

GOD LOVE YOU!

By MOST REV. FULTON J. SHEEN

EVERY Sunday of the year we read Mass for all our missions... The Cross demands the Crown; then shall not China, and those who...

It is odd, but it is true, that the only lovers of the Missions are the lovers of the Cross; no one will deny himself a luxury or make a sacrifice for the Missions, who has not lived close to the Cross and the Consolation of the Mass.

GOD LOVE YOU to J. W. G. for \$8. "Recently I bought a store and purchased a public gun machine and every penny that goes in the machine I will send to the Missions..."

IN THIS so-called enlightened age when we have glorified social service, when we have made a god of education, it is significant that we also have a strong group of men motivated only by their supreme responsibility to worship God.

When Our Divine Lord was asked the question, "What must I do to possess eternal life?" and on another occasion, "What is the first and greatest commandment?" He gave the same answer: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with thy whole heart, and with thy whole soul and with thy whole mind. This is the first and greatest commandment."

There are five million people, of all sizes shapes and ages, who read MISSION—a magazine which we edit and publish six times a year. It is a little magazine but good things come in small packages, and MISSION is filled with good things.

Cut out this column, pin your sacrifice to it and send it to the Most Reverend Fulton J. Sheen, National Director of The Society for the Propagation of the Faith, 100 East 58th Street, New York 10, New York or your Diocesan Director Very Rev. Msgr. Joseph S. Randall, 54 Chestnut Street, Rochester, New York.

Bishop Acclaims Record Turnout Of Adoration Men

(Text of Bishop Kearney's address at Communion Breakfast of the Nocturnal Adoration Society, April 4, 1954)

Among the many promises that Our Divine Lord made from time to time when He was on this earth, there is one that comes to my mind because of its relation to the occasion. He said: "Wherever two or three shall be gathered in My Name, I shall be there in the midst of them."

Because this is true, we can grasp some meaning and some significance out of the tremendous spiritual power that must be generated in the various centers where the Nocturnal Adoration Society is active.

We can well imagine what must be the satisfaction to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the consciousness that the largest gathering of men in the history of the diocese at a communion breakfast is made up not of men who band together to promote a social program, who gather to promote the spiritual and material welfare of their church. It is not a great gathering to further the cause of education. This large assemblage is made up of men who gather together for one purpose, and that is to adore God.

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In our age which is giving so much of its activity to social relationship, an age which seeks every opportunity to minimize the importance of the Divine Faith, to reduce the content of Divine revelation, to eliminate the differentiation between the various religions, it is highly important that we preserve the teachings of the God of our fathers, the God of divine revelation, the God-man Jesus whose sufferings and death we commemorate next week.

It is therefore gratifying and encouraging to talk to the members of the Nocturnal Adoration Society who have no motive for gathering together other than the love of God, no other program than prayer, no other ambition than to please the Sacred Heart of Jesus by making atonement for the sins of the world and by playing their part in furthering the work of the Redemption.

It is a distinctly consoling thing to your Bishop to realize that the largest gathering at a communion breakfast in the history of the diocese is made up of men who still consider that the most important thing in life is the service of their God and adoration of Him.

We have seen that fact, I suppose, dramatized graphically here with the opening of a Trappist monastery in our diocese. It is hard for some people to understand why a group of men, some of them professional men, some just out of military and naval service,

some out of other religious organizations, should band together in the solitude of the Grotto in this part of our diocese, for no purpose, for no motive, other than the motive of prayer.

MANY WOULD say that their time is wasted. Many would say that it is similar to the incident when Judas complained about the tribute paid to the Lord; "Wherefore is this waste?" There is a man praying at Our Lady of the Grotto, Abbey 24 hours a day who formerly taught science for twenty-five years at Loyola University, a man who practiced law in New Jersey for eight years before going to Pittard.

These are examples of talent this world would say was wasted, but these talents and their power is tremendous because these men are giving all their knowledge and all their experience to the supreme responsibility of man and that is the worship of God. In your own way, you take your place with them.

Many would say "What is the use of rising at ungodly hours and praying alone to church?" Many would say to you "Why not wait and go during the day?" Some would say, "Why could not this large group of men be devoted to building schools and erecting churches or raising funds?" And yet we know that all these things would be insignificant in themselves and that all these other activities of the Church of God could never be carried on or never be successful were they not backed up by the power of prayer and by the power of intercession.

SOMEONE WOULD say, "What is there to night or what is there to the stillness of night which seems to make this program more effective?" Well, we might review the stories of the life of Christ. We find the darkness of night seemed to challenge Him as if it was the time for the effectiveness of His work. It was in the stillness of night that He was born in Bethlehem. It was in the silence of night that He knelt at His hour of prayer in the agony of the garden at Gethsemani. And even the supreme moment of sacrifice came, although it was taking place in the high light of afternoon, in darkness. For His Eternal Father hid the sun, and so it was in the stillness of darkness that He breathed forth His soul to His Father.

He Himself set the tradition to make the night the sanctuary and it may be that inasmuch as men have so often chosen the darkness of night for their heinous crimes, so God has chosen the stillness and sanctity of night because of His own sacrifice as the proper setting for those who furnish the antidote for the sins of the world.

Very properly, then, during this Marian Year, we gather in the presence of the representation of our Blessed Lady. Our Holy Father, in announcing this Marian Year, pointed out that the supreme grace of a holy year for any individual is the consciousness that he is trying to mold his life after the fashion of the life of the Immaculate Mother of God. He pointed out that the women in the world, mothers, are glad to be told that their children look like them. He said that mothers like to be told that the features of their children resemble their own.

The Holy Father continues the comparison where he says the Mother of God is the mother of

every one of us and that nothing is going to make the Marian Year mean more to her and to make the Marian Year happier for her than to see us grow more and more like herself.

Her contribution to the redemption of the world was made at the Annunciation when she said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord. Be it done to me according to thy word." She placed herself at the service of God, to do whatever He asked of her in order to effect the redemption of mankind.

GENTLEMEN OF the Nocturnal Adoration Society, I compliment you on living a spiritual life which is so like hers because each time you go into the church to carry out your hour of adoration; to offer your prayers for the sanctification of your home, of your family, of the diocese; each time you try to make up for the sins of mankind, you are doing exactly the same thing she did, so far as it lies in your power.

You are placing your meditations, your prayers at the disposal of God, in the hope that they may contribute to the salvation of the world. That was her contribution and to that extent your life carries out the very wish that the Holy Father expressed—that our Blessed Lady will find you very much like her own Son and will be happier for it.

That is your contribution to the Marian Year. It is an outstanding contribution, one which brings to you and those near and dear to you, to your diocese, and with God's help, to the world, the blessings of the Eternal God.

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KCLadies To See Holy Land Views

Danville—The Ladies Auxiliary, Knights of Columbus of Danville are awaiting with pleasure a timely showing by Robert J. Vierhille of Naples of his pictures of the Holy Land; The Near East and Holy Sites in Europe, which will be held Monday evening of Holy Week, April 12, at K. of C. Hall.

Vierhille's showing, taken during his two-year sojourn in the Middle East and while stationed at Shiraz, Iran, with the U. S. Mutual Security Agency, Foreign Operations Administration, will bring to the Auxiliary a present-day look at the birthplaces of Christianity.

Presented in color will be Bethlehem, Jerusalem, the Way of the Cross, the Holy Sepulchre, Church of the Nativity, Garden of Gethsemane, Mount of Olives and other Holy Sites.

Pictures taken on a tour in the Holy Year 1950 will highlight the religious places in Europe, including Lourdes, the home of Bernadette; the Catacombs and important churches in Rome. A short series on Iran and the Persian people will also be presented.

A seven-course supper at 7 o'clock will precede the showing and meeting. Co-chairmen of the seven are Mrs. Joseph Amico and Mrs. Clyde Smith.

Good Friday evening services and Stations of the Cross at 7:30 o'clock April 16 will be corporately attended by the Auxiliary at St. Patrick's Church.

Who Sent \$4 No Address?

An envelope, 4 1/2 x 5 1/2 inches containing four brand new \$1.00 bills and ordering a year's subscription to the Catholic-Courier Journal was received during the annual subscription campaign by Elmer G. Grapensteter, circulation manager.

Writing with a colored ink, the person sending in the money neglected to give name or address. The letter was postmarked Feb. 24, 1954. Whoever sent this money in cannot receive the paper until Mr. Grapensteter, 35 Seol St., Rochester, 4, N.Y. gets the address. Letter bore a Rochester postmark.

Cards Set April 23 By St. Fechan Group

St. Fechan's parishioners will hold a card party, Friday, April 23, in the church hall, Chestnut Ridge Road, at 8 p.m.

Mrs. Harry Pike, chairman, asks: tickets, Mrs. Harry Robinson named the following committee and Mrs. Charles Mannix; prizes, Mrs. George Wiant and Mrs. Victor Jensen; refreshments, Mrs. Norman Peters and decorations, Mrs. Charles McCall.

It's a good idea to remember that a big bankroll won't count when the roll is called up yonder.

COURIER-JOURNAL
Friday
April 9, 1954

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