



Above: Blue Army Cadets in Procession last July 13th at Fatima.

IT'S THE GIRLS' TURN NOW!

by John M. Haffert

For the past two years, there have been youth pilgrimages to Fatima led by Fr. Robert J. Fox. About 200 young men have participated in these trips. One reason for the outstanding success of these pilgrimages is the leadership and dynamism of Fr. Fox. But another is the *special appeal* that Fatima has to youth, for here is where Our Lady revealed the great message of hope for our time to two girls and a boy.

Father Fox felt that young men would respond to the challenge of Fatima with all its emphasis on prayer and penance. And he was right!

GIRLS and Boys to Fatima!

Now, it's the girls' turn. In 1978, our National Cadet Chaplain will lead 100 *girls* to Fatima (July 10-24) and 100 *boys* to Fatima (August 8-22). He will be assisted by able counselors: seminarians from San Vittorino; dedicated Fatima apostles like Elaine Atiyeh, Long Island's capable, dynamic Blue Army leader; Martha Loya, who has been lecturing in schools for more than a decade; Sister Loretta Ann, O.P., Cadet Director for Detroit; and Sister Mary Celeste, A.M.I., National Cadet Coordinator.

Irish Bishop Impressed

Many of the boys' impressions of Fatima and the 1977 Youth Pilgrimage can be read in this issue of Mini-SOUL. Their enthusiasm and sincerity inspire and give hope to adults as well as youth. Note Bishop Dominic Conway's remarks about

the Cadets. When he witnessed the boys at Fatima he asked, "How can we ever get Irish youth to respond like this?" Indeed, he was so impressed that he announced: "When I get back to Ireland, I intend to get the Cadets started there." And the boys themselves came home saying: "It was more than I expected..." "I never dreamed Fatima could mean so much..." "Wow! I want to get Cadet Prayer Cells going."

Shouldn't We Expect Same from Girls?

Now, this was not the response of a few. It was the response of *almost all*. So once again, if the boys got so much out of the Youth Pilgrimage, can we not expect the same from the girls?

Need Adult Help, Too!

Of course our young people will need *much* encouragement and help from adults. The pilgrimages for both the boys and girls will be run at cost, \$533.00 for two weeks in the heart of Portugal and Spain. Here our American youth will experience the reality of Fatima by taking part in the celebration on the 13th, visiting Sr. Lucia's convent in Coimbra, journeying to Pontevedra, Spain, to the actual site of the apparitions of Our Lord and Our Lady to Lucia and receiving many hours of instruction and spiritual formation in the most vital youth apostolate of our century.

Right, Most Rev. Dominic Conway, Bishop of Elphin, Ireland, with the American boys on the steps of the Basilica.

What Better Gift?...

For parents and friends interested in giving young Catholics a Christmas, birthday or graduation gift that will bring spiritual dividends, we recommend the Fatima Youth Pilgrimage for 1978.

Appeal to Our Centers

Since these pilgrimages are part of an intensive educational formation program for Blue Army Cadets, we ask local Blue Army Centers and cells to sponsor worthy youth to participate and assist in the work of the Apostolate. Address all requests for reservations and additional information about this pilgrimage to: *Fatima Youth Pilgrimage, Fatima Travel, Washington, NJ 07882.*

