Continued from prior page

one white envelope, containing Sister Lucia's original text in Portuguese; the other gange, with the Italian

translation of the "secret". On the following 11 August, Archbishop Martínez returned the two envelopes to the Archives of the Holy Office. (The Holy Father's comment at the General Audience of 14 October 1981 on "What happened in May: A Great Divine Trial" should be recalled: Insegnamenti di Giovanni Paolo II, IV, 2 (Vatican City, 1981), 409-412.)

.... Sister Lucia had already given an indication for interpreting the third part of the "secret" in a letter to the Holy Father, dated 12 May 1982:

"The third part of the secret refers to Our Lady's words: 'If not [Russia] will spread her errors throughout the world, causing wars and persecutions of the Church. The good will be martyred; the Holy Father will have much to suffer; various nations will be annihilated' (13-VII-1917).

The third part of the secret is a symbolic revelation, referring to this part of the Message, conditioned by whether we accept or not what the Message itself asks of us: 'If my requests are heeded, Russia will be converted, and there will be peace; if not, she will spread her errors throughout the world, etc.'.

Since we did not heed this appeal of the Message, we see that it has been fulfilled, Russia has invaded the world with her errors. And if we have not yet seen the complete fulfilment of the final part of this prophecy, we are going towards it little by little with great strides. If we do not reject the path of sin, hatred, revenge, injustice, violations of the rights of the human person, immorality and violence, etc.

And let us not say that it is God who is punishing us in this way; on the contrary it is people themselves who are preparing their own punishment. In his kindness God warns us and calls us to the right path, while respecting the freedom he has given us; hence people are responsible"....

Tarcisio Bertone. SDB

Archbishop Emeritus of Vercelli Secretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith

From the Maxims of St. Philip Neri

requent confession is the cause of great good to the soul, because it purifies it, heals it, and confirms it in the service of God: we ought not therefore to omit



confession on our fixed days for any business whatsoever; but go to confession first, and to business afterwards, and the first will help the last.

If the servant of God would trace his steps safely through so many snares scattered in every place, he should have our Blessed Lady as his mediatrix with her Son.

The sick man may desire to get well, provided he seals his desire always with an "If it please God", "If it is good for my soul"; for we can do many good things in health, which sickness hinders us from doing.