

ENTRUSTMENT AND FATIMA

By Prof. Américo Pablo López-Ortiz
International President of the WAF

The soul and essence of the Message of Fatima is the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This maternal heart revealed its secrets at Fatima, showing the little shepherds the wonders of God's love and mercy. Through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the Fatima seers experienced the mystery of God and were immersed in God as in an infinite ocean of love. The light that came out of the Immaculate Heart of Mary was God himself and in this light they could see themselves as in the best of mirrors. Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco contemplated the mystery of the Most Blessed Trinity, receiving a special understanding of God's nature and at the same time were able to receive a special understanding of their own nature, of their own conscience. This was necessary to prepare the children for their mission on earth.

On June 1929, the Immaculate Heart of Mary appeared to Sister Lucia at Tuy, Spain, as Our Lady promised her before (July 13, 1917). Our Lady had promised to come again to remind of the practice of the First Saturday's devotion and the consecration to her Immaculate Heart as the two providential means offered to the modern world to achieve peace and salvation of numerous sinners.

While Sister Lucia adored the Blessed Sacrament at midnight, the Most Holy Trinity appeared to her in the company of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Lucia received lights of this mystery that she was not allowed to reveal. Our Lady said: "The moment has come when God asks the Holy Father, in union with all the Bishops of the world, to make the consecration of the world and Russia to my heart, promising to save it by this means."

By the word "consecration" it is meant "entrustment". Our Lady requested the entrustment of Russia and the world to her Immaculate Heart. Those nations in most need of God's mercy must be entrusted to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. God has confided peace and salvation of poor sinners to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The fate of the world is in her maternal Heart.

Pope John Paul II, the Great, understood better than anyone else the significance of this Apparition of Tuy. In his coat of arms you can find the motto: "Totus Tuus" (All yours, Mary), taken from St. Bernard's act of consecration to our Blessed Mother. So, the beloved Holy Father, John Paul II, proceeded to entrust the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, with a special mention of Russia and of those nations in most need of God's mercy, that is in most need of conversion. The entrustment took place at St. Peter's Square in March 25, 1984 in unity with all the Bishops of the world (even the Orthodox Bishops united). The collegial consecration was asked by Our Lady of Fatima in her apparition at Tuy. The effects of this consecration at a crucial moment in history were immensurable: The fall of the Berlin wall, the fall of the Soviet Empire, the opening of

the countries under the Iron Curtain to Faith and Religion, to the Church and to Evangelization in a peaceful manner! Indeed, the Great Miracle of the Century occurred; the new Marian Lepanto at the end of the twentieth century, prophesied by St. John Bosco, precursor of Fatima.

Of course, those who do not have faith can not accept God's intervention in history. But there is not a better explanation for these qualitative changes in the socio-political scenario than the fulfilment of God's promise of salvation to his people through her beloved Mother.

To entrust our person, our family, our nation, our world to God through the Immaculate Heart of Mary is to prepare ourselves to offer God our being and possessions, all that we were, are and will be, our virtues and our sins, our strengths and our weaknesses, in an oblation of love, imitating Jesus Christ who totally gave himself to the Eternal Father at the Cross. We become true disciples and Apostles of Jesus following Mary's steps. Entrustment is the most important spiritual lesson in Fatima. To repair the damage caused by sin we have to offer ourselves to the Good Lord, we have to become other John's, other beloved disciples that will restore God's majesty and glory diminished by the sins of the world. We will retrieve the offenses against His Love. We will repair the terrible damages against the Mystic Body of Christ, the Church that suffers and bleeds so much for so many of her children! This is the infinite spiritual power of ENTRUSTMENT based on Christ's merits, the superabundant treasures of GRACE AND MERCY mentioned in the Apparition of Tuy. Through His Passion, Death at the Cross and Resurrection and through our collaboration and participation in His grace and mercy, our souls will be loved by God in a special way, with a love of predilection.

On June 13th, 1917, Our Lady of Fatima said to Lucia: "Jesus wishes to use you in making me known and loved. He wishes to spread in the world the devotion to my Immaculate Heart. I promise salvation to those who embrace this devotion. Their souls will be loved by God with a love of predilection, like flowers placed by me before His throne... My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and the way that will lead you to God." So, it will be for us too! Let us entrust ourselves and all we care for to the Immaculate Heart of Mary! The world is fragile. We must handle it to the Heart of our spiritual Mother, we must confide our fate and that of humanity to Divine Providence.

The statue of the Immaculate Heart of Mary at Fatima has a globe pending from her neck just below her heart. It symbolizes the world and its fate "entrusted" to her maternal heart. It is a perpetual reminder to her and to us: Do not be afraid. Our fate is "entrusted" to her maternal heart. And the heart of a mother is the safest place to be for a little child.