

“In the end my Immaculate Heart will triumph”

This evening we reflect on Mary’s promise given during the July 13th apparition at Fatima: “In the end my Immaculate Heart will triumph.” Let’s put this promise in context before we talk about its meaning.

“After showing them Hell Our Lady said to the children: ‘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. If what I say to you is done, many souls will be saved and there will be peace. The war is going to end; if people do not cease offending God, a worse one will break out during the pontificate of Pius XI. When you see a night illumined by an unknown light, know that this is the great sign given you by God that He is about to punish the world for its crimes, by means of war, famine, and persecutions of the Church and of the Holy Father. To prevent this, I shall come to ask for the consecration of Russia to My Immaculate Heart and the Communion of Reparation on the First Saturdays. If my requests are heeded, Russia will be converted, and there will be peace; if not, she will spread her errors throughout the world, causing wars and persecutions of the Church. The good will be martyred, the Holy Father will have much to suffer, various nations will be annihilated. In the end, My Immaculate Heart will triumph. The Holy Father will consecrate Russia to me, and she will be converted, and a period of peace will be granted to the world. In Portugal the dogma of the Faith will always be preserved When you pray the Rosary, say after each mystery: ‘O my Jesus, forgive us, save us from the fire of Hell. Lead all souls to heaven, especially those who are most in need.’”¹

“In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph.” This promise of victory is slipped in the midst of much information. You may be asking – triumph over what?

One interpretation for Mary’s triumph is in relation to Russia. Directly after stating “In the end my Immaculate Heart will triumph” she says, “The Holy Father will consecrate Russia to me, and she will be converted, and a period of peace will be granted to the world”. In 1917 Russia was not a country to be feared in a political sense. I am not

able to give a detailed lesson in Russian political development at this time. However, during the same six months Our Lady appeared in Portugal, Lenin is in Russia organizing the Bolshevik Revolution which will take over the government of Russia with the goal of conquering the world for atheism.²

A short time line of the events in relation to Russia:

- **June 13, 1929** - Sister Lucia in the Convent at Tuy, Spain receives an appearance of Our Lady of Fatima to ask the Pope and bishops of the world for 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.
- **October 31, 1942** - Pope Pius XII consecrates the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary
- Ten years later, on **July 7, 1952** - Pius XII consecrates the Russian people to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.
- Twelve years later, on **November 21, 1964** - Pope Paul VI renews Pius XII's consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart,
- **May 13, 1981** - Pope John Paul II is shot in St. Peters Square on the anniversary of the first apparition at Fatima. During the long months of suffering and recuperation in Gemelli Hospital, the Holy Father requests and studies more deeply documents relating to Fatima. His determination to consecrate Russia with bishops of the world grows stronger. In leaving the clinic he remarks: "I have come to understand that the only way to save the world from war, to save it from atheism, is the conversion of Russia according to the message of Fatima".
- **March 25, 1984** - Pope John Paul II having sent invitations already in December 1983 to the worlds bishops, including Orthodox, to join him on March 25, 1984, had Bishop Amaral of Fatima bring the Miraculous statue from the Cova da Iria at Fatima to the Vatican for the Collegial Consecration of the world and Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. He was joined by a moral totality of the world's bishops in the Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart. The words of the consecration make clear it is a collegial act with world's bishops and also renews Pius XII's acts of 1942 and 1952 and the consecration is for all time.

- Shortly thereafter, Sister Lucia told the Papal Nuncio of Lisbon the Collegial Consecration for the conversion of Russia has been accomplished and God will keep His word. The Nuncio answers, now we await the miracle. On the following day, Patriarch Dimitrios of Constantinople, honorary primate of the Orthodox Churches, writes a letter to the Vatican praising the consecration as a contribution to the creation of communion between the Catholic and Orthodox Churches.
- Five years later, on **November 9, 1989** - the Berlin Wall came down. President Gorbachev of the Soviet Union then meets with the Pope at the Vatican and promised religious freedom.
- **August 19-22, 1991** - 74th Anniversary of Our Lady's fourth apparition at Fatima - Communist coup attempts overthrow of Gorbachev who contributed largely to dismantling of Soviet Empire. The attempt is defeated.
- **December 25, 1991** - the Communist flag is taken down for the last time over the Kremlin in Moscow. Gorbachev resigned and sent a letter to Pope John Paul II. Fifteen republics were freed from Communism.
- **December 30, 1991** - Sister Lucia is reported saying that the defeat of Communism was through Mary's intercession.³

We rejoice at the manifestation of Mary's triumph in the defeat of Communism and the beginnings of the conversion of Russia. But we can't stop there. The triumph of Mary's Immaculate Heart moves us to a deeper, more universal and personal battle – the battle with the devil, evil and sin. Don't forget, the message of July 13 began with the vision of hell. References of personal conversion dot the message: "Sacrifice yourselves for sinners", "if what I say to you is done, many souls will be saved", "if people do not cease offending God", and the "O my Jesus" prayer that has been added to the end of each decade of the Rosary.

In an article entitled "The Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary" by Fr. Maximilian Mary Dean, F.I., a member of the Franciscans of the Immaculate,⁴ he points out that, in one sense, the Immaculate Heart of Mary has already triumphed. Bl. Dom Columba Marmion confirms this: "Her privileges have raised her above all creatures and now she reigns triumphant in Heaven on the right hand of Jesus as Queen of the Angels

and of the Saints."⁵ Fr. Maximilian Mary looks at the triumphant Heart of Mary from four viewpoints – Mary’s Heart as Immaculate, Maternal, Sorrowful, and Glorious. Remember the visions of the three children on October 13 during the miracle of the sun: the Holy Family, Our Lady of Sorrows, and as Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, crowned queen of heaven.

Her Immaculate Heart: First of all, Mary was created victorious. ‘I am the Immaculate Conception,’ she said at Lourdes. From the first moment of her existence, Mary had a twofold victory over the enemy: a negative victory and a positive victory. Her negative victory was the fact that she was conceived without sin: the Mary was never subject to the devil; rather, she was victorious and "utterly" triumphant over the devil from the first moment of her conception. Her positive victory was the perfect union of her will with God.⁶

When looking at Mary’s maternal heart, the scriptures speak of her victory: "But when the fullness of time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman" (Gal. 4:4), namely that Woman who "shall crush" the head of the serpent (Gen. 3:15), who shall appear "clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars" (Rev. 12:1). This Woman, in pronouncing Her Fiat, became the Virgin Mother of God by the power of the Holy Spirit. At that moment Her Immaculate Heart became a Maternal Heart: a Mother's Heart for Jesus and for all those who would be united to her only Son in the Mystical Body of Christ.⁷

The obedience of the Immaculate in Her Fiat indicates a new triumph for Her Heart, the triumph over the disobedience of Eve, the triumph of the coming of Christ the King—the New Adam—the triumph of Her divine and virginal maternity, the triumph of the most profound intimacy between God and humanity in the virginal womb beneath Her Maternal Heart.⁸ Mary’s response, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord” (Lk 1:38) is the perfect response to Lucifer’s cry of, “I will not serve.” Mary’s response to Elizabeth (Lk 1:46-55) – praise, humility, service and mercy – directly opposes that of Satan, who is proud, egotistical, filled with hatred and accusations, and seeks his own glory and autonomy.

We know all too well that after the fall of the human race through original sin there was an impenetrable wall between God and man. Consequently, there was an

obstacle which impeded man from profiting from the coming of Christ. Christ had to redeem humanity by destroying the curse of sin and opening the gate of divine mercy. When the hour of glory arrived and the Divine King was raised up on the Cross, there stood at the foot of the Cross the Mother and Queen—Mary. On Calvary the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, with and subordinate to Christ, conquered the enemy in a definitive manner, reclaiming the kingdom of God on earth.⁹

More stupendous still is the heavenly triumph of Mary's Glorious Heart. Her Immaculate, Maternal and Sorrowful Heart is already glorified because it has been assumed into Heaven. It throbs with love in unison with the Heart of Jesus in the glory of Heaven amidst the Angels and the Saints.

After the Assumption, Her Heart, which synthesizes the entire person of Mary, is crowned by the Most Holy Trinity itself: behold the glorious and royal Heart of Mary in Heaven! It is indisputable that the Immaculate Heart is already triumphing in Heaven; in fact, every time we meditate on the Coronation of Our Lady as Queen we contemplate the heavenly triumph of Her Heart.¹⁰

If the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary is already realized in Heaven, what do the words of Our Lady of Fatima mean: "In the end my Immaculate Heart will triumph"? Fr. Maximilian Mary believes that the response is simple: Our Lady is not speaking about the triumph in Heaven, but the triumph in the world, in the Church, in hearts. Obviously the Mother's Heart has not yet triumphed in this sense, and it is not her fault, but ours alone.¹¹

It is for this reason that we pray to the Father day after day: "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven" (Mt. 6:10). The Father's will is clear: He wills the salvation and sanctification of all souls in His only-begotten Son. Our Lady has repeated this at Fatima, but she has made more specific the divine will, namely, that in order to save souls, "God has willed to establish devotion to my Immaculate Heart in the world." God wills devotion to Her Heart, so that it might be on earth as it is in Heaven, that is, that the most Sacred and Immaculate Hearts might reign supreme on earth just as they already do in Heaven.¹²

The Saints longed for this terrestrial triumph. St. Louis Marie de Montfort sighs: "Ah! When will the happy time come when the divine Mary will be established Mistress

and Queen of all hearts in order that she may subject them fully to the empire of her great and holy Jesus? When will souls breathe Mary as the body breathes air?"¹³ St.

Maximilian Mary Kolbe also asked: "When will it happen that the souls of men shall love the Divine Heart of Jesus with Her Heart?"¹⁴ Bl. Jacinta exclaimed to Lucia: "Oh, if I could only put into the hearts of all, the fire that is burning within my own heart, and that makes me love the Hearts of Jesus and Mary so much!"¹⁵

St. Maximilian Kolbe tells us: "The Immaculate must conquer the whole world and each individual, in order to return them to God. It is for them that we should recognize her for who she is and submit ourselves to her and to her reign, which is all love and tenderness."

In the document entitled The Message of Fatima, the then Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger concludes with this reflection: "I would like finally to mention another key expression of the "secret" which has become justly famous: 'my Immaculate Heart will triumph'. What does this mean? The Heart open to God, purified by contemplation of God, is stronger than guns and weapons of every kind. The *fiat* of Mary, the word of her heart, has changed the history of the world, because it brought the Savior into the world—because, thanks to her *Yes*, God could become man in our world and remains so for all time. The Evil One has power in this world, as we see and experience continually; he has power because our freedom continually lets itself be led away from God. But since God himself took a human heart and has thus steered human freedom towards what is good, the freedom to choose evil no longer has the last word. From that time forth, the word that prevails is this: "In the world you will have tribulation, but take heart; I have overcome the world" (*Jn* 16:33). The message of Fatima invites us to trust in this promise."¹⁶

We join with Pope Benedict XVI's prayer he offered on the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima last year: "[Mary], you promised the three children of Fatima that 'in the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph'. May it be so! May love triumph over hatred, solidarity over division, and peace over every form of violence! May the love you bore your Son teach us to love God with all our heart, strength and soul. May the Almighty show us his mercy, strengthen us with his power, and fill us with every good thing (cf. Lk 1:46-56)."

¹The Revelation of the Two Hearts in Modern Times, EWTN library;

<http://www.ewtn.com/library/MARY/FIRSTSAT.htm>

² In the end my Immaculate Heart will triumph, Fatima Family Apostolate International;

http://www.fatimafamily.org/index.php?main_page=page&id=49

³ Ibid

⁴“The Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary”, Fr. Maximilian Mary Dean, F.I. , 25 September 2004

<http://www.motherofallpeoples.com/articles/general-mariology/the-triumph-of-the-immaculate-heart-of-mary.html>

⁵ Bl. Columba Marmion, Christ the Ideal of the Priest, B. Herder Book Co., St. Louis, MO; P. II, Ch. XVIII, section I (p. 292).

⁶ “The Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary”

⁷ Cf. Pio XII, Radiom. 1947; cf. also Mystici Corporis, n. 75.

⁸ “The Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary”

⁹ Ibid

¹⁰ Ibid

¹¹ Ibid

¹² Ibid

¹³ True Devotion to Mary, (translated by Fr. Frederick Faber), Tan Books and Publishers, Rockford, IL, 1985; n. 217.

¹⁴ Scritti di Massimiliano Kolbe, n. 1224

¹⁵ Sr. Lucia, OCD, Fatima in Lucia's Own Words, printed by Grafica Almondina, Portugal, 1976; (p. 112).

¹⁶ Cardinal Ratzinger, Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, The Message of Fatima, May 13, 2000.

¹⁷ Pope Benedict XVI at Caritas Baby Hospital in Bethlehem, Wednesday 13 May 2009