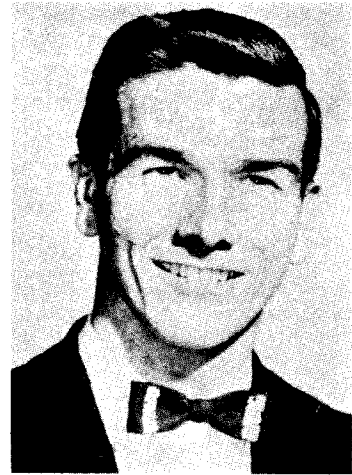


# Apostle of Renewal



“from  
the threshold  
of death”

**I**t was all the way back in July of 1959 that Francis K. Schuckardt of Seattle, Washington, was named “Apostle of the Month.” At that time he was a college student devoting several hours a day to Blue Army work.

Like many Blue Army workers, Francis saw the importance of the message of Fatima, but he also had a life to live and, soon, a job. (He became a Linguistics Research Analyst, and was teaching in High School).

Torn between the teaching vocation and the desire to make the message of Our Lady of Fatima known as effectively and extensively as might lay within his power, Francis finally chose teaching because he could not ask his family to be his support while he served Our Lady.

Years passed and Francis had less and less time for the Blue Army until the fateful year, 1961. He was suddenly struck down by typhoid. He was in and out of coma for eight days when the doctors finally advised his family that the end had come. He would be dead by morning.

In his extremity, Francis remem-

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“Give me in every  
Parish, a HANDFUL  
OF LAYMEN, alert,  
informed, zealous  
and I will change  
the face of the  
earth.”

POPE ST. PIUS X

By JOHN M. HAFFERT

bered a promise made in 1947 by Monsignor Harold Colgan, the priest who founded the Blue Army when Our Lady literally snatched him back from the jaws of death.

“If you cure me, too,” he told her, “I will work in the Blue Army more than ever.”

## Death Retreats

The next morning, instead of dy-

ing he asked for food! And in the next few hours he dictated to a nurse the details of the Blue Army cell program which has swept the whole west coast of the United States and is now being put into practice over the world.

But still Francis had not made up his mind to go “all the way” . . . to give up teaching and to work for the Blue Army and nothing else

Francis Schuckardt (right, rear, holding censer) participates in the dedication of the Eastern Rite chapel August 28, 1963, at the Blue Army Centre at Fatima. There is also a Latin chapel at this Centre, dedicated August 22, 1965. The joint physical presence of the Blue Army East-West chapels at Fatima reminds the world of the spiritual East-West union promised by Our Lady of Fatima WHEN we do as She instructed.



with only Divine Providence to care for him.

Two years later he was back in the hospital, this time stricken with thrombo-phlebitis of the legs. Clots were forming. The infection was spreading up into his body. The doctors decided they had to amputate.

In January of 1963, the doctors operated . . . but tried first to remove the infected areas, even though they felt that not all could be removed except by amputation. So this time Francis made the "all-out" promise:

"Dear Mother, if you save my legs . . . I will use them to travel and to extend the cell program wherever you want me to go."

He has gone, in just two years, to all the dioceses up and down the West Coast and won them all. One by one, cells were formed. They spread. And the spiritual renewal called for by Pope John XXIII and implemented by the Ecumenical Council was finding one of the most effective instruments imaginable. Indeed, recently at a meeting of three hundred Blue Army leaders of the West in Phoenix, Arizona, Father Aloysius Ellacurria, C.M.F., said: "The Blue Army is not just an Army of Our Lady, it is THE Army of Our Lady." Others described it as the "Best instrument for spiritual renewal in the Church today."

As all this was developing, the Bishops of the World in Ecumenical Council Vatican II were discussing the role of the laity in the modern world. Finally on November 18, 1965, the Decree of the Council was promulgated . . . over 10,000 words long . . . and it was far stronger

For further information regarding the Cell program order THE MANUAL FOR CELLS (\$1.00).

than anyone might have dreamed. It was said that laypersons have an autonomous and significant role to play in spiritual renewal, in understanding and combating the forces of evil.

That was just what the cell program prepared by Francis in the days just after his deliverance from death in 1961 provided for: study of Catholic doctrine by a few persons in a "cell", and a counter study of the forces of evil so we would be able to counteract them and be persuaded of our major responsibility in this crucial hour of world history.

Francis did not lose his legs . . . and neither did he lose time in using them! We at the National Headquarters were so impressed with his spectacular results, and the warm reaction of Bishops and priests to his program, that we invited him in August of the same year of his "cure" (August, 1963) to participate in the meeting of the International Council at Fatima and to present the cell program he had written in 1961 and which had been tested so effectively on the West Coast. The members of the Council from many nations studied the program and adopted it for the world with almost no changes. Francis, although a very young man (only 26) was elected to the International Council to head an International Cell committee. It was the first time that anyone other than a national head of the Blue Army was ever given membership in the International Council.

## Tremendous Plan

On November 20, 1965, Monsignor Colgan, Founder of the Blue Army, invited Francis to come to the East and to explain the program to cell leaders there.

"It was tremendous," said one of the leaders present. "I never rea-

lized what Our Lady had in mind when she raised up this spiritual army until now . . . because I never realized how simply the program she provided for renewal could be carried out."

Francis is now travelling in the East. In March he will have seminars in Ireland at Knock, and in England at Aylesford. Then he will conduct a three week seminar at Fatima, from April 4th to April 25th. Thirty apostles from the English speaking world will be invited to participate in the seminar at Fatima with expenses paid by the International Council while at Fatima.

Last year Francis, who speaks Spanish, (also French, German) went to Central America and worked for two months with Bishop Constantine Luna, International Blue Army Secretary for Latin America. "He is a tremendously sincere apostle," Bishop Luna said.

Still bothered with thrombo-phlebitis . . . which requires constant medication and treatment (about forty minutes every morning) . . . he nevertheless maintains a schedule which would tax any well man. He travels almost constantly while lecturing on an average of more than once a day! On the West Coast, where he has become so well known, halls are often filled to capacity in this day when TV has usurped most lecturer's rostrums.

"But I don't care if I talk to just four and have to travel four hundred miles to do it," he says. "Because I know that once they hear about the cell program, they will adopt it. And when they do, the program of spiritual renewal put into motion by Our Lady at Fatima and implemented by the Ecumenical Council is surely on its way."



To arrange a lecture by Francis in your area, request information: Blue Army, Washington, N. J.

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### REMINDER NOTICE

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Many have asked to be reminded each issue to send a donation to the Blue Army of Our Lady.

Below is a handy coupon for sending your contribution.

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Enclosed is my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ which I expect to send regularly.

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