

Holy Father, The World Needs Your Intervention! Consecrate Russia as Our Lady Requested

Russia and the United States, both armed with nuclear weapons, are engaged in a growing conflict over events in Ukraine. Now is the time to honor Our Lady's request for Russia's consecration to Her Immaculate Heart in order to bring peace to the whole world.

As Our Lady promised at Fatima: "If My requests are granted, many souls will be saved and there will be peace."

Most Holy Father:

Nearly one hundred years ago the Mother of God appeared to three shepherd children at Fatima, Portugal and told them Heaven's plan for peace: "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.*"

Some have heeded Our Lady's request for the First Saturday devotion, but the Consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart remains undone. By this Open Letter we petition Your Holiness for the Consecration of Russia. The urgency and absolute necessity of this act cannot be overstated, as we hope to demonstrate to Your Holiness.

A Marian Apparition Like No Other

Catholics the world over were heartened by the news that Your Holiness asked that the Patriarch of Lisbon, Cardinal Jose Polycarp, consecrate your entire pontificate to Our Lady of Fatima. That consecration took place on May 13, 2013, exactly two months after your election as Pope. Like your predecessors Benedict XVI, John Paul II, and Paul VI, all of whom made pilgrimages to the site of the Fatima apparitions, Your Holiness has demonstrated the enduring importance and urgency of the Fatima event for both the Church and the world.

As Blessed John Paul II declared during his pilgrimage to Fatima in 1982: "The content of the appeal of Our Lady of Fatima is so rooted in the Gospel and all of Tradition that *the Church feels obligated* by this Message." (Homily for Mass at the Sanctuary of the Virgin of Fatima, May 13, 1982.)

We must confess, Your Holiness, that we are dismayed by the ceaseless

propaganda of those in the Church, who, ignoring the singular character and extraordinary level of papal approbation of the Fatima apparitions, continue to dismiss them as a “private revelation” which the hierarchy and the faithful are free to ignore. We are amazed at the imprudence of this minimization of an undoubted personal intervention of the Mother of God in human affairs.

An Alarming Historical Context

On May 13, 2000, John Paul II stressed the utmost urgency of the Fatima Message. His Holiness explicitly linked Fatima to Chapter 12 of the Book of the Apocalypse:

The Message of Fatima is a call to conversion, alerting humanity to have nothing to do with the “dragon” whose “tail swept down a third of the stars of Heaven [consecrated souls], and cast them to the earth” (Apoc. 12: 4)... In Her motherly concern, the Blessed Virgin came here to Fatima to ask men and women “*to stop offending God, Our Lord, Who is already too much offended.*” It is a mother’s sorrow that compels Her to speak; *the destiny of Her children is at stake.*

On May 13, 1967, during his own pilgrimage to Fatima, Pope Paul VI also linked the Fatima Message to the Book of the Apocalypse. Five years later, the same worried Pope issued a lamentation perhaps unprecedented in Church history:

By some fissure the smoke of satan has entered into the temple of God: there is doubt, uncertainty, problems, unrest. ... It was hoped that after the (Second Vatican) Council there would be a day of sunlight in the history of the Church. Instead, there came a day of *clouds, of darkness, of groping, of uncertainty.* How did this happen? We will confide Our thoughts to you: there has been interference from an adverse power: *his name is the devil...* (*Insegnamenti*, Ed. Vaticana, Vol. X, 1972, p. 707.)

The Ecclesial and World Crisis of Today

Today, the Church faces a crisis unlike any other, a crisis involving the fate of the entire world. Before his unprecedented resignation from the papacy, your predecessor, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, issued numerous warnings about the state of the Church and the world.

For example, nearly four years after his election, Benedict XVI stated that “in vast areas of the world *the faith is in danger of dying out like a flame which no longer has fuel,*” that God is disappearing from the human horizon,” and that *humanity is losing its bearings, with increasingly evident destructive effects.*” (“Letter of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI to All the Bishops of the World”, March 10, 2009.)

A year later, Pope Benedict dramatically compared our situation with that of the Roman Empire just before its fall:

“The sun was setting over an entire world. Frequent natural disasters further increased this sense of insecurity. There was no power in sight that could put a stop to this decline.” On this same day, His Holiness continued, “moral consensus is collapsing, consensus without which juridical and political structures cannot function. Consequently, the forces mobilized for the defense of such structures seem doomed to failure... *The very future of the world is at stake.*” (Christmas Greeting to the Roman Curia, December 20, 2010)

What is most striking about Pope Benedict’s dire assessments is that, like those of John Paul II and Paul VI, Benedict expressly linked them to the Message of Fatima. Speaking of the Third Secret during his pilgrimage to Cova da Iria in 2010, the Pope revealed that it pertains, not merely to the past as some have insisted, but to “*future realities* of the Church, which are little by little developing and revealing themselves.” Concerning these “future realities,” as Pope Benedict explained:

As for the novelty that we can discover today in this message [the Third Secret], it is that 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. (Prepared Comments to the Public Media during his Voyage to Fatima, May 11, 2010)

In addition to the grave papal diagnoses already noted, there is Your Holiness’ own recognition of the world and ecclesial crisis. In your *Urbi et Orbi* message of Christmas Day 2013, Your Holiness decried the worldwide plight of the elderly, the sick and the poor, and the “Wars [that] shatter and hurt so many lives!” On that occasion you reminded us that “True peace... is not a balance of opposing forces. It is not a lovely ‘façade’ which conceals conflicts and divisions. Peace calls for daily commitment, but making peace is an art, starting from God’s gift, from the grace which he has given us in Jesus Christ.” But it is precisely this true peace—“the peace of Christ,” as Pope Pius XI called it—which has eluded the Church and the world in these days of gathering darkness. As Your Holiness declared in his Angelus Address of January 1, 2014: “What is happening in the heart of man? What is happening in the heart of humanity? *It is time to stop!*”

Heaven’s Answer to the Crisis: Russia’s Consecration to the Immaculate Heart

The Blessed Virgin, of course, foresaw the situation in which we now find ourselves when She appeared at Fatima. There She provided the heavenly remedy that has yet to be applied: the Consecration of Russia to Her Immaculate Heart by the Pope and the world’s bishops. Upon that Consecration, She promised, “Russia will be converted, and there will be peace”—the true peace of which Your Holiness has spoken. But “if not,” She warned, 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.*”

To this day the Consecration of Russia remains undone. Hence, as Sister Lucia warned in a document published by the Vatican itself on June 26, 2000:

Since we did not heed this appeal of the Message, we see that it has been fulfilled, Russia has invaded the world with her errors. And *if we have not yet seen the complete fulfillment of the final part of this prophecy*, we are going towards it little by little with great strides. (Excerpt of Letter from Sister Lucia in *The Message of Fatima*, vatican.va)

As Sister Lucia made clear time and again, the act of consecration Our Lady requested must involve a solemn, public ceremony conducted by the Pope in union with the Catholic bishops of the world, and *Russia must appear as the object* of the consecration.

It can hardly be maintained, as some have, that Our Lady’s appeal for the Consecration of Russia can be heeded by refusing to mention Russia! Candor requires us to note, Holy Father, that the ceremony Your Holiness conducted on October 13, 2013, follows the pattern of previous ones: an avoidance of what Our Lady specifically requested.

Simple Trust in God

In your own homily in connection with the ceremony you conducted this past October 13, Your Holiness made a most apt reference to “[t]he story of Naaman, the commander of the army of the king of Aram,” who, “[i]n order to be healed of leprosy... turns to the prophet of God, Elisha, who does not perform magic or demand anything unusual of him, but asks him simply to trust in God and to wash in the waters of the river. Not, however, in one of the great rivers of Damascus, but in the little stream of the Jordan.”

As we read in the biblical account (4 Kings 5:1-19), Naaman was at first angry that Elisha had sent a mere messenger to convey this simple request instead of personally laying his hand upon Naaman, invoking God’s name, and healing him on the spot in dramatic fashion. As for the River Jordan, Naaman grumbled, “Are not the Abana, and the Pharphar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel, that I may wash in them, and be made clean?” Yet Naaman humbled himself and did precisely as he was instructed after his servants, seeing his indignation, said to him: “Father, if the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, surely thou shouldst have done it: how much rather what he now hath said to thee: Wash, and thou shalt be clean?”

Drawing upon this lesson, Your Holiness went on to say: “What kind of God is this who asks for something so simple?... God surprises us. It is precisely in poverty, in weakness and in humility that he reveals himself and grants us his love, which saves us, heals us and gives us strength. He asks us only to obey his word and to trust in him.” But the tragedy now unfolding before the Church and the world is the result of

“collaborators” of the Roman Pontiff who, unlike the humble servants of Naaman, evidently trust more in their own fallible judgment than in the heavenly counsel of the Mother of God, the greatest of all the prophets.

While There is Still Time, Holy Father!

As Our Lady said to Sister Lucia in 1952:

“Make it known to the Holy Father that I am still awaiting the Consecration of Russia. Without that Consecration, Russia cannot convert, nor will the world have peace.”

It is most significant that Our Lady said this after the two great wars and the rise of Soviet communism, having foreseen a threat to peace in the future of our world even greater than that posed by two world wars and the totalitarian governments of Hitler and Stalin.

On June 17, 1689, Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque revealed in a letter to her Mother Superior Our Lord’s request that the King of France consecrate his Kingdom to the Sacred Heart, manifesting this consecration publicly in “his palace... on his standards and engraven on his arms, in order to render him victorious over all his enemies.” (Bougard, *Life of Blessed Margaret Mary Alacoque*, pp. 268-269). One hundred years from the day, King Louis XVI was deposed as King of France when the Third Estate declared itself the National Assembly. Shortly after, King Louis was imprisoned. Then while in prison the King attempted in private what successive kings of France had failed for a century to do in public. It was too little, too late. Louis XVI met his fate at the guillotine, France descended into a bloodbath, and the Church in France underwent a terrible persecution.

At Rianjo, Spain, in August 1931, Our Lord spoke to Sister Lucia and drew a parallel between the failure to honor His request respecting France and the failure to honor His request (through Our Lady of Fatima) respecting Russia: **“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.”** Lucia also recorded Our Lord’s admonition that “They did not wish to heed My request! Like the King of France they will repent of it, and they will do it, but it will be late. Russia will have already spread its errors in the world, provoking wars and persecutions against the Church. The Holy Father will have much to suffer.”

It is already late, Holy Father. Very late. Like the King of France in 1789, today the Pope of Rome approaches the centenary of a divine imperative that has not been heeded. And the consequence is that we have not seen the promised Triumph of the Immaculate Heart. We see instead a world afflicted by ceaseless violence and growing rebellion, by multiplying local wars and the threat of an even greater war in the European theatre and in other parts of the world too!

Pope Benedict declared in his sermon at Fatima: **“He deceives himself who thinks that the prophetic mission of Fatima is concluded.”** In fact, the prophetic

mission of Fatima is approaching its most critical juncture. Will the hundredth anniversary of the Fatima event be the occasion of Mary's triumph over evil or immense tribulation for all of humanity? Will the world have entered into the promised era of peace, or will it experience instead the horrors depicted in the vision of a future Pope who is executed on a hill outside a devastated city? The answer to these questions will depend upon an act of obedience as simple as that of Naaman, bathing himself in the humble Jordan River. As you yourself said only a few months ago: "God surprises us.... He asks us only to obey his word and to trust in him."

Holy Father, we implore you, just as Naaman's lowly servants implored him: Do exactly as the prophet of God says! Consecrate Russia and only Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, commanding the bishops of the world to join you in obeying God's simple request. For the love of God and His Holy Mother, do not let a century pass without this act of obedience! *Obey and trust*, so that the Church and the entire world, at long last, may reap the glorious harvest of peace that our Mother promised us at Fatima.

Your humble subjects and fellow citizens of the World
The Fatima Center *et al*

First Published on May 1, 2014
Feast of Saint Joseph