

## 37.

# Attempts at Consecration of Russia

In 1977 Cardinal Albino Luciani celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of the Fatima apparitions by leading a pilgrimage from Venice to the Cova da Iria. Then Luciani went to Coimbra and celebrated Mass in the convent chapel.

Afterwards, Sister Lucia asked to speak with him. She and Cardinal Luciani talked for two hours. Witnesses said he was pale and shaken when he left. This condition did not end when he returned to Venice. Several months later friends asked him what was wrong. He said: "I was just thinking of what Sister Lucia said at Coimbra. The Secret, it's terrible."<sup>1</sup>

In an account of his visit to Coimbra, Luciani wrote of Lucia: "She is radical, as are the saints, she is for the 'all or nothing' if one seriously wishes to belong to God." He also noted "the enthusiastic interest which Sister Lucia shows in speaking about everything concerning the Church of today with its grave problems."<sup>2</sup>

It is not known exactly what Sister Lucia said to Cardinal Luciani about the Third Secret, but one imagines their conversation to be similar to the Father Fuentes interview.\* Perhaps Luciani's prolonged distress was due to Sister Lucia confiding some extra details of the Secret to the Cardinal. The following year Luciani was elected Pope, but served just thirty-three days before dying under controversial circumstances.<sup>3</sup>

Luciani's successor was Polish Cardinal Karol Wojtyla, who took Luciani's name (John Paul) less in tribute to Luciani than to Popes John XXIII and Paul VI of the Second Vatican Council. Pope John Paul II showed little interest in Fatima or Sister Lucia until he was the victim of an assassin's bullet in St. Peter's Square on May 13, 1981, the anniversary of the first appearance of the beautiful Lady at the Cova da Iria.

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\*See pages 264-267 of this book for the text of this interview.

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From his hospital bed the Pope asked for and studied documents on Fatima. He seems to have been sincerely convinced that the Virgin of Fatima saved his life, and wished to show his gratitude. He sent the Portuguese papal nuncio, Archbishop Sante Portalupi, to interrogate Sister Lucia about the requirements for consecrating Russia to the Immaculate Heart.

Portalupi spoke with Lucia at Coimbra. Also present were the Bishop of Leiria, Bishop do Amaral, and Dr. Francisco Lacerda, a friend of Portalupi. Lucia repeated what she had told so many others over the years: Russia must be named in the Consecration, and the world's bishops must be involved in the solemnity. She was clear and detailed:

"In order that the bishops of the world be united to the Pope during the Consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the Pope would have to either convoke all the bishops at Rome or in another place, at Tuy, for example, or indeed order the bishops of the entire world to organize, each one in his own Cathedral, a public and solemn ceremony of reparation and of Consecration of Russia to the Holy Hearts of Jesus and Mary."

For the world episcopate to perform the consecration separately, Lucia said the Pope would have to specify ahead of time a date and time for the collegial consecration. Due to time differences, Lucia suggested that "some bishops would make the consecration in the daytime, others at night during a vigil of prayer." She continued:

"If the Communist governments prevented the Catholic Bishops from making the solemn and public ceremonies, those prelates could accomplish the Consecration in small chapels. And if the command of the Pope does not reach some bishops because of the lack of religious liberty, the good God could understand that, for He wants the moral unanimity of the bishops, and not obligatorily arithmetical totality."<sup>4</sup>

But when John Paul II came to Fatima on May 13, 1982, he had his own ideas. He had not ordered the world episcopate to make a public and solemn consecration in their respective dioceses, and he did not intend to name Russia in the

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consecration. He met alone with Sister Lucia prior to the consecration. She gave the Pope a Memoir she had written during the previous week. She also spoke to John Paul II about the disclosure of the Third Secret. He replied that it was "neither necessary nor prudent to reveal now the contents of that Secret, given that the world would not understand it."

We know this because Sister Lucia reported the Pope's statement to Cardinal Oddi in May, 1985.<sup>5</sup> It must be said that if John Paul II in fact told Lucia that the world would not understand the Third Secret one year after he was shot, this does not square at all with the 2000 announcement that the Third Secret primarily concerned the 1981 assassination attempt of the Holy Father. It would seem that on the May 13 following the assassination attempt, a revelation that the Third Secret prophesied this attempt would not only be immediately understood by the world, but by small children as well.

The day following John Paul II's consecration of the world to the Immaculate Heart, Sister Lucia was back in Coimbra. With her were Bishop Hnilica, Don Luigi Bianchi, and the Provincial of the Carmelites. She was asked if John Paul's consecration satisfied Our Lady of Fatima's request. Lucia replied no, explaining again that Russia had to be named, and the world episcopate had to match the solemnity of the papal consecration.<sup>6</sup>

That summer Lucia told her niece, Maria do Fetal: "I am old, I am seventy-five, I am preparing myself to see God face to face. I have given all my texts to the holy Church. I shall die tranquil. But, if they want my opinion, here it is: The Consecration of Russia, as Our Lady has asked for it, is not done."<sup>7</sup>

The following March, 1983, papal nuncio Portalupi and Dr. Lacerda spoke with Sister Lucia about the 1982 consecration. She said: "In the Act of Offering of May 13, 1982, Russia did not clearly appear as being 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 simply renewed the consecration of the world executed by Pius XII on October 31, 1942. From this consecration of the world, we can expect some benefits, but not the conversion of Russia."<sup>8</sup>

"The Consecration of Russia is not done as Our Lady

## *Sister Lucia*

demanded it," Lucia declared. "I was not able to say it, because I did not have the permission of the Holy See."<sup>9</sup>

Recall Father Alonso's statement that after the Father Fuentes interview in 1957, "Lucia no longer had meetings which were reported accurately in publications." This statement would prove its validity many times in the following years; for instance, when John Paul II again consecrated the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Rome, in 1984.

The Holy Father used the same formula as the 1982 consecration, with some minor changes. One of the changes was the Pope's addition of these words, addressed to the Blessed Virgin: "Enlighten especially the people whose consecration and entrusting You are awaiting from us." This was a clear reference to Russia (which remained unnamed), and an equally clear concession from the Holy Father himself that he had not yet performed the Consecration Our Lady wanted.\*

Nevertheless, a vigorous campaign arose declaring that Sister Lucia believed that John Paul II's 1984 consecration of the world satisfied Our Lady of Fatima's request. The campaign even produced letters allegedly written and signed by Sister Lucia claiming the same. The letters were sloppily done, however, and in the end were revealed to be clumsy forgeries.<sup>10</sup>

Another thing seldom mentioned is the 1985 interview of Sister Lucia by *Sol de Fatima*, a Spanish Blue Army publication. She was asked if John Paul II's two consecrations satisfied the requirements given by Our Lady to Lucia at Tuy. Lucia replied, "There was no participation of all the bishops and there was no mention of Russia." So the consecration was not done properly? "No," Lucia answered, "Many bishops attached no importance to this act."<sup>11</sup>

For the most part, however, Sister Lucia was relegated to proclaiming the truth privately, to family members and an occasional Cardinal; for everyone else authorization to see Lucia could only come from the Holy See. Fatima itself was

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\* See page 268 for the photographic reproduction of the March 26-27, 1984 edition of *L'Osservatore Romano* reporting this event and the Pope's words.

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considered a done deal by the Vatican, and discarded. But the story was far from over.

### Notes

1. FIJWE, Book Four, *Fatima: Tragedy and Triumph*, op. cit., p. 144.
2. Ibid., pp. 144-145.
3. See David Yallop, *In God's Name, An Investigation Into the Murder of Pope John Paul I*, Bantam Books, 1984. For a synopsis of the controversy, see Mark Fellows, *Fatima in Twilight*, Marmion Publications, 2003, pp. 211-212.
4. FIJWE, Book Four, op. cit., pp. 156-157. Frère François notes that the details available from this interview are courtesy of a report written by Dr. Lacerda. John Haffert was later able to get verification from Sister Lucia that the details of Lacerda's report were accurate.
5. Ibid., p. 226, fn 134. See also *The Fatima Crusader*, Issue 33, pp. 14-15. Available from the publisher of this book or see [www.fatimacrusader.com/cr33/cr33pg14.asp](http://www.fatimacrusader.com/cr33/cr33pg14.asp)
6. Ibid., p. 164.
7. Ibid.
8. Ibid., p. 165.
9. Ibid., p. 166.
10. The CRC and *The Fatima Crusader* were instrumental in exposing the letters as forgeries. See FIJWE, Book Four, op. cit., pp. 190-195, and *Fatima in Twilight*, op. cit., Chapter 23.
11. As quoted in Christopher A. Ferrara, *Father Fox's Modernist Assault on Fatima*, Fatima Crusader Special Report. Available from the publisher of this book or see [www.fatima.org/news/newsviews/062504frfox1.asp](http://www.fatima.org/news/newsviews/062504frfox1.asp)