

# Now... to China!

by JOHN M. HAFFERT

**W**e are still marveling at the extraordinary effects of our World Peace Flight with the Pilgrim Virgin in 1978, especially of course the effect in Poland.

Some may forget that **that trip originated** because of an invitation from Chou En Lai in 1973 **to bring the statue to China.** After Chou died, due to the political changes in China we were on the verge of canceling the trip. But we decided not to do so because of a special "sign" received from Our Lady (as described in a previous issue of SOUL).

## Statue of Bishop O'Gara

Recently the thought had been coming back to us that Our Lady might still want Her statue to go to China, and again we began to pray for a "sign."

Last May 13, two Passionist Fathers arrived at our Shrine in Washington, N.J. with a statue of the Pilgrim Virgin—exactly like the original (made by the same sculptor!). **It had belonged to the saintly Bishop O'Gara, "dry martyr" of China** who after humiliation and imprisonment had been freed, and spent his remaining years traveling with that statue and talking about the importance of the Message of Our Lady of Fatima.

## Our "Sign"

For several years the statue had been neglected. Then one of the priests, Fr. Philip Bebie, had the statue restored because he had the impression that it was both the will of Bishop O'Gara, and of Our Lady Herself, that this statue should go to China.

**Right: His Holiness Pope John XXIII with the Most Rev. Cuthbert O'Gara, C.P., who underwent a "dry martyrdom" at the hands of the Communists in China.**

Last May 13 was an especially busy day for me. Hundreds of people were coming to the Shrine, and several with appointments. But we had reserved the hour of 11:00 a.m. for Fr. Bebie.

"Have you seen this?" Fr. Bebie asked, handing me a copy of

NEWSWEEK of April 27—just two weeks earlier.

It spoke of Chinese traveling "hundreds of miles" to a hill outside of Shanghai where the Blessed Virgin is said to have appeared.

"And last week," Fr. Bebie said,



"TIME Magazine stated that priests and nuns who had been imprisoned for more than 20 years had suddenly been set free by the Chinese authorities."

Fr. Bebie then began to speak about Bishop O'Gara—a "dry martyr" of China and of his great love and devotion to Our Lady of Fatima.

"I had the feeling that this statue of Bishop O'Gara should go back to China," Fr. Bebie was saying...and the telephone rang.

It was the message that the Holy Father had just been shot in St. Peter's Square.

#### **A Message of Hope**

I was scheduled to speak at the Shrine at 3:00 p.m. that afternoon on the subject "Prophecy of Hope." Instead I introduced Fr. Bebie so that he could tell the hundreds of pilgrims who had come from all over the country about the recent events in China...not only of a "prophecy" of hope—but of **the reality of hope!**

That afternoon I left for Portugal (for an important meeting with the Bishop of Fatima) and as I crossed the ocean I was convinced that indeed we had had our sign. It was time to respond to the invitation which had been extended by Chou En Lai in 1973.

**It was time to take the statue of Our Lady to China.**

We beg the prayers of all that this flight—which may be the last "world flight" of the Pilgrim Virgin, will be even more fruitful, more rich in graces, more replete with astounding favors, than all the journeys before it!

Enable Our Lady to go with the full support of your heart, of your prayer! Begin now to add special prayers for Her triumph in Asia and



**Above: Fr. Owen Lally, C.P., and Fr. Philip Bebie, C.P., at the Shrine on May 13, 1981 with the Pilgrim Virgin statue formerly used by Bishop O'Gara, "dry martyr" of China. This statue will travel to China next May with the World Peace Flight and will go with Fr. Bebie around the country this next January and February on a limited lecture tour on the Fatima Message.**

in the world! Resolve now once again to light the blue light—from May 8 to June 4, 1982!

For his part, Fr. Bebie is going to take three weeks in January and three in February to give a series of lectures from coast to coast, carrying the original statue of Bishop O'Gara with him, to solicit prayers and financial support for the World Peace Flight...to China.

#### **NOTE:**

Fr. Philip Bebie is a Passionist Father of international renown. He is in demand both in Canada and the United States for the preaching of parish missions and for lectures, and he was a co-founder of the Pas-

sionist House of Solitude and Administrator of the National Priests' Conference which has its headquarters in Steubenville, Ohio.

Shown above is the Pilgrim Virgin statue belonged to Bishop O'Gara. Fr. Bebie will travel with the statue next October, January and February to selected places throughout the United States to speak on the Message of Fatima as well as the promised triumph of Her Immaculate Heart in the world.

Those who might be interested in hearing Fr. Bebie should write to: Miss Toni Cormier, Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima, Washington, N.J. 07882

**NEWSWEEK, last April 27th, spoke of an Apparition of Our Lady in China.**

**The following are dates for retreats of the Apostolate of the Suffering at the National Blue Army Shrine of the Immaculate Heart of Mary:**

July 4 and July 11

August 15

September 5, 12, 19 and 26

October 3 and 10