

CONSECRATION AND FATIMA

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The soul and essence of the Message of Fatima is the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This maternal heart revealed its secrets at Fatima, showing the little shepherds the wonders of God's love and mercy. Through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the Fatima seers experienced the mystery of God and were immersed in God as in an infinite ocean of love. The light that came out of the Immaculate Heart of Mary was God himself and in this light they could see themselves as in the best of mirrors. Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco contemplated the mystery of the Most Blessed Trinity, receiving a special understanding of God's nature, and at the same time were able to receive a special understanding of their own nature, of their own conscience. This was necessary to prepare the children for their mission on earth.

On June 13, 1929, the Immaculate Heart of Mary appeared to Sister Lucia at Tuy, Spain, as Our Lady had promised her on July 13, 1917, to remind us of the practice of the First Saturday's devotion and the consecration to her Immaculate Heart as the two providential means offered to the modern world to achieve peace and salvation of numerous sinners.

While Sister Lucia adored the Blessed Sacrament at midnight, the Most Holy Trinity appeared to her accompanied by the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Lucia received lights about this mystery that she was not allowed to reveal. Our Lady said: "The moment has come when God asks the Holy Father, in union with all the Bishops of the world, to make the consecration of Russia to my Immaculate Heart, promising to save it by this means."

By the word "consecration" is meant "entrustment". Our Lady requested the entrustment of Russia and the world to her Immaculate Heart. Those nations in most need of God's mercy must be entrusted to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. God has confided peace and the salvation of poor sinners to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The fate of the world is in her maternal Heart.

Pope John Paul II, the Great, understood better than anyone else the significance of this Apparition of Tuy. In his coat of arms you can find the motto: "Totus Tuus" (All yours, Mary), taken from St. Bernard's act of consecration to our Blessed Mother. So, the beloved Holy Father, Blessed John Paul II, proceeded to entrust the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, with a special mention of Russia and of those nations in most need of God's mercy, that is, in most need of conversion. The entrustment took place at St. Peter's Square on March 25, 1984 in union with the vast majority of the Catholic Bishops of the world (even Orthodox Bishops were united with the pope's act). This was the collegial consecration requested by Our Lady of Fatima in her apparition at Tuy, and its effects at a crucial moment in history were incommensurable: The fall of the Berlin wall, the fall of the Soviet atheistic empire, the opening of the countries under the Iron Curtain to faith and religion, to the Church and to Evangelization — all in a peaceful manner! Indeed, the Great Miracle of the twentieth century occurred, the new Marian Lepanto, prophesied by St. John Bosco, precursor of Fatima.

Of course, those who do not have faith cannot accept God's intervention in history. But there is not a better explanation for these qualitative changes in the socio-political scenario than the fulfilment of God's promise of salvation to His people through His beloved Mother.

To entrust our person, our family, our nation, our world to God through the Immaculate Heart of Mary is to prepare ourselves to offer God our being and possessions, all that we were, are and will be, our virtues and our sins, our strengths and our weaknesses, in an oblation of love, imitating Jesus Christ who totally gave himself to the Eternal Father at the Cross. We become true disciples and Apostles of Jesus following Mary's steps. Entrustment is the most important spiritual lesson in Fatima. To repair the damage caused by sin we have to offer ourselves to the Good Lord, we have to become other John's, other beloved disciples that will restore God's majesty and glory diminished by the sins of the world. We will repair the offences against His Love and the terrible damage against the Mystical Body of Christ, the Church that suffers and bleeds so much for so many of her children! This is the infinite spiritual power of ENTRUSTMENT based on Christ's merits, the superabundant treasures of GRACE AND MERCY mentioned in the Apparition of Tuy. Through His Passion, Death on the Cross and Resurrection, and through our collaboration and participation in His grace and mercy, our souls will be loved by God in a special way, with a love of predilection.

On June 13th, 1917, Our Lady of Fatima said to Lucia: "Jesus wishes to use you in making me known and loved. He wishes to spread in the world the devotion to my Immaculate Heart. I promise salvation to those who embrace this devotion, and those souls will be loved by God, like flowers placed by me to adorn His throne. My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and the way that will lead you to God." So it will be for us too! Let us entrust ourselves and all we care for to the Immaculate Heart of Mary! The world is fragile. We must hand it over to the Heart of our spiritual Mother; we must confide our fate and that of humanity to Divine Providence.

The statue of the Immaculate Heart of Mary at Fatima has a globe hanging on a chain from her neck just below her heart. It symbolizes the world and its fate "entrusted" to her maternal heart. It is a perpetual reminder to her and to us: Do not be afraid. Our fate is "entrusted" to her maternal heart. And the heart of a mother is the safest place to be for a little child.

Those who do not believe that the petition of Our Lady of Fatima was answered by Blessed John Paul II, when he consecrated Russia and the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, on March 25, 1984, at St. Peter's Square, are either lacking trust in God's mercy or ignorant of the facts accomplished by this consecration. As this consecration was duly made, the Soviet Union collapsed a short time afterwards without the shedding of blood; Eastern Europe was opened to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Berlin Wall broken down, making possible the re-unification of Germany. All of these events are signs of the beginning of the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary announced at Fatima. Indeed, the real possibility of a terrible nuclear world war was prevented with the cessation of the Cold War. In the years 1986-1987, a nuclear war was close to begin according to secret documents made public by intelligence agencies of the West and East. Finally, all the major events leading up to the collapse of the Soviet Union occurred on Marian Feasts days:

1. August 22, 1991: Feast of the Queenship of Mary: The attempt to overthrow President Mikhail Gorbachev failed. The Communist Party had sealed its fate after three days of a military take over; three days of confusion and despair in which the forces of the hard core atheistic Communists confronted the forces of grandmothers and young citizens, ending in the collapse of their attempt.
2. December 8, 1991: Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary: It was announced that the Commonwealth of Independent States will replace the USSR.

3. December 25, 1991: Solemnity of the Birth of Jesus Christ, Christmas Day: The Presidents of Russia, Ukraine and Byelorussia announced the formal dissolution of the Soviet Union. The greatest joy in the life of Our Blessed Mother, her giving birth to her only Son, is celebrated on the feast of the Nativity!

4. January 1, 1992: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, a principal Marian feast in the liturgical calendar: Russia emerges as an independent state, open to religious freedom, public cult and religious practices. The Soviet Union of Marxist and atheistic republics is dead. The new Commonwealth of Independent States recognizes the independence and sovereignty of the former Soviet republics.

The four major dates of the historical changes that ended an era are marked by the presence of Mary, according to God's will, the Lord of History! Blessed John Paul II was a wonderful instrument in the hands of God to comply with the requests of Our Lady of Fatima and her prophesy on the triumph of her Immaculate Heart: "The Holy Father will consecrate Russia to me, and she will be converted, and a period of peace will be granted to the world."

As humanity is free to accept God's will or to reject it, we must say that the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary is directly proportional to the response to grace and mercy from her children. Grace and mercy are granted but we must accept them or else the promised triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary may be delayed or hastened, diminished or expanded, according to our generosity and faith! If we do not enjoy now absolute peace in the world it is because a war that should never have started, as was advised by Blessed John Paul II, was carried on nevertheless. But, it must be accepted that these limited wars in our world are nothing when compared to the terrible destruction of a global nuclear war that was indeed prevented!

Meanwhile we must all be thankful to the Good Lord for his great intervention in history at the end of the twentieth century, a true new Marian Lepanto. Peace was granted for us to accept it and work to construct it. We must collaborate with God's graces! Instead of doubting the authenticity of the 1984 collegial consecration of Russia and the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, we must increase our faith, hope and charity to extend the Kingdom of God on earth by encouraging all to know and live the authentic requests of the Message of Fatima: Daily meditation of five mysteries of the Holy Rosary; sanctification of our daily duties; consecration to God through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and the Communion of Reparation of the consecutive Five First Saturday's of the month.

At his request, Pope Francis' petrine ministry was consecrated to Our Lady of Fatima by Cardinal Polycarpo, Patriarch of Lisbon and all the bishops of Portugal, at the shrine of Fatima, on 13 May 2013.

Then, on October 12, 2013 he will celebrate the Marian Day at St. Peter's Square, "a new Marian Pentecost for Marian Associations pertaining to the Pontifical Council for the Laity" to focus on the New Evangelization of the world as the most important mission of the Universal Church". Then, on Sunday 13, 2013, the Holy Father will renew the consecration of the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary before the original statue of Our Lady of Fatima brought from the Little Chapel of Apparitions at the Fatima Shrine. This renewal of the entrustment of the fate of the Church and the world to God's grace and mercy, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, will occur on the 96th anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun at Fatima. It is very important for the Church to renew this spiritual ephemerides with great faith calling to conversion all in most need of God's mercy!

What is still missing is our total correspondence with God's grace, our absolute self-donation in the service of God; our dynamic action to make other people know and live the Message of Fatima in their own lives! Let us be brave and acknowledge our own faults! After all, the world will not be saved without our own collaboration! The act of consecration to God through the Immaculate Heart of Mary symbolizes the will of the Church and of all human beings of good will to come closer to God, to accept His laws and commandments in their own lives. There is no magic in the words of the consecration. What we must seek is that the words of the consecration will be a reality in our own lives! Then, and only then, will we experience the Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in its full splendor! Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, Queen of Peace, pray for us!