

A Look at Labor French Undo Old Errors

By A. C. Tuohy

In few countries of the world has the Church and its priests remained as close to the working people as in the United States. In the United States the Church has been a defender of democracy, a major critic of capitalism, and a friend of the trade union movement. All in all Her position in the hearts of poor workingmen is secure.

The story of the Church in France, however, is a different story. The overwhelming mass of French labor is resolutely anti-religious.

For the complete picture of what has happened there, and of what could happen here, I recommend the reader to an article by Father Joseph Moody in the May issue of the Sign magazine.

FATHER MOODY reports that no more than 2 per cent of the French industrial workers attend church. In the diocese of Paris, only one out of two or three hundred workers practices his faith. In a working class Parisian parish of 55,000, thirty young men and eighty adult males regularly attend on Sunday. 13,000 parishes in France are without a resident pastor.

So rare is the practice of religion between the ages of twenty and forty, that it is agreed that in France we almost automatically lose the poor and the workers during their active years.

What explains this terrifying condition among French working Catholics?

The answer can only be found in history. Catholics in nineteenth-century France found themselves on the side of the monarchy suspicious of the republic and of the extension of democracy. The concept was prevalent that to be a good Catholic, one had to be a monarchist. Since practically no workingmen were monarchists, in the course of time few remained Catholic.

SINCE MOST Catholics of that time consistently opposed an extension of political rights to the poor, the poor looked for other leaders. When the workers began to organize and to make demands on employers, they received a good deal of assistance from radicals, Communists, and free thinkers.

It is not surprising, therefore, that a study of present conditions in France leads to this conclusion. "A large proportion of French industrial workers are Communist; most of the rest are anti-religious or at least indifferent; a handful continue to practice their ancestral faith."

Could such a situation develop in the United States?

Courier-Journal Bookshelf

Words from A Monastery

New books by authors who have found prosperous fame for their literary productions have recently climbed into the best-seller lists. Many people who buy on the basis of past reputations of the writers may be disappointed, not that these later children are unpleasant, but rather, different from their older brothers.

SEEDS OF CONTEMPLATION (201 pages, \$3.00) by the fabulous author of "The Seven Storey Mountain," Thomas Merton, is a further chapter in the fascinating story of the spiritual growth of a young New Yorker who wandered from sophisticated agnosticism into Catholicism and finally entered a Trappist Monastery in Kentucky.

But it is not a narrative of events—rather, a serious, reflective, hard-to-read book about the thoughts that monastery life gives to a man who "loses himself and finds God" through contemplation.

Contemplation, Brother Louis (Merton's name in religion) explains, is "knowing and loving God through the mind and heart as He is in Himself, apprehending Him in a deep and vital experience which is beyond the reach of any natural understanding."

THE SALE of this book is not all due to the magic of the "Seven Storey Mountain." Thousands are buying it because it shows us the finer life of "the inner man"—it recognizes a growing feeling in this material age that contemplation of God is the answer to man's fears and the only refuge in his distractions.

Merton proves that contemplation is not self-isolation or escapism or long mooning with prayer in dim chapels. To find God and enjoy His presence he shows, demands faith, obedience to religious counsel, knowledge of Christ and a charity to others that flows naturally from a soul at peace with God "to help other men to rejoice in God."

This is a book to be read slowly and in sections. Many will find it deep and dull unless they realize that spiritual observations, loosely gathered by a man in love with an other-worldly life, are not supposed to entertain but to make men think.

19 STORIES (247 pages, \$2.75), by Graham Greene, will catch the eye of thousands who read and argued over the problems of "The

Heart of the Matter" which he published last summer.

Mr. Greene, a convert to Catholicism, is recognized as perhaps the most accomplished story-teller of our day: his newest book is a collection of nineteen polished tales, all written some years ago, which he calls "by-products of a novelist's career."

His characters are modern and not all pleasant. He uses gunmen, fallen women, rapid city dwellers, colonial servants and even children to people the tense formulae which hold his short scenes from life. Yet in all of them we must admire a power of story-telling unique for its power of uncluttered words.

SEVERAL STORIES deal with "the tragedy of introspective childhood." In "The End of the Party" he speaks of the problems of identical twins. Another "The Basement Room," soon to appear on the American screen as "The Fallen Idol," is the story of a childhood trauma which causes a boy to betray the one person he loves.

There are also several humorous burlesques of British characters but the rest are pretty generally pictures of moral weakness and human corruption.

Accused of being too realistic for Catholic readers, Greene shows well in these tales that man's evil is the fruit of his own weak will and does not spring from inherent malice.

Sin is not a necessary part of man—it grows from a failure to know good from evil and to move in the proper direction when temptation whispers.

MY DAILY PSALM BOOK (368 pages) by the Rev. Joseph B. Frey is an excellent publication by the late Father Steadman's associates which put the psalms and prayers of the priest's Breviary in a handy, pleasing form for lay readers.

Attractively illustrated, no bulkier than a prayerbook, the Psalm Book offers a smooth translation of the finest Old Testament readings for private devotion. There are psalms for special occasions of prayer such as morning and evening, times of need, sickness and the Church.

For those who wish "to pray as the Church does," this little book is a treasury of inspiration. It would be a fine gift for the sick, a standby on every bed-table, a constant companion when making a church visit.

Russian Bishop Directs New Vatican Office

Rome—(CIP)—Bishop Alexander Evreinov, a former Russian diplomat and a convert to the Catholic Church, has just been placed in charge of a new office established at the Vatican Secretariat of State. Its name is "Office for the Reading of the Foreign Press" (ULSE, Ufficio Lettura Stampa, Estera).

THE NEW OFFICE will systematically follow and analyze all major references to the Vatican in the world press. Bishop Evreinov, who was born at St. Petersburg (Now Leningrad) in 1877 and is Ordaining Bishop for the Catholics of the Byzantine Rite in Rome, knows a large number of languages.

During the war, he was in charge of the Vatican Information Office, which aided prisoners of war.

THE VATICAN Secretariat of State, which had only about 40 employees at the beginning of the reign of the present Pope, has constantly expanded its activities and has now a staff of 124.

All but 11 of these are Italians, and all but 12 are Bishops, Monsignori and priests.

Cardinals Seek Workers Vienna—(RNS)—Theodore Cardinal Innitzer, Archbishop of Vienna, called here upon Roman Catholic youth to rally young Austrian workers to the side of Christian youth. The Cardinal made his appeal at the annual meeting of the Austrian Catholic youth organization.

Papal Academy of Science Will Study Cancer Biology

Rome—(CIP)—Ten of the world's most famous cancer specialists will be present at a Study Week on the "Biology of Cancer," under the auspices of the Papal Academy of Sciences beginning June 6, the Secretariat of the Academy has just announced.

The meetings will be held at the headquarters of the Academy, the Pius IV Casino, in the Vatican Gardens. A Papal Audience with an address of the Holy Father is expected to be the climax of the Study Week.

The Papal Academy of Sciences, founded in 1603 under the name "Linceum Academicum," was reorganized in 1936 by Pope XI. It consists of 70 members appointed by the Pope because of their scientific merits, regardless of nationality and religion.

Its President is Father Agostino Gemelli, O.F.M., Rector of the Catholic University of Milan. The American Members of the Academy are at present: Professor Peter Debye, Chairman of the Chemistry Department of Cornell University; Dr. E. A. Doisy, Professor of Biochemistry at the St. Louis University School of Medicine; Dr. H. S. Langfeldt, Professor of Psychology at Princeton University; Dr. R. A. Millikan, Director of the Norman Bridges Laboratory of Physics at the California Institute of Technology; Dr. George S. Spertl, Director of the Institutum Divi Thomae, Cincinnati; Dr. Hugh S. Taylor, Professor of Chemistry at Princeton University.

Boston Editor Pens New Catholic Play "Glorious Mystery," a new play by Rev. Francis P. Moran, editor of "The Pilot," the Boston diocesan weekly, will be presented for the first time at the annual convention of the Catholic Theatre Conference which will be held in Los Angeles June 15 through June 18.

The drama will be staged by the Boston College dramatic society, which has been specially invited to stage a production by the chairman of the convention Joseph Rice and Emmet Lavery. Boston College will be one of four colleges which will present plays at the convention. Arrangements for the trip include stopovers to produce the play in mid-western colleges, educational sight-trips, and an extensive sight-seeing tour of Hollywood and Los Angeles.

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Dominican Wins Play Prize



New York—(NC)—The Rev. Urban Nagle, O.P., director of the Blackfriars Guild here, who won the \$2,000 third-place prize award in the book and playwriting contest sponsored by The Christophers, was one of 37 Catholics who submitted manuscripts in the competition. It was announced.

Father Nagle's prize-winning play, "City of Kings," is a story of Blessed Martin de Porres, sixteenth century Dominican Brother who lived in Peru. The play now is in production at the Blackfriars Little theater here.

Father Nagle is a native of Providence, R.I. He joined the Dominicans in 1924 and was ordained in 1931. With the Rev. Thomas F. Carey, O.P., he founded the Blackfriars Guild in 1932 and aided in establishing 20 chapters throughout the country.

Father Nagle is an old hand at playwriting, having written "Bartle," winner of the 1928 Drama League - Longman prize; "Catherine, the Valiant," "Savonarola," "On the Seventh Day," and "Lady of Fatima."

Children Books Named for May

New York—(NC)—The May selections of the Catholic Children's Book Club are as follows:

Fiction Book Group: "Paul, Hero of the Five," by Edward Ardizzone, and "The Flying Postman," by V. M. Drummond.

Intermediate Group: "Adventure in Ireland," by Daphne Marlin.

Older Boys' Group: "Song of the Pines," by Walter and Marion Havighurst.

Older Girls' Group: "The Rebel and the Turncoat," by Malcolm Decker.

Catholic Digest Has Italy Edition

St. Paul, Minn.—(NC)—First copies of the Italian edition, latest foreign edition of The Catholic Digest magazine, have been received at the magazine's parent office here. It was announced by the Rev. Paul Bussard, editor-in-chief of the international editions.

The new magazine, carrying an April, 1946, dateline, is "Sintesi del Catholic Digest." It is published in Milan by the Aldo Martello publishing firm. Andrea Damiano is editor.



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Frank S. Hogan, New York District Attorney, will make the presentation at the 52nd annual dinner of the society in this city on May 7. The principal address will be delivered by Robert P. Patterson, former Secretary of War.

Last year the medal was awarded to Joseph Scott, attorney and civic leader of Los Angeles.

The society was founded in Boston in 1897 "to make better known the Irish chapter in American history."

Best Sellers

A serial selection of current books, published by The University of Kentucky, Lexington, Pa.

- I—Suitable for family reading:
 - Big
 - A Candle for St. Jude
 - Golden
 - Bride of Fortune—Kane
 - Bride of Storm—Greene
 - Crusade in Europe—Eaton
 - Lower
 - Dinner at Antoine's—Kew
 - Fatima Pilgrimage—Martin
 - God's Underground—Fr. George and Gracia Palmer
 - Joan of Arc—Anderson
 - Joan of Arc—Belloc
 - Late Have I Loved Thee—Manning
 - No Bugles Tonight—Lancaster
 - Point of No Return—Marquand
 - St. Peter the Apostle—Welsh
 - The City and the Cathedral—Anderson
 - The Three Brothers—McLaverly
 - The Seven Miracles of Gubbio—Bruckberger
 - Turnabout—Doherty
 - Woman with a Sword—Noble
- II—Suitable for ADULTS ONLY because content and style too advanced for adolescents:
 - Black Odyssey—Ottley
 - High Towers—Costain
 - The Gathering Storm—Churchill
 - The Hearth and the Eagle—Ston
 - Life of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle—Carr
 - The Man Who Invented Sin—O'Fallon
- III—Suitable for ADULTS ONLY because of IM-MORAL INCIDENTS which do not invalidate the book as a whole:
 - An Affair of State—Frank Cheaper by the Dozen—Glavin
 - Double Muscadine—Gaither
 - Cutliss Empire—Mason
 - Elephant and Castle—Hutchinson
 - Laughs in the Popcorn—Smith
 - Mary Wakefield—de la Roche
 - Midnight Lace—Kantor
 - Paris Mitchell—Bellman
 - The Big Fisherman—Douglas
 - The Chain—Wellman
 - The Golden Hawk—Yerby
 - The Dukays—Zilkey

New Book on Love In Wedded Life Lists 12 'Hurdles'

Tarrytown, N. Y.—(NC)—Twelve principal causes for breakdown in married life are listed by the Rev. Charles Doyle of Tarrytown in his new book, "Love Is Forever," which gives counsel before and after marriage.

The priest-author lists the following 12 marital stumbling blocks: Mocking and constant relatives; deliberate childlessness; and birth prevention; nervousness and depression; hasty marriage; differences in religious beliefs and lack of religion; jealousy; emotional, physical, intellectual and vocational incompatibility; neglect; the angle; the ignorance; low fertility; and drink.

Father Doyle contends it has been fairly well established that all divorce petitions are given intelligence to the great majority would suit the 10-and-12-year marital life.

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New York—(NC)—"In recognition of her eminence in journalism," the gold medal of the American Irish Historical Society, presented annually to an outstanding American of Irish descent, has been awarded this year to Anne O'Hare McCormick, staff writer of the New York Times.

Frank S. Hogan, New York District Attorney, will make the presentation at the 52nd annual dinner of the society in this city on May 7. The principal address will be delivered by Robert P. Patterson, former Secretary of War.

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