

As Ceylon Reds rave at the Church, and Buddhism is being wiped out in Tibet

RUSSIA CLOSES DOWN 46,000 CHURCHES

COLOMBO'S NEW VICARS-GENERAL

HIS Grace the Archbishop announced last Monday that he was appointing Rev. Fr. C. J. Reyman, O.M.I., to act as Vicar-General in the absence of Rev. Fr. A. Serru, O.M.I., who is away from the Island. Fr. Reyman has taken up duties at Archbishop's House, Colombo.

HE also announced that he was appointing the Very Rev. Fr. Peter A. Pillai, O.M.I., his Vicar-General in charge of the Lay Apostolate, in addition to his present duties as Rector of St. Joseph's College.

Pope Pius X's body to go to his birthplace

THE body of St. Pius X, which is to be taken next month to Venice — where he was Patriarch before his election as Pontiff — will also visit his birthplace, the village of Riese.

The body will remain in Venice for about one month.

Pius X as he left Venice for the conclave in 1903 told his people that he would return to them "dead or alive." He died in 1914.

Russian recipe for madness

LENTEN fasting shortens life, Russians are being told. But worse, combine fasting with prayer and a person can be sent to a mental hospital.

These discoveries have been announced by a Moscow daily newspaper "Moskovskaya Pravda."

The paper's comments were made in a reference to the beginning of the Orthodox Lent on March 16.

It was also stated that fasting plays into the hands of "exploiters."

Churches gain because people are told to contribute what they save by fasting, the paper said.

Princess Margaret and Queen Mother to call on the Pope

PRINCESS Margaret will accompany Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, on her visit to Rome this month and together they will visit the Holy Father on April 22 for a private audience.

It will be Princess Margaret's second visit to the Vatican.

CHURCHES Double-talk unmasked at last

WHILE Ceylon Reds, true to the voice of Moscow, have intensified their attack on the Church, and Chinese Reds, loyal to the Marxist doctrine, are wiping out Buddhism in Tibet, something of the truth about religion is coming out to the free world from Russia.

Speaking at the "Russicum," the Pontifical Russian College at Rome, Fr. Theophilus Joracek, S.J., said recently that of the 50,000 Orthodox churches that existed in Russia before the Bolshevik revolution, there are hardly 4,000 still open today. He rejected as exaggerated the claim of the Orthodox Metropolitan Nikolai of Moscow that 20,000 churches were still open.

IN THE WHOLE OF THE SOVIET UNION, THERE ARE ONLY THREE CATHOLIC CHURCHES TODAY — ONE

IN MOSCOW, ONE IN LENINGRAD, AND ONE IN ODESSA.

The official atheists' organization was most active — during 1956, for instance, it had held more than 2,000,000 "enlightenment lectures" in Russia, while every form of religious apostolate and instruction was forbidden.

Despite this all-embracing denial of religious freedom, large sections of the Russians still remained faithful — a fact which confronts the Communists with ideological difficulties.

Bishops give land to slum-dwellers

A SILENT but radical revolution is slowly taking place in Brazil. Three Bishops have started agricultural schemes to get slum-dwellers on their own holdings. The government is backing all three schemes.

If these schemes succeed, they will be extended to over 30 more dioceses. Very large extents of land have been given by the three Bishops. Families from

AQUINAS HALL CELEBRATES JUBILEE



His Grace replying at Aquinas Hall Jubilee celebrations. Also in the picture is Mr. Titus Fernando who welcomed His Grace on behalf of Aquinas Hall.

(bottom)

A section of the gathering shows Mr. Douglas Liyanage, C.C.S., Fr. Jim Cooke, O.M.I., Rev. Shelton Silva, Methodist Minister and Fr. T. Kuriaose, S.J., — exhorters all!

[Report on page 7]

(Photo by Rajendra Cooray)



the slums are to be settled there and land will be given to each family.

Hope is at last shining on the horizon for the large numbers of slum-dwellers of Brazil. For, if the Bishops' schemes succeed, the government will release vast tracts of land for similar settlements.

an experiment.

The ceremonies affected were those of Palm Sunday, the Tuesday and Wednesday following Good Friday and the Easter Vigil on Saturday.

Holy Week rites in German

By special permission of the Holy See, the German language was used during the Holy Week ceremonies in all German dioceses for the chanting of the Passion and the prophecies.

The concession was restricted to this year and is regarded as

Pro-Red Priests in charge of seminaries

HUNGARY'S RED GOVERNMENT, WHICH CLOSED DOWN TWO OF THE LEADING SEMINARIES A FEW WEEKS AGO (AS REPORTED IN THE MESSENGER), WILL RE-OPEN THEM SHORTLY AS CENTRES OF MARXIST FORMATION — WITH PRO-RED PRIESTS IN CHARGE.

The Seminaries will now have priests, all of whom are among the "Peace priests," at the helm of affairs. At the head will be a Franciscan priest, listed as No. 1 of the country's "peace priests." Many of the students have already been expelled for refusing to co-operate with the "new situation."

"Give up the Fight!" — Red tell Church

POLAND'S Communist Party has declared that the Catholic Church must give up the "hopeless battle" against Communism.

The statement was made in a resolution passed last week, said that there was no political dividing line between believers and non-believers within the party. It added:

"The party and the People's Government do not want to fight with the Church."

"The Church must, however, confine itself to matters of faith and renounce the hopeless attempt to fight Socialism."

INSIDE

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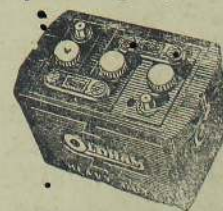
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RED CHINA AND BUDDHIST TIBET

WHAT is all this bother about a religious persecution in Tibet by the Government of the People's Republic of China?

Have we not been told by the Venerable Narada of Vajirarama that there is complete freedom of worship in Communist China?

Did not Chou-en Lai, that great respecter of a people's freedom to worship, and to whom we gave a red carpet welcome to our shores, worship at our Sacred Dalada Maligawa in Kandy and even hand in a substantial cheque for the cause of Buddhism?

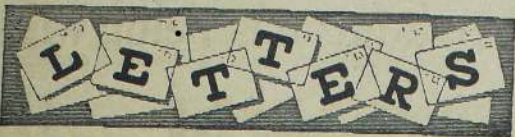
In the face of all this it is hard to believe that there is persecution in Buddhist Tibet, with the arrest of Buddhist monks, desecration of temples, etc. China will never do it. Russia will never countenance it. I am constrained to believe that this is nothing but propaganda by the American and U.K. Imperialists, backed by the Vatican.

Cannot the All-Ceylon Buddhist Congress take up this matter, and get a Commission appointed to see whether there

is any truth in all this propaganda? Manresan. Colombo.

What your children read

HAVING read the impressive Article on 'Books' written by that versatile writer, Mr.



S. M. J. Louis, in connection with Press Week, it makes me say:—

"What a shame, those bad books, Children love to read, Sold in stalls and pavements, While parents pay no heed.

When those books are opened, Hours the children spend, Relishing crime and sex stuff, From the start to end.

Hats off! to Mr. Louis, Stark facts he brings to light, So let's us save our children, From a hopeless plight.

Listen to his pleadings, Parents please take heed, Don't wait until tomorrow, Probe NOW what children read."

Geo. P. Solomons. Dehiwela.

The Holy Father

IN last Saturday's Messenger, news and views of great

interest concerning foreign and local affairs covered every page of it. But what struck me most was the fact that the Holy Father is no more the 'Prisoner of the Vatican.' No more the almost inaccessible personage the Pope used to be. His Holiness is as revolutionary as the Master Himself. He has cast his lot with that of the poor in unmistakable fashion.

Here's a record of his recent activities:—

(a) On the feast of St. Joseph, his name-day, the Holy Father said Mass for Rome's 3,000 street-cleaners and other munici-

pal workers, and with the help of 15 priests, he gave them Holy Communion.

(b) In the afternoon of that day, he received 4,000 invalids brought from hospitals, clinics, etc., to St. Peter's Square. When he came among them, he insisted on leaving his gestatorial chair, and moved among the sick, speaking to them as he went along.

(c) During Lent, like any ordinary Parish Priest, the Pope joined the people of Rome, walked in procession with them, prayed and sang with them.

(d) On Maundy Thursday, he washed and kissed the feet of 13 priests, following the example of Christ.

In the recent changes in the Liturgy of the Church, and in the actions of the Pope of today, we see a return to the first stages of Christianity—when dungeon, fire and sword held no terrors for those early Christians who went to the stake, the gibbet, or the lions in the amphitheatre, singing the praises of God.

May the example of His Holiness the Pope, be a lesson and an encouragement to every Catholic to face all odds, fearlessly, and with faith and charity.

C. A. Senanayake.

Ratnapura.

Bishop Sheen Speaks THE SOVIETS FORESEEN

POETS and saints know better the future of the world scene than politicians and economists. This is because they stand off more from the immediacy of events and the hourly newscasts. Less caught up in the shipwreck because they stand on the shore, they are better able to tell the disaster. In the centre of every whirlwind is a point of silence and repose, as in the centre of every fire there is a point which is not fiery hot. So too, the so-called dreamers can see what will happen far better than those who are emerged in the current events.

Taking Russia alone as an example, few have foretold its future better than Dostoevsky who saw that there would be a surrender of freedom of the spirit for the sake of food and happiness. But here we quote two literary figures—one German and the other Russian, who saw how atheistic Russia would sweep away its holiness, fill the people with terror and with death.

In 1830, the Russian poet Lermantov wrote a poem which he called "Prediction": "The day will come, for Russia that dark day When the Tsar's diadem will fall, and they, Rabble who loved him once, will love no more, And many will subsist on death and gore.

Downtrodden law no shelter will provide For child or guiltless woman. Plague will ride From stinking corpses through the grief-struck land Where fluttering rags from cottages demand Help none can give. A famine's gnawing pangs Will grip the countryside with ruthless fangs. Dawn on the streams will shed a crimson light, And then will be revealed the Man of might Whom thou wilt know; and thou wilt understand Wherefore a shining blade is in his hand. Sorrow will be thy lot, grief melt thine eyes And he will laugh at all thy tears and sighs."

Just twelve years later, in 1842, a German writer, Heinrich Heine, saw the coming of Communism. Karl Marx had not yet written his Communist Manifesto nor his Kapital. But like Lermantov, he looked beyond the footlights of the present moment and saw coming disaster: "Communism is the

secret name of the dread antagonist setting proletarian rule with all of its consequences against the present bourgeois regime. It will be a frightful duel. How will it end? No one knows but gods and goddesses acquainted with the future. We only know this much. Communism, though little discussed now and hidden in loitering garrets on miserable straw pallets, is the dark hero destined for a great if temporary role in the modern tragedy.

"Wild, gloomy times are roaring toward us, and a prophet wishing to write a new apocalyptic would have to invent entirely new beasts—beasts so terrible that St. John's older animal symbols would be like gentle doves and cupids in comparison. The gods are veiling their faces in pity on the children of men, their long time charges, and perhaps over their own fate. The future smells of Russian leather, blood, Godlessness, and many whippings. I should advise our grandchildren to be born with very thick skins on their backs."

Our Blessed Lord once chided the Pharisees because they could read and prophesy the weather, but they could not read the signs of the Times which He declared were already present. It is not the politicians, but the poets and the saints who know the direction the world is taking.

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I have seen "a Corinthian woman" of Pauline times

MR. E. B., the V. G. of C., balanced his 200 lbs. on the single brick half wall. He had a punch at everybody who passed by. (At that time, about sixteen years ago, he was not a Mgr., no, nor yet a priest. He was studying to be one). Some one digging the flower bed near by made a casual remark which was all very noble and highly spiritual. Mgr. B. in his stentorian voice and a rapid flow of choice English words, in a subtle way apparently proved that the speaker's motives were not so noble and that all the talk was a camouflage for baser motives. Then suddenly he snapped his finger, made a noise with his tongue in the palate which sounded "thck, thck," and said, "You know Paris," (that's the way he pronounced my name), "when you accuse a chap of a fault, as I have done, you'll find that before three days are out, you are doing the same." I made a non-committal answer. However his words made me reflect, not merely at the moment, but off and on, these sixteen years. I have discovered some truth in those words. Mgr. B. caught himself within three days because he was assiduously searching for perfec-

tion. But the root cause, I discovered, was that we easily recognize our faults in others, and easily forget that they are our faults too. However, I made another discovery: much of our criticism of others is a self justification.

O'Connell inside out, though I for one cannot boast of such ability—but the validity of the sacrifice and the sacraments around which all the details of Fortescue are built, they are not bothered about.

Or take the question of "The

~~~~~by~~~~~

## Fr. Theodore A. Pieris

You'll find the principle working in all sorts of devious and insidious ways. Now look at those who have cut themselves away from Mother Church, because, as they said, we were too bothered about accidentals. They wanted the "essential Christianity." That was the accusation they hurled at the Mother. See what they are doing now. They want to get closer to the Mother, are very anxious about all the accidentals—the exact way to hold the thurible, the manner of making a simple bow, a deep bow and a profound bow—but the essential matter of union with the source of Grace, they have forgotten. I am afraid some of them know Fortescue-

Key." Everybody is talking about "The Key." They ask me what I think, not so much about "The Key" but of what Godfrey Winn has to say about it, or rather has said about it the last four Sundays. (I must say he was clever. He has been able to mix up a few experiences of life,—that every reader must have had,—and a few truisms and has woven it into his totally unrealistic picture of life so that the whole affair looks life-like). The real answer to Go, Winn is (not to pronounce the name as I have just written it, but) to see Basil Mendis' production of The "Little Madonna." Why, have you not heard about it? Good Lord man, you are behind

the times. The Kandy Catholic Play-society at the Good Shepherd Convent Hall last week. Ask Mr. Mendis to make arrangements to get it to your town. Anyway, to come back to the point at issue—the trouble with Geo. Winn is that he has made the accidentals of love, the essential life. And Mr. Winn is just a typical example of people who have tried to hold to a culture which Christianity gave, and at the same time do away with Christianity as accidental. They are now bothered about accidentals. As Mr. Basil Mendis says: "There is but one tragedy in life and that is... Why should I tell you? You should either listen to Master Derrick declaim the blank verse as it came off the pen of Mr. Basil Mendis, or pester Mr. Mendis till he publishes the play. Anyway, what I wanted to say was this. People criticized the Church for being busy with accidentals and went in search of essentials. Now we find that the essentials they took away have turned out to be accidentals, and not merely that, but they have met with many accidentals, leaving the Church to be the last bulwark of the human family and human dignity.

It is on account of these reflections that I was able to dream up a Corinthian woman of Pauline times. We have been reading these days about the Resurrection, Easter week Epistles and Gospels all speak of this Resurrection. And, you know, St. Paul has some hard things to say to the Corinthians who seem to have doubted the resurrection of the body. So, I was trying to imagine what a Corinthian of that kind would have looked like. But, with all the stupidity of their kind, no man gave a clue. But, I am sad to say, with all the cunning and guile that women are supposed to possess, it was a woman who gave me the clue.

I met a lady once. She could not believe that "this muddy vesture of decay" was fit for a resurrection. But my gad, the trouble she took to resurrect her dying features, her wrinkling skin and her greying, thinning hair! Funny, said I to myself, that she who looks after the body and, I am afraid, only its outward appearance, as it was going to last for all time, that such a one should be unable to believe that the body is going to last beyond the grave! But the best part of the story is this.

One day, quite by accident I bumped into her as I turned the corner behind her beautiful garden, to get to a shack where lived an old weather-beaten woman who had lost neither the lustre of her eyes, nor the pleasantness of her countenance nor yet the calm of her soul, as she awaited there in full expectation the call of the Lord. The great lady was taken aback. Oh! you should have seen her. Her hair was all tied up into a hundred knots and a hundred metal clips pointed out like a hundred little horns. (Mr. Basil Mendis produced a devil on the stage. It had only two horns, and that was bad enough). Her face was all plastered with I suppose, some clay and her two eyes looked like the holes in the mask of the devil on the stage. The sight of the face was enough. I did not see the rest of the body... not that I would have cared to... but the fact of the matter is that the great lady ran for her dear life to hide her still resurrected face within the dark portals of her home. So, can you wonder that whenever I read St. Paul I dream—no, I know,—the face of a "Corinthian woman."

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# •ABBE PIERRE •SPEAKS

THE GREAT CRISIS IN THE WORLD TODAY IS JUST THIS: MORE THAN A THOUSAND MILLION HUMAN BEINGS ARE LIVING IN CONDITIONS WORSE THAN THOSE OF ANIMALS. THREE-QUARTERS OF THE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD TODAY DO NOT EAT THE MINIMUM NECESSARY TO GROW INTO ADULTS. ONE OUT OF EVERY TWO FAMILIES, EVERY TWO HUMAN COUPLES IN THE WORLD TODAY, HAS NO HOME.

Now, the world is becoming aware of these facts, and is trying to make effective efforts to grapple with them, some because of their consciences and a sense of duty and others—even if they have no sense of duty—because of a sense of necessity and desire for safety.

## Third block

They are always telling us about these two blocks whose mutual antagonism constitutes the chief threat to the world and to the future, but, as a way of expressing the world situation, this is an absolute sham. It is the third block which is going to be the master of the world of the future: the thousand million human beings who have no roof over their heads or bread to eat or schools or hospitals. What will decide the future of the world

is on to which side they cast their hopes.

Without any exaggeration, with all strict, scientific accuracy, we may say that it is that fraction of humanity which is living in sub-human

several countries in the world have not only been ineffectual but have simply accelerated the process of corruption, degradation, anarchy and despair, and, in the end, the surrender of these peoples to tyranny and dictatorship or some kind of desperate solution. There are thus many cases where efforts made with goodwill have only accelerated the disintegration of what they were meant to save. How are we to explain that power is thus powerless, and

# POVERTY

poverty which is going to be the arbiter of history.

It is poverty which shall judge the world.

Now, faced with these two facts—the fact of poverty itself, and the fact that poverty will decide the issues of tomorrow, great efforts are being made.

And this is the genesis of the great crisis in the world.

## Fruitless efforts

Any well-informed, honest and clear-headed person must recognise that all the very considerable—though quite insufficient—efforts which have been made, in materials, money, technical aid, and goodwill have produced results which are merely ridiculous. There is a great deal of goodwill in the world, more perhaps than there has ever been before. When people say to me, "Abbe, you know politicians, you can tell us the truth—they're all scoundrels, aren't they?" I always say, "It's not true! There are some dishonest men amongst them, but no more than there are among the electors."

When we look at the extent of the sacrifices which have been accepted, and then at the results obtained, we cannot but observe that these results have been absolutely infinitesimal; and moreover, in several cases already they have been not only infinitesimal but actually the direct opposite of what had been hoped for. We observe that the loans and economic aid given to

# SHALL JUDGE THE WORLD

techniques and skill and money all ineffective? We must discover the reasons.

## Ignorance of distress

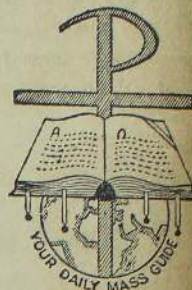
Perhaps we can draw a lesson from my own experience: a small experience, minute if measured on the scale of world affairs, in which a few friends and myself found ourselves involved, and in which we witnessed comparatively large results being produced by absurdly small means; a sort of laboratory experiment, in which small means have produced big results, in contrast to the small results which have been produced by large-scale means.

What lesson can we learn from the Emmaus experiment?

Look at society as it is—society inside each nation and society at the level of international relations.

Society is fated to be composed of two parts—first of all, those who, in one way or another, dispose of some sort of power: political, financial, cultural, influential.

Now, those who hold the power, even if they are the best men in the world, are fated, by the very nature of the power they hold, to become very rapidly estranged from that real and tragic knowledge of the situation which is possessed by those



Sunday, 12 April: SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EASTER. White. Omit prescribed. Creed.  
Monday, 13 April: St. Herengild. Red.  
Tuesday, 14 April: St. Just. Rgd. 2nd prayer of St. Just. burtius and Companions.  
Wednesday, 15 April: Fe. Mass of the Sunday. White. No Creed.  
Thursday, 16 April: Fe. As yesterday.  
Friday, 17 April: Feria. on Wednesday.  
Saturday, 18 April: Mass. Our Lady. White.  
N.B.—Unless otherwise stated, the Preface for Easter, the prayer prescribed (A. diocese): "In any necessity, are always said."

put her children to sleep and her husband's or—and this is not something dug out of a petro shanty-town in Algeria happens right in Paris.—has to hang the chain on a nail on the wall so have somewhere to put palliasses on the ground.

A few weeks ago a Bishop told me of some that happened in a family in his own episcopal city not in a family of nobles or spendthrifts, but in a family of one of the public Actionists. A death occurred at the end of the day, and it was not possible to take the body out of the house because it was late in the evening, vigil went on through night, and the children drooping with exhaustion. The room was so small they had to put those children, seven or eight, old, to bed on the same dress on which the was lying. That happened in our land of France would perhaps be possible to find an "illised" country in

Continued on page 1

## 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 APRIL

**GENERAL:** For the priests labouring among "de-christianized" society.

**MISSIONARY:** That lay missionaries may receive a solid spiritual, doctrinal, scientific and technical formation.

CURRENT history weaves a strand in the story today with the account of steps taken to meet the requirements of procedure in Rome.

## (a) Documents

Consequent on the decision of the Sacred Congregation of Rites that Fr. Vaz's Cause should follow the procedure of the "Historical Section," it has become necessary to submit all connected documents in the original or in photographic copy.

An S.O.S. was accordingly received from the Postulator for such documents as might be available in Ceylon.

Expressly mentioned were the following:

(i) Ceylon Government Archives: D.R. 2393, Compendium of Plakkaten; D.R. 42 art. 3, D.R. 2223 Secret correspondence with Batavia (D.R. 2403—5/9/1708 and Oct. 1710); Digest of Permanent Orders ff. 66-67.

(ii) Fr. S. G. Perera's works: *Historical Sketches; Life of Fr. Vaz* (1st edit.).

(iii) H.L. Bp. E. Peiris, O.M.I.

## Strands of the Story 187

## Taking a hand in the Cause

*The Fame of Fr. Joseph Vaz in the Rajavaliya (Messenger 1942).*

(iv) Fr. W. L. A. Don Peter: *Catherine Bausen (New Lanka, 1953).*

It was also thought a copy of the 18th century "Vida do Ven. P. Jose Vaz" might be available in the Galle collection of Fr. S. G. Perera's reference books. On investigation, however, it was found that the collection contained only a handwritten copy of the original. This makes it necessary for the Postulator to have the original microfilmed in Portugal itself.

The appropriate sources have been approached for the other documents required. We are happy to state that through the generosity of the Fathers of St. Aloysius' College, Galle, copies of Fr. S. G. Perera's two works have already been flown to Rome

under the care of Rev. Fr. Caly, S.J., who will have them microfilmed there and returned.

## (b) The Beatification Fund

Forwarding his contribution a correspondent writes: "You are not pleading enough for this Fund. Why shouldn't every Catholic contribute his mite towards such a cause?"

The following list will show that the idea is making some headway.

Mr. J. F. R. R. (Jaffna) Rs. 15, Mrs. A. M. Fernando (Kudadeniya) Rs. 2.

## RAILWAY HEADQUARTERS' STAFF CONTRIBUTION

Messrs. A. W. J. A. Perera, 5; N. E. P. Udumullagama 5; Ladies of the Machine Branch, C. A. 3; Mr. M. A. Le Grand 2/50; Messrs. E. J. De Silva, W. L. S. Candappa,

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Total Rs. 70/00.

## The one-room family

To take a form of distress nearer home: it isn't thinkable that protest a movement should be started on the initiative of the mothers who see their husbands come back, later each evening, to what you can't call a home; the one room where they and the children are all piled on top of each other, perhaps with another young family as well; a room where there isn't a corner to put a chair for a man to sit in after his work.

Inevitably, such a man will go and pass his evenings in a bar, because he knows that if he comes back to this room he'll lose his temper, torment his wife and cuff the children. He is tired after his day's work. He goes out into the street, and, inevitably, to a bar.

## Strange bedfellows

Is it thinkable that we should have a protest movement organised by a mother who sees her husband going down hill every day, turning into an addict, an invalid, an alcoholic, without meaning to; a mother who has to

## RADIO LOG

APR. 11 and 12: 6-5 7-00 a.m. THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY (Sinhalese) — Very Rev. Michael Perera.  
APR. 12: 7-00 to 7-30 m. CATHOLIC HOUR PROGRAMME (English).  
APR. 18-20: 6-55 to 7-00 a.m. THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY (Tamil).  
Mrs. Agnes Perimp yagam.  
APR. 19: 10-00 to 11 a.m. TALK (English).  
Rev. Fr. Claude Lawrence.  
APR. 20-26: 6-55 to 7-00 a.m. THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY (Sinhalese).  
Rev. Fr. Lionel A. Wickrema.  
APR. 26: 9-00 to 9-30 m. CATHOLIC HOUR (Sinhalese).  
10-30 a.m. CATHOLIC HALF HOUR (Sinhalese).



Church in Ceylon has received in abundance from holics of other lands sacrificing for the Missions. s now OUR turn—to give without counting the , and make our own offering to the church.

# MISSION PAGE

ACTS WORTH  
KNOWING

WHY MISSION  
WORK IS  
IMPORTANT

1) If all those who have come to the know-ge and love of Christ, re to pass your front or, day and night, on ery second, how long ould you have to stand re to realise the magni-ude of our Mission work? years.

2) Communism controls a billion people in 16 ntries and this since 17, whereas the Church r 1,900 years after the icifixion has only 480 lion faithful. But the ion are under the ham- and sickle through e; the 480 million are er the Cross through co-operation with grace.

3) The proportion of holics in the entire ld is about 17 per cent. ts total population;

Percentage of Catholics

1 %

36 %

9 %

17 %

4) The religions of all ples in Mission lands, n as Taoism, Confucia- n, Moslemism, Buddh- , all have this idea in mon: man has the power and by himself to be united to God. Only the means er, e.g., contemplation, gnation, crushing of de- obedience to cosmic etc.

the Church must send sionaries to these people, ause man cannot lift self to God any more a he can pull himself to moon by the lobes of ears. God must e down to weak man, e him from sin, and give power to become a son God. This is Christia-

As Our Lord said: without Me you can do ing." Man goes to l only after God has e to man. As the eyes -see, thanks to light ide of it; as the ear can only because of har- ies which the ear does produce; as the stom- eeds food which it s not grow or produce, an's mind needs Truth h is beyond his making. Power which is beyond will. This is the grace Our Lord Jesus Christ h we seek to bring to s everywhere.

## Pope John is a friend of our work

Dear friends,  
How many of you, I wonder, are aware that Pope John has been Italy's National Director for the Propagation of the Faith, and that he was largely responsible for the organisation of the Society in Italy? And ever since, he has kept in close touch with the work of the Pontifical Societies, which, on more than one occasion, he has described as the spear-head of the Church's missionary effort. Already, in the brief period since he became Pope, he has frequently shown his predilection for our work, and quite recently, when addressing the representatives of the Pontifical Societies in Rome, he told them quite clearly how very close to his heart was the work, and how he would do all in his power to further their activity.

Surely then, if such be the mind of the Supreme Pontiff, we can do no less! If the Pontifical Mission-Aid Societies have been given such eminence in the work of the Church by the Vicar of Christ, we cannot reduce them to the rank of mere outsiders, which we do indeed support, but not as wholeheartedly as we might!

### His First Message

POPE John's first message on the occasion of his election was about the Missions; his first after the coronation mentioned the Missions before everything else.

First His Holiness quoted St. John:

"I have other sheep too, which do not belong to this fold; I must bring them in too; they will listen to my voice; so there will be one fold, and one shepherd."

Then he added:

"HERE IS THE MISSIONARY PROBLEM IN ALL ITS VASTNESS AND BEAUTY. THIS IS THE SOLICITUDE OF THE ROMAN PONTIFF, THE PRIMARY ONE."

Just a month ago, dear friends, we sent our Annual Reports to the Headquarters of the three Mission-Aid Societies. Ours was a story of improvement this year—and for this, it is you we have to thank. Membership as well as collections for all three Societies had gone up very appreciably—and for this too, it is you and your generosity that we have to thank.

But we have to keep going. We have to keep climbing. We have to prove worthy of all the sacrifices so many others in other lands are making for us. We have, in a word, to come

into the general current of the Mystical Body of Christ. There is so much that we receive from the generosity of others; we too must make our offering—a symbolic gesture of love and brotherhood. It is for this then, that I ask you in the name of our Pope, His Holiness Pope John—sustained activity right throughout the year; more members; more Promoters to do the work.

God bless you all! Alleluia!

FR. MANIK MUTTUKU-MARU,

National Director,  
Pontifical Mission-Aid Societies.

## FIRST ATOMIC BOMB ON NAGASAKI

... a story of sacrifice

The date: 9 Aug. 1945  
The time: 11.02 a.m.  
Death toll: 29,000—of whom 8,500 Catholics, 50 Sisters

THE story of sacrifice can be said in terms of a valley in Japan. Its present name will be given later. Lately, the Japanese people called it Urakami, the Valley of Death. Why? One of the missionaries there said rightly, it should be called the Valley of Faith because it so eloquently shows forth the Cross.

In 1568, Father Vilela converted a Buddhist temple into the "Church of All Saints" after having removed all the idols. It was the first church in Nagasaki, the great city of

the Valley. Within thirty years, 3 Jesuits, 6 Franciscans and 17 Japanese laymen were crucified.

Martyrdoms bring conversions. In the year 1599, 70,000 Japanese became converted. By 1604, there were 5,000 more Catholics in Japan than there are today.

Then came another persecution of thousands upon thousands. By 1638, not a single missionary was left in Nagasaki. Catholics were called in and told to trample on the pictures of Our Lord

and Our Lady; if they refused, they were crucified. The Church of Nagasaki was laid in the tomb.

In 1863, the Church returned to Nagasaki. The missionaries found the abandoned church, rang the Angelus and 1,600 who had preserved the Faith through 200 years appeared for Mass.

In 1867, four churches were plundered by the Japanese, 114 Catholics were persecuted, tortured or killed for their faith and 3,290 exiled.

In 1880, the Church returned to the Valley. But it was only on the Feast of St. Patrick, 1914, or 51 years later, that many of the hidden Catholics were discovered. The Church appeared in its glory and was dedicated to the Immaculate Conception.

On August 9, 1945, at 11-02 a.m. the United States dropped its first atomic bomb on Nagasaki and the Valley of Death, killing 29,000 that day and causing the deaths of 74,000 since. Among those who perished were 50 Sisters and 8,500 Catholics—the highest concentration of Catholics in all Japan.

Mother Ezumi, who was pinned beneath the ruins when the bomb exploded, explained the bombing with these words:

"The Cross has been in the Valley from the beginning. And so has Christ. But because Christ is here, Urakami's Good Friday is not the end; it is the beginning of a

long Easter Sunday of Peace, Peace for Japan, Peace for the world."

Today a new Church has risen over the ruins of the old and 10,000 Catholics glorify God in the Valley of Faith.

Keep praying for the Missions.

## YOUR LOVE-GIFTS for the MISSIONS

THIS month, we are able to reproduce very few of your letters. But we are thankful all the same, dear friends—especially to you, my anonymous but ever-generous and regular friend, and all of you, our new friends. God bless and reward everyone of you.

### From Wennappuwa

"Here's an offering, dear Father. My first, and therefore a small one. But it meant quite a struggle to start. I promise you, Father, it won't be the last."

(God reward you! A spirit such as yours will not easily wane off, I know. Join the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, and then try to bring in new members—who will keep praying and sacrificing all through the year.)

### From Negombo

"I am sending you the money collected in the till in the music room. It's from the pupils and a few visitors.

### From Batticaloa

"This is our first offering for the Missions, Father, and it has taken a long time in coming—but it is a FAMILY OFFERING. From now on, we hope to make it a monthly feature in our family."

(Wonderful souls that you are, to think of a FAMILY OFFERING. Yes, what we so desire to have is precisely this: extra FAMILIES praying and sacrificing for the Missions. How I hope and pray that your lead will be followed.)

HOLY  
CHILD-  
HOOD  
CORNER



ABOUT six weeks ago, everywhere in Ceylon, it was Holy Childhood Day—your own Mission Sunday, dear children. From then onwards, I have been receiving even more letters than usual from some of you, and many new friends too have started writing. God bless you all for it. Today, I am publishing one of the many letters I have received. And I keep thinking to myself, what a wonderful thing it would be if all little children under 12, would be members of the Holy Childhood, praying and sacrificing for so many others like them who do not have the Faith. You can help, dear children. Won't you? I shall wait for your answer.

The National Director.

### Little Flower Convent, Erciarcwela

We are writing to tell you, Father, how we kept up Holy Childhood Day. We prepared for the feast with a spiritual bouquet of Masses and Communions. In the evening, we had a procession from the school to the Chapel carrying the Child Jesus, and there in the Chapel recited the Act of Consecration to the Child Jesus. And sang the Holy Childhood Anthem.

We have already sent you stamps for the Missions, and now enclose a little contribution for the Missions from all of us.

(Wonderful children that you are, you must indeed be thankful to your good nuns and teachers for all they have given and taught you to do. Keep up the good work, children, and become little apostles among your friends, bringing in more members for the Holy Childhood Society.)



## Know your Diocesan Directors

for all three Pontifical Societies

|                     |                                                                |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Colombo Archdiocese | Fr. Ignatius Gamlath, Catholic Press, Colombo 8.               |
| Chilaw Diocese      | Fr. Alex. Fernando, St. Sebastian's College, Madampe.          |
| Galle Diocese       | Fr. Terence de Silva, St. Mary's Church, Elpitiya.             |
| Jaffna Diocese      | Fr. J. Francis, O.M.I., Bishop's House, Jaffna.                |
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National Director  
Fr. Manik Muttukumar,  
Archbishop's House  
Colombo 8.

FOR ALL INFORMATION OR OTHER REQUIREMENTS, WRITE TO YOUR DIOCESAN DIRECTOR—OR DIRECTLY TO THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR.



# MARY QUEEN OF PEACE

*THE Messenger is privileged to carry the prize-winning entry in the 1958-59 Messenger Journalism Awards for the best essay on the subject "Mary, Queen of Peace."*

*Written by a teen-ager in a Hospital Ward, who has been in the throes of physical agony for the last three months, and heroically undergoing her sufferings, it is a human document written with a rare insight and much poignant sensitivity.*

*It is now known that the prize-winning essay reproduced in this page was dictated by the writer on her bed of suffering, to her mother who took it down.*



I AM a teen-ager and ill at that; the subject is vast, but it does not terrify me as Mary is simplicity itself and I can think of her as I do of my mother, a friendly soul.

In a storm-tossed world where hate and lawlessness, brutality and bestiality predominate and man eyes man warily, one thing stands firm as the firmament: Mary, the Queen of Peace. I think of all the hundreds of names given to Our Mother, Queen of Peace is the most apt, specially today.

## In the beginning

Peering into the dim past, we see the Blessed Virgin

kneeling at prayer, and the Angel Gabriel, resplendent, announcing that she was to be the mother of God, and Mary, not jubilant but full of peace, accepts the privilege and responsibility; and again nine months later we find Joseph and Mary going up for the census and, Mary's time being up, Joseph frantically hunting for lodgings in which to rest, but being turned away, inn-keepers not wanting to bother to harbour a woman who was so far gone in pregnancy. And Joseph, at last discovering a stable with a lonely ox, takes his wife, exhausted nearly beyond endurance, and places her on a straw pallet; and turning to him she gives him a look of infinite tenderness and peace.

Warned in a dream, and fleeing from Herod's wrath,



Fair Lady! Dearest Mother! Sundari, Rani, and even Goddess they call her.

themselves, Mary must surely have been peace-maker.

## ... and today

Coming down to our times, we find Lourdes and Fatima. The strange thing is that though Our Lady appeared to very young and ignorant

**By Felicity Perera**

Winner of the John Leo de Croos Memorial Prize

crossing a desert and feeling weary, they come into the cave of a notorious robber, but the woman looking at Mary's face and seeing the ethereal peace of it, helps Mary wash her Divine Child, and then her own, having an incurable leprosy, is washed in the same water used by the Christ Child and is instantly cured. That child later followed in his father's footsteps but he died as the good thief (Dismas) beside Our Lord. A marvellous ending, and all because of the peacefulness of Mary's countenance.

Passing over the Hidden Life of Our Lord we come to His public life, and there at the Marriage Feast of Cana we find Mary again pleading with her Son for a replenishment of the jars of wine.

## At the foot of the Cross

During all the harrowing days of His Passion, we find Mary—the saddest woman in the world—though wracked with the poignancy of a thousand aches, her face, still peaceful, and then, in spite of the horror of His death, standing at the foot of the Cross where He died a felon's death with felons on either side. She did not yell as one of us would have, but looked up at His Face, and, amid all the lines of sorrow, amid the tenderness crept into her eyes.

I think when Our Lord ascended into heaven and left the eleven turbulent apostles, who were bewildered men and prone to squabble among

children they were not at all scared of her, awed perhaps, but here again captivated by the sweetness and sense of peace on her expression. And what really is the miracle at Lourdes? Is it the astounding cure which puzzles even the medical men? No, it is the sense of peace which pervades every human being visiting that shrine, whether he be cured or not.

## In our own land

And Fatima! Did not Our Lady predict the last terrible war. She, the Queen of Peace, warned the people that, unless they repented, nation would be against nation. And still aren't we suffering the aftermath of that dreadful holocaust?

Coming to our own island, whatever anyone may say, I am quite convinced, after listening to what my elders relate, that it was Mary who saved Ceylon. Facts now available prove that Ceylon was doomed and Mary, implored by Archbishop Masson, stayed back the air armada.

Look at All Saints' Church, Borella. On Wednesdays, all roads lead to it. Here there is no caste, no creed too; you can hear petitions of thanksgivings addressed to Fair Lady! Dearest Mother! Sundari, Rapi, and even Goddess. What are these thousands coming for, crying for? It is Peace, Peace, in some distress or other, financial embarrassment, sickness, drunkenness, waywardness—all the enemies of Peace. From mouth to mouth they spread the good news of a magical sense of peace and well-being, and they keep on coming in their thousands.

## PRESS BOARD ANNOUNCEMENT

THE Catholic Press Board has announced the winners of the 1958/59 Messenger Journalism Awards.

Below we carry the full panel of prize winners. The Messenger Journalism Awards, initiated for the time in this paper two years ago have been steadily acquiring a reputation even beyond Ceylon's shores, and these special Annual Awards totalling over Rs. 1,000/-, are today keenly contested than ever before, by our readers.

The very wide response evoked, judged purely from amount of entries regularly received from competitors, pointer that the Awards have clearly justified themselves their own way, these Annual Awards offered by this are an encouragement to readers who wield their pen for the cause of the Faith.

The Catholic Press Board regrets that the Poetry Award has had to be withheld this year. In spite of the quantity of entries received, quality was sadly lacking and, in the opinion of the judges, no entry received in this section has been deemed of sufficient merit to win the Award. In the circumstances there is no Poetry Award for this period.

The Catholic Press Board sincerely thanks all who took part in the Contents. They specially take the opportunity to thank the donors for the Awards:

(1) His Grace the Archbishop of Colombo, the Rev. Dr. Thomas Cooray, O.M.I.

(2) Shri A. L. J. Croos Raj Chandra and (3) Joachim R. Machado, Esq., M.B.E.

Readers can look forward to an announcement in the future to the 1959/60 Messenger Journalism Awards in the future.

## THE WINNERS

The Messenger "writer of the year"

Presented by His Grace the Archbishop of Colombo Awarded to Mrs. Effie Amerasinghe.

The John Leo de Croos Memorial Prize

Presented by Shri A. L. J. Croos Raj Chandra. Awarded to Miss Felicity Perera (Rs. 300/-). Runner-up Mrs. Marie Tambinayagam (Rs. 100/-).

The A. X. Machado Memorial Award

Presented by Mr. Joachim R. Machado, M.B.E. Awarded to Mr. Vernon Lawrentsz.

The J. P. de Fonseka Award

Not awarded this year as none of the entries reached the required standard.

Look at Tewatte and how the crowds flock to that Grotto from all parts of the island. How is that vast Basilica being built? Is it on the donations of the rich? No, it is by the sacrificial rupee or two of the poor, given as a thanksgiving for peace of mind and soul. Wasn't Fr. Patrik Peyton, the man who girdled the globe with the Rosary, astounded at the miracle of the crowds at Tewatte. Waiting patiently in a veritable deluge. Why did they make that journey in cars, buses, carts and on foot? To show their gratitude to a mother who is the essence of Peace and imbues one with it.

## Where persecution rages

What about the countries under the heel of Communism,

where churches are despoiled, priests and nuns persecuted and the people not allowed to profess their faith? we hear scraps of news from people in Poland flocking to the Shrine of Our Lady in Czestochowa, and of people in Red China making pellets of bread to throw to them, all crying, Mother of Peace.

Coming to our own notice the ones that cry to Our Lady and say the Rosary. Poor though be, they are content with their lot, and hanker after too many worldly goods. Some indeed thing (is it peace?) per them. Lastly, the humble family as self.

I AM in a hospital ward the past two months with burning pains, send my limbs into  
Continued on page

## Think on this Our Lord needs You

AND to help you answer Him, the Church has three Pontifical Mission-Aid Societies.

- Society for the Propagation of the Faith—for all adults.
- Society for the Holy Childhood—for all under-twelves.
- Society for St. Peter the Apostle—for all who wish to help the indigenous clergy.

## Why not your own priest?

We in Ceylon have received so much from the Pope, especially from the Society of St. Peter the Apostle, for the training of our indigenous clergy. Having received in abundance, we seem to give back in dribbles.

Perhaps we cannot be priests ourselves; perhaps we have no sons who could be priests; or perhaps we do not have the means to see to the training of a priest. But we can give our little to help in the education of a priest; we can give our "blood-money" to join with the sacrifices of others, to help in educating a priest. And so, somewhere, some time, we too will have a pair of consecrated hands, lifted up in benediction, offering up the Divine Sacrifice, bringing the life of grace to so many.

THIS IS WHAT THE SOCIETY OF ST. PETER THE APOSTLE TRIES TO DO—THE EDUCATING OF INDIGENOUS PRIESTS. WON'T YOU HELP?

Write today, to your Diocesan Director

## Reader Research Survey

- 1 Do you read *The Messenger* every week...?
- 2 If occasionally, what prompts you to buy it.....
- 3 How many people, on an average, see your copy?
- 4 Mark the five features you like best: (a) Weekly Post Bag.... (b) People and Events..... (c) Bishop Sheen speaks... (d) Strands of the Story.... (e) Serial Story.... (f) Woman to Woman.... (g) Book Reviews.... (h) Short Story.... (i) Current Comment.... (j) Roundabout.... (k) Poetry.... (l) Schools-Mag.... (m) News: (1) International.... (2) Local.... (3) News pictures.... (4) Picture Feature.
- 5 Is there any feature you dislike?.....
- 6 Have you any suggestions for new features?....
- 7 Your designation: Rev./Mr Mrs./Miss, etc. ....
- 8 Your address.....
- 9 Your nationality.....
- 10 Married or single?.....
- 11 If married, how many children? Aged under 5.... 5 to 15.... 16 to 20.... over 20....
- 12 How do your children react to the *Schools-Mag*?..
- 13 Your age group? 16 to 34.... 35 to 44.... 45 to 64.... 65 and over....
- 14 Your profession or occupation.....
- 15 How long have you been acquainted with this paper?.....
- 16 Your favourite interests or hobbies?.....
- 17 Any detailed suggestions or criticisms you would like to make?.....



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SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 1959

## A Word to Marxists

VIRULENT and sustained campaign against the Church has been initiated by a certain section of the Marxists. In for the past few weeks, their publications have opened fire, discovering dark machinations in our dealings, and some even going to the ridiculous extent of showering on us their licited advice. There has also been another section of the s — whose sympathies, quite obviously, are with the left — h takes over and continues the work of bringing out nonent skeletons from the Church's cupboard, and proceeding the Marxist line of denigrating the Church.

If the sponsors of these newspapers, using the well-tried xist methods, hope by their accusations and threats to silence Church and its publications, they are mistaken; and they y know it. Our answer cannot be any different from that her Catholic newspapers in other countries where the Reds even installed themselves, and where even in the teeth of drest threats, they still resist and speak out fearlessly — like the first apostles, we cannot be silent.

One of these newsheets has indulged in wishful thinking. Communist Party, according to this paper, has been conntly attacked by the Church here in Ceylon. And now at last, the patience of the Communists apparently exhausted, have themselves opened fire. It has been nothing but a nter-offensive." Of course, there are Marxist demagogues ur midst who have been loud in their insistence that they no quarrel with religion, and that they stand for freedom orship; there are Marxist enthusiasts who pretend that they se only the Church's incursion into "politics" as they call nd there are Marxist fellow-travellers who will sit by, and ly give us advice as to how we should run the Church, be at e with each other, and not unnecessarily "provoke" the h of the Communists.

It is this strange martyr-complex that intrigues us; it is this ide of staging a "counter-offensive" against the Church h even amuses us. As though it were such a mighty secret Marxism, of its very nature, was, is and will always be the n enemy of all religion! As though the supposed silence peaceful exterior — if ever there was such a thing — were hing but the passing phase, the more deceitful and therefore e dangerous stage in its attack on religion! The Eastern pean countries are there for all the world to see; East Asia ere for all to see; and now, the cold-blooded massacre of hist Tibet is there for all to see. News dispatches from ese Communist sources, giving their version of the hound-of the Dalai Lama, have worn rather thin; some of the bub-have already been pricked and the hoax revealed! Every-e, religion is suppressed — because, according to Marxist ogy it is the "opium of the people." As long as religion epared to prostitute itself and be subservient to the anti-ious State, it is tolerated; the moment it exerts its rights, it is wiped out, as is being done to-day in Buddhist Tibet.

That is why we reject the plea of the "counter-offensive" r, always and everywhere, Communism has been and is st religion, and therefore against the Church. That too y we are frankly amazed at the new role assumed by these appointed champions of the purity of religion. What new d of Marxism is this that hugs religion to itself in a loving ace? Is this the pure, unadulterated milk of Marxist doc-? Do the Ceylon comrades find room for God and the an soul in their new and revised edition of *Das Kapital*?

Any man who claims that Marxism and Religion are com-ple, is either a knave or a fool. He does not know what he lking about, and had better go back and study both his xism and Religion. Or else he knows — and then he is a e. The people of this country must not fall a prey to the Trojan-horse tactics that made dupes and slaves of so many ons of people in Eastern Europe and Eastern Asia.

There are some questions we would wish to ask our local rades who pretend to be saviours of religion — do they ribe to the doctrines of the supreme pontiffs of Marxism o they not? Are they apostles of Marx, Engels and Lenin, e they not? Do they accept Lenin's teaching that Marxism absolutely atheistic and definitely hostile to all religion "n "Religion", that it is "relentlessly opposed to all reli- " or do they not?

It is surely a strange, dark world in which the Marxists live. we are not afraid to join issue with them in the dark, for—

"The men signed with the Cross of Christ  
Go daily in the dark."

# CURRENT COMMENT

by the Editor

## Crusaders of hatred!

FANATICS, of course, there will always be — men with a fixed and warped outlook, who will go about sowing their seeds of discord and hatred, regardless of the well-being of the community or the country to which they belong. Ceylon seems to be particularly generously gifted with this brand of human being — the fanatics who will keep on with zest and fervour, crusading in the cause of hatred!

The events of May and June of last year are still fresh in our minds; the heavy toll in terms of human life and misery can hardly be forgotten. The Crusaders of hatred carried all before them, and there was destruction wherever they went.

But they still refuse to learn the lesson; they still refuse to see the utter misery which they caused; and they continue — perhaps in different spheres, but with the same warped perspective, the same spirit of hatred, the same fanatical zeal.

Last week, we affirmed quite categorically what our stand was in the matter of the appointment of the I.G.P. We then said that the Church had no stakes whatsoever in the appointment of any particular person to the post; and we therefore repudiated with all the force of our command, the suggestions that the Church had been responsible for some scheming and plotting.

And yet, there are those who will continue their campaign of utter falsehood and calumny. In the course of a statement by Mr. S. D. Bandaranayake, he alleges that "the Catholic Hierarchy,

the imperialists and the reactionaries" were conspiring in this matter, "using the Prime Minister as their instrument." We reject this totally and absolutely. It is time that this campaign of mischief and vilification stopped; it is time that people at least tried to have a certain

go uncared for, the sick may be neglected, the orphan may be ignored. It matters little what happens to these unfortunates. But what does matter is that the Catholic Church should not succumb them!

A strange type of logic this — which in the name

As for public opinion in India — it has been most voluble and explicit on the rage of Buddhist Tibet.

And while all this is happening, while thousands of Lamas or monks are being imprisoned or deported to China's forced labour camps, while monasteries are being wiped out and Red China goes through the mockery of installing the Panchen Lama in place of the Dalai Lama, Buddhists in Ceylon still continue their silence.

What has astonished many was the zeal with which some monks have held meetings over the I.G.P. affair and even threatened to fast unto death; how others have held another demonstration, and threatened to "fight unto death" to save the Maldives Islands from "the imperialist clutch." But these lusty crusaders seem to be struck dumb when they confront the situation in Buddhist Tibet. Is it that Buddhism in Tibet means less to them than imperialism in the Maldives?

While reiterating our own strong condemnation of this further instance of Red tyranny and intolerance of religion, we wait and see — whether the fervour evinced by our Government and our Buddhist brethren where lesser issues are concerned will extend to the tragedy of Buddhist Tibet, as well.

An unusually strong public wave of protest in India is already producing results. Will the Prime Minister of Ceylon — he who only recently proclaimed that he would champion the cause of freedom everywhere — speak out his mind fearlessly when freedom is being assailed so flagrantly in a country so close to us?

## THE WEEK'S TOPICS

● Fanaticism rears its ugly head

● The Church under Red fire

● Tibet flare-up and Ceylon's verdict

degree of truthfulness and decency in their public morality.

## Let us build, not destroy!

WHILE on the subject of fanatics, mention must be made of another species of them in our midst. They all seem, however, to converge on one point — the old, old cry: *Carthago delenda est!* This time, it is the Catholic Church, which must at all costs, at whatever price, be wiped off.

Looking at the activities of certain persons, it would appear that all their energies are concentrated on this one focal point — the attack on the Church. Not for them, an activity that would build up; rather they will break down. Not for them, a religious outlook that spreads love; rather, it is the dissemination of hatred. The poor may suffer, the homeless may

of humanity and charity, will deny the unfortunate ones of society the care and the love which they receive! A perverted kind of assistance this, which in the name of religion, will do nothing themselves, but will hinder at all costs what others do at great sacrifice!

This has been the case with orphanages, it has been so with creches, with homes for girls, with homes for the aged — and with so many other charitable institutions that the Church conducts. And now the campaign has moved on to hospitals. One wonders where all this will end!

## Silence over Tibet

EVENTS in Tibet have been moving with a frightening rapidity over the past few days. The Dalai Lama has reached the safety of India, and Nehru himself, for all has caution, seems to be veering from his original position, and evincing more than mere verbal sympathy for Tibet.

# OLD FISHWIVES' TALES

HAVE you ever stopped to think why, as a Catholic, you do not eat meat on Fridays?

Of course, the Catechism will tell you that that was the day on which Our Lord died and that therefore, in order to chastise your body in commemoration of His death, you ought to abstain from the pleasures of meat-eating.

Come to think of it, all that is fuddy-duddy stuff, found only in the book and are you so nit-wit as to be taken in by it?

No, not you. You would rather be guided by a neat bit of research carried out by one of our local news sheets.

The public opinion poll, the principle of random sampling and the other devices of the professional statistician have been thrown overboard.

## Latest fish findings

Instead, you are served up on a plate with the latest findings on the subject, which would have caused Dr. Georg Gallup to bow out gracefully.

To get down to brass tacks, you are not to eat meat on one day of the week, because you must eat fish on that day;

## Polo Marco

examines the allegations, insinuations and reflections on the Church appearing in recent issues of local news-sheets

## ● Fish ● Fishers ● Fishing

and you must eat fish because the Catholic Church has a financial interest in the fishing industry.

Every fish that is caught alive from the deep blue sea rakes in the shekels, for the Vatican.

I must tell you something more which our local researchers failed to dig out.

When Christ chose his first followers, he selected many among the fisherfolk. This was nothing else than Providential provision for the material future of His followers.

They might have gone the whole hog and said so (I mean our local researchers), that this racket was conceived

with the coming into being of the Church itself.

What surprises me is that this injustice was perpetrated on a Community of men, the leader of whom considered it not worthy that he should be crucified erect like his Master.

He would rather be hanged upside-down, and to this day, in his memory, the seal which is used in signing Papal briefs is known as the Fisherman's Ring.

## The fish rent

Another contemporary, in helpless ignorance, does not know what answer the Catholic Church has, to meet the

straight charge made in regard to this exploitation of the fisherman. So here it goes.

The fish rent is primarily a system of social assistance to fishermen. It is only secondly a means of maintaining the local church.

That part of the fish rent goes to the building and maintenance of seaboard churches is admitted by both our accusers (one of them seems to think that all the rent goes to religious, and none to social purposes).

No part of it goes to the Archbishop or the Pope. They have other fish to fry. Neither is any fraction of it invested in any commercial undertaking.

In the Colombo Archdiocese the fish rent is paid in fifteen parishes, in the majority of which the rent does not exceed Rs. 2,000/- per year. In 1955, out of a total collection of about 2 lakhs in the 15 parishes, Rs. 107,000/- was given out as assistance to fishermen, Rs. 34,000/- was voted by the men to special purposes and the balance went towards maintaining churches.

Continued on page 7



## OFFICIAL NOTICES

### Ban on Sister Faustina's presentation of Devotion to the Merciful Heart of Jesus.

A DECREE of the Holy Office, dated 6 March 1959, published in the *Osservatore Romano* of 20 March states as follows:

"It is notified that the Supreme Sacred Congregation of the Holy Office having examined the alleged visions and revelations of Sister Faustina Kowalska of the Institute of Our Lady of Mercy, who died near Cracovia in 1938, has decreed:

1. That it must be forbidden to spread pictures and literature that present the devotion to Divine Mercy under the forms proposed by Sister Faustina herself.

2. That it must be left to the prudence of the Bishops to withdraw pictures of this description that may already have been set up for public veneration."

Accordingly, Parish Priests, Chaplains and Superiors of Communities must either see that all such pictures are withdrawn from public devotion or inform Us immediately under what circumstances such representations of Merciful Jesus (with the tri-coloured rays) have been publicly displayed in places under their responsibility.

For the rest, all persons under Our Jurisdiction will immediately place themselves in line with the ruling of the Holy Office.

It must, however, be carefully noted and well understood that what the Holy See has disapproved is not Devotion to the Mercy of Our Lord (already affirmed in Devotion to the Sacred Heart) but the new, unusual and (as now certain) unauthorised "forms" (i.e. visual aids, metaphors and literary expressions) in which this standard Devotion has recently been dressed up by Sister Faustina (whose visions the Holy Office declines to accept as proved genuine).

Thomas Cooray,  
O.M.I.,  
Archbishop of Colombo.

Given at Colombo.  
This 6th day of April 1959.



### Catholic Hospital

PLANS are now being drawn up for the Catholic Hospital which has for so long been impatiently awaited. We call upon not only the Catholics, but all well-wishers to support such a worthy cause. Subscription lists are now open, and contributions may be sent to the Procurator General. They will be acknowledged in every case.

Peter A. Pillai, O.M.I.,  
Vicar-General.

### NOTICE

The Catholic Press  
will be closed next  
Tuesday owing to the  
Sinhalese New Year

# JUBILEE DAY AT AQUINAS HALL

BY A MESSENGER REPORTER

IN an atmosphere of friendly and informal camaraderie, when ex-hostellers from every walk of life met once again in the home of yesteryear, Aquinas Hall celebrated its Silver Jubilee last Saturday evening. The Chief Guest of the evening was His Grace the Archbishop, the Most Rev. Dr. Thomas Cooray O.M.I., himself a past Warden of the Hostel.

The celebrations commenced with the arrival of His Grace the Archbishop, who was met by the Warden Fr. Eladio Neira and the President of the Jubilee Committee, Mr. Titus Fernando. Welcoming His Grace, Mr. Fernando said that it was doubtless a unique day for all Aquinians—for the past Wardens who could see today some of the fruits of their incessant labours, and hear again the old familiar voices responsible for so much of fun and also for so much of trouble in the days gone by; for the past hostellers themselves, meeting each other again in the old home after so many years.

His Grace in his reply said that he was very happy to be present on this unique occasion. Praise, he said, had been showered on him for being the builder of Aquinas Hall; in fact, however, it was Archbishop Couderc who was responsible for it. In a

speech full of humour, the Archbishop referred to recent happenings in the country, and appealed to all Hostellers, past and present to be true to the ideals of the Hostel—God and Fatherland.

There followed a group photograph, and then Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament imparted by His Grace at which the Te Deum was sung in thanksgiving. The inaugural meeting of the past hostellers union then took place, at which the following

were elected office-bearers.

Patron: His Grace the Archbishop of Colombo; Vice-Presidents: Rev. Frs. Peter A. Pillai, O.M.I. and S. I. Pinto, O.M.I.; Spiritual Director: Rev. Fr. Eladio Neira, O.P., the present Warden; President: Dr. Hilary Cruz; Vice-Presidents: Mr. G. I. O. M. Fernando and Mr. Emmanuel Muttukumaru; Secretary: J. H. Madawala; Treasurer: Mr. Gregory Silva; Unofficial Committee: Rev. Shelton Silva, Rev. Fr. Thomas Kuria-cose and Mr. George Jayamaha.

The celebrations ended on a gay note with a musical evening, and an informal dinner.

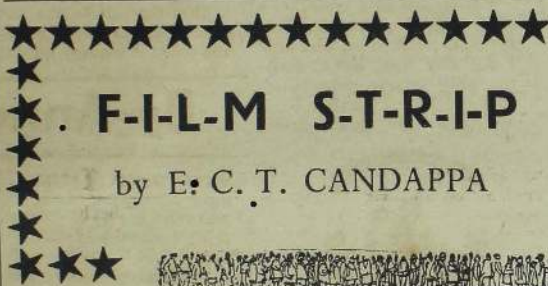
A Jubilee Souvenir commemorating the occasion, was distributed.

## Refresher Course

FATHERS following the Refresher Course at the National Seminary are kindly requested to bring with them a chalice, amice and purificator, towels and bed linen.

Reccor,

National Seminary of  
O. L. of Lanka.



ONE of the major assumptions on which the film industry seems to be built is that normal people leading average lives pay gladly to be frightened nearly out of their wits. Psychologically, it would appear that those leading humdrum lives seek to be thrilled vicariously.

The pattern of the thriller has remained basically the same, but the variations have been numerous. There is the detective thriller, where the physical and mental thrills are about evenly distributed; the psychological and psychic thriller; and thrillers about dangerous occupations which need no dressing up for exhibition. This type of film is so very common now until the taste for it inclines to become jaded.

Last week, however, there was a film which soared high above the common lot, revealed the pure delights of the well-made film of this type and caused a powerful thirst for more. This was "Chase a Crooked Shadow" at the Liberty Cinema. The film had these advantages on its side to begin with—a neatly constructed story with unsagging suspense as the main ingredient, and a breath-taking climax as the crowning virtue, an austere economy of cast which included Richard Todd, Anne Baxter and Herbert Lom, distinguished in their own right and equalling each other in splendid performances, and the assistance of evidently talented technical men.

The film uses unusual camera angles to good effect, to

heighten the prevailing mood and to accentuate the dramatic significance of particular actions. Rarely indeed have I seen atmosphere created with such uncanny accuracy, with such eerie success, with such artistic brilliance, with such eminently good taste as in this film. The effects are largely visual, with little reliance on gimmicks. When sound is used for the purpose, it is a common sighing sound—the wind, the sea or a guitar—the last mentioned being as effective as the zither in the "Third Man."

It is produced by Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., a screen idol until recently, and is brilliantly directed by Michael Anderson. It is rich cinema fare.

In a different class but of the same type was "The Fly" screened at the New Olympia Theatre. This belongs to the straight horror film, or at least it was boosted as such. The intention here is more blatantly to scare, the devices therefore are less subtle and the result more naive than in the psychological thriller, for instance.

I dare say people have got quite used to seeing monsters of all sizes and shapes on the screen to be frightened by the mere sight of them alone. The dull variation that they come from "outer space" does not seem to cut much ice, either. What is required to make a film of this type a success is a strong, original and plausible story, in the first place. Which, I greatly regret to say, "The Fly" did

not have. It was not so original to begin with. The Jekyll and Hyde comparison springs to the mind, and the original even without reference to electronics and the re-integration of disintegrated atomic particles was more plausible than the modern variation. Careful cinema goers could have shot the story full of holes about contradictions and improbabilities within the given data. The film makes a brief attempt to answer the moral questions that would suggest themselves to a God-fearing inventor; but unfortunately almost everything in the film has been made to the scale of the title insect. Just one more comment. The film could have stood on its own, but it certainly did not warrant the gimmick in the Theatre foyer about signing declarations that patrons will not hold the management responsible if they die of shock or something. They might have saved it for a better film.

At a time when cinema managers are cutting down the "shorts" in order to make room for advertisements, this column would like to signify approval of the Liberty management which provides good shorts at every show, thus playing fair by the cinema goer, the cinema's chief patron. Just as an exercise, check your watch when you are at a cinema next and see how much of the time before the main film starts, is taken up by advertisements.

## Obituary

### Very Rev. Fr. Francis Perera

ON Easter Sunday, as the bells were ringing in joyous accord, summoning the faithful to sing the praises of the Pascal Victim, Very Rev. Fr. Francis C. Perera, Parish Priest and Vicar Forane of Kurunegala, passed away to his eternal reward. For a man of harmonies and a priest whose life was a joyous immolation of himself, a more auspicious day could not have been found to present himself before his Lord and Master. Although our recollections of the day he left us is sad and tearful, his account of it may be somewhat in the words of Mary of Magdala,

"I beheld the glory bright  
Of the rising Lord of light:  
Christ my hope is risen again;  
Now He lives, and lives to reign."

Father Francis was born on the 4th June 1902 at Wannappuwa, of a family which gave us a saintly and simple priest, like the late Fr. Norbert Perera, O.M.I., his uncle, and a musician and scholar like Fr. Ignatius Perera of St. Joseph's College. Fr. Francis' only sister is a Religious in the Congregation of the Holy Family.

After passing the London Matriculation, Fr. Francis entered St. Bernard's Seminary, Borella, for his ecclesiastical studies, and was ordained priest on 25th January 1927. His first appointment was to St. Joseph's College, his old school. There he was choir master and taught Latin, English and a few other subjects, besides shouldering the responsibilities of the College boarding house. One of his past pupils, now a priest and a journalist, recalling the days he had studied under him, says: "Fr. Francis Perera worked in the boarding house and was in charge of the singing as well. Like his younger brother, the musical genius and radio wizard Fr. Ignatius Perera, Fr. Francis too had music in his blood. His sternness of visage was in inverse proportion to his inner goodness; nevertheless this sternness of visage coupled with his deep, booming voice earned for him the affectionate nickname of 'billa.' As I said, music seemed to run in the family, and Fr. Francis made a splendid job of the choir."

In 1935, Fr. Francis left the College for Pamunugama, where he worked as an assistant priest till 1935. He was parish priest of Awaysawella and Nalavallana, and in 1942 was placed in charge of the mission of Puttalam and the ecclesiastical district, as Vicar Forane. Puttalam is an extensive parish, with a large number of small churches and congregations, scattered over the undeveloped area from the Kala Oya to Madurankuliya.

and the Ponparippu Pattu. The life of a missionary here is not easy; the climate is hot and the country wild, and, in his day, malaria was rampant; most of the presbyteries were nothing more than small mud huts tenanted by bats and uncared-for crawling things in the priest's absence. It was altogether rough going there. But Fr. Francis went through all for the love of his Divine Master and the souls entrusted to him. He was often seen on the road of the Puttalam district, driving a noisy old car on his visits to his poor flock.

As it was necessary for him to know Tamil to fulfil his ministry well, he took to it with determination. He learned the Italian language to minister to the Italian war-prisoners at the Attavi camp. He gathered together the school children and taught them to sing even Perce Masses. In fact, he was a music maker at all the festivities in his deanery. To the priest of his district, he was more of an elder brother than a superior, and to his assistant, a comrade-in-arms. They loved him as a looked-up to him in their difficulties, and he did not fail them.

In January 1953, he became the parish priest of Kurunegala town and the Vicar Forane of the district. Here too he did not spare himself. In addition to the town parish, he took two of the churches of the stations, as he loved the poor and the destitute. The spacious school of Malakaduwana, on the outskirts of the town, is his work.

As in Puttalam, so in Kurunegala, he paid special attention to the choir. The orphans who were so well trained by him that they could tackle with ease not only plain-chant, but also polyphonic music of Palestrina or Perce. He was the soul of music, and the earth closed over his body some one remarked, "We buried much music today."

Father Francis was venerated by his parishioners as a kind and self-sacrificing priest, who could not refuse any one's service, and who never turned a beggar from his door. Brother-priests loved him as an unfailing friend and a pleasant companion. His was a devoted life, dedicated to his calling. So they all gathered to weep over him, when he laid him to rest in a grave in the church where he served. The vast crowd of Catholic and non-Catholic who attended his funeral, and the 85 priests who chanted his obsequies, were unanimous that he was a well-loved of his Divine Master and well-loved of his fellow priests and one whose memory is a benediction.

Frater, ave atque vale!

## People and Events UNIVERSITY DON'S PLAY

THERE are University dons—and dons! The particular who has stormed his way into these columns is Basil Mendis who, according to reports reaching us, has had resounding success with his first venture in Catholic drama, "Little Madonna."

A Maryknoll Sister sends us this appreciation of the play which was put on the boards in Kandy recently:

Basil Mendis has written and produced a morality play of depth and entertainment. Maria, a simple peasant girl, instructs delightfully—although surrounded by sin and temptation that the governing faculty, the will, resisted both. She was rewarded with martyrdom. Suffering was not averted—only sin.

The temptations of Alessandro and Maria were portrayed realistically as were the wiles of the devil. The conflict between poor and rich was none the less instructive because of its subtlety. There was an excellent contrast shown between the serenity of the angel, representing those who walk with God, and the agitation of the devil, represent-

ative of those who rebel against Him. The script, because of its simplicity, was clear, beautiful and thought-provoking.

### The cyclist's prayer

JUST as there is the prayer of motorists, do you know that there is a prayer for cyclists? I've just seen it on the Fly Card of the Junior K.C.Y.M. Cycle Club.

Founded on 8 March 1958, the K.C.Y.M.A. Cycle Club will have its Easter Holy Week Camp on 11 and 12 April at Pitipana, Duwa.

The members of the Club will start off from St. Lucia's Cathedral Square, Perera, about 5-30 a.m. W

TURN TO BACK PAGE



# BETWEEN LIFE AND AGONY

Hall. It was difficult to differentiate between the patients brought in for admission and the relatives. They all stared at me balefully and there was a trapped look in their eyes.

"Good morning, Father," the reception clerk said, and his voice sounded dead. "You may go in."

I went down a long dim corridor. From the recreation hall half way down emerged discordant sounds of music. As I passed the door I saw a woman at the piano, her hair trailing down her back, her face alight with vacuous pleasure. The song she sang had no relation whatsoever to the tune she played. Poor soul, I thought, God help her. She

Any resemblance to people or places in this story is purely co-incidental.

It was a dank, drizzling day as I went through the Asylum gates to visit Marian. The building looked more like a prison than ever before with the rain beating upon its high massive walls, and the innumerable rows of barred windows. There were puddles of muddy water in the courtyard and I had to step gingerly over them. This is all wrong I thought, what the mentally ill need is God's green acres and colour.

There were a few groups of people in the Reception



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was probably trying to recapitulate her past.

As I reached the women's section I tried not to be nauseated by the dreadful stench that assailed my nostrils. Hundreds of women of various ages were gathered behind bars and there was torment written on many of the faces. Here and there I encountered groups of the less insane who wandered about freely. They watched me, stealthily as I passed, or mocked me with derisive laughter. One of them grabbed at my cassock. "Father help me," she whimpered. "I am a green, why do they keep me here?"

"I shall pray for you," I said as I passed on quickly.

I SCALED flight after flight of stairs, with the noise growing worse at each storey before I finally reached the topmost floor. It was quieter here in the barred verandah. The attendant took me in to Marian's room and left us.

## ● Marian

Marian was seated on the bed. She smiled wanly as she saw me. "Father, I am so glad you have come. They took my Rosary away from me. They were afraid I would swallow it, the fools!"

"You can still say your rosary on your fingers, Marian," I said, as I took the chair she proffered me. "And how are you today?"

"As well as may be expected in the circumstances. If only I didn't hear and see those dreadful mad women.

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Yesterday my attendant beat me up. I suppose she thought I was getting violent. I am certainly scared of her. Tell me, have you been seeing my husband?"

"Well," — I began.

"You must never let him come here," she interrupted. I hate him so. You know it was he who sent me here, don't you? Shall I tell you about it?"

I had heard the story before, but I let her talk. The mentally ill need sympathy and they get so little of it.

"Tell me, Marian," I said. "It is a sordid story, Father. Elmer was so wonderful before I married him and I did love him, but it took me only a few months to discover I was wedded to a drunkard. He would drink



surreptitiously at first, but he couldn't fool me. Then he did it openly, defiantly, until it came to such a pass that he was drunk all through Saturday afternoon and right into Sunday. His Church and his God were completely forgotten. I was patient at first. Then I began to nag.

"Wake up," I would scream at him. "It is Sunday morning. Aren't you going to Mass?"

"Go yourself" he would shout back "you are just a hypocrite!"

## ● Abandoned

After work on week days he would join his pals at some no-good club and come home unsteady.

There were some dreadful scenes. He began to beat me up. My body was often a mass of bruises.

I stopped praying. I stopped going to church. "There is no God," I said to myself. Often I wished I could leave the man. But I had nowhere to go. You know I am an orphan.

Then one pay day he did not come home. I made inquiries and found that he was at a gambling den where the proprietor stood his patrons free drinks and robbed them of their money.

When Elmer eventually returned after three days he hadn't a cent of his pay left. I raved at him and he thrashed me so badly I had to fly from his wrath and seek

shelter in a neighbour's house. We managed that month on what we could pawn.

## ● Darkness.

I shall never forget the day when he came home and told me he had lost his job. I had known it was coming to that. I sat in my room in the dark, numbed and miserable, not talking, just gazing into space.

Elmer was no consolation. He was out of the house most



of the day and would come always come back drunk.

One day I left the house and made my way towards the sea. It was my intention

holics Anonymous."

He was one of the worst cases we had ever handled. There were times we despaired of bringing him round. In fact we had to have a member of the A.A. night and day beside him. It is only those who have gone through the nightmarish throes themselves who can realise what an ordeal it is to make a come-back from drink. Sixty per cent of the A.A. are men and women who have been redeemed themselves. Elmer got all the sympathy and the strength he needed, and at long last he came round.

When he was quite healed we got him a job. He kept constantly asking to see Marian, but we bade him wait.

Marian had been in the Asylum for six months when she was transferred to a new ward for convalescents. At length the day arrived for her discharge.

I lodged her with a devout Catholic family and every Wednesday she attended the Marian Novenas. She told me one day that she felt it was her duty to be reconciled to her husband, even though he was a drunkard. She had been remiss, she said, and

By Annette Swan

to and it all. But my mind must have gone blank somewhere on the way. The next thing I knew was that I was here."

Marian began to weep now, and I consoled her as best I could. The time was not ripe to tell her about Elmer. In time I would. I blessed her and left.

I KNEW, of course, how Marian had been found wandering the streets and how the Police had taken her to the Asylum.

The first time I heard her story, I went in search of Elmer. He had sold every bit of furniture and clothing he possessed for drink. Eventually I discovered him among the hangers-on around a public tavern. He would have none of my help. But I was patient. I gave him my address and asked him to come and see me when he was ready.

## ● Alcoholics A

He came in the end and I gave him in charge of "Alco-

## ALTAR BREADS

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# messenger SCHOOLS MAG

Vol. 2 No. 8

Saturday, 11th April, 1959

FREE

## THIS WEEK'S PEN-GEM

This week's "Pen-Gem" comes from Orlean Jacobs of 67/6, Railway Avenue, Nugegoda. Orlean wins the book prize for the "Pen-Gem" of the week. Fifty-one more prize books are offered for "Pen-Gems" during the next 51 weeks. Full details about "Pen-Gems" appear below.

## MY EASTER COMMUNION

THE third day has dawned and Christ has risen! "Therefore let us feast in the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth," were the words that kept ringing in my mind as I walked up to the communion rails, to receive the Body and Blood of Our Risen Christ, on that Sunday of Sundays — Easter Sunday.

A sudden idea flashed across my mind and I raised my head to survey the "altar-rails." I beheld a flock of communicants, consisting of the young and old, the rich and poor. Yes! They all had come to welcome the risen Saviour, to pay their tribute to the King of kings, with souls which were made clean and pure and as white as snow, by the blood which gushed from the side of our dead Christ — that blood which washes away the darkest stain of sin.

The radiance which shone in

receive Him after the mental and physical torture He went through. When our Father does enter our souls, may we

for which we are heading. Let not the thorns and the winding road dishearten us. But may we carry our cross, with faith and hope and keep on climbing till we reach the top as you did carry your cross to Golgotha, for our sake. That was the prayer I was saying when I awoke from that Easter Sunday reverie. I awoke in the nick of time,

by  
**ORLEAN JACOBS**

(Schools-Mag No. 1519)

shelter Him there forever and may our souls be havens and homes of bliss for Him.

O Lord, give us the grace to always 'feast in the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth' so that you could reign forever in our souls, leading us to our goal

for the altar-boy had placed the communion plate under my chin, and Our King was to enter the little home I had prepared for Him. It was my turn to welcome the risen Saviour! "O Lord, I am not worthy that Thou shouldst come to me."



their souls, lit up their faces as well, as all eyes were fixed on the altar and every lip quivered with prayer. That peace reigned in every heart I felt certain.

I thought how happy our Saviour must be to see so many of us, with souls overflowing with sanctifying grace, ready to

## A PRIZE EVERY WEEK FOR 51 WEEKS

In order to encourage good, effective, original writing, the Schools-Mag (which now appears weekly) is in the process of giving away a book prize every week for the next 51 weeks.

The best literary attempt to be published every week which, in the opinion of the Editor, merits recognition will be starred as "The PEN-GEM of the Week." The writers of these "Pen-gems" will each get a prize-book.

There are no hard rules to be followed, and no entry fees. What we want is good and effective writing. Pen-gems may be in either prose or verse.

Writers are reminded that it will be useful for them to remember the Schools-Mag's Motto: RELIGION, EDUCATION, RECREATION. Under these three spheres they have a very wide field of subjects covered, to write on.

## COMPETITION PRIZES

## A PRIZE FOR THE BEST LIMERICK!

READER Geo. P. Solomons of Dehiwela writes:

"I offer you my profound thanks for making the Schools-Mag a weekly feature. This was something I agitated for many times since you first introduced it in the Catholic Messenger."

Now I sincerely hope that all children will really cherish the gift bestowed on them. A golden opportunity is afforded and it is up to them to grasp it with both hands and derive the full benefits both mentally and spiritually. Its pages no doubt will serve as the ideal nursery for young writers of today to blossom forth as literary giants of the future.

God bless your efforts and those who assist you in this feature.

In appreciation I am offering a prize for the best limerick sent in by your members. Below are the details."

## LIMERICK COMPETITION

There was a non-Catholic gent from Negombo,  
Who travelled by train up to Colombo,  
A kind fellow passenger,  
Lent him a 'Messenger,'

Children are requested to compose a last line to the above limerick. A prize of Rs. 5/- will be awarded to the best entry. All entries should reach me on or before the 21st April, 1959. Please address all entries to:—

Geo. P. Solomons,  
No. 7, Windsor Avenue, Dehiwela.

## Schools-Mag Enrolment Form

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ADDRESS.....

SCHOOL.....

DATE AND YEAR OF BIRTH.....

Put this out and post the completed form to the Editor, SCHOOLS-MAG, Catholic Press, Borhla, to get your Membership card and number.

## Introducing our PETS' CORNER



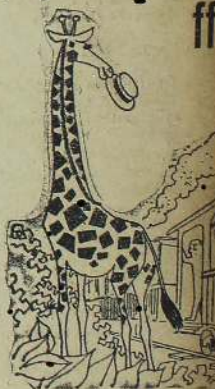
## Wild Animals and their Babies

WHEN fawns are born in the spring the does leave the herds for a time and retire to some sheltered spot where the little ones are safe from prowling beasts. Fawns are sturdy babies. In a few weeks their strong legs can carry them well as they trot after their mothers in the sheltered valley. Soon the does return to the herds, bringing the new fawns to meet the older children. They all soon overcome their shyness and skip

about as the herd begins to move off again.

MOTHER Gorilla takes very good care of her children. While they are babies she carries them about wherever she goes and the tiny apes cling fast to her fur as she is climbing about in the trees. Father Gorilla, however, is hardly a devoted parent. When the children are young he does not mind them about, but when they grow up he drives them away from home. They must fend for themselves and not worry him. While they are at home the mother and the young sleep above in the branches where there is no danger from prowling beasts. The father sleeps down below on the ground. It would indeed be a daring one who would molest him.

Here is  
mother Giraffe



THE mother giraffe has one baby at a time. The fawn is all legs and neck and very little body. The young ones do not stay with the mother all the time, but three or four of them will be put in charge of a couple of grown-ups. They are happy youngsters. They spend hours licking one another or chasing their friends among the trees or bushes. If danger comes — as when a lion approaches — the mother is very brave. She gets the baby under her body in the space between her fore and hind legs. As the lion prowls around she turns her head always to face him, ready to shoot out her strong kick. Her kick is the only means of defence she has, but the lion fears it, and has been known to turn and go away after spending an hour waiting for a chance to leap at her from the side.





# Schools-Mag

Continued from page 9



Schools-Mag member Therese Peter of Holy Family Convent affina, sounds a note of warning to the youth of our land.

## WE MUST ACT— before it is too late

TODAY this country lies amidst great chaos and on the verge of ruin. There may be various reasons for the cause of this upheaval but the root cause of this is lack of fraternal love which unites a nation in peace and harmony.

So we, as Catholic youths, must follow the foot prints of Christ and be active in replanting the grain of love amongst the hearts of our fellowmen. We as followers of Christ must set an example to the others, eradicating from our hearts the inherent evil qualities and must promote true friendship between the diverse races irrespective of caste or creed, thus uplifting the country from the verge of destruction to one bearing peace and tranquillity.

This country is welcoming the enemies of God with glory, being blind to their cunning

means of destructive influence so as to promote easy admittance to the channels of their policy of administration.

We must be alert to the snares set by the Reds to captivate our hearts and deviate them from God. We must visualise their policy and act wisely in accordance with our Catholic principles. Therefore we must oppose vehemently any proposal to divert us to a different faith, and thereby prevent the country going to the dogs.

In attempting to create peace and harmony in the country, first we should be at peace with ourselves in heart, and before we impart means of perfection to others, we must be perfect in self; then those who listen to us would appreciate our perfection and in turn would strive to achieve their goal in life.

## A Thought FOR THE WEEK

The Schools-Mag published recently how wonderfully the Altar Boys at Boralesssa celebrated the Feast of the school boy saint, Dominic Savio. Here is a thought for every teen-age boy in Ceylon:

The Feast is over. But its message? ... Well, it seems it has yet a long way to go. Would that this Saint were better known in our schools! There is no lack of generous hearts among our children. Many a youngster would be proud to follow the trail of their hero. Only let him be recognized as the Patron Saint of our school children. And they will surely rise to the occasion. Then indeed will Lanka have her own Dominic Savio ... May the Lord hasten the Day! ...

Readers of the Schools-Mag will remember that reference was made in these columns to teen-agers who had decided to enter the Religious Life.

This week the Schools-Mag has received very welcome news from one who is already on her way to the Novitiate of the alvatorian Sisters at Rome. He writes the following letter on board the S.S. Orsova on the high seas, especially for the Schools-Mag members:

"My dear friends of the Schools-Mag, — I am writing just a few lines to let you know how happy I am now, after having chosen Jesus as my spouse. Do you know it was mostly due to the Schools-Mag and especially after reading our dear Uncle Ashley's articles?

Now I, with my other companion, am on board the ship Orsova "on my way to Rome, to join the Novitiate to become a Salvatorian Sister.

"Dear friends, don't you think a great privilege to go to Rome and a still greater privilege to become Jesus' own forever? Thank God for giving me the grace of a vocation and our dear Uncle Ashley for every-thing he has done for me.

Please do pray for us, dear friends, that we may be ever faithful to Jesus, our spouse. You too, my dear friends of the Schools-Mag, are always in my prayers.

## Birthday Corner

A Happy Birthday to the following members who will be celebrating their birthday this week.

APRIL 11-17

April 11: N. Paul (Kurana).

12: Victorine de Silva (Kalutara), Franklyn Pereira (Kandy), Yvonne Fernando (Maradana), Sharon Kehelele (Kelaniya), Marguerite de Silva (Nugegoda), Mignon Hardie (Colombo 5), L. Kirthisinghe, (Negombo).

13: Herma Kommankada (Kandy), Amelia Gomez (Bandarawela), Rose Benedict (Mt. Lavinia), Joan Brohier (Thimbirigasyaya), Herman Wannappa (Kotahena), Kanthie Navaratne (Colombo 8), Bridget Fernando (Moratuwa), Therese Abeyratna (Borella), Dawn Britto (Angoda), Yvonne Wambeck (Lunuwila), Ranjit Manathunga (Moratuwa).

14: Margie Rodrigo (Kandy), Ranjit de Mel (Colombo 15), Trevor Fernando (Batalawana), Ann Koelmeyer (Colombo 6), Audrey Nugara (Dehiwela), Edmund Wambeck (Lunuwila).

15: Chrysanthia Stainwall (Kurunegalla), M. Kodithuwakku (Matale), Peter Gooneratne (Colombo 2), Sibill Wilter Brau (Puttalam).

16: Mary Fernando (Moratuwa), Cecilia Ratnam (Ratnapura), Norma de Silva (Dehiwela), Miriam Cofera (Dehiwela), R. Mirando (Wellawatte), Rita Fernando (Kotahena), Travis Moldrich Nugegoda.

17: Susan Swan (Dehiwela), Stanley Fernando (Navalapitiya), Manel Perera (Wakala), Joy Paes (Colombo 12), Doreen Perera (Mt. Lavinia), J. L. F. de Silva (Galle), Shirley Paiva (Bambalapitiya).

## BIRTH QUAKES!

Bill: A tramp came up to me and said that he hadn't had a bite in two days.

Sam: So what did you do?

Bill: Bit him of course.

Sent by Robert Nelson.

TALKS  
WITH

Juniors



## In this sign you shall conquer!

My dear children,

I wonder if you have heard the beautiful story about the Emperor Constantine and the cross that blazed in the sky. The mighty Emperor on the eve of a big battle saw a huge cross in the sky and beneath it were these words: "in hoc signo vinces" — in this sign you shall conquer. The Emperor forthwith ordered that the cross should adorn his standard and be upon his crown and sceptre and upon the helmet of every soldier ... and true to his vision he routed his enemies in a glorious victory.

Dear teen-agers, all of us would do well to write those words: "in this sign you shall conquer" all over our hearts.

Often enough we, fail to grasp the purpose of suffering; the meaning of the cross. Often enough we grumble when the weight of the cross presses heavy upon us; we burn within when the shadow of the Cross is upon us, nay we even curse the Divine Hand that carpentered for us our crosses.

When our hearts are heavy with the burden of the Cross, let us remember "in this sign we shall conquer." When our eyes are wet with tears and our lips are pressed against a bitter cup of woe, let us remember "in this sign we shall conquer." Nay when we seem crushed and forlorn and engulfed as it were in a limitless sea of suffering, let us remember "in this sign we shall conquer." Yes, dear teen-agers, in this sign did Constantine conquer, in this sign did Christ Himself conquer, and in this sign shall we be numbered amongst the conquerors of the Lord.

May the crucified Lord teach you to love His Cross and help you to keep smiling as you tread the way of the cross. This is the best lesson we could learn on Easter-morn. If there was no Cross there would have been no empty tomb; if there was no tragic Good Friday there would have been no Easter Dawn. Even as I wish you all the joys of the Risen Lord, may He lead you to the glory of life through the death of suffering well-borne.

Always in Jesus and Mary,

UNCLE ASHLEY.



Colombo 13.

Dear Editor,

I consider the News items in the Messenger Schools-Mag very interesting.

May God bless the Members of our Club.

Pius Jurie.

Dear Pius,

Here's an idea, Pius: send us news items that will interest readers of this page. — Editor.



Trincomalee.

Dear Editor,

Whilst sending you my enrolment form I wish to introduce myself to you as Neville Davidson (No. 2182) and my sister Marlene Davidson (No. 1572). My brother and I are old boys of St. Benedict's College, Kotahena, and today we celebrate the first anniversary of our arrival in beautiful Trincomalee.

We are very happy here. The school, its teachers and our class mates are as pleasant as our dear ones we left behind.

Good luck to you and all my fellow members.

Neville Davidson.



Mutwal.

Dear Editor,

Please enrol me as a member of this popular club. I have many hobbies but my favourites are reading and songs.

Marian de Silva.

Dear Marian,

Welcome to you! Can you tell us more about your favourite hobbies? The other members will sure like it! — Editor.



Dehiwela.

Dear Editor,

I wanted to join the Schools-Mag from a long time and I am very happy that I am doing so now. I am also very happy as the Mag appears every week now. I read it regularly and as soon as the postman brings it, I am enclosing enrolment forms for my self, my brother and sister.

Malkanti Perera.

Dear Malkanti,

We are happy to enrol you. Keep in touch with us by writing to this page often. — Editor.

Teacher: From which side does the sun rise Sam?

Sam: From the East.

Teacher: Then, if you stand facing the sun, what is at the back of you?

Sam: It is my shadow!

Sent by Patrick I. Jansz.

## GREATEST COWBOY

From out of the West come many tales of daring cowboys. But the most famous is Pecos Bill — the greatest cowboy of all.

When Pecos was only a baby he bounced out of a covered wagon and was lost. But a friendly family of wolves adopted him, and he lived with them for many years. In fact, until he was 18 years old, he thought he was a wolf. It took a lot of talking to convince him that he



was really a human being.

Pecos Bill could do almost anything. He could ride the wildest horse bareback. He could lasso a running steer as far away as a man could see. He could even lasso an eagle in the air.

Bill would ride on anything. Some people say that his favour-

ite was a wild horse named Widow-Maker. But others say that he liked best to ride a big yellow mountain lion. (He used a live rattlesnake for a riding whip). One day a roaring cyclone came along. Bill decided he would like to ride that, too. And he did — all the way to California and back!



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be healthy  
and strong

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## IN MEMORIAM



**Bernadette Jayasundere**  
Born 8 June 1925  
Died 11 April 1955

Just like a dew-drop on a lotus leaf  
How brief was your life-time too —  
Here in our heart's deep silences we keep  
Your memory and pray for you.

A Requiem High Mass will be sung for the repose of her soul at All Saints' Church, Borella, at 6.30 a.m. on Saturday 11 April 1959.

'The Haven',  
Gregory's Road,  
Colombo 7.

**Doris Walles**  
Died 10-4-54.

Five lonely years thy absence we have borne,  
None can fill the void at home  
Unforgotten, unforgettable, as the days go past  
Only a beautiful memory to treasure in our aching hearts.  
Affectionately remembered by her sorrowing husband and children.  
145, Munnakkara, Negombo.



**Sheila de Mel**  
Died 14-4-56

Three years today, since you left us  
To be God's beautiful angel,  
Sweet innocent child  
Of whom we loved and can never forget  
How fondly, how dearly and how well  
God loved you too and thought it best  
To take you home with him to rest.  
Fondly missed by parents, brother, sister and brother-in-law.  
Requiem Mass at 6 a.m., on 13-4-59, at St. Mary's Church, Dehiwela.  
Your kind prayers are requested.  
That she may rest in peace.  
Muhandiram Lane, Dehiwela.

"This alone I beg of you my friends that you may be mindful of me at the Throne of God"

In loving memory of  
**Francis Paul Andriesz**  
Died 15-4-1956

Inserted by Daddy, Mummy, Mark, and Therese.  
24/1 Mayfield Lane, Colombo 13.



**Nedra Nathan**  
Born 8.4.57  
Died 29.9.58

Inserted by loving parents and grand parents.



**Mrs. M. Leela Gertrude Nanayakkara**  
(Beloved wife of Ewald Nanayakkara)

Born 9th Nov. 1923  
Died 11th April 1956

Eternal rest grant unto her Oh Lord  
And let perpetual light shine upon her  
May she rest in peace. Amen.  
A Requiem High Mass for the repose of her soul will be sung at 6-15 a.m., on Saturday, the 11th April, 1959, at St. Sebastian's Church, Moratuwa. Your kind presence and prayers are solicited.  
(Affectionately remembered by her sorrowing husband).

"Church View,"  
Maggona.



**Therese**  
(Mrs. P. M. Pieris nee Jayaweera)

Called to rest on 16-4-58  
Just one year since you rested in Peace  
Soon to rise in Heavenly Bliss  
To add to the number of saints above  
God took from us whom He loved.  
From your Home on skies, we pray,  
To cast a look of love to say  
You wait for us in Heavens so high  
When the call of God shall take us nigh  
There to meet and ne'er to part,  
Dearest Therese, we shall come at last.

A Requiem High Mass will be sung on 16th April, 1959, at Holy Cross Church, Gampaha. Inserted by her sorrowing husband, children, parents, brother and sisters.  
"Roseneath," Gampaha.

## THANKSGIVINGS

**MY** grateful thanks to St. Rita for two favours granted.  
Hyacinth. 21

**MY** humble and grateful thanks to St. Gerard Majella 'the Saint of happy deliveries' for favour granted.  
Mrs. Matel Sanghadasa. 23

**MY** grateful thanks to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, St. Joseph, Sister Alphonsa and Blessed Martin for good news from abroad.  
22

**RELATED** thanks to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, St. Anthony and St. Jude for many favours received.  
A.B.C.A. 24

**THANKS** to St. Rita for favour received through her intercession.  
G. E. 41

## PERSONAL

**A** Catholic family in distress requires financial assistance. Will any kind lady or gentleman help them alleviate some of their suffering? "Despair" No. 31, c/o Catholic Press, Borella.

**TAMIL-TRAINED** Catholic Lady Teacher at Matala Convent desires to exchange place with a similar teacher in a school in Colombo. Contact: No. 34, c/o Catholic Press, Borella.

## FOR SALE

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## Abbe Pierre

Continued from page 3

people were reduced to such a level.

## World's tragedy

We must have the courage to look these things in the face, to let them really hurt us and make us look into ourselves and ask ourselves whether we have gone mad, whether we have turned cowardly and betrayed our duty, as human beings, to our brothers.

How can you expect mothers living in conditions like these, thousands of them — for there are ten thousand families in and around Paris living on conditions like these — to be able to organise a demonstration and come out in the streets with placards demanding redress? Their blow has been dealt them at such a humiliating level, in such an intimate fibre of their being, that they are reduced to silence.

## Queen of Heaven

Continued from page 5

sions, covered with bed sores and not able to move about. And then I grow restive and impatient and ask God why I, seventeen and full of life, should be struck down like this. And then my Rosary encircled arm touches the bed and as the beads did into my flesh I bow my head and ask Mary to give me peace of mind and bodily ease, and invariably I fall into a peaceful doze.

My mother, tortured by anxiety about my daddy's paralysis and my condition and carrying the burden of a large family on her slight shoulders, travels twice daily to hospital with my meals, standing in queues, in the burning heat and walking more than a couple of miles, but still keeping on. How does she do it? And always with a cheerful smiling face — the wonder of the nurses, patients and attendants. It is extraordinary, but I know the secret. Her favourite and almost only prayer these days is the *Memorare*. No wonder she is at peace in spite of almost insuperable difficulties.

I cannot end this article without mention of our saintly Pius XII's intense devotion to the Blessed Virgin. He was her greatest admirer on earth. During his pontificate, which was so full of

The tragedy of this world lies in its being divided between unseeing power and powerless knowledge.

These speeches are reproduced in serial form from the book "ABBE PIERRE SPEAKS" (price 12sh. 6d.) by kind permission of the publishers, Messrs Sheed & Ward Ltd., 33 Maiden Lane, London, W. C. 2.

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**LANE'S Nuwara Eliya**

difficulties and hard work he took time off from rest hours to write beautiful papers to his Beloved Queen, encyclicals, and to define Dogma of the Assumption. How did this saintly and ascetic man keep on in spite of being seriously ill and being known as the "Martyr out the Nails?" Surely drew courage and peace from Mary, Queen of Peace.

Catholic  
School From

Circular No. 17 of 1959,  
Education Department,  
Malay Street,  
Colombo 2  
9th March, 1959

To Managers and Head Teachers of all Assisted Schools, S.S.C. Students in Assisted Vernacular and Bilingual and English Schools

Subject to the provisions of Clause 39 A of the Code of Assisted Vernacular and Bilingual Schools and Clause 3 of the Code for Assisted English Schools in regard to the eligible pupils, it has been decided for an Arts Student the period allowed in the S.S.C. G.C.E. Class is four years. Students will have to leave S.S.C./G.C.E. Class four years after the date of entering S.S.C./G.C.E. preparatory Class. However, the period allowed for an Arts Student may be extended by another year under special circumstances provided the Head of the School concerned make a recommendation.

2. In regard to a student offering Science subjects, normal period allowed in S.S.C./G.C.E. Class is five years. However, it may be extended to the sixth year under special circumstances (providing the Head of the School concerned make a recommendation).

3. A Science Student is who takes at least 3 of the following subjects:—

Chemistry, Botany, Physics, Zoology, Biology, Pure Mathematics or Elementary Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, Advanced Mathematics.

4. Please note to comply with this decision as far as possible subject to the limitations set by the Code Provisions already mentioned.

(Sgd.) S. F. de Silva  
Director of Education  
D. J. Rajapathirana,  
Assistant Director.

Circular No. 18 of 1959,  
Education Department,  
Malay Street,  
Colombo 2  
9th March, 1959

To Managers of all Assisted Vernacular (Swabasha) Schools, Higher School Certificate Class in Swabasha Schools

Further to my Circular No. of 1958, on the above subject, I have the honour to inform you that for the present H.S. Classes in Swabasha should be started in Assisted Vernacular Schools.

(Sgd.) S. F. de Silva  
Director of Education  
D. J. Rajapathirana,  
Assistant Director.

English Assistant Teacher Certified Examination Those Uncertificated Teachers in Colombo Archdiocese, who have passed in the above mentioned Examination and in Practical Test should communicate with the Commissioner of Examinations and try to obtain their certificates.

These certificates are available the same should be forwarded to me for their re-appointment on the new qualification. The appointments cannot be approved without knowing effective date of the certificate.

Philip C. Dissanayake, O.M.  
Gen. Mgr., R. C. Schools  
Colombo



In his first Easter Message, Pope John XXIII makes

## APPEAL TO WORLD LEADERS FOR PEACE

## World receives blessing

IN TWO EASTER MESSAGES THE HOLY FATHER PRAYED FOR WORLD PEACE, "THAT DAUGHTER OF GENTLENESS AND GOODWILL," AND APPEALED TO THE LEADERS OF NATIONS TO COLLABORATE TO SECURE IT.

The first message was broadcast on Holy Saturday from the quiet of a small studio adjoining his bed-room in the Vatican Palace.

It was sent round the world in a radio hook-up and throughout Europe by Eurovision T.V. Radio Free Europe carried it across the Iron Curtain.

## THE SPIRIT OF JUSTICE

The Holy Father reminded the nations' leaders that they were not the judges, but the guides of nations and in duty bound to guarantee respect for the fundamental rights of the human person.

Concluding the magnificent Easter ceremonies in St. Peter's on Sunday, the Holy Father expressed the hope that "all those men who are most responsible for the fate of the peoples may find, in a spirit of justice and collaboration, agreed solutions to all discords in the over-riding interests of world peace."

As the Pope walked out on to the balcony, a storm of applause greeted him from over 250,000 people who had waited for him in the pelting rain. And then, as he gave his blessing, the vast multitude sank to its knees on the rain-soaked cobbles.

In his Easter Eve broadcast the Holy Father said his prayer was that peace might establish a lasting rule among the nations made ever-anxious by the clouds which repeatedly darken the horizon.

He prayed also for "those who are suffering from the effects of the past war, even though it is 14 years since it ended."

He added: "And, in a special manner we pray for those who, deprived of their families, their homeland, of liberty itself, are a living and painful witness of the evils which afflict the human race because of the lack of true peace and its proper fruits."

His Holiness pointed out that Christianity is not that mass of restrictions that the unbeliever imagines.

"On the contrary, it is peace, joy, love, and life which, like the unseen throbbing of nature in early spring, is ever being renewed."

"The source of this joy is the Risen Christ, Who frees men from the slavery of sin and invites them to be a new creature with Him in anticipation of eternal happiness."

"This is the meaning of the feast of Easter which we are about to celebrate."

The Pope said: "The Church is alive as its Divine Founder is alive."

"The Church goes forward with the same power of life as that by which Christ, after having paid the price of mortal nature, passed in triumph beyond the barrier of stone which his enemies had set to keep the tomb secure."

"For the Church also, as the centuries passed by, there have been other enemies who have sought to enclose her as in a tomb, boasting repeatedly of her agony and death."

"But she, who has within herself the invincible strength of her Founder, is ever newly risen with Him, granting pardon to all, and providing for the lowly and the poor, for

those in suffering and for men of good will, tranquillity and peace.

Among the peoples for whom he offered his prayers, the Pope mentioned "the sons of a strong and good people of the Balkan region with whom we shared the more vigorous years of our life."

## BULGARIA

The country he had in mind was Bulgaria, of which he said: "We delight to recall with ever lively affection that fine people, hardworking, honest, sincere and their beautiful capital, Sofia."

"It is now many years since the vision of that dear country was taken from our eyes," the Pope continued.

"But all those pleasant friendships with individuals and families remain alive in our heart and daily in our prayers."

With the Bulgarians His Holiness associated the Turks, Greeks and the French, with all of whom he had had personal contact.

## Public Eye

Continued from page 7

break for tea at Ja-Ela they will be the guests of Mr. Kingsley de Croos, the prefect of games, St. Mary's College, for lunch. Lively discussion, and lectures have also been arranged for, and there will be, in addition, boating on the Duwa Lagoon.

## Mutual delights

ALL Mutual and folk from beyond Mutual's environs had a good time when Mutual Delights Carnival

## New priest says his first solemn mass

(from our Jaffna correspondent)

REV. Fr. K. A. Francis Joseph Michael, who was ordained priest in the Papal Seminary of Poona in December last, has returned to Jaffna. He said his First Solemn High Mass in St. Francis Xavier's Church, Kulamangal. Rev. Fr. B. Abraham, Parish Priest of the church, welcomed the new priest.

Rev. Frs. Renard, O.M.I. and Spampatti, O.M.I., assisted the celebrant of the Mass as Deacon and Sub-Deacon. Rev. Fr. B. Deogupillai preached a touching and eloquent sermon. A large number of priests and laity were present at the Mass.

## BISHOP GLENNIE VISITS COLONISTS

(from a "Messenger" correspondent)

CATHOLICS of Polonnaruwa gave a rousing welcome to His Lordship the Bishop of Trincomalee, Dr. Ignatius Glennie, S.J., on his first pastoral visit to Polonnaruwa recently. He was accompanied by the Parish Priest of Hingurakgoda, Rev. Fr. Carlo Perera.

The Government servants of Polonnaruwa received him at the Hospital Junction and took him in a car procession to Palugasdamana. At Palugasdamana he was garlanded by Mr. B. M. Mendis and was taken in procession to the church, when Mr. F. Kotuwila, the President of the Polonnaruwa Catholic Association, presented him with an address paper in English, the Sinhalese trans-

lation of which was read by Mr. S. D. Mathias, on behalf of Catholics of Polonnaruwa.

In replying, His Lordship thanked all for the grand reception that was accorded to him and said that "It is not buildings that matter, but how we worship our God." He further said: "Though our Church is a humble little hut we should gather in full strength for Mass on Sundays and pray so that God be known and loved better."

Soon after the meeting was over Holy Mass was said and Benediction was given. Then His Lordship met and spoke to colonists individually and gave his blessing. A social brought the function to a close.

## POLO MARCO

(Continued from page 6)

Yet, our researchers would have the gullible believe that 8 lakhs was collected throughout the island, 5 lakhs from Negombo and Chilaw alone.

I wonder what our friends are interested in—the alleged immorality of the rent or the rent itself. Couldn't they be frank enough to tell us?

## More tall stories

Earlier last month, the more invidious of our two accusers carried articles showing how active Catholics held key positions in the Armed Forces and the Police and hinted that the Church had invested money in the local liquor trade.

I hope to write about these tall stories next week. For

the present suffice it to say that I hold that organ responsible for the furore that is now gaining fury all over the country over the appointment of the L.G.P.

The less violent of our accusers has come out with a most glorious panegyric on the Jesuit Order.

According to their theory, the fish rent is a monopoly not of the Church but of the Oblates.

There is within the Church, so it runs, a bitter controversy on the ethics of exacting (sic) these rents.

The Jesuits and the Oblates are engaged in a perpetual cold war, which in the interests of unity of the Church is kept a closely guarded secret not merely by Catholics and their Hierarchy but by the editorial boards of the Daily News, Observer, Times (and even the Virakesari).

As I was reading all this piffle, there was beside me a young Jesuit on my right and an equally young Oblate on my left.

The rollicking laughter I was besieged with on both sides is something I cannot convey in print. When the rounds of mirth had subsided came the caustic Jesuit comment: "He must be a queer fish who wrote that."

I replied that I did not agree. He could not be as queer as all that. He was only using effective bait to catch the Church's biggest fish—the Jesuits.

If not caught, he would in all probability change his angling techniques. He would then come out with the charge that the Jesuit was not interested in fishy business.

Loyal to the Loyola tradition, his concern was for the munitions factories and the arms race, he would say.

The founder of the Oblates, on the other hand, saved from maritime Marseilles. Hence their preoccupation with the fish rent.

Got it now, you accusers? I hope so.

But you, dear reader, will pardon me, for to you all this is neither fish, nor flesh nor fowl.



## Wennappuwa inaugurates young men's association

(from our own correspondent)

St. Joseph's Young Men's Association was ceremoniously inaugurated on Saturday, 28th March, by Rev. Fr. Theodore Perera, parish priest of Wennappuwa. Among those present were priests, Principals and distinguished lay visitors.

The president of the association, Rev. Fr. Theodore Perera, said that the purpose of the association was to encourage a healthy intercourse

between the youngsters of the area and to convince them of their due share to society as citizens of Sri Lanka.

Two young teachers, Messrs Thomas Aquinas and Francis J. Perera from St. Joseph's Boys' School and Joseph Vaz College, both of Wennappuwa, were unanimously elected as the secretary and treasurer of the association.

Messrs. Edward J. Fernando and Oliver J. Fernando were elected Committee members.

## ORDER NISI THE DISTRICT COURT OF BADULLA

since transferred to DISTRICT COURT COLOMBO

D.C., Colombo Proceedings No. 18710/T

the matter of the Intestate Estate of Lucy Ariamalar Vethamanickam nee Chelliah late of No. 99, Welagedera, Badulla. — Deceased.

For Henry Daniel Vethamanickam of No. 281/1, Galle Road, Wellawatte, Colombo. — Petitioner.

AND Christine Vanatha Vethamanickam, and Niles Vethamanickam, both of No. 281/1, Galle Road, Wellawatte, Colombo, minor respondents appearing by their Guardian-ad-litem the 3rd respondent.

Jacob Devasagayam Abraham of No. 281/1, Galle Road, Wellawatte, Colombo. — Respondents.

is matter coming on for disposal before D. E. Wijewardene, Esquire, District Judge, Colombo, on the 1st day of April 1959, in the presence of Mr. V. James on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated

A Requiem High Mass will be sung for the repose of the soul of the late Bernard Celsine Anglie (Ben) at St. Mary's Church, Bambalapitiya on 14th April at 6.30 a.m.

Your kind presence and prayers are earnestly requested.

Mrs. A. Anglie, 20, Sagara Road, Colombo 4.

29th November 1958, having been read.

It is ordered that the petitioner abovenamed be and he is hereby declared entitled as the husband of the deceased abovenamed to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the deceased abovenamed issued to him accordingly.

It is further ordered that the 3rd respondent abovenamed be and he is hereby declared appointed Guardian-ad-litem over the 1st and 2nd respondents abovenamed, unless the respondents abovenamed or any other person or persons interested shall on or before the 23rd April 1959, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Sgd. V. Sivasubramaniam, Additional District Judge. This 1st day of April 1959. 45