

# THE REAL SCANDAL of INVERNESS

by JOHN M. HAFFERT

Recently many devotees of Fatima were shocked when Father James Cottrell was removed from the parish of Our Lady of Fatima in Inverness, Fla. The shock waves extended far beyond the area when Frank Morriss published a lengthy article in *The Wanderer* (September 24) challenging the action of the Bishop in removing Fr. Cottrell.

## One of the Reasons?

One of the reasons cited by the Bishop (out of more than a dozen) was that Fr. Cottrell had not replied to a letter instructing him to cease distribution of the leaflet titled "The Third Secret of Fatima," which both Lucia and the Vatican (and the Blue Army!) had declared to be false.

We have affirmed time and time again that the third part of the Secret of Fatima has never been made public. Most of the claims concerning the contents of the Secret refer to statements alleged to have been made by Fr. Fuentes who, while Postulator of the Causes of the children of Fatima, apparently spoke on the subject to a community of nuns in Mexico.

Lucia herself categorically denied the statements attributed to Father Fuentes.

If Satan is really working his way into the "highest levels of the Church," as Fr. Cottrell apparently believes to be part of the Fatima Message, then Satan is doing so through such statements and implications in articles such as that which appeared in *The Wanderer* (a paper we had often admired).

## The Real Evidence?

**To challenge the authority of the Bishop in removing a pastor, and attacks on other Bishops such as those on Cardinal Cody (by dissidents such as Sr. Donna Quinn) are the real evidence of Satan's work in undermining the confidence of the faithful in the Hierarchy.**

Every good Catholic knows that even persons who have totally consecrated their lives to God can fall into sin. But they also know to distinguish between **the person** and **the office**.

Respect for the priesthood, and so much more for the episcopacy, is fundamentally and essentially Catholic.

It happens that Bishop Larkin, who removed Fr. Cottrell, is a wonderful (and Marian) Bishop. But that is irrelevant. He is the Bishop, and "saints" obey their Bishop without question.

Let us look at the recent example Padre Pio gave during the years of his so-called "persecution."

How humbly, how readily he accepted silence and humiliation! He never doubted that the voice of his superiors, and the voice of the Bishop, was the voice of God, even though it might at the moment have seemed otherwise.

Who of us in the service of the Church has not been told something that went counter to his or her personal judgement?

Oh, how important it is today to remember the authority Jesus vested in His Apostles...even to forgive sins...to bind and to unbind. And did He not assure us that their voice would be His, and by and with them He would be with us **always**? and that Satan could not prevail against this Church He built on Peter?

Humility and obedience are the surest signs of true devotees of Our Lady. Let us pray for each other to have these virtues and to persevere in them!

## GO TO JOSEPH!

On October 11, a large group of pilgrims participated in placing a statue of St. Joseph on a tree shrine overlooking the site of the new Blue Army Pilgrimage House—the second phase of the Shrine building program.

The ground breaking for the Pilgrim House was on October 13.

### Entrusted to St. Joseph

In the picture shown at right, Fr. John G. Engler, Shrine Chaplain, is placing the statue in the little shrine and entrusting the new building to St. Joseph.



From a member in Philadelphia, Pa., we received the following prayer to St. Joseph:

### Memorare of St. Joseph

Guard and protect me, St. Joseph  
As onward I journey to heaven, I pray

I ask when I am dying, that you will be there

To cheer by thy presence and aid by thy prayer

Now hear me, St. Joseph

I count upon thee

To grant my petitions, whatever they be.