

Listen to Your Mother:

Why does Rome fiddle while the world burns?

The following is an edited transcript of the speech given by Michael Matt at the **Consecration Now!** Conference in May 2011. The author has added to this text some material he had prepared to use at the Conference.

Your Excellencies, Reverend Fathers, Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

It is indeed an honor for me to be here in Rome, the Eternal City, among so many renowned Fatima experts, priests and laymen, who've dedicated their lives not only to spreading the Fatima Message but also to promoting the cult of Our Lady as the answer to what Pope Paul VI termed the "auto-demolition of the Catholic Church."

I stand before you not as a Fatima expert so much as a Catholic publisher from America who spends his days combing newspapers, websites and magazines for some glimmer of hope that the silent apostasy lamented so bitterly by Pope John Paul II is giving way to a new springtime in the Church and a period of peace in our time.

Alas, I search in vain, as I can find no evidence of the advent of that springtime but rather only that of the rise of a ruthless regime of relativism that paves the way for a New World Order – one founded not on the Rights of God but on the Rights of Man, and based entirely on a rebellion against God, His Law, His Commandments, even His gift of life itself.

This rebellion is nothing new. As far back as 1903, Pope St. Pius X, the greatest Pope of the 20th Century, was already warning against it:

"When all is considered, there is good reason to fear lest this great perversity (rebellion against God) may be a foretaste and perhaps the beginning of those evils which are reserved for the last days, and that there may already be in the world the

'Son of Perdition' of whom the Apostle speaks (II Thess. ii, 3). Such, in truth, is the audacity and the wrath employed everywhere in persecuting religion, in combating the dogmas of the faith, in resolute efforts to uproot and destroy all relations between man and the Divinity. While, on the other hand, and this according to the same Apostle is the distinguishing mark of Antichrist, 'man has with infinite temerity put himself in the place of God', raising himself above all that is called God; in such wise that although he cannot utterly extinguish in himself all knowledge of God, he has nevertheless condemned God's majesty and, as it were, made of the universe a temple wherein he himself is to be adored. 'He sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself as if he were God.' (II Thess. ii, 4)" (*E Supremi Apostolatus*, Pius X, 1903)

It would be impossible to measure the extent to which the faithful Christian today is confronted by the diabolical designs of such men, those Christophobic purveyors of evil which Pope Benedict XVI describes as "the wolves" – wolves that encircle the flock of the Lord and are growing more audacious every day.

In Schools ...

The wolves devour the virtue, purity and goodness of little children, as they drag the innocents through their hellish muck of a godless indoctrination so pernicious that within just a few years the child becomes a stranger to his parents, his Church, even himself. It's common now for children to soon thereafter become suicidal, faithless, drug addicted, and wanting in every way that matters.

In the Family ...

Where the wolves feed on the very nucleus of society, redefining marriage, reversing gender roles, encouraging divorce and infidelity, raising sodomy – one of the four great sins that cry to Heaven for vengeance – to the level of a secular sacrament on a par with holy matrimonial union and contract.

In the Halls of Government ...

Where the wolves deny the Rights of God, silence His voice, establish laws "legalizing" the slaughter of millions of His little ones, while criminalizing as "haters" those few who dare object to the State's all-out war against God and Natural Law.

In Pop Culture ...

Where with bloodied fangs the wolves are tearing the little ones to pieces, and dragging their mauled souls into an endless living hell.

In the airport on my way to Rome yesterday, for example, I heard a new song by the pop star Rihanna – idol to tens of millions of ten-year-olds the world over. Her song is called “S&M” and it repeats the following lyric over and over again: “Sticks and stones may break my bones but whips and chains excite me.”

Just one more sordid scrap of evidence pointing to a cultural collapse without precedent in human history. The wolves market their depravity to children – *babies*, really! – and yet remain protected under our laws of freedom of expression and speech to carry on without reproach or reprisal.

One can only tremble at the thought of the eternal ramifications of all this – especially when recalling Our Lady of Fatima’s words: “More souls go to hell for sins of the flesh than for any other reason.”

Confronted with this global war against morality and sanity, we look to our churches for sanctuary but find that the wolves have already been

there. After the nuclear winter of Vatican II, the ravenous ones left our sanctuaries bulldozed, our traditions cast out in the cold, and many of our pastors jailed.

The widespread scandal of so many bad priests discourages resolve, weakens faith and severely tests perseverance. Everywhere there is apostasy and despair, as faith, like charity, grows cold.

And so this week, summoned by the voice of a lone priest crying in the wilderness, we have made our way here to Rome, through a gauntlet teeming with those same wolves, to join Father Nicholas Gruner at the feet of the Holy Father, asking on bended knee that the requests of the Queen of Peace be fulfilled and thereby the process of true peace be initiated at last. Our cities are dying, our children are lost, our old people are displaced, our priests are disappearing, our nuns are all but gone, our churches and schools are closed down, our faith hangs by a thread – ***What, Holy Father, are we waiting for?***

At Cana Our Lord Himself taught us how to respond to the wishes of His Mother. His first miracle, let us not forget, was done at Her behest. With

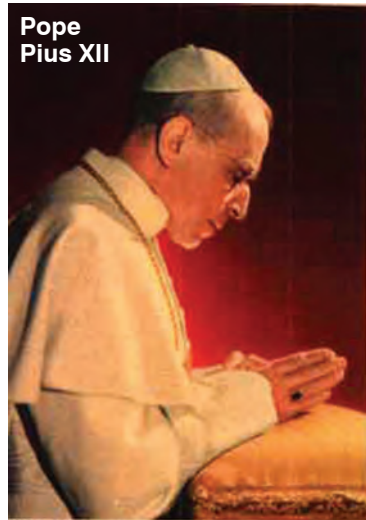
confidence that it would be done because She wanted it done, She told the stewards, simply: *Do whatever He tells you.* Even Our Lord Himself bows to Her will. And yet we refuse to follow His example, even in the face of world war and the loss of faith in entire generations, entire countries. Why?

"The time for doubting Fatima is past", Pius XII said over 60 years ago. "It is now the time for action."

Our Lady's peace plan is our last hope. If anyone here can think of another plan to stop the advance of this New Order and to keep man from blowing up the rest of the world, please stand up. There is nothing else. Everything has been tried, and everything has failed.

And yet the excuses for ignoring Our Lady's request abound, especially from the intellectual elite who solemnly assure us that "Fatima is mere private revelation". Never mind that it was approved for the universal Church as a message of divine origin by six successive Popes. It's still private, and we can thus ignore it in good conscience.

Père Joseph de Sainte-Marie pointed to the folly of



Pope Pius XII

this attitude when he wrote: "It is for the Pope to discern whether the words of the prophet are of God. But once he has judged and recognized that a given prophecy is indeed from God, then he must obey, not as obeying the prophet but as obeying God whose instrument the prophet is ... that is why ... it is the duty of the Pope and the bishops to obey Our Lady and to fulfill the demands She made at Fatima."

As far as the Popes and Fatima are concerned, let us consider the facts:

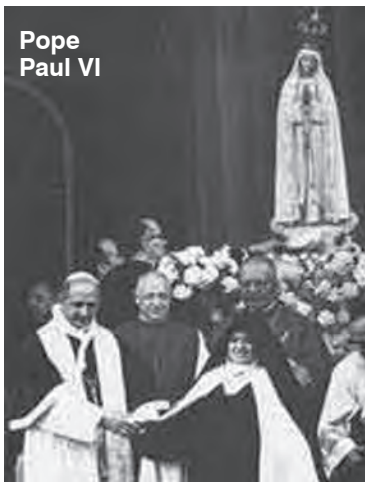
Pope Pius XI

His pontificate was drawing to a close as the full details of the Fatima/Tuy phenomenon were emerging. He

was nevertheless informed in 1937 of Our Lady's request that he lead the collegial Consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. For whatever reason, he didn't do it, and quickly thereafter the corpses of millions of victims of communist and socialist regimes were strewn across Europe. No Pope would ignore Fatima again.

Pope Pius XII

In 1946, the Holy Father crowned a statue of Our Lady of Fatima and proclaimed Her Mother of the World. In 1954, he issued his encyclical *Ad Coeli Reginam*, in which he commanded that an Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary be made annually in every par-



Pope Paul VI

ish of the world on the Feast of the Queenship of Mary – a request that went largely ignored, just as *Summorum Pontificum* is being largely ignored in our own day.

Pope John XXIII

“Good Pope John,” who among the modern Popes may have been the least enthusiastic about the Fatima Message, yet instituted the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary and hailed the Fatima apparitions as the “Center of all Christian Hope.”

Pope Paul VI

In the presence of all the Council Fathers at Vatican II, Pope Paul VI solemnly renewed Pius XII's consecration of the world to Mary's Immaculate Heart. And in 1967, he journeyed as a “humble pilgrim” to Fatima to commemorate the golden jubilee of the apparitions.

Pope John Paul I

John Paul I reigned only 33 days but did, as Cardinal Luciani, interview Sister Lucy and asked whether Our Lady would be pleased if a Pilgrim Virgin statue were to be carried through Italy – a journey which had already begun shortly before the Pontiff's untimely death.

Pope John Paul II

And then there is Pope John Paul II who did more to raise the profile of the apparitions at Fatima than perhaps any other Pope. On May 13, 1982, after acknowledging Our Lady's role in saving his life from an assassin's bullet, Pope John Paul II noted the following in a sermon here in Rome: "The Message of Fatima contains a truth and a call whose basic content is the truth and the call of the Gospel itself. The appeal of the Lady of the Message of Fatima is so deeply rooted in the Gospel and the whole of Tradition that the Church feels that the message imposes an obligation on her. The evangelical call to repentance and conversion, uttered in the Mother's message, remains ever relevant. It is still more relevant than it was 65 years ago. It is still more urgent."

Pope Benedict XVI

Just last year, the current Holy Father visited Fatima again and spoke of how its prophecy is to be fulfilled at some point still in the future – thus opening the Fatima controversy wide once again, much to the consternation of the opponents of Fatima here in Rome. Like his predeces-



Pope John Paul II

sors, Pope Benedict made a papal pilgrimage to Fatima where he knelt and prayed before the statue of Our Lady of Fatima at the place where She first appeared back in 1917. Benedict's visit in May of 2010 marked the fifth papal visit to Fatima, the previous visit having occurred nine years earlier when Pope John Paul II visited Fatima for the purpose of beatifying two of the seers – Blesseds Jacinta and Francisco Marto.

Quite obviously, Père Joseph de Sainte-Marie's conditions have been met: "Every one of the modern Popes have discerned, judged and recognized that the Fatima Message and prophecy are indeed from God, thus establishing the obligation to obey Our Lady and to fulfill the demands She made at Fatima."

Mere private revelation? I

think we can move past that particularly lame excuse for ignoring the demands of Our Lady of Fatima.

So why, then, after so much papal acknowledgment of the divine hand and absolute authenticity of the Message of Our Lady of Fatima, do we still await the fulfillment of the Mother of God's request to consecrate Russia to Her Immaculate Heart? Nearly a century has passed, and one can only imagine how Our Lady must weep for us! She is, after all, the one whose intercession was acknowledged by saints and Popes alike as having rescued Europe from the Islamic scourge twice before; the Woman "clothed with the sun" whose intercession is credited with having stopped Communism at the gates of Brazil; the Mother whose intercession is credited with having saved the life of the Holy Father himself; the great intercessor who is said to be holding back the avenging arm of Her Son in the face of universal apostasy. Why do they make Her wait when it is She who holds in Her hands the power to save the world?

The Real Reason

Why Russia? "In May of 1936, Sister Lucy asked Our Lord Himself the same ques-

tion – why is Russia the sole object of the requested consecration and why must it be made by the Pope, united with all the bishops of the world, on the same day, each in his own cathedral in a solemn ceremony?

In His answer, Our Lord gives us the key to our own deliverance: "Because I want My whole Church to recognize that Consecration as a triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, so that later on My Church will place devotion to My Mother's Immaculate Heart beside devotion to My Sacred Heart."

So, from this can we conclude that it's not Russia per se anymore, the Cold War having ended, even if Communism in China and elsewhere is still alive and well? As with the consecration of France to the Sacred Heart of Jesus by the King of France a few centuries earlier, it is the act of obedience that is wanting – an act of obedience that will signal a faith restored in the people of God; an act of obedience that will be possible only if and when men finally come to realize that their deliverance can come from God, and God alone. It is not for us to reason why, for that is God's busi-

ness. Why Russia? Ask Him! The point is, Our Lady said Russia, and it's up to us to do whatever She tells us.

But for progressives in the Church today this moment, this realization, has not yet come. Fatima, with all of its emphasis on obedience to God and His Mother, no longer resonates with them. Besides, Fatima is all about humility, prayer, penance and getting down on our knees like little children, begging for help since we can no longer help ourselves – all of which smacks of tradition and the “pious sentiments” of yesterday they're still busy trying to eradicate from our schools, sanctuaries, and living memory itself.

Furthermore, a Consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart may upset their dialogue partners, and could even reverse “progress” down the path to a world peace based on diversity and ecumenism. Never mind that this progress is wholly illusory thus far, and that the ecumenical outreach of which they're so proud hasn't brought one moment of peace to the world, but has served to confuse the faithful and compromise the moral authority of the Church.

Besides, a Consecration of Russia, we are told, would threaten diplomatic relations with the Orthodox. Really? How so? Orthodox Russians have a thousand-year history of devotion to the Mother of God. Why would they be offended by a Consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary? And as for secularist Russia – would her political leaders not regard such a consecration by the Bishop of Rome as little more than a quaint throwback to a bygone era?

No, something more sinister must be at work.

Enter Cardinal Oddi

So what is it, then? What is the impediment that not only prevents our shepherds from complying with Our Lady's requests but also drives them to such preposterous lengths trying to justify their failure to obey?

Cardinal Oddi of happy memory offered a hypothesis that is not only plausible but quite probable. His contention was that it's the dismal failure of Vatican II itself that Our Lady was targeting at Fatima.

In April of 1990, Lucio Brunelli of *30 Days* magazine asked Silvio Cardinal Oddi if the Third Secret had

something to do with the developments in the USSR at the time – that perhaps the Virgin Mary had prophesied and mysteriously guided Mikhail Gorbachev’s plan of *perestroika*: “Are you also of this opinion?,” Brunelli asked.

Cardinal Silvio Oddi: No, on the contrary, I remain very skeptical. I believe I knew John XXIII quite well, since I spent a number of years at his side when he was at the nunciature in Paris. If the Secret had concerned realities consoling for the Church like the conversion of Russia or the religious rebirth of Eastern Europe, I believe that he would have brought pressure to bear to make the Secret public.

But when I asked him during an audience why in 1960, when the obligation to keep the Secret secret had come to an end, he had not made public the last part of the message of Fatima, he responded with a weary sigh. He then said: “Don’t bring that subject up with me, please ...” What happened in 1960 that might have been seen in connection with the Secret of Fatima? The most important event is without a doubt the launching of the preparatory phase of the Second Vatican

Council. Therefore I would not be surprised if the Secret had something to do with the convocation of Vatican II...

Why do you say that?

Cardinal Oddi: From the attitude Pope John showed during our conversation I deduced – but it is only a hypothesis – that the Secret might contain a part that could have a rather unpleasant ring to it. John XXIII had convened the Council with the precise intention of directing the forces of the Church toward the solution of the problems that concern all of humanity, beginning from within.

But we all know that, despite the great merits of the



**Cardinal
Oddi**

Council, many sad things have also taken place in conjunction with the Council. I am thinking, for example, of the number of priests who have abandoned the priesthood: it is said that there have been 80,000.

But one only has to recall the anguish with which Pope Paul VI, in 1968, cried out against the "autodemolition" taking place in the Church ... Or his dramatic homily on June 29, 1972: "We believed that after the Council would come a day of sunshine in the history of the Church. But instead there has come a day of clouds and storms, and of darkness ... And how did this come about? We will confide to you the thought that may be, we ourselves admit in free discussion, that may be unfounded, and that is that there has been a power, an adversary power. Let us call him by his name: the devil."

And again: "It is as if from some mysterious crack, no, it is not mysterious, from some crack the smoke of Satan has entered the temple of God."

And what is your assessment of all this?

Cardinal Oddi: "I would not be surprised if the Third Secret alluded to dark times for the Church: grave confu-

sions and *troubling apostasies* within Catholicism itself ... If we consider the grave crisis we have lived through since the Council, the signs that this prophecy has been fulfilled do not seem to be lacking ..."

Now, we're getting to the heart of the problem.

Prophets of Doom

The subtitle to my talk today is: "Why does Rome fiddle while the world burns?" Even as Nero's famous fire in this very city was rumored to have been of his own setting, could it be that Cardinal Oddi is hinting that the reason Fatima is problematic for the modernist contingent in the Church today is that it speaks of arson – of an apostasy, as Cardinal Oddi put it – a fire set by their own hand? A fire that razed the old ramparts of Christendom. A fire whose smoke entered the sanctuary of the Catholic Church. A fire which represents the errors of Russia's advancement by having attached themselves like smoldering barnacles to the barque of Peter itself, just above the waterline.

Remember those famous "prophets of doom" targeted so specifically by Pope John XXIII at the opening of the Second Vatican Council on

October 11, 1962? "We feel that we must disagree with these prophets of doom, who are always forecasting worse disasters, as though the end of the world were at hand."

"If people attend to My requests," Our Lady of Fatima said, "Russia will be converted and the world will have peace. If not, Russia will spread its errors throughout the world fomenting wars and persecution of the Church. The good will be martyred, the Holy Father will have much to suffer, various nations will be annihilated."

Is Our Lady Herself one of Pope John's "prophets of doom"? The Lady who showed the children of Fatima a vision of Hell (which far from empty, was very much filled with the souls of the damned), gave the world a message that flies directly in the face of the *aggiornamento* of the New Springtime crowd at Vatican II.

Is that the problem? 
(Continued Next Issue)

Author's Note: This talk contains a number of references to the Fatima saga that first appeared in the late, great Hamish Fraser's *Approaches* magazine decades ago. We credit Hamish for his insights and prophetic observations, and ask God to grant eternal rest to that lion of the old Faith, if, indeed, He has not already long since done so. *MJM*



*Dear Rev. Father Gruner,
Staff and Volunteers,*

Congratulations on *The Fatima Crusader* Commemorative 100th Issue. May God bless your perseverance in this work and may our Holy Father be gifted the grace to, indeed, and very soon consecrate Russia to Our Blessed Lady's Immaculate Heart.

Last year I wrote to the Holy Father and begged him to be the one Pope that would finally consecrate Russia as requested at Fatima in 1917. I received a reply from his representative in Eastern Canada with a photo of Pope Benedict XVI – but *no* direct reference to the Consecration. Even the Nuncio here in Canada is somewhat "mum".

It truly is frightening for the whole world that we are indeed being silenced by Russia and its atheistic Communism. Our Blessed Lady's prophecy is, unfortunately, being fulfilled. May God have mercy on us all.

We cannot give up our prayers and sacrifices, especially for our children and youth, and all mankind in general. Yours in J.M.J.,

V. B. - Alberta