

GOD LOVE YOU!

By MOST REV. FULTON J. SHEEN

A CAPTAIN in the Chinese Communist army on a tour of inspection walked into the prison cell of several of our missionaries. The toes were out of his shoes, his clothes were ragged and unkempt; he had no mark of distinction about him except the insignia of his rank. One of the missionary prisoners said to him: "It is now five o'clock in the afternoon, you have not eaten anything yet today." "No," he replied, "I cannot eat the people's rice until I do the people's work." So absorbed was he in world revolution, that instead of thinking what he could get out of the Communist government, he was concerned only of what he could give.

We have just finished reading the life of an ex-Communist whom we converted. As a lawyer she worked for seven years at sixty dollars a week, went without food, and on many occasions worked through the night, on orders to turn over America, if possible, to the Communists.

What has happened to our zeal? Would we do for Christ what the Communist soldier did for anti-Christ? Our Lord said: "It is for this that I have come to spread over the earth, and what better wish can I have than that it should be kindled?" Have the Communists stolen the Pentecostal fire? Our faith, Christ tells us, ought to be an ardent, burning, flaming thing—a subject for enthusiasm. Have we grown cold while they are ablaze? Are the Communists taking up the Cross as we lay it down because sacrifice is irksome? Think of the Communist youths who promised to eat only one meal a day, and work 18 hours a day until the revolution came.

Communists do make Communism a Sunday affair. They work seven days a week for their cause, while we work one day a week for the cause of Christ. Our Lord did not come into this world to give laudation to the sons of men, or to prepare down for the sleepers. He came to give a Cross, and bade us to take it up, not on Sundays but every day.

Our King has nail prints on His hands! Be worthy of such a King. Mortify yourself! Deny yourself! Give up a luxury or its equivalent. Cut into your capital. Then send it to the Holy Father, through his Society for the Propagation of the Faith to spread the faith among pagans, to heal the lepers, to feed the poor Vietnamese, many of whom are shot in the water as they try to swim out of the communists' net.

GOD LOVE YOU, TO P. E. N. Enclosed please find a check for \$5, which is the difference between our water bills in September and October. I promised to make a donation to the Missions whatever was saved by rain in October and did it ever rain! — to P. E. for \$1. "I am a patient in a tuberculosis sanatorium and so my income is not much. However, I am well enough now so I can wash a patient's hair for her, for which she pays me \$1. That is why I feel I can share a little of this." — to E. W. Enclosed is \$10, the amount we received on our tenth wedding anniversary. I would like to give it back to God for all the countless blessings he has bestowed on us during our marriage. — to M. R. "I am sending \$5, the money my six little children have saved for the missions. They never go to bed without saying a prayer for you." — to P. V. M. "Here is \$10. It represents my winnings on a recent election bet." — to E. L. for \$2. "I would like this small donation to be used for the poor lepers. I have been paralyzed from the waist down for over 20 years, but God has been very good to me. But for His grace I could be one of the sufferers of leprosy instead of a paralytic."

Will you have a son, a brother, a fiancee, a friend, overseas in the service this holiday season? You can't bring him the merchandise of an American Christmas, but you can bring him the substance of the true Christmas, which is universal. Why not send him a God Love You medal. By bringing him close to Our Lady, you can all his heart this Christmas with the deep happiness and peace which was Christ's gift to the world on that first Christmas night. The medals are light and easily mailed overseas. For an offering of 3¢ and your request we will send you a small (no larger than a penny) sterling silver medal (on a chain \$5). For an offering of 1¢ and your request we will send you a 10 K. gold filled medal (on a chain \$4). For an offering of 1¢ and your request we will send you a large sterling silver medal. For an offering of \$10 and your request we will send you a large 18 K. gold-filled medal.

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, 366 Fifth Ave., New York 17, New York, or Very Rev. Msgr. John S. Randall, 50 Chestnut Street, Rochester 4, New York.

Know Your Saints

By Mary Davis



ST. NICHOLAS OF MYRA Bishop

How to recognize St. Nicholas—Bishop's Eobber, Mitre and crozier.

3 Golden Balls or 3 Bags of Gold: These refer to the charity of St. Nicholas who saved three daughters of a poor man from lives of shame by anonymously giving them dowries in the form of bags of gold thrown through an open window. Blessing a Child: This refers to his having revived three boys who had been killed and pickled in brine during a time of famine.

Perhaps more legends have grown up about St. Nicholas than any other saint. He loved children very much, but because he preferred to do all gift-giving in secret, he left presents for them in their shoes while they slept.

In northern countries, he became known as Santa Claus and the Christmas stocking evolved. In Catholic countries, however, the custom of "having gifts" in children's shoes on St. Nicholas Day, December 6, still prevails.

During the Renaissance, the great Italian banking family, the Medici, adopted him as its patron saint, incorporating his three golden balls into its coat of arms. Thus the emblem of St. Nicholas' charity still lives on our 20th century streets in the pawnbrokers' three golden balls.

St. Nicholas is the patron saint of children, sailors, pilgrims and pawnbrokers, and the protector against thieves. He is also one of the patron saints of Russia.

Safety Plea Supported By Lay Group

Washington — (NC) — Strong appeals for the observance of Wednesday, December 15, as "Safe Driving Day" have been issued here by the National Council of Catholic Men and the National Council of Catholic Women.

Warmly supporting the work of the President's Action Committee for Traffic Safety, the two federating bodies called upon their members throughout the country, not only to mark the day themselves, but also to help to impress its significance upon others.

At the same time, Msgr. Paul F. Tanner, Assistant General Secretary of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, pointed out that, in 1948, the President's Highway Safety Conference "properly observed" that there are moral issues involved "in wanton carelessness which has life-and-death consequences for others."

"THE CAUSES OF accidents," said Monsignor Tanner, "such as driving when one's reflexes are subnormal due to fatigue, day-dreaming, or drinking; driving at unsafe speeds, with haste or in contempt of the rights of others; disregard of traffic signals and common sense rules of the road; are self-evident failures to practice the virtues of justice, prudence and charity."

In proclaiming "SD Day" this year, the President's Action Committee for Traffic Safety points out that 38,300 were killed in traffic accidents in 1953, an average of one person every 14 minutes; that there were 1,350,000 persons injured, an average of one every 23 seconds; that traffic accidents are estimated to have cost four billion dollars in terms of money; that there were nearly 10 million traffic accidents in 1953.

Honolulu Auxiliary Bishop Installed

Honolulu, T.H. (RNS) — The Most Rev. John J. Shanley was installed as Honolulu's third Auxiliary Catholic Bishop at a ceremony in Our Lady of Peace Cathedral here.

CHRISTMAS FOR CHRIST

Christmas for Christ!



The movement to "put Christ back into Christmas" is off to an early start this year. Here's a reminder of it by the postman.

Sisterhoods For Blind To Start U.S. Convents

New York — (NC) — Two religious orders for women that accept totally blind postulants will soon establish foundations in the United States according to a priest who has placed 17 blind girls in religious communities.

French-born Father Jean Marie Bauchet, now serving as curate at St. Joan of Arc Church, Cumberland Hill, Manhattan, N. Y., said that American convents will be set up by the Sisters of the Lamb of God, of Stret, France, and the Sisters of Jesus Crucified, whose motherhouse is at Brot-sur-Chantreine, France.

THE SUPERIOR general of the latter congregation, Rev. Mother Marie des Douleurs, has made several trips to the United States in the past year to lay the groundwork for an American foundation.

While visiting this country last October, the Superior general told the N.C.W.C. News Service that a number of Amer-

Holy Communion At Evening Mass

To receive Holy Communion at a Mass celebrated after 4 p.m., the faithful are to observe the following laws concerning the Eucharistic fast:

- Abstain from alcoholic drinks from previous midnight.
- Abstain from solid foods for three hours before Communion. Beer or wine may be taken at a meal if it is the custom to do so.
- Abstain from liquid nourishment (coffee, milk, etc.) for one hour before Communion.
- Water, of course, may be taken any time before Communion.
- Holy Communion may be received but once a day.

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