The Book Corner

Conducted By
REV. P. J. FLYNN

PADRE PIO, THE STIGMATIST. By Rev. Carles Mortimer Carty. Radio Replies Press, St. Paul 1, Minn. $2.00.

September 20, 1918, the Capuchin monks of San Giovanni Rotondo heard a piercing scream in their monastery. They came on the run to find their Padre Pio lying unconscious on the floor. When they carried him to his cell, they discovered that he was wounded. Blood from wounds in his hands, his feet, his side.

Padre Pio

Thus did Padre Pio, so we are told, receive the stigmata, the marks of Our Lords wounds, which he has borne in his body for the past thirty four years.

This first book in English on the famed priest-stigmatist is written by Father Carty who visited Padre Pio during the Holy Year and gathered evidence on San Giovanni's holy monk.

THE STIGMATA are not the whole story about Padre Pio. According to Father Carty, Padre Pio reads the secrets of souls, particularly penitents, foresees the future, works astounding cures and miracles; is rendered invisible at times to those about him; and enjoys ecstatic flights to persons and places hundreds of miles from his monastery. He has appeared five times at the tomb of Blessed Pius X in Rome, according to Father Carty.

In accepting these prodigies reportedly connected with Padre Pio, Father Carty is careful to caution that he attributes to them "a purely human credence."

We confess that we fail to see what purpose of God is served by Padre Pio's alleged resorting to ecstatic flights to escape the heat of a crowded church, or to visit Pius X's tomb, or there the gift of invisibility is added to make unseen a Holy Hour every evening at the House of Loretto. Surely the "prophetic spirit" seems to be serving a very trivial purpose when used to predict the sex of the unborn child, as Padre Pio allegedly does.

IF HALF THE reports which Father Carty tells us about Padre Pio are true, we must admit that the Stigmatic of San Giovanni is not only a holy priest but he is truly "The Masterful Monk" of fiction come to life.

The author promises to give us another volume "soon" concerning Padre Pio's miracles, statements and spiritual counsels. Like the Greeks to St. Paul, we say to him, "We will hear thee again on this matter".
—P. J. F.

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DICTIONARY OF DOGMATIC THEOLOGY. By Monsignors Pietro Parente, Antonio Piolante, Salvatore Garofalo. Bruce Publishing Co., Milwaukee. $4.50.

Through the scholarly efforts of Monsignore Parente and his associates we are given clear and accurate answers to all questions related to the Catholic Faith. Each explanatory article gives important reading references. A concise "Outline of the History of Dogmatic Theology" is included as a supplement.

Originally published in Italian and now translated into English by the Rev. Emmanuel Doronzo, O.M.I., this work is invaluable to students, scholars, and all who are interested in an accurate understanding of Catholic Doctrine. P.J.F.

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Negroes Warned On Communism

Pittsburgh (NC)- Negroes of the nation were advised by one of the most influential Negro newspapers to avoid the "taint of communism" as they would the risk of smallpox.

"It is bad enough to be black, it is infinitely worse to be black and communist," said The Pittsburgh Courier, national weekly, in a leading editorial. "There is some small chance if one is black.

Posthumous DSC For Colored Hero

Lt. Gen. William A. Beiderlinden, deputy commander of the Third Army, is shown above presenting to Mrs. Willie B. Goode of Mobile the distinguished service cross awarded to her son Pfc. John Goode a colored Catholic soldier in Korea. The dead soldier's father stands beside his wife. Spring Hill College ROTC cadets participated in presentation ceremonies held on the Spring Hill campus.

Reporter Eyes Tass Man's Reactions At Conference On Russian Escapees

By WILLIAM E. KING
(Staff Writer, N.C.W.C. News Service)

Washington — (NC) — Maybe I should be ashamed to admit it, but I spied on a member of Tass Telegraphic Agency of the USSR. It was just one of those irresistable impulses.

It happened at the National Press Club here. Representative Charles J. Kersten of Wisconsin held a press conference to explain why he got through Congress last October an appropriation of $100,000,000 to aid persons who escape from Russia and its Iron Curtain satellites and what has been done about the program so far.

THE LEGISLATOR was flanked by Dr. Lev Dobriansky of Georgetown University, who is president of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, and James Burnham, author of "The Coming Defeat of Communism," who also answered questions concerning the European problem. We newspapermen were seated around a table facing the three speakers and it fell to my lot to sit next to the Tass reporter.

Representative Kersten explained the motivating reason for his $100,000,000 amendment was to help people who escape from communist tyranny, primarily by forming them into national army elements to aid the North Atlantic Treaty nations; to afford practical assistance to people behind ing to throw off communism, and to bring about a free Europe and Asia.

THE LEGISLATOR insisted that his measure was by no means an aggressive act against the peoples in Iron Curtain countries, but an expression of friendship for them. He said: "It is a clasp of friendship through the barbed wire which separates the oppressed victims of communism with the people of the United States."

The legislator, Dr. Dobriansky and Mr. Burnham agreed that the appropriation should be used to induce scientists, professional and military men and others to leave the Iron Curtan countries, and to give them a start in rebuilding a new life in a free land. They were asked numerous questions concerning how the $100,000,000 would be spent, would it encourage underground movements, sabotage and other cloak and-danger activities?

THAT'S WHEN I noticed my neighbor from Tass at his busiest. Anytime a question was asked and answered on underground movement, sabotage and other methods which might tend to weaken the communist hold the Tass reporter would take copious notes.

Naturally, there were some unkind remarks passed about certain persons such as Josef Stalin, Andrei Vishinsky and other communist leaders. At those times, I noticed, my Tass neighbor didn't take a single note.

In Chains
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China Reds Jail Two Spanish Nuns

Hong Kong — (NC) — Two Spanish nuns of the Sisters of Merry of Berriz were sentenced to prison terms in the city of Wuhu, south of Nanking. The two religious, Sister Mercedes Iasai of Bilbao and Sister Teresa Elorduy of Mungula, have been in China for 18 years. Both nuns were engaged in the orphanage of Wuhu, Anhwei Province.

Last August the sisters were imprisoned after a public accusation meeting had condemned them "in absentia," on charges of being responsible for the deaths of abandoned infants brought to the orphanage.

No further news was received of them until the Reds led both Sisters from the jail to the municipal court on December 21th. The nuns were chained hand and foot and bound together at the elbow with ropes when the soldiers forced them to walk through the streets of the city. Their gait was painfully slow as the manacles on their feet permitted them to take only very small steps.

Sister Iasai, the superior, who is 55 years old, was sentenced to four years imprisonment and Sister Elorduy, 41, to three. The Communists accused them of having "killed 1,600 children" since the orphanage began.

India Bishops Again Rap Birth Control

New Delhi, India — (NC) — A new warning against birth control as a "sin against marriage" was read to Catholics throughout the country.

The warning came in a statement drawn up by the Catholic Bishops' Conference and issued in the name of Archbishop Joseph Attipetty of Verapoly, the Conference's Director of Catholic Social Action.

THE STATEMENT came against a background of increased activity in this country for nationwide government-supported program of family limitation.

"Among the great evils opposed to the principles of marriage and thereby undermining the welfare of the family and the State is the present tendency towards birth control advocated by many people," the Bishops' statement declared.

"The methods suggested by such emissaries of evil are entirely wrong and should not be countenanced by any Catholic. It is among the gravest of sins to have recourse to such methods. Catholics must bear in mind that no one has power to destroy human life. So also is prevention of offspring a heinous crime. No argument can justify it. The Church, therefore, condemns the theory of artifical family planning."

THE BIRTH-CONTROL movement at which the Hierarchy's declaration is directed got its big impetus in India last fall through publication of recommendations by the government of India Planning Commission. The commission was headed by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

Last year Dr. Abraham Stone, vice-president of the Planned Parenthood association in the United States, invited to India by the government to set up a study on how family limitation can best be carried out.

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Canadian Bishop Ill, Resigns Post

Vatican City — (NC) — Pope Pius XII has accepted the request of Bishop George Leon Landry of Hearst, Canada, to relieve him of his duties for reasons of health. Bishop Landry has been transferred to the Titular See of [illegible].

New Translation Of Bible To Be Published In Early Fall

Washington — (NC) — The first of four volumes of the Old Testament in the new translation of the Bible from the original languages "should appear, if all goes well, in the early fall," it was announced here by the Rev. Louis F. Hartman, C.SS.R. Father Hartman is general secretary of the Catholic Biblical Association of the U. S., which is making the translation. He is also chairman of the editorial board.

"A GOOD part of this volume is already set up in type at St. Anthony Guild Press, Paterson, N. J.," Father Hartman said. The first volume will contain the five Books of Moses — Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy — as well as the Books of Josue, Judges and Ruth.

The remaining three volumes, containing [illegible] historical Books, the poetic or sapiential Books, and the prophetic Books, will appear at one or two years [illegible] until the Bible is published.

Father Hartman said that the Biblical Association has been working on the new translation for several years. He explained that the Book of Genesis was published in 1948 as the group's first Old Testament project.

FATHER HARTMAN emphasized that this is the first time that a Catholic Bible has been published in an English translation made directly from the original languages in which the Sacred Books first were written.

He said that the Douay version, first published in 1609 and revised several times, is an English translation made from the Latin Vulgate, which is itself a translation made by St. Jerome about 400 A.D. from the original languages.

"Almost all of the Old Testament was originally written in Hebrew, although a few of its Books have been preserved only in a Greek translation or in Greek as their original language," Father Hartman said. "Even some parts of the Hebrew Books themselves are not in Hebrew but in Aramaic, a Semitic language closely related to Hebrew."

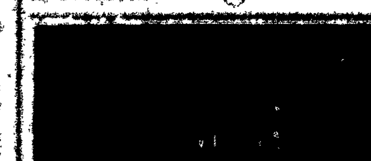
$$$ For Your Story

New York — (NC) — A new Christopher contest of factual stories illustrating what one person can do, with God's help, to make his influence felt for the good of the many, was announced here by the Rev. James Keller, M.M., founder and director of the Christophers. Prizes totaling $15,500 with a first prize of $5,000, will go to the winners.

Father Keller

Aim of this contest, which opens Ash Wednesday, February 27, and closes at midnight, Easter Sunday, April 13, is to draw attention to the tremendous power for good that resides in each individual and to encourage people in all walks of life to show initiative in doing what they can with divine assistance, to be instruments of peace. It will dramatize the vital role the individual can play as a Christopher, or Christbearer.

Father Keller explained that anyone may enter the contest by writing in his own words, not over 1,000 words, a factual story of what he did for the advantage of many. Literary style is secondary, but entries should be true stories. Those not accustomed to writing may simply jot down the facts with their full name and address.



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