

### A Look at Labor The GM Wage Plan

By A. C. Tuohy

The General Motors wage settlement is arousing interest all over the country. The basic average wage of \$60 a week (before taxes) was increased in two ways.

The employees were granted a flat weekly increase of \$1.20 a week. Next year they will be entitled to a similar increase. They were also given another \$3.40 a week to make their 1948 pay check worth what it was in 1947. They will get more than this if the cost of living continues to go up. They will lose some of this \$3.40 if the cost of living goes down.

**THE CORPORATION**, in making this settlement, implicitly agrees with labor's argument that prices have outrun wages.

Many companies have tried to sell the American housewife on the idea that since the war they received more in wages than they paid in prices. The fact that General Motors concludes that 1948 purchasing power is not as good as 1940 purchasing power is an important concession by a large industry.

The cost of living adjustment deserves close attention. Many people agree that it will set the pattern in future wage disputes. Many others believe that it is an ideal solution to labor difficulties.

**THE MOST SIGNIFICANT** aspect of the matter is that it was made at all. General Motors could have stood in line with Ford, Chrysler, U. S. Steel and General Electric. They could have forced a strike. The United Automobile Workers would have been hard pressed.

Many of its members still dreamed of the hazardous four-month strike in 1946. Many voted against striking this time. Had a strike been necessary the UAW would have been weakened.

General Motors knew this. The corporation history has not been very sympathetic to labor. Regardless of its reasons for doing so, General Motors has done a great deal to relieve the sleepless nights of the auto union's leaders.

Tying wages to the cost of living, however, is not a new idea. Variations of the plan have appeared among coal miners, printers and government workers. If anything is clear from the history of the "cost of living" wage plan, it is that it has been tried only to be discarded.

Workers in previous days were dissatisfied for many reasons with sliding scales of pay. First, workers wanted a wage

which was certain. They found that they could not budget their income if there was a likely pay cut to be taken within a few months.

Secondly, they did not understand the arithmetic by which their wage was determined. Frequently, they felt they were being cheated.

Thirdly, there developed the idea among workers that they were entitled to a living wage. The living wage to them was a wage below which their income should not fall, regardless of the cost of living.

**THE MOST IMPORTANT** source of dissatisfaction among workers over the sliding scale of pay concerned the pay cuts. They had no objection to wages being raised, but they felt strongly about wages being lowered.

After World War I sliding scales were ended because of decreases in wages. The workers argued that wage cuts were frequently made by employers for the purpose of recouping losses rather than out of necessity. They felt that they could not feed their families on figures prepared by the Department of Labor. Consequently, they demanded flat wages.

It is interesting to note that the A.F.L. is unalterably opposed to plans like General Motors'. Experience will tell whether the A.F.L. will have to revamp its thinking.

### Nun-Reporter At Institute

New York — (NC) — A nun who was a newspaper reporter before she entered religious life, will be on the teaching staff of the Fordham University Institute of Professional Writing and Publication. It has been announced by the Rev. Alfred J. Barrett, S.J., chairman.

She is Sister Mary Claire, who was Carolyn Ruth Donahue and worked on The Rochester (N. Y.) Democrat-Chronicle and other papers as a reporter, columnist, theater critic and feature writer. She will conduct the workshop course in professional writing.

### St. Andrew's Seminary Has Largest Class



The Seventy-eighth Graduating Class of St. Andrew's includes: Front row, left to right: David M. Murphy, Paul C. Cox, Francis J. Dellavilla, William J. Gundy, Robert M. Egan, Rt. Rev. Msgr. Edward M. Lyons, rector; Pio P. Carranti, Robert J. Murphy, John F. Friedrich, Paul L. Cloonan, Francis J. Erb; second row: Paul A. Brigand, Richard J. Stuczko, Patrick C. Pilla, John J. Hempel, Robert P. Carr; third row: Lawrence McNally, Clarence A. Amann, Joseph F. Reinhardt, John V. Rosso, Daniel W. Heintz, Robert W. Krauter, Robert L. Moran, James R.

Wekesser, Frederick W. Straub, Ramon C. Gugel; fourth row: James M. Kennedy, Robert G. Kreckel, William J. Gibbs, Paul M. Guerra, Gerald J. Comor, Frederick B. Ammerling, Lawrence L. Michaud, Edmund J. Morelle, Robert P. Wright; fifth row: Michael C. Falzarano, Laurence F. Blasing, Richard P. O'Neill, John J. Heagerty, Nicholas R. Malo, John M. Zoder, Vito J. Polito, Francis P. Mofse; back row: James M. Elwood, Richard D. Drummond, Neil A. Sager, William D. Miller, Robert J. Stevenson, Edward S. Wright, Louis W. Barry.

### Catholics Called To Social Field

(Continued from Page 1) or by oppression and despotic exploitation of labor and the needs of individuals on the part of the state.

The Pope spoke of peace as the world's main problem, and referred to the "confined bloodshed in Greece and China." He added that the world had the reported truce agreement in Palestine even though it was only provisional with "a sigh of relief as a dawn of hope."

Pope Pius gave direct approval of the recent meeting of European leaders held at the Hague, Holland to promote the establishment of a United States of Europe.

"Courageous and far-sighted men," he said "are searching for new avenues that open the way to a safe, steady and just future for a Europe shaken to its deepest foundations. Without wishing to involve the Church in purely temporal interests, we deemed it opportune to name our special representative to the Congress of Europe held at the Hague to show our solidarity and encouragement of the Apostolic See for a union of peoples."

"We do not doubt," the Pope continued "that all our faithful realize that their place is also beside those generous individuals who are preparing a social system, a new order, and the establishment of peace among nations."

In his speech which was carried by the Vatican radio and medium wave station and by the Italian government radio system, the Pope declared that a Holy Year would be observed by the Catholic Church in 1950.

He declared it had been intended to start the Holy Year on the 25th in the Church's history at Easter. But the Holy Year had been postponed until the fall of 1950 because of great difficulties in providing accommodations in Rome for pilgrims.

"It is our hope for the world," the Pope declared "that the Holy Year will usher in the definitive peace which humanity has been so long awaiting. This is our dearest hope; this is the object of our most fervent supplications."

**John McCormack Home Becomes Nursing Center**  
Dublin — (NC) — Moore Abbey at Monasteraden in the Irish Midlands, formerly the home of the late John McCormack, world-renowned tenor, is now a Catholic nursing home where a group of Sisters of Charity of Jesus and Mary are pioneering in the specialized care of epileptic women.

### Marian Dedication Urged by Pilgrims

The faith and devotion of the shrine of Our Lady of the outstanding memory of the Rev. Joseph Cirincione, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church, Rochester, on his return this week from an air pilgrimage to Fatima where he attended services marking the 31st anniversary of the appearance of the Blessed Virgin.

"The most stirring moment of our trip," he said, "was on the afternoon of May 12 when a half million people jammed the grounds of the shrine to welcome the replica of the Fatima statue which was returning from a whole year's tour of Europe and Africa."

"PIGRIMS FROM all over the world were mingled with the Portuguese peasants. As the statue was carried to the basilica on the shoulders of the men, the immense throng sang the Fatima hymn and waved white handkerchiefs in greeting. It was a sight too moving to describe, really the top thrill of the whole trip," Father Cirincione said.

Accompanying him on his pilgrimage were the Rev. Leonard A. Kelly, pastor of St. James' Church, Tupperburg; the Rev. John B. Kleinig, assistant pastor of St. Mary's Church, Canandaigua; and the Rev. Robert Handlin, assistant pastor of Most Holy Rosary Church, Syracuse.

The priest pilgrimage was from New York to Lisbon on May 7 and spent ten days at Fatima in studying the anniversary of the Blessed Mother to the present children in May of 1917. Following the religious celebrations at Fatima, the Rochester group flew to Rome for a nine-day visit directed by a private apostle with Pope Pius XII on May 22. They arrived in New York City by plane on May 29 after another short visit in Lisbon enroute from Rome.

"BOTH IN Rome and Fatima," Father Cirincione said, "distinct emphasis is placed on the consecration of individuals and families to the Immaculate Heart of Mary as the perfect means of honoring the Blessed Mother."

"Religious leaders at Fatima insist that the faithful obey her requests for daily recitation of the Rosary, acts of reparation and obedience to the commandments, and reception of Holy Communion on the five First Saturdays," he stated.

Vatican circles point out, he declared, that the Holy Father deserves to be known as the

### Nazareth College Has Record Class

(Continued from Page 1) Sapientza, Macedon, N. Y.; Josephine C. Slattery, Rochester; Constance Ann Smith, Rochester; Jean Brady Sweeney, Rochester; Patricia Anne Taylor, Rochester; Mary Theresa Tierney, Auburn, N. Y.; Elizabeth M. White, Canaan, N. Y.; Marianne R. Windsor, Corning, N. Y.; Sister Marion Gumbel, S.S.J., Nazareth Convent, Rochester.

**BACHELOR OF ARTS WITH MAJOR IN FINE ARTS:** Mary Elizabeth Keegan, Buffalo, N. Y.; Allen Mary O'Dea, Rochester; and Mary Ellen Trescott, East Rochester, N. Y.

**BACHELOR OF EDUCATION:** Sister M. Agnita Monat, S.S.J., Nazareth Convent, Rochester; and Sister M. Clotilda Bennett, S.S.J., Nazareth Convent.

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE:** Jennie S. Clark, Perry, N. Y.; Doris Marie Connelly, Rochester; Georgia E. Conner, Austin, Texas; Viola Rita Daugherty, Rochester; Margaret T. Ely, Rochester; Marjorie Esterheld, Rochester; Helen Marie Ferguson, Seneca Falls, N. Y.; Betty Jane Gardner, Rochester; Elaine Marie Kaib, Rochester; Ruth A. Kennedy, Rochester; Karline Therese Koenen, Auburn; Anne Margaret McLaughlin, Syracuse; Elaine Eileen Schwendeman, Lexington, Ky.; Mary Ellen Shea, Rochester; Jeanette S. Yeager, Rochester; Mary Lucille Hoff, S.S.J., Nazareth Convent; and Sister Barbara Ann Fook, S.S.J., Nazareth Convent, Rochester.

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE WITH MAJOR IN MUSIC:** Marie Theresa Amaluzio, Buffalo; Helen Teresa O'Arcy, Kenmore, N. Y.; Mary Virginia Dwyer, Utica; Doris Amelia Kennedy, So. Corning, N. Y.; Elizabeth Anne Murphy, Elburgh, N. C.; and Arlene Marie Radice, Buffalo.

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE WITH MAJOR IN NURSING:** Jean Agnes Bennett, R.N., Auburn; Kathleen Rita Hannon, R.N., Syracuse; Jane Ella Hasselwander, R.N., Rochester; Maurita Ann Hayes, R.N., Elmira; Frances Catherine Marks, R.N., Brooklyn; Katherine Therese Murphy, R.N., Utica; Dorothy Angela O'Malley, R.N., Syracuse; Dorothy Jeanne Quetchenbach, Rochester; Justine Ann Rindge, R.N., Auburn; and Sister M. Gregory Cairns, R.N., S.S.J., Nazareth Convent.

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE WITH MAJOR IN SECRETARIAL SCIENCE:** Carol M. Baker, Rochester; Lila Jean Hegie, Rochester; Elizabeth Jane O'Leary, Mt. Morris, N. Y.; Helen Catherine O'Leary, Mt. Morris; Mary Lou Thoney, Rochester; and Marjorie Adelaide Vaeth, Rochester.

**Mary's New Rose Crown Unwilted**  
London — (NC) — Seventeen fresh cream roses placed as a crown on the statue of Our Lady in St. Mary's Church, Heaton Morris, Stockport, during a ceremony on May 1, are still alive. Reportedly they show no sign of wilting, and parishioners are already convinced of a second "miracle of the roses."

Beneath them rests the previous year's crown of 22 roses on a fern background. These roses also retain the crisp, curly contours and the colors they had on the day they were cut 13 months ago. Church officials remain silent, but public acclaim calls it the "miracle of the roses."

While at Fatima the priest was the guests of the Most Rev. Dom Jose Correia da Silva, Bishop of Leiria. In the name of Rochester Catholics, Father Cirincione presented him with a spiritual bouquet of reparation listing all the prayers and good works performed by hundreds of Rochesterians in tribute to Our Lady of the Rosary.

On Pentecost Sunday they traveled 150 miles from Fatima to say Mass at the Carmelite Convent where Lury the only survivor of the three children who witnessed the apparitions in 1917, now lives at Sister Mary Lury of the Carmelite Order. Until recently, she said, she had been a nun of the Sisters of St. Dorothy community but her desire to hide away from the questions and curious visitors who bothered her constantly moved her to seek the greater privacy of the Carmelite cloister.

### Fr. Cronin Backs Mundt-Nixon Bill

Washington — (NC) — Support of the Mundt-Nixon bill for the registration of American Communists has been expressed before the Senate Judiciary Committee by the Rev. John F. Cronin, S.S., assistant director of the Society Action Department, National Catholic Welfare Conference.

Father Cronin emphasized to the Senate committee, which is considering the measure after its passage in the House, that he was speaking as an individual. His organization, he said, has taken no official stand in regard to the Mundt-Nixon measure.

"As a nation, we are honest and open in our feelings," the priest declared, "we do not wish deceit and conspiracy. Surely the least we can do to agents of a hostile foreign movement is to force them to operate in the light of day."

**FATHER CRONIN** took note of two main objections raised against the bill by persons whom he said were sincere liberals and strongly anti-Communist. "The first," he said, "is based on the radical departure from traditional American methods. We have never before so drastically regulated a political party. I would not personally concede these points," he continued. "I do not consider the Communist party a genuine political party; it is a subversive conspiracy. Furthermore, exposure of fraud is in the American tradition."

"But even if the bill is an innovation in American law, it was made necessary by new dangers to our security," Father Cronin stated. "We have ample evidence elsewhere that Communists work by methods not covered in previous definitions of aggression. We have the constitutional right to protect ourselves from new forms of aggression, as well as from open military attacks."

"The second objection stems from fear of abuse on the part of an unscrupulous attorney general," he added. "This danger appears to be far-fetched, when compared with the danger arising from Communist activities. If a situation arises where this law could be seriously abused, any other law could be equally perverted to serve the cause of tyranny."

**Pope Has Audience With CIO Official**  
Vatican City — (NC) — His Holiness Pope Pius XII has received in audience a number of foreign delegates attending the meeting in Rome of the executive committee of the World Federation of Trade Unions.

A joint audience was granted to delegates from the United States, Ireland, Holland, Belgium, Britain, Canada and Australia. James B. Carry, secretary-treasurer of the CIO, and Patrick Conroy, representative of Canadian trade unions, were received in private audience.

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