

IS SOLZHENITSYN PART OF THE CONVERSION OF RUSSIA?

by John M. Haffert

When Our Lady appeared at Fatima and said that *Russia will be converted*, was She not predicting the almost heroic morality emerging today in Russia in men like Solzhenitsyn, Amarik, and so many others?

In the West we hear very little of these men. Only when one or two become internationally famous do we hear of them.

Andrei Amarik was ordered out of Russia in 1970 because he wrote a book titled "*Will USSR survive until 1984?*" The book was forbidden in Russia but published in the West. He refused to leave.

So in May, 1970, he was convicted of slandering the Soviet Union (because he said it would not survive) and sentenced to three years in prison. After three years of jail and brainwashing he still refused to leave Russia. He was "tried" again and sentenced to Magadan, six thousand miles from Moscow.

SUCH CONVICTION!

Last July 22nd, just out of Magadan, he rejoined his wife in Moscow who during all these years of imprisonment had kept their little apartment. He admitted to reporters that during imprisonment "they" had tried to change his mind, and that to some extent they must have succeeded. But he added stubbornly:

"My belief in the right of each person to have his own convictions, and to express them, remains." (New York Times, July 23, 1975 p. 9 col 1)

Where in the world do we find such strong moral conviction today?

In the past, such men in Russia did not come out of the camps to which they were condemned. Dur-

ing Stalin's time, 40,000 a month were put to death! Now when one of these men becomes famous, everyone wonders what has happened to them, when they are arrested. The longer they remain in jail, the more the news of their heroism spreads and the more the hatred for the totalitarian regime increases. And thus these courageous men, who have no guns, and often no one to support them but their own faith and morals, are not only standing up to the monolithic communist power, but are overcoming it.

AMERICAN CONTRAST

Here in the United States we have suffered what amounts to almost a collapse of morality not only in sex (with widespread violation of the dignity and right of human life), in property (with robbery on the increase throughout the nation), but in public office.

How could we contrast men in the White House itself lying to preserve public office to men like Solzhenitsyn and Amarik declaring their belief in human dignity even at the cost of years of imprisonment?

That is why the Blue Army is so important.

It is an army which trusts in the promise made at Fatima in 1917 that Russia will be converted -- if we pray as we were told at Fatima and as was confirmed by a public miracle "so that everyone may believe".

This is a spiritual army which acts on the belief that God's grace can change Russia into a moral force to bring about an era of peace to all the world!

Solzhenitsyn never heard about Fatima until a few weeks ago. Yet one would think he...and thousands of Russians like him...were

responding directly to the promise made at Fatima in 1917. And we cannot but wonder what more these great Russian men, of such strong moral conviction, would do if the message of Fatima had been given to them instead of us. We cannot but wonder what will happen when finally the news about Fatima begins to permeate behind the Iron Curtain and the people of Russia know that they have been far from abandoned by God. At the very moment of the Russian revolution, Our Lady had appeared on the other side of the world to foretell all that was going to happen and to say that eventually the world would be saved through Russia -- that with its conversion would come "an era of peace to mankind".

Stan Hofirek, an Iron Curtain refugee now in Australia, makes a very important suggestion. He asks that we begin to take positive steps towards getting the message of Fatima known behind the Iron Curtain.

At its U.S. national meeting during the first week of August, the leaders of the Blue Army overwhelmingly voted in favor of a special new project in the Blue Army for 1976: "Operation Icon".

It is an "operation" for the speedy return for the Icon of Our Lady of Kazan into Russia beginning now by letting the people of Russia know that their Icon, of the "Liberatrix and Protectress of Russia" has been redeemed and is safely in the West in the custody of the children of Our Lady of Fatima, waiting to be returned to them, while more than 20,000,000 throughout the world are praying for this day of joy and happiness and triumph for the beloved Russian people.