

The Era of Peace

Thus far, among the signs given by Our Lord and the Church heralding the approach of the close of this Age as we know it, we have considered “Apostasy”, “Globally Applied Pressures to Conform to an Anti-God Agenda”, “False Prophets and **the** False Prophet”, and “Global Persecution of the Church”. We saw that, taken together, these signs can be expected to culminate in an all-out war between Christ and Satan which will result in Satan’s defeat and subsequent confinement and in the dawn of a New Era *within human history* which will see the Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and a Period of Peace for mankind.

Many Christians, schooled in a certain way of thinking, are surprised and perplexed to learn that there will be an interim period of peace for the world before the final and permanent defeat of Satan and the end of the world. What these Christians expect any day now, or at least at any given moment, is the “Parousia” or the coming of the Son of Man on the clouds of Heaven which will lead directly to the Final Judgment and the descent New Heavens and the New Earth, with no interim Period of Peace. They are even more surprised to discover that the expectation of such a Period of Peace *within history* before the Parousia was virtually universal in the Church from earliest times until the Fifteenth Century, when for complex reasons related to the Spanish Inquisition it became dangerous to espouse it. St Augustine was misquoted by the inquisitors as an authority to oppose any expectation of a Period of Peace within history despite the fact that his greatest literary work, The City of God, was entirely devoted to it. Because Luther and the other Reformers thought the world was coming to an immediate end, there was no place in their thinking for a Period of Peace. That’s why talk of a Period of Peace sounds so strange to many of us today, even though it was taken

for granted in the Church for some 1400 years. Most of us automatically think that one day the world will end, the Final Judgment will take place, and the faithful will find themselves in the New Heavens and the New Earth, just like that.

In a book whose scholarship is exhaustive and impeccable entitled, The Splendor of Creation, The Triumph of the Divine Will on Earth and the Era of Peace in the Writings of the Church Fathers, Doctors, and Mystics, Father Joseph Iannuzzi has demonstrated that the expectation of an Era of Peace *within history* based on the writings of the Old Testament Prophets, the teachings of Jesus and the Apostles, and the clear declaration of Revelation 20 was almost universal among the Apostolic Fathers, the Fathers of the Early Church, the medieval Doctors of the Church like St Thomas Aquinas, and now more recently among the most highly accredited modern mystics of the last 100 years and the great catechetical apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Amsterdam, Medjugorje, San Nicolas, Hrushiv, etc.) in our own time.

But, some might ask, does not the Church reject “millenarianism” in any form, especially in its political forms? (CCC 676).

It does indeed! “Millenarianism” is the name given to the view that this “Era of Peace” involves Jesus’ establishment of a **political** kingdom on earth, on the order of the kingdom which Jesus’ own disciples expected Him to establish at the expense of the Romans in First Century Palestine. This is exactly what some heretical Christian sects were expecting at the time of the Protestant Reformation (which, by the way, poisoned Luther to the whole idea of any Era of Peace within history). The descendants of these sects are still expecting such a kingdom to this very day.

But this is not what the Era of Peace is all about.

Then, what is it all about?

- 1) It is about establishing the conditions on earth to bring about the fulfillment of the prayer Jesus gave us: “Thy Will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.”
- 2) It is about what God is doing to make this happen, first of all, by sending Our Blessed Mother Mary to induce and inspire us to turn away from Sin and the ways of Satan, to embrace Jesus without reservation, and to return to God while we still can.
- 3) It is about what will happen after God has given the human race every reason to turn back to Him in faith: At that point God - good Father that He is – will initiate chastisements as a last resort to turn people back to Him from the ways of death. These will be accompanied by a faith-producing sign or signs whose divine origin will be so obvious that they will lead every human being on earth to conversion if they are open to it at all.
- 4) It is about what will happen to the world when Satan’s power is broken and he and the hosts of evil are bound in the abyss “for 1000 years”.
- 5) It is about what even sinful and fallen human beings can become when Satan is no longer allowed to harass them and when the “ordinary” Means of Grace through the Sacraments are faithfully appropriated to strengthen them.

Distilled from the writings of the Fathers of the Church and their reading of Sacred Scripture, Father Iannuzzi provides a check-list in tabloid form of what they perceived as the chief characteristics of the Era of Peace, as follows:

- “The Modification of Evil” (not its elimination: see fn.147, p.232).
- “The Begetting of Children” in security and peace.
- “The Rebirth/Renewal of Creation” due to our good stewardship.
- “Creation’s Freedom from Fear”: The Peaceable Kingdom.
- “The Rule of Righteousness”
- “Superior Physical Endowments” in the service of God’s love.
- “World-wide Praise of God” (from every culture and tradition).
- “Divine Light”: the effect of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
- “Agrarian Society”, renewing our vital connection to the Earth.
- “Royal Priesthood” in the service of God & His Christ (Rev.20:6).

From early times, the Holy Spirit and Mary have been understood as key players in the unfolding of the Era of Peace, and this understanding has permeated both the vision of our modern mystics and the contents of Mary’s messages and Her approach to the human race. Mary presents Herself to us as the model of what we can and will become. As we get to know Her more intimately and personally we are greatly inspired to allow Her to draw us into Her Immaculate Heart where the Holy Spirit can transform us, just as He transformed Her, to be Bearers of Christ.

In our broken world, authentic “mystics” whose own will is closely conformed to the Will of God, have been the exception, not the rule. In the Era of Peace that is soon to dawn, people whose will is much more closely conformed to the will of God than it is now **will be the norm**, not the exception. The mystics have demonstrated to the world that this

is possible, that even sinners can, through the cross of Christ and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, be lifted to amazing heights of union with God, with compelling and unspeakably beautiful results. If we are willing, all of us without exception are capable of rising to the place of union with God designed for us. Since God's grace alone determines where that place is for each of us, the response that sanctifies us all in the highest degree possible for each of us is Mary's: "Fiat voluntas tua!"

We know the Fathers of the Church and its Doctors. But who are our modern "mystics" (apart from those associated with the catechetical apparitions of Mary whom we all know) whom God has been using to prepare us for the Era of Peace?

The Servant of God Luisa Piccarreta,
St. Hannibal di Francia,
Venerable Conchita de Armida,
The Servant of God Archbishop Luis Martinez,
Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity,
St. Padre Pio,
The Servant of God Father Michael Sopocko,
St. Faustina Kowalska,
St. Maximilian Kolbe,
Blessed Dina Belanger,
The Servant of God Sister Mary of the Holy Trinity,
The Servant of God Marthe Robin,
Father Walter Ciszek,
Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta,
Vera Grita,
not to mention our Popes from St. Leo XIII onward.

The foregoing pages are a mere summary of all the data painstakingly collected and arranged in Fr. Iannuzzi's book and available to anyone who wishes to probe any part of this more deeply or in greater detail.

Now I would like to shift our focus over to our Blessed Mother Herself and seek to discover specifically what She means by telling us that She is our John the Baptist. What exactly is She preparing us for?

We begin by reminding ourselves of Our Lady of Fatima and Her message of July 13, 1917. After exposing the children to a Vision of Hell and telling them what God wanted people to do to avoid it, She spoke of the good results of obedience (Salvation and Peace) and the tragic results of disobedience (Persecution and World War II). She then assured them that *"in the end my Immaculate Heart will triumph. The Holy Father will consecrate Russia to me, and she will be converted, and a period of peace will be granted to the world..."* One eventual result of this assurance on Her part was a rediscovery by many Catholic theologians of the Church's traditional teaching about the Era of Peace.

On May 13, 1988, in the context of Her months-long apparitions in an immense column of light above the tiny Blessed Trinity Church in Hrushiv, Ukraine, witnessed by over 500,000 people and resulting in countless conversions, Our Blessed Mother said: *"...How many warnings must mankind receive before it repents? The world continues on the road of self-will and hedonism. Russia continues to refuse to recognize my Son. Russia rejects charity and continues to live a demonic existence. Did I not ask for prayers for the lost Russian people on other occasions? If Russia does not accept Christ the King, the entire world faces ruin.... My faithful people, what a joy it is for me to be with you, for I see faith and strength in you. I see that you have preserved your*

fidelity to the Church, even when it appeared that faith was at an end. This is why I turn to you and ask you to forgive your enemies – to be a beacon in the dark. Through you and your martyred Church will come the conversion of Russia, but hasten and pray very much, especially the Rosary.” In the course of these extensive apparitions, Mary frequently spoke of the anti-Christ as fronting for Satan and trapping people in his symbols and teachings that look and sound Christian but are not. She was emphatic that leading a pure and sinless life, in faithfulness to Jesus and the Church, is the only antidote to his lies, is the only way to retain hope and love in the midst of persecution.

A few years before this, Mary had begun her astonishing apparitions at Medjugorje in the heart of the Communist world. We have already noted the “five little stones” which she gave us then to “fight off your Goliath”: 1) Prayer with the heart: Rosary; 2) Eucharist; 3) Holy Bible; 4) Fasting; 5) Monthly Confession. Putting these into practice is the key both to our safety and to our happiness, She says. Let them be the lynchpin around which all your other activities revolve. A mere two days into her apparitions She announced to the children: *“I have come because there are many true believers here. I wish to be with you to convert and to reconcile the whole world.”*

To Mirjana, who knew nothing about Pope Leo XIII’s vision which we examined last week, Mary said in 1982: *“You must realize that Satan exists. One day he appeared before the throne of God and asked permission to submit the Church to a period of trial. God gave him the power to try the Church for one century. This century is under the power of the devil, but when the secrets confided to you come to pass, his power will be destroyed. Even now he is beginning to lose his power and*

has become aggressive. He is destroying marriages, creating division among priests, and is responsible for fanaticism and murder....”

On May 25, 1988, Mary included these words in a beautiful message:
“...I desire that through you the whole world may get to know the God of joy.... I want you to love all men with my love, both the good and the bad. That is the only way in which love will conquer the world....”

On August 25, 1991, at the outbreak of the Balkan War, Mary said:
“Dear children: Today....I invite you to nine days of renunciation, so that with your help, everything that I intended to realize through the secrets at Fatima may be fulfilled. I call you, dear children, to grasp the importance of my coming and the seriousness of the situation. I want to save all souls and present them to God....”

The very next month She expanded on this invitation: *“Dear children, ... Satan wants to show the world his shameful face, by which he wants to seduce as many people as possible onto the way of death and sin. Therefore, dear children, help my Immaculate Heart to triumph in this sinful world....Pray for what God desires and not for what you desire....”*

On Christmas Day, 1992, in the midst of the ravages of the Balkan War, Mary said: *“Dear children: Today I wish to place you all under my mantle to protect you from every satanic attack. Today is the day of peace, but throughout the world there is a great absence of peace. Therefore, I call you to build up a new world of peace together with me, by means of prayer....”*

On October 25, 1996, Our Blessed Mother Mary appealed to us in these words: *“Little children, you are dear to me. I love you all, and I call you*

to be closer to me and to let your love toward my Immaculate Heart be more fervent. I wish to renew you and lead you with my Heart to the Heart of Jesus, which still suffers for you today and calls you to conversion and renewal. Through you I wish to renew the world. Comprehend, little children, that you are today the salt of the earth and the light of the world....”

We will conclude this effort to bring all of us on board with the mission of Mary on behalf of God in our time with an excellent summary of the even more recent messages from Mary on this theme as found on the Internet website “Medjugorje Today”*. These messages give us great reason to hope and to live in such a way as to “redeem the times, for the days are evil.” (*Eph.5:16*)

Our prayer is that this priceless treasure, these priceless messages, sent from Heaven through the most beautiful and loving of all women, for the happiness of all God’s children, and stemming from Jesus and His apostles as mediated to us by our Holy Mother, the Church, will see us all safely through the trials at hand and those that are yet to come, and bring us all with joy into the “Era of Peace”, the Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the Reign of the Sacred and Eucharistic Heart of Jesus.

*www.medjugorjetoday.tv/background-7/the-10-secrets-2/mary-will-triumph-bring-on-era-of-peace.....