



WHAT HAPPENED

to the "Miracle" in Vietnam?

by J. M. Haffert

Just one year ago this February the Blue Army flew to South Vietnam with the International Pilgrim Virgin after a nationwide MONTH OF PRAYER for peace in Vietnam.

PICTURE ABOVE

Following the triumphant visit of the Pilgrim Virgin to South Vietnam a Mass of thanksgiving was celebrated by Bishop Venancio (to right of statue in picture above) in Fatima. The statue was placed on the very spot where Our Lady had promised the conversion of Russia and world peace. At its base were hung banners of the major religions of Vietnam which the leaders of these religions had personally placed at Our Lady's feet just a few days before.

Some 2,000,000 South Vietnamese turned out to greet the statue and persons of all faiths met together in a union of prayer for the first time in the 4,000 year history of that country.

The front cover of this issue of SOUL shows a painting which was presented on that occasion by the parish of Nam Hoa, in the Archdiocese of Saigon. Its rainbow over storm-tossed boat, with a prayer for unity and peace, reflects the hope of South Vietnam over one year ago, and the prayers of millions outside Vietnam, for a "Miracle" through the visit of the representation of Our Lady which Pope Pius XII had called the miraculous messenger of Her Royalty.

WHAT HAPPENED?

What happened to the "miracle" which so many ardently and confidently expected just one year ago? Peace has not come. And Congressman Do Sinh Tu, who had been the primary force behind that crusade of prayer, was almost beaten to death eight months later by government police when he intervened in behalf of some anti-corruption demonstrators in Saigon!

We did not expect the hundreds of thousands of North Vietnamese troops to suddenly vanish from South Vietnam when Our Lady's statue came there. They held many towns, eighteen airfields, and controlled an open highway from Hanoi to within 100 miles of Saigon.

What we were praying for was a SIGN that our prayers would be answered. We were praying for hope for the South Vietnamese in the ultimate victory which Our Lady promised us at Fatima. And that sign, and that hope, were signally given.

What has happened in this past year in South Vietnam is an eye-opening, goose-bump-raising, breathtaking lesson to all the rest of the world.

We mentioned above that Congressman Tu was himself beaten when he went to the aid of some young people being beaten by the police in a demonstration against corruption, particularly against

widespread open prostitution into which many of the youth had been deliberately involved. Shortly before he was beaten and carried to the hospital more dead than alive, Congressman Tu sent us the following amazing report:

"You came to South Vietnam with the world-famous Pilgrim Virgin hoping for a miracle of peace, and there have been two dramatic results:

TWO DRAMATIC RESULTS

"(1) First there was an almost miraculous union of all good men of religious and political differences in the one common purpose for peace which you yourself witnessed as the statue passed among us;

"(2) Then, after the statue left, we succeeded in stopping the plot of birth control and fetus destruction laws in our country.

"Now, perhaps the most effective and most important result has been that in the spirit of the renewal message of Our Lady of Fatima, we are promoting throughout South Vietnam, with the help of national good men from every faith and every party, a common struggle against corruption in government that was our major obstacle to peace and presented always a constant danger of leading our country into the hands of Communism."

The deputy concluded that he was firmly convinced that the true peace of Our Lady would come to South Vietnam in 1975, with the ending of corruption and of flagrant immorality previously not only tolerated but even to some extent sustained by elected officials.

What a lesson to own country, in which there were more abortions in the District of Columbia last year than live births!

In South Vietnam, the birth-control and abortion laws were reversed and abolished by the people after the visit of Our Lady's statue! And despite the threat of continuing death from the Vietcong, an internal war was waged against public condonement of prostitution and pornography.

Our Lady said explicitly at Fatima that WAR IS THE RESULT OF SIN. She prophesied errors from Russia FOMENTING FURTHER WARS *if men did not stop offending God.* And the courageous people of South Vietnam, the vast majority of whom are not Christian, seemed to imbibe the awareness of this from Our Lady's visit. After twenty years of war which has hardly left a single family untouched by death they did not hesitate to wage an internal war against sin.

Do we continue to support them by our prayers?

We knew that peace would not come like a stroke of lightning.

But we were looking for some sign that our prayers were being heard. And even while we were praying for this sign at the 69th parallel, the Archbishop of that northern section of the country was speaking to a vast crowd and actually used these words:

"Today we see a miracle: For the first time in our 4,000 year history, all of us of all the different faiths are united here together in common prayer."

But there was also a second "miracle", because all intelligence sources reported that North Vietnam was prepared to launch an **ultimate offensive in South Vietnam at that very time.**

Suddenly the offensive was called off. Apparently the decision had been made in China rather than in North Vietnam, as we also reported in SOUL magazine.

It is now the goal of much of the leadership in South Vietnam to follow through with the moral requirements of peace as specified in the message of Fatima. They do not believe that merely united in prayer, as a statue of Our Lady of Fatima passed through their midst, is enough. Rather, they believe that they must respond to the conditions of peace which Our Lady announced to the world at Fatima.