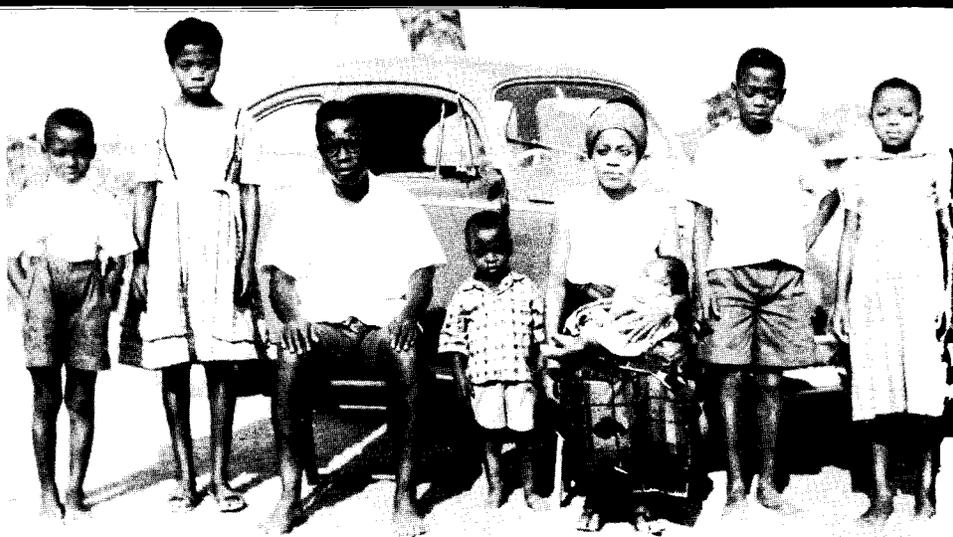


# Operation Mary

by John M. Haffert



Peter and Anna Ani and family - Obeleagu, Nigeria.

**M**rs. Eldora Scott of Holcomb, N.Y., who is one of the special Blue Army Crusaders who attended the School of Apostolic Formation at Fatima in 1966, has been instrumental in getting over 6000 Blue Army members in Nigeria, West Africa!

That is a long way from home and Mrs. Scott has never been there. She is a widow who feels that she owes a great deal to Our Lady of Fatima because her daughter was cured by Her. This year she sent her daughter back to Fatima to give her "proper thanks in person".

She would like to supply every one of the more than 6000 Blue Army members in Nigeria with a scapular and a rosary, but the best

Catherine and Norbert Scott at the Cabeco, site of the angel and eucharistic apparition.



she can afford is to keep the cell leaders supplied. She has the assistance of Father Leo Gerrity, member of the Blue Army who sends her rosaries.

The prime apostles Mrs. Scott interested in the Blue Army in Nigeria are Mr. and Mrs. Peter Ani who live in Umana Obeleagu. Because they are so far away she received a letter from the Bishop of the Diocese approving the Anis and the Blue Army apostolate to which she introduced them. Their church burned down and there was no money to rebuild one so the Bishop made arrangements for daily Mass to be said at the Ani's own home. There Peter Ani and his family gathered together the Catholics of the area for the recitation of the Rosary in addition to the daily Mass.

## CRISIS BRINGS PLEDGES

Nigeria at the present time is in the throes of a terrible internal struggle. So Christians are looking to the Mother of God as their one and only hope of peace. It is in the presence of this terrible crisis that the Blue Army has been gaining such large numbers, conscious of the great promise that Our Lady made against world Communism. Mrs. Scott reports: "They are not merely signing their names to the pledge and then forgetting about it; they are out talking others into joining and spreading the Message of Fatima into every small community."

Recently Peter Ani's family was

enlarged by the birth of another son. He was so grateful to Mrs. Scott for her part in bringing the Blue Army of Our Lady into Nigeria that he baptized the son "John" and chose Mrs. Scott as the godmother by proxy. No doubt little John Ani is the first, perhaps the only native Nigerian with a Mohawk Indian descendant for a godmother. But perhaps it is the very fact that Mrs. Scott is a descendant of the original natives of America which has awakened such a close tie between her heart and the hearts of the natives of Nigeria.

## TRUE UNITY THROUGH MARY

The Ani family have requested their pastor to say a novena of Masses for the beatification of the American Indian, Katherine Tekakwitha. This is indeed Brotherhood in action. It is the Brotherhood of the Blue Army of Our Lady.

It is known that some persons in Africa appeal to Americans for religious articles, and then sell them as good luck charms. But Mrs. Scott reports that for the very few who engage in such practices, there are many, many more "freely give not only religious articles, but their time in order that *Operation Mary* may spread ever more and more, bringing with it the Message of Fatima with the Peace Plan from Heaven to these people emerging into the modern world in its hour of greatest ideological conflict, the conflict between atheistic Communism on one hand and the offer of freedom under God on the other."