Sharing Our Treasure

Teenager Wins Converts

By

Rev. John A. O'Brien, Ph.D.
(Of Notre Dame University)

Did you ever hear of a teenage youngster bringing four converts into the Church? Not often. But that is the achievement of Ann Cronin, a seventeen - year-old clerk in a large department store in New York. Here is the way it all started.

Father O'Brien

"Would you like to come with me to the mission at St. Paul's tonight?" inquired Ann of Rachel Stroessner, the clerk at the counter next to her.

"WHAT'S A MISSION?" asked Rachel.

"It's a series of devotions that runs each night for a week. This mission is for girls and single women. A missionary will give a short talk, explaining the duties of our state in life, and there'll be some prayers, ending with Benediction. I think you'll find it interesting and helpful."

"I've never been to a mission nor even inside a Catholic church, but I'd like to see what it's all about. My mother is Jewish, my father was a Lutheran, but he's dead now. I kinda got lost in the shuffle, as neither of my parents went to any Church."

Ann called for her pal together they went to St. Paul's, the great church of the Paulist Fathers, on Columbus Avenue. The packed church, the atmosphere of deep reverence, the simple, earnest sermon, the beautiful hymns and the awesome silence as the priest made the Sign of the Cross over the congregation with the golden monstrance, symbolizing the blessing which our Eucharistic Lord was imparting—all these made a deep impression on Rachel.

They went back the next night and every remaining night of the mission. Rachel's soul was starving for just such spiritual manna.

ANN TOLD HER of the Inquiry Classes which the Paulist Fathers conduct throughout the year and offered to accompany her. When Rachel, who was but seventeen, asked her mother's permission to take instructions, Mrs. Stroessner replied, "You can't learn anything wrong at a church. If you find that you like it, go ahead and join. A person that goes to some church is better off."

Rachel became a Catholic and every Sunday she got up and went off to Mass, usually fasting to receive Holy Communion. Finally, her sister Julia, one year younger, asked: "Mother, Rachel is so happy since joining the Catholic Church. Would you mind if I took instructions?"

"No, go ahead. I hope it will make you as happy as Rachel."

By this time the family had moved to Brooklyn and Julia took her instructions at St. John's on Willoughby Avenue and was received into the Church.

The example of the two girls made a deep impression on the mother. She decided to surprise them by taking instructions and becoming a Catholic. The three were now getting up on Sunday to go off to Mass together.

"WHAT AM I THIS?" finally blurted out David, the only other member of the family. "Am I to be the black sheep in the family?"

Today the four members of the Stroessner family go to Mass together and together they walk up to the Communion rail to receive their Eucharistic Lord. It all started when a big-hearted teen-ager asked, "Would you like to come to the mission with me?" What Ann did, every Catholic boy and girl can do, if they will but try.

Bishop Sheen To Open Thomas More Lectures

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supper at the Hotel Seneca on Sunday evening, Sept. 28.

Mr. John J. Conway is general chairman of the 1952-53 membership campaign.

Current officers of the Thomas More Lecture Forum are: Louis A. Langie, President; Mrs. Leslie Dollinger, Vice President; Miss Zelda Lyons, Corresponding Secretary and the Very Rev. Msgr. John S. Randall, Executive Director.

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EN ROUTE TO MADAGASCAR

Canadian Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception are pictured enroute to Madagascar where they will staff a new orphanage and school. Left to right: (first row) Sister St. Clement; Sister Adelaide, superior of the new school; Sister Marie Odilia; (second row) Sister St. Eloi; and Sister Jean.

Archbishop Cushing Edits New Magazine For Nurses

Boston —(NC)— A new Catholic magazine personally edited by an Archbishop has made its first appearance.

The Catholic Nurse will be both edited and financed for two years by Archbishop Cushing of Boston. The Archbishop is episcopal chairman of the National Catholic Welfare Conference Department of Lay organizations, which includes the National Council of Catholic Nurses, whose official publication the new magazine will be.

TO BE published quarterly, The Catholic Nurse has a circulation of approximately 20,000. A copy has been sent to every Catholic hospital and school of nursing in the United States and to the 15,000 members of the N.C.C.N.

In launching the magazine, Archbishop Cushing stated that it was his intention "to make it readable, enlightening, a mouthpiece for nursing under Catholic auspices and a medium of instruction, enlightenment and inspiration to all the units and members of the Council."

Mercy Nuns Approve Elmira School Plan

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either side of the gymnasium with direct access to the athletic field.

A STAGE, 28 feet by 40 feet, with ample dressing rooms on either side will be located at one end of the auditorium. Public entrance to the auditorium-gymnasium will be separate and distinct from that of the school entrance. This will allow public activities to be carried on without any entry through the school.

The student entrance to the auditorium will be at the opposite end and will open directly from the main corridor of the school.

The 26 acre site will also provide ample space for a regulation football field, a baseball diamond, and a parking lot accommodating 435 cars.

THE BUILDING will be constructed of fire resistive materials such as concrete foundations, steel or reinforced concrete frame, brick and tile walls, concrete floors and roof, and metal louvered windows.

Floors throughout will be covered with wood, ceramic tile or a composition material, each serving its particular function.

Acoustical tile ceilings will be used in areas requiring this type of treatment and corridors will be of terra cotta tile wainscoting with recessed metal lockers accommodating the requirements of the student body.

INTERIOR WALLS are to be of cinder block painted.

All plumbing facilities of the latest design and proportions to accommodate the student body will be used.

The lighting requirements will meet the accepted standards for schoolhouse lighting and consist of both fluorescent and incandesent type fixtures.

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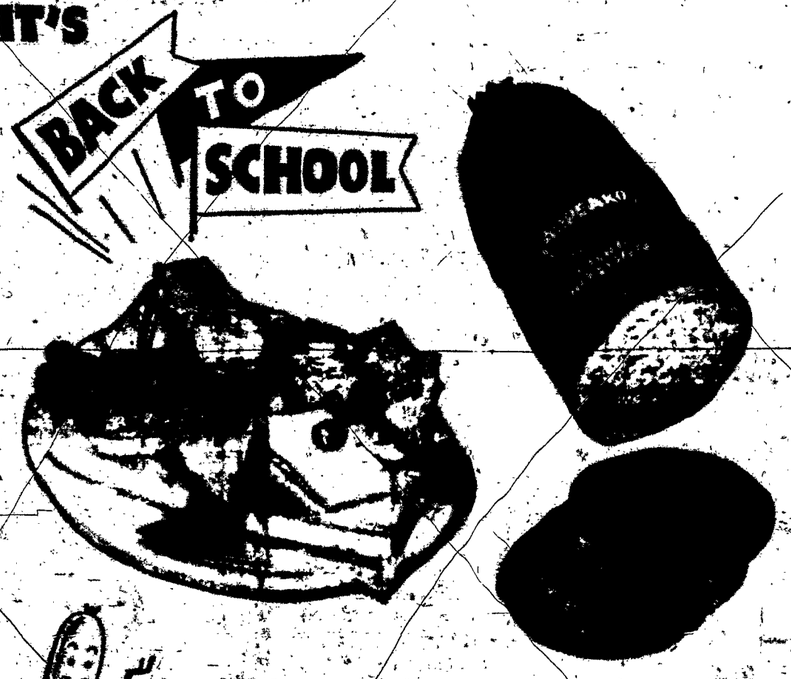

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