

Baptized by 'Missionary' Soldier Dies in His Arms

ST. COLUMBUS, NEB. (NC)

While machine gun fire扫ed through the town of Hien-Yuan-Tra, Hapeh, China, a hurried sick-call brought the Rev. Michael V. Scanlon, St. Columba missioner of Buffalo, N. Y., to a small village six miles away, according to a report received at St. Columba's Foreign Mission Society, here. His guides directed the priest on a road that took him through the retreating Chinese army and along a line parallel to the advancing Japanese.

Father Scanlon found three

Chinese soldiers when he reached his destination. Two were already dead. They were sentries who had been surprised and bayoneted by the Japanese. The youth whom the priest was attending had been stabbed severely in the chest and neck, but he lived long enough to receive Baptism from the priest. After administering the Sacrament, Father Scanlon tried to bind up his wounds, but it was to no avail—the boy died in the arms of the missionary.

St. Lucian, Martyr

St. Lucian, Martyr, was born at Samosata in Syria. He gave his inheritance to the poor and entered religious life. He recited the books of the Old and New Testaments thus preparing the way for St. Jerome's later work, the Latin translation known as "The Vulgate." Having been denounced as a Christian he was tortured for twelve days. He finished his glorious career in prison.

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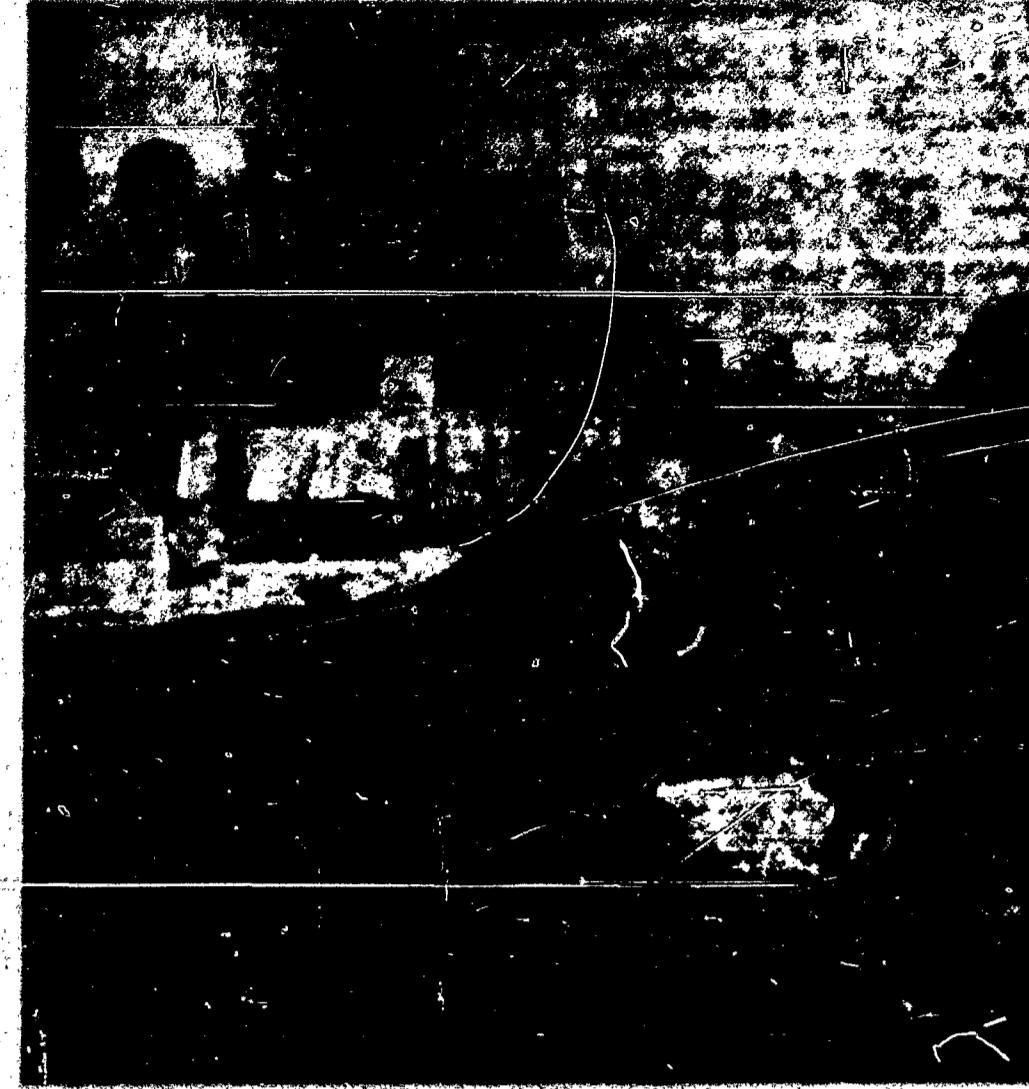
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Yanks Fete Rome Orphans

The orphans and refugee children of Rome were the guests of a series of Christmas parties arranged by the American and English members of the Allied Forces Holy Name Society in Rome, held in the movie room and meeting hall of the NCCE Club, in the Eternal City. In this picture some of the soldiers are opening the packages of candy, five tons of it, which arrived from friends in America, following an appeal from Major John V. Nickel, of Washington. (NCWC)

Catholic Information

Religion and Ritual

Yes, the Catholic Religion is a religion with ritual. There is a generous splash of finery in her externals, a great deal of pageantry and drama in her ceremonies, and a popular grandeur in her approaches to the soul. But, does

powerful sacramental mediums in affecting her great spiritual revolution. Ever since she has been developing the superb pageantry of her ritual to impress timeless Christianity on ever-changing hu-

manity.

The second reason for the Christian liturgy is based on the example of Christ. Ceremony attended His coming to earth, His life, His final hours among men. Born in a stable at midnight—shepherds

—shepherds adoring—gentle priests and a moving star—holy innocents dying in His stead—no wonder Christmas lives. From childhood He observed the Mosaic ritual and made the foetal pilgrimage to Jerusalem. His public life is ushered in with the heraldry of John the Baptist; His first miracle at a wedding feast; His last at the ceremonial Pasch. No pure spiritual abstraction did He employ to teach the multitude but rather a veritable ritual of vivid imagery and pictorial parable.

His final week on earth begins with the glorious Palm Sunday procession; it ends with the painful pilgrimage to Calvary. Was

there ever such dramatic sequence, such heightened suspense and such climactic ritual as that which ush-

ered in our holy religion?

Yes, the Catholic Religion is a religion with ritual. (Catholic Information Society of New York.)

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Answers Prelate's Protest On National Health Bill

LONDON (By Wireless-RNS)—The British Minister of Health, Henry Willink, has replied to a protest by the Most Rev. Bernard Griffin, Archbishop of Westminster, against proposals in the National Health Service Bill, which might force doctors to work in centers "where practices inconsistent with Catholicism are enforceable."

"There is no intention whatever," Willink wrote, "of any doctor being compelled to work in any center where any teaching or practice opposed to the judgment of his free conscience would be expected of him, nor indeed to compel him to work in any center, or any part of the service, at all."

St. Titus, Bishop
was a convert from paganism
and a disciple of St. Paul

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Msgr. Roncalli Assumes Post as Nuncio to France

PARIS (By Wireless RNS)—Msgr. Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli, new Papal Nuncio to France, formally presented his credentials to the French Government at a ceremony in the War Ministry here witnessed by Foreign Minister Georges Bidault. Full military honors were accorded the Vatican representative on his arrival in Paris from Ankara, Turkey.

In a subsequent ceremony, Msgr. Roncalli, acting as dean of the foreign diplomatic corps in France, introduced the diplomats to General Charles de Gaulle. Conveying New Year wishes "in the name of our rulers," the Vatican spokesman said:

"In the midst of inevitable trials and sufferings, the year which has just finished stands out for France because of most important events. Thanks to your political clairvoyance, and your energy, this dear country has regained her liberty and her faith in her destiny."

Msgr. Roncalli's appointment marks the first time he has held a diplomatic post. The former Apostolic Delegate in Greece and Turkey was born in 1881 at Sotto il Monte, in the Bergamo diocese of Italy, where he began his studies for the priesthood.

Sodalists' 'Bouquet' Of 882,333 Masses Sent to Holy Father

ST. LOUIS (NC) — As their Christmas gift the Sodalists and youth of North America have sent a spiritual bouquet of 882,333 Masses and 731,195 receptions of Holy Communion to His Holiness Pope Pius XII.

The gift, offered for the intentions of His Holiness, was cabled to Vatican City by the Queen's Work here, Sodality central office of the United States and Canada.

The cablegram, signed by the Rev. J. Roger Lyons, S.J., who supervised compilation of the reports, read:

"The Sodality and youth of North America present to Your Holiness, Pope Pius XII, on the occasion of your fiftieth anniversary as a Sodalist of Our Lady, their sincerest congratulations in the form of this triadum of 882,333 Masses and 731,195 Holy Communions made in honor of the Immaculate Conception, as a gift to Your Holiness this Christmas Day."

SS. Julian, Basilica—although married, lived by mutual consent in perpetual chastity. They gave themselves up to works of charity and mercy, converting their house into a hospital.

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