

Chapter 4

THE BLUE ARMY SURRENDERS

Founded in 1946 by Father Harold V. Colgan, a parish priest in Plainfield, New Jersey, the Blue Army had done good work in circulating throughout the world petitions for the Consecration of Russia up until the 1970s. The Blue Army had been instrumental in promoting disclosure of the Third Secret in 1960, the year the Virgin had indicated as crucial to the meaning of the Secret. The organization had even mounted a network television show whose theme was the coming disclosure of the Secret, “Zero, 1960,” that was carried by over 100 stations and deemed worthy of a “star” rating in *The New York Times*. And it was Blue Army spokesman John Haffert who expressed the dismay of the Catholic faithful when Pope John XXIII suppressed the Secret instead of revealing it to the world:

1960 came and went and the Pope to whom the Secret had been entrusted did not make it public. He did not even make known the fact that he had opened it. The silence from Rome lay heavily on all of us. People began to murmur that Fatima must have been a fake, that there was no secret, that the 1960 secret was a ‘hoax’ [By 1964] the effect of the long silence concerning the 1960 Secret still seemed to hang over us like a pall.¹⁰⁹

Yet, despite Sister’s Lucia’s overwhelming testimony on the necessity of an explicit consecration of Russia, including the testimony which had appeared in the above-noted edition of the Blue Army’s own Spanish-language magazine in 1985, by that year the Blue Army had surrendered to the dictates of the Party Line.

The turning point appears to have come in August 1981, during the international assembly of Blue Army delegates at its world headquarters in the *Domis Pacis* Hotel in Fatima. Father Nicholas Gruner was in attendance as one of the two delegates from Canada, and he recounts how the procedural rules were violated in order to facilitate the election of Bishop Constantino Luna as President of the worldwide organization: “The numbers of delegates was arbitrarily halved from 52—two from each country represented—to only 26, and I was thus eliminated as one of the two delegates from Canada. Over my protest, and that of Father Alonso, the official Fatima archivist for sixteen years, Bishop Luna was swept into office. And that was the beginning of the end for the Blue Army.”¹¹⁰

In the July-August 1982 issue of *Soul* magazine, the Blue Army

¹⁰⁹ *The Whole Truth About Fatima*, Vol. III: *The Third Secret*, by Frère Michel de la Sainte Trinité, English ed., Immaculate Heart Publications, 1990, p. 600.

¹¹⁰ Interview by author, April 3, 2012.

floated a patently fabricated “exclusive interview” with Sister Lucia, by an anonymous interviewer, in which she purportedly agreed that Pope John Paul’s consecration of the world in 1982 had effected the consecration of Russia because Russia is part of the world. By that logic, a consecration of the world would “consecrate” every specific thing in existence on the planet, even though the very meaning of the word consecration connotes the singling out of a *particular* object for sacred purposes: “Consecration’ is used in the Catholic Church as the setting apart for the service of God of both *persons and objects*.”¹¹¹ As the Blue Army would have it, by consecrating the world, John Paul II set apart everything from Brooklyn to bananas for the service of God. But Our Lady of Fatima came to earth to call for the setting aside of one particular nation, Russia, for service to God by means of Russia’s conversion. And Sister Lucia had said so repeatedly.

Father Gruner’s apostolate exposed the interview as a fake in a series of articles in *The Fatima Crusader* magazine citing, among other things, the decisive testimony of Sister Lucia to the Papal Nuncio that the 1982 ceremony had failed to comply with Our Lady’s request, noted in the preceding chapter. The Blue Army was forced to beat a hasty retreat. In the March-April 1986 issue of *Soul*, the Blue Army itself published Lucia’s testimony to the Nuncio, but without admitting that that very testimony had exposed its prior “exclusive interview”—never retracted—as a fabrication.¹¹² Having implicitly conceded the falsehood, however, the Blue Army promptly adopted another: that the 1984 consecration of the world had effected the Consecration of Russia. But Sister Lucia had explicitly denied this as well, as the testimonies cited in the preceding chapter demonstrate.

Ostpolitik versus Fatima

In 1984 the then U.S. President of the Blue Army, Bishop Jerome J. Hastrich, announced a key development in the Vatican-directed campaign to “sanitize” the Message of Fatima by stripping it of its prophetic elements, especially the conversion of Russia, and reducing it to a call for *personal* prayer and sacrifice directed to *individual* spiritual advancement. In the March-April issue of *Soul* magazine Hastrich declared that instead of praying for the

¹¹¹ “Consecration,” <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Consecration>.

¹¹² See *The Fatima Crusader*, Issue #20 (June-July 1986): “[The Plot to Silence Our Lady, Part I: Disinformation Tactics Against Fatima Exposed](#)”; “[The Plot to Silence Our Lady, Part II: The Organization’s Smear Campaign Gets Worse](#).” *The Fatima Crusader*, Issue #22 (April-May 1987): “[The Vatican-Moscow Agreement has Silenced Our Lady](#)”; “[The Blue Army Leadership has followed a deliberate policy of falsifying the Fatima Message](#).” *The Fatima Crusader*, Issue #31-32 (March-May 1990): “[The Plot \(To Silence Our Lady\) Thickens](#).” *The Fatima Crusader*, Issue #35 (Winter 1990-91): “[The Fatima Consecration Hoax](#)”; “[The Conspiracy Against the Consecration of Russia Continues](#).”

conversion of Russia “We are rather to pray that members of the Blue Army would so pray and fast that they themselves might be thoroughly converted ... to pray for the ‘conversion’ of Russia may seem like waving a red flag in front of a bull ... and so it might be more prudent to pray for peace in the world ...”¹¹³ With this change in orientation, the Blue Army ceased to be an army, an extension of the Church militant dedicated to the cause of Fatima, and became instead the quietest association for personal piety it now is, under the name “World Apostolate of Fatima.” That the change was motivated by the Vatican’s *Ostpolitik* was placed beyond doubt by the bishop’s observation that “We might pray explicitly for Russia if we wish to do so, but in our *public* message we should ... avoid upsetting the delicate balance of international affairs which the Holy See is trying so hard to control and direct.” Here was Exhibit A for the claim that the merely human and patently errant policy of *Ostpolitik* had collided head on with Heaven’s plan for peace as enunciated by the Virgin of Fatima. And so it has been from the beginning of that ill-starred human policy, which has thwarted Russia’s consecration to this day.

By 1986, under the Vatican-controlled guidance of Bishop Luna, the Blue Army was promoting a worldwide “Apostolate of the Two Hearts”—meaning the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This seemed worthy on its face, but it was actually part of the process we are examining here: the abandonment of the Consecration of Russia and the Third Secret as “too controversial” for the Vatican bureaucracy in its pursuit of “ecumenism,” “dialogue,” and, of course, *Ostpolitik*, and the consequent reduction of the Message of Fatima to personal piety and devotion confined to the domain of the Church. In an article on the subject by Hamish Fraser, the renowned ex-Communist and Catholic convert to the Faith, explained how the seemingly worthy “Two Hearts” initiative was actually designed to insure the failure of the Church to accomplish the mission Our Lady launched at Fatima by severing devotion to the Sacred and Immaculate Hearts from the Consecration of Russia:

Whereas hitherto the campaign for devotion to the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary was given special urgency by the Sacred Heart’s own Message to Sister Lucy that no initiative can possibly expect to be fruitful unless envisaged as a means of glorifying the Heart of His Immaculate Mother, and that *only by Russia’s consecration to that Heart and by no other means is it possible to obtain Russia’s conversion and world peace*, the new “Apostolate of the Two Hearts” will be an apostolate *in vacuo* [in

¹¹³ In Father Paul Leonard Kramer, “The Blue Army Leadership has followed a deliberate policy of falsifying the Fatima Message,” *The Fatima Crusader*, Issue #22 (April-May 1987), <http://www.fatimacrusader.com/cr22/cr22pg26.asp>.

a vacuum] desirable as a thing in itself no doubt, but no longer directly related to the life and death realities which confront our contemporaries.

A more effective recipe for failure could therefore scarcely be devised.¹¹⁴

Responding to the argument by John Haffert that this new, pietistic Fatima apostolate was necessary because even certain bishops had expressed opposition to the “confrontational” and most un-ecumenical consecration and conversion of Russia, Fraser wrote:

The “logic” of this non sequitur would seem to be that the only effective means of confronting the enemy is by *refusing to do so*, by instead seeking to persuade him that we are not really in earnest concerning the Message of Our Lady of Fatima, and by assuring him that he has nothing whatever to fear from this manifestly “non-political” apostolate, which in any case is scarcely likely to be taken seriously by anyone, least of all those whom it had hitherto been unable to rouse even by the unadulterated Message of the Queen of Heaven....

Incredibly, it appears to be John Haffert’s hope that whereas so many bishops cannot stomach the Message of Fatima, they may be expected to support this new Apostolate which has been so effectively defused both politically and spiritually.¹¹⁵

By 1988-89 not only the Blue Army but other major Fatima apostolates that had maintained that the consecration of Russia was not yet accomplished were reversing themselves. In conformity with the Party Line—which in fact they had never been bound to follow—they now declared that the 1984 ceremony fulfilled the desires of Heaven. Sad to say, even Father Caillon soon afterwards changed his testimony and began to maintain that the 1984 ceremony had fulfilled the Virgin’s requests for the consecration of Russia even though mention of Russia had been deliberately avoided precisely so that the Russian Orthodox and the Moscow regime *would not think that Russia had been consecrated*.

It was also at this time that typewritten and computer-generated letters, purportedly from Sister Lucy—who never used a computer—began to circulate. Typical of the manifestly incredible letters was the one dated November 8, 1989, to a Mr. Noelker, which contains the statement by “Sister Lucy” that Pope Paul VI consecrated the world to the Immaculate Heart during his brief visit to Fatima in 1967—a consecration that never happened, as Sister Lucy certainly

¹¹⁴ Hamish Fraser, “The Fourth Secret,” *The Fatima Crusader*, Issue #37, p. 15, <http://www.fatimacrusader.com/cr37/cr37pg15.asp>.

¹¹⁵ *Ibid.*

knew because she witnessed the entire visit.¹¹⁶ The Noelker letter would become the Vatican's sole documentary evidence that even Sister Lucy had reversed herself and now "agreed" that Russia was consecrated in 1984 without mention of Russia.

And so the Blue Army, once a foremost friend of Fatima, became foremost among its *false* friends. The Blue Army even ceased to be an Army, reinventing itself as "The World Apostolate of Fatima," whose neutralization of the Fatima message has recently reached an extreme that could scarcely have been imagined before the Second Vatican Council: the transformation of the Fatima prophecies into an "inter-religious" program for the peaceful co-existence of all religions in a pluralistic world. We discuss this horrendous development in Chapter 14, where we will see that, having laid down its arms and surrendered, the former Blue Army has descended to treason against the cause of Fatima—all the while uttering pious sentiments of Fatima devotion.

¹¹⁶ For a good treatment of the falsehood of the Noelker letter, see Mark Fellows, "This Present Darkness", Part II, *Catholic Family News*, Sept. 2000.