

# BEHIND the SCENES

by JOHN M. HAFFERT

**SOUL** was first published in January of 1950..and now has an estimated readership between four hundred thousand and half a million. It is basically a *family* magazine, but its more than 100,000 copies also go to many Marian centers, societies, convents, schools.

Our Bishops have asked that the FAMILY be stressed in 1979. And we'd like to ask you a question:

*Do you, if an adult, read the last eight pages of each issue which stress the apostolate for youth?*

*Do you, if not an adult, read the first 24 pages?*

*Now Up to US!*

We group the youth-oriented articles into one section to emphasize the importance of the children and the young adults in the Fatima program for the conversion of Russia and world peace. But we expect adults to read them...both for themselves, and to HELP the youth.

Once most of us thought it was up to the priests and nuns to say the prayers and do most of the apostolic work. *Now we know that much is up to us all.*

*Youth Part for ALL*

But perhaps most of the YOUTH still think it is *not* THEIR responsibility to help save the world...into which they have been so recently born....

Our Lady stressed the opposite, not only at Fatima but beginning as far back as La Salette...when She appeared to two children with a warning for the world...and then not much later when She appeared to St. Bernadette (whose centenary we celebrate this year) at Lourdes.

And She did not merely tell all these children to transmit a message to the world...She taught THEM the message, and caused them to *live it!*

*We try to continue this work of Our Lady in the pages of SOUL. We want it to be a continuation of Her voice speaking to the children not only of Fatima but of the world... and through them to all people, everywhere.*

We try, in the course of six issues through the year, to restate the entire Message of Fatima in up-to-date terms...in light of national and international news. Our editorial policy compels us to publish:

- At least ONE article in every issue that you, the reader, *would not have wanted to miss because of its importance and timeliness;*
- At least twice a year an explanation of the importance of the *Scapular as a sign of consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary;*
- Several articles a year on the *Rosary...why it is important and how to use it;*
- The importance of the *sanctification of daily duty* as the primary request of Our Lady of Fatima, for which *the Rosary and the Scapular are effective aids;*
- How the Blue Army CELLS can lead to *ever greater fulfillment of the Message of Fatima* not only in the lives of those who participate, but in *an entire parish...and ultimately an entire diocese;*
- How *your support* to the Apostolate is *put to use* to awaken the world to this great message of hope: *The conversion of Russia and world peace.*



We ask you to be a FAMILY reader...and to read EACH issue with some awareness of its significance not only to you, your family or your associates, but to bring about the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in the world.

*"Official" Voice*

*Our Lady has promised the conversion of Russia and world peace...and SOUL is the official voice in the United States of the recognized World Apostolate of that message!*

*Always Something New!*

Now in our thirtieth year of publication, we feel ever more our grave editorial responsibility. We wish all readers knew how much prayer and thought goes into the selection of the few articles we publish. Sometimes an article, set in type and ready to be printed, is held for OVER A YEAR before it is finally published. Recently one such article, written by a non-Catholic newspaper columnist who had had a remarkable experience with a picture of Our Lady of Fatima, was returned to the writer because it had remained unpublished for almost two years and was held because of more urgent (timely) articles (such as occasioned by the World Peace Flight last year and the death of two Popes).

SOUL MAGAZINE