Inside Story — IV

November 8, 2014

And so we come to the climax of the inside story of the outside events of the Rosary Crusades of the Society of St Pius X six years ago. Would Bishop Fellay choose Heaven's solution to the crisis of Church and World, trusting in Our Lady's promise at Fatima of Russia's conversion and a "period of peace" if only Russia is consecrated to Her Immaculate Heart, or would he choose the human solution of talks with Rome to fabricate a synthesis of Tradition (2+2=4) with the Council (2+2=4 or 5)? We can be certain that this is not how the Devil presented the choice to the Bishop, especially when in June 2008 the Romans came back into play.

In that month the Vatican became aware of the possible Rosary Crusade for the Consecration of Russia through a letter which the same messenger of Our Lady had addressed to Pope Benedict XVI, invoking his blessing upon such an endeavor. The Vatican took the letter seriously. Cardinal Darío Castrillón Hoyos ordered Bishop Fellay to return directly to Rome from Hawaii where His Excellency had gone to administer the sacrament of Confirmation. On June 4, Cardinal Castrillón with a group of several Roman prelates threatened Bishop Fellay that if he were to call for a Rosary Crusade for the Consecration of Russia, Rome would close the door to any future discussions, and Rome would revive the dormant "excommunications" which had for the time being been rendered inoperative. That was also when the Vatican tried to impose on Bishop Fellay the "Vatican Ultimatum," or five conditions necessary for any discussions.

So under this Roman pressure, Bishop Fellay had still not decided in the early autumn of 2008 to do as Our Lady asked, despite her repeated requests, and in fact on October 5, 2008, despite her direct warnings, he chose to apply the Second Rosary Crusade, set to run from November 1 until Christmas, to the intention of the "excommunications" of 1988 being lifted.

On the same day Our Lord displayed His anger to the messenger of Our Lady by a vision of Him bringing down His hand to destroy the SSPX, while he referred to them as "Pharisees and hypocrites," and said, "I can no longer put up with them." But in the very moment of Our Lord's hand falling, the messenger saw the Blessed Virgin Mary interceding on the Society's behalf, pleading for mercy and saying "Remember the weakness of men." The messenger then saw Our Lord's anger immediately give way to His mercy.

But the Bishop's mind was now made up. Three weeks later on October 26, at the Pontifical Mass climaxing the Society's pilgrimage to Lourdes for the 150th Jubilee of Our Lady's apparitions at Lourdes, he went ahead with announcing that the second Rosary Crusade would be dedicated to the lifting of the "excommunications" of 1988. On December 16 he wrote in private to the Pope, as requested by Benedict XVI, the letter asking the Pope for the lifting of the excommunications of 1988. On January 24, 2009, these were partially lifted by Rome. Bishop Fellay directly attributed this to the intervention of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and he must have exulted in this seeming triumph of his patient diplomacy.

Alas, any triumph was short-lived, because within days the enemies of Catholic Tradition fired off in their worldwide media a torpedo perfectly designed to blow out of the water the threatening reunion of the Catholic Pope with Catholic Tradition. When the six-minute film clip from November 1 of an SSPX Bishop casting serious doubt on the "holocaust" and "gas chambers" of World War II was made public, Benedict XVI had to run for cover from the deadly accusation of consorting with "anti-semites." The SSPX-Rome agreement was blocked, for at least a few years. (To be concluded.)

Kyrie eleison.