

# RESULTS COULD BE *Sudden!*

(End of series of message at the seminar in Rome by J.M.Haffert)

**W**hat would happen if more and more leaders in the Church would promote Mary as the key to finding Jesus in the Eucharist? What would happen if all those who ignore devotion to Her, and even those who force Her devotion into the background, would instead bring Her forward . . . not as an obstacle to Christian understanding and unity but as a Divine catalyst?

It is one of the major hopes of this special Seminar, opened here in Rome on the anniversary of the proclamation of Our Lady as Mother of the Church, that this will happen.

## WE HAVE HER PROMISE

And we know that it will, because Our Lady consoled us at Fatima with that wonderful promise:

"In the end my Immaculate Heart will triumph, Russia will be converted and an era of peace will be conceded to mankind."

And on Her lips "Peace" can mean only the reign of Jesus . . . and when She speaks of "mankind" the era of peace will certainly be an era of unity and love.

Each of us can speed that day by recognizing that She is Our Lady of the Eucharist and that it is little wonder that only a short time after Saint Pius X had approved May 13th as Her special feast under this title, She appeared at Fatima, let Her hands fall toward three children who were to announce Her message to the world and cause them to cry out:

"Oh Most Holy Trinity, I adore Thee, My God, My God, I love Thee in the Most Blessed Sacrament."

There are two practical, objective means of establishing this devotion to the Immaculate Heart which were cited by Pope Paul VI in His message to the first Mariological Congress, after the promulgation of *Lumen Gentium*.

## POPE: ROSARY-SCAPULAR

In explaining paragraph 67 of that dogmatic constitution, His Holiness said:

"Among them (devotions referred to in the Constitution) we judge well to recall especially the *Marian Rosary and the religious use of the Scapular of Mount Carmel* . . . A form of piety which is adapted by its simplicity to the spirit indeed of everyone, and is most largely widespread among the faithful for an increase of spiritual fruit." (19.)

One fruitful application of the Rosary devotion is with special meditations in preparation for the Eucharistic Liturgy. An American Bishop said of this devotion:

"What a wonderful preparation for Mass! We meditate upon the life, death and resurrection of Our Savior, and this is what the Mass is." (20.)

At Fatima Our Lady told the children in every apparition to say the Rosary. In one instance she said that we **MUST** say the Rosary, and "say it properly".

As we say the oral prayers of the Rosary, with Our Lady's aid and presence we can reach the reality of Jesus in the Mysteries.

The Scapular of Mount Carmel, which is the second devotion cited by Pope Paul VI in reference to Paragraph 67 of *Lumen Gentium*,

was held by Our Lady in the final vision of Fatima at the climax of the miracle of the sun. Pope Pius XII called it: "Our sign of consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary" (21). Lucia has said that the "Scapular and Rosary are inseparable," (22) because by the Scapular we are consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and this consecration brings with it the moral presence of Our Lady which helps us to pray the Rosary effectively.

## IT'S THE COMBINATION

The *combination* of these devotions of the Rosary and the Scapular to a very great degree supplies that "extraordinary aid" of which Pope Paul VI spoke in His May 30th, 1973, message of preparation for the Holy Year.

St. John of the Cross, a Doctor of the Church, made a resolution to practice with fervor all of the virtues of Mary which the Scapular of Carmel signifies. He says that immediately "*Our Lord made me understand all the tenderness of His Heart* . . . I never knew that in this Divine Heart there was so much tenderness for men!" (23)

## MIRACLE OF GRACE

Thus St. John of the Cross experienced in a single flash, somewhat as did the children at Fatima when Our Lady appeared to them on May 13, 1917, a revelation of the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus. Even as the presence of Our Lady to the children of Fatima brought to them almost at once this miracle of light and grace, so the Scapular can bring a similar miracle to those who consecrate themselves to Our Lady.

Enrollment in the Scapular is a liturgical act of consecration to Our Lady of the Eucharist. Through the Scapular devotion Our Lady becomes morally present to us. This was graphically demonstrated by Pope Leo XI when the Scapular was accidentally removed from his shoulders. Reaching out for it, the Pontiff exclaimed: "Leave me Mary, lest Mary leave me." (24)

### SO EASY!

How easy Our Lady, Our Loving Mother, has made it for us to obtain that extraordinary aid which our present Sovereign Pontiff has told us is necessary to achieve the goals of the Holy Year! How simple are Her devotions! How available they are and how simple! They can be understood by the smallest child, and yet even the greatest of intellects can hardly probe the depth of their wonders and their meaning. Since the apparitions of Fatima fifty-six years ago, they have already been taken up by more than 20 million members of the Blue Army of Our Lady throughout the World. And from these members have already arisen such a great wave of devotion to Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament that thousands are now spending entire nights in prayer and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. His Eminence, John

Cardinal Heenan of London has exclaimed that it is as though the laity had extended the vocation of the cloister into the world. (25) And in addition to the thousands who are making all night vigils every month there are tens of thousands who are making weekly Holy Hours. Person after person testifies that after taking up these simple devotions they soon became daily communicants.

### LIVING SYMBOLS

Like the early Christians who etched the symbol of Mary beside the symbols of Christ in the Eucharist throughout the Catacombs and around the tomb of Peter, so we of today can take up the living symbols of Mary which are the Rosary and the Scapular to obtain the fulfillment of the great promise which God permitted Her to make at Fatima; a promise of the conversion of the very centers of militant atheism and of "an era of peace for Mankind".

Our meeting together in Rome would serve little purpose if we merely affirmed what Christians have always believed, namely that devotion to Mary can obtain for us the grace to find Jesus. Our meeting would even be only partially effective if we were to affirm all that was said

in paragraph 67 of Lumen Gentium, and of all else that has been affirmed about the importance of devotion to Our Lady by the Second Vatican Council.

### NOW IS THE TIME!

Now is the time to reach out in a positive and definite manner for that supernatural aid which Pope Paul VI has told us is necessary if we are to attain our goals of light and faith which will turn back the tides of evil now engulfing our world.

If we are not willing to wear the Scapular and to say the Rosary, then we are not really sincere about our acclamation of Mary as the source of the extraordinary aid which is now needed. Rather we are like Naaman in the Old Testament who could not accept so simple a thing as going to bathe in a river and preferred rather to continue in his ancient disease. (26)

Like children we must be persuaded to reach out with simple faith for these simple yet proved devotions which Our Lady has held out to the world at Fatima as sacramentals which can lead us all to the Sacrament of Unity.

We must reach out for them with simple faith, like the children of Fatima. And we must persuade the Naamans of our day to do the same.

### FOOTNOTES CONCLUDED

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| 13. <i>Lucia Speaks</i> —p. 13 (June apparition)                                  | 21. Letter of Pope Pius XII to the Prior Generals of the Carmelite Order on the occasion of the 7th century of the apparition to Saint Simon Stock. |
| 14. <i>Ibidem</i> p. 31, Apparition of December 15, 1926 in Pontevedra.           | 22. Interview with Delegate of Carmelite General August 15, 1950.   |
| 15. Autobiography of St. Therese—cf. <i>The World's Greatest Secret</i> , p. 218. | 23. <i>Cronaca del Carmelo</i> , Vol. 1, p. 100.  |
| 16. <i>Lucia Speaks</i> —p. 15  | 24. Pope Leo XI— <i>Enciclopedia del Escapulario</i> (Barcelona) No. 95 Luis Gili, 1931.  |
| 17. <i>SOUL</i> magazine, p. 23, May/June 1973.                                   | 25. <b>CHALLENGE TO GODLESSNESS</b> by the Honorable Henrietta Bower, Britons Publishing Co., Chulmleigh, Devon, p. 253.                            |
| 18. <i>Lucia Speaks</i> , p. 15 (July apparition)                                 | 26. <b>IV KING</b> —Chapter V verse 10-14.  |
| 19. <i>L'Osservatore Romano</i> , April 2, 1965.                                  |   |
| 20. <i>SOUL</i> magazine, September/October 1970                                  |   |

Below in background, John Haffert (holding statue) talks with Fratel Gino, stigmatist who had vision of Our Lady of Fatima. Foreground is Franciscan confessor of Fratel Gino who attended the Seminar in Rome at which the article above was the closing message.



Last April 17th, Father Pasquale, S.D.B., author of the biography of Alexandrina, had an interview in Lisbon with Cardinal Cerejeira and his Eminence said: *I have been to her tomb and to her room (see pictures on this page) ... that altar of great sacrifices!*"

And His Eminence told of two wonderful answers to prayer he received through the intercession of the little victim of Baltasar.

A Blue Army priest in Portugal named Father Mascarenhas has devoted the past several years to gathering further details about the life of Alexandrina and many now write to him about extraordinary cures (including cancer) through her intercession. Father Mascarenhas exclaimed in a recent letter to SOUL:

*"She is doing WONDERS, WONDERS... it is as though anything one asked through her intercession cannot be refused by Jesus..."*

The article on this page (with pictures from Father Mascarenhas) is the first chapter of the book **SEX AND THE MYSTERIES**.

*We feel that those who read this book cannot fail to respond to that plaintive message of this great soul of our day. You will find the book listed on page 21 (B. 1, 95¢).*

Below is chapel which Church authorities permitted to be built over her tomb and where thousands of pilgrims come to pray.



ALEXANDRINA was a beautiful young girl and the three impassioned men watching the house knew that she was alone with her two sisters.

When the men entered the house, a first impression of the three innocent girls must have been one of incredulity as they stared into human eyes that suddenly seemed animal like. As the men advanced, incredulity changed to panic.

Cornered in a room, Alexandrina saw no escape but the window.

She jumped.

A terrible pain shot through her as she crumpled to the ground. She knew she was injured, but now she heard the terrified cries of her two younger sisters. Forgetting her pain, she dragged herself up, seized a piece of wood lying in the yard, and crawled into the house and up the stairs, shouting and crying and praying.

At the sight of her broken body, and perhaps also shamed and humiliated by her heroism, the animal look seemed suddenly to fade from the eyes of men who, other than in the heat of passion, might have been kind.

This might have passed as just another local item, another little "incident" of life except that, as in the case of the attempted seduction of Mary Goretti, it was in the plan of God that Alexandrina should suffer and should then deliver a message to all the world of this atomic age.

She became completely paralyzed. Her spinal



Alexandrina in ecstasy. Note picture of Jacinta on wall. Over bed (not seen) is picture of Our Lady of the Scapular. She imitated Jacinta in offering all suffering for sinners.

column had been irreparably damaged by the fall.

Alexandrina knew in detail of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima in which the Blessed Virgin appeared to three children 90 miles north of Lisbon and told them that sin was the cause of war in the world, and that men must stop offending God if the world was to find unity and peace. She knew the Blessed Virgin had also prophesized a third world war, with the destruction of entire nations, unless people realized this.

Far beyond the understanding that might have been expected of a young woman of her years, Alexandrina knew that this was terribly serious, and personal. It was a message to each of us.

And its seriousness was evident because right there in Portugal Our Lady had predicted a miracle two months in advance for everyone to see: "So that all may believe". And must not the world be in great danger, and must not the message be terribly serious, for God to perform a miracle at a predicted time and place, so that "all may believe"?

One day Alexandrina could not retain any food. The priest who had been coming to give her daily Communion hesitated to do so. But the pitiful longing and appeal in the eyes of the afflicted girl overcame his hesitation.

She retained the Sacred Host.

The next day again she could not retain food. But again she retained the Host. This continued for days. And the doctor attending her could find no

cause for her inability to retain any food. To his amazement, she did not develop symptoms of malnutrition, and she did not lose weight. Yet Alexandrina received *nothing* but the Blessed Sacrament.

Other wonders began to manifest themselves. Her identity with Christ, to Whom she became so intimately united with each Communion, became so intense that on Friday she visibly relived the Passion. Finally Our Lord appeared to her and told her to send a message to Pope Pius XII asking for *the consecration of the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary*.

Pope Pius XII instructed the Holy Office to investigate this new communication and the Bishop of Braga was then asked for a scientific report.

(It was at about this time that Lucia, the sole survivor of the three children who saw Our Lady of Fatima, sent the same message to the Holy Father.)

When the Bishop met Alexandrina, he was impressed by her apparent holiness, but was incredulous when told that a girl who seemed of normal weight for her condition had been living for months without any food whatever except the Blessed Sacrament. So he asked if she would go to a hospital for investigation.

The obedient girl acquiesced.

For thirteen months she was watched by nurses twenty-four hours a day. No food whatever got to her during those thirteen months except Holy Communion. And her state of health and weight did not change.

Finally, in 1955, on the anniversary day of the miracle of the sun at Fatima, Alexandrina died.

On that day of her death she summoned all her strength for one last message, one single piece of advice to this age.

(It is contained in the book: *SEX and the MYSTERIES*. See page 21.)

Below, opening session of the cause of Beatification in Braga in 1967. For information in English, and to report favors, write to Father Mascarenhas, Centro Apostolico, Sameiro, Braga (Portugal). AMI Press is planning a book by Father Mascarenhas to be published at time of beatification.

