

INSISTED on this "so that all the world will know" (that when the persecution ends in Russia it will be known that the Immaculate Heart of His Mother obtained this favor so that NOW the Communions of Reparation on the First Saturdays will be made).

Does this not imply that Our Lord expects ALL the bishops of the world, *now that they are aware* that the change in Russia is a sign of the great power of the promises Our Lady made at Fatima, WILL LET ALL THE WORLD KNOW? Here is what Our Lord said to Sister Lucia when her confessor had her ask *why He insisted on the participation of all the bishops* in the consecration of Russia to His Mother's Immaculate Heart:

"I want MY ENTIRE CHURCH to know that this favor was obtained through the Immaculate Heart of My mother, so that it may extend this devotion of the First Five Saturdays later on, putting the devotion to the Immaculate Heart beside the devotion to My Sacred Heart."

#### "The Entire Church"

Not only the entire Church, but the entire world knows that at the end of 1984 (the year the consecration was finally made and accepted by Our Lord) a completely unexpected and extraordinary change took place in Russia. Not only did the religious persecution cease but within a short time the Iron Curtain was gone, the Berlin wall

was down, the Soviet Union was dissolved. Is it not evident that Our Lord now expects HIS CHURCH, and most specifically His Bishops, to see that all the world knows WHY?

Even more important than letting the world know what was behind the extraordinary changes in Russia is the IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION "throughout the entire Church" of the First Saturday Communions of Reparation and of placing devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary alongside devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

# WHY DID WE NOT UNDERSTAND SOONER?

by John M. Haffert

My involvement with Fatima started in 1942. It developed especially after a long interview with Sister Lucia in 1946 and developed into the Blue Army, also known as The World Apostolate of Fatima. Its emphasis was upon the basic requests of Our Lady: Consecration to Her Heart (the Scapular), prayer (the Rosary), sanctification of daily duty (the Morning Offering).

The first Saturday seemed important only as once-a-month day for renewing one's consecration, intensifying one's appreciation and use of the Rosary, and purifying ourselves from sins of the previous month to fulfill our daily duties better in the month ahead.

Only after the sudden change in Russia did the words of Our Lord to Lucia on May 29, 1939 (concerning the first Saturdays) seem to leap out at us. In those long-ignored words Jesus indicated that the change in Russia, following the colle-

gial consecration, would be a sign to His "entire Church" of the power of His Mother so that two things would be done: (1) Communions of Reparation on the first Saturday; and (2) Devotion to Her Immaculate Heart placed alongside devotion to His Own Sacred Heart.

#### Also First Fridays!

Something else became apparent.

Speaking at various times to Lucia Our Lord and Our Lady used the words "Communions of Reparation" independently of first Saturday. And we already had the Communions of Reparation on the First Friday in honor of the Sacred Heart.

Did it not follow that when Our Lord said that He wanted devotion to the Immaculate Heart of His Mother placed ALONGSIDE devotion to His Own Sacred Heart that we would see the logical link of First Fridays-First Saturdays?

The ideal link is first Friday-Saturday all night vigils. One need but experience this night before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament in union with the Heart of Mary. It is a night of Love which one knows in one's heart will have a mighty impact not only those who experience it but on the entire world.

Sometimes we are tempted to despair of our world which often *seems to have lost the very sense of sin*. But what power there is in these Communions of Reparation to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary!

"My Immaculate Heart will triumph" is the ultimate promise and ultimate hope given to the world in the great miracle of Fatima. That triumph of LOVE, that triumph of the Heart of the Mother, will be the triumph of the Heart of the Son.

First Fridays-Saturdays are more than a symbol of that promise.

They are the key to its fulfilment.

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