

Gesu, Gesu!

The world of diplomacy and the Church of Christ have each lost a distinguished citizen in the death of Alcide De Gasperi, former Premier of Italy. It is significant that while thousands mourned him at his funeral, the newspapers carried the account of another tragic death—the and hope for the European Defense Community plan. De Gasperi had fashioned chaotic Italy into a rudimentary democracy and attempted to integrate all Europe into a family of nations for mutual help and defense.

De Gasperi was born near Trent, site of the famous Council of the Church, and achieved his first major political victory when his city sent him as their representative to the Austrian Parliament in Vienna. When this area became Italian territory, he led the Christian Democratic Party, until arrested by Mussolini.

After our troops liberated Italy from the Nazi-Fascist domination, De Gasperi reorganized his Party, was named Italy's foreign minister in 1945 and later that year became Premier. In 1948, the Communist party received a crushing defeat in the elections, and in 1949 linked Italy with NATO against Communist aggression.

De Gasperi considered his work as a vocation—to serve God better by the thankless and precarious position of being a nation's leader. When God called him from the turmoil of the world's struggles, De Gasperi's last thoughts and words were those which had been the key to his whole life—“Gesù, Gesù—Jesus, Jesus!” In rewarding De Gasperi for his years of Christian statesmanship, may God also raise up more men with his ideals and faith to shape the destinies of nations.

It seems, however, that parents (and children) should determine the school they plan to attend, not on the basis of uniforms or dress styles, but on the spirit and purpose of the school itself.

Evanston Admission

When Christ prayed the night before He died that His disciples might always “be one so the world may believe,” He indicated one of the marks which would characterize His Church. That mark is unity, oneness. For nearly twenty centuries, Christ's Church has survived despite the persecutions of her enemies or the rebellions of her own children. Even those who will not accept the teaching of this Church, they still cannot deny the tremendous fact of her unity.

During this past week, three speakers at the Evanston Assembly of non-Catholic churches pointed out how their lack of unity hampers the spread of their churches in Asia and other missionary areas. Dr. Rajah B. Manikan said, “In distinct contrast to the Roman Catholic Church, the non-Roman churches exist in multiplicity and diversity.” He added that “non-Christians wonder why those who believe in one Christ are so divided.”

The fact that we as Catholics possess this essential mark of unity is not reason why we should in any way be proud or complacent. It is a responsibility upon us to be alert to our opportunity to show the world our own personal “oneness” with the Church—that we know her teachings, and live a life that proves we believe them.

School Uniforms

Within the next few weeks, children in many schools, especially our Catholic girls' High Schools, will be fixing up their uniforms for the opening of a new school year. It is also an increasing trend to have elementary schools adopt a uniform, particularly for the girls. Many people have strong opinions for or against such a practice and there are honest and serious points that can be made for each side of the question.

A Catholic outlook in education is far more important than freedom to dress as one chooses. Once a High School or parochial school adopts the practice of wearing uniforms, parents ought not to criticize nor rebel against such a decision. They can be sure that its purpose is to protect the feelings of the greater number of the pupils. Clothes are expensive, and if some of our people can afford a wide variety for their children, they can also understand the problem that others experience if their incomes do not warrant such expenses.

Pastors and Principals who desire the use of uniforms are acting from a supernatural motive. Those who oppose the uniform plan, can they assure themselves they are acting from the same motive?

Sunday Sermon

THE GOOD SAMARITAN
A certain man—perhaps our Lord—needed rest or me—was making a journey—each of us is on a journey too—and he fell among robbers—you and me—were despoiled of our most prized possessions—my sanctifying grace, by Adam's sin—and he left him half dead—and without grace we were worse than dead, we were hopeless, we were doomed to an eternal death.

Narrow Margin
The man who speaks so sarcastically of a woman trying to drive a car through a twelve-foot garage door usually doesn't have so much to say when he tries to thread a needle.

THE QUIET SHADOWS
God made man, the wonder of all creation, with eyes that exceed the keenest camera's ability, with talents and skill that seem to defy any limitations.

Mary Daly Recipe For Worriers

It was a desultory conversation of a late-summer evening on our side porch. The subject turned to worry—the avoidance thereof. “I've known some first-class worriers in my time,” George said, “but the champion was the owner of our place.” His main worry was whether he would get back from his summer vacation in time to start his winter one.

Joseph Breig Memo To Bishop Oxnam

I think the time has come when Oxnam's attention to the following can address a serious request: “I, COMMUNISM, never has come to power by legal or by democratic processes in any of the areas now under its ruthless domination. It uses the tactics of penetration, subversion, threat of military invasion, and finally occupation by military and political elements under the direction and control of the Kremlin.”

Enchanted School-Hall

Great tired stage curtains flanking the space where trembling glory had been achieved; a sea of comfortless chairs; walls, scuffed and marred about the base from comings and goings less than orderly. Just what you'd expect.

Mind and Heart

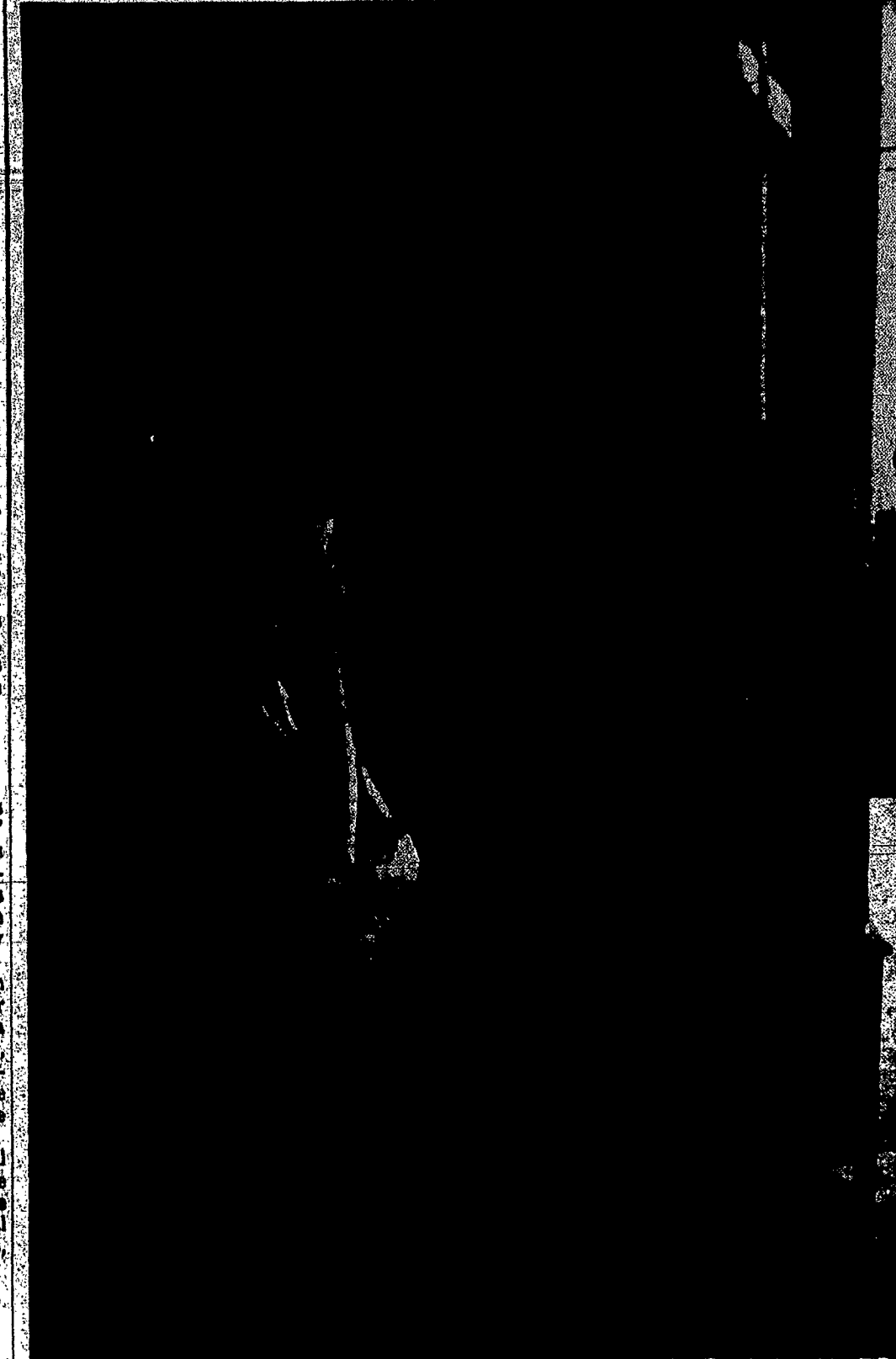


Photo courtesy of Justice Magazine, New York City. A French priest who is known as a “Little Brother” spends an hour in devout prayer after a full day working in an oil refinery. Every Christian, priest or layman, owes God the debt of daily prayer—and needs the experience of heartfelt prayer himself in order to persevere in grace and attain eternal union with God.

The Prayers You Say Can Be Your Key To The Heart Of God In Heaven

BY REV. HENRY ATWELL
My words fly up; My thoughts remain below. Words without thoughts Never to heaven go.

God made me, though He didn't need to. He could have skinned me—gone on making others, as He did for the past millions of years—and made others instead of me. But He did make me, and for no other reason than that He loved me. And He lived as a poor man, hungry, and weary to redeem me, and died for me, and prepared a home for me in heaven, and gives me the faith and strength to attain that destiny. This tremendous God and Savior is now going to listen to my prayer. He will hear what I say.

Then, consider a moment who am I that dares to approach this God in prayer? I depend on Him for the breath in my lungs and the beat of my heart. I eat the food He prepares for me and I exist only because He permits me to do so. In an instant, I can be blind or crippled or dead. Everything I have, everything I hope for, I have, admittedly, deliberately turned against Him; certainly failed to achieve what He expects of me.

WHEN THOUGHTS like that seep into my heart and pervade my mind, is it possible to approach God in any other way except in humility and profound reverence? Our words will not then tumble out as water spilled on sand—to disappear and leave no effect. Rather, each word will be the symbol of our heavenly Father who is patient to hear us and heed our every word.

THESE ARE also other “aids” to devout prayer. Statues or holy pictures can help us visualize the Savior to whom we speak. Prayers which become worn into our heart by frequent repetition can be said phrase by phrase carefully and slowly—such as the Our Father, Hail Mary, Act of Contrition. By saying a few words at a time, and then letting our minds meditate on their meaning, saying them over in our own way, this can be another fruitful source of devout prayer.

There are excellent prayer books which we can use as guides for our own expressions—not by reading them as a mere article or chapter in a book—but again, as with familiar prayers, saying them phrase by phrase and then repeating them in our own words.

On Catholic Faith

Does a divorce mean automatic excommunication from the Church?—R.E. Rochester, N.Y. As far as the church is concerned there is no such thing as divorce and so the civil decrees do not affect a Catholic's relation to the church. A Catholic may not separate from husband or wife, however, unless there is a serious reason recognized as such by the Bishop. If a Catholic just takes off and decides to live alone, without reason and without permission, then such a person is in serious sin.

Church Symbols

This is a Greek monogram for the word CHRIST, XP are the Greek letters Chi Rho, the first two letters of the word CHRISTOS—CHRISTOS.
This monogram is used very frequently to decorate vestments, altars, churches. Sometimes you will see it used with another Greek word like this: XPANIKA which means CHRIST CONQUESTS.

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WE all recalled instances of top-flight worriers well known: Betty's aunt who worried because she was going so smoothly that she couldn't think of anything to worry about.

PERHAPS it was shyness, probably it was pride, that kept us all silent on our own ways of overcoming this common failing until the Head of the House spoke up: “When I'm worried, I go out in the back yard and dig.”

EVERYBODY, it seemed, had a different method, but all wanted to hear from the others—like researchers collecting historical data or recipes for pizza.

MABELLE HAD a real contribution to make. “I'll mine up too,” she said, “but usually mentally. The ones I can do something about, I do it. The ones beyond-well-prayer is the answer. Often they don't materialize and when they do, there's grace to go along.”

PEACOCKS A chicken in bloom. Women Tears: The most efficient waterpower in the world. Woman: A person who complains of having nothing to wear and then takes a couple of hours to put it on.

Book Reviews

Enchanted School-Hall

By SISTE MARGARET TERESA
Professor of Literature, Nazareth College, Rochester, N. Y.
A school-hall on Sunday—dusty, scrubby desolation. Great tired stage curtains flanking the space where trembling glory had been achieved; a sea of comfortless chairs.

YET WHAT BRINGS one to Guarechsi, is a greater value than either Italy or his rare fun. It is that debate with Christ: “Lord, I'm only telling you what I hear. People—”

“PEOPLE?”—What does that mean? “People” as a whole are never going to get to Heaven... There are no group sins, but only personal ones, and there is no collective soul... God gives each one of us separate consideration...

Don Camillo lowered his head. “But Lord, public opinion has some value...”
“I know that, Don Camillo. Public opinion nailed me to the Cross.”

Quiz

ON CATHOLIC FAITH
Does a divorce mean automatic excommunication from the Church?—R.E. Rochester, N.Y. As far as the church is concerned there is no such thing as divorce and so the civil decrees do not affect a Catholic's relation to the church.

WHY ARE some of the Epistles in the Bible called “Catholic Epistles”? Are there any non-Catholic Epistles?—J.N. Rochester.

SECOND QUESTION: No. First question: “Catholic” means “for everybody”; it means “universal.” Some of the Epistles were really written for just some local group of Christians, as St. Paul wrote to the Hebrews, or to the Corinthians, or to the Romans, or to his friend Timothy. St. John, however, didn't have any one particular city in mind, but wrote for Christians everywhere and his Epistle is therefore called a “catholic” epistle.

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