

On Guard!

By Rev. Patrick J. Flynn

No columnist in his right mind ever gives his ideas away to another columnist. But a few years ago, before we started the chore of filling this column each week, we gave a little story to Elsie Robinson, the veteran syndicated writer, whose crisp prose is known to so many Americans. She used our story as a Mother's Day piece in her nationally known column, "Listen World!" Others have since repeated the story but none has told it as well as Miss Robinson. If we could have foreseen our present destiny in this corner we are very sure that we would not have given our little inspiration to columnist Robinson. One good turn deserves another, however, and we hope Elsie Robinson won't mind if we borrow her colorful version of our favorite Mother's Day story in order to tell it once more.

MOTHER'S DAY

By Elsie Robinson

It's an old tale and concerns Pope Pius X. Some time before he was elected to the throne of St. Peter, Pius X was appointed Bishop and consecrated in Rome. The day of his consecration was a wonderful day. He was surrounded by his friends and family. He was wearing his mitre and vestments fitting a king. Despite his humility, they must have stirred the blood of this young man. Yet in him, something younger and simpler shined. The honors of the Church—the plaudits of the public—they were not his. A very gratifying thing. But, deep beneath the veil and successful man, a little boy lived on. And that little boy wanted to see his Mother. Nothing would be quite right, unless, Mother, admitted and approved.

And so, after all the purple glory of his office and proudly wearing his new ring, the young Bishop made his way to the little village where he had been born. He was a young man who had given his life to God. He was wrinkled and gray, that old mother. Where his hands were smooth with scholarly things, hers were calloused claws. Her life had flowed through his hands. In serving others, where his eyes were bright with glorious exaltation, hers were faded from tears and fear. Where his back was straight, hers was bent from the burden of pain and poverty.

So he came back in the splendor of his new power, in the fragrance of his new talent and extending his strong, smooth hand, he showed her his elaborate Bishop's ring. And in that instant, the little boy in him stirred and spoke.

"How do you like my ring, Mother?" he said. "Is it not beautiful?"

For a long time the little gaunt woman in the cheap black dress, looking at her son's white hand and the gleaming priceless glory of the ring. Then her dim eyes dropped to the thin crease of gold that encircled her own finger. Full gold, worn and diminished by many scuffs, that others had accepted as a matter of course. And when she lifted her wrinkled face to her son, these eyes were full of tears.

"Yes," she answered. "Your ring is very beautiful, my son. But if I had not had mine first, you would never have had yours."

That goes for every son and daughter in the world. If some weary, worried little mother had not made her contract, and paid her price, you would not be what you are today.

As a mother myself, I have no illusions about our craft. Some of us are stupid, some of us are selfish, but when it comes to our children, we somehow, managed to rise above our own weakness.

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COMMUNITY CHEST MASS SET SUNDAY

(Other Story on Page 5)
Catholic participation in Rochester's 1946 Community Chest Campaign will be inaugurated Sunday at 11 o'clock in the Pro-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart where Solemn High Mass will be offered for the workers and contributors to the Chest.

His Excellency Bishop James E. Keane will preside at the Cathedral Mass and deliver a sermon in behalf of Rochester's annual Chest Campaign appeal. On Sunday also, the Bishop will preside for Catholic support of the Rochester Community Chest in a letter which will be read in all area churches.

In this, the Bishop will urge an increase of personal generosity to the 1946 Community Chest. "We cannot blind ourselves," he writes, "to the fact that the number of large givers is gradually declining with changing social conditions, that cooperation giving in the present economic situation is bound to be somewhat restricted, and that the burden of the chest will be carried of necessity by individual givers. That will demand that our personal charity increase accordingly."

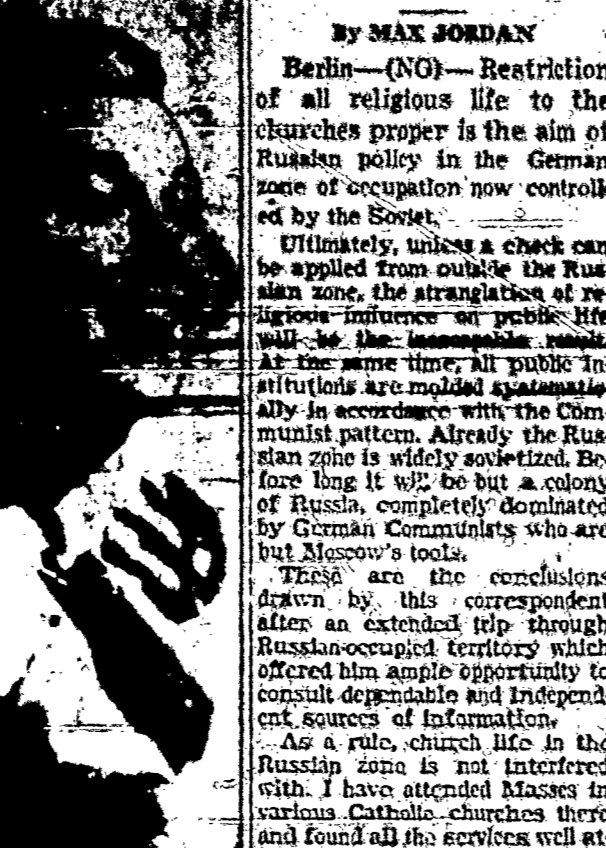
The Rev. Gerald C. Lambert, director of the Rochester Catholic Charities, this week called attention to the fact that eight Catholic institutions share in Community Chest funds.

Commenting on the forthcoming Campaign, he stated:

"The citizens of Rochester will unite their efforts next week to meet the needs of local, national and international organizations confronted by past war problems of poverty, hunger and despair. Under the banner of the red feather all are urged to share together in the worthy cause of helping those who are unable to help themselves."

"To feed the hungry, to shelter the homeless, to care for the sick and aged are works of mercy well known to the practical Catholic and traditionally carried out by Catholic organizations and institutions. Eight of our Catholic charities are supported from funds collected by the Rochester Community Chest.

GRACE MOORE SAYS SHE WILL JOIN CHURCH; SEES POPE



GRACE MOORE

Vatican City—(NC)—"Yes," was the answer of Grace Moore, famous American dramatic soprano, when she was asked here whether she intended to become a Catholic.

"But not at this moment," she added. "I have hardly begun my preparatory studies and I want to enter the fold of the Catholic Church well prepared spiritually and culturally."

Next September she shall come to Italy again to sing at the Royal Opera House, in Rome. "I will formally enter the Catholic Church," she said.

Moore is the daughter of a well-known American dramatic soprano. She is currently touring Europe with her company.

New Jersey Bus Case in Supreme Court

Washington—(INS)—The Supreme Court has agreed to review a New Jersey Statute permitting use of public funds to transport pupils to Catholic parochial schools.

The law was challenged by Arch R. Everson, who brought a taxpayers suit against the township of Ewing, N. J., for providing funds to transport children to parochial schools in Trenton.

CHURCH LIFE FOUND CURBED IN RED ZONE

Berlin—(NC)—Restriction of all religious life to the churches proper is the aim of Russian policy in the German zone of occupation now controlled by the Soviet.

Ultimately, unless a check can be applied from outside the Russian zone, the strangulation of religious life in this zone will be complete. At the same time, all public institutions are being systematically in accordance with the Communist pattern.

As a rule, church life in the Russian zone is not interfered with. I have attended Masses in various Catholic churches there and found all the services well attended. It is another story when it comes to religious activities outside of the houses of worship.

These are the conclusions drawn by this correspondent after an extended trip through Russian-occupied territory which offered him ample opportunity to consult dependable and independent sources of information.

Taylor Resumes Vatican Mission

Washington—(NC)—Nixon C. Taylor will resume his mission as personal representative of President Harry S. Truman to His Holiness Pope Pius XII because, according to a statement issued at the White House, by doing so, "he can continue to render helpful service to the cause of Christian civilization."

Mr. Taylor, who will retain his rank of Ambassador, was first appointed to his post at the Vatican in 1949 by the late President Roosevelt.

Famine Jeopardizes Peace American Bishops Assemble Drive Opens in Diocese

Washington—(NC)—The American Bishops' Assembly, which opened in St. Louis, Mo., on May 11, has issued a statement calling for a drive to collect food and clothing for famine-stricken areas.

Our Government is urged to reserve stores of wheat that the hungry need.

The Board of which His Holiness Cardinal Archbishop of Chicago, is chairman, returned to the participants in reconstruction due to the effect of the famine on the people of the world.

Diocese Opens Drive For Food on Sunday

The Rochester Diocese will throw its forces into the world fight against hunger on this Sunday when a new Campaign for Food for the Children of Europe will open in all parishes.

The campaign, which is called "Food for the Children of Europe and Asia," will be conducted intensively for one week.

TRUMAN TO GET FORDHAM DEGREE

President Harry S. Truman will receive an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Fordham University in special ceremonies set for Saturday afternoon at the Hotel Waldorf.

Originally the President was scheduled for a dinner attendance and speech before the Fordham University Alumni in New York on Saturday evening.

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