

We Must Love the Truth

An extract from Father Gruner's new book

St. Paul tells us that a love of the truth is foundational, as a necessary condition, to the spiritual life. The seduction of error and sin, he says, gets all its power over souls from this one cause, that they do not have a love of the truth:

“And in all seduction of iniquity to them that perish; because they receive not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.”¹

This is something for each of us to consider. We all have our blind spots, especially in the way that we see ourselves. We all have emotional pre-dispositions that we are liable to act on, rather than on real thinking, unless we are careful to distinguish our feelings from true judgments.

Real thinking is harder than simply acting spontaneously on our emotional responses. But that is our job as the “rational animals” in this world. We have to think things through, and we have to have an attitude of “Truth first.”

I was in St. Peter's Square on October 13, 2013, expecting to see Pope Francis consecrate the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, as he had announced during the previous August. From the moment the ceremony began, however, I began to suspect that the plans for the consecration had been changed.

Those of us close enough to see the Holy Father's chastened and dour expression – completely uncharacteristic of him – realized that something had happened. It was as though someone in the Vatican, whom the Pope didn't dare to oppose, had “schooled” him about political correctness in regard to Marian devotions.

Had he just been told that a consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary was not allowed?

The ceremony was very brief, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary was not so much as mentioned. In fact, the Holy Father did not consecrate anything.²

¹ 2 Thessalonians 2:10

² “Blessed Virgin Mary of Fatima, with renewed gratitude for Your Maternal presence, we unite our voice with that of all the generations who call You blessed. We celebrate in You the great works of God, Who never tires to incline with mercy toward humanity, afflicted by evil and wounded by sin, to heal it and save it.

“Accept with the compassion of a Mother, the act of entrustment which today we make with confidence, before this Your image to us so dear.

“We are certain that each one of us is precious to Your eyes and that nothing which dwells in our hearts is unknown to You. Let us reach Your sweet gaze and receive the consoling caress of Your smile.

“Guard our life in Your arms: bless and strengthen every good desire; revive and foster faith; sustain and illumine hope; create and enliven charity; guide all of us in the path of holiness.

“Teach us Your same preferential love for the small and the poor, for the excluded and the suffering, for sinners and the lost: gather all under Your protection and give all of us to Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus.” Cf. “Pope Francis' Prayer Entrusting All of Us to Our Lady of Fatima”, *The Fatima Crusader*, Issue 107, Fall 2013, page 12 (<http://www.fatimacrusader.com/cr107/cr107.pdf#pg12>).

But that disappointing ceremony was not the only misfortune of the day. As I prepared to leave St. Peter's Square, a certain woman (whom I had never met before) recognized me and made her way through the crowd to where I was standing, and she proceeded to give me an earful about her opinion of my work at The Fatima Center.

She introduced herself as a representative of the World Apostolate of Fatima (which most people still refer to as the Blue Army), and she scolded me at length for all of my apostolate's "misdirected" efforts to bring about the Consecration of Russia as specifically requested by Jesus and Mary. In her estimation, my publishing the truth that the Consecration has not been done, serves only to "hurt the Pope."

To her thinking, apparently – and there are many who would agree with her – I was being disloyal to the Church by insisting on Our Lady of Fatima's *requests*, whereas only the *devotions* to Our Lady of Fatima are relevant today. Such people often accuse me: Why must I keep talking about the release of the rest of the Third Secret? Who am I to insist on the explicit Consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary by the Pope and all the Catholic bishops of the world?

These people have a very simplistic (and profoundly un-Catholic!) rationale for their position: We have been told that 1) the Vision of the "Bishop dressed in White" is the whole Third Secret, and 2) the Consecration was done in 1984. Now we should concentrate on prayer, penance, and our own more-complete conversion.

The woman from the "World Apostolate" was basically demanding that I join the ranks, and say like everybody else that the Consecration has been done and that the Third Secret has been published in its entirety. Then I, too, could have the satisfaction of being truly "devoted" to Our Lady, since I would be "loving" the Pope and fostering the "unity" of the Church.

Well, Saint Louis de Montfort wrote a beautiful book about true devotion to Our Lady, and nowhere does he speak of serving Her *by serving a falsehood!*

Would I be showing any real devotion to Our Lady *by going against Her express will* that Her Fatima Message be made known and Her requests be fulfilled? Would I be loving the Pope by standing idly by when I know that he is about to lose his neck unless he repents and heeds Our Lady's commands? Is there any value in the kind of unity that Pilate and Herod achieved when they set aside their former enmities and united to crucify Jesus Christ?!

If a person's supposed devotion to Our Lady is not based on the truth, then it is not a true devotion. If a person's love of the Pope is not based on the truth, then his "love" is an illusion. If a person's efforts fostering the "unity" of the Church are not based on the truth, then he is building a house of cards. Our Lord did not build His house upon a bed of lies, and He needs no lies to support His holy Church.

There was so much that I wanted to say, but in the end, it wasn't much of a discussion. This woman essentially blocked her ears and said "I do not want to argue with you" whenever I tried to say something. In her mind, I was upsetting the equilibrium of the Church and disrupting the unity of the minds of the faithful; therefore I was in the wrong. Period. No further discussion is allowed. Except for her to repeat her insolent verbiage.

I wished I could say to her: “Please, Ma’am, what if Cardinal Bertone’s Party Line about the Third Secret and the Consecration of Russia *is not true*? Should we ignore Our Lady’s warnings and requests, for the sake of an appearance of unity among ourselves? At the risk of our lives and souls?!”

But the few words that I managed to get out simply echoed back to me, having bounced off of a brick wall.

Even if I had been able to say more, I knew I wouldn’t be able to change this woman’s mind, because she was concerned above all with the *appearance* of unity and obedience. The *truth* of our situation was simply not her concern.

In fact, failing to put a love of the truth first, and above all other considerations, is the essence of many of the problems of our day. This is the fundamental disorder that has been at the root of the Church’s disobedience to the commands of the Queen of Heaven for more than eighty years.

“Everyone That Is of the Truth, Heareth My Voice”

Ever since 1988, certain Vatican officials have been pushing the idea that we need to separate the *devotional* aspects of the Message of Fatima from the *prophetic* parts of the Message. It’s been an organized campaign,³ in which the idea of this separation has been forced onto the faithful. The message has been, in effect: “The consecration requested by Our Lady was done in 1984. Stop pestering the Holy Father about the Consecration of Russia!” The idea (which they clearly want to establish) is that it would somehow be *disloyal* or *divisive* for us to ask the Pope to perform the Consecration or to release the full text of the Third Secret.

So it’s not uncommon now to find people (like this woman from the World Apostolate of Fatima) who think that the *prophetic* Fatima Message, which calls for the Consecration of Russia and for the release of the full Third Secret, is in some way *opposed* to the *devotion* to Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart, as requested by Our Lady of Fatima.

Obviously, there is no real opposition between loyalty to the Church and obedience to Our Lady. But how is it that such an opposition could appear to exist?

The answer to that question is very simple. It is because people do not understand the essential duty that each of us has, to love the truth.

³ Fatima historian Frère François writes: “[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.” (Frère François de Marie des Anges, *Fatima: Tragedy and Triumph*, Immaculate Heart Publications, 1994, pages 189-190.) In the same place, Frère François cites this statement from his personal correspondence with Father Pierre Caillon, the President of the Blue Army in France: “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.’” (Letter of March 1990)

In fact, the more we truly love Our Lady, the more we will love the truth. Jesus said of Himself that He is the Way, and the Truth, and the Life.⁴ Our Lord also said, as He stood before Pilate, that everyone that is of the truth, hears His voice.⁵

Why is it that being “of the truth” is the essential condition of being able to respond to God’s voice? Our Lord explains this in a beautiful parable given in the Sermon on the Mount:

“The light of thy body is thy eye. If thy eye be single, thy whole body shall be lightsome. But if thy eye be evil thy whole body shall be darksome. If then the light that is in thee, be darkness: the darkness itself how great shall it be!”⁶

Saint Thomas Aquinas can help us to understand this parable. He says⁷ that the light of reason performs the same role for our souls as our eyes perform for our bodies. That is, our hands and feet themselves cannot see. Of themselves, they have no way of knowing their surroundings. The “light” for all the various parts of our body is simply having a healthy set of eyes in the same body.

Our eyes, receiving the light of day, enable all the members of the body to be properly directed in their tasks. Our hands work confidently and accurately, and our feet are sure, when enlightened by “single” or good eyes. On the other hand, if a person’s eyes are unhealthy, then all the members of his body are reduced to act as though they were in darkness, even if that body were in broad daylight.

The situation is the same for our souls, St. Thomas says. If our minds are oriented to the light of truth, then all our judgments of mind and movements of will are able to be enlightened. But if our reason is misdirected – inverted, giving the highest place to earthly things – then all of our mental faculties will also be misdirected and in darkness.

To Love the Truth Is the Most Important Thing

Fatima is about the truth. Our Lady came to Fatima to put an end to the devil’s empire in this world, which is based on the *lie*. Lies are the very foundation of his kingdom on this earth, because it is by lying to men and women that he is able (if they believe his lies) to enslave them to his will.

Jesus tells us that the truth has no place in the devil. The devil’s lies follow naturally from this – namely, that he is not in the truth, and the truth is not in him:

“He was a murderer from the beginning: and he stood not in the truth, because truth is not in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father thereof.”⁸

Those who do not put the love of truth above all earthly goods, put themselves in the same great darkness in which the devil reigns. If we do not “stand in the truth,” then neither are we “of God.” The words of Our Lord Himself bore no fruit when they fell on the ears of such men:

⁴ John 14:6.

⁵ John 18:37.

⁶ Matthew 6:22-23.

⁷ Cf. St. Thomas Aquinas, *Commentary on the Gospel of St. Matthew*, trans. by Rev. Paul Kimball, Dolorosa Press, 2012, page 273.

⁸ John 8:44.

“Why do you not know My speech? Because *you cannot hear My word*. You are of your father the devil... If I say the truth to you, why do you not believe me? *He that is of God, heareth the words of God*. Therefore you hear them not, *because you are not of God.*”⁹

Again, Fatima is about the truth. Whenever Our Lord and Our Lady come to us, it is to bear witness to the truth,¹⁰ which will make us free.¹¹ The devil comes to enslave us with his lies, sometimes even disguised as an angel of light.¹² He has been known to impersonate Our Lady in false apparitions in order to draw people’s attention away from Our Lady’s true message in Her true apparitions. (The devil appeared in at least 16 different places not very far from the town of Lourdes in 1858, under the guise of the Blessed Virgin, when Our Lady was appearing at the grotto of Lourdes to St. Bernadette.)

Always remember that lies enslave us, and that the truth is from God for the salvation of our souls. The lies being told today about the Message of Fatima come ultimately from the devil, who wants to prevent us from hearing the truth of Our Lady’s Message, which – if we respond properly to it – could save countless lives and souls.

When Our Lady said, “*If what I say to you is done, many souls will be saved and there will be peace,*”¹³ She was telling us the truth. When She said, “*Only I can help you,*”¹⁴ She was speaking the absolute, literal truth. When She said, “*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,*”¹⁵ She was spelling out in the plainest possible language what we need to know and do in order to avoid the annihilation of nations and the enslavement of mankind to the devil under the Masonic New World Order.

We must not let ourselves be deceived about Our Lady’s Message, and we must not deceive ourselves.

“Charity Rejoiceth in the Truth”

There is a hierarchy of the virtues, an order ranking each of the virtues in its relation to the others. Charity is the greatest virtue of all, as St. Paul tells us, but he also points out that charity *rejoices in the truth*.¹⁶ In fact, unless we first love the truth, we cannot really love God or our neighbor, or even ourselves.

Now, certainly there can be a false zeal for the truth which is full of pride and which lacks charity, but nevertheless we can never have true charity without love for truth. And the virtue of loving the truth is getting more and more lost in our time. We must understand the relationship between truth and charity.

⁹ John 8:43-44, 46-47, emphasis added.

¹⁰ John 18:37. “For this was I born, and for this came I into the world; that I should give testimony to the truth.”

¹¹ John 8:32. “And you shall know the truth: and the truth shall make you free.”

¹² 2 Corinthians 11:14.

¹³ Apparition of July 13, 1917.

¹⁴ Apparition of July 13, 1917.

¹⁵ Reported in the Italian bishops’ publication, *Il pellegrinaggio delle meraviglie*, 1960, page 440. Cf. Frère Michel, *The Whole Truth About Fatima*, Vol. III, page 327. Emphasis added.

¹⁶ 1 Corinthians 13:6, 13.

Simply put, knowledge and truth must come before love. We cannot love something *at all* unless we first know it, at least in some way. And we cannot love something or someone *properly* so long as we misunderstand it or him.

To love someone is to will the good to that person. But we cannot *will* the good if we do not *know* what the good is. And we cannot properly will the good *to our neighbor* if we have a wrong idea of what is best *for him*.

Again, if we are in error about *who* our neighbor is, then we cannot love him at all. And if we misunderstand what is truly *good* for him, then despite all of our good will, we cannot love him properly. Even in regard to God, we cannot *love* Him properly (if at all) if we do not know some *truth* about Him.

Some people criticize me for being (as they would say) disloyal to the Holy Father or to the Holy See or to the Secretary of State. Cardinal Bertone himself has accused me and my associates¹⁷ of hating him¹⁸ simply because I have urged him to act for his own good, and for the good of the many souls who depend on the Church's obedience to Our Lady of Fatima.

Contrary to what these people think, I do love the Pope. I dare say that I love him more than most, if not all, of his counselors do. Frankly, too, I think that I am showing more love for Cardinal Bertone than he is showing for himself.

I don't say this flippantly. I don't say it to brag about myself either, but if I am accused of being hateful, then I'll respond to the charge. It is my love for God and for neighbor that has driven me throughout the past thirty-six years in this work. I know the truth about Fatima, and about what will befall the Pope and bishops and all of us if they don't obey Our Lady of Fatima very soon. How could I justify not speaking out?

Our Obligation to Love the Truth Regarding the Prophetic Message of Fatima

There are people who are very industrious about physical labor or about getting ahead in life in temporal concerns, but when it comes to seeking the truth, they're a little lazy.

Our lives (and very likely even our souls) depend on our knowing the truth about Our Lady of Fatima's Message. If we have a true love for our neighbor, it will show itself by our application in learning and spreading the truth that we need to know for our true best interests.

It is because there is so little love of truth in the world and in the Church today, that the Message of Fatima is so little known and so poorly understood. It is because there is so little love of truth in the world and in the Church today, that Our Lady's Message has been reduced to silence and, in effect, Our Lady Herself has been rejected.

¹⁷ I and others from who helped publish *The Secret Still Hidden*, written by Christopher A. Ferrara.

¹⁸ See "Response to Cardinal Bertone's False Claims Against the Fatima Center, *The Fatima Crusader*, Issue 90, Winter 2008, pages 21ff (<http://www.fatimacrusader.com/cr90/cr90pg21.pdf>). See also *The Fatima Crusader*, Issue 101, Spring 2012, pages 66ff (<http://www.fatimacrusader.com/cr101/cr101pg3.pdf>).

If there were a greater love for the truth among Catholics today, we would see many more people seeking out the truth about the Fatima Message, and then defending and promoting it.

But what response has Our Lady of Fatima received? She has not been given the attention that She deserves. We have not acted on Her Message. We have not passed it on. In a word, we have not loved it. We have set the truth aside, because it conflicted with other things that had a higher place in our hearts – *baser* things, such as human respect, and a complacency that doesn't want to be troubled about controversies.

When I say “we” I'm not necessarily talking about every last individual, but I am saying that, in general, by and large, this is the way Catholics have responded to the Message of Fatima.

There is a great silence throughout much of the Church today about the Fatima requests. According to many, it would be disloyal to contradict what Cardinal Bertone has said, or to embarrass or bother him or other churchmen. But the fact is, if we love the truth, we cannot take that attitude.

If you see a child in danger and you can prevent him from hurting himself or from hurting someone else through his lack of knowledge or lack of experience, you have an obligation in charity to tell him about his situation. You have an obligation to say it over and over until you find a way to make that child understand that you're telling him something serious, with major consequences for his safety.

This is the position we are in. All of us who understand Our Lady's Message have this obligation to speak out about it over and over again, to everyone who will listen to us. There is *no more important Message for our time* – there is nothing that compares with the Message of Fatima, both in terms of its completeness in addressing our present needs, and in terms of the seriousness of the consequences of neglecting it.

Pope John Paul II explained the whole Message of Fatima as a response of Our Heavenly Mother's love. Why did She come to Fatima? The Holy Father answers this question with another question:

“Can the Mother, Who with all the force of the love that She fosters in the Holy Spirit and Who desires everyone's salvation, can She remain silent when She sees the very bases of Her children's salvation undermined? No, She cannot remain silent.”¹⁹

When this Mother saw Her children in danger, She could not remain silent. The eternal salvation of Her children's souls was at stake, and this remains the case today. Even one soul would be enough to speak out for, but we're talking about millions or billions of souls, whose salvation will depend ultimately on our response to Our Lady's Message:

“If what I say to you is done, many souls will be saved....”

¹⁹ Sermon at Fatima, May 13, 1982. Cf. Father Paul Kramer, *The Devil's Final Battle*, 2nd Edition, The Missionary Association, Terryville, Connecticut, 2010, pages 199, 216.

Truth Before Personal Loyalties

Fatima is opposed by people who claim to love Our Lady. God knows their hearts – I don't pretend to be able to judge them. But I do say that it is impossible to love Our Lady rightly and at the same time to despise the fullness of the truth that She came to give us.

These people say that I am against the Pope. How can that be, when I am trying to save the Pope's neck, literally? The Pope was given a message²⁰ through Sister Lucy²¹ by Our Lord Himself, warning that for delaying the execution of His command to consecrate Russia, the Pope would follow the King of France into *disgrazia* (as they say in Italian), into misfortune.

Our Lord was referring to King Louis XVI, who was the King of France when the French Revolution broke out in 1789. The king was executed at the guillotine, as if he were a criminal. Similarly, in the Third-Secret Vision²² published by the Vatican in June 2000, we see a Pope being executed. In both cases, Our Lord says, these sufferings come as a result of not obeying His command.

Since the time when these prophecies were given, no Pope together with the Catholic bishops has consecrated Russia, and no Pope has been executed. We know, therefore, that the prophetic vision of the Third Secret is not about things in the past. These terrible prophecies are coming closer and closer to being realized.

²⁰ Revelation of August 1931 to Sister Lucy (two years and two months after Our Lady's formal request for the Consecration of Russia on June 13, 1929), related to her bishop in a letter of August 29, 1931: "*Make it known to My ministers that given they follow the example of the King of France in delaying the execution of My command, they will likewise follow him into misfortune.*" (Father Joaquin Alonso, *Fatima Ante la Esfinge*, "Sol de Fatima" Press, Madrid, 1979, page 97.) Five years later, Sister Lucy related more about this same revelation in a 1936 letter to her confessor, Fr. José Gonçalves. After giving the details of Our Lady's formal request for the Consecration in 1929, Lucy added: "Later on, by means of an interior communication, Our Lord complainingly said to me: *'They did not want to heed My request. Like the King of France they will repent and do so, but it will be late. Russia will already have spread her errors throughout the world, causing wars and persecutions of the Church. The Holy Father will have much to suffer!'*" (Father Antonio Martins, *Fatima, Documentos*, Porto, 1976, page 465.) Both texts cited in Frère Michel de la Sainte Trinité, *The Whole Truth About Fatima*, Vol. II, Immaculate Heart Publications, Buffalo, New York, 1989, pages 543-544.

²¹ Lucia dos Santos had been one of the three children to whom Our Lady of Fatima appeared in 1917.

²² "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 aspersorium 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." (Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, *The Message of Fatima*, June 26, 2000, http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20000626_message-fatima_en.html)

The plain truth of the Fatima Message is that our lives and souls are in the greatest danger. The whole world will be enslaved to a satanic regime, and entire nations are going to be annihilated,²³ unless we respond to Our Lady of Fatima's requests.

The truth is more important than appearances or personal loyalties. The truth *must* be defended and propagated. We should do it in charity, I agree, and I hope that I do act charitably. God knows, I will be judged for this like everyone else. But we must at all costs, first and foremost, love and defend and promote the truth.

As I have said many times, I don't hate Cardinal Bertone. I pray for him every day. Our love for the truth forces us to publicly oppose Cardinal Bertone because he has taken a public position which is not true. Our defense of the truth is not motivated by personal hatred – not by any means. We have taken our position simply because the truth is a higher good than the deference that we all desire to show to a Vatican official.

We need to have the right attitude about our loyalty to the office and the person of Church officials. Regardless of their rank – the Pope, the Cardinals and Patriarchs, the bishops and priests – there is no authority in the Church that can legitimately deceive the faithful in any way, and especially in a matter that can jeopardize their eternal salvation.

That's exactly what has been going on for the past fifty years, and not just in regard to Fatima. The Faith itself is under attack *from within the Church*, as Our Lady has warned (and as we will discuss further in this book).

Our Obligation to Inform Ourselves and to Defend the Truth

God gave us our intelligence for a reason, and we need to use it. This is why learning the Catechism is so important, because God wants us to know the Faith – each one of us. Our Lord doesn't simply say: "Be baptized, receive the Sacraments, and take as Gospel truth everything that comes out of the mouth of a priest, a bishop, a Cardinal or a Pope!"

Even Andrea Tornielli, a *Vaticanista* from the secular newspaper *Il Giornale*, who spoke at our 2011 *Consecration Now!* Conference, said: "If the Pope were to preach heresy – which is conceivable, according to Church doctrine – then we must not follow him in that."²⁴ Well, how are we going to know if the Pope is preaching heresy unless we first examine what he says and try to understand it? On the other hand, there is nothing in the Catholic Faith, or in Catholic practices and Tradition, or in Catholic theology that would justify such a shameful attitude as "The Pope said or did that or this scandalous thing but you must just accept it!"

²³ Our Lady of Fatima said in Her apparition of July 13, 1917: "*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.*"

²⁴ Reported in *The Fatima Crusader*, Issue 101, page 68 (<http://www.fatimacrusader.com/cr101/cr101pg3.pdf>).

We have to do some intellectual work, we have to think for ourselves, we have to *seek the truth!* Intellectual sloth is a vice, even when it is dressed up in words like “obedience” and “loyalty” to salve our consciences.

There is no excuse for the way so many Catholics have willfully blinded themselves to the truth of the Message of Fatima. Our Lady spoke in the simplest terms imaginable: “*If My requests are heeded, Russia will be converted, and there will be peace.*”²⁵ From that moment to the present time, there has been no conversion of Russia and no peace in the world, but along comes the Vatican Secretary of State saying: “The consecration was done in 1984. Sorry you missed it. There was no mention of Russia and no participation of all the bishops,²⁶ but that was it.” And people respond, “OK, thanks, I can go to sleep again.”

²⁵ Apparition of July 13, 1917.

²⁶ Our Lady made Her formal request for the Consecration of Russia in an apparition in Sister Lucy’s convent chapel in Tuy, Spain on June 13, 1929. Lucy recounted Our Lady’s request in this handwritten journal entry, dated November 6 of the same year: “*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.*” (Father Antonio Martins, *Fatima e o Coração de Maria*, Loyola Publications, Sao Paulo, 1984, pages 78-79, cited by Frère Michel, *The Whole Truth About Fatima*, Vol. II, page 555.)

Regarding the participation of all the bishops, Sister Lucy clarified for Pope John Paul II through his emissary Archbishop Santo Portalupi (the Apostolic Nuncio to Lisbon), along with the Nuncio’s personal advisor, Dr. Francisco Lacerda, and Bishop do Amaral of Leiria, in a meeting in her convent parlor on March 21, 1982 (the details of which were related to Father Pierre Caillon, the head of the Blue Army in France, by Dr. Lacerda): “*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.*” (Pierre Caillon, *La Consecration de la Russie aux Tres Saints Coeurs de Jesus et de Marie*, ed Tequi, 1983, page 31, emphasis added. Cited by Frère François de Marie des Anges, *Fatima: Tragedy and Triumph*, Immaculate Heart Publications, Buffalo, New York, 1994, page 156.)

Apparently, this information was not transmitted accurately to the Holy Father. Two months later, on May 13, 1982, John Paul II made a solemn consecration, not of Russia, but of the world, and without having ordered the Catholic bishops of the world to join him. Afterward, when asked about the significance of this attempt in light of the Fatima request, Sister Lucy replied, “*The Consecration of Russia, that which Our Lady has requested, has not yet been done.*” (Letter of August 11, 1982, to her cousin, Maria do Fetal, published by Fr. Pierre Caillon in *La Consecration de la Russie aux Tres Saints Coeurs de Jesus et de Marie*, pages 45-46, cited by Frère François, *Fatima: Tragedy and Triumph*, page 164.)

The Pope sent Archbishop Portalupi to interview Sister Lucy again the following year, in preparation for another consecration ceremony to take place in 1984. This interview took place on March 19, 1983. Doctor Lacerda was again invited to attend, as was also Father Messias Coelho (a Portuguese Fatima scholar and long-time friend of Sister Lucy). Sister Lucy read aloud to the three this prepared statement: “*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.*” (Reported by Fr. Pierre Caillon in the monthly periodical *Fidelite Catholique*, B.P. 217-56402. Auray Cedex, France; cited by Frère François, *Fatima: Tragedy and Triumph*, page 165.)

The Holy Father (apparently unable to overcome resistance within his Curia to a specific Consecration of Russia) went ahead with his plans for making another consecration, but again merely a consecration of the world. This time, however, he did at least *invite* (not order) the bishops to join him.

On March 22, 1984, three days before this ceremony was to take place, Sister Lucy was visiting with her old friend, Maria Eugenia Pestana. Maria asked, “Then, Lucy, Sunday is the Consecration?” And Lucy replied

This kind of sloth is one of the great sins of our age, and it is leading many people to hell.

The love of truth requires that we seek the truth, and embrace the truth. We must also defend and insist upon the truth. We cannot claim that we really love the truth if we do not embrace and defend it. We cannot claim that we really love our fellow men in this world if we do not try to help them acquire what we know to be for their good.

We need to have a clear understanding of what our obligations are, in the eyes of God and of Our Lady. Our first obligation in regard to Our Lady of Fatima is to seek and embrace – to love – the truth of Her Message.

The prophecies of Fatima are not opposed to the devotions of Fatima. Now, it shouldn't be necessary to say this. How could they possibly be opposed to one another? It's impossible. But for the past twenty years or more, some unscrupulous men in high positions in the Church have been representing these two aspects of the Message as if they were in opposition.

These men have abused both their authority in the Church and the trust that the faithful have instinctively placed in them. We see this with the letter that came from the Vatican in July 1988 – apparently from Cardinal Casaroli – saying that we must all think and say that the Consecration of Russia is done.

Holy obedience can never demand of us that we tell a lie. Whether it's a priest, a bishop, a Cardinal, or the Pope, no one can command you to tell a lie. They can, of course, mouth that order, but they don't have the authority to issue any such real order.

I have no problem of conscience in contradicting a Cardinal, even the Vatican Secretary of State, if I know that what he's saying is false. Everyone else should have the same conviction and the same ease of decision, but for some reason that is not the case. Most people seem to think that – out of some distorted view of loyalty or obedience – they have to go along with a falsehood. This is not of God. This is of the devil.

(having already been presented a copy of the text that the Holy Father would use): *"That consecration cannot have a decisive character. ... Russia does not appear in it as the sole object of the consecration."* (Frère François, *Fatima: Tragedy and Triumph*, pages 167-168. 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.)

The ceremony took place as planned, on March 25, 1984, with very few of the world's 3000+ Catholic bishops in attendance. More than a year later, Sister Lucy was interviewed by a representative of the Spanish chapter of the Blue Army, for an article to be published in their official journal, *Sol de Fatima*. Asked if now, after John Paul II's act of 1984, the consecration had at last been done as requested by Our Lady, Lucy replied: *"No. Many bishops attached no importance to this act."* The questioner urged Sister Lucy, "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?" To this, Sister Lucy replied flatly, *"There was no participation of all the bishops and there was no mention of Russia."* (*Sol de Fatima*, September 1985.)

Now, someone might say that you have to be sure of yourself before you publicly resist a prelate of the Church, and yes, you do have to be sure of yourself. It's similar to what St. Thomas says²⁷ about making any public defense of the Faith against public attacks against the Faith. He points out that only someone who is well-versed in theological studies should contend publicly in defense of the Faith, such as in a debate with a non-believer, because if a person is not capable of doing the job properly, he might make the Faith look as if it does not have a satisfactory explanation.

But the converse of that is also true. For those who *do have* the training and knowledge and ability to defend the Faith publicly, there is an *obligation* to do so. And St. Thomas points this out as well, quoting St. Gregory the Great:

“Just as thoughtless speech gives rise to error, so does an indiscreet silence leave those in error who might have been instructed.”²⁸

Even those who may not be qualified to represent the Faith in the public forum, can still defend the truth in private conversation, and they also have an obligation to do so.

Now, I can tell you that I'm not relying on any special knowledge that I learned anywhere in my entire course of doctoral studies in sacred theology, when I take this position. This is a matter that even children can understand. We cannot go along with the lies that are being propagated against the Message of Fatima, no matter where those lies come from.

To the extent that the Pope, the bishops, and the priests are for Christ, then that's where our loyalty should be. Much of the time they're all lined up with the Faith, but sometimes they're not. In that case, you have to choose between conflicting loyalties. What should our choice be? First, Christ and the Truth. Christ identifies Himself as the Truth, and that is where our first loyalty has to be.

The Proper Consecration of Russia Will End All Wars

I have taken it upon myself to defend the truth of the Message of Fatima, with a full-time apostolate dedicated entirely to promoting and defending this Message. But many other priests are purposely undermining The Fatima Center's efforts, saying: “Don't listen to Father Gruner. He's disobedient. Don't even read *The Fatima Crusader*. Put it in the garbage.”

Father Robert Fox was asked by someone in the Vatican to start his own Fatima apostolate, and he “dutifully” began announcing far and wide that the Consecration is done, and that people should not listen to Father Gruner. We replied in detail to Fr. Fox's claims, in an article titled “Father Fox's Modernist Assault on Fatima” by Christopher Ferrara.²⁹ It is an important article, and I encourage anyone who is wavering about these issues to read it.

²⁷ St. Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*, II-II, Q. 10, A. 7.

²⁸ Pope St. Gregory the Great, *Liber Regulae Pastoralis*, ii, 4.

²⁹ This lengthy article (published as a 28-page booklet) is presented on the web in three parts, starting at <http://www.fatima.org/news/newsviews/062504frfox1.asp>

We also have a videotape of an interview with Father Fox in which he was asked: “Has the Consecration of Russia been done?” He replied: “Yes it has.” But later, at the end of the interview, he was asked: “Are you worried about anything?” And Father Fox replied: “Yes. I’m worried about war.”

Now, here’s a man who spent the final twenty years of his life promoting the idea that the Consecration of Russia has been done, and at the same time he tells us that he fears there will be another terrible war – in fact, that there will always be war.

But Our Lady of Fatima said that a period of peace will be given to mankind when Russia is properly consecrated to Her Immaculate Heart!

Father Stefano Gobbi of the Marian Movement of Priests asked me privately, back in 1989, when Father Fox was on the warpath about the Consecration being done: “Is Father Fox trying to call the Blessed Virgin a liar?”

Maybe Father Fox didn’t intend his statement to come across that way, but, in fact, that is exactly what he was doing, by saying on the one hand: “The Consecration is done,” and on the other hand: “But we’re always going to have wars.”

Well, you can’t have it both ways. The truth is the truth, and the first principle of truth is the principle of non-contradiction. You can’t have Our Lady promising a period of peace as soon as Her requests are heeded, and then claim that we are always going to be in fear of more wars, even when Our Lady’s requests have been granted, without calling Her a liar. God have mercy on him.

We Must Not Deceive Ourselves

I don’t mean to single out Fr. Fox or Cardinals Casaroli and Bertone as if they were the only churchmen doing these things. This has been the program virtually from top to bottom among too many of the clergy for the past 25 years, starting from the Vatican Secretariat of State and enforced down to the last Catholic parish or diocesan school or newspaper. It’s a blasphemous campaign to distort and misrepresent the Message of Fatima, or at the very least to silence those who try to make the true Message known.

They use all the nefarious tactics of a secret society to do this, but the Church is not a secret society. As Pope Leo XIII said in his encyclical on Christian philosophy, God is not only true, but *truth itself*. Therefore the Church has nothing to fear from the truth. On the contrary, it is only by seeking and embracing and defending and insisting on the truth that we will preserve our society and even our own souls:

“The only-begotten Son of the Eternal Father, who came on earth to bring salvation and the light of divine wisdom to men, conferred a great and wonderful blessing on the world when, about to ascend again into Heaven, He commanded the Apostles to go and teach all nations, and left the Church which He had founded to be the common and supreme teacher of the peoples. For men whom the truth had set free were to be *preserved by the truth*.”³⁰

³⁰ Pope Leo XIII, Encyclical Letter *Aeterni Patris*, “On the Restoration of Christian Philosophy,” 1879, §1, 5.

We have no hope except in the truth!

I've been forced to reflect over and over again upon the words that Pope Benedict used when he went to Fatima on May 13, 2010:

“He *deceives himself* who thinks that the prophetic mission of Fatima is concluded.”³¹

Now, we all have to avoid passing judgment on others. The truth, as I said, is fundamental; yet what is clear to one person is not necessarily clear to all. We cannot presume that a person is of bad will, simply on the basis that he doesn't agree with us. Only Our Lord knows the hearts of men.

Nevertheless, Pope Benedict XVI could say without reservation before 500,000 people at Fatima, that the churchmen who have spent so much time and energy trying to propagate this great lie, claiming that “the events to which the third part of the ‘secret’ of Fatima refers now seem part of the past,”³² *have deceived themselves* if they actually believe that lie! The truth of the Message and of our situation is so plain, he says, that only by willfully shutting out the truth could you believe such a lie.

And this goes, too, for all the people who take in this lie for the sake of whatever false notions of “obedience” or loyalty or submission they might have. He didn't say, ‘you would be mistaken’ – he said that you are *deceiving yourself* if you think this.

There are people who disagree with what I'm saying, who claim to be more Catholic than I am, who claim to be more loyal and more faithful to the Church than I am, who claim to love the Pope more than I do, and God knows if they do or if they don't. But the Holy Father himself said that these people are *deceiving themselves* about the Message of Fatima.

They are *deceiving themselves* when they say that Our Lady's request for the Consecration of Russia has been satisfied. They *deceive themselves* when they say the whole Third Secret has been released. They *deceive themselves* when they say that the horrifying prophecies of the Third Secret are part of the past. And this lie will cost millions, or quite possibly *billions*, of people their lives and their eternal salvation if we don't break through this deception in time.

A real love of the truth necessarily means *defending* the truth, and denouncing untrustworthy false teachers who are misleading the faithful. It is not disobedient or wrongly “divisive” to stand up for the truth in the face of these lies. *It is the lies themselves that are divisive*. To go along with these deceptions, to go along with these lies, is dangerous. If left to prevail, these lies are bound to kill millions and millions of souls. These lies are from the father of lies – the devil. These lies must be unmasked. The liars must be stopped before they destroy the whole world.

³¹ 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: “Si illuderebbe chi pensasse che la missione profetica di Fatima sia conclusa.”

³² Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, *The Message of Fatima*, “Announcement” by Cardinal Angelo Sodano, June 26, 2000; http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20000626_message-fatima_en.html