TRAPPIST TELLS OF LEAVING WORLD

Writes Harvard Classmates of Vocation Decision

NEW YORK (NC) — This is the story of a man who has graduated with high academic honors from Harvard University, who served as an officer in the American Navy during the last war, and who finally resolved "to follow Christ a hundred per cent."

This man is the Rev. M. James Fox, O.C.S.O., Superior of the new Trappist Monastery about 30 miles from Atlanta, in the Stone Mountain region of Georgia. Here he lives praying for a prodigal world that does not pray, doing penance for a world that will not do penance.

In a letter published in the Silver Jubilee Year Book of his Harvard Class in 1943, Father Fox gives a fascinating explanation of the steps that gradually led him to enter the religious life.

Father James was born in Dedham, Mass., on December 16, 1906. He entered Harvard College in 1924 and at the end of three years he was graduated with Phi Beta Kappa honors. After finishing college, Father James relates in the letter to his classmates, "I entered the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration, in September, 1927. Shortly after becoming 21 years of age I joined the United States Navy, in February, 1918. In April I received a commission as ensign attached to the First Naval District. In June, 1919, I resigned from the Navy and received an appointment from the United States Treasury Department as a revenue agent, Income Tax Division, checking up tax returns of corporations, simple and consolidated. This gave me a vivid opportunity to study men in the grand pursuit of making money and of scaling the heights to fame and fortune.

What Is This Life For?

"But, instead of becoming hypnotized also and drawn into the grand whirlpool, I reacted diametrically opposite. I found myself asking myself, is this what life is for, to burn it up in sweating, scheming, and toiling in a race for power, prestige, pension, pleasure, and piles of stocks and bonds, from every one of which I am going to be separated some day? I began to reflect on myself. Here I am with life, power of intellect, power of love, personality. Whence did I come from, with all these gifts? Certainly I did not make myself because I did not exist before I existed. Whatever is the source of my coming into existence, it must be a source which also has life, intellect, heart, and must also be a person. I cannot be the result of mere blind forces, cosmic energy rushing through the universe, not the result of mere chance. No, as truly as I exist, there exists the cause of my existence, a living, knowing, loving Person . . God.

"Thus I came to realize the first fundamental fact about myself and about all other men. I am made by God. Then, the question, but why did God make me? Only God knows, therefore only God can tell me. Has God ever revealed to man his true destiny and how to win it? Yes. But how did He reveal it, and when, and where?

The Reality of Christ

"What is the date on this morning's newspaper and on all official papers the world over? The date, all this year, is 1945. Where did you get 1945? It is 1945 years after the life, work, and teaching of a Man Who so transcends the life and work of all other men that all human history the world over bears witness to the reality of His life and teachings and turns on His life and existence as on a hinge. Nineteen hundred and forty-three means 1,943 years after the life and work of a Man called Jesus Christ. So much for the absolute certainty of the fact of the reality of Christ.

"This Man proved He was more than man, that He was divine, this God-Man. He, God, in human language has told us the true good of all living and how to win it. He has told us that our true goal is eternal life, in the life beyond the grave, and the way to win it is to follow His teachings. I am made by God; I am made for God. Only in following in the footsteps of Christ is true happiness to be found.

"Some follow Christ 30 percent, some 40 percent, some 90 percent, some 99 percent. I resolved to follow Christ 100 percent. Why not? 'Where eternity is at stake, no cost is too great.' I could not give my life to the pursuit of things which will pass away. I would not would devote my life only to the eternal. I looked around for an opportunity where I could give my life for Christ and God 100 percent and I found it in the Abbey of Gethsemani which is a community of the Trappist Order of the Roman Catholic Church. Here some 140 men live a life of prayer and sacrifice to bring God to men and men to God. Their day's work begins at 2 a. m. when they rise to sing the Divine Office in choir. About eight hours are devoted to choir service, four hours to study and prayer, five hours to manual labor in field, farm and forest, closing the day at 7 p. m. They deny themselves the eating of meat, eggs, and fish, are content with vegetables, bread, and fruit, and live each day in an atmosphere of quiet, silence and solitude, of deep peace, joy, contentment, and love, praying for a prodigal world that does not pray, doing penance for a world that will not do penance.

After [illegible] years of philosophy and four years of theology, I was ordained priest in 1935. I am writing my 10th or 11th, I hope will be Divine Office of Christ, a very happy one and pray for me back to us all. Every day of Mass, remember of that I pray the Divine Office and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for you and for your dear families, that you will all with [illegible]

New Yorkish Stuff

[illegible]

Maternity Care

Obstetrics is let the physician, out of practical experience, develop a conviction of responsibility to his patient mentally as well as medically and he will be the first to call on the consultant and assist [illegible] assistance in formulating a plan which the physician will accept and make workable.—Dorothy Dunlop Deaver, M.D., the Catholic University of America.

Don't let the other fellow do it all! Buy your share of War Bonds.

HOLY FAMILY
415 AMES STREET
REV. WILLIAM W. MEISEL, Pastor
MASSES—Sunday: 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12:10

Egyptian Pink Granite Co.
FLOYD REICHHART & SON
MEMORIALS
Phone Glenwood 489
Display—1247 Lyell Ave.
ROCHESTER 6, N. Y.

F. J. Wuest Milk Co.
PASTEURIZED MILK, CREAM AND BUTTERMILK
Also "Best-Rich" Chocolate Milk
642 MAPLE STREET

BERNARD J. HENSLER
Diamonds, Watches and Jewelry
363-365 GRANITE BLDG.
Main St. E. cor. South Ave.
Phone: STONE 496

SCHLAFFER BROS.
BAKERY
QUALITY BAKED GOODS FOR ALL OCCASIONS
155 Ames Street · Genesee 5152

Haubner & Stallknecht
FUNERAL DIRECTORS
Successors to
John C. Rossenbach
825 Jay St. Genesee 300

Tom Taylor Fred Jackson
Lyell Ave. Liquor Store
LYELL at SARATOGA
Phone Glen. 318

THE HIGHEST COMPLIMENT!
More than 3/5 Merchants pay to Get Their Messages into Your Homes Every Week—
TRADE WITH THEM!

CHURCH OF THE
BLESSED SACRAMENT
534 Oxford Street
REV. THOMAS F. CONNORS - PASTOR
Sunday Masses 5:45 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10 - 11 - 12

Oxford Pharmacy
INC.
PRESCRIPTION EXPERTS
Courtesy and Service
658 Monroe Ave., cor. Oxford St.
ROCHESTER 7, N. Y.

DAN'S
669-671 MONROE AVE.
FINE FOODS
and Standard Brands
BEER and ALE
Monroe 6369

HEDGES and HOFFMAN
FUNERAL DIRECTORS
141
450 2ND ST.

Monroe 7106 - 141 Belmont St.
ROSE F. CARLIN
CATERESS
Luncheons - Dinners - Weddings
Receptions - Anniversary Gifts

GIFTS
Smith Ceramic Studios
[illegible] AVENUE

FURNITURE
REASONABLY PRICED!
AVAILABLE AT
The New Location of
PIERCE'S

TALK OF THE TOWN!
KEM-TONE $2.98 Per Gallon
1 gallon Kem-Tone paint makes 1½ gals. Kem-Tone Finish. Ready-to-use—only $2.98 gal. 12 Colors and White
Kem-Tone ROLLER-KOATER 89c
Rolls Kem-Tone right over your walls quickly, evenly, smoothly
PLASTIC PATCH—Repairs Breaks and Cracks Easily, Cleanly and Quickly 23c lb.
KEM-TONE TRIMS—Enhance the Beauty of KEM-TONE walls. As low as 15c roll
Rochester's Most Complete Paint and Art Supply Store Since 1853
Barnard, Porter & Remington
[illegible] South Water Street - Main 8140

Life Insurance Costs Less
---At a Savings Bank
BUY YOUR LIFE INSURANCE "OVER THE COUNTER"
—AT—
ROCHESTER SAVINGS BANK
Why Are Savings Bank Life Insurance Premiums Lower?
The principal reason is that you buy your policy direct from the Rochester Savings Bank. No selling commissions are paid to anyone—at any time. This reduces selling expense to a minimum—and you get the saving.
Note these low rates for $1,000 Straight Life:

Age	Monthly Premium	Age	Monthly Premium
18	$1.24	40	$2.53
25	1.48	50	3.70
30	1.87	60	5.90

All usual policy types—Ages 1 month to 65 years
Call, Phone or write
Stone 1425
ROCHESTER SAVINGS BANK
41 Main Street West 40 Franklin Street
Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

REV. ARTHUR F. FLORACK - Pastor
SAINT MICHAEL'S
357 Clinton Ave. North

Rufus Maier
Maker Natural Cheekbones
[illegible]

STATE FLORISTS
[illegible]
Main Lobby Store
Times Sq. Building
931 CLINTON AVE. NO.