



Russia.

When the seeds of Communism were being sown in Russia, Our Blessed Mother was conveying to the world the weapon to counteract that evil.

Her weapon is prayer and sacrifice. This is what she revealed at Fatima, Portugal in 1917. "If my requests are heard, Russia will be converted and there will be peace."

If there is no prayer and sacrifice, then "great errors will spread throughout the world, giving rise to wars and persecutions against the Church. The good will suffer much. Different nations will be destroyed."

Marriage is Not Fatal.

Marriage must never be taken as "a fatal step." Some call it that, but they are all wrong. God instituted this state of life as a means of happiness and contentment for both the husband and the wife.

What most people do not realize is that Christian marriage is not a union of a man and woman - two. It is a union of three. The third person is Our Blessed Lord. It is this presence of Christ that takes the chance of failure out of marriage.

Christian marriage is a Sacrament, that is, one of the seven different special ways Christ uses to enter into intimate contact with human hearts, minds and wills. Every Sacrament is, as it were, Christ reaching down from Heaven to give a helping hand to the recipient.

In the case of marriage, the assistance that Christ gives is not just a temporary one. It is a daily contact, a day-in and day-out cooperation with both the husband and wife. The Sacrament of Matrimony brings the power of Christ to the couple.

Both those who are looking forward to marriage and those who are already married must remember that this union is "in Christ," which is another way of saying that they will never be alone in this state of life, but that Our Blessed Lord will work with them in seeking temporal and eternal joy and contentment.

The helping hand that Christ offers to the husband and wife is extended to them the moment they say, "I will." And it remains extended to them until "death do us part." The right to all the divine assistance necessary for a happy and holy marriage comes on the day of marriage. But the graces come when they are needed.

It is impossible to describe with completeness the extent of Christ's help to the couple. He whispers to them little inspirations, when He chooses and when they need them. He shows both parties ways and means of loving one another and their children perfectly. He consoles them in time of trial. He carries a greater part of their worries and sufferings. Christ sows the good seed. If marriage fails, it is because one or both parties would not let the seed take root. Where husband and wife cooperate with Christ there will be a happy home.

Every home ought to have an attractive picture of the Sacred Heart placed where it will be often and easily seen, because if Christ is a partner in life, the remembrance of his presence will bring confidence and consolation.