

Editorials

October Motto: The Rosary Ascendant
Columbus: One of God's Instruments
Modern Argonauts: One-Day To Rome
By Miss William M. Hart

Better Come Quietly



The Rosary Ascendant

Many thousands of devout souls were present at the Rosary Observance in Red Wing Stadium last Friday evening, and many more thousands took part in the services over the air through the courtesy of Station WVEF.

The outdoor sanctuary and Rosary Shrine made a significant setting for the pageant of military and Holy Name units with the Knights of Columbus and the Knights of St. John, the clergy and monsignori.

Bishop Kearney in an inspiring sermon, set forth the significance of the prayers and meditations of the Rosary, while representative laymen led the great congregation in the telling of the beads of each decade, beads reproduced in lighted red roses about the illuminated statue of the Queen of the Most Holy Rosary high up on the altar shrine.

Monsignor Craigh in measured depth of resonant tone called and explained briefly each of the five sorrowful mysteries.

Jerry Vogt at the organ and the Aquilina Band were a magnificent addition to the truly religious program. Jessica Dragosits gave a special glow to the prayerful occasion in her singing of the Ave Maria.

Flashing lights on the Outdoor Sanctuary spoke of the devotion to the Queen of the Holy Rosary, symbolized the fire of love for Mary burning in each heart, were reproduced in thousands of tapers held by all that vast army of faithful.

The rhythmic rise and fall of the yellow flames of 30,000 tapers gave outward expression to the faith and hope and love of God and to the devotion to Mary that walked up in prayerful hearts. Family groups were the rule, each one numbering one or more members of the Holy Name Society, the Rosary Society, the Socially and other religious bodies.

The Rosary Ascendant! It sent a thrill into one's soul to see all the devotion of Rosary Month united in one great expression, to note the prayer of individuals multiplied so many thousand times at this Shrine of Mary, to sense the nearness of Christ and His Blessed Mother to petitioners gathered together in His Name. The Rosary has been a power in the Church. The Rosary has been a power in the world. The devotion of Bishop and priests and people continue to make it a power for peace in the Church and in the world of today. May each of us help to make our motto: "The Rosary Ascendant."

Sail On, and On, and On!

Zeal for the things of God was the moving power in the heart of that devout and persistent mariner who in 1042 discovered America. For Columbus was seeking a shorter route to the Indies, to make easier the lot of missionaries assigned to the conversion of pagan peoples.

Columbus gave the world a new land with a promise of freedom for untold millions. Columbus gave to the Church a new instrument of faithful children who more than made up for the defection of unworthy Catholics who fell away in the religious revolution of sixteenth-century Europe.

Modern Argonauts

Remember when monetary prizes of many thousands of dollars together with the prize of public acclaim and fame were gladly awarded to the first to fly across the ocean? Not so long ago. Yet keen competition and the desire to lead gives the world today national and international air lines that make it their daily work to span the oceans, to shorten traveling time between continents to a day or less.

Modern Argonauts! Peter and Paul of old sought out Rome as the center of their religious mission, spent months and years in traveling to their destination. Patrick and Boniface and Austin carried the faith of Rome and of Peter and Paul to Ireland and Germany and Britain. Long journeys were a large portion of their missionary careers.

Russia And The A-Bomb

The Church appeals anew to men to outlaw war and all that leads to war. The occasion is the announcement that Russia now has the A-Bomb. The Church knows that the world would be far better off if there had been no wars of aggression. Such wars show by their results they are not good for the victor or the vanquished. Defensive wars offer no choice to those who are attacked.

Must men proceed gaily along the road that means ultimate destruction of humanity? God's grace can prompt them to stop before the A-Bomb erases the human race. We pray God may grant mankind that grace.

Am I Invited?

Every sensible believer in God will ask himself sooner or later the question: "Am I invited to a place in the Kingdom of Heaven?" He should look for the answer to his question to Christ and to Christ's Church. He will find the answer a definite affirmative one. "Am I invited?" "Yes, you are invited."

To the Chief Priests and the Pharisees, Christ in today's parable gave clear information on His Church on earth and in heaven. He compares His Church, the Kingdom of Heaven, to a marriage feast given by a great King. Many were invited and refused or neglected the invitation. More were invited, were urged to accept the invitation, and finally the invitation was made so extensive that all were called. Some were good, some were bad, some were poor, some were old, some were young. All were invited.

The Kingdom of Heaven is like to this marriage feast. All are invited to attend. All will be provided with the robe of sanctifying grace, the wedding garment that marks one as pleasing to the Master. The King will have a dinner table filled with guests. He will invite all to His Kingdom of Heaven. Christ will give every man grace to answer the invitation properly. He will choose all who are faithful in His call. No soul is kept out of heaven because of neglect or from salvation. God called the soul that rejected His call and all who neglect to do with it. One who neglects to do with it, willfully turns away from the Kingdom of Heaven. A question we should ask ourselves is: "Am I invited?"

WOMAN'S VIEWPOINT

Where is the 'Dawn-to-Earth' American Catholic Novel?

By Marie Weidman

Who ever reads a Catholic novel? Against a walling wall of rejected manuscripts many literary critics are saying that America just cannot produce even one good Catholic novel.

So year after year we go on reading Elsie Under in all her leader majesty. Evelyn Waugh with all his cynicism — both the clever and the un-clever — Graham Greene, Bruce Marshall.

Somehow the efforts of these writers seem to reflect elements in modern life which are quite far removed from us — even their struggles against evil appear to be on some level remote from our own.

WHY IS IT, then, that no one has seen fit to set down in fiction form the crass adolescence of America — its sadness, its terror?

THE TOP OF MY MIND

Commissars and Grandmother; Red Ridinghood Meets a Wolf

By Gretta Palmer

The education of an over-optimist is strikingly portrayed in the new motion picture "The Red Danube," based on the novel by Bruce Marshall.

But Commissars possess a moral code whose essential aims can never be acceptable to this decent man. A day before the film is ended, our easy-going liberal is prepared to ruin his career to prevent the Russians from recovering Displaced Persons who prefer death to a return to Soviet control.

"The Red Danube" is a satire against appeasement — a lively lesson for those optimists who still refuse to see Communism as a moral evil quite as appalling in the philosophy as the Nazis most of whom (inconsistently) found shocking enough to justify a war. Many Americans appear to believe that the Nazis formed an exception to the human race and that with their defeat all men reverted to a normal gentility.

HOLLYWOOD has begun to say that men's beliefs and philosophies have quite a lot to do with how they act—that Little Red Ridinghood had better learn soon to tell her grandmother and the wolf apart. It has faced the sad fact that good will does not always breed good will in

THE YARDSTICK

The "Unfinished Personality," Will He Get Off the Fence?

By Rev. George G. Higgins

One of the best proofs that the labor movement in the United States is coming of age is the fact that so many books are being written about it. We should like to comment upon one in particular.

"The LAW and Walter Reuther" by Irving Howe and B. J. Widick. Like it or not, Reuther and the LAW are a force to be reckoned with in American society. We ourselves happen to like it, but even those who do not will profit from reading what a couple of discerning commentators have to say about it.

Let's stop talking about producing a "great" Catholic novel. Let's build up a stockpile of a few more ordinary ones which will show American Catholicism to the rest of the world.

THE READING public (so many of whom are women, we're told), likes and buys the robust historical novel, the psychoanalytically late stories of "modern" love and marriage, because they

like, above all that commodity known as stark realism — the starker the better, the more copies will sell. The young Catholic writer, therefore, has been frightened off by fictionalized Freudiana and buxom heroines.

The triumph of good over evil, at least in the American novel, seems pretty dull stuff; nor do we any longer want our stories with a beginning, middle and end. For the most part modern characters and situations tend to remain static and undeveloped throughout, with the sorry shambles breaking off in mid-air at page eight hundred seventy-nine.

Of course we ourselves have been greatly confused about what constitutes a Catholic novel. It need not be a group of dreary, "holy" people in poverty, smiling in the ugly face of every evil in twenty chapters. This was the vogue at one time, and since none have been produced to these many years, we still think that this type of practical harp-playing humanity still has to people the Catholic novel.

Now, it is true enough that sins are no monopoly of those who worship evil in the guise of good. Men who prefer a true philosophy can also offend, but that is a later lesson for the liberal-optimist to learn. He will have made great progress towards the truth if, from this picture and more like it, he learns that human beings do not all move in the same moral twilight. Independent of the beliefs they hold.

There is the fierce and brilliant daylight of the saint who serves the God he sees. There is the blind blackness of the falsely indoctrinated man whose light within him is darkness. And it is well that some millions of Americans may now learn to distinguish between the two.

LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS

By Rev. James M. Gillis, C.S.P.

Those who create and control public opinion can persuade us that a whole people is dishonest, immoral, cruel, hypocritical or on the other hand, decent, conscientious, clean-living, hard-working, peace-loving, and anything else the exponent wishes to convey.

For good or for bad, with the build-up or the smear, the public-relations agent with plenty of cash can confirm our opinion of a man, an institution, a government, a race, or he can turn our opinion upside-down and inside-out.

The particular instance I have in mind at the moment is that of the Japanese people. Years ago it was held to be the thing to "run them down." The rumor ran that in Japan the bank tellers were all Chinese because the Japanese couldn't trust their own to handle money.

The natives of Nippon were (we were told) a race of agnostics, the only such race known to history, they had no talent and no originality but were merely imitative monkeys, for crastily they were gorillas, they were anxious spies and the Nazis were traitors to the land that had naturalized them.

WHEN OUR soldiers came back from the jungle after combat with the Japanese, we had what purported to be evidence of the cruelty and perfidy of the Japs fighting men. Not to multiply the counts in the indictment or points of comparison, suffice it to say that the Japanese for a generation or two perhaps for a hundred years were given a "bad press" in America.

But back in 1906 when the Paulists had the privilege of entertaining the saintly Bishop Berlioz of Hakodate in our house in Chicago, I said to him one day, "We have heard that the Japanese as a race are skeptics, agnostics, as well as amoral; what about it?"

"Not my people, not my people," said the good Bishop who had intimately known the Japs in the north for a quarter of a century. "It is a matter of 'what you see, what you hear,'" he continued, "when we make a convert, but Christians or pagans, the Japanese I know are a simple, decent, honest God-fearing people."

THEN CAME the war and with it the tremendous barrage of hostile comment, not only upon the war lords but upon the people of Japan.

But when the end came—when we had condemned the Japs as cruel, had done the most cruel and, in the judgement of many Catholic moralists, the most wicked thing ever done in any war, the dropping of the atom bomb—we began to hear stories of the supernatural, even mystical, spirit in which the Japanese took our victory and their defeat.

One Japanese Catholic gentleman said to Bishops O'Hara and

Ready, "We people of Japan had sinned, we deserved the punishment of God. It came and we accepted it in the spirit of Christ crucified."

I think I have never heard a more encouraging report from any mission field in the world than that of Bishop Thomas J. McDonnell, national director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith when he returned from Japan. It corroborates a statement made by another good friend of mine a Columbian Father in Japan that "we could have a million converts if we had the priests to bring them in."

EVERYWHERE—from Kagoshima, where St. Xavier landed in the extreme south to Hakodate on Hokkaido, the northernmost island the Japanese seem to be clamoring for the faith. It is an immensely heartening phenomenon and incidentally a correction of the old delusion of the Japanese.

We may soon share the judgement of St. Francis Xavier himself who called the Japanese "my delight" and said (40 years ago) "They are the best people who have yet been discovered, and it appears to me that there will never be found another people among the unbelievers superior to the Japanese."

It must be added that death prevented his attempt to evangelize the Chinese. But it is good at any rate to have his eulogy of the people who now seem to offer the greatest opportunity to Catholic mission effort.

Japan Drops Villain's Role; Clamors for Catholic Faith

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STRANGE BUT TRUE

Little-Known Facts for Catholics

By M. J. MURRAY Copyright, 1949, N. C. W. C. News Service

Advertisement for 'The Lodgings in Rome' featuring a picture of St. Paul and text about a copy of the Douai Bible being translated from a copy of the Douai Bible bought in a pawnshop for \$3 dollars by Fr. O'Donoghue of Dundalk, Ireland. It will take 5 months to complete.