

Chapter 14

THE WORLD APOSTOLATE OF FATIMA: MERCHANTS OF “FATIMA LITE”

In 2006 the Blue Army, now renamed “World Apostolate of Fatima” (WAF) in keeping with the general “demilitarization” of the Church Militant since Vatican II, was granted the status of an “international association of the faithful” by the Pontifical Council for the Laity. The former Blue Army claimed that this constituted explicit “papal approval” of its activities, although the council is not an organ of the papal magisterium but merely a Vatican department whose decrees are issued by its President and Secretary, not the Vicar of Christ.

Worse, WAF immediately began boasting that it is “the only Fatima organization that speaks with ecclesiastical authority on the message of Fatima.”³⁰⁵ The claim borders on false advertising. WAF has not been endowed with any more “ecclesiastical authority” to speak for the Church regarding Fatima than is possessed by any knowledgeable member of the laity. WAF, whose U.S. branch is headquartered in Asbury Park, New Jersey, has no teaching authority in the Church, and as a mere “association of the faithful” it can bind no one to its opinions on Fatima, which are manifestly dubious to say the least, as we shall see. The Pontifical Council’s decree merely accorded a formal recognition of WAF’s existence *not required* for the existence of an association of the faithful in the first place. With or without an official stamp of approval, Church law specifically recognizes the God-given right of Catholics to associate for the advancement of their own faith: “by means of a private agreement made among themselves, the Christian faithful are *free to establish* associations to pursue the purposes mentioned in can. 298, §1,” including those in which “clerics and lay persons together, strive in a common endeavor to foster a more perfect life, to promote public worship or Christian doctrine, or to exercise other works of the apostolate, such as initiatives of evangelization, works of piety or charity, and those which animate the temporal order with a Christian spirit.”³⁰⁶

With good reason had Father Gruner’s Fatima apostolate never sought the formality of Vatican approval as an association of the faithful or any other form of “ecclesiastical approval,” for it comes at the price of fatal compromise: adherence to the Party Line on Fatima dictated by the Secretary of State. The Pontifical Council’s decree “erecting” WAF as an association of the faithful was clearly a

³⁰⁵ <http://www.wafusa.org/press.html>.

³⁰⁶ 1983 Code of Canon Law, 298, § 1 and 299, § 1.

reward for its willingness to proclaim that the Consecration has been done, the Third Secret has been revealed, and all that remains of the Fatima message is prayer and penance on the part of the faithful. In short, WAF is willing to purvey “Fatima Lite” instead of the real thing, with its politically incorrect, all-too-Catholic elements.

Driving Home the Party Line

The WAF is a case study of how, at the level of the lay apostolate, the moving parts of “Operation False Friends” all work together to keep alive the Party Line the Pope himself had discredited during his journey to Fatima. Father Apostoli, the EWTN celebrity whose Party Line-friendly *Fatima for Today* we have just examined, serves as “spiritual advisor” to WAF, which EWTN in turn presents to the faithful as the “official” Fatima apostolate for the Church today.

In keeping with its function in the false friends operation, WAF’s promotion of “Fatima Lite” among the faithful is as relentless as it is heavy-handed. A prime example is an hour-long video on the WAF website entitled simply “The Message of Fatima,” which EWTN broadcast on August 22, 2010 as an episode of its “Sunday Night Live” series.³⁰⁷ The show was hosted by Fr. Apostoli, whose guest was Michael La Corte, Executive Director of the United States branch of WAF. Their on-camera chat revolved around the requisite Party Line theme: Fatima means prayer and penance, and nothing more. Repeat as often as necessary: Fatima means prayer and penance.

La Corte began with a discussion of Pope Benedict’s pilgrimage to Fatima, but without mentioning any of the Pope’s explosive statements regarding the contents of the Third Secret.³⁰⁸ Like Apostoli’s book, the show steered clear of the subject entirely, including even the vision published in 2000. La Corte did allude to (but without quoting) the Pope’s declaration that “one would deceive himself who thinks that the prophetic mission of Fatima is concluded,” on which La Corte commented: “don’t believe it’s fulfilled...it’s still so important today. There’s still much that needs to be done, that we need to do...”³⁰⁹ Yes, so much! But, lest viewers get the wrong impression, Apostoli immediately interjected: “that doesn’t mean that the Holy Father—he has done the Consecration, that part has been fulfilled.” La Corte, taking his cue, responded: “Yes, yes.”³¹⁰

³⁰⁷ See “The Message of Fatima,” http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=S2X_9JGFR00

³⁰⁸ http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=S2X_9JGFR00#t=495s.

³⁰⁹ http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=S2X_9JGFR00#t=554s.

³¹⁰ http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=S2X_9JGFR00#t=546s.

And then Apostoli sounded the mandatory theme: “we have to follow through with prayer, sacrifice, offering of even our sufferings—a good Christian life...”³¹¹ So, obeying the Message of Fatima is now simply and only a matter of praying, doing penance, and being a good Christian. He went on to say that “There’s so many ways to put the message of Fatima,” only to insist a moment later that there are really only two ways permitted: prayer and penance. Citing the former rector of the Fatima Shrine, Monsignor Guerra, author of the scandal of Hindus in the *Capelinha* which we noted in Chapter 6, Apostoli drove home the prayer-and-penance theme once again: “The Message of Fatima can be put in two words: prayer and sacrifice.”³¹² In a manner typical of the false friends of Fatima, Apostoli piously adverted to John Paul II’s declaration at Fatima (in 1982) to the effect that “Fatima is more important now than it was in 1917.”³¹³ Yes, so much more important! But in what respect? Is it the Consecration of Russia to bring about Russia’s conversion to the Faith and return to union with Rome? Is it revelation of the entire Third Secret and its precious warnings for the safety of the Church and the world? Hardly. What was more important than ever was—what else?—prayer and penance: “the importance of Mary’s message,” said Apostoli to La Corte, is “seen, as you summed it up so well there, with the words: prayer and sacrifice.”³¹⁴

True to the *quid pro quo* for its Vatican department stamp of approval, WAF reminds the faithful—again and again and again—that the Consecration of Russia and revelation of the Third Secret as requested by the Virgin must no longer concern us, but only Her requests for *prayer and penance*. Our Lady of Fatima, said Apostoli,

kept asking for *prayers and for sacrifice* for the conversion of sinners. That’s *the key*, I think. She said, if people heed My message... many souls will be converted and an era of peace will be given to the world.... We have to do our part. The Pope has done his part. So if we keep focusing on the Pope and worrying about what he is doing and not doing, we’re mistaken. We need to be able to look at our part: are we living those good Christian lives. Are we, you know, offending God...³¹⁵

³¹¹ http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=S2X_9JGFR00#t=578s.

³¹² http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=S2X_9JGFR00#t=596s.

³¹³ http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=S2X_9JGFR00#t=867s.

³¹⁴ http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=S2X_9JGFR00#t=991s.

³¹⁵ http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=S2X_9JGFR00#t=2816s.

Translation: Stop pestering the Pope for a consecration of Russia that actually consecrates Russia. Stop seeking full disclosure of the Secret that *not even EWTN's own Mother Angelica* believes has been fully disclosed. Instead, trust Cardinal Sodano and Cardinal Bertone, whose bureaucratic apparatus has approved the World Apostolate of Fatima. Rather than being concerned about those terrible “future realities of the Church” the Pope himself had linked to the Secret only weeks before Apostoli and La Corte appeared on EWTN, the faithful should simply say their prayers, make some sacrifices, live good lives, and hope for the best. This is “Fatima Lite” in its essence, and “Fatima Lite” is what WAF had been given Vatican approval to promote. WAF can be seen as a kind of Authorized Dealer in the Fatima Lite franchise system. Should WAF begin to question the Party Line, however, there is little doubt its franchise would be revoked.

Now, of course, Our Lady of Fatima did call for prayer and sacrifices for sinners. Prayer and penance are necessary and indeed indispensable in the economy of salvation, with or without the Message of Fatima. But the party of the innovators is very clever, and one of its cleverest tactics is to harp on one truth in order to hide another—the classic ploy of the Modernist. By harping on prayer and penance, WAF hides the truth that Our Lady also called for the Consecration of Russia *by name* so that its conversion to the Faith would be seen clearly as a miracle resulting from the maternal intercession of the Mother of God, and thus the means to “establish in the world devotion to My Immaculate Heart” and the triumph of the Immaculate Heart.

That is, the Virgin proclaimed a specifically and gloriously *Catholic* outcome for the Fatima event, which the world has obviously not seen since the “consecration” of 1984. And Our Lady also directed Lucia in 1944 to have the contents of the Third Secret disclosed in 1960 so that the Church and the world could benefit from the warnings embraced within *Her words* following Her momentous declaration that “In Portugal the dogma of the Faith will always be preserved etc.” We have never seen these words of the Blessed Virgin—a fact WAF is on a mission to obliterate from the memory of the faithful, just as required by Cardinal Bertone and his collaborators.

The New “Inter-Religious” Fatima Event

“Fatima Lite” does not involve only the reduction of the Fatima message to prayer and penance, however. The very notion of prayer is subjected to a radical reductionism that strips it of a Catholic orientation. In WAF’s “Fatima Lite” propaganda, Our Lady of Fatima becomes Our Lady of Inter-religious Harmony, much as Monsignor

Guerra’s tenure as rector of the Fatima Shrine produced the sacrilege of Hindus in the *Capelinha*.

Waxing to the theme of Fatima as an inter-religious rather than a “merely” Catholic prophecy, La Corte spoke of his trip to the Russian city of Kazan and his conversation with a Russian named Dimitri. WAF, said La Corte, is working for “one world praying for life and peace... I said to Dimitri we would love it if we could film the Muslims praying, along with the Orthodox, and the Catholics, and everybody else in Kazan—all the religions—praying with us for life and peace and then air it on EWTN...”³¹⁶ Yes, *all* the religions! And the more religions the better! As required by the post-Vatican II “updating” of the Church by the party of the innovators, Fatima Lite dispenses with the idea that non-Catholics have any positive duty or real need to belong to the Catholic Church. “Inter-religious dialogue” and “ecumenism” require a revision of the Fatima event to suit these innovations, and WAF is eager to oblige.

Recounting a celebration of the return of the Icon of Kazan to that city during the pontificate of John Paul II, La Corte was pleased to note that “Half the people that attended that celebration were Orthodox and the other half were Muslim...” and that he spent part of his time in Kazan “going to these beautiful mosques...”³¹⁷ So, it appears the donations of the faithful to the “World Apostolate of Fatima” have financed La Corte’s tour of the Russian mosques in Kazan. La Corte noted, however, that the city was building a new Catholic church (which only replaces the one the Soviet authorities stole after the Russian Revolution and which the city has refused to return since the “fall of Communism”). This new church, notes one news article, “is the latest addition to the city’s mosaic of mosques, Orthodox cathedrals and synagogues. Home to Tatars and Russians, Kazan is known as a model of ethnic and religious tolerance.” In this wonderful spirit of religious pluralism, a local sculptor in Kazan “is building what he calls a Temple of All Faiths. He sees it as a cultural centre of the future and a unique meeting point for people of all beliefs.”³¹⁸

The “mosaic” of religions in Kazan meets with WAF’s hearty approval. As La Corte exclaimed to Apostoli during his appearance on EWTN: “It is amazing how Mary... goes above the differences. You know, the Catholics, the Orthodox, being Christians, and then the Muslims. She can bring us together. There’s no fighting, no

³¹⁶ http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=S2X_9JGFR00#t=1269s.

³¹⁷ http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=S2X_9JGFR00#t=1372s.

³¹⁸ “Kazan Catholics Blessed with New Church,” September 6, 2008, <http://rt.com/news/prime-time/kazan-catholics-blessed-with-new-church/>.

enmity. What struck me as we venerated that image [of Kazan] is the Moslem women that came and prayed before that image.... Mary's there. She's a bond. She's bringing together these people."³¹⁹ There is no need for any actual conversion to the Catholic religion, of course. It suffices that Mary unites everyone in good feelings in spite of their religious "differences," which the Mother of God is "above."

Accordingly, WAF is now promoting something it calls the "Worldwide Inter-Religious Prayer Campaign."³²⁰ Catholics involved in this initiative "would be encouraged to pray the Rosary as requested by the Virgin Mary in Fatima," whereas "[e]veryone would be encouraged to pray the universal Fatima intentions *according to their faith* and to build up to at least 15 minutes of meditative prayer." And what are these "universal Fatima intentions"? They are something WAF has invented to convert the Message of Fatima, which could not be more explicitly Catholic, into a pan-religious phenomenon. Thus a statement on WAF's website asserts that the prayer the Angel of Peace taught the children at Fatima is "appropriate for people of all faiths..."³²¹ To recall the prayer: "My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love You. I beg pardon for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love You." WAF is promoting the idea that the nature of the God to which the prayer refers is a matter of indifference, so long as people pray to whatever deity they choose to worship "according to their faith."

In a WAF video in which both La Corte and Apostoli participate, La Corte announces the creation of international "prayer cells" that will pray for the "universal Fatima intentions," which exclude the specifically Catholic intentions of the conversion of Russia, the Triumph of the Immaculate Heart, and the establishment of devotion to the Immaculate Heart throughout the world. As La Corte explains:

And anybody can do this, *no matter what your faith is*. Because we all align with these intentions. The intentions are: To pray to bring God back into our lives and back into our cultures. For peace. And for the salvation of souls. And the purpose is because we know that when we don't open the door to God in prayer, our lives become more self-centered and material-oriented, leaving little if any room for God. And our world suffers the consequences. We see the consequences of our failure to pray all around us today. And that's because the world is not asking for God's help and the graces are not flowing. So I ask all of you to consider joining this program. The concept is to get as many people as we can throughout the

³¹⁹ http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=S2X_9JGFR00#t=1486s.

³²⁰ http://www.wafusa.org/prayer_announcement.html.

³²¹ http://www.wafusa.org/the_message.html.

world to pray these intentions so that God’s graces can flow, so that they will have the insight necessary to make decisions that are God-based decisions rather than self-based decisions.³²²

While La Corte is speaking, we see an image of what appears to be Shintoists praying in their temple. Taking up the inter-religious theme, Father Apostoli is next seen at the podium, declaring: “Many of the saints said that prayer is like the key that unlocks the heart of God.”³²³ At this point in the video we see an image of Muslim children “unlocking” God’s heart with their prayers to Allah. “If you want to get to the heart of God, pray, because God will listen to you,” Apostoli continues. As he speaks we see the image of a vast crowd of Muslim men prostrating themselves in the direction of Mecca; or perhaps they are actually at Mecca.³²⁴ This is followed by an image of Buddhists at prayer.³²⁵ Catholics in prayer are included in the inter-religious video montage.

Notice what is going on here: *the specifically Catholic Message of Fatima has been converted into “universal Fatima intentions” that no longer pertain to the Catholic Faith.* It is suggested that “God’s graces can flow” in response to the prayers of any and all religions, and that people will make “God-based decisions” if—no matter what their religion—they pray for the “universal Fatima intentions” without the guidance of the Church or the grace of her sacraments. The conversion of Russia and the Triumph of the Immaculate Heart are replaced by “bring God back into our lives and into our cultures”—whatever that means. But which God? Apparently, it doesn’t matter; any sort of deity will do, including the semi-divinized Buddha.

The peace of which Our Lady of Fatima speaks, “the peace of Christ, which is the only true peace,”³²⁶ as Pius XI insisted in *Quas Primas*, is not-so-subtly replaced by a pan-religious “peace” attainable without the Social Kingship of Christ that *Quas Primas* defends as indispensable for true peace among men. As for the “salvation of souls,” how is this to be obtained without the Catholic Church of which Mary is the Mother? There is not the least indication in WAF’s “Worldwide Inter-Religious Prayer Campaign” that souls are in danger of eternal damnation without the helps that only the Church can provide, which is precisely why the Mother of God came

³²² http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=W7RP5PU109A#t=38s.

³²³ http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=W7RP5PU109A#t=116s.

³²⁴ http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=W7RP5PU109A#t=125s.

³²⁵ http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=W7RP5PU109A#t=129s.

³²⁶ Pius XI, *Ubi Arcano Dei* (1922), n. 37.

to Fatima. As She said to the terrified seers:

“You have seen hell, where the souls of poor sinners go. *To save them*, God wishes to establish in the world devotion to My Immaculate Heart.”

But WAF’s version of the Message of Fatima dispenses with this embarrassing “pre-Vatican II” connection of salvation to membership in the Catholic Church—outside of which, as the Church has thrice declared infallibly, no one is saved.³²⁷ As WAF would have it, Muslims, Shintoists, Buddhists—the members of any religion, in fact—are in fine spiritual condition so long as they pray for the “universal Fatima intentions” WAF has extracted from the Fatima message.

WAF even offers “a free ‘starter kit’ for people of *any faith* to help them benefit from the power of prayer and to pray for the intentions of Our Lady of Fatima”³²⁸—that is, the “universal Fatima intentions,” not the Catholic intentions the Mother of God actually specified. But what does WAF mean by the “power of prayer”? Any prayer? The prayer of Buddhists to Buddha? The prayers of Hindus to Vishnu or Krishna? The prayer of Animists to the Great Thumb? What of Saint Paul’s teaching that “the things which the heathens sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God. And I would not that you should be made partakers with devils.”³²⁹ Evidently, the teaching of Saint Paul has been annulled by “the spirit of Vatican II” and the Blue Army and WAF.

As for the Muslims, one wonders whether it occurred to La Corte during his tour of Kazan’s “beautiful mosques” that “Muslims in Europe are increasingly converting empty Christian churches into mosques” and that “the proliferation of mosques housed in former churches reflects the rise of Islam as the fastest growing religion in post-Christian Europe.”³³⁰ The very village of Fatima is named after a Muslim princess who, following her capture by Christian forces during the Moorish occupation of Portugal, was smitten by the Count of Ourem, *converted to Catholicism*, and was *baptized* before marrying the Count in 1158. But the “World Apostolate” of Fatima apparently has no problem with the development “there are now

³²⁷ The three *ex cathedra* pronouncements are: Pope Innocent III, Fourth Lateran Council, 1215; Pope Boniface VIII, Bull *Unam Sanctam*, 1302; Pope Eugene IV, Bull *Cantate Domino*, 1442. Only God knows how non-Catholics become incorporated into the Mystical Body of Christ in those exceptional cases where, through no fault of their own, they do not attain formal membership in the Church. There are no “exceptions” to the dogma itself, however. All souls in Heaven have attained beatitude as members of the Church Triumphant. There are no non-Catholics in Heaven.

³²⁸ http://www.wafusa.org/prayer_announcement.html.

³²⁹ 1 Corinthians 10:20.

³³⁰ Soeren Kern, “Muslims Converting Empty European Churches into Mosques,” January 16, 2012, Gatestone Institute, International Policy Council, <http://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/2761/converting-churches-into-mosques>.

more practicing Muslims than practicing Christians in many parts of Europe, not only in large urban centers, but also in smaller towns and cities across the continent.”³³¹ Perhaps WAF views the rising Muslim population of a once-Catholic Europe as prime territory for its “Worldwide Inter-Religious Prayer Campaign.” All the Muslims in Europe can contribute their Muslim prayers to WAF’s new version of the “Triumph of the Immaculate Heart,” which would seem to involve the triumph of Islam in formerly Catholic nations. But, no doubt, there will be many more “beautiful mosques” that La Corte can visit at the expense of the Catholic faithful.

Thanks to WAF the members of all religions can “obey” the “Message of Fatima” without becoming members of the Catholic Church. All they need is a WAF starter kit to be on their way to world peace and eternal felicity. In WAF’s revisionist propaganda, the Message of Fatima becomes a New Age plan for the “brotherhood of man” that not even a Freemason would find objectionable. In fact, if a Freemason had set out to rewrite the Message of Fatima according to Masonic requirements, he could not have done a better job than WAF’s “Worldwide Inter-Religious Prayer Campaign.”

But here the WAF is only doing what the Vatican bureaucracy of newly invented “pontifical councils” expects it to do in furtherance of a new, post Vatican II program of “inter-religious dialogue” that could not be further from the Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in a converted Russia. Typical of these bureaucrats is Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, the Vatican’s head of the “Pontifical Council for Inter-religious Dialogue,” which, despite its name, is not an arm of the papal Magisterium or teaching office but a mere Vatican department whose documents and initiatives bind no one as matters of faith. In April of 2012, Tauran “praised Buddhism for instilling the values of wisdom, compassion and non-violence in young people in a message to mark the Buddhist feast day of Vesak.” Hailing a “religion” devoted to a semi-divinized human being, Tauran declared: “As Buddhists you pass on to young people the wisdom regarding the need to refrain from harming others and to live lives of generosity and compassion.” Buddhist education, he said, is “a precious gift to society,” and he noted with approval that “Today, in more and more classrooms all over the world, students belonging to various religions and beliefs sit side-by-side.”³³² This is the brave new world promoted by the forward-thinking prelates of the party of the innovators: the Masonic brotherhood of religions, with religion reduced to a means

³³¹ Ibid.

³³² “Vatican Cardinal Hails Buddhist Wisdom,” *Daily Star*, April 3, 2012; at: <http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/International/2012/Apr-03/169076-vatican-cardinal-hails-buddhist-wisdom.ashx#ixzz1r61fsMBW>.

of promoting toleration, non-violence, and generally being nice to others.

Tauran called upon young people to “put pressure on us to destroy all the walls which unfortunately still separate us” and he condemned “the ‘ignorance’ in relations between Christians and Muslims, criticizing in particular rising Islamophobia in Europe.” Even as Islam threatens to overwhelm and destroy what little remains of Christian civilization—alarming even the authorities of a secular French state³³³—Tauran urges us to welcome the rise of Islam in former Christendom with open arms. While Vatican bureaucrats cheer them on, the Muslims will accomplish without firing a shot what Our Lady prevented them from doing at the Battle of Lepanto, when the Rosary produced the miraculous defeat of the invading Muslim armada through Her intercession on October 7, 1571, as Pope Saint Pius V recognized in establishing the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on that October 7.

Tauran the innovator is a perfect example of why Paul VI was forced to decry the “auto-demolition” of the Church after Vatican II. And the “World Apostolate of Fatima,” whose executive director delights in all the “beautiful mosques” in Kazan, is only too happy to assist in the auto-demolition.

In sum, WAF is helping to promote throughout the world the very error condemned by Pius XI in his encyclical *Mortalium Animos*, only 34 years before Vatican II and three years before Pius XII foresaw disaster for the Church at the hands of the “innovators” he saw all around him in light of the Fatima message. That error, wrote Pius, is the

false opinion which considers all religions to be more or less good and praiseworthy, since they all in different ways manifest and signify that sense which is inborn in us all, and by which we are led to God and to the obedient acknowledgment of His rule. Not only are those who hold this opinion in error and deceived, but also in distorting the idea of true religion they reject it, and little by little, turn aside to naturalism and atheism, as it is called; from which it clearly follows that one who supports those who hold these theories and attempt to realize them, is *altogether abandoning the divinely revealed religion*.

WAF would undoubtedly protest vehemently that it promotes a specifically Catholic Message of Fatima among Catholics, including “a spiritual pledge to the Blessed Mother promising daily sacrifices, to pray the Rosary, wear the Brown Scapular, meditate on Mary, go

³³³ “France to Deport Five Muslims Amid Intensified Crackdown,” <http://abna.ir/data.asp?lang=3&id=306489>.

to confession and Communion, and to attend five consecutive first Saturday devotions.”³³⁴ But that is precisely the point: WAF purports to divide the Fatima prophecies into two parts: Catholic Fatima and Non-Catholic Fatima, when no such division exists. On the contrary, the Message of Fatima is integrally and indivisibly Catholic. The Catholic intentions enunciated by the Virgin *are* the “universal Fatima intentions,” because the Catholic Church is the one and only *universal* Church, to which the salvation of all souls is ordered by the divine decree of the Second Person of the Holy Trinity: “Go forth and make disciples of *all nations*, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded thee.”³³⁵ “He that believes and is baptized, shall be saved: but he that believes not shall be condemned.”³³⁶ Indeed, the very name “Catholic” is derived from the Greek *καθολικός* (*katholikos*) meaning universal. Therefore, the true “universal Fatima intentions” to be promoted for the good of *all* men, not just Catholics, are these:

- the consecration and consequent miraculous *conversion* of Russia to the Catholic Faith and Russia’s reunion with Rome;
- the Triumph of Mary’s Immaculate Heart;
- devotion to the Immaculate Heart as the means of saving souls from hell and bringing true peace—the peace of Christ, not “inter-religious harmony”—to the world;
- the Five First Saturdays and the Communions of Reparation;
- the praying of the Rosary every day for the *conversion* of sinners and the salvation of souls, not merely peace;
- *and* the offering of sacrifices for sinners *by Catholics*.

The problem with the Message of Fatima thus understood is that it is *too Catholic* for the Party Line, and thus too Catholic for organizations that seek “official approval” by the same Vatican bureaucracy whose worldly-wise officials have been trying to “sanitize” Fatima since the Second Vatican Council. Thus, WAF has created one Fatima for Catholics—reduced to personal prayer and devotions—and another “universal” Fatima, suitable for “all faiths,” that eliminates anything non-Catholics might find offensive. In the process, like the Catholic proto-ecumenists of the 1920s whose activities Pius XI reprobated, WAF is “little by little, turn[ing] aside

³³⁴ <http://www.wafusa.org/press.html>.

³³⁵ Matthew 28:19-20.

³³⁶ Mark 16:16.

to naturalism” and implicitly “abandoning the divinely revealed religion” in favor of a pan-religious substitute. WAF is promoting exactly the vision of Monsignor Guerra, whose stated intent we noted in Chapter 6: “The future of Fatima, or the adoration of God and His mother at this Holy Shrine, *must* pass through the creation of a shrine where different religions can mingle.”

As WAF assures us, however, it is “the only Fatima organization that speaks with ecclesiastical authority on the message of Fatima.” Who, then, would dare to question its new “inter-religious” version of Fatima with its new “universal Fatima intentions” for people of “all faiths”? Here we see yet again how the appearance of authority, where none actually exists, is employed to cloak error with respectability. And so it has gone with all the ruinous ecclesial innovations imposed by the party of the innovators since Vatican II, which have left the once Christian West in a state that John Paul II was forced to describe as nothing less than “silent apostasy.” At the same time, a resurgent Islam is filling the void, while Mr. La Corte visits “beautiful mosques” in Kazan.

What Conversion?

Since Fatima Lite is no longer an intrinsically Catholic message, predicated on membership in the Catholic Church for salvation, it follows that the purveyors of Fatima Lite at WAF, like all the others we have encountered, must revise the very concept of conversion in order to address the problem of Our Lady’s prophecy that Russia “will be converted...” Here WAF advances the same modernist Message of Fatima advanced by the late Father Fox, who, as we saw in Chapter 6, sneered at those “who hold to a position that a paradise on earth, a Russia suddenly turning itself into a people of converted holiness and even as Roman Catholics must immediately follow a Collegial Consecration.”

Because it is conformed completely to the Party Line laid down by the party of the innovators, Fatima Lite rejects the very idea that the intercession of the Mother of God can obtain such a miraculous world *metanoia*, which Socci describes as “an extraordinary change of the world, an overthrow of the mentality dominating modernity, probably following dramatic events for humanity.” For the purveyors of Fatima Lite it is equally inconceivable that the Triumph of the Immaculate Heart could mean a reversal of the disastrous innovations of the Church Pius XII predicted with the Fatima prophecies in view, a reversal also described by Socci:

a clear ‘conversion’ to doctrinal orthodoxy after the frightening deviations following the Council [and] a return also to adoration, therefore also a return to the bimillennial liturgy of the Church... [A] different face from the Church of today: more

adoring than worldly, more mendicant of the grace of salvation from God, than occupied by its own plans and projects... A Church that expects everything from Christ, not from political ability, from activism and from the mania of *aggiornamento*...³³⁷

As far as WAF is concerned—and it is the same with all the false friends of Fatima, including those we have encountered on these pages—the “conversion of Russia” is nothing more than the current religious and geopolitical status quo. What we see is what we get. It’s a miracle! Thus, during his aforementioned appearance on EWTN, which has become the Official Network of Fatima Lite, La Corte enthused about “phenomenal changes” in Russia. By this he did not mean Russia’s conversion to the Faith and her return to communion with Rome—of course not!—but rather that “The Russian Orthodox Church... is thriving now... the Faith seems to be reviving.”³³⁸ Apostoli agreed: “faith is rising up again” in Russia, by which he meant Russian Orthodoxy.

So, as La Corte, Apostoli, WAF, EWTN, and the entire Fatima Lite establishment would have it, the Mother of God came to Fatima to prophesy the “conversion” of Russia to Russian Orthodoxy, part of a thousand-year-old schism whose hierarchy was, and remains today, a tool of the Kremlin. But even this supposed “thriving” of the Russian Orthodox Church is a fiction. A U.S. State Department report on the state of religion in Russia as of 2010 notes that while “[a]pproximately 100 million citizens identify themselves as Russian Orthodox... only 5 percent of Russians call themselves observant.” As for members of the religion the Mother of God had in view at Fatima, in all of United Russia there are only “600,000 Catholics, *most of whom are not ethnic Russians*.”³³⁹ The Muslim population of Russia is between “10 million and 23 million,” there are “one million Buddhists” and “Protestants make up the second largest group of Christian believers, with 3,500 registered organizations and more than two million adherents.” That is, even Buddhists outnumber Catholics in “converted” Russia.

Neither La Corte nor Apostoli had anything to say about the continued standing of the Catholic Church in Russia as a tiny minority hemmed in by government restrictions at every level. Russia has manifestly failed to embrace the Catholic Faith since 1984—the only reasonable meaning of the word “conversion.” On the contrary, in the years that have passed since 1984 we have witnessed a steady

³³⁷ Socci, *The Fourth Secret of Fatima*, p. 127.

³³⁸ http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=S2X_9JGFR00#t=1786s.

³³⁹ “Russia, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, International Religious Freedom Report 2010, November 17, 2010,” accessed at <http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/irf/2010/148977.htm>.

decline of the Church's position, to the point where today the Church is undergoing *outright persecution* under the Putin regime. Consider these facts:

- In 1997 Russia enacted a new law on “freedom of conscience” which gave privileged status to Russian Orthodoxy, Islam, Judaism and Buddhism as Russia’s “traditional religions,” while forbidding Catholic “proselytism” and requiring Catholic parishes to obtain approval from local bureaucrats for their very existence.
- The small percentage of Catholics who even go to Mass on Sunday (most of them in Siberia) is dependent almost entirely on a total of 165 Catholic priests, nearly all of whom are foreign-born clerics not allowed into Russia without visitor’s visas that require a departure from the country every three months to seek renewal, which can be denied at any time and for any reason, often for no reason at all.
- In 2002 Russian authorities began expelling non-Russian Catholic clergy from the country. As of November 2002 five priests, including the bishop for Siberia, Bishop Jerzy Mazur, had been expelled and their visas confiscated without explanation. Bishop Mazur learned that he had been added to a secret “list” of Catholic clergy who are considered “undesirables” and will no longer be allowed to enter Russian territory. After ignoring even the Pope’s request for an explanation of the expulsions, Vladimir Putin sent a perfunctory letter stating nothing more than that the expulsions were in accordance with Russian law.³⁴⁰
- The Russian Orthodox hierarchy exploded in outrage when the Vatican announced in February 2002 that its “apostolic administrations” in Russia would be designated as dioceses. These would not even be dioceses in the traditional Catholic sense. There would, for example, be only an “Archdiocese of the Mother of God *at* Moscow”; and the Archbishop in charge of this structure will not be called the Archbishop of Moscow, lest the Vatican give offense to the Russian Orthodox Patriarch of Moscow, the ex-KGB agent, Alexy II.
- On March 2, 2002, Pope John Paul II conducted a Saturday prayer service that was broadcast from the Vatican by satellite into Russia. The broadcast was totally blacked

³⁴⁰ “Rebuff for the Pope: Vatican Fears New Persecution,” *The Catholic World Report*, October 2002, p. 9.

out by the same Russian television networks now under Vladimir Putin’s thumb. Only by shipping special equipment into the country (that was held up at customs until the last possible moment) could a few thousand Catholics see the Pope on television screens set up at Assumption Cathedral in Moscow. The BBC reported that “Patriarch Alexy of the Russian Orthodox Church said it (the satellite broadcast) was an ‘invasion of Russia’ and referred to the Polish occupation of Moscow in the early 17th Century. John-Paul is of Polish origin.”³⁴¹ Hence, after 40 years of *Ostpolitik* and “ecumenical dialogue”, the Orthodox hierarchy will not even tolerate a video image of the Pope in even one single Catholic church in Moscow.

- Trying to put a happy face on the debacle in Russia, Archbishop Tadeusz Kondrusiewicz, the then head of the “Archdiocese of the Mother of God at Moscow”, claimed that “It’s all a misunderstanding,” referring to Orthodox charges that the Catholic Church is “proselytizing” in Russia.
- An Associated Press story on Kondrusiewicz’s reaction to Orthodox hostility noted that “Parishioners have come to Kondrusiewicz in tears recently, complaining that the indignant rhetoric by Orthodox leaders on national newscasts since February 11 has made them afraid to practice their faith.”³⁴²
- Archbishop Kondrusiewicz has issued a formal protest on behalf of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of Russia, entitled “Religious Liberty in Russia is in Serious Danger.” The protest declares:

Catholics in Russia ask themselves: What will happen next? Are the constitutional guarantees valid also for them, including liberty of conscience and of the right to have their own pastors, which comprises inviting them from abroad, not forgetting that for 81 years the Catholic Church was deprived of the right of forming and ordaining its own priests? Perhaps the State really considers Catholics second-class citizens? Are they (the State) returning to the times of persecution of the faith? ... The expulsion of a Catholic bishop who has not violated any law, surpasses all imaginable limits of civilized relations between the

³⁴¹ BBC Online, March 2, 2002.

³⁴² AP News, March 1, 2002.

State and the Church. ... With grave worry, we express our decisive protest in respect to violation of the constitutional rights of Catholics.³⁴³

- By October 2002 Pope John Paul II's own spokesman, Joaquin Navarro-Valls, had declared that the actions against the Catholic Church by Russian authorities had reached the level of "a true persecution."³⁴⁴

The situation has not improved materially since 2002. In at least one way it has gotten worse. As the U.S. State Department reported in its 2008 International Religious Freedom Report, in 2007 "the Russian government introduced new visa rules that allow foreigners (including religious workers) with business or humanitarian visas to spend only 90 of every 180 days in the country."³⁴⁵ The State Department's report for 2010, quoted above, confirms that "[t]he effect of these rules has been to *restrict severely* religious groups that rely upon foreign religious workers. *The Catholic Church, which relies almost exclusively on priests from outside the country... [has] been particularly hard hit by this provision.*" The new visa rules create a preposterous situation for the Church in Russia: *nearly every Catholic priest in the country is obliged to leave Russia for what amounts to six months out of every year, to remain in Russia for no more than 90 days at a time, and to reapply at least twice a year for readmission at the discretion of bureaucrats.* The aim of the 2007 law is clear: to prevent the Catholic Church from sinking any roots in Russian soil, while giving the false appearance of "religious freedom" to a marginalized and bureaucratically hounded tiny minority of priests and faithful, struggling to survive.

Even at the level of basic morality, Russia today is a sinkhole of degradation; there has been no religious conversion of any kind. **Quite the contrary, since 1984 Russia has undergone a rapid moral decline, as if to make a mockery of this revisionist claim. Consider these facts:**

- Today, Russia has *the highest abortion rate in the world* at 53.7 per 1,000 women between the ages of 15 and 44—a rate even higher than that in China (which has more total abortions).³⁴⁶
- Fr. Daniel Maurer, C.J.D., who spent eight years in Russia, says that statistically, the average Russian woman will have

³⁴³ *National Catholic Register* Online Web Edition, April 28 - May 5, 2002.

³⁴⁴ *The Catholic World Report*, October 2002, p. 10.

³⁴⁵ U.S. Department of State, "International Religious Freedom Report 2008", at <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2008/108468.htm>.

³⁴⁶ CBC News, July 30, 2009, "13 million abortions a year reported in China," at <http://www.cbc.ca/health/story/2009/07/30/abortions-china.html>.

eight abortions during her childbearing years—though Fr. Maurer believes the actual number averaged out to be about 12 abortions per woman. He has spoken to women who have had as many as 25 abortions. A major reason for these dreadful figures is that other contraception methods (which are immoral anyway) have not been introduced in Russia, nor are they trusted. This leaves abortion as the “cheapest way to limit the family size.”³⁴⁷

- *In Russia, abortions are free, but childbirth is not.*³⁴⁸
- The Russian birth rate is plummeting and Russia’s population is dropping at the rate of 700,000 people each year—an unprecedented event in a civilized nation during “peacetime.”³⁴⁹
- Russia has the highest per capita rate of alcohol consumption in the world.³⁵⁰
- Homosexuality is rampant in Moscow and throughout the country. In fact, in April 1993, nine years after the 1984 “consecration”, Boris Yeltsin allowed homosexuality to be de-criminalized. Homosexuality is now “legal” in Russia.³⁵¹
- Russia is a leading world center for the distribution of child pornography. The *Associated Press* reported on a Moscow-

³⁴⁷ Father Maurer’s remarks appeared in an interview in *Catholic World Report*, February 2001. A synopsis and commentary on this interview was published in “The Myth of a Converted Russia Exposed”, Marian Horvat, Ph.D., *Catholic Family News*, March 2001.

³⁴⁸ Ibid.

³⁴⁹ See Mark Fellows, “This Present Darkness”, Part III, *Catholic Family News*, October 2000.

³⁵⁰ Regarding alcohol in Russia, researchers concluded: “Russia’s rate of alcohol consumption, traditionally among the highest in the world, and rising significantly in the 1990s, is a major contributor to the country’s health crisis ... alcoholism has reached epidemic proportions, particularly among males ... A 1995 Russian study found that regular drunkenness affected between 25 and 60 percent of blue-collar workers ... In 1994 some 53,000 people died of alcohol poisoning, an increase of about 36,000 since 1991.” In the ten years since the alleged consecration of Russia, there has also been a sharp increase in illegal drug use: “In 1995 an estimated 2 million Russians used narcotics, more than twenty times the total recorded ten years earlier in the entire Soviet Union, with the number of users increasing 50 percent every year in the mid-1990s.” From Mark Fellows, “This Present Darkness”, Part II, *Catholic Family News*, September 2000.

³⁵¹ “Russia Legalizes Homosexuality”, *United Press International*, May 28, 1993. To quote the beginning of the article: “Russia’s homosexual activists Friday celebrated a major victory for gay rights in post-Soviet Russia following the repeal of Article 121 of the Soviet criminal code, which outlawed consensual sex between men. ‘This is great news for gays and lesbians in Russia,’ said Vladislav Ortanov, editor of the Moscow gay magazine *Risk*.”

based child pornography ring linked to another child pornography ring in Texas. To quote AP: “Russian law does not distinguish between child pornography and pornography involving adults, and treats the production and distribution of either as a minor crime, said Dmitry Chepchugov, head of the Russian Interior Ministry’s department for high technology crimes. Russian police often complain about the legal chaos that has turned Russia into an international center of child pornography production. ‘Unfortunately, Russia has turned into a world trash bin of child pornography,’ Chepchugov told reporters in Moscow.”³⁵²

- Russians are addicted to grossly immoral “reality-based” TV. On the vilest of the “reality-based” shows, cameras film the intimate personal lives of Russian “couples,” including their activity breaking the 6th Commandment. Despite grumbles of disapproval from old hard-line Communists, Russian viewers “cannot get enough” of this pornography. The program “boasts an audience share of more than 50% and thousands of Russians have endured sub-zero temperatures and stood in line for more than an hour to catch a glimpse of it through a window of the apartment. Millions have logged on to the website, which has crashed frequently under the weight of the heavy traffic.”³⁵³

Here, however, we have a recent positive, albeit inadvertent, development. The Kremlin, recognizing that the Russian population is exterminating itself in abortion mills, has enacted legislation to make it more difficult to obtain abortions. The new laws include a waiting period and the elimination of all “social grounds” for abortion between 12 and 22 weeks of pregnancy, although before then, up to the fourth month of pregnancy, abortion on demand is still available, essentially on demand. Despite these desperate measures, the countries of the former Soviet Union maintain the highest rate of abortions in the world. And in Russia proper, there were 1.32 million live births, but 1.8 million abortions in 2001.³⁵⁴

To speak of a “conversion of Russia” in the face of these facts is ludicrous. But then the Party Line itself is ludicrous, and WAF is nothing if not an organization whose *raison d’être* is to promote the Party Line unswervingly no matter how untenable it becomes.

³⁵² “Activist Says Child Porn Prosecutions Will be Difficult in Indonesia, Russia”, Christine Brummitt, *Associated Press*, August 9, 2001 (emphasis added).

³⁵³ “Big Brotherski goes too far for Staid Russians”, Mark Franchetti, *Sunday Times* (London), November 25, 2001.

³⁵⁴ “Abortion in Russia,” http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abortion_in_Russia#cite_note-8.

A New Twist on Russia’s “Conversion”

Apparently without recognizing the disastrous implications for the Party Line, Apostoli admitted during the EWTN telecast that since the “consecration of Russia” in 1984, “There’s a religious indifference that seems to be spreading. In formerly Christian countries, people have just fallen away from their faith... People have just fallen away from their faith. There’s a progressive secularism—even here in America—intruding into our life...”³⁵⁵ He further admitted that before he ordered its return to the Russian Orthodox, John Paul II had prayed before the Icon of Kazan that “the Orthodox Church would come back home again—he called it the two lungs of the Church—so that they would be breathing in harmony again.”³⁵⁶ Thus, even WAF’s spiritual director concedes that, since the “consecration” in 1984, apostasy has been spreading throughout the Western world and John Paul II’s hopes for an end to the Orthodox schism were dashed. Where, then, is the promised “conversion of Russia” and the Triumph of the Immaculate Heart?

Undaunted by reality, WAF has added a new and even more ludicrous twist to the “Russia has converted” canard. During the EWTN broadcast, La Corte went so far as to assert that there is a “spiritual resurgence that is taking place in Russia, as we watch the spiritual decay that’s taking place throughout the rest of the world...” To this Apostoli added that “*Russia is going to help reconvert the rest of the world...* It’s funny, isn’t it? They sent out the evil of atheism and secularism, now they’re regaining the faith and we have the evil of secularism and atheism...”³⁵⁷ Regaining the faith? What faith? Certainly not the Catholic Faith; and not even the Orthodox faith, as only 5% of Russia’s nominal Orthodox are actually observant. Yet WAF’s head and its spiritual advisor both solemnly assured EWTN’s trusting audience that Russia—a secular state ruled by an autocrat, in which abortions exceed live births—will now convert the rest of the world to “the faith.” Apparently, for the purveyors of Fatima Lite no lie is too big to ask the faithful to swallow.

What Peace?

During the EWTN telecast, one caller, named “John,” managed to get by the call screener and pose the obvious question: “If the Consecration of Russia had already taken place, why is there not an end to wars?... I thought peace should have taken place...” Apostoli

³⁵⁵ http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=S2X_9JGFR00#t=809s.

³⁵⁶ http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=S2X_9JGFR00#t=1188s.

³⁵⁷ http://www.youtubecom/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=S2X_9JGFR00#t=2593s.

quickly administered the cure for this insurrection against the Party Line, observing that “Gorbachev took down the Soviet flag... on Christmas of 1991,” as if Our Lady of Fatima had promised the world nothing more than a regime change in Moscow.

Even Apostoli, however, noted the objection “what about our abortions, what about our euthanasia, our destruction of human life?...” How could this mass slaughter of innocents, all over the world, be consistent with the period of peace Our Lady of Fatima promised if Her request for the Consecration were obeyed? Referring to the supposed “conversion” of Russia since 1984, Apostoli could only say that “many places of the world that’s [sic] gotta have conversion also or there can never be that full peace. But it’s coming.” Some 26 years after the Consecration-that-wasn’t, Apostoli seriously proposed to his Catholic audience that the world would have “full peace” and turn away from the holocaust of abortion when the world had “converted” like Russia, *which has the world’s highest per capita abortion rate*. Yes, according to Father Apostoli, “full peace” will be attained once the rest of the world becomes like Russia! One might ask: Is this for real? Indeed it is. And it comes from the “spiritual advisor” of the “World Apostolate” of Fatima. The phrase “blind guides” somehow seems inadequate.

La Corte took a different tack, offering the alternative standard Party Line “explanation” that the “period of peace” Our Lady of Fatima promised is nothing other than the geopolitical status quo we have been experiencing since 1984. That is, wars, genocides, and the endless holocaust of the unborn in Russia and throughout the “civilized” world—not even the primitive tribes of the “undeveloped” world practice abortion on demand—are what the intercession of Our Lady has obtained, thanks to the “Consecration of Russia” in 1984. Here La Corte cited as his “authority” none other than Monsignor Guerra, whose name, ironically enough, means *war* in both Portuguese and Italian: “Monsignor Guerra, the rector *emeritus* of the shrine in Fatima, Portugal, his perspective is that we *are* in the era of peace.”³⁵⁸

Well, that settles that. Monsignor Guerra has spoken! According to La Corte and the “World Apostolate” of Fatima Lite, the world is now in the midst of the Triumph of the Immaculate Heart. Behold the miracle! But that preposterous assertion is rather difficult to reconcile with the pronouncements of the Pope to whom La Corte and his organization profess to be so loyal. In his homily at the Fatima Shrine on May 13, 2010, Pope Benedict XVI made a mockery of La Corte’s shameless propaganda by intimating that the world is on the

³⁵⁸ http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=S2X_9JGFR00#t=2706s.

verge of a divine chastisement precisely because the Triumph of the Immaculate Heart has *not* taken place:

One would deceive himself who thinks that Fatima’s prophetic mission is concluded. Here there takes on new life the plan of God which asks humanity from the beginning: “Where is your brother Abel [...] *Your brother’s blood is crying out to me from the ground!*” (Gen. 4:9). Mankind has succeeded in unleashing a cycle of death and terror, but *failed in bringing it to an end...* In sacred Scripture we often find that God seeks righteous men and women in order to save the city of man and he does the same here, in Fatima, when Our Lady asks: “Do you want to offer yourselves to God, to endure all the sufferings which he will send you, in an act of reparation for the sins by which he is offended and of supplication for the conversion of sinners?” (*Memoirs of Sister Lúcia*, I, 162)... May the seven years which separate us from the centenary of the apparitions *hasten the fulfilment of the prophecy of the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary*, to the glory of the Most Holy Trinity.³⁵⁹

Seeing a world steeped in violence and unprecedented evil—the same world the Pope sees—La Corte, being a fairly clever propagandist, proposed the theory that his imaginary Triumph of the Immaculate Heart consists in the avoidance of World War III, which surely would have happened had John Paul II not “consecrated Russia” in 1984: “Our Lady was foreseeing World War III, which was going to be this huge devastating war, with nuclear arms that weren’t even foresawn [sic] in 1917.... But She was talking about the annihilation of nations at that time.... And that didn’t happen after the Consecration, after the millions and millions of Rosaries. So, the world war was averted.”³⁶⁰ Notice that La Corte’s argument is conveniently non-falsifiable: the supposed Triumph of the Immaculate Heart involves a world war that did *not* happen. How is

³⁵⁹ “Homily at Holy Mass, Esplanade of the Fatima Shrine,” May 13, 2010, http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/homilies/2010/documents/hf_ben-xvi_hom_20100513_fatima_en.html. We have corrected the Vatican’s erroneous English translation, which deletes the key phrase in the original, “one would deceive himself” and replaces it with “we are mistaken.” The intent was clearly to hide the fact that the Pope speaks here of a *self-deception*, not merely a “mistake.” As the Pope said in the original Portuguese homily: “*Iludir-se-ia* quem pensasse [one would deceive himself who thinks] que a missão profética de Fátima esteja concluída.” And in the Italian: “Si illuderebbe chi pensasse [one would deceive himself who thinks] che la missione profetica di Fatima sia conclusa.” The Portuguese verb for “to deceive” is *iludir-se*, and the Italian verb is *illudere*. This mistranslation, unfortunately, is typical of the unreliability of the Vatican apparatus on matters pertaining to Fatima. Indeed, the Vatican approved defective vernacular translations of the Mass itself that went uncorrected for forty years, including the mistranslation of “for many” [*pro multis*] as “for all” [*pro omnes*].

³⁶⁰ http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=S2X_9JGFR00#t=2706s.

one to disprove that contention?

But then, what about the “cycle of death and terror” which, as the Pope himself declared at Fatima, is crying out to Heaven for divine retribution? In perfect harmony with the Party Line, La Corte opined that “this concept of there would be no war or strife in the world” pertains to “the Second Coming of Jesus, a thousand years—but I don’t know that Our Lady was talking about every little war and skirmish...” After all, what are a few little wars and skirmishes compared to the Third World War we escaped? Besides, said La Corte, the fault for all these little wars and skirmishes lies with the simple faithful, who have fallen down on the job, not with the Pope and the bishops for having failed to perform the Consecration of Russia: “we haven’t followed the Message of Fatima. We haven’t done our part. We can’t expect the bishops just to do their part, and run around and ignore the rest of the message...”³⁶¹

Come again? Only a few moments earlier La Corte had declared that World War III was averted “after the Consecration, *after the millions and millions of Rosaries*” offered by the same faithful he had just accused of failing to do their part in heeding the Fatima message. How is it that these millions of Rosaries averted World War III, but not “every little war and skirmish”—meaning the “cycle of death and terror” that has convulsed the globe since the “consecration” of 1984?

Continuing his double-talk, the head of the “World Apostolate” of Fatima Lite made sure to cover his bases by suggesting that if the cycle of death and terror that has unfolded since 1984 *does* result in a world war (which may be what is depicted in the vision published in 2000) then this must mean that the Triumph of the Immaculate Heart is already behind us and that once again we face the “annihilation of nations,” which will be the fault of the faithful, not the utterly blameless hierarchy: “We’re not doing our part, so we’re slipping back again, and we can fall right into that problem we had in the past, and *nations are again on the precipice of perhaps being annihilated* if we don’t wake up.”³⁶² Laughably, La Corte pronounced these words with a satisfied smile on his face, as if to say: “See, that explains everything in case the world explodes. We can blame it all on the lazy laity, not the failure to consecrate Russia.”

Doing what was expected of “the only Fatima organization that speaks with ecclesiastical authority,” La Corte had provided what he seemed to think was the perfect cover for the Vatican Secretary of State’s decades-long campaign to prevent the Consecration. At

³⁶¹ http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=S2X_9JGFR00#t=2706s.

³⁶² http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=S2X_9JGFR00#t=2877s.

one and the same time he was arguing that the 1984 “consecration” had succeeded in bringing peace to the world, but that the world was *still* on the verge of the “annihilation of nations” because the faithful are spiritual slackers. If the world is divinely chastised by a terrible conflagration, it’s all the fault of the simple faithful, who squandered the Triumph of the Immaculate Heart by not doing their part. And doing their part would naturally include donations to “the only Fatima organization that speaks with ecclesiastical authority” so that the Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, and other religionists can obtain WAF’s “starter kits” and join the “Worldwide Inter-Religious Prayer Campaign”—while there is still time! But absolutely nothing further is required from the Vatican bureaucrats who have given WAF a stamp of approval for the dissemination of this nonsense, nor from the bishops, and certainly not from the Pope. The laity, and only the laity, will be to blame for the annihilation of nations.

La Corte concluded his EWTN performance by concocting an entire conversation between Sister Lucia and John Paul II in which she assures the Pope that he most certainly had consecrated Russia without ever mentioning Russia:

And who do you turn to find out if the Consecration has taken place? Normally, you would turn to the Pope, the highest authority in the Church. But the Pope turned to Sister Lucia and said: “Sister Lucia, has it been done?” And the first two times the consecration took place Sister Lucia said “No, Holy Father, it hasn’t been done.” But when Pope John Paul did it on March 25, she said “Yes, Holy Father, it has been done.”

Of course, no such conversation ever took place, except in La Corte’s imagination. And, as we saw in Chapter 3, Sister Lucia declared no fewer than three times that the 1984 ceremony did not fulfill Our Lady’s request: on March 22, 1984, just before the ceremony; in 1985 in *Sol de Fatima* magazine; and on July 27, 1987 (to journalist Enrique Romero). Try as he might, Cardinal Bertone never could induce Sister Lucia to recant an entire lifetime of testimony that the Consecration of Russia requires that Russia be identified as the object of the consecration—as if this were a seriously debatable proposition. Bertone has given five different versions of Lucia’s supposed about-face; but his claim here was no more credible than his patently false representation that Lucia told him Our Lady never linked disclosure of the Third Secret to the year 1960, when the very envelopes in his possession show conclusively that that is exactly what She did.³⁶³

Notice, however, that even La Corte’s imaginary conversation

³⁶³ Cf. Chapter 5; see also, *The Secret Still Hidden*, pp. 148-152.

between Lucia and the Pope has Lucia saying “No, Holy Father, it *hasn’t* been done” after the “first two times the consecration took place.” But the 1984 consecration suffered from *the same defects as the two previous attempts*, so why should the outcome of the third defective ceremony have been any different? In the real world, it’s “three strikes and you’re out.” But in the world of Fatima Lite, a strike-out is a home run.

A Shot over Father Gruner’s Bow

Near the end of the EWTN episode we have been examining as typical of WAF’s Fatima revisionist propaganda, a caller complained about a Fatima apostolate that was presenting a “gloom and doom thing” and is headed by a priest who “didn’t obey his bishop”—the usual canard concerning Father Gruner, already refuted in Chapter 3. “I don’t think Fatima is gloom and doom,” the caller added.³⁶⁴ The Mother of God, who speaks of hell, wars, persecution, suffering, martyrdom, and the annihilation of nations in the Message of Fatima, could be expected to disagree, even if the Message does embrace the hope of deliverance from these evils if only foolish men will cease interfering with the execution of Her requests.

Without mentioning Father Gruner by name, La Corte replied: “The only thing I’d like to say is that the World Apostolate of Fatima is the only pontifical organization.... which means it’s officially part of the Church under Canon Law.... You can look to this apostolate for the correct information on Fatima....” WAF is no more “officially part of the Church” than any Catholic in good standing. The suggestion that it has some sort of teaching office akin to that of the Pope, the bishops and the priests who are part of the *divine constitution* of the Church is misleading at best. At any rate, as we have seen, WAF is the *last* place to which one can look for correct information on Fatima. Its function is precisely to disseminate *dis-information* on Fatima as widely as possible.

The example of WAF demonstrates that the application of a rubber stamp by a Vatican department under the control of the Secretary of State is no guarantee of an organization’s orthodoxy or reliability. On the contrary, in these times of diabolical confusion in the Church, a Vatican department’s approval is more often than not a grounds for extreme caution respecting an organization’s claims, especially where Fatima is concerned. Have we not seen enough of the damage caused by “Vatican-approved” innovations and initiatives over the past fifty years? Here we must stress that by “the Vatican” we do not mean the papal magisterium exercised in an authentic manner by

³⁶⁴ http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=S2X_9JGFR00#t=2403s.

the Pope, intending to bind the universal Church. The magisterium has not imposed any obligation to believe anything WAF says about the Message of Fatima that does not correspond to the objective facts or right reason.

A Hard Truth

However hard this truth may sound, the sheer absurdity of WAF’s Fatima revisionist propaganda leaves one with the net impression that custody of the Fatima prophecies has fallen into the hands of bumbling incompetents who have received Vatican approval precisely *because* they are bumbling incompetents. What better way to neutralize the Message of Fatima in its authentic Catholic meaning than to confer the appearance of special authority upon zealous merchants of Fatima Lite, who, in return for the empty honor of an “official franchise” that is not required anyway, would be willing to say whatever they need to say—no matter how false, how implausible—to sell their product to the faithful and accomplish the sales goal of the Vatican “franchisor”: the consignment of the Fatima prophecies to the oblivion of the past.

Like the “useful idiots” of the West who assisted the rise of the Bolsheviks to power after Our Lady warned of their coming ascendancy, the “useful incompetents” who promote Fatima Lite are fervent cheerleaders for the very program that would destroy them, and us, should it be accomplished. In the divine plan, however, all the efforts of the false friends of Fatima will ultimately come to naught, no matter how hard they labor to bury what they profess to praise.