

Fatima's Prophetic Truth More Urgent and Necessary Than Ever

by Father Nicholas Gruner, S.T.L., S.T.D. (Cand.)

The Kingdom of God, which is the Holy Roman Catholic and Apostolic Church, is compared by Our Lord to a field in which seeds are sown. The farmer and his helpers sow good seed in anticipation of a bountiful harvest, but while they are sleeping an enemy enters the field and sows bad seed. The good seed springs up, but is often choked out by the weeds.

“Dangers Threatening the Faith”

This is the situation in the Catholic Church today. The good seed – the Faith of all time, the seed of the Word Incarnate – has been sown in the hearts of the faithful by baptism, and by the sound doctrine and dogma handed down by the Apostles in Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. This “Deposit of the Faith” is explained and defined by the dogmatic definitions of the twenty dogmatic Ecumenical Councils of the

Church before the year 1960 – a very fateful year for the Church and the world, as the Third Secret of Fatima warns.

Since the Second Vatican Council, which had been announced in 1959 – the year before the Secret was to have been revealed by order of the Blessed Virgin Mary, but was suppressed instead – the devil and his fallen angel cohorts have managed to sow bad seed in the field of the Church, just as the parable foretells.

They have done so by infiltration, employing human followers of various ranks and commitment to the devil's ends. Unfaithful priests and bishops – how the world delights in the spectacle! – have brought public scandal to the Church.

What We Must Believe to Save Our Souls

Over the past half-century, the hearts and minds of many who still consider themselves the faithful the world over have been corrupted by ideas,

St. Paul teaches us in Sacred Scripture that when a false idea or teaching reaches a critical level of acceptance among members of the Church, a party or faction will emerge around it. He warns against schisms in the Church, whose effects are disastrous locally and even universally.



attitudes and desires which are contrary to the Gospel and to the dogmas, doctrines, practices and observances that make up the fullness of the Catholic Faith.

We know from Sacred Scripture that God's revelations to mankind, the Deposit of Faith of all the truths He revealed for our salvation, are not to be found only in the Bible.

St. John's Gospel teaches: "But there are also many other things which Jesus did, which, if they were written, every

one, the world itself, I think, would not be able to contain the books that should be written." (John 21:25)

St. Paul tells the Corinthians: "And the rest I will set in order when I come." (1 Cor. 11:34)

Obviously, the entire Deposit of Faith is not written in the Bible. Pope Leo XIII points out that if the Fathers of the Church agree unanimously on a certain point, it is because they learned it from the Apostles. Thus, the unanimous teaching of the Fathers binds

us all to believe that teaching is a part of the Deposit of Revelation – even if it is not in the Bible itself. Thus, that teaching is part of Sacred Tradition.

To be precise, Sacred Tradition, with a capital T, means all the truths that God has revealed to us in a supernatural manner but are not found explicitly in Sacred Scripture. As the First Vatican Council declared definitively, citing the Council of Trent: “supernatural revelation, according to the belief of the universal Church, as declared by the sacred council of Trent, is contained in written books and unwritten traditions ...” – that is, the books of the Bible and the oral teaching of the Apostles handed down to us.

Thus the twin sources of authentic Revelation are the Holy Bible and Sacred Tradition.

Church Duty to Preserve and Pass on the Deposit of Faith

It is the duty of the Church to preserve and pass on to each generation the Sacred Deposit of Faith, that is, to pass on all the Sacred Scriptures – the Bible – as well as all Sacred Tradition, whole and entire with no mixture of falsehood in it.

The role of the Catholic Church’s Magisterium (from

the Latin word *magister*, meaning “teacher”) is to explain what the Bible and Tradition mean. It is not the role of the Magisterium to reveal new doctrine, as the First Vatican Council teaches infallibly.

Nor is every word that comes from a Pope or a Council part of the Magisterium, but only that teaching is bound to be believed which is solemnly defined by the Extraordinary Magisterium or which is taught by the Ordinary and Universal Magisterium.

But the Catholic religion is not merely a set of truths to be believed, as vital as these are for salvation. It is also a great ensemble of received and approved practices, devotions and observances – above all, the received and approved rite of Mass in Latin, whose origins go all the way back to the Apostles themselves. Hence, for example, Pope Pius IV prescribed a profession of Faith which declares: “It behooves us unanimously and inviolably to observe the ecclesiastical traditions, whether codified or simply retained by *the customary practice* of the Church.”

These “ecclesiastical traditions” support, affirm and reinforce belief in the revealed truths that are necessary for

our salvation. Communion on the tongue while kneeling, for example, affirms and reinforces belief in the Real Presence of Our Lord in the Holy Eucharist. So, to be good Catholics and to properly practice our Catholic religion, we must believe with our heart and profess with our tongue all of the Catholic Faith – which consists of all the truths that God has revealed to us in the Deposit of Faith, on the one hand, and to observe all the practices and observances handed down through the centuries which surround and protect those truths, on the other hand.

Belief in the Eucharistic Presence of Christ Threatened

To tamper with the latter in the name of “reform” or “updating” of the Church is to threaten the adherence of the faithful to the former: *lex orandi, lex credendi* – the law of prayer is the law of belief. Hence, if one wishes to undermine belief in the Real Presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist, one need only give the appearance of “authorizing” Communion in the hand, passing out the consecrated Hosts as if they were pieces of mere bread, rather than what they actually are: the most sacred

and precious Objects on earth.

Now, some of the Catholic faithful, praying the Rosary daily as Our Lady of Fatima requested again and again, have seen the danger to Tradition – to our Faith – and have been more successful in immunizing their hearts, minds and wills from “the smoke of Satan” – *the very words of Pope Paul VI* concerning what he saw invading the Church after the Second Vatican Council. It was then that both the truths of revelation and the practices and observances surrounding them were already under fierce attack. But many other members of the Church have not been so fortunate.

As St. Paul teaches us in Sacred Scripture, when a false idea or teaching reaches a critical level of acceptance among members of the Church, a party or faction will emerge around it. His epistle to the members of the Church at Corinth is precisely a warning against factions or schisms in the Church whose effects are disastrous locally, and even universally.

A Lesson for Today From the Past

The most famous example in Church history of an error being accepted as truth through-

out most of the Catholic world is the Arian crisis, during which Saint Athanasius almost singlehandedly held onto the Catholic Faith whole and entire and successfully passed it on to future generations, while some *ninety percent* of the bishops had fallen into the error of Arianism, which denied the true divinity of Christ.

St. Athanasius was even “excommunicated” for a time by Pope Liberius in 357 A.D. Yet it is St. Athanasius who was shown to be in the right and is today proclaimed a Doctor of the Church and a canonized Saint, while Pope Liberius was the first Pope from 33 A.D. until 357 A.D., an age filled with martyr-popes, *not* to be canonized.

The Church Divided

Today, we see the Church divided on a scale similar to that of the Arian crisis, but over much more than one divine truth. We have modernists, neo-modernists, progressives, liberals, and deniers of papal infallibility or some other dogma or doctrine. Between them all, however, they either deny, or undermine, or soften, or abandon, almost every element of the Faith.

Pope Benedict XVI himself is forced to admit this. As he

declared in his homily just before the papal conclave that elected him:

How many winds of doctrine have we known in recent decades, how many ideological currents, how many ways of thinking ... [T]he thought of many Christians has often been tossed about by these waves – flung from one extreme to another: from Marxism to liberalism, even to libertinism; from collectivism to radical individualism; from atheism to a vague religious mysticism; from agnosticism to syncretism and so forth. Every day new sects spring up, and what St. Paul says about human deception and the trickery that strives to entice people into error (cf. Eph. 4:14) comes true.

Today, having a clear faith based on the Creed of the Church is often labeled as fundamentalism. Whereas relativism, that is, letting oneself be “tossed here and there, carried about by every wind of doctrine”, seems the only attitude that can cope with modern times. We are building a dictatorship of relativism that does not recognize anything as definitive and whose ultimate goal consists solely of one’s own ego and desires.¹

The people who generate these “winds of doctrine” and belittle adherence to the Creed as “fundamentalism” form a kind of loose and sometimes even unconscious alliance, to which they more or less adhere depending on how “conservative” or radical their strain of “progressive” Catholicism might be. The author of *False Friends of Fatima* refers to this alliance as “the party of the innovators.” Opposed to the party of the innovators is what the author calls the party of Tradition. These are simply Catholics who cling to the Faith whole and entire, for which the ultimate standard is the defined dogmas of the Church.

This means holding on to the *explanation* of those dogmas (and the rest of the Faith) by all the Popes and Councils who taught for 1,962 years before Vatican II. It means, as well, holding on to the traditional practices and customs of the Catholic Church, which reinforce belief in her doctrines and dogmas.

Souls Placed in Peril

In the midst of the present-day struggle for the salvation of souls, we see that many souls have been placed in peril by following various “winds

of doctrine” and modern attitudes. These departures from the Faith are often fostered by the very priests, bishops and Cardinals – some one-third of them, as a famous prophecy of the Book of the Apocalypse foretells² (Apoc. 12:3-4) – who are supposed to be their shepherds on the journey to eternal life.

In fact, those bad clergy are really the sowers of bad seed and the wolves in sheep’s clothing Our Lord warned would come. The victims of bad clergy are now enmeshed in sin; and even if they sense this, they cannot see how to escape from a mentality the Pope rightly describes as one “whose ultimate goal consists solely of one’s own ego and desires.” Contraception, abortion, and divorce are part of the web in which they are entangled. Yet, Jesus Christ is their Savior, Who could unentangle them if they would but completely accept His teaching and His gentle ways.

Do Not Follow the Dragon

So, two parties or camps have emerged in the Church since Vatican II: a vast party that has more or less departed from the Faith, like the vast majority of the bishops during the Arian crisis, and a minority

party that clings to it, like Saint Athanasius and his small remnant of Catholic faithful. And that is why Our Lady came to Fatima in 1917.

Pope John Paul II, speaking at Fatima before 500,000 pilgrims in 2000, declared before the whole Church that “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, and cast them to the earth’.*” (Ap. 12:4) In what many believe was a veiled indication of the true meaning of the Third Secret, the Pope was making an allusion to the work of the devil, who manages to corrupt some of the clergy by bad doctrine – in our time, Modernism, which the author of *False Friends of Fatima* explains – and bad morals.

The devil dragging down “a third of the stars of Heaven,” is traditionally understood to mean consecrated souls – religious, priests, bishops and Cardinals. The devil’s insidious influence, combined with the lack of a fervent prayer life, cause these clergy to fall, little by little, into an abyss of corruption, and then into heresy, schism and even outright apostasy. The scandals that,

consequently, have convulsed the Church in recent years need not be elaborated here.

We Must Oppose the False Friends of Fatima

This is why it is so necessary to be able to identify and oppose with truth what Christopher Ferrara’s new book calls “the false friends of Fatima.” For the Message of Fatima is a prophecy for our time, and the voice of prophecy is a guide, a vitally important guide, that the faithful *should not, must not* despise. As St. Paul teaches:

“Do not extinguish the spirit. Do not despise prophecy. Test all things and hold fast to that which is good.” (1 Thes. 5:19-21)

We Need Fatima’s Prophetic Guidance Today

Why does God send us prophets if we already have His revelation in the Bible and the teaching office of His Church? Saint Thomas Aquinas, the greatest of all the Doctors of the Church, explains:

The prophets who foretold the coming of Christ could not continue further than John, who with his finger pointed to Christ actually present. Nevertheless, as [Saint] Jerome says on this passage, “*This does not mean that there*

“For He shall be mocked and scourged, and spit upon; and after they have scourged Him, they shall put Him to death and the third day He shall rise again.” (Luke 18:32, 33)

Jacinta and Francisco grieved over the agony of Christ. It was their strong Faith and love for Jesus and Mary that sustained them during the threat of being boiled to death in oil.



were no more prophets after John. For we read in the Acts of the Apostles that Agabus and the four maidens, daughters of Philip, prophesied.”...

[A]t all times there have not been lacking persons having the spirit of prophecy, not indeed for the declaration of any new doctrine of faith, but for the direction of human acts.

Note well, Saint Thomas teaches that *at all times* God sends prophets, not to announce new doctrines, but to *direct human acts*. This is necessary because the Church is

constantly under attack by the devil, who corrupts Judases among the clergy and the laity – and there but for the grace of God go any one of us! The faithful need a sure guide to direct their actions in confronting the *concrete circumstances* that confront the Church in a given age, and always in a time of crisis when the wrong actions will mean disaster, but the right ones will stay the divine wrath.

Errors of Russia Now More Powerful

Our Lady of Fatima warned

that Russia would spread her errors throughout the world. In 1962, Russia negotiated the Vatican-Moscow Agreement, in which the Vatican itself promised to remain silent regarding the errors of Russia.

As we have noted elsewhere, the present-day errors of Russia are many. They include: Communism, which is still openly practiced and promoted by China; Masonry, which is the diabolic parent of Communism, which is worldwide; Zionism, which first came from Russia and is most powerful today.

To this day, the Vatican-Moscow Agreement is still in effect and is enforced by the Secretary of State of the Vatican. Until Russia is consecrated by the Pope and the bishops in the manner Our Lady of Fatima requested, Russia will continue to spread her errors. And as long as the Vatican-Moscow Agreement is not repudiated, the Vatican Secretary of State will enforce it.

Thus, it should not be surprising that the leading false friend of Fatima is the Vatican Secretary of State. Presently, that position is occupied by Cardinal Bertone. Before him, it was Cardinal Sodano and before him, Cardinal Casaroli.

Unto Death We Must Fight for Truth

As Sacred Scripture tells us over and over again, the highest priority must be given to the truth. We must seek the truth, embrace the truth and defend it when it is attacked. As the Holy Ghost says: "Even to the death, fight for truth, and the Lord your God will battle for you." (Eccles. 4:33)

For those souls who do not ardently seek the truth; for those souls who do not make knowing, loving, seeking and defending the truth their first priority, it is easy to see how they can be deceived and being deceived themselves, deceive others.

Pope Benedict XVI preached to 500,000 pilgrims at Fatima on May 13, 2010, and he said: "He deceives himself who thinks the prophetic mission of Fatima is concluded."

Even the Elect Would Be Deceived

We may very well have entered into that time foretold by Our Lord in St. Matthew's Gospel, when "Even the elect would be deceived if that were possible."

That is why we need the Message of Fatima in this time of unprecedented scandal and

confusion in the Church. Our Lady – the ultimate Prophetess, as She is the Mother of God – came to Fatima “to direct human acts” in order to avert disaster for the Church and the world. Her directions include warnings about dangers that threaten the Church and the whole human race as we endure a growing storm *that has shaken the faith and practice of hundreds of millions of Catholics*. And God will not be mocked.

We All Need the Whole Truth About Fatma – Now!

Jesus, foreseeing the coming collapse of faith and discipline in the Church, sent His Mother, the prophetic guide par excellence, to prescribe the means for avoiding it: the Consecration of Russia to Her Immaculate Heart and the revelation of the Third Secret of Fatima, in its entirety, for the safety of the Church and all of humanity. In aid of these things, Our Lady also prescribed the praying of the Rosary every day, the mental prayer of meditating on some of the 15 mysteries of the Rosary at least once a month, doing penance for sin, and the practice of all the Five First Saturdays devotions. These are directions for human acts in our time of great peril.

The devil knows that obedience to these two requests – the Consecration of Russia and the Five First Saturdays devotions – will end his empire here on earth and so he astutely uses various strategies to prevent this obedience. One of his best weapons against the full Fatima Message is to use the technique of false friends of Fatima who are used to get ignorant and badly informed, well-intentioned persons to follow them into joining their faction against Our Lady’s real requests.

Be on Guard Against the False Friends of Fatima

These false friends mislead the unsuspecting into error about the Consecration of Russia, about the Third Secret and about Our Lady’s whole purpose for coming to Fatima in the first place. *False Friends of Fatima* unmasks that very sly technique of the devil and it identifies leading persons who are false friends of Fatima. The author has also written other booklets exposing other false friends and these booklets are available from *The Fatima Crusader*. See page 277 of *False Friends of Fatima* for further suggested reading.

As Christopher Ferrara’s book demonstrates: there are

false friends of Fatima who profess to embrace the Fatima event and hold it in the highest esteem. Meanwhile, they are in the act of burying those elements of the Fatima prophecy, especially the Third Secret, which warn of the “winds of doctrine” and other confusions and corruptions that would carry the Catholic faithful away from the refuge of truth – from what Pope Benedict calls “a clear faith based on the Creed of the Church.”

Their Errors Are Deadly

Many of these false friends of Fatima may even believe that they possess the clear faith of which Benedict speaks, but “adapted” – their favorite word – to the “modern world” – their favorite phrase – along with the Fatima event itself.

Sincere or not, the false friends of Fatima seek to lead us astray. If not opposed and defeated, they will lead the Church and the world into disaster – not only a massive loss of life on earth, including quite possibly your own life and the lives of your loved ones, but, infinitely worse, the loss of eternal salvation for countless souls – perhaps even your own, and those of the ones you love most dearly.

“If My requests are grant-

ed,” said Our Lady of Fatima, “many souls will be saved and there will be peace.” If the requests are ignored, however, 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.”

In *False Friends of Fatima*, you will see that the currently reigning Pope has suggested again and again that we are facing the very consequences of which Our Lady of Fatima warned. Yet, he has been impeded in addressing this emergency by the means Our Lady of Fatima prescribed: the Consecration of Russia and the full disclosure of the Third Secret of Fatima. Those who impede him are found in high places in the Vatican, and are joined by their facilitators below. They are all numbered among those we call the false friends of Fatima, and they must be seen and exposed for what they are. **FC**

Notes:

1. Homily at Votive Mass for Election of a Pope, April 18, 2005, http://www.vatican.va/gpII/documents/homily-pro-eligendo-pontifice_20050418_en.html
2. Cf. *False Friends of Fatima*, Chapters 7, 9.