

A Look at Labor An Industrial Duty

By A. C. Tuohy

Harry Truman finally got a raise. He now makes \$100,000 a year. This may seem a lot to the \$50 a week man...

REGARDLESS OF what one may think of John L. Lewis, he was pursuing a Christian ideal when he obtained a \$100 a month for retired coal miners.

PENSIONERS ARE good things. In an America which is aging they are becoming more and more necessary.

Corporations have long since learned that if they are to keep the best men in executive positions they must offer them security against old age.

MILLIONS of dollars are spent annually on wasteful advertising, on lobbying and political contributions, on taking care of parasitic middlemen, on graft, on propaganda, on banquets and parties, without much protest from employers or the public.

Why then should there be objection to money spent on the human machine? The trade union movement is becoming more aware of the need of pension plans.

We now have social security in the United States. The government had to assume obligations for the aged simply because industry refused its own responsibility.

Courier-Journal Bookshelf

From Riches To Rags

By MARY M. CAREY

To the skeptical and complex modern, St. Francis of Assisi seems a simple, almost totally incomprehensible character whose chief contributions to the world were a set of impractical ideas about poverty and the founding of a begging order.

Such, at first glance, might be the reaction after a cursory reading of Theodore Maynard's loving but thoroughly unsentimental biography of St. Francis — RICHEST OF THE POOR.

At THE OUTSET, the writer approaches his task with objectivity, consulting with the skeptics as well as the apostles of Franciscanism. Impartially, he accepts or discards the researches of other writers in the effort to portray the saint he loves as Francis really was, or at least as he appeared to be.

The young Francis emerges from Maynard's biography as a fantastically innocent and completely amiable youth who enjoys poetry, and music and boisterous parties. Regarded by the people of Assisi as lovable if a little eccentric, the son of the wealthy cloth merchant enjoyed a standing in the community despite his penchant for lavishing money and gifts on his friends and on the poor.

Always imaginative and a trifle boastful, Francis had a poetic ideal — he dreamed of being a knight.

St. Francis of Assisi, this chivalrous and self-sacrificing, became the vehicle for the passage of God's Grace into the heart of Francis, for it was a soldiering mission that the youth got his first inkling of what was in store for him.

GRADUALLY, UNDER THE influence of a spiritual conversion, the budding saint is depicted as drifting from his former easy life, keeping aloof from his former friends and becoming increasingly devoted to the poor.

At the bidding of the Voice, he resolved to despise all things which he had formerly cherished and become a Knight of Christ.

His first reaction to this commission of knighthood was to embrace a leper, giving him all his money and kissing the man's shapeless, diseased mouth.

In the same impulsive manner, he is described as overcoming his natural shame at begging, a mode of existence which always required an effort of his will. In a dramatic

public gesture, he renounced his father's wealth and gave back even the clothes he wore.

HIS ABILITY to charm, as well as inspire his followers is credited with gaining him the comparatively easy support which he received from the ecclesiastical authorities and from Rome.

The brotherhood he founded was held together by idealism and enthusiasm, more than by rule. Simplicity, even more than poverty, was the distinguishing mark of a Franciscan, and this applied to every feature of the life of the brother.

To convey the soul-contentment which Francis and his brotherhood found in complete poverty appears to be a constant preoccupation of the author of RICHEST OF THE POOR.

The penitence state was not regarded as hardship, but rather as a privilege, a liberation from the tyranny of material things.

Nowhere is Maynard's appreciation of St. Francis more evident than in his references to that charming characteristic of the open-air saint — his love of birds and animals. Let his real significance be missed, he points out that such a quality demonstrated Francis' keen perception of the reality which is the essence of beauty.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE Franciscan order is traced from its humble beginnings, through the much-disputed stages of its growth and revision without favor or disparagement in RICHEST OF THE POOR. Facts and conjectures are paraded for a sober inspection before the reader with no coaching from the writer.

He does make clear, however, his conviction that Francis was never fundamentally at variance with the Church, nor with the Franciscan leaders who modified his original ideal into a practical, and what was essential, a living reality.

A wealth of turbulent thirteenth-century atmosphere provides the background for this study of a great spiritual genius. His contemporaries, including St. Clare — "The Shining One" who founded the Franciscan sisterhood — St. Anthony of Padua, St. Bonaventure and the enigmatic Brother Elias, usually described as the "Judas of the Franciscan Order," are here too, with bits of other deft characterizations.

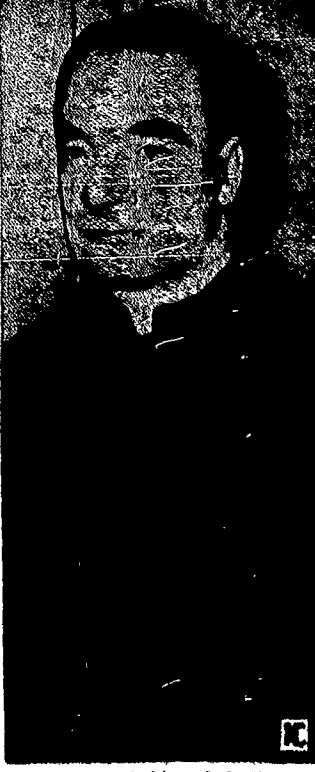
PLAUDITS MUST GO to Theodore Maynard for his tasteful selection from the pious Franciscan legends, and his restraint in treating of the stigmata and the mysticism of St. Francis. Here and in his description of the sufferings and death of the saint, the author's sensitivity and sincerity are unmistakable.

The critical, sophisticated reader may as well pass up this literary morsel.

For here is depicted a popular historical figure, who, without besmirching or watering-down for mass consumption, will appeal to the soul and the sensibilities of the common man. Unlike the self-contained sophisticates, he at least, must still look up for inspiration.

"Richest of the Poor" by Theodore Maynard (\$3.00, 255 pp., Doubleday Inc.)

In Press Call



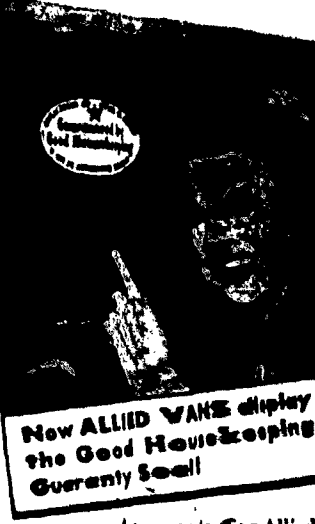
Most Rev. Michael J. Reedy, Bishop of Columbus, Ohio and Episcopal Chairman of the Press Department, National Catholic Welfare Conference...

BOSTON BISHOP VISITS IRELAND

Dublin — (RNS) — Auxiliary Bishop John Wright of Boston has arrived here to make arrangements for a pilgrimage to be led in September by Archbishop Richard J. Cushing of Boston.

During his stay in Ireland, Bishop Wright will visit the Trappist novitiate at Glencain in County Waterford. He said that Archbishop Cushing intended to bring several Trappist nuns back to America to establish a foundation in the Boston archdiocese.

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Book Tells Struggles of 1st U. S. Catholic Paper

Milwaukee — (NC) — The founder of the Catholic Press in the United States, Bishop John England, is the appropriate subject of a new biography, "John England, American Christopher," by Dorothy Fremont Grant to be published this month, Catholic Press Month, by the Bruce Publishing Company.

IT IS TRUE that prior to 1822 papers had been published which were Catholic in tone and sympathy, the book states, and there were, for example, the "Courier de Boston" published for several months in 1829 by Paul de Nardre, an instructor in French at Harvard College, and the "Michigan Essay, or Impartial Observer" of Detroit, edited in 1809 by Father Gabriel Richard, the only priest ever elected to the United States Congress.

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Non-Catholics' Estimate of Priests Outlined in Article

Huntington, Ind. — (NC) — The attitude of non-Catholics towards priests is discussed by Lon Francis in his latest article for Our Sunday Visitor, weekly Catholic newspaper. This attitude varies, says the writer, from that of persons laught to believe that a priest is a hypocrite, only pretending to lead a holy life, to that of a far greater number who, knowing little about priests, still maintain an inward respect for them.

Friars Issue Annual Almanac

Washington — (NC) — Marking its 33rd year of publication, The National Catholic Almanac for 1949 has gone to press at St. Anthony's Guild, Paterson, N. J., and soon will be ready for general distribution. It has been announced here by the Franciscan Order of Holy Name College, compilers of the volume.

The Almanac, a standard reference work of 823 pages, touches points of Catholic as well as national and international general interest. New features of the 1949 edition include the full English text of the Encyclical by His Holiness, Pope Pius XII on the Holy Land, the statement, "The Christian in Action," issued by the U. S. Bishops following their annual meeting last November, and a synopsis of the "Mediator Dei" Encyclical, which has been added to the liturgy section of the volume.

A CONDENSED history of the Church in provinces of Canada and a complete list of Catholic hospitals in the United States have been included. Other features include: an increased list of biographies of famous American converts, topics such as the Holy Year, the Protestant Reformation, the United Nations' Declaration of Human Rights, and the various Catholic anniversaries to be observed in 1949, including the last of the Jesuit Martyrs of North America, the Religious Toleration Act of Maryland and the founding of the Louisiana colony by French Catholics.

Memorial To Japanese Captives London — (RNS) — A Roman Catholic church will be erected at Wymondham, Norfolk, as a memorial to members of all faiths who died in Japanese captivity during the war. Sponsors of an appeal for funds to build the church include the Bishop of Northampton, the Marquess of Lothian, the Earl of Wicklow, the Countess of Albemarle and Air Vice-Marshal Sir Quintin Brand.

Guild Honors Bob Considine On Ruth Books

New York — (RNS) — Bob Considine, columnist and author, was honored at the first annual awards dinner here of the American Guild of Catholic Writers as "the outstanding Catholic writer for 1948" for his book, "The Babe Ruth Story."

He received a plaque bearing a miniature book made of gold-plated bronze. Elliott R. MacFay, president of E. F. Dutton, which published the book, received a gold-embossed scroll. A similar scroll was awarded to Robert R. deGraf, president of Pocket Books, Inc., which brought out "The Babe Ruth Story" in a 25-cent edition. Mrs. Herman Ruth, the famous player's widow, who was present with a large party of friends, also received a scroll. Speakers were the Rev. James Keller, founder of the Christian Workers' movement and author of the book, "You Can Change The World," and Arthur (Bugs) Bear, newspaper columnist.

METALS--1949 Our new booklet covering the outlook for Metals during 1949 will be sent on request. METAL DEPARTMENT BACHE & Co. Member New York Stock Exchange and other Leaders

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