

Ceylon's Catholic Workers present

United front on May Day

Workers' Day scenes

SYMBOLIC CELEBRATIONS SPAN THE LAND

Workers parade

NEWS-reports emanating from Messenger correspondents in the remote provinces indicate an island-wide quickening responsiveness to the real significance of May Day for Catholics.

PARALLEL TO AND IN CLOSE AFFILIATION WITH CO-WORKER CELEBRATIONS IN COLOMBO, WORKER DEMONSTRATIONS IN THE OUTSTATIONS THIS YEAR, REVEALED AN UNMISTAKABLE STEPPING-UP ON THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S EFFORTS.

● Puttalam: Over 2000 workers

Writing from Puttalam, our correspondent reports: One of the biggest crowds ever seen here, estimated at over 2,000, drawn from labourers of all crafts and professions, including soft-collar workers, gathered to celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker.

The Workers' Procession starting from St. Andrew's College Grounds, at 7-15 a.m. spearheaded by a motor-cycle escort and Radio Van directing and controlling prayers, presented a picturesque sight.

Decorated carts, tractors, lorries, 200 cyclists, school-children, Y.C.W. cohorts, and workers carrying their tools, fishing nets, crowbars, sickles, hammers, saws, mamoties, nuts, etc. lined up the mile-long processional route.

Pandals were prominently displayed, blazoning vivid slogans on the dignity of the worker, with the Y.C.W. banner dominating. Children carried posters in three languages.

The beautifully decorated statue of St. Joseph the Worker was carried by worker-groups taking turns.

Most noteworthy and memorable highlight was the open-air High Mass. An on-the-spot altar was constructed by a group of carpenters with the Altar-stone laid by a Mason, sheets brought in by weaving-girls, Hosts and Wine brought in by farmers, the Cross and Bell brought in by blacksmiths, office clerks bringing the Mass cards while the Missal was carried by Mr. Sparkes, Government Agent.

All vehicles and tools were blessed by the priests.

Rev. Fr. Croos, O.M.I., celebrated Mass. Sermons were preached by Fr. Croos in Tamil and by Fr. Kenneth Perera in Sinhalese. Later, Medals were distributed to the people.

Over 2,000 packets of lunch were distributed free. The celebrations were sponsored by Puttalam's Y.C.W. unit and helped by the Legionaries.

● Jaffna: Mammoth procession

Our Jaffna correspondent reports: Highlight of Jaffna's May Day celebrations was a giant procession in the evening with a chariot bearing the statue of St. Joseph the Worker drawn through all the principal routes of the town.

Groups of workers at the principal junctions joined the main stream as the procession wended its way. The procession was a mile-long one constituting the Catholic Workmen's Guild.

High Mass was celebrated by His Lordship the Bishop of Jaffna. His Lordship making a fervent appeal for brotherly love among all workers, called for a daily breaking-up of old-time social barriers.

Conferences of workers' representatives were held at St. Patrick's College Hall, dwelling on workmen's rights and duties.

Grand finale to the day was a mammoth Rally at Reclamation grounds where the workers got a clear exposition of the vital significance of the day.

Workers consecrated themselves, their families, their country, and their work to the Model Worker of Nazareth.

● Chilaw: Fishermen's boat race..

Our Chilaw correspondent reports: Catholic Workers of Chilaw, fishermen, mill-workers, carpenters, farmers, all gathered round the statue of St. Joseph the Worker on his Feast Day.

In the evening, after Vespers, the statue was carried by the workers, in procession.

(Continued on page 12)

"We have shared our schools..."

Dr. Regno refutes charge

(from a "Messenger" correspondent)

TO SAY THAT CATHOLIC SCHOOLS BREED COMMUNAL STRIFE IS QUITE FALSE, SAID THE RT. REV. DR. D. B. REGNO, O.S.B., BISHOP OF BAGAI A. ADMINISTRATOR APOSTOLIC OF THE DIOCESE OF KANDY, WHEN PRESIDING AT THE ANNUAL PRIZING OF ST. ANTHONY'S COLLEGE, KATUGASTOTA, LAST WEEK. HE FELT ASSURED THAT THE CONSEQUENCE CLAUSE WAS BETTER RESPECTED IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS THAN EVEN IN THE UNDENOMINATION GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS.

His Lordship emphatically denied that the atmosphere involved in being a practising member of the denomination militated against the convictions of non-Catholics. In no denomination, said he, were greater sacrifices involved in being a practising member of the denomination than in the Catholic Church.

(Continued on page 7)

Kotahena's Novel Feature

MASS for SHUT-IN

(by a "Messenger" Reporter)

COLOMBO'S Cathedral Parish had its own glimpse of Lourdes last Saturday evening, when the shut-ins of the Parish brought on stretchers, wheel-chairs and cars, to the new grotto Our Lady in St. Lucia's Cathedral Square.

There were 68 of them there, largely due to the kindness of parishioners and the zeal of the Legionaries, Ladies of Charity and other associations of the Parish.

And as the sound of the invocations and the full-hearted responses rent the air that evening, it was the spirit of Lourdes.

once again — "Lord that I see!" they said in English, Sinhalese and Tamil. "Lord that I may hear! Lord, adore the..."

And so the beautiful ceremony went on. Mass for the shut-ins was celebrated by Fr. Ch. Anandappa, O.M.I.

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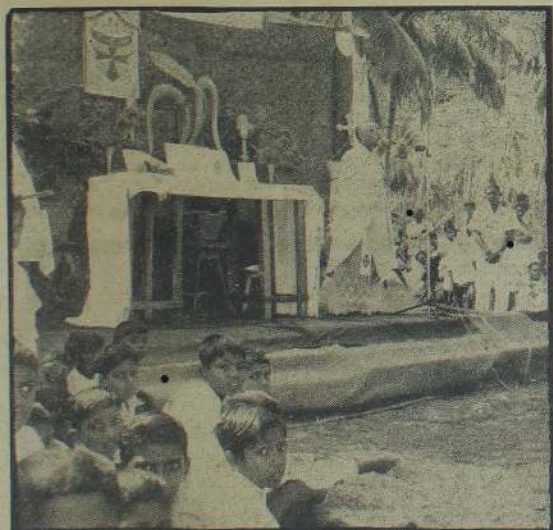
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● Bishop Ignatius Glennie, S.J., blesses young workers and their implements of work at Pattalipuram, Batticaloa.
(Photo by Alexander David)



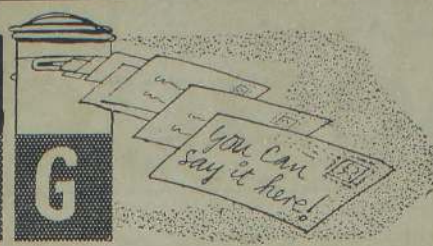
● Rev. Fr. Croos O.M.I., preaches during the Workers' Mass at Puttalam. The altar was constructed on the spot by workers themselves.



PUTTALAM WORKERS' PROCESSION

● A section of the procession showing the long trail of carts...

WEEKLY POSTBAG



THE TRAGEDY OF TIBET

STRIKE the shepherd," said the Lord, "and you will disperse the flock."

This prophecy was fulfilled to the letter when Our Blessed Lord was seized in the garden of Gethsemane and throughout his ignominious trial and death.

But following in the apparent debacle of Good Friday comes the splendour of that first Easter morn. The Lord has triumphed over death and sin and hell. He is risen.

The infant Church has hardly come into existence when it is subject to a frustrating ordeal of dungeon, fire and sword at the hands of the Roman Emperors. In its wake, it leaves to the Church a glittering array of thousands of martyrs.

And now the Caesars who were determined to crush out of existence this 'new-fangled religion' have vanished from the face of the earth and, yes, too true, their very seat of government has now become the parental home of Christianity. Is this not remarkable? Is it not food for thought for sincere seekers after the truth that Christianity should thrive best as a result of persecution? Is it a sign of the Divine origin of the Church? Indeed

then "The Blood of Martyrs is the Seed of Christians."

Every century has embellished the Roman calendar with ever-increasing hosts of martyrs, but it has pleased the Lord to reserve for our own times the most diabolical persecution that the Church has ever known. The hammer and sickle have been in the ascendant ever since 1917 and from then onwards the Red persecution has made a ruthless effort to efface Christianity from the hearts of men. Millions of Christians who have refused to compromise have paid the penalty in the most inhuman torture that the ingenuity of man could devise or are languishing in the sordid slave camps of Siberia.

The rape of Christian Hungary is all too fresh in our minds, and now Buddhist Tibet. Do our countrymen even today apprehend the dangers at our door-step or do they complacently agree to co-exist till the local Commies are powerful enough to "liberate" dear Lanka as they have done everywhere else where they have co-existed? Are the powers-that-be blind to the imminent danger or are they acting in collusion with them?

As for ourselves, we have to be either entirely for the Lord or against Him. There's no half-way approach. What-ever the outcome, we are assured of final victory. As Christ triumphed over death we too will and must rise again, to the life of eternal bliss, for we have the words of Our Divine Lord reverberating in our ears: "The Gates of Hell shall not prevail against Her."

C. T. de Silva.

Kegalle.

II

TIMES without number many associations and organisations have condemned this most deplorable and gruesome episode. History repeats itself a little too often these days. We well know what happened in countries like Rumania, Poland and Hungary and many others. They have become puppet states of Red imperialists overnight.

When Britain and France figured in the Suez Canal affair a babel of tongues was raised in this country.

But when the Reds openly flout all international pacts and flagrantly violate the Charter of Human Rights many convenient-

ly ignore them as acts of political expediency and diplomatic strategy. I cannot understand the moral stature of such people. Are they not kissing conscience good-bye? There is no greater and more dangerous imperialism today than the Communist infiltration by most sinister and subtle methods. We should not gloss over facts and adopt the "ostrich attitude" lest what is taking place in Tibet can happen in this Island too. Let us call a spade and be honourable and honest to ourselves and the rest of the world as a self-respecting and free Nation.

Carl Nanayakkara.

Maggona.

III

ANNENT the statement published in the Ceylon Daily News of 27-4-59, by the Russian sponsored Ceylon-China Friendship Association, that "it should be noted that Tibet has always been recognised as an integral part of the Chinese State," there are a few people even in India who think similarly of Ceylon too. So if on one fine day, when the great Nehru is no more, the Indian State decides to annex Ceylon, what will this Association have to say then?

Again it says, that "Pancha Seela has shown 'the world the way to co-exist in spite of differences of social and political systems.' Why is this principle not applied to Tibet and, if co-existence is tolerated in Tibet, why are the Tibetans fleeing their native land and why are the Chinese bombing Khamp-pen villages and destroying their inhabitants?"

N. E. P. Udumullagana Jayanthipura.

IV

THE Dalai Lama has issued a statement that he fled Tibet and "came to India of his own free will", and he has categorically denied Chinese charges that he is under duress.

He travelled 1,600 miles, over a period of 5 weeks, stopping, while on his way, at several places to be received by the

people to whom he gave his blessing. Could these spontaneous greetings be given to a captive under duress?

In a survey by the International Press Institute it was reported that "only supervised liberty of the press is possible in Communist states," which is not hard to see from the Dalai Lama episode.

In a news report of the 20th April, we read of President Tito of Yugoslavia testifying to the mass murder of over 100 Yugoslavia Communists who happened to differ slightly from the Moscow line.

If Communism is as they try to make out, so appealing to the masses, why do they have to murder so many who disagree from time to time? Why is it necessary to practise mass deception and suppression of the truth in order to propagate its doctrine? Why are concentration camps required to drive home its merits? Why are contrary views and freedom of expression not permitted in Communist society? Why are even their rabid exponents exterminated, expelled or banished from time to time.

In Christianity, Buddhism, Islam and Hinduism we are taught to practise the cardinal precepts of tolerance, love of one's neighbour and charity, but from bitter experience we find Communism is diametrically opposed to these precepts. In as much as religious teaching comes into conflict with dialect-

tical Communist ideology, Communism is violently antagonistic to religion. The two can never co-exist.

In an ever changing world, Russia's outmoded dogmatic Marxism is still possible only by fear, suppression and violence as we now see being perpetrated in Tibet.

D. L. G. de Zilva.

Kelaniya.

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Too Much Togetherness?

THERE are many kinds of togetherness, but all are not of equal value. First, there is the togetherness of the cells of the body in which each fulfils its assigned role for the health of the organism. Second, there is the togetherness of the bricks in a house in which one is joined to another not in an organic relationship, but functionally, in order to produce not life, but a thing. Third, there is the togetherness of crystals which have no other bond than the bottle in which they are imprisoned. Fourth, there is the togetherness of a cocktail party in which there is proximity but without any common interest or subject of conversation. Finally, there is the togetherness of the builders of the tower of Babel who aspired to a task they could never achieve because their hearts and tongues were unintelligible one to another.

Which kind of togetherness is desirable — the togetherness of wasps in a common hive, or the togetherness of devoted members of a family? The highest and most desirable kind of togetherness is built on un-togetherness or solitude. He best knows how to produce and share togetherness who has learned the value of seclusion. Solitude is not the same as aloneness. Two Latin maxims make this clear: one is *vae soli*: "Woe to the one who is alone; the other is *o beata solitudo*: "O blessed solitude."



BISHOP SHEEN SPEAKS.

• Meditation

Excessive togetherness or, always being in mobs can eventually produce that same isolation as the Russian "planet" which is now grouped with and classified with other planets, but which is "going nowhere" and is not even recognized by other planets as part of their system.

A man who sets aside a half hour or an hour a day for meditation on Divine things is more likely to see things as they really are; he will be less under the influence of the seen, the temporal, the propagandized, the ephemeral than the one who is always in the market place. No man can truly be wise unless he has some self-knowledge in relation to the purpose of existence. No one can have self-knowledge unless he stands face to face with the Divine. As George Herbert put it:

"By all means use sometimes to be alone;
Salute thyself; see what thy soul doth wear;
Dare to look in thy chest, for 'tis thine own.
And tumble up and down what thou findest there.
Who cannot rest until he good fellows find,
He breaks up house, turns out of doors, his mind."

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• Aloneness

First, consider aloneness, which is one of the psychological traits of the modern man, and possibly one which drives him to the togetherness of Babel. It is possible to be alone in cities, crowds, with teeming masses and in a mob. Existence in self cannot be endured, so individuals take flight into the sham existence to a togetherness where one bumps up against other crystals to receive nothing but shock. Marriage is supposed to be a togetherness, but how often it results in being lonely with another. Even after the most frantic attempts to achieve unity, each is thrown back on the intolerable self, more isolated than before.

• Solitude

Solitude is not the same as isolation, disunion, or dislocation.

In fact the greatest mind which ever lived said that solitude could be "very dangerous" to those who know not God and the perfection of the soul through grace. Solitude is the condition or the environment of meditation as riches are the condition of certain kinds of magnificent actions.

If a tree is to develop perfectly it must have a certain degree of separation from things; if a man is to be wise, he must separate himself from others, not because he is unsocial, but in order to later on enrich sociability through his newly gained truth and virtue.

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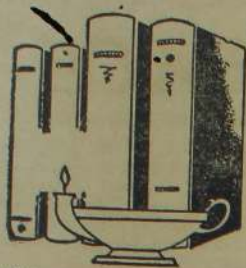
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BOOKS FOR YOUR LEISURE HOURS...

SPOTLIGHT ON BIOGRAPHY



POPE JOHN XXIII

WE HAVE A POPE by Mgr. Albert Giovannetti (Geoffrey Chapman, London — locally available at St. Michael's Bookshop, Colombo 13. Rs. 8/75).

Any portrait of the new Pope coming so soon after his election, is bound to be of limited scope. As the author himself warns, it is a very modest aim that he has placed before himself — "rather than a biography, this book is intended to be a sketch," he says. And yet, precisely because he has succeeded so well despite the handicaps, to give the reader a most readable "life" of a lovable man, one keeps hoping that as time goes on, he will return to the subject and give us a fuller work.

As Mgr. Giovannetti writes in his Preface, "John XXIII has already acquired a wide popularity in the world at large." With each succeeding month, he shines more and more as a lovable father of his flock, a pastor cast in the mould of the saintly Pius X. That is why we welcome this book, limited though it be — for we know that the world, Catholic and non-Catholic, is eager to know more about this man who now sits on the Chair of Peter, and has already captured the hearts of the world.

The book gives a very read-

able summary of the Pope's early life — his family, his home and his early student years, his work at Sofia, Istanbul, Athens, Paris and Venice.

and then the Conclave, his election as Pope and his first message "ubi et orbi." But after this sketch was over, it was most pleasant reading the final chapter "The personality of John XXIII" — which one sincerely hopes the author will elaborate on in the near future. M.

Roundup

... of Directories

A HISTORY OF CATHOLIC HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES by Edward J. Power. (Bruce Publishing Company, Milwaukee — locally available at St. Michael's Bookshop, Colombo 13. Rs. 35/00).

This is the first fully-documented history of the development of higher education in the United States. It is a full, comprehensive and well-studied work which will be of interest to students of educational development.

DIRECTORY OF RELIGIOUS ORDERS, CONGREGATIONS AND SOCIETIES OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

(John Burns and Sons, Glasgow — locally available at St. Michael's Bookshop. Rs. 5/50).

A book of reference for those interested in these countries, it gives a short account not only of the history of each congregation's work in Great Britain, but of the origins of each as well. G.

BOOK-
WORM
writes...



An Open Letter To A "Future" Publisher!

Dear Sam and Willie,

The immediate provocation is Father Justin Perera's booklet "Rays from the Monstrance" (De La Salle Press, Colombo 15).

Don't get me wrong; I have the utmost regard and admiration for the author's superb writing, as well as for his publisher's job of production.

We have no local counterpart of Sheed and Ward, or Burns and Oates. That is my grouse. That is my quarrel with you. My imagination has run riot, and rather than write to my other friends Bertie and Oliver (Ceylon's Burns and Oates of the future?) I write this to you.

In this land we have people like Fernando and Fernando, Perera and Silva, who will invest anything from five hundred rupees to ten thousand on business in anything from chilly powder to cadju nuts.

But the moment you talk of Catholic Book production, they are not interested.

That is the pity of it, Iago. I'm dreaming dreams, that you will rise to the occasion and show this gang of racketeers who pile up their fortunes on rubber and whisky, gin and tea, that there is money in Catholic literature too! Again, don't get me wrong: I'm not suggesting that your sole idea should be to make Catholic literature help you to rake in the shekels, but I tell you that good Catholic literature presented in the way it should, mass produced, and eye-catching and heavily advertised will have its own rich reward beyond your mere rupees and cents!

Show that you can do it and confound these critics who can only shrug their shoulders when you mention Catholic literature!

Take up the challenge: start with Fr. Justin Perera's "Rays from the Monstrance" in the way it should be handled — mass produced, eye-catchingly presented, heavily advertised... and see how far you will go.

In the meantime here's hoping you will truly blossom into the local counterpart of Sheed and Ward.

I remain,

Fraternally,

The Book-Worm.

AN INDOMITABLE PERSONALITY

MENTION the name Padre Pio in any company, and someone is sure to warble "the stigmatist." Padre Pio's fame has spread beyond the solitary confines of the Capuchin monastery of San Giovanni Rotondo set in the beautiful Italian mountain country.

The books on him, as numerous as the leaves of Vallombrosa notwithstanding, each attempt to draw up the humble priest has been a patient and rewarding experience as is evident from Nesta de Robeck's PADRE PIO, (Bruce Publishing Co.) and available locally at St. Michael's Bookshop, Jampettah Street, Colombo 13 at Rs. 14/75.

This is an "unsensational" biography. The author's intention is quite clear and her work is a total fulfilment of that intention.

Although she does discuss Padre Pio's stigmata and other phenomena such as his reputed power of reading souls, (which is treated in more exhaustive detail in a book by Hilda Graef), she is mainly concerned with Padre Pio's life as a close associate of St. Francis of Assisi. In this she has succeeded to an eminent degree.

The book is profusely illustrated with the Abresch photographs which give ample coverage of almost every phase of the holy priest's life.

It is recounted by the author (who is a convert to the Faith) that Padre Pio at first treated his hands with iodine, to stem the bleeding, but seeing it was useless, he gave it up.

"His wounds have continued to bleed profusely, and always with sweet-smelling blood for forty years; they have never suppurated, never healed, the

pain has never lessened," writes the author in this moving biography of an indomitable priest of our time. H. P.

CHILDREN'S BOOK SHELF

TRUMPET CHURCHDOG ARRIVES!

THOSE who remember Gabriel and his delightful company, Peter Churchman and Parson Pease-Porridge and their charming antics in two previous and enchanting books reviewed last year in these columns, will jump for joy to know that the sequel to those earlier stories has just been published.

They are TRUMPET CHURCHDOG and GABRIEL CHUR-

CHKITTEN AND THE MOTH both written and illustrated by Margot Austin and published by The World's Work Ltd. at 8s. 6d. per volume.

In the former book you will meet Trumpet, the newest spaniel who creates a spot of trouble for



Peter Churchmouse and Gabriel Churchkitten.

First, they think it is measles that keeps Trumpet yell 'you-wow-owl!'

At which, Peter who is as usual turning out poems by the yard! (as in the other earlier volumes) cries:

"Stop it, Stop it, Stop it, Or I'll call a coppit!"

The irresistible trio is fully up to the standards already set and the latest book is bound to be a warm friend with all children.

In the second book just out, all the fuss is due to the trio overhearing Parson Pease-Porridge stating that Gabriel was to be replaced by another cat

THE VINE SERIES

TWO books in The Vine Series published by Herder Publications, London, and written by Teresa Lloyd are The Twelve Apostles and More Apostles and Evangelists.

They are especially suited to the young and are priced at Rs. 2/60 per volume and available locally from St. Michael's Bookshop, Jampettah Street, Colombo 13.

In The Twelve Apostles simple stories are made of the men chosen by Our Lord Himself to be His Apostles.

The second book traces the

work of building up the Church which Christ founded on St. Peter.

The Vine Series have been planned to train Catholic children of all ages not merely to know, but to love and live their religion. In each book the interest is centred in the Person of the living Christ, the True Vine of which each faithful child is a branch.

Stress is laid on the fundamentals of the faith and the books will be also useful in schools.

H. P.

BOOKS FOR NUNS

HERE are two refreshingly welcome books, written by men who have already earned a well-earned reputation for themselves in this particular branch of spiritual writing.

• CONVENT READINGS AND REFLECTIONS by Bruno M. Hagspiel, S.V.D. (Bruce Publishing Co., Milwaukee — locally available at St. Michael's Bookshop, Colombo 13. Rs. 21/25).

All religious will undoubtedly find in this book an extraordinary variety of topics for spiritual reading and even meditation. What struck us was the particular insight with which the author tackled various questions, and in fact the very choice of topics itself. And right through the book there is an air of cheerfulness permeating every subject dealt with. Nuns reading this book may receive an occasional jolt or two, thanks to the immense experience which this priest possesses; but they could at least comfort themselves with the thought that the jolts are always administered pleasantly and even with a sense of joyfulness! They are sure to enjoy — as we did — the pages entitled "Cheer up, Sister!"

• ALL FOR THE KING'S DELIGHT by Ferdinand Valentine, O.P. (Burns

because he is moth-eaten.

As a result, tragedy befalls the shape of Ologne baths until an eye-opening discovery is made.

You must read this book to enjoy it.

It is one of the funniest ever written and will be a strong favourite not only with children but even with adults who are lucky enough to be inveigled into reading it aloud!

Both books, and in fact all the four in this series so far, are thoroughly good fun and just right for children.

They are all outside books, with outside pictures too and the snappy dialogue is irresistible.

H. P.



Oates, London S.W. locally available at Michael's Bookshop, Colombo 13. Rs. 15/75.

Here is another book mainly for religious sisters and written by another person with wide experience. It is one way a sequel to the author's earlier one on the religious sister's chaste dedication. Christ; in the present work brings all his experience to the reader a truly excellent taste on the nun's constancy and faithfulness to her life of chaste

The book may be rather heavy reading, but it is eminently useful, particularly as the author deals with the sister's fidelity to her vows from point of view of her life of activity, and she close relationship to her of prayer. It should contribute much in helping the religious sister to make of her striving live up to the ideal of chaste a positive and creative factor in her life.

Strands of the Story 191

LANDMARKS: A JUNGLE ENCAMPMENT

AS we have already remarked more than once, many of Fr. Joseph Vaz's halting places defy our landmarking, for his itinerary was often through the uncharted jungle. Incidentally, this may be one reason why, as Fr. Justin reports, certain trees in the Vanni and Mantotte have been associated with his memory. It might even account for the strange dream one good soul described some ten years ago of Father's walking-stick being in the hollow of a tree in the jungle that also marks the place where he is buried. The story, of course, is all so fanciful that we have always dismissed it as a dream.

Our first reaction against it would seem to rise from the fact we are quite sure about: that Father was buried in Kandy, in the church he had built there. However, without intending in the least to revive the story of the strange dream, we might perhaps consider the possibility of Father's holy remains not being in Kandy any longer.

It is in fact reasonable to believe that if they had anything like a little time to pack up their belongings before being expelled from the capital, the Oratorian Fathers (among them Fr. Vaz's, immediate disciples, like Fr. Goncalves) would surely have removed the treasured relics. But would they have left them permanently in the jungle even if they had been forced to hide them there for a while till they re-organised themselves in the lands of the Vanniagars?

This is a rather long digression. What we set out to mark in this "Strand" of the week was that of all the jungle spots that deserve to be remembered and covered is one on the itinerary of 1706 which is the stage we have reached in our sorting of landmarks.

As Fr. S. G. Perera narrates, from Puttalam which he reached in February, Fr. Vaz set out with Frs. de Mello and Goncalves for Kottiyar "which was at a distance of two weeks journey from Puttalam through thick jungle" (S. G. Perera, p. 205).

Now, after a day's journey, Fr. Vaz fell grievously ill and they were all obliged to halt and nurse him there for several days till he recovered sufficiently to resume the painful trudge.

Fr. Vaz Feature

It would be a digression again to point out what a vivid and dramatic story could be made of this incident by a narrator or playwright with a sense of realism and a sensitive appreciation of the anguish of the two young companions freshly arrived in the country and totally ignorant of the lie of the land (and the language of the people). Dramatised, even in amateurish fashion by our schools, this episode would reveal volumes of Father's life—in its external run and especially in those internal spiritual trends and principles which were its core.

Back to our immediate purpose, then, we can only conclude this encampment in the jungle between Puttalam and Kottiyar (at one day's distance from Puttalam) is the one of all spots that we would like to mark for remembrance—something like Sancier island for St. Francis Xavier, except that where the Apostle of the East fell sick and died right on the route of his travels, his son the Apostle of Ceylon shook off his sickness and resumed the course.

God's saints are so alike and still so different (in mind and in the manner of their earthly career).

BEATIFICATION FUND

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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 MAY

GENERAL: For lay persons engaged in the training of youth.

MISSIONARY: That Muslims may be led through the Blessed Virgin Mary to a full knowledge of her divine Son.

MARY, QUEEN OF PEACE

OVER A WORLD TORN WITH THE BITTERNESS OF STRIFE, THE LEWDNESS OF IMMORALITY, THE CHAOS AND BLOODSHED OF COMMUNALISM AND THE HYDRA-HEADED MONSTER OF COMMUNISM WHICH INSIDIOUSLY THREATENS THE VERY FOUNDATIONS OF ALL THAT WE HOLD AND CHERISH MOST DEARLY—HOME, SANCTITY OF MARRIAGE, FAMILY LIFE AND THE RIGHT OF EDUCATION IN CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS—SHINES THE STARLIGHT OF MARY'S OMNIPOTENT AND UNIVERSAL QUEENSHIP: "A WOMAN CLOTHED WITH THE SUN, AND THE MOON UNDER HER FEET, AND ON HER HEAD A CROWN OF TWELVE STARS..." SHE WHOM, IN HIS MERCY, GOD DEIGNED TO SHOW OUR FIRST PARENTS, WHEN, DISILLUSIONED AND SHAMEFACED AFTER THEIR FALL, THEY LEFT THAT GARDEN OF DELIGHTS TO TOIL AMIDST LIFE'S WEARY THORNS. SHE, WHO WITH THE FULFILMENT OF THAT PROMISE, WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN BRINGING "PEACE AND GOODWILL TO ALL MEN."

It is Mary, Queen and Mother, who reigns sovereign over all our lives—from life's rosy dawning to death's dark night. When the redeeming waters of baptism release the soul fettered in the limbo of original sin, and clothe it with the purity of an angel, it is Mary who crushes under her heel the Father of Sin.

In disappointment

When the starry-eyed maiden dreaming love's young dream of unending bliss is rudely blighted by the cold fog of disappointment and no kindly word can heal the aching heart, it is to Mary she turns. Mary, who alone with a mother's love can console and comfort and bring to that love-seared soul the strength of God's peace.

When the gay young adventurer, the cold, callous scientist, seeking the things that are not of God, see before them the mirage of emptiness of worldly fame and success, which leaves an insatiable hunger for higher, spiritual heights which alone can satisfy the soul, it is Mary's intercession and guidance which eventually give their thirsting souls a draught of God's peace.

When the evening shadows lengthen and in every Christian home there rises up to Heaven a canticle of love and praise to God's holy Mother—the Litany of Loretto—we hail Her under various invocations: Health of the Sick, Refuge of Sinners, Consoler of the Afflicted, Help of Christians, Queen of Angels, Queen of the Holy Rosary, Queen of Peace.

In this Marian age

In an age when the red dragon of Communism is rapidly devouring so many nations, robbing so many fathers and mothers of family life so sacred to them, indoctrinating so many guileless, innocent young hearts with the Red philosophy, undermining the good in all human history, it is to Mary we must turn for she is the beacon light of the modern Marian Age. Though the war clouds of revolution, riot and bloodshed assume colossal proportions and all seems lost, we should look up to her who will crush the serpent's head. She, who is truly a queen, has all power over her subjects, be they subversive, or, when arming themselves with the tools of pride, passion and perversion, they exclaim, *Non Serviam*.

In every crisis

She who alone did not lose faith during the long Easter Saturday will be with us when the next Good Friday rocks the earth and darkens into the modern Easter Saturday—"when all seems lost... do not be discouraged, I shall be with you."

Before every crisis, she has come—Mary, Help of Christ-

ians, Mediatrix of All Graces and Co-Redemptrix of Salvation for the whole world. In the rock cave at Massabielle she breathed a message of prayer and penance to

of hope. In the end my Immaculate Heart will triumph, the Holy Father will consecrate Russia to me it will be converted and a certain period of peace will

By Marie Tambinayagam
runner-up for the John Leo de Croos Memorial Prize
in the 1958-59 Journalism Awards

save mankind from the fiery vortex into which it was madly whirling. To Simon Stock she appeared when his faith almost faltered, placing in his hands the pledge of salvation not only for his community but for every soul who would wear and venerate the scapular she gave. As the Battle of Muret raged wildly and all seemed lost, Mary, Queen and Victress, restored peace through the power of the Rosary which she gave St. Dominic. The victory of Lepanto against overwhelming and alarming odds when the ponderous armies of the Mahomedans threatened to invade the whole of Christian Europe, was the fruit of the Rosary. At La Salette she came to speak of penance and show forth symbols of the Rosary as a means of preventing Communism and the First World War. But the children of Mammon turned a deaf ear to her pleading.

When the forces of evil were massing for world domination in their desire to formulate a new civilisation culminating in a humanity without God, Pope Benedict XV, losing all faith in earthly peace, appealed directly to Mary, Queen of Peace, to come back and give peace to the world engaged in global fratricide. And to the Cova da Iria at Fatima she came, appearing to three shepherd children as the Lady of the Rosary, with the message of penance and peace through the daily recitation of the Rosary—a more potent missile than the H-bomb to annihilate the forces of destruction.

In Ceylon

There is hardly a nation which is not indebted to Mary for some victory or other. And in our own fair isle of Ceylon amidst the verdure of Tewatte's rubber groves, rising up into the blue of Heaven like a never ending prayer stands the Votive Basilica, a perpetual memorial of our love and gratitude to Mary for averting the Japanese invasion during World War II.

Queen and Mother, she has always helped those who have called on her. But like the stewards of Cana, she has preserved her greatest treasure until the end. And as other Good Fridays cast their sombre mournfulness over us, she comes with the greatest hope, the renewal of the world in another Easter Sunday.

"The outlook is therefore gloomy, but there is a ray

lanche of hatred with its ruthless murders and cold-blooded slaughter of human lives. It is her Immaculate Heart that will procure for infidels and idolaters peace and protection in the path to God.

Mary, most powerful, she alone can quell the great forces of evil that have driven from man's mind and heart all that is lofty, elevating and charitable, and reduced them to the level of beasts wallow-

Continued on page 8

RADIO LOG

MAY 9 and 10: 6-55 to 7-00 a.m. THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY (Sinhalese) — Rev. Fr. Edmund Rodrigo, O.M.I.

MAY 10: 7-00 to 7-30 p.m. CATHOLIC HOUR PROGRAMME (English).

MAY 16 to 18: 6-55 to 7-00 a.m. THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY (Tamil) — B. G. Emmanuel, Esq.

MAY 17: 10-00 to 10-05 a.m. TALK (English) — Rev. Fr. Claude Lawrence O.M.I.

MAY 18 to 24: 6-55 to 7-00 a.m. THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY (Sinhalese) — Rev. Fr. Artbur Ediriweera.

She alone can help

Mary, Queen of Peace alone can give peace to warring nations, stem the ava-

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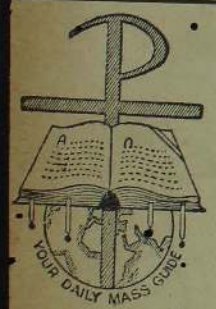


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Monday, 10 May: SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION. White. 2nd prayer of St. Antoninus. Omit prayer prescribed.
Monday, 11 May: Ss. Philip and James. Red. Omit prayer prescribed. Creed. Preface of the Apostles.
Tuesday, 12 May: Ss. Nereus and Companions. Red. Preface of the Apostles.
Wednesday, 13 May: St. Robert Bellarmine. White. Creed.
Thursday, 14 May: Feria. White. Mass of the Ascension. 2nd prayer of St. Boniface. No Creed.
Friday, 15 May: St. John Baptist de la Salle. White. Mass of the Ascension.
Saturday, 16 May: Vigil of Pentecost. Red. Gloria. Omit prayer prescribed. No Creed. Proper preface, Ite Ite and Communions till next Saturday.
Unless otherwise stated, the Preface for Ascension and the prayer prescribed are always said.
Sunday the 17th: Mission Sunday for the Sick.

"If you are with Christ, you have nothing to fear"

—Mgr. T. N. Alles

(from a Messenger correspondent)

"YOU belong to the Mystical Body of Christ, and however gloomy things may appear, if you are with Christ there is nothing to fear," said the Vicar-General of Galle, Mgr. T. N. Alles, when he presided at the third Annual General Meeting of the Galle Catholic Association, held at Fatima Hall, on Sunday, 26 April. If trouble came, said he, Catholics in Ceylon should be ready to face death, because from their blood would rise a new Catholic generation.

Speaking earlier, Mr. C. E. Wickramanayake, President of the Association, referred to uncontradicted press reports of the statement made by the Prime Minister to an

officer of the Police Force that he could not succeed the I.G.P. as he was not a Buddhist. This indicated, said Mr. Wickramanayake, a new trend in Government policy. It is time, said he, that Catholics sat up and took notice. The enemies of the Church knew that the strength of the Catholics lay in the Sacraments; and by repeating falsehoods they hoped to give them a semblance of truth. He said there were two main forces at work—love and hate, and Catholics, who were children of the God of love, should always preach the gospel of love in all they said and did.

Mr. K. R. Perera, speaking in Sinhalese, said that the

enemies of the Church who formerly worked stealthily had now come out into the open and they had begun attacking even the home and family life of Catholics. Mr. Perera appealed for more unity and a keener practice of Christian charity.

At the meeting, reports were presented from the following associations: Legion of Mary, Ladies' Sodality (Sinhalese), Mens' Sodality (Sinhalese), the four Sodalities for English-speaking boys and girls, the St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Social Aid Study Circle.

Twelve members were elected to serve on the Parish Council and it was decided to celebrate in a fitting manner, on 25 October, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the consecration of His Lordship the Bishop of Galle which falls on 30 September.

Diocese of Chilaw PRESS SUNDAY

10th MAY

★ People and Events

A Vocation Finds Fulfilment

A VOCATION born many years ago and fostered through the intervening years at Holy Family Convent, Bambalapitiya, St. Peter's College, Bambalapitiya, and the Altar Servers Association of St. Lawrence's Church, Wellawatte, will ripen into harvest very soon when Rev. Bro. Jerome Gomez is ordained a Redemptorist.

The ordination is scheduled to take place at Holy Ghost Church, Bangalore, on Saturday, 23 May, and the ordaining prelate will be His Grace the Archbishop of Bangalore.

The Bharathars in India and Ceylon will have special cause for jubilation because Rev. Bro. Jerome Gomez is the first member of their community to become a Redemptorist.

Rev. Bro. Gomez, who is the only son of Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Gomez of Frances Road, Wellawatte, is expected to return to Ceylon after his



ordination and he will say his first Mass at his old parish church of St. Lawrence's.

★ Philosophy without tears

THAT is what is guaranteed in an excellent course of lectures on Thomistic Philosophy by Rev. Fr. Harold Panditharatne, Ph. D., which has just commenced at St. Peter's College, Colombo 4, under the auspices of the L.O.G.O.S. Study group.

Whether you are philosophically-minded or not, there will be a rich treasure-trove for you here! Take a look at the programme which continues for the next two months and more, always at the same place and time.

May 5th: Introduction. May 19th: The World and Metaphysics. June 2nd: God and Creation. June 16th: Man (1): Body and Soul. June 30th: Man (2): Morality and Society. July 14th: Contemporary Thomism.

Text-book recommended and used during the entire course will be Fr. Copleston's Penguin Book "Aquinas."

★ Papal Honour

ONE-TIME Editor of the Ceylon Daily News and Ambassador of Ceylon in Italy, Mr. H. A. J. Hulugalle, has been invested with the insignia of Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St. Silvester by His Holiness Pope John XXIII.

It will be recalled that Mr. Hulugalle represented Ceylon as special envoy at the Coronation of His Holiness.

At the formal presentation of the honour by His Excellency Monsignor Knox, Papal Internuncio for India and Apostolic Delegate for Ceylon, held at the Propaganda Fide College on 19 April, there were, among others, Ceylon students of the College including the Rector of Propaganda Fide.

★ C-Plan Scholar

MR. Norbert Cooray Wijewarnasuriya, Manager, State Farm, Ambalantota, has left the island on a year's C-Plan scholarship to study crop protection technique.

He is an old boy of Holy Cross College, Kalutara, and a son of Mr. and Mrs. P. Cooray Wijewarnasuriya.

MR. S. T. P. Samaranyake, former Headmaster of the Primary Section of Holy Cross College, Kalutara, has been appointed Chairman of the Peace Panel of Conciliation at Bandaragama, by the Minister of Justice.

and now, CEYLONESE DOMINICANS



NEWLY-ARRIVED in Ceylon are three Dominican nuns, two Ceylonese and one Maltese. They are Sister Miriam Fernando, O.P. and Sister Alice Forbes, O.P. and Mother Cilia Blye, O.P.

There is added interest in the fact that Sisters Miriam and Alice will be the last Ceylonese nuns to spend their novitiate in Malta.

The Dominicans will have their own novitiate in Ceylon very shortly.

If the excellent work already covered by the Dominican nuns over here is any indication, one can conjure up

visions of how bountifully blessed this island will be, when the novitiate is opened.

Work already taken in hand by the Dominican nuns include a children's school, a creche and a milk-feeding centre in addition to a round the clock schedule of visits to slum areas. They conduct the Blessed Martin's Creche at Timbiriagayaya.

Bishops' Conference of India

A MOST welcome and useful "Report" has reached our office recently.

The Report of the Meetings of the Standing Committee of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India, which deals with problems covering the widest range possible, and which certainly has a message for Ceylon as well.

The Report covers the Meetings held by the Catholic Bishops of India at Bangalore from November 28th to December 3rd last year. It has two sec-

tions—the general agenda, and the various Reports submitted. It is this second part that would be most useful to us here, and which may be an eye-opener to many in our country. For one who would wish to study the problems of the Church in our great neighbouring country, few books could be as useful, authentic and topical as this.

Copies are now available for the general public at St. Mary's Press, Cooke Town, Bangalore for Rs. 2/-.

Both in "Gunman's Walk" and "Wicked As They Come" an attempt was made to explain the behaviour of the principal character. In both there were tacit condemnations tempered with understanding. In the latter films, there was a delightful touch of incompleteness, with the hint of a hope of redemption for the girl.

Regarding casting, Tab Hunter did not add up in appearance to the "bad guy." He has such a wholesome manner and such honest open features, such good-natured lumbering movements that the impression of his character gains a distracting duality. Arlene Dahl however is better cast, and the make-up department contribute to give

her the convincing appearance of flint hardness and brutal ambition.

Besides this, I have a small complaint to make. Why, oh why, don't they give Mickey Shaughnessy bigger parts? His appearance is so full of promise that one is quite disappointed at the use that is made of him.

***** F-I-L-M S-T-R-I-P by E. C. T. CANDAPPA *****



An Enterprising Project

CINEMA GOERS WHO ARE NOT AWARE OF IT ALREADY WILL BE INTERESTED TO HEAR OF AN ATTEMPT TO RESUSCITATE THE REPERTORY POPULAR CINEMA IN COLOMBO. AN ENTERPRISING CINEMOGUL WHO LAUNCHED THIS PROJECT HAS ALREADY SCREENED THREE SUCH FILMS AT THE LIONEL WENDT THEATRE.

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It was my very great pleasure to see the third in the series, "That Night in Rio," starring those top notchers of about two decades ago—Carmen Miranda, Don Ameche, Cuddles Zakall, Maria Montez, Alice Faye and others. To a generation that is being fed on largely imitative talent puffed up beyond reason by advertising, it is a wholly refreshing experience to remark the zest and talent that show people used to bring to their entertainments. One is also sharply aware of the fact that the "old" stars were distinct originals and the prevailing galaxy is composed largely of "stars" whose fires are paling with every passing year. Gimmicks and advertising are increasingly replacing real talent.

To think that only twenty years ago things were what they seemed! Actors did not pretend they were philosophers who had most accidentally strayed into this business (and somehow contrived to remain in it against their better philosophical natures). Musicals did not try to look like "who-done-its" and nobody thought of apologising for songs in a musical. Actresses were cast in leading roles "those days" for the narrow-minded and old-fashioned reason that they could act. Today, in this highly advanced age, and particularly in ultra-modern America, some of the highest salaries are paid for anything but acting ability.

You cannot then blame a present timer for feeling nostalgic about the buoyance of Carmen Miranda, her expressive face, her flashing eyes, her utterly dynamic personality and her unequal version of those all time favourites, "Chica, Chica Boom Chic," and "I Yi, Yi, Like you very much." One also feels

a little sentimental about laughter that does not have malice to support it or does not depend on a display of imbecility to provoke it. Forgive me for saying it of the cinema as well, when almost everybody in Ceylon is saying it of nearly everything else, "Those were the days."

Notwithstanding all that, I do hope people would extend a much greater patronage to this venture, or it will die for want of support. I was one of those who greatly bemoaned the death of the old Fawn Cinema, where, too, old films were screened. The new series of shows at the Lionel Wendt seem very likely to be a successor to the Fawn, but it is really up to the discerning cinema goer to keep it going.

Also in Colombo last week in the regular circuit were two films which were well above the average. They were both common types and had many points of similarity, and even their distinction stemmed from one main point.

There was "Gunman's Walk" at the Savoy with Van Heflin and Tab Hunter in the main roles. The story concerned a tough rancher who desired that his two sons should lean heavily on their guns to command respect. The elder grew up in a manner that pleased him, and was completely ruthless in his selfish pursuit of gain and pleasure. In time, the boy became a monster of his father's creation and had to be destroyed by the old man himself.

The Empire screened "Wicked As They Come" featuring Arlene Dahl and Phil Carey. This was the story of a young girl who having had a most unhappy childhood and youth, set her course for the dizzy heights of success and proceeded upwards in a most callous and calculating manner until a spectacular nemesis overtook her.

Both these films stand out because they have a definite statement to make through the story. In my view any film, which would have any sociological value, must not portray anything merely for its own sake, but must indicate an attitude towards it. The refinement of the art is evident in the extent of objectivity that can be attained simultaneously.

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SATURDAY, MAY 9, 1959

Human Rights, the Individual and the Nation

WHAT is taking place at Peradeniya this week is something of vital importance to every citizen of a free country — of a country, that is, where such discussions can still take place in an atmosphere of freedom, where public opinion can still be influenced, and where there can still be room even for recriminations. The tragedy of modern times is precisely that — that there actually are lands, where such freedom and liberty do not exist; where the individual is a mere cog in the colossal wheel of State; and where the rights of the citizen are mere relative concepts to be watered down and even removed at the behest of an almighty State.

But for us who still belong to what is termed the "free world," discussions and deliberations on human rights and fundamental freedoms are very real and vital questions. That is why our minds this week are turned so much to Peradeniya where the South-East Asian Seminar of the Human Rights Commission of the United Nations is taking place, and where problems affecting the very core of modern democracy are under discussion.

It would do well for us who live in a country where things have been moving rather fast of late, and where some of the fundamental rights of man have been and are seriously in jeopardy, to remember that there are several references in the Charter of the United Nations to "human rights" and "fundamental freedoms." In fact, the Charter provides that "the United Nations shall promote . . . universal respect for, and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion" (article 55c). While we invoke the ideals of democracy so frequently, let it never be said of us and of our leaders that ours has been merely lip-service — for, the ideals of democracy demand an observance of human rights and fundamental freedom irrespective of race, sex, language or religion.

Can it truly be said of us that in the past few years, our record has been a clean one on this score? Within a fortnight, it will be one year from the ugly happenings of last year, when racial hatred gripped this land of ours. The events of that nightmarish period and its aftermath, the awful silence and even the secret connivance of those who should have known better, cast a certain sense of guilt on this entire nation of ours. Almost everyone of us was involved at least remotely in that flagrant violation of human rights and freedom; and almost everyone of us — we are leaving aside the fanatics who precipitated it all — will have to answer for that disgraceful period at the bar of history.

But as the Human Rights Seminar is going on at Peradeniya, the question that should confront us here in this country, is one that flows almost logically from what we have just said. Last year at this time, there were those who were fanning the flames of racial hatred — and we know the tragic climax of it all. It was one of the most blatant violations of human rights in this country in recent times. But this year, it would seem that the wind is blowing in a different direction, and the flames of another hatred, just as dangerous or even worse, are being fanned by the trouble-makers to whom the cherished ideals of human rights and freedom matter absolutely nothing at all. We refer of course to the bitterness being engendered by some persons in the religious sphere.

Surely, has our young nation not learnt the bitter lesson of the violation of human rights in the racial sphere? Have we not paid for it sufficiently in terms of life and limb, and even worse, in bitterness in the mind and soul of man? If the disseminators of hatred keep on careering in their wild hunt, throwing to the wind all respect for the human rights and fundamental freedom of man, if they now turn their attention on the religious sphere and keep fanning the flames of their own creation, then, once more we may have the tragedy of the past year.

That is why we are frankly and sincerely amazed. True enough, in the past year there has been a massive record of violations of human rights in all parts of the world. But how can we who have such a sordid record-book ourselves, rush about and scream out our indignation at others who violate human rights? How can we who talked so loudly, about apartheid in South Africa, enslave racial hatred and discrimination in our own land? How can we, who shouted out at Algeria and other such violations, remain shamefacedly silent at far greater and much more flagrant violations of fundamental freedoms, such as the blood-bath of Budapest and the current butchery of Tibet?

Human rights and fundamental freedoms demand honesty, courage and consistency. If the Seminar now being held at Peradeniya infuses into our own public life some of these qualities, we could still be grateful for the opportunity we have had of being the host country for such an important and epoch-making conference.

● Next Friday, the Church celebrates the feast of one of her great educators of all times — St. John Baptist de la Salle. This pioneer of free education is today the patron of teachers the world-over.

ST. DE LA SALLE

"A man of outstanding holiness and remarkable genius, John Baptist De La Salle, once educated the young, and still, through the Society founded by him, continues to do so according to excellent principles and methods. Wherefore having attentively considered the matter with sure knowledge and after mature deliberation, in the fullness of our apostolic authority, by the virtue of this brief and for all time, we constitute and proclaim St. John Baptist De La Salle, Confessor, Principal Patron before God of all Teachers of Youth and accord Him all the liturgical honours and privileges in keeping with the Title." Thus, by a special Brief, His Holiness Pope Pius XII on 15th May, 1950, declared St. De La Salle special Patron of all Teachers.

DE La Salle was born on 30th April, 1651, at Rheims in France. It was the time when young Louis XIV, 'Le Roi Soleil,' ended his minority and ascended the throne. De La Salle had the good fortune to have been born at the beginning of what was to be the greatest period in French history. It was the age of great poets, orators, scholars, of military genius, of the builders of Versailles; De La Salle was influenced by these, yet he outshone them all by his remarkable innovations and contributions to education. Reared in an aristocratic family with private tutors to instruct him, study and learning became natural to him. In 1669, at 19 years he was a Master of Arts. The death of his Parents in 1670-71, obliged him to interrupt his studies to take charge of the family; but he remained determined to devote his life to God. On the eve of Easter 1678, he was ordained Priest in the Cathedral of Rheims. Two years later he received his Doctorate in Divinity. Thus equipped, De La Salle fully responded to the providential circumstances which led him to become interested in the education of poor girls and shortly afterwards of poor boys.

At first collaborating in the

work of a zealous layman, Adrian Nyel, he then took charge of it fully. Within two years, De La Salle had opened three schools. Numerous requests then followed for more schools. With his genius for practical organization, De La Salle felt that the most urgent need was the

training of Masters. He began his first training school with his own home as the training centre, in spite of the protests of his brothers and sisters. He thus grouped the little band of teachers into a regularly constituted religious family. He then threw his lot definitely with theirs. To inspire his followers with confidence in God, he resigned his rich canonry of the cathedral of Rheims, distributed every

..Patron of all teachers



dime he possessed to the needy and the suffering. The famine of 1684 gave him ample opportunities to be rid of his rich patrimony. The poorest of the poor, De La Salle then vowed to devote himself entirely to the Christian Education of the young. It was in 1686. For

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(2) To have one's name enrolled in the official Register at Rome.

(3) To promise to recite each school day the Teacher's Prayer before school and the invocation to St. John De La Salle, Patron of Teachers.

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The International Centre is at Centro Lasalliano, Rome, Italy.

The Ceylon National Centre is at 130, De La Salle Street, Colombo 15.

the next 33 years he devoted himself entirely to the education of youth and of their Masters. In addition to the training novitiates, for his own disciples, he opened three other training colleges for lay-teachers; he laid the basis for the non-classical Secondary School in order to provide a course for the Irish followers of James II and a naval academy for the sons of the Middle Class trade folk of Rouen. In 1715, he innovated the modern establishment for juvenile delinquents. When De La Salle died on Good Friday, 7th April 1719, he had founded some 53 schools of all types, spread throughout France, with one foundation in Rome itself.

To understand fully the heroic sanctity of De La Salle, one must grasp clearly the false values and prejudices of his time. Wealth, honours, sophisticated scholarship and nobility — the Salons of Madame de Sevigne — the oratory of a Bossuet or a Bourdaloue — these alone were considered worthy attainments. The poor and the ignorant were totally despised and left to their own hunger and vice. By his complete abandonment to Divine Providence, his absolute faith in God and his untiring zeal and love for the poor and the ignorant, St. De La Salle — as Dr. Battersby so vividly sums up — "provided for the teeming masses of the people, sunk in ignorance, depravity and want, a system of education practical in its aim, Christian in its content, efficient in its methods and based on the solid foundation of a body of trained teachers both religious and secular, of all the achievements — du grand siècle — this was the least known and the least esteemed at the time, but it has proved to be one of the most lasting and most beneficial of all."

As a Teacher-Educator, De La Salle inaugurated the Training College for Teachers, introduced instruction through the mother-tongue, started free education for the poor, championed the cause of the delinquent child, founded boarding schools and special schools for working youths and thus proved, as Pope Pius IX remarked, "He was rather destined for our day than his own."

The Church and Fish Rents

(It is regretted that, owing to an error, this continuation of the authoritative article by His Lordship the Bishop of Chilaw, was omitted last week.)

What is true is that certain Fishermen's Co-op Societies begun under the aegis of the Church, or rather of the priests, failed. But have not such societies begun by others failed too? The failure is due to various causes outside the control of the Church. In our country, people like to receive but are not so willing to return, especially when there is a question of common or State funds. So, when loans are given by Government, many rush to accept them, but they soon forget that loans have to be paid back. Unless there is some device or method to compel the repayment, for instance, by having all sales of goods produced by the members done by the Society alone, recovery of loans becomes a formidable task. Fish, unlike grain, is a very perishable article, and must be disposed of on the day of the catch. If the Society has not the means of speedy transport, the fishermen have no other choice but to sell to

the first bidder. These first bidders, being middlemen and combines, dictate the prices, always, of course, the lowest, and seldom a fair price. Under such conditions, the repayment of the loan is the last thing considered by the fishermen. The failure of the Government to solve the

problem, and this has, in most cases been done. But, there is nothing of money value which the Church has ever gained by encouraging co-operative effort among the Catholic fishermen. That is true.

"The fight against religion" wrote Lenin, "must not be limited nor reduced to abstract, ideological preaching. This struggle must be linked up with the concrete practical class movement: its aim must be to eliminate the social roots of religion." It is this ideal which has urged our local Communists to attack the Church about the fish rents. Make the fishermen believe that they are exploited by the Church, and shake their faith in her; then the social roots of religion which have sunk so deep into their hearts will be destroyed, root and branch. So think the Communists and their camp-followers. But the Faith, which has lived through four centuries of prosperity as well as adversity in the hearts of these toilers of the deep, cannot be shaken by falsehood and calumny.

By Rt. Rev. Dr. Edmund Peiris, O. M. I.

problem of transport and storage of fish has made for the failure of these co-op societies, to a very large extent. But, there is one good service these loans have done: they have enabled fishermen to break the bonds that had held them firmly to their employers and made them helots. Now many of them operate their industry as owners of the instruments of production. Anyway, the machinery of the co-ops is such that the loans can be re-

Y.C.W. heads meet the POPE

OFFICIAL Archbishop's Appointments

17th May: 8 a.m. Feast of Pentecost. Pontifical High Mass, St. Lucia's Cathedral.

Pastoral Visitations

10th May: Kalamulla-Kalutara.
24th May: Wadduwa.
7th June: Panadura.
14th June: Paiyagala.
4th July: Maggona.

Confirmations

17th June:
9-30 a.m. Pitipana.
3-30 p.m. Pamunugama & Uswetakeiyawa.
20th June:
9-30 a.m. Dehiyagatha.
10-30 a.m. Tudella.
3-30 p.m. Kotugoda.
4-30 p.m. Midellawita.
24th June:
9-30 a.m. Ja-Ela.
10-30 a.m. Weligampitiya.
3-30 p.m. Batagama.
4-45 p.m. Kandana.
27th June:
4-00 p.m. Ragama.
11th July:
9-30 a.m. Wattala & Mabole.
3-30 p.m. Wellapaliya.
4-30 p.m. Nayakakanda.

Gampaha News

from a "Messenger" correspondent)

THE Legion of Mary was the organising force behind the very successful picnic which took place last month when sixty parishioners of Gampaha went to Yala, led by Rev. Fr. J. L. Miqueu, O.M.I., their Parish Priest and Rev. Fr. E. Peyron, O.M.I.

Dr. Regno Addresses

Continued from page 1

Yet, on the whole, Catholics made these sacrifices and tried to live up to their convictions.

His Lordship urged non-Catholic pupils to see that their parents transferred them to non-Catholic schools if the parents in any way felt that Catholic schools hurt the convictions of their wards. From the very beginning Catholics had shared their schools with non-Catholics and they were proud of many a non-Catholic pupil of their schools whose love and loyalty for his alma mater was not a whit second to that of the Catholic pupil.

"Our schools have always been dear to us," declared Bishop Regno, "and we make great sacrifices in men and means to bring them to the required standard. Now pressure in some quarters is being brought to bear on the government to deprive us of them."

Bishop Regno went on to say that in the early days of British occupation only one denomination was favoured by the government and it was owing to the Catholics fighting for their rights that all denominations were given equal privileges. Catholic schools never enjoyed any special favours whereas other schools received building grants to the tune of even Rs. 100,000. All that St. Anthony's College had ever received was Rs. 5,000 and he did not think that other Catholic schools in the diocese had received even a cent as

Paiyagala's Titular Feast

ON May Day, the Paiyagala Catholics celebrated the titular feast of St. Joseph at Maha Paiyagala, led by their Parish Priest, the Revd. Father V. Strazzulo, O.M.I., who sang Solemn High Mass at 8-30 a.m., followed by the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, procession round the Church and an almsgiving. On the previous day at 8 p.m., Solemn Vespers were sung by the Superior of the District.

Mabole Club

(from a "Messenger" correspondent)

A NEW Catholic club, named the St. Mary's Volley Ball Sports Club, has been formed at Mabole, Wattala. Patron Rev. Fr. H. D. Marcellus, O.M.I., President R. S. S. Gunasekera, Vice-President L. D. Lambert, Secretary Douglas Silva, Asst. Secretary Reginald, Treasurer Julius de Silva, Asst. Treasurer Vincent, Auditor Joseph Perera, Captain J. Austin Perera, Vice-Captain L. D. Lambert, Coach Reggie Cabraal, Ground Secretary Joseph, Executive Committee Messrs. Gunasekera, Lambert, Douglas, Reginald, Julius de Silva, Vincent and Austin Perera and Selection Board Messrs. Reggie Cabraal, Austin Perera and U. J. Perera.

Kadalana Welcomes New Priest

(from our correspondent)

BELLS pealed in exultation from the spires of St. Anthony's Church, Kadalana last Sunday when her third parishioner, Fr. Jerome Kurukulasuriya, O.S.B., raised to the priesthood on the 26th ultimo, arrived to celebrate his first Solemn Mass High. June 1958 to May 1959

has been a golden era for the Catholics of Kadalana. This period was notable for three unique events — the 75th anniversary of the Church, the ordination of her two priest-sons Fathers Hugh Jesudason and Jerome Kurukulasuriya and their celebrating their first Solemn High Masses at St. Anthony's.

Father Jerome who was received by Father Paul Perera, acting Parish Priest, Kadalana, was conducted in procession along a gaily decorated route to the church. He celebrated his first High Mass, assisted by the two other parishioner-priests, Fathers Placidus Silva and Hugh Jesudason as Deacon and Sub-Deacon respectively.

Rev. Father Marcelline Jakkody, O.M.I., preached a very impressive sermon on the dignity of the priesthood and its accompanying crosses and trials. Like Christ, a good priest would have to carry his cross to Calvary.

A reception to the new priest was held later.

Plans for 1961 discussed

THE Messenger understands that Canon Cardijn accompanied by Maria Meersman and Romeo Maione — the same team that visited Ceylon last year — were received by His Holiness Pope John XXIII in his private study recently.

Discussions, it is learned, centred principally round plans for the continental meetings of Young Christian Workers scheduled to be held in 1961.

We reproduce below extracts from the report on this visit sent out by Dora Torres, assistant secretary general:

Showing a simplicity which is now well-known, His Holiness received our three representatives in his private study, the same place which Msgr. Cardijn recalls with emotion as being where Pope Pius XI received him in 1925 as a simple priest come to talk to him of the masses.

The points presented by the International Y.C.W. —

which were summarized for the Pope — are the reports of journeys taken in different continents such as that of Msgr. Cardijn and Maria in Asia and Rene Salanne in French-speaking Africa.

These conversations were particularly concerned with the next continental meetings of the 1961 World Council; that is to say, the meeting in



Japan for Asia, Lima for South America, Innsbruck for Europe, and the meetings of Central America, North America and North Africa.

The highlight of this visit was certainly the autograph letter which His Holiness sent Msgr. Cardijn, a copy of which we publish today.

AUTOGRAPH LETTER OF HIS HOLINESS THE POPE

To Our Beloved Son, Joseph CARDIJN, Chaplain-General of the Young Christian Workers.

Since the already distant year of its foundation in Belgium, the movement of the Young Christian Workers has received on numerous and solemn occasions the most explicit encouragements from our venerated predecessors Pius XI and Pius XII. We most willingly reaffirm them, and in our turn we are happy to express our paternal affection to you who were, in your priestly zeal, founder of this great movement of Catholic Action, and through you, to all the dear Y.C.W.'s of both branches to be found today in all continents.

We know well and value greatly the apostolic work they accomplish among working youth. We trust they will endeavour to follow the valuable guidance given by the Holy See, especially that given by Pius XII, of saintly memory, on the occasion of the Great World Assembly of 1957. In this manner they will show themselves everywhere apostles, who are docile to the hierarchy, well-instructed in their faith, deeply concerned with the conditions of life and work of their brethren, ardent in the service of the cause of God.

We pray to Our Lord through the intercession of the Immaculate Virgin, to fructify such generous efforts, and most willingly we grant our very fatherly apostolic blessing to you and to the presidents, leaders, chaplains and all members of the Y.C.W.

The Vatican, 24 February 1959. (Signed) JOANNES P.P. XXIII.

HUNGARIAN REDS FORCE CHURCH INTO SCHISM?

LAST month Archbishop Grosz of Kalocsa, the acting head of the Church in Hungary, is reported to have taken the oath of loyalty to the State required by a Government decree passed, apparently, in 1957 but only made public last month.

The decree represents a further tightening of the Communist hold on the Church in Hungary. Already only two members of the Hierarchy — Archbishop Grosz and Bishop Hamvas of Csanad — can be said to enjoy even a slight measure of independence, and the new regulations will make their position more impossible still.

Other Church dignitaries also reported last month to have taken the oath were Bishop Rogacs of Pecs, Bishop Kisberk, auxiliary of Szekesfehervar, Abbot Leganyi, O.S.B., of Pannonholme, and Fr. Bela Varadi, described as a Franciscan provincial.

THE OATH

Under the decree, all Church appointments have to be approved by the State.

All newly appointed clergy are further pledged by the decree to take the oath of loyalty to the Hungarian People's Republic in the form laid down in 1950 within 60 days.

The provisions of this decree

look as if they are designed to enable the Communist rulers of Hungary to set up a schismatic Church if they so wish.

From their point of view, it would be quite legal to appoint loyal supporters of the regime to the five dioceses whose Ordinaries have been banished to tiny villages outside their sees (or in the case of Cardinal Mindszenty, confined to the American Legation in Budapest), even though these bishops remain, under Canon Law, the rightful rulers of their sees.

The decree also sanctions the practice beloved in Communist countries of removing zealous priests, who are proving themselves too popular and apostolic, from their parishes and replacing them with "peace priests" or others similarly loyal to the regime.

"Marian Quote"

"If we were to lose Mary, the world would wholly decay. Virtue would disappear, especially holy purity and virginity, conjugal love and fidelity. The mystical river through which God's graces flow to us would dry up. The brightest star would disappear from heaven, and darkness would take its place." — Pope Pius X.



"I have always envied the Catholics their faith in that sweet, sacred Virgin Mother, who stands between them and the Deity, intercepting somewhat of His awful splendour, but permitting His love to stream upon the worshipper more intelligibly to human comprehension through the medium of a woman's tenderness. — Nathaniel Hawthorne.

Calling the sick and suffering, and everyone who has some pain to offer!

...Sunday the 17th, Feast of Pentecost, is
MISSION SUNDAY OF THE SICK

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A gold-mine for the Missions

Prepare now to make it a success

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The Communist View of Man and Religion

THE gruesome record of atrocities (butchery of Buddhist clergy and laity) committed in Tibet, the frontal attacks levelled against the Catholic Church and other democratic institutions and persons in Ceylon in recent times, would make it patently evident even to the most sceptical among us that our vociferous "champions of the people" — of workers and farmers — are only blood thirsty wolves in sheep's clothing.

Long before these inhuman incidents happened nearer home, there were countless warnings and alarms from the discerning minds of our times.

But they went unheeded.

The eleventh hour is long past. Twelve o'clock has also struck!

"We told you!" say these Cassandra's.

The Red Octopus has now reached our door-step.

It is our own people who invited this "monster of hideous mien" into our midst. It is our own people who have betrayed and are yet betraying us ever more rapidly to this Red Octopus.

Amidst the subtle manoeuvres and machinations of Marxian Communists to destroy neck and crop all that is held dear and sacred by man, it may be of considerable importance to recall and reflect on a few of the basic assumptions of Communism.

BASIC ASSUMPTIONS

For, what they actually deny in theory they logically violate in practice.

All the intellectual errors in history asserted some truth and tried to demonstrate in support of their contentions. This is not so with Communism.

Communism acknowledges only one criterion; does an opinion agree with the proletarian ("progressive") mentality or does it proceed from the bourgeois ("reactionary") mentality?

Now, if you want to under-

Queen of Peace

Continued from page 4

ing in the mire of Communism. She alone can obtain for the True Church and its living martyrs now languishing in Red prisons, peace and complete freedom. Mother most chaste, undefiled, pure, she alone can destroy the ill-sown seeds of sinful cinematography, pornography, literature and degenerating cabarets and mannequin parades.

The Rosary

To a war-scarred and soul-sick world, Mary has offered the most efficacious antidote against the evils that threaten human society — the Rosary — the age-old prayer, the apostolic prayer, the omnipotent prayer, the universal family prayer. It is the golden girdle that binds earth to Heaven, draws sinners to God and comforts the dying. For, when in the twilight of our lives, our eyes grow dim and our frail barques toss perilously on the shores of Eternity, it is Mary, Star of the Sea, who will calm the storm-tossed waves, dispel the dragon of darkness and charter us homewards to the Haven of Peace.

Queen of the Holy Rosary
Queen of Peace...
Pray for thy children...
Pray for me!

stand Communism you must get at their idea of man. What is it that is primarily valued in man according to this materialistic way of life? Is it the religious existential factor or the very much less important socio-economic factor?

...at the core of true religion is the metaphysical assent, the affirmation of being — God... at the back of atheistic Communism is a metaphysical negation of being — no God!

If one grasps the fact that this is the main difference between a religious and materialistic way of thinking and living then one ought not to find it difficult to deal with Communism which is disrupting society from within and without in Ceylon.

The primary truth about man according to this "systematic fallacy" of Communism is that man is a concrete physical activity among the mass of other men who are one and all nothing more than similar activities for the common procuring of their means of subsistence.

The manner and mode of man's existence according to Communism depends on one thing and one alone — the way men obtain their food and drink, their clothing and other bodily needs.

This is the primary reality on which it is claimed the whole of man's thought and activity depends.

ECONOMIC FACTOR

The economic factor is not merely the predominant force among many but it is the essential basis of all other historical forces: "All the social, political and intellectual relations, all religious and legal systems, all the theoretical outlooks which emerge in the course of history... are derived from the material conditions of life."

Religion, culture and all else are subordinated to the material relations of production. For, as Marx in his "Critique of Political Economy" writes: "The manner of producing material livelihood is the thing that conditions, in general, the mode of social, political and spiritual life."

To say all this is obviously to ignore the lessons and patterns of history. Not the means of production but religion has been the greatest force in the history of mankind. This has been proved beyond dispute by eminent anthropologists of our day.

MATERIALISM

Further, the Communist theory of man denies that man is a composite being of body and soul. Communism does not even grant that man is only body. Rather they assert that man is only a physical and material activity. All the other activities of man are essentially dependant on the material activity — mass activity — of men engaged in the "social production of their livelihood."

Each individual man is reduced to a material activity in the conglomeration of material activities which are called the "economic structure of society." They concede that the activity of each man is the man himself and go on to say that this physical activity is "determined, necessary and independent of their will." This of course is an explicit denial of free-will in man.

In the Communist analysis of man he is reduced to the status of a mere lifeless cog in the economic machine which is a mass of men.

The individual is held out to be only a means. Man is an activity in all domains of his life

of the economic collectivity. Individuals and families are all equally means for this economic collectivity, the sole purpose of which is production. If any individual does not serve this purpose, then he can be easily eliminated from the social set-

By **CHRISTIE COSTA**

up just as one removes a defective part from a machine!

Hence, those who accept this above view of man as true have no twinge of conscience in liquidating all who obstruct or disapprove of their nefarious activities, or holding people in concentration camps and murdering masses of men or even of bombing out whole cities (current history which is too well-known to need mention) irrespective of their legitimate and fundamental rights as human beings.

The Communist conception of religion follows their conception of man which would, I dare say, make even the very animals around us blush!

Religion to the Communist is just a phantasy, dream or better still as they call it an illusion in the minds of men. They say that God which men think of and worship is not something different from their own nature. On the contrary it is part and parcel of man's nature.

What a whopping lie the glib masses are made to swallow by these Communists!

Why create an illusion called religion and call it reality? And

SAD NEWS

HARDLY could the Parish recover itself from the blow caused by the destruction of the school building last February by a violent fire than another similar catastrophe occurred in the early afternoon of Tuesday the 28th of April.

The Boys' Orphanage which was erected recently was completely burnt down, thereby causing serious damage to the building, furniture and the belongings of the poor little ones. It is really heart-rending to see the sad plight of these orphans under these unfortunate circumstances as the damage caused by these 2 fires is unbearable to the Parish.

"God gave, God took away Praised be His Holy Name."

Parish Priest,
Hingurakgoda.

why make of reality an illusion? — ask Communists. By reality in this instance they mean primarily the economic reality.

RELIGION

Communists consider religion as opium for people. When the social and economic conditions of men are such that their labour is exploited by a few for their own happiness only, then the masses have recourse to religious thoughts and practices in order to drown their unhappy condition of life in the expectation of a better life to come. Religion acts like opium which is consumed to forget one's troubles, worries and get a lift as it were into one's daily life. Religion, they go on to say, is the outcome of imperfect modes of production which leave human needs unsatisfied. This dissatisfaction in turn causes man to project another world where his needs will be ultimately satisfied.

That in short is the Communist view of religion.

Everyone would grant that man is an economic entity. He

is also a physical and material activity. Truly, he acts in society to carve out a living for himself.

But it is false to maintain that man is basically and primarily a material activity.

Man is primarily and essentially a spiritual being destined to be happy with his Creator for all eternity. Make no mistake about that.

Man is no brute as we are made to believe by our comrades — the Communists. Man alone of all creatures has the capacity to think and will, even if it be to think ill of Communism and

Continued on page 12

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messenger SCHOOLS-MAG

Vol. 2 No. 13

Saturday, 9th May, 1959

FREE

BOOKS WE ENJOYED READING



● We invited boys and girls who had won book prizes in the Schools-Mag Competitions, to write about their prize-books. We print today a selection from those received. — Editor.

THE book indeed is interesting. To tell you something about the book I should tell you that all the members of our family from mum to little sister enjoyed reading it.

It most suits my brother who is fourteen years old and is fond of cowboys. He imitates Gene Autry in his adventures with his air gun.

Unfortunately there is no horse for him to complete the adventure.

The other stories featuring Champion in the adventurous hunt, Famous Indian Battles and Rex Allen in the Stampede Steal are very interesting.

Although dad does not approve very much of Westerns he himself read the book. I suppose he changed his mind not to discourage us from reading Western Comics.

In fact, this is the first Western Comic book I have read and it has given me the appetite for reading more. I do not know what other Western Cowboy stories have to relate.

But this book entitled "Western Roundup Annual" certainly had a moral beneath each story.

Julitta Fernando.

COLLINS Boys' Annual is the ideal book for a boy, for it contains stories and articles that boys love to read. There are nine stories but the one I liked best was The Lunatick by Anthony Buckeridge.

Here, some schoolboys very keen on space travel pretend they are spacemen and one tries on the glass cage on the stuffed wood pecker for a "helmet."

Our Members discuss their prize-books

Unfortunately the "helmet" sticks on tightly about his neck. When the teachers enter, they discover the wood-pecker's case bobbing up from behind a desk!

The boys confess and matron finally frees the space-man's head of the helmet.

It's screamingly funny when the boys act as if nothing is wrong when the Masters enter the library, by whistling, staring at the ceiling, admiring finger nails and smiling broadly.

The articles on "Aircraft Parade" and "Learning to Fly" are very interesting.

The girls, too, will enjoy reading this book judging from the bribes my sisters offer for a chance to read my Annual.

Anthony Jackson Leitan.

CONSIDER the "Collins Girls' Annual" the best book in my collection, because it offers me such a variety of interesting and informative subjects for study.

I think that "Collins Girls' Annual" is serious reading, fit for any girl, who loves good and wholesome reading.

I was much impressed by one of the articles in the book "Embroidery for Elizabethans" which instructs girls in the art of Embroidery. Every girl wishes to be elegantly attired and takes pride in making her own dresses. This article, with beautiful illustrations is sure to give every girl exciting visions of colour, pattern and texture.

Phyllis D. B. Warnakula.

It was on my trip to Jaffna that I started reading my prize book — The Open Book.

I had a merry journey in spite of my having only this one book as my companion on the way.

The book opens with an introduction to four fascinating fellows, the first a tax-collector named Matthew, second a fisherman named John, third a secretary named Mark and last but not least, a Syrian doctor named Luke. They explained to me the Word of God in a very appealing manner. They made me understand that 'gospels' were to be read and re-read until every word in them was clearly understood and every well-understood word preached.

The second part of the book seemed more interesting to me. It spoke to me of myself and my neighbour. It referred to Prayer as Attention and not Invention. It went on to say that when praying

we should remember the Christian dogma.

The third part of the book deals with the important feasts of the year. This served as an useful index.

When we finished with the saints' feast days we were getting ourselves set for story-time. Story-time was most memorable. Every one of the stories had a message in them.

In the last part of the book I went through a list of songs which eased my wearying mind. No sooner I turned the back cover of my faithful companion I was tempted to understand him more and more. I've understood him seven times, and whether I will go through him seventy times seven is yet to be known.

Yes, The Open Book is wonderful reading for any teenager.

A. Milroy Paes.

WHAT THEY SAY

EVERY week I wait cheerfully to read the Schools-Mag as its articles are really interesting. Uncle Ashley's talks to teen-agers are a source of deep knowledge to every one of us, as is the Altar Boys' Corner. The Science Scrap Book gives knowledge of science and modern inventions. The competitions are really thrilling, and the mirthquakes keep me in jolly mood.

CLIFFORD BASTIANS.
(Schools-Mag No. 945).

Patron Saints of Animals

Some animals have patron saints of their own — some, but not all, although three saints have animals, as a whole, in their care, and they are:

St. Anthony, Abbot (January 17).

St. Blaise (February 2).

St. Saturnina (June 1).

While the following have their own particular patrons:

Cattle: St. Bobo (May 22).

Dogs: St. Hubert (November 3).

Horses: St. George (April 23) and St. Eusebius (August 14).

Mice: St. Gertrude of Nivelles (March 17).

Milch Cows: St. Tryphena (November 10).

Rats: St. Gertrude of Nivelles.

The Month of May-Blossoms



Photo by Christobel Fernando

WITH the dawn of May was ushered in a beautiful month, when the blue skies over our emerald island-home present an ever-changing pattern of cloud; when sunshine and rain alternate to give us the benefits of each; when trees are abloom with a riot of colour, or are laden with fruit; when little multi-coloured birds are ceaselessly, happily, on the wing building nests or seeking food, so plentiful now, for their young; when amber bees hum louder, glad of the surfeit of pollen they have for all the honey they can ever make; when the bells of the Angelus ring more sweetly in our ears: "Angelus Domini Nuntiavit Mariam..." just because this is the flowery month of May.

Every evening during this month of Novenas to Our Lady, as the sun goes down in a blaze of golden glory, or hidden behind a veil of sombre cloud, in sunshine or in rain, the young and the old are seen wending their way, with flowers in their hands and joy in their hearts, to lay both at the feet of our Queen of Mary, whom we behold with the eyes of our faith, seated beside her Son in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar, in all our churches, where the Holy Eucharist is reserved.

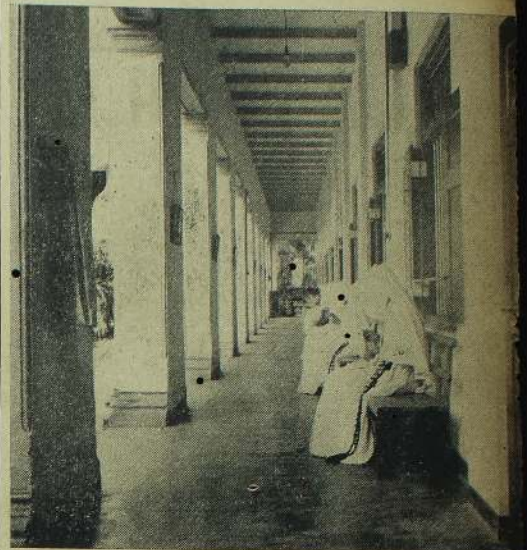
Every evening in May, in our churches, as we hail her in the rosary as the Blessed Mother of God, we weave a garland of fifty-three roses and offer it to her, which she accepts with a gracious smile, blessing us then and there, with an assurance of more blessings to come in the hour of our greatest need. So, blessed month of May, tarry please, and help us to get ever closer to her, who is the Queen of May.

"Hail! Virgin! dearest Mary,
Our lovely Queen of May!
O spotless, Blessed Lady,
Our lovely Queen of May!"

Ratnapura.

A Child of Mary

A Fascinating Journey...



● In continuation of her preliminary articles, Patience Ho from next week onwards will take you round every Religious Congregation presently established in Ceylon. In this article deals with the two groups of Religious Congregations, which, on next week, will be treated individually. — Editor.

THIS is a fascinating journey. Come with me, and I shall take you inside the numerous Congregations.

Week by week, we should step in, and see the Nuns at work and at prayer.

I shall take up, first, the purely Contemplative Orders presently in Ceylon, viz. The Benedictine Nuns, The Carmelite Nuns, The Poor Clare Nuns and The Rosarian Nuns.

We shall next get on to the Active-Contemplative Orders which so far total 19, in Ceylon.

It is useful for us to remember, that though Religious Congregations differ in a variety of ways, yet the objective of each Congregation remains steadfastly the same — that is, to emulate and practise Our Lord's counsels of perfection.

In this connection we can define the Contemplatives as those nuns who concentrate

all their energy and tasks on the love of God in Himself, praying for the interests of the Church.

That is what the Benedictine Nuns, the Carmelite Nuns, the Poor Clare Nuns and the Rosarian Nuns do in Ceylon.

A Nun belonging to an Active-Contemplative Congregation not only strives after perfection, but she also concentrates on a particular work of charity like, for instance, looking after the aged and the poor, caring for little children and orphans, or teaching or nursing.

It will be useful for you to keep the articles that follow because they will help those of you who feel attracted towards the Religious Life of Nuns, to choose which Order or Congregation you may wish to join.

(Next week THE BENEDICTINE NUNS OF THE MOTHER OF UNITY at St. Helen's Convent, Wennappuwa).

★ A Little Dramatic Game

Sparrows

ONE child is supposed to represent the village clock and will hold a tin tray on which he strikes the hours.

Another child is chosen to be the narrator and the two stand together in the middle of the room or playground.

The rest of the children are sparrows. They sparrowshop quietly around while the clock recites:

Tick tock, I'm a clock
On the village green;
I strike the hours noisily,
But I'm quiet in between.

Narrator

See the little sparrows!

On the green they play;
When the clock strikes ON
(Tin tray sounded)
They all fly away!

Sparrows, startled, open wide their wings (arms) and fly on around the village green, settling again and hop as before.

Narrator

See the little sparrows,
On the green they play;
When the clock strikes TWO
(Tin tray sounded).
They fly right away!

Sparrows, twittering, fly about and then as far as they can go in all directions.

Schools-Mag Enrolment Form

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ADDRESS.....

SCHOOL.....

DATE AND YEAR OF BIRTH.....

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SCHOOLS-MAG

Continued from page 9

A CATHOLIC HOME

WE, as Catholic children, should make every effort to make our homes truly Catholic homes where Christ is the centre and where He rules the ways.

Various furnishings will help achieve spiritual stability such as religious symbols, crucifixes, pictures, statues etc. Re-

By **ROLAND D. M. PERERA**

(Schools-Mag No. 1263)

who wins the Book prize for this week's PEN-GEM

representations of our Lord, Our Lady and the Saints are never out of place in a Catholic home. Our Lord promised to bless every home in which a picture of His Sacred Heart was exposed and honoured.

A font with Holy Water, Catholic Calendar with feast days; a book shelf for Catholic books and other publications such as the Catholic Messenger and other periodicals will make our homes really Catholic homes.

WELL SAID

Do more than exist — live.
Do more than look — observe.
Do more than read — absorb.
Do more than hear — listen.
Do more than listen — understand.
Do more than think — ponder.
Do more than talk — say something.

It's fine to have it air-conditioned.
It's better when it's prayer-conditioned.

Sent by **Amelia Gomez**.
(Schools-Mag No. 205).

A sacristan, tidying up the Church after services, found the preacher's manuscript, left behind. Curiosity got the best of him and this is what he read along the margin. "Pause here." — "Pause here." — "Wipe brow here." — "Shake finger." — "This is dry, thump pulpit to keep them awake — and finally near the end, "Argument weak here; yell like hell."



Dear Editor,

I find your Schools-Mag very interesting. I would suggest, that you include a Crossword puzzle once in a way for those who are not too good at prose or verse.

Monica Perera.
(Schools-Mag No. 136).

Dear Monica,

It's our intention to resume our Crosswords very shortly. — Editor.

Dear Editor,

Thank you very much for the lovely prize-book — "The Children's Book of Knowledge" I received on the 10th April.

I will write to you about the book when I have read through it.

Nirmalie Pieris.
(Schools-Mag No. 1).

Dear Editor,

Four of us boys have joined together to form our "Messenger Schools-Mag." We read the Mag every week in our club room. We like it very much, especially the Altar Boys' Corner. All of us are altar boys. I am the president of the parish altar boys' society. We have 58 boys in our Altar boys' society.

Travis Balthazara.

Dear Travis,

That's splendid! Do let me know any further progress made by the Batticaloa group. — Editor.

Dear Editor,

I would like to become a member of the Schools-Mag. Herewith I enclose the Enrolment Form.

Marcelline Gomez.

A warm welcome to you. And why not write to this Page often, now that you are a member? — Editor.

Dear Editor,

I wonder if you would be able to hold regular monthly com-

TALKS WITH Juniors

WHY PRAY?

My dear children, What would you think of a child that never talked to his father; a child that never greeted or conversed with his mother?

Besides calling such a child abnormal, you will certainly censure and blame that child, and reprove him strongly if he cared not to converse with his parents.

Furthermore, you will, no doubt, call such a child ungrateful, devoid of even an elementary sense of gratitude.

You will label such a child a freak — an abnormal case; a queer specimen of humanity; and I tell you, you will not be wrong. A story is related of a little girl who grew up in God's grace in the home of her apostate father.

The child had lost her mother when she was very small, but she was passionately fond of her father.

However, as the child grew in wisdom, age and grace she realized that her father was wrong in forgetting the God whom she dearly loved.

The girl often queried why her father missed his Mass and prayers and why he didn't love God... and the reply she received was that it was not necessary to manifest his love

for God by exterior signs like prayers and worship. The little girl had always grown up in the affectionate habit of blessing her father each morn before she left for school.

Perhaps enlightened by grace, perhaps grieved by the father's apostasy she deliberately did not kiss her father a few mornings before she got to school. This lapse made the father very sad and he questioned the girl why she had forgotten to wish him before she set out for school.

Well! the little girl's reply was as follows: "Daddy you told me that we need not manifest our love for God; so I thought it was not necessary for me to manifest my love to you."

This answer was an eye-opener to the confused parent.

Why should we pray? The answer is simple:

To adore God, to thank God, to ask God pardon for our sins, to ask God what we need.

Next week we shall go into more details. Meanwhile, May God bless you.

Always in Jesus and Mary,

Uncle Ashley

(Next Week: The Four Ends of Prayer).

petitions (not literary) such as crosswords and other puzzles. I know this would appeal to those members who have no literary abilities.

Marcelle Pereira.
(Schools-Mag No. 113).

Good Shepherd Convent,
Kandy.

Dear Marcelle,

You will be delighted to hear that we are resuming the Catholic Crossword series, and they will be regularly featured in these columns, shortly. — Editor.

Dear Editor,

This is my first letter to you and I am sure it will be published. It's a pity that I don't have many brothers and sisters to increase the number of members in the Schools-Mag. Anyway I will ask my only brother to be a member very soon.

Helen Therese De Silva.

Limerick Competition results

1st Prize: Master Osmund Joseph, 19, Pinnanda Mawatha, Colombo 13.

Entry: "And now to read each copy he yearns to."

2nd Prize: Miss Christine Taylor, 494, Peradeniya Road, Kandy.

Entry: "And he became a Catholic, Pronto."

Kelaniya.

Dear Helen,

A cordial welcome to you from all Schools-Mag members. — Editor.

Birthday Corner

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

MAY 9—15

MAY 9th: Monica Samarasinghe (Mirihana), Bernadette Fernando (Negombo), Ivan Martinus (Colombo 6), G. Eldred Fernando (Negombo), Gowri Motha (Mutwal).

May 10th: Sherene Pieris (Moratuwa), Francis Dabrera (Negombo), Sharlie Melder (Nawalapitiya), A. Milroy Paes (Colombo), Ruby Candappa (Hendala).

May 11th: A. Abraham (Colombo), Indra Lowe (Muttakuliya), Alexander Duff Tylor (Anuradhapura), Joseph Gregory (Grandpass), Brian Pereira (Colombo 12).

May 12th: Bernadette Jesudasan (Moratuwa), Alexander Cooray (Rampura), J. Leonard Alexander (Kandy), Arlando C. Suraj (Katugastota), Sherene Taylor (Matale), Brigitte Koelmeyer (Batticaloa), Happy Davidson (Trinco), Charles Valentine (Jaffna), Antoinette Loos (Colombo 4), Sherene Pieris (Mt. Lavinia).

May 13th: Marcia Franke (Colombo), Lakshmi Fernando (Moratuwa), Ronie de Soysa (Kotahena), Manel Temmekoon (Rattalana), Kshama Wijeyesinghe (Matugama), Vimala C. Fernando (Mt. Lavinia), Clarinda Bastiansz (Hunupitiya), N. A. Gunasekera (Kandy), Monica Candappa (Hendala), S. R. Joseph Suraweera (Dematagoda), Ashley Corera (Negombo), Rebecca Dias (Colombo 13).

May 14th: Lakshman Welikalā (Colombo 8), Maureen Pereira (Katugastota), Christene de Cruz (Mutwal), Grace Arendtsz (Galle), M. J. A. Casie Chetty (Colombo 13), Ingrid Fernando (Colombo 13), Annesley de Croos (Negombo), Philomena Patrick (Mutwal).

May 15th: Pearl de Silva (Dalgama), C. Errol de Silva (Waduwā), Rosetti Coonghe (Kotahena), Collette Gomez (Rampura), Ivy C. White (Kandy), Julia Antony (Dematagoda), Joan Weerasinghe (Matale).

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BEGINNING TODAY...



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is

MARRIAGE

● Never has Christian Marriage been so heavily under fire and so viciously assailed from every side as it is today. In the welter of conflicting opinions, we begin publication to-day of a document of the greatest importance — "Casti Conubii" — by Pope Pius XI.

WHY THE POPE WRITES...

In these days many people have false ideas about marriage. Pius XI wrote this letter on "Christian Marriage" in 1930 to correct these ideas and to show the true Christian teaching on marriage.

THE LAWS OF MARRIAGE

Everyone may choose to marry or to be single. When a man and woman marry what is needed to make it a true marriage? These things are needed to make it a true marriage — they must intend to marry; they must do it voluntarily; they must intend to keep the laws of marriage. In these days many people think the laws of marriage too difficult. In these days many people think the laws of marriage wrong. In these days many people think the laws of marriage unreasonable. God made marriage so God made also the laws of marriage. God made marriage so God controls the laws of marriage. Many people forget that God made the laws of marriage. If God made the laws of marriage they cannot be too difficult; they cannot be wrong; they cannot be unreasonable for God is infinitely wise and good and God made the laws of marriage for the good of the man and the woman, for the good of the children; God made the laws of marriage for the happiness of the family, for the good of the State, for the good of the human race. Men choose whether to marry and whom to marry. In that sense marriage is made by man. But this does not mean that man can alter the nature of marriage. This does not mean that man makes the laws of marriage. This does not mean that man controls the laws of marriage. Only God can do that. And the chief law of marriage is this — Marriage can never be broken.

(Next week: The Blessings of Marriage, Children.)

Women's-Mag

Edited by Patience Hope



NO FOR A REPLY!

Dear Friends,

It was only the other day someone asked me the question: "Are our Catholic women lethargic?"

If the response to my initial call to Ceylon's Catholic women to band themselves together is any criterion, then the answer to that question is a resounding NO!

Elsewhere on this page you will see the first fruits — the first 25 members who are enrolled in the Women's-Mag. More names will appear, week by week.

If the voice of the Catholic Woman is to be heard, it is essential that we form a united front, and I'm hoping that the Women's-Mag will be our common meeting ground.

Next week I shall discuss with you some important plans for the immediate future. In the meantime, write to me, tell me about what you want to see most on this Page, your likes and preferences. — Patience Hope.

From my Mail Bag

Dear Patience,

I am a regular reader of the Messenger and have long felt the need of a weekly Women's Page, which would chiefly cater to feminine interests.

I am, no doubt, voicing the opinion of many a woman reader when I say that we are looking forward to the coming issues of the Messenger. I am sure that all women readers of this Catholic weekly will take an interest in their own page and help you to make the Women's-Mag a smashing success.

Miriam de Soyza.

Kotahena.

Dear Patience,

I shall be very glad if you would enrol me in the Women's-Mag.

Mrs. P. T. Gallena.

Nawala.

Dear Patience,

I was very interested to read about the new feature, Women's-Mag. Its features are certainly very attractive and there is no doubt it will be welcomed by all women-readers of the Messenger, young and old. I, for one, am eagerly looking forward to it!

In these days, with so much reading matter available, it is still hard to find good, wholesome reading, from which one can gain both knowledge and inspiration, and I am quite sure Women's-Mag will find many avid readers for just this reason.

Here's wishing it all success.

Mrs. C. Noyahr.

Colombo 13.

A Thought FOR THE WEEK

LET'S try to look at life with a little humour, a lot of pity, a love of beauty and work, a sense of comradeship with all with whom we come in contact. Hardening of the heart makes one grow old faster than hardening of the arteries.

The first 25

THE Women's-Mag is happy to publish the names of the first 25 members. All Catholic women are invited to join up by sending in the coupon printed below.

1. Mrs. Mary Wijesekera (Dodanduwa), 2. Mrs. R. L. Tiruchelvam (Colombo 7), 3. Mrs. Annette Swan (Dehiwela), 4. Miss Rukmani Fernando-pulle (Dankotuwa), 5. Mrs. Stella Samaranayake (Moratuwa), 6. Mrs. Marie Tambinayagam (Mt. Lavinia), 7. Mrs. A. G. Bowen (Kohuwela), 8. Miss Erine Gomez (Yatiyantota), 9. Mrs. Devika Croos Moraes (Negombo), 10. Miss Miriam Premini De



The Women's-Mag brings you a picture of infinite pathos which should make every woman's heart beat with pain. It should also make every Ceylon woman think twice because the selfsame enemy of family life is at our door.

With bandages covering wounds on her face, this mother breast-feeds her child in a health centre in Quemoy. The woman was wounded by artillery fire in Red China's every other-day shelling of the offshore islands.

Soyza (Kotahena), 11. Mrs. Joyce de Silva (Dehiwela), 12. Mrs. Helen Foenander (Colombo 6), 13. Miss Sonia Mc Heyzer (Trincomalee), 14. Mrs. Irene Gunawardene (Colombo 15), 15. Mrs. Ruby Joseph (Colombo 5), 16. Miss Deanna Berman (Wattala), 17. Miss Rita Venetia Pereira (Trincomalee), 18. Mrs. Do-

reen Fonseka (Wadduwa), 19. Mrs. June de Souza (Dehiwela), 20. Mrs. Anne Arasaratnam (Colombo 10), 21. Mrs. Rita De Rozairo (Tala-wakelle), 22. Mrs. H. J. L. Felsing (Trincomalee), 23. Miss Pushparanee Motha (Chilaw), 24. Miss B. M. Fernand (Mt. Lavinia), 25. Miss Ros De Alwis (Kotahena).

★ Concluding Our Short Story

Love's Service

"Daddy! Daddy! what happened?"

There was no answer from the still, unconscious figure. An hour later, on an operating table, the doctors fought for

by Anne Arasaratnam

Arthur's life, while in the waiting room Esther and Paul prayed to that Mother who never fails her children.

It was morning when the doctor walked into the waiting room. He looked at the beautiful young face before him. How serene and calm. His heart went out to her as he said "you are a brave girl, Miss, and your father will need a girl like you, for though your father lives he will never walk again."

"Thanks, Doctor, and God bless you, for having saved him for us."

These Catholics are a strange lot, thought the doctor, as he walked away. This girl was so uncomplaining, so resigned. Yet it had given him food for thought.

The open window looked out on a lovely sight. The setting sun was imprinting its farewell kiss on the waving fields of golden paddy. The coconut palms swayed gently in the breeze, while purple-robed twilight descended on the mountain slopes, velvet sandalled and beautiful, carrying under his breath.

in her arms the fragrance of the woodland flowers.

The invalid looked out of this scene of deep peace and realised that it would be the scene he would look on every day. Yet he wanted it that way. God had loved him in a special way, for unknown to himself he had been heading straight for destruction and like the prodigal he had come home, home to His almighty love and mercy.

Esther and Paul stood by. Their hearts were filled with love for the silent sufferer. He turned and looked at them these treasures Mary had left behind.

Tears welled in his eyes as he opened his arms. "Baby, my little baby girl what have I made you go through. Go, forgive me, and you my son, Paul, forgive me, my babies. They were in his arms. The brown Rosary slipped out of Esther's hand and as Arthur's fingers closed about them, deep happiness descended in to his heart.

He felt that his Mary was very near.

The setting scene cast a silent benediction on the three bowed heads while the strain of the Angelus bell drifted, recalling to Arthur Mary's favourite song:

"Ring on sweet Angelus though thou art shaking my soul to tears. Voices long silent now, with thee are awaking. From out the years, from out the years..."

(Concluded.)

WOMEN'S-MAG

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

NAME (Miss/Mrs.)

ADDRESS

"Life and Death Issue" Facing Kerala Catholics

IS IT TO BE SLOW, SURE DEATH FOR CATHOLIC Schools?

Sri Lanka's Catholic Workers

Continued from page 1

High Mass was sung in the morning. After Mass, thousands of workers took part in boat races on the Chilaw lagoon, including a swimming race.

Speaking at the distribution of prizes, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Edmund Eris, O.M.I., Bishop of Chilaw, explaining the significance of the day, warned the workers of the dangers ahead of them. Emphasizing the true dignity of labour, His Lordship stated that the working class was a national asset and the real prosperity of the country rested in the hands of the working class.

Red flags in Kotahena

Red flags blazoned across the Cathedral Square to hail in May Day. Workers from every strata of life were present at the inspiring ceremony.

Their spirits undaunted by the threatening showers, these men assembled at Kochchikade and marched in procession to Kotahena. The members of associations of St. Joseph and St. Sebastian were prominent with their distinctive badges. Carrying their tools they made their way to the Cathedral in prayer and pouring rain. It was quite a contrast to the noise and clamour that accompanied other processions of that day, along the same roads.

Two Catholic harbour workers spoke in Tamil and Sinhalese on the significance of St. Joseph the Worker's feast day and May Day.

After Mass there was Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament followed by the blessing of tools.

Irabadagama: a Worker presides

Our correspondent writes: The workers of the two Missions of Irabadagama and Nalawala under the guidance of their Parish priests gathered together in unexpectedly large numbers for the celebrations. The workers came to the Nalawala Church in procession from the Makandura Junction. This was followed by High Mass at which Fr. Andradi preached on St. Joseph and the Worker.

Mass and tea were followed by a Workers' Meeting presided over by Mr. Benedict Appahamy, a worker from one of the local hills. Two very eloquent talks on the Workers' problems were given by Mr. W. Thomas Fernando and Mr. U. L. T. Perera. Mr. Thomas Fernando spoke at length on the employer-employee relationship and Mr. U. L. T. Perera emphasised the necessity of forming trade unions without political affiliation.

After the Workers' Meeting the young men of Nalawala produced a little play depicting the lot of the workers, if and when they become a prey in the hands of politicians.

This was followed by several competitions, and the winners were awarded prizes. The workers went back happy, having thoroughly enjoyed a day of their own.

Kalutara: 2000 workers celebrate

Writing from Kalutara, our correspondent reports: Highlights of the Catholic workers' celebrations of May Day were the Grand Rally, the orderly procession of all workers with the statue of St. Joseph the Worker, and open-air High Mass at Katukurunda.

Every category of worker was represented in the large and orderly procession from Holy Infant Jesus Church at Kalutara to St. Philip Neri's Church, Katukurunda, where, at a specially erected open-air altar, the Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Henry Rodrigo, O.M.I., sang High Mass and preached to the workers on the spiritual significance of the day. After Mass, the workers' implements were blessed.

Wennappuwa: scenes of joy

Our Wennappuwa correspondent reports: Fishermen, carpenters, masons, mill-hand, today-tappers—in fact every kind of worker, poured into the Church in a mammoth procession carrying placards, and shouting slogans. "Long live Christ the King," "Catholic Workers unite!" This picturesque sight of men and women coming in procession was occasionally broken up with the beating of drums and dancing.

Within the Church, the workers laid their tools at the feet of the statue of St. Joseph the Worker. Mass followed, at which thousands approached the Holy Table. Fr. Francis Fernando then addressed the workers in a very moving talk. The workers responded when in a full-throated voice they shouted their pledge of loyalty to Christ King.

A Sports Meet followed after which Fr. Theodore Perera distributed the prizes. His Lordship the Bishop of Chilaw was also present for part of the proceedings.

Trincomalee: large crowds

Our Trincomalee correspondent reports: Large crowds participated in an orderly procession from the Cathedral to the premises of St. Joseph's College, on May Day. The statue of St. Joseph was borne in the procession.

Two workers speaking in Tamil and Sinhalese respectively from the stage of St. Joseph's College, welcomed the gathering.

The speeches were followed by Holy Mass for which the Altar was assembled and each item required for celebrating the Mass was carried to the Altar and set up by Workers, both male and female, while a commentator announced the necessity for, or the significance of each item. The Mass was celebrated by Rev. Father J. W. Lange, S.J. During the Mass an impressive sermon was delivered by Rev. Father J. Meyer, S.J., who stressed the dignity of labour and dwelt on the duties and responsibilities of the Worker. He said a living wage and ideal working conditions are by right the Worker's dues. In the same manner it is the responsibility of the Worker to see that his obligations are fully performed and a full day's work is rendered in return for the living wage.

Mass was followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The day's programme was sponsored by the Sodality movement.

Events moving to a crisis

(from a "Messenger" correspondent)

With the publication by the Government of Communist-ruled Kerala of rules enforcing the controversial education bill, there is every sign of a major crisis in the air. In this highly-charged atmosphere, Archbishop Attipetty of Verapoly has come out with a statement packed with emotion, asking his people to take note of the "life and death issue" facing Catholics. "Our faith is at stake," says the Archbishop. "The whole Catholic world is with us. Our greatest weapon is prayer!"

In his statement, the Archbishop says quite clearly that it would be "useless to conduct Church schools if the present Act came into force. They will only serve the Communists to spread their atheistic and immoral doctrines, at our expense." He goes on to tell the faithful: "Catholics in the whole world are praying for us. Our brethren who are suffering persecution behind the Iron Curtain, are also with us," and he called upon all Catholics to pray also for the "enemies of the Church" that they may see the truth and follow it. May 3rd, was observed as a Day of Prayer.

The disturbing rules which have incensed Catholic circles are the following:—

- Private schools shall not close without giving a year's notice to the government.
- Pupils are prevented from taking part in any meeting or agitation directed against the authority of the government.

- Teachers will be disqualified if they indulged in "unlawful agitation."
- Educational institutions should not be used as a means of "fostering one religion at the expense of others."

Commenting on the situation, a Catholic School Manager said quite frankly — "It is going to be slow, sure death for Catholic schools if we sit quiet... If we conduct schools under these provisions, it will be like killing ourselves. The primary purpose of Catholic education will be nullified. Only the walls and the building of the schools will remain with us. The enactment seeks to destroy the whole framework of Church education in Kerala."

Alutgama

(from N. T. I. Jayawardene, "Messenger" correspondent)

ST. Vincent's Orphanage School, Alutgama, were declared the Champions at the Alutgama Circuit Sports Meet held recently at the Alutgama Esplanade, when they carried away the Wilmot Perera Challenge Shield offered for the best school.

Dr. Ananda P. Guruge, the Assistant Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Education, presided, and Mrs. Guruge gave away the prizes.

At the Inter-School Physical Drill Competitions for boys, the St. Vincent's Orphanage School teams secured the first place at both the competitions, for those under 16 years of age and under 19 years, while at the girls' competitions, under the same age groups, the first places were won by the Maggona R. C. Girls' School.

THANKSGIVING

MY humble thanks to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, St. Rita, St. Francis Xavier, St. Philip Neri and Blessed Martin de Porres, for favours granted. F. N.

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COMMUNISM

Continued from page 8.

will a determined attack against its evils!

Genuine religion has no essential relationship with the socio-economic condition of man. Man is religious because he cannot help being religious, when he realizes that he is a limited being dependent on God for his existence. The heart of man in all places in all times has been and still is deeply religious.

Come to think closely of man's life on earth, we realize that religion far from being an illusion is the only thing which makes us gradually build up our true reality, our position in relation to the only One who is responsible for birth, death and life everlasting.

Communism denies all this, robbing man of his true dignity as a son of God. It reduces man to the last degradation of which materialistic philosophies are capable. The image of God has been torn and man is completely adopted to a system having no value beyond their mundane, economic system.

In the last analysis it may be said that at the core of true religion is the metaphysical assent, the affirmation of being—God.

In like manner at the back of atheistic Communism is a metaphysical negation of being—no God!

N. Berdaev has put this well:

"Man must either incorporate himself in the mystery of not being and sink in it, or he must return to the inner mystery of human destiny and unite himself once again with the sacred tradition."

Indeed, the decision is man's. A little sincere reflection would show one how illogical and meaningless the Communist misconceptions are. The mere exposition of Communism is its own refutation.

Are you prepared to accept the Communist analysis of man and religion with its disastrous consequences? After all we are here to decide between right and wrong.

Pray, that faced with these inescapable alternatives, more men, nay all men, choose God rather than hell!

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