

“Conversion of Russia” Means Conversion to the Catholic Faith

Responses from Christopher Ferrara, John Vennari,
John Salza and Father Nicholas Gruner

Note: This is an edited transcript from one of the *Fatima Crossfire* sessions which were held each day at our *Fatima Challenge Conference* in Rome, May 2010. The “Crossfires” consisted of a series of challenges and questions posed to various speakers about aspects of the *Fatima Message*.

This question is directed first at Mr. Ferrara [and others on the panel are free to answer as well]. In your Power Point presentation you showed us a breakdown of the various religious affiliations of Russia – the largest, of course, is complete unbelievers in anything. The idea that all of these people should, in more or less one fell swoop, convert to Catholicism would strike most everyone as a wild and fantastic notion. Could not the Blessed Mother’s notion of conversion, or Her meaning of conversion, have referred to something quite less spectacular and more reasonable, such as the rejection of Com-

munist militancy or an increase of natural virtue and a turning away from the self-destructive behavior that is now ravaging the nation?

Chris Ferrara: Well, conversion has an accepted meaning among Catholics, and it’s conversion to the Catholic Faith, and it does seem an impossible event, but we’re dealing with a miracle. Our Lady came down to earth not to prophesize an outcome that would be consistent with the normal course of human events or even a regime change that would be consistent with the normal course of human events, but something quite extraordinary and indeed

quite spectacular, a miracle. A miraculous conversion of an entire nation.

We've already seen that, as I pointed out in my Power Point presentation today. In the oral comments we've seen it in the nation of Mexico – not only were they converted, they were converted from a pagan religion which depended upon human sacrifice. Hundreds of thousands of human sacrifices were being perpetrated by Aztec priests and this pagan people was delivered from the bondage of a religion devoted to human sacrifice in the space of nine years.

Some nine million people converted, and that's the kind of miracle we're talking about when it comes to the conversion of Russia, and I don't think that what we've seen is even a modest example of what the grace of God could produce in that poor nation, as Sister Lucy called it. We've had the collapse of a political regime, which is now essentially being reconstituted before our very eyes and in a more slim-downed form. The way I put it is that Communism went into "Chapter 11" and had a

reorganization proceeding and the nameplates came off the desks and were replaced by different nameplates.

The corporation has received a different name, but it's the same type of entity – an immoral, relentlessly acquisitive, oppressive central government imposing itself on the people and, morally speaking, we haven't seen any improvement; politically speaking, we've seen only a superficial improvement; and, spiritually, clearly there's been no substantial improvement let alone a miraculous improvement. So I would say there's only one reasonable interpretation of what Our Lady's calling for: a miracle. And only She can produce it.

John Vennari: I would add that it is a weakness of our present age that gives the word "conversion" a different meaning from that of conversion of the non-Catholic to the Catholic Faith. This is a problem that had been growing even before the Second Vatican Council and got worse continually after with the new orientation of dialogue and ecumenism.

“Conversion” means to change one’s course from the path of non-salvation to salvation. It is a transfer — a transfer from being part of the kingdom of satan into that of the Kingdom of God, which is the Catholic Church.

Monsignor Joseph Clifford Fenton, who was one of the greatest American theologians of the 20th Century, complained about this even prior to the Second Vatican Council.

In 1958, Msgr. Fenton warned: “In every age of the Church there has been one portion of Christian doctrine which men have been especially tempted to misconstrue or to deny. In our own times, it is the part of Catholic truth which was brought out with a special force and clarity by St. Peter in his first missionary sermon in Jerusalem. It is somewhat unfashionable today to insist, as St. Peter did, that those who are outside the true Church of Christ stand in need of being saved by leaving their own positions and entering the *ecclesia* [Catholic Church]. Nevertheless, this remains a part of God’s own revealed message.”

This is the true notion of conversion – conversion to the

Catholic Faith. And as Chris said, it’s going to be something miraculous. It’s going to be something that’s going to capture the attention of the world, because we were told that this is something that’s going to show that it is Our Lady’s hand at work.

And as I mentioned this morning in my talk, this is not only a point of common sense, but Father Joaquin Alonso said that Sister Lucy also confirmed this.

Father Alonso, who had many interviews with Sister Lucy, wrote in 1976 “... we should affirm that Lucia always thought that the ‘conversion’ of Russia is not to be limited to the return of the Russian People to the Orthodox Christian religions, rejecting the Marxist atheism of the Soviets, but rather, it refers purely, plainly and simply to the total, integral conversion of Russia to the one true Church of Christ, the Catholic Church.”

John Salza: Quite simply, Our Lady showed us the consequences of non-conversion: the vision of hell, and thus Our Lady’s request for prayers for the conversion of poor sinners. She wasn’t

giving a vision of a corrupt political group; She gave us the vision of hell; She asked for prayers to prevent people from going to hell. So, obviously, anybody who holds the position that conversion here means anything other than a spiritual conversion is not reading the Message of Fatima.

Father Gruner: Well, Our Lady came to convert sinners. More exactly, She came to save sinners.

She said: "If My requests are granted many souls will be saved." The only kind of salvation She's talking about, of course, is eternal salvation; and, of course, to be saved you must be Catholic: "Outside the Church there is no salvation." It's defined in the Fourth Lateran Council of 1215 by Pope Innocent III; it's defined again by Pope Boniface VIII in the bull *Unam Sanctam* in 1302; it's defined again at the Council of Florence by Eugene IV in 1441, saying that whether you're Jew, Orthodox, pagan, schismatic, or heretical, you can't get to Heaven. It's very explicit and it's in the book *The Devil's Final Battle* if you want to read the definition

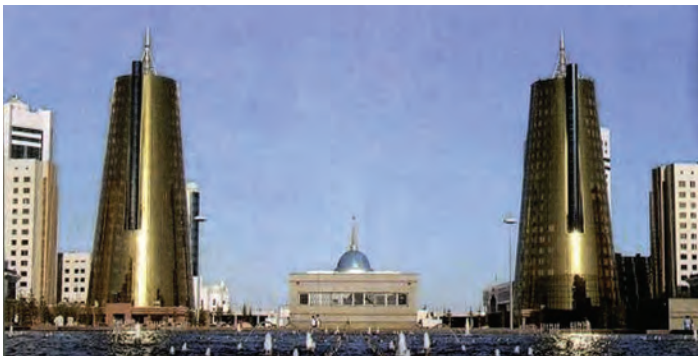
there.

So if Our Lady came for the conversion of sinners, in order to save sinners, then She came to convert them to the Catholic Faith. That's the only way She can be understood in the context.

So the second part of the question asks then, how is this going to be possible? And of course it's going to be by a miracle, but I'd like to elaborate on the example that Chris gave, which is the conversion of the Aztec peoples and the Indians of that time.

Remember that the Spanish came to Mexico about 1520 and they conquered Mexico in 1521. For the next ten years they tried to evangelize and had very little success. I'm sure they were very holy men and tried very hard, but they were very unsuccessful.

One of their successes was Juan Diego. Our Lady appears to Juan Diego and imprints on his outer garment an image of Herself as She appeared to him. He didn't even realize that; when he went to the bishop, the bishop saw it there and Juan Diego thought the sign was those roses that grew miraculously in December, but actually the bigger sign was the image of



“The matching pillar towers resembling the two pillars in Solomon’s Temple, Boaz and Jachin, which feature in geomasonic esoteric mind-control symbolism. The building in the centre is the Presidential Palace. In 1999, UNESCO celebrated Satan by giving the future Astana the title of World City — placing it on the map, as intended, for geomasonic New World Order purposes, given the architecture designed by Sir Norman Foster for this purpose.” [Photo and comment from *Soviet Analyst*, Vol. 31, Numbers 6 & 7 (2010 A.D.).]

Our Lady Herself.

And that image, of course, has been tested today in these times – the image is alive, the eyes are alive. Ophthalmologists have examined the image and said the eye is living and you can see reflected in the eye, among other things, the bishop and Juan Diego.

But more important than all those things is the moral miracle. When the image was put on the wall in the little chapel built near the spot where Our Lady appeared, the natives would come at about one thousand a day, they would look at the picture and immediately ask for baptism.

Now for ten years the Catholic missionaries had been evangelizing them and trying to convert them with no results. Yet when Our Lady

gave Her miraculous image, the Aztec would look at the picture of Our Lady and then ask for baptism instantly. And for nine years this constant surge of conversion went on.

Now Our Lady took nine years not because She couldn’t do it faster but because there were so few priests; so as a result She only gave them enough to baptize in a day. So the priests – all day long from the time they said their Mass, to the time they went to bed (except for their obligatory prayers) – all they did all day was baptize and bless marriages for nine years. She went as fast as the priests could go.

If Our Lady can do that to a pagan nation that had no pre-knowledge of the Gospel, just by looking at Her image, surely She can convert Russia as fast as we let Her do so. **FC**