

Was the Third Secret Revealed in its Entirety?

The following was taken from Fr. Robert Fox's book, "Fatima is Forever," Copyright 2006.

Although Sr. Lucia had then already passed her 94th birthday and was of good mind, I wrote her to inquire of her reaction to those who were claiming the release of the third secret was incomplete, that there was something held back. Sr. Lucia for many years had been aware of the Fatima Family, Apostolate. Years before when I was at Carmel in Coimbra with the international Vice-Postulator of the Little Shepherds Jacinta and Francisco, Fr. Luis Kondor, SVD. He spoke in Portuguese to Sr. Lucia on my behalf and obtained from her a solemn promise of prayers. Sr. Lucia had been reminded of prayers for the Fatima Family Apostolate through the years. The Carmelites at Coimbra recognize my name from the many years, twice each summer, I would bring many youth pilgrims there for holy Mass. So I am recognized in writing to Carmel at Coimbra, Portugal.

On May 9, 2001, the Mother Prioress of Carmel of St. Teresa in Coimbra, Portugal, where Sr. Lucia had resided for many years wrote me in her personal long hand on behalf of Sr. Lucia as follows:

9/05/01

J.M.J. T. Pax Christi

CARMELO DE ST.A TERESA

3000 COIMBRA - PORTUGAL

Rev. P. Fox

Sr. Lucia requested of me to conform to your solicitation and inform you that the 3rd. part of the Fatima Secret was revealed in its entirety.

**In union of prayers,
Mother Maria Celina (Priorisa)**

The Secret was in three Parts. The Third Part and final Part was released with commentary by the Vatican on the order of Pope John Paul II, on June 26, 2000, while the first two Parts were released previously in 1941.

A controversy has developed around the Third Part. There are some who have held that only some of the Third Part of the Secret was released in June 2000. They claim we were never told the entire Secret.

It is to be remembered that it was in the presence of Pope John Paul II and Sr. Lucia of Fatima that Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican Secretary of State, before multiple thousands of pilgrims, spoke about the contents of the Third Part of the Fatima Secret on May 13, 2000, and that details were forthcoming from the Congregation for the Faith, headed by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger (now Pope Benedict XVI).

A meeting took place prior to that May 13 at Sr. Lucia's Monastery of St. Teresa (Carmelo De Santa Teresa - 3000 Coimbra, Portugal). The meeting was between Sr. Lucia, Archbishop Tarcisio Bertone, Secretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, sent by the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, and Bishop Serafim de Sousa Ferreira e Silva, Bishop of Leiria-Fatima.

Pope John Paul II sent the following letter to Sr. Lucia as an introduction to the April 27 meeting:

**To the Reverend Sr. MARIA LUCIA
of the Convent of Coimbra**

In the great joy of Easter, I greet you with the word the Risen Jesus spoke to the disciples: "Peace be with you!"

I will be happy to be able to meet you on the long-awaited day of the Beatification of Francisco and Jacinta, which, please God, I will celebrate on 13 May of this year.

Since on that day there will be time only for a brief greeting and not a conversation, I am sending His Excellency Archbishop Tarcisio Bertone, Secretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, to speak with you. This is the Congregation which works most closely with the Pope in defending the true Catholic faith, and which since 1957, as you know, has kept your hand-written letter containing the third part of the "secret" revealed on 13 July 1917 at Cova da Iria, Fatima.

Archbishop Bertone, accompanied by the Bishop of Leiria, His Excellency Bishop Serafim de Sousa Ferreira e Silva, will come in my name to ask certain questions about the interpretation of "the third part of the secret."

Sr. Maria Lucia, you may speak openly and candidly to Archbishop Bertone, who will report your answers directly to me.

I pray fervently to the Mother of the Risen Lord for you, Reverend Sr., for the Community of Coimbra and for the whole Church. May Mary, Mother of pilgrim humanity, keep us always united to Jesus, her beloved Son and our brother, the Lord of life and glory.

**With my special Apostolic Blessing.
JOANNES PAULUS PP.II
From the Vatican, 19 April 2000.**

The official Commentary on the Message of Fatima and the Third Secret states:

"The Bishop of Leiria-Fatima read the autograph letter of the Holy Father to Sr. Lucia, which explained the reasons for the visit. Sr. Lucia felt honored by this and reread the letter herself, contemplating it in her own hands. She said that she was prepared to answer all questions frankly.

"At this point, Archbishop Bertone presented two envelopes to her; the first containing the second, which held the third part of the 'secret' of Fatima. Immediately, touching it with her fingers, Sr. Lucia said:

'This is my letter,' and then while reading it: "'This is my writing.'"

The above agrees with information I personally received from Bishop John Venancio, long deceased, many years ago. (He was Bishop Administrator of Leiria-

Fatima 1958-1972 - two bishops before Bishop Serafim). As Bishop of Fatima, before 1960, he had the secret in his possession and he told me that, (before taking it to Rome) he held it up to the sun simply to determine its length. He said it was short. As you will read in this book the entire third part of the secret released June 26, 2000 is indeed short. I was also told years ago that the secret was in two envelopes, one inside the other and was short. This is the way the official Commentary by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith reports on the Secret.

The official Commentary on Fatima and its secret issued by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith under the direction of Cardinal Ratzinger continues as follows:

"The original text, in Portuguese, was read and interpreted with the help of the Bishop of Leiria-Fatima. Sr. Lucia agreed with the interpretation that the third part of the 'secret' was a prophetic vision, similar to those in sacred history. She repeated her conviction that the vision of Fatima concerns above all the struggle of atheistic Communism against the Church and against Christians, and describes the terrible sufferings of the victims of the faith in the twentieth century.

"When asked: 'Is the principal figure in the vision the Pope?' Sr. Lucia replied at once that it was. She recalled that the three children were very sad about the suffering of the Pope, and that Jacinta kept saying: 'Coitandinho do Santo Padre, tenho muita pena dos pecadores!' ('Poor Holy Father, I am very sad for sinners!'). Sr. Lucia continued: 'We did not know the name of the Pope; Our Lady did not tell us the name of the Pope; we did not know whether it was Benedict XV or Pius XII or Paul VI or John Paul II; but it was the Pope who was suffering and that made us suffer too.'

"As regards the passage about the Bishop dressed in white, this is, the Holy Father-as the children immediately realized during the 'vision'-who is struck dead and falls to the ground, Sr. Lucia was in full agreement with the Pope's claim that 'it was a mother's hand that guided the bullet's path and in his throes the Pope halted at the threshold of death' (Pope John Paul II, Meditation from the Polyclinico Gemelli to the Italian Bishops, 13 May 1994).

"Before giving the sealed envelope containing the third part of the 'secret' to the then Bishop of Leiria-Fatima, Sr. Lucia wrote on the outside envelope that it could be opened only after 1960, either by the Patriarch of Lisbon or the Bishop of Leiria. **Archbishop Bertone therefore asked, 'Why only after 1960? Was it Our Lady who fixed that date?'** Sr. Lucia replied: 'It was not Our Lady. I fixed the date because I had the intuition that before 1960 it would not be understood, but that only later would it be understood. Now it can be better understood. I wrote down what I saw; however it was not for me to interpret it, but for the Pope.' ...

"The meeting concluded with the blessing imparted in the name of the Holy Father."

Bishop John Venancio told me years ago that he could have opened the secret and read it but that he did not want that responsibility. He satisfied himself simply with holding the envelope up to the sun to see its length and verified that it was indeed short in content. He was happy to have the secret placed in hands at the Vatican.

The detailed Commentary on the Fatima Secret issued by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, upon the order of Pope John Paul II, should be accepted as complete as the release itself says it is. The Holy See and the Pope's Congregation for the Faith do not play games when it is announced before the Pope himself and Sr. Lucia as well as hundreds of thousands of pilgrims: "In order that the faithful may better receive the message of Our Lady of Fatima, the Pope has charged the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith with making public the third part of the 'secret,' after the preparation of an appropriate commentary."

Because of those who questioned whether the third part of the secret was released in its entirety I wrote to the Rector of the International Shrine at Fatima where Our Lady appeared to get his reaction. He responded as follows:

"Thank you for your messages received on last February. Regarding the question of the third part of the "Secret" [whether the entire third part of the Secret was revealed by the Vatican], I have to say that I know nothing further to what was published, my conviction being:

1. The Holy See would have, in all certainty, affirmed the fact, if the whole text had not been published.
2. On regarding the text one can see that it is complete.

Best regards and a prayer for your Apostolate.
P. Luciano Guerra, Rector Santuario De Nossa Senhora De Fatima.

Why did the Rector of the Sanctuary of Our Lady at Fatima write the above?

Well! If we look in the official Commentary which was ordered to be given by the Pope together with the third part of the Secret we see as follows that it is being released "in its entirety."