

## Cardinal Mercier on Those Who Give Lives for Country

*During these days of mounting war casualties it is timely to recall the following thoughts expressed during World War I by the Belgian saintly wartime figure, Cardinal Mercier.*

I was asked lately by a Staff Officer whether a soldier falling in a righteous cause is not veritably a martyr.

Well, we do not call a martyr in the rigorous theological meaning of the word, insomuch as he dies in error, whereas the martyr delivers himself, undefended and unarmed, into the hands of the executioner.

But I am asked what I think of the eternal salvation of a brave man who has consciously given his life in defense of his country's honor and its de-

fession of violated justice. I shall not hesitate to reply that, without any doubt whatever, Christ crowns his military valor; and that death, accepted in a Christian spirit, assures the safety of that man's soul.

"Greater love than this no man hath," said Our Savior, "that a man lay down his life for his friends." And the soldier who dies to save his brothers, and to defend the hearth and altar of his country, reaches the highest of all degrees of charity.

He may not have made a close analysis of the value of his sacrifice; but must we suppose that God requires of the plain soldier in the excitement of battle the methodical precision of the mor-

alist or theologian? Can we who revere his heroic doubt that God welcomes him with love?

Christian mothers, be proud of your sons. Of all kinds of all our human sorrows, yours is perhaps the most worthy of salvation. I think I behold you in your affliction, but great, standing at the side of the Mother of Sorrows, at the foot of the Cross.

Will us to offer you not only our condolences but our congratulations. Not all our heroes

will we expect the immortal crown of the elect. For this is the virtue of a single act of perfect charity. It cancels a whole lifetime of sins. It transforms a sinful man into a saint.

### 'Risen Soldier' Film Offered Leo McCarey

Hollywood — Leo McCarey may direct for MGM their forthcoming filmization of Archbishop Spellman's "Risen Soldier."

The final screenplay has not yet developed from this work and if McCarey accepts the MGM offer, he will assist with the story adaptation as well as direct the film.

## Allies Will Return Church Property Grabbed by Nazis

Cologne (ING) — The battle of the Rhine, which is now reaching its climax, will undoubtedly cause further grave damage to church property. The Nazi invader has confiscated most Catholic hospitals, homes and houses of religious communities and converted many of them to military use.

The Allied military authorities are instructed to plan the restoration of church buildings and properties in their lawful manner as soon as possible.

## BROILED FISH

By RICHARD GUNDER

It does seem a little out of tune with lilies and hyacinths, doesn't it? We're not ashamed of it, though, because we maintain that our particular broiled fish does fit in with the Easter picture. We're talking about that special broiled fish, that was eaten by the Lord Jesus after His resurrection.

The Apostle had been fishing on the sea of Galilee when Jesus called to him from the shore and they recognized Him.

"When, therefore, they had landed, they saw a fire ready and a fish laid upon it, and bread . . . Jesus said to them, 'Come and breakfast.' And none of those reclining dared look Him." Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord. And Jesus came and took the bread, and gave it to them, and likewise the fish. This is now the third time that Jesus appeared to the apostles, after He had risen from the dead. When, thereafter, they had breakfasted, Jesus said to Simon Peter, etc." (Revised Version: John 21:8-13)

How easily St. John tells the story. The disciple didn't have to get a fire going. The Lord had done it for them. They found everything ready, and then Jesus ate with them broiled fish and bread.

Now how can a ghost eat? If a ghost were to try eating, the people with him would see every mouthful millions down the dangling somewhere in space. In fact, why should a ghost eat, since it has no body to nourish?

It looks as though Jesus used this as still another occasion of showing that He had arisen, body and soul, from the tomb. See how the gospel keep stressing the fact that the risen Lord was not a ghost, but His former self body and soul endowed with a special glory?

We are told that the tomb was empty; where the ghost would have left a corpse in the grave. Then came the apparition on Easter night, when the disciples recognized Jesus in the breaking of bread. Next, the time when the doubting Thomas put his finger into the nail-wounds, and thrust his hand into the gaping side. And then this: the eating of broiled fish.

A few of the many arguments which lead us Catholics to believe that Jesus Christ arose triumphant from the tomb, body and soul, after He had been deposited there dead on that first Good Friday night.

## Wage Scale of Religious Cited

St. Louis, Mo. — Religious vocations were put on an employment level by Christ, when He set a wage scale for work done for Him. The Rev. Robert A. Johnson, S.J., of St. Louis University, points out in an article in the March issue of "Youth's Answer,"

Fr. Johnson quotes Peter's offhand query: "Behold we have left all and followed Thee; what then shall we have?" And follows it with Christ's answer: "... everyone who has left house, or brothers, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake shall receive a hundredfold, and shall possess life everlasting" (Matt. 19:26).

"Which was the time then," Fr. Johnson continues, "when God ever put a religious vocation on an employment level, and not a wage scale for work done for God?"

Fr. Johnson adds that: "The Pope knew a good thing when he said it, a hundredfold . . . and the overtake."

There is no water of baptism, no oil of chrism, the priests of the church, the nuns, the brothers and sisters, the priests and brothers of the various religious

## Erect School and Convent For 'Bells of St. Mary's'

By Wm. H. Mooreing

Los Angeles — For "The Bells of St. Mary's" in which Bing Crosby appears again as Father O'Malley, and Ingrid Bergman as Sister Benedict, a complete Catholic school and convent building have been erected at the RKO-Pathe studio in Culver City.

Designed by William Flannery, well known art director and member of St. Victoria Parish in West Hollywood, the set is one of the most realistic ever created for a Hollywood film. There are students here and bits there. You enter the play-ground and cross to the front entrance of the school. When you open the door you just now

of the usual Hollywood fake. It gives access to the front hall way with its photos of Graduation Classes, etc., and that in turn leads into corridors along which range the classrooms.

One of these — the one in which Sister Benedict teaches — looks out towards the convent garden. Blackboards are decorated with chalk. On one board is a sketch of a typical school m'man which the story tells us has been drawn there by Father O'Malley in a moment of undue levity.

On an easel stands a folder dealing with "The Rite of the Common Man since 1789." The piano is ancient, the desks are link-stained, the plaster is cracking. St. Mary's school obviously is in a poor way.

Just beyond the school building is the convent. Its gardens are real. Real soil, real plants, real sweetpeas starting to climb. The threads the nuns have placed there. They train the children like that too, by pointing a straight course upwards.

The convent has a veranda with upright straw seated chairs.

Half glass doors lead into the reading room. An old piano stands in one corner. A statue of Our Lady is over the wide mantle and near the door leading to Sister Superior's office is one of The Little Flower.

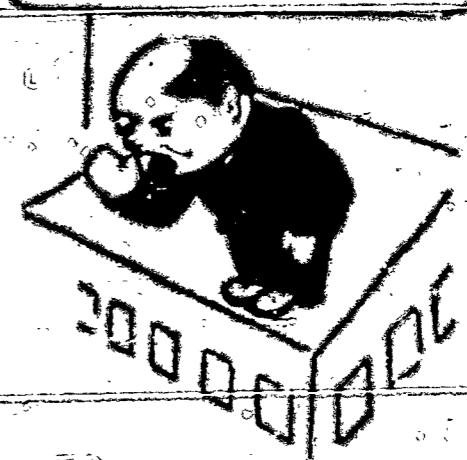
Some of details

To spend, as I did, half a day on this set, is to feel that St. Mary's is a real parish school; that the convent is actually the home of Sister Benedict, Sister Michael, Sister Angela and the rest of the teachers; that the playground in which a score of children are playing, is a real one and that at any moment they will be recalled to their lessons.

St. Celestine, Pope

succeeded Pope Halilus in 483. He excommunicated Nestorius and deposed him, and also combated the Pelagian heresy. Many authors of the life of St. Patrick say that that Apostle received his commission to preach to the Irish from Pope Celestine in 481. The Pope died in 488.

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