

Catholic Information

We Don't Like Hell

In fact, we never did like hell. We can remember having had it explained to us years and years ago. Heaven?—that was swell! Purgatory?—not too bad. Hell?—terrible.

But don't think we haven't tried to wish hell away. We've wished and wished and wished; we've closed our eyes, we've refused to think about it; we've talked against it; and all to no purpose. It's something like

death.

We believe, with our Catholic Church, that Jesus taught of hell. He called us to penance and warned us that if we die in our sins we shall go to hell. For instance: "It is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire."—Matt. xviii, 8. And there are so many other texts. Take the parables, for instance,

which contrast the good with the wicked (who are always condemned to hell); remember the tares and the wheat (Mt. xiii, 24-30); the net (Mt. xiii, 47-50); Dives and Lazarus (Lk. xvi, 19-31); the great supper, (Lk. xiv, 16-24); the royal wedding feast, (Mt. xxii, 1-14); the wise and foolish virgins (Mt. xxv, 1-13); and the talents (Mt. xxv, 14-30). Then there is the classical text: "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels"—(Mt. xxv, 41).

We just can't wish that out of the picture. And if we snip those

verses from our New Testament, we haven't much left.

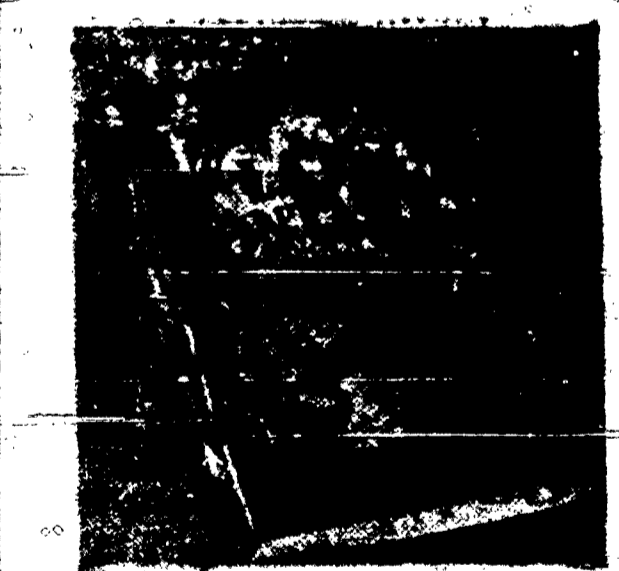
Suppose there were no hell. Then we could hate God. We could abuse Him, despise Him, and crusade against Him, secure in the knowledge that He must one day lead us to "hell" in His own magnanimous forever. In other words, we'd be trying His hand, if we denied hell. We'd be forcing him to confer a crown on every rascal who ever lived. And that would be too strong for us. So, much as we hate to think about hell, there isn't a thing we can do about it. (Catholic Information Society of New York)

Fragment of St. Monica's Tombstone Discovered

Rome — (RNS) — A fragment of the original tombstone placed by St. Augustine, Bishop of Hippo in the fifth century, on the grave of his mother, St. Monica, has been discovered in the courtyard of a school here. Experts declare that the inscription on the tombstone corresponds with the text handed down through the ages and already known to scholars and leaves no doubt of the authenticity of the discovery.



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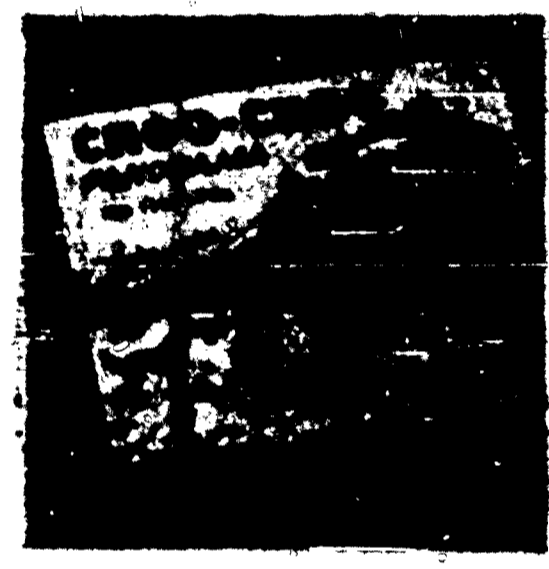
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