

Blue Army Tour Goes To Poland

The Cardinal Primate of Poland has written to all the Bishops of the U.S.A. asking them to conduct pilgrimages to Poland to celebrate the millennium of Polish Christianity this coming May 3rd. Pope Paul VI is expected to be present.

Following appeals and suggestions of many Blue Army members, the Rt.Rev.Msgr.Harold V.Colgan, Founder and International Director of the Blue Army of Our Lady, has decided to lead a pilgrimage of U.S.A. members of the Blue Army of Our Lady to Poland for May 3rd. and then to Fatima on May 13th., anniversary of the first apparition of Our Lady of Fatima (her Feast Day).

"This may be the most meaningful pilgrimage the Blue Army has ever made," Monsignor Colgan commented, including as it does the Feast of Our Lady at Fatima

following the Council, and the visit to Czestochowa the greatest Marian Shrine behind the Iron Curtain. It will be not merely a sharing in the triumph of Our Lady after so many years of sacrifice. It will be a stimulus to a more triumphant future in which we already foresee the final conversion of Russia and world peace."

Total cost of the pilgrimage, from New York and return, including everything (all meals, and even port taxes) is \$799, most hotels first class. Reservations limited. Write to Blue Army, Washington, N.J.

The tour will also visit Paris, Berlin (east and west) Prague, Wroclaw, Katowice, Budapest, Vienna, Dresden, and of course the eternal city of Rome, to participate in the Jubilee Year which ends shortly after the Polish celebrations.



Angelo Goretti with Msgr. Colgan after signing the Blue Army Pledge in 1955.

Angela Goes Home

By JOHN M. HAFFERT

WASHINGTON, N.J. — In a poor country house outside Naples I recently witnessed a touching reunion of two brothers who had been separated for 15 years. I refrained from taking a picture because I felt it would be an invasion of the privacy of those wonderful, elderly men who had not seen each other since 1950, when they assisted at the canonization of their sister, St. Maria Goretti.

As tears filled their eyes, arms clasped about each other while I stood at an embarrassed distance, I marveled at the coincidence that had brought the brothers together perhaps for the last time before they would meet their sister in Heaven. But I didn't know how soon that meeting would be for Angelo, whom I had just brought from America.

The trip from America was arranged last July 6. I was driving a friend past Mr. Goretti's house at New Village, N.J., when it suddenly occurred to me to stop.

He had retired ten years ago. His pension was inadequate to provide for a trip to Europe. Without further thought I put both my hands on his shoulders and said:

"You can go home in October. I will take you."

I still had my hands on his shoulders when a passerby greeted him, saying: "I wanted to say 'hello' on your sister's feast day."

It was July 8, the feast of the saint.

I had an ulterior motive. My own daughter is 17, and I always ask prayers for her. Before removing my hands, I said:

"Your sister sent you this feast day present. Will you do me a favor? Will you ask her to pray that my daughter will be a saint?"

And that is how it came about that recently I found myself in that courtyard in southern Italy while the two brothers, who had witnessed the death of the modern martyr of purity, embraced.

A week later my own daughter and 13 other young girls from the Romana School for Young Ladies in Rome were privileged to be with Mr. Goretti when he went back to Nettuno, where St.

Maria Goretti is buried.

It seemed that this man, although he had lived in America from the time he was 16 years old, was destined by God to die near his sainted sister in the very city where she became immortal on June 24, 1950, in the presence of 200,000 people when Pope Pius XII proclaimed her a saint. In the words of the Pope himself it was an event which exceeded "anything which has ever been witnessed at any other canonization."

Now Angelo was to die here . . . this boy one year older than the martyr and the one who heard her cries and who gave testimony to the police that awful day on the first Saturday of July, 1902, when his sister preferred death to mortal sin.

Oddly enough, I had returned to America by air in the meantime, and then had come back to Rome to deal with some crucial developments of that same Romana School for Young Ladies during the same week Mr. Goretti, whose prayers I had asked for this intention, was back in Rome. All was settled most favorably and I flew back to New York on Saturday night, 15 hours before the heart attack which, in a matter of minutes, took Maria Goretti's brother home . . . really home.

"It must be that God wanted him to die there," his daughter sobbed to me on the telephone. "He was such a wonderful father. We are resigned. We are even glad that it happened as it did, but only time can dry our tears."

Msgr. Colgan, founder of the Blue Army, who several times had Mr. Goretti come and speak to the children, said:

"St. Maria chose death to mortal sin on a first Saturday, and all Our Lady asks of us is 15 minutes on that day of meditation, the rosary and confession and Communion of reparation for sin. How can we inspire our children of today to arise to this responsibility? If we fail, what can we expect of them as adults of tomorrow?"