

The Ceylon's Catholic Weekly Messenger

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1000-strong squad of volunteers starts Press Week campaign ARCHDIOCESE STANDS BY

**• CARDINAL
STEPINAC'S WILL
BE FAITHFUL at
ANY PRICE!**

In his will, published last Monday in *L'Osservatore Romano*, Cardinal Stepinac said: "My dear children you must remain faithful at any price—even, if necessary, with your life—to the Church of Christ."

The will, dated May 26, 1957, reminds the people of his diocese of Zagreb that "for centuries our fathers and ancestors spilled torrents and rivers of blood to conserve the sacred treasure of the Catholic faith."

"Neither war nor peace, good fortune nor bad, must shake our determination to remain faithful to the death to the Church of Christ which has the successor of Peter as its supreme pastor."

He said the Communist Government of Yugoslavia was able to insert into school books blasphemies against the Mother of God, "blasphemies which I condemned in 1946, during the notorious so-called trial by which it was hoped to remove the Church from our motherland by the stroke of a pen."

"Within our midst they have infiltrated atheists who, though in a minority (as I write they barely make up two per cent.), have done all they could to tear the name of God from your souls and to make you happy—they say—without God."

"Any attempt to shape the culture, civilisation and welfare of a nation without God means to set the seal on its perdition for all time."

"Messenger Meditorials"

The MESSENGER commences a new feature today. Appearing every week, our "Meditorials" will give you ample food for thought.

TURN TO PAGE 7

for ACTION Two-pronged objectives this year

(by a MESSENGER reporter)

THIS is Press Week and several hundreds of voluntary workers will be out on the streets in the parishes in Colombo and the outstations this Sunday and the six days that follow in the annual house-to-house campaign to spread Catholic literature. They will have with them books and periodicals which every Catholic who wishes to be informed as much as possible about modern Catholic thought and about the classics of the Church which have enriched our literature down the centuries must acquire.

The two main objectives of Press Week are to diffuse Catholic literature and to encourage Catholic writers by creating a market for their works—a taste for Catholic books—because a well-informed Catholic public not only becomes steadfast in its faith but is also a source of strength to the Church.

IN COLOMBO ALONE ABOUT 1,000 VOLUNTARY BOOK SELLERS DRAWN FROM THE SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES, AND FROM CATHOLIC SOCIETIES AND ASSOCIATIONS WILL HANDLE THE SALE OF PRESS WEEK BOOKS. THEIR MAIN WORK WILL BE TO:

- DISTRIBUTE CATHOLIC TRACTS AND LEAFLETS.
- ORGANISE THE SALE OF CATHOLIC BOOKS, AND
- ENROL SUBSCRIBERS FOR CATHOLIC JOURNALS.

The Hony. Literary Secretary of the Catholic Diocesan Union, Mr. I. V. Ferdinandus, told the *Messenger* that the Catholic Book Shop which was the main source of supply of books for Press Week, had a wide range of books in Sinhala, Tamil and English.

He said that all the Sinhala books

• IN U.S.A.

**60 million in
1970**

THE Catholic population of U.S.A. may go up to 60 million by 1970 (it is 39 million at present), says Mgr. Henry C. Bezou of New Orleans. One-third of Americans would then be Catholics.

and most of the Tamil books were local publications of merit—apologetics, novels, and general books dealing with controversies and problems which the Church in Ceylon has had to face in recent years.

Many Tamil books were also imported from India where a good selection of Tamil publications was available. These books, he said, were priced low, because the Indian Press catered to a potential Catholic read-

TURN TO BACK PAGE

• IN JAPAN

The faith leaps

VOCATIONS to the priesthood in Japan are rising at a faster rate than even conversions.

To cope with them an inter-diocesan seminary is to be opened in Tokyo in April.

Those who have helped to build the seminary are the Catholics of the Cologne diocese in Germany, who have "adopted" the Tokyo diocese.

Japan's Catholic population has risen since the war from 100,000 to 265,000.

**Archbishop's
urgent call
to the
faithful**

(Turn to page 7)

TITO: RELATIONS WITH HOLY SEE?

SIGNS became evident last week which could indicate that Marshal Tito, Yugoslav dictator, is anxious to restore friendly relations with the Holy See.

Diplomatic relations were severed after the late Cardinal Stepinac was convicted of war crimes.

Last week's indications were:—

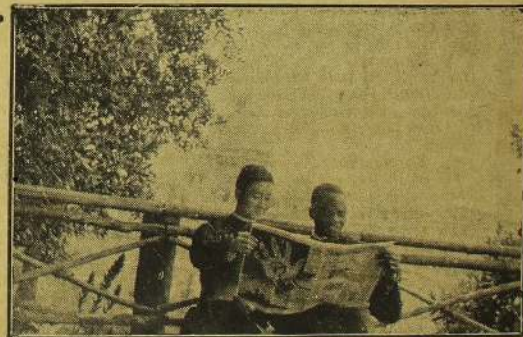
• A spokesman for the government said at a Press conference in Belgrade that "certain circumstances" existed in Yugoslavia-Vatican relations "which are more favourable than those prevailing last year."

He told one of the pressmen, in answer to a question, that the government was awaiting the full text of the Pope's address at the Requiem Mass in St. Peter's for Cardinal Stepinac.

(In this address His Holiness said: "Why, now that the sacrifice of this great priest has been consummated, cannot all souls that are good and honest salute, even from a distance the return of civic and religious peace.")

IT HELPS BUILD BRIDGES OF FRIENDSHIP..

A Catholic newspaper really helps to build bridges of friendship with all nations. Here is a picture taken recently in the Eternal City. Against St. Peter's towering in the background, an African and a Chinese read Ceylon's only Catholic Weekly in English—the MESSENGER.



and THIS IS NEARER HOME



The MESSENGER is welcomed in many homes in Lanka. Here is a family in Kotahena obviously enjoying reading their Catholic Weekly. The Archdiocesan Press Week which commences on 6th March is a challenge to every Catholic to ensure that it reaches every home.

Pope advises Lenten preachers DON'T DESCRIBE EVIL IN DETAIL

LENTEN preachers were told by the Pope on Friday: Don't describe evil in detail—just touch upon it, nothing more. One word, not two.

The weak enjoyed feeding on morbid details, he said.

Preachers should temper the rigour of correction with piety and compassion.

There were those who, in an excess of zeal and fervour, became furious with indignation.

They were mistaken, like those who at the other end of the scale turned words of correction into tacit per-

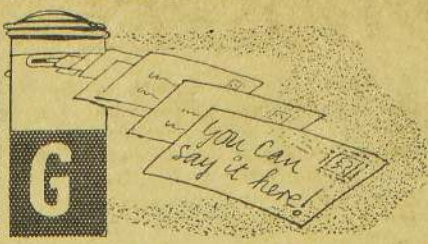
mission.

After 20 centuries of Christian light the shadows were still heavy over many souls and many institutions.

We should not delude ourselves.

The serious task which her divine Founder entrusted to His Church called for an application and attentiveness ever more closely in tune with the needs of the times.

WEEKLY POST BAG



"THE NUN'S STORY"—For and Against

FOR

"ONE of the most sincere and dignified portrayals of the religious life to appear on the screen." These were the words of the priest film-critic who was invited by the "Cineforum" of the Gregorian University to speak a few words of introduction before the film was shown to a large crowd of priests and ecclesiastical students in the "Sala S. Pietro."

This opinion is shared by many. No wonder ex-Sister Luke said "I am never going to see the film again, because if I do, I'm going to run right back to the convent."

There was also a special word of praise for the ladies from Rome's noble families and the ballerinas, for the calm reverence they showed in the nuns' parts that they played. Hats off also to the director who in a sincere effort to be objective, had two Dominican Fathers on the set as advisors at Cinecittà, Rome, where the convent scenes were filmed, and an Assumptionist Father in the Bel-

gian Congo. The Bishop in the film was Fr. Bonhomme, O.P., one of the advisors.

Some have found fault with the film for not showing the whole of the religious life. But the film, not claiming to be a documentary of the religious life, cannot be accused of this deficiency, unless of course, it gave a false impression. Did the film give a distorted image of convent

life? If it did, was it the fault of the film or of the spectator who was not sufficiently discerning? To find out whether a tree is healthy, it is not necessary to dig up and expose its roots. The Gospel tells us that it is sufficient to examine its fruits. The film showed us the nuns at work in their difficult Congo mission. They were efficient, confident, cheerful under trying conditions, generous and charitable. Is this not a very effective way of praising the religious life which produced such remarkable Christians? And artistically it is not more skillful than showing us all of convent life from the rising bell in the morning to "lights out" at night?

The film has given rise to much controversy. This is not surprising. There was a great controversy about Christ too—controversy that led to the Cross but did not end there. The cross is still a sign of contradiction. "We preach Christ crucified, a scandal to the Jews" as St. Paul says. The Christian life and, in a very marked way, the religious life, is an imitation of Christ. Whether it be lived in reality, described in a novel, acted on the stage or screen, it will give rise to some kind of controversy. What is required is an analysis of the controversy to find out to what extent it is caused by the way in which the Christian life is described and to what extent it is due to the very nature of Christianity.

Let us take up a few points raised by the film. What about the request of the Superior (fictional though it may be) that Sister Luke fail her exam? Such a request could be very imprudent on the part of a superior for different reasons—for instance the spiritual immaturity of the subject for whom the sacrifice would seem too great. But can we condemn the request in itself as being necessarily ridiculous? Did not God the Father ask something similar from His Son? When Jesus was on the Cross "the passers-by blasphemed against him: come now, they said, rescue thyself; come down from the cross if thou art the Son of God. He saved others, he cannot save himself. If he is king of Israel he has but to come down from the cross, here and now, and we will believe him." Here was a challenge to Christ to use his infinite power and come down from the cross in triumph. He was before His examiners. But Christ chose to "fail" this exam in obedience to His Father. He did not use His powers and so to some He seemed no more than a poor misguided mortal at the best. God's ways are not always our ways.

Another incident—the silence of the sister in the corridor of the convent when she saw Sister Luke for the first time after her return from the Congo. It was perhaps natural to expect a warm hand-shake and a little chat. But there was silence. Was this cold, severe and uncharitable? If silence is nothing more than the external formality of keeping one's lips closed, then surely this silence must be condemned. But the aim of silence in the religious life is union with God, through prayer. Suppose that the Sister really liked to have a little chat but, in a spirit of sacrifice, put it off for recreation time and went on speaking to God in prayer. Would we condemn such an action in the given circumstances? Were a priest in charge of a parish to observe the silence and seclusion of a Trappist, he would be a miserable failure. But equally a Trappist who tries to have in his monastery the human contacts necessary for a parish priest, would be a failure too. The best way that we can serve God and neighbour is by being true to our vocation. And the Rule tells the religious in a very explicit manner what his or her vocation is.

Was the film correct in putting an emphasis on the discipline, severity and sacrifice of religious life? True enough there is plenty of joy, laughter and song in religious life. There is also the necessary recreation to keep body and soul in good health. Some of the good things of life, in moderation—a good film or a feast-day menu for instance—are not lacking. But this cannot change the fact that the religious life is one of trial and

sacrifice. Religious Rules take into consideration human nature lest impossible burdens be placed on weak shoulders, but they are aimed at Christian perfection, a difficult goal indeed, and the disciplined efforts needed to attain it call for much sacrifice. The frugality of religious life, and the external discipline are not easy to accept, day after day and year after year. The more sincere a religious the more deeply he will suffer from his own failure as he works lovingly yet laboriously towards his ideal. Sometimes others too might be the cause of his suffering. There might be the harshness of the falsely zealous, the deadening disappointment of the stably mediocre. These are realities that the religious must be prepared to face.

One last word. Will "The Nun's Story" frighten a boy or a girl with a true vocation to the religious life? I think not. If there are any illusions that the religious life is only the old philosophy of "eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die" clothed in a religious habit, this film will help to destroy them. To the true vocation it will be a help. In a London newspaper, early in the century, this advertisement appeared:—"Men wanted—for dangerous undertaking. Poor working conditions, bad food, long hours, constant and great danger. Survivors, if any, are promised lasting fame..." It was an advertisement asking for members for an Arctic expedition. Next day there were 5,000 applicants. Some consider it the most successful advertisement in history. They are mistaken. Another advertisement appeared nearly 2,000 years ago. It said "If any man has a mind to come my way, let him renounce self, and take up his cross daily and follow me." (Luke, 9, 23). This is the world's most successful advertisement. It is still being answered.

J.C.

Rome.

AGAINST

THIS film should not be seen for the following reasons:—

- (a) It is not true to convent life.
- (b) The film does not show the brighter and happier side of a religious.
- (c) The nuns never work alone with a male doctor.
- (d) They are never in charge alone of a mental asylum.
- (e) Never such wrong advice given as in the case of Sr. Luke being asked to fail her examination.

(f) The ending is not true to life. Nobody would ever take the step Sr. Luke took especially after the death of her father, her only support in the world. A total renunciation to the will of God was the only reasonable thing to do.

(g) It is purposely designed to thwart young aspirants and frighten them from ever becoming nuns.

W.L.S.C.

Colombo 9.

Catholic Library

AT the Fourth Annual General Meeting of our Guild held this month it was decided to found in Negombo a Catholic Library.

With the support we hope to receive from the Catholic public we envisage that we could, within the next ten years, build up a first-class free lending library with books to the value of Rs. 100,000/-.

Please permit me to launch this appeal through the medium of your paper for gifts of books and/or cash for the purpose of founding this library.

Books, including magazines, periodicals and Catholic newspapers may be sent to the undersigned.

Cash and Cheques may be sent to Mr. J. N. A. de Croos, Proctor and Notary, 37 Kundanwila Road, Negombo.

C. M. Fernando,
Hony. Secretary,
Negombo Catholic Lawyers' Guild.

BISHOP SHEEN SPEAKS

16 Rules for Press Week ...and after



1. Taste a book or magazine before reading, it may be bitter or even rotten. The mind is more important than the stomach. Just as some food is fit only for the garbage pail, so some reading is not fit for the mind.

2. A mind that does not perfect itself by good reading does not remain the same; it becomes duller. White fences do not remain white fences; muscles that are not used atrophy, and a mind that does not take mental nourishment can starve.

3. An opposite extreme is to do all the studying in one direction. Over-specialization, Darwin said, ruined his mind, for he thereby lost all taste for music, poetry and the arts. Many theses in universities are on such a specialized subject that they profit neither the student, the university, nor the general public.

4. To limit one's reading to the newspaper and to popular magazines is to fall into the uniformity and the dullness of the anti-hill. When everyone knows the same thing, no one knows anything.

5. The best time for study depends on one's constitution. Some are born roosters and do their best work in the morning; others are owls and have their best mental activity at night.

6. Behaviour can condition knowledge. A student who is not living a moral life, will frown on all reading which calls his moral bankruptcy to account. A bank robber does not like to have a searchlight on him as he blasts a safe; neither does an evil man want the light of truth shining on his evil deeds.

7. As food is chewed, so must reading. As the mouth has gastric juices, so does the mind have mental juices to convert reading into knowledge. As wood must be chopped before it is burned, so reading must be meditated on to get its full flavour.

8. The eye is not always seeing; every now and then it winks or goes into temporary darkness. So the mind has to take itself away from what it is reading in order to reflect on the knowledge, and thus understand it better when one returns to the book.

9. Do not always keep an "open mind," that is read everything without making decisions. An "open mind" that never decides on anything as true, can turn out to be nothing more than a hole in the head. The "open mouth" that never closes on food, starves.

10. If the book is your own, read with a pencil; mark the important passages for a second or third reading. If the book is not your own, forget the suggestion. This would have been no help to Anatole France, who said that the only books he had in his library were those that he borrowed from friends.

11. The Book of the Month is not necessarily the book worth reading. If you have never read Plutarch's Lives, it is the same as if it were just off the press. Emerson suggested never reading a book until it was out a year. What is the latest fashion is not necessarily the best. What ever happened to the sack dresses?

12. Reading novels exclusively or looking at television dramas and Westerns exclusively, stirs up the emotions against objects that are purely fictitious and unreal. Later on, when emotions should be aroused toward a real object, it will be discovered that they have become jaded. The modern world has thus lost the power of moral indignation.

13. Students would do well to recall that a number of classes in colleges are not worth following; principally among them are classes where the professors dictate their notes; also a class in which statistics are given for that year only. A good book is worth more than some college courses.

14. There is no short cut to knowledge. No easy path exists toward acquiring a foreign language or mathematics. The taste for everything that is fine and noble is the result of discipline and hard work.

15. A man may be very clever, know much, publish much, astound quiz masters and be a devil. Knowledge of and by itself is not sanctity. Goodness is in the will, not the intellect.

16. Pray before studying, for though knowledge comes from books, wisdom comes from God.

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D.S.P. false allegations

IN the third pre-election broadcast of the Dharma Samaja Party, which was banned by the Government, and published in the "Ceylon Daily News" of February 24, Mr. L. H. Mettananda says: "These managing bodies have the right to select their own teachers and as the denominational scheme presupposes the creation of a particular religious atmosphere in a school, the management recruits only persons of a particular religion into its schools..."

This is not altogether true. In a total of twenty teachers in the Catholic school here, seven are Catholics, nine are Buddhists, and four are Hindus. Mr. Mettananda is welcome to verify the truth of what I say from the Education Office, Ratnapura, or in any other way convenient to him.

If Mr. Mettananda were to take the trouble, he would see that the staffs of many Catholic schools in Ceylon are made up of personnel of different faiths.

C.A.S.

Ratnapura.

To all Christian patriots

19TH March 1960 is definitely a day of destiny. What is our duty in relation to the destiny which March 19th will usher.

Surely we are not going to say that politics is a shabby business and that we should have nothing to do with it. It has been pointed out to us time and again in the columns of this paper that apathy in this direction is a pernicious attitude which we should try to overcome.

Deep down in our aloofness to politics is a conviction that things could be better; that the social order could be reconstructed to serve the ends of justice which is our ideal.

Good; but let it be remembered that every ideal postulates sacrifice, and the sacrifice we can make in this instance, in this hour of destiny, is to get mixed up in this sordid game of politics and pass through it unspotted, and to set a new tone to politics. Politics offers the widest scope for social justice; for politics is not merely a technique of government as we sometimes wrongly conceive. Politics is a synthesis of the social, cultural, economic and of every interest of yours and mine. We must, therefore, get interested in it and through it create the necessary political climate conditioned by charity and justice where the economic and every need of man might be met without prejudice to his personality.

If things are not as we wish them to be, should we not take part of the blame; for has not our own aloofness to politics left the field clear for the unrestrained activities of political opportunists whose catchwords and shibboleths have deceived the underscoring masses and left us cold with disgust.

Let us then, though belatedly perhaps, get alerted against the hour of destiny and first decide on casting our vote with discretion and judgement and second, not less important than the first, energise our fellow-men to help them shake off their languor and to cast their vote.

J. L. Peries.

Negombo.

Cotton Suitings at F. X's

Perfex English Drill

28 ins. 2/50 yd.

Coat & Trousers 31/-

Trousers 14/75

English Mercerised Tussore

Fawn, gray or black

56 ins. 7/50 yd.

Coat & Trousers 41/75

Elgin White Drill

28 ins. 2/- yd.

F. X. Pereira & Sons Ltd.

COLOMBO.

THE FIFTH GOSPEL

This is between you, me and every other Catholic. Let us take a look at our homes. Do we have Catholic books in our bookcases, Catholic periodicals in our magazine racks and Catholic newspapers and pamphlets on our tables? If Christ were to go through our reading material, would He feel happy or sad? Sure He would find books on how to be healthy and strong, how to remain young and beautiful, how to make more money and perhaps how to raise better orchids. He might also come across True This and True That. But would He find anything that could help us to lead better Catholic lives? To save our immortal souls?

In distressing contrast to the growing popularity and demand for Catholic publications in countries such as America and England there exists in Ceylon an appalling indifference, even among otherwise good Catholics, towards Catholic literature. Many of our well-to-do Catholic families that avidly devour every day all the available secular print as fast as it dries, so as to know how the world fares from day to day and what names the local politicians are calling each other, apparently feel no sense of guilt in not getting into their homes a Catholic newspaper even once a week or a Catholic book even once a year.

CATHOLIC PRESS

The Catholic Press has been aptly called "The Fifth Gospel," and Press Week is an opportune

time to reflect on the power, the strength and the beauty that God has put into the Catholic Press and to realise that, in modern times, it is, after God's grace and His Sacraments, the greatest single agency for keeping the flame of

classes at school, were we really in a position to understand fully and appreciate the treasure of knowledge contained in that little book? And even if we did learn a little then, should not our ful-

● PRESS WEEK SPECIAL

from
S. M. J. Louis

Catholicism alive. This is the time to think things over and to make a sincere and honest endeavour to change our attitude. In this endeavour it would be advantageous to bear in mind a fact or two about the Catholic Press.

As children we learned our little catechism by heart. That, no doubt, was an excellent thing, but while in the lower

liberal memories be treated to a refresher course now and then? God surely expects us to know more about our religion when we are seven times seven than we knew at seven. The Catholic Press is the



pervade every moment of our being and its impact must be felt in every action of ours. We do not merely practise religion. We live it. Our spiritual life must grow in strength and our love and knowledge of God must be kindled and fed. The Catholic Press provides us with the fuel and food. Those of us who do not partake of it are bound to succumb to spiritual anaemia sooner or later.

Catholic publications. Buy, beg or borrow but read and go on reading. This will not be easy because the Catholic Press is never sensational and is always in a thoughtful and introspective mood. But keep on reading and God will soon give you the grace to like what you read.

ANTIDOTE

The freedom of the secular press has led to so many abuses that the Holy Father quite recently described the situation as one of the truly crucial points of today's



2. Become a subscriber to a Catholic newspaper. If you are already one, go all out to enrol more subscribers, at least one.

3. There is no better gift you can give your friends and relations at Christmas or on birthdays than a good Catholic book or a subscription to a Catholic newspaper or periodical. Their value is everlasting.

4. A sound investment for time and eternity is to start your own home collection of Catholic books. It is never too early or too late to begin.

5. Never let Catholic publications end up on the scrap pile. Pass them on to others who would be interested.

6. Remember the Catholic Press in your will. It lacks the resources of the secular press. It is a David in the midst of Goliaths.

7. Last but not least, give the Catholic Press not only your material support but also your prayers. Not during Press Week alone but throughout the year.

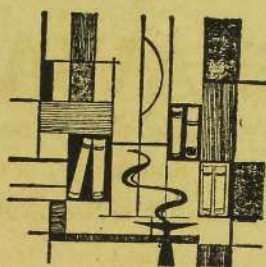


social life and severely criticised those who made use of that freedom to "deform public opinion, to offer details and descriptions to a curiosity which should be reserved to police laboratories and courts and to allow criminal deeds to become the occasion and incentive to vice." The Catholic Press is the antidote to the poison that is administered with untrained detail by a decadent secular press, the indefatigable defender of our faith and morals, the vigilant custodian of our liberties and rights.

CAMPAIGN

If we are really sincere in our resolve to do something this week in the interests of the Catholic Press, here are a few suggestions:

1. First and foremost, read



means by which we can increase this knowledge.

With us Catholics, religion is not a leisure-time hobby. It must

people. You cannot be a real politician unless you can think of your countrymen as a corporate whole, a living civic entity. And it precisely because this concept of society is so very essential, that we refuse to admit even for a moment any considerations such as caste or creed that must necessarily break the living whole.

Even if you have not observed the specific points in what I have written, you will have noticed my general attempt to give a wide meaning to the term "politician." Perhaps, with a knowing smile you feel that, caught in some propagandist fervour, I'm doing my best to sketch the meaning of the work and force you under the shadow of its criticism. But I'm no propagandist. Neither am I a great wrestler with words or a clever inventor of language. If I have widened the connotation of the word "politician" for you, it is not the outcome of a conscious effort, but rather the inevitable consequence of the meaning I have sought to give in previous articles to the word "politics" — if politics was good house-keeping then every member of the community is necessarily a politician unless one leaves the house-keeping to certain selected members of the household and plays the role of the paying guest. Also, if politics is the widest field of charity (next to religion), how is it you deny yourself the honour of being called a politician unless you wish to declare that you are uncharitable?

Aristotle, one of the finest products of that very civilisation which gave birth to democracy and nursed it with a fervour which still keeps us marvelling, described man as a political being, distinguishing him from vegetative and animal life and also from the condition of the savage. This man whom St. Thomas thought fit to build his great monument upon, who is in the deepest sense of the word one of the builders of civilisation and one of the few really great men of this world — he called himself and you and me political beings, pointing out the essence of our destiny here, namely that we are bound to our neighbour inextricably, that we are necessarily involved in mankind and that we enjoy something far greater than the self-contained existence of a rock, the tree's mute isolation or the lonely life of serpent and beast.

POLITICS

did you say?

•The date
is
March
19th

INTEREST in politics is, apart from anything else, a necessary self-criticism and personal discipline; for if you make an attempt to understand the problems of the community then you cannot but define and re-adjust your relationship with your neighbour and that is something every man owes to himself and his neighbour and that is how you call the field of politics the field of charity.

An interest in the affairs of the community is not a hobby or a diversion and is therefore to be distinguished from an interest for instance in sixteenth century coins or the sexual habits of grasshoppers. It is not an interest in the accumulation of knowledge in some selected esoteric field, knowledge pursued for personal satisfaction. It is an activity in the vast and intimately human field of charity. And if that is so, how few are interested in politics, how very few can claim to be patriotic.

But no man is completely lacking in good. All men are redeemable. You have, I am sure, in a few instances during your existence so far felt some interest in your country; you have loved her at least once; experienced some pride or grief or joy or indignation on her account in a sincere moment. But that was only for a moment and such moments have been few and unconnected. So your claim to a continued interest cannot stand any more. Besides you have only felt an interest and moved not a finger to translate it into practice to give a concrete moral expression to your interest. I am not suggesting that you should have mounted a platform and harranged an idle crowd, or posted a letter to the editor, or joined a party, or presented yourself as a candidate at a local election.

But have you on feeling this interest even proceeded to think in practical and serious terms about the country? Have you tried to clarify and refine what ideas you may have already had about the state of the nation; discussed the matter seriously, read anything reliable and sound on the topic? Have you even tried to rid yourself of the various prejudices and predilections on which you normally rely, and permitted even the element of a healthy doubt to disturb your position?

We Ceylonese

We find that the Ceylonese is neither dumb nor careless in the field of politics. In fact no other field is plagued with such loquacity. There are indeed very few men in this country who can converse for ten minutes without dragging in the subject of politics. An innocent observer from outside would deduce from this that "the Ceylonese have taken to Demo-

cracy as comfortably as a fish to water" and rejoice at this evidence of a genuine and lively public interest and look forward to a bright future for this new Asian democracy. But instead, the real picture is one of confusion, bickering, triviality, frustration and gloom. The reason is that very little of the political talk that escapes the busy lips of our countrymen is serious in context or intention.

by
H. S. PERERA

And there is a vast discrepancy between the plethora of words and the quantum of thought that went to produce it (assuming that thought is a pre-requisite of talk in every case!). The truth is that all this political chatter is not the result of genuine interest or careful thought but the lack of something else to talk about, a mere distraction, on easy time killer.

First duty

So, in this loud and meaningless context, the first duty is silence if one cannot talk with moral and intellectual seriousness and render one's speech fruitful and strong. Speech, like the mind, is a faculty loaded with responsibility and we shall be surprised when we shall be asked an answer for the use we made of it. One thing that strikes me in the Gospels is the remarkable frugality with which Christ used His tongue. The more intense the occasion, the less He spoke. His words during the Passion were (almost disappointingly to us) few, imparting to the climax of the Redemption a persuasiveness which only controlled speech and purposeful silence can produce. Much active silence is required of us all, that silence which is contemplation. And contemplation like politics is a wide word — it is not a rare drug prescribed for the chapel or the cloister.

When Jesus thought of Jerusalem and wept over its fall, He embraced in His holy contemplation the people of that magnificent city, not only individually, but as a living organic community; remember His lament "Popule Meus quid feci tibi?" Which uses the singular word, addressing us all — My

Lane's SUPPLY THE ISLAND
with

FRESH-CUT FLOWERS

ACCEPT ORDERS
FOR ALL OCCASIONS

Dial 496.

J.A. LANE, N'ELIYA

Strands of the Story 230

Wellawatte joins in the quest

MR. Lambert De Silva, President of St. Lawrence's Club, Wellawatte, writes in his own name, but the book he quotes from has been borrowed from the Club and the indications are that it is in the study circles and familiar gatherings of this parish unit that he has developed that intense awareness of Catholic concerns of the layman that now impels him to make a contribution to our searching for the lost tomb of heroic Fr. Joseph Vaz who saved the Church in Ceylon in the grim days of Persecution.

We may take it then that the entire Club is behind him and will place the Quest on its immediate agenda.

Once again behind the book there is the story of a long-cherished interest in the Cause that now engrosses the Catholics of Ceylon. For, the book — Peter Courtenay's "History of Ceylon" — has been presented to St. Lawrence's Club by Mr. Julian Cecil Bocks who has had it from 7th December 1922.

The work itself takes us further back. It has been printed at Mangalore in 1913 and is a translation by M. G. Francis. The author, however, takes us back to a source with which our quest is already linked up. For, Courtenay is no other than our Delegate Apostolic, Mgr.

Zaleski. It may set us thinking why he wrote under this pen-name and in French and why the English translation was published in Mangalore.

It seems that an adequate reply would be that since the work embraced the general history of Ceylon besides its strictly Catholic aspect

FATHER VAZ FEATURE

and was a "pilot" project in this unexplored field, Mgr. Zaleski did not want to involve his official capacity in it or, for the matter of that, prejudice the general reader against its impartiality. Precisely to interest this wider circle of readers, the book was composed in French and its English translation was published in India. Further, interesting the whole of India and a large section of the missionary and scholarly world would be the best means of bringing Ceylon (if the need existed) to a better appreciation of the historical and historic treasures that were first its own.

Directly connected with our own subject is the uncontestable fact

that, while all the glories of the Church in India and Ceylon roused Mgr. Zaleski's enthusiasm, he was particularly sensitive to Fr. Vaz's epic, not only because it was of the grandest, but because of all our wonderful past it was the best supported by authentic documents and could be saved and fully "exploited" by the Canonisation of its hero.

We have had our Martyrs of Mannar. Their massacre for the Faith in 1544 is borne out by the written testimony of St. Francis Xavier and a stream of documents flowing from that source. What a glory for the whole of Ceylon (Mannar is the place of their origin and martyrdom; it does not mark a monopoly or make them less our own), what a glory then, that band of 600 who shed their blood bright in their Baptismal robes. Unfortunately, there are major difficulties in the way of getting them canonised today — one being the circumstance that we do not know the name of even one of them for certain. (Personally, the Secretariate believes firmly in the possibility of the Cause).

Sixteen years later we had the clear case of Frs. Melchior and John martyred at Jaffna by King Segara Raja for refusing to worship Ganesh. Mgr. Zaleski narrates this on p. 141 of Courtenay's History. But the documents are inadequate for Roman Procedure and above all there has been no follow-up of tradition and devotion (unlike for the Martyrs of Mannar where both tradition and devotion have continued unbroken and are still alive today).

We could multiply the instances (pilfering from Mgr. Zaleski's documentation); but we hasten to the conclusion: Fr. Vaz's case is outstanding and it is strong; it sums up all the others; it is representative of the whole of Ceylon and is linked with all our history, before and after it; it is a case that can be "fought out" even at this stage.

It is the Cause no Catholic of Ceylon, none of its missionaries or friends, can let down without a shameful alibi. It is not surprising, then, that in a general History of Ceylon covering 1505-1848 Courtenay (Mgr. Zaleski) devotes 54 of the 682 pages to Fr. Vaz.

It is time for us to return the book to Mr. Lambert De Silva and the Club. If the extracts carefully copied by our correspondent add no fresh material to our files, they have certainly furnished fuel to the fire of enthusiasm, so that we steam forth with added courage.

For one thing, the communication has enabled us (forced us) to paint in the background, thus giving Fr. Vaz's pictures more vivid historical relief. It is possible too that with these comments St. Lawrence's Club will welcome back its book with a greater appreciation of its worth as an "instrument" of both study and action.

Everybody has the right to expect this, for Wellawatte bears the name of Ceylon's first Titular Saint (now officially proclaimed Co-Patron of Colombo City) and Lawrence has ever been a synonym for courage, dynamism and the laurels of peaceful conquest.

A final word on the scientific value of Mgr. Zaleski's work. There has been a tendency to class him

as a pious but uncritical writer. A perusal of his works (this History as well as the Life of Fr. Vaz) prove that, if piety provided the incentive, the writer never recoiled from the historian's stringent duty of seeking the sources and assessing their statements before weaving a narrative.

In the matter of sources, it can be said that the bibliography given by "Courtenay" on pages 677 to 682 of the History (along with the comments in the Introduction, p. 7-9) is exhaustive. We wonder whether any later writer has gone further. Where he fails to meet the demands of the modern critic is that in the course of his narrative he gives his conclusions without indicating the source; but then Mgr. Zaleski was writing for action and had to interest the general reader.

As to legends, the most critical historian can touch on them provided he gives them their true name and thus allows the reader to make his own appraisal of their significance. But even on this point Mgr. Zaleski has been remarkably sober though he had abundant material in hand. Could he ever have foreseen that it would fall to an Oblate to fight his defence? Before we leave Wellawatte we have to make another remark on personalities. If Mr. Lambert's communication has led us so far, it is thanks in great measure to the fact that a "Messenger" man is in close contact with Wellawatte and its Club. We count on him for a follow-up that will table still more concrete gains for the Cause — through fire and gridiron.

Secretariate Work: Received from Mr. Thomanupillai (23/2/60) information on a Map of Kandy Town (1765) at the Hague, Holland (No. 346, 1st Supplement, Catalogue of Maps, State Archives Collection) with a practical suggestion for getting a photostat of it.

BEATIFICATION FUND
Priests' Project (celebration gratis for intentions received and retained by Fr. Postulator): Jaffna (3) Total: 176.

Donation (Mr. N. A. B. Stave) — Rs. 5/-.

"And how is your wife?" the man asked a friend he hadn't seen for years.
"She is in heaven," replied the friend. "Oh, I'm sorry" the man said. "This didn't sound quite right," so he said, "I mean I'm glad." That was worse, so finally he came out with, "Well, I'm surprised." — *Ligniorian*.

MORNING OFFERING

DIVINE Heart of Jesus,
I offer Thee, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, all my prayers, works and sufferings of this day, in reparation for our sins and for all the intentions for which Thou dost offer Thyself continually in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. I offer them in particular for the intentions of the Apostleship of Prayer and for those proposed by the Holy Father for this month.

INTENTIONS FOR MARCH

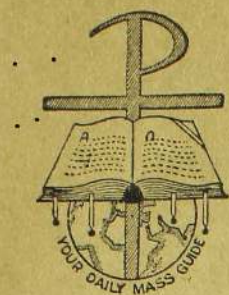
GENERAL: That the work of preparing for the Ecumenical Council may be fully successful.

MISSIONARY: That family life in Africa may be based on Christian principles.

RADIO LOG

MAR. 5 to 7: 6-25 to 6-30 a.m.
THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY (Tamil) — Rev. Fr. M. Mathew.

MAR. 19 to 21: 6-25 to 6-30 a.m.
THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY (Tamil) — B. G. Emmanuel Esq.



Sunday, 6 March: FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT. Violet. Creed. Omit prayer prescribed.
Monday, 7 March: St. Thomas Aquinas. White. Creed.
Tuesday, 8 March: St. John of God. White.
Wednesday, 9 March: St. Frances. White.
Thursday, 10 March: Feria. Violet. 2nd prayer of Holy Martyrs.
Friday, 11 March: Ember Day. Violet.
Saturday, 12 March: St. Gregory I. White.
Sunday, 13 March: SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT. Violet. Omit prayer prescribed.
N.B. — The 2nd prayer is always of the feria. Unless otherwise stated, the Preface of Lent and the prescribed prayer (Archdiocese: from the Mass of St. Joseph, March 19th) are always said. The ferial Mass may be said daily (Violet).

INSIDE YUGO-SLAVIA

● This is the concluding instalment of last week's article which shows that the pattern of religious persecution waged by Communists is the same in all countries. The tactics change but the battle is inexorably the same.

WHAT shall one say of the liquidation of the whole of the Catholic Schools in the territory of Yugoslavia? The whole series of classic and real gymnasia, teachers training colleges, civil schools, technical and elementary schools and kindergartens have been abolished with a stroke of the pen, and their buildings confiscated from their legal owners.

The Church's right is only recognised in the so-called religious schools, i.e. the schools for the education of the clergy. But these schools are exposed to so many vexations and limitations that it is clear that their existence is only tolerated as a necessity and temporarily.

Catholic Press

All printing presses belonging to the Catholic Church and her institutions in the country have been seized, without compensation. Twenty big printing enterprises and literary publishing societies passed overnight into the hands of the State.

The Catholic press is completely destroyed. A couple of small insignificant religious periodicals, which are still published, are so limited in volume and circulation that the religious press in Yugoslavia can no longer be said to exist. And even these unstable remnants of the once powerful Catholic press, which possessed before the war 152 Catholic publications, can hardly exist. High taxes and frequent confiscations because of — as it is alleged — the tendentious publication of articles (and yet these are often simply reprints of articles already published in the State Press, or quotations from the speeches of the State leaders) — all these things obstruct the correct functioning of the Catholic press. Finally these insignificant periodicals have to be kept silent while the monopolised State press daily attacks the Catholic Church, her Bishops and priests, sneers at the Faith, falsifies the historical facts thus damaging the Church and making a mockery of ecclesiastical persons, religious rites, etc.

Suppression of Convents

The suppression of the convents and the liquidation of the Congregation of Sisters in whole provinces (Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina), the prohibition of almost all religious societies, and the lack of any organized form of Catholic public life and the various forms of inhibitions and vexations which have become a common feature of day to day administration in Yugoslavia proves that freedom of conscience and religion does not exist and that the Catholic Church

by O. A. DEVAPREMA

is refused the most elementary liberties and her vital rights are endangered.

Monotonous pattern

The pattern of persecution is the same in the countries liberated by the Communists and there is no surcease in the struggle of atheism against religion. The tactics change but the battle is inexorably the same. Communism is like Moloch, ever insatiable and ever on the look out for victims for the holocaust. The Communist juggernaut moves along crushing freedom and human dignity and rearing in its wake a vast cemetery of injustice and iniquity.

The Church's attitude

The Church's attitude in the face of this diabolical persecution is characterized by the ill-informed and the inveterate bigot as intransigence. The Hierarchy of Yugoslavia had the correct measure of the men and the methods of these successors of Genghis Khan when they wrote to the Government of Yugoslavia in 1952 as follows:—

"If it required from the Church that she, for the sake of the agreement, or, as our authorities say, for the sake of friendly collaboration with the State authorities, give up her essential vital rights, then such an agreement is impossible. The Church has never in her history agreed to unconditional surrender, and she will not do this now. To require from the Church that she recognize the actual situation in the F.N.R.J. as lawful and definitive would mean the same as to ask her to deny herself or to sign her death sentence.

"The Church in the F.N.R.J. is always ready for negotiations and for reasonable concessions, but on condition that her moral and juridical status is completely recognised, and that all her rights, which she has as

regards her nature and end, are guaranteed. That means that if the State honestly wants correct relations with the Church, before anything else all the injustices crying out to heaven are to be removed, injustices to which ecclesiastical institutions and persons are exposed daily, and the course of persecution, which has been in force from the beginning of the F.N.R.J. up to today, must be stopped."

Continuing again the Hierarchy said:—

"The Catholic Hierarchy has always maintained a position of loyalty towards the existing State authority; and the Hierarchy holds it today. We do not wish to develop revolutionary activity. On the contrary, we sincerely love our fatherland, and we will ask the priests and faithful to assume a friendly attitude towards everything that is positive in the actual social-political system. It is obvious that we, together with our faithful, uphold the integrity of our State borders, and that we are prepared for every sacrifice for the benefit and prosperity of our State community. One thing cannot be yet expected from us: active participation in the political life of the country. Politics and the responsibility for it we leave to those who have a vocation for it. We will care for the moral and spiritual foundations of our social and political life. This is our domain, and our part in this field cannot be compensated with anything.

"In return we do not claim any privileges. We shall be satisfied if what belongs to us according to divine and human right is recognised and given to us. We understand by this term not only freedom of worship but the whole complex of liberties which are included in the idea of freedom of religion and conscience. They are: freedom of confessional schools, freedom of the Catholic press, and freedom of religious organisations, and, together with this, the right to dispose freely of the material means which we need. We do not expect to receive these means as a present from the State; the people, who believe in their Church and love her, will provide them for us."

Peace sellers

When the ascertainable facts of Communist co-existence are delineated above, one can measure the cynicism of the ruler of Yugoslavia who goes round scattering bland smiles and rupees at Paszala women and talking the usual jargon of Com-



her pen KEPT ITS POINT

by
ALBERTA SCHUMACHER

Eileens gray eyes grew misty. She saw the stubborn set to Tom's jaw and gave up talking for the time being about the matter.

THE big chance had come. Eileet McCairn accepted the position on the secular "News Herald" without a qualm. Never had she expected her friend Tom Branch to be annoyed with her.

Big six-foot-plus Tom towered and glowered about her minute five feet.

"Wasn't the Catholic Press paying you enough? Was it money you wanted? I thought you were happy working on our Catholic weekly. We were going to reform the world with our writing — together — remember?"

"It's still 'together' as far as I'm concerned, Tom. And no, it isn't money I'm after, although I can use that, of course. It's something bigger. Tom, don't you understand? Won't you even listen?"

Eileens gray eyes grew misty. She saw the stubborn set to Tom's jaw and gave up talking for the time being about the matter.

She had known Tom might be a bit disappointed to have her working on another paper. But this dark mood was something different than mere disappointment in not having her daily company at work. It was more a kind of disappointment in herself! That was hard to bear the way she felt about Tom, and the way she had thought he felt about her.

In the weeks that followed she was very busy on the "News Herald." She was busy but her work didn't show as much. Tom gradually grew less intense in his feelings about her work. But he didn't change his opinion of it.

"Did you see the picture of our Catholic movie star taking a cake out of the oven?" Eileen asked happily one evening. "I was responsible for that."

"How come the cake had icing on it? Didn't you check the picture before you used it?"

"Oh, Tom!" Eileen was embarrassed. "I never noticed the icing. And don't look at me like that. I can cook and bake. I just didn't look closely enough at the picture. I had my mind on what I was accomplishing."

"You see, Tom, they had been going to run a picture of a glamour girl in a suggestive pose. Her sole claim to the publicity was a sordid affair that shouldn't be in a family newspaper. I worked hard to get the domestic picture in instead. Maybe it was trivial, but it supplanted something foul. That was my point."

"It's a good point," Tom admitted. "But how long can you go on with these small gains when you could be writing what you want to write for the Catholic Press? Don't you get tired of the trivialities you have to go through to make any headway?"

Eileen admitted she did. "But Tom, there are many small things I accomplish every week. They mean a great deal in a secular newspaper. I feel I am working for the Catholic Press by seeing that some truth gets into the secular paper. This is Christopher work, Tom, the substituting of truth for error in places where error might predominate. The "News Herald" has a large circulation. We reach a lot of people with small bits of truth. I work for an important outfit in communications."

"But I wanted us to stay together," Tom said doggedly.

Eileen couldn't think of an answer to that at the time. Nor could she think of any way to keep Tom from walking off from her with that aloof manner she had come to dread.

He was scarcely out of sight however when she remembered. "Mary, Incorporated" was the answer. Later that evening she called Tom, something she wouldn't have done on her own initiative except for very good reasons. It was against her policy to call her male friends. They had to do the dialling.

"Tom Branch speaking. Oh, Eileen?" There was surprise in Tom's voice.

"Tom, don't you remember 'Mary, Incorporated'? We are working together. Mary was the first Christopher or Christ-bearer."

PRESS WEEK STORY

She is my model in this work even as she is your model in yours. Remember when we made the consecration together — 'I am, all thine, and all that I have is thine, O most loving Jesus, through Mary, thy holy mother!' After that we had nothing of ourselves but everything of Mary. We gave her our all and in return she gave us all of herself and the storehouse of graces at her disposal was placed at our disposal. We were part of 'Mary, Incorporated,' as are all those who have completely consecrated themselves to Jesus through Mary."

a career girl for a wife! You can write articles for the Catholic Press if you do them at home between the dusting and the dishes, and before the children get too numerous . . ."

Eileen laughed in relief. "We'll make little Christ-bearers of the children," she promised. "That way I'll be multiplied in influence and so will you."

Red Lies—and their Schools are empty

IN at least one part of the world lies have recoiled upon the Communists.

IN 1956 there were 15,000 students in the Communist-run schools of Macao, the Portuguese colony in south China.

IN 1957 a large group of students escaped from China and returned to their homes.

They reported that the Communists, instead of educating them, had made them work in the fields.

As a result of this disclosure, 1,800 students left Macao's Communist schools.

IN 1959 parents discovered that their children, sent to China for university studies, ended up instead in forced labour groups.

This news was followed by the withdrawal of 3,700 more students from the Red schools.

Today there are only 9,489 students in the colony's 16 Communist schools, while the combined roll of the 29 Catholic schools is 16,419.

CEYLON CROONER (BILL FORBES) BUYS FLAT IN LONDON

SUCCESS comes to those who dare. When Ceylon crooner **BILL FORBES**, casting off the shackles of provincialism plunged into the freedom of cosmopolitanism, he essayed a flight in daring.

That flight in daring spiralled upwards. Hit the jack-pot. Today, Bill's recordings, it is estimated, gross fifty thousand plus. And all things point to — the sky's the limit!

Robin Hood assigned none other than Maid Marian to report on the Ceylon crooner. Here is Maid Marian's (exclusive) coverage for readers of this column:

BILL FORBES has bought his own flat in London, a mere three minutes walk from Westminster Cathedral. Bill's day often begins with Daily Mass

"breaks" — **FR. NOEL CRUZ.**

At his alma mater, Bill had a rousing welcome by the Pterites and he was given the College Colours.

"Believe in me," "It's not the end of the world" and "One more sunrise" are three songs sung by **BILL FORBES** (accompanied by his sister **ANALEEN**) in the new Fr. Noel Cruz colour film "All My World," the premiere of which is scheduled for 10 March 1960, at 6-45 p.m. at the Lionel Wendt Theatre.

The normal contract fee of Rs. 5,000/- for the personal appearance and singing in the film has been waived, reports Maid Marian, as a gesture to the Priest who discovered him, by **BILL FORBES'** agent in London.

PRESS Week stalwarts

ROBIN Hood salutes two stalwarts in the cause of Catholic literature on the eve of the Archdiocesan Press Week.

The first is **IGNATIUS V. FERDINANDUSZ**, for many years now the energetic Honorary Secretary of the Literature Committee of the Colombo Catholic Diocesan Union.

In recent months the Catholic Book Depot at Norris Road, Colombo has broadened in scope, as a result of his efforts.

The Literature Committee has just got out a 14-page booklet titled "A Catholic's Charter for service to his country" priced at 20 cents per copy.

A very useful and informative publication, it should be in the hands of every Catholic Actionist of the Christian Worker's Movement especially.

The second stalwart is **MICHAEL G. RODRIGUEZ**, the popular proprietor of St. Michael's Bookshop and Art Printing Works of Jampettah Street, Colombo, whose initiative and resourcefulness in publishing Ceylon's only journal devoted to



Catholic literature is a commendable enterprise. It is now in its second year.

ARTIST'S portrait of a priest

MODELLED on the inimitable "Diary of a Country Priest" by George Bernard, is a new Sinhalese publication, "Ape Swami" (Our Padre) which is just out.

The author is **K. FRANCIS FERNANDO** whose book of cartoons, "Ten Commandments", was an instantaneous success last year.

K. FRANCIS FERNANDO is also an artist.

GRADUATION day at Aquinas

GRADUATION day is a colourful affair in any University with the graduation ceremony taking pride of place.

Aquinas University College will have its day on 7 March 1960 at 5 p.m.

His Grace the Archbishop of Colombo, the **MOST REV. DR. THOMAS COORAY, O.M.I.**, will preside and distribute the Diplomas.

400th NOVENA AT JAFFNA

(from our correspondent)

THE parishioners of the Church of Our Lady of Refuge celebrated the 400th Novena of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour recently, when large crowds gathered at the church for the devotions.

The highlight of the celebrations was a seven-day spiritual retreat conducted by the Fathers **H. Le Coutour**, **Vicar-General**, **L. J. Augustine**, **S. Peter**, **S. A. Gnana-pragasam**, **B. Deogupillai**, **B. E. Alfred** and **B. Soosaipillai**. Particular sections of the Parish, to wit, married and unmarried, grown ups and teen-agers, had special hours allotted for talks and discussion.

On the eve of the 23rd, Vespers were sung by **Rev. Fr. E. Pomykol, O.M.I.**, assisted by Fathers **John Singarayyer** and **Benette Constan-**

tine. High Mass was sung on the morning of the 24th instant by **Rev. Fr. S. A. Swampillai**, Parish Priest, when hundreds approached the Communion Table. The same evening the massive statue of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour was taken in procession along the decorated route. **Fr. Soosaipillai** delivered the final discourse and imparted solemn Benediction. The blessing of the whole congregation with our Lady's statue proved a fitting finale to a truly grand and soul-inspiring demonstration.



● Sing a song of success
(see story)

and Communion with Sundays always invariably at Westminster Cathedral. At the Catholic Club in London he is tremendously popular.

The heady wine of success hasn't gone into his head, reports Maid Marian. As he came to his own land, he paid a visit to the Priest who gave him the first

The Messenger

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SATURDAY, 5th MARCH, 1960

Onward Christian Soldier!

THIS is not a battle-cry, as some are sure to imagine it to be! It is instead a call to every Catholic who, sealed as he is with the indelible stamp of Confirmation, is indeed a soldier, a Christian, with certain very definite beliefs in a way of life, and therefore, very specific obligations towards both God and man. It is most heartening to see that the large number of Catholics realise that there is indeed a Catholic way of life, a Catholic answer to most questions, and a Catholic approach to most problems. Catholics may sometimes waver, and they may not know the Catholic attitude to all or even most questions; but it is a great thing that they realise that, as G. K. Chesterton once put it in his own inimitable way, a person who says that he or she is a Catholic, answers 10,000 questions at the same time.

That is why it is good to pause today, take our minds away from the hurly-burly of the increased tempo in election-politics, and to focus our attention instead on the big event that takes place in the Archdiocese next week. We are referring of course to CATHOLIC PRESS WEEK which commences tomorrow all over the Archdiocese, and which continues all throughout the week.

Why is it that there is a Press Week at all? Quite obviously, for the purpose of focussing the attention of every single Catholic on his or her duty to read Catholic literature; in other words to stir up Catholics to an awareness of an important duty (which alas, is too often soft-pedalled, and perhaps even forgotten) of informing themselves of the Catholic viewpoint on the problems of the day, and thus, of keeping their religious education and information on a par with their secular knowledge.

Times without number, this paper has come back to the tragic problem of filth-in-print; and repeatedly, we have tried to place before our readers the tragedy of our youth being corrupted, their youthful ideals destroyed, and their youthful generosity misdirected. And we have stressed the necessity of wholesome, decent, clean literature for the young boys and girls of today. Here then is another aspect of Catholic Press Week, viz., by turning the spotlight on Catholic literature, to make a sincere and all-out effort to wean away the young from the filth that there is in abundance on Ceylon's book-stalls today, and to create in them a taste and a liking for the good and the beautiful.

Press Week is not something negative; it is not merely an antidote to the evil that is rampant among us; nor is it merely a contrivance to stem the evil and close the flood-gates of pornography which have already been opened. It is something very much more — it is something very positive indeed, with a positive programme, a positive objective, and a challenge to the individual Catholic. This positive aim of Press Week is to bring home to each individual Catholic in a more forceful way than at any other time of the year, that there is a strong tradition of good, wholesome, attractive Catholic literature; that there is literature to meet every need and taste; and that every Catholic has an obligation to avail himself of this, to inform himself of the Catholic attitude on men and matters, and, in a word, to ensure that his knowledge of the Catholic thing is developing all the time.

In other words, Press Week is a conscience-searcher; it is a period of examination, resolution and action; it is a time when the Church expects every one of her children to do his or her duty. But let it also be said, that it is not a flash-in-the-pan; it is not something to jolt the Catholic who could afterwards slide back into his accustomed lethargy; nor is it an annual event which can conveniently be forgotten soon after.

Once Catholics come to realise that there is a rich Catholic literature in every imaginable field; once they come to know, that some of the leading men of letters have been and are Catholics; once they come to realise that there is no dearth of good, attractive and really excellent Catholic reading — then, there could be no excuse for a Catholic to mourn that interesting reading cannot be found in Catholic literature. Is it not a most telling fact that among the best-sellers of recent years, books by Catholic authors on frankly Catholic themes have figured most prominently?

There is another attitude that we would wish to debunk. Whenever Press Week comes around, and the call "to help the Catholic Press" is voiced everywhere, Catholics begin to feel that here is another occasion for them to exercise their charity. And so the buying of a Catholic book or the subscribing to a Catholic paper becomes for such Catholics a matter of charity rather than duty. We would wish to say quite frankly that this is an entirely erroneous and warped attitude. The Catholic Press must indeed be supported — but not through charity. Books must indeed be bought and newspapers subscribed to — but again, not through charity. For this is a matter of justice, of Christian duty. It is not so much the Catholic Press that needs help, as the individual Catholic who needs it; it is not the Catholic Press that needs to get a market for books and newspapers, as the individual Catholic who needs to imbibe what these books and papers contain. And the sooner the average Catholic gets this into the correct perspective, the better it would be for him and for his membership in the Church of Christ.

So then, Catholic Press Week should be for all a period of serious responsibility, of serious examination, of resolution, and finally, of action — action that will, we hope, be a blaze of generosity that continues right throughout the year, and does not end with one day or a single week. For, the work of educating and building up one's Christian conscience is a life-long task — even as loving God and serving Him is the vocation of a lifetime.

CURRENT / COMMENT

by the Editor

★ Press Week salute to Crusaders of the printed word ★ A suggestion to Lay Apostles ★ Communist bluff...

WITH Press Week commencing tomorrow in the Archdiocese, we take this opportunity to salute all those valiant, generous, apostles of the printed word, who devote so much of their time and energy to this important aspect of the apostolate. We salute also those apostolic men and women, who right through the year have braved sun and rain, gibes and insults, hostility and sometimes even intolerance, standing by the roadside, at bus stops and railway stations, selling the Catholic papers. To these "Crusaders of the kerbside" (as Cardinal Gracias once called them), and to all other apostles, we extend a warm hand — and we thank God for them and their like.

As reported in this issue of our paper, action will be the order of the day everywhere in the Archdiocese this week. Behind-the-scene-workers will set in motion a huge machinery that will comb the entire Archdiocese, in an attempt to bring every single Catholic into the literature movement.

We would wish however, to focus the attention of our readers on a tribe of men and women who have been and still are doing a wonderful apostolate week after week, selling the Catholic papers in the most unlikely places. Of course there are the Church-door sellers; but besides them, there are the railway-station sellers, the bus-stop sellers, the junction-sellers and so many others. And some of them have such extraordinary experiences to relate!

There was the recent instance when one of them was insulted, and finally forcibly relieved of his pile of the *Messenger* which soon became a bonfire in open daylight! Nothing daunted, our crusader of the kerbside returned to his usual post the next week — with double his usual stocks of the *Messenger*. He sold them all, and more were still needed!

To him and the many others like him, we say "thank you!" It is such men and women, cast in the heroic mould, that the Church needs today.

A suggestion to Lay Apostles

MANY of those who have done this excellent work for the Catholic papers are legionaries of Mary and other lay apostles. To all of them, we have two suggestions to make on the occasion of Press Week — with the hope that whoever they be, they will take it up, and work on it in the succeeding weeks and months.

- While legionaries and others certainly do an excellent bit of work, it tends at times to be piece-meal and sporadic, with the result that although street-sales are certainly being done, it is perhaps not being tackled as systematically as it might be. Lay apostles have a lot to give — and hence, would it not be an excellent idea for them to work out systematically and regularly the street-sale campaign for Catholic papers. In another country, we have seen lay apostles working out the whole scheme with the aid of a carefully marked out map.

- A Reader Research Survey, trying to make a careful check on all those who get the *Messenger*, and those who do not. This should of course commence first within one's own Catholic Action organisation, and then, go out to other Catholics as well, with the ultimate objective of ensuring that every Catholic has a Catholic

newspaper. We are aware that the Catholic Students' Federation has already made a start on this.

One last word while we are on this topic. Why is it that there still are some organisations of the lay apostolate which could and should realise the importance of the printed word, and still do little or nothing about it? Surely they realise as much as anyone else that the Catholic message can be put across only in our Catholic newspapers; that the Catholic attitude to controversial issues is found mainly in the Catholic Press; and that if this is ignored, they may well be like Nero who strummed away while Rome burnt.

The Flame

WHILE we are on the subject of Press Week, we must indeed mention that truly excellent gift-of-the-week: the Special Press Week Issue of Ceylon's only paper devoted to Catholic reading, *The Flame*.

On a previous occasion, we welcomed the appearance of this paper; but now we go further, and say "thank God for it" — for it achieves one splendid purpose: the popularising of Catholic literature. That surely is why in a special message in this bumper issue, His Grace the Archbishop expresses the "earnest hope that *The Flame* will light the way..." And that perhaps is also why repercussions have been felt as far as Malaya.

This particular issue of *The Flame* is an ideal souvenir for Press Week, and we sincerely recommend it to all lovers of good reading.

Alliance or no alliance?

STRANGE things have been happening. The Communist Party made a loud claim about a coalition with Mr. Philip Gunawardene's M.E.P., to be followed soon after by a hot disclaimer from the M.E.P. itself. One thing is clear from it all — the C.P. seems to be in desperate search of some kind of a wagon to hitch the Red Star on. All-out attempts at "Left unity" were made some weeks ago, when the C.P. made approaches to the L.S.S.P. We know what happened to those talks, and the conflicting press statements issued by the two Parties concerned.

Once that failed, the C.P. turned to fresh fields and pastures new, and C.P. Boss Dr. Wickramasinghe, declared that the C.P. and M.E.P. would form a coalition. Apparently that too has now been rejected on more than one occasion. The M.E.P. leader is reported to have said at Habaraduwa that "the M.E.P. would have nothing to do with the Communist Party." Where will the C.P. now turn?

And yet, one wonders... Was it not this same leader of the M.E.P., who, on the very eve of his alliance with Mr. Mettananda's D.S.P., issued a flat denial of any

such possibility? The morrow brought the *fait accompli* of one of the strangest alliances in recent Ceylon politics — the father of Ceylon's Red revolution and the avowed champion of Buddhism. One wonders whether history will repeat itself once again!

Communist Party and religion

AS we pointed out last week our local Marxists have been in a dither trying to pose off as friends of religion.

In the course of a recent election meeting at Matale, the General Secretary of the Communist Party, Mr. Pieter Keuneman, is reported to have spoken of a canard that has been circulated about the C.P., that the Communists were against all religions. "He would state categorically," the newspaper report went on to say, "that in the event of the Communist Party forming a government all religionists, including Catholics would be given full freedom of worship according to the conscience of each individual."

Brave and wonderful words indeed! But what do Marx and Engels and Lenin have to say? Here is just one sample:—

"As Marx and Engels frequently declared, the philosophic basis of Marxism is dialectical materialism, a materialism which is absolutely atheistic and strongly hostile to all religion. Marxism regards all religions and Churches, all religious organisations, as organs of bourgeois reaction. We must combat Religion — this is the ABC of Marxism. The Marxist must be the enemy of Religion, and definitely hostile to all Religion." (Lenin).

And still, they talk of religious freedom!

The Nun's Story

WITH the extended showing of this award-winning film, discussion around it is also becoming more and more frequent. And that is as it should be. This is one reason why we have gladly published two points of view on our letter page this week. One of them is particularly telling, since we can see for ourselves the impact that the film has had on clerical and religious circles in Rome. In neighbouring India, we gather that a highly successful symposium on the film was conducted in Bombay, and a similar one has been mooted for Madras as well — for it gives the occasion to discuss the very important question of vocations to the religious life.

Here in Colombo, the Patrician Group of Bambalapitiya is attempting some such discussion, when their meeting of March 13th will be devoted to a discussion of "The Nun's Story." The meeting is scheduled to take place at the Catholic Association Hall at 5-45 p.m., and we gather that already interest has been roused in a meeting that is sure to be of particular interest.

Archbishop calls for campaign of prayer

HIS GRACE THE ARCHBISHOP, THE MOST REV. THOMAS COORAY, O.M.I., HAS ISSUED AN URGENT CALL TO CATHOLICS FOR AN INTENSE CAMPAIGN OF PRAYER FOR THE WELFARE OF OUR COUNTRY. WE ARE PRIVILEGED TO PUBLISH BELOW THE FULL TEXT OF THE APPEAL.

NOTICE TO THE CLERGY AND FAITHFUL

Archbishop's House,
Colombo,
3 March, 1960.

Dear Reverend Fathers and beloved brethren,

In order to obtain Divine assistance in the forthcoming events of this month so important to our Island, the Clergy, Religious and Faithful are reminded of the campaign of prayer that has already been prescribed. In addition to what has already been enjoined, we hereby ordain:

1. That a day of exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Benediction be observed in each parish and in all the communities where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved, between the 6th and the 19th of this month.

(The hour of monthly exposition already prescribed can be included in this).

2. That during the same period, the Litany of St. Joseph be recited daily at Mass or at any other convenient time in all our churches and chapels.

3. That a special Novena of prayer to Our Lady of Lanka and St. Joseph be observed in all our schools and communities from March 11 to 18. We recommend the same in all homes.

[This novena should consist of one decade of the Rosary followed by the invocation "Our Lady of Lanka, pray for us" (three times) and the Litany of St. Joseph].

4. That the 19th be held as a day of prayer, especially by assistance at Mass and reception of the Holy Eucharist. We make a special appeal to our school children in this connection.

With our cordial blessing,

We remain,

Yours devotedly in Christ

✠ THOMAS COORAY, O.M.I.,
Archbishop of Colombo.

ANNIVERSARY of CONSECRATION



Next Monday is the 14th anniversary of the consecration of our Archbishop, the Most Rev. Dr. Thomas Cooray O.M.I. Whilst offering His Grace our good wishes, we assure him of our loyalty and prayers at all times.

OFFICIAL

Archbishop's Appointments

5th to 8th March: Pastoral Visitation and Confirmation Service in the Parish of Dematagoda.

13th to 15th March: Pastoral Visitation and Confirmation Service in the Parish of Hultsdorp.

News Snippets

THE Holy Father sent a message of congratulation to the Queen on the birth of her son.

SIGNOR Angelo Stoppa, who served as chauffeur to three Popes, died on Sunday night in his home in Vatican City after a long illness. He was 62. Last Friday evening Pope John called at Signor Stoppa's house and spent nearly half an hour with him.

THE Moslem Prime Minister of Morocco, Mr. Abdallah Ibrahim, bowed down three times before Pope John when he was received in audience at the Vatican last week. The Pope asked him to tell the Sultan and the people of Morocco of his especial wishes for the freedom, well-being, and progress of their country.

THE Vatican Osservatore Romano has issued a scathing denunciation of the film "The Sweet Life," which deals with scandals in Rome.



Thoughts for Passion-tide (1)

Poor agonizing Jesus! Sanctity, innocence incarnate, scourged as the basest felon! And why? Again the Prophet answers: "He is wounded for our iniquities. He is bruised for our sins!" Wounded for our iniquities! For my iniquities! How my heart should be pierced with shame and sorrow as I contemplate the frightful price my sins have cost. My dearest, sweetest friend, my very God is whipped in my stead while I go free and pamper my flesh, seeking every comfort it demands, flying every pain and inconvenience.

O angels of God, weep over your outraged Lord and pray for me that I may never again scourge my Jesus by my sins

THE TEEN-AGER'S SAINT

● The Schools-Mag's Patron Saint for boys is St. Dominic Savio whose feast falls on 9 March. The article which appears below (unfortunately shut out from the Schools-Mag page this week) will be read with profit by all.

A PROMINENT English lady was once visiting a school in Turin and asked to see one of the boys who had a great reputation. Having seen him she remarked to the principal: "I have never yet seen such beautiful heavenly eyes." The boy was Dominic Savio and the principal the great Don Bosco.

"Is it true that there are in your school boys as holy as St. Aloysius?" an important personage asked Don Bosco one day. "Yes. It is true," said Don Bosco. Dominic Savio was one of these Saints that were in his school.

How was all this? Don Bosco was a man who had great confidence. "Against hope he believed in hope" the Church says in the Mass of his feast. "My dear boys, you can and must become saints," said he one day to his pupils who trusted him and believed every word of his. One of those eager-eyed lads was Dominic Savio. He heard and he believed, he went and became a Saint.

He was born in Piedmont in 1842, the son of a peasant. He grew up with the desire of becoming a priest. Dominic's parish priest recommended him to St. John Bosco. This saint was most deeply impressed by the boy and Dominic became his pupil in his twelfth year.

At school he organised a group called the Company of the Immaculate Conception, and besides its devotional objects it helped Don Bosco in his work. All the members of this Company later became priests! — all, that is, except Savio

who died.

Dominic was very careful to keep to the directions given in school. He was a good laughter

... a fine story-teller. The boys enjoyed him. He joined in all the games and activities: A fine little Saint for our modern lads.

In his fifteenth year Dominic's health got bad. His complaint was diagnosed as inflammation of the lungs. He received the last Sacraments and on the evening of March 9th, he asked his

Continued on page 12

Messenger Meditorials

Lenten Reflection

SOME people approach Lent in much the same frame of mind as they do an appointment with the dentist. They vaguely realize that much good is to be obtained from both, but the possibility that some discomfort or pain may be the price to pay, makes them "move in" hesitantly. The good results to be accomplished by a faithful observation of all the Church's Lenten regulations plus an honest portion of voluntary penances and mortification, are many.

First of all the truly Christian heart is filled with love, gratitude and sympathy. Christ Himself told us, "Greater love no man has than he lay down his life for his friend." When a Catholic, whose religion means more to him than just an hour at Mass on Sundays, contemplates the supreme proof of Christ's love for us, he instinctively is on the look out for ways of making a return of love. He realizes that the first thing to be done is to recognize and acknowledge the generosity of his Divine Benefactor. To fail to acknowledge a gift or some service rendered by a friend is considered the height of ill manners even according to our worldly standards. However, sometimes our many duties and worldly interests distract us and we find it only too easy to forget the gifts and "service" rendered to us by the Son of God. The whole spirit of Lent — its liturgy and practices — helps us to fulfil this important obligation.

Only the most heartless person can contemplate the terrible sufferings and death of Our Lord and not be filled with a profound sense of gratitude, and a desire to make some return. It is difficult to do much for a person in the throes of a great agony and intense physical pain. Cards and flowers are only weak gestures, or, at best, are symbols of a desire to share somehow in the patient's sufferings. It is only this latter which can be of any real consolation to one in great pain. This is to offer him sympathy in its fullest sense, for the word literally means "to suffer with." The fast imposed by the Church, the other penances and mortifications that we undertake voluntarily are only manifestations of our sympathetic hearts. They are the real tests or signs of the sincerity of our love and gratitude to Christ who purchased our salvation with the price of His Sacred Blood.

There is a second fruit to be reaped from a Lent well observed. This, in a way, may appear more selfish, but in reality it only makes us more fit to serve God better. Even the observance of the Ten Commandments exacts from every man a high degree of self control. It is the lot of every man to be engaged in a perennial battle with our three great enemies, the world, the flesh and the devil. This is not just an imaginary battle, but as real as any in recorded history. To deny ourselves in things not of obligation has the salutary effect of making our wills prompt and ready for those occasions when the choice offered is only between sinning and not sinning. And for those whose ambition is to go beyond this bare minimum required of all men, Lent is a period of training to strengthen our wills to choose habitually the better of two good things — thereby to grow continuously in Christian virtues.

The reluctance we may feel at the beginning of Lent is human enough. Even Our Lord in His agony showed how the human heart can be repelled by suffering. But like Him, we add, "Not my will but Thine be done." May this official period of penance increase in us those sentiments of love, gratitude and sympathy, so proper to every Christian, and may it strengthen our wills to serve God ever better as we grow in truly Christian virtues.

by John G. Heaney S.J.

1960 MESSENGER JOURNALISM AWARD COUPON No. 7

I submit herewith my entry for the 1960 Messenger Journalism Awards

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

SECTION (State here for which of the 6 Awards you are entering).....

Women's

Own

Page

★ On the eve of elections... BE OF GOOD CHEER

WITH THE RUMBLINGS OF THE FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS, AND THE ADVANCE OF THE MARXISTS SPELLING "DOOM" ON RELIGION, WE CATHOLIC MOTHERS CANNOT AFFORD TO BE BUSY WITH ONLY OUR HOUSEHOLD CHORES.

That there is fright and fear in the free world today, we cannot deny. All the known symptoms of desperation are present; evil is seen everywhere; our country is threatened, but more than that — our civilisation, everything Divine and human are at stake. What we are defending is not mere democracy but "humanity."

"It is at a time like this, then, that we should have recourse to prayer. That is our greatest weapon. We shall not, with the others, strike the 'drums of doom,' for, we do not fear. Our faith will never perish. We shall pray more than ever now, unceasingly. We shall mount the steps gallantly, on the road to Calvary, and here, we shall kneel once again with Mary, our Divine Mother, our only ray of hope, and with her, we shall plead, as did her Divine Son, dying on the cross for you and me, for the whole ungrateful human race, beg for forgiveness, crying out more than ever before — "O Father in Heaven forgive them, for they know not what they do, much less what their vile tongues say."

We, who love our God and our Faith, placing our trust in Him, we shall never surrender, and those of us who constantly throw ourselves at His feet, never despair. "Our Prayers" — that can and must remove even mountains. Failure and confusion

says

Mary
Wijesekera



may appear on the horizon, days and nights grow dark just now, but — the miracle of that great Resurrection can and will happen. Never shall there be a lost battle for the true followers of Christ, who died on the Cross, and this same Christ who rose from the dead, no defeat for those who glory in His name.

Nathalie



● A scene from play "Nathalie" staged by the girls of St. John's Mixed School, Modera.

Women's-Mag Members Parade

400 — 425

425. Mrs. Doris Jayatileke (Mt. Lavinia), 426. Mrs. T. O. Solomons (Angoda), Mrs. Simon Peerez (Matale), 428. Miss D. Bernadette Dolawatte (Kelaniya), 429. Mrs. Pathma Mirando (Colombo 6), 430. Miss Poomani Feldano (Negombo), 431. Mrs. G. Elias (Grandpass), 432. Mrs. Joe Ravel (Wenappuwa), 433. Mrs. Muriel Leitan (Marawila), 434. Mrs. Marie Perera (Colombo 14), 435. Miss Therese Dabrera (Colombo 14), 436. Mrs. Ben Navaratne (Battaramulla), 437. Mrs. F. C. Bede Jacolyn (Matale), 438. Mrs. Feonie Byrene (Kotahena), 439. Miss H. R. Kusumawathie (Hettimulla), 440. Mrs. Stanley White (Kandy), 441. Mrs. Sheila Rode (Colombo 5), 442. Miss Pushparanee A. Joseph (Panwiltanne), 443. Mrs. Christie De Mel (Negombo), 444. Miss Hema Fernando (Moratuwa), 445. Mrs. Anne F. Barthelot (Inginiyagala), 446. Miss Clare Motha (Moratuwa), 447. Mrs. Prince Perera (Gampaha), 448. Marina R. M. Perumal (Borella), 449. Miss Mary Magdalene Monie (Colombo 3), 450. Miss Hazel Rodrigo (Ragama).

(To be continued).

WOMEN'S-MAG

I am a regular reader of the Messenger, I am a Catholic and I am interested in the Women's-Mag.

NAME (Miss/Mrs.)

ADDRESS

AS I wait for your arrival, my little one, I wonder what you will be like — will you have your father's ready smile, his winning ways, his generous heart?

If you're a girl, I hope you'll grow up to be pure and gentle and unselfish — with the light of an inner beauty shining through your eyes.

If you're a boy — I hope you'll have the grit to be fair and honest in all your undertakings, always ready to help lame dogs over stiles. In short, if you turn out to be as fine a man as your father — I can wish for nothing more.

Though I talk of other things — you are uppermost in my thoughts. Every day I pray that you will come with a perfect body and a sound mind.

And as the days draw near — I think of that other mother — who in the poignantly beautiful

TO A BABE YET UNBORN

by
THERESE



words of Fulton Sheen "wears the red rose of motherhood, and the white rose of virginity," who so cheerfully underwent the discomfort of a long and tedious journey — a journey which ended in a stable at Bethlehem.

And I ask her to protect me through the remaining days — that nothing untoward may happen to endanger the life of the child within me, and later to help me to bring it up in the love and fear of the Lord.

An Open Letter to Mary, Our Blessed Mother

Dear Mary,

You are a model to all womankind. A model woman, model wife, a model mother — in short a model in every sense of the word. But it is in the role of a model mother that you excel yourself.

From the birth of your Boy-Child in a little stable at Bethlehem to His death on the cross at Calvary thirty-three years later, you have been an unsurpassed example for mothers all the world over.

Which mother has suffered such torture, such bitterness, such desolation, such anguish as you the mother of Christ? Who can gauge the depth of your seven sorrows? Who can know the inexpressible fear you experienced at hearing holy Simeon's prophecy "and thy own soul a sword shall pierce?" That was the first time your tender heart was transfixed with a sword of grief. It was only the beginning, as was proved later in the sad events that took place in your life.

Then at the time of your flight into Egypt with your infant Son and humble spouse in order to foil the wicked attempts of Herod and his minions, what unutterable anguish you endured. Again on the occasion of the loss of your child Jesus when, after a frantic search lasting three days you discovered Him in the temple at Jerusalem, was not your gentle rebuke — "Son, why hast thou done so to us? Behold thy father and I have been seeking thee sorrowing" — pregnant with grief? In later life was not your heart filled with bitterness when you stood in the crowd and saw your beloved Son go by with the cross on His shoulders on the way to Calvary? You turned and followed Him, then, although your heart was well-nigh breaking, because He had need of you.



by IRIS DE CROOS

the dark shadows of Calvary was the measure of your selfless love. You faced the supreme test of motherhood there on Calvary.

All the long years of training in fortitude stood you in good stead when your agony of mind reached its zenith as you held His lifeless body, before you surrendered it to the darkness of the tomb.

Though even mothers such as we frail mortals have become instruments in God's wonderful plan of creation, though sinful mothers such as we have known the glory of motherhood, though unworthy mothers such as we have shared the joy of your ecstasy when the boy Jesus was born — that is all that has been vouchsafed to us.

For the rest we are but poor erring mothers — with all a mother's impatience when we fail in winning the confidence of our children.

A mother's frustration when our turbulent offspring refuse to toe the line of good behaviour. A mother's exasperation when little immature minds rebel against restraint. A mother's intolerance when her little children exhibit a penchant for getting into mischief. A mother's disillusion when their childhood is lost among the unreturning years and they readily assimilate the ways and shibboleths of the modern world.

At such trying times as these teach us forbearance, dear Mary. Help us to overcome our frailties and to be faithful to the sacred charge entrusted to us. We look to you for guidance, for we really want to measure up to you as model mother. But we know we will never succeed without your loving aid because the responsibilities and onerous duties which motherhood entails, demand a selfless love almost approaching the divine.

Oh Mary to you then we we consecrate our motherhood, we place ourselves under your patronage, solemnly pledging to emulate your shining example. Take our motherhood and sanctify it. In flame our hearts with the warmth of your love for your divine Son. Obtain from God all the graces and blessings we need to be perfect mother — like you.

In these dark days when there is an even greater need for emphasis on the supernatural dignity of motherhood, help us to fashion our children after Him — your Son. Help us to build a likeness of your Christ-Child in our children so that it could be truly said "Thy children shall rise up and call thee blessed" — of every woman who has had the great grace to become

A Mother.

A THOUGHT FOR PRESS WEEK

Don't be a passer-by.

Don't be a passer. BUY!!

messenger SCHOOLS-MAG

Vol. 3. No. 5

Saturday, March 5, 1960

FREE

THOUGHTS FOR LENT

LENT is around the corner. Ash Wednesday will usher in this season of penance. On this day, the priest blesses ashes and places them on our foreheads saying, "Remember man thou art dust, and unto dust shalt thou return."

We know the significance of these words. It was the stern reminder given to our first parents when they stained this fair world with the first sin. We, who are conscious of much guilt need this reminder too. Hence, Holy Mother Church asks her children to stop in their mad race for

pleasure, and to reflect awhile on their last end, and on the sordid clay from which they are made.

This reflection is salutary. It pro-

By
Thelma Christiansz

duces humility, which is the outcome of our consciousness of sin, and the need we have of making reparation for sin.

We have many opportunities of doing some penance during this season of Lent. We can cut down our parties and visits to the cinema; we can sacrifice our sweets, and we can help the poor with our savings. Thus we can be united to Jesus suffering during Lent, and truly rejoice with Him on Easter morn.

All Saints' College,
Borella.

Teacher: Johnny, please recite your ABC's.

Johnny: A B C D E F G.

Teacher: What comes after G?

Johnny: Whizz!

Sent by Madonna Perera
St. Bernard's Convent,
Nawalapitiya.

John: "My big brother fell from a fifty-foot tree this morning."

Joan: "Was he hurt?"

John: "No. He had only climbed up about four feet."

Sent by Sheila Barrie.
St. Bernard's Convent,
Nawalapitiya.

Subject of the month

• THE PRIEST

THE Schools-Mag's new corner "Subject of the Month" is growing popular with our members.

Each month members are asked to write on a particular subject. The topic for this month is "THE PRIEST." You can write on the Priesthood in general or any aspect of Priesthood. Essays should not exceed 150 words in length. Poems should not exceed 20 lines.

All entries close on Thursday, 31 March 1960. They should be addressed to The Editor, Schools-Mag, Catholic Press, Borella.

Send your entries early. Don't wait for the last moment.

Two very special prizes will be awarded to the writers of the best essay and best poem respectively.

A selection of the better entries will be published in the Schools-Mag.

Well Said

DIGNITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL SOUL

It is given only to a few to take prominent place in the great conflicts of the age. The vast majority of us have to dwell in humbler scenes and be content with more humble work. There is heroism in the struggle for a decent clean living in a dirty world. Little duties carefully discharged — little temptations resisted with the strength which God supplies — little sins crucified — all these together help to form character. And all these can earn the leader's fame and the martyr's crown — which certainly is not the monopoly of those in the grander scales.

Many of us have heard of the view that modern science has revealed a universe in which all the old values of the individual personality have been discredited and reduced to insignificance; that religion and clean living belong to an out-worn past. It is, however, worth while remembering that the whole of our ordered freedom has been built up on the absolute value of the individual human soul. Neither the colossal advancements in medicine, nor man's ventures into space, have diminished these values which depend not on the centrality of the earth but on the centrality of the Creator. Rocks and stones and nuclear weapons may crush us physically, but however powerful and large they be, they are not so near to God as the smallest human heart that sacrificed itself for what it believed to be right — and in consequence caught a glimpse of the divine. The sun which has all the planets revolving round it, is able to ripen the smallest berry in our garden as though it had nothing else to do. We can imagine but never fully comprehend the universal care of that infinitely Greater Light for each individual soul.

The period of youth is an enviable one because it has the unique opportunity to learn from the past and even from the mistakes of the past. Mankind everywhere, but especially in our own country, is in desperate need of the vital knowledge of the worth and dignity of the individual soul. All the hatreds, bitter disillusionment and defeatism that our age has witnessed are due to a tragic lack of this knowledge. Our generation, if it chooses to do so, can restore what has been lost. The spirit of youth at all times revolts from the easy task but responds to a splendid challenge. The challenge thrown out to us is to break the fetters that have bound our individual soul, to sunder the "melancholy of fate" that has cramped and strangled our individual assertiveness, to win back for each of us the consciousness of the dignity of our individual soul — the soul which has been called a microcosm, an epitome of the Universe. The very material advancement of our Nation and the enriching of our culture is involved in this struggle. — (from Blue and White 1958).

A SCHOOLS-MAG SYMPOSIUM



Don't miss this informative and entertaining symposium next week.

NEXT week the Schools-Mag brings you a symposium on THE NUN.

A fully illustrated page, it features the work of teen-ager girls and boys of Ceylon.

Contributors to this Symposium include: CLIFFORD JONES and ALEXANDER GUNSEKERA of St. Benedict's College, MARIE DE ZILVA of Little Flower Convent, Bandarawela, NIRMALA PERERA of St. Bridget's Convent, PLACIDUS GUNAWARDENA and ALOYSIUS DEVSAGAYAM of St. Joseph's Juniorate, Nugegoda, GERALDINE KELAART, ESTELLE JOSEPH, MARY HAKEL and CHERYL GONSAL of All Saints College, Borella, PHILOMENA RASIAH of St. Anthony's English School, Colpetty, FELICIA and THECLA PEREIRA of St. Anthony's Convent, Kandy, DOROTHY WARNAKULA of the Convent of Our Lady of Victories, Moratuwa, MARJORIE SORIS of Ratnapura and MARY JOSEPHINE ZACHARIAS of St. Joseph's Convent, Nugegoda.

Contributors in verse to the Symposium include CRYSTAL EDEMA of St. Bernard's Convent, Nawalapitiya, CLARINDA BASTIANS of Good Shepherd Convent, Kotahena, PREMIL MASILAMONY and CLAUDIA ANTHONY of St. Ursula's Convent, Badulla.

SMILES?



His Grace was greeted with smiles by the children of St. Anthony's English School Colpetty when he visited them. (See news report in last week's Schools-Mag).

MARY'S HUMILITY.

MARY was a humble Jewish maiden of the little known village of Nazareth in Galilee. The chosen

BY

A. M. BURROWS

one of God, she consecrated herself to God by the vow of chastity. Embellished and filled with grace even from her birth, she lived in obscurity the life of a simple Jewish maiden.

Mary's humility was seen at the Annunciation. God sent the Archangel Gabriel to announce to her that she was to become the Mother of God. When the angel saluted Mary "Hail full of Grace the Lord is with thee," Mary was rapt in silent reflection on the meaning of these strange words and was troubled. An angel had saluted her with words of such high praise, so opposed to the humble opinion Mary cherished

of herself. Humility is the foundation of all Christian perfection; on the fortieth day after the birth of our Lord, Mary submitted humbly and cheerfully to the Jewish law of purification, although this law could not apply to her.

MOTHER took Willie to his first concert. The conductor was leading the orchestra and directing the soprano soloist as well.

Willie was greatly interested. "Mother, why is that man shaking his stick at the lady?" he asked. "Hush, he's not shaking the stick at her," she said.

"Then what is she screaming for?" he retorted.

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★ Schools-Mag bound volumes

LAST week the MESSENGER office despatched the bound volumes of the Schools-Mag to those who had sent in their remittances.

These volumes have drawn appreciative comments from many quarters. Those who have already received their copies are: Victory Rosmale Cocq (Nuwara Eliya); Dhayan Hilarian Madawala (Dehiwela); Lalin Wijeratne (Colombo 7); Selvaraj Gomez (Balanogoda); Kamala Kumaraswamy (Colombo 4); Placidus Gunawardena (Nugegoda); Mary Hakel (Borella); Felicia Davidson (Colombo 14); Maureen Candappa (Mattakkuliya); Anne Schokman (Nawala); Iantha Balding (Colombo 3); M. D. Felicitas Warnakula (Ingiriya); A. R. Bernard Tirimanne (Peradeniya); Valentine Obeysekera (Kadawata); Adrian Tambinayagam (Mt. Lavinia); T. E. D. Saverimuttu (Colombo 6); Shirin Alwis (Colombo 13); D. Wallis (Negombo); Jayantha Dias Jayasinghe (Matale); Bryan Landsberg (Trincormalee); and Delrine Dabara (Kandana).

The copies booked by Principals of schools and convents have also been despatched.

FINAL CALL

The following individuals who had earlier booked their copies and still not sent in their remittances are re-

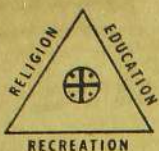
quested to send Rs. 5/- within seven days of this announcement. On no condition will these copies be retained for them if they do not contact us, as there are quite a number of others on the waiting list who want copies. If we do not hear from the following within seven days, their copies will be allocated to others:

Clive Rodrigo (Colombo 4); Marjorie Soris (Ratnapura); Celino Shirance Swaminathan (Hendala); Priyanti Fernando (Watala); Derrick Lisk (Hunupitiya); Delrine Pereira (Dematagoda); Patsy Dias (Pattalam); E. B. I. Fernando (Pelmadulla); T. Celine de Saa (Kalutara); Lourdes Joseph (Ampitiya);

Erroma Paranavitana (Rajagiriya); P. G. F. Jurie (Kotahena); Jennifer Silva (Ratmalana); Adrian Perera (Nawala); A. B. Ponnampalam (Colombo 13); Indrani Rayen (Kotahena); D. A. Emmanuel Perera (Negombo); Melanie Gomez (Colombo 4); Marie De Souza (Dematagoda); B. Holdenbottle (Colombo 13); A. R. D. Pereira (Colombo 5); and Winifred Barbara Bartholomewsz (Dehiwela).

Will they now heed this call which is final?

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and
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901, ALUTMAWATTE Rd., COLOMBO 15



Schools-Mag

Continued from page 9



TALKS WITH JUNIORS

By
Uncle
Ashley

"KYRIE"

My dear children,

Have you even wondered why we have nine invocations of mercy? This little yet meaningful and prayerful cry is often mentioned in the Gospels. The blind

man of Jericho and the Canaanite woman and the lepers, they all begged the Lord's mercy. Hence this prayer presupposes affliction, misery, hardship, dereliction.

Well! dear friends, at this place in the Sacrifice a Deacon walked up to a raised platform and requested all to pray. The Deacon recited a Litany of Supplication and the Faithful answered "Lord have mercy."

The Deacon's first prayer was for Catechumens and the Faithful replied "Lord have mercy." In like manner the Deacon prayed many times for Catechumens, sinners, Christians, the Church, prisoners and so on. After each prayer the Faithful answered

"Lord Have Mercy." This Litany was shortened, I believe, in the time of Pope St. Gregory and the present practice was adopted. The three three-fold groups give homage to the Three Divine Persons.

Many indeed are our needs, many our sins, many our miseries, many our afflictions. This is the time to beg mercy from the Lord. Let us be generous and unselfish in prayer, thinking not only of our miseries and tribulations but of the needs of all around us, of the Church and of the whole human family.

Always in Jesus and Mary,
Uncle Ashley

Birthday Corner

5th March—11th March

5th March: Ranjan Goonewardene (Kalutara South), Frederick Gonsalves (Dehiwela), Anne Fernando (Moratuwa), Marlon Wijesinghe (Matugama), Olivia Marlene Fonseka (Matale), Howard D'Abrera (Nugegoda), Marina de Silva (Colombo 8), Premalal Jayasekera (Mirigama), Franklyn Cooray (Moratuwa), Marin Ponnurajah (Lunawa), Prince Jayatilake (Kandy).

6th March: Virginia Swan (Dehiwela), Faye Van Rooyen (Dehiwela), E. Chandra F. Earle (Colombo 15), Shirine Jayasekera (Colombo 4), Marie Casiechitty (Borella), Linas Fernando (Moratuwa), Anton Collins (Ratnapura), G. H. Gunasegaram (Wattala), Susantha de Silva (Kelaniya), L. H. Greta Sugamaram (Anuradhapura), Caryl Frances O'Hara (Dehiwela), Patrick Joachim (Angulana), Milishia Constance Fernando (Moratuwa).

7th March: Walter P. Selvadurai (Matale), Marcus Fernando (Dehiwela), S. Therese Ferrita (Ratmalana), Felicity Perera (Minuwangoda), Lily Fernando (Matale), Ernest Perera (Kotte), Myra de Silva (Moratuwa), Mallan de Croos (Negombo), Carmel Ranasinghe (Mawilmadra), Lorna Berenger (Katugastota), Anton Ediramanasinghe (Jaffna), Thomas

Fonseka (Marawila), Malcolm Adamman (Colombo), Shirani Perera (Gonawela).

8th March: Angela Bastianpillai (Kotahena), Bernadette Philipiah (Colombo 15), Lawrence Ekanayake (Maradana), Anton D. C. Bastians (Hinupitiya), Michael Jackson (Trincomalee), Neville Perera (Colombo 15), Malcolm Rodrigo (Kandy), Jeffry Mason (Colombo 6), Leonie Fernando (Wenappuwa), Eleanor Koelmeyer (Kandy), Anton Ponnurajah (Lunawa), Mafalda J. Anandappa (Negombo), Nesta Cole (Rajagiriya).

9th March: Linda Barthelot (Kandy), G. Petronella (Moratuwa), Hazel Christiansz (Bandarawella), F. Geraldine Rodrigo (Colombo 15), Anula de Silva (Moratuwa), Sharmine Obriz (Dankotuwa), Shiranie de Silva (Moratuwa), Malcolm Fernandes (Kelaniya), Florine Balthazar (Gampola).

10th March: Shirani B. Silva (Maradana), Patricia Wanduragala (Kurunegala), Millan Mihinkulasuriya (Gampola), Yvonne de Niese (Maradana), Orlene Loos (Colombo 4), Marie T. Martyn (Nugegoda), James Muspratt (Mutwal), Melanie Babapulle (Colombo 7), Kenward Dabrera (Dehiwela), Odette Bernadette Hingert (Borella), Bridget Rayen (Dehiwela).

11th March: T. Celine De Saa (Kalutara), Suranganee Amarasinghe (Dehiwela), J. E. Motino David (Jaffna), Felicia Fernando (Moratuwa), Constance Perera (Moratuwa), Nirmaline Seneviratne (Kelaniya), Chitra Soysa (Colombo 5), Marceline Gomez (Colombo), Barbara Krause (Dematagoda), Eleanor Peiris (Kegalle), Marina Thiele (Colombo 5)... (Continued Next Week).

Members' Parade

2901—2950

2901. Sunil Fernando (Maradana), 2902. Sheila Jonen (Colombo 13), 2903. Joice Barthelot (Batticaloa), 2904. Bonita Marie Celine Fernando (Wenappuwa), 2905. Steve Joachim (Kirillapone), 2906. Antoinette Wickremasinha (Kandy), 2907. H. D. Cyril (Gampaha), 2908. Aigle Francke (Kotte), 2909. Ignatius Wiratunga (Nugegoda), 2910. Jennifer Rabot (Dehiwela).

2911. Elsworth De Fry (Kotahena), 2912. Silvia Barthelot (Batticaloa), 2913. Marie Newman (Kohuwala), 2914. Lucia Rodrigo (Hewahela), 2915. Wendell E. Newman (Kohuwala), 2916. Sirisha Perera (Kalutara), 2917. P. Don Herbert Ignatius (Wattala), 2918. Steve Overlund (Colombo 6), 2919. Anton Francke (Kotte), 2920. Therese T. Douglas (Mutwal).

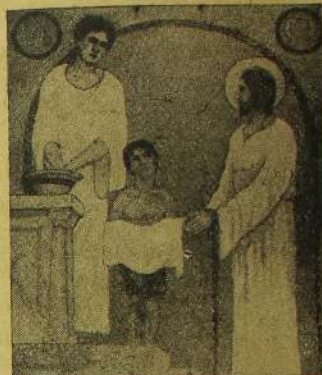
2921. Ascenta P. A. De Silva (Peradeniya), 2922. Rosita Therese Henritta Fernando (Wenappuwa), 2923. Spenrad de Silva (Wattala), 2924. Jacintha Anthony (Ragama), 2925. Errol Graham (Nugegoda), 2926. Annette Halliday (Maradana), 2927. Cynthia Barthelot (Batticaloa), 2928. Josephine Arysia Perera (Matale), 2929. Christobel Francke (Kotte), 2930. Ivor Gunawardena (Puwakpitiya).

2931. Stephanie Noel Pauline Fernando (Wenappuwa), 2932. Roland George Phillips (Thimbirigasyaya), 2933. Joseph Savundranayagam (Anuradhapura), 2934. Godwin Wilbert (Pugoda), 2935. Antoinette Ariyanayagam (Thimbirigasyaya), 2936. Marie Rabot (Dehiwela), 2937. Lourdes Marie Vinduram Palle (Kelaniya). (To be continued Next Week).

Stations of the Cross

by Father James T. Hurles

THE road to Calvary stretches long and lonely before Me. I could turn back, I suppose, even now. But I know that for Me there must be no turning back... ever the pain I have already felt... the pain I must still endure. Is there no one to share that pain? No one to pause a few minutes in his busy day and travel with Me that long and lonely road? Not even YOU?



I

They Bring
Me to
Pilate

THE long night at last is over.

They have beaten Me and kicked Me; they have spit on Me and mocked Me.

They put a crown of sticky thorns on my head and pressed them in. They have tied My hands together with rope. And now I am standing before Pilate—

Pilate, the coward. Please don't be like him and choose sin and your own way instead of Me and My Commandments.

Remember you are Mine! Pilate is now saying it. He is ordering Me to be crucified.

He knows that I am innocent. But he is afraid of what others will say if he says I am innocent. Pilate won't sleep well tonight!

Pilate tried to fool himself. He thought he could make things right just by washing his hands with water.

He really knew better deep inside. If you should ever sin, be sorry and I'll forgive you. My priests are busy all over the world, saying to repentant sinners, "I absolve thee."

But don't try to fool yourself and say you didn't sin. One Pilate is enough!

II

They Bring
My Cross
to Me



THE big Cross is now ready.

I have to carry it to Calvary and I want to.

But it's really yours.

I'll carry it for you because I love you.

And I must save you from your sins.

I wonder, though, how you'll carry yours when it comes your turn.

I kissed Mine because I saw you in it.

Your cross will come—maybe today.

Crosses are always heavy—don't fool yourself.

You can't play hide-and-seek with them either.

You have to pick them up and carry them.

Think of Me when yours comes along.

Crosses pop up everywhere. There is the one who teases you and makes fun of you.

There is the time you are accused of something you didn't do.

There is that thumping headache.

There is Mother or Dad saying "Do this," and you want your own way.

There is homework—study—dishes.

These are your crosses.

I'll help you to carry yours if you'll ask Me.

The toast of Paris: Eve Lavalliere

WE ARRANGED AN AUDITION WITH THE GREAT BERTRAND, DIRECTOR OF VARIETES NO SOONER HAD SHE BEGUN ON THE DESERTED STAGE WHEN HE CUT HER SHORT



STOP BLUBBERING, YOU LITTLE GOBBLE, YOU'VE ENDED THE SHOW NEXT MONDAY!



FROM THE CHORUS OF 'LA BELLE HELENE' SHE ROSE TO BE STAR OF THE PARIS LIGHT-COMEDY STAGE

AFTER THE OPENING NIGHT OF 'LE ROI', IN 1908, THE WORLD'S GREATEST ACTRESS, SARAH BERNHARDT, CAME TO HER DRESSING ROOM TO CONGRATULATE HER



WHAT WONDERFUL GIFTS YOU HAVE! YOU HAVE SOMETHING OF THE GENIUS IN YOU, SINCE YOU CREATE, THAT'S FINE, YOU ARE VERY FINE!



SHE WAS ON THE CREST OF THE WAVE SHE BECAME VERY WEALTHY KING ALFONSO OF SPAIN AND KING EDWARD VII WERE AMONG HER LEGION OF ADMIRERS BUT SHE WAS NOT HAPPY FOR SOME TIME NOW SHE HAD GIVEN UP THE PRACTICE OF HER RELIGION IN 1911 SHE UNDERWENT A SEVERE OPERATION



YOU WILL SOON BE BETTER YOU HAVE EVERYTHING TO LIVE FOR, BEAUTY, WEALTH, SUCCESS BUT NO FAITH, EH, SISTERS?



IN 1916 SHE PAID A VISIT TO LONDON ON THE VERGE OF A BREAKDOWN, SHE LEFT PARIS IN 1917 WITH HER BELGIAN REFUGEE MAID, LEONA SHE TOOK A HOUSE NEAR TOURS THE AGENT WAS A PARISH PRIEST ON THE SUNDAY FOLLOWING HER ARRIVAL HE PAID HER A VISIT



MADAME, I DID NOT SEE YOU AT MASS THIS MORNING BUT DON'T YOU KNOW WHO I AM? I'M LAVALLIERE OF THE VARIETES I SHALL CONTINUE TO EXPECT YOU NEXT SUNDAY SHE WAS AT MASS

● Concluding instalment next week. Courtesy (LITTLE MESSENGER)

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IN MEMORIAM



P. Maria Perera
Tudella

Died on 9th December 1959.
A Requiem High Mass will be
sung at Tudella on 8-3-60.

Your prayers are kindly solicited
for the repose of her soul.

Father Nicholas Perera
Wattala.

499



Frank Lionel Peiris

May he rest in peace

Of your charity pray for the
soul of Frank Lionel

(Died on 6-3-1956)

A Requiem High Mass was said
for the repose of his soul at St.
Anthony's Church, Galkissa, on
3-3-1960. 466



Mr. Roy A. Perera

who departed this life on 9th
March 1959

Always so true, unselfish and kind
It's hard in this world, his equal
to find

A beautiful life that came to an
end,
He died as he lived, everyone's
friend.

Inserted by his ever-sorrowing
wife, daughter and sons.

Talapatthipitiya,
Udahamulla. 489

Felix Henry William Peiris

Born 29th May 1898

Died 10th March 1958

A Requiem High Mass will be
sung at St. Lucia's Cathedral, Kota-
hena, on 10th March 1960, at 7 a.m.
for the repose of his soul.

Remembered by his wife and
children.

29, Skinners Road North,
Kotahena. 479

Please pray for the soul of
Very Rev. Monsignor P. Don
Peter

Missionary Apostolic

Departed 7th February 1960.

A Requiem High Mass, offered by
the Parishioners of Mahawatte,
will be sung at St. Anthony's
Church, Mahawatte on the 7th
of March, 1960 at 6-15 a.m. 492

Gregory Gonsal

(of Kurunegala)

Died 10th March 1956

Eternal rest grant unto him, O
Lord,
And let perpetual light shine upon
him.

May he rest in peace. Amen.

Inserted by his ever-sorrowing
wife and children.

17, Cross Street,
Kandy. 488

Requiem High Mass will be sung
for the repose of the soul of the
late Mr. E. G. Perera at St. Lucia's
Cathedral on Tuesday the 8th inst.
at 7 a.m. 486

THANKSGIVINGS

THANKS to the Sacred Heart of
Jesus, Our Lady of Perpetual
Succour and St. Jude for favour
received.

Mrs. M. A. C. de Silva. 476

MY grateful thanks to Saints
Jude and Rita for favours
granted. Hyacinth. 475

GRATEFUL thanks to Our Lady
of Perpetual Succour and St.
Jude Thaddeus for a miraculous
cure. D. V. C. 481

GRATEFUL thanks to the Infant
Jesus, Our Lady of Perpetual
Succour, St. Jude and St. Sebastian
for a great favour received.
484 M. L. C., Negombo.

MY grateful thanks to the Most
Sacred Heart of Jesus through
the intercession of Our Lady of
Perpetual Succour, St. Jude, St.
Anthony and St. Pius X for
successful operation. R. P.
Wellawatte. 485

SITUATIONS VACANT

WANTED for Hostel and Cleri-
cal work a man of about
thirty years. Good knowledge of
English and Typing essential.
Games and Music added quali-
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nials. Manager, St. Philomena's,
Horana. 478

FINANCIAL

CAN any kind gentleman help me
with a loan of Rs. 1000/- re-
payable Rs. 1400/- in an year to
complete my house. Worry
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able at all Chemists and the Import-
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failing friend of school-children.
Rids the head of lice, Nits, Dandruff,
and all invisible germs. Available
at all Chemists and the Importers,
Setrac (Ceylon) 29 1/1, Gaffoor
Building, Fort, Colombo.

Communist cured "mira- culously" at Lourdes

25 Cures now being examined

"LADY of Lourdes, if you do exist, why don't you cure this
boy!" The impulsive shout that broke in upon the
prayers of the invalid pilgrims at the baths in Lourdes was
uttered by a Communist, himself suffering from an accident
caused paralysis but utterly scornful of Lourdes' renown for
cures.

His shout was occasioned by the
faith of a blind boy whom he saw
kneeling down in the baths and
praying aloud.

**THE BOY'S BLINDNESS
REMAINED, BUT THE COM-
MUNIST'S PARALYSIS LEFT**

HIM.

This apparent cure of the Com-
munist is at present in the process
of long and careful investigation
by the Lourdes medical bureau.

The man returns annually to
the shrine to serve as a volunteer

stretcher-bearer. With him each
year he brings the blind boy.
Last year they were met there by
Bishop Fulton Sheen.

CURES UNDER INVESTI- GATION

According to Mrs. Winifred
Feely of London, a Lourdes
shrine-worker who also lectures
on the great French shrine, there
were about 25 cures at Lourdes
during 1959 which are being
examined for validity by the
medical bureau.

"People don't realize how ex-
tremely strict the bureau's doctors
are about investigating cures at-
tributed to the waters of Lourdes,"
Mrs. Feely told a representative
of the N.C.W.C. News Service.

As important as the physical
cures which occur at Lourdes is
the "miracle of soul" which
happens over and over again at
the shrine, said Mrs. Feely.

"You never see the sick go
away without their having found
some light and comfort," she
explained.

ALL-NIGHT VIGILS

In 1959, the shrine's two hospi-
tals handled 55,000 stretcher cases.
Some 36,000 persons have taken
part in the all-night vigils begun
last year at the shrine. The first
American group of all-night vigi-
lers is expected next spring.

During 1959 Mrs. Feely also
assisted a sick woman from New
Mexico who weighed under 50
pounds and who was accompanied
by a Protestant nurse; a policeman
from Maryland who brought his
three-year-old son, ill with cancer
of the lungs; twin sisters from
Texas, each with a son seriously
ill, and Julian Reiss, New York
philanthropist-sponsor of an an-
nual "Operation Toy Lift" for
needy children, who died of cancer
recently.

ASSISTED LORETTA YOUNG

The New Mexico woman left
Lourdes with new faith and
courage and is now so much im-
proved physically that she is
having physio-therapy. The Pro-
testant nurse has indicated that
she would like to return to Lourdes
as a volunteer.

Mrs. Feely also assisted Loretta
Young when the star went to
Lourdes last spring to make a
T.V. film, "The Road."

PAX ROMANA DAY

SUNDAY, 13th MARCH

Schedule for the Day

7-00 a.m. Dialogue Mass at St.
Joseph's College
Sermon by Rev. Fr. Joe
de Mel.
Offertory Procession.
8-00 a.m. Breakfast.
8-45 a.m. A Lecture entitled "Stu-
dent Unity in Christ"
by Rev. Fr. T. Ku-
riacose, S.J.
Workshops.
Plenary Session.
11-45 a.m. Benediction of the Bless-
ed Sacrament.
6-30 p.m. "An Evening in Rome"
A variety entertainment
at St. Peter's College
Hall, Bambalapitiya.

All Past and Present Federationists
are welcome.

Oswin Silva,
General Secretary.

482

3

HEALTH- RESTORING REMEDIES.

AT PETTAH PHARMACY.

CACHETS M, the modern
treatment for the quick relief
of Bleeding and Protruding
PILES (Haemorrhoids), in
easy to take tablet form. There
is now no need to use awk-
ward suppositories and messy
ointments. **CACHETS M**
afford rapid relief from the
pain, congestion and inflam-
mation of this unpleasant
condition. **CACHETS M** com-
plete course of treatment con-
sists of three boxes. Each
4-day trial box costs Rs. 4/25.

TESTRONES. A well balanced
physiological tonic in tablet
form for oral use in cases of
Tiredness, Insomnia, Bodily
aches and pains, weakness,
run-down conditions, etc.
TESTRONES keep you fit
and full of vigour. Bottle of
100 tablets Rs. 7-50.

S.P.H.P. a very effective remedy
for all cases of Senility, Physical
and Nervous Breakdown, Fa-
tigue and Loss of Energy.
Contains Vitamins A, D and
E with added chemicals of
great value. Bottle of 60
tablets Rs. 7-50.

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AT

Madhu Church IN ENGLISH

BY

The Redemptorist Fathers

From Maundy Thursday 14th April
to Easter Sunday 17th April.

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details apply to:

The Administrator,
Madhu Church.

454

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and also in the following churches:
St. Sebastian's, Kandana, St. Ma-
ry's, Tudella, St. Joseph's, Pamu-
nugama, St. Anne's, Kurana, St.
Mary's, Bolawalana, St. Philip
Neri, Toppuwa, St. Francis Xa-
viour's, Halpe, St. Anne's, Palan-
gature, St. Joseph's, Wenuappuwa.

This is to inform you that I have
been working in these places for
low rates and have done satisfac-
tory work, and if necessary I can
produce Testimonials which I
have received from the parish
priests of these churches. Further
I beg to mention that I am willing
to work in any part of the Island.

H. D. R. Appuhamy.

My Address please: H. D. R.
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pitiya, Ja-Ela. 480

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Tewatte, Ragama.

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use. The Poor Clares supply
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Convent of Mary Immaculate,
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Bishops Alert Two Millon E. German Catholics RESIST THE REDS! FACE LIVING MARTYRDOM

IN ONE OF THE STRONGEST ATTACKS THEY HAVE EVER MADE AGAINST COMMUNISM, THE BISHOPS OF RED RULED EAST GERMANY WARN CATHOLICS THAT BY OPPOSING COMMUNIST PRESSURE THEY WILL BE RUNNING INTO TROUBLE.

'The Christian in Atheistic Surroundings'

is the title of the pastoral, in which the bishops, with clarity and courage, face up to the agonising questions of conscience that today confront the faithful of the Church of Silence.

"The severest burden on faithful Christians consists of the fact that Socialism has a philosophical basis which is incompatible with the Christian religion, namely dialectical materialism," they say.

But they tell the people: YOU STILL HAVE TO OPPOSE IT, NO MATTER WHAT THE CONSEQUENCES.

YOU MUST BE PREPARED TO ENDURE LIVING MARTYRDOM FOR YOUR FAITH!

The bishops leave little doubt of the nature of the hardships the Catholics will have to endure by sticking to their principles — loss of jobs, general abuse, even the victimisation of children.

For they reveal the kind of campaign that is now being waged against the Church through attacks on its members.

CHILDREN HIT

THEY ACCUSE the Communists of attempting to permeate

the entire life of society and of the individual.

THEY ACCUSE them of separating Christians from their religion.

THEY ACCUSE them of slandering Christianity in schools, in factories and at public meetings.

THEY ACCUSE them of refusing to advance in the schools those children who defend their

faith.

THEY ACCUSE them of making the people spy on one another.

THEY ACCUSE them of putting pressure on Christians to make them take part in anti-religious ceremonies.

(The East German regime has sponsored paganised "baptisms" and "confirmations" which parody the Christian sacraments and bind children and youths to Communist principles).

NO EVASION

How to escape this pressure?

The bishops state frankly that they know no way in which the Red campaign can be opposed without trouble and difficulties arising for those who make the stand.

They add: "Sometimes faithful Christians seek excuses to avoid a decision.

"The others (the Communists) take such evasions as a sign of weakness or the beginning of a

surrender and will never leave you in peace.

"Then you will get into a difficult situation and you will not be able to escape a decision.

"Often it is the best thing to say immediately and clearly: 'I am a Catholic. I cannot do that.'"

ENCOURAGEMENT

They follow this exhortation with an encouraging word to the East Germans Catholics not to be disheartened.

"The belief in God will never be rooted out," they say.

The bishops make their statement in a joint Lenten pastoral letter.

They explain that they are devoting the letter to the topic of "a Christian in atheistic surroundings" because of the growing Communist pressure on the Church.

Press Week Campaign

Continued from page 1

ing public numbering about 30,000,000.

It is interesting to note that an increasing number of books and pamphlets are being produced by Tamil writers in Ceylon, chiefly by pioneers in Jaffna and Batticaloa.

Among the well-known writers in Sinhala whose works will be available this week are His Lordship of Chilaw, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Edmund Peiris, the Rev. Fr. Don Peter, Rev. Fr. D. J. Anthony, Mr. V. Mallawarachchie, Mr. Anthony Jayamanne, Mr. Francis Fernando, and Mr. A. P. Fernando.

BIG SCOPE

The annual sales during Press Week or on Press Sunday in the past have not totalled more than Rs. 20,000. But it is estimated that if every Catholic who could afford it buys at least one book and one pamphlet, these sales must jump above the Rs. 50,000 mark.

In Colombo there are about 70 parishes. The total number of Catholics range between 2,000 and 5,000 in each parish.

A veteran Press Sunday worker from Mutwal observed that the general demand was for books which were priced under Rs. 2/00. Of course, there were regular readers who bought books up to Rs. 20/- or Rs. 30/- at a time. He also stated that while it was a pleasure to go to most homes with the load of books on this labour of love, there were other Catholics who made his work

a little burdensome by their failure to understand the nature of the work.

The President of the Parish Council of Wattala, Mr. M. F. L. de Silva, stated that active workers in the Parish worked unsparingly during Press Week.

FREE LIBRARIES

His Parish Council, he said, had now set up a Catholic Library which did not differentiate between members and non-members — every parishioner was entitled to borrow books from it free of charge.

"Ours is the only library of this kind," he said proudly, "and it serves the purpose of Press Week throughout the year!"

Are there no other free libraries in Ceylon? We would like to know!

A spokesman of the Catholic Diocesan Union told the Messenger that the Catholic Literature Committee of the Union carried out a variety of activities in its campaign to spread Catholic literature and diffuse Catholic knowledge. Among these were the organisation of:

- Church door bookstalls.
- Lending Libraries.
- Camp bookstalls at pilgrim centres.
- Reading circles in offices, Associations, Clubs and schools.
- Public lectures and study classes.

Press Week Scene



● This picture of a Legion book barrow in Kotohena area is typical of many such functioning all over the Archdiocese when Press Week commences on 6 March. Elaborate steps have been taken this year to bring the riches of Catholic Literature to the people.

It also imported books, printed and aided the publication of books in the vernaculars and promoted subscription to Catholic newspapers.

NOTE:

When sellers call on you this Week, make it a point to buy something from them — be it only a holy picture for the kid — but be kind to him because he is on Christ's mission in the Lay Apostolate: "Go ye and teach all nations."

Helicopter takes injured Cardinal

TWO helicopters belonging to the Austrian army landed in the grounds of Varazdin Hospital in Northern Yugoslavia last Monday.

Aboard them on stretchers went Cardinal Koenig, Archbishop of Vienna, and his secretary, Fr. Helmut Kretzel, who were being taken home to Vienna.

Both were injured in a car crash when on their way to the funeral of Cardinal Stepinac in Zagreb.

They will undergo further hospital treatment in Vienna.

30-day Retreat for priests gets started

(from our correspondent)

CEYLON'S first-ever 30-day Retreat for Priests commenced on Monday, 29 February, at Lewella, Kandy.

Drawn from five of the island's six dioceses, the Retreatants consist of Diocesan Priests, O.M.I. and O.S.B. Fathers. The biggest single contingent is from Jaffna.

New arrivals at Lewella, Frs. Muselli and Caprioli, S.J., from

Poona, together with Fr. F. Grasso, S.J., professor of the Papal Athenaeum, Poona, and Fr. Mark Anthony Fernando, S.J. have been posted as substitutes to some of the retreatants in their respective parishes.

St. Dominic Savio

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father to read the prayers of the dying... "Good-bye, Father..." Suddenly his face lit up with a smile of intense joy and he exclaimed: "I am seeing most wonderful things!"

Dominic Savio! He was one of those little ones whom Jesus Christ beheld one day, and beholding rejoiced, saying: "Thou hast revealed them to little ones." Dominic was a little one who believed his Master when he said that he could become a Saint. He tried and succeeded. He was canonised in

1954. His feast was fixed for March 9th.

Since 1954 this glorious school boy has become a favourite with all classes. In one country alone there were issued no fewer than three different postal stamps of this lovable saint. The number of schools and school children that love and honour him is legion. Well done, Dominic Savio! Lead them on to victory, and may they win gloriously as you did.

De La Salle College, Mutwal.

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