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“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.”

– Our Lady of Fatima

December 2019

The Nativity of Our Lord

Dear Friend,

Praise be Jesus and Mary!

I have long known that our age is one that has turned away from God and embraced evil as good. But I had never witnessed this *diabolical disorientation* within the Church as clearly as I did while attending the Amazon Synod in Rome.

NOTHING COULD HAVE PREPARED ME FOR THE SHOCK OF SEEING AND HEARING OUR LORD BETRAYED BY THE LEADERS OF OUR CHURCH!

I went to Rome in October to cover the Synod for the Fatima Center, where I now work as Content Director. You can read more about my experiences in Rome in this issue of *The Fatima Crusader* (see: “A Step Closer to a One-World Church,” page 28).

To witness firsthand the lack of love for God and failure to prioritize the supernatural, to hear instead the cold bureaucratic blather that has replaced holy zeal, to see demonic idols (see: “Papal Idolatry?,” page 56) become the focal point of the Synod’s ceremonial beginning and be given places of honor in Catholic churches – it was like having one’s Catholic heart ripped out!

I won’t go into the details of the Synod and the terrible things it portends for the Church. You can read about that in my article. What I want to tell you now is that we – you and I – have an urgent mission: **DEFEND THE FAITH!**

This issue of The Fatima Crusader is the first one I have undertaken as editor. And I did so with an overwhelming sense of its importance as a defender of truth and a beacon of hope!

Our Lady’s warnings about the spreading of Russia’s errors and the persecutions of the faithful went unheeded by the leaders of our Church. What has been the result? Exactly what Our Lady predicted!

Catholic truth is under attack from within the very fortress that should be protecting it in the face of the enemy. And the attack is a sly one: it does not so much deny and confront the Faith, as it exploits it and replaces its dogma with ‘kind’ and ‘compassionate’ sounding secular ideology.

There is a mighty effort being made to spread Russia’s errors inside the very precincts of the Catholic Church in Rome and throughout the world. And what is Russia’s error? Above all, it is to convince us that there is no God and that man ought to rule the world in accordance with his own reality.

But one error begets another, like a numerical sum based on a mistaken initial calculation and added to again and again. Once God is denied, what is man? An animal, an accidental creation – and he can be treated as such. He owes his life to the random chaos of evolution.

Evolution then becomes god (*see: “Russia Will Spread Her Errors: Evolutionism,” page 42*). If man is not God’s creature, but nature’s, then it is to nature that all must be referred. Was this not the point of the papal ceremony honoring the Amazonian Earth Mother, Pachamama?

How can it escape us that this idol is depicted in tribal mythology as a dragon that lives under the earth, causes great destruction, and demands sacrifice from men?

And are not many souls vulnerable to the confusion that is purposely being wrought, as Catholic truth and pagan customs are being confounded with the intent that the latter should eventually replace the former?

Confusion reigns in the Church, where fewer and fewer people, especially amongst younger generations, know the basic teachings of the Faith. This is why the theme of the Fatima Center for 2020 will be **“Building on a Firm Foundation.”**

The Fatima Message is our only hope in this time. Our Lady told us, “Only I can help you.” It is the mission of the Fatima Center to let everyone we can reach know that there is a way out of our present darkness if we do as Our Lady asks.

But how can we begin to tell people about Fatima when they have only a partial, imperfect or even distorted notion of what it means to be Catholic? To teach the Message of Fatima we must also teach the basics of the Faith.

This is why we have undertaken our outreach to youth. This outreach is a vital part of our future efforts. Those raised in the traditions of the Church that predate Vatican II must pass on our heritage, which is the heritage of every baptized person. Those formed after Vatican II must learn the truth and know the absolute importance of recovering and restoring Catholic Tradition.

Our second Youth Conference was held in Cleveland in September 2019. It was more vibrant than even our first conference in 2018 (*see: “Restoration Among the Youth,” page 13*). There is a great spiritual hunger among the young. They don’t want the diluted faith of the post-Vatican II modernists. They want the real thing! And they recognize the real thing!

The immediate future of the Church may look perilous, but those who were fortunate enough to witness the joy, the commitment, the eagerness for genuine spirituality that was present at our Youth Conference, know that there is reason for great hope.

The early Church was small in numbers but fervent in spirit. In all likelihood, the renaissance of the Catholic Faith that we all long to see will follow this pattern. For our part, we maintain firm hope, knowing that the light of truth will never go out in this world, no matter how great the surrounding darkness.

Perhaps one of the most important articles in *The Fatima Crusader* is by Father Michael Rodríguez (*see: “Keeping and Living the Faith in an Age of Apostasy,” page 49*).

The importance of Father's words have to do with the fact that they offer a practical program, a daily way to bring Christ and Our Lady into our lives and into the lives of all we meet. We may know a great deal about dogma and liturgy, but our knowledge will count for little unless we *live* the Faith with charity. If we are to restore all things in Christ, we must begin with ourselves.

I recount in my opening remarks in this *Fatima Crusader* (see: "Dear Reader," page 3) that it was while attending the Fatima Peace Conference in Niagara Falls in 2013 that I saw how devotedly Father Nicholas Gruner prayed the Rosary and that it inspired me to intensify my own devotion to Our Lady of Fatima.

Just a brief encounter with Father Gruner was enough to deeply affect me. Christopher Ferrara gives us a window into what his close association with Father Gruner for more than two decades meant to him (see: "Father Gruner: The Man I Knew," page 34).

In this very affecting portrait, Mr. Ferrara talks about the priest to whom we are all indebted for doing so much to keep alive the Message of Fatima that so many tried to bury. Often at great personal sacrifice, Father stood steadfast. No attack upon his character or priesthood ever succeeded in weakening his resolve. How I wish every Catholic would read this article!

If only we would muster a fraction of the courage that Father Gruner showed through a lifetime of tribulation! And the amazing thing was that he never grew bitter, never gave way to anger and reprisal. This was because at the heart of all he did was love of Our Lady and devotion to the salvation of souls.

How happy Father would have been to see the Fatima conference in Poland in October (see: "The Fatima Center's Historic Conference in Poland: A Resounding Success," page 19).

And how gratified would he have been to witness 15,000 copies of *The True Story of Fatima*, in Portuguese, being distributed at Fatima, also in October (see: "Immaculate Heart of Mary, Restore Civil Society to the Pattern and Form of Christianity," page 5).

The work of the Fatima Center continues. And it will continue so long as you and I remain faithful to the mission entrusted to us. Part of that mission is the publication and distribution of ***The Fatima Crusader***.

The Fatima Crusader has touched so many lives through the years and brought many souls back to the Faith. With your prayer, sacrifices, and help, it will continue to do so.

Yours in Jesus, Mary and Joseph,

David Rodríguez, Editor of *The Fatima Crusader*

P.S. Please help us continue to publish ***The Fatima Crusader*** and to maintain all the holy works of Our Lady's Apostolate. Your generous support and prayers keep us going. This is your ***Fatima Crusader*** and your Apostolate. We are in this together, brothers and sisters fighting under Our Lady's banner. May we bless one another and never falter.