration of Russia to Our Lady's Immaculate Heart.**

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