

### Chinese Diplomat Praised For Scripture Translation

Vatican City — (NC) — His Holiness Pope Pius XII has sent an autograph letter of congratulations to the Chinese Minister to the Holy See, Dr. John C. H. Wu, on completion of his translation of the New Testament into Chinese.

The Holy Father's letter written in English, expresses appreciation of the years of painstaking labor devoted to the work, hopes that through it the people of China may have more ready access to the treasures of the Holy Bible. Dr. John Wu of heavenly doctrine, and promises "constant and fervent prayers for the welfare of your dear nation in these days of sorrow and tribulation."

**DR. WU HAS FLOWN TO** China for consultations with Premier Sun Fo and other officials. While there he will also see about the publication of his New Testament.

The major portion of the work, Dr. Wu stated before leaving, was done during the years of the war with Japan from 1942 until 1945. Since coming to Rome in 1947 as Chinese Minister, he has done considerable research in the great libraries and consulted experts of the Biblical Institute for further criticism and revision.

Official approval and designation of this work as the official Chinese translation of the New Testament has been given by the Sacred Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith.

Dr. Wu has had the benefit of the active personal collaboration of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek during the entire work of translating.

**ALTHOUGH NOT** a Catholic, the Generalissimo, according to Dr. Wu, contributed many valuable suggestions and criticisms not only to this but also to his translation of the Psalms done before the New Testament.

Dr. Wu, who joined the church in 1937, is the second prominent man in Chinese national affairs to become a Catholic. Before becoming a Benedictine monk the late Abbot Lou served as Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs, with some interruptions, from 1912 until 1920.

During his public career thus far Dr. Wu has served as a member of the Legislative Yuan, as vice-president of the Commission for the preparation of the Chinese Constitution put into force in 1947, and as president of the Committee for Foreign Affairs of the Yuan. He also attended the San Francisco Conference in 1945 as the personal representative of Generalissimo Chiang.

### WM. T. WALSH AUTHOR, DEAD

New York — (NC) — Dr. William Thomas Walsh, biographer, novelist and educator, has died here at the age of 57. His last work, "St. Peter the Apostle," was published in November. The University of Notre Dame awarded him the Letare Medal in 1941.

Dr. Walsh had been professor of English at Manhattanville College from 1933 to 1947, when he retired because of illness. He wrote "Our Lady of Fatima" in 1947, making an extended trip to Portugal to do research.

**HIS BEST KNOWN** works include "Isabella of Spain," published in 1939; "Out of the Whirlwind," a novel issued in 1935; "Philly II," 1937; "Characters of the Inquisition," 1940, and "St. Theresa of Avila," 1943.

Dr. Walsh was born in Waterbury, Conn., and graduated from Yale in 1913. He worked on newspapers in Waterbury, Hartford and Philadelphia, and taught at a Connecticut academy until joining the staff of Manhattanville College.

### Courier-Journal Bookshelf

## What Makes a 'Good' Book?

By REV. JOHN J. BARRY  
There has been so much fake advertising and so much glowing praise about modern novels that serious readers have become very cautious. They have been disappointed so frequently that they hesitate to be caught again. This praiseworthy caution, however, has been responsible for readers passing up worthwhile books.

**THE PROBLEM APPLIES** in the Catholic field as well. Here, too, advertising has been at fault. Books have frequently not measured up to the advertising. Until recent years there was a sameness about Catholic novels. Most were too idealistic, too far from reality. They failed to present life as it is.

Fortunately recent Catholic writers have approached their themes from a realistic point of view without omitting the romantic and idealistic elements that touch human life.

The same will be found to be true in the recent biographies of the saints. No longer are they fictitious portrayals of men and women and boys and girls, who once lived as we do and who struggled with the same temptations that annoy and trouble us.

One of the most difficult tasks in publishing Catholic books is to push the sale of a really fine book. Our Catholic magazines may praise its qualities, but unfortunately their influence is not strong enough to lift the book into the best-seller class.

**PRIESTS COULD** perform a fine service here, but for the most part they do not. It certainly would be a desirable service to have pastor, commend good and deserving books in their weekly bulletins, in their announcements or even in their sermons. If this were done throughout the country, it would reach 25,000,000 Catholics. Of course, the basic difficulty lies in bringing the book to the attention of the priests themselves.

Past attempts, however, have demonstrated that the priest would shun this method. Recommendations usually followed inquiries were made concerning the reason for mentioning one book and not another. Readers are hard to please and quick to criticize even the priest. Those who feel they know literature questioned his judgment.

Tastes vary with all readers, depending on background, education and Catholic training. The book that may be considered excellent by the educated Catholic is ignored by the Catholic reader whose educational training fails to measure up to an appreciation of the same book. The reverse is equally true.

This situation is bound to arise with Catholic books and we must keep it always in mind. The problem is not to get all to read the same book, but rather to develop in Catholics a taste for well-written Catholic literature. If we can do this, we have a foundation on which to develop a large Catholic reading public. The more they read of this type of literature, the greater will be their appreciation, and as time goes on the greater will be the influence of religion in their daily lives.

**THE PUBLISHER** of Catholic books must keep in mind that the range of his readers is great and that he should attempt to satisfy this range.

The business side of publishing may cause him to forget that he is doing Apostolic work, teaching through books the fundamental principles of religion. Oftentimes he is able to reach souls and win them back to the daily practice of their religion. The book that may be a failure from a financial point of view may be the instrument in reviving a dim faith in a family and its relations.

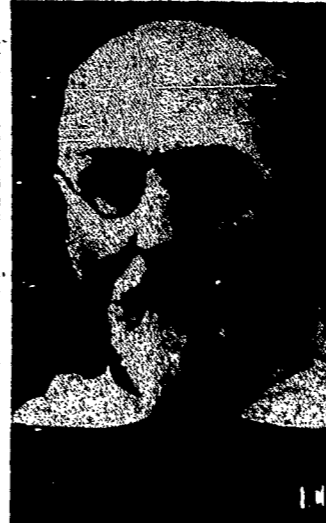
The outstanding Catholic book, or one that has a Catholic philosophy of life, will eventually reach a large reading public. Its growing popularity will not enjoy the quick sale of the so-called best seller in the secular ranks, but rather a slow but steady sale, as its merits reach an ever widening audience.

**THERE IS A GREAT** satisfaction in reading a good Catholic book, be it novel, historical romance, life of a saint or one dealing with current events. No page or episode is going to shock the reader and no character will flout the decencies of life, ridicule marriage or glorify the bachelor life who lives and acts as though the sixth and ninth commandments were not intended for her.

The good book inspires, elevates the mind and lifts the reader to a higher plane of living. The bad book on the other hand debases the reader, pulls him down to the level of the characters in the book and lowers the dignity of human life. Civilization is based on the dignity of life, not on its sordid elements. Nevertheless, a survey of the so-called best sellers for the past ten years would indicate that the opposite is true.

The above article, by Father Barry, is from "Between the Lines," a Bruce Publishing Co. magazine. The author, a former professor of English in St. Francis Seminary, Milwaukee, has written frequently on literary subjects for Catholic magazines.

### Father Voste, Bible Scholar, Dies in Rome



FATHER VOSTE

Rome — (NC) — The Very Rev. James M. Voste, O.P., for the past ten years secretary of the Pontifical Commission for the Study of the Bible, and member of the Commission since 1929, has died here at the age of 66.

**HE ALSO** served as a consultant on the Sacred Congregation for the Oriental Church and the Sacred Congregation for Seminaries and Universities. In 1946, Father Voste made an extended tour of the United States, delivering more than 50 lectures in Latin, French and English.

The famous Bible scholar visited Rochester in July, 1946, as the guest of the Rt. Rev. Sigr. Edward J. Byrne, Ph.D., S.T.D., professor of Sacred Scripture at St. Bernard's Seminary.

A member of the Belgian Academy and a professor at the Angelico, Dominican house of studies here, for 35 years, the priest carried on an extraordinary amount of correspondence in many languages with scholars throughout the world. It is believed that he had considerable part in preparations for the 1943 encyclical, "Divino Afflante Spiritu," dealing with scriptural studies.

A Requiem Mass was celebrated for Father Voste at the Church of Santa Maria Sopra Minerva by the Most Rev. Manuel Suarez, O.P., Master General of the Dominicans. Among those present were their Eminences Eugene Cardinal Tisserant, secretary of the Sacred Congregation for the Eastern Rites Churches, and Giuseppe Cardinal Pizzardo, prefect of the Sacred Congregation for Seminaries and Universities.

### France Restricts Youth Magazines

Paris — (NC) — The French National Assembly has passed a measure proposed by Andre Marie, former Minister of Justice, to provide strict controls over reading material published for children and youth. Publications filled with gangster exploits, crime stories and immoral accounts will be banned.

Commissions made up of educators, magistrates and family representatives will have the responsibility of designating which publications should be suppressed. Editors of publications which violate the ban will be punished with imprisonment and heavy fines.

Despite Communist and Socialist opposition, the Assembly decided that teachers from private schools as well as from public schools should participate in the control commissions.

### Convert-Bishop Claims Book by Cardinal Led to His Rejection of Protestantism

New York — (NC) — His reading of Cardinal Gibbons' book, "Faith of Our Fathers," was one of the main turning points in his conversion, Bishop Duane G. Hunt of Salt Lake City says in an article in the current issue of "Epistle," quarterly magazine of the St. Paul's Guild.

Bishop Hunt is one of 12 American Bishops, past and present, who were converted to Catholicism.

**ALTHOUGH NOT** convinced by the book, he was, in some indefinable way, impressed, the Bishop says. He read the book at a time when, losing faith in Protestantism, he was searching for something to take its place. Although prejudiced against Catholicism, he said he was forced to admit that the answers given there to the questions troubling him "seemed to fill the bill."

Raised and educated as a Methodist in the Middle West at the turn of the century, Bishop Hunt began to doubt the validity of his former faith while a sophomore in college. "The original source of the disturbance," he writes, "was the revival which was then, and for many years thereafter, an accepted feature of midwestern Protestantism. The recurrence of these periodic religious orgies began to annoy my distaste, and it was not long until they awakened an active disgust.



Bishop Hunt

**"OTHER FEATURES** of the popular Protestantism of the day began to annoy me. There of these periodic religious orgies was for example, the matter of extemporaneous prayers, and there was the exasperating practice of 'giving testimony'."

Impromptu prayers, as I analyzed them, seemed to specialize in informing God about what was going on, information which surely He did not need; testimonies, "see that God has done for me," impressed me as a macabre kind of boasting."

He still, in spite of his doubts, refused to consider Catholicism. "All the biggest charges that I had ever heard against the Church came back to my mind to reinforce my resistance," he goes on.

It was at this time, however, that he was reading Catholic literature, including the Cardinal Gibbons book.

With the eventual loss of all faith in Protestantism, yet believing in God and in Christ's Divinity, he was forced to ask himself: "IS THERE NOTHING between the Catholic religion and atheism? If the former is rejected, does the latter become inevitable? ... The answer was inescapable. With conclusive finality I admitted to myself that there was nothing between Protestantism and chaos, nothing between the Catholic Faith and atheism."

Shortly thereafter the future Bishop was received into the Church, and after a brief period during which he taught at the University of Utah entered the priesthood. He was ordained in 1920 and consecrated Bishop in 1937.

### Short Story Contest Hopes To Improve Catholic Fiction

St. Paul, Minn. — Gradual improvement of Catholic fiction as one result of the Catholic Press Association's annual short story contest is the hope of J. F. Powers, St. Paul Catholic writer and author of the well-received collection of short stories "The Prince of Darkness."

The contest, closing March 31, offers \$1,750 in prizes. Inquiries should be addressed to Box 389, Da'npport, Ia.

"A WRITER CAN BE sure his story will be in good hands," Mr. Powers said in comment on the handling of manuscripts. "The judges are writers of reputation, and as such can be trusted to know the real thing when they see it."

The St. Paul writer, a judge last year, told why he liked the editing. "Judging from the stories I read last year, I'd say very few, if any good ones got away. The quality of the final stories was much higher than in the previous year."

"Not one of the stories I read last year," he said, "would qualify as that awful commodity known as 'Christian fiction,' which of course it not Christian at all, but simply the old Horatio Alger success story redecorated for a pious audience — an audience which does not exist, and which never will."

### A Look at Labor — A Major Minority

Frequently it is said that trade unions do not speak for the vast body of American workers. Since only 14 million workers are organized, out of a possible total of 58 million, it seems clear to some that organized labor is but a minority voice in this country.

The implication is that this minority voice may be disregarded. It is further implied that the "unorganized majority" do not agree with their more powerful brothers.

The strength of organized labor, however, must be judged not merely on the basis of the total number of workers who are organized. While there are 58 million workers in the United States, trade unions have shown little interest in organizing many millions of them.

Farm workers, civil servants, employees in small enterprises, of colleges, social agencies, etc., have remained unorganized in part because organized labor thus far have shown little interest in organizing these fields. When these workers are excluded, we find that there are approximately 33 million American workers subject to the organizing efforts of trade unions.

In these fields, therefore, in which unions normally have sought labor agreements, approximately one-half already are governed by union contracts. In half of these cases collective bargaining is the rule.

**THE PICTURE** becomes a little clearer when we study our economic system industry by industry. The key industries, of course, are those engaged in manufacturing commodities. How well are manufacturing industries organized? The answer is: almost completely.

Better than seven out of ten production workers are unionized. Workers in steel, rubber, clothing, automobiles, electrical products, glass, and meat packing are almost completely organized. The same is true of mining, railroads and trucking, and the construction industry.

These ten million workers are employed in key industries. Collective bargaining is the rule. On the home alone it is necessary that collective bargaining work it is unlikely that we shall ever return to individual bargaining in these industries.

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