



COUNTDOWN TO THE WARNING: An Update

Rev. Joseph M. Esper

NOTE: This article was originally published in the Winter 2004 issue of Signs and Wonders (Vol. 15, No. 3/4); this revised and updated version is reprinted here because of its timeliness and importance.

Years from now, it's entirely possible that young people will ask us, "What was it like to live in 2008?" for future generations may be stunned and amazed that humanity could engage in the sort of sinfulness, violence, and moral anarchy much of the world has come to take for granted. The year just ended may well be seen as a turning point in the history of our nation, and people looking back at our age may wonder how it was that humanity allowed itself to continue on the foolish and arrogant path of rejecting its Creator, spurning His grace and ignoring His increasingly urgent summons to repentance.

The eighth year of the new millennium was filled with signs—for those willing to see them—that God's necessary, inevitable, and decisive intervention in the world was drawing ever closer.

The election of the most radical pro-abortion president in American history, the resurgence of Russian militarism (as evidenced by Russia's invasion of the neighboring country of Georgia, and her public threats against various European nations), the continued problem of terrorism throughout much of the world, grave economic difficulties in the United States (including speculation on the

previously-unthinkable possibility of a second Great Depression), widespread natural disasters and growing concerns over the physical state of our planet, and various other tragic and sorrowful reminders that Satan is indeed "the prince of this world" (cf. Jn. 14:30), all suggest that "business as usual" will soon no longer be possible on earth. Indeed, the angels and saints in Heaven may well be wondering in amazement why God has allowed humanity's rebellion to continue as long as it has.

Impact of the Election

According to Fr. John Corapi, the election of a pro-abortion presidential candidate represents an arrogant rejection of God's gift of life. As he notes, "**In recent months we have seen 'corrections' in the stock market, housing market, and banking industries. Now we will see if God orchestrates a 'correction' in a country and a world that has demonstrated quite clearly that it prefers convenience and wealth to life itself.**"

In this regard, an alleged visionary described as the "Littlest of Servants" claims that, on the day after Election Day,

I saw Our Lady standing beside a giant tree that was among other trees. This tree was by far the largest and it was huge. It was as big as the giant sequoias near Yosemite. I saw that Our Lady had her arm outstretched with her hand pressed against the tree. I then saw the base of the tree and it had been sawed clean through. That meant the only thing preventing it from falling was Our Lady.

I understood that this giant tree represented the United States of America. I then saw Our Lady take her arm away and step aside and the tree fell. . . . I understood that with the election results Our Lady's protection (God's protection) has been removed and we will fall as the giant sequoia fell.



While in one sense the election of a member of a racial minority as president is a wonderful and historic achievement, the fact that so many people—including millions of Catholics—*were willing to vote for a candidate supporting even the death of children who survived attempted abortions is a frightening indication of how far America has declined morally.* A visionary associated with the Holy Love Apostolate allegedly received this message from St. Martin de Porres on his feast day (November 3—the day before Election Day):

Jesus wants you to know that people who place economic issues ahead of life in the womb in this election have placed their souls in grave danger. The future of the abortion issue will be structured by whomever the next appointee to your Supreme Court is. Satan supports the candidate who embraces abortion. It is quite remarkable that people do not recognize his evil fingerprints on this election. I cannot make the choice between good and evil more distinct than I just have.

Deliberately Designed Crisis

Long before the recent election results, many patriotic Americans have been greatly concerned over several trends threatening our nation's traditional status as "the land of the free and the home of the brave." Without subscribing to all the conspiracy theories circulating on talk radio and the internet, a careful and objective study of available sources of information offers a troubling picture of the current state of our civil liberties. *(This subject is explored in greater detail in my article "The Calm Before the Storm?," in the Spring 2007 issue of Signs and Wonders.)*

There are those who believe—including both patriotic

commentators and newsletter authors, and alleged visionaries and locutionists—that the current economic crisis is a contrived one: in other words, the steadily-declining purchasing power of our money (resulting from the deliberate and ongoing inflation of the currency by the Federal Reserve and the U.S. Treasury Department), the onerous overregulation of business and corporations, reckless spending and record-setting budget deficits by the federal government, growing trade imbalances and the accompanying loss of American jobs, the deliberate fostering of class warfare and the creation of an entitlement mentality, and the intrusive and counter-productive manipulation of the banking and finance industries, are deliberately designed to create a crisis in which people will willingly surrender ever more of their precious freedoms to an increasingly-powerful government. Government data bases, compliant financial institutions, and dramatic advances in communications and monitoring technology, will soon allow for a degree of privacy-destroying surveillance in our "democratic" society far surpassing anything previous dictators and police states could have imagined. *Furthermore, the issuance of executive decrees by a sitting president can, with no advance warning, impose martial law, disarm private citizens, override all constitutional liberties and guarantees, and allow government confiscation of any and all private property without compensation in the interests of "national security."* However, the ultimate beneficiary of this near-total authority over American citizens is intended to be not our national leaders, operating under the auspices of the United States Constitution, *but a coming one-world government!*

Experts have long recognized that for such a scheme to succeed, it would

first be necessary to impoverish America, relative to the rest of the world, by greatly reducing our standard of living and making the average citizen far more dependent on big government; this would make it easier to control those who—motivated by traditional patriotism and religion—might otherwise be inclined to resist. This far-reaching scheme may well explain many apparently separate issues and movements, including the global warming scare (which supposedly requires us to make many changes to our economy and lifestyles, even though thousands of reputable scientists have expressed skepticism that the threat is real); the United Nations "Agenda 21" (which calls for all people to be relocated into "human settlements," thereby eliminating the need for automobiles in the name of the environment); the use of possible terrorist and immigration problems as an excuse for implementing a national ID card (the "Real ID" Act, which could allow the monitoring of every American's movements and location, and ultimately be tied-in to an international ID card); and the Security and Prosperity Partnership (which calls for an eventual political and economic North American Union involving the United States, Canada, and Mexico, and which would see the introduction of a new currency called the "amero").

One-World Government

Those persons and groups behind this movement toward a one-world government—supposedly in the name of saving the world from various "crises," and for the overall well-being of humanity—are also, for the most part, convinced of the need for a one-world religion. Needless to say, this sort of religious unity would not mean mass conversions to the One True Church established by Jesus

Christ. Rather, a new syncretistic religion would be established: one very tolerant of almost any religious belief or practice—except for Christianity, and particularly Catholicism. Because of her transcendent nature and her unyielding insistence on upholding divine law, the Church will always resist any attempts to define human existence in merely human terms, to control or manipulate human nature through the use (or, more accurately, abuse) of technology, or to exalt government or society at the expense of the individual. Therefore, the Church will in all likelihood face increasing opposition, restrictions, and ultimately outright persecution—even here in the United States.

The Lord God, of course, will not abandon His people, nor forsake His Church in her time of need—and it's in this context of societal disruption and religious persecution that the Warning is expected to occur.

The Warning

The Warning, of course, refers to a prophesied worldwide spiritual event, in which every person on earth will simultaneously see the state of his or her soul; this “spiritual x-ray” will tell us whether we are on the path to damnation, or salvation. God will cause this unprecedented event to occur as a heavenly sign of support and encouragement for His persecuted Church, and so that vast numbers of sinners will repent. The Warning, or the “Illumination of Conscience,” was foretold to St. Catherine Laboure in 1830, to the 19th century stigmatist Marie-Julie Jahenny, to St. Faustina Kowalska in the 1930s, and to the four young seers of Garabandal, to whom Our Lady allegedly appeared a number of times from 1961-1965. Other visionaries have since spoken

of the Warning, and there's general agreement that, as a result of this happening, millions of sinners will repent and be restored to grace; many others, however, will reject this offer of Divine Mercy and become even more hardened in sin—and with the battle lines between good and evil drawn more clearly than ever before, the already-overwhelming pace of events will accelerate as we approach, not the end of the world, but the end of this age.

According to the seers of Garabandal, within a year of the Warning, a great Miracle will occur in the skies there,



involving something that can be seen, televised, but not touched (perhaps a giant luminous Cross), accompanied by the simultaneous healing of all ill and infirm persons in and near the town. If these two events do not bring about sufficient repentance on the part of humanity, then a great Chastisement or punishment will occur (presumably the Three Days of

Darkness foretold by many past and contemporary visionaries); this will cleanse the world of sin and usher in a promised Era of Peace, with God's love and truth reigning in the hearts of everyone still on earth. This most glorious age of human history will be a time of religious and perfect harmony, and will last anywhere from twenty-five to a hundred years or more.

These events have long been expected, but their timing is unknown. One of the Garabandal visionaries, Mari Loli, is said to know the year of the Warning, and another, Conchita, knows the date of the Miracle (a Thursday in March, April, or May, on or between the 8th and 16th of the month); moreover, Conchita is to announce the Miracle eight days before it occurs (giving time for pilgrims and the ill to gather in Garabandal, and allowing for it to be televised, thereby increasing its impact). While the Warning will be a terrifying ordeal for everyone in a state of mortal sin, it will nonetheless be a great act of mercy on God's part; as Conchita once said, “I think that those who do not despair will experience great good from it for their sanctification.” This experience, which is expected to be very intense but of short duration (15 minutes or less—though it will seem much

longer), presumably ties-in with the secrets allegedly given by Our Lady to the visionaries of Medjugorje. Mirjana, one of the seers, said that her first secret does not involve a worldwide event, but is something that will “shake us up” (possibly a catastrophic happening or crisis involving war or terrorism, or a gigantic natural disaster). There's



speculation that Mirjana's second and third secrets correspond to the Warning and the Miracle.

Series of Smaller Warnings

We don't know when the Warning will occur, but—to those attuned to the "signs of the times"—it seems undeniable that a series of smaller warnings are already happening all around us. The most obvious example, of course, is the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Every climactic event in contemporary history has its defining images: the ruined warships belching black smoke into the sky over Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the Marines raising the flag on Iwo Jima in World War II, the mushroom cloud over Hiroshima after the dropping of the atomic bomb, the open-topped limousine in Dallas carrying President and Mrs. Kennedy on November 22, 1963, and so on. Images such as these have a way of searing themselves into our collective memory. This will undoubtedly prove true of one of the horrible pictures taken shortly after the terrorist attacks:

the image of the devil's face in the smoke billowing forth from the World Trade Center. This was surely more than a coincidence, for the events of that day certainly had a satanically-inspired element to them; deliberately causing the deaths of thousands of innocent people, as the terrorists did, is an unspeakably evil act. Heaven grieved with us on that day—but even so, the events of September 11 can, with hindsight, be seen as part of God's ongoing warning to America.

Attacks Foretold

A number of seers allegedly received forewarnings of the attack, beginning with a 1990 prophecy to an anonymous visionary which stated that within twelve years the pride of New York would be broken, and that within four years an unprecedented new evil would be introduced—with our response to this evil determining the length and severity of the coming chastisements. (It was in 1994, of course, that President Clinton—based on a recommendation by the National Institute of Health—announced that the federal government would allow, but not yet fund, human embryo research. In 1998 the visionary Patricia Mundorf (now deceased) warned the FBI that the World Trade Center and the White House or Pentagon would be attacked, and on September 11, 1999—exactly two years before the attack—the Irish mystic Christina Gallagher, while visiting the United States, gestured toward the Twin Towers and declared, “If

Americans don't turn back to God, all of this will be destroyed!” The late Maria Esperanza, the visionary associated with the Church-approved apparitions of Our Lady at Betania, Venezuela, stated early in 2001 that something terrible would happen along the Eastern seaboard as a result of human cloning, and on August 25—based on a message she received from St. Peter—she warned, “*A great event will be happening in three weeks or three months.*”

September 11—33rd Day

The terrorist attack, of course, happened in the third week after Maria Esperanza's ominous warning. September 11 also happened to be *the 33rd day after President Bush announced the beginning of very limited federal funding of embryonic stem cell research.* Even though the President honestly tried to limit the impact of this decision, a fateful



line had been crossed: for the first time it was now legal to try to improve some human lives *at the expense of other human lives.* Several visionaries have said that following this decision, Our Lady's mantle of protection was withdrawn from our country. On December 6, 2001, an alleged visionary named Judith