

Nefarious
Flagitious
Damnable

"... the situation is grave, raise a rampart for the defence of sacred values" — says Archbishop

Public made victims of Family Planning Propaganda

ARCHBISHOP CALLS FOR COUNTER-ATTACK AGAINST INSIDIOUS CAMPAIGN

The Messenger is privileged today to publish the contents of a directive of top-importance sent out by His Grace the Archbishop of Colombo, the Most Rev. Dr. Thomas Cooray O.M.I., to the Clergy of the Archdiocese, in the course of which in the stern language of the defenders of God's disregarded Law and the rights of unborn generations he castigates the damaging efforts of the Family Planning propagandists in Ceylon, who "throw a stumbling block in the path of the unwary and the weak, and make a snare and a noose out of a dependent person's need."

"LET US SPEAK," SAYS HIS GRACE, "IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS AND IN GOD'S NAME. WE ARE IN FACT MERELY STATING WHAT IS GOD'S HOLY LAW, IMMUTABLE AS HIMSELF. ... HOW MANY OF OUR PEOPLE THINK (AND AIR THIS OPINION) THAT IT IS MERELY A QUESTION OF RULES AND LAWS OF THE CHURCH (THAT IS, OF PASTORS) & THAT THE CHURCH IS UNREASONABLY ALIENANT ON MATTERS THAT SHOULD BE WEIGHED WITH MORE CONSIDERATION FOR HUMAN CONDITIONS AND MODERN CIRCUMSTANCES?"

HIS GRACE CALLS FOR IMMEDIATE MEASURES TO PRESERVE INTACT THE BULWARK OF THE CATHOLIC FAMILY FROM THIS ANTI-GOD, ANTI-RELIGIOUS, AND ANTI-SOCIAL CAMPAIGN.

Carried out with foreign aid on principles foreign to our people

"The programme of Family Planning is being carried out in this country with foreign aid and on principles certainly foreign to our fastest national traditions. The family is the basic unit of society. If the family is lost, then society is lost," declares His Grace, in his directive.

A blind alley brings them face to face with sterilization, salpingectomy

"Is not the failure of some of our people to resist this campaign due in most cases to the fact that by a first, unsuspecting and legitimate visit to the island's public health facilities they are drawn to the acceptance of the unholy act?" asks His Grace.

In what is labelled as "an inexorable chain of circumstances," Colombo's Metropolitan commends the victims to pastoral consideration.

As an effective counter-attack, His Grace calls for a revival of the Sacred Heart Confraternity which in its twin branches has now been put forward as the official association for married people.

"Family Day at Tewatte is to stand as the symbol and expression of our public reprobation of the wrong principles and wicked practices that are being foisted on our people in the name of 'Family Planning,' and of our determined, united and concerted efforts to prevent them from prevailing," states the directive.

As commanded by Mary's historic and now more than ever clearly de-

Referring to the factual evidence placed before him, His Grace states that, as a result of specious arguments put before them by the agents of this flagitious "Family Planning" Campaign, and the pressure of circumstances, not a few Catholics have been inveigled.

finer role of "Help of Christians" and "Victress of God's battles", the Catholic effort is placed under the patronage and direction of the Immaculate Mother of God.

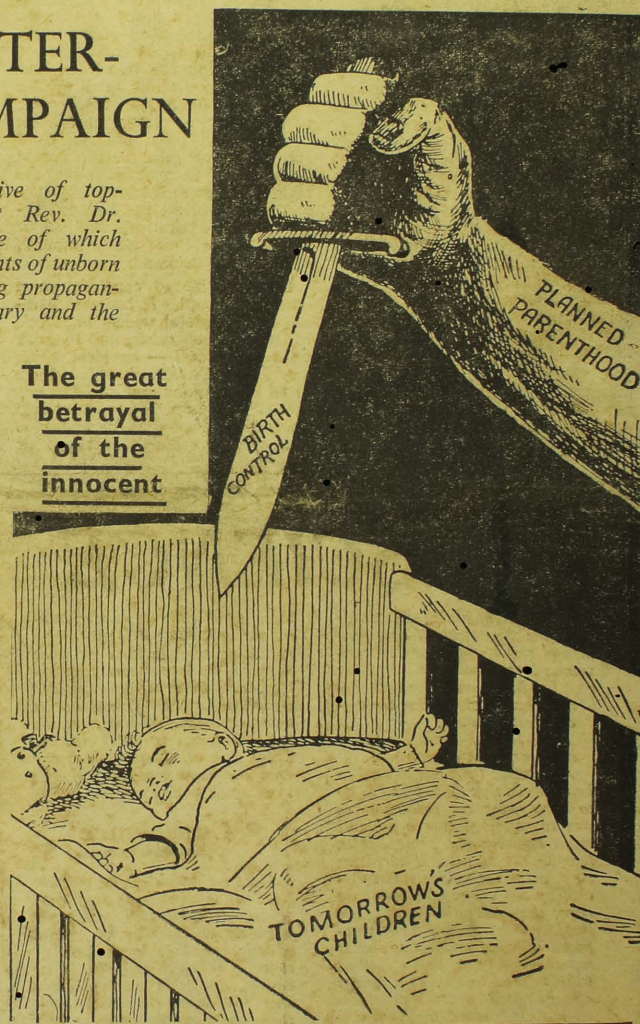
A twofold series of Perpetual Novenas will "concretise" our recourse to Mary Immaculate — the Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour with special orientation to safeguard the Christian family; and the Novena to the Immaculate Heart of Mary to be instituted at Fatima Church in Maradana.

The sick Cardinal

THE condition of Cardinal Tedeschini, the 85-year-old Archbishop of St. Peter's who last week entered a Rome clinic for an emergency intestinal operation, was reported on Sunday to have grown considerably worse. The Cardinal was earlier recovering steadily after the minor operation — described as "successful" — had been carried out.

Pope John paid a visit to Cardinal Tedeschini last Wednesday.

The great betrayal of the innocent



Bishops condemn South African Colour Bar

"IT'S A SIN TO BACK APARTHEID!"

ARCHBISHOP HURLEY, O.M.I., OF DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA, HAS ONCE AGAIN SPOKEN OUT MOST BLUNTLY AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OF RACIAL SEPARATION, AND CONDEMNED IT AS BEING A TRAVESTY OF JUSTICE AND CHARITY.

Those who opposed racial integration, he said, sinned by commission against justice and charity; while those who were merely indifferent sinned by omission. The only possible Christian attitude was the active fostering of integration. The spiritual implications of the racial situation were so far-reaching that the Church dared not disregard the problem.

"There can be no finer apostolate than the apostolate of charity trying to express Christian unity and communication in the teeth of tremendous opposition," said the

Archbishop.

He also specifically condemned the low wages paid to unskilled labourers in the Union. These people — who are mostly Bantu and coloureds — should be paid "according to their human dignity."

Archbishop McCann of Cape Town too, in the course of a recent address, had some strong observations to make. The official government policy, he said, had been claimed as a method of saving Christian civilization. In fact, however, "such a policy is not the way to save civilization but to undermine it."

Are YOU the victim of this?

Take a look at these facts —

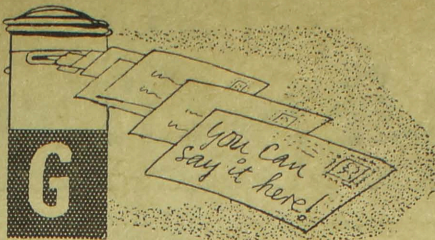
- 1 ... Serious inroads have already been made even among those of our own Faith, some of them in the least expected quarters.
- 2 ... Agents and instruments of this propaganda and its practice have been pressed into service (reluctantly and passively) from among our own children in certain professions or State employments.
- 3 ... These damnable practices of contraception, clinical abortion and sterilization are made over to our people in the very places (maternity clinics, health centres, hospitals) that they have to frequent for legitimate needs.
- 4 ... By a first, unsuspecting and legitimate, even necessary, visit to public health institutions, they have been drawn insensibly and inexorably into a machinery that brings them to the acceptance of the unholy act (sterilisation, salpingectomy etc.).

Let penance fit the sin...

Stern physical and psychological penances, each fitting the particular sin involved, are advocated by the Italian clergy magazine Vita Pastorale published by the Society of St. Paul, Rome.

For example, for pride the penitent should be ordered not to talk about himself for a certain period; the slothful should be told to get up at a set hour every morning and get right down to work; the gluttonous should mortify themselves at meals, abstaining from sugar, wine, sauces, etc., and not eating between meals.

WEEKLY POST BAG



STILL AT THE CROSSROADS

THE greatest defect in our independence is that it was won without an open struggle. True enough men of different races and religions, valiant Ceylonese every one of them, worked harmoniously yet comparatively silently to lay the foundations. But when independence was achieved, it was shorn of much of its intrinsic worth. The majority of us were impressed more by its outward trappings and the fanfare of trumpets.

It failed to touch a responsive chord of patriotism in many hearts that mattered, and today we find many of our national affairs at sixes and sevens. We are still bickering at the crossroads. This is due entirely to a spirit of selfishness which has given rise to disunity, and deprived the nation of our co-operative and co-ordinative efforts. Our vision is clouded by a fog of ill-will, and many a lonely furrow is being ploughed. This has only impoverished the harvest. And if by our fruits we are to be known, I am afraid the situation is such as to throw any honest grocer out of business!

No doubt we are making a bid for international fame. Our accredited representatives are posted in many capital cities of the world. Our voice is heard in the councils of the U.N.O., and many a delegate is airborne to many a distinguished gathering across the seas. But back home there is many a skeleton in the cupboard.

A salient feature of our post-independence era is that we have not learnt to appreciate fully the heritage of our independence. Our energies are dissipated in racial

and religious squabbles which dry up the inner springs of our lives, and deprive us of a civic sense, and a humanitarian outlook.

In this sorry pass in which we find ourselves today I make bold to say that the determining factor in our national advancement should be religion. We of the East are a religious people, and we should be guided in our day to day lives by religious principles. We shall however have to choose between the shadow and the substance. Most of us fondly imagine that religion contains us rather than we contain religion. But like water taking the shape of the vessel into which it is poured, religion too will have to be individually conditioned by our qualities of head and heart, so that we may avoid being a reproach to religion. As nearly three-fourths of our population are Buddhists, and our early civilization and culture derive from Buddhism, it is quite natural that a certain Buddhist outlook should predominate. And yet people of other faiths should be enabled to co-exist with the majority in an atmosphere of justice and peace against the larger background of Maithriya, and all it stands for in those noble impulses which move mankind.

I would like to conclude on a note of concord. It becomes paramount in a plural society like ours to live for each other, and to work on a basic ideal — an ideal which would in its fulfilment approximate to all that is good and noble in our several religions. In a world where God's green earth and blue sky are everybody's heritage it

would behoove us to remember that our fair isle is but a little spot in such a wide expanse. This should help us build our nationalism against a background of internationalism. And out of the blue sky the sun shines equally bright for every one of us to teach us to seek the brotherhood of man and the fatherhood of God, which is but an expression of the highest human ideal. For are we not all sons of the soil in one other respect, in that some day we shall, every one of us, mingle with it? And the greatest appeal this thought can have for every one of us is to make us place service before self, and to make our lives a stepping-stone to a higher life beyond.

George Perera.

Bandarawela.

II

THE Government seems to be making a last minute effort to fulfil their last election pledges to the people, before the forthcoming hustings. The latest moves in this direction have come from the Ministers for Home Affairs and for Industries, who in their exuberance to keep the conditions of the M.E.P. Manifesto, have started a campaign to ban this and prohibit that. They seem to make this land a virtual "Dhamma Dipa" through the process of legislation. Ere they pursue this scheme further let them, in fairness to themselves and others, find an answer to this question: "What country on this earth has been made a 'Paradise' through this method?"

The proposition to ban racing and

to enforce prohibition has originated with the Buddhist Commission's report, but human nature and ingenuity being what they are, the banning of racing and the enforcement of prohibition will not stop the people from devising other means to substitute for these. The raising of the price of arrack has already resulted in the people taking up to the drinking of deleterious intoxicating brews. Need it be stated that this will ruin the health of the people and, in time, the effects of this policy will be reflected in the soaring National Medical Bill. Unfortunately our politicians deliberately turn a blind eye to the experience of other countries in this sphere.

The closing down of the British bases in Ceylon in pursuance of the policy of this Government, has displaced hundreds of people, whose once happy and peaceful homes have been struck with abject misery. They have gone to swell the already saturated ranks of the unemployed. Hardly any serious effort has been made to rehabilitate them. It would be better if the Government addressed itself to the task of bringing down the cost of living (vide article 5 of the M.E.P. manifesto) and found out means of increasing the per capita income of the population instead of planning wanton schemes, which will not benefit anyone, but will still further drain the already depleted coffers of the Government.

Veritas.

Galle.

The Church "Militant"

WITHOUT the spiritualizing power of Religion, the educated man is a potential danger. He will have knowledge without wisdom, and freedom without moral responsibility.

Russia's second cosmic rocket has been successfully launched on a new

wave of Soviet scientific achievement. This rocket has already reached the moon. Russia's first cosmic rocket launched towards the region of the moon, went into orbit round the sun on January 7th, 1959.

Communism hopes to make every human being free and live on an equal basis of comfort. Communism tries to take the place of God and even attempts to improve on God, with the aid of science.

What is the use of all this comfort and freedom, this giving men food and clothing and freedom, unless they are given at the same time a God to worship and a civilising creed to live by?

If the money now being spent on dangerous atomic weapons and researches on these lines could be spent on evangelising the world, we might even now save the unenlightened races from chaos and bloodshed.

Ten days after the Ascension of Jesus into heaven, the Apostles found that they could converse in different languages. A mighty wind filled the room where the Apostles were praying and tongues of fire rested above them. It was the beginning of the Church militant.

It was the D-Day for the invasion of the world by the armies of the living God. The word "go" had been given to the first missionaries and they were armed, not with swords, but with the gift of language. Therefore even today, we require not swords but prayer.

For the progress of the world and for peace on earth, Christ must be amongst us. Christ cannot be replaced by science or Communism.

J. Senanayake.

Colombo 9.

Insist On....

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CONSCIENCE

MUCH greater success attends the treatment of disturbed mental states, thanks to two advances in psychology:

1. Many anxieties and neuroses have a physical or biological basis or cause.

2. The sub-conscious is not as important as conscience.

As regards the first, it used to be assumed that all one had to do to cure psychoses and neuroses was to psychoanalyze a patient; when one brought some hidden fear to the surface, a cure was supposed to take place. But psychology has grown up since those days; it realizes that man is not just a mind. Rather he is composed of mind and body, and is more properly a person. Rats were trained to climb up strings and seek food in certain apertures on a shelf. When their training was completed, blood from a schizophrenic patient was injected in the rats. Not only did they grossly fail to remember their training, but their actions became abnormal — even for rats.

Physiological factors

A thousand and one physiological factors must be considered in curing disordered mental states; the analysis of the psyche alone is not enough. The laws of some states which require that a psychiatrist have a degree in medicine, is a recognition that psychology must never cease to regard man as a composite of body and mind, matter and spirit.

The other advance which is far more important is seeing that man has a conscience as well as a sub-consciousness; he has a first floor where reason, will, decision, choice operate, as well as a cellar in which discarded judgments and feelings are tossed below.

Conscience can be either a friend or an enemy. When it is a friend

there is generally no need of mental therapy; when it is an enemy, thousands seek to have its voice silenced, its uneasiness tranquilized, and its repartee explained away by jargon. Conscience is more regulative of life than the sub-conscious. It eats with us, walks with us, sleeps with us and even in dreams sometimes clothes warning in symbols.

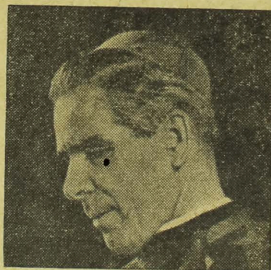
Conscience

Here we speak of the morally sick. It is these who deny conscience and guilt and stretch out passively on their backs instead of actively on their knees in repentance. When conscience is an enemy, and what an implacable enemy it can be, the victim sometimes seeks out charlatans to help murder it.

But conscience runs faster than the pursuers bent on destroying it; it confronts one in the dark, in silence, and in the good actions of others which are a reproach. The past offences may be momentarily buried in the sub-conscious, but conscience is a miner. It racks the memory, as it did the brethren of Joseph; it twinges for the sins of youth as it did Job; it stirs the imagination and makes it see ghosts in men; it even makes the fires of hell burn within before their due time.

The sub-conscious

The sub-conscious has much more in it than emotions aroused because we were locked in a closet during a storm, or the recollection that our mother loved us too much, or our father too little, or that our teacher spanked us when a pupil, or throwing ink in a pupil's eye. The deliverances of conscience are also there; and on the Last Day, like an accounting slip pulled from a cash register, on it will be written the character which decides eternal



BISHOP SHEEN SPEAKS

destiny. The sub-conscious is the treasure house not only of mental states which have passed, but of moral states which were freely created.

The morally unbalanced

Those who are mentally unbalanced need the care of a psychiatrist, but those who are morally unbalanced because of repeated violations of conscience need something more than a psychiatrist. Their conditions become worse as they confuse the moral and the mental, or reduce the former to the latter. The remedy for moral disorder has to be sought outside of man himself. No one need wallow in that inner misery. An evil conscience can be cleansed by the Redeemer's Blood; through the influence of the Spirit of God it can be purified at the great Fountains of Grace. Then comes the joy which only penitents know, namely, that sometimes a reconciliation can be sweeter than an unbroken friendship. (Copyright ... Reproduction in whole or in part forbidden).

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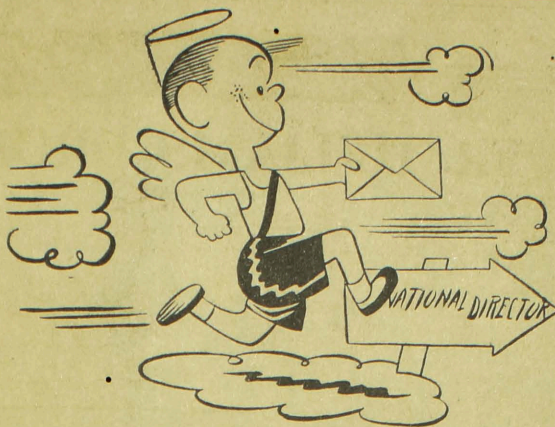
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MISSION PAGE



THIS IS MEANT FOR YOU-CATHOLIC ACTIONIST, CATHOLIC EVERYMAN...

My dear friends-of-the missions. — Once again **MIS- SION SUNDAY** is approaching, and within a month from now (on the 18th of next month, to be precise), the entire Catholic world will be caught up in the mighty missionary current of the Church — reflecting on, praying and sacrificing for the Pope's Missions in the four corners of the world. Is it too early for us to commence alerting ourselves to the big event? Is it too early to begin preparing — especially by prayer — so that when the great day comes upon us, most Catholics in Ceylon — no, I am not speaking of the active and the zealous ones, but rather of the so-called "average" Catholics, — will not be able to say to himself or herself that he just did not know what it was all about?

One month before the great day, I am appealing to you in the name of Pope John, to make of this Mission Sunday — the first of the present Pontificate — the big event it should be; and in order to achieve this, I am asking you for the following:—

1 A specific campaign of prayer from now onwards, that God's grace may so fill all of us, that Mission Sunday will mean an up-

surge of missionary realism and generosity. Prayer especially in **FAMILIES**.

2 Some daily sacrifice undertaken for the specific objective of this year's Mission Sunday.

3 Our desperate need is for promoters who will spread the campaign of the Pope and be his voice and his tongue to those who have to be brought into the missionary crusade. Surely, there will be some who will volunteer already now, and offer their services for Mission Sunday's work, and thereafter, to continue to work all through the year.

I feel confident that in the four weeks before us, you will do your best in answering my appeal.

We have to create a consciousness; we have to tell our neighbour that something big is due to happen in the world of the missions on October 18th this year; and we have to stir up the lethargic and the sleepy and the Sunday-Mass-Catholic. We have, in short, to be Christ's voice reaching out, and doing His work in preparation for Mission Sunday.

I have appealed to individuals and families. A word now

to our organisations — Action units, associations, Legion of Mary and Sodality. You, my dear friends, whoever and whatever you are, will not be playing your part in the missionary Church of Christ, if you pass by, engaged in your apostolic work, but least worried and perturbed about Mission Sunday. Every Catholic Action organisation exists only in so far as it is attuned to Rome; and the Holy Father has signified in the clearest terms possible that the Propagation of the Faith is his arm stretching out to the ends of the earth. Can you then remain loftily unconcerned as alas so many are doing? Yes, pardon me for saying it. It is true, tragically true.

Each of you has, of course, your well-determined objective. True as that is, unless the missionary aspect of it receives emphasis, and unless you fall into the missionary current of the Church, you will be beating about in the air, and missing one indispensable, irreplaceable and essential part of your Christian vocation. God forbid that this should happen to any of our Catholic associations.

God bless you all! Together, you and I shall commence these four weeks of intensified prayer and sacrifice... and, please God, together, you and I and the entire Church, will go forward to Mission Sunday and face it with all the generosity in our hearts.

Fr. Manik Muttukumaru,

National Director,
Pontifical Mission-Aid
Societies.

A SACRIFICE A DAY

HERE are a few of the many sacrifices that we have received during the past months. They come from all types of persons — poor and rich, employed and unemployed, young and old. And most of them tell the same story: of something sacrificed and given up for the Missions. Thank you all, dear friends, and especially the anonymous friends whom I have not been able to thank before. In the next four weeks, would each of you add one more "sacrifice" to what you are now doing? ... the work of "roping-in" new friends who come to know and to understand the work of the Pope's own Society for the Propagation of the Faith? Thank you and God bless you all.

from coconut produce

"I am sending you Rs. 10 for the education of a poor priest. The money is a part of the coconut produce from our garden. This time I'm sending you more than last month, as we got more nuts than we did before."

(God bless you, dear lady. There's so much that so many can learn from your beautiful spirit. May the Giver of all gifts reward you abundantly).

a till among the household expenses

"The enclosed is for the Holy Childhood Society, Father. It was collected in a till I keep for collecting what I can from the household expenses. I hope to continue doing so always."

(How I wish that your example would teach other mothers like you to remember the Missions even amidst the household dishes. God bless you, dear friend).

a picnic offered for the Missions

"Our longed-for picnic is our offering for the Missions. One of the children, at the last moment, suggested that we give it all up for the Missions, and send you the money and everything else we had collected for this great outing that we had planned. So here it is, Father, and do please bless us all."

(Oh yes, dear friend, most gladly do I bless you and your wonderfully generous family. May the dear Lord reward you too for giving such a beautiful spirit to your children. One suggestion now: why not all of you become members of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, and make your entire family a "Missionary family"?).

St. Peter the Apostle Day and after...

ON Sunday, the 6th, the whole of Ceylon observed a national day of prayer and sacrifice — for the Pope's Society of St. Peter the Apostle. It was the first time we had done it in Ceylon. Thanks be to God, there were some truly extraordinary instances of generosity on that day.

There was, for instance, the young man who told the National Director how he had always longed to be a priest, but his dreams were never fulfilled. He now did the second-best: offering up his life of prayer as well as one-day's pay every month for some other young man so that his vocation may be fulfilled.

You who read these lines, perhaps you too long to share in the priesthood of Christ; perhaps you too would have so wished to be a priest. But perhaps, for one reason or another, it is not possible. Whoever you be, married man or woman, clerk or socialite, would you not wish to share in another's priesthood? To know that when some priest blesses or forgives sin, when he speaks the words of consecration and lifts the Lord of all for men to adore, you will have a share in this tremendous vocation?

YES... YOU CAN HAVE A SHARE. FOR YOU CAN INDEED HELP THE MISSIONARY WORLD TO HAVE PRIESTS. JOIN THE POPE'S OWN SOCIETY OF ST. PETER FOR THE INDIGENOUS CLERGY... and send your sacrifice to your Diocesan Director, or directly to the National Director, Pontifical Mission-Aid Societies, Archbishop's House, Colombo 8.

A WORD TO OUR ANONYMOUS FRIENDS

FIRST AND FOREMOST, A VERY SINCERE AND HEARTFELT "THANK YOU" FOR YOUR WONDERFUL GENEROSITY. BUT, AS THE DAYS GO BY AND YOUR TRIBE INCREASE, I AM RATHER WORRIED. WHY MUST YOU REMAIN ANONYMOUS? SURELY YOU KNOW THAT YOUR NAMES REMAIN ONLY WITH THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR, AND IN ANY CASE, NO NAMES ARE EVER PUBLISHED? YOU MAKE THE BEAUTIFUL SACRIFICE OF SENDING SO MUCH FOR THE MISSIONS; MAY WE ASK YOU FOR JUST THAT OTHER LITTLE SACRIFICE OF APPENDING YOUR NAME, SO AS TO SIMPLIFY OUR WORK, AND ASSIST US IN ACKNOWLEDGING THE GIFTS OF OUR FRIENDS? IN ANY CASE, DEAR ANONYMOUS FRIENDS, MAY THE QUEEN OF THE MISSIONS BLESS YOU ALL.

HOLY CHILDHOOD CORNER

Dear children,

So you have continued giving and giving, even till it hurt. How good of you all. May the Infant Jesus bless each of you — I mean the faithful ones. I want to ask you a big favour this time; In addition to your sacrifices, I want you all to pray very hard for the next one month. On the 18th of next month will be Mission Sunday, the great missionary day for the elders. But unless you are there, praying for them and for all of us, the Pope's Missions will not benefit much. So keep your hands joined, dear children, and remain on your knees, praying harder than ever, for the next four weeks. God bless you all. Thank you.

THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR.

A lovely letter from Kandy

"Mother is very pleased with us, and we hope you too will be, Father. In addition to putting our sacrifices into the till, we have also collected lots of stamps. And now Mother has made little cards and on them she has written sacrifices, so we draw them each day. One has this written: "Keep silence for China," and another, "put 10 cents in the till" etc. We learnt this from Uncle Ashley. We are to be enrolled in the Holy Childhood by Fr. Filipponi. We were happy to see our letter in the Messenger at last. But when the Seniors saw it, they were dead "J." We remain your hard-working little children,

THE JUNIORS,

Good Shepherd Convent, Kandy. (Those Seniors are going to be still more "J" when they see this letter also published, dear girls!

But that can't be helped. When they too become as generous and as hardworking as all of you are for the Missions, then perhaps their letters too will be published. God bless each of you for all you are doing for the Pope's missions. And may Jesus give a very special blessing to Rev. Mother. I am very happy that all of you are now members of the Holy Childhood Society. So you can now pray more and give more for the Missions).

Another beautiful letter, also from Kandy

"We are sorry we have not written to you for some time. We started school on the 20th and had our First Holy Childhood meeting on Friday, the 24th. We sang hymns in English, Sinhalese and Tamil to the Infant Jesus, and each one of us offered a flower to Jesus as a sign of our love.

Then a little member from the Kindergarten said a few words on how we should spend the coming month of May. After that a member from Std. V spoke on Our Lady and said we were to promise to say the Rosary every day during the month of May.

Father, we now have 125 members in the Holy Childhood Association. We love to assemble every month for our meetings. We are praying for you, dear Father, and we are sending you stamps we collected during the holidays. We beg your blessing dear Father. Your faithful little ones,

THE JUNIORS,

St. Anthony's Convent, Kandy. (Every word of what I have said above, holds good for all of you, my dear girls — you who have been so generous and loyal for so long. Keep it up always. May Jesus bless you and also the good nuns who have taught you to do so much for the Pope's Missions).

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 SEPTEMBER

GENERAL: That an apostolic spirit may flourish in Christian families.

MISSIONARY: That a Christian solution be found to the race problem in South Africa.

FR. HELIAMS DROPS A HINT

DIVINE Providence seems certainly to smile upon our simple searching for Fr. Vaz's grave; for discoveries are crowding on us. Significantly too, they are for the most part, recoveries from the past.

From Kandy, Knight V.M.A. tells us of manuscripts of an unpublished work by Fr. Philip Caspersz taking in the whole history of the Church in the hill capital down to modern times. This announcement is of a nature to pique our curiosity and whet our appetite for a closer acquaintance with the papers. Between them, our Knight and Fr. Bede will have to see their way to satisfying Fr. Vaz's school.

Thrilling too is a communication from J. A. Gajanayake (also of the chivalrous line, if we are identifying him rightly with the Legionary who fifteen years ago was a champion of the Fatima Message). If we reserve his contribution for next time, it is partly in imitation of Lucy's secret, but chiefly for what now follows.

What moved us so powerfully when on Sick Day at Tewatta (30th Aug.) children from Wahacotte came trooping round us with those deep lumi-

nous eyes that come from far? It was certainly touching to know they had come all that distance; that they had come 300 strong (the whole village with the exception of ten or so left behind). Then, one could not help thinking that good St. Anthony was behind it all, that from the shrine where people flock to him, he had pressed his own to go to Mary. Behind St. Anthony there was a shadow. We feared we would be follow-

Now, as Fr. Heliam shows convincingly, documents in hand, the Catholic community of Wahacotte of 1815 was in unbroken succession from that of Fr. Vaz's time. The Sacristan, then, is speaking from a living and authentic tradition. The value of Harward's Narrative is that it is a written and independent record of that tradition while it was still alive and untouched by outside influences.

So far for what concerns our immediate point of the site of the church and the Tomb. The following point is wider and of more vital significance for the Cause of Canonisation. We shall set it forth.

2. Proved by Fr. Heliam that the Wahacotte Catholic community was in unbroken succession from Fr. Vaz's day to British times, A. C. Lawrie's testimony (in 1898 Gazetteer of the Central Provinces: I, p. 360 and II, pp. 894-895) that a "priest called Joseph Vaz obtained leave from the Kandyan King to build a small chapel, and his name and that of his successor, Father Gonsalos (sic), are venerated by the people," is a written and independent testimony to a living tradition of Father Vaz's reputation for holiness.

We wonder now whether this has been inserted in the files of the Rogatory Tribunal of the Diocesan Process. Was Wahacotte heard to protest the existence of this living tradition to our day?

In any case, was this document (Lawrie's Gazetteer) uttered and filed in the process as testimony to a first-hand tradition still living in his day?

If not, and in any case, our Secretariate sends out a call to our Knights to bestir themselves and obtain us without delay (for transmission to the Postulator, Rome) a photostat copy (duly certified by the Librarian) of the relevant passage of Lawrie's Gazetteer.

As already mentioned, Fr. Heliam's booklet contains other material of interest and importance to our Story and we shall be taking it up again.

For these reasons, we feel that the booklet itself should be filed in Rome among the documents for the historical presentation of the Cause demanded by the Sacred Congregation of Rites.

We therefore issue a call to our Readers for a spare copy (or two) of Fr. Heliam's booklet: "A Short Sketch of the Origin and History of St. Anthony's, Wahacotte" (printed by Schokman and Co., Hatton, 1932).

Would Fr. Heliam's people (at Kotahena?) or his Benedictine confreres also favour us with further information about his historical studies and the books he made use of?

Thanking all,
Fr. Vaz Secretariate,
Archbishop's House,
Colombo 8.

FATHER VAZ FEATURE

ing our heart too easily by bringing Fr. Vaz into the picture. Now we know for certain that the facts are imperious; for within the week we have stumbled upon a mine of information.

Bound in red kid (amateurly it would seem, for the red still comes away with the handling) and with letter-press of gold is a booklet dedicated (this copy of it, at least) to His Grace Dr. Peter Marquardt, O.M.I., Archbishop of Colombo, by his "ever devoted and obedient son in Christ, D. Leo Heliam, o.s.b."

It was printed in 1932 by Schokman & Co., Hatton, and gives itself as "A Short Sketch of the Origin and History of St. Anthony's, Wahacotte."

Fr. Heliam is clearly the publisher, the compiler and (as far as we know) the author too of the historical sketch that runs from p. 23 to 36.

What struck us at the very first glance was the thoroughly Benedictine scholarship that now for the second time (remember Fr. Caspersz) we encountered in the Sylvestrian missionary of the field.

The documents drawn on range from Queyroz and Ribeyro of Portuguese times to Knox and the Mahavamsa of the 18th century to Harward and Lawrie of the British era. Each time the source is indicated with precise particulars; references to Kandy-an Kings and other personages or facts of Ceylon history are clarified in foot-notes.

It is going to take us a little time to sort and sift out things to find just where Fr. Heliam takes us further than what we know from other publications. On two points however we have no doubt that these "Strands" at least acquire new positions; stronger, if not substantially distinct evidence. They are

1. The statement (quoted by Fr. S. G. Pereira, Life, p. 158 and others) that "On the borders of the lake of Kandy, at a place called Bogambara, was the principal church, etc." is found in Harward's Narrative, 331-2; but what confers on it very special force is that it is embodied in the Narrative as the statement made by the Sacristan of Wahacotte (Juan Mendez) when interviewed on the spot by the Protestant Archdeacon Twisleton (? 1815). Cf. Fr. Heliam, op. cit., p. 31.

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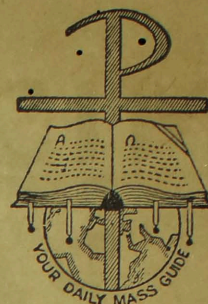
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Monday, 21 September: St. Matthew. Red. Omit prayer prescribed. Creed. Preface of Apostles.

Tuesday, 22 September: St. Thomas of Villanova. White. 2nd prayer of St. Maurice and Companions.

Wednesday, 23 September: St. Linus. Red. 2nd prayer of St. Thecla.

Thursday, 24 September: Our Lady of Ransom. White. Creed. Preface of B.V.M.

Friday, 25 September: Feria. Mass of the Sunday. Green.

Saturday, 26 September: Our Lady's Mass. White. 2nd prayer of Ss. Cyprian and Justina. Omit prayer prescribed. Preface of B.V.M.

● In orphanages, special Mass of Our Lady Mother of Orphans.

N.B. — Unless otherwise stated, the prayer prescribed is always said (Archdiocese: "In time of any tribulation").

RADIO LOG

SEPT. 19 to 21: 6-55 to 7-00 a.m. **THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY** (Tamil) — B. G. Emmanuel, Esq.

SEPT. 20: 10-00 to 10-05 a.m. **TALK** (English) — Rev. Fr. Claude Lawrence, O.M.I.

SEPT. 21 to 27: 6-55 to 7-00 a.m. **THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY** (Sinhalese) — Rev. Fr. Nicholas Perera.

SEPT. 27: 9-00 to 9-30 a.m. **CATHOLIC HALF HOUR** (Sinhalese) — Rev. Fr. Henry Rodrigo, O.M.I. 10-00 to 10-30 a.m. **CATHOLIC HALF HOUR** (Tamil) — M. G. Augustine, Esq. 7-00 to 7-30 p.m. **CATHOLIC HOUR PROGRAMME** (English)

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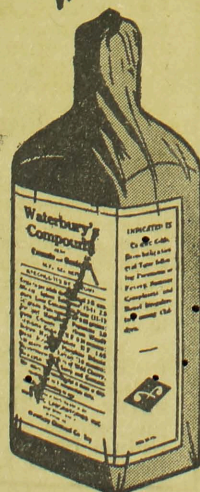


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ROUNDABOUT

by Robin Hood

Bud, Bloom and Fruit



FOURTEEN-year-old DEREK DE SILVA (take a look at the picture) is scuffling and crawling his way, inch by inch, beyond the four familiar walls of his J.S.C. classroom at St. Sylvester's College, Kandy, into sprawling, broader territory. Quite recently he occupied a comfortable 24 double column inch space in a Sunday contemporary with his "Prologue" of 48 lines of, soporific couplets banged into shape in just under 15 minutes!

That verbal feat, Robin Hood is now able to disclose, pales into the insignificance of a mere star besides the magnificent meteor-shower of 700 lines of blank verse — a tragedy on Moses — which stands to the credit of this 14-year-old from Kandy.

And (hold your breath!) Derek has written more than a couple of short plays. At the moment his Muse is at work on a Pastoral, a la Vergil.

At 14 plus, well-versed in the plays and poems of Fletcher, Thomas Ottway, Sheridan, Congreve, Marlowe, Derek can recite chunks of Shakespeare by heart, and with equal facility rattle off lines and lines of Tennyson and Goldsmith before you can say Derek

De Silva!

He is also steeped in the deep lore of the Classics. Reading and writing verse has been Derek's hobby from his initial years way back in the 5th standard. Up to date he has been first boy in his class.

Derek is also an Altar Boy and a Legionary. His latest work (accomplished in ten minutes at the behest of a friend and mentor) appears in the Schools-Mag in this issue of the Messenger.

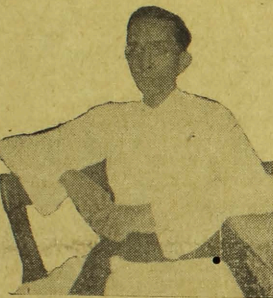
Amazing do you say? But that's only the bud. Robin Hood's comment is: await the blossom and the fruit. With time and patience the Mulberry leaf turns into satin, as the Chinese say . . .

• ALTER CHRISTUS

ONE of Ceylon's newest priests-to-be is VINCENT ANTHONY TERENCE LEANAGE who will be ordained a Priest forever at St. Mary's Church, Kegalle, at 8 a.m. on Sunday, 27 September 1959. The Ordaining Bishop is His Lordship Rt. Rev. Dr. N. Laudadio, S.J., Bishop of Galle.

Born in 1932, the new Priest-to-be was educated at St. Joseph's and St. Benedict's Colleges, respectively. He also studied at St. Xavier's Seminary, Kalgana, and at the Papal Seminary, Kandy and Poona.

Presently at Poona, he is scheduled to arrive in the island any time now, to make his retreat at



Lewella Fatima Retreat House, prior to his Ordination to the Priesthood.

• KUDOS FOR BOYS TOWN FILM

ROBIN HOOD (who has earlier drawn the attention of readers to the 16 mm film "The Road to Boys' Town") has just had a peep into a letter written by the Apostolic Delegate His Excellency the Most Rev. Dr. James R. Knox. Writing to FR. NOEL CRUZ, O.M.I., producer of the film, the Apostolic Delegate says: "It was very good of you to make special arrangements for me to see your film 'The Road to Boys' Town.' I congratulate you sincerely on this effort, for the film is commendable not only for its fine moral content, but for the degree of technical perfection so seldom found in private productions. You are aware of the importance the Holy See attaches to the good use of the Cinema. Hence I hope it will be possible

for you to continue your effort in this field."

• THE FLAME ABROAD

THE Ceylon publication "The Flame," devoted to spotlighting Catholic Literature, has earned a commendable "mention" from the well-known English publishers, Geoffrey Chapman Ltd., whose book "We have a Pope" is a top-seller.

"It's the finest review of its kind in Asia" is the comment made by GEOFFREY CHAPMAN, LL.B., a Director of the firm. "The Flame" has also made its impact in Singapore and recently "The Malayan Catholic News," devoted double column space to the local publication, lauding the Ceylon venture.

PREPARING FOR THE GENERAL COUNCIL

World's Bishops consulted about agenda

VATICAN CITY — A circular letter has been sent by His Eminence Domenico Cardinal Tardini to more than 2,700 Catholic bishops, abbots, and religious superiors, asking them what they think should be discussed at the forthcoming General Council.

The first to answer was Bishop Carlo Baldini, O.M.D., of Chiusi and Pienza. Since then replies have come from about 40 other bishops in places as far apart as Australia, India, Norway, the Belgian Congo, and Canada. In the next few weeks, the great majority of answers will flood into the commission's offices in the Palazzo dei Propilei, the new Vatican office building at the end of St. Peter's Square.

"Second Vatican Council"

Although it has not been announced officially, it is almost certain that the Council will be called the Second Vatican Council. This means it will not be a resumption of the original Vatican Council — which was disrupted in 1870 when the Papal States were seized by Italy, but never formally closed.

In the circular letter the ante-preparatory commission for the

Council sent to the prospective Fathers of the Council, they were exhorted to make suggestions and offer ideas with great frankness on what should be considered by the Council.

When the responses reach the commission secretariat, they are photostated and the copies are cut up section by section, and filed under the various subjects suggested. From them will be drawn the general agenda of the Council and the subjects to be discussed once the Council has convened.

1961 or 1962

While no date has yet been set, it is believed the council will not convene until 1961, or even 1962.

In addition to the circular letter sent to the bishops, another has been sent to the theological faculties of Catholic universities, asking experts to prepare brief, well-documented studies on theological,

moral, liturgical, ascetical and pastoral questions that may be expected to interest the council.

A third letter has been sent to the governing congregations of the Holy See, asking them to set up study commissions within their own offices to draw up material they think worthy of the Council's consideration.

Method and Purpose

The preparation for the Council will be long and complex. At present only five priests — under the direction of Mgr. Pericle Felici, Secretary of the ante-preparatory commission — are handling the early work. Later, the machinery of the council will be augmented according to the directions of His Holiness Pope John XXIII, who first announced last January his decision to convoke the Council.

In a recent statement the Holy Father revealed further details of his purpose in convoking the council. He intends, he said, to work for the revitalizing and strengthening of the Catholic Church so that the Orthodox and the Protestants may more easily recognise its truth.

I AM THY NEIGHBOUR

"YOU don't understand" said Peter carefully, "I am a patriot first." "A better word would be hypocrite," retorted the other angrily, "or even politician."

Peter sat in his usual corner, facing the engine. His friend was opposite him. The offices had closed early, by a hasty Government decree, and the three o'clock train was crowded with men returning to their homes. There was tension in the air; wild rumours and talk of danger and death. A few people talked in low tones — the rest sat quietly and looked out of the windows in silence. All of them had seen the evening papers, and many of them, in the solitude of their hearts, prayed for courage to face the wave of hate which bore down upon them.

"Look," said the other, bending earnestly forward, "you call yourself a Christian. And you Christians are asked," he ticked off the points on the fingers of one hand, "first to love your God, next to love your neighbour. How does all that go with what you tell me now? Or has it all changed from the time I went to one of your schools?"

"It's quite simple, really," replied Peter carefully, "My own self-preservation and duty to my country come first."

"Meaning all this?" asked the other, prodding the newspaper account with an angry forefinger.

"My dear chap, these are isolated incidents which we know only secondhand. Things will be all right soon. Besides, these things have to happen, you know, before a nation is built up."

"Have you told your mother all this rot? She will like hearing it, her husband dead and you her only son. She thinks you are a Christian, you know, kind to both friends and enemies."

"Of course I don't tell her. She wouldn't understand if I did. But that doesn't alter facts. You can't afford to be kind to our enemies,"

by I. P. W. Fernando

today, and only occasionally to your friends."

"Well, I hope they won't hand back your own smug remarks later," replied his friend, "when you are due to go up there," he smiled sourly and pointed up with his forefinger. "Well here's my turning. See you tomorrow."

Peter shrugged and continued on. There goes a very illogical young man, he decided. No wonder he has to borrow money from everybody — even I had to help him last month. That is just the point, he told himself; even charity must be planned, — you shouldn't give unless you can afford to give.

He noticed that the road was oddly deserted. As he turned into the lane through the Housing Scheme, he sensed the tension in the air. No boys played in the lane, and people watched him, as he passed, through half-closed doors. He overcame an illogical impulse to quicken his steps.

BLOOD-STAINED MAN

Then Peter saw the man. The man came on at a stumbling, wave-

ring run, his uncertain feet stirring up a trail of red dust. Suddenly, Peter understood why all the gates



and doors and windows were shut. But the man did not look at them at all — perhaps he knew it was useless. As he passed, Peter saw that the man was dark, and middle-aged, and not very strong. He was wounded. The side of the head was sodden with blood, and the torn shirt and the dusty trousers were splattered crimson. The man passed Peter and continued on, in that dazed and ludicrous trot.

Peter was pleased that he was quite cool. "I never knew blood looked like that," he thought calmly.

As he came to the turn, he heard the noise on his left. It was a mixture of sudden shouts and sharp sounds, and an intermittent deep-voiced growl that ebbed and flowed. He hesitated at the turn. His house was the one at the far end of the lane, on his right. Not a soul was to be seen in the lane, not a window open. His mother would not expect him so early today. He turned left and walked towards the sound.

The house stood in a large garden. It had been built recently — an upstairs house in the new style, with spacious rooms and large glass-fronted parlour. But Peter saw only the jagged bits of glass in the frame, the bricks and stones and smashed bottles, the broken chairs and flower-pots, and the smashed radio which spewed out valves and wiring on the lawn, and the men who screamed abuse and ran in and out, breaking things in a frenzy of obscene joy.

The thugs were not many, Peter noticed. But they were in a dangerous mood. They paid no attention to the little knot of on-lookers in the garden. They screamed insanely, and ran about shouting encouragement at one another, and

Continued on page 12

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1959

OVER-POPULATION — is Birth Control the Answer?

WE make no apology to our readers for returning once again to a question that is very much before the public gaze — that campaign which goes by the euphemistic term of "family planning" or "planned parenthood." In fact our front page invites us to it with the incisive indictment a Circular from His Grace the Archbishop of Colombo makes of the means to which this campaign has resorted in our land.

Under the pretext that the human race is growing so fast that the prospect of starvation and self-destruction stares it in the face, these so-called "experts" have gone about the country with the slogans "fewer babies and save the nation" and "let every child be a wanted child." Until a few years ago, the Family Planning Association were the crusaders; now, it would appear that our very trustees of the nation, its most responsible public servants, have joined the band-wagon. With such heavy backing, every possible means is being used — propaganda, blandishments, intensive departmental activity, and in certain areas, perhaps even pecuniary inducements. That really is the most sickening and serious aspect of this iniquitous campaign.

The people of this country have a right to make use of the island's public health facilities, and they have a right to make use of them without being either obliged or cajoled or deceived into the acceptance of practices which are abhorrent to their religious beliefs. But what is it that actually happens? Let us state it in the very forceful words of the Archbishop: "These damnable practices of contraception, clinical abortion and sterilisation, are made over to people in the very places (maternity clinics, health centres, hospitals) that they have to frequent for legitimate needs."

It is one thing for a person to be persuaded, with full and complete knowledge of the issues involved, into this damnable practice — though, we have made no attempt to hide our own feelings even on this aspect of it, when the most powerful means of propaganda are used (and now suggestions are being made to use even the Government Film Unit!) to fill unsuspecting, uneducated and simple minds with propaganda, exploiting their ignorance and their poverty. But just now, we are stressing a different point — that it reaches the height of injustice and violation of the rights of a citizen, when the very places which he is compelled to frequent for legitimate needs, are used for the dissemination and the practice of principles which violate the natural law (incumbent on every human being) as well as the conscience of those who believe in the Christian way of life. We said this is a gross injustice; we go further — we say it is a betrayal of the trust placed in those who are at the helm, a crude brushing aside of what is best and highest and most sacred in man.

What then about the oft-repeated prophecies of an imminent catastrophic crash if a half is not called to the present frightening increase of the human population, especially in the so-called under-developed areas of the world (which include of course India and Ceylon)? What about the much-repeated shibboleth that, within a few years, Ceylon will be faced with starvation once the optimum population level is reached?

The prophets of doom and dire peril did not raise their menacing heads this year. As early as 1898, Sir William Crookes in his presidential address to the British Association said: "England and all civilised nations stand in deadly peril of not having enough to eat." And he went on to say that with all wheat-growing countries straining output to the utmost, the food situation could be tackled vis-a-vis the growing population only till 1931! What actually happened? The world knows of the glut in the wheat market and that farmers in the Argentine had even to burn wheat because so great was the world surplus! And all this in a world which was going to die of starvation in the 1930s!

This kind of panicky hysteria is nothing new. Over 1700 years ago, Tertullian had already struck a sombre note of warning that the population was growing, and hence there "was hardly enough of the essentials for us. Nature can no longer sustain us." The world has yet gone on; and nature has still sustained the growing population!

We do not intend to answer crusaders of family planning today; we have done so on an earlier occasion, and we shall come back to it once again in the future. But let us say it quite clearly that our complete rejection of "family planning" is not due solely to the stand taken by the Church, but because the very nature of things cries out for it. In other words, family planning becomes wrong, reprehensible and totally unacceptable to us because of a law anterior to any Church law, which any human being, whosoever he be, is powerless to change or modify.

From the moral view-point, family planning is unacceptable (and that is why we find it impossible to understand how the Lambeth Conference of 1930 gave grudging consent to the use of contraceptives); the medical, economic and social aspects of family planning are equally repugnant, and all point in one direction — crusaders for this insidious campaign are only driving the nation to social and family (and ultimately, national) ruin.

Planned parenthood or family planning (let them call it what they will) is not the answer to the problem of over-population. In fact, as we have pointed out on more than one occasion before, it is a food problem and not a population problem that faces us, and the crying need of the hour is co-operation and not contraception. In fact, data furnished in the reports of the F.A.O. flatly contradict the theories of our family planners, and one authority even holds that the world is capable of supporting ten times its present population!

Much of the near-crisis hysteria of the crusaders was whipped up by the recent report of the United Nations Commission that the population of the world will be doubled in about 40 years, and that at the turn of the century the under-nourished will amount to 80 per cent. of the world population. And the entire case has been built up on a mass of statistics, based on the fallacy that population always shows a constant tendency to increase. But they seem to have bothered little about another lesson of those same statistics: the fallacy of this thesis that population

CURRENT COMMENT

by the Editor

After three years of silence, the Prime Minister denounces Marxism

A STRANGE, if welcome, thing happened last week — for the first time in his three and a half years of governing the country, the Prime Minister openly denounced Marxism. For one who had co-operated with Marxist Parties, and had (for the first time in Ceylon) brought one of them into a coalition with his predominantly democratic party and given two portfolios in his Cabinet to the "father of Ceylon's revolution" and to another Marxist, it would seem a surprising thing to do. Or perhaps as cartoonist Colette delightfully summed up the situation last week — is it that the Prime Minister has come a very long way from the days of his flirtation with Marxists, and of his own brand of Marxist brinkmanship?

In the course of two speeches — one at the Pussellawa Town Council, and the other at Ibbanawewa — the Prime Minister had some very strong references to Marxism in Ceylon. Here in brief are some of the points he raised.

- "Marxist parties have no place in this country. They can only hope to capture power by revolution and maintain a form of dictatorship as they have done in certain foreign countries."
- Marxism is an alien philosophy which is not suitable to this country — that is why the L.S.S.P. and the C.P., despite a long political existence here, have not been able to win the support of the people.
- Marxists do not believe in religion; but the S.L.F.P., said the P.M., does believe in such essentials.

No comment is needed. Every single one of the points that the Prime Minister has raised has been stressed over and over again by us. It is heartening that the period of honeymooning with the Reds seems to be at an end. The P.M. has often described the present "period of transition" in very graphic language: one world is decaying, and the other is "struggling to be born." The country had reason to fear that this new world would have a different drift; if the P.M. has seen things as he now belatedly sees them, one can look forward to the future with a certain amount of hope.

"Happy family"...

THESE seem to be the days of public confessions and admissions. It was not so long ago that the public was being regaled to a spate of ministerial (and even Prime Ministerial) declarations that the Cabinet was a "happy family," a group of patriots who were so full of an infectious patriotism that nothing could stop them in their love of country; it was also a matter of very recent history that anyone who dared even to hint at wrangling within the Cabinet was immediately branded as an "enemy of the government" even by the highest in the land.

But what is it that we now hear? None other than the Prime Minister himself saying that just before the disintegration of the M.E.P. coalition there were factional fights even on public platforms. IT WAS LIKE A FISH MAR-

KET, he said, and he had been apprehensive even to preside over Cabinet meetings not knowing at what time eruptions would take place! And so, just as the prophets of gloom and the "enemies of the government" had anticipated, the M.E.P. coalition ended unwept and unsung.

The Dalai Lama

speaks out

COMMENTING on the tragedy of Tibet, and the strangeness of Ceylon's silence, we referred a few weeks ago to the Dalai Lama's appeal to the United Nations, and we asked what Ceylon's vociferous defenders of other people's freedom would have to say. The strange and bitter silence continues, and the voice of the Dalai Lama, spiritual head of Tibet, goes unheard — even in a country like Ceylon with its dominant Buddhist population.

Appealing against the "inhuman treatment and crimes against humanity," the Dalai Lama cited these instances:

- Thousands of Tibetans dispossessed and deprived of all means of livelihood.
- Men, women and children forced into labour gangs with no payment whatsoever.
- Thousands of innocent Tibetans brutally massacred.
- Every attempt made to destroy Buddhism, thousands of monasteries razed to the ground, sacred images and articles of religion completely destroyed.

This is only a part of the grim catalogue that is due to come up before the United Nations. But will Ceylon continue the disgrace of her inexcusable silence while almost at her doorstep, genocide and mass-religious-suppression is being thrust on a small nation by one of the mighty ones of the world?

Protestants and

"Family Planning"

WE have been asked rather frequently about the attitude of other Christian bodies to "family planning," particularly as we have so often stressed that "family planning" runs directly counter to the teachings of Christ. Unfortunately, we must admit that some other Christian bodies have not kept to their Christian ideals. It is quite true that the

Lambeth Conference of 1908 and 1920 denounced contraception and until 1930, the Church of England, like most Protestant churches, retained the teaching of the Catholic Church and held that the use of contraceptives was intrinsically wrong. But then came the great change. By a majority vote of three to one, the Bishops at the Lambeth Conference of 1930 gave grudging consent to the use of contraceptives, which provoked a storm of criticism within and outside the Church. The London Sunday Express summed up the situation thus: "Lambeth has delivered a fatal blow to marriage, to motherhood, to fatherhood, to the family, to morality. It has paved the way to race suicide." The Lambeth Conference of 1958 seemed to go even further, and regarded contraception as one of the chief means to solve the population problem.

Post Script: Among his reasons for opposing the resolution of the Lambeth Conference, Bishop Blunt of Bradford said: "Because it has done in moral matters what is just what you must never do, i.e. modify principles because there may be hard cases."

Lunik II

RUSSIA has done it again, and in a most spectacular way and with delightful eye for timing, she has reached the moon. Which only confirms what we have said before: that in a regimented state, where all the energies of man are directed to state-defined aims, material and scientific progress are but to be expected.

But that is not what takes priority in our mind just now. Our thoughts go further afield to Mr. Krushchev's statement on arrival in the U.S.A. this week. In the conquest of space, he envisaged American-Russian co-operation; and he looked forward to a time when both the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. flags would meet on the moon. Excellent thoughts indeed. But we prefer to be more earth-bound, and we look forward rather to the millennium when the U.S.S.R. and other nations will work together, harnessing all their immense scientific progress for the welfare of man, rather than for the work of destruction.

Krushchev dreams of a Moonlight Sonata. Most men will hope rather for a sonata of peace and trust among nations here below.

Please Note!

Articles, letters, etc., for publication should be addressed to THE EDITOR.



Advertisements, subscriptions, etc., should be addressed to the MANAGER and NOT to the Editor.

Festival of the "Queen of Ruhuna"

(from Leo G. Fernando, "Messenger" correspondent)

BUS loads of pilgrims from as far away as Chilaw, Negombo, Wattala, Kelaniya, Panunuwila and Moratuwa swelled the numbers at the Shrine of Our Lady of Matara last week-end to make it the largest crowd ever witnessed at this annual festival.

This historic shrine is fast becoming the "Madhu" of the South and the Convent and College premises are now requisitioned to accommodate those who come from distant places.

Matara, whose Catholic population is numerically small, was impressed by the large concourse of devotees present to pay their homage to the Ruhuna Rajina as Our Lady of Matara is now called. The 300-year-old statue was placed on a jet-illuminated and decorated motor chariot and taken in procession on a two-mile route. Vespers was sung by Mgr. T. N. Alles, the Vicar General of Galle, assisted by Rev. Frs. Gilbert Wijeyeratne and Henry Weeraratne, and the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was given at the Grotto.

On Sunday there were Low Masses from 4-30 a.m. and the festive High Mass was sung at 8-30 a.m. by Mgr. Michael Perera, Vicar General of Chilaw, assisted by Rev. Frs. Felix Rajapakse and Austin Lanza. After Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, the pilgrims assembled once again at the Grotto for a special

prayer of dedication to Our Lady of Matara, after which the final blessing with the statue was given by Mgr. Alles.

For the festival on the 10th and 11th of September next year, the Parish Priest intends to arrange for a special train service and additional accommodation for more pilgrims.

Galle's crusade of prayer

(from our correspondent)

A LARGE-SCALE crusade of prayer has been launched in the parish of Galle from the commencement of this month.

The parish has been divided into six sections, each with its own leader who has the duty of visiting the homes and seeing to the practical working out of the crusade. Each section attends Mass on the appointed day, and offers up prayers for the peace of the world and of Ceylon, and for the conversion of Russia. The response on the part of the faithful has been heartening.

A campaign to consecrate families to the Immaculate Heart of Mary is also under way.

Anniversary of Consecration



Next Monday, 21 September, is the anniversary of the consecration of His Lordship the Bishop of Trincomalee, Dr. Ignatius Glennie S.J. We offer His Lordship our good wishes and pray that God may bless him in the arduous duties of his episcopate.

Personal

Prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Rev. Fr. Carlo Perera's father who died last Monday, R.I.P.

Aitiyamalai Feast

(from a "Messenger" correspondent)

PILGRIMS totalling up to several thousands from the Batticaloa District and from remote areas flocked to the Sylvan Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour at Aitiyamalai on 6th September, 1959. This Shrine is situated in the Unichchai Colonisation Scheme.

Fr. Wambeck, who was responsible for the inauguration of the Shrine at this site four years ago, thanked all benefactors and appealed for further funds to complete the Shrine.

• WHAT ARE WE IN CEYLON DOING ABOUT PUTTING DRAMA TO THE SERVICE OF CHRIST? WE HAVE RECENTLY SEEN A CATHOLIC ORIENTAL BALLET PUT ON THE BOARDS AT AQUINAS FAIR, WITH SINGULAR SUCCESS. HERE IS A SHORT NOTE ON THE TRADITIONAL JAPANESE DRAMA HARNESSSED TO THE SERVICE OF CHRIST, WHICH SHOULD PROVE USEFUL READING:

REVIVAL OF DRAMA



• A scene from the first Catholic Ballet in Sinhalese

THE Japanese people have the greatest and varied theatrical tradition in the world. One of the classical theatre forms of Japan is *Noh* drama and it is this dramatic form that has for the first time last Easter been made to express a Christian theme.

A group of Christian artists, helped by leading *Noh* actors, presented the Resurrection of Christ in a perfectly classical form,

By BASIL MENDIS

(of the University of Ceylon)

with the use of masks, dances and songs. The story of Our Lord's resurrection from the dead is ideally suited for *Noh* drama because a principal section of traditional *Noh* plays deals with departed spirits and their return in a ghostly form to their friends and the places of their former habitation. It would seem as though the Holy Spirit, to Whom belongs not only all truth but all art, had prepared the classical dramatic tradition of the Japanese for Christianity.

The text of "The Resurrection of Christ" is very short but the presentation includes, as do all *Noh* plays, songs of the Chorus and the final dance of the principal actor. The *Mai* or solemn dance which ends the play is performed by the *Shite* or principal actor, who takes the part of Christ; and the dance symbolically depicts Christ's ascent into Heaven.

What are we in Ceylon doing about putting drama to the service of Christ? Ceylon's classical dramatic form, the *Nadagama*, is not something that needs adaptation for Christian purposes: the *Nadagama* was in fact introduced into Ceylon by Catholics themselves and a text of a Christian *Nadagama*, the *Raja Tin Kattuwa*, is still extant. We Catholics have hardly awoken yet to the revival of drama that is taking place amongst us. We have a contribution to make to our religion and our country and we must not delay.

Mother Kevin

On August 24th another of the Holy Family Sisters went to her eternal reward: **MOTHER KEVIN** of Holy Family Convent, Bambalapitiya. Her life was one of deep silent suffering, patiently borne and offered to God as a pledge of her Religious Vocation. Margaret Kehoe was her name. She was born on November 16th, 1901, and came from that Irish stronghold Gorey in County Wexford. She was one of a family of five. As a teenager climbing the Wicklow Mountains, she had a yearning for higher things, and left the Isle of Erin as a Missionary Nun in 1927.

Mother Kevin's First Obedience was to Jaffna, and later she came over to Wemappuwa. In 1928 Mother Kevin received her Obedience to Bambalapitiya, where she remained till her death. No one will forget the frail devoted Nun who was porter of the Convent, and answered all bells, with patience, charity, and cheerfulness. It takes quite a lot to be assigned to a task for 31 years. Mother Kevin fulfilled her job with a readiness and kindness to young and old, to the laymen and religious, and above all to the Priest.

A week before her death, almost a few days before she underwent a serious operation, I met Mother Kevin and told her that she was to be anointed. There were tears in her eyes. May be she knew that the end was near. But I shall never forget the way she said: "It's God's will, I know that." That summed up her life. Devotion to Duty and a sacrifice of everything because it's God's will. It's difficult to realise that Mother Kevin has left us so soon. The strong breeze of Ireland will blow in County Wexford, and memories will be nostalgic, whilst for God's chosen, it's a short life on the saddle, not a long life by the fire.

FR. NOEL CRUSZ, O.M.I.

Chilaw Catholic Association

(from a "Messenger" correspondent)

MR. W. H. Samaranayake, Principal of St. Bernadette's College, Polgahawela, delivered a very interesting lecture entitled "A Pilgrim's Itinerary" at the Annual General Meeting of the

Chilaw Catholic Association which was held on Sunday, 6 September, at the Association Hall.

Before the Meeting there was Holy Mass at the Cathedral at which the Vicar General, Mgr. B. Michael Perera, officiated and delivered an impressive sermon on the life of St. Paul, the Patron of the Association.

The election of Office-Bearers resulted as follows:—

President:—Very Rev. Fr. Theodore Perera (ex-officio); **Hony. Secretary:**—Stanley J. Fernando; **Hony. Asst. Secy.:**—M. J. Aloysius Fernando; **Hony. Treasurer:** Victor Costa; **Committee:**—M. F. N. Canakeratne, W. P. Ranasinghe, Mdr. E. A. Fernando, A. G. Costa, E. P. Rupasinghe, Dr. V. F. de Silva, Nevis Fernando, Louis Devotta, D. M. A. Jayakody, M. J. Anthony Fernando, and C. V. R. Navaratne; **Hony. Auditor:**—J. P. L. Perera.

AQUINAS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE Rector's Jubilee

REV. Fr. Rector's sacerdotal silver jubilee and patronal feast will be celebrated at Aquinas on Sunday, 27th September, 1959.

8 a.m. Solemn High Mass.
5 p.m. Garden Party.

All past students are cordially invited. Those intending to participate are kindly requested to inform the

CHAIRMAN,
Rector's Day Committee.
739

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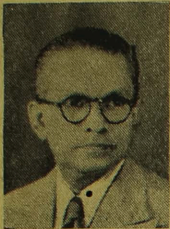
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FIRST ANNIVERSARY



M. Peter Mendis
Born: 26th October 1901
Died: 30th September 1958.

Eternal rest grant unto him
O Lord and let perpetual light shine
upon him. May he rest in peace.
Amen.

A Requiem High Mass will be
sung for the repose of his soul at
St. Anthony's Church, Moratuwa, on
Monday, 28th September, at
6.15 a.m.

Inserted by his sorrowing wife and
children.

"Santemore,"
Moratuwa.

681



Augustus Joseph Emmanuel
Casie Chetty

Died 27th March 1959

A Requiem High Mass will be
sung for the repose of his soul at
St. Lucia's Cathedral, Kotahena,
on Saturday, 26th September, at
7 a.m.

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

726



A. Santiapillai
Died 17th May 1959

Four months have vanished so
swiftly and sadly,
Since you left us so suddenly,
To a garden of rest with no worries
and pain.
God bless you dearest dad till we
meet again.

Fondly remembered by his loving
wife and children.

"Shamrock Villa,"
15, 6th Cross St.,
Jaffna.

708

Shelton Seneviratne
who departed from us on 18th
June, 1959.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O
Lord,
And let perpetual light shine
upon him,
May he rest in peace.

Inserted by his sorrowing wife
and children.

728

W. Peter De Silva

Died 22nd September 1958

A Requiem High Mass will be
sung for the repose of his soul at
St. Mary's Church, Bambalapitiya,
on Tuesday, 22nd September, at
6.30 a.m.

"Gentle Jesus Saviour blest
Grant to him eternal rest."

112, Dutugemunu Road,
Dehiwala.

727

Of your charity pray for the
soul of

Victor de Silva

Died 19th September 1955

Beautiful rest for the weary
Well deserved rest for the true
When my life's journey is ended
I shall again be with you.

Inserted by his sorrowing widow,
Emerine.

"Nandana,"
Moratuwa.

715

John Robert St. Valentine
Seneviratne

Died 17-9-49

The call was sudden
The loss was great
Ten years have gone
Our hearts still ache.

Inserted by loving wife, sons,
daughters, grandchildren and
great grandchild.

17-9-59.

718

Mrs. M. G. Gomez
Anastasia

of Balangoda

Died 28-9-1951

Requiem Masses will be said for
the repose of her soul at 6 a.m. at
St. Mary's, Bambalapitiya on 24th
inst. and at 6.30 a.m. at St.
Joseph's Church, Balangoda, on
28th inst.

R. I. P.

723

Of your charity
Please pray for the repose of the
soul of

Maria Ignatius Carvalho

who departed this world on 18th
September 1958

Eternal rest grant unto him, O
Lord,

And let perpetual light shine
upon him.

May he rest in peace.

Fondly remembered by his wife,
children, daughter-in-law and
loved ones.

No. 11/5, 47th Lane,
Welawatte.

736

PERSONAL

PRAYERS are kindly requested
from the readers for the
repose of the soul of Mr. K.
Manuel Perera of Delature, Jaala
who died on 14-9-59, beloved
father of Rev. Fr. Carlo Perera,
Parish Priest, Hingurakgoda, and
of Rev. Sis. Mary Caroline, of
Holy Family Convent, Ragama.

719

THANKSGIVINGS

GRATEFUL thanks to Our Lady
of Perpetual Succour for favours
received.

710

C.B.F.

THANKS to Our Lady for a
successful training in Girl
Guiding in India. Thank you
dear Mother for granting me the
favour of visiting your shrine of
Our Lady Help of Christians in
Bombay.

Julia de Silva,
Katugastota.

722

OUR grateful thanks to the
Most Sacred Heart of Jesus,
Our Lady of Perpetual Succour,
St. Joseph, St. Anthony, St. Jude,
St. Anne, and St. Rita for favours
granted. M. J. V., Moratuwa.

732

THANKS to the Sacred Heart,
Our Lady of Perpetual Suc-
cour, St. Joseph, St. Anthony
and St. Jude for granting me
peace of mind regarding a certain
matter.

A. B. C. A.

731

SITUATION

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WANTED a Catholic retired
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vise temporarily compact long
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girl or similar light duties. Al-
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OUR LADY OF LANKA TEWATTE PARENTS' DAY

11th Oct. 1959

Oct. 8, 9, 10: Preparatory Noven-
nas 6 p.m.

Sunday 11th: 3.30 p.m. Talks to
fathers, mothers and children in
separate groups.

4 p.m. Benediction of the Blessed
Sacrament.

Consecration of families to the
Immaculate Heart of Mary—
Renewal of marriage vows.
Holy Mass by His Grace the
Archbishop.

N.B. 1. In every parish the Con-
fraternity of the Sacred
Heart is expected to pre-
pare and organize the
participation of its mem-
bers on this day.

2. Novenas are available.

724

Administrator.

NATIONAL VOTIVE BASILICA BUILD- ING FUND

I acknowledge with thanks the follow-
ing donations received at Tewatte
in August.

Mr. A. C. A. Perera, Mabola m.d. 5;
Mr. J. V. Forbes, Colombo m.d. 5;
Mr. K. W. Perera, Mutwal 5; Mr.
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wal 3; Mrs. D. T. J. Agnes, Uswet-
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m.d. 10; Mrs. H. E. Lappen, Dehi-
wela, m.d. 5; Mr. J. F. Dalpadado,
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m.d. 10; Mrs. A. Herft, Mt. Lavi-
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5; Mrs. Catherine Hamy, Dehiwela
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Ampitiya.

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ambalama 2; Mr. M. Louis, Bam-
balapitiya 2; Mr. L. M. Silva, Mut-
wal 5; Mrs. Clare Perera, Tewatte
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Ratmalana m.d. 5; Mr. G. J. M.
Peris, Mattakkuliya m.d. 2; Mr. M.
E. Ferdinandis, Padiyapelle 178/
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Michael, Badalgama 1/50; Mrs. F.
Fernando, Badalgama 2.

St. Joseph R. C. M. School, Grand
Pass 20; Mr. C. D. Louis, Waha-
cotte 5; Mr. L. M. W. Perera, To-
duwawa 10; Mr. M. J. Victoria,
Minuwangoda 175; Isabel and
Margaret 2; Mr. A. Singharajah,
Hendala 2; Mrs. Rosa Maria,
Kogodamulla 5; Mr. Bertram,
Dalupotha 5/50; Mrs. A. L. Lucia-
na, Kelaniya 10; Mr. B. M. Men-
dis, Katukurunda 5; Mr. B. M.
Fernando, Chilaw 5 Miss L. B. N.
D. Silva, Kadallana 5; Mr. A. N.
Perera, Elipitiya 10; Mr. A. Regi-
nald, Moratuwa 3; Mr. Julian,
Hendala 3; Mr. M. Rodrigo, Mut-
wal 5; Mr. C. M. G. de Silva, Dehi-
wela 15; Mr. T. D. Martin, Chilaw
5; Mr. D. S. Jayakody, Daluwa-
kotuwa 5; Mr. H. D. Pinchamy
Negombo 5.

Mr. A. Pieris, Dunagaha 2; Mr. S.
J. Fernando, Moratuwa 3; Mr.
Hugo, Silva Ragama 5; Mr. S. M.
Perera, Boralessa 5; Mrs. B. Rana-
singhe, Weligampitiya 2; Mr. A.
Wethsinghe, Dawlagama 5; Mrs.
Martha Hamy, Wahacotte 5; Mrs.
Agnes Cooray, Kalamulla 5; Mrs.
M. I. Martin, Pitipane 2; Mrs. C.
Fernando, Moratuwa 2; Mrs. G.
R. Fernando, Pallansena 6.50.

Mrs. M. W. C. Silva, Kalamulla 15;
Mr. S. A. Peter 5; Mrs. Justin Pere-
ra, Madalgamuwa 30; Mrs. Merlyn
Fernando, Negombo 120; Mr.
Sebastian, Kalurippu 2; Miss
Daisy Sinekall, Pettah 2; Miss F.
Fernando, Kadallana 2; Mrs. B.
Nanayakkara, Wennappuwa 5.
Miss N. Amerasinghe, Miss M. Fer-
nando, Mr. V. F. M. Stephen,
Mr. K. D. Simon, Miss L. Jayalath,
Mr. T. A. Dharmaratnam, Mr.
D. A. B. Perera, Mr. D. A. J. Pere-
ra, Baby Slave of Jesus and Mary,
Two Little Children, Mr. and Mrs.
K. E. Fernando, Miss N. Amera-
singhe, Mrs. M. W. Perera, Mr.
M. D. Emmanuel, Mr. M. C. Pieris,
Mrs. Cecilia Silva (Re. 1 each) 16.

Anonymous several 80.
Total for the period 2,491/50.
All donations addressed to the under-
signed will be acknowledged in-
dividually.

G. MARTHOUREY, O.M.I.,
Administrator,
Our Lady of Lanka,
Tewatte, RAGAMA

Messenger SCHOOLS-MAG

Vol. 2 No. 29 Saturday, 19th September, 1959 FREE



O MARY OUR QUEEN

O MARY, our Queen,
Save this world,
From peril, destruction and ruin
O Mary, Mother of the Divine Babe
Pray for each and every one of us,
Thy devoted children
Of the whole human race
That we may live together in harmony and peace,
Helping one another in want
And in time of need.

O Mary, our Queen,
Steer us through
The stormy sea of Life
That we may not suffer wreck and ruin
But reach the distant shore,
In safety, one far off day,
And yet be worthy,
To receive the reward of a life well-spent
From Thee,
O Mary, our Queen.

St. Peter's College,
Colombo 4.

Clive Rodrigo

Your Birthday Corner

SEPT. 19 — SEPT. 25th

September 19: Maureen Fernando (Moratuwa), M. Janet Fernando (Nainamadama), Mary Hyde (Nuwara Eliya), Damian Perera (Kandy), Stephen Remigius (Moratuwa), N. A. Camillus Mendis (Moratuwa), Doreen Fernando (Moratuwa), Shanta Gunatilleke (Kalutara), David Foenander (Kalubowila), Agnes Marties (Dehiwela), Rema Pereira (Gampaha), L. Arociassamy (Hutton).

September 20: Cyril Dias (Moratuwa), Yolanda Salgado (Moratuwa), Valens Gooneratne (Bambalapitiya), Jacob De Saram (Moradana), Erma Lord (Kotahena), Eustace Rodrigo (Negombo), Blossom Miranda (Kochchikade), Romanie Thiele (Colombo 15), Raynie Miranda (Kochchikade).

September 21: Thecla Pereira (Kandy), Sylvan Fernando (Moratuwa), Anton Ferdinand (Grandpass), Eileen Ebert (Kandy), Marie Vilathgamuwa

(Anuradhapura), Nicolas Candappa (Bambalapitiya), Myrtle de Alencida (Tangalle), Stella M. Perera (Kegalle), Theresa Sebastian (Kotahena), Indranee Swaminathan (Nuwara Eliya), Bernadette de Silva (Dehiwela), Martha Linden (Gampola), Mary Linden (Gampola).

September 22: S. Chandra Perera (Kandana), Ingrid Byred (Lunawa), Laticia Domingupillai (Matale), Orville M. Selliah (Kandy), Esme S. Williams (Colombo 4), Bernadette Archibald (Kelaniya).

September 23: Carmeline Fernando (Kalutara), Shanti Fernandez (Kelaniya), Marie Antony (Wattala), Selvam Nadraja (Dehiwela), Blossom Ellankoon (Nawalapitiya), Clare Karunaratne (Kegalle), Andry John Pulle (Nawalapitiya).

September 24: Gamini Jayawardena (Nugegoda), Radcliffe Ferreira (Colombo 6), Anesley Gomez (Banda-

O Lady of Lanka we pray to thee
Save our country dedicated to
Thee

Spread the mantle of Thy protection
Over our schools from the enemies
destruction

Bless our dear Lanka with unending
peace

And Thy children will thank thee
O Queen of Peace.

Clifford Bastians

St. Benedict's College,
Colombo 13.

Prayer to Our Lady of Lanka

BLESSED VIRGIN

DRESSED in pure robes of gold,
Virgin of the young and old,
We always fly to thee
In times of misery.

Of all thou art the Queen,
Virgin and Mother serene
We place our trust in Thee
And love thee eternally.

Oh Mary, pray for me
And make me worthy of thee,
Protect us through the years.
Of joyfulness and fears.

P. Bernard Fernando

A Bouquet for Mother Mary

RED roses that will tell Mary that I love her,
Carnations to speak of my obedience.
Jasmines to reveal my endeavour to imitate Mary's amiability,
Daisies that will whisper of the mildness that I have resolved to practise.
Lilies that will show my prayers for purity throughout my life,
Violets to express my desire to imitate Mary's humility.
A little cypress to tell Mary that I need strength to practise virtue
Pansies to tell of my thoughtfulness.
And in the bouquet there will be lady fern to prove my sincerity.
The ribbon which will tie this bouquet will be a decade of the Rosary
It will be offered to Mary through the hands of my Guardian Angel.
Mother Mary, bless me thy child!

Moyra Berman

All Saints' College,
Borella.

The Schools-Mag presents with pride a selection of poems on Our Lady, all written by Schools-Mag poets. These constitute a fragrant garland, which, we hope will inspire many others to write in praise of her who is Queen of heaven and earth...

Schools-Mag member Derek De Silva (see his picture on page 5) writes this poem which wins for him the prize for the PEN-GEM of the week.

THE VIRGIN COMPASSIONATE

BRING vernal blooms from every clime
Fresh with the infant dew;
Bring lilies white and fragrant thyme
At Mary's feet to strew.

How white those feet like untrod snow
As on the clouds they stand;
How bright those emerald eyes do glow,
How fair her little hand!

See how Holy God hath shed
In glory pure and bright
A lustre fair about her head
Of stars and silver light.

But mark upon her roseate cheek
The tear unheeded flow
That doth with poignant sadness speak
A tale of pain and woe.

She whispers: 'See, within my soul
How sad I grieve for ye
No tear, no sigh can I control
When doomed men's souls I see.

'On earth in sorrow fixed I stood
And saw Him crucified,
I saw fast flow my Son's pure blood
And wept when, O He died.

'But now I see a sight far more
To wake the tears in me
Christ's blood doth in torrent flow
And saves not such as thee.

'Regret, regret, and turn to Him
Cry Christ with thy last breath
For then there is of hope a glim
Salvation, after death!

Derek De Silva

St. Sylvester's College, Kandy.

HOLY ROSARY



BENDING humbly, eyes cast low,
A maiden kneels in silent prayer,
From above, God looks down and
smiles
Upon this peaceful scene.

"Hail Mary," cried a heavenly voice,
God's messenger stood before her
"Thou shalt be called the Mother of
God
By the power of the Holy Ghost."

"Behold the handmaid of the Lord,"
Was this maiden's humble answer
"Be it done to me according to thy
word."
God chose Her for His mother.

Thecla Pereira

St. Anthony's Convent,
Kandy.

Rosary Time!

DINNER is over
And dishes are done
Turn off the radio
Come, everyone.
It's time for the Rosary
And as we all pray
We'll ask Mary to guide us
All through the next day.

NEVILLE DAVIDSON,
(Schools-Mag No. 2449)

THE ASSUMPTION

ASSUMPTA est Maria in caelum,

SO sing the angelic choir above,

SO sweet in their praises of Mary,

UNENDING is their chorus of love.

MARY our sweet, tender Mother

PLACED high up beside her dear
Son

TO aid us in life as no other

IN moments of temptation;

OH, shield us, for our Mother thou
art,

NEVER from thy care let us part.

MARIETTA EDEMA.

St. Bernard's Convent,
Nawalapitiya.



Schools-Mag

Continued from page 9

My Favourite Saint

IN all my difficulties and sorrows I turn to St. Antony, my favourite saint. St. Antony never refuses to help anyone. Some people call him the saint of relief, some others the saint of the whole world, and some the saint of miracles. St. Antony is the saint of miracles, for the Miraculous Responsary, begins thus, "If then you ask for miracles, go to St. Antony."

Thousands and thousands flock to the shrines of the blessed saint on Thursdays. Countless favours are granted through him. Yes, St. Antony is without question one of the most popular saints. Hardly a Catholic church is without his statue, a Catholic home without his picture. In almost every Catholic household with the names of Mary and Joseph the name of St. Antony is invoked with great fervour and confidence. Even non-Catholics have great devotion to him.

He was only 15 years old; the age when the world presents itself to youth with all its luxuries, when Antony decided to turn his back on the world.

Saint Antony's love of God was without doubt boundless. He loved the Infant Jesus who visited him often because of his radiant purity. In

By

Julitta Fernando

Schools-Mag No. 160

any statue or picture, St. Antony is found with the Infant Jesus, who comforted and embraced him. He always mistrusted his own strength but placed absolute confidence in God. Even the greatest favours he asked with complete certainty. He also had great devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. He was born on the feast of the Assumption and was baptized in a church dedicated to Mary. He loved her all through his life and in his sermons he preached her honour and glory.

St. Antony's love of his fellow creatures too, was extraordinary. For

TALKS
WITH

Juniors

Spiritual Direction

My dear Children

When we are sick, it is obvious we consult a doctor; when we are involved in a case we seek legal advice, when we are to make a long journey we consult a travel-agent; well! dear children, so must it be with regard to our souls. In the joys and trials; success and failure; in our spiritual life we need the assistance of a spiritual guide — whom we call popularly as our Spiritual Director or Confessor.

In our spiritual lives we can grow slack and sick; we can confuse the law and its applications; we can stray in life's dark days... and only a kind and sympathetic

spiritual director can help us lead us and guide us in our day to day spiritual needs.

Hence, dear children, my most solicitous advice to each of you is to find a good spiritual guide — a sympathetic priest to whom you can say it all — in whom you could confide all your little heart-aches; your problems of mind; your trials and temptations; your joy and woes; nay all...

May God bless you,
Always in Jesus and Mary

Uncle Ashley

(Next week: MORE ABOUT SPIRITUAL DIRECTION).

The
Queen



... and
the
Jester

Nirmalee and Leslie Cabraal
as the Queen of Hearts and
Jester at the Fancy Fair held
at St. Bernard's Convent,
Nawalapitiya.

Members' Parade

1951 — 2,000

1951. Eustace Nugara, Dehiwala; 1952. Priyan Jayatileke, Colombo 5; 1953. Audrey Nugara, Dehiwala; 1954. Lakshmi Eliyathamby, Mutwal; 1955. Anne Nugara, Dehiwala; 1956. Salome Paldana, Kandana; 1957. Carmen Nugara, Dehiwala; 1958. Chandrani Weerasinghe, Waragoda; 1959. Sherine Perera, Kandy; 1960. J. J. Slemmermann, Col. 10; 1961. Tyrone Candappa, Mutwal; 1962. Ursula Nugara, Dehiwala; 1963. Rita Stephen, Kotahena; 1964. Leonie Taylor, Kandy; 1965. Joseph Perera, Col. 10; 1966. Dulcie de Bond, Nawalapitiya; 1967. Maithriya Amarasinghe, Col. 13; 1968. Princess Cherubim, Col. 4; 1969. Elroy de Almeida, Nugegoda; 1970. Indraneel Abeysekere, Grandpass; 1971. Lal de Almeida, Nugegoda; 1972. Navis Paldana, Kandana; 1973. Henry de Alwis, Hendala; 1974. Rohan Dias, Kelaniya; 1975. Ajit de Fonseka, Col. 10; 1976. Herman Joseph, Col. 4; 1977. Chandra Seneviratne, Wattala; 1978. Premalal Seneviratne, Wattala; 1979. Sunil Fernando, Colombo 10; 1980. Sunil Perera, Colombo 10; 1981. Valens Gooneratne, Colombo 4; 1982. Jayalath Wijesekera, Colombo 10; 1983. Fredrick D'Souza, Wellawatte; 1984. Jacob De Saram, Colombo 10; 1985. Rennie De Livera, Borella; 1986. Joseph John, Talangama South; 1987. Sebastian De Jong De Silva, Borella; 1988. Synil Cooray, Ratmalana; 1989. George Mathew, Colombo 10; 1990. Bertille Anthony, Ragama; 1991. Heloise Perera, Kirilapone; 1992. Howard Perera, Kirilapone; 1993. Yolande Labrooy, Embuldeniya; 1994. Ninette Labrooy, Embuldeniya; 1995. Derrick Bastiansz, Wellawatte; 1996. Jean de Tissera, Kotahena; 1997. Ignatius Fernando,

their consolation he cured the sick, made the lame walk, gave sight to the blind and even raised the dead to life. No wonder he is called the Saint of Miracles. He miraculously appeared to sinners commanding them to confess their crimes. This love showed itself even to his enemies. He possessed humility in its highest perfection. He despised the honours of the world. He humbly took upon himself the duties of the least lay brother and always remained a humble priest and simple Franciscan Friar.

Death came to this great saint on the 13th June 1231, in his thirty-sixth year. He was canonized on 30th of May 1232. It was a Friday and nothing happened the first four days. But on the fifth day, the day his body was laid to rest, it is said that no one invoked the aid of the saint without obtaining relief. It was a Tuesday, and since that time the people dedicated every Tuesday to Saint Antony.

"St. Antony whom the Infant Jesus so much loved and honoured, grant us what we ask of thee."

Ave Maria Convent,
Negombo.

Schools-Mag Enrolment Form

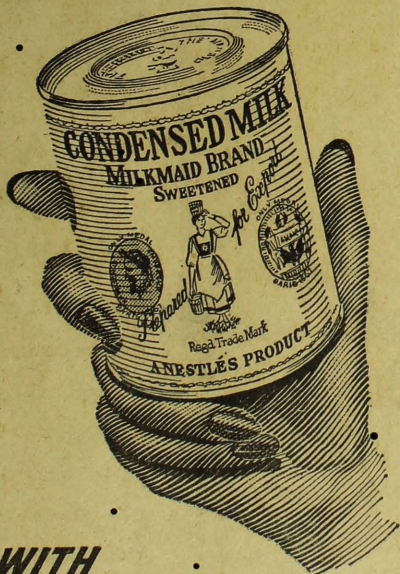
NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

SCHOOL.....

DATE AND YEAR OF BIRTH.....

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



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A NESTLÉ PRODUCT

ONE MORE PRIEST

LOVE and respect your priests; they are Angels on earth. They live among us, they have abandoned all, sacrificed all for the love of God.

by
PATRICK CRUSE

St. Joseph's School, Grandpass

One more Priest is one more Mass each day and the Mass is Jesus Christ who offers Himself as a victim for us.

One More Priest is hundreds of hosts perpetuating the presence of God among us. O priest, how powerful you are. At your word, Creative and Sacramental, God descends from heaven to earth, and between your hands takes the place of this unleavened bread.

One More Priest is a new spring of abundant grace. He alone may tell you in the name of Christ: "Christians you are all brothers. Love one another without distinction." You can do no more to serve your family, your country, than to give them One More Priest.

pulle, Kotahena; 1998. Therese Rani Fernando, Nainamadama; 1999. Gerard Elders, Colombo 9; 2000. Olga de S. Wijeyaratne, Col. 9.

COMPETITION CORNER PRIZES

NEW COMPETITION

Competitors are requested to strike out whichever is incorrect:

- (St. George, St. Andrew, St. David) is the Patron Saint of England.
- In Roman Numerals, LXXIV stands for (126, 124, 74, 86).
- At Waterloo (the British and Allies defeated the French; the Americans defeated the Spanish; the Germans defeated the French).
- Excalibur is (the last letter of the Greek Alphabet, the sword of King Arthur, a National Flag).
- The dance called the Fox-Trot is so called (because it resembles the trot of a fox, after its originator a Mr. Fox from New York).
- A metre is (longer than, shorter than, equal to) a yard.
- The Sahara Desert is in (Northern India, China, Northern Africa).
- "Auld Lang Syne" was written by (Robert Burns, Franz Liszt, James Bland).
- There are usually (4, 5, 6) prongs in a table fork.
- The chemical formula NaCl stands for (washing soda, common salt, water).
- A catamaran is (a kind of raft made of logs, an insect, a looking glass).

12. Napoleon was (an Italian, a German, an Austrian).
Pick out the "HIDDEN COUNTRIES" from the following sentences. e.g. The circle was an inch IN DIAMETER (INDIA):

- "I am Eric, and I have come for a favour" said the stranger.
- His pain disappeared when he saw his mother.
- Mr. Silva had his lunch in a famous hotel.
- "How can a damp ground be so famous?" asked the stranger.
- Jip, Jap and Jop were members of the same family.
- In the beautiful garden, Mark and Henry became friends again.
- Raja, Valentine and Milroy went on a picnic.

★

Construct all the possible words from the letters of the word 'OBSERVANT.' No plurals and no proper names are allowed.

A prize of ten rupees is awarded to the sender of the first correct solution drawn. All entries must be addressed to L. C. Duncan Abeyaratne, Esq., 303, Alwis Town, Hendala, Wattala. And they must reach him on or before Wednesday, 23rd September 1959.

WOMAN AND HOME



HEART-ACHE CLUBS

With a pathetic smile, we read the interesting accounts "Below the Bench" in the Daily News where, often, the other man or woman breaks up a home. But perhaps, under the guise of fun and hilarity, there do exist Heart-ache Clubs in high society, where roving eyes delight in resting on forbidden ground!

"It is a battle between faith and lust,
We can conquer through our faith, or
We can be destroyed through lust."

The Bible says, "The strong should support the weak." That will settle the sin-question. If you are with a member of the opposite sex, and he or she is weak along a certain line, and you are strong there, give that person of your strength. That is God's way. It is the great equalizer.

● Reader R.P. sends us an extract from "Ave" which should be an eye-opener to many!

For several centuries the Catholic Church has passed through a state of siege. Today that state of siege no longer exists, but many of us still have the siege mentality. We are like soldiers perched on the ramparts to repulse an enemy that has run out of ammunition but is poisoning our water supply. The cost has been heavy but one phase of the battle has been won. Now we have to surge forth from the ramparts and purify the streams of life for friend and foe alike. In the eyes of too many "practising" Catholics, a Christian life is unfortunately reduced to a few religious exercises: Sunday Mass, Communion several times a year, abstinence on Friday; and observing some commandments, particularly the sixth, on which attention is concentrated as though the duty of justice, for example, were not as binding as that of chastity. Time and time again the recent Popes have been inviting us "to become what we are," that is, to draw the logical conclusion from our baptism. We have not lived our faith to its final consequences for society and for the community.

"Who can restore marriage
To its place in God's plan?
Those who are married can do it,
Those who are unmarried can do it."

By R. P.

It is good for all Catholics to read and re-read "This is marriage" in the Messenger and collect cuttings of it for posterity.

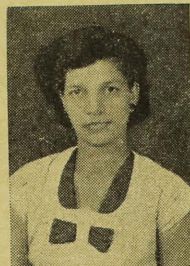
Join the Legion of Mary

It was only just two years ago, one day, having time hanging on one's hands, my husband and I decided to go to the missions preached by the Redemptorist Fathers at our Parish. The sermon preached that day was "The upbringing of a Catholic family." From that day onwards my husband and I vowed to live a life of a good Catholic.

I was also persuaded by some of my friends to join the "Legion of Mary." I first consulted my husband on my desire to join the Legion. He teased me. But, later he gave me a whole-hearted support.

Today I am the Secretary of the Legion. I was also chosen, and acted as secretary of the Curia but had to decline the latter, due to my domestic obligations.

Thanks to the Blessed Mother, I and my family are good Catholics now. I would strongly advise all mothers and mothers to be,



says

Ruth Alexander

to join the "Legion of Mary." And I am sure Our Blessed Mother will guide and protect us, and then in every such home and family there shall be love, goodwill and co-operation.

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

● This is the
concluding
instalment

Married Saints

Having been called, in 1226, to assist in settling foreign disputes, Louis was away from home for a long, hard winter and spring. During his absence, Elizabeth was kept occupied in attending to the needs of the people who, by reason of severe and prolonged frost, were almost at starvation point. Her own treasury and corn store were emptied for the relief of those who needed it most. But her activities did not prevent her missing her husband beyond measure — between these two there existed a love, an understanding and a trust that were not only sublime

but intensely human. When Louis at last came home, Elizabeth was anxiously waiting and greeted him with "a thousand and more kisses." Her reply to his inquiry for his suffering people was: "I gave to God what was His and God has kept for us what was ours."

A year later, Louis felt it his duty to go to Palestine on the sixth crusade. He spent much time and energy in rousing as many of his countrymen as possible to join him, toured all the monasteries in the land to ask prayers for the success of the crusade and then, having installed his brother as regent, said goodbye to Elizabeth and set off. Louis was in command of the German forces but he never led them into action. Shortly after he had started, he was taken ill with a malarial fever and, having received the Last Sacraments, died at the age of 27.

BROKEN-HEARTED

Elizabeth, when she received the news, was brokenhearted and for a time inconsolable. Nothing in life seemed to have any meaning for her but she soon remembered her responsibilities. There were her three children, another on the way who needed her, and there were the people of Thuringia whose affection and confidence she could not betray. To stay and work among them

was her duty and, moreover, what her husband would have wished her to do. So, resisting the pleas of Hungarian nobles to return to the country of her birth, she gave her wealth to the poor, made arrangements for the education of her children and took the habit of a Franciscan Tertiary. Hard work and austerity, however, broke her health and she died in 1231.

The cult of Blessed Louis of Thuringia has never been officially confirmed but he has been acclaimed Blessed by popular veneration ever since his death. St. Elizabeth is known and loved throughout the Christian world.

First and foremost in their lives was their love of God, though the vocation of both lay so much in the world. Because of it, their human love for each other flourished and was blessed; family life was enriched and sanctified and Thuringia prospered.

One of Louis' daughters, baptized Gertrude, fulfilled her parents' wish and became a Premonstratensian Canoness. At the age of twenty-two she was elected abbess of Altenberg where, in 1270, she gained permission to celebrate the feast of Corpus Christi, then almost unknown in Germany. The feast of Blessed Gertrude of Altenberg is kept by the Premonstratensian Order and in certain German dioceses on August 13th.

A DATE with the MADONNA

IN A COUNTRY, WHERE RELIGIOUS AND RACIAL CONFLICTS SEEM TO BE THE ORDER OF THE DAY, IT WAS A HEART-WARMING SIGHT LAST SUNDAY, TO SEE SO MUCH FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE IN THE HEARTS OF THE TEEMING MULTITUDES THAT WENDED THEIR WAY TO THAT SHRINE DEDICATED TO OUR LADY OF LANKA.

The weather promised to be a little cloudy towards the earlier part of the evening, yet, the inclemency of the weather was no deterrent to the faithful, rich and poor, young and old, who wended their way with prayerful hope, to keep a date with the Madonna,

"Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on us." As Christ was carried among his suffering people, the young and old looked up and asked for relief from bodily and spiritual ills. As the monstration

...among the Rubber trees

among the rubber trees.

The precincts of the grotto were one sea of heads, and from early evening the rosary was recited, with a very practical sermonette at the end of every decade. Our Lady must have looked down

was raised in solemn benediction, thousands of heads were bent in humble adoration.

By

Rita Jayamanne

with eyes benign as thousands of voices were raised in hopeful supplication "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death."

When His Grace the Archbishop went round the special enclosure for the sick, bearing the Blessed Sacrament, one's thoughts flew back to the plaintive cry that rose from the sick, two thousand years ago when this very same Christ walked along the streets of Galilee

As evening fell, an unending line of cars, buses and buggy-carts crawled back homewards reluctantly in the dusk. Each soul went back with renewed courage and blessing, to bear its daily sufferings and trials. Such sweet moments spent in union with the suffering Christ and his Mother could not but bring some relief even to the most afflicted mind or pain-racked body.

The crowd departed, but many stayed back, to linger yet awhile at the feet of Her who is the "Health of the Sick."

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CEYLON LEGIONARY FOR AFRICA



Ceylon's legionary, Mr. Joseph Pilendiram, who, as reported in the *Messenger* has been appointed Legion of Mary Envoy to Uganda and Kenya, was seen off by officers of the Concilium and many Dublin legionaries when he left Dublin airport for London on the first stage of his journey to East Africa. At Rome, Brother Joseph (as he is known in Legion circles) was received in audience by His Holiness the Pope. Later, he was seen off at Rome's airport by a group of English and Italian legionaries, when he left for Nairobi.

Our picture was taken at Dublin airport and shows (left to right): Messrs. John Nagle, John Gavin, President of the Concilium, Joseph Pilendiram and Frank Duff, the founder of the Legion of Mary.

A Visitor for the "Imprisoned" Cardinal

UNCONFIRMED REPORTS FROM YUGOSLAVIA STATE THAT AN AMERICAN CITIZEN HAS BEEN ALLOWED TO VISIT CARDINAL STEPINAC WITHOUT ANY POLICE INTERFERENCE AND THAT HE SPENT FIVE HOURS WITH THE CARDINAL WHO IS STILL A VIRTUAL PRISONER.

Mr. Ivan Mestrovic, 75 year old internationally famous Croat sculptor who is now an American citizen, is believed to have been given the permission by Marshal Tito himself.

Churchmen in Zagreb, Cardinal Stepinac's archiepiscopal see, are reported to believe that the sculptor is using all his influence to persuade Tito to release unconditionally the Cardinal who is confined to his native village of Krasic and who during recent years has suffered from thrombosis of the leg.

The Zagreb report said that Mr. Mestrovic and his wife arrived in Krasic by car. No Government official accompanied them and no militiamen stopped them. This was the first time that a visitor was able to see the Cardinal without any hindrance from the political police. Mr. Mestrovic spent five hours with Cardinal Stepinac.

The Communist-controlled press and wireless in Yugoslavia has reported visits paid by Mr. Mestrovic to high-ranking Government officials in Zagreb but not a word was breathed about his visit to Krasic.



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SHORT STORY

Continued from page 5

piled up the broken furniture inside the parlour.

The sudden blaze drove them all back. The roaring flames hid the whole of the petrol-soaked room. In the babble of whoops and shouts and abuse, Peter caught a few words.

"Is anyone upstairs?" he asked his neighbour suddenly.

"Yes," replied the man soberly, and added softly, "poor fellow."

"Why didn't he run away as the other did?"

"He showed himself upstairs, to give the other a chance to escape."

"He is a fool. Do you know him?" He looked at the man curiously.

"Yes." The man looked away immediately. "Let's go away," he added hurriedly, "it's dangerous to stay here now."

The crowd roared, as a figure appeared at the window. Suddenly, a gun went off. The mob exulted. Peter saw, felt almost physically, the charge strike the man. The figure twisted slowly towards the window, then slipped back quietly into the smoke.

The man is beyond help, he decided, — no one could live through those flames, or that wound. But what mad impulse made him stay to be killed? "Love thy neighbour . . ." I suppose the friend who escaped was this man's neighbour. But what is this man to me? An unknown, an alien, from yesterday, an enemy . . .

In the main road, a Police siren sounded. Then quite close. The looters ran towards the back of the house.

And Peter found that he was running too. The searing heat met him like a solid wall, and burnt his screaming flesh long before he reached the seething redness within. As he dragged his charred and tortured body up the blazing stairway, he felt the whole roof heave and sag, and crash down in a flaming ruin.

But the One who met him at the landing was somehow familiar. He could not withdraw his gaze from those calm and sorrowing eyes. He felt an unutterable peace within him — a joy that was almost painful. He saw the hands held towards him in welcome, saw the wounds, and felt weak and numbed with the joy of it, as he sank to his knees, his delirious brain shouting, "YOU!"

"It's I, my brother," he heard Him say, "We are going home, you and I."

RED CHINA ADMITS TO FAKING FIGURES

Production overstated

ON August 26 the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party announced over Radio Peking that its 1958 production figures issued earlier this year had been grossly over-stated.

Catholic Half Hour

THE above half hour will be presented by St. Cecilia's Catholic Radio Artists' Guild (Sinhalese) under the direction of Rev. Fr. Philip C. Dissanayake, O.M.I. Items of interest to listeners will be the answers to listeners' questions; request numbers of sacred songs, etc.. The sender of the best question will receive a book prize entitled 'Lives of Saints' presented by Joachim Machada, Esq., M.B.E.

Questions should be addressed (in Sinhalese) to the Hony. Secretary, C.R.A.G., 449 Gamini Road Wadduwa, on or before 10th October, 1959.

It also reduced output goals set for 1959.

The communique attributed the inaccuracies in last year's farm statistics to "lack of experience" in assessing and calculating output.

It said that 250 million cubic tons of grain were produced instead of the 375 million tons, announced earlier.

The communique said that this year only a 10 per cent. increase in grain production would be possible.

This means the target would be 275 million tons instead of the 525 million tons set earlier this year.

Only 8 million tons of steel suitable for industrial purposes had been produced and not more than 11 million tons, as previously claimed.

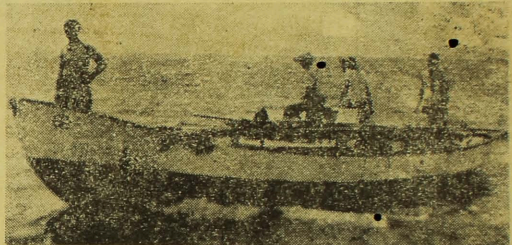
REDUCED TARGET

The 1959 target was drastically scaled down from 18 to 12 million tons.

The 3 million tons of metal produced last year in primitive backyard furnaces was dismissed as being suitable only for "requirements of rural areas."

The communique said that backyard produced metal would no longer figure in the State's economic plan.

The cotton goal for 1959 was reduced from 5 million to 2,310,000 tons following on the announcement that 1958 production was 2,100,000 and not the 3,350,000 claimed.



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