



SHOCKING !

by JOHN M. HAFFERT

When Our Lady said that Amelia would be in Purgatory "until the end of the world," Jacinta went at once to tell her family to pray for her. At left is Maria dos Anjos, sister of Lucia, greeting a visitor to her home in Aljustrel.

November is the month of the Holy Souls. How long may they be in Purgatory?

Some readers expressed "shock" because of an article in a past issue of SOUL Magazine (repeating Our Lady's words during the first apparition at Fatima) that a friend of the children (Amelia) would be in Purgatory "until the end of the world."

Yet Lucia herself did not find it shocking. She was only 10 years of age. When asked how it would be possible for someone like Amelia to be in Purgatory until the end of the world, Lucia quietly asked in reply:

"But is it not possible to go to hell forever for just one mortal sin?"

And we know that Our Lady meant that Amelia would be so long in Purgatory **if no one prayed for her** (as was the case!).

Little Jacinta, who was only 7 years old, instinctively understood this because she went at once to Amelia's family to tell them to pray for Amelia.

Do Not Forget Them!

As was mentioned in the so-called "shocking" article in SOUL, the family of Amelia had thought that she was certainly in heaven (as many of us think of persons who have apparently been leading basically good lives) and had stopped praying for her.

How many persons say that they have always been charitable, that they do no one any harm, and thus excuse sins against their own persons, against the dignity of parenthood, and against God Himself by failures in the practice of faith, hope and divine love?

Perhaps what is even more mean-

ingful than Our Lady's "shocking" statement about Amelia is that **She showed the little children a vision of Hell!** It so terrified them that Jacinta exclaimed:

"O, Lucia, if Our Lady had not been there, I would have died of fright!"

Our Lady explained that She revealed this horror because so many souls go to Hell because **there was no one to pray and make sacrifices for them.**

For the same reason some souls will be in Purgatory until the end of the world...**because there is no one to pray and make sacrifices for them**...because they are **forgotten!**

Perhaps we need to be shocked—as Our Lady shocked us at Fatima—to have pity on so many souls who die with no one to pray for them. In this Our Lady shows Her tender, motherly concern and mercy.

When the Bishops DO THEIR PART... DO WE DO OURS?

The Bishop of Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, Africa, recently wrote to a Blue Army leader:

"Father Martin brought up the question of selecting signatures to be sent to the Holy Father for the Collegial Consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary at the priests' diocesan meeting. I did the same once at a Bishops' Conference about the consecration of Zimbabwe. At the Centenary Celebration last year, myself and other Bishops consecrated our dioceses to Mary.

"The whole world has been consecrated, and also Russia, to Mary by the late Pope Pius XII.... It is very important that we ourselves have and foster a deep devotion to Our Lady. I am sure the Blue Army is doing a lot of good in this direction...."

Quasi-Liturgical Consecration

The above quotation was in the reply of the Most Reverend Bishop to Miss L. M. O'Donnell, Blue Army leader in Belmont, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

At the same time Miss O'Donnell asked for permission for the enrollment of Africans into the Brown Scapular upon their joining the Blue Army. And indeed if a person who signs the Blue Army Pledge has not yet been enrolled in the Scapular, it is most fitting that a special ceremony be held on the occasion of the signing of the pledge, at which time the persons signing the pledge are solemnly enrolled in the Scapular, which enrollment is a quasi-liturgical form of consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.