

PROPHECY of St. John Bosco

by John Haffert

We may guess wrong when we interpret a prophecy, but we cannot do wrong in guessing. Sometimes God gives us glimpses of the future to make us more aware of the present, as in the case of the 1960 secret of Fatima. (See footnote #1)

THREE DATES

Experience makes us wary of "dating" any prophecy, but there have been at least three specific dates in authentic prophecies of our time: 1960 for the opening of the last part of the Fatima Secret; 1972 given by Jacinta to Mother Godinho as a deadline of "readiness" (2); and 19-? (unfinished) by St. John Bosco as the year of the second greatest triumph of Our Lady in the Christian era (the first having been in 1571, the victory of Lepanto and the turning back of "the first red tide").

Some of Our Lady's prophecies have been explicit and immediate. At Pontmain She foretold the end of the Franco-Prussian War, which ended unexpectedly and immediately within miles of where She appeared (followed by 42 years of peace coinciding with 42 stars that appeared at Her feet). At La Salette in 1846 She foretold the potato famine, which immediately drove many of our ancestors to America, and especially those from Ireland where the potato crop was vital to survival and where thousands died as a result of famine.

But few prophecies of Our Lady have been so specific as those of Fatima. To interpret these prophecies, Our Lady left one of the seers on earth, with specific instructions to "learn to read and write" so that through this remaining contact, whose authenticity was confirmed by the miracle of the sun at Fatima, Our Lady would continue to explain Her message.

Lucia has given us at least three dates or "deadlines" in the prophecies: 1938, when she announced that a strange light in the sky in January of that year was the sign that the Second World War was about to begin; 1956, shortly before the invasion of Hungary by Russia, we were told that she said that the "annihilation of nations" could happen "within this year" if enough persons did not turn to God (3); 1960, as the deadline for the opening of the last secret of Fatima.

ANOTHER DEADLINE

But there was another "deadline" or "sign" of major prophecy in the prophecies of Fatima:

Lucia said: "*When the Holy Father, together with all the Bishops of the world, will consecrate Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, then Russia will be converted and there will be peace.*"

Years passed and the Holy Father did not set a specific day

for all the Bishops to join with him in this act. Lucia then asked Our Lord if He could not convert Russia *without* this condition. Our Lord replied that He had set that condition because "I want all the Church to recognize this consecration as a triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary so that this devotion will then be extended and placed beside the devotion to My Divine Heart." Our Lord said that the Holy Father would indeed do this, although "it will be late".

THAT'S THE WAY IT IS

Concerning the fulfillment of this prophecy and sign, some of the greatest experts today are in disagreement. In the classical (and very important) book *A HEART FOR ALL*, one expert says that the consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary made by Pope Paul VI at the close of the third session of the Council on November 21, 1964, fulfilled the condition; and in the same book, another says that it did not fulfill the condition.

That's pretty much the way it is with prophecies. The edges are not sharp and clear. Prophecies are almost ALWAYS conditional upon man's free will. Only the substance is usually clear. And while there is little need to look back at the prophecies of Fatima which have already come true, it is very consoling to look forward to the greatest prophecy of all which has NOT yet come true: *Russia will be converted and an era of peace will be granted to mankind.* And further: *In the end, My Immaculate Heart will triumph.*

All the "experts" are quite in agreement that this period fol-

*"Glimpses of the future
to make us more aware..."*

"1975 could be THE YEAR"

lowing the conversion of Russia is going to be the most glorious epoch in Christian history, and may even see the fulfillment of the prayer of Our Lord: "That they may be one."

WHEN?

We would all like to know WHEN. And we would like to know how much more the world may have to be violently purged, even by Atomic war if necessary, before that great miracle of conversion and the epoch of grace.

St. John Bosco, almost a hundred years ago, gave us a reasonably definite answer: **IT WILL TAKE PLACE SOME TIME WITHIN THE NEXT TWENTY-FIVE YEARS.**

On July 21, 1974, a Blue Army pilgrimage was visiting the room in which St. John Bosco spent the last years of his life, where he performed many miracles, and in which he died. One of the six priests in the group asked an

elderly Brother in charge of the room about that "date prophecy" of St. John Bosco...the numeral. To everyone's surprise the Brother answered:

"We think it will be next year...1975."

There was a reaction of astonishment in the group.

"This is not certain," the Brother hastened to add, "it is just what we think." The Brother then repeated his last phrase and added:

"The most important thing is to pray."

Certainly Pope Paul hopes for something important in 1975. That is why he announced an "advance" Holy Year...asking prayers throughout the world for "Renewal and Reconciliation" in 1975. On the eve of the advance Holy Year, the Pope said that we could not achieve this goal without an EXTRAORDINARY aid...and that this aid could be had ONLY BY A SPECIAL DEVOTION TO OUR LADY.

1975, as Bishop Venancio of Fatima said during his recent visit to the United States, is the "Year of the Two Hearts". It is the Tricentennial of the "great apparition" of the Sacred Heart (with promise of the nine first Fridays) and it is the Golden Jubilee Year of the apparition of the Immaculate Heart of Mary with the promise of the five first Saturdays...

Bishop Venancio has appealed for an increase in the all-night vigils, and especially for the first vigil of 1975: The night of January 3rd and 4th, the first Friday and Saturday. "I rejoice" His Excellency said, "there are so many members of Our Lady's Blue Army who have the generosity to make this entire night of reparation... thus making up for so many who have not responded at all to the appeal of Jesus and Mary for reparation of the offenses that merit our punishment."

1975 COULD BE the year of change.

IMPORTANT NOTES



(1) On Feb. 11th, 1967, addressing a large conclave in Rome Cardinal Ottaviani described how Pope John had read the 1960 secret and then resealed it, and His Eminence said: "What matters is the public message. The secret is a matter for the Holy Father... Lucia was not only charged to transmit the secret to the Pope but also to make known to all the world the public message which is condensed into these words: PRAYER AND PENANCE." (Lucia Speaks, AMI Press, pg. 42).

(2) There was no specific disaster foretold by Jacinta for this year although many tied it in with Jacinta's description of a bloody conflict in Lisbon...which has not yet taken place. All Jacinta really said about 1972 was that the community be ready by that year.

(3) This prophecy of Lucia was never officially published. It was made known in Portugal by persons who spoke with her, especially by one of the Bishops to his priests. The Blue Army throughout the world took immediate and intense action. Here in the United States all the 'special' members of the apostolate were asked to contribute \$1,000, if they could, towards a gigantic effort to publicize the message of Fatima. The nation was deluged with propaganda. Msgr. Colgan, founder of the Blue Army, said: "I believe that just the sacrifice of our own most dedicated members, in contributing as they did, may have been enough to have tipped the

balance of Divine Justice at that moment. President John F. Kennedy, who appeared subsequently on the television program which the Blue Army initiated at that time, said that indeed the U.S.-Russian confrontation had been a great crisis but that 'Now time is on our side.' Subsequently, some thought the message was false, but the following statement was published in the official newspaper of the Bishop of Fatima:

The statement made by the Blue Army in America...raising funds to appeal for prayer and sacrifice through radio and television...is the same as that recently made by one of the Bishops here in Portugal. In America, as here in Portugal, those who have been informed through any reliable source have been told privately. They have been asked to work more earnestly than ever for the fulfillment of the requests of Our Lady of Fatima. And they have also been specifically told that the information given has been personal and should not be generally published. Because of wild rumors spreading about this matter we see fit to state:

'1) The revelation is conditional. If there is enough prayer and sacrifice the promise of Our Lady for the conversion of Russia and peace will come to the world. But so far the world has been neglecting Our Lady's message...to its own danger.

'2) The revelation has not been released for general publication...for the very reason obvious in these words (all the above): Misunderstanding and exaggeration.'

The above statement appeared in the VOICE OF FATIMA, official four-language newspaper of Fatima, on Sept. 13th, 1956. Just ONE MONTH LATER the Hungarian revolt brought the world to the brink of atomic war. Many to this day feel that the United States 'let down' Hungary by not replying to their desperate cries for help when, after declaring their independence, they were invaded by Soviet troops. But perhaps at the cost of the U.S. honor, and at terrible cost to the heroic people of Hungary, the world at that moment was spared atomic war. The reaction among some Communists so turned against Russia's scourge by ruthless militant atheism that History may show this to have been a turning point in the trend of worldwide Marxism. One of the Blue Army leaders who was primarily responsible for the private circulation of Lucia's revelation (it was never published in SOUL but circulated only by letter) among the elite of the Blue Army in the U.S. has said: "When we get to Heaven we may see that this was the Blue Army's 'finest hour'; it certainly showed the degree of faith and selflessness of all our 'little people' who have made the Blue Army pledge and strive to keep it." It is also most remarkable that after this crisis none of the Blue Army members who had made such sacrifices felt betrayed or disillusioned because there had been no 'annihilation of several entire nations' (words of Our Lady, July 13, 1917). Perhaps if this 1956 prophecy attributed to Lucia had been generally published rather than privately circulated the misunderstanding after non-publication of the 1960 secret would have been compounded.