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# The Catholic Guardian

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"Nisi Dominus custodierit civitatem frustra vigilat qui custodit eam."

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## One Priest Writes to Another and gives Twenty Reasons why the Legion Appeals to him

(Continued from last issue)

8. The Legion system includes a correct appreciation and use of the liturgical apostolate.

"Unfortunately, the meaning of the word *Liturgy* has been taken up falsely in certain quarters, and as the Pope himself has pointed out in the letter on the Mystical Body, a doubtful liturgical movement has grown up in certain places. The great fault appears to have been an over-emphasis on externals—on the rubrics, the vestments, the chant and so on. The principal thing—a real appreciation of the whole sublime meaning of the great liturgical system of the Church—has thus been obscured. A true liturgical revival should aim at fostering a much wider understanding of the inner meaning of the Mass and of all the Sacraments, and consequent upon that, of the full significance of the life of grace in the soul." (Blackfriars June, 1945, p. 221.) Thus, the Legion insists in its Handbook as follows: "Already it has been stressed that the sanctification of the members is the first object of the Legion. It is, moreover, the primary means of action, for only in the measure that the Legionary possesses grace can he be the channel of it to others. The graces asked for, flow one and all from the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on Calvary. Therefore, to the Mass must the Legionary have recourse if a plenteous sharing in the gifts of Redemption is desired for oneself and for others. The Eucharist is the centre and source of grace: therefore, it must be the very keystone of the Legionary scheme." (Pages 138 ff.)

9. The Legion correctly relates Liturgical and Non-Liturgical prayer.

Thus is avoided the error condemned by the Holy Father in the letter on the Mystical Body, namely, the stressing of the value of liturgical prayer to the exclusion of private devotions. By demanding of Praetorian members the daily recitation of some form of Office approved by the Church and of all its members, active and auxiliary, the daily recitation of the liturgical prayers which form the Catena, and by insisting on the duty of all members to practice real devotion to the Holy Mass, the Legion shows its appreciation of the official prayer of the Church, but by its devotion to the Rosary, it gives due place to non-liturgical piety.

10. The Legion opens the apostolate to all practising Catholics.

There is, unfortunately, a growing tendency to demand of the would-be apostle so many pre-requisites as to exclude the majority from engaging in the apostolate at all. We have seen elaborate programmes for the working out of one's "Apostolic Quotient" and daily examinations of conscience designed to intimidate even the most valiant. I am afraid the devil is at work here because, if every Catholic is in duty bound to be an apostle, the prerequisites cannot be such as to exclude any large number from undertaking apostolic work. The genius of the Legion is such as to make it possible for all to engage in an organised apostolate according to their capacity, at the same time undergoing a carefully devised system of training.

11. The Legion gives prayer and action their proper relationship to one another.

A common error to-day is the belief that if we pray, all will be well. But Christ said: "Go and teach. . . . Preach the Gospel. . . . Compel them to come in. . . . Work." His own life is a picture of the perfect combination of prayer and action. So the Legion of Mary describes as its object "The sanctification of its members by prayer and active co-operation, under ecclesiastical guidance, in Mary's and the Church's work." (Handbook, page 4.) By its system of Auxiliary Membership and its skilful introduction of a wealth of prayer into the lives of its active members, it avoids placing undue emphasis on either prayer or action. Both are important, both necessary.

12. The Legion avoids class-distinction.

"Of set purpose the Legion should aim to combat the divisions and the innumerable antagonisms of the world" (Handbook, p. 241.) The process begins in the Praesidium itself. While giving every scope for the application of the dictum: "Like will naturally act upon like" or "the first apostles of the workers must themselves be workers" the Legion has always opposed the formation of units whose membership is restricted to a particular class or section of the community. Results have more than justified this policy. (Cf. Handbook, page 39, "The Remoter and Greater Aim.")

13. The Legion does not use false propaganda.

There is a natural tendency to boost a plan rather than an organised system in order to win enough adherents to it so as to be able to try it out in practice. One of the great merits of the Legion has been that in the Handbook, the Journal and various other publications, it has been possible to mirror an already existing organisation that has proved itself in a thousand ways rather than a mere plan which may or may not succeed.

14. The Legion gives proper pre-eminence to the end in relation to the means.

It is not unheard of for an organisation to be excluded from a certain place or field of activity on the grounds that another system already holds the field there. The danger here is that the end, the salvation of souls, is subordinated to the means, the system. Pride in a local set-up takes precedence over the good of souls. That is tragic in the extreme—but it has happened. The Handbook of the Legion deals eloquently with the point: "The Legion's works are already being done by other agencies. The Legion might clash with them." Often those words, which deny admittance to the Legion, are used in the interest of organisations which represent a name without performance; armies which may exist, but never conquer any enemy territory. . . . (Page 28.) Having suffered as the result of these false principles being applied, the Legion has always been careful to give absolute pre-eminence to the end in view, the saving of souls. Everything in the system has been designed, not for its own sake, but simply as a means to the end.

15. The Legion system is simple.

This is proved especially by the spread of the Legion in missionary lands. (Continued on Page 4.)

## Flashes of Catholic News from Australia

FROM JOHN D. KEATING, PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER, NEW DELHI.

### Australia's Debt to the Benedictines

Gratified at the appreciation expressed of the part played by the Benedictines in founding the Church in Australia, Rt. Revd. R. S. Trafford, former Abbot of Downside Abbey, England who is visiting the Commonwealth, recalled that when the ban on the attendance of Catholics at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge was lifted in the '90s, one of the first students to go to Cambridge from Downside was an Australian, Dom Richard Connolly. Today he is well known throughout Europe as a great Syriac scholar. Dom Connolly was born in New South Wales and was head of the Benet House, Cambridge, from 1904 to 1916.

At a Catholic Men's Luncheon Club, Abbot Trafford, traced the history of Downside abbey and said that it was in the hard days, when the community was poor and the buildings inadequate, that the community sent its first missionaries to Australia. Australia's first Vicar-General, Dr. Ullathorne, and the first and second Archbishops of Sydney, Dr. Polding and Dr. Vaughan, were from Downside and left their mark on the Church in Australia. Abbot Trafford added that he was amazed at the growth and vigour of the Church in the Commonwealth.

### Chinese Priest Thanks Australians

Revd. Father Joseph Chin, first Chinese priest to visit Australia since World War II, expressed his gratitude to the Catholic people of Australia when he left Australia recently for Borneo via Singapore. "So many people helped me during my stay, that it is almost impossible for me to thank each one individually," he said. Father Chin is a native of Fukien Province, China, and studied for the Priesthood at Penang Seminary The Prefecture Apostolic of Sarawak, he said, covered 80,000 square miles, in which there were about 14,000 Catholics. Before the war there were 32 priests. Now there were only 13.

### Catechism Lessons by Radio

A twentieth century method of teaching the catechism is a weekly Sunday night feature, conducted through radio station 2SM, Sydney, by Revd. Father John Slowey, Assistant Diocesan Inspector of Catholic Schools in the archdiocese. Boys and Girls from a diocesan school participate in the broadcast by reciting appropriate prayers, and by assisting in a detailed explanation of the catechism answers. The general aim is in conformity with current trends in radio broadcasting, notably in the introduction of "reality" into the presentation. The main purpose is to avoid a heavy, academic, bookish effect. Father Slowey has thus brought his session into line with the best radio catechist sessions overseas. His programme includes prayers, questions, discussion, conversation, a "quiz", and has proved very helpful not only to children in city and country but also to adults. Radio 2SM is operated by the Catholic Church in Sydney, and is one of the most popular of commercial stations.

### Seminary Rector Joins Evidence Guild Apostolate

Very Rev. Henry Johnston, S.J., M.A., Rector of Corpus Christi College, Werribee, the Provincial Seminary for the State of Victoria, Australia, spoke for the first time from the platform of the Catholic Evidence Guild, Melbourne, on April 20, at the "pitch" on the Yarra Bank, the city's counterpart of London's Hyde Park. On the previous Sunday Revd. V. Turner, S.J., gave his first talk there.

The Melbourne Catholic Evidence Guild was established in 1933 and is conducted principally by laymen on the lines of the London Guild. The first priest to speak on the Guild platform in Melbourne was Revd. H. Morris, M.S.C., D.D., Ph.D., L.S.S., who has been a regular speaker since 1943. Other regular priest speakers have been a Franciscan and a Dominican. Guest speakers have included Very Revd. Fr. Pausback, O.Carm., Assistant-General of the Carmelite Order, who was visiting Australia. In 1944 Mr. Frank Sheed, well-known author and publisher and prominent member of the London Guild, spoke on the Yarra Bank. Mr. Sheed, an Australian, founded the Catholic Evidence Guild in Sydney in 1925.

### Exhibition of Australian Catholic Art

Archbishop Mannix of Melbourne had sometimes gone to art exhibitions and had almost believed he was in a lunatic asylum. He made this comment on opening an Exhibition of Art by Catholic artists, the first of its kind in Australia, held during the 10th anniversary festival of the Therry Society at Easter. In the Therry exhibition everything seemed to be quite sane and reasonable, said His Grace, and there was nothing to terrify or repel one. At other exhibitions he had attended, he was prepared to admit that the artists had some message to convey to him and to others, but they did not seem to make contact. It was as if a person was stammering badly in attempting to say something, or was speaking in a tongue that was quite unknown. The artists had something to say, of course, but they had a great difficulty in expressing it.

The Archbishop said that Catholic art in the churches and homes was not all that it should be. There was a time when the Church seemed to be the inspiration of art, and the crafts of former days, well tested by the years, had never lost their appeal. He did not think that present day Catholic Art held a place anything like the art of former days. However, he hoped that it would improve its position in the future, and that the Therry Society would make a strenuous effort to encourage art in the churches and homes.

### Choir School Inaugurated in Country Diocese

The diocese of Ballarat, Victoria, Australia, made history on March 30 when the Bishop, Dr. O'Collins, officially inaugurated the Diocesan Choir School and blessed some 40 members, most of whom have completed their first year of study. The school was founded (Continued on Page 4)

# TALAWILA ST. ANNE

## 1947

### FESTIVAL DATES :

17-July 1947—Hoisting of Flagstaff  
20-July 1947—First Feast  
27-July 1947—Second Feast

#### Houses.

- (1) A few Houses are available
- (2) Bookings close on 30-6-47
- (3) Prior authority is necessary to occupy any building.

#### Travelling.

- (1) Bus Terminus will be at PALAKKUDA
- (2) Motor Vehicles running from Palakkuda to Talawila will use the special Route allotted to them.

#### Food.

- (1) Please bring your food Rations.
- (2) Fish, Meat and Vegetables will be available at the Camp.

#### Camp.

- (1) Please avoid occupying any "No Camping Area"
- (2) Keep the premises and neighbourhood clean and tidy
- (3) Camp Regulations should be strictly adhered to.

#### Payments.

- (1) Money Orders and Postal Orders should be made payable at KALPITIYA Post Office.
- (2) Payment by Cheque should be avoided as much as possible.
- (3) Early payments will be greatly appreciated.

#### Church.

- (1) Always remember that the Church is a Place of Worship.
- (2) Church Verandhas should not be used for any mundane purpose.
- (3) Fresh flowers to adorn the altars will be always welcome.

#### General.

- (1) Beware of Thieves.
- (2) Be prepared to face slight inconveniences.
- (3) Remember that a Pilgrimage is An Act of Devotion and not a time for Merry Making.

THE PARISH PRIEST,  
Talawila, Etalai.

## Church Calendar

MAY 1947

FRI.	...30	S. Felix.
SAT.	...31	O. L. Mediatrix.
JUNE 1947		
SUN.	...1	HOLY TRINITY.
MON.	...2	S. Marcelline.
TUES.	...3	S. Clotilda.
WED.	...4	S. Francis Carac.
THURS.	...5	CORPUS CHRISTI.
FRI.	...6	S. Norbert.

## The Catholic Guardian

MAY 30TH 1947

### THOUGHTS FOR THE CLOSE OF THE MONTH OF MAY

Let us close on three simple thoughts directly suggested by the Gospel story.

(1) The human character of Christ, admittedly the most perfect that ever existed, had only one human explanation. We speak of a child 'taking after' its father or mother. In the case of Our Lord His character could 'take after' Mary and Mary alone as His human career begins in and with Mary exclusively. Thus while her soul was the perfect reflection of her Son's, we may in all reverence say that His human character was the reflection of His Mother's.

(2) There are many lessons to be learned from the Hidden Life of Our Lord. Let us touch on two points directly affecting our attitude towards our Blessed Lady.

The first point may be briefly sketched as follows: Christ's life on earth was a carefully prepared document for our instruction. He had come on earth to achieve a tremendous task and if he spent 30 years out of the 33 allotted to Him, 'subject' to Mary,

there is clearly some lesson. Those 30 years so spent were the will of His Father, which for Him was the mainspring of His existence. The perfect expression of His complete subjection to that will was embodied in the single word 'Mother' addressed to Our Lady. If we unite ourselves in spirit with Our Lord when we utter the word 'Mother' to Our Lady, we are, at the very least, in good company.

(3) Another thought is suggested by the Hidden Life, Our Lady's concentration on Our Lord was made up of two of the master affections of the human heart, the concentration of the saint on God and the concentration of the mother on an only child, whose parenthood in this case she shared with no one else.

This amazing point now emerges throwing a flood of light on our Lady's inner life and sanctity. A village is notoriously a place where everybody is interested in his neighbour's affairs. Yet no faintest suspicion emerges that Our Lord or Our Lady were anything out of the ordinary. If Our Lady were not so completely the handmaid of the Lord, the complete instrument of His will, every instinct especially the maternal instinct to tell everybody about her wonderful Son would have prevailed and God's plan would have been upset.

Our Lady kept many things pondering them in her heart. It gives us a glimpse into her complete absorption in God and in the working out of God's plan.

Let us therefore conclude. Our faith, in its extent, must embrace all the works of God, particularly the work of our redemption. What He has included in that plan, it is not for us to exclude. His Divine Son became man through the motherhood of Mary. By her voluntary consent, her life-long care of Jesus and her co-suffering with Him on Calvary, she took an active part in God's plan for our redemption. Christ in His dying testament gave her to us as our Mother. In the newly-founded Church, she awaited together, with the Apostles, the coming of the Holy Ghost. It would be a breach of our faith not to give the proper place to her whom God has so singularly distinguished and honoured as to make her Immaculate, Queen of the Apostles and Mother of men.

"When Jesus therefore saw His Mother and the disciple standing by... He said to the disciple, "Behold thy Mother." (John 19: 26, 27.)

### THE AMENDING ORDINANCE

Much water has flowed under bridges during the few weeks that have expired since we last treated of this subject. It will not be amiss if we attempt at this juncture a brief summary of the salient points that have emerged.

The resumption of the Second Reading had been carefully prepared for and mass emotions, successfully if unscrupulously aroused, prevented anything like a dispassionate approach to a subject that of all others should have called for such an approach. We are not unaware that the imminence of the elections was in everybody's mind so that all

things considered we are compelled to say that the working agreement reached was in the authentic parliamentary tradition. In this context it is a pleasure to congratulate Mr. Bandaranaike for his statesmanlike speech and for the political realism and acumen he evinced in effecting the compromise.

Essentially it was a compromise that left or should have left no reason for wounded feelings on either side. Free education which on all admissions was not at stake was accepted as a fact and as a principle. Unpalatable clauses were to be referred to Standing Committee A of the House and any groups or individuals so minded were invited to put their case before this Committee.

A wide variety of topics was discussed before Standing Committee A and one cannot help feeling—some of the Minister's unfortunate interim utterances notwithstanding—that our case was systematically developed and sympathetically listened to. The principle of new denominational schools has been accepted though we are not satisfied that the added principle of recognizing only pupils of the management's denomination is the best solution for the country or that it is fair by the parents who may legitimately and for a variety of compelling reasons want to send their children to a school run by a denomination other than their own.

Under the circumstances however it would have been foolish to expect anything more. We are basing our confidence for the future on the emergence of the comprehensive scheme desiderated by all. There are far too many loose ends left dangling in the Amending Ordinance and the academic world is still waiting for the scheme that will peg out our educational future on clear luminous and unambiguous lines. The Amending Ordinance remains a thing of rags and patches as we have always maintained. It only remains to 'sell' it to the country for a few months in this year of grace 1947. It is not and of its very nature cannot expect to be operative much longer than that. Nobody—the Minister perhaps excepted—has any reason to be proud of it.

## AN APPEAL

In order to make a drive for the publications and distribution of Catholic Literature in Tamil as decided on by various units of Catholic Action, it is proposed to publish a descriptive catalogue of all Catholic books and pamphlets that have been so far printed in Tamil. I shall be very thankful if Catholic writers, publishers and printers, will co-operate towards making this catalogue as thorough and exhaustive as possible. Those concerned may send me before the 30th June, a list of the books, and another list of the pamphlets published by them. Others interested are particularly requested to mention rare works and old editions in their possession. The following details may be entered where available:—(a) name of the author (b) title of the book (c) size and number of pages (d) a very concise statement about the contents in three or four lines (e) number of copies printed (f) year of publication (g) number of editions and years of editions (h) if translation, title of original and name of author (i) if book is on sale or out of print (j) price of book.

Prayer books may be excluded, and any publication of about 65 pages or less may be classified under pamphlets. REV. FR. XAVIER S. THANINAYAGAM, Bishop's House, Tuticorin.

[We recommend wholeheartedly this appeal which is so completely in line with the great work done in this diocese by the late Fr. S. GnanaPrakasara, O.M.I.—Editor C. G.]

## Trinity Sunday

### Epistle

How deep is the mine of God's wisdom,  
Of His knowledge;  
How inscrutable are His judgments,  
How undiscoverable His ways!  
Who has ever understood  
the Lord's thoughts  
Or been His counsellor?  
Who ever was the first to give,  
And so earned His favours?  
All things find in Him their origin,  
Their impulse,  
The centre of their being;  
To him be glory throughout all ages,  
Amen.  
(St. Paul: Romans, X, 33-36.)

### Gospel

But Jesus came near and spoke to them,  
All authority in heaven and on earth,  
He said,  
Has been given to me;  
You, therefore, must go out,  
Making disciples of all nations,  
And baptizing them  
In the name of the Father,  
And of the Son,  
And of the Holy Ghost,  
Teaching them to observe all the commandments which I have given you.  
And behold I am with you  
All through the days that are coming,  
Until the consummation of the world.  
(St. Matthew: XXVIII, 18-20.)

## Day by Day With the Saints

### June 3 : St. Clotilda :

Clotilda was the wife of Clovis I, King of the Franks. She honoured her royal husband by pleasing him in everything, and by sweetening his warlike temper by her Christian meekness. All her efforts were directed to winning him to God. His miraculous victory over the Alemanni and his conversion in 496 were the fruits of her prayers. Having gained him to God, Clotilda urged him on to glorious actions, such as the building of the great church of Saints Peter and Paul, now called St. Genevieve's, in Paris. When King Clovis died, she spent the rest of her life in exercises of prayer, almsdeeds, fasting, and penance. Eternity filled her heart and employed all her thoughts.

### June 4 : St. Francis Caracciolo :

Francis was born in the kingdom of Naples, of the princely family of Caracciolo. An attack of leprosy taught him the vileness of the human body and the vanity of the world. Almost miraculously cured, he renounced his home to study for the priesthood. He spent his leisure hours in the prisons or visiting the Blessed Sacrament in unfrequented churches. God called him, when only twenty-five, to found an Order of Clerks Regular. To establish his Order, Francis undertook many journeys through Italy, Spain, on foot and without money. Being elected general, he redoubled his austerities, devoting seven hours daily to meditation on the Passion, besides passing most of the night praying before the Blessed Sacrament. Francis was commonly called the Preacher of Divine Love. He died on the eve of the feast of Corpus Christi, in 1608.

### June 5 : St. Boniface :

St. Boniface was born in Devonshire, England, in 680. He entered the monastery of Exminster and was there trained for his apostolic work. Having failed to convert the pagans of Holland, he set out to preach to the German tribes. He went about in Bavaria, and Thuringia, Friesland, Hesse and Saxony, destroying the idol temples and raising churches on their sites. He was consecrated Bishop by the Pope, after which he returned to extend and organize the rising German Church. He died a martyr.

## LOCAL &amp; GENERAL

**A Drowning Tragedy.**—A gloom was cast over St. Joseph's Institute Colom bogam, Jaffna on the 25th inst. when one of the students of the Institute was drowned. The deceased student is a nephew of Revd. Father Cajetan Fernandopulle of Katuneriya. Father Fernandopulle came to Colom bogam to attend the funeral. We express our sympathy to him and to all the relatives of the deceased on their sad bereavement.

**Social.**—The engagement took place on Wednesday the 21st inst. in the evening at "Elizabeth House", 4th Cross Street, Jaffna, between Isabella, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Emmanuel Tiruchelvam and Anton R. Joseph, only son of Mr. S. Joseph, Secretary, Kinta Town Board, Ipoh, Malaya, and Mrs. Joseph.

The reception was well attended and was an enjoyable one, at which friends and relatives of the contracting parties and several prominent residents were present.

**Education Bill Undergoes Changes.**—On an amendment proposed by Mr. D. S. Senanayake, Leader of the State Council the Standing Committee "A" of the State Council adopted a change in Clause 7 of the Amending Education Bill. According to the change the Registration of new Assisted Schools after July 1, 1947 is subject to the condition that in the case of any denominational school, any grant from the State funds shall be payable only in respect of any pupil whose parents profess the religion of the proprietor of the school.

**Lawyers as Leaders of the Country.**—While paying a tribute to the late Mr. N. Nadarajah, K.C., Commissioner of Assizes, Mr. Justice Nagalingam regretted the fact that the time when great leaders of the Bar were also leaders of the country is gone. Today when the country is faced with various problems of paramount importance the guidance and counsel of keen legal intellects are very desirable.

**Viceroy's London Visit Criticised.**—Mr. P. D. Saggi, President of the Indian National Overseas Congress in England said that the Viceroy's mission to London to have consultations with His Majesty's Government served no useful purpose. He said that the Indians in Britain compare the present negotiations in London to "Nero playing the fiddle while Rome was burning." It was like forcing the hands of the Congress only, without carrying the Muslim League along with them. The fact that Jinnah does not agree to anything savours of activity behind the scenes.

**Jinnah Asks for More.**—Mr. M. A. Jinnah, President of the Muslim League does not want the partitioning of the Punjab and Bengal but he wants a corridor connecting the Western and Eastern Pakistan States. "I am dead against the partitioning of the Punjab and Bengal," he stated, "and we shall fight every inch against it."

**Japanese Inclination Towards Christianity.**—According to a news item appearing in the Madras "Hindu" of May 23 Father Edward Joseph Flanagan of Tokyo, founder of the United States "Boys Town" Club, told Press correspondents that the Japanese nation would become Christian in the next few years. The people, mostly Buddhists, were in a mood, for such a change, he claimed.

Father Flanagan fully supported General Mac Arthur's suggestion for an early peace treaty, as he felt that Japan's present problems were mainly economic.

**Entry of Missionaries into Japan.**—Another news item appearing in "The Hindu" states that a freer and broader policy of admission of missionaries into Japan was announced by a spokesman of General Mac Arthur's Headquarters. Under the revised policy, it is anticipated that the flow of missionaries into Japan within three years will be greatly increased. General Mac Arthur desires to encourage Japanese understanding and acceptance of "Christian ideas of tolerance and democracy."

**Graeco-Turkish Aid Bill Signed.**—The 400 million dollar Greek and Turkish Aid Bill has been signed by President Truman on May 22. The

President said: "This is an important step in the building of peace. The passage of the Bill by an overwhelming majority in both the Houses of the Congress is proof that the United States earnestly desires peace and is willing to make a vigorous effort to create conditions of peace enabling nations to support themselves economically."

**Restoration of the German Island Paradise.**—The island paradise on the Baltic Coast about 60 miles to the north west of Stettin was in 1935 converted by Hitler at a cost of 50 million pounds into a fantastic workshop of death, where he planned to win the war with an army of 11,000 slave workers toiling to turn out 100,000 V-weapons yearly. Today it is a wilderness of destruction, thanks to the heavy blows of the R.A.F. Bomber Command in the summer of 1943. At present the Russians are engaged in bringing order out of a chaos of masses of twisted steel, huge sundered slabs of concrete and piles of rubble and gutted buildings. When everything that can be extracted or resurrected has been salvaged the island will be given over to the Germans to cultivate wheat, potatoes and cabbages which flourished there before Hitler turned it into a great rocket arsenal.

**Decrease in Australian Population Alarms Mr. Arthur Calwell.** The Minister for Information and Immigration Mr. Arthur Calwell feels that Australia is "slowly bleeding to death." "If the birthrate does not improve," he said "there will probably be no Australians to talk about in 55 years."

**8,000-Year Old Village.**—On May 22 Professor John Garstang told the Society of Antiquaries, London that he had just completed his life's work by unearthing what he believed to be the oldest settlement ever discovered. The settlement which was about 8,000 years old is situated in the pre historic village of Mersin on the Mediterranean coast in Turkey. According to an Arab legend this settlement is supposed to be the site of the garden of Eden.

**Dr Tisso Meets Death Calmly.**—The "Catholic Herald" reports that Dr. Joseph Tisso, the priest President of Slovakia during the German occupation was hanged on Friday morning April 18. Dr. Tisso spent his last night in praying with his confessor, and was still praying on his way to his execution. He went to the gallows with a rosary in his hand which he was clutching as he died. The Slovaks in America had on the night of the execution instituted the Dr. Tisso Order as a high decoration.

**May be.**—The people who drive fastest past a school are the same ones who took so long in going through it.—(Rotary.)

## Letters to the Editor

## Certain Aspects of the New Constitution

Sir,—In the course of an instructive address to the Western Province Education Inspectors' Association recently, Mr. C. H. Collins, the acting Chief Secretary, referred to certain aspects of the new constitution. Mr. Collins who has been serving Ceylon from the days of the Crown Colony administration is in a position, by virtue of his experience of governmental matters and knowledge of the people, to express normally a correct statement with regard to constitutional affairs. The acting Chief Secretary drew attention to the fact that an important feature of the Donoughmore constitution, by which the executive and legislative functions were vested in one body under the Executive Committee system, would be brought to an end by the Soulbury constitution. Another equally important point mentioned by the lecturer was that the Cabinet system that would come into operation under the new Constitution was based on the English model. Apart from the vesting of executive and legislative functions in two different bodies and the introduction of the Cabinet system, referred to by Mr. Collins, I would like to point out in addition that the change of constitution has completely altered the position of the minorities.

Firstly under the Donoughmore Constitution it was thought that in view of the adoption of the system of Executive

Committees the minority communities would come in for a reasonable share in the government of the country. This expectation however did not materialize in an effective manner. With the disappearance of the Executive Committee system the minorities would appear to be in a weaker position under the new constitution. Secondly the introduction of the British Cabinet system places the Sinhalese community in a position of being able to exercise absolute power, if it were so disposed. If on the other hand, in place of the Executive Committee system, a statutory composite cabinet giving the various communities in the Island each its share in the Cabinet had been introduced under the new constitution, the position would have been entirely different. The situation has to be faced as it is and the Soulbury constitution must be worked as it ought to be worked, to obtain the maximum benefit for the Island as a whole and for the respective communities. What has been lost or rather what is thought to have been lost from the point of view of the non-Sinhalese communities including the Tamils can yet be retrieved and even made to yield better results by whole-hearted co-operation between the Sinhalese and non-Sinhalese communities. One of the most effective methods—in fact the most effective method—of achieving this happy consummation would be for the non-Sinhalese communities to join or form non-communal organisations. The communities that will gain most by the formation of non-communal organisations to work the Soulbury constitution will be the non-Sinhalese communities. If the Sinhalese community desires to work the new constitution through communal organisations, there is nothing under the Order-in-Council to prevent it from forming a homogeneous Cabinet of Sinhalese ministers, since the representatives of this community in Parliament would be in an absolute majority. If, on the other hand, the Sinhalese community forms or participates in the formation of non-communal organisations whose membership is open to all communities in Ceylon, then there is every possibility of the minority communities having a certain number of portfolios in the cabinet; so that it is the minority communities who must welcome the formation of non-communal organisations more than the Sinhalese community.

The accusation that those in charge of non-communal organisations already in existence are either communal-minded or selfish is no valid ground for the rejection of non-communal organisations. If it is felt that those in charge of non-communal organisations are communal-minded or selfish it is the clear duty of those who level the charge and who claim to be non-communal and unselfish to join such non-communal organisations and improve them or to form other non-communal organisations themselves.

It may not be possible within a period of a few months and it is not essential, for us in Ceylon to have political parties functioning in the same manner as are to be found in England after centuries of Parliamentary government and party politics; so that the further charge that the present non-communal organisations in Ceylon do not constitute parties of the same calibre as those in England is not fair.

The Soulbury constitution has to be worked in the only way that it could be worked. It cannot be worked on the lines of the old Crown Colony Administration, nor like the Devonshire-Maning constitution, nor even like the Donoughmore constitution. Further the methods adopted by the various communities in the Island in their quest for a suitable constitution for Ceylon cannot be pursued once a constitution whether suitable or unsuitable, comes into operation.

Mr. Collins is reported to have stated that he did not think it was essential that we should have parties functioning as they did in England. One might mention in this connection that a fully fledged Party System in Ceylon will necessarily take some time to get established and will make its appearance only after a lapse of a transitional period during which loosely-knit non-communal organisations would evolve out of the present communal groups. A developed party system will arise only at the end

of the career of the first Parliament under the Soulbury Constitution and as a result of its working. The immediate requirement to work the new constitution is therefore non-communal organisations and not political parties. The evolution in the circumstances obtaining in Ceylon is bound to be from communal organisations to non-communal organisations and thereafter from non-communal organisations to Political Parties. The middle stage of non-communal organisations is not only unavoidable but is indispensable for the political and constitutional progress of Ceylon and for the future happiness and well-being of its peoples.

Yours truly,  
S. SIVASUBRAMANIAM,  
156, Hultsdorf, Colombo.  
11-5-47.

## FORTHCOMING MARRIAGE

## JOSEPH—TIRUCHELVAM

The engagement is announced and the marriage will take place shortly of Mr. Anton R. Joseph, the only son of Mr. S. Joseph, Secretary, Kinta Town Board, Ipoh, Malaya and Mrs. Joseph, with Miss Isabella, the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Emmanuel Tiruchelvam of "Elizabeth House", 4th Cross Street, Jaffna.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Mrs. Elizabeth Rajah sincerely thanks all those who sent messages of sympathy or floral wreaths or attended the funeral of the late Mr. P. J. Rajah, Mudaliyar of the Governor's Gate, Cathedral Street, Jaffna, 30-5-47.

## The Hon'ble Mr. George Edmund de Silva

Minister of Health,  
will lay

## THE FOUNDATION STONE

of  
The Green Memorial Hospital  
Centenary Building  
On Saturday the 31st inst. at 4-30 p.m.

## Sir Waitalingam Duraiswamy

will preside.

All friends and well wishers are  
cordially invited.

DR. E. T. BUELL,  
Director.

Green Memorial Hospital,  
Manipay, 27th May, 1947.

CEYLON GOVERNMENT RAILWAY  
NOTICE

Footway on Railway Bridge at 17 miles 23 chains (railway Mileage) Coast Line—Panadura

In connection with repairs to the bridge, the above footway will be closed from 3-6-47 to 2-7-47.

J. R. S. BODGER,  
General Manager, C.G.R.

28 April, 1947.

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## One Priest Writes to Another

(Continued from Page 1)

The people of Africa have found the system as much within their understanding as the peoples of any other part of the world. Thus, successes have been achieved and numbers of apostles mobilised which have been denied more elaborate organisations.

16. The Legion regards study as always a preparation for action.

It is a matter of experience that very often study seems to become an obstacle to action. It is begun as a preparation for the apostolate yet few seem to persevere in it to the stage of active work. Which is the more important principle—that every Christian must be an apostle, or that every apostle must be learned? You answer the former, Then, let it not be subjected to the latter. Regarding study as a means to an end the Legion has always insisted that even members of its study Praesidia should engage in substantial active work each week. This point should be considered in relationship to Number 4 above.

17. The Legion works for the social regeneration of the world through the patient application of the religious system of the Church.

Although the Popes have written at great length in modern times on the social question they have always insisted that the first requisite for social reform is a return to the teaching and spirit of Jesus Christ. Says Pius XI: "If we examine matters diligently and thoroughly we shall perceive clearly that this longed-for social reconstruction must be preceded by a profound renewal of the Christian spirit." (*Quadragesimo Anno*, Principles for Peace, 1030) Says the Legion Handbook: "There is a remedy—and there is only one—and it lies in the intense and patient application of the religious system of the Church." (Page 244.) The Christian spirit which, the Popes say, must be renewed is found in the religious system of the Church; the channels of that spirit to men are the Sacraments and so, by giving pre-eminence to devotion to the Sacraments in its apostolic work, Mary's Legion is working in the most direct manner possible for the social regeneration of humanity. Far more effective this, than the whittling down of Catholic doctrines in a misguided attempt to make them appeal to those outside the Church, or the efforts of some well-meaning Catholics to prove that in its friendliness for the workers the Catholic Church almost out-Marx Marx himself! The Legion most fervently echoes the plea of Pius XI: "There must begin a real and true regeneration which consists in the return of Jesus Christ to society;.....The Sacraments of the Eucharist, solemn recognition, solemn adoration, of this the most holy among all holy Sacraments, most divine among divine things, that is the remedy." (Allocution, May 24th, 1922. "Principles for Peace," No. 742.)

18. The Legion skilfully combines rigidity and flexibility in its rule.

"The Legion notifies its members that they are not at liberty to vary rules and practices as they choose." Handbook, p. 63.) This is a means to the supreme end. The Legion is the spiritual army of Mary, and in an army, discipline is necessary. How wise, how prudent, how perfectly regulated is the discipline of the Legion is proved by the fact that it has resulted in the utmost flexibility, thereby making it possible for the system to be used with outstanding success in almost every field of apostolic endeavour.

19. The Legion is adapted to a universal apostolate.

It is certain that the first members of the Legion of Mary could have had little conception at the beginning of the marvellous variety and magnitude of the works which the organisation would undertake. Nowadays, even the formidable list of works suggested in the Handbook has been far exceeded, and it has yet to be demonstrated that, apart from the distribution of material relief, there is a single form of Social Service or Catholic Action that cannot be successfully undertaken by the Legion.

## Flashes of Catholic News from Australia

(Continued from Page 1)

in compliance with the Papal decrees on Church music, and boys are taught voice production, sight singing, and other musical subjects. Later they will be given a complete knowledge of approved church music. Other choir schools are established at Sydney and Melbourne, the latter being formed from the Viennese Boys Choir which was stranded in Australia at the beginning of the war, and was given hospitality and a new role as the Cathedral Boys' Choir by Archbishop Mannix.

### Australian Christian Unity Observance

A special observance of the Church Unity Octave—usually celebrated between January 18 and 25—is being held in the archdiocese of Sydney during May 18-25, the week preceding the Feast of Pentecost. The intentions of the Octave are for the Unity of all Christians, for the Peace of the World, for the Separated Eastern Christians, for the Separated Christians of the British Empire, for the Separated Christians of Europe, for the Separated Christians of America, for the Return of Lapsed Catholics, for Jews and Mohammedans, and for the Conversion of the Heathen. Special devotions will be held and special sermons preached. Non-Catholics are invited to attend.

### Adult Education Course in Religion Well Attended

The adult education programme established in the archdiocese of Sydney in many suburban centres is being attended by large groups of Catholics. In one such centre, Randwick, about 80 were present to hear Rev. Dr. Rumble, M.S.C., lecture on the Existence of God at the opening of the course on April 13. Many questions were asked at the conclusion of the lecture and there was an animated discussion. The centres are so arranged that all districts of the diocese are covered. A similar though more centralised course, is being conducted in Melbourne.

20. The Legion makes worth-while demands of its members.

Herein lies another secret of success. Every Legionary is told that "At the bottom of all really fruitful work must be the readiness to give oneself entirely.....The Legionary who somewhere sets up the barrier: 'thus far and no farther is self-sacrifice to go,' will accomplish only the trivial, though great exertions may be made." Handbook, page 7.) It is precisely because it demands efforts proportionate to the capacity of each of its members that the Legion to-day can rely on the loyalty and self-sacrifice of so many thousands of them.

So, Father, I have done. There I have set out, more or less at random and in no sort of order of precedence or importance, twenty reasons why the Legion of Mary appeals to me personally, twenty characteristics which have resulted in the spread of the movement so rapidly and with such wonderful success throughout the world. Others might give different reasons; my selection is a purely personal one and I am conscious that there may be many more that might have been mentioned. A long article might be written on each point, and one of my difficulties in completing this letter has been that of condensing a great deal of matter into a few lines.

However, I hope you will agree with me that the cumulative value of all these excellent characteristics of the movement is such that it demonstrates that the Legion must be specially blessed of Heaven and that we are justified in seeing here the work of the lovely Mother whom the Legion is proud to acknowledge as its Queen and Mistress and the Channel through whom all the graces it has needed and distributed have come.

With respect and kind wishes.

I am, dear Reverend Father,  
Yours sincerely in Our Lord,  
FRANCIS J. RIPLEY.

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11 August 1947

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Director of Agriculture.

Peradeniya,

20th May, 1947.

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