

Blessed John Paul II

Oct 22, 1978, during the inauguration of his papal ministry John Paul II uttered these now famous words: "Be not afraid. Open wide the doors for Christ. To his saving power open the boundaries of states, economic and political systems, the vast fields of culture, civilization, and development. Be not afraid. Christ knows what is in man. He alone knows it."

The fundamental truth at the heart of John Paul II: Entrust yourself to Jesus and Mary and do not be afraid. They will take the best care of you!

"Man is afraid of the moral demands that faith makes upon him, to this also Jesus says, "Be not afraid." To accept the Gospel's demands means to affirm all of our humanity. To see in it the beauty desired by God, while at the same time recognizing, in the light of the power of God Himself, our weaknesses: What is impossible for men is possible for God. Cross the threshold of hope. Don't stop before it. Let oneself be led."

"The reading of the treatise of the True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin was the turning point in my life. Whereas I had initially been afraid lest devotion to Mary might detract from that due to Jesus instead of giving him his rightful place, I realized, when reading the treatise on True Devotion, that such was not the case. Our interior relationship with the mother of God is a result of our association with the mystery of Christ." Frossard, Andre, Be Not Afraid, St. Martins Press, New York, NY, 1984, p. 184.

In a homily at Jasna Gora, June 4 1979, says,

"I have, in fact, taken with me from Poland to the chair of St. Peter in Rome this "holy habit" of the heart (entrustment and confidence in Our Lady of Czestoshowa) which has been built up by the faith of so many generations, has been tested by the Christian experience of so many centuries, and is deeply rooted in my soul." (p. 118 Totus Tuus by Calkins)

3rd part of the secret of Fatima

"At the left of Our Lady and a little above, we saw an Angel with a flaming sword in his left hand; flashing, it gave out flames that looked as though they would set the world on fire; but they died out in contact with the splendor that Our Lady radiated towards him from her right hand: pointing to the earth with his right hand, the Angel cried out in a loud voice: 'Penance, Penance, Penance!'. And we saw in an immense light that is God: 'something similar to how people appear in a mirror when they pass in front of it' a Bishop dressed in White 'we had the impression that it was the Holy Father'. Other Bishops, Priests, men and women Religious going up a steep mountain, at the top of which there was a big Cross of rough-hewn trunks as of a cork-tree with the bark; before reaching there the Holy Father passed through a big city half in ruins and half trembling with halting step, afflicted with pain and sorrow, he prayed for the souls of the corpses he met on his way; having reached the top of the mountain, on his knees at the foot of the big Cross he was killed by a group of soldiers who fired bullets and arrows at him, and in the same way there died one after another the other Bishops, Priests, men and women Religious, and various lay people of different ranks and positions. Beneath the two arms of the Cross there were two Angels each with a crystal aspersorium in his hand, in which they gathered up the blood of the Martyrs and with it sprinkled the souls that were making their way to God."

Crossing the Threshold of Hope (p. 131-132)

"And what are we to say of the three children from Fatima who suddenly on the eve of the outbreak of the October Revolution heard, "Russia will convert" and "In the end my Immaculate Heart will triumph"? They could not have invented those predictions. They did not know enough of history or geography, much less the social movements and ideological developments. And nevertheless it happened just as they had said.

Perhaps this is also why the Pope was called from a faraway country, perhaps this is why it was necessary for the assassination attempt to be made in St Peter's square precisely on May 13, 1981, the anniversary of that first apparition at Fatima – so that all could become more transparent and comprehensible, so that the voice of God which speaks in human history through the signs of the times could be more easily hear and understood."

Crossing the Threshold of Hope (p. 220-221)

"Why should we have no fear? Because man has been redeemed by God. In redemption we find the most profound basis for the words "Be not afraid!" For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son (John 3:16). This Son is always present in the history of humanity as Redeemer. The power of Christ's Cross and Resurrection is greater than any evil man could or should fear.

On this universal level, if victory comes it will be brought by Mary. Christ will conquer through her because he wants the Church's victories now and in the future to be linked to her... I held this conviction even though I did not yet know much about Fatima. I could see, however, that there was a certain continuity among La Salette, Lourdes, and Fatima, and...Jasna Gora...And thus we come to May 13, 1981...the fact that the assassination attempt occurred on the anniversary of Fatima.

Someone exists who holds in his hands the destiny of this passing world; Someone who holds the keys to death and the netherworld (Rev 1:18). Someone who is the Alpha and the Omega of human history (Rev 22:13) – be it the individual or collective History. And this Someone is Love. Love that became man, Love Crucified and Risen, Love unceasingly present among men. It is Eucharistic Love. It is the infinite source of communion. He alone can give the ultimate assurance when He says, "Be not afraid."

Good Books on John Paul II

- Be Not Afraid, by Andre Frossard
- Witness to Hope by George Weigel
- Why He is a Saint by Slawomir Oder