



# Love Can Lift The Color Curtain

by John Haffert

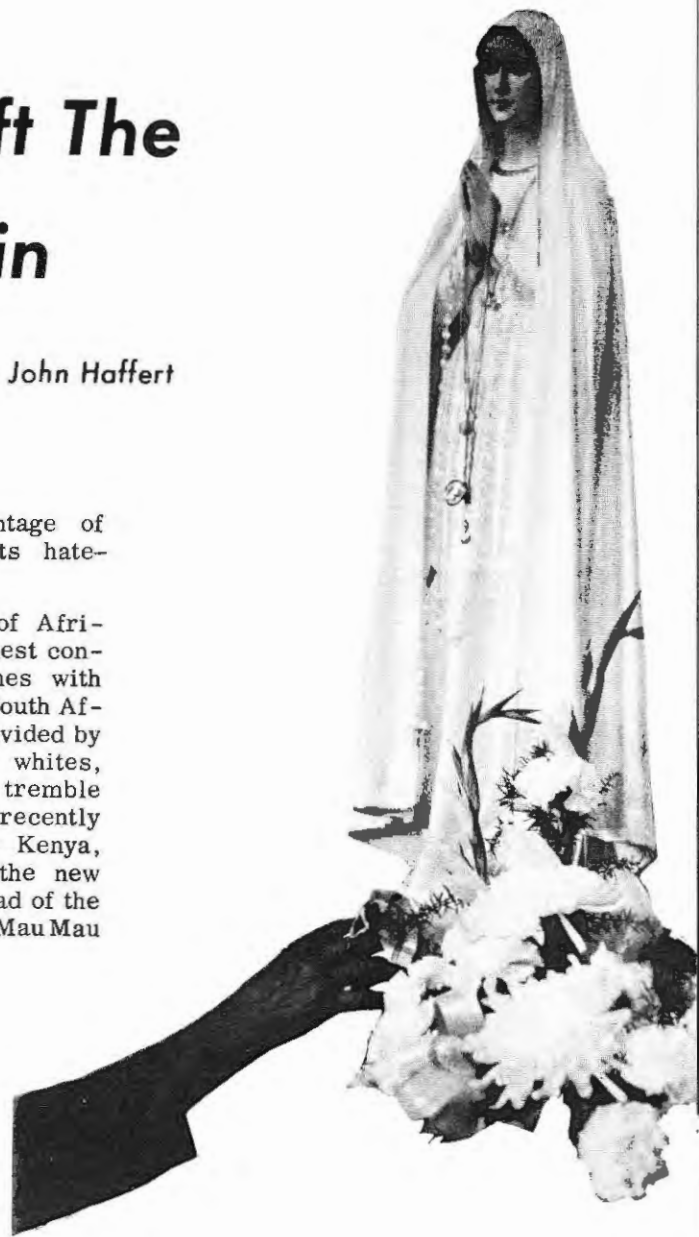
**M**any of us who were on the Peace Flight to Africa had been getting tired of black actors being "squeezed" into every TV show and commercial. Many of us were beginning to resent "black power" and to question the truth of "black is beautiful".

Africa taught us two shocking lessons:

- 1) This is NOT a white world;
- 2) Color is at this moment a deep and dangerous moral divider of the human race, and Com-

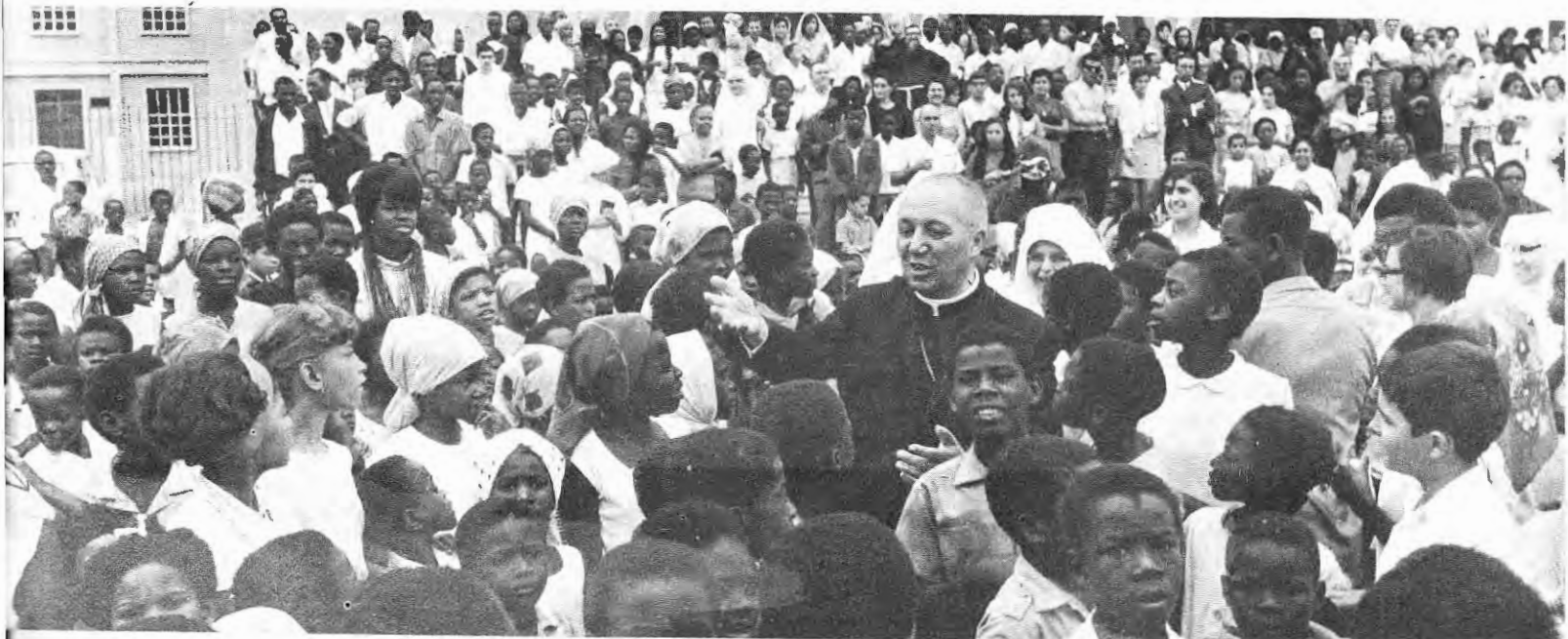
munism is taking advantage of it... right down to its hateful, explosive core.

The vast continent of Africa... potentially the richest continent on earth... seethes with hatred. Countries like South Africa and Rhodesia are divided by a color wall where the whites, outnumbered ten to one, tremble at the memory of what recently happened in neighboring Kenya, where the President of the new republic is the former head of the dreaded Mau Mau. (The Mau Mau



Right: In Africa, a black hand reaches for the White Madonna.

Below: The white Bishop of the "Black Madonna" reaches for black hands.



persuaded old and "faithful" house servants to murder whole families in their sleep.) There is a color wall separating most of the nations of Africa from each other! Planes do not fly between many of the countries. Only a few African nations are sufficiently "neutral" to be open to both white and black trade.

The hatred of many blacks for many whites is augmented by the older hatreds between some blacks and other blacks. Some tribes have been killing each other for centuries. It seems improbable that within this century some of these tribes could ever live in peace under a single government. Biafra is a bloody example. But constant reports of murders of blacks by blacks in Kenya and

elsewhere show how close the hatreds are to widespread violence.

A great and glowing exception is Uganda, right in the heart of Africa.

Uganda is Christian and black...and there is little sign of hatred anywhere. The coldness we experienced on the part of blacks in most other countries was strikingly absent in Uganda. We felt as warmly received, and as much "at home", as one might have felt in a country of Europe. The Ugandans reached out to touch us Americans as though the color curtain did not exist.

America, today, is a testing ground of love.

If whites and blacks cannot

learn to respect each other here in the United States, where many whites fought whites to free the blacks, then what hope is there for the rest of the color-divided world?

The Africa Peace Flight taught us that black IS beautiful... as beautiful as white or red or yellow. It is as beautiful as the light of the Creator which shines from the faces of His people.

Prejudice, which breeds hatred, is the real color curtain. And wishing won't bring that curtain down.

It will take love.

We will find that love through the Mother whom God gave to us from a Cross.



Ugandans lined the road for 22 miles to welcome Our Lady's statue.

