

ROLE OF THE BLUE ARMY IN THE CHURCH:

TO BE THE "HEART"

by J. M. HAFFERT

Right: Fr. Alonso with John Haffert during meetings with Blue Army groups in Florida. "Fr. Alonso brought a wonderful message....," Haffert says.



What is the special spirituality of the Blue Army?

"We find this spirituality expressed especially," Fr. Alonso said, "in Lucia's Fourth Memoir where she explains the effect of the apparitions of Our Lady upon the interior life of the children.

"The Memoirs of Lucia should be the basis of the Blue Army spirituality," he said. "We should read them not once but several times, and meditate upon them. Lucia was not merely writing a history of the apparitions but was explaining the depth and the meaning in Our Lady's Message.

"For us who are members of this Apostolate of Fatima," Fr. Alonso continued, "the children of Fatima should be our models and inspiration. They were taught by Our Lady Herself."

Mission is Contemplation

Perhaps even more important than the organizational work Fr. Alonso did in Miami was the message he brought.

Since the spirituality of the Blue Army is based on the Message of Fatima, he made us realize that our mission is primarily one of prayer, penance, and reparation. Our devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary should cause us to enter into the dispositions of Our Lady Herself, and especially of Her love for God and for others.

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"Our mission in the Church is, in a manner of speaking, rather a contemplative mission than an active one," Fr. Alonso said.

St. Therese of Lisieux said that as a Carmelite she wanted to be "the heart of the Church." And members of the Blue Army of Our Lady (clothed in the Scapular of Carmel and saying the Rosary while entering into the mysteries of Jesus which the Rosary brings to our interior life) should make union with the Immaculate Heart of Mary a means of loving, of praying, of making reparation for the entire Church. It is thus that we can most effectively make possible the great promise of Our Lady of the conversion of Russia and of the triumph of Her Immaculate Heart, thus bringing upon all mankind an era of the peace of Christ.

What Reward!

And what will be our reward?

Fr. Alonso stressed some very consoling words of Our Lady to Lucia.

"Those words are addressed not only to Lucia," he said, "but in a special way to each one of us who promote the fulfillment of Her message:

"They will be like flowers which I myself will place before the altar of my Son."

At the end of his visit, the world-famous Mariologist spoke at length on the apparition of Our Lady of Fatima in Pontevedra and spoke of

Perhaps Fr. Alonso is best known as the Editor of the prestigious international Mariological publication *Ephemerides Mariologicae*. Also, even though he is a Spaniard living in Madrid, he was selected by the Bishop of Fatima as the official historian and documentarian of Fatima. During the past two decades he spent much of his time actually at Fatima working on all the documents of the Fatima history and writing the definitive work on the history of Fatima which is now to be published by the Diocese of Leiria-Fatima in 18 volumes.

those apparitions as analogous, in the sequence of the Fatima apparitions, to Pentecost in the foundation of the Church. "Pontevedra should be for every Blue Army member a special spiritual center, a sort of 'holy of holies' of this Apostolate." He concluded:

Pontevedra: Our Blessing

"It was the singular sign of heaven's confirmation of the Apostolate of the Blue Army of Our Lady that this important place of the apparition of Our Lady of Fatima in Pontevedra, where She set forth conditions of devotion to Her Immaculate Heart, has become the property of the Blue Army and that the Blue Army is now making it a world center of devotion to this same Heart."