

Christ the King Feast Due to French Woman

By THE REV. RAY BERNARD, S.J. (Written for N. Y. C. News Service)

The calendar of the Catholic Church is adorned with the Feast of Christ the King today—largely because of the tireless toil-taking of a little French woman.

Every year on the last Sunday in October the world now recalls the majesty and regal authority of Our Lord because Martin Devens had the courage to take to St. Peter and Ambrose the courage to ask that the feast be placed in the calendar of the Holy Father.

Born in 1866 in Ploisy, north-west France, the pious child worked among the poor and long hoped to become a Sister. But when she entered the convent her health weakened and prevented her staying so she took to teaching in a small school at Auteuil.

In order to help unite France's women to resist the unjust and arbitrary laws of the early 20th century, Martin gave up teaching and began to tour the country as a speaker. She became an inspiring guide to the 60,000 members of the Patriotic League of French women and to those in their fight to restore the nation's lost voice. They succeeded in 1907.

The year 1918 saw the militant leader and her husband, George de Meulles, take up the banner of the Patriotic League. The Sacred Heart of Jesus appeared to St. Margaret and they began cooperation to "revive devotion to Christ the King."

At last on December 31, 1925, Pius XI proclaimed the first Mass of Christ the King. The new feast served as a practical acknowledgment of Christ's universal sovereignty over all mankind, over nations, groups and peoples, over individuals, states and empires. It shows Jesus as Divine, contrary to the errors of communism, materialism and many Protestantisms. It is a special means to bring Jesus into the daily life of the individual and to give to all people His eternal kingship.

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Belgian Stamps Honor Leper-Priest



A series of three semi-postal stamps honoring Father Damien, the leper priest, were recently issued by the Belgian Government, and part of the proceeds from their sale was used to reconstruct leper institutions of the Eastern of the Sacred Heart destroyed during the war. The stamps pictured show (left) a portrait of Father Damien from a sketch made by the English artist, Edward Gifford, who visited Damien shortly before the latter's death; (center) a view of the Madagaskar leper colony as it appeared at the time of St. Damien's death in 1889. The church shown was built by him and his remains were buried along side of it until 1926 when they were removed to Belgium; (right) a statue made by a Belgian sculptor shows Father Damien embracing a leper. (NO Photos)

UN Assembly Reflects Peace Hopes, War Dread

By THE REV. JOHN LAFARRE, S.J. (Editor of AMERICA)

The General Assembly of the United Nations, convening in New York this week, will be a reflection of the state of the world today.

Never have so many people in so many intimate, personal ways been conscious of the state of the world's condition, and never have there been established such an organ for registering world sentiment as this deliberative body.

What that condition is may be summed up in the simple words: an unbelievably intense and widespread longing for peace and apprehension of another war, combined with an equally terrible certainty that if the present political and theological conflict is left unresolved, the full worst apprehensions will be fulfilled.

Behind this apprehension lies a state of exhaustion, a political and economic frustration of some great masses of people who long for reconstruction and peace. The dark side of this picture shows no elaboration, and it is hinted against the even more sinister background of the planned governmental warfare against God and His Church and against all our heritage of civilization which perpetuates and maintains this frustration, and the religious division and animosity which are the seed-ground for social confusion and degrading ideologies.

Yet the entire history of the Christian era shows us that the darkest hours are those in which God, in His providence, prepares the greatest triumphs of the good. There is compensation in the very boldness and obstinacy of the evil. The General Assembly meets this time under no illusions whatsoever. It is perfectly clear what the western world has to contend against if it wishes to keep from spiritual and physical death.

Having destroyed one set of tyrants, it has learned their devious ways. It knows as it never did before the perils of mental warfare, and it knows how not to be deceived by promises, or by fair words used beginning, but conveying in reality a total opposite to their general significance.

In other words, the Assembly gathers at a moment when both time and circumstances are peculiarly propitious for reaching that showdown with atheistic totalitarianism which vast numbers of people, in every part of the globe, are either openly or secretly longing for.

The issue or battlefield for such a settlement, if war and the unspeakable evils of an armament race are to be avoided, is the question of national sovereignty. Shall sovereignty be absolute, free to expand and crush weak people, free to erect iron curtains and enslave millions in total oblivion? Or shall it be subordinated to the will and the morally inspired law of the world community of peoples?

Two factors are bringing the need of such a settlement, such a cosmic clarification, to an inevitable head. One of these is the obvious problem of atom warfare and its gruesome association in the work of annihilations. The French plan has sounded a warning signal, which

beginning to realize how vast is the power for the world's regeneration that lies in our common faithfulness to that Divine Spirit whose work it is to make men one with another and one with God. This autumn and winter will decide whether or not our Christian civilization is to live or perish in agonized conflict. It is time now for both Church and State to admit no uncertainty, and to use bravely and skillfully the opportunities given us by both nature and grace to make the right prevail.

Al Smith Foundation Dinner Nets \$250,000

New York — (NC) — The Alfred E. Smith Foundation was established to be patterned after the late statesman's own life "to help the sick, the suffering and the destitute, without question of color, creed or country."

The dinner brought together a distinguished assemblage of some 2000 guests and netted about a quarter of a million dollars. Speakers besides Cardinal Spellman, included Acting Secretary of State Dean Acheson, W. Averell Harriman, new secretary of Commerce, Bernard M. Baruch, and Deputy Mayor of New York Thomas E. Dewey.

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Jap Air Raid Orphan Aided by Note from GI

Helps — (NC) — On a crumpled piece of paper treasured by a Japanese orphan boy in Tokyo, a GI soldier of the American GI stands out.

Fourteen-year-old Kenji had been orphaned by the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. He was living in a small room in a tenement house in Tokyo, and he was being cared for by his aunt.

The GI's name was John Doe. He had been killed in action during the war in the Philippines. His last wish was to help the Japanese people.

The orphan boy found the note in a box of supplies that had been sent to him by the GI. The note said: "I am John Doe, a GI who was killed in action during the war in the Philippines. I have no family, and I have no money. I would like to help you if I can. Please write to me at the address below." The orphan boy wrote to the GI and they became friends.

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Infants—Second Floor

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... SETTING A NEW PAGE IN ROCHESTER

Growth of Netherlands Labor Movement Cited

Washington — (NC) — The Catholic Labor Movement of the Netherlands, forced to begin anew without funds, equipment, or offices when the Germans left the Netherlands in May 1945, now has grown to a strength of 210,000, larger than its pre-war membership, P. J. S. Serrarens, leader in the Movement and general secretary of the International Federation of Christian Trade Unions, reported here.

Mr. Serrarens, who recently attended sessions of the International Labor Organization in Montreal as a worker's delegate from Holland, also described the present composition of the International Federation as including workers in the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Switzerland, and France.

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