

Blue Army Leader Visits Rochester

BY CHARLES RANDISI

When John Haffert's plane touched down in Rochester last week he was just finishing the last line of his 10th book, *Explosion of the Supernatural*.

It was Tuesday, April 16, the second anniversary of the death of Msgr. Harold Colgan, founder of the Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima.

Haffert, Msgr. Colgan's longtime friend and the Army's co-founder, visited Rochester to address members of the local Blue Army regiment. He also appeared on two Rochester TV talk shows.

Msgr. Colgan was "a completely pure and sincere priest," said Haffert, "greatly devoted to the Blessed Virgin."

He also remembers the late monsignor's "unshaking confidence in me and our complete confidence in each other."

Haffert recalled their first

meeting. He had written a book on the life of Sister Lucia (one of the three children who witnessed the Fatima visions of the Blessed Virgin) and was lecturing at Msgr. Colgan's parish in Washington, N.J., in 1947. Haffert then was involved in the March of Pledges, a movement to "get as many signatures as possible" promising commitment to work for "the conversion of Russia, the basic request of our Lady of Fatima."

"I was impressed by the man," he said. "I liked his idea of wearing something blue against the Red Army of atheism. We needed a gimmick like that."

Haffert and Msgr. Colgan combined their efforts into the Blue Army, which since has spread around the world and claims "conservatively, 20 million members."

He also estimated five million Blue Army followers in the United States. The Army's official magazine, *Soul*, has a paid circulation of 110,000, and is, he said, "one of the largest Catholic magazines in the USA."



JOHN HAFFERT

Haffert, who lives in Washington, location of Blue Army headquarters, said he doesn't do much traveling any more. He came to Rochester, he said, "because of the zeal of the members here." The local chapter holds well-attended Holy Hours and all-night vigils at Holy Rosary Church.

The vigils, on the first Friday and Saturday of every month, "are the ultimate in our apostolate," he said.

Part of the Fatima message was that unless Russia were converted, several nations would be annihilated. But the Blue Army, which requests that its members wear a scapular, recite the Rosary daily, and make a morning offering, does not operate solely out of such fears, he said.

"Fatima was not a repressive message," he said. "Prayer should be a joyous experience."

St. Agnes Schedules Enrichment Program

The faculty at St. Agnes High School is presenting a week long cultural and educational program entitled River Road Enrichment, running April 29 to May 4. The week will enable students to sample various courses offered at the school and to view the talents of several individuals from the Rochester area.

Highlights of the program include such diverse topics as hair care and styling and a talk on politics by vice mayor Midge Costanza. Both are scheduled for Tuesday, April 30.

Representatives from more than 20 agencies, including The Center, Threshold and the Red Cross, will be at the school on Wednesday, May 1. Wrapping up the week will be a performance by the Rochester Shakespeare Theater, Friday, May 3 at noon. A Fun Festival with food and games will be held Friday and Saturday nights at 7.

The events are open to the public. Those interested in attending should call 473-2728.

PIZZA AND MOOSE

Hornell — Mrs. William Kelleher, president of the Mothers Club at St. Ann's announced that a Pizza Party will be held at the May 1 meeting with entertainment provided by the Moose Kitchen Band.

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Life, Liberty and Law

Nancy Murphy

I think I disagree with the handsome John V. Lindsay, former mayor of New York City. Despite the appalling number of abortions recorded in the city, and despite the rising complication rates, Lindsay, as quoted in the December 1973 *Three Year Abortion Report* found the report "very encouraging."

He refers to abortion as "the safe and humane approach to family planning." He points to the "all-time low" infant live-birth mortality rates since abortion became not only legal but apparently fashionable in 1970.

The total number of abortions for the past three years in New York City alone is a staggering 598,283. If one accepts the sworn judgement of Dr. Micheline Matthews-Roth of Harvard's Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, human life starts with its conception. Therefore it can be said that New York City's health officials lowered the live-birth mortality rate by the simple expediency of allowing 598,283 abortions to occur before the birth days arrived. When there is no birth there can be no mortality at birth.

When the life of a human individual is conceived, his right to that life has also begun. And his right to life remains constant. Unlike cheeses and wines which improve qualitatively with age, one's right to life neither increases nor improves regardless of education, income level, maturity or independence. It is constant and thus inalienable at every stage of development.

New York City's abortion complication rates have increased from 7.2 per 1,000 abortions in the first year, to 11.8 per 1,000 abortions in the third, according to the report. Not too safe I fear. Pro-abortionists like to flaunt complication rates as though such stuff makes abortion pretty or sane or safe. But I doubt that they will flaunt these. Abortion spokesmen often point to rape, incest, retardation and/or the emotional state of the mother as though to justify this convenient constitutional carnage. 598,283 abortions due to rape? Or incest? 598,283 abortions allowed because of possible infant retardation or unhappy mothers? Since when is pregnancy a disease for either the mother or the baby?

Quoting federal government figures, American births had

decreased from 4,350,000 in 1960 to 3,705,000 in 1970.

Washington's National Center for Health Statistics recently released figures indicating that in 1973 birth and fertility rates in the U.S. dropped to their lowest points in history. The national fertility rate is now 1.9 children per family — substantially below the population "replacement level" of 2.1 children. It was the second consecutive year in which the rates recorded record lows.

Does New York City pretend to justify almost 600,000 abortions since 1970 as a patriotic population control scheme? I think I disagree with Mr. Lindsay. Abortions are neither safe nor humane. One abortion or 600,000 abortions — wrong, not because of the excess, but wrong because of the act itself. Yes, with all due respect for the handsome John V. Lindsay, I do disagree.

We who are concerned with the plight of the silent innocents can contact government legislators in this matter. We can send the weight of one letter into the battle against abortion.

What we have witnessed here in New York State is but the first bouncing pebble of an avalanche into a quiet valley. These three-year statistics will be magnified the nation over unless the Congress understands that we will not stand for the carnage. If it is to ourselves that we must look for leadership, let us rise to the occasion.

Any federal legislator can be reached with one of the following addresses:

Hon. U.S. House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

Hon. U.S. Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

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A. The Delayed Entry Program, better known as the DEP, is a program which allows an eligible young man or woman to select his/her choice of training, schooling, and, in some cases, location for service in the Army. He can do this 180 days prior to going on active duty.

Q. What is the main purpose of this program?
A. The main purpose of this program is to allow the high school senior - who we anticipate will graduate in the spring - to make plans now for his/her future after graduation.

Q. What assurance do I have of getting my choice of training when I go on active duty, after graduation?
A. At the time of enlistment into DEP you will receive a written guarantee for the specific option you choose.

for more inf. contact **LES WOOD**
Army Representative 107 State St.,
Rochester, N.Y. 14614 Phone 716-232-7424

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