Brother To See Sister's Beatification 'Spanked Her For Wanting To Be Nun'

Chicago — (NC) — "Can you imagine! Once I scolded and spanked her when she said she wanted to be a nun."

James Pallotta, 72, of Chicago's Melrose Park section, was doing the talking. And he was talking about his sister, Sister Maria Assunta, who died in China in 1905 and who will be beatified by Pope Pius XII at ceremonies in St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City on November 7.

MR. PALLOTTA was talking to a N.C.W.C. News Service reporter just before he emplaned via Pan American World Airways for Rome to attend the beatification ceremonies. Tears welled in the eyes of the retired carpenter as he said:

"This will be the greatest thrill of my life, to watch the Holy Father raise my own sister to the ranks of the beatified."

Mr. Pallotta said that another sister, Mrs. Maddalena Marsili of Rockford, Ill., also will make the trip to witness the beatification of the nun of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary.

The retired carpenter pointed out that his sister, Assunta, was born in Ferrara, Italy, on August 16, 1874. Their parents were poor farmers, he said, but his sister persisted in her desire and joined the Franciscan nuns in Rome in 1896.

"My sister was a happy little girl and she started to earn bread for the family when she was only a child," Mr. Pallotta said. "She was always very saintly and I can remember we found her many times at mid-night kneeling beside her bed reciting the Rosary."

Somewhat proudly he added: "I pray for her intercession daily, seeking health for my soul and my body."

Sister Maria Assunta went to China as a missionary and died there on April 7, 1905. Through her simplicity and her industriousness, she had made many friends among the Chinese.

DURING THE process of investigation in Sister Maria Assunta's beatification cause, her body was exhumed and it was reported that "the body of Maria Assunta was well preserved and without corruption."

In a pamphlet, "Sister Maria Assunta — A Seraphic Flower," Father F. Benvenuto Bazzocchini, O.F.M., wrote "her name is venerated not only in Asia, but also in Europe and America."

Mr. Pallotta came to the United States from Italy in 1903. He and his wife, Anna, named their only daughter for his saintly sister — Assunta. Mr. Pallotta said that while in Italy he plans to visit the old family home in Ferrara and to relive the days he spent with his sister. He plans to return here about December 17.

New York—Mother Mary Malachy, provincial of the Divine Providence Foundation here, and Mrs. Maddalena Marsili of Rockford, Ill., look at Rome on a globe prior to sailing on the SS Constitution for that city where they will attend the beatification of the latter's older sister, Venerable Assunta Pallotta, a member of the Congregation of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary. (RNS Photo)

Ordained At 68

Llandaff — (NC) — Thomas Hicks, a teacher from Wexford, Ireland, is to be ordained for the Llandaff Diocese in Wales at the age of 68. He has already received minor orders from Bishop John E. Petit at the Redemptorist church at Machynlleth.

President Holds For Congress O. K. On Vatican Envoy

Washington — (NC) — President Eisenhower apparently still believes that it should be left to Congress to decide whether the United States should have an ambassador to the State of Vatican City.

This is the conclusion to be drawn from an exchange at a recent presidential press conference.

On behalf of a Rome newspaper, a correspondent asked the President "about your views about appointing an American Ambassador to the Vatican."

The President responded that he had expressed himself so emphatically and so often on that subject that he thought he would merely ask the reporter in question to go back and see what he had said about it in the past.

Research has disclosed nothing the President has said on this subject since entering the White House. On June 15, 1952, as a candidate for the presidency, he told a press conference that he believed fundamentally that "the United States should never close itself off from any advantageous connection anywhere."

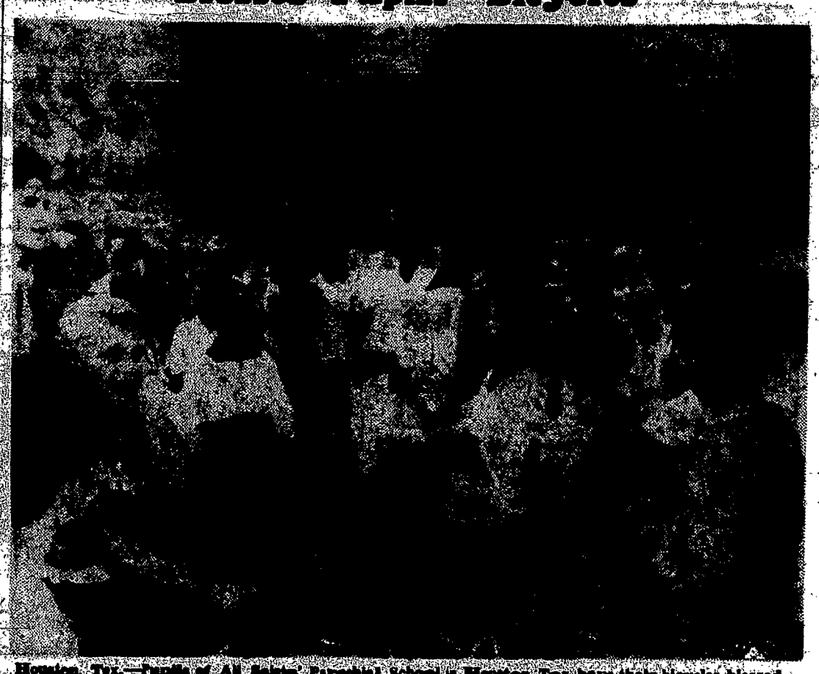
BUT, HE ADDED, when it came to naming an ambassador, there must be "a union of understanding" between the Chief Executive and Congress. In the end, he said, it is Congress that must decide this question.

In October, 1952, also before the presidential elections, there was made public in East Greenwich, Rhode Island, a letter which Arthur Vandenberg, Jr., then a member of the Eisenhower staff, wrote to the Rev. Walter A. Wilson, pastor of the Evangelical Mission Church of East Greenwich, who had asked the Republican presidential candidate's position on the question of an ambassador to the Vatican.

Mr. Vandenberg told the minister that General Eisenhower "has never favored the appointment of an ambassador to the Vatican." "Before considering any such action," the letter added, "he would certainly seek the advice of the whole American people as demonstrated by their representatives in Congress."

THE ROME NEWSPAPER on whose behalf the question was put to President Eisenhower, is the Rome Daily American, an English-language daily published there. Late in September, this newspaper published a front-page editorial voicing the hope that President Eisenhower will appoint an ambassador to the Vatican and that he will be confirmed by the Senate so that "we can stand up and be counted with those who are fighting communism to the bitter end."

Blesses Pupils' Bicycles



Houston, Tex.—Pupils of All Saints Parochial School in Houston, Tex. have their bicycles blessed by the Rev. Edmund Palmer, assistant pastor. Father Palmer said that bicycles are often blessed in Europe, but he thought this was the first time the ceremony has been conducted in the U.S.

The blessing, he said, is intended to "invoke God's protection" for the riders. (RNS Photo)

Bishop Sheen Gives 'Lift'

Polio Victim Becomes Hospital Legend

sonal word of encouragement gave a pretty big lift to the young lady.

It happened at the big Marian rally at the foot of the Washington Monument, at which Bishop Fulton J. Sheen, Auxiliary of New York, preached the sermon. As the procession concluding the rally made its way to the rear of the altar, Bishop Sheen made it a point to stop and speak to Jean Byrne.

Few were on hand to see the exchange as the Bishop was introduced to the girl in the wheel chair; fewer knew the story of Jean Byrne.

But her spiritual advisor, Father Joseph B. Coyne, curate of St. Gabriel's Church here, had outlined Jean's story to the Bishop.

According to Father Coyne, that story is one of courage—great courage. But even more than that, he says, it is a story of love.

It seems that about three years ago, Jean was just beginning her third year of high school at the Academy of the Holy Names in suburban Silver Spring, Md. She'd been a class officer, a popular, attractive girl. Then one Saturday night she was stricken by polio. The next morning she was placed in an iron lung and anointed for death; paralysis spread throughout her body. Jean lived. But for weeks it was a fight.

Then came the fight to regain health and some freedom of movement. Months went by—months in which she couldn't turn over in bed, couldn't get a bite of food in her mouth; only her head and toes on one foot were not stricken by paralysis.

After months of devoted care at Washington's General Hospital, Jean gained some movement in her shoulders and arms. Eventually she could live entirely outside the iron lung.

She became a hospital legend. Sent to the children's section of the hospital for recovery, the 11-year-old girl shared her room with little children from four to eleven. She became physical point of the whole section: it was Jean who settled the little ones' quarrels, Jean who read the comic books to them and in general was their happiness and joy between the two visiting days a week.

But she did more than that. When the youngsters saw the rosary so often in her motionless fingers, they began to ask about it. Soon, a whole group of children of all races and creeds were praying to the Blessed Virgin.

Priests To Preach By Radio To Bolivia Indians

La Paz, Bolivia — (NC) — A plan to reach Indians in the scattered, rough areas around Las Penas by radio is being planned by two Maryknoll Missioners.

Father Francis X. Lyons of Philadelphia, Pa., and Father Bernard F. Ryan of Chicago, Ill., are working out details to establish a system that includes a radio station and centralized receiving points where the Indians would gather for religious and literacy instructions.

THE PLAN is based on the radiophone schools of Father Jose Joaquin Salcedo, of Colombia. Father Ryan has just returned from Colombia after studying Father Salcedo's program.

"Through the apostolate of the radio, the people can be reached every day," continued Fr. Lyons, a veteran of 10 years as a Maryknoll Missioner in Bolivia.

Hungarian Priests Resist Communist Front Membership

Vienna — (RNS) — A new attempt by the Hungarian government to force Catholic priests to join a Communist front organization was reported by the Austrian Catholic Press Service.

The agency said that A. Kerezst, government-controlled Hungarian Catholic weekly, was attempting to pressure priests into joining the "Patriotic Front" under the guise that it is not anti-Church.

That the movement is meeting with strong resistance is evident, the press service stated, in the newspaper's complaints that priests are trying "to evade Front membership with the erroneous excuse that they do not want to enter politics."

THE PRESS service said that the "Patriotic Front" organization is merely a new medium for the expansion of Communistic ideologies.

Picketing Hits Theater Box Office

Charlotte, N. C. — (NC) — The effectiveness of concerted effort of Catholics against the showing of immoral films can be demonstrated by the results of this North Carolina city. The picture, "The French Line," which was shown here was not profit-making, a spokesman for the distributor of the film reveals. The spokesman asked that his name not be used.

While not releasing the exact attendance figures, he said that the gross in other North Carolina cities and towns where there was no picketing was in some cases 200 per cent above the previous records. In Charlotte, however, this was not true, the spokesman said.

Members of Knights of Columbus Council No. 770 in cooperation with the Legion of Decency, walked peacefully in front of the theater bearing signs which stressed the immoral nature of the film. After the first two days, attendance dropped off sharply. The Legion of Decency had evaluated the film in Class C—wholly condemned.

Movie Code Head Sees Growth In 'Mature' Films

New York—(NC)—The growth in the number of motion pictures with "mature" themes was called natural here by the newly-appointed administrator of the Production Code Administration.

Geoffrey Shurlock, who replaced Joseph I. Breen as administrator after the resignation of the latter, said that experience over the past three years has shown films with such themes can be produced within the limits of the Production Code and have been found not to be offensive to the entire family.

Murray Horowitz in Motion Picture Daily also quoted Mr. Shurlock as cautioning that all films need a "reasonable moral balance." He added there will be no let-down in enforcement of the provisions of the Code.

AS EXAMPLES of success in the handling of mature themes, he singled out two movies, "On the Waterfront," and "Streetcar Named Desire." Both, he said, were not offensive to family trade and had success at the box office.

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EPHREM WAS MARY'S

A Pope called Saint Ephrem the psalmist of Our Lady. Can you adopt another Ephrem, just beginning his studies for the priesthood at Charfe, Lebanon? His six years of training will cost $400, $100 yearly.

THOSE GREGORIAN MASSES: Write us for information on the Gregorian Masses, offered, for thirty days, held in suspense until after your death. Are you arranging for Masses for your loved ones during November?

RIDICULOUS SUM?

The Carmelite Sisters guard 150 orphans in Christ the King Orphanage at Pavavaii, India. And in a temporary shed! They beg for only $100 before Christmas. Ridiculous is 36 may seem, let us try to help. Won't you?

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Our recent appeals for the Little Sisters of the Poor in Istanbul, Turkey, and the Orphanage of St. Denis in Athens, had little response. Won't you back a loser? We do hope to send the Sisters $500 before Christmas and the same to the orphans in Athens. Any gift will help.

MARY AND JOSEPH

For the new Shrine Chapel of St. Pius X which we shall build in Jordan, among homeless refugees, we shall need two side altars, each costing $100, one to Our Lady, the other to St. Joseph. Can you give one? A $10 gift brings you the Saint's picture.

NEEDIEST CASES: How much a precious food package, costing $10, can delight our refugees of Palestine! How much a generous stringless gift can make Christmas Christ's Mass for the homeless! Try to be there with Our Lord on His birthday.

HALAI'S PETER

Father Peter, pastor of the little parish of Halai in Eritrea, writes to us that his Chapel is half built, and he had no further means. Shall we comfort his heart with $1,000 needed? His poor will bless us.

TATTERED GARMENTS: Every year we try to give a poor missionary a cassock, the black garment which in our Near East countries he wears even in the street. Can you give $25 to outfit one priest with this holy suit?

JUST FOR THE RECORD: During November this is where the DOLLAR-A-MONTH MISSION CLUB money will go. Your dollar for the CHRYSOSTOMS, our Club for the education of seminarians will go to 19 seminaries in the Near East. Your deposit in MARY'S BANK, for the support of Near East nuns, goes to the Daughters of Charity in Istanbul, Turkey. We shall think of the Orphanage of St. Denis in Athens with that dollar to the BASILIANS, our School Club. Because we have not had good luck with this appeal for the orphans of St. Denis, we shall add your mite for ORPHAN'S BREAD. The dollars for MONICA GUILD, our chapel furnishings club, will go to the Church of St. George at Kulathuvil, Trichur, India, because we have not had good luck with this appeal. The DAMIEN LEPER FUND will go to the Damien Institute in India, to help these outcasts, and the money for the CHAPEL-OF-THE-MONTH CLUB will help us to carry on the work for the new Chapel we are building at Jish, Israel. Won't you join one of these clubs?

PLEASE ANSWER GOD'S WANT ADS

Near East Missions
Francis Cardinal Spellman, President — Msgr. Thomas J. McMahon, Nat'l Sec'y
Send all communications to:
CATHOLIC NEAR EAST WELFARE ASSOCIATION
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