

### The Church in Chains

After every Low Mass, priest and people ask God "for the freedom and exaltation of holy Mother Church." We have said it so often that we hardly ever realize the frightening urgency of such a prayer. The following record of systematic persecution cannot begin to express the bitter suffering our fellow Catholics are enduring at this very moment.

**Albania** — a reign of terror since 1944 has obliterated the hierarchy. Only one bishop remains alive and he is past 78 years of age and in poor health. There are but 12 priests (perhaps less by now) in the whole country who minister to the people at the risk of their lives.

**Bulgaria** — a complete liquidation of the Church's leadership leaves not a single Bishop to rule the Church and only one priest for every 5,000 Catholics. Since 1948, Catholic schools are closed, and all institutions such as hospitals, orphanages, convents have been confiscated.

**China** — The native clergy are wiped out by execution or imprisonment, and the missionaries from other lands have been deported or arrested.

**Czechoslovakia** — schools are nationalized, church lands confiscated, Catholic publications suppressed, pilgrimages forbidden, collections outlawed, and over 9,000 priests and nuns are in prison for "treason."

**East Germany** — Catholic education, organizations and press are all restricted and a tragic shortage of priests makes it impossible to care for over 2,000,000 Catholics, who have been forced into East Germany as refugees and displaced persons.

**Hungary** — seven years of harsh suppression has weakened the Church but an unexplainable policy of leniency has recently permitted a partial recovery.

**North Korea** — The Catholic Church no longer exists here.

**Poland** — an overwhelming majority of Polish people are Catholic, so persecution has had to be camouflaged and careful. Obnoxious restrictions and interference from the government impedes the Church's work. Over 2,500 priests are in concentration camps, but churches are filled and vocations increasing.

**Romania** — no Bishops survive. They have been outright murdered or executed after a fixed trial. No Catholic schools nor press. Few priests are yet free to minister to the faithful.

**Russia** — There are occasional reports of heroic Catholic groups who have preserved the faith despite thirty-five years of total persecution. They are obviously most secret and have the consolation of Mass and Sacraments only on rarest occasions.

**Yugoslavia** — churches are taxed to death, schools closed, church publications censored, bishops and priests violently attacked by government inspired mobs.

### Geneseo Centennial

Picturesque and historic Geneseo will celebrate a century of grace at a Pontifical Mass Sunday, August 15th. St. Mary's parish will reflect on the struggles and achievements of the past one hundred years and dedicate themselves to a work of perseverance and expansion in the years to come.

In the long history of the universal Church, a mere century may seem to be insignificant; and the accomplishments of a village nestled in the hills may pass as quite inconsequential. The true history of the Church, however, is not written in terms of this world's values. The salvation of but one single soul can be an epic and merits the attention of God Himself.

It is in this spirit that all the Diocese recognizes the deep significance of Geneseo's centennial celebration and demands our congratulations for pastor and parishioners.

### Sunday Sermon

**HUMILITY**  
This Sunday, the Church returns to true "good news" in her Gospel message. It is the never-to-be-forgotten passage of the Pharisee and the publican. Both poor sinners who are ready to do penance, but the Pharisee's arrogance blinds him to his own sin. At the same time, the arrogant man receives the warning that his hypocrisy is obvious and God rejects him.

WE COULD somewhat modernize the parable and talk about two men—one a devout Christian and the other a typical average pagan. We find they have many characteristics in common. Both are honest, truthful, honorable, generous, goodhearted. It even happens that some of these modern "non-church" people are actually better in some respects than their Mass-going Catholic neighbors.

There is one way, however, where they are sure to differ. The unbeliever cannot understand humility. To him it appears silly, artificial, false, unmanly. Here is the unmistakable sign which enables us to recognize a child of God from a slave of Satan. The Kingdom of hell knows only arrogance; the Kingdom of God is founded on humility.

WE NEED only to look at the founders of each kingdom to understand that this is the basic test of loyalty. Lucifer in his pride shouted, "I will not serve!" Christ invited us, "Learn of Me for I am meek and humble of heart." The world of sin knows nothing of obedience or rever-

ence for God; the child of God, on the other hand, shapes his life according to God's will.

IT IS certainly pitifully true that even the child of God will sin—even as the pagan unbeliever will sin. But the difference is this: the child of God immediately repents, as the publican in the Gospel story, he admits his failure, and is anxious to make up for it. The worldly, like the Pharisee, persists in his pride and ignores his sin, lets it sour his soul while he flaunts the few crumbs of goodness in him for all to see.

Most of us hope we can classify ourselves as repentant publicans, but there is usually a bit of the Pharisee lurking in our lives. This Sunday is an invitation to be honest with ourselves, to face up to the reality that we aren't quite so perfect as we ought to be, and take courage to start over once more because we know that God is with us to help us.

### Different Man

A man was introduced to a circus sword-swallower. Not having seen a sword-swallower before, he asked him to demonstrate his art, whereupon the latter apparently swallowed some needles and pins.

"But," protested the man, "those aren't swords—they're pins and needles."  
"I know," was the reply, "I'm on a diet."

### Assumption Feast Aug. 15

## Mary's Assumption Recounts God's Plan For Eternal Happiness Of All Men

BY REV. HENRY ATWELL

Of all the Feasts on which we honor Mary, there is none more ancient than the one we celebrate on Sunday, her glorious Assumption. A hundred years before Charlemagne knelt in St. Peter's to be crowned as Christian Emperor, the bells of the churches of Rome had rung out to proclaim Mary as Queen assumed into heaven. Earthly kings and empires would come and go, strong and decline, but the Church has never had occasion to doubt that Mary's reign was year by year more powerful.

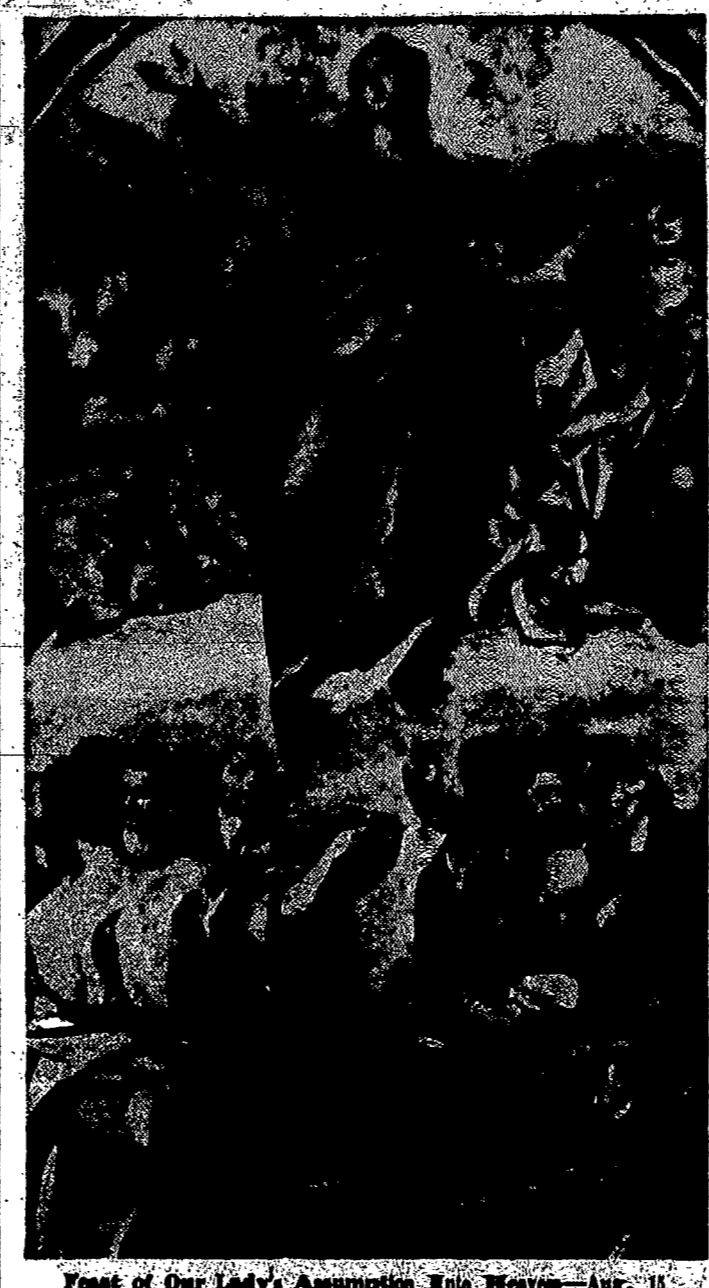
**CHRISTIAN ART** of the early ages had been very careful not to draw what only angels had seen. When Jesus took His Blessed Mother both body and soul into heaven, there were no witnesses as at His Resurrection. There was no earthquake, no self-contradictory miracle, no terror from her tomb, and for centuries she made no apparition that is recorded for us. So the early Christian artists were content to draw pictures of Mary "falling asleep," as they then called death. Or they pictured her as Queen enthroned in glory.

Now, however, a picture of her Assumption. In the secret counsels of the Trinity, this may well have been the divine plan to await the day of honoring her the more in our own century to compensate for the contempt and insults poured out against her Son and His Church.

**THE DEFINITION** of the dogma of the Assumption by our present Holy Father adds more significant jewel to the crown she so rightly wears as Queen. This year dedicated to her has called the world's attention to the Virgin whom even Archangels reverence in humility.

**THIS HOLY QUEEN** has been most gracious to accept this homage and proved her pleasure by the striking visits she has made to our world in the past century—that at Paris to reveal the "Miraculous Medal" that at Knock and LaSalette, at Lourdes, Fatima, and at so many other shrines showing her presence through answered prayers.

Nor is there any reticence on the part of artists. Palestrina composed a gem of music for the Mass of the Assumption, creating in sound what El Greco gave



Feast of Our Lady's Assumption Into Heaven—Aug. 15

us in color—a supremely confident declaration of faith and joy in the glory of God and a trust in His sacred promises.

The feast of the Assumption is meant to be not just a looking-back to something that happened long ago. It is a promise of what will be. What God has done to Mary, He intends to do for us. He has made us to be creatures with an immortal soul and a noble body. A soul radiant with grace is like a diamond—it is more beautiful if given a splen-

did setting. And God has housed our soul in a body that is meant to contain and shine that soul not just for the few sad years of this earthly exile but for the endless years of joy in heaven.

It is the supreme glory of Mary that she retained her soul "full of grace" and never permitted her body to rebel against the will of God. She owed no debt and so no penalty was exacted. Mary was taken body and soul to heaven precisely because that is what God wants to do for each of us but has thus far found only Mary to deserve it.

That is why the feast of August 15th is so important, why we have to go to Mass even if it falls on a week day. It is not just a recollection of an episode in some Saint's life—it is the proof and the promise of our own immortal destiny and the secure foundation of any hope we have to attain it.

### Church Symbols

## IHS

The Greek word for Jesus is **IHSOUS**. What looks like our **IHS** is really an **epsilon** in Greek. The abbreviation **IHS** represents the Holy Name of our Savior.

There is also the story of Constantine who was wondering whether or not he should become a Christian. An Emperor of Rome, his example one way or the other would have tremendous consequences. On the eve of a critical battle, he saw a cross in the heavens and a banner with the Latin words **In Hoc Signo Vinces**—In this sign you shall conquer. He replaced the imperial eagle on the Roman standards with the sign of the cross and achieved a decisive victory.

Subsequently, many crosses were decorated with the initial letters **IHS**, as a reminder of God's help and power.

These three letters have also been taken as standing for Jesus **Hominum Salvator**—Jesus Savior of Men.

No one knows for sure which of these is the original form of the symbol, but they all refer to Jesus, our Savior, who achieved His victory through the cross.

### You Can Win Converts

Mr. Goff's Discovery

By Rev. John A. O'Brien, Ph.D. (The University of Notre Dame)

"When we get to the airport at Charleston," said Bishop Thomas J. McDonnell, "I'll have you meet a man who is doing a marvelous job in making the Catholic faith a little better known and in winning converts. He is outstanding in the whole state of West Virginia. If our diocese had a thousand like him we would double our annual total of converts."

The Bishop and I had been traveling for a week through West Virginia, addressing the priests in each deanery on the diocesan-wide crusade for souls, about to be launched. Out of a total population of 2,600,000, Catholics number but 97,504.

The only gift Bishop Swint wanted on the Golden Jubilee of his ordination was a spiritual bouquet consisting of the largest possible number of souls won for Christ. Hence the crusade for souls, modeled along the lines of the famous San Diego crusade, was being organized in every parish.

**ARRIVING** at the airport, Bishop McDonnell led me to the Dr. U. Self office and said, "Meet Mr. Cedl Goff, a convert who keeps the rack here full of Catholic pamphlets, magazines, and weekly newspapers, which travelers are free to take."

I asked Mr. Goff to tell me how he found his way into the Church and how he was now managing to lead others into the fold.

"For twenty-five years," said Cedl, "I operated a service station which catered to the neighborhood. Among my customers was a Presbyterian minister. He was genial and pleasant, and had spent several years as a missionary in China."

"After servicing his car one day, I asked, 'What are you going to do today, Reverend?' 'Believe it or not,' he smiled, 'I'm going to see a Catholic priest. The Catholic Church was founded by Christ, and we Protestants have gotten the Bible and many of our teachings from the Mother Church of Christendom. That Church has unity, sanctity, Catholicity and apostolicity, and it is the only one that has those four marks.'

"DURING MY missionary work in China, I felt keenly the need for that unity. I had the uneasy feeling that when I left, my successor would probably be teaching quite different doctrines, and my people would be more confused than ever."

"That conversation stuck with me. Later on, when Father Cuthbert O. F. M. Cap, drove into my station for gas, I got well acquainted with him. He too was pleasant and friendly. I told him that I would like to know more about the Catholic religion. He invited me to come to the rectory for instructions and was very patient, answered all my questions, and three months later baptized me at St. Anthony's Church. It was one of the happiest days of my life when I made my First Holy Communion the next morning."

"I felt that my discovery was too good to keep to myself. So I began telling others about it. I would bring a copy of Our Sunday Visitor back with me from the seven o'clock Mass and leave it on the desk at the station. People began to read it and found it interesting and enlightening."

"I FOUND the Sunday Visitor and the Catholic Digest excellent as Christmas presents. I send twenty-five subscriptions to each of these to friends and they are doing a world of good in removing misconceptions and in leading converts into the fold."

"In 1946 I went into the car rental business. At my downtown office and at my airport office I set up several large pamphlet racks and I keep them full of Catholic literature—pamphlets, books and magazines."

"A man wrote me from Pittsburgh that he had picked up a copy of 'The Faith of Millions' from my airport rack and it led him to embrace the Catholic faith. Another man from Buffalo wrote me that he took the pamphlet 'Finding Christ's Church' from my rack and that it led him and his wife to enter the Church. He said the charts in that pamphlet would convince any honest reader of the truth of the Catholic religion."

"THAT'S WHY I chose this pamphlet to spearhead our diocesan-wide crusade for souls. We'll put a copy in 200,000 churchless homes where it will sow the seed of many conversions."

"That's typical," I remarked, "of a big-hearted Bishop who works fourteen hours a day to enlarge the Church's beachhead in West Virginia. Good Bless you, Mr. Goff, and may your tribe increase!"

## QUIZ

### On Catholic Faith

Address your Questions on Catholic faith to Quiz c/o Courier-Journal, 35 Solo St., Rochester 4, N. Y.

A recent Courier article said the Pope had forbidden people to donate their eyes to others. What about the "Eye Bank" program?—J. B. Holley.

The Vatican newspaper simply repeated the traditional teaching of the Church that a person may not mutilate himself while still alive, even if for the purpose of helping another. If a person wishes to donate an eye or even his whole body, for medical use after death, such a practice is certainly to be praised.

If we cannot mutilate ourselves, then how can we donate blood to the Red Cross "Blood Bank"?—C. L. Rochester.

Giving a pint of blood does not mutilate a person, because nature quickly restores the depleted supply. Our Lord said that a "cup of cold water" given to relieve another would be richly rewarded. How much greater must be the reward for those who give their very blood that others may live!

Is it a sin to hold back information when signing up for an insurance policy?—E. H. Elmira.

The Insurance Company has a right to know all circumstances which affect the contract. If a person holds back important facts that would make the company refuse to write the policy if it knew them, then the contract is void and the person has no right to any benefits. If, however, minor details are kept secret but the company would charge a higher premium if it knew them, then the policyholder may accept payment from the company but must make up to the company for the amount cheated from it.

May a fallen away Catholic be god-father at a Baptism?—E. Rochester.

No. Church law requires that the sponsor be practicing Catholic at least 14 years of age. If parents attempt to have such a fallen-away as sponsor and conceal that fact from the priest, they can be guilty of a sin against the Sacrament. Many dioceses also require a testimonial letter in cases where the sponsors are not already known there.

### BOOK REVIEWS

## Furrow Of The Cross

By SISTER MARGARET TERESA

(Professor of Literature, Nazareth College, Rochester, N. Y.)

IN THE FURROW OF THE CROSS: Mother Maria, Spanish Republic, 1879-1942. by M. F. Egan, S.J. Gill & Son, Dublin. 1950. 97 pp.

AN ELIZABETHAN RECUSANT HOUSE. Ed. by A. Southern. Sands, 1954.

IN THE WET. By Nevill Shute, Morrow, 1953.

The small paper-bound volume about Mother Maria is a primer of courage. The young nun, daughter of a Spanish colonel, who could endure surgery and bone-scraping without anaesthesia and without the contraction of a facial muscle, is called upon in later years to shepherd her nuns and many other souls through the darkness of Spain's civil war. The designation always and rightly borne by her persecutors is "Reds."

The prettifying Catholic appeasers who know so much better, they think, than Pius XI, do not want that word "Red" to be featured in Spain's story—but it would "the multitudinous seas incarnadine" it just won't wash out. "Viva Russia!" painted on captured buildings, Russian lines and Russians in the Czechs who could speak but a few words in Spanish and those in a marked Slav accent—these our appeasers never mention, while they busily insist that the stories about slaughtered priests and slaughtered nuns are exaggerated.

THESE ARE WELL authenticated lists; but some like to stand in well with their prejudiced neighbors—they are the same ones who spend their money toward rides blackening McCarthy. One is supposed to admire, too, the moderate moderation of America and the Commonwealth on these topics. Thank goodness there is a really well read Mr. Scanlan editing the Brooklyn Tablet. (Excuse me—hot-weather temper!)

To get important things: This is not Mother Maria's story alone; it is a new story of the love of the Sacred Heart, reaching mankind through a woman of courage.

If you liked *Autobiography of a Hunted Priest*, you may also like the plainer side of the medal—the quiet inscription of an unpersecuted Catholic life in England of 1600.

An Elizabethan Recusant House presents a lady so high in state and fortune and so loved as to be safe when almost no Catholic was; the Lady Magdalen Viscountess Montague, whose London house was "little Rome," whose household of eighty was at the service of harassed priests and Catholics no matter how many, who so successfully braved the fanatic and the envious that even in James's reign the

THE FOURTH is called the family vote. If a man raises two children to the age of fourteen without a divorce, he can cast an extra vote and so can his wife. Then comes the achievement vote, a fifth vote for a man whose personal exertion income earned income, tops a set figure—the idea being that a man with gumption and intelligence ought to have more say in the affairs of his country than his newest tycoon.

Vote six is for doing a real job for the church or religion, such a work as the priest or vicar or minister performs.

There are but few seven-vote men in Mr. Shute's vision, for the seventh vote is the Queen's grant. She can give a man an extra vote if she thinks he deserves it.

In the Wet is peculiarly the Queen's story—the great decision of Elizabeth II in the 1580's, when Labor's ominousness has become hard to endure and life in the Dominions promises a more human existence.

Shute's method of telling his story—within-a-story and of lifting the curtain of the future is worthy of an accomplished novelist, is clever as Werfel's in *Heart of the Storm*.

2,000 Years and No Change  
Love-making hasn't changed in 2,000 years. Greek maidens used to sit and listen to a lyre all evening too.

### JOSEPH BREIG The One And Only

There is much talk about Christian unity. Periodically, delegates from many nations, in a general assembly, get together to discuss it and to grope for it.

The strange thing is this: it is almost impossible not to see Christ in a Church, wherein there is always true Christian unity, and outside which that unity is forever a hopeless dream.

Nothing else on earth is so visible as the Church. She is everywhere. She is obvious. She is what Christ called her—a city seated on a mountain.

Why, her very enemies will point her out. She is under the constant and ferocious attack of athletes and secularists and tyrants and others who have reason to hate her.

SHE IS UNIQUE, too. Nobody mistakes the Catholic Church for anything else. Everybody knows that she stands alone.

She is like her Founder. Thousands of men were crucified back in the age of crucifixions. But when anybody mentions crucifixion, everybody thinks of Christ.

Christ is unique. His Church is unique.

day, and ascended into heaven, promising — and keeping His promise — to send God the Holy Spirit to guide, protect and sanctify His Church to the end.

Nobody but Christ even knew there was any such Person as God the Holy Spirit. Christ alone knew that God was a Trinity of Three Persons in One Nature.

No; Christ can't be compared with anybody. Maybe you don't believe in Him, but you can't, not reasonably and safely, deny that He is unique.

His Church is equally unique, simply because it is His. People don't even try to lump the Catholic Church with others. They see its uniqueness. Either they try to ignore it, or they attack it, or they embrace it. But they know there's nothing like it.

AS I SAID, it is very easy to see the Church. It is nearly impossible not to see her, and not to recognize in her something the like of which does not exist.

Embracing her, though is something else. Embracing the Church is often extremely difficult. There are so many reasons for not embracing her.

For one thing, you're afraid of her. You're afraid of her uncompromising challenge. She's like Christ; she insists that you ought to be a saint. And that means giving up some things you want to do. What you don't realize, from outside, is that the Church has the means to help you become a saint. She has the Sacraments. She has the Mass. And so on.

YOU'RE AFRAID of the Church, but you shouldn't be. She looks to you like a menacing and demanding institution. What she really is, is the sweetest of mothers.

There are all kinds of other things that tend to turn you away. Pride; you don't want to admit you could have been wrong. Ambition; being a Catholic might cost you promotions and social position. Mistaken loyalty; you don't want to let down your ancestors, your friends, your associates. Misunderstandings; you im a genuine Catholic, but the Church teaches, and is, all kinds of weird things which she isn't, and doesn't teach. And so on and on.

But the fact remains that there is only one true Christian unity—the unity of one flock under one shepherd, the unity for which Christ prayed, the unity He mentioned when He commanded Peter, His first vicar, to feed His lambs and feed His sheep.

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