

I thought I heard that the third secret of Fatima has been satisfied. But I still get mail from charity organizations stating that it has not. Which is correct?

There are two controversies regarding Fatima. The first deals with whether the request of Our Blessed Mother to consecrate Russia to her Immaculate Heart has been satisfied. The second deals with whether the 3rd secret from Fatima was completely revealed. I assume this question deals with the first issue. (If not, drop me another note.)

In 1942 Pope Pius XII attempted to make the consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. In 1967 Pope Paul VI attempted to make the consecration and in 1982 Pope John Paul II attempted to make the consecration. On all three of these occasions, Sr. Lucia, the visionary from Fatima who communicated our Blessed Mother's wishes, indicated that the consecrations were not made as requested because they were not made in union with all the bishops of the world.

On March 25, 1984, Pope John Paul II once again attempted the consecration. In 1989 Sr. Lucia responded to continued questioning about the validity of this latest consecration attempt in a letter to Fr. Robert Fox, a renowned Catholic writer. She wrote: "I come to answer your question, 'If the consecration made by Pope John Paul II on March 25, 1984 in union with all the bishops of the world, accomplished the conditions for the consecration of Russia according to the request of Our Lady in Tuy on June 13 of 1929?' Yes, it was accomplished, and since then I have said that it was made."

Why do some say that the consecration has not been satisfied? Well, there are always those who think everything is a conspiracy. They look for little inconsistencies and magnify and distort them. For example, the Pope consecrated the world to Mary's Immaculate Heart, not specifically Russia. Russia's consecration, therefore, is implicit and some argue insufficient. Unfortunately, there are also those that act out of pride or financial gain. They need to justify the existence of their organization and website. Does the mail you receive focus on financial contributions?

Pope John Paul II and Sr. Lucia both believed that the consecration has been satisfied. That's good enough for me.

Deacon Joe