

THIS IS THE "TIME"!

by JOHN M. HAFFERT

Fifty years ago, Our Lady appeared to Lucia as she prayed in the chapel of the Dorothean convent of Tuy to make an urgent request:

"The moment has come when God asks the Holy Father, together with the bishops of the world, to make the consecration of Russia to my Immaculate Heart, promising to save it by this means.... Sacrifice yourself for this intention (of the collegial consecration), and pray."

A Specific "Time"

It is interesting to note that *the very first words* Our Lady spoke after Sr. Lucia saw the vision of the Trinity referred to a *specific time*. And that time was "now!"

Many of us have the especial conviction that perhaps one reason why Karol Cardinal Wojtyla was chosen as the successor to Pope John Paul I is that he may be the one appointed by the Providence of

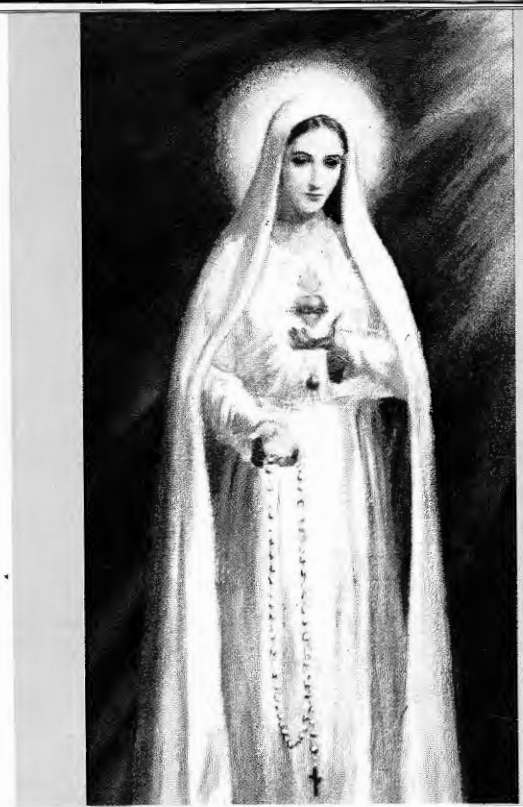
God to be the Pope of the collegial consecration. Fr. Joseph A. Pelletier, A.A. explores the reasons for this in the new edition of *Exciting Fatima News* (available from AMI Supply Shop. See pg. 31):

"...Not only has Pope John Paul II repeatedly brought Mary into his public addresses, beginning with the very first one he made on the balcony of St. Peter's immediately after his election, but his visit to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico is a worldwide witness to his own personal attitude toward Marian apparitions. Also, not without significance is the fact that he comes from a country with extraordinary love for the Mother of God...

Openly Showed its Approval

"Even more significant and encouraging is the fact that the Polish hierarchy, at a time when Pope John Paul II was a part of it, openly manifested its approval of public acts of consecration to Mary by itself making such acts and by once publicly asking His Holiness, Paul VI, to make the collegial consecration requested by Our Lady of Fatima. No hierarchy in the world has shown itself more open to diocesan, national and worldwide consecrations to Mary than the Polish hierarchy.

"It would appear that *now is the time* that God has chosen for the consecration. ...It seems more than a mere coincidence that the Blue Army should have been inspired to



make a public move..., a publicized organized effort to obtain the consecration just before God gave His Church its first Polish Pope. The fact that our present Pope is Polish is more unusual than the fact he is non-Italian. And everyone agrees that his election was clearly the work of the Holy Spirit."

A Reason Why?

Fr. Pelletier then describes perhaps the best reason of all for why Pope John Paul II may be the Pope of the consecration:

"...Who could be more open and sensitive to the need for this consecration than a Pope who lived under Communism and under the very shadow of Communism's terrifying power and might, a Pope who was in such a high position that he had to work directly with high-ranking Communists. We can be sure that through this he has acquired a convincing knowledge of the Communist threat to the Church and to the world that only personal experience can give. And he also has that same special convincing knowledge of Mary's protection and power that comes from personally witnessing what She did for the Catholic Church in his own country. There is probably no country in the world where the faith is so strong and vibrant today."

