



INTO HIS HANDS

by JOHN M. HAFFERT

Three major intentions were in my mind and heart when I went to see Pope John Paul II last January 10th:

1) Special celebration in 1979 of the Silver Jubilee of the Marian Year and of the Feast of the Queenship of Mary;

2) To present to the Holy Father an offering for the new "Queen of the World" church in Warsaw;

3) To obtain from the Holy Father a blessing for all who had contributed to the *Queen of the World*

Peace Flight and to the Queen of the World church.

Into the hands of the Pope I placed copies of *SOUL* containing stories and pictures of the Queen of the World flight and of the Blue Army's appeal for the Collegial Consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The previous day I had spoken at length with His Eminence, Luigi Cardinal Ciappi, theologian of the Papal Household, about the possibility of a "Marian Year" in 1979.

Due to the illness and death of Pope Paul last year, followed by the too short reign of Pope John Paul I, I wondered if we still would have time for a Marian Year if it would begin August 21st, Vigil of the Feast of the Queenship of Mary and Centenary of the apparition of Our Lady of Knock (in which Our Lady appeared exactly 100 years ago as a Queen).

"Perhaps there is time," Cardinal Ciappi said, "providing the right approach is made." And His Eminence suggested intervention by one or more episcopal conferences and help of the Pontifical Marian Academy.

"We Will Look for It"

The following day, after meeting with the Holy Father, I met at length with the President and Secretary of the Pontifical Marian Academy.

"It is possible, and we will be glad to help," said Fr. Melada, President of the Academy. But he did not hold out much hope of success unless one or more episcopal conferences would intervene.

When speaking previously to the Holy Father I had the impression that His Holiness already knew of the appeal for a special Marian celebration in 1979-80. His Holiness said:

"We will look for it."

But it must be kept in mind, as Fr. Melada pointed out, that Vatican Council II opened an era of collegiality and the Holy Father does not tend to act unilaterally. Even on the question of the collegial consecration (which the present Pope himself as Cardinal of Krakow had requested of his predecessor Pope Paul VI) His Holiness would undoubtedly sound out the feelings of the episcopal conferences of the world before going ahead.

For this reason *petitions to Bishops* are still of great importance. Only by such petitions can we let the Bishops know how many of us are pleading for the collegial consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

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