

BOOK REVIEWS

Lenten Reading

By SISTER MARGARET TERESA

Professor of Literature, Nazareth College

THE SIGN OF JONAS, by Thomas Merton. Harcourt, Brace, 1953. \$4.50.

For Everybody

The feast-days of Lent are the days you read this sunny-hearted diary of Thomas Merton's monastic life. This is the continuation of his Seven Storey Mountain, after he stepped through the looking glass into real life with Christ. Every page exudes happiness.

His vocation is the only one of its kind, since under obedience he must not only become a good monk but must keep putting it all on paper, and write books on contemplation and on other things into the bargain. His superiors make him do this for the good of souls—Deo gratias!

Not only do we warm our hearts at the eager flames of his devotion, but we learn what we crave to learn, more and more about our Lord and His ways and His Mass. This modern Walden suits us; its background is our world, its center is our destined Love.

Clare Boothe Luce sends along a typewriter and some Mesiah records; Evelyn Waugh comes to visit and complains like an Englishman about the steam heat; Father Raymond commiserates in sign language when Father Louis (Merton) agonizes at his own work being read in refectory.

Dylan Thomas and Robert Lowell are appraised, nature and art and current events have their time—Love and Obedience rule all, and Merton's heart sings and sings because of his inner converse with God. Trivial circumstances are gay and funny, every other page has a chuckle, as he grows humbly in grace, he is experiencing

"... a strain of the earth's sweet being in the beginning In Eden garden..."

In the January Atlantic, Dom Aelred Graham probes with a specialist's sensitiveness into Merton's defects as a theologian, finding him "a young man in a hurry," unripe and discontinuous. The Sign of Jonas, with its account of the writing of each book, is a perfect apology. A more fruitful essay for most of us is George Shuster's distinguished review on page 1 of the February 5 New York Times Book Review, "Silent Searcher in a Shouting World."

In The Home A NEW WAY OF THE CROSS, contemplated by Father Raymond, Trappist, illustrated by John Andrews. Bruce, 1952. \$2.75.

The world's first Mass, presented in fourteen large (7 1/2 in.) ink-etchings of our Lord's sacred Hands and Feet—white pity against black unworthiness—each picture accompanied by the lov-

ing thoughts and prayers of the well-known Father Raymond.

CHRIST UNCONQUERED, by Arthur Little, S.J. Prentice-Hall, Illustrated. \$4.50.

Fulton Oursler said of it, "I have been in the Palestine of nearly twenty centuries ago, my mind at one with Lent and Holy Week."

For Devotees

POEMS OF SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS, the Spanish poems, and translations by Roy Campbell. Preface by Father D'Arcy, S.J. Pantheon Books, Inc. \$2.75.

Like very quiet Gregorian chant; a wave-length never clearly caught before by an English instrument; the moan of a dove in immemorial communings with the Holy Spirit.

"Then, after a long time, a tree he scaled, Opened his strong arms bravely wide apart, And clung upon that tree till death prevailed, So sorely was he wounded in his heart."

For Business People

JUST FOR TODAY, by Father James Keller. Doubleday. \$2.00. A story on each page, turned to the soul's benefit—during the day, the story recurs to mind, then the little reflection and the prayer or resolve. A practical aid.

For Sisters

THE SILENT CHRIST, by Father Bruno Hagapfel. Bruce, paper, 76c. Despite the title, it is the speaking Christ, the less well-known Christ of private revelation to His saints. Who here teaches and comforts the soul.

SUFFERING WITH CHRIST, a Dom Marmion anthology. Newman Press. \$3.75.

"He saw the bright side of every one and of every thing."

For School

HEROIC MISSIONARY ADVENTURES, by Doris Burton. Sands, 1952.

Great lives retold for young people with rich detail and inspiring conversation: Paul, Patrick, Boniface, Claver, Jogues, the hunted priest Gerard, the first Sister martyrs of China; adventures in Borneo and Japan.

Bingo Bill

Harrisburg, Pa.—(RNS)—Legislation to legalize bingo when the proceeds are used for religious purposes has been introduced in the Senate by Sen. John J. McCleesh (D-Philadelphia).

NCCS Cites Services To Armed Forces

Washington—(NC)—During the past year, National Catholic Community Service, an agency of USO, distributed through its offices here \$16,889 religious items, including rosaries, prayer-books, medals and booklets, it was announced.

In this one of the many phases of its work, NCCS acts as a Catholic link between military personnel and their home parishes, it was explained. In its goal of assisting chaplains in safeguarding the religious welfare of the military, NCCS helps to carry over to military regimentation, in some measure, the warmth and vitality of the Catholic faith that flourishes on home parish ground.

THE DEMANDS on the NCCS for religious materials is held to reflect the steadfastness of a great many young men in the practice of their religion in military life. This is also evidenced in reports on over-all religious activity of the three major faiths submitted by chaplains.

In this tremendous "Operation Soul Saving," NCCS plays its part through strategic distribution of religious materials. Twenty-five percent of the items distributed last year consisted of rosaries and medals.

Thousands of these were sent to Korea and to west coast ports of embarkation where the men are processed for overseas duty, and where the demand for religious material far exceeds the supply which can be furnished by the military commands.

PRINTED MATERIALS made up the remaining seventy-five percent of distribution. Most of these items were published by NCCS specifically for the servicemen and servicewomen.

Requests from chaplains and individuals ranged from a chaplain's plea for an immediate supply to Korea of 40,000 rosaries, medals, and pamphlets, to the letter from a wife asking for a new copy of the NCCS prayerbook, carried all through World War II by her husband and still in use in his civilian life.

Philippines Cites Priest Shortage



Lipa, Philippines—(NC)—The Catholic Philippine Republic has fewer priests in proportion to the faithful than such mission countries as India and Japan, according to the country's new Catholic Directory.

Red China Days

Missionary Nuns Diary

By SISTER PAULITA of Maryknoll

'Stop This Thing!'

We were checking in at the police station, November 16, 1950. We had been on a trip of 40 miles for ten days. It had taken a month of negotiating to get permits to make the trip; and now, on our return, we two Maryknoll Sisters were once more at the police station reporting in.

In any Communist state, travel is restricted to the vanishing point. As we left the office, the officer of the Land Reform Movement called us back.

"YOU ARE not to leave the convent," he said out of a clear blue sky. "Furthermore, all parish meetings are to be discontinued. Such services as have been permitted up until now are to stop."

"Oh, we are not in charge of the parish," I hastened to explain. "You will have to speak to Father Ching, the pastor, about the parish activities."

As we walked the three miles home, we talked it over. There had been that night, a month before, when young people returning from a night indoctrination class, had bombarded the church doors with mud, a and plastered "Down with the Church" and other slogans all over the church walls. Ever since then we had known we were in for trouble.

THE FOLLOWING—Sunday, since he had received no word from the police, Father Ching said Mass as usual. Comrade Wong was in the back—as he always was—counting heads, seeing who were good Catholics, and spying in general. But just at the last Gospel, he strode up the center aisle and stood at the altar rail.

"Stop this thing!" he shouted. The priest hesitated, then continued calmly to the end. He left the altar without the usual prayers after Mass.

Comrade Wong met Father Ching outside and demanded an explanation for not obeying. Then he turned to the people who had crowded around.

"I officially forbid your presence here," he intoned them. "Everything is to stop."

"Why?" somebody had the bravery to ask.

"During the period of Division of the Fields no public meetings may be held."

"Then it is only temporary!" they asked.

"Yes," he lied. "Only temporary."

"I will discontinue Sunday Mass during this period," Father Ching agreed. "I will need a little time to notify my people."

Everyone dispersed hastily.

DURING the next week, the catechists went to every Catholic home. We were restricted to the convent, so we could not go.

"Pray in your homes," the catechists gave the message. "Remember, in times like these you may receive the Sacraments any time you can get to church, provided you have been fasting for three hours."

Nearly a hundred people came to receive the Sacraments during the following week. And they came over to visit us. We encouraged them in their Faith, little thinking that this would be our last visit with them.

We had other visitors—local officials, students, Agrarian Movements Corps—just about everybody would drop in to ask questions for hours and hours.

"How do you like the present government?"

"Do you approve of the Division of the Fields?"

"What does your religion teach about our government?"

We tried to receive them all politely and answer what we could of their questions.

We had daily Mass, very early. Only seven of us—we two Maryknoll Sisters, the girls who helped us, and one or two others—were permitted to attend. We did not tell anyone else about the Mass.

Of the incident, Father McMonigal, now stationed at a Maryknoll mission in the Amazon jungle region of Bolivia, said:

"... I finally found a practical use for my thesis which up to then, like so many dissertations, had value only as a cure for insomnia."

American Martyrs Notre Dame, Ind.—The moving and dramatic story of the eight Jesuit martyrs, the first individuals on the American continent to be canonized as saints, has been presented for the first time in a single volume entitled The American Martyrs, written by the Rev. Dr. John A. O'Brien, a Notre Dame professor, and published by Appleton-Century-Crofts, New York.

Pope Honors Wife Of U. S. General

Ankara, Turkey—(NC)—Mrs. Elizabeth Welsh Arnold, wife of the commanding general of the American military aid mission to Turkey, has been awarded the medal, "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice," by His Holiness Pope Pius XII. Mrs. Arnold was nominated for the decoration for her charitable activities as a member of the Catholic community in Turkey by the Apostolic Delegate here, Archbishop Paolo Sarbelli. A former resident of Washington, she has been in Ankara for the past two and a half years. Her husband, Major General William H. Arnold, commanded the largest U. S. military aid mission in the world.

Father Raymond meditates on the fourteen stations

A NEW WAY OF THE CROSS

By Father Raymond, O.C.S.O.

Drawings by John Andrews

The novel Trappist author has written contemplation on fourteen, 7 x 9-inch etchings which reveal only the hands and feet of Christ in the various scenes from the Stations of the Cross. Father Raymond draws from his depths of meditation and prayer to link each scene to the Mystical Body of Christ, helping us visualize the sufferings of Christ and our share in them. \$2.75

LIFE BEGINS WITH LOVE

By E. Boyd Barrett

The author of "Shepherds in the Mist" reveals the secret of love for neighbor that transcends itself into brotherhood and union. Provides genuine insight for "loving the very next person you meet." \$2.50

LOUIS MARTIN'S DAUGHTER

By James E. Bulger

This scientific biography of the Little Flower is uniquely presented from the viewpoint of her father, bringing into sharp focus the close relationship that existed between him, Therese, and the other members of the Martin family. \$2.75

LIFE OF CHRIST

POPULAR EDITION

By Giuseppe Ricciotti

Abridged by Aloysius Craft

Only deeply scholarly and critical sources were culminated from the original classic by Abbot Ricciotti. This popular edition remains a masterful recreation of the Life and Times of Our Lord. \$2.50

THE WOMAN SHALL CONQUER

By Don Sherkey

Our Lady's complete message to the world is presented in this account of all her apparitions and manifestations of protection from 1838 to the present day, stressing the need of universal obedience. \$2.75

FORTY STEPS TO EASTER

By Msgr. Aloysius F. Coagan

Short Lenten readings which contribute step-by-step thoughts to a deeper awareness of the place of prayer and penance in reaching the joy of Easter. \$2.50

At your bookstore. THE BRUCE PUBLISHING COMPANY New York 6 ANN ARBOR 1 Chicago 7

THIS HAM is Thoroughly Cooked—

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