

A Look at Labor Tony Wants To Be Free

By A. C. Tuohy

Frequently we are asked: "What impels workers to join a union?"

The answer to this question is by no means simple. Nevertheless, a story was told a few weeks ago which helps explain matters.

According to this story, the boss came up to his janitor this day with a copy of the local newspaper in his hand. "Say, Mr. Tony," called the boss, "did you see this morning's headlines? Your local union president is turning himself in Florida and on your money." Tony looked at the news report but said nothing. The boss continued: "You know, Mr. Tony, I think it is a shame that this racketeer should be allowed to enjoy a Florida vacation on your \$1.50 monthly dues. You can't go to Florida. Why don't you get smart and quit this racketeering union. I'd see that you would get pay increases and good working conditions. And you would be saving yourself \$18 a year in dues."

TONY WAS SILENT for a minute and then commented: "Boss, before we had a union here you would come after me shouting 'Hey Wop, clean up this floor.' Hey Dago, empty those ash barrels.' Since we formed a union you no longer shout at me. When you want me to do something, you call after me. Mr. Tony, I want you to do a job for me. Mr. Tony, will you come here for a minute?"

"It is worth \$1.50 to me for you to do this, Mr. Tony. What the union president does with my money is his business."

Perhaps Mr. Tony did not understand his responsibility as a union member. His code of ethics may have been inadequate. But he did understand that his union meant that henceforth he would be treated as a human being. More than anything else, more than good pay, short hours, and a decent working conditions, the worker wants to be treated as a man should be treated. He does not want to be ordered or driven like a horse. He wants to feel that he is important, that no matter how menial his tasks, he is valuable in himself. Life is hard for most workers. Most jobs in modern industry

Considine Wins Press Award For Catholic Writing

New York (NC) Bob Considine, columnist for International News Service, has been chosen to receive the first annual Catholic Institute of the Press award for distinguished service in promoting Catholic principles and fostering good citizenship during 1948. Presentation will be made May 1 at a CIP Communion Breakfast here.

Mr. Considine, a veteran newspaperman and a prolific writer, earlier this year received an award from the Catholic Writers Guild as the "outstanding Catholic writer of 1948" for his book "The Babe-Ruth Story."

BORN IN WASHINGTON, D. C., 43 years ago, Mr. Considine attended Gonzaga High School and George Washington University. After working in the Treasury and State Departments, he entered newspaper work in 1930 when he joined the Washington Post sports staff.

He became a syndicated sports columnist, trial reporter and feature writer for the Hearst papers in New York, and from 1943 to 1945 served as an INS war correspondent in England and in the China Burma India Theater.

The father of three sons, Mr. Considine is a former president of the Overseas Press Club. He collaborated in writing "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo" and has written the original scripts for three movies.

Pontiff To Receive Saint Stamp Exhibit

La Crosse, Wis. (NC) The "Philatelic Litany of the Saints" has brought a medal of merit to Msgr. Ferdinand Oech of St. Wenceslaus Church here from the Chicago Philatelic Society.

The poster collection, which represents 30 years of research, will be presented to His Holiness Pope Pius XII during the 1950 Holy Year celebration.

Army Sends Priest Abroad Dayton (NC) The Rev. Edwin M. Leimkuhler, S.M., head of the religion department at the University of Dayton, is awaiting orders from the Department of the Army which will send him on a three-month religious education survey in Germany according to an announcement here.

FOR 'MORE THAN \$100,000'



Leo Brady, assistant professor of the Catholic University of America, speech and drama department receives the congratulations of Rev. Gilbert Harter, O.P., director of the department. The occasion — the news that Mr. Brady's first novel had hit the jackpot. The book, "The Edge of Doom," will be published in the fall. Then came the movie studios bidding for the screen rights. Top bid came from producer Sam Goldwyn, offering an amount estimated between \$100,000 and \$150,000. (NC Photos)

Movies Buy Catholic Plot Of Professor's First Book

Washington—(NC)—Leo Brady, assistant professor of the Catholic University of America speech and drama department, was prompted by a Catholic book and play-writing competition to turn out his first novel and he has hit the jackpot.

The novel, "The Edge of Doom," was entered in the competition conducted by The Christophers to encourage better Catholic writing. Large cash prizes are to go to the authors of the best book and the best play.

THE STORY goes that publishers learned about the plot of Brady's book and soon began bidding like mad for publication rights. At length it went to E. P. Dutton Co. of New York.

Word of the scramble by the publishers got out to Hollywood, and movie studios began bidding for the screen rights to the unpublished book. Top bid came from Producer Sam Goldwyn. The amount he paid for the rights was estimated at between \$100,000 and \$150,000.

Bishop Kenrick Biography Reveals Vigorous Career

Washington—(NC)—In the last decade of the eighteenth century, in Dublin's humble Chancery Lane, which could be spanned by a man's outstretched arms, a future Bishop was born.

A pious, studious lad of 18, he turned his face to Rome, there to win the highest scholastic honors. Eventually arriving in Philadelphia as Bishop at 34, he was to fight a schism, trustee opposition, a cholera epidemic, and an anti-Catholic outbreak accompanied by burnings and killings in his disorganized diocese. And with all this, he became "America's foremost theologian of his time."

THIS — AND MUCH MORE — is the story of the prelate told by the Rev. Hugh J. Nolan in a book, "The Most Reverend Francis Patrick Kenrick, Third Bishop of Philadelphia (1830-1851)," just published by the American Catholic Historical Society of Philadelphia.

Among his first conflicts in Philadelphia was that with the trustees of St. Mary's Church. Only when the Bishop put them under an interdict would the trustees release control of church funds through which he had dictated to preceding bishops.

Another trial was the Hogan schism, the case of an excommunicated priest who persisted in celebrating Mass after the interdict and gained a considerable following before Bishop Kenrick straightened out the matter while reorganizing the diocese.

IN 1832 THERE was an outbreak of cholera in the city. In 1844 came one of his greatest trials, the anti-Catholic Nativist outbreak. Mobs fired churches, burned many houses in the Catholic district of Kensington and killed numerous persons before they were dispersed by the military.

Bishop Kenrick founded the first Catholic newspaper in Pennsylvania, the diocesan Catholic Herald in 1833.

Despite his hardships and intensely active administration, he wrote seven volumes of dogmatic and moral theology to supply his seminarians with textbooks. His "Theologia Moralis" became a standard work.

TO COMBAT the anti-Catholicism of his day, he wrote "The Primacy of the Apostolic See Vindicated," still considered an outstanding apologetic in the English language.

He founded the St. Charles Borromeo Seminary and planned

Educators To Dedicate St. Bonaventure, N.Y. (NC) Nearly 500 persons for the United States, Canada, Mexico and other parts of the world met at St. Bonaventure College with the 30th annual Franciscan Educational Conference to hold from June 27 to 29. It was announced by the Very Rev. Thomas Plasmann, O.F.M., college president.

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The Miracles of A Wolf

By REV. RICHARD TORNEY

Sacred is a supernatural perfection which modern Americans grudgingly respect. But they gaze at most saints with horror and disbelief because miracles, mortification and other worldly holiness are mysteries alien to our remote, intangible values.

St. Francis of Assisi, however, can certainly be labeled as one of the most popular saints in the 20th century mind because he is different from the rugged heroes whose virtues often appalls us. Francis was all hearts because he is so simple, so unpretentious and so charming. In the many old tales which keep his memory bright today.

One of these stories about the Wolf of Gubbio, fashioned into a subtle, 60 page book "The Seven Miracles of Gubbio," is currently winning high praise as an artistic work of universal appeal.

GUBBIO IS A VILLAGE in Italy which long ago was besieged by a ferocious wolf who lived in a dense forest near the town. He devoured oxen, sheep and chickens and little children with equal zest and terrorized the townfolk into appealing to St. Francis for protection from the murderous rambler.

Francis soothed the wretched people and made a pact with Brother Wolf. It was agreed that if the beast would pledge never again to kill he would defend the citizens. They would accept him as a citizen and feed him well. As a bonus, Francis would give him power to work seven miracles.

The Wolf revealed in the new domesticated life of plenty to eat, time to sleep, public respect and growing popular affection. In the warmth of new friendships he grew tender of heart and regretted his violent past life. Taking his part in community, he worked his allotted miracles for the townfolk.

FOR EXAMPLE, he saved a child from death in a precipice fall; Moses like he halted a flood which threatened to drown a flock of sheep; he shored up tottering buildings when an earth quake hit the town; and once for a lark he gave the Mayor an aerial trip in his armchair. He

Msgr. Sheen Book In April

Milwaukee—(NC)—"Peace of Soul," by Msgr. Fulton J. Sheen of the Catholic University of America, will be the April selection of the Catholic Literary Foundation. It has been announced here. It is described as "a book which lays bare the modern excuse of blaming the subconscious for all man's ills and directs him instead to his conscience and to God."

In the book, Msgr. Sheen makes the comment that the popularity of psychoanalysis has nearly convinced everyone that to obtain peace of mind, some kind of confession is necessary, "another instance of how the world, which threw Christian truths into the waste-basket in the nineteenth century is pulling them out in isolated, secularized form in the twentieth... including itself into believing that it has made a great discovery."

His touch transformed an ugly, unhappy girl into a beautiful woman. With charming gratitude she became his greatest admirer and friend, and then, the cause of his downfall. When her fickle love turned to another animal, the Wolf forgot his promise to St. Francis, murdered the rival dog and then had to use his seventh miracle to escape death at the hands of the enraged villagers.

Moping in the forest in disconsolate despair because the cowardly world of living men had turned on him at all that he had done to make their lives happy, he heard Christmas bells ringing in the village.

Hoping to reconcile himself with God at least, the Wolf came secretly back to town, crept into church at Midnight Mass and died under the manger of the Christmas Stable. Children found him there, his dead mouth filled with sweet honey—a miracle of Charity, they shouted.

THE ANCIENT STORY, as simply told by Father Raymond L. Bruzberger, a Dominican priest who served with the French command and was Chaplain General of the underground forces of DeGaulle's Resistance, has been lovingly translated by Gerald Lauke, originally found in the old Italian legends of "Francis' miracles, the famous "Frodoth" or "Little Flowers" the tale is mislaidly simple and not as juvenile as it sounds. It is an allegory in which every reader may find his own spiritual counsel.

The Wolf of Gubbio mirrored the calm philosophy of St. Francis that unselfish considerations for the needs of others would always return abundant blessings. But his sad misfortune also prove the frailty of human reason and the selfishness of vanity and pride.

It is a book written beautifully enough to satisfy adults, simply enough to delight children for the story it tells and deeply enough to provide reflection for those who can see its many lessons.

"The Seven Miracles of Gubbio," by Raymond L. Bruzberger, O.P., trans. by Gerald Lauke. (\$1.50, 60 pp., Whitlsey House)

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