

Although unknown to most Americans, Bishop Katkoff is familiar to millions of Europeans who saw him on television at the opening of the Ecumenical Council. The celebrated prelate sang this invocation for the opening of the Council:

Hear us, O God, Our Saviour, Hope of all the countries of the earth and of those far at sea. Merciful One, be merciful to us sinners! Have pity on us. Merciful and Loving God, we glorify Thee; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now, always, and forever. Amen.

Bishop Katkoff belongs to the Pontifical Russian College in Rome, a College founded by Pope Pius XI to train priests in the Russian Rite. In this special issue of *Catholic Traveler* are several references from Father Pio to Fatima and the conversion of Russia.

Father Pio has said that Russia will be converted when there is a Blue Army member for every Communist.



Bishop Katkoff

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Dear Mr. Haffert:

Rome, February 7, 1963

It was a pleasure for me to read the Fall issue of the *Catholic Traveler* magazine, "Eyes of the World on Rome", a wonderful handbook on the Ecumenical Council. I am particularly pleased that you are encouraging Americans who travel to sanctify their trips and make them a means of learning more about the history of their faith. In this way, while they have pleasant trips, their lives may be spiritually enriched by what they have seen.

Some of the marvelous places of Southern Italy should prove especially rewarding: Monte Sant'Angelo, the Holy Mountain, where the Archangel Michael appeared fifteen hundred years ago; Foggia with its sanctuary "L'Incoronata" in the grove where Our Blessed Lady appeared a thousand years ago and revealed herself with the solemn words: "I am the Great Mother of God"; San Giovanni Rotondo where, in our century, Our Lord has placed a living crucifix, to remind us that 2000 years ago God's Son became man and died for-us on the Cross, that we might be saved by His sacrifice and redemption.

San Giovanni Rotondo has special memories for me. I first went to see Padre Pio there in 1947 when I was a young priest. It was a moving experience to feel that some of my thoughts were known before I expressed them and read as from an open book.

It is with these sentiments that I accompany you spiritually on your trips, and from my heart I bestow upon you and all the readers of the *Catholic Traveler* my most benevolent and paternal blessing.

Sincerely yours in Our Lord,

+ Andrew Katkoff
Titular Bishop of Nauplia