

THE MESSAGE OF FATIMA PREACHED FROM THE PULPIT OF THE BASILICA OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

By Prof. Américo Pablo López Ortiz

International President of the World Apostolate of Fatima

Mrs. Ana Elena Olascoaga coordinated the visits to the Archbishop's Palace of Norberto Cardinal Rivera; to the Papal Nuncio in Mexico, to the Rectors of the Old and New Basilicas of Our Lady of Guadalupe, to the Catholic University and Press, etc. The main topic in our dissertation was the need to unite devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe (source of the First Evangelization and of the spiritual motherhood of the Blessed Virgin Mary) with the Message of Our Lady of Fatima (a Message of Conversion, "Metanoia", Prayer, Penance, Entrustment to God through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Eucharistic Reparation and adherence to the Magisterium of Peter, thus serving as a perfect instrument for the New Evangelization). There is no rivalry between popular devotions as they complement each other. There is only One Mother sharing different moments with her children: A moment for the First Evangelization that brought Faith to this part of the world (Guadalupe); a second moment for overcoming the loss of Faith in our times and the need for a New Evangelization of a secularized world (Fatima)!

From February 11-17, 2013, I had the opportunity of traveling to Mexico, the land of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Empress of the Americas, to fulfill a twofold mission. First, I was invited to preach from the pulpit of the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, at Mexico City, the Message of Fatima, for the first time, in an official way. Bishop Diego Monroy Ponce, Rector of the Shrine and Monsignor Pedro Agustín arranged the preaching of the Message to a full house of the faithful. The conference was based on the Eucharistic Spirituality of the Children-Shepherds of Fatima. The audience was so enthusiastic that posed questions for one hour after a 55 minutes preaching. After the dialogue with our people, we had the

Holy Hour of Adoration to the Blessed Sacrament. The great Catholic tradition of the Mexicans, with its enthusiastic and joyful Eucharistic and Marian devotions, made it a unique experience of Faith. The conference can be seen at www.desdelafetv.com Second, I attended the National Assembly of the World Apostolate of Fatima-Mexico in Guadalajara, where 150 delegates from all regions of the nation met for four days to deepen their faith and pastoral plans toward the New Evangelization of Mexico through the authentic Message of Fatima.

VISITS IN MEXICO CITY

On the same first day of traveling, the surprising news of the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI to the papacy, due to age and fragility, was known. It was a brave decision that no one expected. Many people were praying in parishes all over Mexico, all over the world, for Pope Benedict and for the Church as well, so that the Holy Spirit will guide the College of Cardinals in the election of a new and strong pope that will serve the people of God with new energies and stamina. (The Holy Spirit heard the many prayers from all over the world and the new pope, Jorge Mario Cardinal Bergoglio, Archbishop of Buenos Aires, Argentina, the first Latin-American and Jesuit, was elected on March 13, 2013, taking the name of Pope Francis, as a sign of his mission in renewing the Church with humility and courage in serving the poor and the needy with top priority, in the new efforts toward the New Evangelization of the world and the conservation of the natural environment, in the image of the great Saint Francis of Assisi.)

-2-

Mrs. Ana Elena Olascoaga coordinated the visits to the Archbishop's Palace of Norberto Cardinal Rivera; to the Papal Nuncio in Mexico, to the Rectors of the Old and New Basilicas of Our Lady of Guadalupe, to the Catholic University and Press, etc. The main topic in our dissertation was the need to unite devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe (source of the First Evangelization and of the spiritual motherhood of the Blessed Virgin Mary) with the Message of Our Lady of Fatima (a Message of Conversion, "Metanoia", Prayer, Penance, Entrustment to God through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Eucharistic Reparation and adherence to the Magisterium of Peter, thus serving as a perfect instrument for the New Evangelization). There is no rivalry between popular devotions as they complement each other. There is only One Mother sharing different moments with her children: A moment for the First Evangelization that brought Faith to this part of the world (Guadalupe); a second moment for overcoming the loss of Faith in our times and the need for a New Evangelization of a secularized world (Fatima)!

The dialogue was so intense and productive everywhere that it extended for more than two hours in each of the places mentioned, as it was clearly seen the need to make known and lived the authentic Message of Fatima in Mexico. The Message of Fatima was not seen any more as another pious devotion coming from an European country (Portugal), but as a universal gift from God to His Church to overcome the moral, spiritual and religious crisis of our times. The Message of Fatima clearly takes its proper place as the ideal instrument to serve the cause of the New Evangelization, especially in this Year of Faith.

To the illustrious personalities of the Church in Mexico, I presented my book as a gift: "THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY IN TODAY'S CHURCH", which deals precisely with the new role of the authentic Message of Fatima as leader to accomplish this New Evangelization of the world, coming as it comes from Heaven. With the presentation of my book, we had the opportunity to discuss the New Developments of the Message of Fatima in our times, proving that the Message is more urgent and needed in our days than in the past. (The book is available at the WAF Online Shop: www.worldfatima.com/onlineshop & www.info@worldfatima.com) Of crucial importance is the role of children and young people in this New Evangelization process, as they will attract their parents and relatives to Jesus Christ as the children of Fatima attracted their families to God. By proposing the Adoration of Children and Young People to the Eucharist, a major program of the WAF International, the hierarchs of Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine adopted my booklet for children and youngsters, "Holy Hour of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament" to be

-3-

published by them and bring to the Basilica the children and young people of parishes, public and private schools and colleges, to the feet of Our Lady of Guadalupe to adore "Hidden Jesus" in the tabernacle, in the image of Blessed Francisco Marto. In this way, the Archdiocese of Mexico and the WAF are joining forces in providing children and youngsters with the unique experience of ADORATION of the Most Holy Trinity, through the Blessed Sacrament, the prayer most needed in our days to overcome evil and fear!

THE WAY OF SAINT JUAN DIEGO

I devoted one day to be a pilgrim, in the midst of my service to the Apostolate, visiting the Shrine of Saint Juan Diego, the native Indian who saw Our Lady of Guadalupe and was instrumental to the First Evangelization of the Americas. I admired the ancient culture of the first inhabitants of Mexico as this culture was evangelized and the natives were liberated from false idols and rituals as they discovered God's love, grace and mercy.

“I am your mother of love. Come to me, those that love me... Be not afraid.” The maternal message of Our Lady of Guadalupe did more to convert people to Jesus Christ than all the old pastoral efforts of the missionaries. The method of love, the motherly words spoken to the heart are more powerful than the best logical arguments. Our Lady of Guadalupe proclaims herself “our Mother” and she is taking care of us as we are under her mantle, resting in her lap. The spiritual motherhood of Mary is proclaimed again as it was proclaimed in the first Good Friday at the feet of the Cross.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE WAF AT GUADALAJARA, JALISCO

From February 14-17, 2013 we had a fruitful assembly of the WAF-Mexico. There, I offered four conferences based on my new book: “THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY IN TODAY’S CHURCH”:

1. The New Evangelization and the Message of Fatima
2. The Spirituality of the Children of Fatima
3. The New Role of the World Apostolate of Fatima as a Public Association of the Faithful
4. The Pastoral Programs of the World Apostolate of Fatima

I was invited to attend, as International President, the meetings of the National Executive Committee of the WAF-Mexico by the National President, Mrs. Amelia Lares Torres. The Spiritual Director, Father Ernesto María Caro offered several formation talks in the company of Father Luis Alejandro Jaime Flores.

-4-

Our International Treasurer and past National President of Mexico, Mr. Jorge Gutierrez, attended. The new mission of the Apostolate is the formation of families in the light of the New Evangelization, through the authentic Message of Fatima. Many delegates had their copies of my book autographed, as “THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY IN TODAY’S CHURCH” serves as the official handbook for the formation of WAF leaders and members.

THE ROLE OF MEXICO AND LATIN-AMERICA IN TODAY’S CHURCH

As I left Mexico, I realized the great gift from Heaven we, as Latin-Americans have: The gift of Faith. The Catholic and Marian Traditions in Latin America are so rich and enthusiastic.

-5-

Pope Francis is a product of them. This explains the evangelical simplicity of the primitive Church in perfect harmony with the Holy Spirit. Faith is part of our daily lives. Our people even in poverty, sickness and loneliness, have their eyes lifted to God and Mother Mary! Even in our present days of crisis, immense crowds participate in religious activities, ceremonies, holy hours, masses, processions, congresses, spiritual retreats and solidarity in charity and social justice. Youth is very active. Education is growing and vocations are increasing so much that missionaries are being sent to other parts of the world. The Church is alive, strong and dynamic, as this is really the continent of Hope!