THE MESSAGE OF FATIMA: A RELIGIOUS CRUSADE, POLITICAL INTERFERENCE OR INTERVENTION IN RUSSIA?

Stephena Udinmade Ighedosa

MBBS (UNIBEN, 1976); PhD (Glasgow University, 1983); FWACP; ChMC; FNIM; IPMD
Honorary Consultant Community Health Physician
Community Health Department, University of Benin Teaching Hospital, Benin City.
E-mail: Stephena.ighedosa@uniben.edu

ABSTRACT

The message of Fatima was expressed through Sister Lucy at the novitiate of the Dorotheans at Tuy, Spain on June, 13, 1929. Our Lady of Fatima requested the public Consecration of Russia to her “Immaculate Heart”, by the Holy Father, in union with all the bishops of the world, promising to save Russia, by this means, from the risks of atheism.

The risk of Russia spreading her errors of atheism, throughout world, causing religious wars and persecutions of the Church, was real. The President of the Russian Federation, His Excellency, Vladimir Putin, was received in audience by the Holy Father, Pope Francis, at the Vatican City, in Rome, on Monday afternoon, November, 25, 2013. It was reported that President Putin and the Pope Francis exchanged icons of Mary, with reverence and genuine signs of Christian Piety. It was not clear if this was mere diplomatic nicety or symbolic ‘Consecration of Russia’ to the “Immaculate Heart” of Mary, in fulfillment of the Message of Fatima. The Catholic Church interprets the Message of Fatima as a call to repentance, a life of prayer and sacrifice, with a rededication to the redemptive mission of Jesus Christ, through the merits of Our Mother Mary. It is believed that if the message of Fatima is heeded, Russia will be converted, and there will be world peace.

Key Words: Message of Fatima, Heresies, The Fall of man, Plan of Salvation, Conversion of Russia, Mutual Assured destruction

The Problem Statement

The Message of Our Lady of Fatima, during World War 1 (28 July, 1914 – 11 November, 1918)
addressed the prevalent iniquities of humanity with the persecution of the Church, the divine machinery of God for the forgiveness, healing, restoration, and reconciliation of man with God’s plan, for the celebration of everlasting happiness, love and peace. War is a sign of failure of man to create, maintain, or restore harmony, following disruption of peace. Visible global political upheavals and soci-economic disorder were associated with threats to Faith in God and Jesus the Christ (historical heresies with revolt against God and man’s refusal to recognize his status as a created being, out-right persecution of the Church and the Pope, idolatry and spread of doctrinal errors); threats to life and reproduction (wars, abortions); threat to institution of marriage and family life (large scale divorces, same-sex marriage); threat to the environment (with anthropogenic climate change, extreme heat and cold, famine, disasters and drought); threat to world peace (hatred, greed, corruption); threat to health (drug epidemics, famine, pandemics of communicable and non-communicable diseases); threat to morality (sexual revolution, homosexuality, immodest dressing).

Genesis

Man was created in the image and likeness of God to live in perfection in the presence of God, fruitful in multiplicity, reproduction in dominion over all creations. Man fell through pride and disobedience, and was banished from the paradise of perpetual enjoyment, to a life of labour and pain. The fall of man, branded as the ‘Original Sin’, made humanity inherently disobedient, resistant to change, with the potential for deliberate destruction, due to a claim to complete moral independence, by which man refuses to recognize his status as a created being. Pride is indeed an attack on God’s sovereignty. Humanity has since the fall, remained the only disordered created being, living in utter disharmony with the cosmic phenomenon. God in his infinite mercy, immediately proclaimed a plan of salvation from the power of the devil, through a particular offspring (Jesus Christ, the Messiah) of a woman. The woman is taken to refer to the Blessed
Virgin Mary. In the messianic interpretation, the Messiah and his mother appear together. In the course of time, God intervened, in the affairs of man, through prophetic actions and signs, to reconcile man with his eternal love and save man from destruction. The goal of the Plan of Salvation, the embodiment of Christ, the Holy Spirit, in mankind, was achieved at Pentecost, through the Redemptive grace of God the Son. The Mosaic ritual (Physical Circumcision) for the Passover was changed into the ‘Circumcision of Heart’, in which man is judged not by outward appearance, but by spiritual fruitfulness and works of mercy. Jesus Christ, during His ministry on earth, ‘established the Church, not as a museum for saints, but as a hospital for sinners (including the clergy and faithful)’, with a Leadership (the Pope as the Vicar of Jesus Christ on earth), a hierarchy, modus operandi, and a firm mandate for the propagation of Faith in God, Faith in Jesus Christ, Faith in the Catholic Church including the Leadership, and acceptance of the Blessed Virgin Mary as the Mother of the Church on earth.

The Heresies
In 1045 A.D., the Orthodox schism rejected the Papal Primacy (primacy of jurisdiction of the Pope over all Patriarchs, Cardinals, and bishops of the Church), as the Vicar of Jesus Christ; they recognized him only as ‘first among equals’. In 1517, Martin Luther, rejected the Catholic Church and the Pope. But, it is impossible to remain faithful to Christ while rejecting his bride, the Church? In 1717, Freemasonry created their own concept of God, rejecting Christ, the Church and the Pope. In 1917, Communism emerged in Russia, under the Leadership of Lenin, with bold rejection of not only the Catholic Church, but also the rejection of Jesus Christ and even the notion of the Almighty God. Communism, an offspring of Marxist-Lenin interpretation of the Marxist theory, was the culmination of what was begun with the Orthodox schism and the Lutheran heresy. Karl Marx, the German thinker, founder and primary theorist of Marxism (in the nineteenth century), regarded religion as the “soul of soulless conditions”, and the “opium of the people” that gave the working classes false hope for millennia. Vladimir Lenin’s interpretation of the Marxist theory presented religion as retarding human development which led to a number of Marxist-Leninist governments including the Soviet Union and the People’s Republic of China that implemented rules that introduces state atheism.

Urgency of Intervention
Intervention was expedient, to forestall the destruction consequences of atheism in the Russian Empire. The Russian Empire was overthrown by Vladimir Lenin (Russian Revolutionary) in 1917, during World War I. It was inaugurated as an atheist state called Soviet Federative Socialist Republic. In 1922 it was named USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republic) formed by the union of Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and the Transcaucasian Republics. The USSR was the single largest state in the world, covering more than 8.6 million square miles. As an atheist state10, religion was largely discouraged and at times persecuted. State atheism was called “gosateizm”. Two thirds of the Soviet Union population were irreligious. About half the people, including members of the ruling Communist Party and high level government officials, professed atheism. For the majority of Soviet citizens, therefore, religion seemed irrelevant. by atheists who refuse to recognize his status as a created beings, and consequently, have rejected any moral code.

Message of Fatima on Russia
Our Lady of Fatima requested the solemn public Consecration of Russia to her “Immaculate Heart”, by the Holy Father, in union with all the bishops of the world, promising to save Russia, by this means, from the risks of atheism. The message was expressed through Sister Lucy at the novitiate of the Dorotheans at Tuy, Spain, on June 13, 1929.

Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD)
The United States created the first nuclear weapon during the World War II (1939 -1945), and in August, 1945, dropped first atomic bomb on Hiroshima, and the second bomb on Nagasaki by the B-29 bombers named Enola Gay and Bockscar, respectively. The Soviet Union, Peoples Republic of China, and France then developed nuclear stockpiles. Intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) were developed in the 1950s. Missiles had been regarded as the ideal platform for effective delivery of nuclear weapons, than strategic bombers. In January 1946, the United Nations (UN) constituted the ‘United Nations Atomic Energy Commission’ with the goal to eliminate the use of all nuclear weapons (Baruch Plan). The Soviet Union disagreed with this proposal and rejected it. The Soviet’s proposal was involved universal nuclear
disarmament. Both The Soviet and the American proposal were refused by the UN.

The first Soviet nuclear bomb was detonated on August 29, 1949, shocking the entire world.

On October 4, 1954, the Soviet Union showed the world that they had missiles capable to reach any part of the world when they launched the Sputnik satellite into Earth orbit. The Soviet Union detonated its first “true” hydrogen bomb on 22nd of November, 1955.

A competitive nuclear arm race for supremacy developed between the United States and the Soviet Union, and their respective allies, during the ‘Cold War’ (1947-53; 1953-62). Both governments spent massive amounts to increase the quality and quantity of their nuclear weapons. In the 1950s, both the United States and Soviet Union had enough nuclear power to obliterate the other side. Both sides developed a capability to launch a devastating attack even after sustaining a full assault from the other side (especially by means of submarines), called a ‘second strike’. This policy and associated issues were described as ‘Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD)’: both sides knew that any attack upon the other would be devastating to them. Perhaps, in theory, the fear of ‘MAD’ restrained them from attacking each other.

Both Soviet and American experts hoped to use nuclear weapons for extracting concessions from the other, or from other powers such as China, but the risk connected with using these weapons was so grave that the restrained from what was referred to as ‘brinkmanship’.

Successes

The Soviet Union collapsed in late 1991 and became Russian Federation (Russia), consisting Russia and Siberia (excluding the Asian states such as Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan). Russia has abandoned the single party communist political system and is now a federalist republic, with a resurgence of Christianity to heal the hostile and non-religious secularism.

Those who profess and practice the Christian faith are increasing in Russia and the influence of the Church on the Church on the Culture is on the rise.

The President of the Russian Federation, His Excellency, Vladimir Putin, an affiliate of the Russian Orthodox Church, was received in audience by the Holy Father Pope Francis, I the Vatican City, in Rome, on Monday Afternoon, November 25, 2013. President Putin exchanged icons of Mary with Pope Francis, not merely as a mere nicety, it was done with reverence and genuine signs of Christian Piety. Putin is reported to regularly make public appearances at Russian Orthodox services, has read the Bible and even keeps a copy in his plane. President Putin has signed legislation outlawing advertisement for abortion in Russia.

The action of Consecration will clearly, publicly and definitively manifest to the whole world in a most miraculous way the will of God that the Papacy is founded by God and that the Pope not only has the primacy of honour but also primacy of jurisdiction over all other bishops, indication of the power, prestige, the importance of the Catholic Hierarchy and especially the primacy that the Pope has over the bishops of the Church. The Consecration will take place by the direct order of the Pope.

The collaboration of the Pope and bishops would be a visible sign of the direct relationship of the conversion of Russia and the Pope and bishops making this act of consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Conclusion

The message of Our Lady of Fatima was a divine affirmation of God’s supreme power over evil and human machinations, through prayer, by the Church, in fulfillment of God’s proclamation of ultimate victory of the human race over the devil, through a particular offspring (Jesus Christ, the Messiah) of a woman, the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The conversion and collegial Consecration of Russia to the Immaculate heart of Mary, will reverse the upheaval revolt against God, begun by the Orthodox schism of 1054, furthered by Luther’s heresy of sola scriptura, added to the apostasy of Freemasonry and intensified by Communism in Russia.

The successful conversion and Consecration of Russia would promote world peace, and the Catholic Church as the one True Church founded by God the Son, through the merits of Our Mother Mary.

The core of the message of Fatima is a call to repentance, a life of prayer and sacrifice, in order to participate in the redemptive mission of Jesus Christ, as it continues through the work of the Church, which is his body. If the message is 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.

References
2. Genesis 1: 26 – 28
3. Genesis 2: 17]
4. Genesis 3: 16,17
5. Romans 5:18
6. Genesis 3: 15c
7. John 10: 30
18. Frere Michel de la Sainte Trinite, The Whole Truth about Fatima, Volume II: The Secret and the Church
19. Sister Lucy’s Third Memoir; Documentos. p.235