

In June 1929, Our Lady appeared to Lucia, visionary of Fatima, to ask the Consecration of Russia to Her Immaculate Heart, "*promising by this means to prevent the spreading of its errors and to bring about its conversion.*"

In conclusion Our Lady said in that 1929 vision:

"The moment has come when God asks the Holy Father, in union with all the Bishops of the world, to make the Consecration of Russia to my Heart, promising to save it by this means."

Why has the consecration not yet been made since the Holy Father showed his credence in Fatima by a personal visit there? And what did Our Lord mean when He said to Lucia that the Holy Father would do this but it would be "*Late*"?

We might offer at least three answers:

1) This collegial consecration is to be a sign of the conversion of Russia (Our Lord said that it was to be done this way so that all the world would know that this grace was obtained through the Immaculate Heart of His Mother), and not its complete cause. Therefore is it not necessary that enough of us fulfill the message of Fatima -- the message of sacrifice and reparation -- before the sign will be given?

2) The Pope himself has already on several occasions made the consecration. In each instance the Holy Father must have hoped that the consecration was adequate. After Pope Pius XII had made the consecration three different times, Pope Paul renewed it in the presence of all the Bishops of the world in the Council on November 21, 1964. Only much later did it become clear that this last consecration (in the council) may not have been sufficiently

explicit and had been made rather by the Pope *in the presence* of the Bishops of the world rather than "*with*" them because the Bishops had no prior knowledge that the consecration was to be made.

3) There could be several reasons why the Pope has so far held back on a clear mandate to the Bishops of the world to make this collegial act. Some of these reasons are doctrinal, some practical. The Rev. Dr. Joachim Alonso of Madrid enumerated them to a national meeting of Blue Army leaders of the U.S. on August 4, 1975, and said: "All of these problems have a solution, but so far no serious effort has been made by groups like yours to inform the Bishops or to support the Holy Father in his own efforts to accomplish the consecration. It is for this reason that your present efforts are both opportune and necessary."

Among the doctrinal and practical difficulties we might cite the four following, offering at the same time at least a partial solution of all four.

1) *How can the Pope and Bishops "consecrate" a people without their consent or cooperation?*

They can do so:

- a) Because of the Communion of Saints and
- b) Because we are not speaking here of the consecration as individuals but of a nation;
- c) Because it is obviously a subjective consecration on the part of the Catholic Church in the context of the Fatima message with the promise of Russia's conversion.

2) *If this consecration includes the Orthodox Catholics of Russia as well as the militant atheists in power, how can the Roman Catholic Hierarchy consecrate them to the Immaculate Heart?*

They can for all the same reasons given above and also because Jesus established one authority over all His Church and even though some are separated from that Church they still come, at least morally, under that authority.

3) *Because of a widespread tendency in the Church today to reject devotions to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary as non-essential, confusing and offensive to Ecumenism [especially as regards Mary], would not a collegial consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary prove offensive even to many within the Church?*

The solution to this problem is one of education. In *Humani Generis* and *Signum Magnum* the Popes have answered this question at length. When we speak of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary we are referring to Jesus and Mary Themselves under the heart-symbol of love rather than to their physical hearts.

4) *Will not the Russian people resent this singling out of their nation as the one in need of "conversion" whether they be Russian Jews, Orthodox Catholics or Atheists, and would this not antagonize them against the Church?*

This depends perhaps to a great extent upon how the consecration is worded relative to the obvious importance of Russia today in the world crisis. Many Russians realize that their nation has been called upon to play a key role in the balance of world peace. It is interesting that the most urgent appeal for the collegial consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary has come from behind the Iron Curtain. The entire hierarchy of Poland in a letter to the Holy Father by the Cardinal Primate of Warsaw (Cardinal Wyszynski) petitioned the Pope:

PETITION of POLISH HIERARCHY



Beloved Holy Father,

The Polish Episcopate desires to present to you an overview of the prayers that the Polish Nation has been offering that you, Holy Father, together with all the bishops of the world, collegially, consecrate the entire endangered human race to the maternal Heart of Mary, Mother of the Church.

We ardently desire that you do this at the end of the Holy Year 1975...

On May 3, last [1974] the faithful Polish Nation united in prayer in all its churches ardently invoked the Queen of Poland and Mother of the Church for the grace of consecrating the entire Human Family to her.

During the Fall of 1974 in the months of September to December, parish pilgrimages to Jasna Gora will take place for this intention. Likewise nuns, united with this intention, will keep vigil at Jasna Gora during all the nights of those months. This is a great mobilization of the soul of the nation, to support you, Holy Fa-

ther, in this splendid desire for the collegial consecration of the Church and mankind to the unfailing hands of Mary. We believe that through this act of trustful confidence in the Mother of the Church, mankind will be saved from atheism, war and complete ruin. The Mother of God will be with you, Holy Father, and with the world for its rescue. There will arise an era of peace and the victory in the cause of Christ.

The world was already consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary by Pope Pius XII in 1942 and by you, Holy Father, on November 21, 1964 at the end of the third session of the Council. In this hour of terrible danger from unbelief, immorality and war -- we desire this act anew, but this time -- collegially, together with all the shepherds on the earth's globe.

This act at the end of the Holy Year would be a most superb stroke leading mankind to true union with God and among themselves, in the arms of the Mother of the Church.

On the third of May of this year [1974] delegates from all the dioceses brought diocesan Holy Year candles to Jasna Gora. These candles burn during the great celebrations of the Shrine for the intentions of the consecration. The Shrine at Jasna Gora immediately prepared this candle which we present, that you, Holy Father, light it during that historic act.

Falling at your feet, Holy Father, we ardently beg you again, that you graciously accept and fulfill this request of the Polish Episcopate supported by the prayers of their entire nation.

The efforts of the Church in Poland indicate that the cause for consecration is universal and is developing in many parts of the world. Our Lady said that her Immaculate Heart would triumph, but this needs the concerted efforts of her devoted children. We must pray for the grace of enlightenment especially for those theologically involved so that this work may advance intelligently and be accepted by the College of Bishops zealously.

HERE IS WHAT WE ALL CAN DO!

It is important that we let our Bishops know -- and that we all support the Holy Father with our own prayers and petitions.

When Our Lord said *"the Holy Father will make the consecration but it will be late,"* (letter written by Lucia to her confessor May 18, 1936) (large edition of the Memoirs p. 415), we can now see that this means that it would be late in order to prevent World War II and the subsequent spread of *"The errors of atheist Russia throughout the entire world, the good will be persecuted, the Holy Father will suffer much, and several entire nations will be annihilated."*

Our Lady had foretold all this would happen if Her requests were not heard.

But while it is too late to prevent what has already taken place it is never too late to put an end to these evils now.

- 1) Let us fulfill this message of Our Lady in our own lives and help others to do so (This is the Blue Army Apostolate);
- 2) Let us consecrate *ourselves* (as individuals, parishes, dioceses,) as the Pope requested in *Signum Magnum*, issued on May 13, 1967 on the occasion of the Pope's visit.
- 3) Let us help the Holy Father and the Bishops to make the collegial consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart by our prayers and our letters of support to show that we, too, as members of the Church desire this consecration, as expressed in the recent letter of

the Polish hierarchy, before the end of the Holy Year.

It has now been suggested that the 50th anniversary of the Feast of Christ the King, November 23rd of this year might be a fitting moment to accede to the desire of Our Lord expressed to Lucia in reply to the request demanded by her confessor as to why the consecration already made is not sufficient to bring about the conversion of Russia:

"Because I desire," Our Lord replied, *"that all the world know that this grace is obtained through the Immaculate Heart of My Mother in order that devotion to Her Immaculate Heart may be placed alongside the devotion of My own Sacred Heart."*