

Answers Quiz of Critical Friends

(NC)—Mrs. Dorothy Fremont Grant, who issues a "bulletin" for the Faith, reports on what it's like to be a convert-Catholic in non-Catholic circles in her new book, "Born Again," published here by the Bruce Publishing Company. She became a convert 15 years ago.

Mrs. Grant's "abouting" in print began in 1935 when she wrote "What Other Answer?" which combined the story of her conversion with explanations of Catholic doctrine. The new book, "Born Again," is a result of her personal replies to hundreds of letters from non-Catholics as a result of their discovery of her first book.

IN HER BOOK, Mrs. Grant answers these and many similar questions, exposing the "little things" which count so largely with non-Catholics as well as bigger things.

Balancing The Books

Vatican History

By Rev. John S. Kennedy

In certain circles "Vatican" is a cross-word, a synonym for evil giving off as many sinister connotations as a piece of fireworks does sparks.

A number of books have been written and published to foster the notion that the Holy See is a kind of fountainhead of fascist ideas and feudal schemes. And the argument is made that, for the preserving and growth of human freedom and welfare, it is essential that the Church be grimly fought and even destroyed.



FROM THE CATHOLIC side have come books and articles refuting the Church's policy. But there has been need of a work which would deal with the whole matter of the Church's position in the modern world, giving the background and explaining crucial questions.

Such a book is now available in Charles Pichon's "The Vatican and Its Role in World Affairs," which goes about its business in an expert, even-tempered, quiet voice. It is not a work of controversy, but should eliminate much unnecessary and injurious contention.

Although this book is in no sense flashy, it is brilliant. Its range is vast, but the author knows scrupulously to his purpose of making plain and comprehensible the role of the Church in the affairs of men.

If you are looking for more than unusual details piquantly presented, you will find a profu-

sion of them here: the breach between the Vatican and France; the appointment of bishops; the incomparable excellence of the Vatican's intelligence as to developments in the late war; the startling surprise given Ribbentrop by Pius XII; the Vatican's sheltering from Mussolini's murderous wrath Pietro Nenni, the Jewish Socialist who has since joined forces against the Church with the Italian Communists; the question of whether or not Mussolini had Pius XI murdered by Dr. Petacci, father of the Duce's mistress.

THE MARY BOOK, assembled by F. J. Sheed, is an anthology of prose and verse dealing with Our Lady. It is a hard book: hard in the sense that it is not soft.

So much writing about Our Lady is soft. We find in it the softness of coy, pastel sentimentality or the softness of cloudily verbose rhapsodizing. These facile, softness-in-treating Mary are distasteful not merely for their mushiness in literary form but also for their doctrinal poverty. There is so much of substance and significance to say of her, that to spin out sweet nothings is somehow an insult.

Thirty or so topflight authors are represented in this treasury of the diamondlike glories of Mary. They are the aristocracy of Catholic letters, and the samples of their work here collected are in their very best vein.

The Vatican and Its Role in World Affairs by Charles Pichon. Translated by Jean Mischak. Illustrated 352 pages. New York: Dutton. \$4.50.

The Mary Book—Assembled by F. J. Sheed. Illustrated. 409 pages. New York: Sheed and Ward. \$4.00.

Chicago Priest Elected St. Bernard Alumni Leader

(Continued from Page 1)

was elected treasurer of the Alumni Association at its business meeting Tuesday at the Lake Avenue seminary.

UNANIMOUSLY CHOSEN president of the group was the Rev. Patrick J. Molloy, pastor of St. Leo's Church, Chicago, one of the largest parishes in the nation, with 21,000 souls. The Rev. Thomas Walsh, Fall River, Mass., was elected vice-president; the Rev. Thomas Lane, Hartford, Conn., secretary and the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Edward J. Byrne, of St. Bernard's Seminary, historian.

Father Molloy, a member of the St. Bernard's 1917 class, was ordained for the Chicago Archdiocese. In 1926 he was master of ceremonies for the Eucharistic Congress held there.

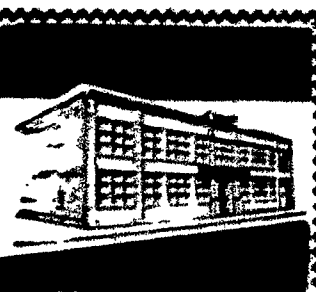
Subsequently he was appointed by Secretary of State Cordell Hull to represent the United States in a diplomatic capacity

in Argentina. While there he conducted the Eucharistic Congress in Buenos Aires, having been chosen by His Eminence Cardinal Pacelli, now the Sovereign Pontiff Pius XII.

Returning to Chicago, he was appointed by His Eminence Cardinal Steich as pastor of the Church of St. Leo. Connected with the parish is a high school of more than 1,200 pupils, instructed by 26 Irish Christian Brothers and 12 lay teachers, and a grammar school with a 1,485 enrollment and 42 teaching Sisters.

Double-Ring Rite Halifax, N.S. (RNS)—Doubling wedding ceremonies were recommended as a safeguard to marital fidelity by the Catholic Women's League at its annual convention here. It was reported that the practice of having a ring for the bridegroom as well as the bride was growing in favor.

Cardinal Will Officiate Amarillo, Tex. (NC)—His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, will officiate at the dedication of Gerken Hall at Price College here on November 1. It has been announced.



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COATS—FOURTH FLOOR

Bishop Praises Farm Life Influences on Religion

Belleville, Ill. (NC)—Rural life over the centuries has been more than generous in its contributions to the Church, Bishop Joseph E. Schlarman of Peoria declared in his sermon at a Solemn Pontifical Mass in the Cathedral of St. Peter here, which was a highlight of the 26th annual convention of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference.

Bishop Schlarman said an examination of the Church's calendar of Saints will disclose that a "goodly portion" of them came from Catholic rural life. He cited as a few examples, "St. Isidor, the patron of farmers; Saints Genevieve and Jean D'Arc were shepherd girls, Bernadette was a peasant girl."

"Rural life," he continued, "has contributed some of the most beautiful prayers and blessings to the liturgy of the Church. Most of these prayers have their basis in Holy Scripture. But the writers of the Sacred Books of the Old Testament were rural people."

Bishop Schlarman recalled that His Holiness Pope Pius XII once asserted that it is a historical fact that the decline of civiliza-

tion has always followed, as a natural consequence, upon the decline of agriculture.

"Rural life is the rural family. The rural family lives together. The rural family works together. The rural family should recreate together. The rural family must pray together," the Bishop said.

He emphasized that one of the newest Saints in Heaven, St. Maria Goretti, was a daughter of rural life.

THE REV. ALOYSIUS J. Wycislo, assistant executive director of War Relief Services—National Catholic Welfare Conference, addressed the convention on President Truman's "Point Four" program and the Church. He pointed out that there are millions of refugees in western Europe who can provide the "energizing manpower that is necessary for the development of the economies of backward or underdeveloped areas."

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