

Washington, N.Y.

COURIER-JOURNAL, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1950

Pontiff Urges Prayer Crusade

(N.C.W.C. News Service) — His Holiness' exhortation of the people of all nations to "make a special effort to pray for peace" will be an important feature of the prayer crusade. It urges a special season of prayers, especially on the feast of the Immaculate Conception and during the Church's novena, Nov. 26, in preparation for Christmas.

The marvelous spectacle of brotherly concord, offered during the Holy Year by the numerous groups of pilgrims, coming to Rome in pious pilgrimage — from almost every nation — seems to Us to possess a warning value and to constitute before the world a solemn declaration that the peoples of the world do not want war, nor do they want death, but ardent for peace, a union of hearts, and that Christian love alone is the source of a most prosperous and happy epoch.

It is Our ardent wish that all should at least hear that warning, and with anxious mind we beseech peoples engaged in a fearful preparation for war, who in certain places already reaping its harvest of bloodless, youthful lives.

WHO DARES NOT see how the bloody struggle brings ruin, massacres, and all sorts of miseries? The human mind — destined for other things — has discovered and introduced nowadays instruments of war of such power as to raise hopes in the souls of all honest persons; above all, because they hit not only the armies but often wipe out private citizens, children, women, old people, the sick and with them the sacred buildings and the most outstanding monuments of art.

Who is not horrified by the thought that new catastrophes will be added to the many of the recent conflict and that new smoking ruins of towns and cities will accreditate more and more?

WHO FINALLY seems not troubled, at the thought that destruction of new cities, the inevitable consequences of war could further aggravate the economic crisis from which nearly all people, especially the poorest classes, are suffering? We with Our mind above the tide of human passions

who foster fatherly sentiment towards peoples and nations of all kinds, desire their safety and tranquill security and the daily growth of prosperity. Venetian Brethren, each time we see the sun set, sky darkened with threatening clouds and new dangers of conflict hovering over humanity, we can no longer refrain from raising our voices, exhorting all to end discord, to compose differences and return to that true peace which will insure the rights of religion of peoples, of the citizen and make them publicly and sincerely recognized as is necessary.

However, We know well that human means are inadequate for such a high task. It is necessary before all to renew the soul, to repress passions, to calm hatreds, to enforce truly the norms of justice, reaching a fairer distribution of riches, increasing reciprocal charity, stimulating all towards virtue.

TO REACH such a high scope doublets nothing can be of better help than the Christian religion. Its divine doctrine teaches that men are brothers and part of the same family of which God is the Father, and Christ the Redeemer vitalizing it through His heavenly grace, of which the immortal fatherland is Heaven.

If these divine teachings were really enforced it is certain there would be neither wars, nor disorders, nor violations of civil and religious liberties to make public and private life painful; but a quiet serenity based upon justice which would inundate hearts, and the way to reach even greater prosperity would be open.

This is arduous, indeed, but necessary. And if it is necessary we must not feebly it, but still tenaciously. If it is arduous and a heavy human struggle, as our forefathers always did all difficulties during the centuries with happiness and healthy results.

WE ARE SURE, Venerable Brethren, that you, your beloved Daughters of Charity, called for peace, pray — you invite the Holy Father — to you to obtain from God peace and concord among peoples, so that under the auspices of religion there may be a sacred struggle, as it were, to defeat the abominable forces which threaten the

whole human family with so many dangers.

CERTAINLY YOU know that at midnight preceding the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary, we will celebrate the Eucharistic Sacrifice and through the radio We will make Our imploring voice reach all listeners. We desire that on that holy night especially, all faithful, united with the Vicar of Christ, should invoke from the Father of Mercies through the intercession of the Virgin Mother of God, preserved from every strain or original sin, that at long last, with hatreds ended and all differences justly and equitably settled, the light of a real and genuine peace may radiate to all nations and peoples.

We further desire that with the same spiritual ardor and for this same cause prayers be repeatedly offered during the novena of supplication solemnly held in preparation for the solemn Feast of the Birth of Christ to beseech the Divine Child that the peace proclaimed to men of good will by angelic choir above His sacred crib may shine forth throughout the world and become firmly established everywhere.

We must not forget to pray ardently to the newborn Redeemer and His Divine Mother, that the Catholic religion, the secure foundation of human and civil life, may enjoy due freedom in all nations and that those who "suffer persecution for justice," and who are in jail for having strenuously defended the sacrosanct rights of the Church, or have been torn away from their See, and also those who live in misery and family or are still prisoners, may obtain heavenly comfort and finally reach the object of their very ardent wishes and earnest desires.

PATRICK J. FLANAGAN, S.J., writes: "We again ask you to pray for us. Venerable Brethren, and — we have called for peace — pray — you invite the Holy Father — to you to obtain from God peace and concord among peoples, so that under the auspices of religion there may be a sacred struggle, as it were, to defeat the abominable forces which threaten the

whole human family with so many dangers.

Meanwhile, may the Apostolic Benediction, which We impart from the fullness of Our heart in the Lord, be a pledge of divine grace and a testimony of Our fatherly love to all those in particular who will pray according to this Our intention.

Pioneer Nun
Ossining, N.Y. — (NC) Sister Mary Dolores Crucis, pioneer Maryknoll Sister and one of the earliest American missionaries in China, has died at Ossining Hospital here.

GIVEN 'THESE YOUNG LIVES'



Monsignor Frederick G. Hochwall, Secretary of the National Catholic Educational Association, presents a pictorial review of Catholic education in the United States to Dr. Karl McGrath, U. S. Commissioner of Education. The new book, "These Young Lives," is designed to give a complete picture of an educational system that is built around the conviction that God is important in every phase of life and must of necessity be the core of the educational curriculum. The book aims to explain the Catholic educational curriculum. The book aims to explain the Catholic never really been introduced in detail. (NC Photos)

Seminarians Offer Secular Press Articles On Religion

Washington — (NC) — Free religious articles will be supplied in mat form to editors of secular papers in a new service edited by priests and seminarians of St. Paul's College, major seminary of the Paulist Fathers here.

EACH 400-WORD article will include a picture to highlight the release. The mat service will begin in January. Experimentation

Bing Crosby Loretta Young

is now being printed by

the immediate aim of this project is to help combat secularism. The ultimate aim is the conversion of America. Those friends interested in spreading Catholic thought will supply the funds required.

Among the writers will be Magr. Fulton J. Sheen; Joseph Breig, of the Cleveland Universe; at home and a master of Bell; the Rev. James M. Kellogg, of the Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music.

Meanwhile, may the Apostolic Benediction, which We impart from the fullness of Our heart in the Lord, be a pledge of divine grace and a testimony of Our fatherly love to all those in particular who will pray according to this Our intention.

Our New Kaiser, Lazer and Henry J business is booming. We are trading for so many good used cars we can't afford to keep them on hand another day. Our new car volume is forcing us to make used car bargains for you!

Montreal (NC) — The University of Montreal has added it along the lines of the Narbon Movement. This mimeograph service is now being printed by

the eleventh faculty music. The first class will be the Rev. Alfred Bégin, S.J., doctor of the Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music.

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Balancing The Books

Everyone's Book

Lives of Christ are as numerous as traffic lights in New York City. But really good ones are rare. To the select and highly prized company of first rate studies a new member must be admitted,

Father Ferdinand Prat's Jesus Christ: His Life, His Teaching, and Fr. Kennedy His Work.

And so with detail upon detail of a story familiar but not generally appreciated until investigated under expert and discerning guidance.

CHRIST'S TEACHING is closely considered. The Sermon on the Mount, for example, is convincingly depicted, and there is a just and revealing estimate of Pontius Pilate. The people of the Gospels whether actual persons or characters in parables, are much more real and much better understood once Father Prat has had his say about them. And then greater their reality, the greater the reality of the central figures.

Father Prat does not draw on

the Apocrypha, indulge in specula-

tion to fill gaps, or allow insin-

uation, however reverent and well-meaning, a free rein. He points out that the Evangelists were careful to preserve "the impulsive attitude of witness" and were "not aiming at literary effect."

THREE IS AN extraordinaryfeat, with measureless labor behind it but without laboriousness in the finished work. Father Prat knows the languages, ancient and modern, necessary for managing his subject. He is familiar with all the apposite history and can recapitulate it briefly but illuminatingly (for example, the sold and tangled threads of the Herod family).

He is deeply read in the Fathers of the Church and in the commentators of all faiths. And no faith in subsequent ages down to our own. He is conversant with the rabbinical writings. He is profoundly versed in theology, doctrinal, moral, and ascetical.

Hence he can take any small segment of the Gospel and make it yield up its treasures of meaning. And all is done gracefully, with seeming effortlessness, for his is an art concealing art, directed always to the projection of a portrait full length and full depth of the Incarnate Son of God.

You read of Bethlehem, and learn that Mary and Joseph had a four-day walk thither "in the worst part of the rainy season," learn why it was in a cave that Christ was born, learn the import of the summing of the shepherds who were half-savage nomads held in great scorn by devout larvae.

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Mary Magdalene the sister of Lazarus and Martha? Was Mary chided for working and Mary commanded for idleness? What was the scene of the Last Supper? How long was the way of the Cross? These represent but a random sampling of the questions faced and answered.

ONE FINDS here shrewd yet sympathetic character sketches of St. John the Baptist and Sts. John the Baptist and St. Peter, for example, are convincingly depicted, and there is a just and revealing estimate of Pontius Pilate.

CHRIST'S TEACHING is closely considered. The Sermon on the Mount, for example, is analyzed for its general import, its relationship to the Old Law, and the burden of its special features like the beatitudes. The parables are taken up collectively and severally. Principal discourses, like that promising the Eucharist and that at the Last Supper, are sifted.

Whether it be a single, paradoxical phrase, a little story, or a symphonic sermon filling whole chapters of the Gospel, the author has the scholarship and the insight to get, and the power of exposition to give, the plith of the utterance.

Other difficulties, great and small, are forthrightly tackled and brilliantly handled: Who were the "brethren" of the Lord? How could the omniscient Son of God advance in knowledge? What did Christ look like? Was

JESUS CHRIST: HIS LIFE, HIS TEACHING, AND HIS WORK by Ferdinand Prat, S.J. Translated by John J. Neenan, S.J. Two volumes, 1118 pages. Milwaukee: Bruce. \$12.50.

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