

FILM on "GREAT SIGN"

by
JOHN M. HAFFERT

For almost a year we had looked for the *ideal writer* for our new film on Fatima. Many of the famous were contacted. We also combed major agencies of writers of films and plays, and when there appeared to be no one with the right feeling of excitement and interest in the project, we turned to prayer — and to a celebrated author, Mary Lewis Coakley. The name of Tom Guggino immediately came to Mrs. Coakley's mind, and she suggested that we contact him, though she did not know whether or not he was a Catholic, but only that he was a successful professional writer and that she had been impressed with him at a meeting of the Writers Guild.

Dead End!

It turned out that not only was Tom a Catholic, *but he had been "Captain" of the Blue Army group in his high school!*

For several weeks Tom labored with various new ideas for a major film on Fatima without results. Several times he was on the verge of giving up, and each time something compelled him to continue just a little longer.

And then a "miracle" happened. At "the end of the line," as it were, Tom had summarized six of the major ideas for the film together with the objections to each. He brought them to a meeting at the National Headquarters of the Blue Army. No further ideas had been developed and none of the six seemed really good enough for a major, exciting, motion picture film.

Breakthrough

That very morning a paper — more like a booklet — came from a scientist in Oak Ridge, Tenn. who had given up his position a few months before in order to make a declaration to his fellow scientists about the "Great Sign" of Fatima, which occurred on the night of January 25-26, 1938.

All along we ourselves had felt that "Great Sign" (as Our Lady called it) was *basic* to the film, but none of us knew just how it could be presented. Indeed, I personally felt that the *reason* for the "Great Sign" (known at the time it happened only by Sr. Lucia and a few with whom she communicated) was for something to be done *now*.

Scientists Negative

Several years before, I had written to some outstanding scientists in different parts of the world telling them that Lucia said that if that "sign" were investigated it would be found to be supernatural. And I asked these scientists if they would undertake such an investigation.

Every one, including the scientist from Oak Ridge, answered after a few months that they had made some preliminary inquiries and could find no evidence that the so-called aurora borealis of 1938 was "supernatural."

Subsequently one scientist — who had written letters to some other colleagues — made an amazing discovery *which now becomes the exciting basis for this film in which the whole story and excitement of Fatima comes alive*, not as something that happened in 1917 but something *that is happening now*, and which is *at the very heart of the world's concern about nuclear weapons!*

We have no hope that contributions from the members of the Blue Army will be enough to produce the film. But it should be enough to advance the film to the point where investors will see its commercial value. Indeed everyone who has already read the script feels that it will be one of the great motion pictures of our time.

On May 13, Mary Gert Cook of Pittsburgh, Penna., wrote: "I am 62

years old. I saw the 'Great Sign' that night. It was explained at the time as being an 'aurora borealis.'

"I have since read every book about Fatima, convinced of all that is said. I get a feeling of 'security' because of the love and concern of the Blessed Mother for the world which has sometimes seemed to have gone mad.

"I consider it a privilege to contribute to the film venture even though I feel so helpless with so little money but I feel convinced that all could be accomplished in one grand sweep with the movie the Blue Army proposes. So I'm sending in a pledge, small though it is, and feel that I should thank you for asking me. I shall return the blessing with my prayers for the film's success."

Is This THE Response?

What a consolation and joy it is for us at the National Center of the Blue Army to receive letters such as this! But many, *many others* wrote similarly and many sent their sacrifice-pledges.

Perhaps when Sr. Lucia said that the necessary response of the world to the consecration made by the Pope and all the bishops on May 13 will depend to a large extent on the Blue Army, could it not be because of this film-effort by which we hope to get the Message of Fatima not only on prime-time television, but in distribution throughout the entire world?

Thank you for your sacrifice-contributions and for your prayers!

Clip this coupon (or if you do not wish to tear from magazine, just write on a separate sheet) and send to BLUE ARMY, Washington, N.J. 07882:

I pledge \$ _____ for the next twelve months for the production of a major motion picture film on the Fatima Message.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____