

EX-NAZARETH STUDENT DESCRIBES

Apparitions Marked South Of The Border

Most American Catholics probably know of Our Lady's apparitions at Lourdes and Fatima. Many have heard of her appearances at LaSalette and Guadalupe. But few in this country are probably acquainted with Our Lady of Comoroto or the Virgin of Chiquinquira.

Recent celebrations in Venezuela commemorating these two apparitions are described in the following article sent to Nazareth College by Miss Lucrecia Angulo, a former student, now living in her native Maracaibo.

The religious fervor of the Venezuelan people was evidenced last September as never before in their history on the occasion of the coronation of Our Lady of Comoroto, Patroness of the country, to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the Virgin's apparition to an Indian in Guanare.

THE CEREMONY took place amidst unprecedented pomp. The members of the government Junta, cabinet ministers, high ranking officers of the Army and Air Force, state authorities, and representatives of numerous civil and religious organizations attended the services.

Guanare, with a normal population of 9,000 was swamped by 40,000 pilgrims from all over Venezuela.

His Eminence Artega Cardinal, Betancourt of Cuba officiated as Papal Legate, aided by 15 archbishops, 27 bishops and more than 300 priests. Speaking in perfect Spanish, Pope Pius addressed the people of Venezuela by short wave, asking them to pray to the Virgin Mary to save their country from "reprehensible doctrines" in order that they might live in peace and give the world an example of how a nation can enjoy the well-being of a Christian people that live in brotherhood.

THE APPARITION OF Our Lady of Comoroto took place in 1652, after the Comoroto family had resisted the overtures of the Spanish colonizers and refused to accept Baptism.

According to tradition, the Virgin appeared a number of times to members of the family urging them to be baptized. They all consented except the head of the family.

One night he saw another apparition of the Virgin who appeared to him to follow the example of his people. His angry answer was to shoot an arrow at the vision. The arrow fell at his feet. The vision disappeared and the man found in his hand a stone which bore the image of Our Lady.

Coromoto hid the stone, swearing he would destroy it the next day. One of the children, having witnessed the scene, fled to tell the story to the Spanish.

Two men sent to investigate found the stone and took it to the Governor's home where it was venerated for the first time. In 1654 it was transferred to the Guanare church where it has been ever since enshrined. Coromoto eventually was baptized.

LAST NOVEMBER the Venezuelan state of Zulia celebrated the 203rd anniversary of its patron saint, the Virgin of Chiquinquira. In 1749 a little old lady came across a wooden plaque on the lake shore. Thinking she would be able to use it as a top for her water jug, she poked it up and took it home. As she washed it, she noticed vague lines on it, as though it had been carved at one time.

The work was so faint that she could not distinguish the outline, but feeling sure it had been a religious figure, she prepared a special place for the little plaque in her hut.

When she returned later she found the plaque shimmering with light and clearly outlined on it was the figure of the Virgin Mary. Church and civil authorities decided that the plaque should be moved to the main church, and men were sent to carry it there. But when they attempted to turn it about, it became so heavy that it was impossible for them to budge it.

The men turned toward the chapel of San Juan de Dios and were relieved of the great weight. Thus, it is said, the image actually selected its own sanctuary for it was placed within the little temple. During the reign of Pope Benedict XV, the Virgin of Chiquinquira was declared patroness of the diocese, with her own Mass and ceremonies.

Weight Control Course Food and Nutrition Service of the Rochester Chapter, American Red Cross, will offer an afternoon and an evening course in Weight Control to men and women in the community next week in the Nutrition Demonstration at Chapter Headquarters, 276 Clinton Avenue South.

PARISH SUPPER PLANNED



COMMITTEE members of St. Monica Parish groups planning a ham supper at St. Monica's School Hall, Tuesday, Feb. 17, are: (from left) Mrs. Paul Valerio, Richard L. Weider, Mrs. Homer McGill and Mrs. Pat Rainone. (Courier Staff Photo)

Ham Supper To Attract 500 To St. Monica School Hall

The Pre-Lenten Social to be held at St. Monica's School Hall will be a Ham Supper, Tuesday, Feb. 17 from 5:30 to 7 p.m., parish groups in charge announced today.

Mrs. Gerald Morris, president of the Rosary Society, Joseph Gervais, Holy Name Society president; Mrs. Paul Valerio, Mothers' Group chairman and Miss Anne Bonjorno, president of the Monicans named the following to head various committees:

Mrs. Mae Rainone, Mrs. Eugene Rosse, Mrs. Edward Dietz, Mrs. Frederick Burke, Mrs. Thomas O'Grady, Mrs. Frank Shaughnessy, Mrs. Arthur Collins, Mrs. Bertrand Ehrmann, Mrs. Homer McGill, Mrs. Frank Gullo, Miss Margaret Kenny and Joseph Donoghue, Bertran Ehrmann, Thomas O'Grady and Richard Weider.

Tickets limited to 500 in number are available at the rectory and from members of the societies. Prize is \$125 per plate.

Birth Control Ban San Juan, P. R. (NC)—The legislative assembly of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico has been asked to approve laws prohibiting therapeutic abortion, sterilization and artificial birth control. The request was made by the Union Pro Defense de la Moral Natural, an association established to defend natural moral law.

Campaign For Voters More than 1,800,000 Boy Scouts, Cubs and Explorers took part in the "Get Out the Vote" campaign in 1952.

No Religious Freedom Seen In Yugoslavia, Says Visitor

Detroit—(NC)—"There is no religious freedom in Tito's Yugoslavia. There is nothing there that would even resemble the religious freedom found in the United States or Canada."

This assertion was made by a woman who visited Yugoslavia last spring and who receives letters regularly from friends and relatives in that country.

MRS. LOUIS KREK, writing in the Letter Box column of The Detroit News, took issue with statements made in an earlier letter by W. A. Shannon of London, Ont. Mr. Shannon said he visited Yugoslavia in July, 1951, and found "many churches, mostly Roman Catholic, open everywhere I went." Mr. Shannon said he could not understand the recent statement of His Eminence Aloisius Cardinal Stepinac, Archbishop of Zagreb, that religious freedom in Yugoslavia is zero.

Mrs. Krek said she and her husband are natives of Croatia, a part of Yugoslavia, and they visited Yugoslavia for six weeks starting last April. She said they visited relatives and friends, talked freely with many professional persons and peasants. She detailed as follows "what we saw and learned":

Hundreds of priests, Catholic and Orthodox, are in jail or concentration camps. There isn't a single convent. All Sisters—the Krek's niece among them—have been forbidden to wear religious garb and told to go home to their relatives. Most convents have been taken over by the government.

The pastor of our native town's parish said he received strict orders not to teach religion except the Sunday sermon. He may not conduct catechism classes in or after school or in church. The priest from the neighboring town was in jail for tax evasion.

On Sundays, school children are urged to attend picnics, parties and outings instead of going to Mass. No priest or Sister is allowed to enter a government school to teach religion. Teachers are forbidden to mention God in school. (Mrs. Krek said her cousin is a teacher in one such school).

MRS. KREK SAID she and her husband spoke with hundreds of persons during their visit and failed to find any one who regarded Cardinal Stepinac guilty of any crime. She said the

French Priest Gives House To Workers

Paris—(RNS)—A Catholic pastor in Cherbourg refused to occupy a house built for him in a working class district because his parishioners live in sub-standard dwellings. Instead, the priest, Abbe R. Bonpelt, installed a large family of workers in the parish house and took up his own residence in a trailer.

Most of Abbe Bonpelt's parishioners live in temporary huts in an area which was badly damaged during the last war. The priest said he thought it not right that he should occupy a house while workers are forced to stay in makeshift living quarters.

Lenten Novena To Open Tuesday

Annual Lenten Novena in honor of our Blessed Mother and St. Anthony will open in St. Anthony's Church, Elmira on Tuesday, February 10.

Services will be held each Tuesday morning at 11:15 a.m. and again in the evening at 7:30 p.m. They include recitation of the Novena prayers to our Blessed Mother and St. Anthony, by members of the congregation, followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and veneration of the relic of St. Anthony.

National Jamboree 50,000 Scouts and leaders will attend the Third National Jamboree in July 1953 on Irvine Ranch in southern California.

Advertisement for Russer's Quality Sausage featuring steak, beef roasts, and bockwurst. Includes prices like 69c lb. and 43c lb. for beef roasts.

Advertisement for Edwards' Floor Coverings featuring various rug styles and prices. Includes 'Huge Savings On Fine Floor Coverings' and 'Super Quality All Wool Axminster Rugs'.

Advertisement for Hart's Food Stores featuring a 'BUY 3 AND SAVE!!!' promotion. Lists items like Campbell's Pork 'n Beans, Fancy Tuna, Ketchup, Sweet Peas, and Tomato Soup with prices.