

Sodality of Our Lady



Headed Right?

By REV. ROY B. MORPHY
Diocesan Director for Socialities

If you wish to arrive at any journey's end, you must know where you are going and what route or road will take you there. That certainly is an obvious truth! But our very indifference to it seems to be one of the great reasons why our Socialities fail. If our Sodality directors and officers would devote a little more time to finding out precisely the spirit and purpose — the routes as it were — of their organization and determining the most practical means of achieving that purpose, we would see many more successful Socialities.

The Sodality isn't any more pious confraternity. A pious confraternity is interested chiefly in works of devotion. It tries to secure faithful attendance at meetings, where the confraternity's exercises of devotion are gone through, and induces the members to continue these devotions privately. But it stops right there. It doesn't pretend to go beyond the sphere of piety and devotion.

Now the Sodality does all this, 'tis true. It insists upon faithful attendance at meetings, where certain devotions are exercised, and at general Communions for its members. But it goes farther than that — in fact, one of the greatest errors in regard to the Sodality and one which has been most harmful to its success, is to think that its work ends with attendance at meetings and at corporate Communion, as if this were all that the rules require and anything else purely optional.

More Than Social

Don't look around at our existing Socialities to find the aim and purpose of this society. Go to the rules, rules which have been set up and approved by the Church Himself. Last week I gave you the first rule of the Sodality. I told you that the Sodality aimed at fostering ardent devotion, reverence and filial love toward the Blessed Virgin Mary and through that devotion and with the protection of so good a Mother to make its members good Catholics.

This devotion is not to be any mere formality. Rather it is to be operative, inspiring the Sodality to an intense life centered upon Jesus and Mary, inspiring

the Sodality to the apostolic life, in which he becomes the champion and servant of Mary. Our Holy Father, recently celebrating the completion of fifty years in the Sodality, expressed it so adequately. The Sodality is to be Mary's "visible hands upon earth in the spontaneous overflowing of a superabundant interior life which pours itself out in all the exterior works of solid devotion, of worship, of charity and of zeal."

Solid Devotion

I wonder if our directors and our Sodality officers in their efforts to keep their Socialities active haven't gone astray on this very thing? Too often pressure is brought from the outside to keep the Socialities united and faithful and diligent in their activities. They are pushed and pulled to meetings and other Sodality activities by coaxing, instead of being fired with interior willingness, a willingness based upon a personal and real love for Mary "pouring itself out in all of the exterior works of solid devotion, of worship, of charity and of zeal."

This isn't easy to accomplish, you may be sure. To clean, oil and adjust a railroad engine, to build a fire in it and get up steam, is a troublesome job. But once steam is up the engine will go fast and far. Any successful Sodality in this sense, then, requires effort, organization, zeal, prayer, of no little energy, and perseverance. Once reached, however, it puts in the right hand of the pastor a corps of picked workers, a group of zealous assistants who can and will carry out the activities of the lay apostolate to which the Popes from the first dawn of Christianity have called our youth and for which there is so increasing a need today. This is the flower of the Sodality spirit and the fruit of all its growth and vigor — to train and inspire a select group of lay apostles, chosen not from any consideration of popularity, good looks or money, but for that interior willingness and Catholic zeal which makes them the right ones for such a training. Is your Sodality, are your efforts in your Sodality headed in the right direction?

Church Building Grows in Spain

Madrid — (INC) — An extensive program of new construction and restoration of Church buildings throughout Spain has been carried on by the General Office of Devastated Regions, which was established officially by the Spanish government to reconstruct in the wake of the civil war.

The office, it has been announced, has restored 686 churches and has built 94 entirely new edifices in various cities and towns. It also has given assistance in the construction of 39 other new churches; five parishes already completed and three under construction, and 78 completed and 81 under construction buildings to be used as asylums, convents, colleges and hospitals under the direction of religious communities.

ILL. TO SAY THAT... Washington (INS) President Herbert Hoover... The fate of civilization...

on the willingness of the United States and nations in the months."

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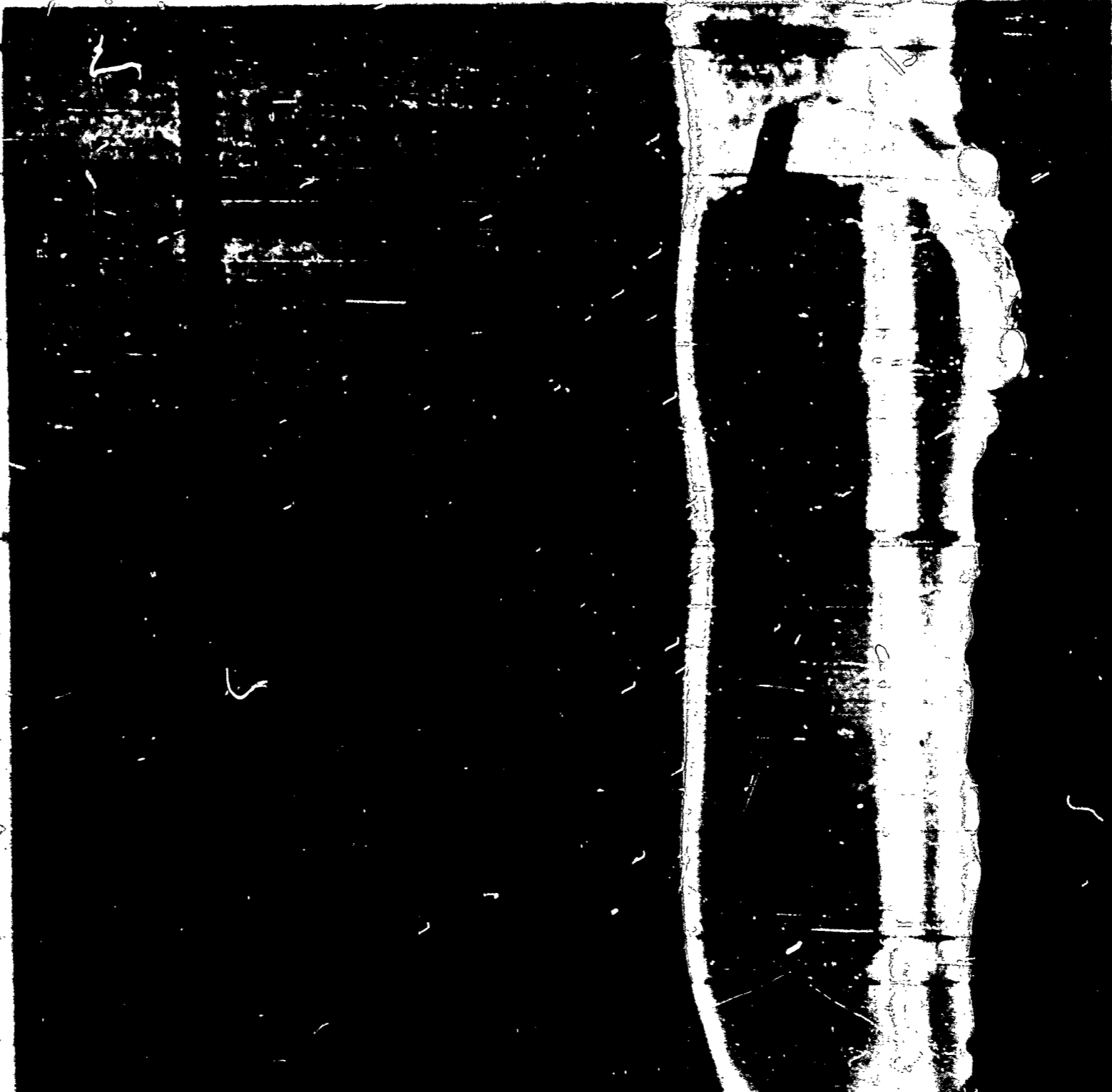


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Father Casey Brings Papal Blessing to His Parish

The Rev. Lawrence B. Casey, pastor of Holy Cross Church, Charlotte, will impart the Apostolic Blessing of Pope Pius XII to his parishioners at all Masses this Sunday.

Father Casey, who attended the recent Vatican consistory as a member of Edward Cardinal Mooney's entourage returned home last week.

Pope Pius XII imparted the Apostolic Blessing of the Holy Father to their parishioners was granted to all pastors of Cardinal Mooney's party at a farewell audience with the Pontiff, Father Casey said.

Cardinal Mooney presented Father Casey and the other priests of his party to the Holy Father in the Pontiff's private office, the room where Pope Leo XIII died. Speaking in a soft low voice and looking very tired, the Pope requested that they "give my love to the American priests," Father Casey related.

Highlights of the plane trip to Rome, he said, were the flight over the Alps and over the Italian valleys.

"On reaching Rome," he continued, "we climbed over the dome of St. Peter's at 700 feet. If only Michelangelo could have seen his beautiful creation from the air!"

While in Rome Father Casey observed Mass in St. Peter's and

saint, the historic Church of St. Lawrence, which was damaged during the war when American airmen made their lone bombing attack on Rome. The tomb of Pope Pius IX which is in St. Lawrence's Church was undamaged, Father Casey reported.

He acted as chaplain to Cardinal Mooney when the Detroit prelate formally took possession of the Church of Santa Susanna, his titular church in the Holy City.

During his stay in Rome, Father Casey met a fellow diocesan priest, Chaplain (Capt.) John P. O'Malley, who came from Germany to attend the aerial ceremonies which saw 30 prisoners released to the Cardinals. Chaplain O'Malley told Father Casey that it was the first time in 25 months that he had talked with any priest from his home diocese.

Among those bidding farewell to Cardinal Mooney and his party at their departure from the Rome airport was another Rochester priest, the Rev. Richard E. Burns. Father Burns, secretary of the Society of St. Stanislaus Seminary, also attended the

This is the bitter fruit of materialism, injustice and hate.
This is rampant paganism mocking the weak and innocent.
This is war... the denial of Christ... torn flesh and stinking ruin of home, church, school and mission.
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