

An Expression of Appreciation to John Haffert

by BISHOP CONSTANTINO LUNA, O.F.M.

International President, World Apostolate of Fatima (The Blue Army)

I wish to express the appreciation and the gratitude of the members of the World Apostolate of Fatima, (The Blue Army) for all that Mr. John Haffert has done to establish this Apostolate as the official worldwide organization to spread the Message of Our Lady of Fatima.

Mr. Haffert deserves our grateful prayers to Our Lady. May She grant him years of joy in his retirement from the total responsibility of the development of Our Lady's Apostolate.

A Real Challenge!

As we know, the Blue Army was founded in 1947 in Plainfield, New Jersey, by Msgr. Harold Colgan. In 1948 John Haffert joined Monsignor and added his full time dedicated service and inspiration to the development of the "Blue Army."

When Msgr. Colgan died, everything fell on John Haffert's shoulders. This was a real challenge for him! Immediately Mr. Haffert traveled all over the world. He talked with many people, met new members and organized groups. In short, he tried to make everyone understand that the Message of Fatima is a sign of the active and exemplary presence of Our Lady in the Church today.

From diocese to diocese, Blue Army members pray and study the Message. From country to country the Message of Our Lady was made known. It was with such effort and sacrifice, that the name *Fatima* became "almost" universal. The spiritual maternity of Mary began to be better known and accepted; and Fatima became an ef-

fective sign of hope as well as a sign of the maternal love of Our Lady for all Her children.

In Fatima, Portugal, *Domus Pacis* — the International Center for the World Apostolate of Fatima — be-

This Shrine has grown rapidly and now attracts thousands of pilgrims from May through October.

"Deep Gratitude"

After years and years of work by John Haffert, the International World Apostolate of Fatima has become a giant. This expansion and development required more dedication, more work, more worries, and more demands in every direction. Mr. Haffert, at the the age of 73, has decided to discontinue his active involvement in the development of the many major undertakings of the Apostolate both here and abroad. He will concentrate his efforts on spreading Our Lady's Message by lecturing, by making videotapes and by writing new books on Our Lady.

It is very apparent that the Apostolate in America and in the world owes deep gratitude to the man who has done so much to honor Mary, the Mother of God in so many ways, especially through the wonderful image of the Pilgrim Virgin Statue at Fatima.

In all America the name *Fatima* is identified with John Haffert.

I feel I express not only my own personal sentiments but also those of many sincere and devout persons throughout the United States and the world when I say that we owe Mr. John M. Haffert tremendous gratitude and appreciation for all he has done to make the Mother of the Redeemer and Her Message at Fatima better known throughout the world!



John Haffert is shown presenting Bishop Luna with a ciborium of unconsecrated hosts during the Presentation of the Gifts at a recent Blue Army Shrine service.

came a center of Marian spirituality, especially for American pilgrims. Then in Washington, New Jersey, the National Blue Army Shrine of the Immaculate Heart of Mary was built.