



Lucia dos Santos, now Sister Maria Dolores, welcomed Pope Paul to Fatima where she saw a series of apparitions of our Lady fifty years ago. Cardinal Amleto Cicognani stands with the Pope beneath crowned statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Pope Paul's Fatima Plea . . .

Virgin Mary's Prayers For Church, World Peace

Pope Paul went to Fatima to pray for peace . . . and to balance a few books.

His prayers were said during a Mass he offered Saturday afternoon in front of the great basilica where three peasant children saw the Blessed Virgin Mary in 1917.

Under leaden skies he told a million pilgrims the world stands at a crossroads of opportunity or catastrophe — we've got to match our technical progress with a moral and spiritual progress, he told them.

He summoned all men of goodwill to work for peace.

He also made it clear the Catholic Church intends to continue its traditional veneration of our Lady.

This was dramatized by the presence of Carmelite Sister Maria Dolores, the famed Lucy of the Fatima story, sole survivor of the three visionaries of 50 years ago.

Pope Paul is fully aware that devotion to Mary is a stumbling block for Protestants and that certain manifestations of this devotion verge on the sentimental if not the superstitious, but in his address at Fatima he took care to address himself to the vast crowd before him on the basis of the Scriptural texts dealing with Mary.

These, observers said, the Protestants can hardly repudiate, though their understanding of them may be different. The pontiff also appealed to the Orthodox who, of course, have for Mary the same theological, devotional and liturgical veneration. And in a pre-pilgrimage address at his weekly general audience the Pope expressly referred to excesses and abuses when he cited warnings of the Council.

It is obviously the Pope's conviction that the Fatima phenomenon has profound religious roots and he wanted to direct these into salutary channels for the good of souls.

But he also, equally as obviously, quashed the fanatic fringe of Fatima zealots who have exploited the conversion of Russia aspects of the story into an anti-Soviet crusade.

It is also interesting to note that the Pope made no mention of the frequently sensationalized reports of "secrets" which were said to have blanching a pope and are so foreboding that Vatican authorities fear to reveal them.

Pope Paul, with a delicacy that has characterized his pontificate, bypassed all the byways and aimed for the heart of the Fatima message — "the true Gospel" — the need for prayer and penance.

The need was all the more urgent at this time, the Pope said, because of widespread hunger and stockpiling of weapons which can obliterate mankind from the earth.

Within the Church also, he warned, there is a danger that the fervor and vitality evoked by the Second Vatican Council may disrupt the "traditional and constitutional structure."

"I call upon all men to strive to be worthy of the divine gift of peace," he said. "Be true to yourselves, be good, wise, open to the common good of the world."

"Be magnanimous. Try to see your dignity and your interests not as contrary to but as conforming to the dignity and the interests of others."

"Do not contemplate projects of destruction and of death, of revolution and of suppression, but think rather of projects of mutual strengthening and collaboration."

"Think of the gravity and of the grandeur of this hour, which can be decisive for the history of the present and of the future generations, and be

gin to approach each other with thoughts of building a new world; yes, the world of true men, a world which can never be without the light of God on its horizons."

More than a million persons, by police estimate, stood in the vast plaza before the wide-spread arms stretching out from the Fatima Basilica to hear the Pope speak and attend his Mass.

A million others lined the more than 20 miles of narrow twisting, often craggy country roads that were the Pope's route from the Monte Real airport to the shrine, cheering and strewing flowers (despite an official prohibition) before the pontiff's open car, slowing the procession down to a walking pace and setting the timetable of ceremonies back by a full hour.

On television, through the facilities of the Eurovision network and a satellite relay, at least 100 million more watched

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Monsignor Joseph Cirrincione of St. Francis Assisi Church, Rochester, and director of the nightly Family Rosary for Peace radio program, was in Fatima for the jubilee observance. We'll ask him to give his eye-witness report of the event for you as soon as he returns.

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More than 200 graduates from more than 50 parishes poured into Cathedral hall after Mass and sermon by Bishop Sheen to obtain their catechetical certificates. Classes were held since September at the Cathedral, Cardinal Mooney High School and at the Fairport School of Religion. A similar program is conducted at Ithaca.



Bishop Sheen and Monsignor Albert Schnacky, diocesan director of Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, stand with Sisters Marietta and M. Christine, and catechetical graduates Henry McQueeney of Spencerport, Raymond Hensler of Rochester, Miss Diana Rejmer of Newark Valley and Miss Marie A. Barney of the Cathedral.

New Goal for CCD

Bishop Sheen gave the diocesan Confraternity of Christian Doctrine three new goals — to teach a living faith, to prepare laymen to be preachers and to develop a biblically oriented retreat program.

He spoke forcefully to 215 graduates from 58 parishes who received certificates following a year's study at one of three catechetical centers.

Most of the graduates will aid in instruction of Catholic pupils who attend public schools.

The graduation rite was held at Sacred Heart Cathedral last Sunday afternoon.

The Bishop began his talk by suggesting that the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine need a new name — that its present name was unwieldy and impersonal. He proposed the Greek word "koinonia" which is variously translated as community, fellowship, companionship, or as the Bishop proposed — "caring."

He said "knowledge of doctrine is not enough to make good Christians" and recounted the story of a convent school in pre-Communist China where there was not one convert from paganism in 20 years. Then a new order of nuns took over the school and taught the pupils to sacrifice their own necessities to give to the poor. They

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Jubilarians Next Week

Five priests of the Rochester Diocese will mark their 40th anniversary in the priesthood and eleven will mark their silver jubilee this June. We had intended reporting their jubilee celebration details in this issue but the Pope's trip to Fatima and Bishop Sheen's talks to the CCD and at the Rochester ecumenical service preempted the time and space we'd scheduled for the jubilarians. We'll run their story next week.

English Canon By Advent

Atlanta — (RNS) — Archbishop Paul J. Hallinan of Atlanta has described the Vatican decree allowing the Canon of the Mass to be read aloud in English as an answer to the "hopes of a truly revitalized liturgy for our American parishes."

Archbishop Hallinan said the vernacular Canon would probably be ready for the first Sunday of Advent this year, Dec. 3, 1967.

In his statement, the archbishop mentioned the work of the International Committee on English in the Liturgy, terming it "one of the most far-reaching movements." The committee, which represents the episcopal conferences of 10 English-speaking countries, was authorized in 1963 to prepare an English text for international use.

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'Lord is Pleased' For Unity Prayers

(Pictures on Page 8)

"The good-Lord-is-looking down on us and is very pleased with what we are doing."

These words of a Russian Orthodox bishop spoken to Bishop Sheen several years ago were verified again in Rochester, Bishop Sheen stated.

He spoke at the city's second annual ecumenical service at the Eastman Theatre last Sunday evening. More than 3000 attended the rite for religious unity.

He said he wanted to present "two reflections about Christian ecumenism — what is happening on the outside and what is happening on the inside."

The Bishop said it was his opinion that there is "a polarization" replacing the indifference which characterized the last century.

"The good are getting better," he said, "and the bad are getting worse." This, he explained, repeats what took place at the time of Christ when the Lord's enemies were forged into a unity, such as Pilate and Herod, although previously they also had been hostile to each other. So also the friends of the Saviour were required to display their convictions — Joseph of Arimathea and "the night friend" Nicodemus.

One "tremendous potential

for good," Bishop Sheen stated, is the increasing number of young people, bored and disillusioned by present widespread materialism, who will react "within the next five years" to create a new and better world than an older generation has given them.

On the "inside," the Bishop said, "there is the Holy Spirit." This Spirit of God, he said, can penetrate the "subterranean part of human nature to make us new men who will be not just polite to one another but to recognize that our differences are like a lover's quarrel and that all of us love Christ."

He said the goal of the ecumenical movement is to strengthen this love for Christ so we can eventually deserve to say, as members of one family, "Our Father."

Bishop George W. Barrett of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester concluded the rite with a litany which asked God "to forbid us to acquire the habit of our divisions."

Clergymen of several denominations participated in the ceremony and a combined choir included members of the Lutheran Church of the Reformation, Lake Avenue Baptist Church, Holy Rosary and St. Francis Xavier Catholic Churches.



Gannett Co. Rescues Courier

Gremkins sabotaged Christopher Press machinery last week but the Gannett Co. bailed us out by running the Courier on their offset presses at the Ithaca Journal. Christopher Press foreman Frank Brown and Courier advertising manager Anthony Costello check copies as the presses began to roll. We are indebted to the Gannett Co. for not just this but many kindnesses to the Courier over many years.