

The Latest Chapter in the Story of Fatima

No book about the Message of Fatima can be complete until the world witnesses the final triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. As history inevitably moves toward this blessed event, the story of Fatima continues to unfold in an often unexpected fashion. And as each stage of the ongoing drama presents itself, it must be chronicled as part of the Salvation History of our epoch and the culmination of the ages.

So this latest chapter in the story of Fatima must be added to *The Secret Still Hidden*, a book that is destined to grow along with the remarkable events it records. This latest chapter is titled "*Vindication*," for it recounts the astounding developments that occurred in May 2010 in Rome and Portugal and which again proved the claims of the often disparaged "Fatimites". The key figures in these developments are none other than Pope Benedict XVI, prominent Vatican journalist Giuseppe De Carli, Christopher Ferrara, the author of this book, and Father Nicholas Gruner, the "Fatima Priest."

"Vindication" has exceptional merit as a historical document. It is written by an eye-witness and participant in its principal event, Christopher Ferrara. Mr. Ferrara's account can also be verified by video and audio recordings made at the time of the encounter, which occurred at *The Fatima Challenge*, a symposium on the Message of Fatima organized by Father Gruner's apostolate and held in Rome from May 3 through May 7, 2010.

In *The Secret Still Hidden*, Mr. Ferrara, an attorney, marshals the abundance of evidence that argues for the existence of a still hidden text of the Third Secret of Fatima which contains the words of Our Lady that explain the vision of the bishop in white published by the Vatican in June 2000. That vision is alleged by Cardinal Bertone to be the entire Third Secret. Much of the above-mentioned evidence prompted Italian journalist Antonio Socci to write *The Fourth Secret of Fatima*, in which he likewise maintains that a part of the Third Secret remains hidden and calls for its public disclosure.

Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone is the staunch (and now almost sole) defender of the proposition that the Third Secret consists only of the published vision. But the discrepancies in the "official" position and the growing public skepticism concerning it, augmented by the writings of Ferrara and Socci, prompted the Cardinal to launch an offensive designed to vanquish those who questioned his veracity.

Along with television appearances, Bertone enlisted prominent Vatican

journalist Giuseppe De Carli to join him as co-author of *The Last Visionary of Fatima*, which was re-issued in 2010 under the new title, *The Last Secret of Fatima*. The new book went on sale May 6, 2010, a few days after De Carli addressed *The Fatima Challenge* and, to everyone's surprise, spent an hour after his presentation to answer questions from Mr. Ferrara, Father Gruner and John Salza, a Catholic attorney and apologist who spoke at the conference.

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"*Vindication*" is largely the recounting of that historic exchange. That De Carli, the close collaborator and defender of the Bertone position that the Secret is fully revealed and has to do with the past, should have come to the Father Gruner-sponsored symposium was amazing enough. That he should have stayed to submit to an intense cross-questioning by the opponents of the Bertone position was more than almost anyone had thought possible.

As the reader will see, Mr. De Carli begins as an adamant defender of the "thesis" put forth in the book he co-authored and that Bertone championed on Italian television. Bertone appeared on *Porta a Porta*, a popular program, and displayed for the cameras what he said were the envelopes in which the Third Secret lay nested. There were no other envelopes. No hidden part of the Secret. So Bertone maintained. He even turned the envelopes front and back for the cameras so that the entire surface area of each envelope could be seen. This was his fatal mistake.

The Cardinal had apparently forgotten that the one living witness to the opening of the Third Secret by Pope John XXIII, Archbishop Loris Capovilla, said in recent interviews that he had, on the Pope's order, written on the outside of the envelope containing the Secret the names of those who were present at its opening, along with the words dictated by John XXIII to the effect that he was leaving all decisions about the authenticity and the disclosure of the Secret to his successors. None of the envelopes Bertone displayed on TV contained Capovilla's list of names and the recorded words of John XXIII.

Mr. Ferrara confronted Mr. De Carli with the incontrovertible evidence that there must be a missing envelope. De Carli struggled, in vain, to deny the obvious, stubbornly adhering to the claim that Bertone's envelope and the Capovilla envelope were the same. But he began to weaken under the strain of arguing for a proposition so evidently contradicted by other facts he had admitted. He conceded at length that he may have been deceived about the envelopes: "**...they could have tricked me,**" he said, in what has to be

regarded as an astoundingly candid and courageous admission and one that was certain to resonate loudly within the walls of the Vatican, where we know the Internet transmission of the exchange was being watched.

Mr. De Carli also could not explain the use of the word "sheets" to describe the pages on which the Third Secret was written. The Pope, in referring to the Secret had used the plural noun, "sheets," as had Sister Lucy in the first edition of the Bertone/De Carli book. The second edition was done in part, according to Mr. De Carli, to correct this "mistake" and to affirm categorically Sister Lucy had rather said that the Secret was written on a single sheet that was folded to create four sides with 62 lines of writing. **However, Pope Benedict XVI again plainly stated in the new edition that the Secret was written on sheets of paper.**

Mr. De Carli became hopelessly befuddled trying to reconcile all his contradictory claims and tried to end the matter by saying that the Fatima Message was not about the sheet or sheets on which it was written.

But the point is crucial, for it is the argument of Ferrara, Socci and Father Gruner's apostolate that the vision was written on a sheet from Sister Lucy's notebook, written on 62 lines and which was kept at the Holy Office, whereas the explanation of the vision was written on a separate sheet, in 25 lines, which was kept in the papal apartment. This second sheet is what the Italian media are now referring to as "the attachment" to the Third Secret.

As his case collapsed in one exchange after another, Mr. De Carli never displayed any sign of irritation or animosity, as usually occurs when a person's claims are radically challenged. He patiently listened and tried to reply to all questions, and gave the impression of an honest man, now rather confused, who had perhaps been drawn into an orchestrated deception of which he was unaware at the time. When he departed the conference, Father Gruner offered to shake his hand; instead, Mr. De Carli embraced Father Gruner and thanked him for the work he was doing.

How odd that Cardinal Bertone's principal collaborator should behave in this way. Did Mr. De Carli come to realize, as Antonio Socci had before him, that he was on the wrong side of the Third Secret controversy? We will never know, as Mr. De Carli died unexpectedly two months after his appearance while being treated for throat cancer. He passed away on July 13, the anniversary of the day Our Lady revealed Fatima's Third Secret.

The week following the conference, Pope Benedict shocked the world by announcing that the clerical sexual abuse crisis was predicted in the Third

Secret of Fatima. Where? Not in the published vision. Antonio Socci and other members of the media were not slow in drawing the obvious conclusion: there is another text of the Third Secret.

Nor did the Pope stop there. He went on to say that he deceives himself who says that the prophetic mission of Fatima is all in the past. Rather Pope Benedict said that Fatima is about realities unfolding now and in the future. Where did this leave Cardinal Bertone and his defenders? Between the Pope and a hard place.

As Mr. Ferrara shows, the media pundits who had been standing behind Bertone quickly deserted him. On May 12, Vittorio Messori abandoned Bertone. On June 23, on the Italian television show *Top Secret*, the Vaticanistas, including the prominent Andrea Tornielli, admitted without cavil that there exists an as yet concealed "attachment" to the published text of the Third Secret; that this text was kept in the papal apartment, rather than in the Holy Office with the text of the vision; that this hidden text was most probably an explanation of the vision.

With amazing rapidity, within two months of De Carli's appearance at *The Fatima Challenge*, the "official" position that Fatima is finished collapsed completely, with the Pope himself playing a key role in its dismantling. What will happen next?

We know that sooner or later, Russia will be consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and that a period of peace will be granted the world. We also know that the longer this consecration is delayed, the closer we come to the "annihilation of nations" foretold by Our Lady. We can only hope and pray that the Holy Father is preparing the Church and the world for the act of Consecration which Our Lady has entrusted to him and his bishops.

Meanwhile, the story continues. The drama of Fatima keeps unfolding. With each new chapter we draw nearer to things both wonderful and terrible. But there are clear signs that the Pope now realizes that Our Lady must be obeyed. He prayed at Fatima in May that we will see Her predicted triumph before the 100th anniversary of the apparitions in 2017. Let us join him in those prayers and stand fast by the truth, which continues to be vindicated.

The Fatima Center

BT026B

IN U.S.A. – 17000 State Route 30, Constable, NY 12926

IN CANADA – 452 Kraft Road, Fort Erie, ON L2A 4M7

Call us toll-free at 1-800-263-8160 or call us at 1-905-871-8041

Fax us at 1-905-871-8680 • www.fatima.org • E-mail: info@fatima.org