[illegible] Aug. 14 [illegible]

[illegible] Branch of [illegible] their regular monthly meeting on Thursday evening, [illegible] Mrs. Rose Cannan will be hostess for the meeting which will take place at her home, 21[illegible] West Commercial Street.

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## FATHER KENNEDY

### A Most Peculiar Priest

In Heaven and Earth by Carlo Cocciolo (Prentice-Hall, $3.50), we have a novel about a priest whom many of the characters pronounce a saint, but who declares that his vocation came to him through Satan. This gives you some idea of the artificial ambiguity of a book which is being taken with more seriousness, and accorded more praise, than it deserves.

Fr. Kennedy

The priest in question is Father Ardito Piccardi, a member of the diocesan clergy somewhere in the north of Italy. The novel is supposedly a compilation of information about him, made after his death by an old friend. The material, we are repeatedly told, is fragmentary, and this most conveniently allows the author to leave many queries unanswered, many crucial points in obscurity.

The young man, already considered a saint by some of the parishioners, is obsessed with the idea of Satan and the virtual omnipotence of evil.

**At first he is for a headlong assault on all wrong, for fierce denunciation and slashing countermeasures. And he gives the impression that any victory over evil depends chiefly, if not entirely, on himself and his ideas and methods.**

He is put in charge of a small and miserable parish in the mountains, a parish lax and long neglected. There, heedless of his first pastor's counsel of patience and prudence, he follows his own bent. But when his scathing denunciations of the sin in which a prominent parishioner is mired drive that person to suicide, he is shocked and asks for a transfer.

The next phase of his life has a great city, perhaps Milan, for its scene. Here he acts as chaplain at a luxurious club for fashionable young people, and gives lectures, at once erudite and exciting, which enthrall the upper classes. He later explains that, in the first period of his priesthood, he "venerated the law" and its strict interpretation and application, whereas in the second he "worshipped knowledge." He would now conquer evil through intellectual analysis. But this, too, ends in a disaster for another and in disillusionment for the priest.

* * *

HE THEREUPON comes to believe that "one must love sin." "Enlightenment comes only through love. . . . To love means to love God in men. . . . He is men. . . . If they are sinners, we must love their sin." Whether or not this is the final conviction of Father Piccardi, I do not know. At any rate, his death comes when, during the late war, he misrepresents himself as responsible for guerilla violence against the Germans and is executed by a firing squad, while the guilty ones go free and are awed by his love of them and the sacrifice to which it impels him.

**Now and then this foggy and erratic novel does suggest something of the mystery and the heartbreak which can be involved in striving to live strictly according to Christian principle and the Christian spirit in a fallen world. But almost all of the priest's difficulties stem from willful ignorance and really monstrous arrogance.**

Far from the Church's inhibiting his native genius, it is he who creates needless crises for himself and others by his prideful determination to disregard the wisdom of the Church. He is an incredible, as well as unsympathetic, figure, and his story is far more pretentious than pregnant.

* * *

Father Adolph Dominic Frenay's book, **The Spirituality of the Mass in the Light of Thomistic Theology** (Herder $4), goes through the Mass step by step, from the prayers at the foot of the altar to the last Gospel. It provides a clear, connected explanation of the several parts of the Holy Sacrifice, sometimes dipping into historical data. But there are many books which do just this.

Father Frenay's is unique in its presentation of St. Thomas Aquinas' comments on the various stages. Thus, we get St. Thomas' interpretation of the three sets of petitions in the Kyrie Eleison, his differentiation of praise, honor, and glory in connection with the Gloria, and a fine summary of his teaching on prayer when the orations of the Mass are considered. Obviously, here is an abundance of material as valuable as it is generally unfamiliar.

**In addition, Father Frenay keeps showing the pertinence and peculiar contributions to our spiritual life of one or another feature of the Mass. His exhortations are homely and affecting, and their scope is considerable, inasmuch as they range from asceticism to the business of letter-writing.**

So that this is not just one more book on the Mass. It is unique. Clergy and laity both will find it attractive, instructive, and a help to holiness as well as to a deeper appreciation of the Mass.

* * *

THERE IS MUCH timely material succinctly set out in Elizabeth M. Lynskey's **The Government of the Catholic Church** (Kenedy, $2), which will enlighten the Catholic and rout many misconceptions and fears among non-Catholics. The book hews to lucid distinctions and precise information, and whereas it is to be praised for this, one could often wish for further development of subjects which are but briefly touched, and for everyday examples in illustration of rather abstract statements.

Despite a few errors, or at least infelicities of expression, this small, closely knit book can serve as a reliable statement of all the basic factors of a subject vast in size and importance, much disputed today, and nowhere else so thoroughly covered in so few words.

## Father Gannon Appointed Pastor

New York — (NC) — The Very Rev. Robert I. Gannon, S.J., former president of Fordham University, has been named pastor of St. Ignatius Loyola Church here by His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York.

The appointment was announced after Father Gannon had been designated as rector of the Jesuit community of the parish and as president of Loyola School and Regis High School by the Superior General of the Jesuits in Rome, the Very Rev. John V. Janssens, S.J. Since leaving Fordham in 1949, Father Gannon has been director of the Mount Manresa Retreat House on Staten Island.

## STRANGE BUT TRUE
### Little-Known Facts for Catholics
By M. J. MURRAY

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## Pope Bids Catholics Seek Cooperation Among Nations

Castel Gandolfo, Italy—(RNS)—Pope Pius XII told Italian Catholic Actionists that the faithful must "purge themselves of national selfishness and seek to bring about a real and fraternal cooperation among nations."

The Catholic Actionists were meeting for a conference on "Catholics and International Life."

POPE PIUS SAID that Catholics were best suited to bring about an atmosphere of mutual understanding "without which no international agreement is lasting."

He said this was because Catholics were educated to consider that all men, whatever their race, color or nationality, are created in the image of God and taught to pray for and love them.

Although reaffirming his approval of the general idea of European unity, the Pope cautioned against trends that might tend to compromise Catholic principles.

HE WARNED THAT while the campaign for European unity was going on, efforts also were being made to form a culture that is un-Christian.

Pope Pius expressed fear that any civilization which openly or secretly refused to accept the spirit of Christian civilization would fall a victim to the attacks of materialism.

"You sons of the Church," he said, "have the holy duty to oppose such tendencies."

### Blows Of The Hammers

On an island in the Pacific, a missionary Bishop, who had disembarked forty years previously, was dying. From his bed, he noticed that the laborers on the construction of his seminary chapel had stopped working; he called one of the native chiefs and asked him about this:

"I do not hear the noise of the hammers," he said, "have you stopped working?"

"Yes, your Excellency," replied the chief, "we did not want to disturb you."

"You will not disturb me," said the Bishop. "I want to die hearing the blows of the hammers."

The work resumed and so the Bishop breathed his last, his face turned towards his seminary in construction.

—The Far East

## Scotland Guild Sets Picnic, Trip

Members of Branch 1, St. Margaret of Scotland Guild, Rochester, are planning a picnic and a pilgrimage this month.

Sixth annual outing of the Guild will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 10, at Grounds No. , Seneca Park. Florence M. O'Connell, chairman, announced that there will be games and prizes for all ages, and pop and ice cream for the youngsters.

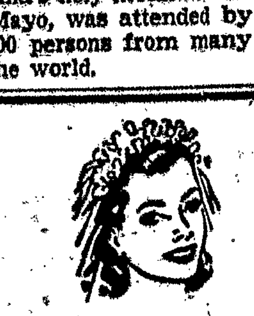
Second annual Guild pilgrimage to St. John's Seminary in Montour Falls will be conducted Sunday, Aug. 31. The bus will leave Bauman and Baynes Hall, 333 Driving Pk. Ave., at 11 a.m. Reservations may be made with William Higgins, chairman, at GEnesee 2568-R.

### Quebec Bishop

Quebec—(NC)—The Rev. Romain St. Cyr, of the Blessed Sacrament Fathers, has been named postulator in the beatification cause of the Venerable François de Laval, first Bishop of Quebec.

### Holy Mountain

Dublin — (RNS) — The annual pilgrimage to Croagh Patrick, Ireland's holy mountain in County Mayo, was attended by some 50,000 persons from many parts of the world.

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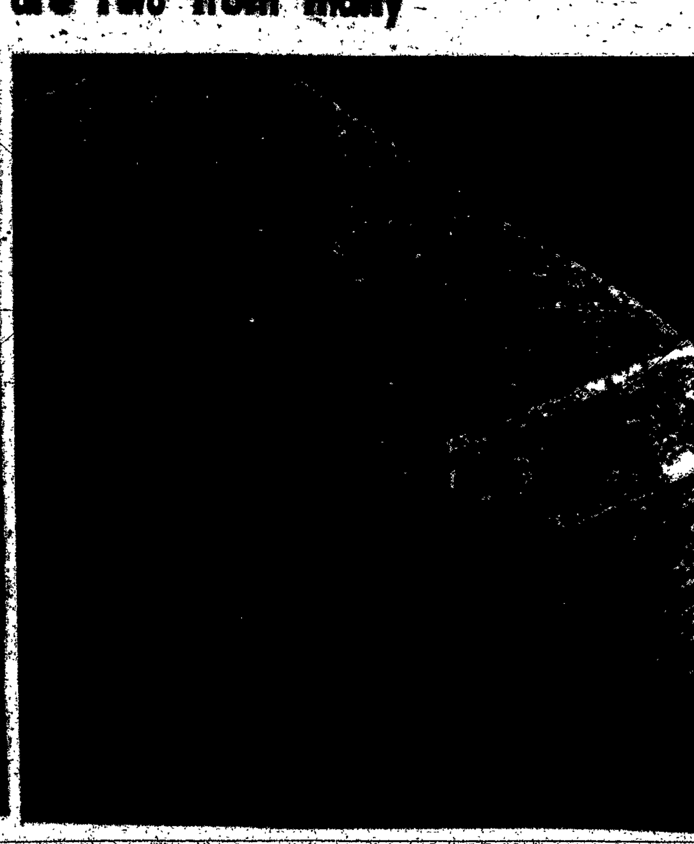

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