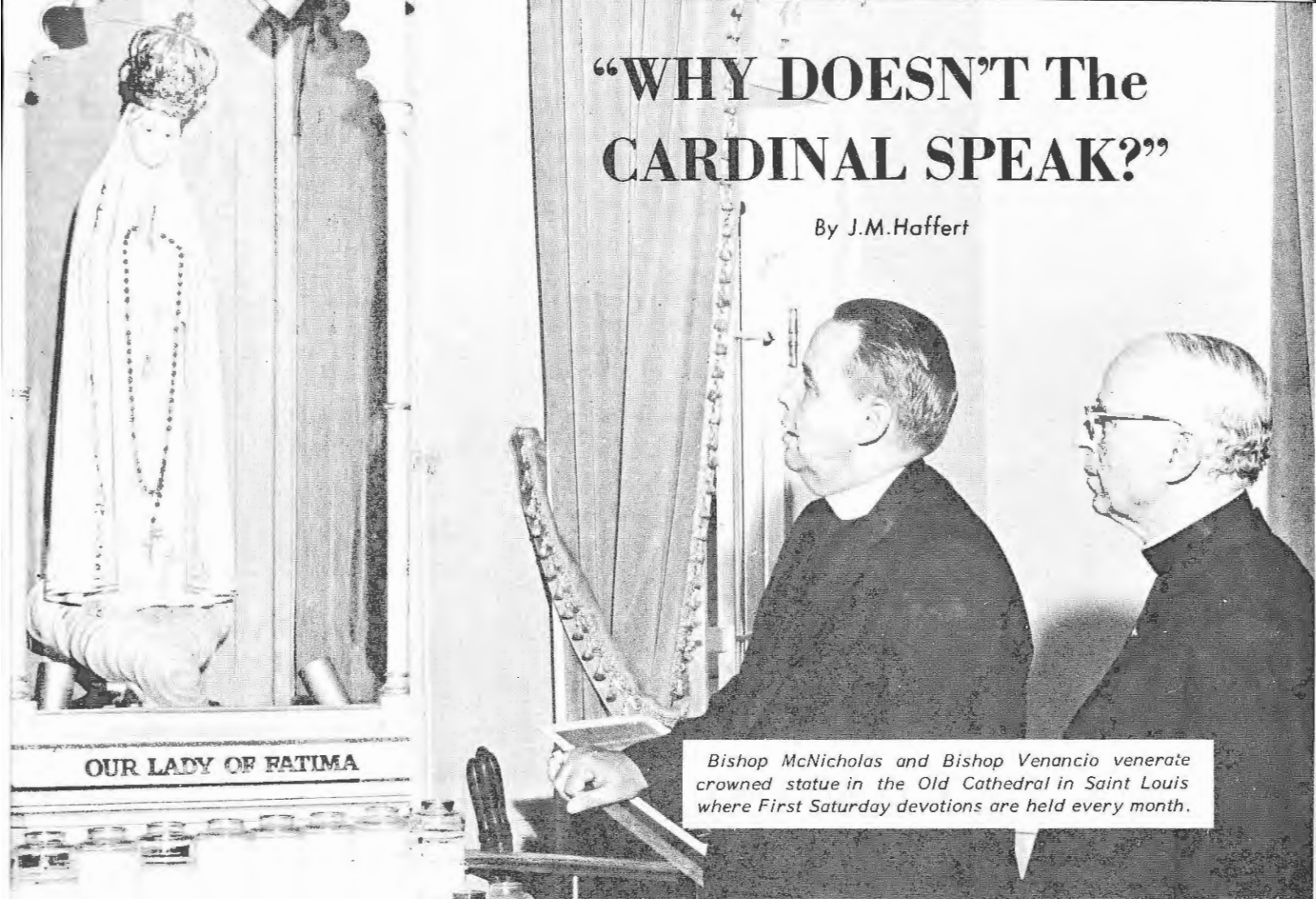


# "WHY DOESN'T THE CARDINAL SPEAK?"

By J.M.Haffert



Bishop McNicholas and Bishop Venancio venerate crowned statue in the Old Cathedral in Saint Louis where First Saturday devotions are held every month.

Among "surprise" questions we heard at the School of Apostolic formation in Saint Louis were: "Why doesn't the Cardinal speak up about the First Saturdays? Why ask us lay people to do the job the priests should be doing? Why doesn't the hierarchy stand up for Fatima?"

## CARDINAL HAD SPOKEN

In some cities, where we do not know too much about the situation, such questions might not have been a surprise. But just a few hours before the school began in St. Louis the Bishop of Fatima had stopped at the Old Cathedral to venerate the beautiful statue which Cardinal Carberry had brought back to his Archdiocese after His Eminence celebrated the principal Mass of the Feast there on May 13, 1970. A large inscription on a stand beneath the statue explains that His Eminence

consecrated his diocese to Our Lady when he solemnly crowned this statue, and that the First Saturday devotions were held every month in this Cathedral.

Cardinal Carberry happened to be in Rome for the Synod. Bishop Venancio was received by Auxiliary Bishop Joseph A. McNicholas, rector of the Old Cathedral. The last words which Bishop McNicholas spoke to Bishop Venancio as he left for the opening Mass of the school were:

## FAULT OF THE LAITY

"We will always have the First Saturday devotions. We will always keep the devotion to Our Lady of Fatima in our Diocese."

It is true that the First Saturday devotions are not being held in every parish, but we dare say that this is

overwhelmingly the fault of the laity.

We expect the priests to lead us in everything . . . even sometimes to take us by the hand and get us to Heaven despite ourselves. We have a MAJOR responsibility to do many things for ourselves. First and foremost among these is a response to the requests of Our Lady of Fatima to bring about renewal and reconciliation.

This is not true just because Our Lady appeared to children, to laity. It is, I am fully convinced, because GOD WILLS IT SO.

When the Pilgrim Virgin first entered the United States in 1947 Bishop O'Hara of Buffalo was so impressed with the result that he offered to sponsor the visit of the statue to all the Bishops of the nation. He also proposed public

processions of the statue through the streets.

A few weeks later, at a meeting of the Bishops of the United States in Washington, Bishop O'Hara (later Cardinal Archbishop of Philadelphia) made his proposal. As a result of the reaction of the Bishops, as well as of his own personal convictions from observing the manner of the traveling of the statue and its effect, said:

**"THIS IS SOMETHING WHICH MUST COME FROM THE PEOPLE."**

If we do not have the First Saturday devotion in our parishes, or the vigils, or even the cells, is it not our own fault?

**SHOW THE PASTOR WILLINGNESS and SINCERITY**

Bishop Venancio told the lay apostles in Saint Louis: "NEVER undertake any action in a parish if the pastor opposes, but do not give up in your approach to the pastor. As Our Lord tells us in the example of the man knocking on the door: Be importunate. Show your sincerity

and your persevering willingness TO DO THINGS YOURSELF. Let the pastor know you are not asking him to start something which he will have to end up carrying along by himself."

So many so-called lay apostles blame the priests, and the Bishops, for not responding to the message of Fatima. And, usually that's what it is: Blame . . . "Passing the buck."

We should BE *apostles*...who don't give up.

# LET US BRING IT to YOU!

On October 11th, several of the students flew to Fatima with the Handmaids and such Blue Army leaders as Bishop Venancio and John Haffert for a special two week course at Fatima itself, with a side pilgrimage to Pontevedra. One of those who went was Fran Hafner who received the trip free as outstanding student at the school during 1974.

We regret that all of the students who attended the School of Apostolic Formation this year could not have been taken to Fatima with us for this special occasion, and this special deepening of a sense of the reality of Fatima. We prayed at Fatima for all of them (as we do, of course, every day of our lives) that Our Lady may unite them so intimately with Her Immaculate Heart *that they will become like Her*, indefatigable in the effort to bring *all souls* to the Sacred Heart of Her Son.

Above, Bishop Venancio fastens Blue Army pin on lapel of Mr. Charles Clermont, of Pompano Beach, Fla., at closing of School of Apostolic Formation in Fatima, Oct. 25.



If you can't come to the school we'll bring it to you." This is the idea behind the first School of Apostolic Formation held outside of Detroit, this time in Saint Louis from Sept. 29th to October 11th.

Bishop John Venancio of Fatima, International President of the Blue Army, flew to Detroit to say the opening Mass and to spend an entire day with those attending the school.

For hours the Bishop answered in detail many questions ranging from the 1960 Secret to Lucia's later visions, and from current events in Portugal to even the end of the world!

The Bishop answered them all.

The School of Apostolic Formation began early this year, after long preparation, to give lay apostles a chance to talk over their problems and get a little direction. Classes are held in the Blue Army Center in Detroit for single days and evenings, for weekends, and

especially for a full two-week course which will lead some of the best apostles to a more complete course to be held at least once each year in Fatima.

"One of the great problems," says Sr. Mary Joseph, A.M.I., head of the school, "is the difficulty young people have of getting away for a two week course." "But the most earnest ones make it," she adds, "and they often find the school a more than satisfactory substitute for retreat or vacation."

14

Send information on how I can have the School of Apostolic Formation in my own area.

Name .....

Address .....

City .....

State ..... Zip .....



**NOW - HAVE THE SCHOOL COME TO YOU!**

Mail NOW to Blue Army, Washington, N.J., 07882

Soul Magazine