

### Recipient of Favor Again Leads Ste. Anne De Beaupre Pilgrimage

**STE. ANNE DE BEAUPRE, Que.**—Among the many pilgrimages which come to this famous shrine to seek favors that of Andrew J. Ahrens, of Springfield, Mass., is particularly significant.

In 1915, Mr. Ahrens dislocated his hip in an accident and his left side became paralyzed. The leg remained in a plaster cast for 30 months without improvement. Surgeons of Springfield considered his case incurable.

Hearing of the many favors obtained at Ste. Anne de Beaupre, he joined an annual pilgrimage and arrived at the shrine on July 28, the eve of the feastday. He petitioned the curv in the name of his wife and three children, who needed him for support.

As he venerated the holy relic on that fateful afternoon, Mr. Ahrens felt a warm glow in his paralyzed limb. Rising without crutches, he proceeded to walk with no firm a step as before the accident. The cure was said to be instantaneous and complete: all pain and action had vanished. Since 1922 he has been bringing a pilgrimage here for thanksgiving, himself paying for the fare of a dozen or more relatives and friends.

### Gets Colored Parish

**New Orleans.**—The Rev. Thomas R. McNamara, S.J., has been named pastor of Corpus Christi, the largest colored parish in the South.

### On Catholic Hour



Rev. John Carter Smyth, C. S. F., of Baltimore, member of the faculty of the Catholic University of America, who will speak at the nation-wide Catholic Hour, Sunday, during October, "Thoughts for a Troubled Time" is the general topic of his address. The radio program is produced over the NBC network by the National Council of Catholic Men. (N.C.W.C.)

### DR. McGUIRE

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His portrayal of the heroine is from first to last superbly dramatic but true to the authenticated fact. It is the spiritual biography of a great but humble soul. Of course he at times exaggerates. But that is also in "the right of creative freedom." "If you want to fix attention on a character," said Dickens when accused of exaggeration, "you must exaggerate the main features." Every onlooker knows that.

Let me give one example where those who have found fault with the narrative seem to me to have missed the point. "The Lady," who had not yet revealed her identity told Bernadette to drink of the water of the spring and to wash in it. Bernadette saw no spring, but by scraping the earth where she was told, she discovered water. It was muddy. She drank of it from her cupped hands and "washed" her face with it. No nausea or vomiting resulted. These are the facts. Franz Werfel says that unable to find water enough for the double injunction to wash and drink she took a moist lump of earth and smeared her face with it, then took a moister lump and swallowed it. This required "a desperate and nauseating effort" and resulted in vomit. That of course is an exaggeration. It is not correct fact. But, as I have said, those who have found fault with it, or have been horrified in reading, miss the point. **SAME MESSAGE**

The message of "The Lady" to Bernadette and through her to the people of Lourdes, of France, of the world was "Penitence! Penitence! Penitence!" It was the same message as was given to the world by the Lady's Divine Son 1800 years before: "Unless you do penance you shall all likewise perish." Do penance, get down on your knees, humble yourself, realize your misery begotten of your apostasy, confess your sins with/face on the earth. That was of course, the horrifying message to the elite of Paris, as it was to the Pharisees of Judea and Galilee. But it is the only way back to your Father's home. Franz Werfel, it seems to me, was justified in emphasizing it by a little exaggeration.

Franz Werfel is an artist, poet, novelist. But he is also a scholar which is not true of all poets and novelists. He appears to be well acquainted with the literature of several languages: his correct knowledge of Catholic doctrine, of the meaning of Catholic practices is astonishing. I am, therefore, surprised to find this in "The Song of Bernadette": "The people of Lourdes rarely speak French. They speak their own dialect which is akin to Basque."

Basque has no kinship with Languedoc (spoken at Lourdes) nor indeed with any other language of Europe. I will explain this next week — not to correct Franz Werfel, which would appear prejudicial, but because, for reasons which I hope to give, the explanation should have some interest for Catholics.

### Canadians Hear Monsignor Sheen

**WINDSOR, Ont.**—The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Fulton J. Sheen, of Catholic University of America, Washington, D. C., for the sixth straight year will open the Christmas Devotion Series here on Oct. 3. The title of his address will be "Christ in Christendom."

Previous to his evening address here Monsignor Sheen, at the request of the Rev. J. Sheehy, Msgr. Sheen, C.S.B., founder and director of the Shrine of the Most Holy Family under the auspices of Assumption College, Quebec. The program of this address will go to the Holy Spirit Shrine, Montreal, Quebec, P. Q. O Lord God of Hosts, protect us and show us Thy love, and we shall be saved.

### RELAXATION RECHARGES CIVILIAN MANPOWER



INSPECTOR HONES IMPROVED QUALITY OF WORK AFTER RESTORATION

"Especially," he says, "when the work has been done under a great deal of stress, by that I mean going out and doing something different—reading, playing, getting a change of scene. One of the best preparations I know for a steady tension in New York is especially when it's spent at the Commodore."

### THEATRE-GOING PROVIDES MINDS STIMULATION

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### Catholic Near East Welfare Association

Most Rev. Francis J. Spellman, D.D., President  
Rt. Rev. Msgr. Bryan J. McEntegart, L.L.D., National Secretary  
Rev. John J. Corrigan, Assistant Secretary

### The Rosary For the Missions

During the month of October say the Rosary for the missions. And make a gift to them. If you say, "It's Stringless," we'll use it where it is most needed.

### BENEDICTINES START NEW WORK IN SYRIA

The Benedictine Fathers are carrying on their historic missionary traditions. Centuries ago they brought Christianity to northern and central Europe. These intrepid monks cleared the wilderness, built churches and schools, taught the people. In our own country they have done great work, especially among the Indians.

Ever alert to extend Christ's kingdom, the Benedictine Fathers, at the request of the Sacred Oriental Congregation, have started a house in Beirut, Syria. Already this new mission has made progress and gives every sign of repeating Benedictine successes in other lands.

They visit the people living in the hills and out-of-the-way villages, teaching the children, helping the poor and gathering little groups for Mass and prayer. They do not receive even the little support needed for their meagre living.

Right now they are without funds to pay the rent of their small house. They face the threat of having to close up and leave Beirut. That would be a real calamity. We ask our readers to help prevent this. The rent of the house is Forty Dollars a month.

They also need a chapel for their own devotions and where the people can hear the Word of God. Five Hundred Dollars will build the chapel.

Won't you help these unselfish men of God to remain in Beirut and win souls for Him?

### THE CHALDEANS

The Chaldeans are a very ancient people living between Syria and Persia. Their tradition says the Magi first preached Christ to them. No people has suffered more continuous persecution or given more martyrs for the Faith. As late as 1922 thousands died for Christ. Today there are only about 100,000 of them—almost all desperately poor. Their priests share their poverty—are often without proper food or clothing. Won't you help them? Only Twenty-Five Dollars will keep a Chaldean priest for a month.

### THE LITTLE FLOWER

St. Theresa, the Little Flower is the Patroness of the missions. We need her picture in our mission chapels to remind the people to seek her intercession. Give a picture for Five Dollars.

### HELP THE ORPHANS

The plight of many orphans in the Near East is desperate. Clothed in rags, they wander about seeking food in refuse heaps, sleeping where they can. Most of them contract diseases—many die. Our Catholic missionaries try to provide for them but can only support a few. You can give a poor orphan food, clothing, shelter and living care for only Five Dollars a month. Don't turn your heart away from them! Help the orphans!

### CHRIST'S PRESENCE

The lighted Sanctuary Lamp signifies Christ's Presence in the Blessed Sacrament. Many of our chapels need Lamps. You can supply one for Seven Dollars.

### ONE OF THE BEST

One of the best things you can do for one of your departed is to arrange for Gregorian Masses. This means having a Mass said every day for thirty consecutive days. If you want to know more about this ancient custom, send for our free leaflet.

### REQUIRED FOR MASS

It is required upon Mass to read that there be a crucifix and two candlesticks with lighted candles on the altar. You can give them to a chapel in the Near East for Seventeen Dollars. Candles enough to last a year cost Eight Dollars. Both for Twenty-Five Dollars.

Send all communications to

### Catholic Near East Welfare Association

400 Lexington Ave. at 46th St. New York, N. Y.

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## OCTOBER 1-12

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