

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



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.

of the cruelty and perfidy of the day fighting man. 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.

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

Japan Drops Villain's Role; Clamors for Catholic Faith

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."

EVERYWHERE—from Kagoshima, where St. Xavier landed in the extreme south to Hakodate on Hokkaido, the North-ernmost 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.

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.

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.

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.

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. Others 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 rich, some were old, some 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 and the soul rejected His call and all that went with it. One who neglects to do what is asked of him, who willfully turns away from the grace of God, who does not answer the invitation, who does not say "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.

Surely someone must be capable of putting, for instance, characters at a High Mass or in a setting of a Catholic college campus without making the whole effort look as if it had been newly dipped in maple sugar? Harry Sylvester did try it in "Moon Gaffney" but he submerged his whole effect in virtuoso so that the net result was a squalorous set of characters and a monotonous plot.

So it looks as if our Faith, as we live it, has no depths to it as if Eternal Truth were so trite it never even could challenge a red pencil-wielding editor. It is not wholly lethargic however. The fault does not lie completely with whatever young people there are who, having achieved an A in their creative English courses at college, resolved to write the great American Catholic novel. Most of these probably have been frightened by the best seller lists. Not that they would aspire to be included in such a listy but as an indication of just what the country reads and buys, it looks as if any volume with a Catholic motif showing thru at all noticeably would be dismissed as unparadonably naive.

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

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.

There will be a certain amount of give-and-take, a delicate adjustment of viewpoints, but with a little good will on both sides, the Communists officials will turn out to be decent enough fellows. For, after all, they are human beings, too.

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.

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.



Like it or not, Reuther and the UAW 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.

A "RADICAL" in other words is one who believes in the establishment of a non-Communist labor party which would place its major emphasis on the political approach to the problem of social reconstruction. But the majority of ACTU members do not happen to believe in the establishment of a labor party, not for the present at least. Therefore the ACTU isn't "radical."

Logical enough if you are willing to accept the major premise and that's probably one of the reasons the authors have written a book about him. To them he is still an "unfinished person."

How else explain the fact that they fall so completely to understand the position of ACTU with regard to Reuther and the UAW? They are not malicious nor are they bigoted; but they are confused. Or so it seems to us.

The Detroit ACTU, they tell us, supported Reuther, but

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only because it "saw Reuther merely as a leader in an anti-Communist fight." Or again, the ACTU people "supported Reuther against the Stalinists because they would like to root all radicals, genuine or false, from power; now they apply pressure on Reuther from the right."

This is another case of sem antics. What is a "radical"? The authors don't tell us explicitly, but it would probably be safe to guess that their own definition of a "radical" is one who advocates independent labor political action.

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Top Surgeon Religious

London — (N.C.) — Known as one of Britain's topflight surgeons, Peter Flood became a Religious this week as he pronounced his temporary vows at the Benedictine Priory at Ealing, West London suburb. Brother Peter left the world over a year ago to enter the community.

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 translation of the Douai Bible. Includes contact information for the Catholic Courier and Journal.