

Finally ... Russia!





Our Lady and Her Pilgrims in Red Square, 10/18/92



Finally Russia!

by John M. Haffert

***“You Brought Us God!
You Brought Us Love!”***

With tears in her eyes, these were the words
of the interpreter in Moscow's Orthodox Cathedral (10/18/92).

*May the angels be with you
as you read this book,
and may God grant you
the grace of finding
at least one word which
will inspire you to
a greater love for God
and an increased
personal holiness.*

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Finally Russia!

Story of the **VICTORIOUS QUEEN OF THE WORLD**

PEACE FLIGHT TO RUSSIA

October 7 — 24, 1992

By John M. Haffert

Photographs by the Pilgrims

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PART ONE:

BEFORE

In less than ten months, could a small organization of volunteers:

- 1) Charter and *fill two jumbo jets* (940 passengers)?
- 2) Arrange lodging and ground transportation for 940 persons in nine different cities (at least two of which reported no rooms available)?
- 3) Arrange an INTERNATIONAL Youth Congress in remote Moscow, with participating seminars all around the world? *In less than ten months?*
- 4) At the same time arrange a follow-up seminar for bishops and priests in also remote Akita, Japan to take place only *one month later?*



Chapter One

BEHIND THE SCENES

Some great events take place in the world without anyone getting to know who or what set them in motion.

The great event which took place on October 17, 1992, in Moscow's Red Square (and which is the subject of this little book) certainly "began" in 1947 when a World Youth Congress at Fatima resolved that a statue of Our Lady of Fatima (which came to be known as the Pilgrim Virgin) should be carried publicly to Russia.

After traveling for 45 years across the world, as "the Messenger of Her Royalty" (Pope Pius XII), it was natural to expect that the Pilgrim Virgin should one day finally arrive in Russia. It seemed appropriate that it should go now that Russia had changed and it was the *75th anniversary* both of the *Russian Revolution* and of *Our Lady's appearance at Fatima*.

Pope Comes to Fatima

On May 13, 1991, at Fatima itself, Pope John Paul II thanked Our Lady for the amazing changes in Eastern Europe and for sparing his life on this same day (May 13) ten years before. He brought to Fatima the bullet with which a Soviet-inspired assassin had tried to kill him.

Although fired with deadly aim, the bullet had changed course in the Pontiff's body so as to miss vital organs. His Holiness offered the bullet to be placed in Our Lady's crown.

By this time (1991) the Pilgrim Virgin had made several "Peace Flights" around the world "en route to Russia." It was currently in the custody of the Blue Army of the United States.

It was proposed to the organization's Executive Committee that now was the time for the ULTIMATE peace flight: to Moscow.

The Blue Army (the direction of which had changed hands a few years before) refused. Among other things the Committee was afraid of the legal risks involved.

Dr. Rosalie Turton, President of the newly formed 101 Foundation, promptly said: "I will take the risk."

The following October 13, 1991, (six months after the Pope had brought the bullet for Our Lady's crown) was an historic day in Fatima. The *Apostolic Administrator of Russia* was the *principal celebrant* at the Mass attended by almost a million pilgrims and *the entire event was televised in the Soviet Union*.

Father Krystian Gawron, a professor at the Polish Seminary in Paris, knew that we were planning the Peace Flight to Moscow and he arranged for the Apostolic Administrator of Russia to meet with us at Fatima (see p. 8).

Had to be "Spontaneous"

From that meeting came two important conclusions:

- 1) The Peace Flight to Moscow would definitely take place;
- 2) We would look to Our Lady Herself to be the "organizer" because Archbishop Kondrusiewicz (Archbishop of Moscow) saw it as "providential" that neither the Blue Army nor any other "organized group" was behind it. His Excellency explained that relations with the Orthodox Church in Russia were

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strained and therefore it was much more appropriate that the impulse for such a peace flight be spontaneous.

"Spontaneous" it had to be if it were to take place at all! Nothing could have been done before a direct invitation was received from the Archbishop and now there were only 11 months in which to make it all happen.

Perhaps in that time we would find enough persons willing to pay approximately \$3,000 each to participate.

Five months later a hundred persons had signed up.

To our amazement, Dr. Turton then contracted to charter a 470 passenger plane at a cost of almost a million dollars!

We begged her to reconsider.

For several peace flights of the past quarter of a century we had always:

- 1) Planned at least TWO YEARS in advance;
- 2) Limited participation to 200, and we had the vast resources of the Blue Army, with its hundreds of thousands of members in the U.S., behind us.

Dr. Turton answered: "This is for the triumph of Our Lady. I have already signed the contract and made a deposit of \$50,000."

But how could a new Foundation, with VERY limited resources and a mailing list less than one tenth that of the Blue Army, possibly fill a 470 passenger aircraft in the little time which remained?

From years of experience we said:

"IT IS IMPOSSIBLE."

What about *hotels*?

This was the 75th anniversary of Fatima and already all Fatima hotels were full. On October 8-9, when the Peace Flight would be in Paris, the Automobile Show was on; there would be NO rooms available.

Prices Out of Sight!

And what about the cost?

In recent months the dollar had plummeted in value. Hotel rooms in most European cities were close to \$200 a night! And the price of the flight allowed only \$50 a day for hotels, meals, busses, guides, transfers, *everything*.

In a word, filling big planes on such short notice was one risky problem, but it would be "impossible" to accommodate all those people in cities like Paris, Prague, Moscow, St. Petersburg, and Rome, on our budget and *on a few months notice!* IMPOSSIBLE.

Five months later when the first plane was full, Dr. Turton said: "I have decided to charter a second 470 passenger plane."

We knew her well enough to say: "You are out of your mind."

But she knew something more.

She was utterly convinced that Our Lady Herself was directing this pilgrimage. Later a message from a holy person indicated that the Sacred Heart had said HE wanted this for His Mother.

When the Peace Flight left New York just 12 weeks later, both Jumbo Jets were completely full and hotel rooms were confirmed at all the stops for all 940 passengers!

Even Dr. Turton was a bit amazed when there were exactly 940 names on the rosters. She was happy that no one was turned away. God's providence in this matter was evident again.

Not Only Peace Flight, But Also a Congress!

Meanwhile the same messenger of the Sacred Heart had instructed the leaders of the Alliance of the Holy Family in the Philippines that He wanted a World Youth Congress in Moscow.

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"The world must know," He said, "that it will be saved only through the Immaculate Heart of My Mother. I desire that devotion to Her Heart be placed alongside devotion to My Own Sacred Heart. Communion of Reparation which She requested are *now urgently necessary.*"

The messenger went so far as to say that if this Congress, in conjunction with the Peace Flight, were to fail in its purpose, the chastisement foretold by Our Lady at Akita would come very soon; but if it succeeded, the chastisement would be postponed.

Again, how could a WORLDWIDE Peace Congress be organized in SIX months?!

Again, Impossible!

Leonila Santos, on behalf of the Alliance, flew to Moscow and rented the immense, ultra-modern Cosmos Auditorium which seats about 1500! Again we thought: "To fill that hall will be impossible."

Just this same year the Sanctuary of Fatima had organized well in advance for a Congress on "Fatima and World Peace." It took place just before the 75th anniversary celebrations of May 13 at which hundreds of thousands were present.

Two of the most important Cardinals of the Church had come from Rome (the present and former Secretaries of State). Guest speakers were world famous celebrities. Yet that Congress was very poorly attended.

Two of the best and most interesting speakers were Father Werenfried von Stratten and Tatiana Goritcheva; and it seemed to us that no more than a couple of hundred persons were scattered in the big hall at the Pastoral Center of Fatima when they spoke. (It was certainly more than half empty.)

So how, in less than another six months, was a local movement in the Philippines going to organize

a WORLD Congress in Moscow AFTER the 75th anniversary celebration at Fatima? IMPOSSIBLE!

Thus the book you are about to read is about the impossible which came true.

Like Rosalie Turton, Leonila Santos believed that "nothing is impossible with God." And if Jesus wanted this for His Mother, it would all come true... provided we believed and were willing to take the risks and make the sacrifices He asked.

Leonila opened and furnished offices in New York and San Francisco and personally went four times to Moscow. She and her associates made mailings to Bishops and Marian leaders all over the world. *When the Pilgrim Virgin arrived in Moscow for the opening of the Congress on October 16, 1992, the Cosmos Auditorium was filled to capacity.* Four Bishops and an Archbishop had come from the Philippines. Representatives were there from over FIFTY countries (see p. 104).

What is perhaps even more amazing, *seminars had been organized all around the globe* in conjunction with the Congress in Moscow to study the importance of the "Alliance of the Two Hearts" and of the Communions of Reparation. The effect will probably not be fully tallied for years to come.

Then the messenger told them *the Sacred Heart wanted still something more.*

Priests Had to Know the Urgency

He asked that only one month after the World Youth Congress in Moscow there be a meeting of Bishops and priests in Akita, Japan (see pp. 60, 70 & 178). The dynamic Philippine priest behind all this is a Father Edgardo Arellano, a Canon lawyer and former President of a College of 5,000 students.

Even while working on the Moscow Congress he went to Japan and obtained letters of invitation the

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priests of the world from Bishop Sato, present Bishop of Akita, and Bishop Ito, the Bishop who approved the apparitions. Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, President of the Priests Commission of the Episcopal Conference of Asia, gave a supporting letter urging priests to attend.

Despite all the pressures of organizing the World Youth Congress in Moscow, the Philippine-based "Alliance of the Holy Family" *simultaneously organized the Akita meeting of November 25-27, 1992.* The International Pilgrim Virgin, which had been crowned in Moscow, was there.

Six Tons of Gifts!

To have some idea of the magnitude of all this, consider just the cost of the Moscow Congress itself. It exceeded a million dollars, almost all of which was donated from the Philippines (\$600,000 came from only three persons). Then consider the cost of the Peace Flight, which was nearly four million dollars. In two jumbo jets, SIX TONS of bibles, scapulars, rosaries, etc., were carried as a gift to the Russian people (see pp. 115 & 144).

Some say morality has hit such a low point that a chastisement of the world is inevitable. But if so few could do so much in such a short time, what will happen if *many* respond?

What you are about to read is not only the "impossible" come true. It is also an absolutely amazing confirmation that even a few persons responding with generous faith can bring about the triumph of the Victorious Queen of the World.

†††



Above: The Holy Father kneels before statue in St. Peter's Square to make the consecration of Russia and the world on March 25, 1984, after which came the sudden collapse of the Soviet Union. Only three years before, the Pope was shot in this same square and he had the bullet placed in Our Lady's crown.

Below: Walking in front of the statue is Archbishop Kondrusiewicz, Apostolic Administrator of Russia (Oct. 13, 1990). A million persons participated in this historic event televised live to Russia. The following day, Archbishop Kondrusiewicz met with John Haffert and invited the statue and Peace Flight to Moscow (see p. 2).





Above: Two Peace Flight 747 Jets

Below: Our Lady on the plane.



Chapter Two

TWO PROPHECIES FULFILLED

On October 16, 1992, almost 1500 Marian pilgrims converged from some fifty countries upon Moscow to be present for the crowning of the world famous and miraculous statue of the "Queen of the World" in Red Square.

There were two coronations: One in the morning with a small copy of the statue and one at the end of the day with the original statue which had set forth from Fatima "to Russia" in 1947 and of which Pope Pius XII said:

"I crowned Her Queen of the World at Fatima in 1946 and the following year through the Pilgrim Virgin She went forth as though to claim Her dominion, and the favors She has performed along the way are such that we can hardly believe what we see."

"We See Mary's Triumph!"

Among the six Catholic Bishops in Red Square for this event was the Most Rev. Paolo Hnilica who had been consecrated a bishop 40 years before behind the Iron Curtain. He was told symbolically, since he was without any specific diocese, that his diocese extended from Peking to Moscow.

When his identity as a Bishop was discovered by the atheistic regime he barely escaped with his life and the words spoken at his consecration seemed almost prophetic. He escaped to Rome where he founded "Pro Fratribus" for all the persecuted Church.

As the International Pilgrim Virgin statue was crowned in front of the tomb of Lenin (see pp. 117 & 123), Bishop Hnilica said:

"Six years ago I came here to Red Square incognito. Opposite the tomb of Lenin then a big sign said, 'Communism conquers and triumphs.' But I thought, 'No! It is Our Lady who will conquer and triumph.'"

Now weeping openly, the Bishop added:

"At this moment we see Mary's triumph. There is no more Communism. There is no Soviet Union. And here publicly before the tomb of Lenin we affirm Her Queenship with this coronation."

Prophecies of Two Saints Fulfilled

When we planned the Victorious Queen of the World Peace Flight we had only one date in mind: October 13, the 75th anniversary of the Miracle of Fatima. After celebrating the anniversary at Fatima we would go to Russia on October 16. We planned this *without knowing this day was the Feast of Our Lady's Intercession in the Orthodox Church and precisely the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Militia of the Immaculate by St. Maximilian Kolbe (see pp. 14, 86, 140, & 150) who prophesied:*

"One day the cavaliers of Our Lady will bring Her statue over the highest point of the Kremlin and into the heart of Moscow."

One of our primary goals was to establish contact with the Patriarch of Moscow, head of the Orthodox Church of all Russia. His Holiness was in the Cathedral celebrating the Feast when we arrived.

There, immediately after the Mass, His Holiness received our delegation in the Cathedral on this most important Marian Feast in Russia after that of the Immaculate Conception and the Annunciation (see pp. 90, 92 & 113). (It could be called also the

Feast of *Our Lady of Victories* because it commemorated a major victory in Russian history over the Tartars.)

Before speaking further of that most important contact with the Patriarch we should recall *another prophecy, that of St. Catherine Laboure* to whom Our Lady appeared as Queen in 1830:

"O, how wonderful it will be to hear Our Lady hailed as QUEEN OF THE WORLD! It will be a time of joy, triumph and prosperity. She will be carried like a banner and make a tour of the world."

That prophecy had begun to be fulfilled just twenty-five years earlier by the first Peace Flight when the statue of Our Lady of Fatima, which Pope Pius XII had called "The Messenger of Her Royalty," was taken in a special plane around the world. In great letters on the side of the plane was her title: QUEEN OF THE WORLD (see pp. 14, 23, 39 & 59).

In a meeting before thousands of non-Christians in Asia the leader of the Peace Flight (not then knowing of St. Catherine's prophecy) likened the statue to the flag of one's nation:

"We honor this image not because of its material or color," he said in order to explain that it was not an idol. "We honor it as you do the flag of your country: for what it represents. It represents the Mother of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

"She is not God but great before God's throne. Like a Queen and a Mother She can speak on our behalf to the King."

On this final Peace Flight in 1992 we were very aware that now the prophecy of St. Catherine Laboure was coming to a more complete fulfillment. *The prayers of millions who had welcomed the Pilgrim Virgin statue on its journeys around the world had been answered.* The Soviet Union was no more. The militant world atheistic revolution was over.

Now in two of the biggest passenger planes in the

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world, almost a thousand “cavaliers of Our Lady” were escorting the “Messenger of Her Royalty” over the Kremlin and into the heart of Moscow.

In order to understand the magnitude of this event it is important to know the story of the Pilgrim Virgin.



International Pilgrim Virgin Statue



Above: Incorrupt body of St. Catherine Laboure photographed by Peace Flight Pilgrim at our Mass in the chapel of the Rue du Bac (see pp. 12, 23, 39 & 59).

Right: St. Maximilian Kolbe holding prison garb and crown, with image of the medal of the "Two Hearts" (Miraculous Medal) in background (see pp. 11, 86, 140, 150).





Our Lady, Queen of the World in Moscow



Chapter Three

THE PILGRIM VIRGIN

The idea for the Pilgrim Virgin came from an International Youth Congress at Fatima in 1947.

Just one year before, Pope Pius XII had sent a personal legate to Fatima to crown the original statue in the Cova. Before the Cardinal Legate left Rome, the Pope said to him in a solemn tone:

“Remember, Eminence, you are going to crown THE QUEEN OF THE WORLD.”

The Bishop of Fatima, who met the Cardinal Legate on his arrival in Lisbon, told the present writer that among the many events of Fatima which most impressed him was the manner in which Cardinal Masella, as Legate of the Pope, recalled the seriousness with which the Holy Father had spoken those last words:

“You are going to crown the Queen of the World.”

Messenger of The Royalty of Mary

Three years later the same Pope defined the dogma of Mary's Assumption and four years after that instituted the Feast of the Queenship of Mary.

To the amazement of many, *in the actual encyclical instituting the Queenship of Mary* the Pope recalled that through a Legate he had first crowned Our Lady Queen of the World at Fatima, he wrote:

“When the miraculous image of the Virgin Mary which is venerated at Fatima was being crowned with a golden diadem, we ourselves called that image the messenger of the royalty of Mary.”

Those words of the Pope proved prophetic (and that may be why His Holiness wished to have them recorded forever in the very encyclical on Mary's Queenship), because the following year the Pilgrim Virgin went forth from Fatima amid such signs and wonders as to astonish whole nations. In 1951, in an address closing the Holy Year of 1950 at Fatima for all the world outside of Rome, the Pope said:

"In 1947 I crowned Our Lady of Fatima Queen of the World and the following year She set forth AS THOUGH TO CLAIM HER DOMINION."

In the encyclical itself the Holy Father said that since Mary is Our Queen we "belong to Her" as Her subjects. He said: "We command that on that same day (the Feast of Her Queenship) there be renewed the consecration of the human race to the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Upon this THERE IS FOUNDED A GREAT HOPE that there may arise *an era of happiness that will rejoice in the triumph of religion and in Christian peace.*"

How similar are these words of the encyclical to the prophecy of St. Catherine Labouré!

That is one of the reasons we chose to begin the Peace Flight to Russia in Paris... with a Mass at the very spot where Our Lady appeared to St. Catherine as Queen of the World. But first, a bit more about the amazing story of the Pilgrim Virgin.

Miracles

The present writer was privileged to have accompanied the second and third Pilgrim Statues when they left Fatima on October 13, 1947. The first statue had set forth five months before amid so many wonders that the Bishop of Fatima exclaimed: "We never expected what wonders would occur."

Several books have been written about them. Wild doves flew down on the statue and remained at

its base despite the shifting of the carrier, the pressing crowd, the noise, and the floodlights at night. And, there were miraculous cures.

In Valladolid a mother pushed through the crowd with a deaf and dumb child, crying out to Our Lady. As the child approached the statue her tongue was suddenly loosed, her ears were opened, and she said: "Santa Maria!"

Soon wherever the statue arrived the crowds became greater and greater. The wonders and favors multiplied.

Because of the fame, "this statue will never arrive in Russia," we thought. "It is as though Our Lady truly went forth Herself to draw attention to Her message: If you do as I ask, Russia will be converted and an era of peace will be granted to mankind."

Many had barely heard about Fatima. Many who had heard had not responded. But in the wake of the Pilgrim Virgin there were thousands of conversions and widespread response to Her appeal for consecration to Her Immaculate Heart and the recitation of the Rosary.

It was suggested to the Bishop of Fatima that two other statues be blessed: One to travel "to Russia" westward while the first was going eastward, and a third to be kept in secret until it might be "smuggled" into Russia some way. The leading artisan of Portugal was commissioned and carved the statues.

Pope Called All Three "The Pilgrim Virgin"

The one which traveled "westward" is the one which had made the most tours of the world and became famous because of a miracle of tears. But Pope Pius XII referred to all three statues as though they were one and the same "Pilgrim Virgin." *"It is the Queen of Angels Herself who goes forth... from this sanctuary of Fatima where Heaven permitted us*

to crown Her QUEEN OF THE WORLD... to make jubilee visits to all Her dominions." The Holy Father mentioned the countries in which the statues were traveling simultaneously... eastbound as well as westbound.

"At Her passing through America as through Europe," the Pope said, "marvels of Grace are multiplied in such a way that we can hardly believe what we see taking place." The Holy Father was one of the few who knew, as he spoke those words, that the third statue had already arrived in Moscow... but not publicly.

Prior to 1950, for two years there had been no Catholic priest in Moscow to administer to U.S. embassy personnel. Stalin had gotten around the agreement between Litvinov and the U.S. State Department by simply refusing a visa to the priest who was appointed.

After long negotiations involving visas to the U.S. for members of the Orthodox Church who wished to come to America, an U.S. priest was granted a visa and he took the Pilgrim Virgin to Moscow. From Helsinki he was able to have it enter Russia with diplomatic immunity. It arrived in Russia at the beginning of the new year of 1950... the Holy Year.

Our Lady of Hope!

Ultimately the chapel where the statue was enshrined was dedicated to Our Lady of Hope... Our Lady of Pontmain. As we shall see in a later chapter, this has a most special meaning. We can hardly grasp the depth of the meaning of "Our Lady of Victory" without knowing about Her appearance and miracle of Pontmain. But before the little chapel of Our Lady of Hope, there was only a tiny apartment assigned to Father Braun, the Assumptionist priest who arrived with the statue in Moscow in 1950.

During his first night there, Father Braun awoke in the night and saw what looked like two red vigil lights burning at Our Lady's feet, one on each side. He knew he had not placed lights there. He got up to investigate. He found that red stars shining from the heights of the Kremlin were refracted through the window, appearing like two vigil lights at Our Lady's feet.

A picture of the statue in front of the window was published on the cover of SOUL Magazine in January 1952. The picture was brought out of Russia by Msgr. Thomas, Apostolic Administrator of the USSR, who had just been expelled by Stalin.

"I place my hope in the presence of the statue of Our Lady of Fatima in Moscow where *She entered almost miraculously*," said Msgr. Thomas. "It is the most beautiful I have ever seen. I am grieved to be separated from it. I invoke Her to bless my former administrature, the most vast in all the world."

Most Beautiful

There is a practical reason why the statue in Moscow and the "westward" statue, both made after the first one had set forth, are so beautiful. When the latter was en route to the Eucharistic Congress in Lourdes a few years ago, it spent one night in the Carmel in Coimbra where Sister Lucia was able to spend many hours before it.

She said afterwards that it was the image "most like Our Lady" that she had ever seen. We have good reasons to believe that she said this because the statue in her presence may have actually become **LIKE** Our Lady as She saw Her. One reason is that comparing many photographs shows that the statue has many times *changed in appearance*. The present writer, who has seen the statue on many occasions, has personally experienced this.

In our interview with Lucia in 1946 we showed Her many pictures, asking which one might most resemble Our Lady as she saw Her. She rejected them all absolutely. "Our Lady was much more beautiful." As Msgr. Thomas remarked, there is a special beauty about this particular image of which the Pope said: "It is the Queen of Angels Herself who goes forth..."

Statue Shed Tears

Outside of Communist countries almost every nation in the world has been visited by the pilgrim Virgin. In North America almost every diocese, sometimes more than once, has been visited.

It was during visits in the Archdiocese of New Orleans as well as Las Vegas that the miracle of tears flowing from the statue was seen by thousands and photographed (see p. 44). The remarkable pictures were published all around the world.

Col. Do Sinh Tu, a prominent Vietnamese army officer (see pp. 143, 151 & 167), cabled to America: "She is weeping for our nation. Bring Her to us!"

The Bishop of Fatima agreed... and thus was inaugurated the first World Peace Flight. It happened to be the first charter flight around the entire globe, using what was then the largest passenger plane: A Constellation. On its side appeared Her title: QUEEN OF THE WORLD.

Finally to Russia

Subsequent flights circled all of Africa and visited all six continents. The Bishop of Fatima himself accompanied all but one of these flights which brought the reality of Fatima to millions throughout the world. Now finally, publicly, there was to be a World Peace Flight... destination: RUSSIA. It was to

be the fulfillment of the vow of the World Youth Congress at Fatima of 1947. It was to be the culmination of 45 years of journeying through all the nations of the world "to Russia" *carrying the hopes and prayers of the millions*, through all those years, who had responded to what the Holy Father called: "The Messenger of Her Royalty." And the effects would be both immediate and far reaching.

Personal Experience of Pope Pius XII

We may wonder why Pope Pius XII spoke so superlatively about the Pilgrim Virgin. We learned the reason on October 13, 1951... the very same day on which, in a radio address to Fatima, the Pope used the expression: "It is the Queen of Angels Herself who goes forth..."

On that day the Pope's Legate to the ceremonies at Fatima for the closing of the Holy Year was Cardinal Tedeschini. To everyone's amazement (and often even incredulity) the Cardinal said that some months before, when the Pilgrim Virgin was in Rome, *the Pope had seen a reenactment of the miracle of the sun over the Vatican.*

"Was this Fatima transferred to Rome?" the Cardinal exclaimed, "or was this Rome transferred to Fatima?"

Whatever it was, it became a sign for Pius XII as a would-be assassin's bullet on May 13, 1981, became a sign to John Paul II. Our Lady seemed intent that the world should hear Her message:

"If people do as I ask, Russia will be converted and an era of peace will be granted to mankind."

What would be the meaning, what the fruits, of this World Peace Flight of the "Queen of Angels Herself" to Russia?

Chapter Four

OUR LADY OF VICTORY AND PONTMAIN

The reason for this little book is that the entire story of the Pilgrim Virgin, and in particular of the events of the 21 days of the flight to Russia, should hit the reader right in the heart with Our Lady's message.

Ever since St. Catherine Laboure saw tears in Our Lady's eyes in the chapel on the Rue du Bac in 1830, (see pp. 12, 14, 39 & 59) our loving and anxious Mother has been trying to tell us something.

It has to do with Her Immaculate Heart and the Heart of Jesus. Little Jacinta, shortly before she died, seems to have summarized it all in her last exhortation to Lucia:

"When the time comes, do not go and hide. Tell everybody that God grants us graces through the Immaculate Heart of Mary; that people are to ask Her for them; and that the Heart of Jesus wants the Immaculate Heart of Mary to be venerated at His side. Tell them also to pray to the Immaculate Heart of Mary for peace, since God has entrusted it to Her."

Vision of the Two Hearts

St. Catherine saw Our Lady standing on the world, crushing Satan. Rays of light streamed from Her hands. Around Her were the words:

"O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you!"

Next She saw, in a circle of twelve stars, the Hearts of Jesus and Mary side by side. Above the

Hearts was the symbol of their Oneness: An "M" surmounted by a cross.

That the world might receive this iconographic message Our Lady told the saint to have medals made. Through these medals Our Lady performed so many miracles that it became known simply as "The Miraculous Medal."

But the message of consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, as a way to be one with the Sacred Heart of Jesus, seemed to remain as cold to the world as the metal on which the images appeared. Our Lady had also appeared to St. Catherine holding a golden globe over Her Heart. She said:

"This globe represents the world AND EACH INDIVIDUAL PERSON." She would appear at Fatima wearing the golden globe over Her Heart in all the apparitions. But even now, just after the apparitions in the Rue du Bac chapel, She took further steps to make known the message of Her Heart.

There lived around the corner from the chapel of the Rue du Bac a priest named Fr. Charles Gennettes. As pastor he would have been one of the first to know of the apparitions to St. Catherine, and only six years later became deeply involved.

In 1836 he was appointed Pastor of the beautiful church of Our Lady of Victories in Paris that had been converted to secular use during the French Revolution. It had not been used as a church for more than forty years (see p. 35).

Try as he did to restore the parish, people did not come. Finally the Archbishop of Paris agreed to have the church closed and Father Gennettes was saying one of the last Masses when he heard a voice at the most solemn part of the Mass:

"Consecrate the parish to the Most Holy and Immaculate Heart of Mary."

He convinced himself he had imagined it. While making his thanksgiving, again, clearly and dis-

tinctly, he heard: "Consecrate the parish to the most Holy and Immaculate Heart of Mary."

Confraternity of the Immaculate Heart

The following Sunday he told the congregation of ten that he was making this consecration and would explain at a special service that evening.

More than 400 people showed up!

Now fired by the message taught by the miraculous medal, Father Gennettes started a confraternity of the Holy and Immaculate Heart of Mary. Two years later it was approved by the Pope as the first organized apostolic effort to promote what Pope Pius XII commanded in the *Queenship* encyclical and what Our Lady requested at Fatima: Consecration to Her Immaculate Heart.

Meanwhile France had ignored the appeal of the Sacred Heart made at Paray le Monial for national consecration and for a Shrine of Eucharistic Adoration on the mount of Martyrs in Paris. But now, *after people began to make the consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the movement for the consecration to the Sacred Heart began to stir with new energy.* Suddenly it all flamed into fruition in the fires of war.

In 1870 Germany had invaded and overrun France. Paris, surrounded, was under daily bombardment. The Prussians had pressed as far west as the Mayenne line at Laval near the Norman-Brittany border and were about to take it. The German forces announced that Jan. 17: "We are in Laval tonight." The Mayenne line would be breached.

The utter rout of the French forces was described by their General:

"They are deaf to the voice of the officers. We killed two and this example had no effect on the others... In 39 years of service I never found myself

in such a drowning position.” (Gen. A. Chanzy, *Campagne de 1870-71*, Paris, 1871, pp. 352-353.)

Meanwhile in the besieged city of Paris THE VOICE OF THE HEARTS OF JESUS AND MARY was finally being heard.

That week it was finally and positively decided to respond to the requests of the Sacred Heart for the national consecration and shrine. Shortly before (Dec. 8, 1870), directly as the result of a movement which began in Paris, ST. JOSEPH WAS PROCLAIMED PATRON OF THE CHURCH.

That night, that unforgettable night of January 17 when the Germans would occupy Laval, the successor of Fr. Gennettes in the Church of Our Lady of Victories was leading prayers before Our Lady's statue when, like Fr. Gennettes he *heard a voice*. It said:

“Tonight, between eight and nine o'clock, France has been saved by Our Lady of Victories.”

Saved? By what!? How?

At that very hour Our Lady appeared in a village near Laval (the village of Pontmain). As the villagers prayed the Rosary the vision doubled in size and there appeared at Her feet the words: “But pray, my children, my Son permits Himself to be touched by your prayers.” *And at that some hour the German general received orders not to advance farther.*

Back in Paris, in the church of Our Lady of Victories, the pastor (who had no NATURAL way of knowing what was happening over a hundred miles away) said:

“So that all future generations shall know that at this hour France was saved by Our Lady of Victories we shall place here a silver heart (in honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary) and tomorrow we will begin a novena of thanksgiving” (see p. 35).

The day the novena ended the armistice was signed.

Forty-two stars had appeared at the feet of Our Lady in Pontmain and there followed forty-two years of peace. France was consecrated to the Sacred Heart and the Basilica on Montmartre was begun.

Our Lady of Victories

Shortly afterwards one of the greatest of saints was born in the town of Alençon, not far from Pontmain: St. Therese of the Child Jesus. A mysterious illness had brought the child to the brink of death. Her widowed father, desperate, sent to Paris to have a novena said for his little Therese in the Church of Our Lady of Victories. At the end of the novena, a little statue on the table beside the dying child's bed came alive and smiled at her. She was cured (see pp. 47 & 182).

On November 4, 1887, Therese was taken by her father to Paris. The crypt of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on Montmartre was already built (see p. 36). St. Therese left her little gold ring as a contribution towards finishing the church.

(Somehow it had not been used by the time she was famous and it is now a part of the Monstrance there for Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.) She writes about her visit to Our Lady of Victories:

"What I felt in Her sanctuary I cannot say. The graces She granted me resembled those of my First Communion. I was filled with peace and joy. It was there that my Mother, the Virgin Mary, told me distinctly that it was indeed She who cured me."

No saint ever exemplified the power of consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, especially through the Brown Scapular, more than St. Therese. *It was as though the voice heard in the Church of Our Lady of Victories, accentuated by miracles, was straining to be heard by all the world.*

First Peace Flight Stop

The two jumbo jets of the Victorious Queen of the World Peace Flight left the U.S. on October 7, Feast of the Rosary, bringing us to Paris on October 8, where European members joined. For the reasons cited above *we had planned to have the first Mass in the Church of Our Lady of Victories...* but we were too numerous! Even plans to have a series of Masses proved impractical. We had to use St. Sulpice, the largest church in Paris (see p. 33 & 34).

Even here *the voice* was crying out to us. The first chapel to the Sacred Heart in Paris was erected in St. Sulpice in September 1748. Here, a few days later the Archconfraternity of the Sacred Heart came into existence.

Here, too, in 1656 St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise Marillac began the Sisters of Charity. St. Vincent died in the adjacent seminary in 1657. Later it was he who appeared to the 27 year old farm girl, Catherine Laboure, inviting her to enter his community where the great saint of charity knew Our Lady would visit her with the message of Her Queenship and of the Two Hearts.

Here, too, before the monumental statue of the Queen of the World in the apse of St. Sulpice, St. Grignon de Montfort... who taught the message of TOTAL consecration to Mary... chose to say his first Mass. *The voice was saying: Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary is the key to victory... the key to the triumph of the Heart of Jesus!*

In small groups the Peace Flight pilgrims visited Our Lady of Victories and Montmartre. Everywhere there seemed a crescendo of the same message: The message of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary.



Above: Several times, often in a special *Queen of the World* plane (seen here), the Pilgrim Virgin traveled to all six continents of the world. But in 45 years it had never been invited to Russia *until now*.

Below: The photograph below is somewhat historic. Pope Pius XII, who called the Pilgrim Virgin the “Messenger of Her Royalty,” had been too ill to give any audiences for some time when he gave this audience just two months before his death. Kneeling in front of the Pope is John Haffert, to whom the Pilgrim Virgin (now being carried to Russia) was assigned by the first Bishop of Fatima. Just behind Haffert is Msgr. Harold Colgan who, until the time of his final illness, accompanied all the Peace Flights.





1992 Victorious Queen of the World Peace Flight
Mini-retreat Begins in Washington, New Jersey at the Blue
Army National Shrine of the Immaculate Heart of Mary



31.



Above: Fr. Ken Roberts speaks to the Pilgrims
preparing for flight to Russia.
Below: Some retreatants outside the Blue Army Shrine.





Above: Fr. Roberts at Mini-retreat. Below: First stop—Paris!





Our first Mass — St. Sulpice Church, Paris





Statue of Our Lady, Queen of the World, in Paris (see p. 28)



Left: The author speaking in front of the statue of Our Lady of Victories in the church of the same name in Paris. At the peak of the triangular frame (at the very top) can be seen the silver heart commemorating the amazing prophecy and vow of January 17, 1871 (see p. 24 & 26). Before this same statue, St. Therese, a Patroness of the Peace Flight, received confirmation that Our Lady of Victories had cured her.

Below: Montmartre: The Shrine of the Sacred Heart (see p. 27)





Above: At the Basilica of the Sacred Heart
Below: View of Paris From the Basilica Steps





The International Pilgrim Virgin Statue

39.



Archbishop Dean leads prayers of Peace Flight in the chapel of the Miraculous Medal (Rue du Bac, Paris).





Rue du Bac, Paris (see pp. 12, 14, 23 & 59)



41.



Above: Rue du Bac
Below: St. Vincent de Paul





Notre Dame, Our Lady's Cathedral, Paris



43.



Notre Dame, Paris





The International Pilgrim Virgin, which was brought to the U.S. in 1947, was seen to shed tears more than 30 times.

On October 16, 1992, the statue visited Moscow, thus coming to the climax of a forty-five year journey across the world "to Russia."



Basilica at Lisleux and our 20 busses in a row!



Right: Our Lady
of the Smile

Below: Tomb of
St. Therese in
Lisieux, France.
(see pp. 27, 162
& 182)



47.



Below: St. Therese's hair which was cut when she was allowed to enter Carmel at the age of 15.





Above: Statue at home of St. Therese at the spot where she told her father of her wish to enter Carmel.





(Above):Candelight Procession and (Below and Left): Inside
Our Lady of Fatima Church, Paris







Above: Sometimes a little assistance is needed!
Below: Rosalie's smile lights the way.





Above: Bus leaders holds up signs to assemble their group.

The cooperation of many wonderful pilgrims made the smooth operation of such a large group possible.

Below: Our Lady, Rosa Mystica, seems to gaze benevolently upon Sr. Carol Vinci, who carried her statue everywhere.





Above: Our group at Lourdes. So large that even a wide angle lens could not get them all in.

Below: John Haffert and Rosalie Turton carry the giant candle offered by the Peace Flight pilgrims. It burned at Our Lady's Shrine throughout the pilgrimage to Russia.





Mass in the Grotto with the Pilgrim Virgin





Other Scenes at Lourdes







Above: John Haffert calls the “gang” together.
Below: Fires of hundreds of candles reflect the fires of the
love of many hearts.





Chapter Five

C O M E!

To be really effective the World Peace Flight would have to cry *to all the world* this message of its Victorious Queen: *The triumph of Her Immaculate Heart will be the Reign of Her Son's Sacred Heart*, and to obtain that triumph we must do as Jesus wishes: come to His Heart through the Heart of His Mother.

This is something one can see and experience in the chapel of the Rue du Bac.

What strikes us first are two miracles there before our eyes: The incorrupt heart of St. Vincent de Paul and the incorrupt body of St. Catherine Laboure. These miracles affirm a message. St. Vincent had appeared to Catherine to announce her vocation to this convent, and here the Hearts of Jesus and Mary were revealed to the world as never before or since. In the presence of the miracles we seem to KNOW that what we see here, and what we know took place here, are really true (see pp. 12, 14, 23, & 39).

We have already spoken of three of the apparitions: Those engraved on the two sides of the miraculous medal and the appearance of Our Lady with the golden globe (representing EACH person in the ENTIRE WORLD whom Our Mother and Queen holds close to Her Heart).

We also see in this chapel the chair on which Our Lady sat during Her first apparition. But often there is something many who come here fail to "see": the important role of St. Joseph.

When Catherine's guardian angel brought her during the night into the chapel, Our Lady was

seated on a chair which had been placed in front of the statue of St. Joseph (for the priest who was to give a conference to the community the following day). Without hesitation St. Catherine ran the whole length of the chapel and knelt beside the chair, *resting her hands on Our Lady's lap and looking up into Her eyes*. Could any words or gesture speak more eloquently of the child-mother relationship Catherine felt with the Queen of Heaven?

Her Tears

As Our Lady began to speak of the sufferings that were to come because people had not responded to the appeal of the Sacred Heart of Her Son and Her own appeals, Catherine saw tears starting in Her eyes. Our Mother has shed many tears since then. A torrent at La Salette. One hundred and one times at Akita.

Most authors say the "Marian Age" began with these apparitions in the Rue du Bac. But how many remark that, if this is true, the Marian Age began with our Mother's tears.

So many speak readily of the triumph of Our Lady. So few speak of Her warnings and Her tears. Who wants to hear Her prophecy at Fatima: "Several entire nations will be annihilated?" Who wants to hear Her words at Akita: "If men *do not repent and better themselves*, God will inflict a terrible punishment on all humanity... such as one will never have seen before. Fire will fall from the sky and will wipe out a great part of humanity... The survivors will find themselves so desolate that they will envy the dead..."

Are these the words of a loving Mother? Are these the words of a VICTORIOUS Queen?

Certainly Catherine... and all like her... can understand that it is exactly because She IS a loving



Above is the statue of Our Lady of Akita which was sculpted from a solid piece of wood in the likeness of Our Lady of All Nations. The statue shed tears 101 different times. This repeated miracle, and other signs, convinced the church of the authenticity of the apparitions which followed. The statue came alive and spoke to Sister Agnes, of the Handmaids of the Eucharist, prophesying a terrible chastisement if Her requests are not heard. The Peace Flight and Youth Congress are said to have postponed the chastisement (see pp. 60, 70, & 178).

Mother that Our Lady comes in tears to save us. And to give us hope She says that God has entrusted the peace of the world to Her and that “*So far I have been able to hold back the chastisement...*” (Akita).

In the Background

If we look in the background of this at once wonderful and terrible drama of good and evil and of Our Lady's efforts to defeat Satan we will always find St. Joseph.

Our Lady could have appeared anywhere in the Rue du Bac chapel but She chose first to appear seated before the statue of Her spouse, St. Joseph. And if that was the beginning of the Marian Age, and if Akita is somewhere towards the end (before the triumph), then we are not surprised to hear at Akita: “*Saint Joseph will protect your work.* To overcome the exterior obstacles, pray with confidence in interior unity (with St. Joseph).”

St. Joseph was there with Our Lady in all the first five mysteries of the Rosary. And he is with Our Lady in a special way not only when we pray the Rosary but while, and because, we wear the Scapular. For if we are “special children” of Mary, are we not also the special children of St. Joseph? (In recent books we have dedicated entire chapters to this important subject, e.g., *To Prevent This*, available from the 101 Foundation.)

Come To the Foot of This Altar

Our visit to the chapel had been planned well in advance. Even using the four balconies, the entire pilgrimage of almost a thousand could barely fit. Special arrangements had to be made with the Paris police for the twenty large buses in this old section of the city. These hundreds of pilgrims would carry

back to their parts of the world, and to almost all fifty of the United States, what they saw and heard.

They must have felt rewarded for the sacrifice of coming as they read the words inscribed over the altar: *"Come to the foot of this altar. Graces will be poured out upon you."*

But what about the millions who could not COME to the foot of that altar? How would they receive the graces, the message of the Two Hearts?

Recorded By Video Team

A highly professional video team was there... and not only in the chapel of the Rue du Bac but at *every step along the way*. And Father Ken Roberts, who was rapidly becoming an international celebrity, was accompanied by his publisher who was making daily recordings and notes for a book. A professional photographer was taking hundreds of pictures.

"Come," Our Lady said. And the Peace Flight pilgrims were responding to Her call, not for themselves but because they were escorting "The Messenger of Her Royalty," and not only to the Rue du Bac but above all *to Russia for a "coronation."* Because of the books and videos millions would also be able to respond, even without leaving their homes. Being physically present was a great grace for those pilgrims. But Our Lady does not require physical presence.

We can kiss the Miraculous Medal, and we are there... just as St. Claude de la Colombiere said he merely had to reach out and TOUCH his Scapular and he KNEW that Our Lady was there. She has given us the sacramentals of Her Immaculate Heart.

The Peace Flight will have been a real success only if that reality touches lives all over the world.

PART TWO:

PEACE FLIGHT AND CONGRESS

(The Trials and the Adventures.)



Chapter Six

AT GREAT PRICE

The first obvious casualty of the Peace Flight of the Victorious Queen of the World was that of Virginia Murphy, an apostle of many years. Virginia worked with the Blue Army in Washington, D.C. and especially with the All-Night Vigils and events at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

It was just a "little" fall. But she broke her hip at the very beginning of the Peace Flight and had to be left in Paris. So while Our Lady traveled to Russia, she was in a foreign hospital praying. Only in Heaven will we know how many thousands around the world were praying with her!

Jim Stevens, a young octogenarian, fell at Fatima. One would never have known. He fell again after his return home and even a month later was in pain. "It was all worth it!" he said. "I would endure it all again without a moment's hesitation to be such a witness of the triumph of Our Lady!"

Jim founded a first Saturday group in Pittsfield, MA, which in August of 1992 celebrated *its 500th first Saturday!* (A talk given by the present writer on that occasion is being widely circulated through the 101 Foundation.)

Edith Perry, who felt a call to be a part of the trip at the very last moment, could not attend the Pope's Mass in Rome. She had double pneumonia. Her roommate was on antibiotics at the beginning of the trip and her coughing kept Edith awake. By the end of the trip, lacking sleep, she was so ill that she could not leave the hotels at the last stops. She was in the hospital eleven days on her return and had to have lung surgery. When she finally got back to Hawaii



Almost all participants of the Peace Flight helped to pay the price of Her victory, as did many at home. Above is Arminda dos Campos, a bed-ridden victim whose smile reveals the joy of "paying the price." She offered her suffering for months before and during the flight.

At left: Rare picture of Arminda as a novice before she fell down a flight of stairs and became paralyzed.

she was still struggling with the grim reaper. But, recalling what happened in Moscow she exclaimed, "What cherished memories!" She rejoiced to have grown in holiness.

The doctors finally found, despite all she endured that "There is no *permanent damage*." But how much *PERMANENT good* resulted for the world!

Incidentally, like Jim Stevens and Virginia Murphy, Edith was one of the greatest apostles of the Blue Army. She founded the center in San Francisco with the full and warm cooperation of the Archbishop there, and then continued the work in Hawaii.

Those especially responsible for the flight, like Dr. Turton and the present writer, escaped paying their part of the price until the end of the pilgrimage or when they got home. Then they had about a month of illness.

This story could be repeated for almost every one of the pilgrims especially if they had been longtime apostles for the response to the requests of Our Lady of Fatima, the fruits of which they were privileged to witness in Prague, Moscow, and Warsaw.

Most worthy of special mention is what happened to Eddy Waldbillig in St. Petersburg. His brother Fritz shared the room with Eddy on this trip. Nothing seemed wrong that morning except that Eddy was all shaved and dressed when Fritz woke up. He was sitting on his bed looking at Fritz as though waiting for him to finish his rest (of which there was not too much on this trip)!

"I was up all night with chest pains," he said. "Will you go down and get a doctor? I think I have to go to the hospital."

Fritz hurriedly dressed and went to the hotel desk. He had difficulty getting anyone who could understand. Precious time was passing until finally they got an interpreter. While waiting for the

paramedics, Fritz went back to the room. He put his arm around his brother and said: "Eddy, have you made a good act of contrition?"

He said "yes... three or four times."

"I love you, Eddy," said Fritz, giving him a kiss.

"I love you, too, Fritz," he replied.

Then the paramedics arrived. "It was about the same as when you call 911 in the U.S.," Fritz said later. Shortly afterwards the doctor came with two assistants. He indicated that Eddy was dying. Suddenly Eddy turned and looked intently into the corner of the room.

"I looked to see what had drawn his attention," said Fritz, *"and I saw two hands like a beam of light reach down to Eddy and the same light seemed to go from Eddy's hands reaching up and out of his body. And in that moment he was gone."*

"The doctor asked me to go out. There in the hall were our chaplain and a group praying the Rosary. I was full of joy because I knew Eddy went to Heaven. And I feel the same way today. And do you know? I used to wonder during the trip about how Vassula and those visionaries could talk to Jesus and Mary. Now I have no doubts about what they see or hear. I am certainly not worthy of what I saw."

(Note: The above is from a hand-written letter from Francis Waldbillig of Silverdale, Washington, dated November 12, 1992.)

Everyone Has Been Chosen

Most of us were in pretty good shape after Paris and Lourdes. And the pilgrim at Fatima who said she looked on this trip as though it were a "rescue mission" not only seemed to be describing the unselfish spirit of the pilgrims but foreseeing that indeed those who had volunteered to escort Our Lady on Her triumphant journey would be paying

the price for the victory up to the very end. More than once we heard it said during this historic trip that "Every one has been chosen." How often we heard, from one side and another: "I felt called" or even "I felt COMPELLED to come."

It was as though Our Lady wanted Her dearest apostles, especially those who had prayed and sacrificed for many years in Her service, to be with Her as She went in triumph to Russia and to still share with Her, as they had in the past, the price of victory.

As this book was about to go to press, we were receiving amazing letters from one pilgrim after the other telling of sufferings joyfully accepted. One of the priests (Fr. E. Iweh) promised to offer 100 Holy Masses for those on the flight. He wrote: "...to unite the sacrifices made on the whole trip — time, money, sickness, lost items and luggage, all problems — to the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross." This seemed to be the very spirit of each and every pilgrim.

Relatives of a number of pilgrims (Fr. Fannan, Bertha Curley, Olga Ratuszniak, Mary Kohan, Agnes Fernandez, and others) were taken to Heaven during the Peace Flight. Among the many ill was Jackie Galley who wrote: "I am exhausted but feel so happy!... so loved!"

Edith Perry, when told by her doctor that despite all the sickness she encountered she would be as well as ever, said: "I was under an *umbrella of prayer* and offered all sacrifices of the pilgrimage for World Peace."

After several doctor's visits, and still suffering, Helen Herman wrote: "This has to be the Will of God *as we were picked for this special trip* so I just offer all to God for the blessings received." And... so say we all!

Barbara Smith wrote: "On the Queen's flight, the Captain announced that his name was King... and

when I returned home, for a number of days my temperature remained at 101."

There was suffering... and blessings for the world, for us and for our dear ones back home. One woman wrote that a member of her family went from adultery to daily Mass.

Another wrote to Dr. Turton:

"Remember me! I was the one who had her head split open in Lourdes and wallet stolen in Moscow. You asked me to write after I got home to see if there were any noticable changes. I am happy to report that my granddaughter is doing so much better. She is in treatment and counseling for her drug problem, and very soon with my help, she will be back in college to finish her education. We have become quite close, for which I truly thank the Lord.

"The real reason I am writing is because I met a couple who had been in Fatima on the day we were there on the 75th anniversary. They told me that they were impressed because they were positioned at a higher level and they could see all the blue jackets standing in the form of a huge cross. Was this planned, or was it another 'little miracle' of the pilgrimage?"

It was not planned.

Sister Agnes Suffers

It is interesting that during the priest's seminar in Akita, Japan, which followed the Moscow trip as a part of a threefold initiative, Sister Agnes Sasagawa (to whom Our Lady had appeared at Akita) was bedridden, blind, and racked with pain. The very day the seminar ended, the pains left.

Our Lady had said to Sister Agnes at Akita that SO FAR She has been able to hold back a terrible chastisement which hangs over the world because of the response of a few (see pp. 60, 61, & 178). As

we said at the beginning of this book, those few who have been generous with Our Lady have found joy not only in Her triumph, but in paying the price.

We have always said that those in the Fatima apostolate (the message of which is repeated by Our Lady in tears at Akita) are in the very center of the battle between Our Lady and Satan. The book *Dear Bishop!* speaks of this in no unmistakable terms.

From the very first moment the Peace Flight to Russia was conceived the opposition began. And it did not cease. Some may think it fanciful to speak of the power of Satan, of his legions battling Our Lady by battling against HER legions. But it is a real and true battle.

How wonderful to know that it is Our Lady who will have the victory!



Chapter Seven

LOURDES and FATIMA

The enormous size of the group accompanying the International Pilgrim Virgin to Russia would often be an inconvenience. But more often it was an advantage. At Lourdes the Basilica was reserved for the first Mass. The Grotto was reserved the following morning.

Everything seemed to work out perfectly for the Peace Flight pilgrims. Special thanks are due to Mme. Raymonde Coquelard, leader of the Blue Army in France, and Canon Larrive, great apostle of Our Lady, who made almost all the arrangements.

Bernadette Soubirous joined us for dinner. Yes, she is well up in years. But no, she is not THE Bernadette who saw Our Lady. She is an immediate descendant of the brother of the saint's father and had long been a devout member of the Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima.

All who wished had time for the bath and to participate in the afternoon procession of the Eucharist and at night with candles. Could there have been any better way to prepare to be at Fatima for the 75th anniversary of the miracle of the sun?

The Unseen Pilgrim: Bishop Venancio

We mentioned earlier that the second Bishop of Fatima, the Most Rev. John Venancio, had been on all previous peace flights except one. As the author of this book (and I will relapse into the first person for this remark) I can only speak of my own beliefs or feelings when I say that *Bishop Venancio was with*

us now as we were taking Our Lady's statue to Russia. (As we shall tell later, we had a very, very extraordinary sign of this the very day we were to fly from Portugal to Prague and Moscow.)

Bishop Venancio (and his predecessor, Bishop da Silva) had a great devotion to Our Lady of Lourdes. He happened to be acting as a brancardier (stretcher bearer) *at Lourdes* when he was told that he had been chosen to be *the next Bishop of Fatima*.

Since I traveled with him many times in many parts of the world I came to know him intimately. I felt that he was one of the purest and most spiritual persons I have ever known. From the very time of his death I have felt close to him. Every day when I receive Holy Communion I ask him to walk up with me to receive our dear Lord, praying that I may do so worthily.

As I plunged into the bath at Lourdes for the success of the trip to Russia, and as I touched the rock on which Our Lady appeared, I knew he was there... and would be with us every moment, and at every step, of the way to Red Square.



John Haffert and Bishop Venancio in 1974

Fatima

The whole Peace Flight turned upon being at Fatima on October 13, the 75 anniversary day of the miracle performed there "so that all may believe."

Since plans had been made less than a year before, accommodations had to be as far as one to two hours away. Half were in the Lisbon area and half in Figueira da Foz (a seaside resort near Coimbra). The International Center of the Blue Army (Domus Pacis) was our meeting place.

In front of the building is a statue of Our Lady showing Her Heart, wearing a crown, and holding the Scapular and the Rosary. A picture of this statue was painted on the side of the Peace Flight plane. One might even have imagined that somehow this image had been transferred, perhaps by angels, from its honored place in front of Domus Pacis (at the gate of the Sanctuary) to Our Lady's plane (see pp. 99 & 177).

After the anniversary Mass in the Cova (which was attended by hundreds of thousands) when the statue of Our Lady of Fatima which is kept in the small chapel in the Cova de Iria was taken into procession from the outside altar back to the chapel, Dan Lynch and some of our pilgrims started to process two large icons (see p. 94).

They carried the Missionary Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe as well as the Image of The King of All Nations. Someone in the crowd released a few doves. One of the doves immediately lighted in the flowers surrounding the feet of the Our Lady of Fatima statue which was being carried.

Another dove flew to the top of the King of All Nation image and rested there for a good length of time (see p. 97). Dan Lynch seemed to be ecstatic and the cameras of our pilgrims snapped a myriad

of photographs of this extraordinary happening. Then the Peace Flight pilgrims divided into three groups to attend lectures in the auditorium and chapels in Domus Pacis, one after the other.

As author of a book on the miracle of the sun, the present writer spoke on this subject in the auditorium. Father Ken Roberts and Father E. Arellano spoke in the Latin Chapel (Canon Rene Laurentin and Bishop Hnilica also spoke briefly), and Father McSherry, chaplain of Domus Pacis, spoke in the Byzantine Chapel before the original icon of Our Lady of Kazan (see pp. 90, 100, 106, 128 & 130).

The latter is so important (as we shall see in the actual events which followed in Moscow) that we must add some words of explanation. But first, about the miracle.

Greatest in History

Suppose someone should ask you: Which are the greatest miracles of the Old Testament? Would it be the parting of the Red Sea? Joshua "stopping the sun?" Elias calling down "fire from Haven" to consume the altar and water in the trench around it? *The miracle of Fatima had essentially the elements of ALL THREE of those miracles and something more: It took place at a pre-announced time and place.* The Jesuit scientist Sciatizzi did not hesitate to call the miracle of Fatima: "The greatest, most colossal miracle in history."

It is amazing that so few really KNOW the miracle of Fatima which was a *turning point in history* together with the explosion of the first atom bomb. The Peace Flight pilgrims there for the 75th anniversary were told:

"The miracle was so great and so personal that it is almost impossible for *anyone* today to realize what really happened."

Each and every one of the tens of thousands of witnesses thought it was the end of the world. And the phenomenon was seen 32 miles away. The area of the Cova, which is a vast hollow perhaps formed in prehistoric times by a meteorite, was a sea of mud and water. A ball of fire which everyone thought was the sun plunged down from the sky. It seemed to COME UPON THEM. They felt the heat. Then it swept back into the sky as though into the sun. In a moment *the entire Cova and all the people became instantly dry.*

And this was THE FIRST TIME in history that God ever permitted any miracle to be performed at a predicted time and place to prove something. What was it meant to prove? *It was to prove the very message of this Peace Flight... the message of the Voice in Our Lady of Victories in Paris... the message of Pontmain... the message of Two Hearts in the Rue du Bac... the message of penance at Lourdes... the message that the triumph of the Heart of Jesus is to come through the triumph of the Heart of Mary and if people do not respond: "SEVERAL ENTIRE NATIONS WILL BE ANNIHILATED."*

The Pope had called the International Pilgrim Virgin "THE MESSENGER OF HER ROYALTY"... *the messenger of the Queen.* And this messenger and its escorts now on this historic trip to Russia had an important, perhaps even desperately important, mission. *They were to experience the reality of this message and carry it to the four corners of America and of the world.*

Books and videos coming out of the Peace Flight would help. *But Our Lady Herself would show, by the subsequent events of this historic trip... that She Herself... as the Pope had said... was the Messenger. And for all the world the hour was late.*

Chapter Eight

ENTERING PRAGUE & RUSSIA

The hour is indeed late, and yet it is tingling with hope. While we were speaking of the miracle of the sun in the auditorium of the Blue Army International Center on the anniversary day we had two unexpected guests. One was Bishop Paolo Hnilica and the other Canon Rene Laurentin.

Bishop Hnilica, who forty years before had been consecrated in secret behind the Iron Curtain and had barely escaped with his life, said that he would join the Peace Flight in Russia. "This is your hour," he said, *"this is the hour of the Blue Army."*

Our Lady, Russia's Queen!

And Canon Laurentin had come to tell us an amazing story. "When you go to Moscow to honor Our Lady as Queen," he said, "you will be interested in the miracle of the Icon of the Czarina of Russia as it has come to be known." He explained that at the time of the Russian revolution Our Lady appeared to a pious woman and told her that in a Church not far from Moscow there was an Icon which should be brought to public veneration. The lady went to the church and described the Icon shown to Her by Our Lady but the pastor had never seen it. She insisted and finally persuaded him to search even in the cellar. There the icon was found, exactly as she described it: Our Lady as Queen.

On the day the Icon was exposed for public veneration the Czar and Czarina of Russia were put to death. (Their cause for canonization is now under

consideration in the Orthodox Church.) From that time the Russian people came to believe that from then on *Our Lady Herself would be their Queen*.

Would they therefore welcome this great pilgrimage of the Victorious Queen of the World? Would they welcome "Our Lady of Fatima" as their Queen? What could we expect when we arrived in Moscow?

A Sign From Bishop Venancio

We mentioned in the last chapter that the second Bishop of Fatima, Bishop Venancio, had been with us on almost all the Peace Flights and we felt that he was with us in a special way. As we were about to fly to Moscow via Prague we had an extraordinary sign. That October 15, the bus with the statue left at 3:30 in the morning from Figueira da Foz.

A short time later the bus driver had a stroke and collapsed at the wheel. A doctor happened to be in a front seat. At first he thought it was a heart attack but after making the correct diagnosis he said it was extraordinary that the driver had been able to stop the bus. Two things were more extraordinary.

Before setting out that morning the driver had vehemently argued that the statue of Our Lady should be placed on the floor, in the aisle of the bus instead of in a seat. (This statue has always, whether on coach or plane, been strapped in a passenger seat.) Now to the amazement of all, the driver himself was stretched on the floor of the aisle... paralyzed and mute... looking up at the statue.

Our first concern was to get the engine off, get the door open, get an ambulance. But at the same time we wondered how, in what was essentially the middle of the night, we could get either another bus driver or another bus? *We were on a back road on the edge of a small town.*

Fortunately we had some Portuguese men with us who had come to Figueira to spend the entire night in prayer before the statue. They walked off into the dark, towards a light, to find help.

After the ambulance came, to our amazement we found that the bus driver had a stroke *opposite* a garage in which *there was another bus!* The owners had been awakened by the sound of the ambulance and in a short time they had our bus off the road, transferred passengers and luggage, and we were about to leave. Then I remembered a sign I saw by the garage.

I jumped out and ran to inquire:

"Is this the town where Bishop Venancio died and is buried?"

"Yes" was the reply.

I got back on the coach filled with wonder. Only a few years before I had carried the coffin of the saintly Bishop to his grave only some meters from where this all happened... and had been back more than once to that same spot to pray there. He was "with me" every day when I went to receive Our dear Lord in Communion. He was certainly with the Peace Flight, and *now* I realized it even more!

We arrived at the airport in Lisbon just as the last passengers were loading. We took off on time to Prague (see pp. 101 & 102)!

Why Prague?

All the pilgrims had been supplied with an explanation of just WHY we were going first to Prague before Moscow. *It all centers around the Bishop of Fatima, and especially Bishop Venancio.*

On May 13, 1967, for the 50th anniversary of the apparition of Our Lady, Pope Paul VI came to Fatima. We had arranged for a world peace flight scheduled to leave the following October 13, imme-

diately after the ceremonies of the 50th anniversary of the miracle of Fatima, to take the Pilgrim Virgin around the world accompanied by the Most Rev. John Venancio, Bishop of Fatima.

Cardinal Beran, the Archbishop of Prague who had been exiled by the Communists, was very dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima and close to the Bishop. Arrangements were made in secret to travel as tourists to Prague and then to be received by Archbishop Tomasek (later Cardinal) with whom we would leave a statue (see p. 84).

If we succeeded, it would be the first time the Pilgrim Virgin would have gone publicly behind the Iron Curtain.

The Bishop's Dream

Some years before, when Bishop Venancio was the auxiliary to the first Bishop of Fatima, the old Bishop (Dom Jose) was dozing in his wheelchair when suddenly he sat bolt upright and cried out to Bishop Venancio:

"Bishop! Let us take Our Lady's statue and go to Russia!"

Years later when Bishop Venancio recalled this with a smile he said: "I had visions of myself pushing the wheelchair through the Iron Curtain *while Bishop Jose held Our Lady's statue in his lap.*"

Dream Becomes Reality

Before leaving Berlin the statue was in the front of the plane. Just before takeoff the captain came through and, seeing the statue, said: "It cannot remain there. It must be safely fastened somewhere." So I picked up the statue and was about to take it to the back of the plane when Bishop Venancio, who had not understood the words of the captain (which

were spoken in English), quickly asked with some anxiety:

“But where are you taking the Pilgrim Virgin Statue?” I explained what the captain had said. The Bishop immediately exclaimed: “Oh, but give it to me!” And he took the statue, wrapped his arms around it, *and thus in the arms of the Bishop of Fatima the historic statue of Our Lady flew across the Iron Curtain!*

When we landed at Prague airport, there was not a soul in sight. *An absolutely perfect and complete rainbow* (also seen on the Victorious Queen Peace Flight) appeared over the airport... beginning and ending on the tarmac.

I had been a little surprised (because of all the publicity concerning the Pilgrim Virgin and its significance in reference to Russia) that the Soviet—controlled government of Czechoslovakia had not rescinded our landing rights, and that we were actually arriving with the Bishop of Fatima and 107 pilgrims carrying Our Lady’s statue openly behind the Iron Curtain!

Communist Effort to Stop Her

But I had not counted on the malicious shrewdness of the communists. The world “peace flight” had been well publicized. The plane bore the insignia of the Blue Army — *of one world praying* — and on the front of the plane were the words: “*An era of peace*” (the words used by Our Lady Herself in Her Fatima promise). If the communists had cancelled our flight, they might have given the impression of being against peace.

Since we were scheduled to arrive that afternoon, and to leave the next morning, they decided to delay us at the airport, deprive us of transportation within the city, and insist that we leave on schedule — *thus*

making it impossible for us to take the statue anywhere or to hold religious ceremonies of any kind.

When we arrived in the center of Prague, our four buses, with all 107 pilgrims and about 200 pieces of luggage, were unloaded in the middle of the square.

"But what about our coaches?" I asked.

"Oh, they will be available to take you back to the airport tomorrow," they said tersely.

So that was it!

I immediately went over and explained to the Bishop what was happening and asked his permission to keep our group there all night if necessary, praying the Rosary. Can you imagine the picture? Over one hundred Americans, beside a mountain of luggage, with a statue of the Madonna of Fatima, and a Bishop, dressed in his episcopal soutane and wearing his pectoral cross, turning a central square in the capital city of communist Czechoslovakia into a shrine where they were praying the Rosary!

Off We Went!

The longer we stayed, the more agitated the Cedok guides became. They kept coming up to me and saying with very threatening authority: "You cannot do this!" But of course we kept doing it, and they would dash off to a telephone and come back and go off again.

We had just finished the fifteen decades of the Rosary (and certainly judging by the growing crowds, the entire city of Prague was getting the news!) when our buses came back.

I quickly took the speaker and told everyone to board the buses at once, which they quickly did, taking the statue with them. Fortunately, the driver of my coach spoke German, and I announced in a loud voice that we wanted to go up to the top of the hill for a view of the city before it got dark.

"But what about the luggage," the four guides cried out, taken by surprise at this quick action. "That's your responsibility," I retorted. "You are the ones who unloaded it here!" Apparently the lead driver was a Catholic — otherwise I cannot understand how he could have disregarded the Cedok guides and obeyed me instead! Off we went — into the gathering dusk, up to the top of the hill over the city *where the Archbishop's palace was*.

I unloaded the group in front of the building (the location of which I knew because I had already made a preliminary trip to prepare the way) and while they had a quick view of the city, I went over to the Archbishop's house, which was in total darkness, and tried to determine where the entrance might be. I noticed a large bell — like a school bell — suspended on a post in front of the building, so I decided that was the best way to get attention. I rang it lustily. In a short time there was a scurrying of feet, the sound of bolts being pulled, and suddenly — right there in front of me — was Archbishop Tomasek (later Cardinal)! The Archbishop embraced the Bishop of Fatima, and then looking at the statue with the most radiant joy he said: "We bear the cross, but in the cross there is light, and in the light there is victory — and you have bought us the sign of our victory!"

Archbishop Tomasek told us that not only was there a very strong devotion to Our Lady of Fatima in his country, but that he did not believe there was a single Catholic home in which the Rosary was not recited as Our Lady had requested, in order to bring about the fulfillment of Her promises at Fatima! *Two months later* Czechoslovakia made a bid for religious and political freedom — which was answered by Russia with tanks — *an outrage from which the Soviet Union never fully recovered*. It was the beginning of the end!



A rare picture of Cardinal Tomasek with the Pilgrim Virgin.
Before dying in 1992, his Eminence lived to see the
freedom of Czechoslovakia (see p. 80).

As we flew from Prague to Moscow, we meditated on the following words spoken by Pope Pius XII concerning the Pilgrim Virgin:

... "It is not only the Angel of the Lord, it is the Queen of Angels herself who goes forth in her miraculous images... chiefly from the Sanctuary at Fatima, where Heaven permitted us to crown her Queen of the World, to make... visits to all her dominions.

"And at her passing, through America as through Europe, through Africa, India, Indonesia and Australia, marvels of grace are multiplied in such a way that we can hardly believe what we see taking place. It is not only the good obedient children of the Church who redouble their fervour; but the prodigals also, overcome with longing for their Mother's love, who return to their Father's House. And there are those (who would have imagined it!) in lands where the light of the Gospel has hardly begun to shine, so enshrouded are they in the darkness of error, there are those who, in emulation of the faithful of Christ, anxiously await Her visit and acclaim Her with the greatest enthusiasm, venerate and invoke Her and obtain from Her the most marked signs of favour.

"Under the Maternal smile of the Heavenly Pilgrim there are no antagonisms of race or nationality dividing men; there are no frontiers which separate, no interests which clash; in those moments everyone feels the happiness of brotherhood."

Russian Feast Day Honoring Our Lady

In this 1992 Peace Flight, we landed in Moscow on the Feast of Our Lady's Intercession, the Russian Feast of Our Lady of Victories, to the most joyful hopes. Since feast days in the Orthodox Church are different from ours we did not know, and no one thought to tell us, that this day was Russia's great-

est of all Feasts in honor of Our Lady (together with the Immaculate Conception and the Annunciation). *It is called the Feast of Our Lady's Intercession. It could also be called Russia's Feast of Our Lady of Victories* because It commemorates one of the greatest victories in Russian history over the Tartars.

We in the Western Church also have a Feast of Our Lady of Victories which was instituted in thanksgiving for the victory of Lepanto.

One year later it had a name-change to the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. It is the day our Peace Flight left New York. As was mentioned in the first chapter, this was also the day St. Maximilian Kolbe had founded the Militia 75 years before (that is, three days after the Miracle of Fatima) and prophesied that one day cavaliers of Our Lady *would bring Her statue* over the heights of the Kremlin and into the heart of Moscow (see pp. 11, 14, 140. & 150).

Shortly after our arrival in Moscow Father Ken Roberts led a delegation to meet with the Patriarch in the Cathedral at the close of the festal celebration. It is interesting that before granting the audience His Holiness asked his secretary: "Are they holy?" This would seem to ask: "Are they coming for purely spiritual reasons, or are there some political or other reasons?"

The Patriarch had already been fully informed by the following letter from the present writer:

October 31, 1991

Your Holiness,

In 1971, eve of the 50th anniversary of the apparitions of Fatima, I chartered a ship from Yugoslavia and with the Bishop of Fatima and 238 pilgrims came to Russia with an image of Our Lady of Fatima known as "the Pilgrim Virgin."

Next October 13, we plan to return to Russia. But this time we wish to come not clandestinely as tourists but openly as pilgrims, bearing with us the image of the Theotokos which left Fatima for Russia in 1947 as a "pilgrim to Russia," but which for almost half a century has traveled around the world and up and down the five continents... always a pilgrim.

Several entire books have been written about this. Pope Pius XII said that it was as though Our Lady Herself had gone forth to rally Her children to prayer for Russia and his Holiness added:

"The favors She performs along the way are such that we can hardly believe what we are seeing with our eyes."

We would like on this occasion to present Your Holiness with an original Icon copied from it.

We plan to leave Fatima in a special plane on the 75 anniversary of the miracle of Fatima and fly directly via Rome to Moscow, arriving there on October 16 and remaining until the 19, a Saturday.

Would it be possible for Your Holiness to arrange a liturgy in your Cathedral (perhaps an akathist) on this special occasion?

I hope your Holiness will not be offended if I say that there has been a misunderstanding about this expression "conversion of Russia."

His Eminence, Eugene Cardinal Tisserant, Head of the Oriental Congregation in Rome who was especially interested in this apostolate, said many years ago that what was meant by "conversion of Russia" was a change (conversion) of the laws in Russia fostering atheism and limiting religion. When that happened, His Eminence said, we would know that the promise of Our Lady of Fatima was fulfilled. And it happened on October 1, 1990.

It is in thanksgiving for that answer to so many prayers that we plan to come to Russia, leaving Fatima precisely on October 13, 75th anniversary of

the miracle which Our Lady performed there “so that all may believe.”

Enclosed are excerpts of the original prayer used in the youth congress in Fatima in 1947... the same congress which “sent forth” the “Pilgrim Virgin” to Russia.



Excerpts from:

PRAYER FOR RUSSIA

**Used in the Youth Congress at Fatima,
May 13, 1947**

Hail! Mother of God, star more brilliant than the sun!

Hail! Mother of God, spreading joy over the earth!

Hail! Mother extinguishing all evil!

Hail! O reconciler of fallen Adam!

Hail! Consoler of the tears of Eve!

Blessed are You, O dispenser of the gifts of God,
For the innumerable graces which You pour upon
the entire world

And for those which, for centuries, You have so
prodigiously granted to the Christians of Russia.
We confide, we entrust into Your hands the destiny
of Russia.

We plead with Your Immaculate Heart, not only for
those who have the happiness of knowing and
loving Your Divine Son,

And those who know that they have in Heaven a
powerful Mother,

But also for all those souls who live far from God,
and from You...

Shower upon the Russian nation graces of light,
graces of fire,

Irresistible Graces like those which transformed
Saul into St. Paul.

We beg you in union with all the saints of the
Russian land,

With all the priests and faithful who died there,
martyrs for Christ,

With millions of Russian Christians who so love and
venerate You,

With all those who continue to pray before Your
Icons.

United with them we pray...

No one has ever had recourse to You in vain.

Therefore we are certain that You will hear us,

That you will not delay in taking pity upon the world
and on Russia

That this beloved nation be free to follow Your
luminous path,

To proclaim the blessings of God,

To work under Your orders, oh Victorious Leader,

Together to establish the Reign of Christ in the world

Until that day when, all united around You,

with vibrant heart we shall glorify God forever.

To Take Place in Cathedral

Father Roberts told the Patriarch that with the Peace Flight we had brought the precious Icon and that we would like to present it. *The Patriarch replied that it could be presented at a ceremony the following day in the Cathedral* (see pp. 11, 92 & 113).

What if he had said: "Fine. Give it to me."?

But he said that *it could be presented before a congregation, following a solemn service, in his Cathedral, the name of the Patriarch of all Russia.*

The next day was rainy but not cold. We planned to have the Rosary in Red Square followed by a crowning of Our Lady. Then we would go to the Cathedral at 11 a.m.

Almost a thousand people, all wearing blue jackets, looks indeed like an army. The enthusiasm of the group as it entered Red Square was unbounded. We gathered before a little open chapel where the Basilica of Our Lady of Kazan is being rebuilt. It is at the corner of Red Square, diagonal to Lenin's tomb. Immense Icons of Christ the King and His Mother were placed beside the chapel. As we prayed, the Orthodox brought a large copy of the Icon of Kazan and placed it in the chapel with a large vigil light (see pp. 75, 100, 106, 107, 128 & 130).

The square was blocked off except for the entrance leading to Lenin's tomb. We were instructed to go around the block to get to the other side where the buses were waiting. I was in the lead with two guides when I heard shouts from behind: "The barrier is open! The barrier is open!"

The guides both said "It is impossible" and they kept on walking. But when I looked back it seemed that the greater mass of the pilgrims was hesitating. I ran back to look. Already about a hundred were through the barrier (see p. 108). The soldiers looked helpless. An officer finally motioned them just to

keep to the side away from the tomb. *We marched across Red Square* until we came to a raised platform, something like a bandstand. There we placed the large Icons and Father John Hoke, who had been leading the Rosary, lifted up a small statue and said we would use it for the coronation (see pp. 109/110).

The small crown had been taken from a statue of the Infant of Prague and when the crowning took place one might have thought that the Infant King, Who holds the world in His Hands, had not only entrusted it to His Mother but PERSONALLY wanted Her to be honored as QUEEN. *At that moment Our Lady of Fatima was reported to have been seen over the square wearing a crown, while rays of light streamed from Her hands down into the square and then up and out in all directions.*

"It Is Credible"

Father Henry Bordeaux, OCD, later signed this statement: "As confessor to the person who reported this vision, I can testify that the said person has all the signs of authenticity: holiness, humility, obedience, and soundness of mind with no trace of hysteria. Based on my personal knowledge of the person and the circumstances, it is credible that Our Lady appeared in Red Square in the manner described."

The Pilgrim Virgin statue had remained in a bus at the edge of the square. It seemed as though Our Lady wished to respect the traditions of Her Orthodox children who do not use statues (but only Icons). The two giant Icons our Marian Army had brought into Red Square had a special meaning. One was the Christ the King. The other was a full size copy of the Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe which had been sent forth by the Bishops of Mexico as PILGRIM against abortion (see p. 107).

It is the image which Leo XIII crowned as "Empress and Queen of the Philippines and the Americas." And MOST of the blue clad cavaliers and escorts of Our Queen in Red Square that day were from those countries.

It was just approaching eleven o'clock, time to leave for the Cathedral. After some hesitation about how many should go and whether it would be fitting for the TV crew and the photographers to be included, it was decided all on our bus should go and see what would develop. The Cathedral was jammed with people. Finally word came for our ENTIRE group to go to the front. A gate was opened. We found ourselves on an elevated area in front of the Iconostasis overlooking the crowds.

While we stood there the Archbishop spoke to the crowd of the Bolshevik revolution and of the "bad leaders" who followed. Then he said: "Those who have kept the faith should not be proud. Acknowledge that we are sinners. Now we have a great task to accomplish." In his golden crown and magnificent vestments the Archbishop then came to our group (see pp. 11, 90, & 113) and as Father Roberts presented the Icon he said: "I accept this in the name of His Holiness, the Patriarch of all Russia."

Thanked Blue Army

Someone introduced me as a founder of the Blue Army. To my surprise the Metropolitan looked at me with a kind smile and said: "We have known about the Blue Army. We thank all those who have prayed for Russia." From all I had been told about how the Blue Army was offending Russia by speaking of its "conversion" I had thought our name would not receive kind words and thanks! But we should have known that the Russian people KNEW that when Our Lady spoke of the "conversion" of Russia She

was not speaking of changing their faith but of liberating them from militant atheism. It is many of us in the West who had not understood.

"We knew of the message of Fatima," said the Archbishop speaking before the entire congregation, "and during dark years that message was our hope." Then he added: "We know that the original image of Our Lady of Kazan is in Fatima and we look forward to its return to Russia. We have a miraculous copy here at which people have come to pray. Let us pray together before it."

We moved a few feet and found ourselves before an exquisite, jewel-bedecked image of Our Lady of Kazan. The Metropolitan gestured to one of the priests who approached with a package from which His Excellency took small framed copies of the Icon. He passed one to each member of our group. Could we dare to believe what we were seeing and hearing?

"I will say a prayer," said the Archbishop to Father Roberts. "If you agree, you will say 'Amen.' Then you will pray, and if I agree, I will say 'Amen.'"

Had such an event ever taken place before in the one thousand years of schism? Fortunately it is all recorded on tape, video, and multiple photographs! It is not an isolated little incident. It is one of historic significance. It may be years before we fully grasp its significance.

Picture of Fatima Message

The Icon we had presented so solemnly and publicly depicted all the major events of Fatima: The apparition of the angel with the Eucharist; the Immaculate Heart; the vision of Hell; the miracle of the sun, etc.

It had taken the artist, Patricia Moran, over 300 hours. And as we packed it for the Peace Flight we said to the artist: "It is our hope and prayer that this



Fatima (see p. 74)



Tens of thousands were in Fatima for the 75th anniversary of the miracle of the sun.





Our Lady's Statue Carried in Procession





Above: Dove circles over the Cova
Below: Dove alights on the image of Our Lord , King of all Nations (see p. 74)





Santarem, Portugal, and the Miraculous Host
(Above: Fr. Emmanuel Iweh; below: Fr. James Fannan)





Above: The Queen of the World, whose image was painted on the side of the plane, welcomes us to Fatima. Above is the statue of St. Joseph as he appeared during the miracle of the sun just 75 years before.

Below: Another view of the "headquarters" and meeting place in Fatima: Domus Pacis, International Center of the Blue Army (see pp. 74 & 177).





Left: Author holding the Icon of Our Lady of Kazan, now housed in Domus Pacis, Fatima, and which one day will be returned to Russia (see p. 75, 90, 106, 128, & 130).

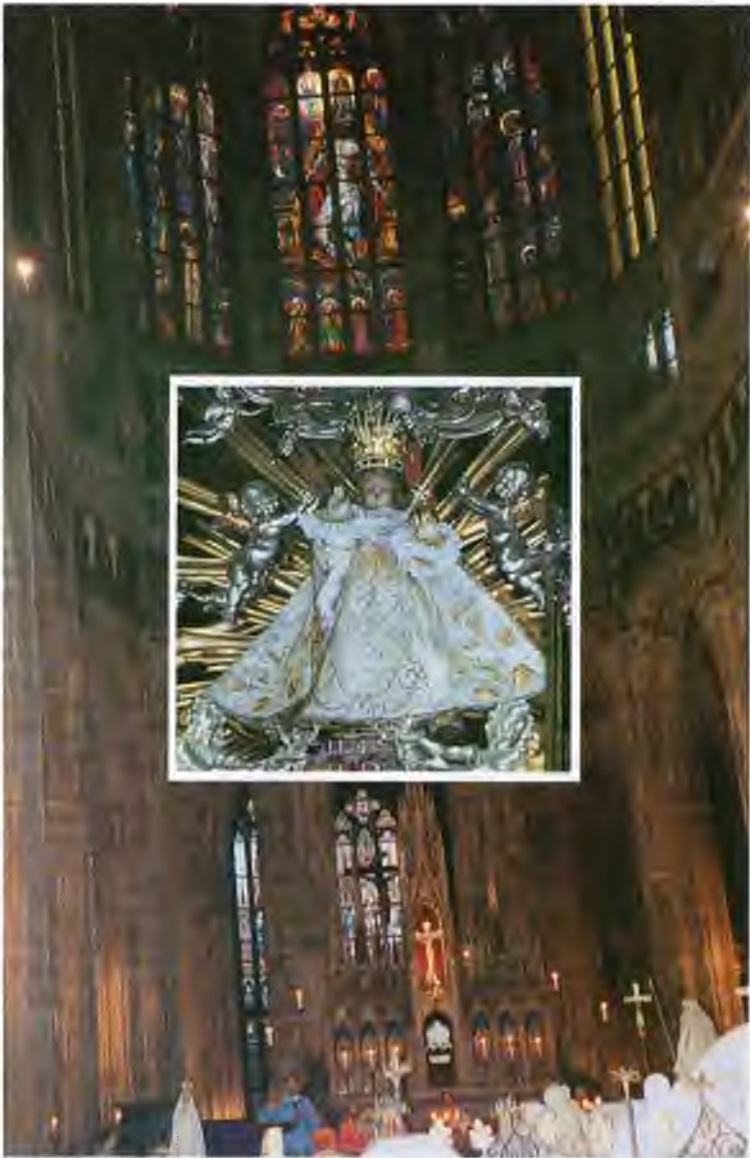
Below: The Vision of the Five First Saturdays, which took place in the convent in Pontevedra, Spain.





Above: The pilgrims pass through the old royal city of Prague passing the Archbishop's Palace where the Pilgrim Virgin was first received behind the Iron Curtain just 25 years before (see pp. 79 & 84).
Below: Entering the Cathedral





Above: The first great Peace Flight took place on the 50th anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun (Oct. 13, 1967) with the Bishop of Fatima, and crossed the Iron Curtain to Prague. Now 25 years later (on the 75th anniversary), for the first time the world famous image returns victoriously... the Iron Curtain gone! The Infant Jesus of Prague is housed in Our Lady of Victories Church. Our Mass was in the Cathedral of Prague.



Above: On the right is Leonila Santos, who organized with Fr. E. Arellano, the World Youth Congress (see p. 6).





Above: World Youth Congress in the Cosmos Hotel Auditorium in Moscow, with some 1400 participants from all over the world (see pp. 6, 111, 117, 123, & 125).
Below: Our Lady carried in Procession by youths representing various nations at the Congress.





Below: Procession of the Sacred Hearts by participants of the World Youth Congress





Sunday, Oct. 18, 1992. The great Victorious Day in Moscow begins. Above is the site in Red Square where the new Basilical honoring Our Lady of Kazan will be rebuilt and where a small image of Our Lady of Kazan is honored. Below our group of nearly 1000 pilgrims gathers there at the edge of the Kremlin to recite the Rosary in pouring rain as a larger Icon of Our Lady of Kazan was bought in by faithful Russians (see p. 75, 90, 100, 107, 128 & 130).





Above: Our pilgrims hand out Rosaries and religious materials to Russians “hungry” for God and Our Lady.

Below: We gather with Icons and carry flags of countries, which we wished to dedicate to Our Lady, and prepare for the Victorious march into Red Square (see p. 91).





Moments later our group removed the barrier and surged into Red Square, singing and praying in a joyous and orderly manner (see p. 90). The guards were beside themselves. It was an electrifying moment which we will never forget!





Above: Dan Lynch, holding the Crucifix, and Fr. John Hoke lead the Victorious March and prepare for the crowning of Our Lady (see p. 91).



Left: Time of the morning crowning of Our Lady in Red Square.



Above: John Haffert crowns a small statue of Our Lady of Fatima in Red Square (see p. 91).

Below: Fr. Hoke raises Our Lady in Victory as pilgrims sing and pray!





Above: Fr. Hoke lifts up the Victorious Queen of the World immediately after the crowning of the statue in Red Square.
Below: Members of the World Youth Congress in Red Square.





Above: Fr. Pernitzky (pictured here in Red Square in 1990) joined our Victorious Queen Peace Flight pilgrims at St. Paul's (see pp. 163 & 180) Below: Russian soldiers changing the guard in Red Square (see p. 112).





On the same great day (10/18/92, which is also the feast of St. Luke, Patron of Icons), we proceeded to the Russian Orthodox Cathedral for another thrilling experience (see pp. 11, 90, 92 & 93). At the 11 a.m. service on this Russian feast day of Our Lady, we publicly presented a Fatima Icon to the Russian Orthodox Church through the Archbishop Metropolitan of Moscow. Joy was everywhere!

The interpreter tearfully exclaimed,
 "You brought us God... you brought us love!"





Below: Vassula holding a small icon of the Our Lady of Kazan which the Metropolitan gave to each of us as a gift (see p. 93).





Boxes! Boxes! We brought six tons of religious articles to Russia and Poland (see pp. 7 & 144). On that same great day (10/18/92) in the early evening, with seemingly no place to go, we removed the boxes from hotel storage, and some 40 pilgrims formed a “chain gang” spending almost 3 hours unloading the religious materials into the basement of the Immaculate Conception church. It was another spiritual “high” for us.





Above: A Russian boy rides his dog.
Below: Church of the Immaculate Conception, where
the religious articles we brought were taken.
It has been reopened only on July 2, 1992, after being
closed for more than 50 years. It is one of only two
Roman Catholic churches presently open in Moscow.





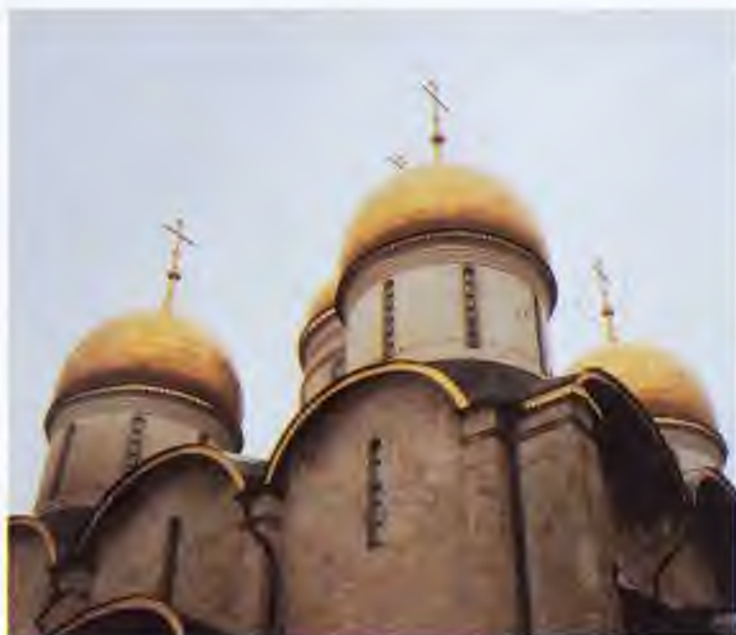
A Russian youth, who was a recent convert, with
Bishop Hnilica, crowns this world famous statue of
Our Lady of Fatima...
The Victorious Queen of Russia and of the World!





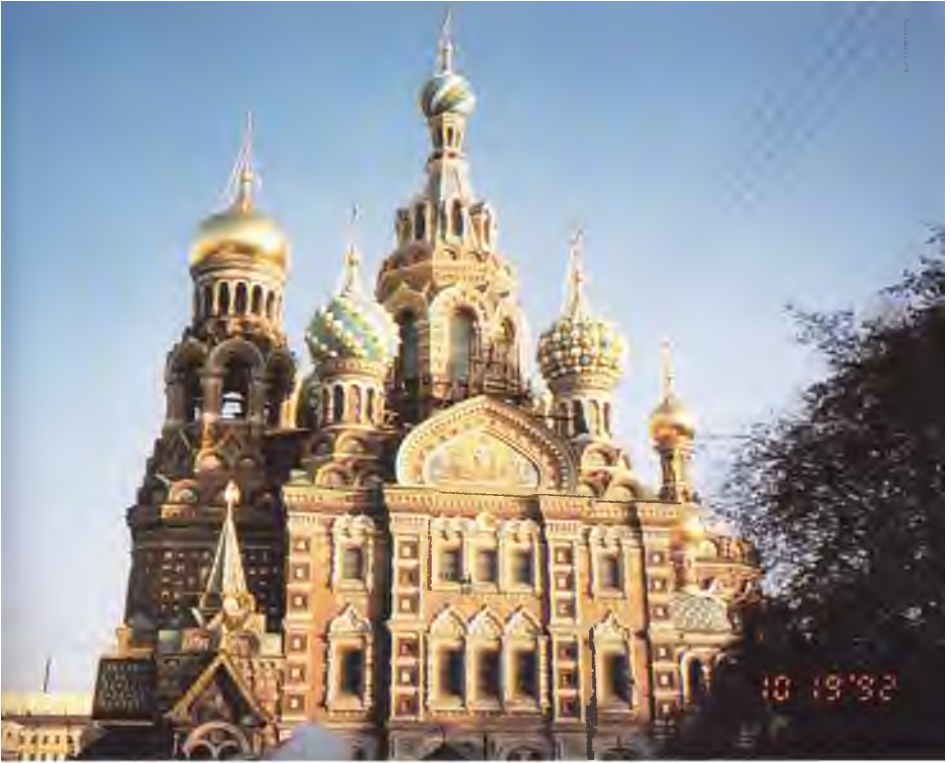
The grand finale of an already spectacular day (10/18/92), was the midnight crowning of the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue in Red Square by participants of the World Youth Congress (see pp. 11, 103, 123, 124 & 125).





The beautiful churches gave us such a warm impression of Russia's long-stifled spiritual heritage.





Below: The Winter Palace in St. Petersburg which was taken by Lenin just seventy-five years before... a few weeks after Our Lady appeared at Fatima. Now Lenin's revolution was gone and Our Lady of Fatima was here!





Icon will open the door between the Church of Rome and the Church of Russia."

Could we have hoped for a more wonderful fulfillment?

Our Lady's Russian Welcome

Standing beside me at that moment was Vassula Ryden, a member of the Orthodox church who has a special interest in church unity. "How do you feel?" I asked her.

"Great!" she answered. "It is as though Our Lady of Fatima were marching into the Orthodox Church LITERALLY" (she accented the last word). Perhaps she meant: "It is Our Lady of Fatima being WEL-COMED into the Orthodox Church literally."

In the wonder and joy of the moment, who could find the right words? I would have liked to ask the Archbishop how he felt but it did not seem appropriate. But when we left I said to the person who had been doing the interpreting in the Cathedral:

"How do you feel about all this?" To my surprise she suddenly choked up. Tears flowed as she answered: "*You have brought us God. You have brought us love.*"

Oh, we had brought nothing! *We had simply escorted the Mother who reveals Her Immaculate Heart to the world.* We were the privileged ones! How often, when we have brought Our Lady's statue, anywhere, have we seen anyone break into tears and say: "You brought us God, you brought us love?"

Here in Russia we found real love and a thirst for God which one day, perhaps sooner than one may think, will astound the world.

Chapter Nine

THE CROWNING

While the “invasion” of Red Square took place in the morning the youth delegates were laboring over resolutions of the World Youth Congress in the Cosmos auditorium. Leaders of the Congress had felt the work too important to be interrupted. But the Pilgrim Virgin, which had first set forth “to Russia” 40 years before as the result of a Youth Congress at Fatima, *had not yet been crowned in Red Square.*

It was proposed that at the end of the day the delegates of the Congress would have this honor. A Russian youth was chosen for the crowning. But the crown would first pass from hand to hand, from one delegate to the next, so that *each and every member of the Youth Congress would physically participate.*

That night the members of the Congress, with several priests and six Bishops in five buses, converged on Red Square. It was raining heavily. The square was deserted. The barriers were gone. *The crowning took place at midnight in front of Lenin’s tomb* at the very moment of the changing of the guard (see pp. 6, 11, 104, 111, 112 & 117).

Like an Opening in the Clouds

The rain abruptly stopped above the statue but continued to fall heavily on the rest of Red Square. Richard Fasanello, Custodian of the International Pilgrim Statue on the Peace Flight, who was beside the statue at the moment, testified: “The rain stopped

so suddenly. I looked up. To my amazement *rain was still falling all around us*. It was as though a hole had opened in the clouds just above the statue. The cessation of rainfall spread from this position outwards over Moscow." Dr. Rosalie Turton, President of the 101 Foundation which sponsored the Peace Flight to Russia, said that the report of Richard Fasanello was confirmed by others who were present.

One is reminded that the sudden cessation of a heavy rainfall was the first element of the miracle of Fatima which took place just seventy-five years before "so that all may believe."

We recall again that among the Bishops present was Bishop Paul Hnilica who had been consecrated a Bishop 40 years before behind the Iron Curtain and was told symbolically that his diocese extended from Peking to Moscow.

"Six years ago I came here to Red Square incognito," the Bishop said (see pp. 117, 123). "Opposite the tomb of Lenin a big sign announced 'Communism conquers and triumphs.' But I thought 'No! It is Our Lady who will conquer and triumph.'" Weeping openly the Bishop added: "At this moment we see Mary's triumph complete. There is no more communism. There is no Soviet Union. And here publicly before the tomb of Lenin we acknowledge Her Queenship with this coronation."

The Scent of Roses

Another phenomenon which was frequently experienced was an intense scent of roses. Many pilgrims reported that several times on the plane, as we entered Russia in the airport, in Lisieux, and in other places, the fragrance of roses filled the atmosphere for a few moments. It seemed to be a common experience. Many felt that it was an indication of Our Lady's presence with us.

When Dan Lynch opened his relic case of St. Therese, the Little Flower, and St. Louis de Montfort, to show it to Dr. Turton, she was delighted by the fragrance of roses which emanated from the relic. Others told Dan the same thing at different times.

Many pilgrims announced seeing a dancing and Eucharistic sun on the way to Fatima or at various times in other places, as well as a rainbow around the sun or the airplane (see p. 118). Leticia Villar, Bob Brooks, Juliana Gattoc and others took some photographs of the sky in various locations showing the golden door, Gate of Heaven (see p. 178).

Even without such phenomena, it was generally felt that this pilgrimage was in one way or another an extraordinary experience.

Effect on Congress

Father Edgardo Arellano, prime organizer of the World Youth Congress (see pp. 11, 103 & 117) said: "Before the coronation in Red Square dissension in the Congress was blocking progress. But after the coronation we felt unity among all the young people. They went back to the Congress site and worked until 4:00 in the morning. Some did not sleep at all because of their excitement over the results of the Congress. It was a REAL triumph of Our Lady not only in Red Square but in the World Congress."

There were five principal resolutions:

1) Mobilize to resist all efforts to legalize or encourage abortion, contraception and divorce;

2) Implement the five requirements of the Peace Plan from Heaven given by Our Lady at Fatima: a) The daily Rosary; b) Personal consecration professed by wearing the Scapular; c) Penance through sanctification of daily duty, with recommended fasting on Wednesdays and Fridays; d) Renewal of the consecration of the world to the Immaculate

Heart of Mary; e) Promote and honor the Alliance of the Two Hearts by the First Friday-First Saturday communions of reparation.

3) Support the effort to make the Alliance of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary a special feast in the Church and to take St. Joseph as the model of personal union in their Sacred Hearts.

Communions of reparation were given special emphasis. It was further resolved:

4) To fulfill and promote the devotion of the First Friday-First Saturdays with special fervor, especially by All Night Vigils until the era of peace;

5) To encourage daily Communion of reparation (Rosary, reconciliation/examination of conscience, communion and holy hours).

"A resolution of a Youth Congress sent forth the Pilgrim Virgin, Messenger of Her Royalty," said Father Arellano. "Can we not hope that the resolutions of this Congress in Moscow will also have a far reaching and profound effect on the world?"



Feeling the urgency of the moment, the Alliance of the Holy Family which had sponsored the Youth Congress in Moscow decided to follow it up almost at once with a meeting of Bishops and priests in Akita, Japan. It was arranged for the Pilgrim Virgin, so recently crowned in Moscow, to be present at the Akita conference. Eyewitnesses of the Akita events would be on hand to give first hand testimony.

Akita Updates Fatima

It is believed that the "warning" of Akita is probably the so-called third secret of Fatima. Our Lady had spoken at Fatima of the "annihilation of several entire nations" and the miracle of Fatima could have been an image of what might come. Our Lady said at Akita fire would come from the sky and much of the world would be destroyed if Her requests continue to be ignored. "The message of Akita is the message of Fatima," said the Most Rev. John S. Ito, the Bishop of Akita who had approved the apparitions of Our Lady and the messages given there in 1973.

Both Bishop Ito and his successor, Bishop Sato, issued letters of invitation to the meeting to be held in Akita just one month to the day after the peace flight. In a letter urging priests to attend, His Eminence Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, President of the Priests Commission of the Episcopal Conference of Asia, stressed the urgency of the message.

We have seen signs of Our Lady's victory. We have witnessed Her power. We know that She can keep Her word because without bloodshed, after the collegial consecration of March 25, 1984, Russia changed. But now we must obtain Her ultimate promise: An era of peace for mankind.

Chapter Ten

PATRONESS AND PROTECTRESS OF RUSSIA

Perhaps some day a monumental motion picture will be made of the incredible, colossal, stunning story of the Icon of Kazan which is so much a part of this whole story.

The Icon was discovered in the burned out ruins of a monastery in Kazan which had formerly been a Mongol stronghold. And as the Icon came out of the ashes, the nation of Russia seemed also to emerge.

It was not long after the discovery of America that Russia had her first Czar, in 1547. Soon afterwards the newly-emerging nation was plunged into the worst and darkest period of her history. For eight years robber bands roamed the country, armies from Poland and Sweden fought for control, each with the intention of putting their own kings on the throne of Moscow.

At this time, in the city of Kazan, which until recently had been the capital of the Mongolian Empire, Our Lady appeared to an eight-year-old girl and told her of a sacred picture which had been hidden and lost during the time of the Mongolian and Mohammedan rule in Kazan. No one believed the little girl until after two more apparitions of Our Lady. Then to the amazement of everyone, the Icon was found beneath the ruins of a burned-out building, in perfect preservation (see pp. 75, 90, 100, 106 & 130).

There was an obvious "presence" to this sacred image. Miracles occurred, including the giving of sight to two men who had been born blind.

The Icon was taken to a church in Kazan whose pastor was Blessed Ermogen, later Patriarch of Moscow. He had an apparition of one of the greatest saints in the history of Russia, St. Sergei. The saint told Blessed Ermogen that this sacred image of Our Lady of Kazan would be the rallying point of the people, and that it would be the means of saving and establishing the Russian nation. This indeed happened — in just a few years!

The Swedish king agreed to withdraw in return for receiving the Gulf of Finland, and the Polish king withdrew upon receiving firm boundaries, including a section which had in the previous fifty years been considered part of Russia.

From that time on, the miraculous image of Our Lady of Kazan was known as “the Liberatrix and Protectress of Holy Mother Russia.” It was used in all the crises of Russian history, up to and including the invasion of Napoleon — whose defeat was directly attributed by the Russian people to Our Lady of Kazan. *It can be said that as the sacred image of Our Lady emerged from beneath the ruins of a burned-out building in Kazan, the soul of Russia emerged with it.* The Russian nation (which had the first Czar only fifty years before) was “born.”

Russia Against Poland

One of the bitter and long-remembered dark periods of the subsequent history of Russia was the war with Poland in 1667. The Poles invoked *Our Lady of Czestochowa*, and the Russians invoked *Our Lady of Kazan!* Oh, how the motherly heart of Our Lady must have been truly pierced with thorns on this sad occasion!

The conflict was deeply embittered because by now the schism between the Western (Latin) Church and the Eastern (Byzantine or Russian) Church had

intensified to the point of bitter hatreds. But in this war, Russia gained Smolensk, Kiev, and the Eastern Ukraine. And (we sometimes forget how recent this was!) *only thirty years later*, under Peter the Great, *the great Russian Empire began to form*.

From the time of the peace with Poland and Sweden in 1613, the Icon of Kazan was taken to Moscow and enshrined in a special Basilica opposite the Kremlin, now known throughout the world as "Red Square." When Peter the Great built a new capital to the North, on the sea, he decided to build, for the Icon of Kazan, a most magnificent church, modeled in style after St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

The new capital of Petrograd was called "the Venice of the North." It was truly a glorious city, and its Cathedral of Our Lady of Kazan was indeed a fitting setting for the "Liberatrix and Protectress of Russia."

Below: Icon of Our Lady of Kazan in Red Square
(see pp. 75, 90, 100, 106 & 128)



However there was a national reaction against the Icon being removed from its old cathedral in Moscow, so the Czar had a beautiful copy made for the new capital and left the Icon in its original church on Red Square.

Kazan Cathedral Made World Center of Atheism

In 1917, when the communists took over Russia, they almost immediately focused their attention on the Icon of Kazan as an expression of the "soul" of the Russian people. The great Cathedral of Our Lady of Kazan in Petrograd (St. Petersburg) was made into an atheist museum and *the official center of militant atheism in the world.*

The Basilica of Our Lady of Kazan on Red Square was destroyed by battering rams while the Reds announced that *they would thus prove that God did not exist* — because they destroyed the Church of the "Liberatrix and Protectress of Holy Mother Russia" and "there was no God, and no Protectress," to prevent the destructive blows of their battering rams!

But on the other side of Europe, at the very time that the atheists were taking control in Russia, Our Lady was appearing to three little shepherds. And the only country She mentioned besides the country in which She was appearing was Russia! She foretold the spread of militant atheism from Russia throughout the entire world, fomenting further wars, and even the annihilation of nations, due to the sins of men. But She said that "in the end my Immaculate Heart will triumph. Russia will be converted..."

The youngest of the three children was seven years of age, and the other two children were nine and ten. And the child to whom Our Lady had appeared to reveal Her sacred image in Kazan just

over three hundred years before was eight years old. No one knows how the precious, original Icon, upon which was centered the Russian nation's devotion to Our Lady, "escaped" from its cathedral and from Russia. It turned up in an auction of precious objects in Poland after the first world war, and finally ended up in 1950 on the wall of a castle in England.

It was discovered there by a Russian countess who, recognizing the original Icon beyond any doubt, because of the configuration of diamonds and rubies given by Catherine the Great and Ivan the Terrible, fell on her knees before it.

The Icon was then taken to Windsor Castle, and the Metropolitan Leonty, in exile in Paris, came to England to see if it might possibly be truly the "original." When the old Metropolitan beheld the Icon, he clasped it, falling onto his knees, and exclaiming with joy that this was the Icon with which he had celebrated the Holy Liturgy in Moscow — but which he had never dreamed of ever seeing again.

Orthodox Christians of the western world then began to raise money to "redeem the Icon" — but twice thieves absconded with the funds and the Icon was about to be put up for general auction when the Blue Army stepped in and made the commitment to redeem it for the people of Russia.

It was in 1950 that we "got the idea" of building a world center for our Apostolate at Fatima with *two* chapels, one Latin and one *Byzantine*. As I try to recall the motives, I can only remember that I thought of *symbolizing* in this way the unity and peace promised by Our Lady, which we believed would be the fruit of the Blue Army's worldwide effort.

I did not know, of course, that this same *Holy Year* (in which the *Assumption of Our Lady* was pro-

claimed a Dogma) was also the year in which the Icon of Kazan *would be "discovered"* intact in the West... while (also in the same year) *the Pilgrim Virgin statue was taken to Moscow.*

Only now, almost half a century later, the powerful effect of these simultaneous events seems to show upon the horizon like the rising sun of Our Lady's triumph in the world. Meanwhile the beautiful building at Fatima, with the Latin and Byzantine chapels, was completed. Today that Byzantine chapel of the Blue Army's world center lifts its onion-shaped dome into the sky of Fatima, highest point after the great Fatima Basilica itself.

In that beautiful chapel there is now a side oratory reserved exclusively to hold and honor the Icon of Kazan (here at the very place where Our Lady promised the conversion of Russia) *until* that historic and holy image *returns to the Russian people.* In July 1976, the same original Icon of Kazan was taken to the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, Pa. There Bishop Venancio of Fatima and the Most Rev. Nicholas T. Elko, former Byzantine Bishop of Pittsburgh, carried the Icon to be touched to the famous copy of the Icon of Czestochowa in a "*reconciliation ceremony*" — a ceremony which could not have taken place in Poland at the Shrine of Czestochowa under the communist government there, and could therefore only have taken place in the free world, in a "sister shrine," conducted by the same Pauline Fathers who are in Czestochowa itself (see p. 150). Oh, how mysterious are the ways of Divine Providence!

It is primarily through the Blue Army that Our Lady's children have responded to Her Fatima Message. Therefore is it not fitting that She should have entrusted Her Russian Icon to this "Army," and have also had it perform the "reconciliation ceremony" as a spiritual symbol of the wiping out of the scandal of

1667, when Her Heart was pierced by the thorns of Her conflicting children?

After Moscow the Peace Flight group spent two nights in St. Petersburg, the “Venice of the North.” The weather was as beautiful as the city and Our Lady’s escort felt as though She wanted them to enjoy Russia at its best with a day of beautiful relaxation. But it was again also a day of important rapprochement with our Orthodox brothers as future events will tell.

Below: Cathedral of Our Lady of Kazan in St. Petersburg



Here in St. Petersburg was the great and beautiful Cathedral of Our Lady of Kazan which Peter the Great built in his new capital to receive the Protectress and Patroness of Russia. And the communists had turned it literally and actually into the *world center* of militant atheism. They made the main part of the Cathedral an atheist museum, and in the

crypt they printed "Science and Religion," the official voice of militant atheism for the entire world with almost half a million copies each issue.

Thus by destroying the centers of devotion to Our Lady of Kazan, both in Moscow and St. Petersburg, the militant atheists felt that they were destroying religious faith. After all, if they could destroy the "Liberatrix and Protectress" of Russian faith, was not the faith destroyed?

Portugal's "King" Invited

In January of 1991 the Duke of Braganza, who will be King of Portugal when and if monarchy is reestablished, received a strange invitation to St. Petersburg. He thought it had to do with something "cultural" because he had been very interested in the restoration of historical and ecclesiastical monuments. To his surprise he found that he had been invited to a most historic RELIGIOUS event which took place in a great auditorium. Television crews were there to broadcast the event all over Russia. A giant image of Our Lady of Kazan dominated the stage.

In an amazing ceremony, the mayor of St. Petersburg apologized to the Metropolitan Archbishop for the confiscation of Churches *and presented the key to the Cathedral, restoring this "world center of atheism to Divine worship* as once again the Cathedral of what had for 70 years been *Leningrad* and now would once again be *St. Petersburg*."

The Duke was asked to speak *about the original Icon of Kazan* now enshrined in his country, at Fatima! His Highness spoke of the promise of Our Lady of Fatima to convert Russia and of Her great love for the Russian people to whom Her Icon would return. His message was seen and heard by television and radio throughout the former Soviet Union.



Above: Musicians in Warsaw greet Our Lady.
Below: Statue in Procession in street of Warsaw
(see pp. 145 & 150).





Above: Bishop Rector of Warsaw Cathedral is principal celebrant at Mass.
Below: Hundreds had to "attend" through the loudspeakers outside the Cathedral.





Above: Part of the reception group and procession in Warsaw. Some of the pilgrimage busses are seen in the background.

Below: Anatole Kaszcuk, founder of the Blue Army in Poland, assists with flowers as statue arrives in Warsaw.





Queen of the World Church in Warsaw and the wire image of Our Lady carried through Poland in 1978 (see pp. 145, 147, & 151).



Right: St. Maximilian Kolbe in Auschwitz garb.

Below: The church of Niepokalanov where the Saint founded the Militia of the Immaculate (see p. 11, 14, 86, & 150). It was exactly on the 75th anniversary of the day of St. Maximilian's prophecy, that Our Lady's image would be over the Kremlin, that the Peace Flight flew to Moscow!





Below and Top Right: The entire group of almost 1000 pilgrims had a final get-together in the auditorium in Czestochowa.





Below: Mass before the "Black Madonna,"
Our Lady of Czestochowa (see p. 150)





Above: Col. Tu of Vietnam, assisted by his son, receives a copy of the Icon given to the Patriarch of Russia (see pp. 21, 151 & 167).

Below: Farewell at the Warsaw airport.



The Duke had planned to be with the Peace Flight. Since he could not come he arranged for his brother, the Duke of Coimbra, to be with us as a representative of "Our Lady's Land" where Her Icon had taken refuge.

Prayers to St. Joseph Answered

After several days of grey clouds, wind and rain in Moscow, our first dawn in St. Petersburg was sunny, clear and tolerably cold. All night long Our Lady's Pilgrim Statue was brilliantly displayed from a hotel picture window on the seventh floor overlooking the Neva river and the converging street and trolley car lines below.

After a vigorous morning tour of St. Petersburg by bus, Dr. Turton told Tom Neville, responsible for the baggage on Flight #101, that somehow we still had 15 huge boxes of supplies (out of over 500) which *should have been left in Moscow* (see pp. 7 & 115). She asked if he would be willing to take them to Mother Teresa's Sisters and she gave him the address.

Tom rounded up some porters and off they went searching high and low for the apartment. Shortly after knocking on the door, a young Canadian Sister opened the door smiling in joyous disbelief. She explained that as the knock came, they had just finished praying to St. Joseph to restore their dwindled supplies.

The three nuns were ecstatic with St. Joseph's immediate and seemingly miraculous response. After all, who would be in St. Petersburg with *this much* precious material!

Chapter Eleven

POLAND

Our next stop would be in Poland (see p. 136), where all these changes in Eastern Europe really began! It will be recalled that the first time we took the Pilgrim Virgin behind the Iron Curtain was in Prague, and two months later came the so-called "Prague Spring" under Dubcek.

The second time we tried to take the Pilgrim Virgin behind the curtain was shortly after the election of John Paul II when we decided to go to Warsaw. This time the communists took no chances. They would not allow the statue off the plane. And that is how it all began. Father Matthew Strumski who was on the flight (as well as the 1992 flight to Moscow) made a wire outline of the statue and decided that it would be carried to all the places the statue would have gone (see p. 139).

The effect throughout Poland, even in the Armed Forces, was one of outrage bordering on revolution.

"It Was a Mistake"

Gierek, then Prime Minister, was so alarmed that he went to Cardinal Wyzinski and said: "It was a mistake. We have nothing against statues. Tell them to bring it back." But we had left. And because of the highly charged atmosphere the Cardinal realized that he might get some concessions from the communists.

To understand the importance of the 1992 flight to Poland it might be worthwhile to review what happened on our first trip there 14 years before, in 1978. This is how it is recorded in *Dear Bishop!*:

Power of Atheist Russia

The power of Russia was waiting for us at Warsaw Airport. Everything looked normal as the big jet taxied to a halt. The buses rolled out to where the plane was, the hydraulic steps were moved into position near the front door of the plane — but not quite all the way!

After about ten minutes, I went up to ask Captain Grue if he understood why the steps were not put in place. He was looking somewhat worried — and puzzled.

"They want to talk to the one in charge," he said.

"Well, I suppose that's me," I replied. "How do I talk to them?"

The answer was soon given. An unusual red van raced across the tarmac and stopped beneath the plane. An officer with four stars on his tunic climbed out of the vehicle, and from ample radio equipment in the van Captain Grue was getting the instructions. The door of the plane was to be opened, and I — and no one else — was to come down.

The "Empty Chair," "Empty Statue!"

Indeed there was little chance for anyone else to leave the plane because I was still on the top step when it moved back away from the door and I seemed to be descending directly from the air rather than from the plane.

But perhaps I'm going into too much detail. The upshot of it all was that they would let the group land, but the Pilgrim Virgin statue had to remain on the plane.

I took a vote of the group. We all agreed that it was better for the group to visit Poland as planned, representing Our Lady, even though we were unable

to take Her statue with us. As our buses pulled away from the plane, we saw armed guards taking a position around it — and they were there night and day during all the time we were in Poland!

This is all very reminiscent of what happened on Poland's millennium, when Pope Paul VI had been invited to Poland — but the Russians would not give him a visa. Henrietta Bower led an All-Night Vigil group from England, and I led a group from America. We met on the Czech-Polish frontier on that occasion and had an All-Night Vigil there. I sometimes wonder how greatly the power of the Vigil contributed to what was now about to happen in Poland...

When the Russians had prevented the Pope from coming to the millennial celebration at Czestochowa, the Poles had placed an empty chair where the Pope would have sat, draped with the papal colors. Now, at the suggestion of one of the priests traveling with us (Fr. Matthew Strumski), a wire outline (see p. 139) of the Pilgrim Virgin was made and painted white, and this *empty* figure was carried to all the places that Our Lady's statue would have visited!

The word spread like wildfire all through Poland that the visit of Our Lady which had been announced over Vatican Radio, was not to take place... *that the Russians had forbidden Her image to enter the country!* At Czestochowa, where the future John Paul II had been waiting with all the bishops of Poland, Cardinal Wyszynski said to us: "You from the free world may be surprised at this, but we are not always free to do what we would like to do."

Oh, how I wish I had a recording, preferably even a sound film, of that meeting that we had with Cardinal Wyszynski at the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa! How warm he was to the black pilgrims with us, saying that the Black Madonna had apparently also brought "Her daughters" to visit Her.

Here Is Where It All Began!

After our plane left, we discovered that there was *a spiritual revolt throughout Poland* which extended even to the members of the armed forces. Its intensity was such that the communist Prime Minister was compelled to visit the Cardinal and confess: "It was all a misunderstanding. We have nothing against the visit of a statue to our country. Tell them to bring the statue back."

But the Cardinal wanted something far more important than just the return of Our Lady's statue. For a quarter century the communists had prevented the building of any churches in Poland. They had restored some damaged churches, but had persistently refused to allow the twenty-four churches destroyed by the war in Warsaw to be rebuilt.

In the "bargaining" which ensued, the Cardinal agreed to ask the Blue Army to bring the Pilgrim Virgin statue back and Gierek, the communist Premier, *agreed to the building of eight new churches in Warsaw!*

The first one was substantially completed by the following year. Twenty-five thousand dollars of the extra money given for the Queen of the World flight was sent to help with its construction (see p. 139). And the completed church was, of course, dedicated to the Queen of the World!

On August 22, 1979, Feast of the Queenship of Mary, *we returned to Poland with the Pilgrim Virgin statue*, to be present while Cardinal Wyszynski blessed that new church in honor of Our Lady Queen of the World — the first church he had been able to dedicate in Warsaw in a quarter century!

We were detained for eight hours at the frontier, but going without sleep, we arrived just as the trumpets were sounding and the Cardinal was

beginning the blessing. And the Pilgrim Virgin statue was carried in and placed beside that wire outline which had been carried throughout Poland just one year before.

But there is another touching incident which I think Your Excellency would like to hear. Cardinal Wyszynski had not only wanted new churches, but even more, *he had wanted the building of a seminary*. Indeed he had longed for this so much that he made known to everyone that his greatest desire was *to live long enough to see a seminary restored in Warsaw*.

Thrilling Glimpse of Triumph to Come!

Some twenty years earlier, a house had been opened to be used as a seminary *and a statue of Our Lady of Fatima was placed in a provisional chapel*. The seminarians were instructed to pray to Our Lady of Fatima every day that the government would give permission for a proper seminary to be built.

Now on this golden day, the Feast of the Queenship of Mary, a priest arrived while we were at dinner after the dedication of the church, with the breathtaking news that shortly before the arrival of the Pilgrim Virgin statue at the new Church of Our Lady Queen of the World, official documents had come from the government authorizing the building of the seminary!

Shortly after the first trip of the Pilgrim Virgin statue to Poland, a new Pope came out of that country — with the symbol of Mary below the cross as his coat of arms!

And after that, came the surge of freedom in Poland under the auspices of “the Queen of Poland.” To us who could only watch and marvel, it seemed like the first thrilling glimpse of Our Lady’s coming triumph. Now as we returned to Poland on the 1992 Peace Flight (this time via Russia!), high on our

agenda in Warsaw, of course, was a visit to "our" church of Our Lady **QUEEN OF THE WORLD**.

But first there was a street procession to the Cathedral which was so jammed with people that it did not seem possible to get a broomstick between them (see p. 137).

The speaker said: "In 1978 the Pilgrim Virgin was refused entry into Poland by a Russian General... refused entry into Her own land! And now She arrives from Russia after being crowned in Red Square!" The enthusiasm of the people was explosive. In two days there were street processions (see p. 136), visits to ten churches, and All Night Vigils.

On the very first day there were Masses in the cathedral in the afternoon and in the Church of Our Lady of Victories in the evening. The next day the Peace Flight pilgrims went to Niepokolanov, where St. Maximilian Kolbe established his "City of the Immaculate."

Climax of Trip: Czestochowa!

After the Peace Flight, Brother Juventyn, who had been in prison with St. Maximilian, (see pp. 11, 14, 86, & 140) wrote: "Because of poor health I am sorry I could not attend the Congress in Moscow. We are witnesses of very important changes... great sign of the Immaculate of Fatima.

"The idea of St. Maximilian, martyr of the 20th Century, is winning. You may rejoice for your part in this cause! In our chapel at Niepokolanov, before the beautiful image of Our Lady of Fatima, I always remember you and all members of the Blue Army throughout the world."

Then we proceeded on to Czestochowa, Poland's major Shrine (see pp. 133 & 141). As mentioned in a previous chapter, a ceremony of reconciliation had been performed in Doylestown, Pa., with the original

Icon of Kazan and a copy of the Black Madonna of Poland. And here in Czestochowa itself, before the original picture, we were greeted by Fr. Simon who had been in Doylestown. It seemed that our whole trip came to its climax here.

Final Meeting Together

In a large auditorium that just accommodated most of the group we summarized the highlights of the trip. A copy of the Icon given to the Patriarch of Moscow was presented to Col. Do Sinh Tu, the Vietnamese army officer who had accompanied us to Russia and who had been responsible for the first Peace Flight around the world almost twenty years before (see pp. 21, 143 & 167). It seemed that the Queen of the World had begun especially in Poland to bring about the changes in Russia. So it seemed fitting to have this final get-together, leaving Rome as a sort of "benediction."

We had been deeply touched on visiting the church of Our Lady Queen of the World in Warsaw to see at the entrance to the church the original wire outline of the Pilgrim Virgin which had been carried through Poland in 1978. It was standing beneath a beautiful, almost life size crucifix... the Queen beneath the Cross (see p. 139).

It reminded us of those words of Cardinal Tomasek: "We are carrying the cross. But in the cross there is victory," And gazing with emotion at the statue he added: *"And you have brought us the sign of our victory."* As the interpreter from the Moscow Cathedral said: "You have brought us God. You have brought us love."

PART THREE:

POSSIBLE!

Our Lady said "so far" She has been able to hold back the chastisement because of the generous response "*of the few*" (Akita).

Can even a few *postpone the chastisement* long enough to begin a *moral* change in America and in the world like the changes we have seen in Russia?

Below: Russian Soldier looking at the Pilgrim Virgin Statue.



Chapter Twelve

NOW

In part one we spoke of what seemed impossible. But a few believed the Sacred Heart said it **SHOULD** be done. And the “impossible” happened.

This was all connected with the writing of a little book titled: *To Prevent This* (see back cover).

A small group in Manila believed the Sacred Heart said that some ten thousand miles away this little book was being written and would play an important part in bringing about the “era of peace” promised by Our Lady at Fatima, the “triumph of Her Immaculate Heart.” They also believed He gave a message which should be included in that book.

Although they had not even known such a book was indeed being written, *without hesitation* four persons from Manila traveled to a city on the East Coast of the US just to speak to the writer for a few hours.

From that meeting the World Youth Congress in Moscow evolved because they believed the Sacred Heart wanted this for His Mother and for Her triumph.

What does Jesus want now?

We do not have to believe in any **NEW** messages to know. All that is needed for the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, even to prevent the chastisement, was told to us at Fatima. It is spelled out in that little book: *To Prevent This*. (Note: No royalties are paid for this book. Anyone who cannot afford it can obtain it free.)

First He wants **COMMUNIONS OF REPARATION**. In a letter to her confessor on May 29, 1939, Lucia said:

"The good Lord promises to end the persecution in Russia if the Holy Father will himself make a solemn act of reparation and consecration of Russia to the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary as well as ordering the bishops of the Catholic world to do the same. The Holy Father *must then promise that upon the ending of this persecution he will approve and recommend the practice of the reparatory devotion* (i.e., the five First Saturdays).

"During the succeeding half a century, one Pope after the other (five times in all) made the act of consecration but without first asking all the bishops of the world to join with him. Only on March 25, 1984, was the consecration finally made as Our Lord required.

Our Lady Insisted on First Saturdays of Reparation

"When asked why all the previous consecrations (made without participation of all the world's bishops) had not sufficed, Lucia answered that Our Lord **INSISTED** on the collegial act of consecration (i.e. consecration of Russia by the Holy Father together with **ALL** the bishops of the world) because: *"I want my entire church to know that this favor (the conversion of Russia) was obtained through the Immaculate Heart of My Mother so that it may extend this devotion of the first Five Saturdays later on and put the devotion to this Immaculate Heart beside the devotion to My Sacred Heart."*

It would be counter-productive if we pretended to summarize here the little book *To Prevent This*.

But if we wanted to select what is **MOST** important we would place great emphasis on 1) *the First Friday-First Saturdays* **FOREVERYONE**; 2) *All-Night Vigils* between those days for the generous few.

This present book will mean most to persons like those 940 whom Our Lady called to be with Her on Her flight across the world to Russia as a Victorious Queen. Such persons usually are, and have long been, frequent, if not daily, communicants. They live in that union of love described in the logo of the apostolate: Unus in Sui Amore. (Note: the pronoun "sui" in Latin has the multiple connotation "of him, of her, of theirs." The expression means one in the love of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary in imitation of St. Joseph).

That union of love makes Satan powerless.

Again: Impossible

In Part One of this little book we spoke of how "impossible" it seemed to fill two jumbos, arrange a World Youth Congress, etc., on short notice... and only with inexperienced volunteers. In the eyes of the world *this really was impossible*.

But Dr. Turton, who with faith in Jesus and Mary had taken on this awesome task and liability, said: "I will not have anyone work on this who is not a daily communicant." She was saying: "How can we hope to draw the world into that union of Love if we ourselves are out of it? And if we are in that union, it is THEIR Hearts, one with ours, WHICH MAKES EVERYTHING POSSIBLE."

Let us mark well the words of Our Lord at Pontevedra. There Jesus appeared to Lucia in a tiny room only about five feet wide and ten feet long... virtually filled with her cot and small table.

It is important to recall that the apparition of Pontevedra was foretold by Our Lady during the apparition of July 13, 1917, at the same time that She had foretold the Second World War and that God would punish the world and "several entire nations will be annihilated." She then said:

"I shall come to ask for the consecration of Russia to my Immaculate Heart, *and the Communion of Reparation on the First Saturdays*. If my requests are heeded... there will be peace."

"Have Compassion on Her Heart"

Ten years later (December 10, 1927) Our Lady kept Her promise. In her Memoirs, Lucia describes how Our Lady appeared with the Child Jesus elevated on a luminous cloud so that she was able to look into the eyes of both Our Lady and the Child Jesus, and the Blessed Virgin *rested Her hand on Lucia's shoulder*, and with the other hand showed Her heart encircled with thorns as Jesus said:

"Have compassion on the heart of your Most Holy Mother, covered with thorns, with which ungrateful men pierce it at every moment, and there is no one to make an act of reparation to remove them." Our Lady then said:

"Look, my daughter, at my Heart, surrounded with the thorns with which ungrateful men pierce it at every moment with their blasphemies and ingratitude. You, at least, try to console me and announce that I promise to assist at the hour of death, with the graces necessary for salvation, all those who on the first Saturday of five consecutive months shall confess, receive Holy Communion, recite five decades of the Rosary, and keep me company for fifteen minutes while meditating on the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary, with the intention of making reparation to me."

The Child Jesus Returns

On this particular day Lucia was carrying waste from the convent cesspool to a sewer just outside the convent gate.

A small boy passed by and hesitated at the gate. He looked lonely and sad. When Lucia spoke to him he just looked at her with that touching air of sadness. And there was something in his attitude which almost compelled her to want to console him or help him in some way.

"Do you know the Hail Mary?" she asked.

When there was no reply she began to recite it for him. He did not seem to indicate one way or the other that he knew it. What more could she do? What could she say? And she had her task to fulfill. Would not Jesus help him if he went around the corner to the church to visit Him in the Blessed Sacrament?

"Why don't you go around the corner to the church of St. Mary Major," she said finally, "and ask the Child Jesus to play with you."

At that moment suddenly the child was transformed. It was Jesus. "*What is being done*," he asked sadly, "*to establish the devotion to the Immaculate Heart of My Mother in the world?*"

Recovering from her astonishment, Lucia replied that she had spoken about it to the Mother Superior, but the latter's confessor had told her that of herself she could do nothing.

Jesus replied:

"It is true that your superior alone can do nothing, but with My grace she can do all."

What Is Being Done?

To all the frequent and daily Communicants of the world the Holy Child is crying out: "What is being done?" And when He gets the excuse... as from members of an Episcopal Conference or an Executive Committee... *that one has told another* and the "other" has said "Nothing can be done," Jesus is saying:

“Yes, of oneself you can do nothing... but you receive ME in the Sacrament of My Love. I am with you. And with ME you can do it all.”



Even many of us already *in sui amore* tend to act on our own instead of with Jesus. Shortly after the Peace Flight and the subsequent seminar in Akita a group of leaders were sitting around a table to plan the future.

One of them said: “A visionary told me that he saw a vision of myself walking in front of Jesus towards a fence on which there was a large DANGER sign. He saw me continue walking right into the fence against which I was zapped.” Another, who had been head of a major apostolate, said: “Walking in front of Jesus! I did it for years and only in old age did I realize I was often “zapped” by Satan because I was satisfied that my daily Communion and 15 decades of the Rosary each day was all I needed. All the rest of the time I worked as though it all depended on me. I walked in front of Jesus.”

Same Message From Manila!

To the general amazement of perhaps everyone at the table, a third person (who had been CEO of a major corporation) said: "That is the very same message the Sacred Heart gave in Manila! He complained of *walking in front of Him* instead of *WITH Him*."

Another said: "Is that why you people from Manila spend as much time praying when you meet as you spend in all the rest of your meeting?" The question was answered with smiles.

In one of the rare letters Lucia has written (it was to her nephew, a priest) she said that *if we would spend more time in prayer before we act*, our work would go much easier and be much more successful.

And it is so easy!

In addition to the power of the Rosary we now have some other brief but very powerful prayers such as the Chaplet of Mercy and the appeal to the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart to send forth "graces of your Flame of Love to all mankind." Such prayers blind Satan. And we have powerful sacramentals which drive him away such as holy water, the miraculous medal, and the scapular.

Do we use these powerful means frequently and with lively faith? They all help us to take our place with Mary *beside* Jesus, in union with Him, instead of walking in front. Always in our hearts and frequently on our lips must be the words taught to us by Our Lady of Fatima: "O my Jesus! It is for love of You, in reparation for the offenses committed against the Immaculate heart of Mary, and for the conversion of poor sinners!"

For many years almost nothing has been done to establish the Communions of Reparation in the

world. Now, at least to some chosen souls like those called to escort Our Lady on Her Victorious Peace Flight, Jesus is saying:

“With ME, you can do it all.”

IT IS POSSIBLE.

They Are Our Hope!

Both in the Congress in Moscow and in the International Seminar in Akita the resolutions were the same: *Promote the Communions of Reparation*, and look upon the Hearts of Jesus and Mary as a *union of Love* into which we are invited (like St. Joseph).

It is as though the Sacred Heart was calling for two degrees of response:

1) *To make reparation* to His Heart and to the Heart of His and our Mother on First Fridays and First Saturdays;

2) *To be united* in the Love of Their Hearts (in the sense of the motto of Pope John Paul II, *totus tuus*).

Those few already in the second degree are our hope that the Communions of Reparation will be established in the world in time not only to postpone, but even to prevent, “annihilation of several entire nations” (Our Lady of Fatima).



Chapter Twelve

SPREADING THE WORD

The Russians did not want to let Our Lady into Poland, and the Polish people did want to let Her out! Crowds came to the airport and loaded us with flowers and serenaded Our Lady with music until the last possible moment. One man came up and gave me two Russian medals. "Just a souvenir of what Our Lady did for us!" he said (see p. 143).

Our Last Glorious Experience

That night we arrived in Rome. It was the last stop. Dom Henrique, Count of Coimbra and brother to the Pretender to the throne of Portugal would be flying back to "Our Lady's Land." Some would be staying in Italy. Others would be flying to the Philippines, to Germany, Switzerland, Poland, Ireland, France, Sweden, and other nations. But we would all be together for one last glorious experience: Mass with the Holy Father.

There had been plans of a Mass just for the group... but that was when we had not thought even of the FIRST jumbo. Now we were almost a thousand persons, and as the Pope was having Mass in St. Peter's Square, it was arranged that Our Lady's escort, with the statue, would have a front place.

Mother Ludovica, Foundress of the Oblates of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, had worked with Bishop Hnilica to make the arrangements (see p. 171). The Bishop's secretary was there in St. Peter's Square to help shepherd us to the right seats (although a few got into different places despite the shepherding)!

It was Mother Ludovica who took the documents of Fatima to the Pope in the hospital after he was shot. (The Holy Father had asked for them.) And she said: "It seems to me that Our Lady arranged for the Blue Army and others escorting Our Lady's statue to be at this Mass in St. Peter's Square because it was the occasion of the beatification of 121 killed for their faith by the communists in Spain. That the statue of Our Lady of Fatima should be there with Her escort seems especially meaningful."

At the same time the Pope beatified a young woman who died in Lima on December 8, 1869. Her name was Narcissa Moran. Her beatification was unusual because she was a laywoman. So far we know of only one lay person, St. Benedict Joseph Labre, with exception of martyrs or political figures, who has ever been canonized. Although invited by the Bishop to enter the convent, Narcissa declined saying that she did not feel that she had a vocation to the religious life.

Holliness in Laity

We had previously been reminded during the Peace Flight of sanctity in the laity in Lisieux, France (see p. 45). There we were deeply impressed by the great Basilica, largest edifice in the world in honor of any human being (excluding St. Peter's, which of course has other reasons for being so large). We had come to honor the little saint and to ask her intercession because Pius XI had named her patroness of the missions and in a special way of Russia.

Behind the Basilica we visited the tombs of her parents of whom Therese said: "God gave me parents more worthy of Heaven than of the earth." When their tombs were exhumed to be placed behind their daughter's Basilica, all in the tombs of each of these holy parents was found in ashes with

one exception: their Brown Scapulars... the sacramental sign of oneness with the Heart of Mary of which Our Lady said: "Whoever dies clothed in this shall never suffer eternal fire."

We prayed there that Mr. and Mrs. Martin may soon be beatified as models to parents of the world. There were thirty-four wonderful priests on the peace flight, six Bishops, *and over nine hundred wonderfully dedicated and devout lay persons*. It was meaningful to be reminded of holiness in the laity. Perhaps little Narcissa Moran and her message of great holiness in the world will be better known because lay apostles of Our Lady from all over the world were there.

The Word Will Spread

At least two other books are expected to probe and describe details of the Victorious Queen of the World Peace Flight.

Father Roberts wanted to say Mass at St. Paul's because it was there that he was ordained. When we arrived at the great Basilica (one of the most important in the world) *a reconciliation Mass* was being celebrated by the priests of the Basilica *before a group of Orthodox, among them an Orthodox Bishop. Had we suddenly been transported back to Moscow!?*

It was a solemn Mass. The Orthodox participated by responding to the prayers. Our whole group also participated. There could be no Sacramental Communion together. But there was a spiritual communion. There was almost tangible love. There was the obvious longing for the Sacramental Communion which is the object of all our prayers.

Immediately after the Mass we found ourselves with a group of youth visiting from Russia. Abbot Anastaszy Pernitsky (see p. 112) (who was born in Odessa and studied for some time at the Russicum)



Below: Arriving at St. Peter's for Mass with the Holy Father





**Our Lady and Her pilgrims in St. Peter's Square for the
Beatification Mass (see p. 162)**





Above: Our Lady stands above Bishop Varella,
Fr. Ken Roberts (as a Knight of the Holy Sepulcher),
and Archbishop Dean.

Below: A Knight of Columbus attends Our Lady as She
makes a royal entry into St. Peter's Square

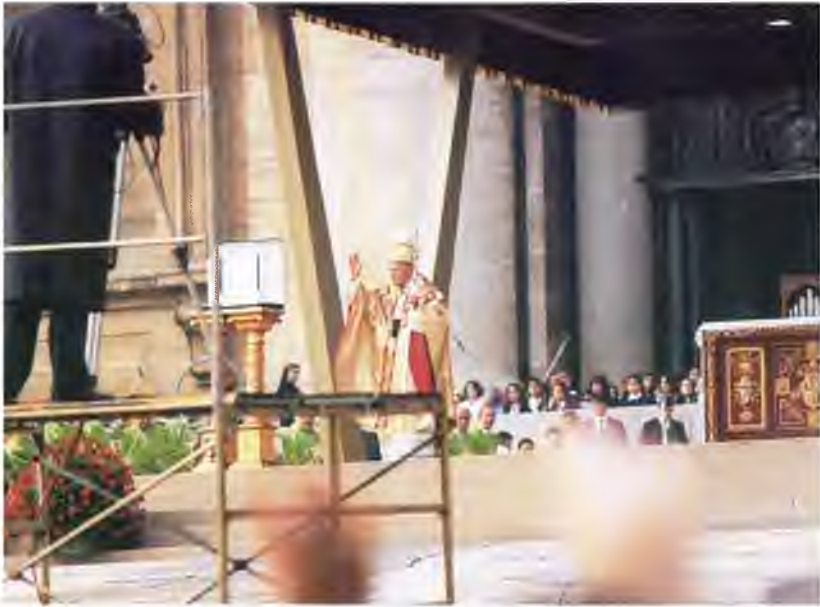




Above: A "sea" of blue jackets identifies our pilgrims in St. Peter's Square.

Below: Col. Tu and his son represent Vietnam on our pilgrimage (see pp. 21, 143 & 151).





Above: A view of the Holy Father welcoming the pilgrims.
Below: Outdoor Beatification Mass in front of
St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.





Above: Antoinette Harland, Stella Browski and Bob Buckley receive a special blessing from the Holy Father.

Below: Claire Mansour, Rosalie Turton, Fr. "Bing" Arellano and John Haffert





Above: Larry Rodarte, Mark Treanor and Christina Gallagher
Below: Dr. Prudente, Fr. Arellano, Fr. Hoke and Mr. Villar





Above: Bishop Varella holds Fr. Robert's treasured image of the Lord before the Pilgrim Virgin.

Below: Author with Mother Ludovica (see pp. 91-92) who made arrangements for Mass with the Holy Father.





Above Left: Fr. Walter Ciszek, a Patron of the Peace Flight.
Cause for his beatification is far advanced.

He saw great hope in the All Night Vigils.

Above Right: Dove rests upon the King of All Nations Icon
in Fatima, Portugal

Below: Austin Steo and Christopher Winters,
Peace Flight TV camera crew





Above: Anatole Kaszcuk follows a Polish youth carrying the International Pilgrim Virgin.
Below: Flight #333 enters Moscow.

LH	5783	MUNICH	09.25
OS	0K642	VIENNA	09.30
OK	780	GENEVA	09.45
SR	471	ZURICH	10.20
OK	601		10.20
FC	201	BERLIN	10.20
LH	5761	BERLIN	10.25
FF	333	MOSCOW	10.30





Above: Historic Moment! The statue arrives at customs in Moscow airport. Carrying the statue left to right are:

Fr. Matthew Strumski, John Haffert,
Fr. Andrew George Weber, and Fr. William Hewitt.

Below: Our priests and bishops gather at the airport in Moscow.



175.



Above: Last pilgrims on the plane in Moscow sing with Rosalie as they enter Russia.





Above: Russian band greets us with our own national anthem!



Left: Russian children look at Rosary cards which we had printed in the Russian language.



Above: Pilgrims from the Fatima Today group.
We must live the Fatima message TODAY.

Below: Our Lady's message to us is to pray the Rosary
and wear the Scapular, as the logo of the
Victorious Queen of the World indicates (see pp. 74 & 99).





Above: One of a number of photographs of the Golden Door, Gate of Heaven taken on our pilgrimage. This one was taken in Lourdes by pilgrim, Juliana Gattoc (see p. 125).

Below: Youth Congress participant, Chris Berghout, meets Sister Agnes, a victim soul, at the Seminar in Akita (see pp. 6, 60 & 70). All were impressed that despite her suffering, Sister Agnes had a radiant smile. After the successful Congress and Seminar, she recovered. It would seem that all of us are not only called to share in a sign of Our Lady's triumph, but also in the Cross which makes it possible.





*The Victorious
Queen of the
World!*



is at St. Paul's. Since he is a great advocate of the Blue Army and a personal friend of many years I wanted to introduce him to the group. To our surprise he was busy interpreting for some Russian youth. Now he became our interpreter to share the wonderful news of the World Youth Congress in Moscow which they received with apparently mixed amazement and joy.

Exclamation Point!

In some remarkable way our two days in the Eternal City seemed to put an exclamation point to the entire Victorious Queen event. Day will go into day, ever unfolding the wonder of God's plan that the triumph of the Sacred Heart of Jesus will come through the Immaculate Heart of His Mother.

The high point of course was the Holy Father's Mass in St. Peter's Square with beatification of martyrs put to death by communists plus the beatification of Narcissa Moran (see p. 168). As Mother Ludovica said, it seemed particularly appropriate for the cavaliers of Our Lady who had made possible Her coronation in Red Square to be present for the glorification of 121 previous cavaliers of Our Lady who had died for their faith in a different kind of "red" square.

Call to the Laity!

Before the Kremlin we crowned Our Lady before a giant Icon of *Christ the King*. In Spain's "red" square they died, consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary (many were members of the Immaculate Heart congregation of St. Anthony Mary Claret), crying "Viva Cristo Rey!": "*Long live Christ the King!*"

As said above, in this final stop of the Peace Flight of the Pilgrim Virgin it also seemed appropriate that

the vocation of the laity should be recognized. Cardinal O'Hara had said almost prophetically when the Pilgrim Virgin first came into the U.S. on December 8, 1947: "This is something which must come from the people." And it did.

In other books about this historic visit of the "Victorious Queen," to the site of some of Her victories, there will be many more details. But one meaningful episode might be overlooked: A chance "foot-visit" to the *Russicum*. The angels must have arranged it. Most of those in our coach had been to Rome several times before and therefore visited less frequented places like the burial place of St. Benedict Joseph Labre (patron of the laity and pilgrims) and St. Praxedes. The latter was closed so we headed to the nearby Church of St. Alphonsus in which is honored the original picture of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

After leaving St. Praxedes, only one building separates two streets. (They fan out from St. Mary Major's like spokes of a wheel.) Talking, we passed in front of the building and down the wrong street, arriving almost immediately at the *Russicum*.

This is a college which Pope Pius XI built to train priests for Russia. The Pope asked for volunteers. And one of the Americans who offered himself was Father Walter Ciszek whose story is told in two books: *With God in Russia*, and *He Leadeth Me*. Anyone who has read either of these books (but especially the first) will have a much greater appreciation of the magnitude of what happened on October 17, 1992, in Moscow's Red Square. The cause for the canonization of Father Walter is well under way. We had chosen him as one of the special patrons of the Peace Flight (see p. 172).

After his amazing survival and final liberation from the labor camps of Siberia, he had been a great support to the Blue Army and to our All Night Vigils.

We felt that he *was present with us* when we went on this Peace Flight to Russia. Now suddenly we found ourselves before the door of that college in which he (and many heroic priests like him) had offered their lives and their priesthood for Russia.

Inscribed in great letters on the outside of the building was the inscription: DEDICATED TO ST. THERESE OF THE CHILD JESUS. It was with this dedication that Pius XI entrusted the Russian apostolate in a special way to his "Patroness of the Missions" and "God's Messenger to the 20th century."

She was therefore also one of our official Peace Flight *patrons*. That is why our pilgrimage made a side trip from Paris to visit her tomb and Shrine in Lisieux (see pp. 27 & 45).

So it indeed seemed that the angels had guided our steps down the "wrong" street... so that we would know: "*Yes, Father Walter! You and St. Therese have been with us every step of the way.* And you are to be remembered wherever this story is read."

The Other Patrons

Another special patron of the peace flight was St. Joseph. And Oh!... how much we were aware of his nearness! The second plane was dedicated to him as the first was dedicated to the Queen, his spouse. He had accompanied Her to Bethlehem, to Egypt, to Jerusalem... and now to Russia.

The Holy Infant King, the Infant of Prague, was our first "Patron." How touching that the crown used at the first coronation in Red Square was taken from one of His statues... And we had two patrons not yet canonized: Bishop Venancio and Padre Pio. As I mentioned before, we had already had an extraordinary sign that Bishop Venancio was with us.

How will we acknowledge our debt to all our Patrons, not the least of whom is Padre Pio, a saintly priest of our time who bore in his body the five bleeding wounds of the stigmata for fifty years?

Padre Pio had said: "Russia will be converted (changed) when there is a Blue Army member for every communist. And most of those on the Peace Flight were long standing members of the Blue Army who had labored long and hard for Her victory. We can believe Padre Pio was with us in a special way because he said *he would wait at the gate of Heaven until all of his spiritual children had entered, and all sincere Blue Army members had been accepted by Padre Pio as his spiritual children.*

Final Words

Perhaps a fitting conclusion to this account of the Victorious Queen of the World Peace Flight would be the words Our Lady is said to have pronounced at the moment of the coronation in Red Square. Whether or not we actually believe Our Lady said them, appearing over Red Square as a truly Victorious Queen, we can take them to heart as though addressed by Our Loving Mother to ALL who responded to Her requests and especially to those more generous souls who have enabled Her "so far" (Her words at Akita) to hold back the chastisement.

Our Lady said through the visionary to us:

"Thank you for your obedience and prayers. By obedience and prayer you have overcome many obstacles. You have brought so much joy to My Heart.

"Thank you so very much. Know that your rewards are great in Heaven for you have pleased God.

"Remain small in the eyes of the world that you may be great in the Eyes of God."

God — Love

As we remember those beautiful words, we also will ever remember those other beautiful words spoken with tears of gratitude and joy by the Russian Orthodox who had interpreted the ceremonies in the Cathedral that morning: *"You have brought us God. You have brought us love."*

This is the victory of the Immaculate Heart of Mary: The victory of Love Itself dwelling in all the tabernacles of the world. It is the victory of God "Who so loved the world that He gave His only Son" Who dwells with us (so often unknown and ignored!) in a Sacrament of Love.

It is never too late to see accomplished by love what might otherwise have to be accomplished by fire.



Square repairs called revenge

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOSCOW

Workmen are replacing cobblestones on Red Square, preventing President Boris N. Yeltsin's opponents from demonstrating at Lenin's Tomb today — the 75th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution.

No one disputes that the stones are badly worn and in need of repair. But die-hard Communists yesterday contended the construction project was timed — in an act of “petty revenge” — to block their annual march through the square.

They said they would rally elsewhere.

“Who ever heard of repaving after winter has set in?” said Mariya Lyubimova, an irate 66-year-old woman standing outside the Lenin Museum on the edge of the square.

Until the Soviet Union's collapse, Revolution Day was the country's most important holiday. Thousands of workers paraded across Red Square, bearing huge portraits of Communist leaders. Politburo members stood on the Lenin Mausoleum and saluted as tanks, missiles and goose-stepping soldiers passed by.

On the eve of Revolution Day last year, however, Yeltsin banned the Communist Party. His decree is now being challenged in Russia's Constitutional Court.

Nov. 7 remains a holiday for Russian workers, but it is no longer a major state celebration. Yeltsin announced he would work a “normal” 14-hour day.

No model workers or Red Army tanks will stream past the Kremlin walls and the domes of St. Basil's Cathedral this year.

City authorities deny any ulterior motive for the work, which began Oct. 21. (1992)

Ordinary Russians are divided about the lack of official festivities.

“The revolution is part of our history. Our history hasn't changed. Why not treat it like a real holiday?” said Svetlana Pogorelova, a 16-year-old from the Siberian city of Novokuznetsk who visited Red Square on Thursday.

“I think the revolution was wrong. A big mistake,” replied her classmate, Natasha Varlakova. “As a holiday, it was just a show. It had nothing to do with real life.”

Despite decades of propaganda, Nov. 7 was never a heartfelt celebration for many Russians, who were secretly more attracted to Christmas, Easter and other religious occasions. In the past year, those have become state holidays.



ASSOCIATED PRESS / LUI HEUNG SHING

Moscow residents line up to buy pastries for stalls at the Kremlin. Churches were filled yesterday with worshipers for the Russian Orthodox Christmas. Others celebrated with family and friends — and perhaps a pastry in Red Square. The holiday, which had been banned after the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917 along with other religious holidays, was made an official holiday again in 1991.

Moscow Mass



A young girl stands in front of Russian Orthodox nuns April 7 at a Mass marking the feast of the Annunciation. It was the first time since 1918 that a Mass to mark the Annunciation had been celebrated in the Kremlin.

CNS photo from Reuters

The Monitor-April 15, 1993

Books by John M. Haffert:

Russia Will Be Converted
Mary In Her Scapular Promise (Sign of Her Heart)
Meet the Witnesses
From A Morning Prayer (The Brother and I)
The Peacemaker Who Went to War
A Letter from Lisleux
Queen's Promise
Night of Love
The World's Greatest Secret
Sex and the Mysteries
Explosion of the Supernatural
Dear Bishop!
Who is the Woman of the Apocalypse?
The Hand of Fatima
Go! Your Mother is Calling
The Meaning of Akita
Her Own Words
To Prevent This!
Finally Russia!
Her Glorious Title
You, Too! Go Into the Vineyard

Translations:

Akita — The Tears and Message of Mary,
by Fr. Teiji Yasuda

Pontmain,
by Abbe Richard

Contact the 101 Foundation
for information about obtaining these books.



At 25, John Haffert published his first book titled *SIGN OF HER HEART*. Archbishop Sheen wrote the preface. It sold over 100,000 copies. Some twenty books followed.

Recently he completed many years of work on what may be his most important book: *HER OWN WORDS*, together with a sequel: *TO PREVENT THIS!*

HER OWN WORDS is a commentary on the memoirs of Lucia. *TO PREVENT THIS!* is a call to action based on the memoirs and on the message of Our Lady of Akita. (Both books are being offered by The 101 Foundation).

Three books he considers of special importance are *SEX AND THE MYSTERIES* (a book on the Rosary), *THE WORLD'S GREATEST SECRET* (on the Eucharist), and *SIGN OF HER HEART* (mentioned above, on the Scapular).

In a somewhat autobiographical book, *THE BROTHER AND I*, Mr. Haffert speaks of a vision of a Carmelite lay brother in 1933. In 1946, during an interview with Sister Lucia, he was amazed to find that the message given in the 1933 vision was the very message of Fatima which, in the presence of Lucia, was formulated into what has become known as "The Blue Army Pledge." By 1948 over a million signatures had been obtained. The apostolate is now widely known as the World Apostolate of Fatima as well as the "Blue Army."

At the request of the Bishop of Akita, Mr. Haffert translated Fr. Yasuda's *TEARS AND MESSAGES OF OUR LADY OF AKITA* and wrote a small book, *THE MEANING OF AKITA*. It was out of the fulness of his knowledge of the events of Fatima and Akita that Mr. Haffert produced *TO PREVENT THIS!*, in which he suggests that the warning of Akita is similar to the Third Secret of Fatima and describes the response necessary now to prevent the annihilation of several entire nations.