Top-Notchers

(A tribute of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, 3801 Grand Ave., Des Moines, Iowa).

By R. E. MODGSON

Grandpa, who was a top-notch farmer in his time, would be completely at a loss on the land today. He wouldn't know how to drive a tractor in the field, or a truck to the creamery. He would wonder how we got water without a handle on the pump, or cooled the milk without ice. He wouldn't even know how to milk a cow—with an electrically operated machine, or understand how we could fry eggs, and freeze ice cream with the same wire.

And yet, the same traits of character which made Grandpa a successful farmer, a good citizen, and respected member of his community are required by his grandsons, if they are to meet and overcome the modern problems, which confront them. They no longer need to shoot wild animals — at least those that travel on four legs —or break the tough prairie sod with ox teams, but they do need to produce more food than ever before without free access to labor, new machinery, or even repair parts.

WENT TO WORK

When the blizzard howled around the sod shanty, when the Indians got little Jason and carried him away, when the ox died during spring plowing, or the one wagon broke a wheel, grandpa didn't quit or howl for help. He twisted marsh hay for the stove, chased the Indians, borrowed an ox and built a new wheel. Grandma and the children were all the help he had, but they did things which seem impossible now.

And so today, when farmers are faced with situations about as difficult as those remembered in pioneer stories, the men, women and children of Grandpa's blood will rely on their own labor, ingenuity, and skill to get the fields tilled, the crops planted, the cows milked, the pigs fed, and the machinery patched up for another year. It seems impossible, but tough going is only a challenge which brings out the best in Americans, whatever their occupation.

MEET THE TEST

Just how the armies, the defense workers, and the starving peoples of Europe are all to be fed is beyond the comprehension of any one man. Each farm is a separate problem to be worked out by those responsible for its operation. The American Farmer hasn't been licked yet. Drought, floods, hail, storms, insects, diseases—he's used to fighting—and winning.

The boys are doing their share and the folks on the farm are right with them. Be the weather good or bad, we will do our level best to lift, squeeze, pull, and tear from each farm the last pound of edible products needed as munitions to win the war. We'll accept our personal responsibility for our own jobs, and see to it that they were never done better. We want to win this war right now. We want our grandfathers, and our grandsons to recognize the fact that we were equal to the emergency and that we met our tests as well as did the pioneers for whose heritage we are responsible.

Bishops Issue Volume On Lasting Peace

(Continued from Page 3)

settlement at the end of the last war.

Father Koenig points out four general characteristics of the peace documents presented in this volume: (1) their universal scope in presenting a "completely integrated program of political, social, economic principles based on natural law and Christian revelation"; (2) the essential unity and continuity of the pronouncements made by all five Popes as they apply Christian principles to new issues in an ever-changing world; (3) the prophetic character of the pronouncements, recognizing "long years in advance the conflicts that would inevitably arise if dangerous injustices, inequalities, points of friction were not eliminated"; and (4) the underlying note of optimism and hope that runs through papal teaching on peace. Dr. Koenig points out, these Popes "enjoyed avenues of information that have no counterpart among secular governments."

"The Pope is, indeed," he writes, "served by a highly capable diplomatic force all over the world; but far beyond that, he is the spiritual father of three hundred million Catholics who come to him for guidance; he is the trusted confidant of countless Bishops and priests who minister to his flocks. No one else in the world is in an advantageous a position to feel the pulse of mankind as is the Holy Father."

ON "CATHOLIC HOUR" PROGRAMS

Participating in the "Catholic Hour" radio series titled "Report to the Mothers and Fathers," are Chaplain John F. Robinson (left), of the faculty of the Naval Chaplains School, Williamsburg, Va., and Chaplain John R. Boslet, Catholic assistant to the Chief of Navy Chaplains, Washington, who will speak on June 20 and 27, respectively, over the stations of the National Broadcasting Company, at 8 p. m., E. W. T. The "Catholic Hour" program is produced by the National Council of Catholic Men. (N.C.W.C.)

Catholic Hour Message

Parents Told Of Spiritual Welfare Of Boys In Service

NEW YORK (NC) — In a continuation of the "Second Report to Mothers and Fathers" on the spiritual welfare of their sons and daughters in the country's armed forces, the Most Rev. John F. O'Hara, C. S. C., Military Delegate, and the Rev. Thomas A. Shanahan, S.J., an Army chaplain, spoke Sunday evening on the "Catholic Hour" radio program.

Bishop O'Hara spoke here, while Father Shanahan's address was broadcast by short-wave from Australia. The "Catholic Hour" is produced by the N. C. C. M. and is carried on the National Broadcasting Company network.

Since radio and airplane have annihilated time and space, Bishop O'Hara said, "home is where the altar is" in the current world conflict. He related that from "places known and places unknown" come hundreds of letters daily, which "reveal no military secrets of war, but they do tell that God's Army is on the march, bringing thousands of young men closer to God than they have ever been before."

At the outset of his talk, Bishop O'Hara declared that everything is "far from" perfect in the Army and the Navy. He added that as long as man has free will, there will be sin and as long as there is sin there will be plenty of evil in the world, including the great evil of war. He continued: "But our great consolation is that the vast majority of the men in the service learn a measure of unselfishness, of self-renunciation greater than ever marked their conduct before; and when they discover that their self-renunciation and spirit of service is greatest as it grows more and more out of love of God, they have laid the foundation of a life in conformity with God's Commandments—and no greater blessing can come to a nation than an increase in the number of men who live according to God's will."

Church In Vanguard

Bishop O'Hara said wherever American troops have gone, they have found the Catholic Church ahead of them. He asserted that in North Africa and in the South Pacific islands, the tie of Catholicism between natives and American soldiers, sailors and marines resulted in saving thousands of American lives and had brought immense aid to the U. S. cause. He also stated that the Catholics among the U. S. forces had gained the high favor of the natives by the generosity both in funds and in work of repairing churches, chapels, missions and schools, which had been damaged in warfare.

Father Shanahan declared: "Your men in the United States Armed Forces in the Southwest Pacific, as you would have them, are continuing to know Our Lord at Communion rails, made not of polished oak or pine, but green bamboo, not in prominently placed churches, but in hidden jungle chapels."

He related a number of instances of chaplains being assigned where action was the most severe, and of finding the religious fervor of the Catholics on an exceedingly high plane.

Generals Approve

"Stiffen a soldier's muscles, quicken his mechanical reflexes, make more cunning his brain but neglect the fact that he has a soul, and that soldier becomes less man and more monster — for he was planned by his Creator to have a body and soul each with its proportioned development," Father Shanahan said. "That this neglect does not prevail in the United States Army is due in part to the chaplains of the United States Army who have gone before us — soldiers who were ever mindful of the soldiers' souls; to certain leading generals of other wars who have seen the work of these chaplains and approved."

Father Shanahan asserted all the Rosaries and prayer books available in Australia have been purchased and distributed to the servicemen. He declared that the folks at home could share in keeping Catholic chaplains in supplies by supporting the Chaplains Aid Association and the National Catholic Community Service.

Getting On In The World

Poverello's Prayer

The whole world and everybody in it would get on very well if all people, or even only all Catholics prayed and lived the prayer of St. Francis of Assisi:

"Lord, make me an instrument of peace!

Where there is hatred, let me sow love!

Where there is injury, let me sow pardon!

Where there is doubt, let me sow faith!

Where there is despair, let me sow hope!

Where there is darkness, let me sow light!

Where there is sadness, let me sow joy!

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console,

To be understood, as to understand,

To be loved, as to love,

For it is in giving that we receive,

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned!

It is in dying that we are born to eternal life!"

Statue Unveiled

Yalina (NC) — Miraculous image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus stands, together with a large crowd, in the middle of the Pagan Grove near Yalina, where it was unveiled at the end of the Holy Hour. The statue is a replica of the miracle of Paray-le-Monial, France, where Christ appeared to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque.

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Catholic Near East Welfare Association

Most Rev. Francis J. Spellman, D.D., President
Rt. Rev. Msgr. Peter J. Ryan, D.D., National Secretary
Rev. John J. Carrigan, Assistant Secretary

An Altar

Thursday, June 24, will be the Feast of Corpus Christi. It is a Feast of the Blessed Sacrament. Provide an earthly abode for our Eucharistic King. Erect by your gift of Fifty Dollars an Altar in a mission chapel.

WE NEED MISSIONARIES

The Gospel of Trinity Sunday is the "why" of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association. Go forth, teach and baptize the people of all nations, Our Blessed Lord commanded His first priests. To do just that, Our Lord bestowed the Holy Priesthood, which is to function until the consummation of the world.

Our missionaries are fulfilling that command of Christ. They are laboring with all their energy to bring the people of the Near East to God—to baptize them, to sanctify them.

The success of our work is related, because the number of missionaries is so low to reach the 100 million souls in our mission territory. The laborers are few. But God is bearing our prayers. Vocations among the young men are forthcoming. Many of them come of our Near East exiles who is become our missionaries.

Our problem is to educate, feed, shelter and train these young men for sacrifice. It costs One Hundred Dollars a year for each student. We need a number of the major seminary in our present. We need Priests who will sponsor a young man to become a missionary priest. Will you become a benefactor for one year? or, better, for the six years?

Do as did those in the company of Our Lord mentioned in the Gospel of Trinity Sunday. Those who share in the work of an apostle will have the reward of an apostle. A grateful will have the grateful prayers of all our missionary priests and sisters.

SACRED HEART MONTH

June is the month of the Sacred Heart. Help us bring people to a knowledge and love of the Sacred Heart. Your donation of Fifteen Dollars will buy a statue of the Sacred Heart, the prime object of worship. The missionary will appreciate your aid.

MISSALS NEEDED

Every Catholic understands how important a Missal is. It is the book from which the priest reads Holy Mass. Every Angelus must have some in order of our missionary priests are using torn or much soiled Missals. Perhaps you will send Two Dollars to buy a Missal.

TO TEACH

We need thousands of catechisms, prayer books. A Dollar will buy the course. Supply a Catechist. We need them to teach the children and our people.

FINAL REQUEST

Numerous requests for Holy Masses are to reach Holy Father after Consecration. The priests and people have requested masses and they want to make it the greatest day of their lives. You can help. Have a special day or gift. There is Mass with Holy a new one or more.

VESTMENTS

A priest writes that Mass vestments are in tatters. It costs Two Dollars to give one vestment and 2.1 [illegible] Will you donate one [illegible] or the [illegible]?

FOR YOUR INTENTIONS

Ask our mission priests to offer Mass for your intentions. [illegible] will help support the [illegible] priests who are [illegible] your intentions.

THAT CHAPEL

We are hoping to provide a place of worship for our people. [illegible] Catholic Near East Welfare Association [illegible] Will you be one [illegible] good. Will you be one [illegible]?

ONCE A YEAR

We write but once a year. [illegible] Missionary [illegible] support our work. [illegible] Will you be one [illegible] year?

STUDENTS' HELP CLUB

If you wish to share in the [illegible] work of training young men [illegible] missionary priests, join the Students' Support Club. [illegible] Dollars for the year. A group of [illegible] students can contribute for a year.

THE THING TO DO

Join the support of the work of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association. [illegible] have offered us Gregorian Masses [illegible] Your own share in [illegible] evidence of your love and [illegible].

YEAR'S SUPPLY

Eight Dollars will buy the Catechist [illegible] of 25 families in a mission [illegible] for a year.

Send all communications to

Catholic Near East Welfare Association

[illegible] Lexington Ave. at 46th St. New York, N. Y.