

“Consecration Now!”

An interview with Father Nicholas Gruner on the upcoming Fatima Conference in Rome this May

The Fatima Crusader
(FC): You held the “Fatima Challenge” in Rome last May. You are holding another conference called “Consecration Now!” in May 2011, a year after the last one. What is the purpose of this new conference?

Father Gruner (FG): I have been promoting the Fatima Message full-time for over 33 years. I have been stating the case regarding the crucial need the Church has to obey the full Fatima Message for the past 28 years, especially regarding the need for the Consecration of Russia. We have never had an opponent provide any real answer to our well thought-out, well-reasoned, well-documented position. A few persons have actually grossly misrepresented what we say and then answered their straw man argument. Some others, not even thinking, become indignant with us for our insistence upon the

Church’s need to obey Our Lady of Fatima, when it is they who are so far off base. However, for the most part, the only answer we receive from our opponents is to attack us personally or to ignore us, or to badmouth us, telling people not to listen to us. But these responses are not answers at all, and never really address the issue.

So at last year’s “Fatima Challenge” conference, we invited those who have something to say against our position to come forward and say it. We will listen respectfully to their counter-position and we will ask questions. Those who challenge our position would also be free to ask questions.

The only person who took us up on this challenge was the Italian journalist Giuseppe De Carli, who coauthored *The Last Seer of Fatima* with Cardinal Bertone. The entire account of his lecture, and the question and answer session

that followed it, is detailed in Christopher Ferrara's new booklet *Vindicated: The Latest Chapter on the Story of Fatima*.

During this Question and Answer Session, where he was questioned by Christopher Ferrara, John Salza and myself, De Carli found himself in a corner. He was presented with questions he could not adequately answer. He even admitted that he could have been deceived by the people who had assured him that the full Third Secret has been released.

A week later, there was the dramatic statement before 500,000 persons by Pope Benedict when he said at Fatima that "he who thinks that the prophetic mission of Fatima is concluded in the past is deceiving himself."

We had timed last year's conference to take place a week prior to the Pope's trip. We know that the Vatican had been watching our Internet transmissions of the conference. And it could be that the Pope himself listened to or watched some of it.

Now last year's conference primarily focused on the Third Secret. So building on the success of last year's conference, we decided to

have this next conference in May to focus on the need for the Pope in union with the world's bishops to finally and properly consecrate Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This must be done to avert the annihilation of nations, and so that Russia will be converted to the Catholic Faith and a period of peace granted to the world.

And again, we have the same attitude as last year: let the truth come out, let all those who have a position on this topic come forward and speak.

FC: Is this conference also part of your ongoing work to propagate the crucial elements of the Fatima Message to the general public?

FG: Yes, and this is the second important element to our upcoming conference. The Fatima Message has been buried; it's been sort of "openly buried". How can that be? If you ask any informed Catholic who is over 50 or 60 years old, they might have heard of Fatima, but almost all of them don't know the real prophetic Message of Fatima. They don't know that Our Lady's words of Fatima offer the only solution for world peace. As we have



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Pictured above, in English translation, is one of the 70 outdoor signs (13 feet X 9.75 feet) to be displayed around Rome two weeks prior to the Conference.

documented time and time again in *The Fatima Crusader*, the only way we can have true peace in this world is by the Pope and the bishops doing the consecration of Russia that Our Lady requested.

The alternative is a “war without end” that US General Petraeus recently spoke of, the further persecution of Christians, and the “annihilation of nations” that Our Lady of Fatima warned would happen if Her requests were not fulfilled.

FC: What do you mean by Petraeus’ “war without end”?

In his September 2010 book *Obama’s Wars*, veteran Washington journalist Bob Woodward quotes US General Petraeus speaking of the war in Afghanistan: “You have to recognize also that I don’t think you win this war. I think you keep fighting. It’s a little bit like Iraq, actually... Yes, there has been enormous progress in Iraq. But there are still horrific attacks in Iraq, and you have to stay vigilant. You have to stay after it. *This is the kind of fight we’re in for the rest of our lives and probably our kids’ lives.*” (pp. 332-333)

In other words, General

Petraeus is saying that this war will probably go on for another 50 to 60 years at least, with really no end in sight: “*the rest of our lives and probably our kids’ lives.*” This is a long time, and it is no solution. According to the same book (p. 390), the government spends a good three hundred million dollars a day on its military budget for this war just in Afghanistan.¹ This means the government could spend three hundred million dollars a day for the next sixty years or more, just in this one war.

And this is nothing compared to the human cost, the countless soldiers and innocent civilians who will be killed in battle. How many young men and women will be killed in battle? How many fathers and mothers torn from their children? Husbands torn from their wives? Sons torn from their mothers? And in a bow to a perverse political-correctness, we now have women in battle, so wives and mothers will be killed as well. Not to mention the 10,000+ soldiers who are injured and maimed for life in this war.

All this is avoidable if the Pope and the bishops perform a five-minute prayer – *a five-*

minute prayer – consecrating Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, as Our Lady requested. There is no other solution.

In the little-known revelation of Our Lady to Sister Lucy in the early 1950s, which is recounted in *Il Pellegrinaggio della Meraviglie*, published under the auspices of the Italian episcopate, Our Lady appeared to Sister Lucy in May 1952 and said ***“Make it known to the Holy Father that I am always awaiting the Consecration of Russia to My Immaculate Heart. Without that Consecration, Russia will not be able to convert, nor will the world have peace.”***

Our “Consecration Now!” conference plans to call attention to the inescapable reality of Our Lady’s words: “Without that Consecration, Russia will not be able to convert, nor will the world have peace.”

FC: This conference is going to be geared to the press and especially to those in the press called “Vaticanistas”. Could you address this?

FG: A “Vaticanista” is a journalist whose job it is to cover the Vatican beat. They are journalists who have been

hired by the daily papers and other publications to write about what is going on in the Vatican, what the Pope is doing, and what this news means to the common man, to international affairs, to Church life, etc. In fact, we have at least two “Vaticanistas” who have definitely agreed to speak at our conference, and we presently have a few more interested in coming to speak as well.

Now we want the journalists to not only speak, but to cover our conference, because a longstanding problem with the Fatima Message, as I noted earlier, is that the full prophetic Message of Fatima is buried, or ignored, or falsified. What’s worse, this falsification of the Fatima Message comes from some of the highest offices in the Vatican. And here I am speaking pointedly about Cardinal Sodano, the former Secretary of State, and Cardinal Bertone, the present Secretary of State.

Both Cardinal Sodano and Cardinal Bertone claim that the Fatima prophecies are all fulfilled and belong to the past. They admit that the basic lessons (like prayer and

sacrifices) the Fatima Message teaches are good for all times, but the specific prophecies are now finished. Yet last May, as I noted, Pope Benedict said “he deceives himself who thinks the prophetic mission of Fatima is concluded in the past.” But even this statement of the Pope was not given the publicity it should have received. And some news agencies that did report it watered down what he said.

So trying to break through this wall of disinformation is part of the reason for this conference.

FC: Do you think that the press in Italy is more open to reporting on the topic of Fatima than, for example, the press in the United States or Canada?

FG: First of all, Catholic countries such as Italy that have a Catholic culture – or at least the remnants of a Catholic culture – are generally more interested in Catholic topics. News concerning the Catholic Church or the Catholic Faith can be on the front pages of a daily paper in Italy or in the Philippines. Whereas Protestantized countries, such as, for example, the United States, do not have that interest in Catholic topics,

so Catholic news is seldom front page news. These types of features are found on the “Religion Page”, but are not front page headlines.

By contrast, Father Paul Kramer’s debate (in 1995) with the Philippine bishops about the Old Mass vs. the New Mass was front page news in the papers of Manila, the largest city in the Philippines. And why is that? Because it was a subject that every member of the Catholic Church – a large segment of the population – would be interested in.

So the press in Italy will pick up Fatima news not because these pressmen are better men than those in the other parts of the world, but because their public is more informed, their public is interested. With Fatima, they recognize that there is an issue here. Now Antonio Socci, author of *The Fourth Secret of Fatima*, is critical of his fellow journalists in Italy for not understanding the full import of the Fatima Message, but let me tell you, the journalists in Italy still understand the issue better than journalists in the rest of the world.

FC: So we return to the

“out of sight, out of mind” problem with Fatima. Do you really think Fatima is not talked about enough, and the importance of it is hardly ever highlighted? Is it generally forgotten, or simply regarded as something that happened long ago that has no real relevance today?

FG: Fatima is virtually unknown. I once had a young man named Paul working for me. I think he went to school in the 1980s, and high school in the early 1990s. One day he met a friend from his Catholic high school. His friend asked Paul where he was working. “I work at the Fatima Center,” answered Paul. The friend asked, “What’s Fatima?” Paul responded that it concerned the appearance of Our Blessed Mother at Fatima in 1917 to Jacinta, Francisco and Lucy.

His friend responded somewhat caustically, “I went to Catholic grade school and Catholic high school. I never heard of Fatima or anything like this. You must be working for some fraudulent organization. There’s no such thing as the apparitions at Fatima.”

So at Paul’s invitation, the friend went home and asked his mother, “Have you

ever heard of Fatima?” The Catholic mother responded that yes she knows about Fatima, was taught about it when she was young. And the young man for the first time in his life – after spending 12 years in Catholic grade school and high school – learned about the Fatima Message.

From what I can ascertain, the generation that went to Catholic school after 1960 or 1965 learned virtually nothing of Fatima. This appears to be the case in North America and in too many other countries as well.

So the Fatima Message is ignored by not talking about it. But when it is talked about, we then encounter the disinformation. People may have been taught that Fatima tells us something about the request to pray the daily Rosary or make the Five First Saturdays. But if they ever have heard about the request of Our Lady for the Consecration of Russia, then they are told that the Consecration has been completed by John Paul II in 1984. Similarly, they are told that the full Third Secret is released.

Why would those in the Vatican falsify the Fatima

Message? Among other things, it is because the full Fatima Message that calls for the *conversion* of Russia to the Catholic Faith goes contrary to their new practice of ecumenism since Vatican II. It also goes against the policy of the Vatican-Moscow Agreement, made in 1962, wherein the Vatican made an agreement with Moscow that the Church would not condemn communism in exchange for Russian Orthodox observers being allowed to attend the Second Vatican Council.

As a result of this disinformation and this silence, Fatima is not talked about, and bishops and priests no longer know or understand the Fatima Message. This is even true of large Fatima organizations who promote Fatima part-time or full-time.

I could elaborate here on my meetings over the years with clerical and lay leaders of some of these very groups. But suffice it to say that some so-called apostolates of Fatima basically are not totally honest with the public when they promote the Fatima Message.

Thus it is evident to anyone who studies the matter that

Fatima, as promoted by the Blue Army (the World Apostolate of Fatima) and America Needs Fatima, becomes (for them) a strictly devotional message, but the prophetic Message of Fatima that affects every man, woman and child on the earth – a prophetic message that will bring either the annihilation of nations or world peace – is not talked about or is partly addressed but leaves people with no real understanding of all that must be done to avoid the annihilation of certain nations.

So we hope to overcome this silence and disinformation by our upcoming Conference. By getting the press involved, and their reporting on it, we must get people talking about it, thinking about it, learning the truth about Fatima. The people will then realize that there is more to Fatima than what they had been taught. The people will hopefully recognize the importance of fulfilling the message themselves and of ceaselessly requesting that the Pope and the bishops fulfill their duty to consecrate Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary in the manner requested by Jesus and Mary.

FC: And it is true that people from all over the world, including your supporters in North America, are invited to come to the “Consecration Now!” conference?

FG: We are inviting them to come. We are advertising to the people of Rome as well. We now have the facility to broadcast the whole conference on television throughout all of Rome, and the 6,000,000 people living in the Lazio region in and around Rome, so that those at home can easily view it, either on the Internet or on television. This will go on for the entire week. The audience could potentially be in the millions in Rome, it could even be in the hundreds of millions worldwide by way of the Internet broadcast.

FC: Will the Conference then seek to stress the Fatima Message and devotion to Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart as the *only* answer to the dire times in which we live?

FG: We are faced with growing, horrifying persecution of Christians, particularly by Muslims in the Middle East (*see page 32*). We are faced with a growing attack on marriage and the family, of more and more public acceptance of perverse

lifestyles contrary to God’s law. We are faced with war without end; the financial cost, the human cost, the emotional cost is going to get worse.

You’ve got people like the Italian journalist Maurizio d’Orlando, who spoke at last year’s Rome conference and who will speak this year, saying we are going to have World War III if God does not intervene. There is no way around it. By looking at the indicators, he says, they are parallel today to what they were immediately prior to World War I. So we have everything to win if the Pope does the Consecration, and we have everything to lose if the Pope does not do it.

But here’s the real point: despite all the looming disasters that I’ve pointed out here (and even more that I’ve not said), Our Lady, by grace, can turn this situation around in a very short time, and this is one subtext that I think people do not understand. Our Lady is God’s masterpiece. Many people say this, but they don’t have any real understanding of it. They do not understand enough the extent of Her greatness and Her promised triumph.

FC: Please elaborate.

FG: As St. Alphonsus Liguori explains, it is a *great* thing for one individual to live a great life, to have merited enough grace to save his own soul. Saint Alphonsus goes on to say that it's a *greater* thing for someone to have lived a good enough life that he not only saves his own soul, but helps to save the souls of others, which is what the canonized saints and holy people throughout Catholic history have done.

But then Saint Alphonsus says it is the *greatest* thing for one person to have lived a great enough life to have merited all the grace that is necessary to save every soul. And that is what the Blessed Virgin Mary has done.

But in order for Our Lady to apply Her merits to our souls, She needs to be asked. In other words, we must pray to Her, we must ask for Her help.

God, because He is so good, wants to give us great graces, above all the grace of final perseverance in the state of grace.

But as St. Thomas Aquinas proves, not one of us is worthy of this grace.

God, to speak in a human way, has a dilemma; that is,

He wants to give us these great graces – and He knows that if He does, we will become proud and thus lose the grace He gives us. We will attribute these graces given to us to our good works and our good state of being and to our own efforts and worth.

So our pride hinders Him from giving these graces. But He still wants to give them. So St. Augustine tells us God has found a solution. God will give these graces through the intercession and the merits of the saints.

The great grace of world peace God will only give through the merits and intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary. But God wants us all to know that it is only through Her that we receive these graces. That is why He has laid down this condition whereby He insists upon the Consecration *to the Immaculate Heart of Mary* of Russia.

Thus when people see the result of this Consecration people will learn the goodness, the merits and the power of Our Lady and will also turn to Her for help in their personal living and above all in the great grace of their personal salvation.

“You have seen hell where

the souls of poor sinners go. In order to save sinners, God wills to establish in the world devotion to My [Our Lady's] Immaculate Heart."

It is this truth that God wants to establish in the minds of all the people, this truth that is not sufficiently understood, nor sufficiently explained. This is the heart of the Fatima Message: "God wants to establish in the world devotion to My Immaculate Heart."

And that is why there is no other way to world peace except through the Immaculate Heart of Mary. When She says, "Only I can help you," She means it, absolutely literally.

As I said above, Our Lady Herself has stated in May 1952: **"Without that Consecration (of Russia), Russia will not be able to convert, nor will the world have peace."**

Sister Lucy asked Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in 1936 why He

would not convert Russia and bring about world peace without that Consecration, and Jesus answered her, "Because I want My whole Church to recognize that Consecration as a Triumph of the Immaculate Heart, so that My Church will place devotion to the Immaculate Heart beside the devotion to My Sacred Heart."

In other words, Our Lord is saying He will not bring about world peace in any other way. Even God is not going to help us, except through Her.

Fatima is crucial for us here and now. The full Fatima Message must be obeyed here and now. This is what the "Consecration Now!" conference is all about. **FC**

Note:

1. Bob Woodward on page 390, quotes President Obama's secret memo of Nov. 29, 2009: "The total cost for this option in Afghanistan is about \$113 BILLION per year for those years in which we sustain nearly 100,000 troops in Afghanistan." This works out to about 309 million dollars a day.



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