

CHARITY IN ELMIRA— Jottings Here and There

By MARY E. FITZGERALD

What is this Consultation Service which Catholic Charities mentions so often? This question in various disguises and from many angles is often asked and we hope, usually answered. Consultation is just a sort of professional term which we have been guilty of using. If we said—as we should—that our principal service in these days of troubled men and women, puzzled boys and girls and forgotten children—is just talking things through.

"Talking"—as much and as often—as you like—"Talking" to someone, who isn't all mixed up emotionally in your problem—"Talking" to someone who understands, who really cares and who brings to you a wealth of Christian kindness—all this—and the benefit of years of experience in working through to an answer—on just such problems as yours.

Consultation? Well, of course, you call it such when the appointment is with your lawyer or your doctor. Maybe, you even think of the Sacrament of Penance in that way—after all, you are consulting God, through His representative—you are telling your story and asking how to avoid repetition of your failure to serve the God who made you. And so, we didn't think we were too far wrong—when we talked about Consultation. There isn't any obligation to make a second appointment. You don't have to qualify financially, your economic status does not enter into your eligibility.

You may come to Catholic Charities—during office hours or in the evening by appointment, you may discuss your personal or family problems—and you may be certain—that your "talking through" will be held in confidence in conscience by

the friend to whom you tell your story.

And by the way—Catholic Charities has an immediate opening for an experienced Social Worker and for a capable dictaphone operator. Dial 2-7197 and ask for further details.

From our mail yesterday—A picture of one of our boys who is still over seas, a fine manly lad, with eyes that can still smile, but ours were misty when we read the inscription—"To a fine friend" and he was a boy whom we knew—because years ago—he came "to talk things through."

Then in another letter—"It's going to be all right, now. You certainly picked me up and brushed me off and stood me on my feet."

And in a lengthy typed communication—a closing paragraph—"Last week, I said, I was through. No man is worth all the heartaches Jim gave me. I have had a lot of time to think since then. I guess you are right the kids need Jim—and maybe I do too. I'll be back Tuesday—and I'll come right to your office. Maybe you'll go to the house with me—I am sort of ashamed to face the kids."

What's what about the Barat Retreat League? Catholic parents of High School girls should indeed ask that question. It is an organization for which the only qualification for membership is that each girl promises if possible, to make a closed Retreat at the Sacred Heart Convent in Rochester during the summer of 1946.

More than forty girls made the Retreat last year. Most of them will return this summer to spend two happy peaceful days as guests of the Religious of the Sacred Heart.

Dad? Don't depend on me. Ask any member of the Barat Retreat League. You will find them at the Academy, the Southside and the Catholic High Schools. Such a spiritual interest would appropriately balance the scales for your daughter—and counteract her over-abundance of social activities.

The next meeting of the League is scheduled for Feb. 28 at 7:15 o'clock in St. Louise de Marillac Hall in the Federation Building. Miss Betty Hughes, President, will preside. There will be an election of officers and plans for the social and business program for the next few months will be discussed.

Calling all Ladies of Charity! Have you filled your quota? It is one Honorary Member for each and every Lady of Charity. All applicants for Honorary Membership may be affiliated on March 17th. Dial 2-7197 if our much repeated outline of procedure is not fully understood.

The Catholic Youth Dances held each Friday Night from seven to nine are open to all Junior High School Students. These gay, happy parties are well attended each week. There was a record crowd last week for the extra special Valentine Party.

Grudge many to the Committee of Our Lady of Good Counsel! The card party held on Wednesday, Feb. 13, was a great success. More than sixty tables were in play—delicious refreshments and attractive prizes added to the pleasure of those who attended.

Now—it's the Big Sisters. Their card party is scheduled for February 27th and you are urged to attend. They promise that a good time will be had by all.

Mgr. Sheen Scores Divorce Evil

New York—(NC)—Divorce was defined as "a vain attempt to give respectability to dishonor by invoking a human law to overthrow God's law," by Msgr. Fulton J. Sheen, of the Catholic University of America, Sunday in an address on the Catholic Hour radio program.

Msgr. Sheen's address was entitled "Exhortation to a Bride and Groom." He explained: "When I marry young couple, at the altar of God at a Nuptial Mass, I give them an exhortation. To the couple he said, he emphasizes that "the Sacrament you are about to receive is unbreakable except by death; (1) because of the nature of love; (2) because of the nature of the marriage act; (3) because of the spiritual reality it symbolizes."

The moral reasons for the breakdown of the sanctity of the marriage, Msgr. Sheen said, are the assumption that marriage is founded on a "unity of bodies—rather than of bodies, minds and a single purpose, namely the fecundity of the home under God," and secondly, an "identification of marriage with the pleasure which marriage brings."

Msgr. Sheen pointed out that there is a tradition of sea which calls for the crew to go down with his ship, remarked that until a general age everyone recognized it was one ship a person ought to leave even when he thought it was sinking, the home.

A-Bomb Killed 10,000 Nagasaki Catholics

Tokyo—(NC)—"The most grievous wartime loss to the Church in Japan was not the material destruction, great though this was, but the loss of 10,000 Catholics in one day."

Archbishop Paulo Marella, Apostolic Delegate to Japan, stated here in commenting on reports of war's devastation received from mission heads throughout the country.

Estimates of damage and destruction to church property in Japan run between \$5,000,000 and \$10,000,000.

Representing the oldest Christian stock in Japan, the 10,000 were killed August 9, 1945, in the atomic bombing of Nagasaki, where the Faith was kept alive at heroic cost for centuries. The decimation of that city's population is "a terrible blow in a mission country," said Archbishop Marella.

The latest official statistics on the Catholic population in Japan, proper, were gathered in June 1944—before the devastating atomic bombing and as the heavy raids on Japanese cities were building up to their climax—and totaled 222,808. Previous tabulations showed a steady increase in the ranks of the Church, from 103,271 in 1934 to 121,123 in June 1941, just five months before Pearl Harbor. In addition to the Japan, proper, population figures for 1944, statistics showed 9,936 Catholics in Formosa.

The diminution between the 1941 and the 1944 population figures was brought about by government sponsored migration to Manchuria, transfers to occupied China, war mobilizations and war deaths. Actually, while thousands of Catholics thus were sent out of Japan or met death, the Catholic body in the country steadily was acquiring new members through conversions.

Adult conversions numbered 1,713 in 1941, and through the war years new converts were entering the Church.

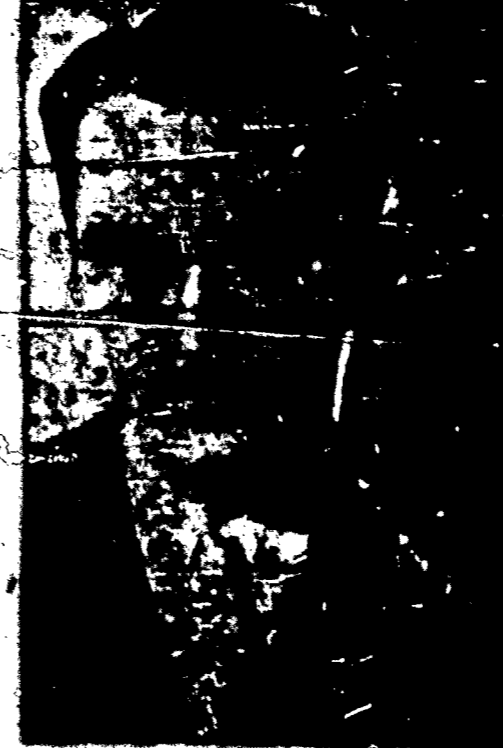
While the end of war has brought complete religious freedom and an unprecedented mission opportunity, it also finds blackened ruins and weakened personnel of the Church in Japan. About 15 per cent of the priests in Japan were taken from their duties into internment or were repatriated. During the war, one priest died in prison, while four priests, 60 Sisters and ten seminarians, were killed in air raids.

No new missionaries entered Japan after the war began, and none of the repatriated missionaries as yet has succeeded in returning to the country.

The Church's material losses in Japan are gigantic. Fifty Churches, most of them in the important centers, have been destroyed totally in air raids. In Tokyo, eleven out of 18 parishes are in ruins, among them the Cathedral parish.

Out of 54 churches in the principal cities, 30 have been destroyed and ten damaged badly. In the same cities more than half of the Catholic school buildings have been destroyed. Thirty dispensaries and other welfare institutions have lost all their buildings and between 25 and 30 convents and monasteries have been reduced to ruin and rubble.

Master Knight



John Patrick "Jack" Costello, well-known NBC announcer and Master Knight of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, on occasion into the order at a recent meeting.

Limited German Aid Permitted

Worles—(NC)—Permission has been given by the United States Government to the American Council of Voluntary Agencies to send relief to the aged, young children, pregnant and nursing mothers, and the ill among German civilians; it has been announced here.

The Rev. James Hoban, of War Relief Services-National Catholic Welfare Conference is one of eight representatives of the Council who are now traveling through Germany with the approval of the President's War Relief Control Board and the State and War Departments.

The military government has reserved the right to supervise the distribution of the aid, which must consist only of medical and sanitary supplies, soap, cod liver oil, powdered milk and infant's food and clothing. In the American zone of occupation these items will be distributed through existing German welfare units; in the British and French zones distribution plans have not been completed.

The Rev. Dr. Edward E. Swanson, assistant executive director of War Relief Services-N.C.W.C., had earlier recommended aid by private agencies to German civilians after seeing "innocent children and the aged literally dying from starvation in the streets of the large German cities."

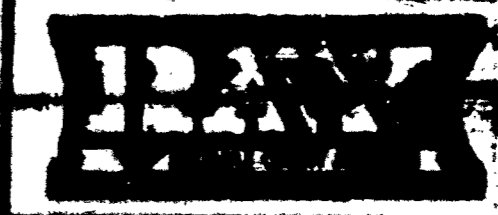
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