

VIRGIN OF FATIMA STATUE TOURS CANADA

In April, Canadian Roman Catholics received from the Bishop of Fatima in Portugal (the scene of an alleged appearance of the Blessed Virgin Mary in May 1917 to three shepherd children) a wooden statue of "Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima". This image, known as the National Pilgrim Virgin of Canada, was brought to the Ottawa home of Mr. Daniel J. Cillis, who had made the arrangements for its entry into the country, by the American emissary of the Bishop of Fatima.

The National Pilgrim Virgin of Canada is one of 70 such statues donated to the same number of countries. During his visit to the celebrated Portuguese shrine on May 13, 1967, the golden jubilee of the vision, Pope Paul VI blessed 25 of these votive figures; the other 45 had already been blessed by the Pontiff in Rome. The Pilgrim Virgins are regarded as peace symbols because the 1917 apparition is said to have promised that humanity would be granted an "era of peace" if it responded to Mary's call to "prayer and penance".

The peregrinations of every statue of the Virgin of Fatima have been preceded by a ceremonial coronation. In the United States, the Pilgrim Virgin was crowned in the National Cathedral Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, by Patrick, Cardinal O'Boyle. The crowning took place in Canada at a Marian shrine at Mayo, Quebec, about 30 miles from Ottawa. The ceremony was conducted in French and English by a bilingual bishop, the Most Reverend Joseph R. Windle. It was the opinion of the arrangers of the coronation that the fact that it was held in the two official languages of Canada would exercise a harmonious influence on the relations between Canada's two "founding races". On the same day as the Mayo ceremony, similar ceremonies were held in the other 69 countries that had received a statue of the Virgin of Fatima.

The National Pilgrim Virgin is about 42 inches high, and wears a long robe and a veil of white edged in gold. It carries a large rosary of pearls and a



silver crucifix. An Ottawa cabinet-maker, Herman Zwiers, made a hand-carved wooden litter for the carrying of the image in processions.

The Virgin's crown, made in Portugal, is of filigree gold metal, mounted with small coloured stones and surmounted by a cross.

The canonically-crowned statue, travels from diocese to diocese only at the invitation of the bishops of the diocese desiring a visit. Once it has been invited by a prelate and officially received by him (usually at a ceremony in the cathedral), the image is taken from church to church and to hospitals and religious institutions at the request of pastors and people, usually in procession.

NEW NRC LIBRARY

A \$12,844,000-contract has been awarded to V.K. Mason Construction Ltd., Ottawa, for the construction of the National Science Library at the National Research Council on the Montreal Road, Ottawa. Work will begin shortly on the new building.

The building will permit the National Science Library to employ the latest techniques for storing, retrieving and disseminating information and will have stack space for two million volumes.

The eight-storey building will have both steel and reinforced concrete framing, designed to withstand earthquakes. It will be faced with white precast

concrete panels to blend with nearby buildings of the National Research Council.

Although the five upper stories will be stack floors, one of them will be used for a time as a computation centre. The three lower floors will contain the main circulation areas, reference and reading rooms, translation areas and offices. The two main lower floors are designed as large open spaces to enable use of the open-landscaped office-planning principle. They will have specially designed acoustic ceilings, wall treatment and carpeted floors to provide the sound-absorbent qualities required in these areas. The western half of the second floor level will be for NRC's Technical Information Service.