

Church Records On Microfilm

New Orleans—(NC)—All statistical records of all parishes in the Archdiocese of New Orleans will be microfilmed, beginning in the next few months. These include records of baptisms, confirmations, marriages and deaths from the foundation of the parishes to date.


JOIN YOUR ROCHESTER FRIENDS ON THE Marian Year Pilgrimage

Under the sponsorship of The Most Rev. James E. Keenan, D.D., Bishop of Rochester, Episcopate of the United States, the Marian Year Pilgrimage is being organized for the year 1964. The pilgrimage will be a four-week Marian Year Pilgrimage in four languages—English, Afrikaans, Zulu and Sesuto.

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Italian Hierarchy Urges Private, Public Reforms

Rome—(NC)—The Italian Episcopal Conference has issued a Marian Year appeal to the entire country calling for an active and effective Catholic unity, a return to true charity, and accomplishment of real reforms in private and public life.

The appeal was made in a letter issued by 19-Bishop chairman of regional episcopal conferences of Italy. It was the first time such a letter was ever issued by the body. "None of the 19 signers are Italian Cardinals. They are all Bishops," the letter says. "The higher men go in responsibility, the more should they keep their hearts detached from preferment, glory and gain for their own persons."

They declare their own concern over the influx to the cities, which they say is prompted in part by urban attractions of an easier life but surely also by the very difficult living and low earnings in farm work. This can be seen to be especially true by the contrast of farm workers' pay and consumers' high prices, with a few middle men taking high profits.

Particular mention is made of unusually depressed areas where laws are violated and the simple people badly exploited. Another evil singled out in the letter is Protestant propaganda, "ordinarily of foreign origin" which spreads errors, threatens the spiritual unity of the Italian people and tries to take the simple people away from centuries-old traditions in the bosom of the Catholic Church.

All this, says the letter, is to the advantage "not of religious practice, which rather falls into ruin, but of alibiatic communism, whose exponents and press do not conceal their sympathy and help from such disintegrating Protestant propaganda."

Asian Peoples No 'Package Deal' For Communism

Los Angeles—(NC)—Father Timothy Connelly, Columban Superior General just returned from a 15-month tour of Asia, emphatically disputed the pessimistic idea that the people of Asia stack up as a "package deal" for communism.

The leader of 600 Columban missionaries asserted that Asians do not regard communism as the wave of the future. "But they are watching to see what the West will do for Asia," he said.

STOPPING HERE en route to Chile and Peru, Father Connelly has completed a tour of Asia from the backwoods of Burma to the seared Korean countryside, with visits in between to Hong Kong, Formosa, Japan, the Philippines, Australia, New Zealand and the Fiji.

There are national differences in Asia as great as those in Europe, he said. "To talk of communism having a special appeal to Asia's people is as logical as holding that Ireland will go communist because Russia did."

EXCEPT BY pressure from without, the Columban Superior said, there is no strong basis for presuming that Asia has a special predisposition for going Red. Reporting of mission work in Asia, the Columban Superior said he wanted to stress one point: "The American GI has been a tremendous help to the missions. The GI has been a real confessor of the faith. He has given the example of going to Mass and the Sacraments and openly acknowledging his faith. The impact on the people has been tremendous."

British Court Cracks Down On Publishers

London—(RNS)—Two publishers were sentenced here to six months in prison on charges of publishing obscene literature, and the three publishing houses they direct were fined 2,000 pounds (\$3,500) each.

Sir Gerald Dudson, the judge who meted out the sentence, described the books in the case as "debasement of the mind" and "a veritable cesspool of depravity."

He complimented the jury for having "avoided the temptation of agreeing to the statement that an obscene publication is to be judged in the light of modern standards."

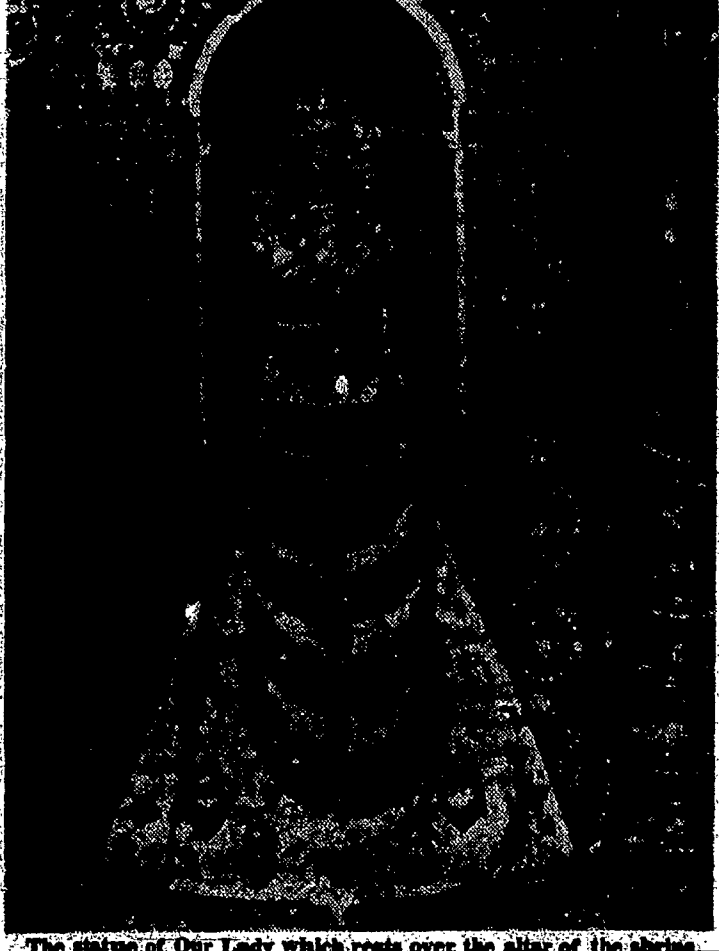
THOSE SENTENCED to prison were Reginald Herbert Carter, 34, and Julius Reiter, 46. The companies fined were the Arc Press, the New Fiction Press and the Gaywood Press.

The books involved all were written by Stephen Francis under the pen-name "Frank Jesson." Police reported that he is in Spain and cannot be extradited. Meanwhile, police have been taking increasing action against firms selling obscene books and convictions against such book-sellers have been mounting.

Mary's Shrine

LORETO

By REV. HENRY ATWELL
(This series of articles describes the great Marian Shrines of Europe. A thousand pilgrims are now being organized by Father Joseph Cirincione to visit these famous shrines next April and May.)



The statue of Our Lady which rests over the altar of the shrine. In the Blessed Virgin in the Holy House of Loreto. Many visitors have reported at the shrine which is part of the huge basilica built at Loreto, some 18 miles from the Italian Adriatic port of Ancona. (RNS Photo).

On a steep hillside near the Adriatic Sea, is the little Italian town named Loreto. The towering hills surround it as a fortress but jutting high above them all is a huge, magnificent basilica. Its dome crowns the hilltop and can be seen for miles around. As you climb the hill and come to the beautiful church, you read this inscription:

AS THE MEDIEVAL pilgrims walked the long, winding road up the hillside, they chanted their salute to Mary—a Litany of her titles: Mother of God, Mother of our Savior, Virgin, Most pure, Health of the Sick, Help of Christians, Queen of Angels, Queen of all saints—this after title, and the refrain, "pray for us," and that is where the familiar Litany of the Blessed Virgin had its origin and why it is sometimes still called the Litany of Loreto.

The little cottage is still at Loreto. Within its old and dark walls, countless votive lamps flicker in the mellow light. An altar stands at one end, and over it a statue of our Lady. In 1797, French Revolutionaries stole the statue and exhibited it as a superstitious curiosity in Paris, but Napoleon restored it to the Pope. In 1921, it was accidentally knocked from its pedestal and broken beyond repair. A new statue, a copy of the old one, was carved from a tree which grew in the Vatican gardens and it stands above the altar today as a reminder that this was the home of Jesus and Mary.

As we think over this strange story of that Holy House, we cannot but think of another House—one very near to us—the House where Jesus still lives among us—His Church—your parish church.

Eighth In Family Of Eight Now In Religious Life

Terre Haute, Ind.—(NC)—The Dede family of St. Patrick's parish here can lay claim to some sort of record. When their youngest daughter, Kathleen, entered the novitiate of the Sisters of Providence at St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind., she became the eighth of eight children to enter the religious life.

Kathleen joins three of her sisters in the Providence community—Sisters Ann, Mary Mark and Anita. The family is Sister Mary Helene of the Sisters of St. Benedict, Ferdinand, Ind.

OF THE three sons in the family, two are priests and one is a seminarian. Father John F. Dede, S.S., is a professor at St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, and Father James R. Dede is assistant pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Indianapolis. The youngest boy, Paul, is now a student at St. Meinrad (Ind.) Minor Seminary.

Clean Movies
Washington—(NC)—A report of the Vatican City newspaper's warning that parts of the film industry are "exalting vice" has been included in the Congressional Record at the request of Senator Edwin Johnson of Colorado.

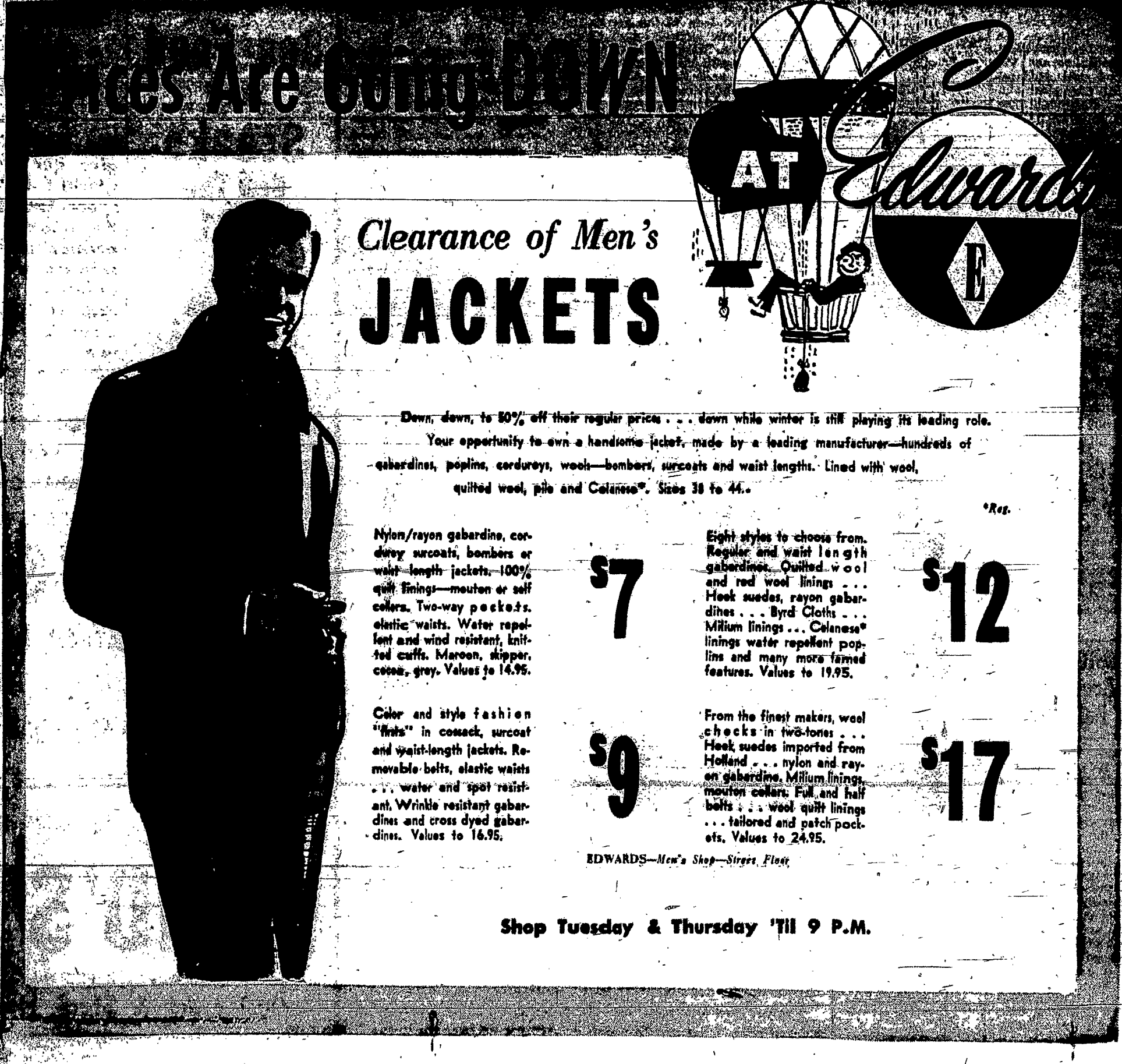
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