

FULFILLED SOON?

by JOHN M. HAFFERT

October 7th is the anniversary of the great battle of Lepanto, in which the Moslem menace of the domination of Europe was forever ended by the Christian ships under the command of Don Juan of Austria. The victory at Lepanto has clearly been attributed to the power of the Rosary.

In gratitude for the victory, Pope St. Pius V had October 7th of the next year set as the Feast of Our Lady of Victory. This holy Pope died in 1572 and his successor, Gregory XII, changed the name of the feast to that of Our Lady of the Rosary.

Two Dates...

St. John Bosco, that champion of the Rosary and founder of the Salesian order, built an impressive basilica to Our Lady of Victory in Turin. Over the main entrance he put the date 1571 on one column and on the other put 19... and left the second date unfinished.

Second "Red" Menace

The saint built this basilica after a vision in which it was shown to him that when the bark of Peter succeeded in mooring to the twin columns of the Blessed Sacrament and Mary, the Church would overcome the storm created by Satan (after a great Council of the Church!) to destroy it.

Just as the Christians of 1571 faced the red menace of the Ottoman Empire which sought to enslave all Europe, today we face a second and more terrible "red" menace from the East: the "error" which Our Lady predicted would "spread from an atheistic Russia throughout the entire world...fomenting further wars and persecutions of the Church."

And just as the victory of Lepanto crushed once and for all the threat of a Moslem Europe, the turning back of this second red menace will be as great a victory...and as significant.

Predicted "Now"

What is amazing is that St. John Bosco predicted this second victory as taking place *in the latter half of the twentieth century!* In other words, "now"!

In this Golden Jubilee of the vision of Tuy in which Heaven said "*Now is the time...*", we have the happy realization of having a Pope who, while a Cardinal, was one of the Cardinals from Poland who signed a petition of the Polish hierarchy to Pope Paul VI *on two separate occasions* asking for the collegial consecration.

Will Be the One

In an earlier issue, it was seen that some writers believe that our present Holy Father will be the one to make the long-awaited consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary *exactly as asked by Our Lady fifty years ago at Tuy.*

What does this mean?

It means that when this consecration takes place, all the Bishops of the world will unite with the Holy Father in consecrating Russia to the Immaculate Heart.

Consecrations Made

Russia has been consecrated to Mary's Immaculate Heart on previous occasions but, each time, the consecration made was not in accord with heaven's wishes.

Pope Pius XII made the consecration of the world in 1942 and ten

years later, consecrated the peoples of Russia to the Immaculate Heart, at the same time renewing his earlier worldwide consecration of humanity.

Pope Paul VI renewed the consecrations of his predecessor during the closing ceremonies of the third session of the Vatican Council, in the presence of the bishops of the world...and invoked Mary as "Mother of the Church."

Can we not hope that the time is rapidly approaching when the consecration will be made (*in the very near future?*) and the prophecy of St. John Bosco will be fulfilled?

What We Can Expect...

What will happen when Russia is consecrated to the Immaculate Heart in the exact manner Our Lord has requested?

Three things will happen:

First, *the persecutions of believers in Russia (and most probably in other Communist countries as well) will cease.*

Second, *there will be a marked change in the government of Russia.* Sr. Lucia once said that it is not the *people* of Russia who are bad; it is the *government*.

Third, *the Holy Father will promote universal acceptance of the First Saturday devotion*, calling it "a sign of this triumph."

On Same Level...

The devotion of the First Saturdays in honor of the Immaculate Heart would then be placed beside the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.