



Twenty years ago I talked for 4 consecutive hours with "Lucia", who saw Our Lady at Fatima. In the course of those hours, there was one thing she said which surprised me more than anything else. She said that Our Lady had given a sign by which we would know *when Russia will be converted*.

I have decided, after our recent trip around the world with the Bishop of Fatima, to make public for the first time how that sign was fulfilled.

MIRACLE PREDICTED

It is necessary first to recall very briefly what Our Lady said fifty years ago when She appeared to Lucia and her two cousins.

First She told them that She was from heaven. She asked them to visit with Her six times, after which She would reveal *who* She was, *what* She wanted. She added: "*And I will perform a public miracle so that everyone may believe.*"

Never before in the history of the world had any visionary, any messenger from heaven, ever been able to say to the public: "Gather in one place at one hour and there will be

a miracle so that everyone may believe." And I am sure that all of us can think of moments in history when such a tremendous sign would have been most desirable. For example: *At the time of the deluge.*

What if Noah had climbed a mountain not to build a ship but to say: "Unless you turn to God, you are going to be annihilated, and to prove this, on next Friday at noon, there will be a miracle over this mountain?"

Such a wonder was not given to the people of Noah's day. It was never given in any hour of history *until now*. The world has never before heard such words as those Our Lady used: "*I shall perform a Miracle so that everyone may believe.*"

MIRACLE HAPPENED

On the day and hour She predicted, over a hundred thousand witnesses saw fire, which looked like the sun, tumble from the heavens, seeming to engulf the earth. Everyone who saw it, within a radius of 32 miles, thought it was the end of the world. At the last moment when all seemed about to die, the fire gathered back into

itself and staggered back into the sky. People blinked their eyes, struck their breasts. They had all seen it: One hundred thousand witnesses to the proof She promised to give.

And what did She want us to believe?

She said, "This war will soon end, but if my requests are not heard, there will be another and a more terrible war, and if my requests continue not to be heard, error will spread from atheist Russia throughout the entire world, fomenting further wars . . . and several entire nations will be annihilated. But if my requests are heard, Russia will be converted and an era of peace will be conceded to mankind.

Now, the world didn't hear the message of Fatima. The world was not ready for miracles, especially a specific miracle at a particular time and place, of which man had never before heard. Pope Pius XII, who permitted himself to be called the Pope of Fatima, finally consecrated the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary twenty-five years after the Miracle, and called upon everyone, everywhere, to fulfill her message

that her promise of peace might be realized.

The Pope's words, in 1942, fell on a world suddenly swept up by World War II. So on May 13th, four years later and just after the war, the Holy Father chose again to attract the attention of the world to Fatima by sending a Cardinal as a personal representative of himself to crown the statue of Our Lady of Fatima, while His Holiness spoke by short-wave radio to Fatima and to the world, and said, "I crown Our Lady of Fatima, *Regina Mundi*, Queen of the World".

The following year, a strange thing happened.

THE QUEEN TRAVELS

There was a Congress at Fatima of the youth of the world which the Bishop of Fatima described as the first "international" event at Fatima. Before the war, most of the world didn't know about Fatima. By May 13th, 1947, international travel had resumed and this Youth Congress became the *first* truly international meeting at Fatima. And as a result of this first meeting, *it was decided that a statue of Our Lady should be carried in procession through the world to Russia.*

When the statue left Fatima, miracles began to happen. So many have taken place now that at least half a dozen books have been written to describe the wonders which have occurred in the path of the pilgrim virgin. Just to mention a couple that struck me most deeply at the time, there was a young lady in Valladolid, in Spain, who had been born deaf and dumb. Now a teenager, the child had never spoken or heard a word. The mother of this child wanted to get the youngster as close to the statue of Our Lady of Fatima as possible, praying that Our Lady might, after all these years of deafness and dumbness, work a cure. As she brought her daughter through the crowd, not able to get just up to the statue, the young lady suddenly cried out, "Holy Mary, Mother of God!", and then made babbling noises because while, *she thought she had been in-*

stantly cured, she didn't know how to talk. There were hundreds of witnesses in the square.

On October 13th of 1947, I met a Belgian priest who had come down to thank Our Lady for the graces that he had seen distributed in the path of the pilgrim virgin in his country. He made a pilgrimage of thanksgiving, though he was just an ordinary parish priest, and his very expression was: "I never thought that I would live to see so much grace dispensed in one place at one time." He said priests were hearing confessions on the streets of Brussels, on sidewalks. Priests would be walking along in the procession, and people would stop them and go to confession in the streets.

POPE "CAN HARDLY BELIEVE..."

So, in 1951, Pope Pius XII closed the holy year for all the world at Fatima, and in his address on that historic day which Bishop Sheen described as "the day Russia was converted", the Holy Father said, "In 1947, I crowned Our Lady here as Queen of the World, and the following year, through the pilgrim virgin, She set forth as though to claim her dominion, and the favors she performs along the way are such that *we can hardly believe what we are seeing with our eyes.*"

Those were the Pope's very words. And the phenomenon of the pilgrim virgin, the Queen going forth to claim Her dominion, has been witnessed over the world for twenty years and continues now, since the Bishop of Fatima . . . following Pope Paul's visit to Fatima . . . has presented the statue to twenty nations around the world in celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the Apparitions.

We had invited the Bishop of Fatima to come to the United States after October 13th, the anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun in Fatima, and His Excellency graciously accepted.

Afterwards we received a very poignant letter from Vietnam asking that the Pilgrim Virgin, which had passed through that blood-drenched land, might return and *remain* until peace came. The letter said that Our Lady had performed miracles for them, most impressive of which was the peace between the Buddhists and the Catholics. Before the coming of the pilgrim virgin, among the South Vietnamese, many Buddhists burned themselves in terrible protest, dividing the South almost fatally. But after the path of the pilgrim virgin, there was not one

Below: Over a hundred thousand Vietnamese Catholics welcome the "Pilgrim."





Eager hands vie for the privilege of placing Our Lady's statue on the temporary altar over the spot, in Saigon, where a church will be built in her honor in thanksgiving for her promise of peace.



more instance of a burning until about a month ago before the pilgrim virgin finally went back.

There had been many wonders in Vietnam. One of the most impressive to the Vietnamese (I suppose it would be impressive to any eye witness, but it may sound a little fantastic when repeated) was that they actually carried the statue up to "no man's land". As they looked across this area of death, a storm raged on the North Vietnamese side. Sounds of the guns echoed the thunder. But *the sun shone on the side where the statue was*. Together, both the Buddhists and the Christians exclaimed: "Now indeed there will be peace!", and they now wanted the statue of Our Lady back. They even chose a spot in the center of Saigon to build a church in Her honor.

LONG WAY AROUND

So, we suggested to the Bishop of Fatima, since he had agreed to come to the United States, to come "the long way around" *and to take a statue to Vietnam*. His Excellency graciously agreed.

When the world got out that a statue was going to Vietnam, and that the Bishop of Fatima was taking it, a second letter came from the Archbishop of Taipei in Free



Above: Colonel Tu, of the South Vietnamese army, is director of the Blue Army of Our Lady in South Vietnam. His centre was established before the U. S. got involved in the war, during the French period, from the Blue Army centre in Paris. It is now undertaking the building of a headquarters and church on the highest spot in Saigon, formerly a munitions depot of the French. Below, thousands of Vietnamese carry Our Lady's statue through the streets of Saigon. During the night they made a pilgrimage, carrying Our Lady's statue miles to the north to Honai where other hundreds of thousands gathered for a Pontifical Mass.



China. Fourteen bishops of Free China signed a petition begging to have a pilgrim statue brought there. Then letters began to come from New Guinea, from Korea, finally about fifteen countries, all pleading to have Our Lady's statue come and *remain* as a *national pilgrim*, that She might travel from parish to parish and abide with them until Her promise of peace is realized.

And that's how the "world pilgrimage" of the Jubilee Year, which we have just completed, came to be. It has been a very tiring trip. I don't know how the Bishop was able to stand the pace. You can imagine landing every day in a different country, the constant repetition of speeches, the constant receptions, change of hotels, dinners, packing, day after day for thirty-two consecutive days. But he bore through it very beautifully, and one reception was as marvelous as the other.

They were all different.

I asked the Bishop, upon our arrival in Columbus, which reception he considered the warmest. He felt it was the one in Korea. But if you were to ask me personally which I felt was the most extraordinary, I couldn't answer. I could not truly say that any one was less or greater

Below: Reception of statue in Cathedral of Seoul, capital of Korea.



Above: Bishop of Honai talks with Apostolic Delegate to Saigon, while American and Vietnamese Generals listen at reception for the 107 members of the Blue Army of Our Lady who accompanied the Bishop of Fatima and the Pilgrim Virgin to Vietnam.

than any other. But I know that I was most impressed by what happened at Prague.

COMMUNISTS WON'T LIKE IT

Would any of us have ever dreamed it possible that the statue of Our Lady of Fatima, accompanied by its Bishop, fully robed and wearing the pectoral cross given to him by Pope Paul VI at Fatima last May 13th, would walk in a public procession from the airport into the capital of a Communist nation, a member of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, singing the "Ave" of Fatima, and then proceed to a public square, there surrounded by over a hundred persons, all saying the whole fifteen decades of the Rosary, singing the "Ave" hymn in between? I can tell you this Bishop would never have himself imagined doing such a thing. He is an extremely humble and conservative person. When we first arrived in Prague, the Bishop had his coat on, covering his pectoral cross. I said to him, "Your Excellency, aren't you going to go openly?" And he said, "I don't think the Communists would like it." And while I don't usually make suggestions (this was true I think perhaps through the whole trip), I said to him without thinking: "Your Excellency, we're carrying Our Lady's statue publicly.

Why not Her Bishop?"

His Excellency took the coat off with a great smile, quickly laid it aside, and walked out behind the statue in his episcopal garb and leading the singing as we crossed the airport from the plane to the terminal. To our pleasant surprise, a great rainbow appeared over the runways.

Now how was it possible that we said the Rosary in a public square?

Well, the Communists knew the meaning of the statue. And this was the first time the pilgrim virgin, which traveled for twenty years around the world as a symbol of the promise of God to give peace to the world, was ever carried publicly into a country of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. But if the Communists had refused permission to come, they would have suffered adverse publicity. They would have shown that they were against something religious, against a pilgrimage that was coming *just to pray for peace*.

So, they had a plan by which they could avoid any adverse publicity and, at the same time, render such a pilgrimage completely innocuous.

First, there was a two hour delay at the airport, on technicalities, while we were assured that three buses were waiting to take us to

our hotels. Then when we finally boarded the buses, instead of going to the hotels they drove to a small public square where all the passengers, and almost two hundred bags and the statue, were deposited on the street! Then the Cedok guides told us to divide into three groups to proceed on foot to different hotels somewhere in the area. Since it was now 3 o'clock in the afternoon, with only two hours of daylight left, this would have been the end of our "pilgrimage" to deliver the statue in Prague, although the Apostolic administrator of Prague (The Cardinal is in exile in Rome) had very cautiously and prudently written a letter to the Bishop of Fatima offering to receive the statue.

How were we to get to the Archbishop? Here we were in a public square, all the luggage scattered about, no transportation, two hours of daylight left, and we had to leave at 10:00 the following morning, which meant an 8:00 departure to the airport!

So we resolved to stay in the square. The Bishop himself began the Rosary. We recited the whole fifteen decades. In the meanwhile, windows opened, people began to gather, and Sedok guides got increasingly nervous, saying, "You have to get out of here. You have to leave here."

We simply stood and said, "We'll leave when our buses come."

Of course, if I took this much time to tell you about every incident around the world, we wouldn't finish it all. So to conclude very quickly, we finished the Rosary. Having been to Prague before, I knew the Bishop's house was on the hill. So I kept insisting to the Cedok guides that we wanted to go up on the hill for a view of the city. I stressed how much money the people had spent to get here, that they had only a short period of daylight left and had seen nothing, etc.

So we got the buses, just at sunset, and went up the hill.

Almost at once I led the entire group to the Archbishop's residence

The Vietnamese have two "official" statues of Our Lady of Fatima: One of the Immaculate Heart, which was delivered by the Bishop of Fatima on the Around-the-World pilgrimage; the other the National Pilgrim, which was blessed by Pope Paul VI in a special audience for members of the So. Vietnam Blue Army last May during which the Pontiff delivered a major address on the subject of peace in Vietnam in which His Holiness called for a simultaneous cease-fire in both north and south as the first step to peace, and that the disposition to

peace depends on the Grace of God. No one photograph could do justice to the crowd which attended the Pontifical Mass at Honai, with the Bishop of Fatima as principal celebrant, last November 2nd. The editor of SOUL took five pictures in sequence, like the one below, just to photograph the crowd visible from the altar, where the Pilgrim Virgin was enshrined against a gigantic map of the country with the north painted in black and the south in green, above the symbol of the Blue Army: ORBIS ORANS UNUS (one world through Prayer).





Above: The statue arrives in Prague, capital of a member of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Note the symbol next to the door of the plane: Praying hands in the form of doves, holding the Rosary, surrounded by the words "One world, a praying world." The smiles of a smooth and safe arrival, occasioned in part by the sudden appearance of a glorious rainbow over the airport, were changed to lines of

and began to ring bells. Within fifteen minutes we were in the private chapel of the Archbishop of Prague. The doors were closed. And the exchange that then took place between the Apostolic Administrator of Prague and Our Lady's Bishop (as he presented the statue) was a touching highlight of this entire trip around the world. The Archbishop of Prague said, "Yes, we carry a cross. But in the cross, there is light, and there is hope, and finally victory." Then His Excellency looked to the statue of Our Lady, identical to the one brought to the United States, and said, "*And here is the sign of our hope.*"

I think that pretty well echoes the feeling of everyone we met around all the world: "Here is the sign of our hope."

worry when the entire group, bag and baggage, was deposited in a small city square and left without transportation (below). On the next page you see the Bishop of Fatima leading 107 members of the pilgrimage in the Rosary. To the consternation of the Cedok guides (bottom, next page) a crowd begins to gather.





Now, I said when I began, that I would tell you about the sign, mentioned by "Lucia" twenty years ago, of the conversion of Russia. Before I do that, I would like to keep a promise I made in Taipei last week.

In Free China, now limited to a tiny island in the ocean off the vast shore of their real homeland, there are fourteen bishops in exile. They have twelve parishes, in their tiny area, dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima. They received the statue of Our Lady with as much enthusiasm as we witnessed anywhere in the world, these Bishops who have faced Communism, and have witnessed the death of many fellow priests, and now wait to go back to die, if necessary, in the struggle between God and Satan that plagues our world to the brink of atomic war.

They postponed their celebration in Free China until Nov. 12th, the day when members of the Blue Army of the United States had rented the largest auditorium in Columbus to receive the U.S. pilgrim statue. They in turn rented an auditorium which seats 12,000 *to have their celebration coincide with ours on the same day so that the East and the West might honor the Queen together.* In a message to us on the

night that we delivered the pilgrim virgin to a chapel in Taipei where it was kept in reserve until our common celebration on Nov. 12th, the Vicar General of Taipei, Msgr. Mao (a very historic figure in China) was the one chosen to speak. He said: "When we Chinese are in trouble,



Auxiliary Bishop of Taiwan and Msgr. Mao carry Our Lady's statue.

we turn to our Mother. And you know that China has great trouble, trouble with a Red Army. That is why we are indeed happy to have a better army than the Red one: the stronger, Blue Army.

"On the same day that you have your celebration in the United States, we will be having ours with at least 12,000. We join you, the Blue Army of the United States. You will have a greater number. And, could we imagine any army in the world going through the Iron Curtain *except the Blue Army?*"

He concluded that it was their prayer in China that this celebration of the carrying of the image of the Queen around the world will result in a "*final piercing through*" (of the Bamboo and Iron Curtains).

Twenty years ago, Lucia said: "*Russia will be converted when the Holy Father and all the bishops of the world unite in one day in the act of consecrating Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.*"

SIGN FULFILLED

This was accomplished by Pope Paul VI at the last closing of the third session of the Ecumenical Council. It was not much publicized and not adequately understood. The Holy Father deliberately chose to come into the Council and in one sentence he renewed the act of the consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary (which had been made by his predecessor) and announced a special mission to Fatima.

The mission to Fatima was accomplished the following May with the Golden Rose on which the Holy Father inscribed a dedication of the world and the church to Our Lady of Fatima.

So the sign of the conversion of Russia has been fulfilled. Bishop Sheen's words have come true: "*Communism (in Russia) has been defeated . . . but the news hasn't leaked out yet.*"

Now there is China, vowed to destroy the United States and building atomic bombs to do it. And around her are praying people into whose midst Our Lady has journeyed to remain "until peace," as the South Vietnamese pleaded, is obtained.

Will peace come before the "annihilations of nations" of which Our Lady of Fatima spoke?

The conversion of Russia is no



guarantee of this. Our Lady's prophecies were progressive: World War II, then error from Atheist Russia spreading throughout the entire world and fomenting further wars . . . and several entire nations will be annihilated."

The greatest and most dangerous of the world's area, where the errors of Atheist Russia have spread, is China. And China not only has fomented two wars in which Amer-

icans have died and are dying, but it is fomenting the "ultimate" war.

So what do we conclude?

We conclude that, as little Jacinta said before she died: "Our Lord has entrusted the peace of the world to her (Our Lady)." And even as we have avoided atomic war during the long struggle against Russia, so we can avoid it in the growing struggle with China . . . if we do as the Bishop of Fatima recommends to all in

the conclusion of his journey around the world: "*Fulfill the simple conditions of peace which Our Lady has given us.*"

All that we have seen should fill us with hope. The presence of a national Pilgrim Virgin of the United States, now available to any diocese for visits of grace, means to us what it meant to the Apostolic Administrator of Communist Prague:

"Here is the sign of our hope!"



The few pictures in this issue of SOUL from the Around-the-World peace pilgrimage can give only a slight idea of the excitement and enthusiasm which attended this important achievement of the Golden Jubilee of Fatima. And it was money donated by members of the U. S. Blue Army of Our Lady, in particular through the simple appeal of Christmas cards, which made this achievement . . . and its continuation . . . a reality. The first stop from Fatima was at Lourdes, where the Bishop of Fatima was serving as a brancardier when he received the announcement of his episcopal appoint-

ment to Fatima. The Bishop of Lourdes came to the Shrine especially to meet the group and regretted that he, too, could not accompany the great journey which would remind all the world of the Queen "into whose hands," little Jacinta said, "God has confided the peace of the world."

Below: The Bishops of Fatima and Lourdes chat with the pilgrims; above, the statue is carried into Karachi, capital of Pakistan . . . another of the countries on the perimeter of China and deeply worried by the threat of another war.





Patience triumphs in Prague. The busses come. And (below) the day ends gloriously with Mass at the Shrine of the Infant King of the World (in light), with the statue of the Queen Mother safely delivered (near Blue Army banner).

