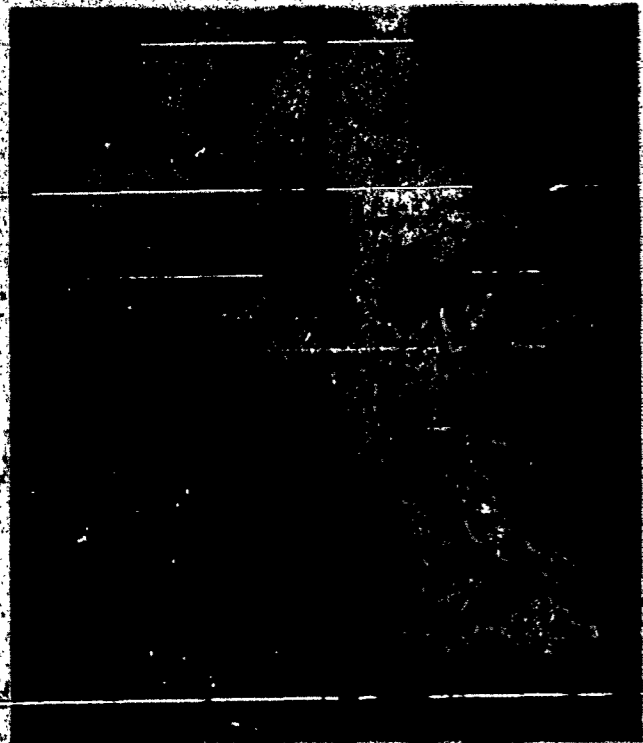


ARE WE asking that you bind up their sores... That you gaze upon their faceless faces... That you restore their hands and feet... Are we asking that you give up your job at your home and spend the rest of your days in a leper colony tending those who have become grotesque, hideous, loathsome remnants of human beings...?



...Others have already volunteered to spend their lives helping and healing these most abandoned of people! Priests and doctors and brothers have left their own warm, comfortable homes and their families, friends and country — in order to bring peace and comfort and love where before there was fear and loneliness and hatred! But most of all — they bring with them, God, and His love and mercy and consolation where before there was witchcraft and immorality and despair!

FATHER Damien was only one of a great army of priests and doctors and brothers who have loved God enough to give their entire lives to helping leprosy throughout the world in Africa, India, China, Japan, the Pacific Islands and elsewhere; thousands of men, women and children who have become, because of their leprosy, outcasts of society, have found their way to the open doors of our Catholic leper camps, hospitals and homes. Here they know they will find a welcome and if possible, a bed, and the best possible medical care there is! But they also find the warm light of faith and hope and love!

NO! We are not asking you to bind their wounds or kiss their sores, like St. Francis did. We are not asking you to devote your life to them, like the priests and doctors and brothers are doing!

We ask you to love them — from afar!

Love them enough to give them faith and hope! Love them enough to make it possible for them to get the best medical care, and a clean bed, and clothes. Love them enough to cure them with the new sulphone drug, if it is at all possible!

YOU CAN do this by sending something to our Propagation Office for the annual Christmas Letter Appeal. Don't leave them... Love them... Give them... not your life... But give them something...

Christmas 1949

...to do something for our poor lepers this Christmas... May...

PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH

No Complete News Freedom, Says Editor

Washington — (NC) — "No newspaper or periodical is really 100 per cent independent in its editorial policy," the Rev. Robert C. Barnett, S.J., editor-in-chief of America, national Catholic weekly, declared at a luncheon held in his honor here.

FATHER BARNETT said he believed America was as independent in its editorial policy as any other publication. "What lies down to preconceived positions," he asked. "In most cases, I think, it's mostly their economic allegiances." He cited the editorial positions of the secular press on the recent steel strike as an example.

"There we have a lot of periodicals like Time and Newsweek, which merely report news," he went on. "Of course, they have to select what they will report. In general, I don't think they contribute much to clear thinking or analysis in the light of basic principles. That isn't what they're trying to do, as news magazines.

"THEN, YOU have the ideological inhibitions of all publications. In the case of the Nation, this amounts to ideological orthodoxy. It just pains them too much to lean our way in anything. There is also a vast amount of ignorance of social and political principles, and a certain amount of simply inept reporting."

The speaker cited the careless way in which much of the press handled the case of Federal aid to education. "Most of the reporting about even here, citing the distinction between auxiliary services and general support of parochial schools," he said.

QUEBEC PARISH BANKS HAILED

Montreal, Canada — (RNS) — People's banks in Quebec, grouped under the name of Caisse Populaire Desjardins, owe most of their success to "following the social doctrine of the (Roman Catholic) Church," Magr. Perreault, Auxiliary Bishop of Valleyfield, Quebec, said here. He spoke at a banquet commemorating the silver jubilee of the founding of the Montreal regional union of the banks.

Ceremonies in observance of the anniversary included a Pontifical High Mass at which Archbishop Joseph Charbonneau of Montreal presided.

The Montreal union includes 192 branches with assets of \$42,000,000. Most branches are attached to parish churches. Membership is 100,847. The first Caisse Populaire was founded here on Jan. 31, 1900, by Abbé Desjardins in the Immaculate Conception Parish.

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MARK ORDER'S 120th YEAR



It is all attention for these tiny tots at the kindergarten conducted by the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, at their motherhouse in Charleston, S. C. The Congregation, founded by Bishop John England, is celebrating its 120th anniversary. The nuns operate a neighborhood house, a hospital and an orphan home — there, a day school, a catechetical center and a Mission on Wheelis, traveling a thousand miles a week to reach children in the surrounding territory. (NC Photos)

Jewish Author Asks U. S. Aid To Parochial Schools

Providence, R.I. — (RNS) — Government financing of parochial schools for all groups "in a free society" was advocated here by Dr. Ludwig Lewisohn, author and scholar.

"THE ESSENCE of a free society is that of 'freedom of voluntary association of citizens for a number of purposes.' Dr. Lewisohn, a professor at the new Brandeis College, Waltham, told the Ladies Association of the Providence Hebrew Day School. "A free society cannot be a uniform society," he said. "It must be one where all varieties of talent flourish.

"IT MAY be utopian, but the best society would be that where all groups have their own schools. Let the government pay for them but then step out. The government can pay the bills, clean the streets and train the soldiers. That is all."

If it attempts to do more, he warned, the next step is totalitarianism.

Hungary Cuts Church Subsidy

Budapest — (RNS) — State subsidies for churches will be decreased from an equivalent of \$3,200,000 to \$3,333,000 in the 1950 budget, Finance Minister Stephen Kossas told the Hungarian parliament here.

He said that although the Roman Catholic Church had "refused peaceful cooperation" with the Communist-controlled regime, the government will continue to make grants for the payment of clergymen's salaries and other essential needs.

That the Catholic Church will be most affected by the curtailment of State subsidies was indicated when Kossas said that the Protestant churches will continue to receive "undiminished grants" because of agreements they have signed with the State.

Bulgaria Expels Foreign Priest

Rome — (RNS) — The last foreign Roman Catholic priest expelled from Communist-dominated Bulgaria is now in Rome. He is Father Czokan, a Slovene Jesuit who was educated in France, and spent 14 years in Sofia.

Father Czokan reported that 28 French, Italian and Yugoslav priests and nuns have also been forced to leave Bulgaria in recent months.

He predicted that the Sofia government would intensify its anti-church campaign after the December 18 elections, stinging out for special targets Protestant and Catholic clergymen suspected of having contacts outside the country.

College Presents Medal To AA

Steubenville, O. — (RNS) — The Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous was awarded the Poverello Medal here by the College of Steubenville, a Roman Catholic institution.

Certificates bearing reproductions of the medal were sent to each unit of Alcoholics Anonymous. The inscription on the award read:

"In recognition of great benefactions to humanity exemplifying in our age the Christ-like spirit of charity which filled the life of Saint Francis of Assisi."

Sister Ignatia of St. Thomas Hospital, Akron, accepted the award. The nun is credited with establishing the first alcoholic ward at the hospital, which has helped to rehabilitate thousands of alcoholics.

Writer Describes:

First Hours In City of Rome

(Continued from Page 1)

The din of horns invariably accompanying Roman traffic. It turns to the right, and races down the broad Via Mercuriana, passing the Church of S. Marcellinus and Peter and the church and convent of St. Anthony, the mother house of the Order of Friars Minor. This street ends at a great square, and the pilgrims see the front of the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore (St. Mary Major) facing them as they emerge into this busy crossroads. Like St. John Lateran, this is one of the churches they will visit in order to gain the Holy Year indulgences.

THE DRIVER negotiates the tricky turns out of this square, goes around the right side of the Basilica, and from behind it enters another street. He crosses the famed Via Nazionale, runs along the Via delle Quattro Fontane past the four fountains, which gives this street its name. Our pilgrims see that these are small in comparison with most Roman fountains. The water which runs out of the curiously carved fountains at each of the four corners is hardly more than the amount dispensed by an ordinary office drinking fountain.

Down the hill from the four fountains, across the bustling Piazza Barberini, around a corner, and our pilgrims are at the airline office. Here they take their luggage, transfer to one of the many dark green Roman taxis waiting at the curb, and start for their hotel. They race up the winding Via Veneto, past the luxury hotels and the sidewalk restaurants, and the newspaper kiosks, past the American embassy where American Marines and Italian gendarmes stand guard, up almost to the Pincian Gate in the walls of Rome. Then around more corners, and the taxi stops at their hotel.

Bolivian Boy Cites New Commandment

Riberita, Bolivia. — (NC) — "Stealing some sugar from your mother would break which commandment?" asked a Maryknoll missionary of little Juan Mendada, age eight, during a catechism class here. "Number seven," said Juan. "And answering your mother back would break which commandment?" continued the priest. "Number four," answered Juan.

"And pulling the tail of your dog would break which commandment?" Juan scratched his head. Hesitatingly, he replied: "I don't know exactly the number, Father, but I think it would come under the one which says, 'What God has joined together, let no man pull asunder.'"

THEY REMEMBER the Holy Father's admonition that this trip to Rome is an act of religion, something "not to be undertaken after the fashion of pleasure-seeking tourists, but in that spirit of earnest piety which moved the faithful of Christ of every class and country in past ages to overcome the numerous obstacles and hardships of a journey sometimes made on foot to Rome in order to wash away their sins by the tears of penance and implore pardon and peace from God."

Naturally our party will not allow their first day in the Eternal City to pass without making a visit to the Blessed Sacrament. Their chaplain, an old Roman student himself, warns them that the churches close at a comparatively early hour here. They go out quickly. They walk down a narrow street, through hurrying crowds, dodging taxis and vespa scooters) at each intersection, until they enter the little Church of St. Joseph to worship and to make their profession of faith in the real presence of that Lord whose Vicar has called them to Peter's City.

The finishing touch

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