

Catholic Information

'I Used to be a Catholic'

Yes, it's possible that you might meet one of these at some time or another. You will generally find that he is a head case of person, the kind you wouldn't want to meet for dinner. He is forever holding the floor on the top of his lungs, smacking his lips and relating with gusto a bit of hearsay about some priest or prominent Catholic.

We invite you, good neighbors, and beg you to question these people wherever you meet them. Get the facts. Ask for names, places and dates.

You won't be surprised, either, when you are most often disappointed. The story generally turns out to be an old wives' tale, varnished over, embroidered, and garlanded with every distortion a twisted mind can invent. — But facts?

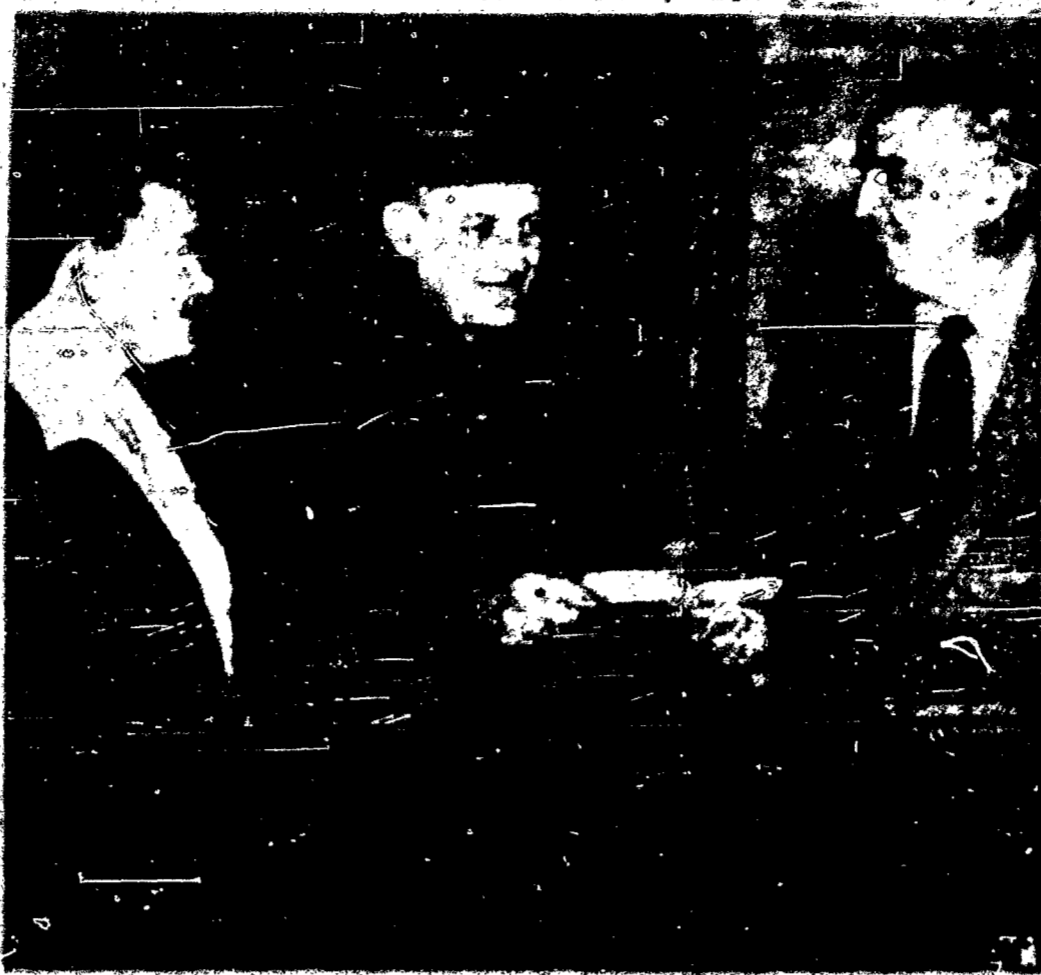
"No, I don't know his name. Happened quite a while ago. Heard about it from a guy next to me where I used to work. That's why I quit the Church." They, if you really want to

touch a sore spot, and if you dare, ask him whether he's ever been divorced. Most that not only difficulties with our Church, but also from our lofty concept of marriage as a *vinculum* without end bargain. We don't know what Protestants believe on the point, but once a Catholic has given himself in marriage before a priest, he can't remarry while his wife is living.

But if a man bumps his head against that law, he may well be ashamed to admit his weakness. His next step, then, is to pass the buck — to blame his leaving the Church on someone else.

We're supposing, of course, that you want to see everyone get a square deal: Protestant, Jew or Catholic. So, the next time you hear an "ex-Catholic" giving his Church a going-over, make him give you concrete facts. Don't let him lead you by the nose. Make him state names, persons and places. Once you have those, you can easily check up with an unprejudiced person who has access to the truth.

A CENTER FOR SERVICE WIVES



Wives and women relatives of servicemen will benefit by a check of \$10,000 to be used to help equip a social center for their convenience in Boston, and operated by the National Catholic Community Service. Archbishop Richard J. Cushing of Boston is pictured receiving a check for the amount from Harold G. Kern, publisher of the "Boston Record-American and Sunday Advertiser," Rita Ellen Clark, Acting Supervisor of clubs operated by the Women's Division of NCCS in New England, looks on. (NG Photos).

Center of the Universe

By Rev. Richard Glaser

It was a long time before men could convince themselves that this old earth of ours wasn't really the center of the universe. Up until then, people thought the earth stood still and the sun traveled around it. That's called the geocentric theory — go, the Greek word for earth, in combination with *centra*, Copernicus knocked the geocentric theory on the head with his heliocentric theory — helio, the Greek word for sun.

We Catholics are free to believe as we please about the movements of the planets, but in our religious thinking we are bound to be Christocentric; that is, Jesus is at the center of the supernatural universe, and everything in our spiritual life revolves around Him. He is the "Sun of our soul, our Saviour dear," for the one who wrote that hymn summed up our religious thought in those first four words, "Sun of my soul."

We think of the world as a desert, after Adam's sin. God had retired to His heaven closing the door after Him, and we were out in the cold, helpless, unable to turn a finger in our own behalf. There was only one ray of promise, shining as it were from the keyhole of that heavenly door into the outer darkness; that was God's promise of a Redeemer.

Jesus came, in the fullness of time, God and man, the perfect arbitrator, representing both sides of the problem. And by His life and death He stored up a limitless treasure of favor in God's sight, a treasure which might be distributed as He, Jesus saw fit. This treasure we Catholics call grace, and if any of us stumbling mortals finds favor in God's sight, it's through the grace of Jesus Christ alone. That's how He has become the Sun of our soul. Without Him we perish in cold and darkness. With Him, we grow strong, and bear fruit pleasing to God.

He is the Sun which shines through all time. Through Him the saints of the Old Law, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, entered heaven; for after His death that door was thrown open again — this time to receive the exiled sons of men. Through Him we too hope to obtain everlasting happiness, to join humanity before the throne of God.

Book for Nurses Explains Duties

Washington — (NC) — The tasks and opportunities of the Catholic nurse as an "apostle of the sickroom" are set forth in a book entitled "The Nurse—Handmaid of the Divine Physician," by Sister Mary Berenice (Beck), O.S.F., a teacher and administrator in the field of nursing education.

The book gives detailed instructions on the spiritual care of Catholic and non-Catholic patients and explains how the Catholic nurse, whether she be Sister or laywoman, engaged in institutional, public health, or private duty nursing, may in cooperation with the priests serve her patients to best advantage.

"The nurse who is truly Catholic in her spiritual outlook," the author writes, "and therefore extremely modern and up-to-date in her methods, will understand the need of doing what she can to help cure spiritual illness; but the greater need and value of preventing its occurrence and of helping to establish a state of spiritual health abounding in vitality and positive in its effects, should not escape her consideration."

The nurse is "often in a more strategic position than either the priest or physician to help the patient, either by preparing the way for the priest, or, in his absence for whatever reason, by sharing with the patient out of her own abundance," Sister Berenice reminds.

The book is published by the J. B. Lippincott Company.

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Teen-Agers' Duty to Write 'Bread-and-Butter' Letters

By Sheila John Daly  
(Copyright, 1944, The Chicago Tribune)  
Any sharp young character, boy or girl, who has passed the age of 13 is held liable for the social debts of bread and butter letters.



Letters of thanks, sympathy, and congratulation. A bread and butter letter must be written not longer than a week after every visit — overnight or longer — and should be written to the hostess or the hostess' mother (because it is usually a girl's mother who makes the preparations and gets up early to prepare the pancakes and sausages.)

A thank-you note is written to acknowledge a gift or a favor, a letter of sympathy is sent to one who is ill or has had a death in the family and a note of congratulation is sent for graduation, a wedding, or to give a long-distance handshake to one of your GI friends who has just pinned a silver bar on his blouse.

All these letters should be brief, sincere, and original. The form is simple. The date may be put in the upper right hand corner, with no address appearing on the page, and a simple salutation such as "Dear Mrs.

Johnson" or "Dear Uncle Joe." You may choose a friendly closing such as "Very sincerely yours" or "With love" or "Affectionately" for a more personal letter.

Plain paper, white, blue, or gray, is considered most correct for social notes, but because you're young — and because you feel like it — you might select stationery with a bright monogram or colored edge. But don't forget that letter! It's just another way of being smooth if you do write, and it means a black mark in the bluebook if you don't.

For a friendly letter there are no rules or forms except the usual requirements that the letter be neat, on matching stationery, and written in ink or with typewriter. When news isn't spontaneous, trust to the three part formula — interested comment on the last letter exchanged, inquiry about what's news at that end of the correspondence, and then what's news with you. A good letter is simply good conversation on paper — so keep it as simple and relaxed as that.

And keep those GI friends on the top of your letter list. Those Joe's away from home need and deserve a biweekly report. So you'd better keep up that regular conversation by mail — or you'll have some fast talking to do when the boys get home!

Rochester Diocesan Council N. C. C. W.

Columbus Civic Centre Lobby

Members of the Rochester Diocesan Council, National Council of Catholic Women were stunned on hearing of the catastrophe which befell the National Catholic Welfare Conference — War Relief office in New York. W. Paul Dearing, a victim of the tragedy had addressed the National Council of Catholic Women convention in Toledo last fall.

"May all those so suddenly called away rest in peace!" — was the prayer of the diocesan council here, this week.

Recent renewals of affiliations with the Diocesan Council, National Council of Catholic Women are:

- Rosary Society of St. Francis de Sales, Geneva.
- St. Eustace Ladies Auxiliary No. 45, Knights of St. John, St. Joseph's, Rochester.
- Rosary and Scapular Society, St. Patrick's, Elmira.
- Ceclia Auburn, Catholic Daughters of America.

Prayers Asked in August For Missions to Moslems

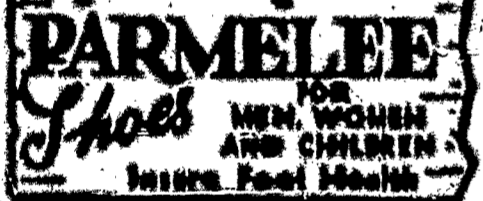
New York, — (NC) — Charity is the only weapon that can stem the tide which threatens to repeat the Mohammedans' devastating raids of 13 centuries ago," the Rt. Rev. Mgr. Thomas J. McDonnell, National Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, said in announcing the Holy Father's Mission Intention for August. The intention is "The Missions to the Mohammedans in North Africa, Syria and Java."

"If we may ever hope for a real and lasting peace," said Mgr. McDonnell, "let us unite our prayers for these missions."

Nation's No. 1 War Mother

Lilly, Pa. — (NC) — Two of the ten sons of Mrs. Esther McCabe of St. Brigid's parish here, who have been in the service, have received honorable discharges, while another son is preparing to answer his country's call. Mrs. McCabe was chosen the number one war mother in the United States by the American War Mothers in 1944.

IMPORTANT NOTICE



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