

# The Fatima Crusader's History of:

## Opposing Anti-Fatima Tactics

**Editor's note:** In a recent letter the Fatima Center sent to its supporters, we noted that "with your help, we stood against" those who falsify the Fatima Message. "We exposed the falsehoods and deceptions for over 27 years. And over time, one opponent after another stopped their open opposition – first in 1983; then again in 1984-87; then again in 1989-92; then again in 1992-97; and then again in 2000; and again in 2002-2005; and again in 2006-2009." A number of supporters wanted to know exactly what happened on these dates. Here, Father Gruner gives an answer.

*by Father Nicholas Gruner*

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**B**efore we deal with the specifics of the dates mentioned above, it is important to step back and see opposition to Fatima in the larger context.

From the very beginning, Our Lady of Fatima has been opposed by subtle, effective means. The first weapon against Fatima is the one used in 1917 by the Mayor of Ourem on the three children. The Mayor threatened them with death unless they denied seeing Our Lady. That's the first opposition: deny that Our Lady even came to Fatima.

The second means used by the Mayor of Ourem against Fatima was to demand the

children to reveal the Secret. The mayor was not really interested in the Secret. Rather, he wanted the children to be discredited; for if Our Lady told the children not to reveal the Secret, and they told it anyway, the children would be seen as unreliable witnesses, as it would appear as if they could not keep their word. To the Mayor's consternation, the children refused to reveal anything.

The opposition to Fatima continues to this day. The foremost tactic used against it is to pretend it never happened.

A gentleman who works with the Fatima Center recently spoke with a 53-year-

old Catholic woman who had never heard of Fatima. The woman was a practicing Catholic her entire life, but had never been told the Fatima story. This means that Fatima was not talked about at her schools, her parishes, or in her diocesan newspaper. So this is the first tactic of those who oppose Fatima: never talk about it. Act as if it does not exist.

Against those who have heard of Fatima, a *second tactic* is used. It is to claim that Fatima belongs to the past; Fatima is unimportant; you don't have to believe in it; it is a "private revelation".

Against those who maintain that Fatima is important, especially since Our Lady said that world peace depends on the Consecration of Russia, a *third tactic* is used. It is to claim that the Consecration requested by Our Lady is already accomplished.

Whatever opposition is waged against Fatima, it must be done in an apparently credible manner. An opponent will not say, "I don't believe in Fatima, but the Consecration is done." For if a person says he does not believe in Fatima, why would we pay any attention to him on the subject?

**Rather, many of those who oppose the full Message of Fatima often present themselves as Fatima devotees.**

These are the ones who do the most damage, who claim, "I believe in Fatima, and the Consecration is done."

Now to specifics:

What happened in 1983? The year prior to this, in 1982, John Haffert, the Blue Army and *Soul* magazine published in their July-August issue that the Consecration of Russia is done (referring to Pope John Paul II's May 13, 1982 consecration of the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary).

Jose Correa da Silva, who had a close relationship with the Tradition Family Property (TFP) organization founded and headquartered in Brazil, was also personally related to the TFP founder and also was on the Blue Army International Governing Body, and because he was a lawyer who had helped a family matter of one of Sister Lucy's close relatives – he was considered as a family member and therefore had access to Sister Lucy and claimed that she said the Consecration was done. *Soul* magazine published this report just two months later while not telling us who their

source was. It was only in the 1990's that John Haffert gave out this source – after we had proved it wrong 10 years before.

So in 1983 we published the facts demonstrating this to be false. Father Caillon went to Portugal and spoke with Mrs. Pestana, who was a school friend of Sister Lucy and therefore she had regular access to Sister Lucy. Mrs. Pestana lived in Porto where she had met Sister Lucy for the first time in the 1920's. Mrs. Pestana told Father Caillon that Sister Lucy told her the Consecration is not yet done. Father Caillon also spoke to a niece of Sister Lucy who reported the exact same thing: Sister Lucy said the Consecration is not done. We had all this information translated into English and printed to a wide circulation, a circulation that was as large as the Blue Army's.

The clincher came when the Papal Nuncio, accompanied by two Portuguese experts, visited Sister Lucy on March 19, 1983. Sister Lucy had prepared a text that was officially read, and on which she commented. She stated clearly that the Consecration of Russia is not done because in Pope John Paul II's 1982

consecration of the world, Russia did not appear clearly as being the object of the consecration, and each bishop had not made, in his own cathedral, a public and solemn ceremony of the Consecration of Russia. The text that Sister Lucy had prepared ended as follows: "The Consecration of Russia has not been done as Our Lady has requested. I was not able to make this statement (before) because I did not have the permission of the Holy See".

We published this in the Oct.-Dec. 1983 issue of *The Fatima Crusader*.

**It was after this that John Haffert and the Blue Army publicly acknowledged that the 1982 ceremony by Pope John Paul II did not fulfill the requirements for the Consecration of Russia.**

But it started up *again* in 1984.

On March 25, 1984, Pope John Paul II once again consecrated the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The Pope himself publicly acknowledged that this was not the Consecration of Russia, all of which we have published. Immediately, the Blue Army again claimed the Consecration of Russia was accomplished.

I asked Father Paul Kramer to write a response, and opened up all our files to him. His original article was so powerful that I believed it would whither the Blue Army. Giving the Blue Army the benefit of the doubt, I asked him not to mention the Blue Army or *Soul* magazine directly.

Yet a year later, after we had clearly answered their false arguments, John Haffert said in his magazine something to the effect of "we don't know where this confusion about the Consecration is coming from", and adhered to the false claim that the Consecration was accomplished.

At that time, their circulation was about 150,000 and ours was about 450,000 to 500,000. I said to myself, "well Mr. Haffert, up until now, I've simply assessed you as a pious enthusiast. But if you are going to don the mantle of learned authority, then you need to take the responsibility that goes with it." So I asked Father Kramer to write a response that I would not edit, I would not remove the name of the Blue Army or of *Soul* magazine. Let them take full responsibility for what they say.

We ran Father Paul Kramer's full response in two articles in the same issue of *The Fatima Crusader*, wherein Father Kramer accused them of deliberate falsification of Our Lady's words in order to conform to the Vatican-Moscow Agreement. Father Kramer had the proof, he gave all the references. We published all of this by 1987.

The Blue Army was mightily discredited because of this. I was told afterwards that over the next several years the Blue Army's circulation dropped from 150,000 to 75,000.

Sometime in 1987, Father Fox left the Blue Army to form his own Fatima organization. Decades later, he stated that the Vatican asked him to do this. The Blue Army, as it were, passed the standard on to Father Fox regarding the falsification of the Fatima Message on the Consecration of Russia.

Then in 1989-92, we were confronted with the fake letters of Sister Lucy. By 1989, the falsifiers had come out with five of these fake letters. We have one of the originals because it was sent to Father Kramer; and we have copies of the others.

We exposed these fake let-

ters at the time. This is of great importance, because in the Vatican's 2000 commentary that accompanied the release of the vision of the Third Secret, Cardinal Bertone actually quoted one of these fake letters of Sister Lucy to "prove" the Consecration had been done. It was a letter to a certain Walter Noelker, dated November 8, 1989.

In this letter, the author (allegedly Lucy) refers to a consecration made by Pope Paul VI during his 1967 visit to Fatima, yet there was no consecration, and Sister Lucy would know because she was there. Also, in the same letter, the "author" (allegedly Lucy) declares the Consecration of Russia could not be done during the course of a Council. But this contradicted earlier statements by Lucy who said that a gathering of the world's bishops is an ideal setting for the Consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart. (Several attempts were made during Vatican II to have Paul VI perform the collegial Consecration of Russia, but he refused.)

In 1992, on the main stage of a symposium at the Fatima Shrine in Portugal (see page 36), Frère François publicly accused Father Fox and

Father Luis Kondor of being the authors of these fake letters. At that point, both of them got up and left. They did not respond, they did not contradict, they did not deny, not then, not ever. It is hard not to see this as an admission of guilt. We publicized these facts to over a half million people.

At the same 1992 Congress, Frère François confronted the Rector of the Fatima Shrine and accused him, Father Guerra, of being the author of the five fake letters of Sister Lucy. He challenged Guerra to swear on the Bible that he was not that author. Guerra refused. (See the photo and caption of this confrontation on page 41.)

This brings us to the fake interview with Sister Lucy that was circulated by Carlos Evaristo between 1992-1997. Cardinal Padiyara was present at that interview, and Evaristo claimed that Padiyara vouched for the truth of what the interview contained. So I sent Father Pacheco and Father Kramer to visit Cardinal Padiyara, who told them that 'yes' he was present at the interview, but 'no' he does not vouch for the truth of what was said, because the entire interview



**Paul VI Center in Fatima at the end of a conference given by Father Fox (center at table) with Father Kondor (right). Frère François (at microphone) denounced the five bogus letters attributed to Sister Lucy which were published and circulated by Fathers Fox and Kondor. Frère François challenged: "These letters are fake. I have already demonstrated this in my publishings and they have not been refuted. I am ready to justify my accusations and, if necessary, to retract them if my criticisms are refuted in a decisive manner." Father Fox and Father Kondor gave no reply. Instead, they swiftly closed the session and left.**

was conducted in Portuguese, a language he does not speak.

It took five years to finally demolish this fake interview, the final nail in the coffin being the article by Christopher Ferrara "[Sister Lucy Betrayed](#)" published in the Spring/Summer 1998, issue #57 of *The Fatima Crusader*. Today, no one takes the Evaristo interview seriously.

Then in 2000, we saw the "release" of the Third Secret, along with the Archbishop Bertone/Vatican commentary that the Consecration has been done. We answered the various falsehoods from the first announcement on May 13, 2000 to the June 26 "release"

and beyond. Immediately we found the world's press at our door. We were the only Fatima organization publicly challenging the Vatican's claim that the Third Secret was fully released; that it was nothing more than a prediction of the 1981 assassination attempt of Pope John Paul II; and that the Consecration is done. We answered all of this quite forcefully in our issues of *The Fatima Crusader* at the time, and at our subsequent bishops' conference in Rome, 2001.

From 2002 to 2005, we were preparing, publishing and circulating [The Devil's Final Battle](#), a book that came to be

central in convincing Italian journalist Antonio Socci that the Third Secret is not fully released and the Consecration of Russia is not accomplished. In December 2004, we released our video documentary *Heaven's Key to Peace* about the Consecration of Russia. This was broadcast throughout North America, and circulated via DVDs throughout the world. Recently we had the video dubbed into Italian and broadcast on television in Italy, in 2009.

From 2006 to 2009 we were involved in remarkable developments regarding the Third Secret. It was at this time that Antonio Socci rocked Rome with his explosive *The Fourth Secret of Fatima*, that argues powerfully that the Third Secret is not fully released, and that a second part of the Secret is still withheld. We have since mailed at least 140,000 copies of the English translation of this book throughout the U.S., Canada and the world.

We also published and mailed Christopher Ferrara's *The Secret Still Hidden*, and produced the DVD documentary *The Secret Still Silenced*. The DVD was also mailed to tens of thousands of friends, supporters and opponents.

Now in 2010, we have just published an updated edition of *The Devil's Final Battle*, and are planning the "Fatima Challenge" symposium in Rome this May, wherein we will invite our opponents, in a friendly atmosphere, to defend their position that the Consecration is done and the Third Secret is completely revealed.

**This, then, is our duty: To defend the full Fatima Message, to not let it be silenced by not speaking about it.**

That is why we have circulated almost 400,000 copies of *The True Story of Fatima*. That is why I have written time and again against the false theology of those who say you can ignore Fatima at no peril to yourself or the world.

And that is why we continue to defend the truth about Fatima – that the Consecration of Russia is *not* done and the Third Secret of Fatima is *not* fully released.

We *must* stand up for the full Message of Fatima, and to continually oppose those – be they in good faith or not – who falsify the Message of Fatima, particularly regarding the Consecration of Russia and the Third Secret of Fatima. 