



**“...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. . . . In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph.”**

--words of Our Lady at Fatima, 13 July 1917

***What did Our Lady mean by...***

# **The ERRORS of RUSSIA**

***... and HOW FAR have they spread?***

# THE ERRORS OF RUSSIA

By David Melechinsky

The perennial issue of the request by Our Lady of Fatima for the Pope and all the bishops of the world to consecrate Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, has been placed in the spotlight once again. This latest “spotlight” is being focused by the Society of St. Pius X and its Superior-General Bishop Bernard Fellay, with his call for a new world-wide Rosary Crusade for this intention. And, as in previous times, voices have been raised, asking “Why Russia”? Our Lady herself answered this question in her apparitions at Fatima. It was so that Russia would cease spreading “her errors throughout the world”, and “be converted”. What are those “errors”, and why is it so important that they no longer be spread?

The most obvious error of Russia is, of course, that of communism, which for many years caused the enslavement of millions of souls in the most brutal bondage ever perpetrated by man against man. While it is true that it was in England that Karl Marx and Frederick Engels first published their infamous *Communist Manifesto*, nevertheless it was Russia that served as the first nation to officially adopt communism as a matter of public policy. “But isn't communism dead? Wasn't it done in by the late John Paul II and Ronald Reagan?” This question is perhaps best answered with another question: Have you noticed lately who the President of the United States is, and what kind of policies he is promoting? No, it is unfortunately not dead, but is being promoted in other guises. When the Soviet Union “collapsed”, it merely underwent a re-organization. The party officials exchanged positions, altered their rhetoric, and maintained control. The “privatization” of its economy resulted in most of the State assets being sold to the Party operatives-- the ones who had the money to buy such things. And so control of the infrastructure remained, effectively, in the same hands as prior to the “collapse”. All these dramatic occurrences were, according to Soviet defector Anatoliy Golitsyn, planned years in advance as a tactic to put the West to sleep, and were predicted, in print, years in advance, in his book *New Lies for Old*.

Under communist rule, Russia became the first country to institutionalize other errors as well. It was the first nation to formally adopt atheism as its state religion, and to forcibly purge all mention of God from public life (When the Russian people refused to give up their religion, the communists adopted the tactic of absorbing the Russian Orthodox Church into the Party apparatus, making it a tool of the communist state as it had been for the Tsarist state). Gender “equality”, as public policy, first reared its ugly head in Russia. Russia was the first modern nation to legalize abortion on demand, and also led the way in supplanting parental authority over children with State authority. These are just some of the “errors of Russia”. Can anyone deny that these things have indeed spread throughout the world? Can any Christian deny that the effects of these errors have been devastating? Were there any other errors prompting a warning from the motherly Heart of Our Lady?

## The OTHER Errors of Russia

There appeared in a widely-circulated Catholic publication in early 2004, a very important and informative article, shedding new light on the very mysterious subject of Russia, and why the consecration of that sorrow-stricken land, and its consequent conversion to the Catholic Faith after so many centuries of schism, should be so central to Our Lady's plan for Peace on earth. The presence in Russia of Satanic cults, so well-documented in that article, does much to explain the depth of the evil into which that nation was plunged following the Bolshevik revolution of 1917, and ties in with the known connections that Karl Marx had to the practice of devil-worship. This writer was greatly grieved, however, to read in the same article the following words:

“In spite of the sad fact of schism, the errors of Russia could not have been the errors of Orthodoxy, but were clearly the imported alien errors which gained ascendancy and led to the slaughter of the Orthodox alongside the Catholics.”

With all due respect to the undoubted scholarship of the author, This writer humbly begs to differ. Recalling the words of Our Lady to the three shepherd children, **“If my requests are heeded, Russia will be converted, and there will be peace; if not, she will spread her errors throughout the world.”** (Emphasis mine) Did not the words of Our Lady Herself imply that *Russia* was to be the *source* of these errors? The purpose of the present article is to put forth evidence that the ***errors of the schismatic Russian Orthodox church*** are *precisely* the ***principle*** “errors of Russia” of which Our Lady spoke. I hope also to show that these errors are at the very *root* of Russia's more well-known errors of communism, abortion, and other horrors infecting the world. And finally, that it is the spread of ***precisely these errors of the Russian State Church, to the highest echelons of the Vatican itself***, that is, to this day, the *main obstacle* to the carrying out of Our Lady's wishes concerning the Consecration of Russia to Her Immaculate Heart.

When Our Lady, the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God and Queen of heaven and earth, appeared to the three shepherd children of Fatima, the world was a very different place from that to which we have all become accustomed. Europe and America were at that time embroiled in the disastrous human slaughter, later to be known as World War I, which was to redraw the map of Europe by its dismemberment of the Catholic Empire of Austria-Hungary. This dismemberment, under the direction of forces hostile to the Catholic Church, resulted in the creation of a number of small, weak “independent republics”, all of which were far too small and too weak to maintain for long any semblance of that “independence” in the midst of the brutal new Europe that was their home. In nearby Russia, where Tsar Nicholas was still nominally ruling, great upheavals were taking place which would, by the end of that fateful year, topple the centuries-old reign of the Tsars and leave a virtual power-vacuum in the world's largest country. Russia, in a state of anarchy, would then be ripe for picking by the ruthless opportunist Lenin, who would use the wealth and resources of that land (not to mention financial assistance of his wealthy capitalist backers) to make of Russia, and nearly all of the

newly-created European republics, a new atheistic, materialistic empire of darkness and unprecedented brutality. Communism was the name of the new heresy that was at the base of this new empire, and it was to serve as Russia's atheistic State Religion for most of the twentieth century.

The Catholic Church, too, although unchangeable in Her essence, in 1917 was, to all appearances, very different from the Church as She appears today. The Liturgical revolution that would radically change the Holy Mass and Sacraments was still a half-century away. The Church still openly taught that the Catholic Church alone is of Divine origin, and that outside that Church there is no salvation, and that *all* non-Catholic religions were *false* religions, founded by fallible men, and were thus *obstacles*, rather than *means*, to salvation. “Ecumenism”, so prominent in today’s ecclesiastical jargon, was unheard-of (the very word does not even appear in the index of the voluminous *Catholic Encyclopedia* that was then current). And the concept *now* embraced by that word was *then still condemned* by the constant teaching of the Popes. In those days, converts from the false religions were eagerly sought, and encouraged, and were many, a stark contrast to today’s handful of converts who must often search long and hard to find priest or prelate willing to baptize them into the Faith!

It was amid this political and ecclesiastical situation that the Queen of Heaven chose to appear with Her urgent message for mankind. Prominent in Her message was a warning of what would happen to mankind if Russia were permitted to spread *her errors* throughout the world, and a request *that the Holy Father, together with all the Bishops of the world, consecrate Russia to Her Immaculate Heart*, promising that if this were done, Russia would be converted, and there would be an era of peace. It was nothing less than the triumph of Her Immaculate Heart that She promised.

In June of 2000, the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith issued, over the signatures of Cardinal Ratzinger (now Pope Benedict XVI) and Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Sodano, and Abp. Secretary Bertone, a 28-page document purporting to include the full text of the famous third part of the Secret of Fatima, and also making the claim that the Consecration of Russia desired by Our Lady had already been accomplished. The document also included urgings that there be no more talk of still needing to fulfill Our Lady’s requests in that regard. Much can be, and has been, written about the contradictions with previous Vatican statements, as well as with well-documented facts, concerning the claims regarding the “Third Secret” as presented therein; and also about the total absurdity of the claim that the Consecration of Russia has been done. There have been acts of consecration and “entrustment” made by various Popes, but all of them have, in point of fact, fallen short of the requirements of Our Lady in one or more key points (such as the incontrovertible fact that *Russia was not explicitly named in any* of them). This may be too fine a distinction for prelates who will apply the term “schismatic” to Catholics who recognize the authority of the Pope but reject his novelties, while applying the title “sister church” to those who reject Papal authority; but only those carefully trained in liberal/modernist philosophy can reach such conclusions. An in-depth study of the problems of these claims is beyond the scope of this article. Suffice it to say that this writer, living in the real world, *does not accept* the “party line” that claims the Consecration is complete, that the alleged “collapse of communism”

(leaving virtually the same clique of people still in charge in Russia) constitutes the promised “conversion of Russia”, and that Fatima is finished, irrelevant, and ought to just go away.

“But communism is dead!”, is the official line. “The late Pope John Paul II defeated communism single-handedly! That means that Russia is converted!” One is tempted to respond, “It depends on what you mean by ‘converted’ -- converted to WHAT?” More properly, however, the response should be, “**What did OUR LADY mean by ‘conversion’** when She promised the **conversion** of Russia, when communism was still only a dark conspiracy, and not yet the state-established atheistic religion for a third of the world’s people?” **What, in fact, are the “errors” of Russia** to which She referred? With the recent history of Russia being inextricably entwined with the obvious error known as communism, most of us Catholics have assumed that **this** was the main subject of Her warning. After all, even though communism had not yet come to power, surely the Mother of God could see it coming! And, yes, doubtless She did! But what if She had been even **more** concerned with errors of Russia that, as of 1917, were **already entrenched**, perhaps for centuries, which, by holding the Russian people away from the Truths taught by the One True Religion established by Our Lord Jesus Christ, left them spiritually weak, and undefended against the establishment in their land of the diabolically **false** religion of communism? What if these errors, spread worldwide, would leave **all** mankind similarly unprotected? Is this not sufficient to drive such a Mother to the rescue of Her children? This writer contends that there **were indeed** such errors already entrenched in Russia for centuries, and that, spread throughout the world, even to the highest echelons of the Church hierarchy itself, these errors have caused, and continue to cause, untold harm to the Church, to souls, and to the world. Let us now identify the main errors, and also suggest **why it is** that precise fulfillment of Our Lady’s requests is the only logical way to crush them, and **also why** today’s Vatican has been **adamantly opposed** to making the Consecration of Russia in the way required by Our Lady.

## The Errors Identified

Let’s get back to the question of what Our Lady meant by the **conversion** of Russia. For a clue, let us remember to whom She was addressing Herself. She was asking devout **Catholic** children raised in Portugal, a nation that had been, shortly before, and for centuries, a **Catholic nation**, i.e., a nation in which the Catholic Religion was the officially-established Religion of the State, to offer prayers and sacrifices for the **Catholic** Pope of Rome, that he would, with all the **Catholic** Bishops of the world, consecrate **schismatic** Russia to Her **Catholic** Immaculate Heart, and thereby obtain for that land of darkness **conversion**— To **what?** “Democracy”? Our Lady’s Divine Son had some experience with “democracy” in the court of Pilate. By all accounts it was not pleasant. Was it “Religious Liberty”? What could the Most Holy Virgin have meant, other than the light and grace of conversion to the **Catholic** Church -- not only as individual souls, but also **as a nation**? In other words, that Russia, then an officially Russian Orthodox state, was to **become an officially-Catholic nation, with Catholic laws**. This no doubt sounds a bit “foreign” to ears brought up on the secularist dogmas of “separation of church and state” and the notion that “it doesn’t matter what religion you belong to as long as you are

sincere”. Doesn’t even the Catholic Church seem to teach this now? The Church *hierarchy* does, *in practice*, but *the Church Herself cannot*, having formally *condemned* these notions repeatedly, for centuries, as heretical. Indeed, Our Lord did not die on the Cross for “Religious Liberty”, but to save us from our sins and errors, and lead us to His Truth. Detailed discussion on this point is, again, beyond the scope of this article, and the reader is urged to consult such encyclicals as *Quanta Cura* and *Mirari Vos*, to name but two, to discover the authentic and constant Magisterium on this subject. So, strange as it may sound to good people who have always presumed that non-Catholic religion is better than atheism, or no religion, nevertheless, this writer contends that *the “errors” of Russia primarily warned of by Our Lady are precisely the errors of Russia’s established state religion, the schismatic so-called “Russian Orthodox Church”* (hereinafter “ROC”). By “errors” I mean those doctrines of the ROC that keep the Russian Nation and people separated from the saving grace and unity of Catholic Belief and Practice. This article is primarily concerned with *two of the most significant ones*, as related to the spread of error in our time.

**Error #1: The Roman Pontiff is merely Bishop of Rome and Patriarch of the West, and not the Supreme Head of the Universal Church under Christ Our Lord, nor Sovereign ruler of Christendom. Following from this, he has no authority nor jurisdiction over the Russian, Greek, or other Eastern Churches.**

As is the case with most schism and division in the Church, the Great Schism of the East, of which the ROC has become the largest part, seems to have had its origins in political rivalries, with spurious “religious” arguments put forward later as excuses to gain “independence” from the See of Rome. In this case, a heresy about The Holy Ghost was proposed by one Photius, ambitious Patriarch of Constantinople, who wanted an excuse to “excommunicate” the Pope and advance his own novel ideas claiming that the ecclesiastical importance of a See was determined by the political importance of its city (Constantinople had by then surpassed the power and influence of declining Rome). Photius died reconciled with Rome, but his errors and their consequences lived on, straining East-West relations, eventually leading to the Great Eastern Schism. They continue to plague the Church and the world to this day.

Although the ROC possesses Apostolic Succession and valid Orders (or did in 1917, prior to its becoming a subservient arm of the Soviet Communist Party), it denies the universal Authority and Primacy of the Pope in matters concerning Faith, Morals, Jurisdiction, Discipline, or any other fields, insofar as the “Eastern Churches” are concerned. The refusal/denial of the Pope’s Jurisdiction and Authority by a church with Apostolic Succession and valid Orders is the very *definition* of “*Schismatic*”. It is important to note that *nothing has changed* in their position in these matters in modern times. Indeed, even recently, amid the scandalous efforts of the late Pope John Paul II to meet with officials of the ROC in order to surrender to them the precious Icon of Our Lady of Kazan, he was met with only insults, disdain and suspicion. And it is well-documented that ROC persecution of the Catholic Church continues to this day.

**Error #2: The Church of Rome is not the Mistress of all Churches, but is**

**merely a “Sister Church”, equal to those of Russia, Greece, etc., and, like the Pope himself, has no jurisdiction nor authority over the Eastern Sees, which are held to be autonomous and independent of one another.**

Owing to Original Sin, fallen human nature being what it is, there is a strong temptation to seek after autonomy and independence from outside authority. Indeed, before time began, the War in Heaven began with the “*Non serviam* (I will not serve)” of Lucifer. Thus, beyond a mutual agreement to accept the teachings of the first seven Ecumenical Councils, and a common attachment to the ancient Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, and a shared antipathy toward Rome, there is little to unite the Eastern Schismatics, who have shown an almost Protestant-like propensity to divide and subdivide. As Constantinople declined, the Russian Church took on more importance, with Moscow becoming a patriarchate in 1589. A century later, Tsar Peter replaced the patriarchate with a Synod answerable to himself, making the Russian Church a political subject and tool of the State. (Note how this error of “*identity* of Church and State”, or *subservience* of Church to State, together with the opposite extreme of “*separation* of Church and State”, are both remedied by the traditional Catholic ideal of *union and co-operation* of Church and State.) This domination of the ROC by the State continued after the fall of the Romanov dynasty and the establishment of an officially-atheistic government.

Doctrinally, there is confusion, disagreement, and lack of precision among the Schismatic sects concerning the existence and nature of Purgatory, Procession of the Holy Ghost, when Transubstantiation takes place, and permissibility of divorce and “remarriage”. Many of these sects have long participated in “Ecumenist” activities, gatherings, and organizations, such as the World Council of Churches, together with Protestants. Participation of *Catholics* in such things has, of course, always been *forbidden and condemned* by the Church, at least until Vatican II pretended to change this.

## **The Errors Beget Further Errors**

What seems to the secularist world as insignificant nit-picking in obscure nuances of religious teaching is in fact a serious conflict between acceptance and refusal of recognition and submission to Divinely-revealed Truth, the refusal of which has serious, unavoidable and tragic consequences. The refusal of the ROC to recognize the Pope as Head of the Universal Church left it effectively as a headless church, answerable only to itself. True, it had a “Patriarch”, but this prelate had none of the authority to settle doctrinal or disciplinary disputes that is granted to the Holy Father at Rome by the Holy Ghost. Denying the very concept of Infallibility, and asserting “independence”, the Patriarch undermined his own authority, and created a type of power vacuum. Such power vacuums are rarely if ever left unfilled. He soon found himself a puppet of the Russian State, in the person of the Tsar, and subservient to his whims, good or bad. When in the early twentieth century the Tsarina Alexandra fell under the influence of the scandalously amoral Rasputin, a member of a satanic cult, who thereby gained enormous power over the Tsar and, consequently, over the Empire, the Russian people became

thoroughly demoralized and discontented. Worse, the ROC, synonymous with Christianity itself in the minds of most Russians, was visibly unable to oppose this evil man who was protected by the Crown. Small wonder that the Faith of many was shaken and even shattered, leaving the common people open to whatever new idea would promise them deliverance from such an intolerable situation. What had been called “Holy Russia”, and considered a Christian monarchy, was quickly and savagely converted into an officially atheist state, and its official state church became little more than a tool of the hated secret police. Russia thus became the world’s most-recognized exporter of atheism, materialism, subversion, terrorism, amorality, disinformation, and wanton disregard for human life and rights.

## Enter Pope John XXIII and Vatican II... The Errors Spread

Reportedly, Pope John XXIII was shown the “Third Secret” of Fatima, and, being Pope in the year 1960, was expected to reveal it to the world. He chose not to do so, a very mysterious decision if what was revealed in 2000 is all that he was shown of it! What was the fate of that elusive *single* sheet of paper that had been sealed in an envelope, stuffed into a notebook (in which, perhaps, were the pages that *were* revealed in 2000?) and given to the Bishop of Leiria? What “words of Our Lady” referred to by then-Cardinal Ratzinger were on it? Were those words, as some writers have speculated, a warning about the very Council that the Pope was then planning, and about the new ecumenist attitudes it was to foster? If so, it would thoroughly explain the hostile attitude that the liberal/modernist clique, which has flourished since Vatican II, has displayed toward the message of Fatima. Until the mysterious veil is lifted, we can only speculate. However, there is no need to speculate about that which is common knowledge. What is known, and can no longer be denied by any but the most blind, or those blindly attached to the Revolution that was Vatican II, is that the Council ***was just that -- a Revolution in the Church!*** Much now has been written proving the contradiction and incompatibility between the Constant Magisterium of the Church and what has passed as Church Teaching since the Council, and to delve into the matter deeply in this article should be unnecessary. But it would be useful to single out a few of the errors of Vatican II in order to show to what extent the “Errors of Russia” have spread to even the highest levels of the hierarchy of the Church.

**Error #1: The Roman Pontiff is merely Bishop of Rome and Patriarch of the West, and not the Supreme Head of the Universal Church under Christ Our Lord, nor Sovereign ruler of Christendom. Following from this, he has no authority nor jurisdiction over the Russian, Greek, or other Eastern Churches.**

Shockingly, although none of the Popes of Vatican II have explicitly *uttered* the above heresy, they, and their appointees, have nevertheless been ***acting as if they believed it!*** In the various meetings that the late John Paul II arranged with various leaders of false religions, he took great pains to avoid any appearance of the superiority of his office over theirs. He continually gave the appearance of considering himself to be simply one among equals. Now personal humility is to be desired, but ***the Pope is not just a private person.*** As Vicar of Christ, he cannot, without giving scandal, give the



appearance of reducing the occupant of that office to the level of equality with heresiarchs, schismatics, pagans and unbelievers. Not only does the Pope apparently no longer seek the conversion of the *Eastern* churches (see next section), but he has been acting as if he no longer has power or authority over even *Catholic* bishops, many of whom now routinely ignore the Pope and do as they please. While some disciplinary measures are occasionally resorted to, they are usually the work of some committee, and have little or no binding force. This is all in keeping with the false notion of “collegiality” injected into the Church at Vatican II. This novelty promotes the idea of collective authority at the expense of individual authority, not only of the Pope himself, but of the individual bishops as well, who are now expected to govern their respective dioceses by consensus, by means of their national or regional Bishops’ Conferences (which are not part of the Divine constitution of the Church). This new attitude not only undermines authority itself, but responsibility as well. *When nobody is personally responsible for anything, discipline is impossible, and abuse becomes the rule.* Thanks to “Collegiality”, few are the bishops who do not act as if they are independent of Rome, and even fewer are those who are obeyed by their own subordinates. Small wonder that the poor average Catholic in the pew doesn’t know anymore what it means to be Catholic!

**Error #2: The Church of Rome is not the Mistress of all Churches, but is merely a “Sister Church”, equal to those of Russia, Greece, etc., and, like the Pope himself, has no jurisdiction nor authority over the Eastern Sees, which are held to be autonomous and independent of one another.**

Again, although none of the Popes of Vatican II have explicitly *spoken* the above heresy (though Benedict XVI, as Cardinal Ratzinger, came terrifyingly close), they, and their appointees, have nevertheless *been acting as if they believed it!* Indeed, the whole point of the “ecumenist” movement seems to be to seek unity by *any means but conversion to the Catholic Faith!* “Dialog” exists not to “proselytize” (now a dirty word-- possibly the only sin left in the modernist lexicon), but to find a clever way to use words in such a way as to attempt to define all differences and disagreements out of existence (in other words, by making words so ambiguous as to render them meaningless). The big battle during the Council over the understanding of just what the Church is, and the Council’s eventual replacement of the traditional formula that states that the True Church established by Our Lord Jesus Christ *is* the Catholic Church, with a new, ambiguous one that states that it “*subsists in*” the Catholic Church, is one of the most obvious examples. Why insist on such a change, if not to allow the suggestion that it might *also “subsist in”* other churches as well? Cardinal Ratzinger himself actually admitted that this was the reason for the change. Thus, representatives of non-Catholic religions, including the schismatic ROC, were invited to take part in Vatican II. How amused the Russian communists must have been at receiving a representative of the Pope of Rome begging them to send representatives of the ROC to the Council, and at getting unheard-of concessions from him in exchange for the privilege of what must have amounted to having Soviet spies take part in reshaping the Catholic Church! It is now known that, among the concessions, was an agreement, the infamous Metz pact, which included a provision that the Council would not issue a condemnation against

communism, an agreement that resulted in gaining a respectability for that diabolical movement that was to have terrible repercussions for the Church and the world. But there has been, more recently, another concession, which was explicitly expressed in the “Balamand” statement a few years ago. **The Vatican is no longer interested in converting souls from the ROC or other schismatic churches, and has even been actively discouraging conversions of members of those churches, laity and priests alike, who have asked for admittance to the Catholic Church!** Even worse, it is now even urging Byzantine-Rite Catholics in Russia, Ukraine, and other lands dominated by the schismatic churches to give up their long-fought resistance to being absorbed into the ROC and other “orthodox” groups that separated from the One Church founded by Christ, and to stop seeking the restoration of church buildings stolen from them by those same schismatic churches! And even the late Holy Father John Paul II himself adopted the habit of referring to these schismatic churches as “*Sister Churches*”! So widespread has this attitude of anti-missionary fervor become that, for many years now, even some of the few *Protestants* still seeking admittance to the Catholic Church have reported having to journey to distant places to find priests willing to baptize them into the True Faith! Is it any wonder that even sincere *Catholics* are confused and ignorant about their Faith? Is it any wonder that nominally “Catholic” politicians have become key players in the spreading of the errors of Russia?

## Our Lady Offers the Answer

Let us now explore Our Lady’s proposed remedy to all these problems, and using a bit of hindsight, observe how and why she asked for what she did, namely, ***that the Pope and all the Bishops of the world join together in consecrating Russia to Her Immaculate Heart!*** What would this entail, and what would be the result?

**First**, the Pope would have to do something very “*uncollegial*”! He would be commanding the Bishops, on his own authority, to do something most of them likely would consider very inconvenient. At this point in time, he would probably have to threaten those who refuse his command with deposition (The Consecration would have been much easier when Our Lady first asked for it!), and would likely have to carry out the threat on more than a few, appointing in their places new bishops that are more disposed toward obedience!

**Second**, the Holy Father would be doing something extremely “*unecumenist*”! For he would in fact be asserting the authority of the Bishop of Rome over a land and church that presently deny his authority and jurisdiction! A consecration, which is the setting aside of something for a sacred purpose, can be performed only by someone who has authority and jurisdiction to do so! A great many “liberal” feathers would doubtless be ruffled! See here the ineffable wisdom of Our Lady, who recognizes the Authority of the Vicar of Her Divine Son, and desires that he make use of it, even though that Vicar himself acts as if he does not possess such authority! One is reminded of St. Joan of Arc on her Divine mission to get the lawful King of France to act as a King! And, of course, by finally carrying out Her request, the Pope would be turning his key to let loose the flood of graces promised by Our Lady, with the following results:

A. Russia would be *converted*, in the only sense in which Our Lady can mean the term; that is, it will become an *officially Catholic nation*. The errors, subversive activities, and terrorism would cease being exported, for openers. But try to imagine what sort of effect an event of this magnitude would have upon the hierarchy of the Church! What we are talking about is the healing of Christendom's most difficult schism, the return of the largest body of schismatics in the world to the One Fold, the miraculous accomplishment of that which the Liberal/Modernist clique said could never happen! The whole ecumenist reorientation of the Church, insisting on "convergence" of diverse religions in place of conversion, would become manifestly ridiculous.

B. Heartened by the sight of such an obvious miracle, Catholics all over the world would experience a new surge in Faith, Hope, and Charity, and would begin a true renewal of the practice of their Holy Religion. Vocations to the Priesthood and the Religious Life would flourish. Fallen-away Catholics would begin returning. The novelties of Vatican II would suddenly be clearly seen for the obnoxious absurdities that they are, and that unfortunate council would be reckoned with the infamous Robber Council, and condemned. Virtually nobody would want to be associated with its discredited notions. A new era of peace would be granted to the world, as also promised by Our Lady, who would then be honored as She deserves. The Church would experience unprecedented glory in its Resurrection.

## Too Optimistic?

Is this writer being too optimistic? Humanly speaking, the Liberal/Modernist clique will never let this happen! Their opposition to Our Lady's plan for peace is so vehement as to lead one to suspect that they have more faith in Her promises than even Her most faithful children do, and they want to avoid the embarrassment of being discredited at all cost. But that is merely humanly speaking. We Catholics do not -- or at least should not -- limit ourselves to things that are human. The God we adore is almighty, and He does what His Mother asks. If enough of us Catholics who love this benevolent Mother are willing to offer the prayer and penance that She asks for the Holy Father, She can make it a reality. The Rosary Crusade announced by Bishop Fellay in April 2009 is the greatest opportunity to do this that has been presented to us layfolk since Vatican II. **But if we act as if we think it cannot be, who, then, will do Her bidding?** Will the Faith be taken from us, as it was taken from the Chosen People of old who refused to recognize in Our Lord Jesus Christ the very Messiah they had so long awaited, and be given to the heathen instead? May God forbid it. Our Lady's Immaculate Heart *will triumph*. Let us pray that we will find ourselves triumphant with Her. It is true that we are not worthy that She should triumph. But **SHE IS worthy!** May God forbid that Catholics would continue to be an obstacle to that glorious Triumph.

## A Few Words About Islam...

After the ROC, the most influential religion in Russia, in terms of population, is

Islam. In view of the recent terror attacks that have brought increasing attention to the practitioners of this heathen religion, a few considerations may be in order. Although Russia does not appear to be the *principal* source of Muslim errors themselves, it cannot be denied that Russia does have a long history of providing training, financing, and much other vital support to Islamic terrorist groups, and that these groups are widespread in their pernicious activities all over the world. Were Russia to become a Catholic nation, there is little doubt that this source of international discord would be ended. The fact that Our Lady appeared in a little town named for a Muslim princess who became a Catholic has been seen by some writers as a significant symbol of Our Lady's desire that the Muslims, too, should be drawn to the One Fold of Her Divine Son. This, too, will not come about by the ecumenist practices of the modernist hierarchy (i.e., the late Pope John Paul II kissing their blasphemous book and proclaiming that Catholics and Muslims worship the same God, an outrageous novelty offensive to the ears of informed Catholics and sincere Muslims alike, though for obviously different reasons). If there is to be a true and effective "war on terror" (as opposed to the endless carnage now taking place under that misleading guise), the key to peace is, once again, the Consecration of Russia requested by Our Lady, and the Triumph of Her Immaculate Heart. Let us wholeheartedly pray and make sacrifices for our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI, and the Bishops, that they will finally heed and fulfill Our Lady's requests!

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Rosary Graphics, P.O. Box 73, St. Mary's, Kansas 66536, U.S.A.

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