THE ROCK

(Courtesy of Michigan Catholic)

Editorials

The 'Post' Depicts a City Without God
Holy Name Union Presents 'City of Kings'
3 Hundred Years of St. Joseph's Patronage

By Msgr. William M. Hart

The City Without God

Were Joseph Stalin to present an article on Leningrad to some American weekly, he would exclude all items on church attendance, religious faith and practice, the worship of God. He and his followers have given their lives to the extirpation of religion from the hearts of the Russian people and they have not succeeded.

The Saturday Evening Post printed an article last week on Rochester. It was not inspired by any spirit of antagonism to God and to religion, but it ignored entirely the religious aspect of life in Rochester. Industry and art and culture, commerce and George Eastman, Al Sigl and The Gannett press, were to the forefront. Two seminaries serving all the country and going back many, many years in which they have sent ministers and priests into home parishes and missionary fields, are just non-existent in the article. An army of Sisters teaching in some forty parish schools, forty-seven Catholic chaplains many of them highly honored by Army and Navy, some of them attaining to national fame, are passed over as not belonging to Rochester. One lone clergyman is named, and he for service well rendered outside of Rochester, not in the city.

Stalin would so write of his favorite Russian city - with utter disregard of God and His place in the city and in the hearts of its people. The Saturday Evening Post does no favor to Rochester or its people in presenting them to the world much as the pagan Stalin would depict his persecuted victims. Rochester without God and the devoted children of God is no true picture. It is a caricature unworthy of the Post and its publishers.

City of Kings

The Holy Name Union brings to us the "City of Kings" for an eight-day run at Mercy Auditorium beginning Saturday. It is a religious play centering about Blessed Martin de Porres. The production has been acclaimed in the daily and religious press as outstanding. Our people are urged to attend and make their own the joy of witnessing a modern play by a gifted writer, the Rev. Urban Nagle, O.P.

In pairs and groups and parish parties, men and women and children will be thronging to the play during the next ten days. The Holy Name Union is doing a great good to our community in undertaking this production. Where so much of the theater is given over to sin and scandal and loose living, it is a treat to find an interesting and delightful play centered around the virtuous life of a holy one of God.

Our Debt To Joseph

This was the theme of the solemn observance of St. Joseph's Day at the Nazareth Motherhouse last Monday, our debt to St. Joseph. It was the great feast of the patron saint of the Congregation of St. Joseph. Close to 1,000 Sisters are numbered today in the diocesan ranks of this religious family. Its history extends back beyond the beginning of the Diocese of Rochester. Foundations in other dioceses have been sponsored by the local congregation. But its great work has been for and in the diocese itself.

Bishop Kearney celebrated the festive Mass, and preached the sermon. He spoke of the accomplishments of the years in which the congregation has been in existence. He referred to the variety of services rendered by the Sisters in school and academy and college in orphanage and the home for the aged in hospital work at Elmira. Currently the Sisters preside over a multitude of foundations, in a majority of the parish schools, and most effectively in one of the most modern institutions for children known as St. Joseph's Villa, and in St. Ann's Home.

Historically, thousands of gifted women, called by God, have spent their earthly careers following out the vocation of a Sister of St. Joseph. God is calling new candidates for membership in this most honorable institution. Young women are urged to be most faithful in answering the call of God, the summons of St. Joseph. Today's world needs workers such as have served the Church in days gone by. May their number increase!

Among many capable and consecrated souls there are naturally a number that stand out in the various parish schools, where they have become a tradition, at Nazareth Academy, at Nazareth College, at the Normal School and the Motherhouse. The three great Mothers Superior will always remain as true examples of the best that a congregation such as this can produce.

Mother Agnes presided over the earlier years as the gifted founder of the Sisters as we know them today. Mother Sylvester was the stately and energetic builder of permanent units for her Sisters: Mother Rose Miriam the efficient and cultured director of the ever-growing numbers of dedicated women. Sister Teresa Marie and Sister Marcella stand out as leading educators on the rolls of the Congregation.

Three hundred years ago the first Sisters of St. Joseph began their work. More than one hundred years have these Sisters labored in this section. All the accomplishments of these blessed years have been under the patronage of St. Joseph. It constitutes the debt of the Sisters and of those they have labored for St. Joseph. Thanks be to our heavenly Patron!

Not Of God

Christ spoke with pronounced severity to those who refused to listen to His word, who also refused to consider the wonders he wrought in their presence. He was speaking to them the truth: they refused to believe Him. They accused Him of being moved by the devil, of working miracles by the power of the devil. Christ knew their wickedness, Christ knew the evil in their hearts.

You are not of God! Men created by God, men blessed by God, men who owed to God all that they had, all that they were: not of God! Away from God, away from His truth, away from His guidance! A terrible indictment. But a true one!

Not of God! Attacks on God's Church, attacks on religion, are part of the daily record. No lie too deplorable, no false charge too groundless, for those who breathe hatred of everything Catholic. When you note new attacks by such men, when you note repetitions of the old calumnies, keep in mind Christ's explanation for such men and for their charges—You are not of God!

Not of God! Men who have rejected God, must give their allegiance to God's enemy, the devil. Let it be our work during this Passion Week to accept all of God's truth, accept it gladly and permanently: to reflect it in our worship of Our Suffering Lord. That it may never be said of any one of us—you are not of God!

LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS

Why Doesn't the Public Get Wise to the Profs?

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

Fr. Giflis

Some weeks ago in this column, as the reader may remember we had some words to say on the "time lag" in the brains of journalists, novelists, politicians and top-ranking members of the armed forces in the matter of getting wise to the essence of Communism.

My little essay was occasioned by the appearance of a book, "The God That Failed" in which six disillusioned ex-Communists explained (as far as explanation is possible) how they had at last awakened to what they should have seen anywhere from 10 to 25 years earlier—that Soviet Russia is a huge and horrible fraud and that Communism is diabolism.

Today I should like to say that there is a yet greater puzzle, a more baffling mystery: how does it happen that great numbers of the faculties of famous colleges haven't even yet caught up with the truth that has finally dawned upon writers, diplomats and generals? After all a novelist or a journalist might not be expected to possess a particularly keen intelligence. Writing in most cases is a kind of knack, a trick, a superficial talent.

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AS FOR THE politician, the statesman, the diplomat, they are engaged habitually in persuading other people to believe what they know is not true. Not infrequently they get themselves to believe what they know to be untrue.

As for the top brass, it would be unfair to expect them to know the true character of Communism which offers itself to the world as a philosophical system. One of the brightest and best of the generals, Bedell Smith, as we said a few weeks ago (quoting Isaac Don Levine) and as the general himself shows in his memoirs, went to Moscow in 1946 with a briefing that was already out of date in 1926.

But whatever we are to think of the capacity or incapacity of generals, diplomats and writers to discuss the inner nature of Communism, how shall we excuse university professors—not in Moscow, not anywhere else behind the Iron Curtain but here in America where truth is free and unconfined—how is it possible I say that scholars with access to all the records can still remain so benighted as to believe that Russian Communism is a humanitarian movement?

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SOME OF THE twists and turns in the erratic logic of the intelligentsia in their effort to persuade themselves that the salvation of the world is to come out of Russia are indicated in an article "A College Student on Appeasement" by Kenneth S. Templeton Jr. published in the same number of Plain Talk (February) from which we quoted in our recent article.

The article was an address delivered by Mr. Templeton on his graduation from Williams College as a Phi Betta Kappa in 1948. It's a short speech but packed with meaning and controlled emotion. Its principal point is that American colleges and universities used to combat Fascism as an assault on individual freedom but now that the place of Fascism has been taken by Communism there is no more talk of individual freedom, and that while "the Soviet use of concentration camps, slave labor and other techniques of human extermination is sometimes admitted, we are advised that such excesses must be tolerated in view of the capitalist menace and of the demands imposed in establishing the people's state.

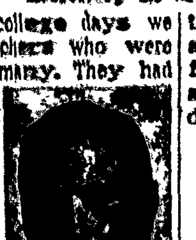
The young man, newly graduated (now doing postgraduate work at Wisconsin University) says: "This whole procedure of excusing the Communists and indicting ourselves by the method of psychoanalysis and historical determinism is nothing but a sham." Of course, it's a sham. Anybody with or without a Phi Beta Kappa key can see that it is a sham. Why don't the professors see it? There's your puzzle. At least it's my puzzle. But there is another and still greater puzzle, not why don't the professors get wise to the Communists, but why doesn't the public get wise to the professors?

TOWARD INDUSTRIAL PEACE

We Have Hopes for A Strong, Sound Nation

By Richard M. McKeon, S. J.

Director, Le Moyne College School of Industrial Relations



Fr. McKeon

During our college days we had several teachers who were exiles from Germany. They had witnessed the Kulturkampf of Bismarck in action. They warned us about the dangers of socialism and communism. And we have lived to see the fateful fulfillment of their prophecy, namely, that within twenty-five years the entire world would be threatened with and feel a social revolution.

Various causes are responsible for the many evils prevalent in society. In the great social encyclicals the church points out the dangers resulting from economic liberalism and likewise from collectivism. She shows how our traditional Christian civilization is attacked.

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KNOWING THAT economics cannot be divorced from morality without disaster, she is fully aware of the insidious warfare against religion and morals going on for many years. Under the cloak of respectability and academic freedom university professors teach doctrines which destroy divine truth and the foundations of morality.

We recall how Father Gillis wrote how thirty-one atheistic professors has been counted at one time on a public platform. What is the point? In time their students come into power and apply the false principles of their education and then people wonder who is guilty for the resulting chaos in the social and economic order.

That is why millions have false attitudes in regard to the home, the basic unit of socity, which is undermined by divorce and planned parenthood. That is why big business is still anxious to preserve "rugged individualism" which has failed so miserably in a fair distribution of the fruits of production.

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IN THE PAST our better citizens have really been guilty of cowardice. By this we mean personal selfishness in refusing to learn and practise the principles of Christian social justice.

Americans must become conscious that social justice is a crusade calling for labor, sacrifice and enthusiasm; that the teaching of social attitudes is not the sole task of the specialist, but that everyone according to his vocation in life should develop a zeal for social reformation based on right values which reflect the spirit of those who delight in spreading the kingdom of Christ on earth.

Do we still look scornfully at manual labor and hope that our children will not perform it? How can we hold that attitude and recall that all honest labor is a thing of dignity that the God-man, Jesus Christ toiled as a carpenter for many years of his life? What about private property? How far is the state to go in the ownership and regulation of industry?

The answer to many social problems is not easy. But if we approach each one with a fair mind, if we consult the proper authorities, if we read the increasing number of magazines and books dealing with these problems from the Christian viewpoint, then there is sound hope for a better and stronger nation.

WOMAN'S VIEWPOINT

God's in His Heaven And Spring Is Here

By Marie Weidman

Marie Weidman

Just for five minutes let's not think of our neuroses, nerves, tensions or taxes. The cost of living and government spending aren't climbing nearly so high as the new 1950 spring sun which despite Drew Pearson or Mr Winchell is going to warm us all again and this even includes Uncle Joe Stalin.

There still remains for us many spirit-lifting experiences which if savored properly may serve to temper the cynicism and sophistication that have become such definite characteristics of modern man.

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NATURALLY, it is outrageous to take time out for anything so naive as conjuring up a list of heartening, every day events that keep getting pushed into our subconscious anyway by other allegedly vital matters such as Mr. President's southern vacation and young lady secretaries with predictions for Russian spies.

But surely it would do no further damage to the sophomoric state of our thinking if someone were to observe that clarity of thought does not necessarily mean complexity of thought nor are the simple always simple minded.

All of which goes to indicate one hopes, that man has his share of joy and compensation for the bitter only he has to recognize it. Life was beautiful long before the soap companies sought to copyright it into a sudsy cliche that seems now to evoke only contemptuous comment and unfunny quips.

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STATEMENTS on foreign policy are always artful and frequently witless, but the union of childrens voices in morning prayer, bursting from Sister Anna's fourth grade gives you courage to think that surely the Almighty must be smiling very close to our earth.

Fifty little hearts lifted to God, a hundred hands poised toward Him, imploring peace, MUST echo up and down the world and must daily ease the pain of at least one soul who is writhing under Red rule. At any rate, as these piping trebles resound into our schoolyards and streets, the few passersby who listen will know that Christianity's concerns are 'way above the atomic clouds and deep in man's innermost heart.

When the poet Browning said that God was in His Heaven and therefore all was right with the world he was being something far more than a self complacent Victorian he was being quite profound. The created universe HAS to be in order, attuned to the Creator's laws.

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IT IS ONLY man, by his own choice who is responsible for what dissonance there is in the world. So despite present day means of disaster the seasons change and God goes on doing His Part. Right now, for instance the sky gets bluer every day and the yellow crocus makes its appearance as one of the first happy harbingers of Spring.

In fact, one dozen daffodils rustling in the horny hand of a street vendor in a high March wind could warm the cockles of all but the most cynical of hearts. Man sees dark and foreboding years ahead. God sees Spring and sends us the snow-drenched daffodil. Happiness has always been holy.

Of course the greatest source of comfort for troubled man accrues from the Holy Mass where all our intentions and aspirations rise to Heaven through the wonderful Latin intoning of the celebrant.

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ALL THAT RICH yet simple Mass music captures our noblest and most soaring yearnings. Surely no Kyrie no worshipful Pater Noster has ever failed to reach God, no pleading Miserere has ever failed to show Him our little, frightened selves. Could the Reds then really win over all the kneeling folk who with heads bowed all over the still Christian world KNOW they have the Truth?

So many label the comforts of religion as pure escapism. Today escape means something evil and unheroic the spiritual seems something dreams are made of. The cynics may not realize that it is possible to escape from darkness into light, from error to truth.

Though he may not realize it man is searching for Truth and in its pursuit he either goes backward into a morass of gloom or forward into brighter, clearer light. Now we must keep on the beam of Truth.

Lehman Asks End Of Irish Partition

Washington — (NC) — U. S. Senator Herbert Lehman of New York has introduced a resolution calling upon the Senate to declare itself in favor of the end of partition in Ireland. His resolution pointed out that 26 of the 32 counties in Ireland form the Republic of Ireland and advocated a plebiscite to determine the sentiments of the Irish people toward unification.

THE TOP OF MY MIND

The Modern World Is Dying — of Boredom

By Gretta Palmer

Gretta Palmer

The terrible temptation of this century is the temptation to suicide. A godless age exhausts the possibilities of sensate pleasure, discovers the fallacies of its materialist efforts at social reform and says, "There is nothing left to live for."

T. S. Eliot's grim prediction that the world ends "not with a bang, but with a whimper" is true to the mood of a century which has ceased to care very much what happens next. The semi-suicides of dope and drunkness are sought by enormous numbers of persons whose purpose is oblivion, a flight from life. They are only a little less desperate than those others who in seeking to escape reality lose their minds.

There is a sharp contrast, here, with the basic Christian belief that "God looked on the world, and saw that it was good," and with St. Augustine's [illegible] philosophical pronouncement that "Whatever is, is good." A world that lost its Faith a few centuries ago, lost [illegible] . . . It lost its [illegible] the man who [illegible] God is in His Heaven can say that all is right with the world.

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NOW, WHY DOES this follow . . . as it has followed at other times in history? Why does paganism lead, invariably, to despair? The most elaborate methods men have ever devised to make life interesting are always doomed, unless they have seen life through Catholic eyes. The hedonist and the Stoic breathe a dreadful wistfulness in their carefully balanced sentences. For all the brave trappings of fine prose, they are little children whistling in the dark.

Millions of men and women in the world today are back in the pagan dark . . . and not even bothering to whistle very loudly. Someone says, "We really ought to try to outlaw the bomb," and some else says. "What's the use? It wouldn't work." And then they both order another Dry Martini, which neither of them enjoys.

The reason for this vast despair is not difficult to penetrate with Catholic eyes. For man is made to perform a wonderful role in creation . . . a giant's role. He is to sanctify his days . . . to take every moment as it passes and glorify it by relating it to Eternity. Catholic life is enormously interesting because life has a dimension of supernatural suspense. Pain, joy, mortification, prayer add an infinite increment meant to all the small things that fill our days.

And those are the terms on which every man is expected to live out his life upon this earth . . . he has been shaped and designed in order to fill such a significant role. If you deprive him of the knowledge of his supernatural end, you do more than cripple him, you reduce him to a part for which his talents and his energies are far too vast.

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THAT IS WHY the most urgent duty any of us owes to friends outside the Faith is that of bringing them all the way into it . . . right to the border of the Baptismal font. Unless we can show the modern world the one way to make a living interesting—by sanctifying it—the modern world is very apt to die. And what it will die of will be boredom.

For the false remedies that once sufficed to make men think of temporal achievements as important in themselves have been tried out and found to fail.

The notion that prosperity for everyone would make life liveable can be exorcised by the simple process of looking at the men and women who are already prosperous: they are the group most prone, of all, to periodic nervous breakdowns, to overdoses of sleeping pills, to leaping from the windows of expensive homes.

Man's attempt to banish God from His universe has turned out to be something more than a blasphemy and a distortion of truth. It is the most gigantic boomerang that ever was devised. For man did not succeed in banishing God; but he may actually banish man.

First School

Calacala, Bolivia — Central Bolivia's first parochial school, the third Catholic parish school in the entire country, was opened here recently by the Maryknoll Fathers and blessed by Bishop Bertoldo Buehl of Cochabamba.

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STRANGE BUT TRUE

Little-Known Facts for Catholics

By M. J. MURRAY

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