CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF FATIMA: THE CHALLENGES FOR THE CHURCH IN OUR DAYS. HOW TO SPREAD THE FATIMA APOSTOLATE?

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Dear fellow delegates, observers and participants:

I am sharing with you these reflections that I wish will serve us to reflect and discuss the great challenges the Church faces in our times, as we approach to the Centennial of the Fatima Apparitions in the year 2017, and the ways we must use to spread the Fatima Apostolate all over the world in the midst of great difficulties.

The World Apostolate of Fatima has been just granted by the Holy See the highest juridical status in the Catholic Church: The permanent approval of the WAF as an international public association of the faithful of pontifical right.


Our world is rapidly losing its Faith and Morals. This loss of Faith and Morals is part of the Fátima prophesy. Blessed Jacinta foretold this state of spiritual crisis of our days. The evil spirit, the worldly spirit, practical materialism, hedonism, totalitarian ideologies and rationalism are destroying the spiritual treasures of our civilization and substituting them with the concept that HUMAN BEINGS ARE FIRST, that human beings are the measure of all things.

2. THE SECOND CHALLENGE THE CHURCH FACE IS TO MAKE KNOWN AND LIVED THE AUTHENTIC MESSAGE OF FATIMA IN ITS PRISTINE SPLENDOR. AND THE WAF MUST DEMONSTRATE THE CHURCH THAT THIS IS HER OBLIGATION TOO, AS THE MESSAGE OF FATIMA IS NOT A MERE PRIVATE REVELATION, BUT MUCH MORE: IT IS THE BEST ECHO OF THE GOSPEL OF JESUS; IT IS A “CHARISMA”, A UNIQUE

The present spiritual and moral global crisis is the product of the absence of prayer. Today’s humanity prays too little. And most of the prayers are not well done. There is no time to pray. Human beings live in a permanent neurosis caused by the conviction of loneliness and impotence.

3. THE THIRD CHALLENGE THE CHURCHFACES IS TO TEACH OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS HOW TO PRAY. WE MUST PORTRAY HOW OUR BLESSED LORD AND OUR BLESSED MOTHER PRAYED. FATIMA IS A SCHOOL OF PRAYER. WE MUST CONTEMPLATE THE MYSTERY OF GOD. BY MEDITATING THE MYSTERIES OF THE HOLY ROSARY, GOD COMES TO DWELL IN THE HUMAN SOUL. THIS IS WHY OUR LADY OF FATIMA PROMISED PEACE ON EARTH ATTACHED TO THE DAILY MEDITATION OF THE HOLY ROSARY. GOD’S PRESENCE BRINGS PEACE TO OUR SURROUNDINGS. PEACE, TRANQUILITY IN ORDER, IS A GIFT FROM HEAVEN THAT REQUIRES OUR CORRESPONDENCE WITH GOD’S GRACE. BUT, WE MUST BE AT PEACE FIRST, IN ORDER TO SHARE THAT PEACE WITH OUR NEIGHBORS. WE MUST LIVE A PEACEFUL LIFESTYLE TO BE ABLE TO PORTRAY HEAVEN’S PEACE TO OTHERS. AND TO HAVE PEACE WE MUST BE MERCIFUL, WE MUST LIVE A MERCIFUL LIFESTYLE.

The spiritual life of the Church deteriorates as many of the faithful do not practice the reception of the Holy Sacraments, especially Sacramental Confession and Holy Communion. The sense of sin is lost. Conscience is not well formed. Evil is not identified. Conversion is much needed.

REPARATION IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH. MONTHLY CONFESSION AND FREQUENT COMMUNION ARE FOCUSED IN THIS REPARATORY PRACTICE. DEVOTION TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY IS THE GREAT ANTIDOTE AGAINST DISSENTION TO PETER’S MAGISTERIUM. THE PROMISE OF OUR LADY OF FINAL PERSEVERANCE AND UNITY AND STRENGTH IN THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH, BY THE PRACTICE OF THE FIRST SATURDAYS DEVOTION, IS A GREAT SIGN THAT OUR APOSTOLATE HAS A BLESSED MISSION COMING FROM HEAVEN! IT IS TIME NOW, THAT THE CHURCH SEES THE FIRST SATURDAY’S DEVOTION WITH NEW EYES, NOT AS A MERE MARIAN DEVOTION, BUT AS A WAY DEVISED AT HEAVEN TO SAVE SOULS IN OUR DAYS AND SECURE UNITY AND STRENGTH WITHIN THE CHURCH AGAINST INNER DISSENTION TO THE MAGISTERIUM, THUS MAKING POSSIBLE MANY SINNERS TO CONVERT AND DO Penance. THIS IS THE GREAT PROMISE OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY!

Evil is present in our modern societies and world with great force and negativity. Our best efforts sometimes seem meaningless and weak. Some people are deaf to the calls of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Many more are ignorant. Some people are instruments of evil, as they fight willingly God’s Kingdom on earth. What can be done in this negative scenario?


The disruption of family life and values is undermining the foundations of our present societies. The culture of death, divorce, abortion, euthanasia, gay marriage and so many other threats protected by “modern legislation” are serious obstacles to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

6. THE SIXTH CHALLENGE THE CHURCH FACES IS TO PROVIDE THE SPIRITUALITY OF FATIMA TO THE PRO-LIFE APOSTOLATES AND APOSTOLIC MOVEMENTS
STRUGGLING TO ESTABLISH THE CULTURE OF LIFE ON OUR SOCIETIES. THE PRO-LIFE APOSTOLATES MUST HAVE A SPIRITUAL INNER LIFE THAT WILL DIFFERENTIATE THEM FROM MERE POLITICAL OR CONFRONTATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS FACING THE PRO-CHOICE FORCES. NO VIOLENCE IS USED WHEN THE CHALLENGE IS SEEN MORE AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR DIALOGUE AND EDUCATION IN CHRISTIAN VALUES. GOD’S GRACE AND MERCY MUST COME TO THE HEART TO FORM CONSCIENCES IN MORAL JUDGEMENT THROUGH THE LIGHT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Contradictions and challenges tend to create a sense of pessimism among the Apostles of our times. Fear to criticism and persecution may stop our best initiatives. Globalization, secularization, lack of material resources and difficulties of all sorts may paralyze our apostolic agenda.

7. THE SEVENTH CHALLENGE THE CHURCH FACES IS TO OVERCOME FEAR, SPEAKING ABOUT GOD AND WITNESSING JESUS CHRIST TO ALL. THE SENSE OF PESSIMISM MUST BE OVERCOME. THE THREATS AND CHALLENGES MUST BE SEEN AS OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVANGELIZATION. “THIS IS NOT A QUESTION OF FINDING NEW STRATEGIES AS IF THE GOSPEL WAS TO BE SPREAD LIKE A MARKET PRODUCT, BUT REDISCOVERING THE WAYS IN WHICH INDIVIDUALS COME CLOSE TO JESUS” (POPE BENEDICT XVI). MATERIAL POVERTY IS MORE A BLESSING THAN A DIFFICULTY. TO SPREAD THE KINGDOM OF GOD, WE MUST EMBRACE SISTER POVERTY, AS ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI, AS POPE FRANCIS IN OUR DAYS, AS IT IS ONLY THROUGH SPIRITUAL POVERTY THAT WE COME CLOSER TO OUR MASTER AND SAVIOUR, JESUS CHRIST.

The lack of material resources to spread the Message of Fatima seems to jeopardize our efforts in that direction. Financial difficulties and the global economic crisis is a threat to the operations of the Apostolate, payment of salaries and fringe benefits, celebration of activities, apostolic endeavors, publications, and the promotion of the Message, as well.

FATIMA, BECAUSE OF THE MANY PEOPLE VISITING THEIR FARMS AND CAUSING DAMAGE TO THEIR PROPERTY. OUR LADY OF FATIMA HAD TO INSTRUCT THE CHILDREN ON HOW TO COLLECT DONATIONS TO PROVIDE FOR THE SMALL CHAPEL TO BE BUILT FOR HER CULT OF VENERATION. THEN, THE CHURCH AND THE WAF AS WELL, MUST USE THE LEGAL, TRANSPARENT WAYS TO RAISE FUNDS TO PROVIDE FOR ITS NEEDS, ENRICHED BY NEW METHODS OF FUNDRAISING ETHICALLY CORRECT IN USE BY THE CHURCH AND APOSTOLIC MOVEMENTS IN TODAY’S WORLD, ALWAYS HAVING IN MIND ITS ECCLESIAL NATURE AND PREVENTING ALL SORTS OF MARKETING PRACTICES IMPROPER FOR AN ECCLESIAL APOSTOLATE PROMOTING THE NEW EVANGELIZATION.

The lack of support to the WAF by some Diocesan Bishops and/or priests that seem to reject the role of Private Revelation in the salvation of souls refrain the Fatima Apostolate from growing. But they refrain the Catholic Church from growing too. Some of them disdain the WAF as a mere Marian association promoting a particular devotion coming from Portugal and not pertinent to their particular country. Some believe that to center into Christ’s role in the Church, Marian devotion must not be promoted and should be left to an individual practice. Others think that Fatima has a political component that is not healthy for the Church. Moreover, some think that the Fatima prophecy is something of the past, of the twentieth century, with no future in the Church.


Some deviations of the authentic Message of Fatima have caused commotion and despair between the faithful, announcing false prophecies, degrading the prestige of the Message of Fatima and causing embarrassment to the Vatican and the Holy Father as they question the truth of the actions taken toward the secret of Fatima and the consecration of Russia and the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.


Many other challenges are faced by the WAF: Cooperation between nations pertaining to a particular region; pilgrimages to Fatima, ways to provide for cost of lodging and meals at Domus Pacis; preparations for the coming Centennial of the Fátima Apparitions on May 13th, 2017; letters addressed to the Holy Father requesting a public exhortation for the First Saturdays Devotion; promotion of the Children of the Eucharist Program; adequate materials in some languages; increase in youth membership; attraction of families to the Apostolate; formation seminars and workshops for leaders; traveling to other countries to start the Apostolate; WAF basics for new members; WAF organization in a particular country; more usage of electronic means and media, comprehension of our new mission as we realize the WAF is a new foundation and we complete the transition from the Old Blue Army to the New Apostolate of Fátima, as the Vatican has directed us to do!

These great challenges will be discussed in our coming workshops as per the input received by our regional structures in Europe. The Regional Coordinators will offer us a panel on this respect.

TO SPREAD THE FATIMA APOSTOLATE WE MUST REFLECT AND DISCUSS FROM WITHIN THE 10 MAJOR CHALLENGES OFFERED HERE AS A GUIDE AND THE WAYS TO FACE THEM.

OUR ATTITUDE IS ESSENTIAL IN THIS RESPECT: THE CHALLENGES ARE WAYS TO GROW, OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE US BETTER APOSTLES FOR OUR TIMES! THEY ARE NOT AN
UNBEARABLE CROSS; THEY ARE NOT UNBEATABLE OBSTACLES. WITH GOD’S GRACE AND MERCY THE CHALLENGES CAN BE OVERCOME.

SOMETIMES, THE CHALLENGES ARE OUR CROSS TO SANCTIFY OUR DAILY DUTIES AS PER GOD’S WILL. AND THIS IS PART OF THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST IN OUR LIVES. SUFFERING IS NECESSARY TO BECOME LIKE CHRIST, TO BECOME CLOSER TO GOD!

LET US ENTRUST THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY WITH ALL OUR PARTICULAR CHALLENGES AS WE HUMBLY ASK THE HOLY SPIRIT TO GIVE US WISDOM, JOY, STRENGTH AND PERFECT LOVE TO SEEK THE CAUSE OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA AND BE EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL IN ALL OUR APOSTOLIC ENDEAVORS.