



# FATIMA and CATECHISM are ONE!

by John M. Haffert

Our Lady of Fatima appeared to a Jesuit Brother at St. Bartholomew's College in Bogota, Columbia on April 18, 1949.

## *Cancer of the Tongue*

Br. John, S.J., worked in the jungles of Columbia and was teaching catechism to children when he was stricken with cancer of the tongue.

He was operated on in the Palermo Clinic, Bogota, on August 30th, but the cancer continued to spread. The doctors decided to remove his tongue entirely on September 19th.

## *Instantly Cured*

The night before the operation, Br. John was *instantly* cured when *Our Lady of Fatima appeared to him*. She said: "*Continue to teach catechism and teach them to say my Rosary.*"

## *"Speak Only to the Doctor..."*

Our Lady then told Br. John not to tell anyone about his cure or Her coming until he had first spoken to the doctor.

Next morning, Brother would not let the attendant prepare him for surgery. After the doctor arrived, he listened to Brother's story and then examined his tongue. To the doctor's amazement, the tongue had been completely cured. Even the part previously removed had been restored!\*

## *Another Miracle*

In 1976, nearly thirty years later, Our Lady of Fatima performed another wonder and gave a similar message about the catechism and the Rosary to a crippled Vietnamese member of The Blue Army. Ho Ngoc Anh, a 26-year-old former paratrooper who had been tortured

by the Communists, crippled, and at one point left for dead, was completely restored to health when he prayed at a shrine erected to Our Lady in Vietnam. This shrine was built at a place where the Pilgrim Virgin statue had stopped during its travels through the country in 1974—the year all South Vietnam was praying to Our Lady as their last hope. (For the complete story of Ho Ngoc Anh, see pages 21-22 of this issue of SOUL.)

Our Lady spoke almost the very same words to the cured man in Vietnam as She did to Br. John Aranguen in Bogota. She said: "*Go and teach catechism. Exhort everyone to say the Rosary, to do penance, and to renew one's life.*"

## *Associated with Early Years*

Most of us associate catechism with our youngest years. But sometimes adults learn their catechism for the first time when they are teaching it to others.

## *Catechism First, Then Rosary*

Fr. Fox's forthcoming book, *Catholic Truth for Youth*, teaches catechism as Our Lady did at Fatima to the three shepherd children—and as She exhorts Her faithful children to do in these recent miracles and apparitions. She says to teach catechism first, but also to learn how to say the Rosary properly.

## *Taught Catechism in Special Way*

At Fatima, Our Lady spent six months, in a sense, teaching three children the catechism in a very special way—showing them a vision of hell, reflecting in Herself the vision of Heaven, and speaking to them of so many truths, including purgatory, devotion to the Holy Father and even the great mystery

of the presence of God in the Blessed Sacrament. She explained to them that wars are caused by sin, and that sin can only stop when there are enough people praying and making sacrifices for all those who do not know God.

And is it not interesting that Our Lady appeared to two simple, humble grownups, Brother John, S.J. and a crippled layman (who had preferred to be tortured to death rather than to deny God) and *told them to teach catechism?*

## *"Magic" to Catechism*

For most of us Catechism sounds like the kind of school work we would rather avoid if we could.

But Our Lady of Fatima adds magic to the word "catechism." At the very moment that She tells us about the importance of catechism, *She performs wonders to the body and to the mind*. How we should love to learn catechism! And what a serious responsibility we have to teach it to others.

## *Wants to Save All!*

Our Lady of Fatima wants to save all. That is why She travels around the world as a "Pilgrim," and that is why She speaks to youth and adults about the importance of catechism, of praying the Rosary properly, and of doing the penance of daily duty so that sinners may be converted and the triumph of Her Immaculate Heart may come to all.

*\* A photocopy of the original documents testifying to this miraculous cure together with the laboratory examination made by Dr. Juan Pablo Llinas and a certificate of Dr. Pablo Tovar are in the archives of the National Center of the Blue Army in Washington, N. J.*