
Can We Be Too Optimistic?

by JOHN M. HAFFERT

As Editor of SOUL Magazine for 30 years I have stressed primarily the **positive** statements of Our Lady of Fatima and especially the great unfulfilled prophecy that Her Immaculate Heart will triumph in the conversion of Russia and (what is even far more remarkable and almost unbelievable!) "an era of peace for mankind."

We know that "peace" on the lips of Our Lady can mean only the triumph of Jesus. It can mean only the establishment of a right relationship between man and God.

Have We Been Right?

At the present time, with widespread crime and pornography, with worldwide crimes of abortion, anarchy and murder, how can we anticipate anywhere in the near future a glorious era for man? Yet, Our Lady has promised it!

Recently, I asked our Board of Editors:

"Do you think we have been creating too great a feeling of optimism and failing to stress enough that if we **fail** to fulfill the requests of Our Lady we will be faced with still further wars fomented from the spread of error from an atheist Russia throughout "the entire world," and that even "several entire nations will be annihilated"?

(Both of the above horrors were also prophesied at Fatima.)

Bishop's Mandate

Some members of the Board felt that perhaps we should give more stress to the dire things that will happen if we **fail** to fulfill the requests of Our Lady, especially since it did not seem that enough persons were responding to Our Lady's message and the hope of Her triumph.

Then I confided to the Board the reason I had adopted the "optimistic" attitude for so many years. It was a mandate from our Bishop.

The Bishop pointed out that our times are so terrible, and the spread of evil so rampant, that our people need **hope**. More people might say "What's the use?" than the number who might be "frightened" into reparation and penance.

We Know the Alternatives

As I look back over the 30 years of editing SOUL, I have not the slightest doubt that it was the Holy Spirit speaking through the Bishop over a quarter century ago and that the policy we have followed ever since is certainly the right one.

It is to be doubted whether anyone who knows of the great promise of Our Lady to convert Russia and to bring peace to the world **does not also know the alternatives**. And can we not be more inspired to make sacrifices to bring about the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary than to avoid atomic war...especially since ultimately both mean the same thing?

Lech Walesa's Consecration

In past issues of SOUL we have reported at least partially on the situation in Poland and the crisis that this poses to the leadership of world atheism in the Kremlin.

Now we have learned that Lech Walesa, the leader of Solidarity (the independent trade union in Poland) has consecrated himself, the Church of Poland, the nation of Poland and the independent trade union to Our Lady of Czestochowa. Below is the prayer said by Mr. Walesa:

"Mother of God, I come to You in the simplicity of my heart. I rely on You and surrender myself to You. As with our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, I am saying, 'It is enough for me to have confidence.' Into

Your hands, dear Mother, I entrust my heart today.

"Conscious of the great responsibility I have accepted for the fate of our country, I repeat the words said by our Cardinal Primate: 'In everything and in all I rely on Mary.' To You, my Mother, I not only surrender myself but the whole of Poland; the Church of Poland and everything Polish; everything which our country needs; its economic troubles, its experiences, its sorrows, and its hope of better days to come.

"I especially entrust to Your motherly care the independent trade union Solidarity. Mother dear, I ask You to guide it, to guard its claims and to protect this union

which defends the interests of the working people, their rights and their dignity.

"I beseech You: Protect our country so that Poland will become a home for God's children, so that justice, freedom, peace and unity will be victorious in our country! In conclusion I wish to repeat: Dear Mother, guide me! Under Your guidance I wish to become an instrument for the benefit of my country, of the Church, of all mankind. I especially ask You to cast a merciful glance at the workers and peasants of Gdansk and of its whole area; and to take charge of them; to strengthen their resolve and their heart in the struggle for the genuine rights of nation and Church in Poland! Amen."