

# Fatima in Twilight

*by Mark Fellows*

In coming years, decades, or centuries, the final prophecies of Fatima will be fulfilled. Sister Lucia's assertion that we are living in the last times may sound fantastic to modern Catholic ears, yet she is in famous company. Pope Pius XII also believed that "the present hour is a dread phase of the events foretold by Christ. It seems that darkness is about to fall upon the world. Humanity is in the grip of a supreme crisis."

Pius XII's predecessor, Pope St. Pius X, had this vision: "I saw one of my successors taking to flight over the bodies of his brethren. He will take refuge in disguise somewhere; and after a short retirement he will die a cruel death. The present wickedness of the world is only the beginning of sorrows which must take place before the end of the world."

These "papal visions" are a stark contrast to the utopia imagined by the conciliar Popes. Sadly, they are more

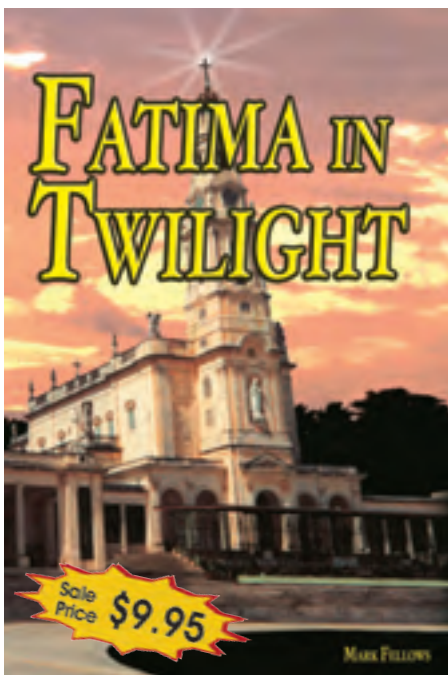
consistent with human experience, and with Jacinta's visions, which provide further details of the landscape seen by Pope St. Pius X. She saw "highways and roads and fields full of people, crying with hunger and (having) nothing to eat." The Holy Father was in a crowded church "praying before the Immaculate Heart of Mary." In another vision, Jacinta saw the Holy Father "in a very big house, kneeling by a table, with his head buried in his hands, and he was weeping. Outside the house, there were many people. Some of them were throwing stones, others were cursing him and using bad language. Poor Holy Father, we must pray very much for him."

Jacinta's visions may well provide details concerning the fulfillment of the remaining known prophecies of the Fatima Secret: various nations will be annihilated and the Holy Father will have much to suffer. The suffer-

ing will be intense, for the Holy Father will finally cleave heart and soul to the Fatima Message, thus inciting a satanic frenzy against him by the world and his Church.

When this will happen is in the hands of God and we, as always, are completely at His mercy. Mary has given us the promise: "In the end, My Immaculate Heart will triumph. The Holy Father will consecrate Russia to Me, and she will be converted, and some time of peace will be granted to the world." Father Alonso wrote, "The final triumph of Mary's Heart is certain and it will be definitive. But it will take place 'in the end', that is to say, after a terrible purification of sinful humanity, in a baptism of fire, blood and tears."

On that day history will at last be pulled into conformity with the Divine Will. The chastisement of apostasy will cease. In the new dawn all will realize that the darksome nightmare we are living through did not vitiate Christ's promise that the gates of hell would never conquer His Church. Perfect mercy



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will follow perfect justice. Russia will be devotedly consecrated to the Immaculate Heart. The conversion of that tortured nation will be dazzling, blinding, as the perfect humility of the Immaculate will put the red dragon and his beasts to flight. Perhaps the conversion will be triggered by a profound apparition of the Blessed Virgin, as at Guadalupe. New legends will be born that will seed cultures with the will to base society on the Kingship of Christ. This will inspire a renaissance of Christian poetry and art. Man will remember

anew the supernatural reality of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. With trembling reverence, we will once more kneel before the Almighty.

Until that glorious day, our models are the seers. Like Jacinta, we must pray much for the Holy Father and offer our sufferings and intentions to this end. Like Lucia, we must obey our authentic religious superiors in all things licit, but never fear speaking the truth of our faith, even if this means contradicting the prudential judgments of the Holy Father. Devotion to the Immaculate Heart, recitation of the Rosary, and participation in the First Saturday reparatory devotion are essential for the light of the Holy Spirit to illumine this present darkness shrouding the world and the Church.

For it is not Fatima that is in twilight. Fatima is a beacon of faith, hope, and charity, a message as clear and uncompromising as the Gospel, shining on all souls stumbling in the twilight of the Church and the world, as both fade to black in the long hours before the dawn.

Shall we slumber through her passion as the Apostles slept through Our Lord's agony in the garden? Shall we renounce membership in our disfigured Church as our first Holy Father renounced Our Lord in His final hours? We must not. We must pick up our cross, chosen for us before the foundation of the world, and bear witness to the one true faith, and the Church created by Our Lord to preserve this truth, even unto the end of the world. **EC**

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