

Today, I want to talk about the Consecration and its relation to the Marian apparitions. In Fatima, Portugal, the Mother of God appeared to three small children for six months in the year 1917: a seven-year-old girl named Jacinta, a nine-year-old boy named Francisco and ten-year-old girl named Lucia. The message is particularly credible for many reasons. First, it was confirmed by an unprecedented public miracle which occurred at the exact time Lucia said it would. Tens of thousands of people witnessed the sun dance in the sky and then descend toward the earth. Witnesses reported that their previously wet clothes became "suddenly and completely dry, as well as the wet and muddy ground that had been previously soaked because of the rain that had been falling"<sup>1</sup>

The message of Fatima accurately predicted many world events which proves that it is a true prophecy. In 1917, it predicted all the following events which came to pass:

- the end of World War I;
- the emergence of Russia as a world power which would “spread its errors (including Communism) throughout the world ... raising up wars and persecutions against the Church”;
- the election of a Pope who would be named Pius XI;
- The waging of a Second World War following a strange light in the night sky.<sup>2</sup>

One of the most amazing prophecies was that the Our Lady of Fatima predicted that Jacinta and Francisco would be taken to heaven soon, but the third seer Lucia would remain to spread the message of Fatima. Francisco died on April 4, 1919; Jacinta died on February 20, 1920.<sup>3</sup> Sister Lucia didn't die until February 13, 2005, almost 85 years after Jacinta died.

In the apparition at Fatima on July 13, 1917, Our Lady warned the three seers that if people did not stop offending God, He would punish the world “by means of war, hunger and persecution of the Church and of the Holy Father,” using Russia as His chosen instrument of chastisement. She told the children that “to prevent this, I shall come to ask for the Consecration of Russia to My Immaculate Heart” and promised that, by this single public act, Russia would be converted and peace would be given to the world.<sup>4</sup>

In response to Our Lady's request, on March 25, 1984, Pope John Paul II, in union with the college of bishops consecrated the whole world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. On November 8, 1989 Sr. Lucia affirmed in a letter that the consecration “has been performed,

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<sup>1</sup> John De Marchi, *The Immaculate Heart, The True Story of Our Lady of Fatima*. (New York: Farrar, Straus and Young, 1952), 150.

<sup>2</sup> Sister Maria Lucia of the Immaculate Heart. *Fatima in Lucia's Own Words: The Memoirs of Sister Lucia, the Last Fatima Visionary* (Kindle Locations 2930-2938). KIC. Kindle Edition.

<sup>3</sup> Catholic World Report, *It's official: Pope Francis to canonize Fatima visionaries during May visit*, <http://www.catholicworldreport.com/2017/04/20/its-official-pope-francis-to-canonize-fatima-visionaries-during-may-visit/>

<sup>4</sup> Sister Maria Lucia of the Immaculate Heart. *Fatima in Lucia's Own Words: The Memoirs of Sister Lucia, the Last Fatima Visionary* (Kindle Locations 2930-2938). KIC. Kindle Edition.

as Our Lady requested.”<sup>5</sup> And this consecration had dramatic effects. In the same month, November of 1989, we had the fall of the Berlin Wall. In Nov-Dec of 1989 we had peaceful revolutions in Czechoslovakia, Romania, Bulgaria and Albania; in 1990 East and West Germany were unified. On December 8, 1991, the presidents of Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus (bell-uh-ROOS) announced the formal dissolution of the USSR. On January 1, (the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God) 1992, Russia emerged as an independent state open to religious freedom and public worship.<sup>6</sup> The Mother of God obviously responded to the consecration.

Nevertheless, the world has become increasingly more depraved. There has been much speculation about the Third Secret of Fatima over the years. What is the message and its meaning? Sister Lucia herself provides a key to interpreting the third part of the Secret in a letter she wrote to the John Paul II on May 12, 1982 in which she says the following:

The third part of the secret is a symbolic revelation, referring to this part of the Message, conditioned by whether we accept or not what the Message itself asks of us: ‘If my requests are heeded, Russia will be converted, and there will be peace; if not, she will spread her errors throughout the world, etc.’.

Since we did not heed this appeal of the Message, we see that it has been fulfilled, Russia has invaded the world with her errors. And if we have not yet seen the complete fulfilment of the final part of this prophecy, we are going towards it little by little with great strides. If we do not reject the path of sin, hatred, revenge, injustice, violations of the rights of the human person, immorality and violence, etc. <sup>7</sup>

She says that “if we have not yet seen the complete fulfilment of the final part of this prophecy, we are going towards it little by little with great strides.” Well, it hasn’t come to complete fulfillment yet because we haven’t seen the Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. She says that since we have not fulfilled this message Russia has spread its errors throughout the world. China has one of the biggest and most prosperous economies of the world. It is a Communist superpower. The other communist countries are North Korea, Laos, Cuba, and Vietnam. But even beyond openly professed communist regimes we also see a dramatic increase in the errors of Communism are, viz., atheism, materialism, nihilism, everything ends with this life. In 2016, one out of three 18- to 24-year-olds in the United States said they did not believe in God. Since we should know that there is a God by natural reason, that is an incredibly high number. In 2004, 84% of young adults prayed at least sometimes, but by 2016 more than one out of four said they “never” prayed.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Bertone, Tarcisio. *The Last Secret of Fatima: The Revelation of One of the Most Controversial Events in Catholic History* (Kindle Locations 1332-1335). The Crown Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

<sup>6</sup> Dr. David Marzak, “Is Russia Becoming a Christian Nation – Decide for Yourself,” *New Era*, <https://newera.news/is-russia-being-converted-to-christianity-decide-for-yourself/>

<sup>7</sup> CONGREGATION FOR THE DOCTRINE OF THE FAITH, THE MESSAGE OF FATIMA, [http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc\\_con\\_cfaith\\_doc\\_20000626\\_message-fatima\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20000626_message-fatima_en.html).

<sup>8</sup> Twenge, Jean M.. *iGen: Why Today's Super-Connected Kids Are Growing Up Less Rebellious, More Tolerant, Less Happy--and Completely Unprepared for Adulthood--and What That Means for the Rest of Us* (Kindle Locations 1803-1807). Atria Books. Kindle Edition.

Certainly, worldwide there are an epidemic number of practical atheists: those who either don't pray and don't follow the Ten Commandments.

The other predictions of Fatima if Our Lady's requests are not honored are that

- “many souls will be lost”;
- “there will be further wars and persecutions of the Church” and
- “various nations will be annihilated.”<sup>9</sup>

The third part of the secret is a symbolic revelation. In the interpretation of the Third Secret of Fatima, the theological commentary by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, who was acting as the Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, it says that “The angel with the flaming sword . . . represents the threat of judgement which looms over the world. Today the prospect that the world might be reduced to ashes by a sea of fire no longer seems pure fantasy: man . . . has forged the flaming sword.”<sup>10</sup>

The annihilation of nations predicted at Fatima has not yet occurred, but many, like Cardinal Ratzinger, fear that it could happen, given the growing immorality and corruption of the world. When he became Pope Benedict XVI, he commented that “Humanity today is unfortunately experiencing great division and sharp conflicts which cast dark shadows on its future... the danger of an increase in the number of countries possessing nuclear weapons causes well-founded apprehension in every responsible person.”<sup>11</sup>

There is an interesting apparition that seems to be related to the message of Fatima. On three separate occasions, the Mother of God spoke from a wooden statue to a religious sister named Agnes in Akita, Japan. The miraculous statue also wept tears of blood on an off over a six-year period. In total, the tears appeared 101 times. Scientific analysis of blood and tears from the statute provided by the faculty of Medicine at the University of Akita confirmed that the blood, tears, and perspiration are real human tears, sweat, and blood. The statue wept for the last time on September 15, Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows.<sup>12</sup> In addition, Sister Agnes herself was miraculously healed of her deafness in 1981.<sup>13</sup> So we have evident miracles to confirm the message.

After years of extensive investigation, Most Rev. John Shojiro Ito, Bishop of Niigata, Japan, declared the events of Akita, Japan, to be of supernatural origin. He said: “The message of Akita is the message of Fatima.”<sup>14</sup> So the apparitions of Our Lady of Akita (Japan) currently have ecclesiastical approval. They have been approved by the local

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<sup>9</sup> Sister Maria Lucia of the Immaculate Heart. *Fatima in Lucia's Own Words: The Memoirs of Sister Lucia, the Last Fatima Visionary* (Kindle Locations 2930-2938). KIC. Kindle Edition.

<sup>10</sup> Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, *The Message of Fatima*, [http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc\\_con\\_cfaith\\_doc\\_20000626\\_message-fatima\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20000626_message-fatima_en.html)

<sup>11</sup> Pope Benedict XVI, December 11th, 2007; USA Today

<sup>12</sup> Catholic Tradition, “Our Lady of Akita,” <http://catholictradition.org/Mary/akita.htm>.

<sup>13</sup> Calloway, Donald H.. *Champions of the Rosary: The History and Heroes of a Spiritual Weapon* (Kindle Locations 3098-3116). Marian Press. Kindle Edition.

<sup>14</sup> The End Days, “Our Lady of Akita,” <http://www.theenddays.org/akita.html>

bishop and have not been overturned by a higher ecclesiastical authority.<sup>15</sup> One of the apparitions occurred on October 13, 1973, the anniversary of the final vision and the miracle of Fatima. The message of this apparition is very dire. The Mother of God said that if men do not repent and better themselves, the Father will inflict a terrible punishment on all humanity. It will be a punishment greater than the deluge, such as one will never have seen before. Fire will fall from the sky and will wipe out a great part of humanity, the good as well as the bad, sparing neither priests nor faithful. The survivors will find themselves so desolate that they will envy the dead.

... The work of the devil will infiltrate even into the Church in such a way that one will see cardinals opposing cardinals, bishops against bishops. The priests who venerate me will be scorned and opposed by their confreres...churches and altars sacked; the Church will be full of those who accept compromises and the demon will press many priests and consecrated souls to leave the service of the Lord.<sup>16</sup>

If this is an authentic message from heaven, that fire will fall from the sky and wipe out a great part of humanity if men did not repent and better themselves. Hence, it behooves us to examine the evidence as to whether we have repented or not. Well, there have been an estimated 1.72 billion abortions worldwide since 1973.<sup>17</sup> According to the American Psychiatric Association, homosexuality was listed as a mental illness in 1973. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says that homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered as being contrary to the natural law. (CCC, #2357). The US Supreme Court recently declared same-sex marriage legal in all 50 states.<sup>18</sup> In 1973 assisted suicide was equated with murder. Now we have legalized assisted suicide in many parts of the world. In 1973, nobody questioned that God created man male and female; now many people believe there are 20 or more genders. Today increasingly hospitals are being pressured to provide trans gender services, and we have the push for transgender bathrooms. The most recent, comprehensive data on suicide attempts gathered in collaboration with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention reports that 46% of trans men and 42% of trans women have attempted suicide.<sup>19</sup> These individuals clearly need help, not false acceptance. That our culture is currently encouraging people into these lifestyles, a lifestyle where you have almost a fifty-fifty chance of trying to kill yourself is diabolic. And I could go on and on.

The other part of the message of Akita has already come true: we definitely see the confusion in the Church predicted by Our Lady of Akita with cardinals opposing

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<sup>15</sup> The Work of God, "Our Lady of Akita," <http://www.theworkofgod.org/Aparitns/Akita.htm>

<sup>16</sup> A Terrible Warning: The Message of Our Lady of Akita, <https://www.olrl.org/prophecy/akita.shtml>

<sup>17</sup> Fr. Shenan Boquet, Researcher: 1.72 Billion Abortions Worldwide Over Last 40 Years, <http://www.lifenews.com/2013/04/01/researcher-1-72-billion-abortions-worldwide-over-last-40-years/>

<sup>18</sup> Bill Chappell, *Supreme Court Declares Same-Sex Marriage Legal In All 50 States*, <http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2015/06/26/417717613/supreme-court-rules-all-states-must-allow-same-sex-marriages>

<sup>19</sup> Ann P. Haas, Ph.D. and Philip L. Rodgers, Ph.D., Jody L. Herman, Ph.D., *Suicide Attempts among Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Adults*, <http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/AFSP-Williams-Suicide-Report-Final.pdf>

cardinals, even cardinals opposing the Holy Father, and priests who venerate the Eucharist and Our Lady are indeed often scorned and opposed.

If we look at the prophecy and consider objectively whether we've repented, we can say that beyond a shadow of a doubt, we have not repented and improved ourselves since the message of Akita, Japan. One wonders whether the "fire from the sky" mentioned at Akita and Benedict XVI's "sea of fire" are the same. The late great Archbishop Fulton Sheen prophesized that unless we reverse the destruction of innocent life there will be a nuclear war.<sup>20</sup>

Another inauspicious omen is Sacred Scripture. The widespread murder of innocent people and rampant homosexuality and other forms of sexual immorality have always been the forerunners of a major chastisement from God. The people of Noah's time, for example, were murderers, even of children (Gen. 4:23-24). Indeed, God said to Noah: "from man in regard to his fellow man I will demand an accounting for human life" (Gen. 9:5). And God sent a great flood to destroy the inhabitants of the earth (Gen. 6-9).

The men of the ancient cities of Sodom and Gomorrah practiced sexual immorality. Scripture says that "Then all the men of the city surrounded Lot's house and said, 'Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us so that we can have sex with them'" (Genesis 19:5). The Catholic Encyclopedia says that "For the unnatural sins of their inhabitants Sodom [and] Gomorrah . . . were destroyed by "brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven" (Genesis 13:13; 18:20; 19:24, 29; Hosea 11:8).<sup>21</sup> So we have a Biblical example where God destroyed the inhabitants of a city with fire from the sky.

The epistle of St. Jude says "In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire. (Jude 1:7). St. Peter says that if God "did not spare the ancient world, even though he preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, together with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the godless world; and if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah [to destruction], reducing them to ashes, making them an example [of what will happen to the godless] (2 Pet. 2:5-9). So whenever a culture becomes a culture of death, the murder of the innocent unborn and the elderly, and the same culture practices widespread sexual immorality, the people of that society should expect to be punished with flood and fires and undergo a chastisement which leaves only a remnant of the good."<sup>22</sup>

Scriptures says that "Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed" (Gen. 9: 5-6). And we see that this is literally what happens. There is a saying, "you live by

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<sup>20</sup> Bishop Fulton Sheen, *The Holocaust, Abortion, and the Approach of Midnight*, <https://josaphatwatch.com/tag/holocaust/>

<sup>21</sup> Reagan, Nicholas. "Sodom and Gomorrha." *The Catholic Encyclopedia*. Vol. 14. New York: Robert Appleton Company, 1912. 24 Oct. 2017 <<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/14130a.htm>>.

<sup>22</sup> Cf. Fr. Regis Scanlon, *FLOOD AND FIRE*, <http://learningmycatholicfaith.blogspot.com/2013/09/flood-and-fire-by-regis-scanlon-fatima.html>. I used several ideas and quotes from this article. I recommend you read it for many details not included in my conference.

the sword, die by the sword.” Sr. Lucia in her letter to John Paul II about the fulfillment of the Third Secret says that “it is people themselves who are preparing their own punishment.”<sup>23</sup> It seems God is just letting unaided fallen nature take its course. Evil people, inspired by Satan, I might add, kill each other. We all know about the reputation of the Mafia, but the same thing happened in the French Revolution and the Communist Revolution, they started killing each other off. I quote from a book by Warren Carroll about the Communist Revolution, “The death machine in the Soviet Union turned upon the party itself and the military establishment” . . . From 1934 to 1939 1,108 of the 1,966 Congressional members of the Communist party had been arrested for ‘counter-revolutionary crimes.’ Most of them were never to see the light of day. “More than 1/3 . . . of the Communist Party, 850,000 men and women had been expelled from the party, many executed or sent to labor camps. The high command of the army had been virtually wiped out . . . All 12 of its lieutenant-generals had been shot [and] 60 of 67 corps commanders [underwent the same fate] . . . 20,000 secret police were liquidated.” In 1937 and 1938, seven million soviet citizens were arrested joining the five million already in jails or labor camps.” Almost all died or were executed. The Communist regime killed nearly 12 million of its own people.<sup>24</sup>

We see the same thing happening on a global basis. There has been a dramatic increase of terrorist attacks throughout the world. Fox News listed 18 terrorist attacks against the West in 2016 and 2017 alone.<sup>25</sup> Closer to home, we’ve had the two deadliest single-day mass shootings in US History: one at the Harvest Music Festival in Las Vegas, Nevada and the other at the Pulse night club in Orlando, Florida. In 1960 there were 288,460 violent crimes in the United States. In 2014, that number had risen to 1,197,987.<sup>26</sup>

I was reading an article in the National Catholic Register dated October 18, 2017 entitled “Modern Horror: New Report Says Global Persecution of Christians Is at Historic Peak.”<sup>27</sup> John Pontifex, the report’s editor, commented: “In terms of the numbers of people involved, the gravity of the crimes committed and their impact, it is clear that the persecution of Christians is today worse than at any time in history. Not only are Christians more persecuted than any other faith group, but ever-increasing numbers are experiencing the very worst forms of persecution.” It quotes a report entitled *Persecuted and Forgotten* which says this its impact is “only now beginning to be felt in all its horror.”

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<sup>23</sup> CONGREGATION FOR THE DOCTRINE OF THE FAITH, THE MESSAGE OF FATIMA, [http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc\\_con\\_cfaith\\_doc\\_20000626\\_message-fatima\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20000626_message-fatima_en.html).

<sup>24</sup> Warren H. Carroll, *The Rise and Fall of the Communist Revolution*

<sup>25</sup> Brooke Singman, *Timeline of recent terror attacks against the West*, <http://www.foxnews.com/world/2017/09/15/timeline-recent-terror-attacks-against-west.html>

<sup>26</sup> U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics*, <https://www.ucrdatatool.gov/Search/Crime/State/RunCrimeStatebyState.cfm>

<sup>27</sup> National Catholic Reporter, *Modern Horror: New Report Says Global Persecution of Christians Is at Historic Peak*, <http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/modern-horror-new-report-says-global-persecution-of-christians-is-at-histor>

**In fact, there have been more martyrs in the past one hundred and fifty years than in the previous eighteen centuries and it is only “just beginning to be felt in all its horror.”<sup>28</sup>**

**For the first time in the history of the world, the governments of almost every country in the world, supported and encouraged by the European Union and the United Nations, are systematically stripping away religious liberty. The world powers are united in their effort to effectively eliminate the practice of Christianity. That means an increasing persecution of the Church from secular authorities. A Department of Homeland Security memo in 2009 identified pro-lifers and politically conservative people as future threats to society precisely because we will always oppose what they stand for: contraception, abortion, affirming disorderly and self-destructive lifestyles, etc. The Catholic Church will never change its position on moral issues because God does not change. The truth is the truth.**

**Getting back to the apocalyptic message of Akita, a news article quoted former Philippine ambassador to the Vatican, Howard Dee, as saying that Cardinal Ratzinger had personally confirmed to him that the messages of Akita and Fatima are “essentially the same.”<sup>29</sup> In the book entitled *The Ratzinger Report*, when the future Pope Benedict XVI was asked about the third secret of Fatima, he said:**

**Undenied versions are circulating in the world, I continue, which describe the contents of that “secret” as disquieting, apocalyptic, as warning of terrible sufferings. John Paul II himself, in his personal visit to Germany, seemed to confirm (albeit with prudent circumlocutions, privately, to a select group) the undeniably disconcerting contents of that text. Before him, Paul VI, during his pilgrimage to Fatima, also seems to have alluded to the “apocalyptic” themes of the “secret.” Why was it never decided to make it public, if only to counter rash speculations?<sup>30</sup>**

**It seems like the stage is set for a major chastisement from God. Why is the consecration to Mary so important during these times? I was reading a book by Fr. Michael Gaitley and he points out that before the Second World War, St. Maximilian Kolbe published a magazine entitled “Knights of the Immaculata” which was primarily about consecrating oneself to the Blessed Virgin Mary. It grew to a circulation of almost one million right before the war began. Why? Because Our Lady was preparing the people of Poland for a time of intense suffering that was imminent. And the beautiful thing about making the consecration to Mary is that one who does so will receive sufficient graces to handle any type of pain or suffering?<sup>31</sup>**

**There seems to be an increased effort everywhere to promote and make the consecration by those who are seriously practicing the Catholic faith. It has almost become an integral part**

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<sup>28</sup> Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I., “Martyrs of Today,” *Crisis Magazine*, November 20, 2012, <http://www.crisismagazine.com/2012/martyrs-of-today>

<sup>29</sup> Reported by Catholic World News on October 11, 2001.

<sup>30</sup> Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger with Vittorio Messori, *The Ratzinger Report* (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1985), 109.

<sup>31</sup> Claude R. Foster, *Mary’s Knight: The Mission and Martyrdom of Saint Maximilian Maria Kolbe* (Libertyville, Ill.: Marytown Press, 2002), p. 567-568. Gaitley, Michael E. (2015-02-22). *The Second Greatest Story Ever Told* (Kindle Locations 2334-2340). Marian Press. Kindle Edition.

of Catholic Spirituality as it should be. Are we being prepared for a time of intense persecution and suffering?

De Montfort says that the consecration to Jesus through Mary is the fastest and safest route to a deep union with God and that would seem to imply a participation in the Cross of Jesus Christ. Indeed, both Pope St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI prophesied a “springtime of Christianity”<sup>32</sup> and just as Jesus Christ redeemed the world through His cross, likewise the mystical body of Christ has always done so and will continue to do so until the end of the world. In the third secret of Fatima, “two Angels . . . gathered up the blood of the Martyrs and with it sprinkled the souls that were making their way to God.” In the official interpretation of the third secret, Cardinal Ratzinger says that “The martyrs [will] die in communion with the Passion of Christ, and their death becomes one with his. Then it quotes Tertullian as saying that “the blood of the martyrs is the seed of Christians.”<sup>33</sup> This seems to be a prophecy of a future time of great persecution where there will be many martyrs and the Church will flourish through the heroic virtue of the mystical body of Christ.<sup>34</sup>

It seems like a prophecy for the rebirth of the Church to come about through the redemptive suffering of the mystical body of Christ. Indeed, John Paul II in his encyclical *On the Meaning of Christian Suffering* teaches that “It is suffering, more than anything else, which clears the way for the grace which transforms human souls.”<sup>35</sup>

And, I might add, in a special way it transforms the souls of those who suffer in union with Christ. I always quote what Jesus told St. Rose of Lima “Let all men know that grace comes after tribulation . . . that without the burden of afflictions it is impossible to reach the height of grace. Let them know that the gifts of grace increase as the struggles increase. Let men take care not to stray and be deceived. This is the only true stairway to paradise, and without the cross they can find no road to climb to heaven.”<sup>36</sup> Renown spiritual director, Fr. Thomas Dubay said he has never known anyone who has reached the heights of sanctity without suffering much and suffering well.<sup>37</sup>

Many Christians worldwide are suffering now. During times of intense persecution, historically many Christians have renounced the faith rather than give up their life or even be treated with contempt. It takes a deep faith in God to suffer and die when it seems so easy to renounce your faith. This is where the consecration comes in. De Montfort says that

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<sup>32</sup> Cf. National Catholic Register, *Pope Benedict XVI Believes Christianity Will Rekindle in Europe*, <http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/pope-benedict-xvi-believes-christianity-will-rekindle-in-europe/#ixzz3mmFvfe1T>; See also John Paul II, *Redemptoris Missio*, #91.

<sup>33</sup> Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, *The Message of Fatima*, [http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc\\_con\\_cfaith\\_doc\\_20000626\\_message-fatima\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20000626_message-fatima_en.html)

<sup>34</sup> Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, *The Message of Fatima*, [http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc\\_con\\_cfaith\\_doc\\_20000626\\_message-fatima\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20000626_message-fatima_en.html)

<sup>35</sup> John Paul II, *Salvifici Doloris*, #27.

<sup>36</sup> Office of Reading for August 23, St. Rose of Lima.

<sup>37</sup> Cf. Dubay, Fr. Thomas. *Fire Within* (Kindle Locations 2595-2614). Ignatius Press. Kindle Edition.



Mary will give us a share in her faith, “a faith [which is] firm and immovable as a rock, through which you will rest quiet and constant in the midst of storms . . . a courageous faith, which will enable you to undertake and carry out without hesitation great things for God and for the salvation of souls.”<sup>38</sup> Just like Mary prepared the Polish people for a time of intense persecution, maybe today through her apparitions and the consecration she is preparing the world for a time of great persecution. De Montfort says that this consecration will hasten the day of the Triumph of Our Lady's Immaculate Heart and the triumph can only come through the cross.

We are living in special times. A time of great trial and persecution in the Church, but also a great opportunity to become a great saint. John Paul II says in his encyclical on the human meaning of Christian suffering that “Suffering is an invitation to manifest the moral greatness of man, his spiritual maturity.”<sup>39</sup> Only those who suffer well will have a high degree of glory in heaven.

There has never been a country in the history of the world that has turned its back on God and not eventually been taken down. This nation founded as one nation under God has become a nation that no longer permits God's name or Christian morality to be mentioned in the public-school system, in the universities, and in the business world.

Jesus says that “You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky; why do you not know how to interpret the present time?” (Luke 12:54-56). What are the signs of the times? Approved messages like Akita, Japan prophecy a great chastisement if we don't repent and improve ourselves. We clearly haven't repented and improved ourselves. The sins of humanity are grave and manifold. Are we seeing signs from God, warnings to get our house in order? For those who have eyes to see, I think the answer is a resounding “yes.” Remember everything that happens is part of God's providence in the sense that at least he permits it to happen.

Many countries now have nuclear weapons and now every week some country is threatening to use them. Perhaps today more than any time in history, from a natural and supernatural perspective it seems that there could be a cataclysmic event. On a grand scale, we have not heeded the warning of the Blessed Virgin Mary which could indicate that various nations will be annihilated. In the third secret of Fatima, it says “the Holy Father passed through a big city half in ruins and half trembling with halting step, afflicted with pain and sorrow.”<sup>40</sup> “A big city half in ruins” sounds like a city that has been bombed.

That “various nations will be annihilated” is an interesting word in light of how the nuclear weapons function. The bombs dropped on Japan during World War II did damage because of the explosion of physical particles. Today's thermonuclear weapons created such intense

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<sup>38</sup> de Montfort, Saint Louis. *True Devotion to Mary: With Preparation for Total Consecration*, #214 (p. 100). Catholic Way Publishing. Kindle Edition.

<sup>39</sup> John Paul II, *Salvifici Doloros*, #22.

<sup>40</sup> Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, *The Message of Fatima*, [http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc\\_con\\_cfaith\\_doc\\_20000626\\_message-fatima\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20000626_message-fatima_en.html)

heat (i.e., fire), that they turn everything into ashes.<sup>41</sup> Pope Benedict XVI wording in his commentary on the Third Secret that “the world might be reduced to ashes by a sea of fire” does indeed seem plausible.

Is it a sign that on September 8, Our Lady’s birthday, a 5.2 earthquake struck in Akita Japan, the same day a major 8.2 earthquake struck in Mexico? This year, we had a record ten hurricanes in 10 weeks, a category 5 hurricane named Maria, a category 4 named Jose, lots of flooding.<sup>42</sup> On September 19, a powerful 7.1 earthquake hit Mexico City, killing more than 300 people, the home of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the patroness of the unborn.<sup>43</sup>

In an article in the USA Today, it notes that 2009, 2012, and 2017 are the three years when we had the most natural disasters in the United States.<sup>44</sup> Closer to home, “the devastating wildfires in Sonoma, Napa, and Mendocino counties have reached historic proportions: More than 3,500 structures had been destroyed so far. That surpasses the damage of the 1991 Oakland Hills firestorm, previously the worst wildfire disaster in state history.”<sup>45</sup>

God has chastised his people with fire and water. Have there been more floods? The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Hydrometeorological Design Studies Center created maps of annual exceedance probabilities (AEPs). AEP is the probability of exceeding a given amount of rainfall for a given duration at least once in any year at a given location. These maps are created for significant storm events that typically have AEPs of less than 0.2% (i.e., these events should happen about once every 500 years). There are 18 floods that have exceeded the AEP in areas mapped out, one was the great flood of 1913, all others having occurred since 2010.

The U.S. Global Change Research Program in its 2014 National Climate Assessment stated: “Heavy downpours are increasing nationally, especially over the last three to five decades. The heaviest rainfall events have become heavier and more frequent, and the amount of rain falling on the heaviest rain days has also increased. Increases in the frequency and intensity of extreme precipitation events are projected for all U.S. regions.”<sup>46</sup> Of course, the secular rage is global warming, but we know that all events ultimately fall under God’s providence.

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<sup>41</sup> Wikipedia contributors, "Thermonuclear weapon," Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, [https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Thermonuclear\\_weapon&oldid=744053715](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Thermonuclear_weapon&oldid=744053715) (accessed October 12, 2016).

<sup>42</sup> MAGGIE ASTOROCT, *10 Hurricanes in 10 Weeks: With Ophelia, a 124-Year-Old Record is Matched*, <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/11/climate/hurricane-ophelia.html>.

<sup>43</sup> Jason Hanna, *2 new quakes shake southern Mexico, already coping with disasters*, <http://www.cnn.com/2017/09/23/americas/mexico-oaxaca-earthquake/index.html>

<sup>44</sup> Doyle Rice, “It’s been a stormy start to 2017 in the U.S., tying the 2nd-most natural disasters on record,” USA Today, July 17, 2017, <https://www.usatoday.com/story/weather/2017/07/18/u-s-battered-2nd-most-natural-disasters-record-so-far-2017/485167001/>

<sup>45</sup> Eric Holthaus, *California’s wildfires officially worst in state history*, [https://www.salon.com/2017/10/18/californias-wildfires-officially-worst-in-state-history\\_partner/](https://www.salon.com/2017/10/18/californias-wildfires-officially-worst-in-state-history_partner/)

<sup>46</sup> Union of Concerned Scientists, *Flooding, Extreme Weather, and Record Temperatures: How Global Warming Puts it All Together*,

We live in a time of great apostasy. With the current aggressive attacks against the message of Jesus Christ, I see only greater and more mass destruction in the future. We all see the threat of nuclear war every day. One frightening scenario is if a country like North Korea strategically explodes a nuclear bomb high in the atmosphere over the United States we could have an EMP effect. William Graham, chairman of the former EMP commission and its former chief of staff, Peter Vincent Pry, warned that such an attack could “shut down the US electric power grid for an indefinite period, leading to the death within a year of up to 90 per cent of all Americans.” Experts such as former NASA rocket scientist James Oberg have previously warned that this is feasible for any country could use a satellite to carry a small nuclear warhead and detonate it over the US. Then, there is always the threat of a nuclear war. North Korea is thought to have 60 nuclear weapons, and its intercontinental ballistic missiles could reach Denver and Chicago, and “perhaps the entire US”.<sup>47</sup> And they keep saying again and again that they are going to destroy us with nuclear weapons.

I don't claim to know specifically what is going to happen in the future. But, I can say that as the sins of humanity become more perverse and anti-Christian so will the sins of humanity cry for the justice of God. In 1996, former Supreme Court nominee Robert Bork wrote a book entitled *Slouching towards Gomorrah: Modern Liberalism and American Decline*. In it he says:

We hear . . . of the rising rate of illegitimate births; the uninhibited display of sexuality and the popularization of violence in our entertainment; worsening racial tensions; the angry activists of feminism, homosexuality, environmentalism, animal rights... the list could be extended almost indefinitely.<sup>48</sup>

We are a culture that has become increasingly much more like Sodom and Gomorrah since 1996. In fact, it has become totally politically taboo to even speak about the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah in society. Scott Hahn and Curtis Mitch commenting on the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah in the *Ignatius Study Bible* say that “The Lord pulverizes the cities of the valley with flaming rocks of sulfur. The event brings death and destruction to the entire region, leaving it a scorched and smoking wasteland. The memory of this catastrophe serves as a warning to the wicked and stands as an illustration of God's judgment on sin.”<sup>49</sup>

Is the United States going to become a scorched and smoking wasteland? At this point, I don't think it is a question of if something cataclysmic is going to happen, but when. To use

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<http://blog.ucsusa.org/astrid-caldas/flooding-extreme-weather-and-record-temperatures-how-global-warming-puts-it-all-together>

<sup>47</sup> Rachael Revesz, *North Korea EMP attack could 'shut down US power grid and kill 90% of Americans*,

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/north-korea-us-attack-emp-power-grid-kill-90-per-cent-american-population-electromagnetic-pulse-a8002756.html>

<sup>48</sup> Bork, Robert H.. *Slouching Towards Gomorrah: Modern Liberalism and American Decline* (Kindle Locations 99-104). HarperCollins. Kindle Edition.

<sup>49</sup> Hahn, Scott; Mitch, Curtis. *The Ignatius Catholic Study Bible Genesis* (Kindle Locations 4054-4056). Ignatius Press. Kindle Edition.

the words of Pope Benedict XVI, “man . . . Has forged the flaming sword.” On October 19, 2017, the official Korean Central News Agency said that “The US should expect that it would face [an] unimaginable strike at an unimaginable time.” North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has vowed to take the "highest-level" measures against the United States and Trump threatened to "totally destroy" North Korea if the US is forced to defend itself and its allies from a missile attack.<sup>50</sup>

On October 25, 2017, “a senior North Korean official has issued a stern warning to the world that it should take ‘literally’ his country's threat to test a nuclear weapon over the Pacific Ocean.

The official, Ri Yong Pil, [angrily] told CNN . . . [that] North Korea ‘has always brought its words into action.’”<sup>51</sup> On the same day, Wednesday, there was an article entitled *Air Force Ready To Put US Nuclear Bombers On Alert Status Not Seen Since Cold War*.<sup>52</sup>

Even today, the U.S. Defense secretary Jim Mattis said “Make no mistake - any attack on the United States, or our allies, will be defeated. And any use of nuclear weapons by the North will be met with a massive military response that is both effective and overwhelming,” Mattis's South Korean counterpart, Defense Minister Song Young-moo suggested that U.S. and South Korean missile defenses simply could not stop all of the weapons trained on the South "Defending against this many LRAs (long-range artillery) is infeasible in my opinion," Song told Mattis . . . citing a need for strategies to "offensively neutralize" the artillery in the event of a conflict. Mattis replied: "Understood."<sup>53</sup> I've said for years, if someone sends 20 nuclear missiles at the U.S., we are in trouble. We can't stop them. And now our U.S. Defense secretary is saying the same. We didn't stop an airplane from crashing into our defense headquarters. How are we going to “offensively neutralize” North Korea unless we use nuclear weapons?

There is a widespread psychological phenomenon that explains why more people are not concerned despite all the impending signs of doom and gloom. It is called the normalcy bias. It causes people to underestimate both the possibility of a disaster and its possible effects.<sup>54</sup> The assumption is that in places like the United States where nothing catastrophic

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<sup>50</sup> Al Jazeera News, *North Korea threatens 'unimaginable strike' on US ship*, <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/10/north-korea-threatens-unimaginable-strike-ship-171019120052880.html>

<sup>51</sup> Will Ripley, CNN, North Korea official: *Take hydrogen bomb threat 'literally'*, <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/north-korea-official-take-hydrogen-bomb-threat-literally/ar-AAu2DWR?li=BBmkt5R&ocid=spartanntp>

<sup>52</sup> Ryan Pickrell, *Air Force Ready To Put US Nuclear Bombers On Alert Status Not Seen Since Cold War: Report*, <http://dailycaller.com/2017/10/22/air-force-ready-to-put-us-nuclear-bombers-on-alert-status-not-seen-since-cold-war/>

<sup>53</sup> Phil Stewart, Reuters, “Mattis, in Seoul, says U.S. can't accept nuclear North Korea,” <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/mattis-in-seoul-says-us-cant-accept-nuclear-north-korea/ar-AAu6i6u?li=BBmkt5R&ocid=spartanntp>

<sup>54</sup> Wikipedia contributors, "Normalcy bias," Wikipedia, *The Free Encyclopedia*, [https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Normalcy\\_bias&oldid=802330307](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Normalcy_bias&oldid=802330307) (accessed October 25, 2017).

has never occurred, it never will. About 70% of people reportedly display normalcy bias in disasters.<sup>55</sup> Most of us.

The normalcy bias explains in part why many Jews stayed in Nazi Germany despite increasing discrimination, harassment, and oppression.<sup>56</sup> You could say we have that with our National Debt. The Nation Debt is over 20 trillion dollars. Every man, woman and child in the United States currently owes \$67,261 for their share of the U.S. public debt.<sup>57</sup> We are not going to recover and, yet no one seems overly concerned. The normalcy bias has a strong relationship to Bible prophecy. Because we've never seen a large-scale Biblical chastisement in our days, we tend to think that it will not really happen. This is true even of those who believe in God.

There is a book written by the Cardinal Tarcisio (TAR key C O) Bertone, the Cardinal Secretary of State from 2006-2013 entitled *The Last Secret of Fatima: The Revelation of One of the Most Controversial Events in Catholic History*. Cardinal Bertone, acting as Secretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith helped Cardinal Ratzinger in the unveiling of the Third Secret on May 13, 2000. This is a book that is about as credible as they come.

Bertone says that “In the private revelations approved by the Church—and therefore also in Fatima—this is the point: they help us to understand the signs of the times and to respond to them rightly in faith.”<sup>58</sup> Then he says that in a 1981 interview with a small group of Catholics in Fulda, Germany, Pope St. John Paul II was asked explicitly about the Third Secret of Fatima. When he was asked, “What is going to happen to the Church, keenly aware of the signs of the times, he said: “We have to be ready for impending tribulations, which may require the sacrifice of our lives and the gift of ourselves to and for Christ. The intensity of these trials,” the pope added, “can be diminished by your and our prayer, but they cannot be avoided, because it is only through trials that true renewal can come. Let us be strong and let us make ready, trusting in Christ and his Mother.”<sup>59</sup>

Venerable Fulton Sheen in his book *The World's First Love* says that the miracle of the Sun could be a warning about a future catastrophe that would make the world tremble in fear like what happened at Fatima and that catastrophe could come in the way of an atomic bomb.<sup>60</sup> Interestingly, when the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan, the explosion killed everyone in a one-mile radius from “ground zero”—an estimated 60,000 people. The only survivors within that one-mile radius were eight Jesuit priests. These eight men, like the eight that survived the Great Flood, walked away from the atomic blast and

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<sup>55</sup> Inglis-Arkell, Esther (May 2, 2013). "The frozen calm of normalcy bias". Gizmodo. Retrieved 23 May 2017

<sup>56</sup> "Normalcy Bias: It's All In Your Head". The Survival Mom. The Survival Mom. Retrieved 23 May 2017.

<sup>57</sup> David Manuel, U.S. National Debt Clock October 2017

<sup>58</sup> Bertone, Tarcisio. *The Last Secret of Fatima: The Revelation of One of the Most Controversial Events in Catholic History* (Kindle Locations 2188-2189). The Crown Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

<sup>59</sup> Bertone, Tarcisio. *The Last Secret of Fatima: The Revelation of One of the Most Controversial Events in Catholic History* (Kindle Locations 800-804). The Crown Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

<sup>60</sup> Sheen, Archbishop Fulton J.. *The World's First Love* (Kindle Locations 3527-3540). Ignatius Press.

**lived into old age without radiation poisoning. When asked why they were miraculously protected one of the priests replied that we survived because we were living the message of Fatima. “They prayed the rosary every day in that house in response to the request of Our Lady at Fatima.”<sup>61</sup>**

**Every sin incurs a debt of punishment and the sins of humanity have reached a seemingly unprecedented level. At this point, I believe that it is not a question of if we will suffer, but when. The second part of the message of Fatima calls for a “devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.” The third apparition reported at Fátima on July 13, 1917, specifically encouraged devotions and consecrations for the triumph of the Immaculate Heart.<sup>62</sup> The Triumph will come through the cross and only those have sincerely consecrated themselves to the Blessed Virgin Mary can be certain that they will have the supernatural strength to withstand the assaults from hell and this culture of death. We could die suddenly at any time. The only tragedy in life is to die in a state of mortal sin. That is why everybody should practice the First Friday and First Saturday devotions and sincerely consecrate themselves to Jesus through Mary.**

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<sup>61</sup> Calloway, Donald H.. *Champions of the Rosary: The History and Heroes of a Spiritual Weapon* (Kindle Locations 3704-3711). Marian Press. Kindle Edition. We lived and prayed the Rosary daily in that home.”

<sup>62</sup> Sister Maria Lucia of the Immaculate Heart. *Fatima in Lucia's Own Words: The Memoirs of Sister Lucia, the Last Fatima Visionary* (Kindle Locations , 2114, 2122-2123). KIC. Kindle Edition.