

Cardinal Carberry Prays at Fatima

Mass for Peace in Entire World

MAY 15 1970

By FR. EDWARD J. O'DONNELL

FATIMA, Portugal — An appeal for all men to pray for peace in their own hearts, in their different countries and in the entire world, was made here Wednesday by John Joseph Cardinal Carberry of St. Louis.

The Cardinal's appeal was heard by thousands of pilgrims from most nations of the world. They were here for services commemorating the 53rd anniversary of the first apparition of Our Lady of Fatima reported by three shepherd children.

The Cardinal preached during an anniversary Mass he celebrated at the Fatima Shrine during a heavy downpour. Despite the rain and cold weather, thousands stood at the site all night waiting for the Mass to begin. Many pilgrims who had come to Fatima by bus, car and on foot camped on the site under small tents and plastic shelters. Other groups simply huddled under umbrellas.

As Cardinal Carberry celebrated the Mass he was surrounded by the sick and lame in wheelchairs.

The St. Louis prelate told the huge crowd of pilgrims at the Fatima Shrine that the "essence" of the message given the children by Mary 53 years ago was "peace." And, he continued, "if there is one great cry that arises from a restless and tormented world today, it is the cry of peace."

He said that despite the "universal desire" for peace, however, the "goal of peace, humanly speaking seems almost unattainable."

"Our generation, and indeed the generation before us, has known scarcely a year without the agony of war in some part of the world. Our economy in the main is geared to war. Our prosperity, by a strange and bitter irony, is founded in large measure on the production of armaments.

"Good and sincere men speak of peace and struggle for peace, but there is also selfishness in our human nature which resists the sacrifice of pride that peace would require," the Cardinal said. "Indeed there are those who speak of democracy, but at the same time practice a ruthless suppression of legitimate human aspirations."

Such conditions, he said, make it evident that "if there is to be peace in the world, peace must find its way into a sufficient number of individual hearts." This "genuine peace of mind and heart" for each individual is "Our Lady's chief desire," he said.

"She made it clear, however, here at Fatima," he continued, "that also on the international level, prayer and penance are essential. Considering only human resources, one could easily grow discouraged at the seeming lack of progress toward world peace, despite so many conferences of world leaders and diplomats.

"Here on the hallowed spot, however, looking out upon the world as Our Lady viewed it when she appeared, we cannot allow ourselves to grow disheartened. Through the intercession of Mary, true and lasting peace is possible, a peace with justice, a peace founded upon honesty between all men, peace based on understanding and love between men of all nations and all races."

The Cardinal said that Our Lady of Fatima had directed that this intercession be made through consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, First Saturday meditations, and recitation of and meditation on the rosary.

The rosary, he acknowledged, "is under attack in some quarters today. Some regard it as an outworn relic of the past." But, he said, "let us simply recall to mind the fact that Our Lady has requested it, and in obeying her request, in making use of the rosary not mechanically, but with recollection and devotion, we too can find the cure for our spiritual sickness."

In opening his sermon, Cardinal Carberry, the first prelate to preach in English at the Fatima Anniversary Mass, which he celebrated in Latin, welcomed all the pilgrims on

hand. He also paid special tribute to the people of Portugal for "their spirit of sacrifice and their strong devotion to prayer."

"Between your people and ours there must necessarily be a close bond," he told the Portuguese pilgrims, "because it was from this Iberian Peninsula almost five centuries ago that Christopher Columbus embarked on that great voyage of exploration, that glorious gamble as we might call it, which ended with the discovery of the new world."

Also in his homily, Cardinal Carberry offered prayers to Our Lady "to comfort, console and strengthen Our Holy Father Pope Paul VI, our valiant, patient long suffering champion of world peace, of truth and of the church."

Cardinal Carberry arrived here Tuesday aboard a chartered jet flight bearing some 170 U.S. pilgrims including 88 from St. Louis. Tuesday evening he officiated at Benediction following a procession of the Blessed Sacrament in which some half a million pilgrims joined.

The Cardinal was due to leave here yesterday for a brief stop in Rome where he was expected to have an audience with Pope Paul.