

Holy Father Decorates Peru Head, First Lady

Lima, Peru — His Holiness Pope Pius XII has granted the Grand Cross of the Order of Pius IX to Gen. Manuel A. Odría, President of Peru. At the same time he honored the first lady, Señora María Odría de Odría, with the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Medal for her work among the poor.

THE GRAND CROSS of the Order of Pius IX is given for outstanding deeds in favor of the Catholic Church and society. The presentation of the awards was made at the Government Palace by Archbishop Juan Panico, Apostolic Nuncio to Peru.

The Holy Father greatly appreciated your Catholicity and works of faith, Archbishop Panico told the President in recalling the Peruvian Government's cooperation with the Church. The Government is cooperating in the construction of the Seminary of Santo Toribio de Lima, which replaces the first one established in the new world, and is also furthering other works for the Church in the Archdiocese of Lima, where many church buildings were damaged by an earthquake, and in the Dioceses of Huancayo, Tarma and Huancavelica.

THE DECORATIONS, the Nuncio added, "show once more the affection of the Holy Father for the Peruvian people." He praised the President's wife for her work in behalf of the needy, in spite of her state of health. In reply General Odría said: "The protection granted by my Government to the Catholic religion... responds not only to constitutional precepts but to a clear and unequivocal feeling among the people."

Aquinas Senior Oratory Winner

David McDonald, 18, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Vincent L. McDonald, 168 Curlew St., a senior at Aquinas Institute won the first prize of \$25 in the annual oratorical contest of Monroe County American Legion, last Friday night in the Chamber of Commerce.

His address was on the American Constitution and his winning makes him the county Legion's candidate in the district competition next month.

A senior from Our Lady of Mercy High School, Kay Hall, 17 and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Hall, 38 East Park Road, Pittsford, won third prize.

The second prize winner was Roy Van Delinder of East High School.

Contest Chairman was Thomas J. Craig, Jr. Judges were the Rev. John P. O'Meara, C.S.B., dean of St. John Fisher College, Childersburg; Court Judge, Thomas J. Megher and Prof. Richard Kennedy of the University of Rochester English Department.

Thomas Hartwell was the Aquinas student who won the local competition last year.

Rochester Priest On Mediterranean

On a Mediterranean cruise of the U.S.S. Leyte (CV-32) Chaplain (Lieut.) Leo Ward celebrated Mass aboard the carrier from Sept. 3 to Dec. 20, 1951. (Photo at right). On a visit on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception to the shrine of Our Lady of the Crowned, in Gibraltar's Cathedral, the priest from the Rochester diocese baptized nine converts. Shown in photo below also are the Navy men's sponsors. This ceremony followed the cruise which included stops at Augusta, Sicily; Genoa, La Spezia, Naples, Rome, Milan, Florence, Pisa, in Italy; Cannes, France; Athens and Corinth in Greece and Ioni and Ephesus in Turkey. Chaplain Ward is the brother of the Rev. Lawrence E. Ward, assistant pastor of Corpus Christi Church.



'March On Polio' To Send 22,000 Mothers For Gifts

"Mothers' March on Polio," in which an estimated 22,000 mothers will canvass every home in Monroe County for March of Dimes contributions, will be conducted from 7 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 30.

Help of the mothers has been enlisted for the event in an effort to bring Monroe County Chapter, National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, out of the red, according to Mrs. John L. Wehle.

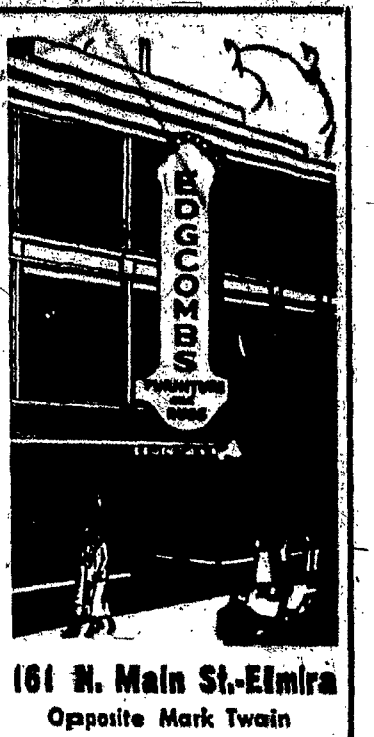
County mothers have been organized for the canvass in a pyramid system of officers, at the head of which is Mrs. Richard Gearhart. Actual canvassing will be in the hands of volunteers who have been assigned ten homes each.

CAPTAINS HAVE been named for every tax district in the city and every town in the county. Lieutenants supervise 10 city blocks (or equivalent in rural areas) within each district. Through this system, the March of Dimes expects to cover each of the county's 480,000 residents to obtain contributions.

Mrs. Gearhart asked that residents turn on their porchlights during the hour-long canvass to welcome the Marching Mothers. Persons living in hotels and apartment houses may indicate their desire to contribute by hanging an old shoe or a handkerchief to the doorknob, Mrs. Gearhart said.

AFTER THE COLLECTION, contributions will be transferred back up the echelon to March of Dimes headquarters in the Seneca Hotel.

Said Mrs. Wehle: "We ask everyone to understand that it is impossible to budget polio. We pray for the best, while we prepare for the worst. Our Monroe County Chapter is deeply in debt and in order to function properly we must gain extra funds."



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Choir Guild To Meet On Jan. 23

Encouraged by their organization meeting, the Catholic Choir Guild has set another session for Wednesday, Jan. 23 in Columbus Civic Center, third floor at 8:15 p.m. according to James V. McGrath, acting secretary.

Officers will be elected and directors chosen for the new year. Men of Sacred Heart Pro-Cathedral Choir directed by Raymond J. Hasenauer will sing a program of motets and other numbers.

The male section of St. Peter and Paul's Choir under the direction of John Paul Bonn, organist and choir master will also be heard.

At the first meeting, singing, at first sight by the entire group of two masses, one of which was a Requiem was "excellent," McGrath said.

The Guild has had several calls for singers, an opening for a choir-director and an organist, he reported.

Holy Redeemer Vets Slate Benefit Cards

Holy Redeemer Memorial Post 1173 Catholic War Veterans will sponsor a card party for the benefit of their youth program in the new school hall Friday, Jan. 25, at 8 p.m.

Prizes will be awarded and refreshments served. Frank Raitze is chairman assisted by Robert Irwin, Jesse Myers and Thomas Spiegel.

Convert Commends Information Series At Hotel For Directing Him To Faith

BY PAUL SCHIFFEL
Howard Wheeler, assistant manager of the Personal Finance Company and a recent convert to Catholicism, claims that membership in the Church is like learning to know God after knowing only "of Him."

One of the many converts to the Catholic faith through the work of the Catholic Information Series in Rochester, Mr. Wheeler credits his conversion to the Rev. Francis Marks, director of the series.

The series, in its fourth year at Seneca Hotel, provides non-Catholics with the answers to their questions on Catholic doctrine and practices.

Howard Wheeler was married to a Catholic in December 1950 and shortly after their marriage his wife suggested that he investigate the Church and Her teachings.

"THAT'S where I was lucky," the convert points out. "Too many Catholics refrain from asking non-Catholics if they are interested, and those outside the Church are reluctant to make inquiries."

"I'll admit that I had many forebodings when it was first mentioned to me, but Father Marks soon put me at ease."

The Wheelers moved into St. Bonaventure parish and a school class of Mr. Wheeler's, the Rev. Guy Wertz, was at that time serving as assistant pastor in that parish. Father Wertz, now

at St. Mary's Church, Elmira, was generous of his time, according to Mr. Wheeler, and it was Father Wertz who baptized him on March 18, 1951.

Particularly influential in bringing Mr. Wheeler into the Church was Margaret Eickhorst, also an employee of the Personal Finance Company. Miss Eickhorst encouraged the potential convert in attending the information series lectures.

BEFORE HIS marriage Mr. Wheeler admits he had no interest in the Church because he knew nothing about it. "I didn't have the vaguest idea what the Catholic Church was."

The manner in which the information series is conducted is commendable, according to Howard Wheeler. In the first few lectures Catholicism is never mentioned, he said, and there is nothing repugnant to any reasonably good Christian. The classes are informal and informative.

As the course progresses, the truths of the Catholic Church are explained to the inquirers and detailed explanations are given later on in the course.

Each class is conducted in an informal impersonal way, giving plenty of opportunity for questions and discussions. "Some of those attending must spend all week thinking up questions to stump the priests in charge," the convert said. "However, any and every query is

answered clearly and simply. You just can't stump them!"

ACCORDING to Mr. Wheeler, a Catholic need only sell one outside the Church the idea of attending the lecture once. "They won't have to convince them to go back. They'll want to," he claims.

Mr. Wheeler pointed out that those outside the Church always feel that they know "something" about the Catholic faith. They really know only as much as a person does about a book after reading a review of it. "After the information series you know as much as though you'd read the book four times," he said.

The zeal of Father Marks and Father Richard Quinn, who regularly preside at the lectures, particularly impressed the young convert. Father Marks conducts make-up classes for those who miss the regularly scheduled ones, to enable them to keep up to date.

Outlines and reading matter are provided free of charge to the inquirers and additional reading lists for those interested in further research are made available.

Mr. Wheeler's sister, Katherine, is also a convert. He has a brother and another sister.

Howard Wheeler served with the Infantry in World War II and spent one year in Europe. He and his wife and daughter, Carol Ann, 1 month, reside at 695 Meigs St.

The next regularly scheduled lecture will be held in the Seneca Hotel Monday, Jan. 21, at 8 p.m. Father Marks will speak on Confession and Indulgences. The lecture is open without charge to all interested persons.

In addition to the priests mentioned by Mr. Wheeler, there are lecturing in the series, the Rev. Albert J. Shanon, the Rev. Joseph L. Hogan, the Rev. Albert H. Schinckel, the Rev. Paul Gibbons, the Rev. Raymond Henry, and the Rev. Paul Murley who are scheduled for talks on Monday nights until April 7.

Will Attend Mass For Father Staub

Marking the 28th anniversary of the death of the Rev. Jacob Staub, former spiritual adviser and advocate of the Catholic Central Verein, the members will attend the 11 a.m. Mass at Holy Redeemer Church, Sunday, Jan. 20 to be offered for the repose of the soul.

Members of the National Catholic Women's Union, Rochester Branch, will also attend. "This is the 28th time the two groups have marked the anniversary of Father Staub's death."

Heading the men's group will be President August M. Maier and the women's branch, Mrs. Louise Amian, president.

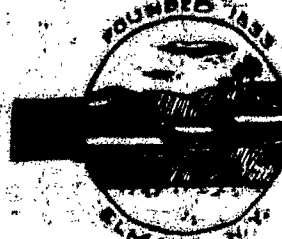
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