

**Statement to the Press on False Allegations Concerning
“Fatima: The Path to Peace!” Conference,
September 8-13, 2013**

**September 3, 2013
Fort Erie, Ontario**

Given the welter of inaccurate press accounts and alarmist reports by certain well-funded activist organizations concerning the Fatima Center’s upcoming conference entitled “Fatima: The Path to Peace!,” the Center has issued this statement regarding the purpose of the conference.

This conference concerns the Message of Fatima and its relation to the problem of achieving peace in the world. Indeed, Pope Francis has called for a day of prayer and fasting on Saturday, September 7, the day before our conference begins, for the intention of achieving world peace as yet another war—in Syria—seems about to begin.

This conference is *not* about Zionism, the nation of Israel, the Jewish people, Hitler’s genocidal policies, or any alleged anti-Semitism—a charge leveled so recklessly, so often, and against so many people and groups that it lacks all meaning. Nor is the conference about any of the other subjects being trumpeted by the press and activist organizations at a level that now approaches hysteria.

The speakers invited to the conference have not been invited to express their views on any of these extraneous subjects. Nor does the Fatima Center intend to endorse everything these speakers have written, said or done in any other venue or medium.

We deplore the attempt by the press and activist organizations of the Left to taint this conference by the dishonest tactic of guilt by association.

In particular, Messrs. Borghezio and Fiore were invited to speak because, as present or former members of the Parliament of the European Union, they have publicly supported what the Blessed Virgin Mary called for during Her apparitions at Fatima in 1917: the Consecration of the nation of Russia to Her Immaculate Heart. **Given the media-generated circus atmosphere and the hysteria that the press and certain organizations have created in the minds of some people, however, Mr. Fiore has withdrawn from the event.**

Regarding “anti-Semitism,” Our Savior Jesus Christ is of Jewish descent as is Our Blessed Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and His original apostles were of Jewish descent. The Catholic Church teaches that racial hatred of any group, Jewish or non-Jewish, is a mortal sin worthy of damnation. That has always been the Center’s position concerning anti-Semitism, and we will expect the press to report it fairly and accurately.

Allegations to the effect that the conference is an “anti-Semitic conference” or a “Holocaust denial” conference are reckless libels that will be dealt with accordingly under Canadian law, which, like English law, treats libel as a serious wrong and places the burden on the accuser to demonstrate the truth of his accusations.

Further, the Center will consider as suspect of malice the disregard of this statement by any member of the press or any organization or individual that receives it and fails to note its explanation of the Center’s official position and the true nature of the “Fatima: The Path to Peace!” conference.

This conference concerns only the Message of Fatima, and the Church’s duty to obey Our Lady of Fatima’s requests. During Her apparitions at Fatima, Portugal in 1917, the Blessed Virgin Mary predicted that if Russia were not consecrated to Her Immaculate Heart evil rulers of that country would spread their errors

throughout the world, raising up wars and persecutions in various nations, including the persecution of the Russian people themselves.

Since 1917, Russia's errors have indeed spread throughout the world, including Germany, where the Nazi (National *Socialist*) Party under Hitler, an atheist, entered into a non-aggression pact with the Communist Party of Russia under Stalin, an atheist. The Hitler-Stalin Pact, in force from 1939 to 1941 (when Hitler broke it), placed all of Eastern Europe under the domination of these two diabolical dictators during the opening years of World War II.

During the 20th century, the world was scourged by genocides as well as wars, just as the Virgin warned if Russia were not consecrated to Her:

The historical consensus is that Hitler alone killed 11 million people in the territories occupied by the Nazi regime, including six million Jews and three million Polish Catholics.

The historical consensus is that, between them, the Lenin and Stalin regimes killed upwards of 40 million Christians.

Neither the Fatima Center, nor its head, Father Nicholas Gruner, seeks to deny the historical consensus concerning the death tolls of *any* of the genocides that occurred in the 20th century.

Rather, the Center's mission has been to secure the Consecration of Russia the Blessed Virgin requested in the Fatima message so that such crimes against various peoples and classes of people, which are still being committed in numerous places, will cease and the whole world will have peace—just as Our Lady promised if the Consecration were performed by the Pope and the bishops of the Catholic Church.

Finally, Pope Francis has also announced—apparently in response to the request of the Virgin of Fatima, to whom he has consecrated his entire pontificate—that he will consecrate the world to the Immaculate Heart on October 13, 2013. Regarding this Consecration, we note what Our Lady told Sister Lucy of Fatima after the first consecration of the world in 1942:

“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.”

We implore the Holy Father to consecrate Russia by name, as Our Lady requested, for no human substitute or compromise can replace what Heaven itself has specifically requested. The real subjects of this conference are the social, political and economic consequences of the failure to heed the Fatima prophecy—a prophecy recognized as authentic by the Catholic Church, and in our time by Popes John Paul II, Benedict XVI and Francis. We invite the press to cover this event dispassionately and objectively—without the sensationalism and fear-mongering that has been evident thus far.