

OUR "SAINT" is BEATIFIED

In the next issue of the SOUL you may expect the story of the Beatification of Father Maximilian Kolbe which will take place as many readers are receiving this: Oct. 17th, 1971.

Meanwhile we have published a pamphlet on his life, written by a Polish Franciscan who not only knew Blessed Maximilian but was with him in the concentration camp where he was put to death as a martyr of charity and love . . . giving his life to save a father of seven children.

In 1917, four days after the miracle of Fatima, Fr. Maximilian fulfilled an inspiration to found a movement much like the Blue Army. He called it MILITIA of the IMMACULATE, or the *Knights of the Immaculate*. He recognized that it was only through Mary that the victory over evil in the world could be won, and he knew She had to have an army.

Fr. Maximilian's army was largely destroyed in the war in which he himself gave his life. And the destruction continued under Russian Communism. The headquarters of the Militia, outside Warsaw, had over seven hundred Franciscans when war came, and complete facilities for spreading the message of Mary throughout the entire world. Today, it has been stripped of ALL

its equipment, and a comparative handful of friars can do little more than maintain their building, staff their Shrine, and form a corps of firemen for the area . . . thus rendering an ostensible service to THE STATE.

Fighting Spirit Continues

We feel that the spirit of Fr. Maximilian filled Father Harold Colgan one day in the Fall of 1947 when the latter stood in a pulpit in the free world and said: "So that we will know who is fulfilling the requests of Our Lady of Fatima, I ask all who do so to wear something blue . . . and we will be the Blue Army of Our Lady against the red forces of atheism!"

There is a great similarity of spirit between Fr. Colgan (now Monsignor Colgan) and Fr. (now Blessed) Maximilian Kolbe.

And the dream of Blessed Maximilian is being realized in the Blue Army . . . and it has been supported by the Marytowns of the world . . . to such an extent that the founders of the Blue Army willed to leave all Blue Army property to Fr. Maximilians' friars if the Blue Army did not achieve a continuing corps of direction.

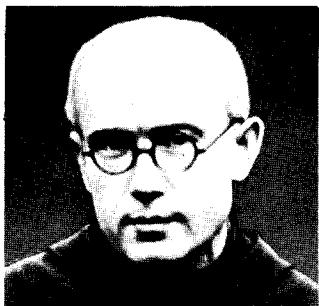
It seems particularly fitting that in this year of the triumph of the



Above: John Haffert, U.S. leader of the Blue Army, with Rev. Georges M. Domanski, successor of Blessed Maximilian Kolbe as Father Guardian of MARYTOWN, near Warsaw, in Poland. The picture was taken on May 15th, as Mr. Haffert was returning from the coronation of the Pilgrim Virgin in Moscow. This chapel at Marytown had been completely redecorated for the coronation (which took place simultaneously around the world on last May 13th). The National Pilgrim of Poland is seen over the altar. Father Domanski said: "It seems to me that he (Bl. Maximilian) is the Patron of all Marian Armies to conquer, as soon as possible, all the world to Christ through the Immaculate."

Queenship of Mary Blessed Maximilian should be lifted to the altars. It was in his Marytown in Poland that the National Pilgrim Virgin was crowned last May 15th . . . and is now reserved.

TO ORDER LIFE OF BLESSED MAXIMILIAN, send 15c plus postage to AMI, Washington, N. J. 07882.



Francis Gajowniczek for whom the venerable Servant of God offered his life.



Father Kolbe, founder of the Militia of the Immaculate Mother in 1917, of the Polish Niepokalanow (Marytown) in 1927, and of the Japanese Niepokalanow in 1930; born on January 8, 1894 in Zdunska Wola; died a martyr's death on August 14, 1941 in Oswiecim.



From children to Bishops, all over the world Our Lady of Fatima was crowned QUEEN OF THE WORLD on May 13, 1971, twenty-fifth anniversary of the coronation of Our Lady as Queen of the World by Pius XII.

SIGN *of* OUR HOPE

To bring about peace, Pope Pius XII said that the world should recognize Mary as ITS QUEEN. The Pope sent a legate to Fatima in 1946 to crown the statue there as QUEEN OF THE WORLD. As the Cardinal left Rome, the Pope impressed upon him: "Remember, you are going to crown the QUEEN OF THE WORLD."

Despite all the efforts of Pope Pius XII (which included radio messages, an encyclical, a special "Marian Year," various legates to Fatima, etc.) the world did not respond. His encyclical . . . instituting the Feast of the Queenship of Mary and requiring renewal of consecration to Our Lady as Queen IN EVERY DIOCESE on the new feast . . . was widely ignored.

In 1967, when Pope Paul VI came to Fatima "As a humble pilgrim to pray for peace," the Bishop of Fatima initiated an action which culminated four years later not only in a world-wide acknowledgement of the Queenship of Mary, but in perhaps the greatest demonstration in honor of the Mother of God ever held on one day throughout the entire world. Bishops of seventy nations participated by crowning NATIONAL Pilgrim statues of Our Lady, QUEEN OF THE WORLD. Pope Paul participated in an address by radio and television.

Idea Born in Vietnam

The idea was born in the hearts of Blue Army members in Vietnam. They had pleaded that the Pilgrim Virgin should stay in their midst until they obtained peace. And the Bishop of Fatima decided to give them a NATIONAL Pilgrim, to travel from parish to parish for constant renewal and deepening of commitment to the requests of Our Lady until peace was obtained.

Touched by this, the Vietnamese formed a delegation of over forty pilgrims and came to Fatima on May 13th, 1967, to take the statue back with them. In a special audience, Pope Paul commended them for their faith and prayed with them for the peace, through the Queen of peace, for which they had struggled and suffered more than twenty years.

It was then decided to bless Pilgrim statues FOR ANY NATIONS which wanted them, and the Bishop of Fatima wrote to the Bishops of countries all around the world, offering a "National Pilgrim" and offering at the same time to deliver the statues IN PERSON whenever this would be possible.

One by one, BISHOPS OF ALL NATIONS ACCEPTED. Only one country refused, and that was only because a similar statue was already honored in that country.

It took three years, with two journeys around the world, one around Africa, and another to Central and South America before the Bishop of Fatima had delivered all the statues. And then, for May 13th, 1971 . . . twenty-fifth anniversary of the coronation of Our Lady as QUEEN OF THE WORLD by Pius XII . . . the Bishops were invited to join in

The Bishop of Fatima wrote to all the Bishops of the world offering to deliver personally a "National Pilgrim" such as the one first taken to Vietnam. After three years of delivering them, all the Bishops were then asked to join in a world-wide coronation ceremony May 13. The three statues below were crowned "in exile" at Fatima by the Bishop and will be delivered to countries behind the Iron Curtain next month.



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should be associated with the national shrine in Walsingham."

This decision came just a short time before May 13th, and people would have to make an overnight journey to participate, and on such short notice, could a crowning be organized for a weekday service so far from the big cities? And would the Bishop of Northampton (where Walsingham is located) agree? And since the centre of the Shrine of Walsingham was destroyed by Henry VIII and is in Protestant hands, how could it be managed?

Enough discouragement for one country out of the seventy?

But a Thousand Came

But a THOUSAND pilgrims were at Walsingham, and the coronation was a triumph.

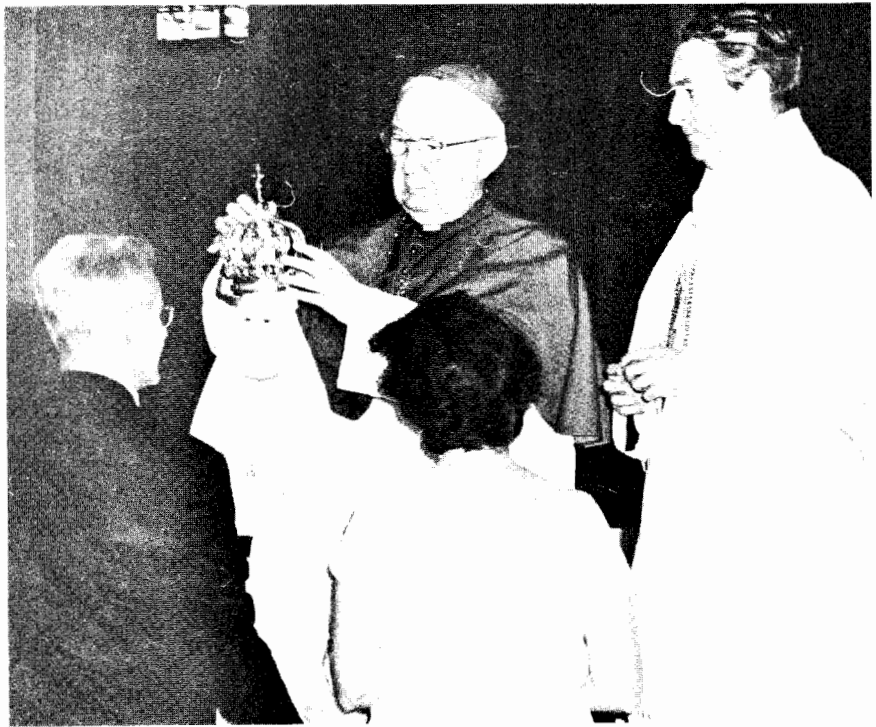
And here in the United States, the National Shrine was filled . . . including standing room . . . with pilgrims who came from all over the nation just to be present for the crowning by Cardinal O'Boyle of their national Pilgrim . . . and many American Bishops held local crownings. In many parts of the country, all night vigils of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament preceded May 13th crowning, with SIXTEEN in one diocese alone!

How the angels at the throne of the Queen must have rejoiced to behold the world acknowledging its Queen! It was twenty-five years after the coronation by Pope Pius XII, and at a time of confusion and dissension in the Church when it might have been thought least likely that such a world effort might succeed.

And there, dear friends, is truly the sign of our hope!

Because what happened last May 13th was not just another act of HONOR to Mary. IT WAS A CONSECRATION OF THE WORLD TO HER IMMACULATE HEART . . . because to recognize her as Queen is to acknowledge that we BELONG to Her. She has a right to command us. She has a right over us.

And her commands are those of a Mother more than of a Queen. They are the commands to which she herself has attached the solemn promise:



In a ceremony similar to ones held in 70 countries around the world, Cardinal O'Boyle crowned the National Pilgrim Virgin Statue at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. An estimated 4,000 people joined the procession which preceded the crowning.

"Russia will be converted, and there will be peace."

It seems fitting that the worldwide acknowledgement of the Queenship of Mary should have been brought about through the Blue Army of Our Lady . . . because this is the movement of the FULFILLMENT of Her commands. It is the association of those who promise to do the three essential things she asks as conditions for world peace.

Great Results Expected from Seminar

As a result of the world coronation, we may expect to see the Blue Army increase its efforts. In particular we look for great results from the International Seminar on the Immaculate Heart of Mary held at the Blue Army Centre in Fatima in August of 1971.

Not only did no fewer than FOUR Cardinals accept the invitation to participate in this seminar in person, but Bishops all around the world participated in prayers and letters. Some remembered the success of the Seminar in their daily

Masses. Almost all looked for the result of the Seminar for the final establishment of the devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary in the world.

And it was of this that Our Lord Himself asked Lucia in an apparition in the convent of Pontevedra, 1926: WHAT WAS BEING DONE TO ESTABLISH THE DEVOTION TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF HIS MOTHER in the world? Our Lady revealed three years later: "I promise by this means to prevent the spreading of its (Russia's) errors and to bring about its conversion."

Now, in 1971, great things are happening!

Encouraged, let us double our efforts! Let us continue to honor Our Lady as Queen DAILY by fulfillment of the Blue Army pledge! And through the cells, let us carry out the resolutions of the August, 1971, Seminar on the Immaculate Heart of Mary . . . so that our hearts, and the hearts of all men, may use this Immaculate Heart to love Jesus purely, joyfully, completely! And indeed . . . there will be peace!