

you say, to this path...so She is leading others. And that is why She was able to make the promise: "In the end, My Immaculate Heart will triumph. Russia will be converted."

# The TRICYCLE

by John M. Haffert

It was just 50 years ago this year that a Carmelite Brother had a "vision", described in my book **THE BROTHER AND I**, which resulted in my spending the past 50 years spreading a message which Sister Lucia herself formulated into the pledge now promoted by the Blue Army. It contains the three basic requests of Our Lady of Fatima — the three essential things necessary to bring about the conversion of Russia and the triumph of Her Immaculate Heart.

## All Three Needed

As I look back over those past 50 years something stands out with remarkable clarity.

Where all three elements of the Blue Army pledge have been used the Apostolate has succeeded and flourished, and has also resulted in great Eucharistic devotion.

*But where only one or two parts were used, the Apostolate has limped along, or has started brilliantly and then died out altogether.*

## Our Lady's Tricycle

So the thought occurred to me that those three elements of the Blue Army pledge are much like the wheels of a tricycle. *The big wheel* is whatever is necessary each day to fulfill *our daily duties*. This request was contained by Our Lady in the very first question She put to the children:

"Will you be willing to accept whatever God will send you and to offer it up in reparation for sins and for the conversion of sinners?"

*The two back wheels* which support us, and in a sense enable us to sit on the high seat and turn the big wheel, are *the Scapular and the Rosary*.

Both of these devotions, given to us many hundreds of years ago, have been "proved" in the Church through seven centuries. They are now enriched with many indulgences and encouragements by the Church, and by many miracles and favors from Heaven.

The Scapular proclaims the union between my heart and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. It brings the moral presence of Mary into my life.

## WHERE is it GOING?

The Rosary brings the "light" of Our Lady — who rather prays it with me than listens to it as I pray. The beautiful words of the Hail Mary become a channel from Her Heart to mine through which She pours some of that fulness of grace from Her own Heart. She enables me to see in the mysteries of the life of Her Son the need to work out the mystery of my own life, the mystery of living my daily duty in a spirit of loving reparation.

And where is this tricycle taking us?

This three wheeled vehicle is carrying us deep into Eucharistic life! Just climb aboard and see for yourself.

In an interview I had with Lucia she explained during almost 4 hours the importance of those three requests of Our Lady — viz:

the prayer, the consecration and the reparation through the sacrifices demanded of daily duty. But she did not mention the First Saturdays. And I asked her:

"Sister, in all of this discussion of the essential things to be done in order to bring about the triumph of Mary's Immaculate Heart in the world you have not mentioned the First Saturdays. Are they not important?"

## Renew Once A Month

She seemed to hesitate a moment as though to be sure to find the right word. I felt that she did not want to cast any reflection on the purity and simplicity of *the three essential elements*. And then she said:

"Yes, they (the First Saturdays) are important because if we make the First Saturdays *we will renew our purpose once a month*."

She seemed to be saying that the First Saturdays *are Our Lady's way of getting us on the tricycle and of keeping us there*.

## Get One Each Day!

Perhaps in a sense the First Saturdays are *most* important because without them many people would never get on the tricycle at all.

And then the Blue Army comes along and puts up great guides to help us. It urges us to say the Morning Offering: *to get on the tricycle the first thing we do each day!* And it asks us to wear something blue as a constant reminder to us — like a beacon before us that keeps us wheeling in the right direction.