

## The Consecration of Russia

*The first set of quotations are from Sister Lucia's writings collected in the book Memórias e Cartas da Irma Lucia, published in Porto, 1973, by Father Antonio Maria Martins, S.J.*

It seems that our good Lord, deep in my heart, urges me to ask the Holy Father's approval for the devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary that God Himself and the Blessed Virgin asked for in 1925, so that through this little devotion, They would grant forgiveness to those souls who have offended the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The Blessed Virgin Herself promised to help the souls of those who practiced this devotion with all the graces needed for their salvation, at the hour of their death ... If I am not mistaken, the good Lord promises to end the persecution in Russia, if the Holy Father will himself make a solemn act of reparation and consecration of Russia to the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, as well as ordering all the bishops of the Catholic world to do the same. The Holy Father must then promise that upon the ending of this persecution he will approve and recommend the practice of the reparatory devotion already described. (*Letter of Sister Lucia to Father José Bernardo Gonçalves, May 29, 1930.*)

Regarding Russia. If I am not mistaken, our good Lord promises that the persecution in Russia will end, if the Holy Father will himself make a solemn public act of reparation and consecration of Russia to the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. His Holiness must also order all the bishops of the Catholic world to do the same, and promise that if this persecution ends he will approve and recommend the practice of the already mentioned reparatory devotion. (*Letter of Sister Lucia to Father José Bernardo Gonçalves, June 12, 1930.*)

About three years ago Our Lord was very displeased because His request had not been attended to... When I am speaking intimately with Him, it seems to me that He is ready to show His mercy toward Russia, as He promised 5 years ago, and whom He wishes so much to save. (*Letter of Sister Lucia to Father José Bernardo Gonçalves, January 21, 1935.*)

In 1917, in Fatima, in the portion of revelations designated by us with the name of "secret", the Blessed Virgin announced the end of the war that was then afflicting Europe, and predicted a future one that would begin in the reign of Pius XI. To prevent this She said, "I will come to ask for the Consecration

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of Russia to My Immaculate Heart and the Communion of Reparation on the first Saturdays. If they heed My requests, Russia will be converted and there will be peace. If not, she will spread her errors throughout the world, promoting wars and persecutions of the Church. The good will be martyred. The Holy Father will have much to suffer. Various nations will be annihilated. In the end, My Immaculate Heart will triumph. The Holy Father will consecrate Russia to Me, and it will be converted, and a certain period of peace will be granted to the world."

In 1929 through another apparition Our Lady told me, "The moment has arrived in which God asks the Holy Father to make in union with all the bishops of the world the Consecration of Russia to My Immaculate Heart, promising to save it by this means." ... Most Holy Father, our good Lord in several intimate communications has not stopped insisting on this request, promising lately to shorten the days of tribulation with which He was determined to punish the world for its crimes, through war, famine, and the persecution of the Church and Your Holiness, if you will consecrate the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, with a special mention of Russia. ... Our Lord promises a special protection to our little nation due to the consecration made by the Portuguese Prelates to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, as proof of the graces that would have been granted to other nations, had they also consecrated themselves to Her. (*Letter of Sister Lucia to Pope Pius XII, October 24, 1940.*)

It was at this time that Our Lady informed me that the moment had come for me to let Holy Church know Her desire for the Consecration of Russia and Her promise to convert it. The communication was made in this way: (June 13, 1929) I had asked and obtained permission from my Superiors and confessor to make the Holy Hour from 11 p.m. until midnight from Thursday to Friday. Being alone one night, I knelt down between the balustrade in the middle of the chapel to say the prayers of the Angel, lying prostrate. Feeling tired, I got up and knelt and continued to say them with my arms in the form of a cross. The only light came from the sanctuary lamp. Suddenly a supernatural light illuminated the whole chapel and on the altar appeared a cross of light which reached to the ceiling. In a brighter light could be seen, on the upper part of the cross, the face of a man and his body to the waist, with a dove of light on his breast and, nailed to the cross, the body of another man. A

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little below the waist, suspended in the air, was to be seen a Chalice and a big Host onto which fell some drops of blood from the face of the Crucified and from a wound in His breast. These drops ran down over the Host and fell into the Chalice. Under the right arm of the cross was Our Lady (Our Lady of Fatima with Her Immaculate Heart in Her left hand, without sword or roses, but with a crown of thorns and flames), with Her Immaculate Heart in Her hand... Under the left arm, some big letters, as it were of crystal-clear water running down over the altar, formed these words: "Grace and Mercy."

I understood that it was the mystery of the Most Holy Trinity that was shown to me and ... Then Our Lady said to me, "The moment has come in which God asks the Holy Father, in union with all the bishops of the world, to consecrate Russia to My Immaculate Heart, promising to save it by this means. There are so many souls that the Justice of God condemns for sins committed against Me, that I have come to ask for reparation: sacrifice yourself for this intention and pray. (. . .)

Later on, by means of an interior communication, Our Lady complainingly said to me, "They didn't want to pay attention to My petition. 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!" (*Document of Sister Lucia recopied by Father José Bernardo Gonçalves on April 24, 1941.*)

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In 1946 Sister Lucia was interviewed by Father Jongen regarding the Consecration of Russia. Here is an excerpt, from Father John De Marchi, I.M.C., (*The Crusade of Fatima*, English translation, P.J. Kenedy & Sons, New York, 1948, pp. 168-171):

FJ: According to the text of the secret, Our Lady said: 'I shall come to ask for the Consecration of Russia to My Immaculate Heart and the Communion of Reparation on the First Saturdays.' Has She truly come to ask for the consecration?

SL: Yes.

FJ: Did Our Lady in Her apparition of 1925 speak of the Consecration of Russia to Her Immaculate Heart?

SL: No.

FJ: Then, when did that apparition take place?

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SL: In 1929.

FJ: Where did it happen?

SL: At Tuy, while in the chapel.

FJ: What did Our Lady ask?

SL: The Consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary by the Pope, in union with all the bishops of the world.

FJ: Did She ask for the consecration of the world?

SL: No.

FJ: Did you inform the Bishop of Leiria about Our Lady's desires?

SL: Yes, in 1929 I transmitted Our Lady's desire to my confessors, the Reverend Joseph Gonçalves and the Reverend Francisco Rodrigues. Father Rodrigues told me to write it, gave a full account of it to the Bishop of Leiria, and had it brought to the attention of the Holy Father, Pius XI.

In the letter which I wrote by order of my spiritual directors to the Holy Father in 1940 (Pius XII), I exposed the exact request of Our Lady. I also asked for the consecration of the world with a special mention of Russia. The exact request of Our Lady was that the Holy Father consecrate Russia to Her Immaculate Heart, ordering that this be made at the same time and in union with him by all the bishops of the Catholic world.

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Here is an excerpt from an interview of Sister Lucia by American writer William Thomas Walsh (in *Our Lady of Fatima*, The Macmillan Company, New York, 1947, pp. 223-227).

"Lucia made it plain that Our Lady did not ask for the consecration of *the world* to Her Immaculate Heart. What She demanded specifically was the Consecration of *Russia*. She did not comment, of course, on the fact that Pope Pius XII had consecrated the world, not Russia, to the Immaculate Heart in 1942. But she said more than once, and with deliberate emphasis:

*"What Our Lady wants is that the Pope and all the bishops in the world shall consecrate Russia to Her Immaculate Heart on one special day. If this is done, She will convert Russia, and there will be peace. If it is not done, the errors of Russia will spread through every country in the world."*

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In an interview with American Father McGlynn, we have the following excerpts (from Thomas McGlynn, O.P., *Vision of Fatima*, Little, Brown and Company, Boston, 1949, pp. 78, 79, 80, 91):

In order to have this central passage of the Revelations of Fatima accurate I asked Father Gardiner to read, phrase by phrase, a printed text which I had, for her approval or correction.

When he read "In order to stop it I ask for the consecration of the world..." Lucia stopped him. He recalls, "Irma Dores (Lucia) was emphatic in making the correction about Russia. 'No!' she said, 'not the world! Russia! Russia!'" (pages 78, 79, 80)

"Our Lady commanded that the Holy Father consecrate Russia to Her Immaculate Heart and that he command all the bishops to do it also in union with him at the same time." (page 91)

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In the book *Il Pellegrinaggio Della Meraviglie*, published under the auspices of the Italian Episcopate (Rome 1960, page 440) a little-known revelation of Our Lady of Fatima to Sister Lucia is recounted. The Virgin Mary appeared to Sister Lucia in May, 1952 and said: "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."

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Father Umberto Maria Pasquale, S.D.B., had known Sister Lucia since 1939. Up to 1982, he had received 157 letters from her. On May 12, 1982, Father Umberto wrote in *L'Osservatore Romano* (the Pope's own newspaper) that Our Lady of Fatima never asked for the consecration of the world but only of Russia.

On August 5, 1978, he asked her in person, "Has Our Lady ever spoken to you about the consecration of the world to Her Immaculate Heart? And Sister Lucia replied, "NO, Father Umberto, NEVER! At the Cova da Iria in 1917, Our Lady promised: 'I shall come to ask for the Consecration of Russia...'"

Father Umberto, wanting a written reply to his question, then wrote Sister Lucia a letter. On April 13, 1980, Sister Lucia

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wrote back: "In replying to your question, I will clarify: Our Lady of Fatima, in Her request, only referred to the Consecration of Russia..." A copy of the pertinent section of Sister Lucia's handwritten note is reproduced below.

J + M.  
Bom. do Senhor F. Francisco  
Respondendo à sua pergunta  
ta esclarecer:  
Vossa Senhora, em Fátima, vir  
seu pedido, só se refere a coisa  
grava da Rússia.  
...  
vinte e treze 13 IV-1986  
S. Lucia