

GRETta PALMER

Fools For Christ

"Be Not Solicitous" says Maise Ward. Her book by this title is the finest blow struck against distrust of God in many years.



The worst weakness of Catholics in America and (according to recent reports, in Germany too) is the terror with which they face the possibility of bearing more children than their income permits them to support in luxury and ease.

IT IS A subtle and understandable temptation: the parent's love of the child is all-compassionate and is even capable of jealousy within its own ranks.

The temptation to protect his interests is strong in any mother—and mothers are never moderate. Their loves are violent and always prejudiced—as every love must be.

The cool judgment that appraises an then gives or withholds awards, belongs to liking, not to love. Love is forever passionate, and is forever boyed reason—and a mother's love is probably more mad than any other love that falls short of the utterly unreasoning love of God Himself, who loves us with no concern for our demerits.

THEY WERE fools—but they were fools for Christ. They discovered that when the rent is

due and the youngest baby is suffering for need of her formula, an unexpected check always arrives.

Yes, He does arrive in time—but not one minute before the expected time. (You're a Catholic, aren't you? You asked for this, didn't you? Well, then, stop grinning if the things you desperately need arrive late enough to give you a bit of worry, a tiny moment of the Cross.)

We are surrounded by a world which judges things in terms of arithmetic—to judge all things, even spiritual things.

FOR THE landlord is more harsh towards a child than towards a dog; the employer makes no extra payment to the father of a family of 12, as compared with the bachelor. It is not easy to be a Catholic parent in the society of the moment.

Easy? Certainly not. Exciting and adventurous? God love you, yes! The importance of the implicit "Be Not Solicitous" is this: it shows us—middle-of-the-road and mediocre Catholics—how, with a little more trust we can join the great community of saints who have given all.

Almost no book written in the past 12 years has shown us the positive and beautiful answer to Margaret Sanger and her organization—who are also, in their benighted and uneducated way, fighting for an ideal. But his book shows the logic of the Christian attitude towards marriage and large families. It shows how the Rhythm system, although acceptable in emergencies, is a shabby substitute for true Catholic generosity. It explains, as no recent book has dared try to explain, why there are Catholic mothers who greet the tenth child with joy and no lament.

Red China Days

Missionary Nuns Diary

The Secret Door

On the second of December two Chinese Sisters, going to their mission farther away, stopped at Kaying to spend the night. We made arrangements to get them off in the

visitor, Mr. Li Fout Lin, head of our village, called with a large squad of searchers. We went around with him, fearful that he would plant opium or ammunition somewhere in the house and accuse us of hoarding it. He kept up a running stream of abuse for everything American and everything Catholic. There was no pleasing him! He found a bit of dust in a corner of the attic.

"Lazy people!" he sniffed. "Then he tried in vain to find any dust at all in one of our bedrooms."

"Foolish!" he commented. "Wasting your time at housework when you could be out in the fields raising rice for China."

HE SAW a straw mat which covered the rough pine boards of our community room floor.

"What extravagance! You are wealthy landowners, grinding the faces of the poor. We will show you what you are — American dogs opposed to our glorious government."

What was the use of talking? He tackled the house girls. "How much do the foreign women pay you?"

THE GIRLS, without batting an eye, named a salary equal to that of a high school teacher. Later when I asked why they had given the wrong figure, they said, "Sister, when we are sick you give us medicine. You teach us much. You sometimes give us presents for our family. All those things we counted in."

About 200 people swarmed in and out of our tiny convent that afternoon, examining every cupboard and desk, insulting us to our faces. But we kept absolute composure. Any impatient word

would have started something even more unpleasant.

The cloistered section of the convent was the main attraction. One woman appointed herself as guide.

"IN THE PAST DAYS," she shouted to her group of curious visitors, "no one was permitted into these secret chambers of the nuns. I shall tell you why, if you come closer. There is a secret door connecting the convent with the rectory. Now," she finished triumphantly, "their immo-ral are exposed!"

Sister Marion Cordis, my companion, spoke up.

"Will you kindly tell me where this door is?" she asked innocently. "I have lived here many years and have never found it."

But the woman hurried her crowd on to other things of interest.

AT DUSK we wanted to shoot them all away and bar the doors. But Mr. Li told us, "You are under public supervision by orders of the Farmers' Association. You may not shut the door against anyone who wants to come in."

After that we did not dare to go to the church for early Mass, but Father sent word to us: "I have placed a ciborium enclosing a consecrated Host on top of the sacristy vesting case."

We knew what he meant. In no time at all, we four Sisters—two American and two Chinese—had rigged up a scaffolding at the back window. We used a table, two bamboo stools and a bed board. From this perch, we could see the Blessed Sacrament and make our daily visits.

SURELY OUR Guardian Angels bore us up, for nobody ever fell off that high perch!

NEXT WEEK: Last Glance from their Bishop.

Sea Of Glory-Witness

By SISTER MARGARET TERESA

Professor of Literature, Nazareth College

SEA OF GLORY, the Magalificent story of the Four Chaplains, by Francis Boonchansa Theobald, Franco-Hall, 1953.

WITNESS, by Whitaker Chambers, Random House, 1952. 790 pages.

Four American chaplains standing together, appealing out to their men the true meaning of life as the torpedoed Derachee slanted to its final plunge — a rabbi, two ministers, a Catholic priest, their life-jackets on young G.I.s somewhere out in the freezing black inferno — this is SEA OF GLORY.

One poor unshepherded American, hoping against hope in the God nobody taught him to know, loving his country, plunging into the icy swirl of his long, torturing witness against Communism — this is WITNESS.

THESE TWO books attest one fact, the fact Pius XI stressed in his Encyclical on Christian Education: man needs to live in a pattern of three societies, family, country, church. A family is not sufficient to itself, a country can not educate its citizens to protect their own well-being, their own country's existence, unless family and church in-form or confirm that education.

The four men of God had left a record of happiness behind them in their brief lives. George Fox, the Methodist minister, was loved by the others by one World War, though he served in it when not old enough. Alexander Goode the rabbi, Clark Polling the Baptist, and John Patrick Washington the priest, had begun their ministry in 1935-37.

The details of their simple, beautiful lives, told one after the other with a warm and penetrating integrity of view and real narrative skill, would not too easily make Hollywood material. They form a composite of every day America at its quiet best. On the doomed ship these men were able to comfort and inspire, to keep fear at bay, to help very young men meet their death as men, immortal men.

WHITAKER CHAMBERS' life touched once or twice the periphery of their happy land. He clung all his life to Jean Valjean's good Bishop of Le Miserables, a bishop out of a book, and a book mocking church organization at that; and he was reach-

ing hungrily for acceptance by the Quakers when they discovered he had written an editorial, a sophisticated "Ring," and turned him away.

His brother was less fortunate, less prepared for his University readings in the prophets of Enlightenment; so deep a disgust seized him for life as he all at once saw it to be, that he sought to destroy himself thereafter, and finally succeeded, despite the efforts of his family.

Chambers' mother never failed her children in love, but she had been conditioned against church and catechism answers (her children were to keep a free mind and choose later), and when storms came she had no outgoing to keep her little bark of family upright.

THERE IS always God, hearkening to the most lonely, so Whitaker Chambers was saved that he might help to save us. He had a fine mind, deep charity, splendid courage. He took as his writing purpose (p. 365) the justifying of the ways of God to man.

By Henry Luce's personal order he wrote Time's cover story on Pope Pius XII; several hundred copies were ordered by the Jesuits for their schools. He brought Time's book section to the number one post in readers' polls, and it became a text in English classes. He wrote the Christmas '47 story on Marian Anderson, a series of philosophical essays for Fortune, essays on the Middle Ages and the Venetian Republic for the History of Western Civilization.

He handled Time's account of Arnold Toynbee's philosophy of history: He wrote for Life an article on the Devil, presenting Reinhold Niebuhr, C. S. Lewis, and Denis de Rougemont on the positive reality of that Prince of the Underground — and actually killed for some people the myth that the devil is a myth. (It is pleasant to know that when Time had to let him resign, it was John Eckenrode (a Catholic) of the Newman Press who immediately offered Chambers an "excellent editorial job" to support his family, just as it is pleasant to remember that it was good Quaker Nixon who first believed in him and helped him in the Hiss Case.)

FELLOW TRAVELERS have still so much power that Cham-

New Hampshire Catholic Schools Save Thousands

By SISTER MARGARET TERESA

Professor of Literature, Nazareth College

PAROCHIAL schools are saving New Hampshire taxpayers \$2,000,000 a year, according to The New Hampshire Sunday News.

In an article citing the growth of parochial schools throughout the state since the first one was started in the basement of St. Ann's Church here 94 years ago, the newspaper reported that the Diocese of Manchester now trains approximately 24 per cent of all elementary students in the state and 24 per cent of the combined grammar and high school total.

A total of 82 elementary, institutional and high schools are conducted under authority of the Diocese of Manchester. It was pointed out in Manchester, the state's largest city, 58 per cent of the elementary pupils and 58 per cent of the combined elementary and high school students are in parochial schools.

bers continues to be smeared, as does Louis Budenz. But he has done a mighty work, and his book (five times as long as the feature-length version) will continue to educate us against our still threatening peril.

He is the bulldog that held on tight to the robber, though the mistaken zeal of the neighbors nearly killed him while he did it.

THE PRESIDENT of Teachers College, Columbia University, warns American school administrators ("Communism and Education," in Vital Speeches, January '53) that "Schools cannot remain neutral when it comes to the question of liberty vs. tyranny." That "Europeans run grave dangers when they underestimate the Communist threat," and when they "refuse to believe the revelations of Douglas Hyde, Whitaker Chambers and Elizabeth Bentley."

The whole world, we remember, refused to believe that the Spanish Civil War was a Red rehearsal; even Catholics, even Marxists, could not see it that way. One man did see Paul Claudel's poem refer to Miconard's The Religious Persecution in Spain, Paris, 1937. Over two hundred priests were executed in the first few days of the war — and for one reason: God is the Enemy.

Surcease From Sorrow



An Arab family at St. Joseph's Camp at Jir El Basha kneels for Fr. Tuohy's blessing. Spiritual comfort is the only support these benighted people have known for four years. Now the elements are robbing them of that. Fr. Tuohy writes, "The old wooden chapel is in extremely poor condition and must be replaced."

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Many pilgrimages will come in future generations to our FATIMA SHRINE CHAPEL in Ethiopia. Thousands will be the faithful to receive Holy Communion. A special ciborium (the vessel which contains the Hosts) will be needed. It will cost \$50. The altar stones will cost \$10. You can remember your beloved ones in no better way.

WORRYING ABOUT AN EASTER CARD OR GIFT?

Our lovely gift card with pretty hands elevating a golden chalice has a line that says "A Gift to You." It tells a priest, nun, friend or loved one that you have made an Easter Gift to the Emissaries in their honor. Inside, the card will tell them that a needy missionary will offer Mass for them at Easter, or that you have given a sacred article to a poor mission chapel out of love for them. The card will give altar bell, \$5; sanctuary lamp, \$15; chalice, \$40; tabernacle, \$25; station, \$25; altar linens, \$15; altar, \$75. We will enclose a special anniversary card from the HOLY CITY with a piece of rock from Mt. Calvary. Write for our GIFT CARD CIRCULAR describing the card. "HOW CAN I HELP?" gives details about gifts.

The wonderful GOOD SHEPHERD SISTERS at Dekouane have rescued 75 young girls from ruin and are training them for useful lives. Can you help the sisters in this noble apostolate?

ON THE SCENE We have 3,000 souls spread through 16 villages in southern Lebanon near Marjayoun. We must build a central chapel there from which the missionaries can be closer to their needs of activities. It will cost \$1,500. Grateful people and missionaries will ever keep donors in their prayers. \$1.00 to the CHAPEL-OF-THE-MONTH CLUB will do wonders.

DURING LENT our HOLY LAND FILM is very popular at parish clubs and society meetings. Beautiful scenes of the sacred shrines of our Lord's passion never filmed before or since. Rental, \$6; sale price, \$45. Write for our folder explaining it.

ALMSGIVING IS A TRADITIONAL LENTEN PRACTICE. Have you thought of a FOOD PACKAGE (810) for a refugee family. For the same amount you can support a refugee orphan in the Holy Land for a month. Give to OBERMAN'S BREAD.

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