

KENNEDY and the BLUE ARMY

By J.M. Haffert



We were in Rome when we heard the terrible news. The reaction of the Italian people was as great as if their own elected head of state had died. Perhaps it was greater. A thousand Bishops, and all the diplomats of Rome, attended a special Mass celebrated by Cardinal Spellman at the very moment that Cardinal Cushing was saying the Funeral Mass in Washington.

The following day, down in San Rotondo, the celebrated Capuchin priest who bears on his body the five mysterious wounds of a stigmatist, said to a leader of the Blue Army: "Mr. Kennedy is in Heaven. Let us pray for his assassin."

And the day following, in the venerable old Basilica of S. Praxedis where the Pillar of Our Lord's Scourging is enshrined, before one of the oldest chapels of Our Lady Help of Holy Souls in all Christendom, we had a solemn high Mass sung for our departed President. It was Thanksgiving Day . . . and because of the words of Padre Pio, we felt thankful even though we felt the terrible loss.

The next day was just one week after the President's Assassination.

The Mayor of Rome placed a beautiful auditorium at our disposal for the showing of one of the Blue Army Television films on which President Kennedy appeared. We chose to show (from the CRISIS series) **THE WAR NOW**, on which our President asserted his belief that spiritual strength, and the inherent moral superiority of American democracy, was the world's ultimate hope in the struggle against atheistic Communism.

Appeared on CRISIS

As far as we know, the Blue Army television series are the only Catholic television programs on which President Kennedy ever appeared. This was perhaps because no one else had thought to ask him. But it was also, as he himself stated, because he believed wholeheartedly in the principles of the Blue Army . . . in the principle of exposing the atheistic character of Communism and sharpening our religious sword against it.

What will happen now to the Pilgrim Virgin statue of Our Lady of Fatima, which Philadelphia Blue Army leader Ralph Hampshire pre-

sented to President Kennedy, and which was constantly in the White House?

Perhaps it will stay there.

Certainly the spirit of Fatima will stay . . . the spirit of courage in the face of atheistic Communism, the spirit born of the knowledge that Communism is bound to change, the spirit of faith and religious unity which President Kennedy brought to America and to the world at a time when it was most desperately needed.

On the television program which we showed in Rome, and which Blue Army members may now obtain to show in their own areas, President Kennedy said:

"I do not hold the view that we are at the last hour of a sinking civilization. Ralph Waldo Emerson once said a hundred years ago that there are men who think every sound they hear is the crack of doom; instead it's the cock crowing. I believe that we are, and our future is going to be, if we act with vigor and determination and recognize that this is going to be a long drawn-out struggle requiring nerve and will . . . successful.

CRISIS continues on the AIR!

Blue Army television program *CRISIS* has been recently scheduled in Santurce, Puerto Rico, and Medford, Oregon. Other stations continue to show interest, since the topics are even more up-to-date, including President Kennedy's interviews. If it has not been scheduled in your area, why not try again. The films are now available for rental for local lectures and meetings, from Blue Army Television, Washington, N.J.