

5th WORLD-PRAYER-CONGRESS for LIFE in ROME
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“And the Light Shines in the Darkness”

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“World Day of Prayer - 22nd of May 2011: 100 Million Rosaries for Life”

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It is an honor to be here with all of you today on the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, this day has special meaning for many reasons. Today we celebrate the 5th anniversary of the World Apostolate of Fatima's elevation to a Pontifical Association, The 5th World Prayer Congress for Life... and on a private note, my family celebrates my son Chris's birthday.

I wish to cover five points today:

- What is the Message of Fatima for Today
- What is the World Apostolate of Fatima and it's mission
- Why the Apostolate is a Pontifical Association
- What the Message of Fatima has to do with Life issues?
- And, why we hold a day we call “One World Praying for Life and Peace”

But first I would like to say that a few days ago I overheard three scientists talking about how, after years of research, they had finally cracked the code to the creation of life. They were so excited that they loaded a bag of dust and went to God to proclaim their success. They told God that after years of trying and failing they found the key to their success in the Bible passage, “from dust you are born, and unto dust you shall return.” They asked God if they could show him their success and God said, “sure, I'd love to see what you have done” so they proceeded to empty their bag of dust into a jar and suddenly, God stopped them and said, “hold on a minute... get your own dust...”

Without God not even dust exists, with God all things are possible. We live in difficult times and wherever we look we see a world in serious trouble. We know we are suffering through difficult financial times, incalculable deaths through abortion and genocide; global changes that manifest through frequent earthquakes, hurricanes, mudslides, tornadoes, droughts, and other devastations that loom large. We are constantly warned of the potential for epidemics that antibiotics and vaccines may not stop. As nuclear weapons proliferate, the potential for devastating war continues to rise. Although many can't see it, the solution to our problems is clear and is at hand.

The key to understanding the solution to our problems is a clear understanding of the cause of our problems. When we look to governments to solve problems we are gravely disappointed. Why, because our governments have removed God from our institutions and have said to God, “we can do just fine without your help.” And, what has God said, “ok..., I have given you the gift of freewill, you want to try it alone, go ahead.” And, so many people have been so attracted by material things; possessions... possessions that they believe they have attained on their own; that they believe they are just fine as long as they have their material possessions. They think they don't need God anymore, they often deny that a spiritual world even exists. And again God says, “ok... give it a try.” So without prayer, meditation, penance without God... the grace of insight, good judgment, and wisdom does not flow to us, to our politicians, or to our children. What we think are good decisions, are Godless amoral decisions that are gilded in gold, but lead us to despair.

In short, everything gets all confused, black looks white and white looks black and as we place our will above God's we make bad decisions; while we think we are filled with wisdom.

If we conclude that the core of the problems we face is bad decisions that are not graced with insight from Heaven because we choose to turn away from God then everything else is not a cause of the problem but instead the effect of spiritual decay. The consequence of removing God from our lives and our culture.

Why are their 40 million abortions a year; is it because there are 40 million decisions a year that put self before God, the convenience of the mother before the life of the child? Sounds a little absurd doesn't it? Putting the convenience of the mother before the life of the child. Yet that is the decision our courts make, our governments make, our culture makes, so many people agree with without a second thought. Black is white...

Our societies no longer consider abortion to be the end of a life or to be wrong. There are only a few ways they can come to this conclusion. Society can convince people that the precious gift of life a mother carries in her womb is not a baby but rather a fetus without life. I would say without a soul or without a human life but many of the same people who fervently support abortion are the first people who would prosecute someone for drowning a cat. They respect life... they just choose not to recognize its existence in the womb of a mother of an unwanted child. Of course, those same people celebrate the life of a wanted child in the womb of the same mother. Sounds illogical doesn't it? Well when black seems white logic is no longer relevant.

Another way abortion can be justified is if society can convince us that God exists, but we are all so special, so kind, so wonderful, and everything we do is ok. In other words, punishment does not exist, everyone goes to Heaven and Hell does not exist.

And the final way abortion can be justified by society is if society removes God from our culture, because if God does not exist than we can make up the rules to please ourselves and we don't have to concern ourselves with pleasing God or following His rules. To accomplish this our societies increasingly convince each succeeding generation that God is not necessary, God is a concept for the foolish, and that religions are false and misleading institutions that do more harm than good. But government is altruistic and will take care of you.

Those who are drawn in by the very strong pull of our new so called progressive cultures and participate in abortions are not murders as much as they are lost, confused, ignorant souls that are blind to the light that shines right before us and pleads with us to look up, and ask for help. They look at black but they see white. They look at white and they see black. This confusion is especially prominent in the younger generations who have not been blessed with the opportunities we have had. We grew up in a more God centered world; many of us were taught by religious. When I was young there were over 110,000 teaching religious in the United States now there are less than 10,000.

This gift that we and many of today's young who have been able to see the light through the dark is a gift that comes with a price. We are called to higher responsibility. We are charged with the responsibility to serve God, to help shine the light of the Church, the light of our Savior and His Blessed Mother through the darkness of the spiritually decaying cultures of our societies.

Noted guests, religious, ladies, and gentlemen this is why our Heavenly Mother came to Fatima on the 13th's of the month from May through October in 1917. She came to tell us through three young shepherd children; Francisco, Jacinta, and Lucia that the world was in serious trouble and that it would get worse if we did not take action, she came to help us understand the cause of the problems we face in our world today and more importantly to tell us the solution to our problems.

Mary knew that we were at a crossroad... and one path would lead us to many lost souls, wars so terrible that nations would be annihilated and a weakened Church... and the other path would lead us to the salvation of souls, peace on earth and a strong Church. Our Heavenly Mother did not say the cause of our problems was economic, she did not say it was poor government, she did not say it was a military problem. No, she said putting ourselves above God caused our problems. And, she taught us that in order to fix our problems we would have to repair the damage our sins created, she never said fix our government, fix our economy, or stop the natural disasters.

I believe she knew that we could not accomplish that, but that Heaven could. But, only if we asked in sufficient numbers to offset those who choose to ignore God. Because of our gift of freewill more have to ask for God's help, than ask him to stay out of our lives, out of our culture.

Let me put it in non theological terms. When we choose to honor ourselves above God, when we choose to sin we create, negative energy. When we choose to know and love God, the first three commandments. And, when we choose to love each other, the other seven commandments, and when we choose to pray, do penance, sacrifice, and contribute our time, talent and treasure to the Church and other worthy causes we create positive energy.

There has to be a balance, there has to be more good energy than bad, it's not all bad energy that's not earth that's hell and it's not all good energy that's not earth that's Heaven. God knows we are frail and He knows that we will fail... that's why He sent His only Son to die on the cross for us, that's why we have the sacrament of reconciliation.

So the question now becomes, how are we doing today...? Are we creating more positive energy, than negative energy? Are we following God's ways and using our freewill to ask for His help, or are we saying, God, we don't want to do it your way, we want it our way. We want happiness, we deserve to be happy, the purpose of life is for me to be happy.

God wants us to be happy, but are we confusing happiness with pleasure? Happiness is that full, rich, lasting feeling we get when we do something good, when we help someone, when we know we are serving God well. Pleasure...pleasure is that good feeling that comes to us quickly with little effort and then quickly leaves us. That pleasurable feeling we get from a good glass of wine. Now, for most people there is nothing wrong with a glass of wine, Jesus made wine; good wine. But, when we add the sin of gluttony and we obsessively seek that pleasurable feeling from glass after glass, wine can destroy us, and our loved ones, and prevent us from attaining God's plan for us.

But happiness... we must work harder for it... but it has so much more to offer. It provides a lasting fulfilled feeling that lets us know we are on the path God would have us walk. Perhaps one way to frame the Message of Fatima is to say, that Our Mother from Heaven, came down to teach her children how to get off the path of pleasure that leads to despair and doom and on the path of true happiness that leads to peace on earth and eternal reward. She did this because she loves us, she knows where we are headed, and she knows that with her help we can change our fate.

Mary taught us that we can change our fate by changing ourselves. By sinning less and making acts of reparation, repairing the damage sin does. She asked us to pray, pray often, pray especially the Rosary. Pray for the conversion of sinners and for peace on earth. She told us that many souls go to hell because there are not enough prayers and sacrifices to save the poor sinners. She asked us to offend God less because he is already very much offended and to do penance, make First Saturday Reparation, perform acts of kindness and love for each other, do those things that spiritually nourish a world in great need.

And she made a promise, she promised that if we do these things, many Souls will be saved, and Peace will come to Earth; she also promised that if we continued down the path that offended God, things would become so confused, so messed up we wouldn't be able to tell right from wrong, black from white. She told us that if we didn't seek help from Heaven many souls would be lost and we would face wars so terrible that nations would be annihilated. She also promised that ultimately her Immaculate Heart would Triumph and there would be an era of Peace on Earth... the only question is... how much hell will we bring to earth before that day arrives.

In 1917 World War II was raging and 20 million people had lost their lives. We did not know how to end the War. Pope Benedict the XV sought help from above... spiritual help, he asked all people to say a Novena, and in response to that Novena on May 13, 1917 on the 8th day of the Novena, Our Blessed Mother appeared in Fatima, Portugal at the Cova de Iria... the cove of peace, with a plan for Peace on Earth and a promise that WWI would end shortly. She also told us that if we did not follow Heaven's plan we would suffer a worse war, WWII. Unfortunately, we did not listen in sufficient numbers and 50 million lives were lost in WWII.

She also warned of what later became the cold war between the United States and Russia, that was primarily fueled by spiritual decay in Russia. The Russian government forced atheism upon the poor Russian people and said God would no longer be important in their lives anymore and the power and authority of government would replace God. The government then destroyed the Churches, religious articles, Mosques, and martyred the faithful, and not only spread this error throughout Russia but forced atheistic communism on one country after another. Enough nuclear bombs were built by both sides to blow up the entire world. We had no answer, our answer was a policy called MAD, Mutually Assured Destruction. The theory was, that if both sides had enough fire power to destroy the world neither side would be foolish enough to do it. But this simply wasn't working, I don't have time to go into the details but those of you who remember Premier Khrushchev banging his shoe on the desk at the United Nations repeating; "we will bury you, we will bury you, we will bury you" at a time when the Soviet Union was ahead of the US in the arms race, the proliferation of soviet power over one European nation after another and the Cuban missile crises, you know of the dangerous times I speak.

The Message of Fatima told us how to end this war; Heaven did not propose a military, government, or economic solution. The cause of the problem was spiritual decay the solution... was spiritual nourishment.

But this time we listened. The gun was pointed right at our head and we felt the horror of what was to come. Millions and millions throughout the world joined Our Lady's Blue Army, the World Apostolate of Fatima and followed Heaven's Peace Plan. The Rosary was prayed by those many millions and millions of others each day for peace on earth and many other spiritual acts of reparation were made to repair the damages of the sin of atheism and other offenses against God. The war was held off. Finally, on the third try the consecration of Russia that Our Lady asked for was made on March 25, 1984 by Pope John Paul VI. Shortly after... Gorbachev comes into power and has a change of heart. That's how heaven works, by changing hearts. Gorbachev the leader of an atheistic country, goes and visits the Pope and on Christmas day the communist flag comes down over the Kremlin for the last time. Quite simply, it was a miracle... such a drastic and sudden change could only happen through Divine intervention.

Today in Russia, the Russian government is building places of worship for all religions, encouraging prayer in the schools, teaching religion in the schools, and on June 1 of this year, 2010, the President of Russia signed into law a bill that said to the Russian people do not work on July 28th any more, take that day off to remember how important God is to Government to Society to each of us. July 28 is an official Holiday in Russia to honor and worship God.

What a change, from a government that forced atheism on its people and spread it to the world, to a government that upholds the value of God to society in word, action, deed, and financially. Why, because millions and millions of people used their freewill to spiritually repair the damage done by those who used their freewill to offend God. Is Russia perfect... no, but is it on a spiritual upsurge as most of the world is in spiritual decline? Will Russia continue to grow spiritually? Will the rest of the world? Will we continue to avoid world wars or wars so terrible that nations will be annihilated? Isn't that up to the people at this conference and so many others who understand the problem? The problem is spiritual decay, and the solution is spiritual nourishment. Because it is only through spiritual nourishment in quantities large enough to offset spiritual decay, that the door will open, and allow Heaven to intercede. "Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find" don't ask and God says, ok; freewill...try it alone.

What about influencing our governments, voting the right people into office, passing good laws, ousting the immoral, holding conferences like this, making wiser decisions for our economies, isn't hard work also important?

Ever since Adam and Eve, toil or hard work has been part of the human condition. Yes, God does not call but a very few to pray, worship, and sacrifice all day every day. God didn't create us to worship Him and then he will do everything else for us, we must pray and carry the heavy load and then God can and will help us by gifting us the grace we need.

Our failings are not in our failure to toil, it is in our failure to add enough spiritual effort to our physical effort. That's why Jesus preached to us about the spiritual and Fatima teaches us about the

spiritual and there is little mention of hard work. We already know to work hard, but too often we forget that we are not only living in the world we can see feel and touch with our senses, we exist right now in the more important spiritual world, a world that has a great effect on our physical lives as well as our eternal lives.

To summarize; when we separate the cause of our problems from the effects we find that the cause is spiritual decay, in our countries, our cultures, and our lives. Putting our worldly desires above God's commandments; putting self first. Those other things that we often think are problems, are effects of the problem... spiritual decay is the problem.

When the Russian government removed God and put government first, it quickly became the first country to legalize abortion. Abortion was an effect of removing God from society, because with God you cannot have a logical debate as to whether the life of a child is more important than the convenience of the mother... but without God... you can.

The solution is to bring God back into our cultures, and back into our lives and to continue to do the hard work. And, to know that with God's help all things are possible. This was proven when we followed Heaven's plan, and Russia was transformed without a shot being fired. And, if we had continued to follow Heaven's Plan after the fall of atheism in Russia, if we had not slipped so drastically, much more help from Heaven would be forthcoming.

63 years ago, Monsignor Colgan made a promise to Mary on his death bed. When his life was spared, he began the Blue Army with the Mission to help people Learn, Live, and Spread Our Lady of Fatima's Message. Many millions joined the Apostolate, and made a pledge to Our Lady to spiritually nourish the world each day, by praying the Rosary and making other acts of devotion and reparation.

Pope John Paul II's attempted assassination took place on May 13th 1981 in this great city and he believed he was the Pope referred to in the famous third secret of Fatima. He said, "One hand guided the gun and another guided the bullet," as the bullet weaved its way through his body just missing vital organs. Pope John Paul II also said that, "The Message of Fatima is More Important Now than Ever." He began the process of elevating our Apostolate to the highest available within the Church to help us to be more effective in the 100 countries we are in now, and to spread the message of Peace, Salvation and Hope even farther. Today Oct 7th 2010 I am pleased to be here with you as we celebrate together our fifth year as a Public Association of the Faithful under the Pontifical Council for the Laity and the 5th annual World Prayer Congress for Life.

The Apostolate does many things to help people bring Fatima's message of Hope to the world and perhaps one of the most fruitful things we do is to help people understand that there can be no peace as long as we continue to offend God by putting our desires above his commandments. There can be no peace as long as we offend God with over 40 million abortions a year and when over 40% of all women receive an abortion.

It is likely that abortion is the largest obstacle we face on the road to peace and salvation. We are so very pleased that you join us when we hold the day we call, "One World Praying, for Life and Peace." A day where we ask all people of all faiths to pray according to their faith, a day where we often broadcast for 13 hours into over 150 countries to over 150 million households and reach for our goal of 100 million prayers for Life. A day we plan on holding again on May 22, 2011

I thank you for your past support, as I ask you to support us again and again and I offer you our support because we are working for the same thing; that all people may come to Know and Love God. When we truly know and love God all will be right with the world; we will again see black as black and white as white, the graces will flow freely from heaven, abortion will end, souls will be saved, and peace will prevail.

May God's Peace be with you... spread to your families, your loved ones, your countries and our world. Thank you and may God Bless you.