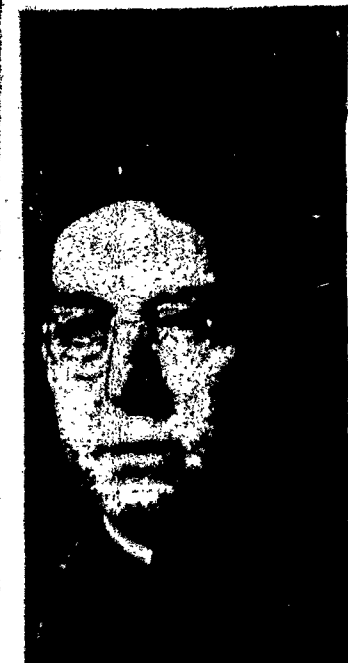


'Mass Leagues' Denounced; Called 'Mail Order Mourners'

PEORIA, Ill. (NC)—In one of the most public pronouncements since the death of Archbishop Schlarman, the Archbishop of Peoria has denounced the Mass Leagues, calling them "mail order mourners" and "mail order donors."

The letter was read in all churches of the Peoria diocese on Nov. 10. In it the Archbishop said that in the recent years there has sprung up in our country a novelty in the way of appeals for money in the name of religion. He said that the Mass Leagues, which are schools of the spirit of the Church, are "mail order mourners" and "mail order donors."

Abp. Schlarman Dies Suddenly



PEORIA, Ill. (NC)—Archbishop Joseph H. Schlarman, "fall son of the soil of Illinois" who served 21 years as Bishop of Peoria and was a noted scholar and an authority on rural life, died here Nov. 10 at the age of 73. Two days earlier he had presided at a rural religious instruction session at the national congress of the Confederation of Christian Doctrine in Chicago.

Groups of religious and religious institutions have set up so-called Mass Leagues, Purgatorial Societies and so forth, the Archbishop's letter said, "in which they propose to enroll individuals and family groups on the payment of a fixed monetary contribution, ranging from \$5 to \$25 for individuals, and up to \$100 for family groups, and promise daily and perpetual remembrance in a large number of Holy Masses."

The promotional apparatus and advertising devices used in seeking to enroll members in the Mass Leagues cause painful surprise, inasmuch as they resembled the advertising of commercial products.

MANY COMPLAINTS have been received regarding these appeals and the methods employed. Obviously the appeals which pour in on bereaved families at the time of the death of some dear one, create the impression that an effort is being made to exploit the grief of the survivors. By insinuation, at least, the "mail order mourners" tell the bereaved that they will be falling in the remembrance of their deceased if they do not make a contribution for the enrollment of the deceased in some such association.

Archbishop Schlarman said that in some places the appeals are sent through undertakers without any of the common courtesies that the Mass Leagues maintain large office forces, that they organized the country according to States and carry on year-round campaigns.

Besides appeals on the occasion of deaths, the Archbishop wrote, "they send like appeals far and near through the mails for Mother's Day, Father's Day, Christmas, Easter, All Soul's Day, Memorial Day, name days, and on any occasion where promoters hope they may be able to exploit the filial devotion and tenderest sentiments of sons and daughters toward their parents and friends."

THE CHURCH has given precise norms in regard to Mass offerings, he continued, and cited the following Canon: "Canon 827: All negotiation or trading of any kind in connection with Mass stipends must be absolutely avoided."

Canon 828: So many Masses must be said and applied as Mass stipends (even though they were small) were offered and accepted.

Canon 831.3: All religious, even the exempt, are obliged to observe the law of the local Ordinary, or the custom of the diocese, concerning Mass stipends.

THE ARCHBISHOP SAID THAT Mass Leagues appear to be endeavoring to circumvent Canon 828.

"With these facts in mind, the Archbishop went on to avoid every sort of misunderstanding in the future and to safeguard the sanctity and sacredness of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, I make and by this letter promulgate the following regulations, effective at once in this diocese:

- "I condemn as contrary to the spirit of the Church, its legislation and consent practice these so-called Mass Associations or Mass Leagues, as they are circulated or advertised presently in our diocese.
- "I ask all the faithful of the diocese to pay no attention to any such appeals which are made to them."
- "There is another abuse of Christmas cards and other things are sent unsolicited through the mail. You have no obligation to accept or pay for such items."

A CATCH IN THIS

Czech Reds Plead For Vocations To Priesthood

LONDON (NC)—It's paradoxical but the Czech communist regime is pleading for vocations to the priesthood. The plea is contained in a copy of the communist-controlled daily Lidova Demokracie, which has arrived here. The catch is that the plea is for students of the government-controlled "seminary" at Prague which Catholic youths are now studiously avoiding despite all blandishments.

The paper's appeal was made in connection with the opening of the school year at the Prague "seminary," which the regime calls the Roman Catholic Faculty of SS. Cyril and Methodius.

"THIS REPORT is the last friendly invitation for those undecided youths who feel in their minds a longing for the ecclesiastical office but are still prevented from making their final decision by various prejudices and unsubstantiated doubts," the paper says.

Socialists In Germany Anti-Clerical

Frankfurt (NC)—Marxist antagonism to the Catholic Church has again found expression in recent utterances of German socialist spokesmen. Kurt Schumacher, the socialist leader and bitter opponent of Konrad Adenauer, Chancellor of the Federal German Republic openly told a correspondent of the Paris newspaper "Le Peuple" that "the Social-Democratic party is necessarily anti-clerical."

HE ALSO ATTACKED the three Allied High Commissioners as "Catholics who are the tools of the Americans and the Vatican." In fact, John J. McCloy, the American High Commissioner, as well as his wife are Protestants, while the British and French High Commissioners happen to be Catholics.

Mr. Schumacher, whose ambition it is to succeed Mr. Adenauer as the head of a German cabinet, not so long ago spoke of the Vatican as "the fifth occupational power" because of the alleged influence of Catholics in German governmental affairs. In reality Protestant influence is at least equal, if not stronger, especially as far as the number of high officials in the Bonn administration and in parliament is concerned.

Famed Japanese Nurse Helps Start Missions, Becomes Convert Herself

Hilmeji, Japan (NC)—After 42 years of quiet work as a Red Cross nurse and eight as head of the Red Cross nursing school, in which she trained 800 other nurses, Miss M. Mizutani, a convert of only a few months recently was satelined into fame when Empress Nagako conferred the Florence Nightingale Award on her in Tokyo.

But there were other achievements which even nationwide publicity could not uncover from a quiet conversation with Miss Mizutani and her pastor, the Rev. Joseph Spase. He speaks Japanese, Chinese and at least six Western languages, and reads Sanskrit, Mongolian and Tibetan with ease, not to mention his achievements in Greek, Hebrew and Latin.

IT WAS ABOUT two years ago that Miss Mizutani, then 66 years old, revisited her home of Sayo and was asked by her friend, the Mayor, to recommend someone who could tell people what to do about the moral education of young people. Miss Mizutani had met Father Spase several times when he visited the Red Cross hospital in Hilmeji and promptly suggested that the Mayor ask him to give the desired talk.

After the talk, Miss Mizutani took the liberty to say that it would be a good thing if everybody were baptized. She and she pleaded with the Mayor that he asked Father Spase to give some doctrinal instructions in his town. Among those who attended the first instruction was the mayor of Hilmeji, also a friend of Miss Mizutani.

When this second Mayor was baptized last Christmas, Miss Mizutani suddenly realized how strange it was that he whom she had directed towards the Church was already baptized while she herself was still outside. She therefore had herself enrolled as a catechumen and was baptized on August 19.

IN REMINISCENT mood she recalled that her Red Cross work had demanded the practice of Christian virtue and that Father Spase's talks gave her the key to understand that work as she had never understood it before. It was something of a surprise to her to learn that Florence Nightingale was also a Christian and worked in close conjunction with Catholic Sisters, but this also helped her to make the final step.



Three Japanese nurses receive the Florence Nightingale Award from Empress Nagako in Tokyo. At right is Miss Misa Mizutani who became a convert last August. A nurse for 42 years, she is being honored for her work as head of the Red Cross nursing school in Hilmeji, where she supervised the training of 800 student nurses. (NC Photos).

Jewish Paper Hails Truman On Envoy

Montreal (NC)—The decision of President Truman to accredit at long last an Ambassador to the Vatican must be hailed as a decision of courage, wisdom and decency," the Canadian Jewish Chronicle asserts.

The Chronicle said that a storm of protest over the decision was to be expected, but that by taking firm and responsible action Mr. Truman again shows himself to be of the stature of statesmanship.

"HAD IT NOT been for entrenched bigotry," The Chronicle continues, "the decision we believe, would have been taken long ago. Only a narrow sectarianism could argue against it, for the Vatican, its spiritual role considered apart, is also a temporal entity. It sends and receives representatives from sovereign states all over the world.

"It was a sovereign state, with a political history, long before many of the newly arisen republics were proclaimed or even prophesied. It is true that it does not hold sway over far-flung territory, but since when has a state's real estate been a factor in its legal recognition?"

"IT IS ALSO true," The Chronicle reminds, "that Stalin is reported to have inquired, perhaps scoffingly, as to how many legions His Holiness commanded—an inquiry which could have for its answer only a reference to angels and heavenly ministers; yet that, too, is an irrelevancy in the argument touching ambassadorial representation."

Considering the question in political terms only, The Chronicle says that the Vatican is a "great moral force in the conflict now raging between two contending ideologies and it would be discrimination of the rankest kind for America pointedly to ignore a temporality whose influence extends across the globe."

The Chronicle also notes that Canada is without representation at the Vatican and expresses the hope that the United States' action will serve to hasten the taking of this necessary step.

Doctor, Priest-Psychiatrist Explain Marriage-Morals

NEW YORK (NC)—The teachings of the Church on marriage and the medico-moral problems related to it are presented in a new study Marriage, Morals and Ethics, by the Rev. Otto F. Kelly, M.D., and Frederick L. Good, M.D., published here by J. J. Kennedy and Son. The introduction is written by Archbishop Richard J. Cushing of Boston.

A discussion of marriage as a Sacrament and a natural contract is followed by a consideration of the medical and moral problems arising from sex, conception, pregnancy and labor.

BOTH AUTHORS are physicians and consultants to the Matrimonial Tribunal of the department of psychology at Regis College, Weston, Mass. Dr. Good is surgeon-in-chief of the neurological and obstetrical service of Boston City Hospital, and former professor at Harvard and Tufts Medical schools.

CONTROVERSIAL subjects such as rhythm, artificial insemination and therapeutic abortion are discussed in the light of Catholic principles and the biological circumstances involved. The authors also comment on sex education, ecclesiastical matrimonial court procedures and on the Sacraments of Baptism and Extreme Unction. There is a special section on psychiatry and the relation of that branch of medicine to Catholic thought.

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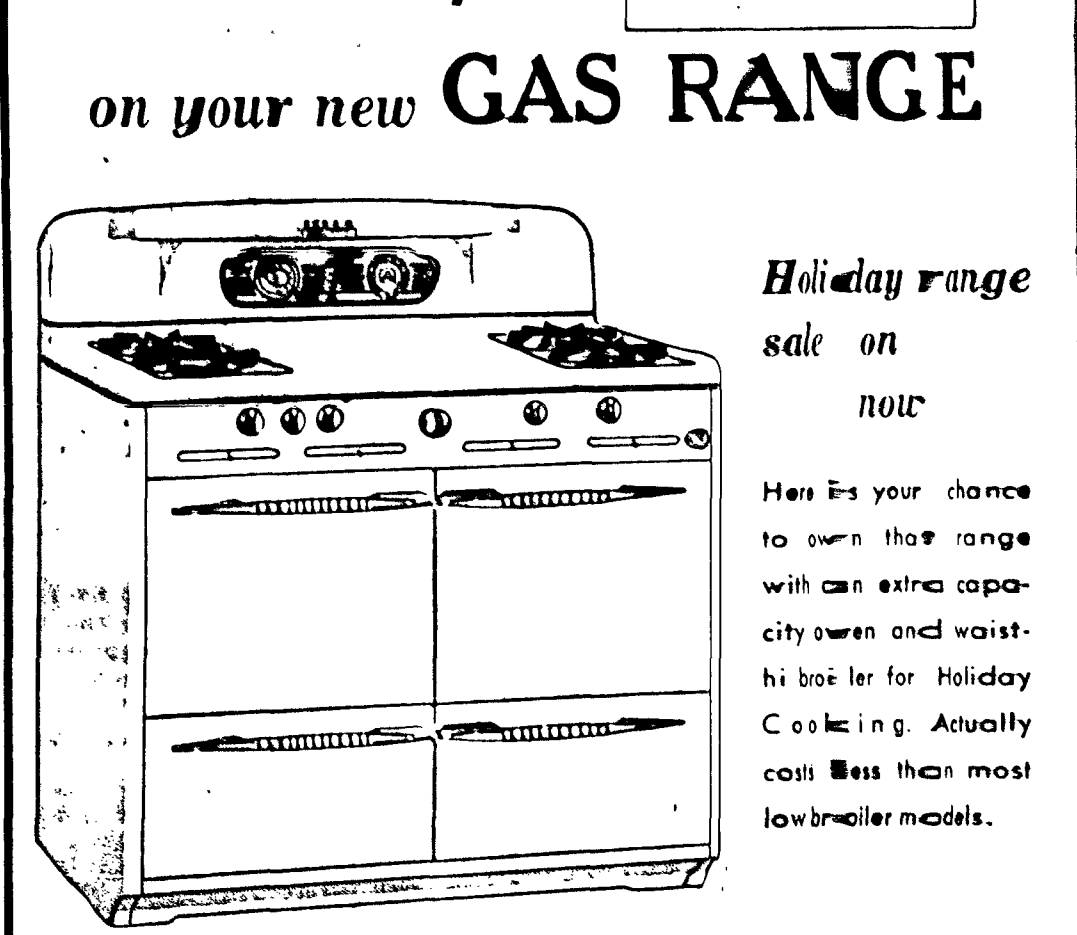


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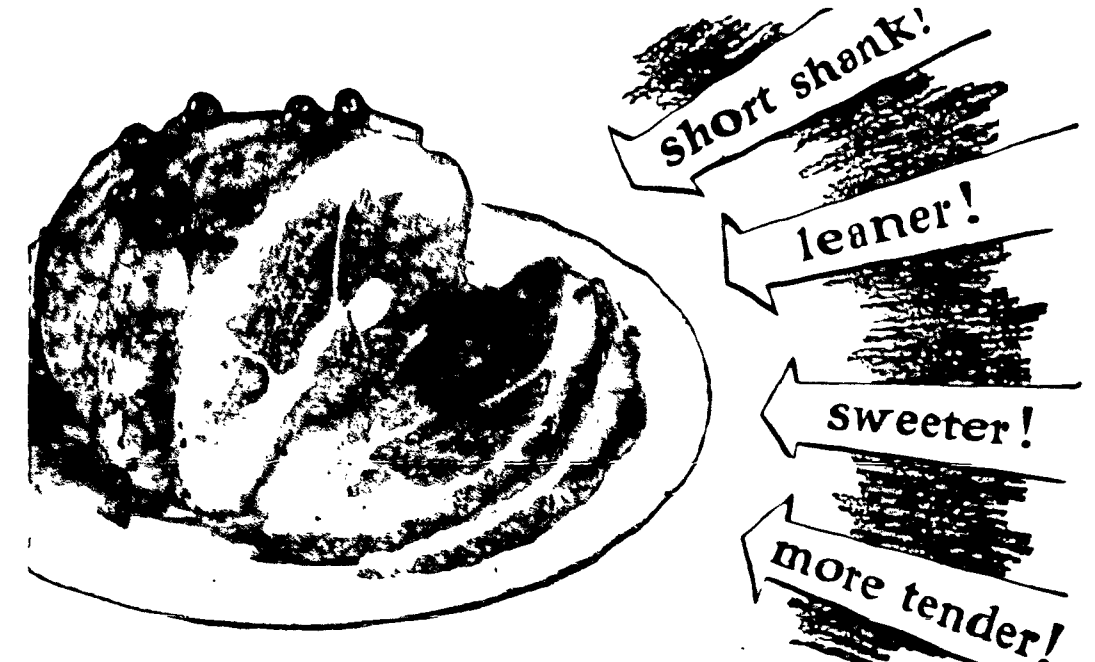
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