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Christ the King Feast Due to French Woman

By THE REV. MAX BERNARD, S.J.
(Written for N. 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 Martha Devereaux had the courage to write to bishops and Archbishops everywhere to ask help in presenting her request to the Holy Father.

Born in 1895 in Picardy, northern France, the pious child worked among the poor and long hoped to become a doctor. But when the outbreak of the war her health weakened and prevented her studying at the school of nursing in a small town of Amiens.

In order to help unite France's women to resist the unjust and unwarranted laws of the early 19th century, Martha gave up teaching and began to tour the country as a speaker. She became an inspiring guide to the 20,000 members of the Patriotic League of French women and led them to their fight to restore religion to France. While the women could not vote they listened to her.

The year 1919 saw the tall, dark woman, 24 her husband, George de Noailles, was up to the eyes in the army service—she had appeared to St. Margaret Mary, and they began energetically to promote devotion to Christ the King.

As the year 1921 the idea of a special feast in praise of Christ the King of the World was born to her. Father Bernard, Rector of the church of St. Joseph, was the first to sign the petition of 20 Italian Cardinals and bishops and of 11 Archbishops and bishops of South America in support of his request for the new feast. It is the idea which is now being celebrated in the United States.

After the war Martha and George de Noailles came into the streets for the first time. By strenuous work these two lay apostles got the signatures of 775 members of the hierarchy and heads of religious orders to present to Pope Benedict XV in the encyclical encyclical of St. Margaret Mary on May 13, 1925.

However the Pope thought nothing should be done until approval of the feast was received from bishops everywhere. This involved enormous labor, Martha and George for the two years covered, but they succeeded in getting the approval of the Pope.

The work of the two French lay people was rewarded. At the 19th century French association, the feast was celebrated in Italy and England and America and elsewhere. The feast was celebrated in 1925 in the United States.

At last on December 31, 1925, Pope XI celebrated the first Feast of Christ the King. The new feast served as a special acknowledgment of Christ's universal sovereignty over all mankind over nations, groups and peoples over territories and states and over the earth.

Christ never in the whole long struggle to crown Christ the King was the little French woman Martha who conducted the first universal petition and was finally so Christ by her life and work devoted to Jesus, King of the World.

Students Study National Union Bid
Washington — (NC) — Leaders of the two national Catholic college organizations have met here to form a joint committee to consider currently the proposition of participation in the proposed National Union of Students of the United States and in the International Student Relief Fund.

Patrick M. O'Hare, of the University of Notre Dame, president of the National Federation of Catholic College Students, and John Edwin Corrigan, of Hunter College, president of the National Catholic Student Union, were the main speakers.

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Belgian Stamps Honor Laper-Priest



A series of three postage stamps honoring Father Danis, the Laper-priest, were recently issued by the Belgian Government. The stamps show Father Danis in various poses, including one where he is embracing a leper.

UN Assembly Reflects Peace Hopes, War Dread

By THE REV. JOHN LAFARGE, 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 mind of the world today.

Never have so many people, in so many latitudes, personal ways been conscious as they are now of that world's condition, and never has there been established such an organ for registering world sentiment as this deliberative body affords.

What that condition is may be summed up in the simple words: universal longing for peace and universal longing for justice and appreciation of another war, combined with an equally terrible certainty that if the present political and ideological conflict is left unresolved the very worst approximations will be fulfilled.

Behind this apprehension lies a state of exhaustion, a political and economic frustration of these great bodies of people who should, at this moment, be the hope-inspiring and stabilizing forces for reconstruction and peace.

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, by meeting this time under no illusions whatsoever, 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 devices 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 to signify, but conveying in reality a sense totally opposite to their normal significance.

In other words, the Assembly gathers at a moment when both times and circumstances are peculiarly propitious for reaching the showdown with absolute truth and justice, which will save numbers of peoples in every part of the globe, are either openly or secretly longing for.

The issue is battle-forged for such a settlement. If war and the unspeakable evils of an armament race are to be avoided, it is plainly marked out as being the question of national sovereignty. Shall sovereignty be absolute, free to expand and crush weak people, free to erect from capitals and analyze 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 being the need of such a settlement, such a cosmic clarification, to an inevitable end. One of these is the obvious problem of atom warfare and its gruesome associated in the work of annihilation. The atomic bomb has sounded a warning signal which

Jap Air Raid Orphan Aided by Note from GI
Tokyo — (NC) — On a crumpled piece of paper transmitted by a Japanese orphan boy in Tokyo, a self-portrait of the American GI stands out.

Fourteen-year-old Oomura Shimauchi once lived with his parents in Osaka. An air raid destroyed their home and they fled to Yamanashi, where all except the boy and his mother were killed. He made his way to Tokyo and here an American soldier found him last winter in a refugee-camp of Unso station. The rest of his story can be gathered from the typewritten paper he carries in the pocket of his cut-down khaki clothes.

He was found all-American GI, especially M.P.'s, to please don't neglect him by taking things away from him. Rules are rules, but what are rules against a human life?

They came out, up to what you can do for him. Thank you.

Architect Aids Abbey
London — (NC) — Sir Gilbert Scott, noted Catholic architect who designed the Liverpool Anglican Cathedral, Downside Abbey nave and many Catholic churches, is to advise on the restoration of Fountains Abbey, ruined Cistercian foundation in Yorkshire, which has been bought by a group of Catholics headed by the Duke of Norfolk.

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We don't need the Eniac, however, to answer this question. "What can you name that has gone down in price these past fifteen years while general living costs have gone up?" That's easy... electricity, of course.

Yes, the average cost of household electricity has gone down and down until today, the average family we serve gets twice as much electricity for its money as it did fifteen years ago. That's something to think about in these days of higher living costs—especially when you consider that many of the costs of producing electricity have been increasing all the time.

How is it possible to keep the price of electricity down when other costs are rising? Engineering efficiency and the wider use of electricity to homes, stores and factories has had much to do with achieving that result. And you can count on the people who run your electric company to continue supplying more people with more electricity at the lowest possible price.

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