

THE TOP OF MY MIND

By Gretta Palmer

If the Senatorial committees investigating Communism move over a millimeter farther along the road which they are traveling, they will soon be faced with a technical question of a kind that heretofore has not been asked to take the stand. They will not subpoena him, because his very cooperation would alarm the press and public. But with the muddied waters in which the Senators are fishing, it is not apt to be caught by any kind of fisherman but one, a good, seasoned moral theologian in a Roman collar.

The questions on which the Senators need help are of a kind which the subtlest schoolmaster would have found worth their while. Several former Communists have offered evidence of great importance to our country and to the world. If they are believed, we must bring to trial over a hundred government employees, some of whom might be placed in order to discover whether they are Communist spies or loyal in America.

If the ex-Communists are not believed, most of the cases against these possible traitors will collapse. The credibility of a witness has rarely mattered so gravely as it does today, when Whitaker, Chambers (now a Quaker) and Louis Budenz (now a Catholic) are rendering evidence.

SUPPOSE A moral theologian were given such courtesy and respect as is frequently offered by courts and committees to an alibi, a psychiatrist, or, indeed, a technical expert in any other field, from chemistry to carpentry. Then these questions might be put to him:

Q: Father, I believe that you have in your mind several questions in the field of moral theology, here and abroad. Is that correct? A: Yes.

A LOOK AT LABOR

By A. C. Tuohy

You will never know what other people are thinking about until you get out and meet the "other people."

Recently I learned a great deal about what some non-Catholics think of the Church by lecturing to a group of undergraduates and graduate students at one of the nation's leading universities. The topic of the talk was "The Church and Labor," the audience was almost exclusively non-Catholic, and the listeners ranged in age from 20 to 40 years.

I was prepared to meet an intelligent group of men and women who were inclined to be "liberal," and by that I mean worshippers of freedom and sympathetic to the underdog and to labor. I suspected that the group might be somewhat indifferent to religion, perhaps unconcerned about the Church, and tolerant of if not sympathetic to Communism. I was wrong on many counts.

I FOUND that they and I did not even talk the same language. While I was talking about the rights of labor, of property, of

Men, Unlike Leopards, Can Change Their Spots

By Gretta Palmer

Q: Father, you have been called to help us to decide on a delicate question. Is it possible for a man who was once an habitual liar to abandon this practice and to tell the truth?

Not being either a moral theologian or a veteran of the confessional-box, I don't anticipate the answers the good man would give. But I can tell you some of the other questions that ought to be thrown at him. They include:

Q: If lying, such as Communist Party membership, is a habit acquired because of a false notion of honor, is it possible to change that habit? Will this habit be abandoned when the Communist philosophy is abandoned?

Q: Is such a thing as an honest conversation ever really possible?

Q: Would you introduce St. Augustine, after his conversion, to your young niece in spite of his rather murky reputation with women in his African youth?

Q: If you had been an Apostle in the early Church, would you have taken a chance that St. Paul had advised his notions about the Church, during that spectacular trip to Damascus? Or would you opt to desert him on any of the moments of his martyrdom?

THE WHOLE question of "credibility of witnesses" is, at bottom, a question for the priest. In the average run of court cases his specialist services may not be absolutely necessary. There is a man with a long record of safe-blowing or check-writing. It takes no great physician of souls to figure out that his words under oath are probably to be brushed aside. Here is a man with a universal reputation for upright dealings over the past fifty years. Well, the court is justified in assuming that he is not apt to perjure himself upon the stand.

But these are merely rough and ready guesses. Even here, the court may be mistaken—human beings are not all of a

piece. Jail birds may perform acts of sudden nobility, and just men may do villainous things if the incentive is too strong. "Past performance" is no guarantee of present performance in the case of race horses or of men.

BUT THE uncertainty that lurks in every case is enormously intensified when we are dealing with a convert. With a man who has announced a revolutionary change of heart and mind he tells us that his pre-conversion attitudes and values have been cast aside, and that he has become another man.

Shall we refuse to believe him? If we do, we are at odds with the Christian doctrine of forgiveness, and with the Catholic acceptance of the penitent as a potential saint.

There are, of course, risks in believing every man or woman who tells us, "I have seen the light." Some are liars and always will be. Judas, too, was a founder, in his way.

One of the most knowing anti-Communist experts in the labor field warned, several years ago, that the Communist Party was even then preparing an "overground" of men and women who would seem to break with the Party in order to contradict the statements of other authentic ex-Communists and thus confuse the public mind. The Reds' skill at infiltration is certainly being used to infiltrate that group which most annoys and threatens them today: the Americans who have learned better and have abandoned Communism.

The moral theologian on the witness stand might not be able to offer the Senators a sure-fire system for detecting human guile: there is no lie-detector in the Church. But one thing such an expert could and would do is to advise the Senators that leopards can change their spots, when they are men.

He would emphasize the fact that a true conversion can occur, and that a man who lied in 1933 need not, because of that fact alone, be counted a liar today if he has said his "mea culpa" and asked to be believed.

Intelligent Catholics Must Dispel Bias Against Church

By A. C. Tuohy

The Church, objections were made to my use of the term "right." One man kept insisting on the word "privilege."

I soon realized that I was faced to face with the form of legal positivism, which reduces all rights to legal privileges conferred on citizens by the state. I realized that here was a group of educated people essentially prepared for some form of attack, whether it be of the right or the left.

This becomes clear when someone asked what would be the attitude of the Church if the government passed a law which was directly contradictory to the social teaching of the Church and which denied men and women "natural rights" as conceived and taught by the Church.

The implication in many comments was that the Church would have to give way, that the Church had no business opposing the state, that the Church was stepping out of its realm in opposing government decisions democratically arrived at.

WHATEVER THE net predilec-

tions of the professors. It was fairly obvious to me that the group was not as "liberal" as I expected. They were not as sympathetic to Communism and were a bit suspicious of the recent interest of the Church in social problems.

One student went on to quote the nineteenth century "Syllabus of Errors" of Pius IX which, to him, put the Church on record against human progress. He wanted to know how we reconciled the Syllabus with the famous social encyclicals. He felt that the Church had some dark diabolical motive in championing the cause of the workers and the poor.

There was also a general feeling that Catholics were not really free to discuss and apply the social teaching of the Church. A few implied that the Church was wrongly political. To their minds the Vatican was some sort of a religious Kremlin, which piped the party line to Church members all over the world, and which used disciplinary action against recalcitrants. My protestations to the contrary were greeted with courteous but unbelieving smiles.

I HAD THE feeling during a two-hour question period that these people had read Blanshard's book or at least possessed a point of view which Paul Blanshard would approve. If they did not say what Blanshard thought, it was clear that on many points they agreed with his analysis of the Church.

I came away from the University with the definite conviction that those of us within the Church should not dismiss Blanshard as a fanatic who speaks for no one but himself. The popularity of his book gives the lie to that assumption.

We Catholics have a gigantic job of education to do, which cannot be done by burying our heads in the ground and losing all of the bigotry off to malice. Most of the anti-Catholic prejudice is due to ignorance and can only be removed by enlightenment. This, however, requires enlightened Catholics and good-living Catholics.

Editorials

Second Great Commandment: Love Thy Neighbor

Christ's Kingdom on Earth Continues To Grow

Give 'The Cardinal' to Your Friends To Read

By Msgr. William M. Hart

Community Giving

Community giving has become an American habit. Provision for human needs in every field is made by the Community Chests, which unite into one annual appeal all the social service units that have a legitimate place in ministering to the poor, the needy, the needs of youth and of age and of the orphan.

Rochester is during this week conducting its annual campaign. Until next Monday workers will be contacting prospective givers, seeking their pledges for the coming year. Over \$2,000,000 is the goal, and there is every sign that it will be reached. In every city where such campaigns are run, we have heartening evidence of the spirit of brotherly love that moves our citizens to community giving for those in need.

The Rochester Community Chest cares for agencies at home and contributes to some twenty outside organizations. Protestant, Jewish, Catholic agencies share in the funds raised by the Chest. Economy of operation and the skilled management of the Board of Directors give us assurance that every dollar raised is applied with the utmost efficiency to the benefit of those in need.

Because we are children of God, because we know the binding force of the second greatest commandment of the love of our neighbor, because we recognize our duty as stewards of the good things God has given us, we are heart and soul behind the current campaign for funds. May God bless us with greater love for Him, as we make our gift to the Chest an earnest offering for our love for our neighbor. Help the Community Chest!

St. James Church

Another step forward in the development of a parish plant for the new St. James Church was taken last Sunday in the solemn ceremony of the laying of the cornerstone. The combination church and school with convent is well on its way to completion, has already been opened for current occupancy of the congregation, and will be open as a school in September. A happy and eager assemblage was present at the function. Parents of children welcomed the fulfillment of their dreams of a school for their little ones; older parishioners were glad to see a new parish erected in their own neighborhood; people in general rejoiced at the new evidence of the growth of Christ's Kingdom on Earth.

The occasion called for a word from St. James, patron of the new church. The Epistle for the 4th Sunday after Easter, the very day of the cornerstones laying, assured the people that every best gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of Light. Who has redeemed us by the words of His truth. St. James was assuring his people that the gift of faith in all that Christ teaches, is far above any other gift they have. Faith and its effects will be with us when all earthly gifts are gone.

The new church of St. James will stand for the years ahead as a testimonial in churchly architecture to the faith of its parishioners. God's perfect gift to them has prompted them to give back their gift to God. Father Feeney is to be congratulated on the accomplishment of his hopes. Father Feeney's loyal people are to be congratulated on the erection of a complete parish plant for the religious needs of themselves, of their children, and of countless generations to come.

Read 'The Cardinal'

Again we recommend to all the reading of "The Cardinal." Today we repeat our recommendation of last week of this outstanding novel that tells so clearly and so eloquently the story of a Prince of the Church, and incorporates in the story a splendid account of the Church and its work for men. In making this recommendation we are not unmindful of a number of flaws in the masterpiece—of flaws and mistakes that are unfortunate, but not at all sufficient to hurt the book in its general excellence and religious content.

Just a few slips come to our mind: no altar-boy ever came to a priest in quite the ragged glory of the one who greeted Father Fermoye. Over 15 years of intimate contact with the Inter-Faith Good Will movement failed to give rise any such distorted picture of it as a vehicle for religious controversy as depicted in "The Cardinal." No Bishop ever appointed a priest to office with the line of bitter denunciation and malicious design attributed to the Cardinal-Archbishop of Boston. The human failings in the clerical characters in the book are much more to the front than in real life.

But as a whole, we still acclaim "The Cardinal" as an appealing story, skillfully written, with a constant appeal to the reader to follow the story avidly right to the last sentence. No one can read this book without learning to know the Church better and to admire more intelligently its mission on earth. Read "The Cardinal." Talk about it with your friends. Give it to them to read.

You Shall Receive

The believing soul will go directly to Christ for instruction on the meaning and the power of prayer. In today's Gospel Christ speaks clearly, so clearly that no respectful hearer can misunderstand or misinterpret His idea. Prayer is real, prayer is a definite addressing of our appeals to God. Its most ordinary form, of which Christ was speaking, is the prayer of petition, not of meditation. Christ speaks of those who desire some good, spiritual or material. He tells them to ask for it in prayer. He tells them that God will grant their prayer, will give them the good they are seeking. He refers them to the Father as eager to hear and grant their requests, with no special intervention of Christ. For the Father loves men and will hear their prayers.

Christ's life is a perfect reflection of His clear teachings on prayer. Men came to Him with requests for healing for themselves and their dear ones; for deliverance from evil spirits; for food when hungry; for a place at His right hand when He came into His Kingdom. Many of their prayers were for material things, occasionally for things Christ could not grant. Christ granted their requests except in cases like the request for a high place in the material Kingdom envisaged by James and John and their mother. Christ did not tell them merely to find a subjective reward for their prayer.

Well did the Apostles warn their converts of the queer teachings of those who would arise to question Christ's doctrines. Well may Christians of today be repelled at modern sectaries who would tell them prayer was just a personal means of lulling their minds and consoling their spirits—with no actual attainment to Christ, and no possible granting of any petition. Be on your guard when men arise against Christ, when men tell you of prayer in a line never pictured by Christ, never revealed to His Apostles. Be men of prayer; look to the Lord for good things: Ask and you shall receive!

LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS

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

"All roads lead to Rome." That familiar saying was doubtless used at the time of the first Holy Year pilgrimage to the Eternal City in 1300, but it did not originate on that occasion. It is pre-Christian. It even antedates the Roman Empire. It was current not only before

had time to stop and reflect upon the special fact that Rome was ruined by her victims, that the Greeks, the Egyptians, the Numidians and the motley swarms of Asiatics took their revenge upon Rome by introducing alien habits, luxuries, vices, exotic superstitions, indecencies and obscenities unknown in earlier generations when the Romans were a martial people simple, austere, rugged.

But the matter in hand is not the fate of conquerors but the Roads to Rome.

OVER THOSE roads came not only decadent peoples who were to denationalize the centre of civilization but the emissaries of Jesus Christ who with their successors were to reconstruct the Empire on a new basis of faith and morals sites the imported sins and superstitions had done their work of disintegration.

No one, not Felix or Festus or King Agrippa, who said to St. Paul, "Thou hast appealed to Caesar to Caesar shall thou go?" surely not the stupid brute Nero or the judge who acted for Nero in the condemnation of the two greatest men that ever came to Rome not any one, I say, could have foreseen or dreamed or wildly imagined that the fisherman and the tentmaker would carry the standard of the cross over the Roman roads and beyond to lands in which the legions had never planted the Roman eagle.

After Peter and Paul came other saints and martyrs, notably Ignatius of Antioch whose progress for a thousand miles over the famous roads has been charted as accurately as the journey of St. Paul. Arrived in Rome they found themselves opposed not only

by Roman paganism but by many licentious Asiatic religions, two of which, Mithraism and Mithraism, were later to prove a more dangerous foe to Christianity than the relatively decent Roman paganism.

After three centuries of struggle or rather of patient endurance, Christianity received from Constantine a guarantee of tolerance, and the new conquest of the world now by the Caesars but by Jesus Christ was free to begin.

BUT AS THE apostles to the nations were about to go out over the well-trodden Roman roads, in came the Barbarians. Goths, Vandals, Saracens, Huns, Lombards, Normans under Attila, Attila, Genseric, Gaiseric, Totila. They swarmed in over the roads the Romans had built as if for the convenience of their own enemies! They in their turn looted Rome as Rome had looted them. They demanded tribute of those who had exacted tribute from them. Then back they went with their treasure.

A curious reversal but inevitable. The Barbarians must have said when they first caught sight of the gorgeous city and then of its monuments, palaces and temples, "What a city to loot as Von Voltaire was to say of London 1800 years later!

But the Barbarians did not remain barbaric. The Church civilized and Christianized them, and then new generations of apostles, offspring of the heathen, went out in their turn over all the roads of the Empire carrying not loot or tribute but the greatest treasure that ever was carried over the roads, the religion of Jesus Christ.

WOMAN'S VIEWPOINT

By Marie Weidman

The dazzling combination of a white orchid and dinner at a fashionable restaurant will certainly please Mother this Mother's Day. It may even make her feel a bit self-conscious, perhaps amid the day's flurry of floral solitude.

During the war years, when the birth rate arose to an alarming peak, and it became obvious that our child-rearing facilities would be heavily taxed for many years to come, the population experts predicted that we would be unable to feed our people. Certainly the public mind has been thoroughly confused about whether or not it wants mothers and babies.

Marie Weidman, author of "Remember Mother," is a woman who could lead a present Mother with a least a pound of de luxe chewy delights.

Or what motherly left shoulder will be without its share of bright blooms when we're made so aware of the vital need for flowers to render Mother completely incoherent with ecstasy on this day of days?

Since Mother's Day has become garbled with the strictly commercial type sentimentality, so much of the original meaning of the day is missed by the celebrants. So often now the day is an occasion when one HAS to remember Mother because it's the thing to do.

PAUSING to pray for her or to consider quietly the unsensational but not unheroic sacrifices of motherhood is not nearly so satisfying as sending Moon a funeral floral tribute that keeps on sliding off her shoulder. Actually, it looks as if the motives behind Mother's Day may stem from our rather curious outlook on the modern mother.

In the years immediately prior to World War II, our birth rate dropped alarmingly and statisticians predicted we would be a nation of aging people which would of course spell our doom.

COMPANYING this planned motherhood idea is another quite disturbing group of thinkers who don't believe in mothers at all. These folk hold that American

mothers are a spoiled lot who presume on their families merely by virtue of being mothers. This interesting coterie of mother haters is led of course by the irrepressible Philip Wylie a writer who is both vicious and clever.

He alludes to American mothers, you recall, as a "generation of slugs" because of their allegedly demanding attitudes on your youth. His cries against mothers, taken up by others have evolved a type of destructive, bitter thinking which terms the devotion to the ideal of Motherhood as "Mommism," and anyone who thinks mothers are rather a fine institution, is merely being smothered and dominated by a mother.

Perhaps that's the best tribute to American mothers we could come from if children themselves see the children who may have nearly missed their existence because of an over-enthusiastic and advanced thinker. When the children give Mother their grubby flamboyant and perhaps misspelled little cards and spiritual bouquets, when proudly they admit their "did it all alone."

Sister Ann just drew the lines. Mr. Wylie and all the population experts can go and sneer at a statistic.

It almost gets to look as if even motherhood has been mechanized and subjected to some kind of pragmatic norm by which babies are judged to be good only when they are nervous and they are only necessary to the extent of each mother having her strictly statistical two and a half.

ACCOMPANYING this planned motherhood idea is another quite disturbing group of thinkers who don't believe in mothers at all. These folk hold that American

OTHER COUNTRIES PLEASE COPY



STRANGE BUT TRUE

Little-Known Facts for Catholics

By M. J. MURRAY

Advertisement for St. Peter's Church, featuring an illustration of the church and text about its history and the law courts in London.

Advertisement for Courier Journal, providing contact information for the newspaper.