

So There Was a “Fourth” Secret After All...

by Antonio Socci — “Libero”, May 12, 2010

Antonio Socci, the famous Italian Catholic intellectual, in November 2006, stunned the world with his book *The Fourth Secret of Fatima*. In 2009, The Fatima Center sent a copy of Socci’s book in English to most of the Catholic bishops of the world and to over 50,000 Catholic priests. His powerful testimony helped influence the Cardinals, bishops and priests to realize there is more to the Third Secret. Here he analyzes Pope Benedict XVI’s widely publicized pronouncements of May 11, 2010 about the Third Secret.

I said it! What I wrote about Fatima and the pedophilia scandal received, yesterday, the most authoritative confirmation possible: that of the Pope himself.

Last April 2nd — on Good Friday, in the middle of the storm [of the pedophilia scandal] — on the first page of this newspaper [*Libero*], I signed an article with this title: “The Pope’s Calvary was foreseen at Fatima”.

And last week, on the Panorama website, an interview of mine on the same subject was published with the headline “Pedophilia scandal in the Church: ‘Fatima foresaw all this’”.

Some fools called me a visionary, but yesterday Pope Benedict XVI, on the airplane to Fatima, said something that on the *Corriere della Sera* web-

site, yesterday evening, was titled this way: “Pedophilia in the Third Secret of Fatima. The words of the Pope on the way to Lisbon.” Even the *Repubblica* online website said: “Fatima foresaw it.”

It’s an incredible confirmation! But now another chapter begins: because the Pope’s statements bring back again into mainstream news all the dossier regarding the “Third Secret”. His words upset the so-called “official version” given in 2000, which was never considered “official” — neither by Ratzinger nor by Pope John Paul II. However, it was transformed into a dogma by improvised band-aids and by the superficial media.

Why do I affirm that those words upset that version? Because the idea that they tried to get us to buy into was

that the Third Secret foretold the failed assassination attempt against John Paul II in 1981, and the persecutions of the 20th Century so that — they said and repeated it over and over again — the entire prophecy had to be considered fulfilled and concluded within the 20th Century.

I've already explained in detail, in my book *The Fourth Secret of Fatima* (Rizzoli), that this version of things is not convincing, mostly because the Pope of the vision was killed, while Pope Wojtyla, thank God, didn't die. Also because, in the vision, the martyrdom of the Church followed that of the Pope, it didn't precede it.

For writing that book, I had to endure many cheap shots. Now, however, it's the same Pope Benedict XVI who is saying something extraordinary, which re-opens the discussion in the direction that I tried to investigate and that the documents themselves suggest. Let's see why:

The question that the Pope chose to answer (many were placed, but this was chosen), was the following: "Your Holiness, what is the significance of the Fatima Apparitions today? When you introduced the Third Secret at the Vatican Press

Office in June 2000, someone asked you if the Message could have been extended, apart from the failed attempt on John Paul II's life, also to other sufferings by the Popes. Do you believe that we can see within the framework of that vision, the sufferings of the Church of today, for the sins of the sexual abuses against minors?

Here is the answer given by the Pope:

"Only during the course of history shall we be able to see, in all its depth, which concrete persons were indicated in that vision. In addition to this great vision of the sufferings of the Pope, which we can, in substance, refer to Pope John Paul II, there are indicated realities of the future of the Church, which unfold and reveal themselves day by day. That is, it is true that in addition to the moment indicated by the vision, [the Secret] speaks, shows the necessity of a passion of the Church, which naturally is reflected into the person of the Pope, but the Pope is within the Church, therefore these are sufferings of the Church that are being foretold (...)

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and the Church, but the sufferings of the Church come from right inside the Church, from the sin that resides inside the Church (...) we see this today really in a terrifying way: the greatest persecution against the Church doesn't come from its enemies outside, but starts from the sins within the Church."

We've synthesized the Pope's answer, but there's enough here to analyze and reflect on for a long time. In the meantime, it's evident that for Benedict XVI the Secret of Fatima is not a prophecy which concluded with the assassination attempt against Wojtyla in 1981, but it's still unfolding.

In fact, Benedict XVI says explicitly, in the vision "there are indicated realities of the future of the Church, which unfold and reveal themselves day by day."

Among the "novelties" that we discover today ("novelties" is the exact word used by the Pope) there is this upsetting one, the reason for which the Church suffers today: "*the greatest persecution against the Church doesn't come from its enemies outside, but starts from the sins within the Church*" and "**today we see it in a really terrifying way**".

This contradicts the interpretation given by many in

2000, which mentioned only the persecutions coming from the outside. But it's actually much closer to the vision of the three little shepherds, especially to the first one, which was described as follows by Lucy: "before reaching there [the cross and his martyrdom] the Holy Father passed through a big city half in ruins and half trembling with halting step, afflicted with pain and sorrow, he prayed for the souls of the corpses he met on his way".

It was evidently a colossal mistake to interpret the "city half in ruins" and the "corpses" as mere symbols of the persecutions, because the martyrs would not need any prayer, and because the martyrdom of the Church, in the vision, follows that of the Pope. The city half in ruins and the corpses, for whom the Pope prayed while suffering, were actually describing the condition of the Church, which was spoken of as "terrifying" by Pope Ratzinger; that is, the Church oppressed by the sin and apostasy of its members: the Church of today.

All this leads one to believe, inevitably, that the martyrdom of the Pope (who really will be killed) and of the Church has to be placed in

the future — a future that is yet to come.

And it reinforces the belief that the mind-blowing words of the Way of the Cross of March 25, 2005, regarding the “filth inside the Church”, the sacrileges and the boat that was about to sink — words written deliberately by Joseph Ratzinger and Karol Wojtyla — were perhaps, indeed, the revelation (even if not declared as such) of the part of the “Third Secret” that in 2000 was not revealed. The part which contains the words of Our Lady Herself, as a comment on the Vision.

On this part of the Secret weighs the negative judgment of John XXIII (who suspected they were words of Lucy and not of Our Lady), a judgment followed by Paul VI.

Evidently, John Paul II and Cardinal Ratzinger — who wanted to fulfill Our Lady’s request to make the Message public, but who didn’t want to contradict their predecessors in public (although they recognized the authenticity of the second part) — decided to let the Christian people know the entire Message of Our Lady by means of the sermon on that Way of the Cross.

It’s significant that this pilgrimage to Fatima by

Benedict XVI comes today: He didn’t go to the sanctuary in 2007, for the anniversary of the apparitions, which would have been more obvious.

Now maybe some forces within the Roman Curia will seek to prevent that these very explicit statements of the Pope will be understood in their full significance, and maybe try to prevent him from repeating them. But the pedophilia scandal has clearly shown a great lesson of the Pope: Do not be afraid of the truth. NEVER. Not even when it’s a painful truth, and even if it’s a shameful truth for the Church (it’s not by chance that his episcopal motto is “*Cooperatores Veritatis*” — joint laborers of the truth).

Yesterday the Pope concluded his statements with these words: “The Church has therefore a great need to re-learn penance, to accept purification, to learn forgiveness, conversion, prayer. Evil always attacks, both from the inside and from the outside, but we must always remember that the powers of good are present too and that in the end Our Lord is stronger than the devil and that Our Lady is our warranty. God’s goodness has and always will have the last word in history.” **EC**