

HOW TO BE A HERO

By REV. RICHARD GINDNER

Purgatory must be crowded these days, what with the war going on, and starvation, and people meeting all sorts of violent deaths. There is a way of helping those poor souls—a way known as the heroic act of charity. It's simple. You know that almost all our actions, if we do them for God, help reduce the temporal punishment attached to our sins. That is, when we die, we'll find that our stay in purgatory will be shorter because, for instance, yesterday we gave a dime to a panhandler—or because we once kept our mouth shut when we were itching to lay into someone. Indulgences, prayers, penances, self-denials: all have that effect of shortening our purgatory.

Well, we just renounce that "shortening-power" for life in favor of the poor souls. We're not getting any good out of it right now, because we're still on the road, so to speak; so we turn it over to people who can use it. We go further and dedicate all the prayers and Masses which may be offered for us after death; we dispose of them right now in favor of the poor souls.

Mind you, we're not eliminating the merit we get from our good deeds; just the indulgences and that "shortening power." We're putting them out at interest.

If we make this heroic act, we get a plenary indulgence for the dead every time we receive Holy Communion; another plenary indulgence every Monday if we visit a church, pray for the Holy Father, and hear Mass for the dead. And we have the privilege of applying every indulgence to the poor souls. (A plenary indulgence frees a soul.)

It doesn't seem so heroic, really, when you think of what we get in return: a big increase in God's love; and much, much merit is better than freedom from the greatest pain in purgatory, because that pain would end sometime anyway, while the merit stays with us to our glory forever and ever.

Why not be a hero? Think it over. You can make the heroic act at any time, anywhere, even by thought. It doesn't bind under sin, and you can take it back should your generosity wane. But remember what Our Lord said: "Give, and it shall be given to you good measure pressed down, shaken together, running over, shall they pour into your lap. For with what measure you measure, it shall be measured unto you."

Five and Ten Years Ago

(From the Files of the CATHOLIC COURIER)

From Nov. 9, 1935, Edition

That airship travel eventually would constitute an important factor in the promotion of Catholic missionary activities was predicted by Dr. Max Jordan, German NCWC News Service correspondent, on arrival in New York City after completing a 12,000-mile trip aboard the airship "Graf Zeppelin."

From Nov. 10, 1935, Edition

Evidencing their determination that justice should at last be done all children in New York State, a majority of nearly 250,000 voters approved the writing into the State Constitution as basic law, Amendment No. 1, which among other measures provides for free bus transportation for all children where needed.

Getting On In The World

GIRD YOU LIKE A MAN

Gird you like a man against the devil's wickedness. Bridle appetite, and you will with greater ease hold the rein on every inclination of the flesh. Never be winoily idle, but read, or write, or pray, or meditate, or do some useful work for all.—The Imitation of Christ.

There is a great deal of virtue in bearing with our neighbors such as God made them.—Sister Helen Louise, S.N.D.

However deep humility may be, it neither disquiets, warms, nor disturbs the soul, but is peaceful, sweet and serene.—St. Teresa of Avila

STRANGE BUT TRUE

Little-Known Facts for Catholics

By M. J. MURRAY



Comments on New Books

By REV. BENEDICT EDMUND

1. Gilbert Keith Chesterton, by Maitis Ward... "a fat man, all right; a whacking fat man. But no lesser reliquary could compass the great heart and great body that jested so infinitely well and often about its own great size, and that found in the trot of his death's-day Mass one last good joke about its girth: The Lord became its protector and he brought me forth into a large place." (Best Sellers)
2. Paris Underground, by Etta Shiber... true-to-life account of what two middle-aged women did to save English soldiers caught in France after the Dunkirk evacuation. Best Sellers says: "Often the style is matter-of-fact; there are few heroics or drama other than in the events themselves, which are sufficiently powerful to make this one of the very best books about the Nazi scheme of life. We are pleased to recommend it without any reservations."
3. Thunderhead, by Mary O'Hara... "a worthy successor to My Friend Flicka, continuing the story of the McLaughlins, particularly that of Ken." One reviewer notes that "scrupulous parents and teachers may object to the details of horse-breeding which form a major portion of the background," but sees "no reason for excluding the book from any normal adolescent," and calls it "an excellent novel for the family."
4. Man's Unknown Ancestors, by Raymond W. Murray... "This book is primarily a sketch of those prehistoric ages of the world which have always held a boundless fascination for the imagination and curiosity of modern man. Here we meet such 'senior citizens' as Pithecanthropus Erectus, the artistic Cro-Magnons, and the biding-browed Neanderthals." (Books on Trial) The author is head of the sociology department at Notre Dame University.
5. The Last of Summer, by Kate O'Brien... "The Irish have always been known as great storytellers. Kate O'Brien, in this book, keeps the faith. No higher tribute can be given, nor need be given. Although it is true her tale has for background an Irish village just before World War II, her story is as ageless as the little creatures who roam old Eire's hills and glens. She deals in a real Aristotelian sense, with drama, with pathos, with the elemental human passions of love and hate... Through the author's extreme skill in dialogue, what might have turned into a heavy introspective psychological novel becomes instead a rapidly moving story." (Books on Trial)
6. But Gently Bay, by Robert Nathan... "Has the advantage of one of the most appealing plots in fantasy: the story of the star-crossed lovers, one of whom has strayed back into the past, as in Ripley Square. Here, it is Cy-

If Hitler Kidnapped Pope, Could Pope Resign?

This is a rather far-fetched question, undoubtedly inspired by the wild guesses that some radio commentators have indulged in, states the Catholic Herald-Citizen of Milwaukee.

The answer is simple: Pope Pius XII could resign as Pope any time he chooses to. Since it is by virtue of the fact that he is Bishop of Rome that he is Pope, and since all Bishops have the right to resign their bishopric, Pope Pius XII could resign.

Pope St. Celestine V who was elected Pope in July, 1294, was the only Pope who ever resigned.

Pope Pius VII signed a conditional act of abdication in 1804. At that time he was setting out from Rome for Paris to preside at the crowning of Napoleon as Emperor. Should his previous dealings with Napoleon have given him reasons for a prudent abdication, Pius VII wrote out his resignation as Pope which the cardinals were to publish in case Napoleon prevented the Pope from returning to Rome as he had promised.

When Napoleon, after the coronation, tried to influence Pius VII to sign the Emperor's decrees, the Emperor's threats became useless when he was informed of the conditional abdication. He knew that if he kept the Pope against his will, the Pope's conditional resignation would become a fact and his unwilling prisoner would not be the Pope but a mere Benedictine monk, which Pius VII had been before his election to the papacy.

The government will pay you interest on the money you loan it to win the war for you.

Catholic Near East Welfare Association

Most Rev. Francis J. Spellman, D.D., President
 Rev. Thomas J. McElhannon, S.T.D., National Secretary
 Rev. Joseph J. Tonnent, S.T.D., Assistant Secretary

Martyr of Reunion

St. Josephat, whose feast is November 14, was martyred in 1623, because he brought many Separated Eastern Christians back to the Church. Other fearless missionaries still face martyrdom for the cause of reunion. Twenty-five dollars will support one for a whole month.

BISHOP IN RAGE, OTHERS PLEAD

Here is the story that might never have been told. If poor Bishop Hebbe had anything to do with it, you would not be reading about him. So we shall let someone else tell his story. The writer is Archbishop Lepetit, Apostolic Delegate in Syria. He sends these words to Cardinal Tisserant, who acts for the Holy Father in the Near East missions:

"Your Eminence, I feel that I must at last speak for Bishop Hebbe. In all my days here, I have never seen such poverty. His own clothes are in rags and he eats very little, because whatever he receives he gives to his poor people. Yet he seems so embarrassed if he knows I was writing to you. But we must help him. Five hundred dollars will be a fortune to this great priest. I know you will do something."

"That's the story of Bishop Hebbe, the great Catholic leader of northern Syria. No people have stronger faith than his, no bishop has more converts to his credit. But no bishop is poorer than Bishop Hebbe.

If his people did not know why his robes are worn and patched, they would be ashamed of him. If they ever saw his scanty meals, they would reckon their own poor fare as banquets. His priests know and they thank God for such a leader. They proudly share his sacrifices with him.

What can you do for Bishop Hebbe? We feel sure that many kind friends will help raise the five hundred dollars Bishop Hebbe needs so much. Won't you help?"

MEMORY AIDS

Look at the twelfth station: Jesus dies on the Cross. They go to the thirteenth. An Mary mournfully crosses the limp body of Him Who was her Baby Boy, please promise her that you will remind others how much He loved us. For ten dollars you can set up the Stations in a needy Near East chapel.

HEADLINE

Father Damien, leper priest, had no other priest on Molokai. Wanting to go to confession, he once rowed out to a passing ship, carrying a priest's sash. They would not let him on board. So he called to the ship: "What's your name? What's your name?" What a headline in heaven! Can you send thirty dollars for a confessionals for the Sacrament of Mercy?

YOUR GOLGOTHA

St. Damien was the name of the Good Thief. We ask God to be as merciful to us as to him. In the Near East an altar crucifix and sandalshoes cost seven hundred dollars. Offer them as a prayer to Christ on the Cross that He remember you on your last day.

HER BOY

A mother writes: "My soldier boy tells me how easy the missionaries have made it for the American soldiers. It struck me that the best thanks I can give is by joining your Students' Support Club, to train more missionaries." One dollar a month, twelve dollars a year, makes you a member. Won't you join? Make a soldier boy's thanksgiving.

NO THANKS

Whoever thinks of thanking the man who supplied the Upper Room for the Last Supper? Yet this generous soul must have been Christ's special friend. The altar is the table of the Last Supper. You will be Christ's special friend if you supply one to a needy Near East mission. Fifty dollars will do so.

STILL WAITING

We are still waiting for the generous friend who will dedicate a Near East chapel to the Poor Souls during November. Seven hundred and fifty dollars will do so. Then there are always chapel for souls. One hundred and twenty-two dollars will give nearly everything. Please help.

"ZEON"

This means "boiling" in Greek. It refers to the warm water poured into the chalice by priests in the Near East just before Communion. Can you send ten dollars to buy a chalice for one of these struggling missionaries?

ABANDONED

In some countries the priests offer every week one Mass "pro anima sola," that is, for the most abandoned soul in Purgatory. During November, why not have the Gregorian Masses offered "pro anima sola"? Write for our free leaflet explaining them.

TRUE IMAGE

Christ gave Veronica a picture of His Holy Face, when He walked to Calvary. Follow his example. You can give a picture of Him to a Near East chapel for five dollars.

SEND ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO

Catholic Near East Welfare Association
 480 Lexington Ave. at 42nd St. New York 17, N.Y.