

Balancing The Books

'Gates Of Dannemora'

By Rev. John S. Kennedy

Practically everyone in the country has heard of the Church of St. Dismas, the Good Thief, at Clinton Prison.



Fr. Kennedy

It is an excellent subject. But at the start of my comments on "I must say that I find the form in which Father Bonn has cast it none too happy."

In each case he has employed a quasi-fictional treatment of facts. Writing of something historically true he elects to introduce many devices of the novel.

He found his 3,000 charges a variegated lot, uniform only in being difficult. Here was a pris-

oner impenetrably hard-boiled, as cold as steel, evading the chaplain's every attempt to reach him.

He threw himself into the unrelentingly hard job of being helpful to them all. And it occurred to him that one of the best ways would be to set them building their own church.

FATHER HYLAND consulted his bishop. He went from one state official to another. He improvised schemes for raising the money.

With two or three exceptions, everything about the church, from the gargoyles aloft to the stained glass windows, the woodwork, the wrought iron fixtures,

Contributions came from unlikely sources. Lucky Luciano's suggestion of a killing in the numbers racket had to be turned down, and the men took delight in the creative work set them.

The work went on despite the

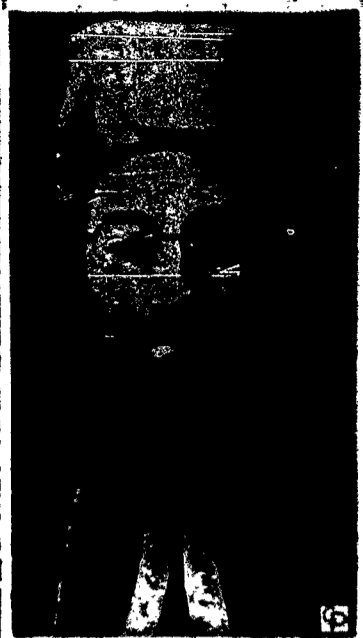
strenuous attempts of anti-religious organizations to stop it, despite increasing troubles with the prison authorities, who apparently had begun to believe that the chaplain was imprudently, perhaps unscrupulously, lined up with the enemies of society.

There were consolation in seeing masses of the hopeless inspired again, in seeing the parables making a respectable career, in seeing notable sanctity sprout and grow and come to fruition in unpromising soil.

To revert to the serious short comings of Father Bonn's hybrid presentation, many of the semi-fictional episodes are clumsy, others altogether inept (such as the love scenes), still others mawkish.

Gates of Dannemora by John L. Bonn. 276 pages. New York: Doubleday. \$3.99.

Armenian Patriarch Visits U. S.



CARD. AGAGIANIAN

Boston — (NC) — His Eminence Gregory Peter XV Cardinal Agagianian, Patriarch of the Armenians, arrived here last week and was met at the airport by Archbishop Richard J. Cushing and by Gov. Paul Andrew Dever of Massachusetts.

Speaker of 11 languages, the Cardinal conversed in English with the welcoming party and said he is anxious to greet Armenian Americans throughout the country, which he will tour after his visit to Boston.

Following his arrival, Archbishop Cushing welcomed the Cardinal to Boston and the United States in a seven-minute appearance on a television program.

N. C. Governor For Vatican Ambassador

Raleigh, N. C. — (NS) — Governor W. Kerr Scott, an active Presbyterian layman, says he can see no objection to having a U.S. ambassador at the Vatican.

"We are trying to save lives and work for peace," he said, adding that the Roman Catholic Church is a big anti-Communist voice among European peoples and that the Vatican is regarded as a good listening post.

Sanctity Eyed In Indian Nun's Life

Palai, India — (NS) — The first big step in the possible beautification of a Clarist nun was taken here when a diocesan council submitted its report on Sister Alphonsa to Bishop Sebastian Vayalil of Palai.

Sister Alphonsa, who died on July 28, has achieved considerable fame throughout India. Numerous people have claimed cures and other favors through her intercession. She died at the Clarist convent at Bharanganam.

No Separation Of God And Country

The following sermon was delivered by the Rev. Paul J. Cuddy of the Armistice Day Mass celebrated for the American Legion, Sunday, November 11, 1951, in Old St. Mary's Church, Rochester.

The ceremonies of the Legion held in Rochester and elsewhere throughout the country today are a healthy instruction on the aims and spirit of your great organization,

the meaning in such a way that all the things of God are in danger of being sidetracked from civil life. The traditions of State and Religion working harmoniously for the welfare of their mutual citizens is jeopardized so that Caesar shall have all, and God shall be officially ostracized.

IN EARLY AUGUST 1944 a gunner of the 40th Bombardment Group was killed in a plane crash in England. His broken body was sent to the American Military Cemetery at Cambridge.

As the Group Catholic chaplain I allowed to perform the religious rites for the poor, 22 year old boy. It was a sunny afternoon.

I joined several other chaplains who had come from their respective units for the same sad task. The wooden boxes rough with use had been placed side by side over their graves, awaiting the final tribute of religion and country. At the appointed time a procession was formed.

CHRIST KNEW that these men were not seeking a solution, but were moved by hatred, their divine contempt for their intellectual dishonesty.

Today violent voices rise in our country, perverting the historic sense of the First Article of the Bill of Rights. If successful, they will render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's.

WHAT IS THE technique of these New Prohibitionists? The Bill of Rights states "Congress shall establish no law regarding an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

Our New Prohibitionists shade

and sacred American way. There was no cry at present. "This is union of Church and State!" The New Prohibitionist, who if he follows the logic of the protests, would prohibit this religious burial, and have these men buried like animals.

Remember that a State without religion is a monster which has devoured the things of God. Our soldiers and sailors, afloat and ashore, need the faith of a monster, but for the moral traditions rooted in true American way of life.

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For Christmas—the greatest gift of Christ



JESUS CHRIST

THE LIFE, THE TEACHING, AND THE WORK

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